

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

founded 1975
August, 2025

Barbara Day,
editor since 1991



It's August- Fiddler on the Roof had a great performance weekend, Clumsy Custard cast has been selected. the Jacob Edwards Library has a terrific Gateway memorabilia exhibit, the Gala is scheduled for Nov 1- and one more show to complete the 50th season, A Candle in the Window. Join us in all our celebrations.

Throughout the month of August, the Jacob Edwards Library is hosting an exhibit of Gateway Memorabilia as the art show. There are cast photos, costumes, scrapbooks and props used in shows over our 50 years. Come and check out the exhibit- see how many people you recognize! Library hours are Mon and Thurs, 9-8 and Tues, Wed and Fri 9-5. The exhibit is in the Main Reading area, adjacent to the desk. Below are photos from the opening reception- you may remember Billy Bolster as King of Hearts in Alice@Wonderland. Other attendees were also in costume. It was a fun night. The live interview was on FB live, the Southbridge Cable TV production will be on YouTube.com shortly.

The photos below include president Lou-Ellen Corkum along with founding member Elaine Black- with other Gateway members.

Next photo- Billy Bolster with Paula Martin (Fiddler 2016) and Jonathan Martin (Fiddler 2025). Next- Chris McTigue in her Fiddler costumes discussing costumes with Jeanne Dupuis- who sewed many of the costumes on display. Bottom- Billy Bolster with library director Margaret Morrissey and Jeanne Dupuis.

It was a great night viewing and reminiscing.









The cast has been selected for "The Clumsy Custard Horror Show", 2025. Directed by Mikey Dearn and produced by Stephanie Ruggiere, this promises to be a fun show. The cast includes
ARNIS BOHEME- Maritza Cordero

SWASHBUCK VALPARISO- Peter Cooper Jr*

WORFLE- Lily Ruggiere

PRINCESS PRINCE- Katie Walsh*

KING DUMB- Jackson Reed

ALPHASIA- Danielle Holt

DACRON- Erin Simpson

MALFORCE- Sean Nault

POLLY- Mila Fors

ESTER- Indi Fors

SIR PRIZE- Elise Servant

SIR VIVAL- Nora Stern

SIR CUMFERENCE- Tiffany Betty*

USHER #1- Alena French

USHER #2- Alex Holt

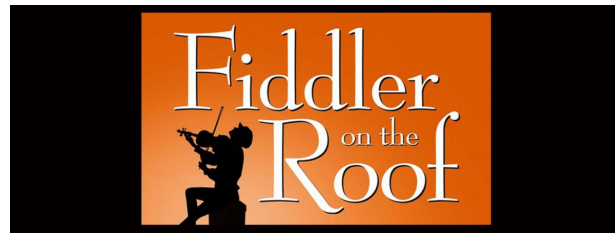
CLUMSY CUSTARD- Ruby Falero*

TURKEY SPIDER- Myla Dearn*

DIRECTOR (stage manager in this version)- Erin Morin, who is also the actual stage manager

* indicates newcomer to Gateway

This show was first performed in 1994 with a teen cast, then again in 2006 with an adult cast. Erin Morin was part of the cast in the 2 earlier versions, and will stage manage this production. Pat Haddock and Barbara Day directed/produced the earlier versions. This is a fun and funny story- with lots of memorable characters. The first show included Vanessa Fors as Esther the Ice Cream Clone- in this version her daughters Mila and Indi are portraying the Clones. When we say Gateway is a family organization- we really mean it!



Fiddler on the Roof was a great production, well received by our audiences. The comfortable, air-conditioned auditorium of Southbridge Middle High School was filled with happy theater- goers. Below is the cast photo.



Be sure to check out our UPDATED WEBSITE. Thanks to Deb Hollett, we have a new and exciting site. gatewayplayers.org. You can read the most current news, history, production history and see photos from past shows. Even COVID didn't stop us. We did videos and virtual shows- which may be found on facebook.

NEW WORKS

Over the years, Gateway has had the privilege to produce new works by local playwrights. Ed Humphries, who has also acted in our productions, is a writer with several plays in his repertoire. Gateway has performed *Monkeybar Mafia* (2012 & 2023), *Lost World* (2018), *Dad's Dance* (2022) and *Off She Goes* (2024). Seth Leary from Worcester wrote *Bob for God*, which we produced in 2002. In 2019 we did a staged reading of *Eclipse* by Jeff Coggins. Gateway not only supports theater- we support original theater!

Below are *Dad's Dance*, *Eclipse*, *Lost World* and *Monkeybar Mafia*.

Several years ago we performed an evening of very short plays at Starlight in Southbridge. Mary Darling directed, with Mary and friends writing the plays. Gateway is always ready to bring theater to any and all venues!!





As we look back on 50!!! years, it really is amazing at our history. With adult and youth casts, musicals, dramas and comedies- we really have had an eclectic history. Wonder if our founding members envisioned 50 years- and still going strong! The Gateway Gala will be held Nov 1 at the Heritage Country Club. Tickets will soon be available for the evening consisting of buffet, displays, memories- and fun. Be sure to get your tickets as soon as they go on sale

SPEAKING OF MEMORIES- we are putting together a Memory Book and are looking for YOUR thoughts. Your involvement in Gateway, what it meant to you, anything you wish to share will be welcome. Just send to Barbara Day, bldaycare@verizon.net. Over our 50 years we have offered many opportunities to perform, work backstage, gave kids a chance to learn and

entertained audiences. Please let us know the impact Gateway had on your life. Thanks.



Above card was designed by Cheyenne Grenier (2014 scholarship recipient).

Bushnell .org or call 860-987-5000 The Annual Meeting/Election took place on August 5. Officers for the coming the year include:

Lou-Ellen Corkum-- president,

Matt Sedlier-- vice-president,

Chris McTigue- secretary,

Bill Guy- treasurer.

Members at large- David Corkum, Mikey Dearn,

Deb Hollett, Asher McCoy, Stephanie Ruggiere. Carol Sedlier

Pat Haddock- past president.

The proposals for season 51 will be considered in the coming month, and the season will be announced in September.

It's always fun and exciting to visit other theater venues- the Bushnell in Hartford CT is less than an hour away and has an exciting lineup for next season. The schedule includes Spamalot, Suffs, The Notebook, Kinky Boots, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Shucked, & Juliet and Water for Elephants. For more information, go to Bushnell.org or call 860-987-5000.

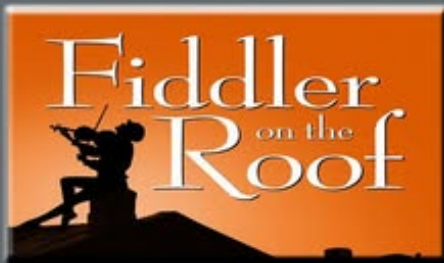
Gateway Players Theatre 2025 Season



February 21, 22, 28 March 1 & 2



May 2, 3, 4, 9 & 10



August 1, 2 & 3



October 4, 5, 10, 11 & 12



December 5, 6 & 7

508-764-4531
www.gatewayplayers.org

As we work our way through Season 50- you have one more chance to be part of a production. A Candle in the Window will be the Christmas show. A sweet and compelling story- just in time for the holidays, auditions will be announced in the fall.

The 2009 cast photo is below- see how young everyone looked!!



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 Deb Hollett for website.

WE ALL WORK TO KEEP GATEWAY-- AND THEATER--ALIVE

Thanks to Elm Street Congregational Church for giving us a home



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

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