

Ripples

Dear River Company Members and Friends:

Welcome to our 22nd year! We're gearing up for an exciting season. As a recap, 2018 was a very successful year for us. We've smoothed out rough edges and implemented new ideas, especially in the area of social media and online reservations and ticket sales. A special thanks to Nick Azzaretti for helping with all the online technical implementation. It has made it easier for many of our audience members to keep up with us and to get tickets.

We started our season with *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare, directed by Missie Liu, assisted by Nick Azzaretti and Allison Eddyblouin. This was our first time using the Atrium at the library and was very effective. The audience had a chance to sit in chairs at floor level, along the stairs, or on stools on the second level. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we had very big audiences for the last couple of shows.

Next up we had two one acts with dark themes to coincide with the Halloween Season. *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell, directed by Ru Monsell and *Frankenstein* by Vincent Hannam, based on a book by Mary Shelley, directed by Torie DeLisle. Both shows were held in the Porter Meeting Hall and very well attended. The atmosphere and special effects were...well... effective. Cast and crew did a wonderful job pulling it all together.

Our Christmas fundraiser was *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, directed by Ellie Busby. This was an amazing show and included many local kids who did outstanding jobs in their roles. They had a fun time and we had packed houses several nights. It was so successful and so much fun to do that we're bringing it back this year. We raised enough to be able to donate \$1,400.00 to local schools in time for Christmas break; Great Salt Bay, Jefferson Village,



River Company Presentation of check

Nobleboro Central, and Bristol Consolidated/South Bristol schools. It is part of the "Feed Our Scholars Programs of Lincoln County" through the after school/weekend backpack food program.

We had our annual meeting on Friday, February 1st, 2019 at the Skidompha Library to finalize as much as possible on this season's shows and followed that up with a great dinner at Newcastle Publick House where all board members were able to attend along with outgoing co-founder of River Company, Tom Handel. A great time was had by all and now we're ready for season 22.

Tom Handel, one of four River Company co-founders stepped down from the board after 21 years of dedicated service. Tom was fondly recognized at the River Company Annual Meeting where the board gathered to celebrate past success and make new plans. Tom was presented with a trophy engraved with River Company's logo and a gift card in appreciation for many, many years of valued volunteer service in a variety of capacities.

Tom was instrumental in bringing *Almost Maine* to River Company audiences right after the play premiered in Portland and Bangor. Among other accomplishments are acting in *Hughie*, *A Cheever Evening*, *Art and Stones in His Pockets* and directing *Over the River and Through the Woods* an audience favorite including a refreshment table loaded with authentic and delectable Italian treats! Many, many thanks and best wishes in future endeavors!

Board Members

Mallory Adams (President), Torie DeLisle (Vice President), Mitchell Wellman (Treasurer), Allison Eddyblouin (Secretary), Andrea Handel, Suzanne Rankin, Christine Anderson, Judy McQuillen, Nick Azzaretti.

President's Message

Hello River Company fans,

I hope you have enjoyed reading our annual newsletter. We send out our annual newsletter so that all of our wonderful supporters can have our season schedule well in advance and to receive our annual membership card. This year, we have also started to send out email newsletters or "e-blasts" to keep all of our friends and family up to date. Along that thread, last year we created an instagram account where we share fun photos and we continue to keep our facebook "busy," creating and promoting our schedule of events. Last year, River Company's Board of Directors was especially busy - we made some pretty big changes!

Last April we were fortunate to hold a board workshop, run by the wonderful Brian Allen of Good Theater. He gave us some great tips and shared some wonderful techniques and play suggestions. Since that workshop, we instituted board terms, created board "teams," added the role of Vice President and produced a routine board meeting schedule. Also from that workshop, we modified our company's mission statement to the following: "River Company provides a local arena for artists to gain theatrical experience that fosters artistic growth. River Company's work reflects and entertains its community through its creativity, flexibility, and versatility."

Since our recent partnership with Skidompha Library, where we became the "Theater in Residence," we thought it appropriate to revise our mission statement to better reflect what River Company has become - a community theater. We plan to continue holding open auditions and to provide opportunities to young and inexperienced talent. We will continue to challenge ourselves, like we did last year when we performed in the atrium for *The Taming of the Shrew* and had over 20 children perform in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. We are excited to continue to evolve and entertain our community and appreciate all the support from our friends, families and local businesses.

See you at the theater!

Sincerely,
Mallory Adams

2019 Season:

Feb.: *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* by Nora and Delia Ephron. Directed by Torie DeLisle.
A play of monologues and ensemble pieces about women's clothing and memory. Funny and compelling.
Feb 16 – 2 shows

April: Children's Theater Workshop. Free and for grades 2-5. Registration is required. Registration forms will be available at the library. This children's theater workshop will include acting basics, with a focus on fun, confidence building games. No acting experience necessary. Call 207-522-2797 or email mallorysmithadams@gmail.com for more information.
April 15,16,17 from 12-3 pm in the Porter Hall at Skidompha.

Matthew Barber's adaptation of *Enchanted April* by Elizabeth von Arnim. Directed by Mallory Adams.
Four different women come together in a small castle on the shore of the Mediterranean for one month. They all eventually rediscover hope and love.
April 26, 27, 28 May 3, 4, 5

July/Aug: Summer Shakespeare. *Much Ado about Nothing* by William Shakespeare
The primary plot is of courtship and scandal but watch as the witty war of words often takes center stage. July 26, 27, 28 Aug 2, 3, 4

October: Two one act plays both by Christopher Durang.
Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All For You - She does just that. There is mayhem, bloodshed and laughter when former students confront the sister. Amid the laughter some devastating truths are fleshed out.
The Actor's Nightmare - A comedy about going on stage not knowing any of your lines. Someone is mistaken for an understudy and is forced to go on stage without knowing the first thing about the play.
October 18,19,20 and 25,26,27

December: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson. Directed by Allison Eddyblouin. Everyone had such a wonderful time with all the kids that we want everyone to experience all that joy once again.
December 6,7,8

Membership:

We look forward to your support again this season. A membership card and return envelope are enclosed with this newsletter. Becoming a member gets you on our mailing list for reminders of upcoming productions, and your ticket will cost you \$2 less. This year we have added a new senior price: \$12 for Seniors and \$10 Senior Members. Tickets will be \$15 for members, \$17 for nonmembers, \$5 for students and \$25 for families of four that include 2 or more children. You can find us at the Porter Hall in Skidompha Library, Elm Street entrance. Specific dates for the shows are above, so mark your calendars now and we will see you at the theater!

About River Company:

River Company is a non-profit, 501 (c)3 corporation.

Our Mission: River Company provides a local arena for artists to gain theatrical experience that fosters artistic growth. River Company's work reflects and entertains its community through its creativity, flexibility, and versatility.

How to contact Us:

Find us at: River Company • P.O. Box 101 • Damariscotta, Maine 04543
www.rivercompany.org • info@rivercompanytheater.org
Like us on FaceBook: www.facebook.com/RiverCompanyTheater



From L to R: Suzanne Rankin, Andrea Handel, director Torie DeLisle, Allison Eddyblouin, Christine Tupper, Judy McQuillen

Apr 2019						
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