

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

founded 1975
September, 2025

Barbara Day,
editor since 1991



September brings information about the 50th anniversary GALA, as well as auditions and performances.
The year is flying by- be part of the excitement!



Gateway Players Theatre presents "The Clumsy Custard Horror Show", written by William Gleason. This is the fourth show of our 50th Anniversary Season. Performance dates are October 4, 10, and 11 at 7:30pm and October 5 and 12 at 2pm. The performances are held at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street in Southbridge, MA. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Parking is available on Elm Street, or in the parking deck behind the Southbridge Town Hall. Directed by Mikey Dearn and produced by Stephanie Ruggiere. the show is [resented by permission through special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing.

The October 4th performance will be a Dessert Theatre. Tickets

are \$25 and will include a variety of desserts and beverages served prior to the performance and during intermission. Tickets for the other performances are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://www.ticketleap.events/.../gateway.../clumsy-custard>

Synopsis: The Clumsy Custard Horror Show is a comedy where the audience gets into the act. King Dumb is ready for his daughter to select a husband and all the Knights of the Realm are anxious to claim her hand. But the sweet Princess Prince has fallen for a gentle yet courageous lad she assumes to be a pauper. Not so! Little does she know that this scruffy stranger is Swashbuck Valpariso, bearer of the magic sword and Master of Fast Feet. It's a Princess Bride kind of tale with a Rocky Horror feel.

50th ANNIVERSARY GALA

Help us celebrate 50 years of Gateway Players Theatre! We will be holding our 50th Anniversary Gala on November 1st at 6pm at Heritage Country Club, 85 Sampson Rd , Charlton, MA. Please join us for food, drinks, music, dancing, and years of memories. The highlight of the evening will be the premiere of our 50th Anniversary video documentary, produced by Southbridge Community Television.

The menu will include Scallops Wrapped in Bacon, Vegetable Crudites, Carved Roast Beef, Baked Boneless Lemon Parmesan Chicken, Roasted Red Potatoes, Manicotti with Sauce, Vegetable Medley, Garden Salad and a wide range of desserts.

Tickets are \$40 per person and can be purchased by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://www.ticketleap.events/.../50th-anniversary-gala> Tickets sales are limited and must be purchased no later October 19th. Get your tickets early to guarantee a seat!

We hope you join us for this remarkable celebration of our past fifty years.



GATEWAY PLAYERS THEATRE 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

NOVEMBER 1, 2025

AUDITIONS



Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge, MA is hosting auditions for "A Candle in the Window", The final production of our 50th Anniversary Season. This play is written by L. Don Swartz. They will be held on Friday, September 19 and Saturday, September 20 at 6:30p at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge.

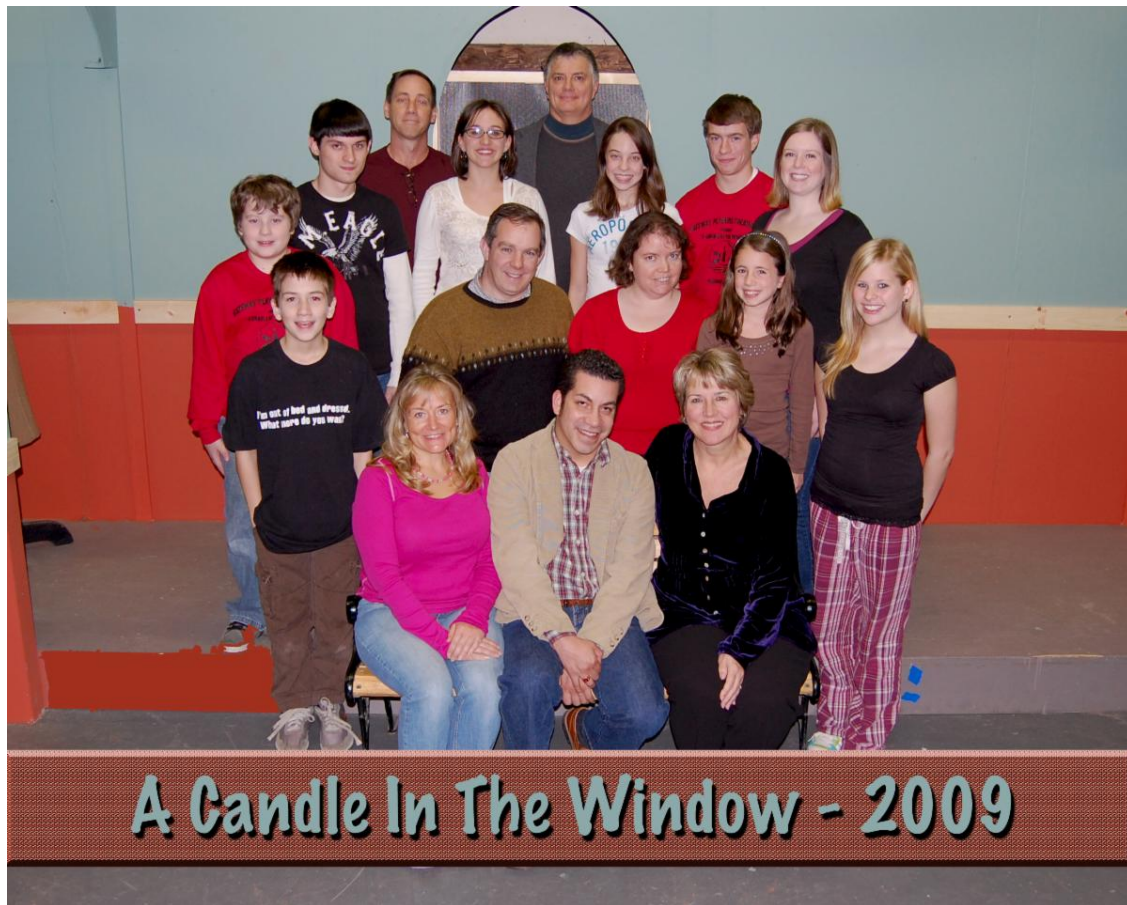
Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Performance dates are December 5, 6 & 7. Rehearsals will be held on Sundays for Youth actors and Monday and Wednesdays for Adult Actors. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Eldridge Plays and Musicals. The cast consists of 5 men ages 18 - 40's and one senior citizen, 4 women ages 18 to 40's, and 2 seniors, 3 boys ages 8 – 17 and 4 girls ages 8 – 17. Directed by Eric Hart and produced by Lynn Boucher. For more

information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-4531.

Synopsis:

A small group of weary travelers discover the power of the season while trapped in a lonely train station on Christmas Eve. As a blizzard rages outside, the troubled people are forced to turn to each other for companionship. Trying to make them more comfortable is the old stationmaster, Charlie. When the clock strikes midnight, there is a knock on the station door and seven youngsters appear. They've seen the station lights from the nearby church where, in secret, they've been practicing the story of the nativity which they plan to present at regular service. They offer to perform their play for the travelers and afterward, speak to the travelers individually, giving advice which is seemingly wise beyond their years. The next morning, as a new, younger stationmaster lights a Christmas candle, we realize the mysterious stop in the travelers' journey was more than accidental and has given them a renewed spirit and resolve.

below is 2009 cast.



Gateway Players will be having our annual Cotton Candy Fundraiser on September 20th at the Southbridge Autumnfest, from 10am-5pm. We need volunteers to help us on that day. If you are interested, please contact Chris

McTigue, 508-764-4531.

Autumnfest is a fun day of food, entertainment, crafters, kids activities and Southbridge Police department- Unity in the Community. Sponsored by the Southbridge Business Partnership, Saturday Sept 20 on the Town Common, Mechanic St. The event is free, open to all, and a great day for families.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Jessica Gelineau- 2017

I was cast as Veruca Salt in Willy Wonka in 2012, and my love for performing quickly grew into many other roles at Gateway and beyond. I also volunteered as a camp counselor at Gateway's children's theater camps, which sparked my passion for working with little ones. In 2017, I was honored to receive the Gateway Scholarship, which supported my studies in Music Therapy with a focus on Early Childhood Education.

I graduated summa cum laude from Anna Maria College in 2021 with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy. Today, I am the Founder and CEO of Lovely Little Melodies, an internationally recognized Early Childhood Education company whose curriculum and music have been used in over 26 countries. I am forever grateful to Gateway for inspiring my love of performing, music, and working with

children.



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.

You will find lots of photos- and Covid- era videos on the Facebook page. Even though we could not come together to entertain- we kept Gateway alive with virtual performances. WE ALL WORK TO KEEP GATEWAY-- AND THEATER--ALIVE

Rehearsals are coming along for The Clumsy Custard Horror Show- they are work and fun. Be sure to get your tickets soon.

Wait til you see costumes- and set!!





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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