



APPLAUSE



September 2020

ON STAGE, BACK STAGE, A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

Issue 12



E-note.... Dear Members,

This pandemic has been a much longer siege than we thought it would be. All our wonderful plans for a great show season for main stage and Cabaret Players have turned upside down. And we constantly have to face maybes. It would seem easier to just cancel everything and say there is nothing to be done. But standing still is moving backward, and I believe diminishes an organization. The interminable spirit and talent in our club spurs us on to stay positive, look at new ideas, plan for the future and not give up or in.

I applaud the members, the casts that are rehearsing, the committees and our board who are working hard and looking to the future. There are no certainties but we move forward.

In this time of distress and uncertainty we have risen as a club to look at new ideas, such as streaming, creating theater on Zoom, and performing in outdoor venues that we probably would have not ventured had this dreadful pandemic not happened. We have chosen to say "why not try" instead of "it can't be done".

It is not the same as being on the main stage or in the Cabaret Nightclub, or getting our dancers back to rehearsal and classes. But these new venues add to us, add to our own and our audience's experience and can become part of our repertoire and perhaps expanded for the future.

We are continuously sending proposals to the Community Association Board to reopen all of our channels, confident they will open them when they feel it is safe for everyone. The most important thing is to stay safe and stay connected, and participate any way you can.

I thank you all for being part of this amazing club.

Eileen

OPENING UP THE OUTDOORS

In late June, Eileen and the Board of Directors met to fine tune the proposed opening guidelines for the Drama Club hoping for a mid-August opening of the SCG facilities. When it became evident facilities would not open in August, September and possibly October, the outdoor Amphitheater was targeted as a safe possibility for small cast plays.

In early September, a detailed plan for the use of the amphitheater was developed and refined to ensure all safety precautions were met for SC Grand standards and, along with an accompanying letter of explanation, was emailed to David Twiggs, CAM Manager. That plan* is under review at this time.

If the club receives permission to utilize the amphitheater, we plan to have our November Cabaret Players' perform in a lunchtime theater setting. The audience will be encouraged to bring their lunch and enjoy the beautiful fall weather, while observing social distancing and safety measures.

In addition, the Drama Club Board has approved a small 2-person play to also use the amphitheater stage, as the first of a series of plays.

This will be a very low budget endeavor, very little scenery, and very similar to Summer Players. Depending on CAM approval timing, it may be presented in the fall or spring.

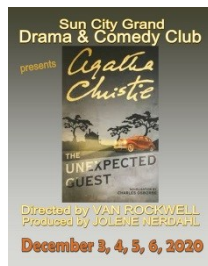
**Note:* for a copy of the plan, contact Eileen Brooks, efranpro@cox.net



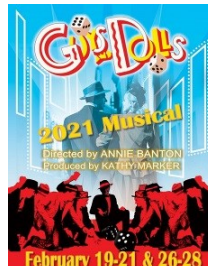
October 29, 2020



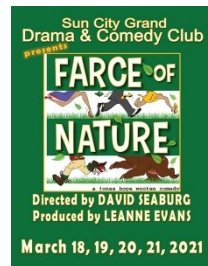
November 2020



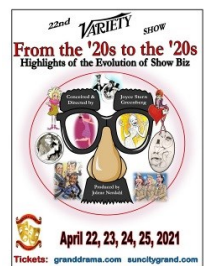
December 3, 4, 5, 6, 2020



February 19-21 & 26-28



March 18, 19, 20, 21, 2021



April 22, 23, 24, 25, 2021
Tickets: granddrama.com sunotgrand.com



BOARD BUSINESS - UPDATE



The Sun City Grand Drama & Comedy Club Board of Directors met on September 17, 2020 and approved the following:

1. Zoom performance of "Bad Auditionson Camera".
2. Postpone "go or no go" decision until December on "Guys and Dolls" February performance.
3. Lunchtime Cabaret Players' performance at the amphitheater, as well as evening main stage performances.
4. "One of Your Biggest Fans" as one of the outdoor plays in the amphitheater.
5. Possible club developed in-house small musical. Approved ad hoc committee to develop.
6. Cancel the December Holiday Party and postpone for a Springtime party.
7. Member dues assessment for 2021 will remain \$10.



ZOOM ZOOM CABARET

David Seaburg is cautiously optimistic about November. That month on the Drama Club calendar has always been the kick-off of the Cabaret Players season. And this year it is very different.

David and Gerry Seaburg are the new co-directors of the Cabaret Players. They are anxious to kick off the new season and have announced a first meeting on September 25th at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.

Pending approval from CAM the Cabaret Players will take to the outdoors and perform at the Amphitheater on an Arizona perfect fall afternoon.



LOOK for a call for directors and actors coming soon. And yes, auditions will be on Zoom!

BUT IN THE MEANTIME.....

The Drama & Comedy Club is holding auditions for bad actors. Due to the pandemic's effect on theaters, schools, and other populated events, new work has been done to perform shows in our new medium: Zoom. Streaming is not new, and there are many services out there, but it has always been for professional movie releases, etc. Small community theaters have suffered, as we have, by not being able to rehearse and perform. Plays have now been developed using Zoom for auditions, rehearsing and actually performing.



Thanks to the research of Jeff Martini he found a few great possibilities for our club. The Board approved "Bad Auditions on Camera", about an audition for a crime show, whereby all of the actors unfortunately show their acting flaws instead of portraying the character.

Eileen Brooks is directing, audition notices have been posted, and we hope to have this for viewing on October 29, 2020.

UPDATE ON THE FARCE OF NATURE

Dave Seaburg, the director of *Farce of Nature* reports the cast has been in rehearsals this past month. They began their rehearsals in August on Zoom, planning and hoping for an October show; however, when it was apparent the SCG theater would not be available, the Drama Board approved moving the show to March.

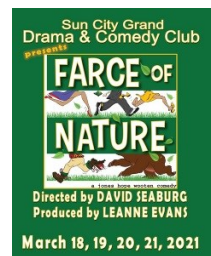
Dave is happy to say all is progressing nicely, and "It has been a laugh a minute". Rehearsals have been conducted on ZOOM and they are waiting to walk their blocking in a rehearsal space. The cast continues to work on this show hoping to bring our audience laughing once again. No doubt they will!

The Cast

Wanelle Wilburn - Judy Shields
D. Gene Wilburn - Jeff Martini
Jenna Sealy - Cathy Pierce
Maxie Wilburn Suggs - Jill Kirkpatrick
Carmine DeLuca - Peter Nonas
Ty Wilburn - Dan Harris
Lola Barbosa - Fern Bentkover
Sonny Barbosa - Fred Stenzel
Roxanne Thorne - Katie Iverson

Producer - Leanne Evans
Stage Manager - Flo Katcher

Director - David Seaburg





2020-21 Drama Club Main Stage Calendar

Play/Performance	Date
"Bad Auditions.... on Camera"	October 29, 2020 (<i>tentative</i>)
"The Unexpected Guest"	December 3, 4, 5, 6, 2020
"Guys and Dolls"	February 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 2021
"Farce of Nature"	March 18, 19, 20, 21, 2021
"The 22 nd Annual Variety Show"	April 22, 23, 24, 25, 2021

CONGRATULATIONS DAVID DURHAM POETRY WINNER

Club members voted to pick their favorite poem submitted by David Durham, "My COVID-19 (or not). To read the complete poem, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Congratulations to our 2nd place winner,
Gerri Staffieri, "Life", and
3rd place winner, Terry Pierce, "Sweetheart".

Did You Know?

Located on www.suncitygrand.com, you will find a COVID updates page. We have a widget that allows you to sign-up for COVID-19 Updates from Government Agencies in your area. Along with our eNotification updates, this information will help you to stay informed of the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here](#) to be redirected to SCG COVID updates page.

Many of our members were lucky to have known and worked with Joy Bingham Strimple. She directed "Fox On the Fairway" for our club. Recently this notice was announced:



"We are pleased to announce that the ariZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence will be posthumously awarding an ariZoni Lifetime Achievement Award to Joy Bingham Strimple.

She is being recognized for her dedication both onstage and off, directing, acting, producing and supporting theatre across the Valley. Many will remember her as the driving force behind Arizona Women's Theatre and the Pandora Festival".

THE PLAYS

"Bad Auditions...on Camera" - A Zoom Play

A casting director has one day to find an actor to fill the role of a lawyer in a TV crime show. But what seems like a simple task proves impossible when the pool of actors includes stage thespians who can't tone it down for the screen, performers completely unable to keep themselves in frame, and an actor who seems to believe this is a toothpaste commercial. Vote for who you think should get the role when you step behind the doors of a casting session in this hilarious comedy.

Director and Producer: Eileen Brooks

The Unexpected Guest by Agatha Christie: When a stranger runs his car into a ditch in dense fog in South Wales and makes his way to an isolated house, he discovers a woman standing over the dead body of her wheelchair-bound husband, gun in her hand. She admits to murder, and the unexpected guest offers to help her concoct a cover story. But is it possible that Laura Warwick did not commit the murder after all? If so, who is she shielding? The house seems full of possible suspects.

Director: Van Rockwell, Producer: Jolene Nerdahl
Stage Managers: Donna O'Donnell Figurski and Barbara Solmonson

Guys and Dolls: All the hot gamblers are in town, and they're all depending on Nathan Detroit to set up this week's incarnation of "The Oldest Established Permanent Floating Crap Game in New York"; the only problem is, he needs \$1000 to get the place. Throw in Sarah Brown, who's short on sinners at the mission she runs; Sky Masterson, who accepts Nathan's \$1000 bet that he can't get Sarah Brown to go with him to Havana; Miss Adelaide, who wants Nathan to marry her; Police Lieutenant Brannigan, who always seems to appear at the wrong time; and the music/lyrics of Frank Loesser, and you've got quite a musical.

Director: Annie Banton
Producer: Kathy Marker
Stage Managers: Jill Kirkpatrick, Flo Katcher and Sharon Costa.

Farce of Nature by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten: This Southern-fried farce highlights one day in the life of the Wilburn family of Mayhew, Arkansas. The struggling family fishing lodge, the Reel 'Em Inn, becomes the backdrop for a motley collection of flawed characters stirring up a hilarious comedic stew. In the deliciously funny romp that ensues, they all hide, lie, disguise themselves, cross-dress, and slam doors, while trying to figure out the source of an increasingly awful stench.

Director: David Seaburg, Producer: Leanne Evans,
Stage Manager: Flo Katcher.

"The 22nd Annual Variety Show. Director Joyce Greenberg promises to delight and surprise with a new concept of a traditional favorite.

Director: Joyce Greenberg
Producer: Jolene Nerdahl