



The
HCT Connection
April 2020

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**The Holland Community Theatre's Response to the
COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic:
The Show Must Go On... Later**

It is with a heavy heart that The Holland Community Theatre announces the upcoming production of ***On Golden Pond*** has been cancelled... or rather, ***postponed***.

This decision was made after careful consideration along with the current recommendations from Michigan's Governor and the CDC. We artists know that **the show must go on!** And since we love this show, **we have moved *On Golden Pond* to the same time slot - Spring/Tulip - Time for the 2020-2021 season.**

For those that have purchased tickets, you should have received an email from us regarding your options. Season Subscriber voucher holders will also be contacted. ***If you have not received an email from us by April 10, please contact us at thehollandcommunitytheatre@gmail.com***

As you know, we recently changed our name back to **Holland Community Theatre**. We support our wonderful community by trying to keep our actors, crews, volunteers, and **faithful patrons** safe -- that's you! As such, **our building is closed until April 30**, but if the situation changes, it may be longer.

Please stay home, stay safe!

Staffing Needs 2020-21 Shows

Our 2020-21 shows were announced at our Season Reveal Party On February 29! We are currently seeking directors, assistant directors, producers, graphic artists, set design and all other aspects of production. Sent your request of interest to Michael Culp at mtculp@sbcglobal.net

The Government Inspector—Proposed for Fall

When the locals in a small Russian hamlet learn that an undercover government inspector is coming for a surprise visit, an unfortunate case of mistaken identity sends the whole village spiraling into a world of panic and greed. Witty, smart and wildly satirical, this timely and spirited adaptation of Nikolai Gogol's classic play exposes the corruption of a provincial town with biting hilarity.

Holiday Show: *Miracle on 34th Street*

By chance, Kris Kringle, an old man in a retirement home, gets a job working as Santa for Macy's. Kris unleashes waves of good will with Macy's customers and the commercial world of New York City by referring parents to other stores to find exactly the toy their child has asked for. Seen as deluded and dangerous by Macy's vocational counselor, who plots to have Kris shanghaied to Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital, Kris ends up in a court competency hearing. Especially at stake is one little girl's belief in Santa. In a dramatic decision, the court confirms Kris as the true Santa, allowing Susan and countless other children to experience the joy of childhood fantasy.

Agnes of God—Proposed for Winter

Strong parts for three women. Summoned to a convent, Dr. Martha Livingstone, a court-appointed psychiatrist, is charged with assessing the sanity of a novice accused of murdering her newborn. Miriam Ruth, the Mother Superior, determinedly keeps young Agnes from the doctor, further arousing Livingstone's suspicions. Who killed the infant, and who fathered the tiny victim? Livingstone's questions force all three women to re-examine the meaning of faith and the power of love, leading to a dramatic conclusion.

Guys on Ice—Proposed for Spring

Marvin and Lloyd in their ice fishing shanty. Life, love and the pursuit of the perfect catch! Think Escanaba in da Moonlight only with music and ice fishing.

Children: *The Secret Garden*

The literary classic you've loved for years is also an easy-to-produce full-length play. Mary Lennox, known as a difficult child, is sent to live at her uncle's estate in England after her parents pass away. Misselthwaite Manor turns out to be a gloomy fortress. Her uncle is rarely home, and his young son, Colin never leaves his room, convinced he's an incurable invalid. To her surprise, Mary discovers a strange walled garden that has been locked up for years. With the assistance of Dicken, the gardener's apprentice, Mary brings the garden back to life and discovers Dicken's amazing ability to communicate with animals. The garden seems to have a wonderful, magical effect on all who come into it, allowing Mary to help restore Colin to health and to reunite him with his father. This version also introduces the endearing Sowerby family, who add much laughter and love to this touching story. Take time to smell the roses.

Student: *Radium Girls*

In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage-until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, Radium Girls traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. Her chief adversary is her former employer, Arthur Roeder, an idealistic man who cannot bring himself to believe that the same element that shrinks tumors could have anything to do with the terrifying rash of illnesses among his employees. As the case goes on, however, Grace finds herself battling not just with the U.S. Radium Corporation, but with her own family and friends, who fear that her campaign for justice will backfire. Written with warmth and humor, Radium Girls is a fast-moving, highly theatrical ensemble piece for 9 to 10 actors, who play more than 30 parts-friends, co-workers, lovers, relatives, attorneys, scientists, consumer advocates, and myriad interested bystanders. Called a "powerful" and "engrossing" drama by critics, Radium Girls offers a wry, unflinching look at the peculiarly American obsessions with health, wealth, and the commercialization of science.

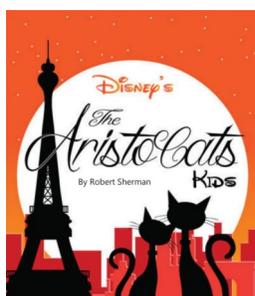
Get your application in today to be a part of our 2020-21 Season of Shows!

Auditions

KIDS AND TEENS:

Our Upcoming **Audition Workshop** and **Auditions** for the Children's Production of Disney's *Aristocats* & the Student Production of *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* have been **rescheduled**. The Audition Workshop will be **Saturday, May 16, 10:00am-12:00pm**. The Auditions will be **Monday-Tuesday, May 18 & 19, at 6:30pm**.

Please note these dates are subject to change accordingly if there are extensions of the Governor's Orders.



The Aristocats

by Richard M Sherman & Robert B Sherman

Shows July 9-11; 16-18, 2020

When a retired opera singer leaves her inheritance to her cat, Duchess, and three kittens, the woman's butler drugs the cats and abandons them in the countryside in order to inherit the fortune himself. Lost in unfamiliar territory, Duchess and the kittens meet Thomas O'Malley, an alley cat willing to help them return to their home in Paris. They meet several kooky characters along the way, including two English geese and an alley cat jazz band.

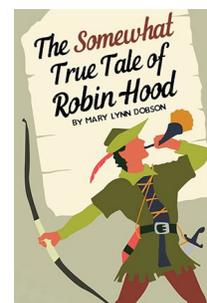
Directed by Sandra Griffin

The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood

by Mary Lynn Dobson

Shows August 6-8; 13-15, 2020

It sure is hard to be humble when you're a swashbuckling, egocentric superhero. But our gallant guy-in-green tries his best as he swaggers through *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*, a frantically funny, Monty Pythonesque retelling of the classic. This time around, the legendary legend, in his never-ending quest to aid the needy, encounters a lovely damsel-in-distress (oddly obsessed with skin conditions); an ever-scheming sheriff who would rather bowl a strike than hit a bull's-eye; a gold-hoarding, bad-guy monarch wannabe; and a good-natured "Town's Guy" who manages to make his way into every scene, whether he belongs there or not. Combine them with an expandable band of spoon-wielding Merry Men whose collective IQs equal six, and you've got an irreverent jaunt through Sherwood Forest you won't soon forget!



Directed by Delanie DeCan, Assisted by Jessica Furbush

Volunteer Spotlight

Nancy (Norling) Gasper

Our "Volunteer Spotlight" this month is a memorial to one of Holland Community Theatre's earliest members: Nancy Gasper.

Nancy became involved with HCT in February of 1961; HCT's first full season of plays. Throughout the rest of her life, she remained heavily involved with the theatre. She began working on crews and soon moved on to directing. In addition, Nancy was elected President of HCT in 1962; she held this position until 1964. She remained active with the Board as much as possible, holding various positions for the next five (!) decades.



Nancy originally moved to Holland as the first girls physical education teacher in the very newly formed West Ottawa Public School District's Jr.-Sr. High School. This, of course, provided another enticing opportunity: West Ottawa's Theatre Department! Nancy became involved here as well.

While at HCT, Nancy was involved in far too many shows to list here. A small sampling includes: *Dial M for Murder*, *High Ground*, *Teahouse of the August Moon*, *Harvey*, and HCT's first musical, *South Pacific*.

Nancy was instrumental to the growth of Holland Community Theatre. She believed in hard work and "learning by doing." Her contributions have made the theatre what it is today, and she will be dearly missed. Thanks, Nancy, for sharing your passion with us.



JOAN SMALLENBURG NANCY NORLING SANDY HEMPLE DARLENE DIRKS PAT BURKHOLDER



MARY KRIGER JOANNE HILL NANCY GASPER



PHIL COREY, CHRIS GARA, DICK WILLIAMS, NANCY GASPER JOANNE HILL, PAT WIERSMA, PAT WILSON



NANCY GASPER FRANK BOUWEN PAT WIERSMA GIL BUSSIES JR. DANAY PRESSIE

Dates you don't want to miss!

April 2020

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| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| | | HCT Board of Directors digital meeting 6:30pm | | | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

Holland Community Theatre

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