

Gateway Players Theatre, Inc.
PO Box 171
Southbridge, MA 01550

founded 1975

October, 2024

Barbara Day, editor
since 1991



We are winding up Season 49 with a fun and unique multi-cast musical. Then- on to Season 50 celebrations. For an all-volunteer organization to be celebrating 50 years is quite an achievement. Thanks to YOUR support we will continue to grow and offer the community a live-theater experience. Come to our shows, come to our celebrations, pledge your support-keep us alive and well!! Thanks.



Gateway had a terrific response to our auditions call. The cast selected includes:

Lily Ruggiere (Alice), **Brooke Swistak** (White Rabbit), **Linda Bouthillier** (Queen of Hearts), **Jayden Woodworth** (Caterpillar), **Norah Stern** (Frog-Newsie), **Lila Mazzone** (Fish-Newsie), **Mila Fors** (Cheshire Cat 1), **Reilly Ireland** (Cheshire Cat 2), **Asher McCoy** (Mad Hatter), **Finn Mazzone** (March Hare), **Jackson Reed** (Door Mouse, Door 3), **Claire Albuquerque** (Tweedledum), **Daphne Peculis** (Tweedledee), **Ducati Sedlier** (Humpty Dumpty), **Billy Bolster** (King of Hearts), **Indira Fors** (Door One, KK Chorus), **Maritza Cordero** (Tiny Door), **Alaina French** (Lily, KK Chorus), **Elise Servant** (Rose), **Chris McTigue** (Daisy), **Rylie Larcheveque** (Violet), **Xaze Reyes** (Queen's Guards One), **Cole Benoit** (Queen's Guards Two), **Alex Holt** (King's Man), **Amora Mello** (KK Chorus), **Ava Nicholas** (KK Chorus), **Devyn Montello** (KK Chorus), **Taylor French** (KK Chorus), and **Emilia Lamothe** (chorus).

Directed by **Lou-Ellen Corkum**, with **Stephanie Ruggiere** producing, this is sure to be a fun and memorable show.

Performance dates are December 6, 7, 8. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, this program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Synopsis:

What would happen if a 21st century Alice collided with Lewis Carroll's legendary Wonderland? This modern retelling of the classic children's story has all of the characters you know and love, including the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, and the Queen of Hearts. The story is laid out in traditional style, except that Alice is distinctly contemporary, complete with a cell phone in hand. Full of references to text messaging and social media, the play imagines a present-day Alice encountering the Wonderland so many of us treasure.



Many thanks to our audiences- who had such a great time at "Spreading it Around". Special thanks to cast and crew for bringing this story to life- Great Job!



Thanks to everyone who helped out at Autumn Fest and Old Home Day. While the weather could have been better- we still had a good time- and made money. Come up to the Flight Deck restaurant- at the Southbridge airport- on Oct 26 for the Halloween celebration. We will be selling cotton candy!



The 50th season will be announced soon- still lining up royalties. In the meantime, as we perused past seasons to make choices- it was very difficult to choose from soooooo many terrific productions. We think you will really enjoy our selections. Over the years, Gateway has performed a variety pf shows- from traditional to unique... world premieres to beloved stories... Plays, musicals, comedies and dramas... adult and youth productions... workshops and full-length performances... Even the lock-down of Covid didn't force us to close- take a look at the virtual videos on our facebook page. Our last pre-Covid production was "Barefoot in the Park". We re-entered the live theater world with "Cemetery Club". Interestingly, **Gail Riva White** was in both productions!

We are working on the celebrations for Season 50-- a gala, a musical tribute and trivia nite are in the planning stages. The Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge will honor Gateway's 50 years with the month exhibit in August, featuring photos and scrapbooks. We do hope you will be part of all the festivities.

We are also soliciting YOUR memories to compile- how are you involved in Gateway- audience, performer, backstage?

When did you start? How did you learn about us? Any memories to share?? Just send your thoughts to bldaycare@verizon.net Thanks.



SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Members are continuously added to the list- please join.

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Ensemble Donor (\$50)

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Janet & Bob Garon,
Ed Humphries & Jolienne Deskus

Carol Allard Vancil,
Bill Guy,
Mikey & Kelly Dearn,
Deb Ostiguy

THANK YOU ALL



Gateway Players Theatre Board:

Lou-Ellen Corkum-- president, Mike Dupuis- vice-president,
Chris McTigue- secretary, Bill Guy- treasurer.

Members at large- David Corkum, Mikey Dearn, Kathi Grenier,
Deb Hollett, Deb Ostiguy, Stephanie Ruggiere.

Pat Haddock- past president.

GATEWAY PLAYERS THEATRE, INC. HISTORY

If you would like to see a listing of ALL the shows Gateway has performed since 1975- just go to website, gatewayplayers.org under Past Seasons. You will even find photos from many of the shows. When Gateway started in 1975, we used borrowed rehearsal and storage space, and performed at Southbridge HS on Cole Ave. In 1978 we moved into the Arts Barn at 111 Main St, on the property donated by Ruth Wells (of American Optical Company family). We were there for decades, until the Barn needed more repairs than were affordable. For the past few years, we have used space in Fellowship Hall of Elm St. for rehearsals, performances and storage, for which we are very grateful.

Thanks to DAVID CORKUM for maintaining our facebook page and to JIM DOUGLAS for website update and creation. Many thanks to Jim, who is stepping away from the website-after a dozen years as website volunteer. Deb Hollett is in the process of redesigning the site- watch for updates. WE ALL WORK TO KEEP GATEWAY-- AND THEATER--ALIVE





(above) "One Act Festival" 2007, "Separate Beds" 2016. No show happens without clean up crew.
We even go o the road!! (bottom photo)

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