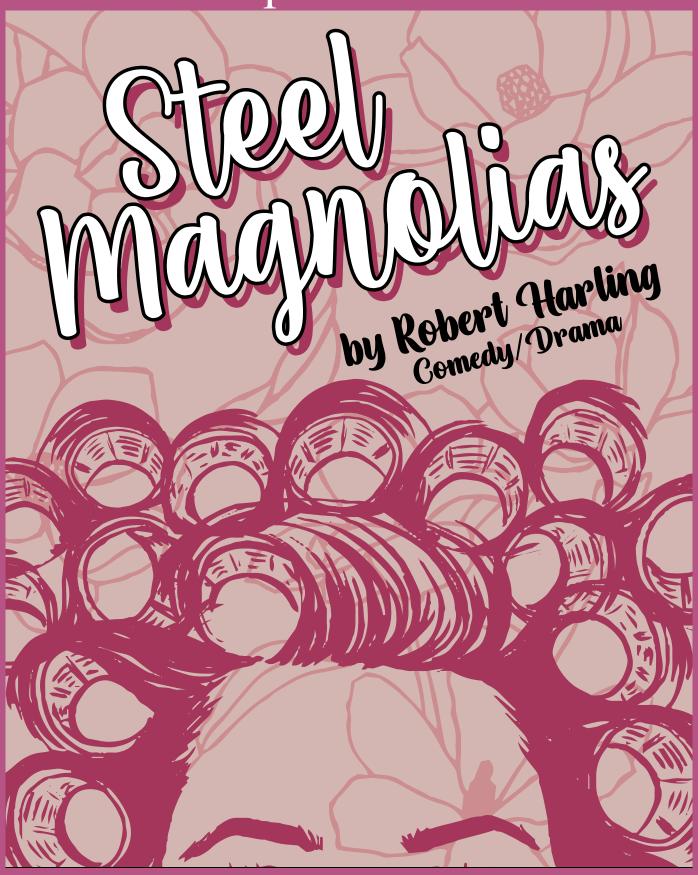
Mariemont Players Inc. presents



September 7 - 24, 2023 Walton Creek Theatre



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 Recommended because of our small space and the close proximity to the actors.

They are no longer mandatory.



Mariemont Players presents

Steel Magnolias By Robert Harling

Originally produced by the W.P.A. Theatre, New York City, 1987. (Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)



Directed by Megan Horton Produced by Jennifer Day, Bill Geraghty, & Eric Day

September 7 - 24, 2023



TIME: Mid - 1980s ACT 1: Scene 1: April

Scene 2: December

ACT 2: Scene 1: June, 18 months later

Scene 2: November

SETTING: Truvy's Beauty Shop, Chinquapin, Louisiana



THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

SPECIAL THANKS

Steve Farley Madeline Obermeyer Kristen Vincenty Chuck Ingram Brian Obermeyer Ryan Oelker

Dee Day Salon Be

To all of our ushers and to anyone who may have joined the effort after we went to print!

Welcome to Mariemont Players

The Mariemont Players (MPI) was formed 87 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

THANK YOU for your support!



WELCOME!

On behalf of the Board of Mariemont Players Inc, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our audience members, for your steady and reliable support to this community theater. It is through your wonderful continued support that we are able to present to you another exciting season of comedy, drama and music.

ACT-Cincinnati, which is a regional community theater organization in this area, honored Mariemont Players' '22 - '23 season with 85 Orchid Awards for excellence in theater for various aspects of performance and production. Our excerpt of *The Gods of Comedy* was chosen to represent the Southwest Region at the Ohio Community Theatre Association's State Conference this month.

Through our Community Outreach and Marketing Chairs we are trying to broaden our visibility in the surrounding area. We held successful pre-show receptions for organizations like the Madeira Women's Club and the Mariemont Preschool Moms, marched in the Mariemont Memorial Day Parade, set up booths at Mariemont and Madeira Farmers Markets and A Taste of Mariemont, and participated in several Columbia Township community events.

To all our patrons: DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

We are always searching for good people to be active participants of MPI. Everyone is welcome to become a member - forms are available in the lobby.

We have scores of opportunities from ushering to scene-building, working on backstage crews to painting sets, etc. You could become a part of our play reading group that meets monthly or try auditioning for a part in a show.

If interested in more info on any of these opportunities please reach out through email at mpiboxoffice@gmail.com or use the Contact form at our website - www.mariemontplayers.com.

Dan Dermody
President of the Board







Director's Notes

Welcome to Mariemont Players, and thank you for attending Steel Magnolias!

It has always been a dream of mine to work on this show. I remember my mother showing me the movie when I was around 8 years old (shout out Mom!) and it was the first "grown up" movie that I adored. The characters, the hilarious one-liners, the female friendships... I was fascinated by it all. When I was in high school she took me to the play at a local community theater, and I was still in love with this clever and touching script. As a college student, freshman year, I found myself buying the script at the campus bookstore "just because". That script has lived on in every place that I've called "home" over the last few decades.

Truvy says "Laughter through tears is my favorite emotion". I've seen that be so true in my own life... Laughter & friendship can truly get us through some of life's toughest moments. I think we need that more than ever after the last several years.

The six incredible actors you see on stage tonight, and the talented crew of people behind the scenes have really banded together to create this piece of theatre. I'm so proud to have them all on this team.

Finally, I dedicate this show to the late Norma Niinemets, after whom the Mariemont stage is named. I can't help but think of her whenever we've been in rehearsals. She took a chance on me when I was 19 years old, casting me in my very first community theatre show. That really was the catalyst for me getting involved with this amazing community and I am forever grateful. Thanks, Norma.

- Megan Horton



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 brownaudioservices.com

THE CAST

Truvy Jones	Debbi Berlon
Annelle Dupuy-DeSoto	Anna Hazard
Clairee Belcher	Cathy Lutts
Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie	Katie Jensen
M'Lynn Eatenton	Stefanie Adams
Ouiser Boudreaux	Tobie Braverman

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Megan Horton
Co-Producers	Jennifer Day, Bill Geraghty
Ass't Producer	Eric Day
Stage Manager	Janet Wisner
Radio Announcer	Chuck Ingram
Set Design/Decor	Betsy Obermeyer
Properties	Vicki Rafferty
Costume Design	Elaine Michael
Wig Design	Jim Percival
Light Design	jef brown
Sound Design	Douglas Berlon
Dialect Coach	Jennifer Day
Hair Stying Consultant	Dee Day
Understudies	Molly Barresi, Jennifer Day,
	Diana Rogers, Cat Cook
Master Carpenter	Bill Pauly
Set Construction Crew	Bill Pauly, Tim Carney, Joe Herzog,
	Art Kibby, Fred Murrell
Painting Crew	Betsy & Madeline Obermeyer,
	Bill Geraghty, Megan Horton
Backstage Crew	Greta Manolis, Hannah Richardson
Light & Sound Execution	Molly Barresi, Clare Hingsbergen
Lobby Display	Jim Curtis & Jill Herzner
Photography	Kristy Rucker
Original Show Art	Teresa Johns
Program/Online Program	Vicki Rafferty
Publicity	Jackie Miesle, Linda Callahan,
	Kristen Vincenty
Box Office Manager	Aaron Courtland
Facilities Manager	Steve Farley
Website	Jackie Miesle

About the Cast



Stefanie Adams (M'Lynn) - Stefanie is so happy to be back on the Mariemont stage with this funny and touching show and stellar cast, crew and production team. She first joined this great group last season in *The Gods of Comedy* in a "slightly" different type of role as the wacky Dean. You may have also seen her in other favorite roles as Alice in *Bright Star* (The Drama Workshop), Florence in *The Odd Couple, Female Version* (Footlighters) and the musical revue *Ring of Fire* (The Drama Workshop). Stefanie is grateful to play this iconic role and thanks her Guy for all the love and support (and food!).



Debbi Berlon (Truvy) - Debbi has performed with numerous theatre groups in both Cincinnati and Atlanta. She is happy to be back in Chinquapin Parish and back on stage at MPI. Debbi was last seen here in *The Outsider*. *Steel Magnolias* holds a special place in her heart, and she hopes that, after tonight's performance, it will hold a special place in yours as well. After all, there's no better emotion than "laughter through tears".



Tobie Braverman (Ouiser) - Tobie has performed at a number of community theatres in the Cincinnati area including The Drama Workshop, Village Players, CenterStage Players, Cincinnati Music Theatre and Showbiz Players. She is the recipient of Orchid awards for both her on-stage and back stage work as a stage manager and various other tech roles. She is both honored and thrilled to be making her Mariemont Players debut with this phenomenal group of women, and would like to especially thank Megan for this amazing opportunity. Enjoy the show!



Anna Hazard (Annelle) - Anna is returning to the Mariemont stage for round two! She first appeared as Daphne in *Gods of Comedy* in 2022, and is glad to be back to bring Annelle to life. She was most recently seen at Loveland in *Twelfth Night* as Viola and served as the understudy for *Every Brilliant Thing* at Falcon. She is so thankful for her real life person, D'Waughn, who brings stability, peace, light and laughter into her days like the women in this show do for each other. She hopes you have incredible people in your life, too.



Katie Jensen (Shelby) - Katie is tickled pink to play Shelby! She has previously appeared on MPI's stage in *Harvey* (Nurse Kelly), *Is He Dead?* (Marie), and *Three Bags Full* (Angela). She has also appeared locally on The Village Players stage, most recently in *The Taming* (Katherine) and *You Can't Take it With You* (Alice). Katie is a graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts and is the current Vice President of The Village Players. In the words of her Aunt Margie, "you're not really a woman until you've seen Steel Magnolias!".



Cathy Lutts (Clairee) - Cathy is excited to return to the Mariemont stage with this talented cast, crew and director. Cathy's last show, *Dearly Departed*, re- ignited the acting flame. Over the last 40 years, Cathy has been on and off stage in over twenty plus productions. One of the most influential Mariemont individuals that impacted Cathy's theater life was Norma Niinemets. Over the years, Norma always supported Cathy in every endeavor. She would like to dedicate this show to Norma.

With the continued presence of Covid in our lives, Mariemont Players has instituted an understudy program. The understudy committee is building and maintaining a list of actors/actresses willing to step into a show in an emergency. Early in the rehearsal process each director will choose actors from the list who might be appropriate for the major roles in their show. We are hopeful that this added measure will safeguard our performances and greatly lower the chances of MPI needing to cancel shows during a run. It has already been used successfully on several occasions.

If an understudy needs to go on you will see them with a script in hand, but be assured that they have attended rehearsals to familiarize themselves with the show's concept, blocking, and pacing so that, if called upon, they are confident and able to perform with little notice.

Understudies



Molly Barresi (Understudy - Annelle & Shelby, Light & Sound Execution) - Molly hopes the audience will only get to admire her work pushing buttons in the booth upstairs rather than have to see her onstage for this beautiful production. This is her sixth show with MPI after stage managing *This Random World, Glass Menagerie*, and *Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (*Abridged*) in previous seasons and working both on and off stage for *Dearly Departed*, *Bus Stop*, and *She Kills Monsters* at MPI and elsewhere. When not at the theater, Molly works in sports marketing, enjoys reading, and will almost always be seen with her headphones.



Cat Cook (Understudy - Truvy) - Cat is excited to be offered her first opportunity to serve as understudy for Mariemont Players. She last played on the floorboards here in her role as the French Inspector in disguise in *Is He Dead?*. Cat has been active with various Cincinnati community and semi-professional theatres over the past two decades. Favorite roles have included Charlotte in *A Little Music*, performed as part of the Spoleto Arts Festival in Charleston, SC, and Lisabette in *Anton in Show Business* back when The Know Theatre was still a Tribe. She would like to express her sincerest thanks to all who continuously support The Arts.



Diana Rogers (Understudy - Clairee & Ouiser) - Diana is delighted to be a part of Mariemont's Understudy program. She was last seen onstage in Mariemont's production of *August: Osage County* as Violet Weston. Break legs to all. And please take care of yourselves!!

About the Production Team



Megan Horton (Director) - Megan is delighted to be directing *Steel Magnolias* this season at Mariemont, after serving as Assistant Director for *The Gods of Comedy* last season. Previously, she appeared on stage in *The Blue Moon Dancing* at Mariemont. Elsewhere, Megan has worked as Assistant Director on *Chicago, Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Play On!*. She has a BFA in Theatre Performance from Northern Kentucky University, is a current board member, and head of Social Media Marketing with Footlighters, and serves as an ACT Adjudicator. She would like to thank her husband Nick for all of the support!



Jennifer Day (Co-Producer, Understudy M'Lynn) - Jennifer has directed and performed for Mariemont Players and is thrilled to finally produce at MPI with this fantastic creative team. She has also performed, directed and/or produced for Footlighters, and has performed for several other community theatres including The Drama Workshop, Beechmont Players, and Village Players of Ft. Thomas. Jen would like to thank her husband Eric who bravely jumped into this foray with her!



Bill Geraghty (Co-Producer) - Bill is excited to be working with Mariemont Players for the first time! His local theater credits include Producing, Directing, and working on stage in various productions with Footlighters and Cincinnati Music Theatre. He is happy to be making new friends at Mariemont and hopes to do more work here in the future!



Eric Day (Ass't Producer) - Eric was last seen on our stage as Dionysus in *The Gods of Comedy* which was chosen to perform at the local Association of Community Theaters Convention this past June and then at the Ohio Community Theatre Association State Conference this month. This is Eric's first time producing a show and he wants to thank his wife, Jennifer, and Bill Geraghty for training him on the process. He and Jennifer are the proud parents (and stepparents) of Noah D, Noah R, Micah, Hannah, Eliana, and four fur babies - Hermione, Luna, Cissy, and Bella.



Janet Wisner (Stage Manager) - Janet has been an award-winning presence in local theatre since 1999. She has proudly worked with Mariemont Players, The Footlighters, The Village Players and Cincinnati Music Theatre. Janet is thrilled to be back at Mariemont and stage managing this very talented cast and crew and she hopes you all enjoy this funny, wonderful show.



Chuck Ingram (Radio Announcer) - Chuck enjoys working with Mariemont Players both on and off stage. In addition to providing the light design for several shows, including, most recently, *August: Osage County.* He most recently appeared on the Mariemont stage as Ned Newley in The Outsider - a show that went on to represent the Southwest Region at the Ohio Community Theatre Association's State Conference. He is presently playing The Monster in Footlighters' *Young Frankenstein.*



Betsy Obermeyer (Set Design/Decor) - Betsy is pleased to lend her talents to MPI for such a beloved show. An MFA recipient from The Ohio State University, her recent projects include set design for MPI's most recent production *Ain't Misbehavin'*, serving as Secretary and Long Range Judging Committee Chair for ACT Cincinnati, and serving as Cub Scout Den Leader this past school year. She is grateful for the best painting helper ever, her daughter Madeline, who enjoys beautifying the stage nearly as much as her mom.



Vicki Rafferty (Props, Programs) - This is the 3rd production of *Steel Magnolias* that Vicki has been a part of. She has worked with many theaters in the area including Stagecrafters, The Drama Workshop, The Village Players, Wyoming/CenterStage Players, Tri-County Players and Beechmont Players. She started working with MPI in 2007 on *Natural Causes* and has produced, done props and set decor for many productions since then, most recently for *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Vicki is a Mario Pitocco Award recipient for excellence in technical theatre and also an OCTA Spirit of Community Theatre Award recipient.



Elaine Michael (Costume Design) - Elaine is returning to Mariemont after costuming last season's *Gods of Comedy*. She has also been seen on stage here 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 recent costume projects include non-drag for *Kinky Boots* for Cincinnati Music Theatre and *The Dining Room* for Tri-County Players. Elaine is a Mario Pitocco Award recipient for excellence in technical theatre from ACT Cincinnati. She has also been appearing onstage with many different groups for more than 30 years. As always, many thanks to Mike and Kaylee for letting me play.



Jim Percival (Wig & Hair Design) - Jim is pleased to be doing wig design for Mariemont Players again! He has worked in community theater for more than 30 years with various companies, including Beechmont Players, CMT, Footlighters, The Drama Workshop, CenterStage Players, and Mariemont Players. Jim won an OCTA Award in 2005 for Wig Design for CMT's production of *Chicago*, and has also won Orchids for Excellence in Hair & Wig Design for Beechmont Players productions of *See How They Run*, *Cinderella*, and *Blithe Spirit*. More recently, he won an Orchid for Footlighters' productions of *Trailer Park The Musical*, *Bonnie and Clyde The Musical*, and *Something Rotten!*.



jef brown (Lighting Design) - jef has designed lights for 30+ MPI productions, including *Cry It Out, Gods of Comedy, Ripcord*, several *Tunas* and most of the shows he's directed here the last 20+ years. In addition, he's directed, acted, designed lights, sets and sound and served as a consultant to many of Cincinnati's theatre groups. jef has been honored by ACT-Cincinnati, Inc. with its Pitocco Award, and by MPI with its Grooms and Hurst Awards. He will direct *The Book of Will* in November. jef would like to thank Amy for letting him climb ladders and play with his friends.



Douglas Berlon (Sound Design) - As a Sound Designer, Douglas has been tickling eardrums and making audiences guffaw in delight for decades. He is pleased to work with this talented cast and production team and thrilled to see his lovely and talented wife, Debbi, on stage at MPI, since this is where he fell in love with her 32 years ago!



Bill Pauly(Master Carpenter) - Bill started constructing sets for Mariemont Players back in November of 2012. He enjoys seeing the sets come alive and enhance the experience of the audience as they watch the performance. Bill finds it a joy building each set with their unique designs and challenges - including a 10th century castle, a dog park, a cemetery, the home of a six foot invisible rabbit and now a beauty shop. Along with a talented crew of helpers, Bill has been recognized by both MPI and ACT. He wants to thank MPI, the patrons and his wife for the opportunity to be part of this production.



Clare Hingsbergen (Light & Sound Execution) - Clare is happy to be returning to Mariemont Players after just stage managing *Ain't Misbehavin'*. She works for the US EPA by day, is a singer for the Songs by Heart Foundation, and has been onstage in many shows in the Cincinnati area (mostly on the west side). Clare's so happy to help bring this project to the stage, and especially happy to be working with the amazing folks who make up the cast and production team.



Aaron Courtland Soper (Box Office Manager) - After Aaron relocated to Cincinnati in 2020 during a Global Pandemic, Mariemont Players welcomed this new member to the playhouse family, showcasing the gracious hospitality locals have grown to love about this community theatre for decades. As a seasoned box office manager with a background in the entertainment industry, a talented creative professional in Visual Arts and as an emerging professional in Intimacy Coaching & Choreography, Aaron has great enthusiasm for assisting Mariemont Players patrons, season after season with having the best experience each and every time they visit our theatre and join us for one of our 6 productions per year. "Time flies when you're having fun and I believe I found the perfect community theatre to call home."



Photos by Kristy Rucker









Thank You Mariemont 2022 - 2023 Season Patrons!

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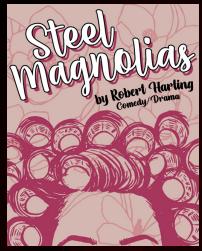
Thomas Zumbiel

*In memory of Ginny Weil

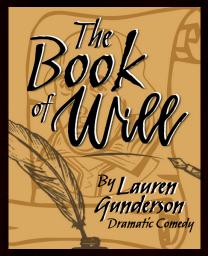
**In memory of Tom Storey
***In memory of Steve Myers

As of 9/8/2023

Mariemont Players 2023 - 2024 Season

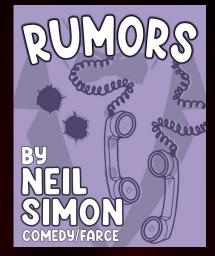


September 7-24, 2023 Comedy/Drama

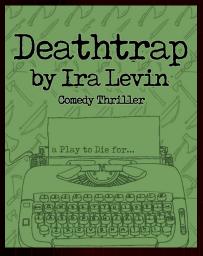


November 2-19, 2023

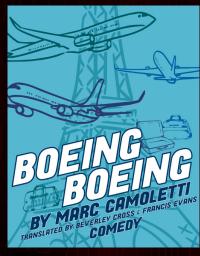
Dramatic Comedy



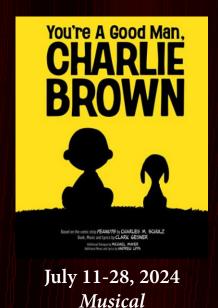
January 11-28, 2024 Comedy/Farce



March 7-24, 2024 Comedy/Thriller



May 2-19, 2024 Comedy



It's not too late to purchase season subscriptions for our 2023-24 season.

Pick up a brochure in the lobby and complete the form or go online to purchase.

www.mariemontplayers.com

Box Office: 513 501-1718



Discover the Difference Creativity Can Make

A miracle happens onstage, when ordinary people transform into something magical. I'm proud to be a supporter of the Mariemont Players.

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Mariemont Players' Audience Services

For Your Comfort and Safety

- **Restrooms:** An 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):** Located on the top landing just outside the auditorium, designed to be used by anyone in a 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 will call area.

Good Neighbor Policies

- Latecomers cannot be admitted until a suitable break.
- PLEASE be sure all cell phones, pagers and personal alarms are <u>TURNED OFF</u>, 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

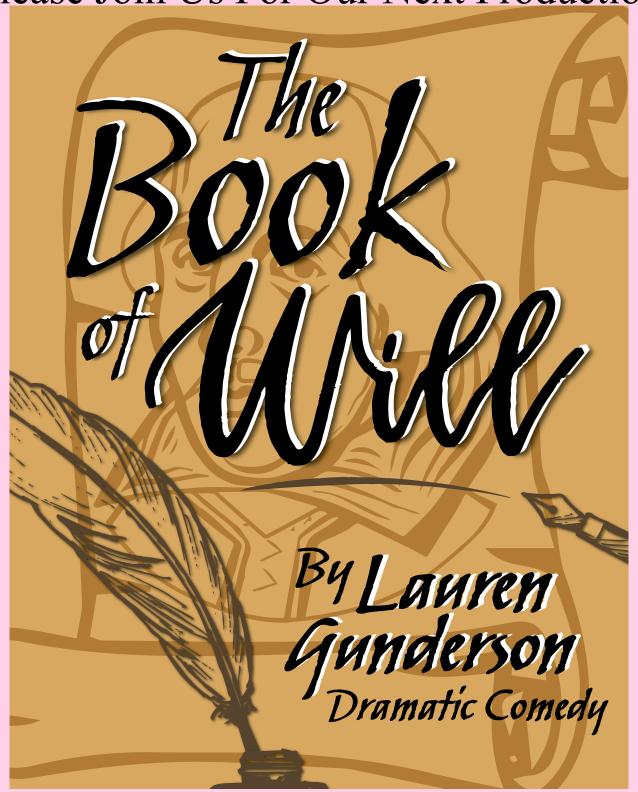
MPI offers special rates to groups of 10 or more for certain performances. Please call our Box Office at 513 501-1718 for more information.

Contact Us

Mariemont Players
4101 Walton Creek Road
Cincinnati, OH 45227
Box Office #: 513 501-1718
www.mariemontplayers.com



Please Join Us For Our Next Production



Directed By jef brown

Without William Shakespears, we wouldn't have literary masterpieces like *Romeo and Juliet*. But without Henry Condell anf John Heminges, we would have lost half of Shakespeare's plays forever! After the death of their friend and mentor, the two actors are determined to compile the First Folio and preserve the words that shaped their lives. Amidst the noise and color of Elizabethan London, *The Book of Will* finds an unforgettable true story of love, loss, and laughter, and sheds new light on a man you may think you know.

November 2 - 19, 2023