

Mariemont Players, Inc.  2021-22 Season

By
Alfred Uhry

November
5th-21st, 2021



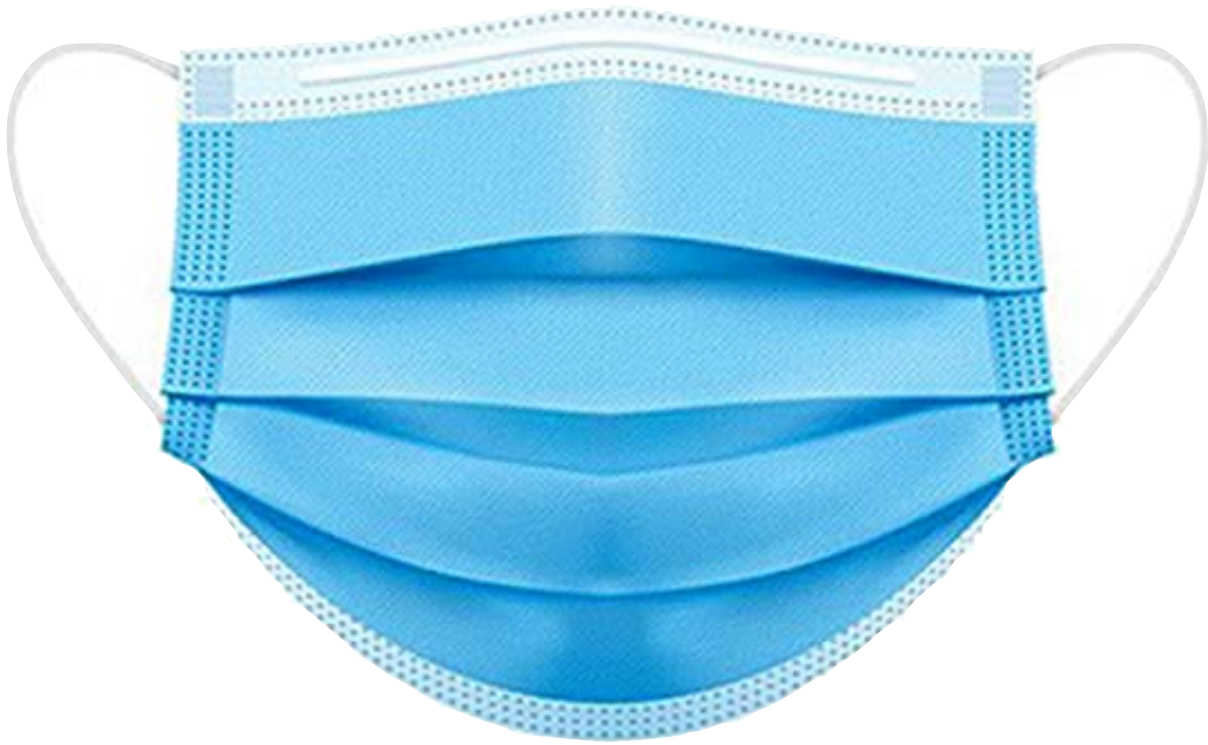
The Last Night of
Ballyhoo



Mariemont Players Inc. will be following the guidelines from the CDC in order to keep our



audiences, actors, staff and crew as safe as possible.



MASKS ARE REQUIRED
TO BE WORN INSIDE OUR
BUILDING. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A
MASK WITH YOU, WE WILL
GLADLY PROVIDE YOU WITH A
DISPOSABLE ONE.



Mariemont Players presents



The Last Night of Ballyhoo

By Alfred Uhry

Directed by Aaron Whitehead

November 5-21, 2021

Setting:

Time: December, 1939.

Place: Atlanta, Georgia.

The play is presented in two acts, with one 15-minute intermission.

SPECIAL THANKS

Langley Antiques & Design
The Village Players
Jen Martin
Douglas Berlon

Jo Ann Fairbanks
Shirley Soellner
Lisa Gerrein - Lisa's Hair Styling, Ft. Thomas
Army Stoller & Covap.

**ORIGINAL MUSIC - Hodieni from Psalm 39. Music by Mitch Cohen.
Performed by the Adath Israel High Holy Day Choir of Cincinnati.**

Originally produced on Broadway by Jane Harmon, Nina Keneally and Liz Oliver. The play was commissioned by the Alliance Theatre Company, and presented by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, Cultural Olympiad for the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival. Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service Inc.



Welcome to Mariemont Players

The Mariemont Players (MPI) was formed 85 years ago as a church group that performed plays in the village of Mariemont, Ohio. Founded in 1936, the group began a regular season of performances in the 1950s and was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization on August 28, 1956 by its president, Woodrow (Woody) Jarrett. In honor of Woody & Lois Jarrett's longtime commitment to the theater, the auditorium is named for them.

In 1960, for slightly more than \$8000, the group bought the old Plainville four-room school building. Volunteer members have been converting the structure into the Walton Creek Theater ever since. The original cornerstone was laid in 1869, but the present solid brick building at the intersection of Walton Creek and Muchmore Roads dates from 1910. We're fortunate to be one of the few local community theaters with a permanent home. Our continuing improvements to the building include a remodeled auditorium with new seating, aisle lights and an electromagnetic hearing loop for the hearing-impaired. Our elevator to the auditorium accommodates those with physical handicaps, including wheelchairs. A handicap accessible restroom is on the first floor.

The Players have had 1000s of members during the past 85 years. Some have even become film actors, Broadway musical directors and played roles in professional theater, TV commercials, corporate videos and voice-overs plus dozens of support roles in media and the creative arts.

Join Us!

Open audition dates for each production are announced on our Facebook page, on our website at mariemontplayers.com or behindthecurtaincincy.com. Cast requirements change on a show-to-show basis with no experience required.

There are many opportunities to work backstage as part of our technical production staff. If your talents or interests include props, costumes, set design and construction, painting, music, lights, sound or stage managing – we have something for you! Contact Vicki Rafferty at vsrraff@mac.com or Bill Pauly (set construction) at billpauly33@gmail.com about the next chance to get involved.

Become a Patron

Your generous donations make it possible to continue improving our theater. Donations are tax-deductible and are acknowledged in the program for each show of the season. You may donate online at our website (www.mariemontplayers.com) or send a check (write patron donation on the memo line) to MPI, 4101 Walton Creek Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45227.

Please consider supporting MPI at one of these levels.

Director \$100+

Producer \$75-99

Angel \$50-74

Quarter Club \$25-49

Patron \$15-24



Director's Notes

The Last Night of Ballyhoo is a true American story. Most everyone reading this has ancestors that came to America from somewhere else in the world, and those ancestors had to make a decision: how much of their culture they would keep and how much they were willing to give up in an attempt to become more American in the eyes of others. Much of the conflict in this play is about those decisions: how difficult they are to make, how comfortable we are with them, and what the consequences are for future generations.

More narrowly, this is a story of the American Jewish experience in 1939. There were many specific pressures facing the American Jewish community at that time... not just the rise of Nazi Germany, but the lynching of Leo Frank in 1915 and the rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s, just to name a few. The basic story of the play, the story of the Freitag cousins being alienated from their own culture and religion, is still relevant today, as young people of all different faiths and backgrounds attempt to retain their own identity without being greeted by hostility.

I hope that you are able to see an echo of your own family's experience in this play, and that you can see how it feels to have your own culture or religion branded as "the other kind".

Aaron Whitehead

Director



Hearing Loops allow people who wear hearing aids to directly receive the sound from the stage microphones in their own hearing aids. If your hearing aids have a wireless receiver called a T-coil or telecoil, just switch it on. Talk to your audiologist to see if your instruments are so equipped and how to activate it. Many hearing devices can have either a T (no background noise pickup) or MT program (blended microphone and T-coil program).

If your hearing aid doesn't have a telecoil, you may borrow a separate loop receiver with a headset, available in the first floor lobby. Ask an usher if you would like to use one.

For questions about your hearing aids and telecoils talk to your audiologist.

To learn more about hearing loops visit:

hearingloop.org or brownudioservices.com



The Last Night of Ballyhoo Cast

(in order of appearance)

LALA LEVY Natasha Boeckmann
REBA FREITAG Lisa Hall Breithaupt
BOO LEVY..... Linda Callahan
ADOLPH FREITAG Arny Stoller
JOE FARKAS..... Jake Hart
SUNNY FREITAG Jackie Miesle
PEACHY WEIL Andrew Leonard

The Last Night of Ballyhoo Production Team

Director Aaron Whitehead
Producers..... Dee Anne Bryll
Steve Winslow
Stage Manager Fred Murrell
Sound Design Ed Cohen, Aaron Whitehead, Doug Berlon
Costume Design Elaine Michael
Costume Assistant Laura Hovland
Set Design Dan Dermody
Light Design Beth Boland, Brian Boland
Lighting Assistants Nick & Timothy Boland
Set Decor. Vicki Rafferty
Painting Crew..... Vicki Rafferty, Jo Ann Fairbanks, Linda &
Steve Winslow, Dee Anne Bryll,
Natasha Boeckmann
Properties Vicki Rafferty
Light & Sound Execution Eric Day, Aimée Ward
Master Carpenter Bill Pauly
Construction Team Tim Carney, Art Kibby
Lobby Display Jim Curtis
Playbill Vicki Rafferty
Publicity Jackie Miesle
Online Playbill. Vicki Rafferty
Original Show Artwork Teresa Johns
Photography Kristy Rucker
Opening Night Reception MPI Board
Box Office Manager Art & Joyce Kibby
Facilities Steve Farley, Kim Woods
Website... Patrick Kramer





About the Cast



Natasha Boeckmann (LaLa Levy) is thrilled to be back on stage with Mariemont for another show this season. She was previously seen as Paige Caldwell in MPI's *The Outsider*. She has had the privilege to work with several other amazing theatre groups throughout the area including Falcon, Sunset Players and Footlighters. Some of her favorite roles include her award-winning performances as Woman (*Turn of the Screw*), Lindsey/Betsy (*Clybourne Park*), Sylvia (*Sylvia*), Tour Guide (*Exhibit This! The Museum Comedies*), and Susy Hendrix (*Wait Until Dark*). As always, she is eternally grateful for the love and support from her family and friends. You're the best!



Lisa Hall Breithaupt (Reba Freitag) is excited to be back on stage and thrilled to be making her Mariemont Players debut. She was last seen on stage as Rose in the musical *Gypsy* with the Loveland Stage Company. She has been a member of the local theater community for 27 years and has been blessed to have worked with many groups including CMT, Footlighters, Tri-County Players, Lumos and Ovation. Some of her favorite roles include Dolly (*Hello, Dolly*), Maria (*The Sound of Music*), Anna (*The King and I*), Sister Robert Ann (*Nunsense I & II*) and Laura (*The Glass Menagerie*). In "real life", Lisa is a Librarian and Branch Manager. Please support your local library! She is always grateful for the love and support she receives from her family - husband Tim and children, Joshua and Isabel. I love you, my family!



Linda Callahan (Boo Levy) is thrilled to be joining the cast of Ballyhoo and to be doing live theater again. She has worked with multiple theaters around town including CincyLab, TDW, Sunset Players, Middletown Lyric Theatre and CenterStage Players. She is a veteran at Mariemont, having performed in *Broadway Bound*, *Becky's New Car*, *Wisdom of Eve* and *Beau Jest*. Thanks to Aaron and to Bode and Aiden for their belief and support.



Jake Hart (Joe Farkas) is in his second production with MPI, having appeared as Eugene Jerome in *Broadway Bound*. That was his last production before COVID-19, and he is very blessed and excited to be working on the stage again with an absolutely fabulous crew and cast. He will be appearing in the March 2022 MPI production of *Ripcord*. Jake would like to thank the Patrons for their endurance and continued support over these difficult couple of years. He would also like to thank his family and loved ones for making things a lot easier for him as well.... he wouldn't be acting without them.



Andrew Leonard (Peachy Weil) is very happy to be making his MPI debut in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. He has trained at Xavier University and co-founded the Bellevue Shakespeare Company, “South Bank Shakes”. Andrew co-directed their inaugural production this past summer. A few previous credits include Bobby in *Company*, Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Elliot in the world premiere of *Miriam: A Seminar* and Herr Schultz in *Cabaret*. Andrew hopes you enjoy the show and he would like to thank MPI for this great opportunity, Pam and Joe for a place to stay and Peyton for all her love and support.



Jackie Miesle (Sunny Freitag) is so excited to join this wonderful cast and return to the Mariemont stage! Favorite roles include Liz (*Chicago*), Marty (*Grease*), Peggy (“By My Side” - *Godspell*), Adelaide (*Guys and Dolls*), Molly (*More Fun Than Bowling*), Jemima (*Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang*), and Margot (*Legally Blonde: The Musical*). In addition to performing, Jackie enjoys choreography and is a member of the MPI Board of Directors. Jackie extends her deepest love and gratitude to the cast, crew and production team for their hard work and for trusting her with this opportunity. Special thanks to her family and friends for their love and support and for listening to her practice her Atlanta accent!



Arny Stoller (Adolph Freitag) was last seen on the Mariemont stage in *Broadway Bound*. He was also in *The Cemetery Club*, *All the Way*, *The Silver Whistle*, *Mornings at Seven*, *Who Am I This Time*, *Bus Stop*, *12 Angry Jurors*, *Is Life Worth Living*, *Seeing Stars in Dixie*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Blue Moon Dancing*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *The Foreigner* and others. Arny has also been in local productions of *Flamingo Court*, *The Elephant Man*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *Our Town*, *Proof*, *The Retreat from Moscow*, *Gypsy*, and many others. Arny and wife, Stephanie, own and operate Covap Inc., a bulk mail service company.



About the Production Team



Aaron Whitehead (Director) is thrilled to make his Cincinnati directorial debut with Mariemont Players’ production of Alfred Uhry’s wonderful *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. Aaron previously appeared in Mariemont’s production of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* in 2016. As a director, Aaron has previously helmed productions of *Love, War, Sex and Beer* (scenes from Shakespeare’s histories). *The Rainmaker* and *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Aaron would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew for making the process so much easier, with special thanks to producers Dee Anne and Steve.



Dee Anne Bryll (Producer) is an award-winning director, choreographer, actress and teacher whose work includes Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, University of Cincinnati College - Conservatory of Music, Xavier University, Cincinnati Landmark Productions, Commonwealth Theatre Company, the Carnegie Theatre and Kings Island. In addition to her choreography and direction, Dee Anne is an adjudicator and workshop leader which includes work for the Educational Theatre Association, Atlanta Georgia's Alliance Theatre Woodruff Arts Center Education Conference, Iowa Musical Theatre Teachers, West Virginia Theatre Conference and the Ohio Community Theatre Association. She is proud to be serving as President of MPI this year! Thrilled to be working with Aaron and Steve!



Steve Winslow (Producer) is excited to be working with Aaron Whitehead and Dee Anne Bryll on this show. The last show that Steve produced at MPI was *Earth and Sky* which had to be cancelled on final dress rehearsal night because of COVID. Previous to that at MPI, Steve was producer and stage manager for *Outside Mullingar*.



Fred Murrell (Stage Manager) is excited to serve this production as Stage Manager. He has principally been an on-stage presence here at MPI having appeared in *Broadway Bound*, *Three Bags Full*, *All the Way* and (almost) *Earth and Sky* which had to be cancelled on final dress rehearsal night because of COVID. Additional credits include performing with The Drama Workshop, The Village Players, Equality Productions, Fort Findlay Playhouse, Arts Consortium Studio Theatre, Fairfield Footlighters, Tri-County Players, Sunset Players, Wyoming Players, University of Findlay, Northern Kentucky University Summer Dinner Theatre and the Cincinnati Theatre Festival. Fred has also been a set designer, director and served in other assorted production roles.



Elaine Michael (Costume Design) is returning to Mariemont after last costuming *Six Dancing Lessons in Six Weeks* in 2015. She has also been seen on stage in *Shout!* and *Stepping Out*. She has costumed many community theatre productions in the Cincinnati area as well as shows at Loveland High School. Other current costume projects include *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert* for Cincinnati Music Theatre and *Leading Ladies* for Loveland High School, both opening in November. Acting-wise, she has been cast as Sister Augusta in Sunset Players' upcoming winter production of *Drinking Habits*. As always, many thanks to Mike and Kaylee for letting me play.



Ed Cohen (Sound Design) has designed sound for such MPI shows as *Never the Sinner*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Outside Mullingar*, and *Blue Moon Dancing* among many others. He has worked for over 30 years as a Director throughout Cincinnati, including at CCM (*Falsettos and Parade*), NKU (*Breaking the Code*, *The Foreigner*, *Some Enchanted Evening* and *Encore, Encore*), Miami University (*The Wild Party*) and several shows at MPI, most recently *All the Way*. Thanks to Aaron, Dee Anne and Steve for letting him be part of this.



Beth Boland (Lighting Design) is happy to be back in the Mariemont Players' theater! Her last show here was *Wisdom of Eve*. Beth's work has been seen around town, most recently at Footlighters' *Grease*, TDW's *The Odd Couple* and she is the Tech Adviser at Wyoming High School for their Drama Club where she enjoys teaching the next generation of Lighting Designers. Special thanks to Brian, Nick, Tim, Fred, Steve and Jake for setting up ladders, getting into tight spaces and helping to make this a great show!



Dan Dermody (Set Design) has been involved with community theater since 1992 as a scenic designer for several groups in the Greater Cincinnati area. Dan was the recipient of the Mario Pitocco Award in 2006. He has served on the Board of Directors for MPI in several capacities, including as Board president. Dan has been an Acclaim Award winner twice for set design. Currently he is owner of Dermody Design Group, a construction management, space planning & design company specializing in design/build for residential and commercial projects.



Vicki Rafferty (Properties, Set Decor, Playbills) started working backstage in community theatre in 1989 with East Side Players and has worked with many other theaters in the Greater Cincinnati area including Stagecrafters, The Drama Workshop, The Village Players, CenterStage Players, Tri-County Players and Beechmont Players. She most recently did props for *The Outsider*. She started working with MPI in 2007 on *Natural Causes* and has done props and set decor for many productions since then. She is now on the MPI Board as VP of Production. Vicki is a Mario Pitocco Award recipient for excellence in technical theatre and also an OCTA Spirit of Community Theatre Award recipient. She taught students with multiple disabilities for Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities for 30 years, worked as a horticulture assistant for Conservatory Plant Leasing and also taught swimming at Blue Ash YMCA for 32 years.



Bill Pauly (Master Carpenter) has just built his 41st set with the completion of *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. With his fellow carpenter, Tim Carney, he finds joy building each set with their unique designs and challenges. Bill has received many awards for his work including MPI's President's Award and the Elston Hurst Award and 16 Orchid Awards from ACT. He wants to thank MPI, the patrons, his crew and his wife for the opportunity to fulfill his passion with the excitement that these sets produce.



Art & Joyce Kibby (Box Office Managers) have been members of Mariemont Players since 1981. Art has acted in numerous roles on stage, helps with set construction and serves on the MPI Board as House & Grounds Chair and is a current VP of Business. Joyce has filled many backstage roles, including set painting, decor and costumes and is currently active in the Wednesday play reading group. They live in Anderson Township and operate a video production and payroll business, the continuation of a production company Art started with former MPI member, Dick Raynor, in 1979. Joyce handles the day-to-day bookkeeping for Kibby Raynor Productions.

About the Playwright



Alfred Uhry is the only playwright ever to win the Triple Crown: an Oscar, a Tony, and a Pulitzer Prize. He began his career as a lyric writer under contract to the late Frank Loesser. In that capacity he made his Broadway debut in 1968 with *HERE'S WHERE I BELONG*. He then wrote the book and lyrics for *THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM* and was nominated for a Tony Award. He followed that with five re-created musicals at the Goodspeed Opera House. In 1987 his first play, *DRIVING MISS DAISY*, opened at Playwrights Horizons Theatre in New York. It was subsequently moved to the John Houseman Theatre, where it ran for over 1300 performances. The play earned many awards, including the Outer Critics

Circle Award and the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. For the film version, he won an Academy Award and the film itself was voted Best Picture of the Year. Other films include "Mystic Pizza" and "Rich in Love." Mr. Uhry's second play, *LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO*, which was commissioned by the Cultural Olympiad for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, opened on Broadway in February 1997. It has been chosen Best Play by the American Theatre Critics Association, The Outer Critics Circle, and the Drama League, and the 1997 Tony Award. He worked on *PARADE*, a musical play about the Leo Frank case, with music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown and directed by Harold Prince. His film projects include a new adaptation of "Dodsworth" for Time Warner, "Cut Flowers" for Miramax, and "Taft," commissioned by Morgan Freeman.

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As of 11/16/2021

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Gone With The Wind

Interesting Facts

Based on the 1936 novel by Margaret Mitchell, the film, *Gone with the Wind*, premiered at the Loew's Grand Theater in Atlanta in December, 1939. David O. Selznick purchased the film rights for \$50,000 in July, 1936 but production was delayed until January of 1939 because of his determination to have Clark Gable, who was under contract to MGM at the time, play Rhett Butler. Many famous, or soon-to-be-famous actresses were considered for the role of Scarlett. Vivien Leigh, a young English actress who was little-known in America, threw her hat into the ring in early 1938. She was screen tested in December, 1938, along with Paulette Goddard. Selznick wanted to use Goddard but controversy over her marriage to Charlie Chaplin made Selznick change his mind and Leigh's casting as Scarlett was announced in January, 1939 as filming was beginning.

George Cukor, who had spent 2 years doing the pre-production work on the film, was fired just after filming began, reportedly at Clark Gable's insistence. He was replaced by Victor Fleming, who was replaced by Sam Wood for several weeks because Fleming was suffering from exhaustion. He returned and filming was completed in July; post-production work was completed in November, 1939.... just a month before its premiere. Because of Georgia's Jim Crow laws, the film's Black actors were unable to attend the premier.

Max Steiner composed the score which includes 99 separate pieces of music. The original screenplay is credited to Sidney Howard, who died before the premiere. However, at least 4 other writers worked on the script, including Ben Hecht, who had not read the novel. Hecht was given \$15,000 and 5 days to complete a rewrite. Selznick locked himself, Hecht and his new director, Fleming, in an office and he and Fleming acted out the scenes from the book then Hecht rewrote the dialogue. Selznick allowed them to eat only bananas and peanuts but by the end of the week they had completed the rewrite. That incident is the subject of a play called *Moonlight and Magnolias* by Ron Hutchinson, which was produced here at Mariemont in 2013.

The film won 10 Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Director and Best Supporting Actress for Hattie McDaniel, the first Black actor to win an Academy Award.

Margaret Mitchell, the author of *Gone With the Wind*, reportedly had no interest in participating in the production of the film based on her novel, but when she saw a picture of the perfect 1836 plantation-style house, Twelve Oaks, in the *Atlanta Journal*, she cut it out and sent it to Selznick International Pictures, explaining in a note that the home was exactly what she envisioned for the Tara plantation. Though *Gone With the Wind* was filmed on a set, Twelve Oaks has served as a filming location for other productions including *The Vampire Diaries*, *Tyler Perry's The Family That Preys*, *Halloween II*, and others, and it has also been used as a wedding venue and a bed-and-breakfast. In 2019 the home went up for auction after a \$2 million restoration.



Mariemont Players' Audience Services

For Your Comfort and Safety

- **Restrooms:** Handicap-accessible restroom on the first floor lobby level, and two additional restrooms in the basement.
- **Refreshments:** Available prior to show and during intermission in the first floor Hurst lobby.
- **Elevator:** Accessible from parking lot, lobby and auditorium. Ask an usher for assistance.
- **Emergency Exits:** Located at the left and right of the front aisle and at the left and right sides of the stage.
- **AED (Automated External Defibrillator):** On top landing just outside the auditorium, designed to be used by anyone in case of sudden cardiac arrest.
- **Hearing Loop:** For the hearing-impaired patron with a T-coil equipped hearing aid. If your hearing aid is equipped with a wireless receiver called a T-coil or telecoil, just switch it on. If your hearing aid doesn't have a telecoil, you may borrow a separate loop receiver with a headset, available in the first floor lobby.

Good Neighbor Policy

- Latecomers cannot be admitted until a suitable break.
- PLEASE be sure all cell phones, pagers and personal alarms are TURNED OFF, not just placed on silent or vibrate.
- Be considerate of those around you. Talking and rustling papers distract the performers and other audience members.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in the auditorium, except water bottles. Please dispose of all refreshments before entering the theater.
- Walton Creek Theater is a smoke-free building. There are smoking receptacles outside.
- Publisher's copyright strictly forbids photography, video or audio recording of any kind during the performance.

Group Rates

MPI offers special rates to groups of 10 or more for certain performances.

Please call our Box Office at 513 684-1236 for more information.

Contact Us

Mariemont Players
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Theater: 513 271-1661
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