

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

founded 1975
March, 2026

Barbara Day,
editor since 1991



Godspell opens Fri for 1 weekend only. Be sure to see it!



Gateway Players Theatre is excited to announce special fundraising performances of the beloved musical Godspell in support of Elm Street Congregational Church. This collaborative event promises an uplifting evening filled with inspiring music, energetic performances, and a shared spirit of community.

Gateway Players Theatre has called Elm Street Church home since 2017 when our long-time home; The Barn at the Ruth Wells Art Center was discovered to be structurally unsound. We are so appreciative of the church and their support that we feel the need to give back. All proceeds from these performances will go directly toward supporting the Roof Capital Campaign held in 2025. By attending, you'll not only enjoy a night of fantastic entertainment but also contribute to important improvements to this historic church.

Performance dates are March 20 & 21 at 7:30pm and March 22 at 2pm. The performances will be held at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street in Southbridge, MA. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Book by John Michael Tebelak, Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, Conceived and Originally Directed by John Michael Tebelak, Based on The Gospel According to St. Matthew. GODSPELL is presented through special arrangement with Music

Theatre International (MTI). Directed by Lynn Boucher, produced by Lou-Ellen Corkum and the musical director is Chris Rubenacker.

Tickets are \$20 for Adults, and \$17 for Seniors and Youth. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://www.ticketleap.events/.../gateway-players/godspell>

The cast includes: "Jesus" - Alex Gardner, "John the Baptist/Judas" - Mark Lammert

Ensemble: Billy Bolster, David Yutzler, Davyn Walsh, Deb Hollett, Erin Simpson, Hannah Bilis, Maritza Cordero, Kirsten Smaltz, Mari Cordero and Robyn De Gennaro.

Bill Mastro appeared in "Arsenic and Old Lace" in 1997. He is in back row- played a bad guy.



Attention Local High School Seniors

Since 1998 Gateway Players has awarded the Bill Mastro Memorial Scholarship each year to a college bound senior as a way of encouraging the arts among our youth and rewarding Gateway youth for their hard work and support, both on stage and/or behind the scenes. Bill was a long time member of Gateway Players Theatre. The attached photo is of Bill performing in "Guys and Dolls" in 1995. The application consists of a brief essay, along with information about theater experience- both on stage and back stage- and other community and school activities. Points are awarded for theater related activities. The recipient does not have to be a theater major.

The \$500 scholarship is paid by check issued in January for the second semester after providing us with first semester transcripts. The purpose of the scholarship is to recognize the importance of the arts and to acknowledge the student's participation and dedication.

Applications are due by April 15 and are to be emailed to both Pat Haddock at anTpooh33@aol.com and Gateway Players at info@gatewayplayers.org.

STAGED READING



On Saturday, April 11th at 7pm at Elm Street Church we will be hosting a staged reading of Kelly Dearn's play, "A Pink Sponge in the Shape of a Flamingo Named Lucille" As members of the local theater community we invite you to join us as we hear, for the first time, this play written by a local playwright. This will be a chance to encourage Kelly in this endeavor as well as offer any helpful suggestions.

This is a free event, open to the public so please invite your friends.

Gateway is always honored to promote local talent and has included new works both as staged readings and as part of seasons.

CAST

MICHELLE- Erin Simpson

JEREMY- John Golden

DUANNE & SALLY 1- Stephen Jean

JULIA & SALLY 2- Cole Gawron

OFFICER NELSON & KEN- Sean Nault

CAT & DIERDRE- Krissi Forges

LEONDRA & JENNA- Tey Ferron

Plot: A Pink Sponge in the Shape of a Flamingo Named Lucille, it starts off as an oddly specific answer to a game of 20 questions on a very awkward blind date that only gets crazier by the minute when Michelle decides to drive Jeremy half way across the country to get married. There's only one problem: Jeremy doesn't want to. Can he escape his date from hell or will everyone they come across be on Michelle's side?

**Please note this performance contains adult language and mature themes.

Gateway actors LOVE performing- and all stages are a challenging delight. Several Gateway performers will be seen in the Optical Heritage Museum Fundraiser- The Optical Heritage Museum invites you to join them for a night of murder, mayhem, and fundraising as we try to solve the murder of the optical museum's director and the theft of the priceless Wellsworth Glasses!

Taking place April 18th in the Cannery Music Hall, we entice you to join us and the Gateway Players Theatre Actors in trying your hand at solving not one, but two mysteries!

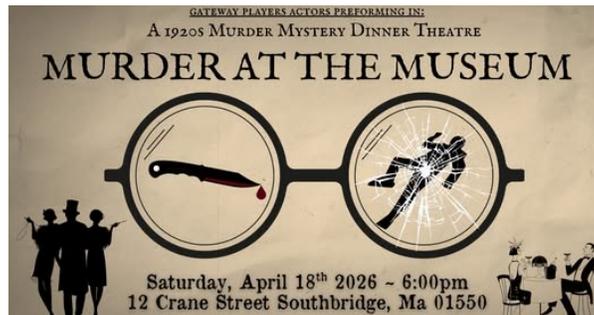
Tickets are \$100 per person. All proceeds go directly to supporting the Optical Heritage Museum and keeping its doors open and history alive. Your ticket includes a three-course meal, a complimentary beverage at the end of the case, and a chance to win some excellent prizes by entering you into a raffle to be drawn at conclusion.

The event is limited to the first 80 respondents so get your tickets quick! Tickets are available through our google form - All payment is required at time of form

completion to reserve your space. Tickets are non-refundable. The Dark Horse Tavern will also be open for beverages not included within the ticket pricing.

We ask you to dress up in your best 1920s attire and come alive for a night of murder, mystery, and supporting your local community!

PLEASE EMAIL DEB THE DIRECTOR FOR YOUR TICKET CONFIRMATION: Debbieschiro@gmail.com



Thanks to everyone who helped make "Remedial" a success- cast, crew and audience. It was a terrific show and gateway was proud to off Jordan Miller a debut of his original play.

February 2026

Dear Friend,

On behalf of Gateway Players Theatre, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support and commitment to our organization. Your generosity as a sustaining member is the cornerstone of our continued success and growth. As we reflect on the past

year, we are reminded of the vital role you play in helping us bring the magic of live theater to our community.

Thanks to your contributions, Gateway Players Theatre was able to present a diverse season of productions, workshops, and special events in celebration of our 50th year. Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming season and the opportunities it holds.

Your sustaining membership ensures that we can continue to offer high-quality performances, support local talent, and maintain affordable ticket pricing for all. We invite you to enjoy live theater with us again in 2026. Our performances this year include:

Remedial in February/March *Charlotte's Web* in May
Escape to Margaritaville in July/August *The Outsider* in October
The Spirit of Christmas or The Story of Ernestina Scrooge in December.

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website (<https://gatewayplayers.org/>) for more information.

We invite you to renew your annual sustaining membership and continue your vital partnership with Gateway Players Theatre. Your support makes it possible for us to keep the arts thriving in our area. As a thank you for your sustaining member donation we are pleased to offer complimentary tickets to an upcoming Gateway production, and your name will appear in all Gateway Players show programs. The attached form can be completed and mailed to Gateway Players PO Box 171 Southbridge, Ma 01550 or given to any board member.

Thank you once again for your dedication to Gateway Players Theatre. With your help, we look forward to another year filled with memorable performances and artistic achievement.

Sincerely,

Lou-Ellen Corkum

Lou-Ellen Corkum- President, Gateway Players

Yes, I'd like to be a Sustaining Member of Gateway Players Theatre, Inc.

**Donation Amount/# of Complimentary Tickets
(please circle one)**

Director's Circle \$1000 / 10 tickets

Starring Role Donor \$500 / 8 tickets

Lead Donor \$100 / 4 tickets

Ensemble Donor \$50 / 2 tickets

Friend \$25 / 1 ticket

Name _____

Address _____

Name as it should appear in Gateway's Program:

*Please mail this form, along with your donation to:
Gateway Players Theatre, Inc.
P.O. Box 171
Southbridge, MA 01550*

Complimentary ticket certificate will be mailed upon receipt of your donation. The certificates can be used for our 2026 season. If you have any questions, please call Gateway Players (508-764-4531). This is an answering service, and we will return your call.

Sustaining Member donation: \$ _____



Cast is being finalized for "Charlotte's Web"- check back next month for complete list. Youth productions have always been a major part of Gateway. Here are some past classics.





Above: Enchanted Bookshop 2023, Wonderland 2003, Steadfast Tin Soldier 1978.

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