

A Round of Applause to an Awe-inspiring 2024 Season



The Northern lights shot over PPP Hall by Melody Westphal October 10, 2024.

Possum Point Players

From the President and the Trustees

Dear Friends of PPP,

As we look back on 2024 and our 51st year of providing quality community theatre to southern Delaware, I am immensely proud of the perseverance and dedication of our volunteers and supporters. Your faithfulness to our mission continues to amaze me and for that I am extremely grateful. Little did those original 12 members know back in 1973 that 51 years later, their seed of an idea to create a community theatre group would result in the huge success and stalwart non-profit organization that it is today. I am sure you are as excited as I am to look towards the future of PPP as we build on the success of our past.

In 2024, our 51st year saw us present a season of fun, exciting and innovative productions that included *The Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night-Time*, *Company*, *For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday*, *Something Rotten*, and a non-traditional production of *A Christmas Carol*.

We continued to be blessed with our affiliate groups and were able to spotlight the Possum Juniors with their production of *Into The Woods*. Our other affiliates - Possums Radio Theatre, PPP Shakespeare Players, On The Edge, and Dreamers United, all continue to provide diverse theatrical educational and entertainment options. And, we added a new affiliate – Possums Pictures and debuted their first film with a premiere presentation of *The End of The Run*.

We were also able to make numerous improvements to Possum Hall including upgrading our heating/air conditioning units, improvements to the parking lot and completion of our set and props storage addition, as well, as sound and lights upgrades.

As a non-profit organization, we continue to persevere and meet all challenges. This is made possible due to the generosity of our patrons, state and national grants, memberships and season subscriptions, and fund-raising events. We continue to maintain a certain degree of financial stability and a strong commitment to our stated mission.

As I step down from the Presidency, I want to personally thank all of those who have generously donated their time to serve on the Executive and Artistic Committees during my tenure. I look forward to all that the Possums have in store for our promising future.

Thank you,

Kenney Workman

President

Possum Point Players Board of Trustees



Possum Point Players Annual Report 2024

Executive Committee

President – Kenny Workman
Vice President – Steven Dow
Secretary – Anthony PolICASTRO
Treasurer – Louise Hartzell
Building & Grounds – Jim Hartzell
Fundraising Chair – Nina Galerstein
Member-At- Large – Cat Baker & Joyce Felton
Artistic Committee Representatives – Rosanne Pack & Chase Schirmer

Artistic Committee

Chair & Hair/Makeup – Donna deKuyper
Secretary – Lori Ann Johnson
Costumes – Marsha Shull
Director Selection & Liaison – Logan Lynch
Dreamers United – Claudius Bowden
Lighting/Sound/EFX – Chase Schirmer
On The Edge – Devon Lynch
PJ's Advisor – Lorraine Steinhoff Leavel
PJ's Assist – Braeden Swain
PJ's President – Carter Huffman/Gavin Rineer
Possum Pictures – Ray Crew
PPP Radio Theatre – Bernie Noeller
PP Shakespeare Players – Mary Moran & Jeffrey Rosen
Props – Donna Flomp
Props Assistant – Kori Lewandowski/Gabe Marine
Publicity – Rosanne Pack
Reading Committee – Steven Perry
Set Construction – Fred Dean

Office Staff

Executive Administrator – Anne Baker & Administrative Assistant – Michael Short

Treasurer's Report

We have had a reasonably stable year due to our 6% increase in ticket sales, our increased membership contribution, the fact that we now do not pay the fees for credit card usage which has saved us approximately \$5,000 last year, and we were able to rent out the "Beauty & the Beast" costumes for \$4,000. We also did quite well with "DO MORE 24" by bringing in \$13,000, a majority of it being due to a contribution from Delmarva Pole Buildings and our portion of the match from the State.

"DO MORE 24" is a great way to bring in additional funds by contacting individuals and businesses about making contributions during a short window of time. More people should be aware of donating at this time since the state matches a percentage of funds collected.

There was a major expense this past year of \$14,000 for the replacement of our oldest HVAC unit. I believe we have one more to be replaced and then all the old units will be gone. This money was pulled from our Savings account. In order to give ourselves a cushion for future emergencies, we decided to apply for a line of credit in the amount of \$100,000.00. This required that we have an assessment done on our property (costing us \$4,100) which came back valued at 1.1 million dollars. We presently owe \$73,250 on the loan for the addition of the new shop which we are continuing to pay down. As of this time we have not borrowed anything against the \$100,000.00 line-of-credit. This line of credit with M&T Bank also required us to change our banking accounts to their bank from County Bank.

We felt that it was important for us to have a backup since our savings account is now under \$50,000 and most of our big emergency expenses have high price tags.

Royalties for our shows are going up like everything else in life. Here is a comparison of 2024's and 2025's royalties:

2024	Company	4,000	
	Peter Pan at 75	1,600	
	Incident of the Dog in the Night	1,600	
	Something Rotten!	4,600	
	A Christmas Carol (non-musical)	2,300	
	Total		14,100
2025	The 39 Steps	1,750	
	God of Carnage	2,550	
	La Cage aux Folles	6,500	
	Little Women	5,700	
	Best Christmas Pageant Ever	3,400	
	Total		19,900

You can see there was a substantial increase of \$5,800 over last year for this year's shows and the fact that all show royalties must be paid for in advance before any advertising and auditioning puts a continual strain on the budget. A way to defray some of these costs is by obtaining sponsorships for each show. Anyone can get a business/individual to sponsor a show (\$2,500) which gives that business/individual advertising along with our promotional materials.

We had applied for an Arts Stabilization Grant to cover the cost of having the parking lot repaved (est. \$30,00), which was not granted. This paving will need to be done in the near future before it becomes an even bigger issue. Our operating budget is very close to \$225,000 a year at this time, and like everything now days, our expenses are going up also. A major fundraiser should be in our plans for this new year.

With the generous support of all of our members and patrons we hope to remain stable this year also.

Submitted By Louise Hartzell



Mission Statement

The mission of the Possum Point Players is to be a cultural resource for our region by providing the highest quality community theatre experiences for both artist and audience.

Possum Point Players
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of December 31, 2024

	Dec 31, 24	Dec 31, 23	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
County Bank-Checking	0.00	44,918.42	-44,918.42	-100.0%
County Bank-MONEY MARKET	0.00	53,969.85	-53,969.85	-100.0%
M & T Bank, Checking	40,974.66	0.00	40,974.66	100.0%
M & T Bank, Savings	43,000.29	0.00	43,000.29	100.0%
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Checking/Savings	84,024.95	98,938.27	-14,913.32	-15.1%
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	129.00	129.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Accounts Receivable	129.00	129.00	0.00	0.0%
Other Current Assets				
DELAWARE COMMUNITY FOUNDATI...	-824.18	-824.18	0.00	0.0%
Undeposited Funds	24,963.00	13,903.50	11,059.50	79.5%
Total Other Current Assets	24,138.82	13,079.32	11,059.50	84.6%
Total Current Assets	108,292.77	112,146.59	-3,853.82	-3.4%
Fixed Assets				
Accumulated Depreciation	-493,875.00	-493,875.00	0.00	0.0%
Building	1,098,591.16	1,090,806.16	7,785.00	0.7%
Equipment	222,350.56	201,618.56	20,732.00	10.3%
Furniture & Fixtures	17,751.47	17,751.47	0.00	0.0%
Furniture and Equipment	14,543.43	8,690.26	5,853.17	67.4%
Land	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Fixed Assets	879,361.62	844,991.45	34,370.17	4.1%
TOTAL ASSETS	987,654.39	957,138.04	30,516.35	3.2%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable	-1,237.37	-1,237.37	0.00	0.0%
Total Accounts Payable	-1,237.37	-1,237.37	0.00	0.0%
Other Current Liabilities				
Direct Deposit Liabilities	-4,732.33	-4,732.33	0.00	0.0%
Payroll Liabilities	669.26	399.26	270.00	67.6%
Total Other Current Liabilities	-4,063.07	-4,333.07	270.00	6.2%
Total Current Liabilities	-5,300.44	-5,570.44	270.00	4.9%

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Cash Basis

Possum Point Players
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of December 31, 2024

	<u>Dec 31, 24</u>	<u>Dec 31, 23</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Long Term Liabilities				
Mortgage	73,246.66	91,780.51	-18,533.85	-20.2%
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>73,246.66</u>	<u>91,780.51</u>	<u>-18,533.85</u>	<u>-20.2%</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>67,946.22</u>	<u>86,210.07</u>	<u>-18,263.85</u>	<u>-21.2%</u>
Equity				
Retained Earnings	870,927.97	818,705.79	52,222.18	6.4%
Net Income	48,780.20	52,222.18	-3,441.98	-6.6%
Total Equity	<u>919,708.17</u>	<u>870,927.97</u>	<u>48,780.20</u>	<u>5.6%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>987,654.39</u>	<u>957,138.04</u>	<u>30,516.35</u>	<u>3.2%</u>

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Cash Basis

Possum Point Players
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
January through December 2024

	Jan - Dec 24	Jan - Dec 23	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Advertising & Sponsors	5,145.00	3,465.00	1,680.00	48.5%
BAR				
Concession	0.00	161.00	-161.00	-100.0%
Tips	1,271.75	1,278.75	-7.00	-0.6%
BAR - Other	5,890.98	5,399.17	491.81	9.1%
Total BAR	7,162.73	6,838.92	323.81	4.7%
CONVENIENCE FEES	65.50	56.00	9.50	17.0%
Direct Public Support				
Corporate Contributions	0.00	10,079.60	-10,079.60	-100.0%
Individ, Business Contributions	1,365.98	6,355.00	-4,989.02	-78.5%
Legacies and Bequests	500.00	900.00	-400.00	-44.4%
Total Direct Public Support	1,865.98	17,334.60	-15,468.62	-89.2%
Donations - Cash	1,953.95	5,712.43	-3,758.48	-65.8%
Fundraising Events	13,385.41	5,703.39	7,682.02	134.7%
Government Grants				
State Grants	30,289.00	50,776.00	-20,487.00	-40.4%
Total Government Grants	30,289.00	50,776.00	-20,487.00	-40.4%
Interest Income	68.59	132.72	-64.13	-48.3%
Merchandise Sales	125.00	50.00	75.00	150.0%
Miscellaneous Income	21.00	0.33	20.67	6,263.6%
Other Types of Income				
Advertising Sales	520.00	0.00	520.00	100.0%
Miscellaneous Revenue	25.00	0.00	25.00	100.0%
Total Other Types of Income	545.00	0.00	545.00	100.0%
PPP 50TH GALA CELEBRATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
PPP Plaques	0.00	584.00	-584.00	-100.0%
Program Income				
Membership Dues	34,950.50	16,426.00	18,524.50	112.8%
Total Program Income	34,950.50	16,426.00	18,524.50	112.8%
Rentals				
Cost of Personal Property Rent	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	100.0%
Rent Revenue - Debt Property	0.00	1,100.00	-1,100.00	-100.0%
Total Rentals	4,000.00	1,100.00	2,900.00	263.6%
Special Events Income				
Special Events Contributions	0.00	450.00	-450.00	-100.0%
Total Special Events Income	0.00	450.00	-450.00	-100.0%
Ticket Sales				
GIFT CERTIFICATES	70.70	214.00	-143.30	-67.0%
Ticket Sales - Other	124,854.81	117,688.00	7,166.81	6.1%
Total Ticket Sales	124,925.51	117,902.00	7,023.51	6.0%
Uncategorized Income	75.00	85.60	-10.60	-12.4%
Total Income	224,578.17	226,616.99	-2,038.82	-0.9%
Gross Profit	224,578.17	226,616.99	-2,038.82	-0.9%
Expense				
Bank Fees	-229.56	6,011.71	-6,241.27	-103.8%
Building & Grounds maintenance	12,757.70	14,958.18	-2,200.48	-14.7%
Business Expenses				
Taxes - Not UBIT	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Business Expenses	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.0%

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Possum Point Players
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
January through December 2024

	Jan - Dec 24	Jan - Dec 23	\$ Change	% Change
Contract Services				
Accounting Fees	951.50	951.50	0.00	0.0%
Legal Fees	0.00	167.00	-167.00	-100.0%
Outside Contract Services	8,595.79	11,908.83	-3,313.04	-27.8%
Total Contract Services	9,547.29	13,027.33	-3,480.04	-26.7%
Costumes	3,576.34	1,833.68	1,742.66	95.0%
Dinner expense	0.00	349.85	-349.85	-100.0%
Dues & Subscription Expense	0.00	150.00	-150.00	-100.0%
Facilities and Equipment				
Equip Rental and Maintenance	381.45	3,037.45	-2,656.00	-87.4%
Janitorial Services	5,000.96	6,011.75	-1,010.79	-16.8%
Mortgage Interest	0.00	240.39	-240.39	-100.0%
Rent, Parking, Utilities	14,597.49	16,574.97	-1,977.48	-11.9%
Total Facilities and Equipment	19,979.90	25,864.56	-5,884.66	-22.8%
Fundraising expense	0.00	195.00	-195.00	-100.0%
Interest Expense	4,326.59	3,913.19	413.40	10.6%
Lighting & Sound	305.57	-636.36	941.93	148.0%
Makeup & Hair	945.49	909.15	36.34	4.0%
Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	38.11	-38.11	-100.0%
Music	5,900.00	10,205.00	-4,305.00	-42.2%
Operations				
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	139.00	0.00	139.00	100.0%
Postage, Mailing Service	1,297.92	941.78	356.14	37.8%
Printing and Copying	5,761.20	6,797.12	-1,035.92	-15.2%
Supplies	2,271.39	2,584.41	-313.02	-12.1%
Telephone, Telecommunications	3,124.35	3,083.52	40.83	1.3%
Total Operations	12,593.86	13,406.83	-812.97	-6.1%
Other Types of Expenses				
Advertising Expenses	5,823.07	6,544.08	-721.01	-11.0%
Insurance - Liability, D and O	8,830.00	8,781.00	49.00	0.6%
Memberships and Dues	110.00	355.00	-245.00	-69.0%
Other Costs	683.02	699.06	-16.04	-2.3%
Total Other Types of Expenses	15,446.09	16,379.14	-933.05	-5.7%
Payroll Expenses	4,568.26	617.14	3,951.12	640.2%
Professional Fees	4,165.00	0.00	4,165.00	100.0%
Props	1,462.84	1,610.37	-147.53	-9.2%
Royalties-Scripts-Scores	28,546.58	11,652.85	16,893.73	145.0%
Set	1,656.27	4,305.78	-2,649.51	-61.5%
Sound	-1,750.00	268.46	-2,018.46	-751.9%
Taxes	35.00	22.50	12.50	55.6%
Wages	55,911.96	57,750.96	-1,839.00	-3.2%
Total Expense	179,770.18	182,858.43	-3,088.25	-1.7%
Net Ordinary Income	44,807.99	43,758.56	1,049.43	2.4%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Donations -- Capital Campaign	0.00	300.00	-300.00	-100.0%
Drama camp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Dreamers United	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.0%
Gift Shop	100.00	45.00	55.00	122.2%

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Cash Basis

Possum Point Players
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
January through December 2024

	Jan - Dec 24	Jan - Dec 23	\$ Change	% Change
Possum Juniors	0.00	1.88	-1.88	-100.0%
PPP Readers Theater	0.00	650.00	-650.00	-100.0%
Raffles	0.00	3,009.06	-3,009.06	-100.0%
Theatre Academy	3,772.21	4,457.68	-685.47	-15.4%
Total Other Income	3,972.21	8,463.62	-4,491.41	-53.1%
Net Other Income	3,972.21	8,463.62	-4,491.41	-53.1%
Net Income	48,780.20	52,222.18	-3,441.98	-6.6%

Building & Grounds

COMMITTEE – Jim Hartzell, Chair; Rob Baker, Henley Graves, Tommy Ray Chedester, Donna Flomp, Greg Breilkrietz.

Significant Accomplishments:

- Satisfied all conditions of the Sussex Conservation District Report.
- Due to the leak in a second-floor unit, we replaced HVAC unit in upstairs hallway-\$13,998.
- Converted all second-floor light fixtures to LED.
- Installed new ceiling in former shop.
- Installed paint sink in new shop.

Planned Future Projects:

- Our Stabilization Grant request was not funded this year. We want to repair, repave and restripe our Parking lot. We are consulting with professionals.
- Painting/repairing of wall near kitchen door.
- Needed construction to complete moving of props, costumes, wigs, makeup and shop materials due to recent storage addition.

Submitted By Jim Hartzell

Costuming

Costumes has again had a wide variety of shows. Different genres, time periods and multi roles in one show. The greatest challenge is keeping our costume area organized. There are a few of us working throughout the year to keep up with the demand. My Thanks to all of them.

We finally cleared clothes from the upstairs hallway opposite the bathrooms. This was a year long project that was completed by being able to use the old prop room.

There are projects we have envisioned for the coming year. Among them are adding shelving to the construction room to put heavy boxes lower for easier access and storage for shoes in the old prop room. Looking forward to another productive year...

Submitted By Marsha Shull

Director Selection / Liaison

For 2024 and 2025 the Role of Director Liaison is held by Logan Hunter, succeeding Les Ferguson. Many thanks to Les for his fine work in the position.

The prime activity for the year was Director Selection for 2025. A new Director Selection Committee was formed, composed of Logan Hunter, Jim DeBastiani, Meg Kelly, Jordan Kilgore, and Kerinne Walls. All the members have worked here at Possum Point Players in the past and are experienced directors.

A new version of the director application was created and interview questions were overhauled putting an emphasis on artistic vision over basic competency and previous experience.

We organized a director's interest meeting and season announcement as a way of fielding questions candidates had about the director selection process and helping drum up creative interest in our season. We are hoping to make this a keystone event annually.

Interviews for potential directors were held in July. A total of 13 applicants applied for the season, with multiple applicants up for every show in the season. The application pool was excellent. It's my understanding our numbers were higher than in previous years. I believe the increase in applicants can be partially attributed to the new application process, and the director's interest meeting. The applicant pool also skewed younger than in previous years, with over 70% of the applicants first time mainstage directors. As such we believe the theater is taking a big step towards investing in its artistic future by presenting so many new voices in the coming season.

After the interview process was completed and suggestions were submitted to the Artistic and Executive committees, the individuals chosen to direct in 2025 are as follows:

God of Carnage: Andrew Peters
Little Women: Devon Spencer Lynch
The 39 Steps: Braeden Swain
La Cage Aux Folles: Kenney Workman
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: Marge Ventura

The Director Liaison also has the responsibility to meet with any new directors and help guide them through their responsibilities and job description. I have been and will continue to be a guiding presence for this incredible slate of directors as they navigate the new space while bringing us daring and exciting new productions.

Submitted By Logan Lynch

Fundraising

In the beginning of the year, I assembled a committee for fundraising consisting of: Anthony Policastro, Scott Beadle, Cheryl Graves, Cat Baker, Jon and Gwyneth Sharp (with the addition of Joyce Felton in the beginning). We discussed a variety of projects including show sponsors and special events. Nina also met with the PJ's to see if they wanted to help in any way. The following represents what we discussed and/or accomplished:

Show Sponsors: we secured sponsors for two shows: Something Rotten, and John Jakes Christmas Carol (for a total of \$5,000.) We are looking ahead to 2025 and have made some contacts.

Possum Pictures Film Premiere Event: Nina worked with Ray Crew on this event, a special premiere of his film "The End of the Run" This event brought in \$1419.73.

Nina contacted Janney Investments and is working with Oliver Beck, Certified Financial Planner, on a possible way to raise funds through Qualified Charitable Distributions. An informational workshop is being planned for 2025 which will be available to members and non-members.

Clothing Yard Sale: Nina and Marsha Shull are planning this event for 2025 in the spring. Date is not confirmed yet but initial requests for donations have gone out.

Possum Variety Show: this is tabled for the moment due to various reasons but the 3 people working on this (Pat Cassidy, Diane Trautman and Nina) are excited about presenting a show of this nature. It is planned to have a written script for an emcee (Pat) and showcase all the talent we have in our group (including music, monologues, anything people want to do). There will be auditions and limited rehearsal time.

\$20.25 for 2025: we discussed a direct request for money from our patrons and decided this could work (using the thermometer we created for the 50th Anniversary fundraiser). Nina plans to work on this ASAP.

Silent Auction: we plan to do this in 2025, probably with the Variety Show....but maybe at another time.

Other fundraising events were discussed and if they are deemed viable will be presented to the PPP Board of Trustees.

Submitted By Nina Galerstein

Hair & Make-Up

It's been a challenging year!

We needed a Punk Girl Look in "**Curious Incident.**" "**Company**" was set in the early 70's so lots of wigs, styling products, eyeliner and frosted lipstick. "**For Peter Pan**" was easy, just current street make-up, except for a very dramatic Captain Hook. The Possum Juniors produced "**Into the Woods**" in July. The kids had full access to our inventory and did a wonderful job. We were fortunate enough to find a newly retired professional wig/hairstylist in the area for "**Something Rotten!**," a large musical set in the 1500's, with lots of quick changes. Our holiday show, "**A Christmas Carol**" took on a 1930's look and didn't require much in the way of make-up, but there were multiple wig needs. The director had a talented friend coordinating hair/make up for this show.

We have stayed on or under budget. But, as always, volunteers to help out during shows are scarce.

Submitted By Donna deKuyper

Props

Happy 2025, as we close 2024, the props room is complete. We have had many hands involved with the build out of this amazing space. Thank you to all who had a hand or hands in building, filling, moving and giving the space a new home for an amazing amount of props built through 50 years of Possums. I have had the pleasure of being its keeper for the past 20 years. It has been a pleasure to watch a show come to life with the help of my assist Kori Lewandowski for the past several years whose creativity and dedication to ensure props were ready for all productions. Without her help I would still be coving bags and building props. Thank you Kori! And now our new Props Assistant Gabe Marine, who has been incredible to work with on moving into the new space and having him be at show closing has a been a blessing.

With the growing size of shows come bigger props, I believe we have been on budget for the year.

Also, thank you to those of you who were helpful with picking up props, delivery service, and pulling props for shows when I could not. It takes a village.. and I feel blessed to have the village to help me.

Submitted By Donna Flomp

Publicity

Maintained and administered two Face Book pages: a Public Group Possum Point Players accessible by all but approval required for posting and commenting and Possum Point Players "business" page on generic random rotation feed and available to all public.

Coordinated and posted PPP promotion and news on appropriate social media.

Created and prepared distribution "releases" for individual productions and public events issued to a wide range of personal email subscribers, print and other media, groups and chambers.

Assisted in providing information for Constant Contact.

Assisted in coordinating Possum Points, which are short alerts and notifications of productions, events, ticket sales and website updates.

When appropriate, assisted and/or supported office staff in response to requests for information regarding promotion and planning.

Coordinated and scheduled production related television appearances.

Submitted By Rosanne Pack



Reading Committee

The 2024 Reading Committee was formed in April and consisted of 11 volunteer members (including me). We were reading for the 2026 season. As always, our first task was to create a list of all plays and musicals we might consider. This year again, we asked past directors and director applicants to submit titles we might consider that they would like to direct. (They were informed that if the show was chosen, they should be prepared to submit to direct it, but that they still had to go through the director selection process). Potential directors did submit titles, adding some unusual and original works to consider. During the spring we went through our usual balloting process to whittle down titles, and we met in June and chose 25 plays/musicals to read in these categories: large musical, small musical, comedy, drama/mystery, and holiday.

We met on Oct 29 via Zoom and after a very lively discussion chose the following shows for consideration:

Large Musical: Mary Poppins
Small Musical: Sondheim On Sondheim
Comedy: Ripcord
Drama: Angels in America
Holiday: She Loves Me

Submitted By Steven Perry

Set Design & Construction

Set construction this year has been very good thanks to the volunteers that show up on a regular basis. Without the many volunteers, I would not be able to help Possums, the directors and set designers bring their magic to the stage. I have personally received high praise and compliments for the sets we have built. Again, those praises and compliments belong to the wonderful volunteers that show up week after week and are willing to do whatever is needed.

Again, as was the case last year, I'm very thankful for the new addition! As they say, nature abhors a vacuum – nature a physics do not allow unfilled spaces – we are proving that.

My request to my volunteers, if you know someone that may be interested in joining us – please invite them or just bring them along. Many, many thanks to all!

Submitted By Fred Dean

Sound/ Lighting / EFX

Upgraded Sound Mixer to a Digital Mixer. Upgraded Sound System ~ including a new amplifier, installed [4] brand new speakers in the theatre & [6] new choral mics on the stage. Purchased a custom-built iMac to run sound effects and video projections. When using body mics, we have now started using a tear drop method and by pulling them away from the mouth we've found the sound quality has improved tremendously.

Setup rolling cart with TV monitor for orchestra and added television to the stage right area backstage in new building addition. Cleaned up old equipment and donated [4] Elation SIX086 12x12 Watt 6 Color LED Bars.

Received pricing to upgrade the Lighting System to LED's and currently working on creating a campaign to raise funds for these upgrades.

Submitted By Chase Schirmer



Training / Outreach / Education

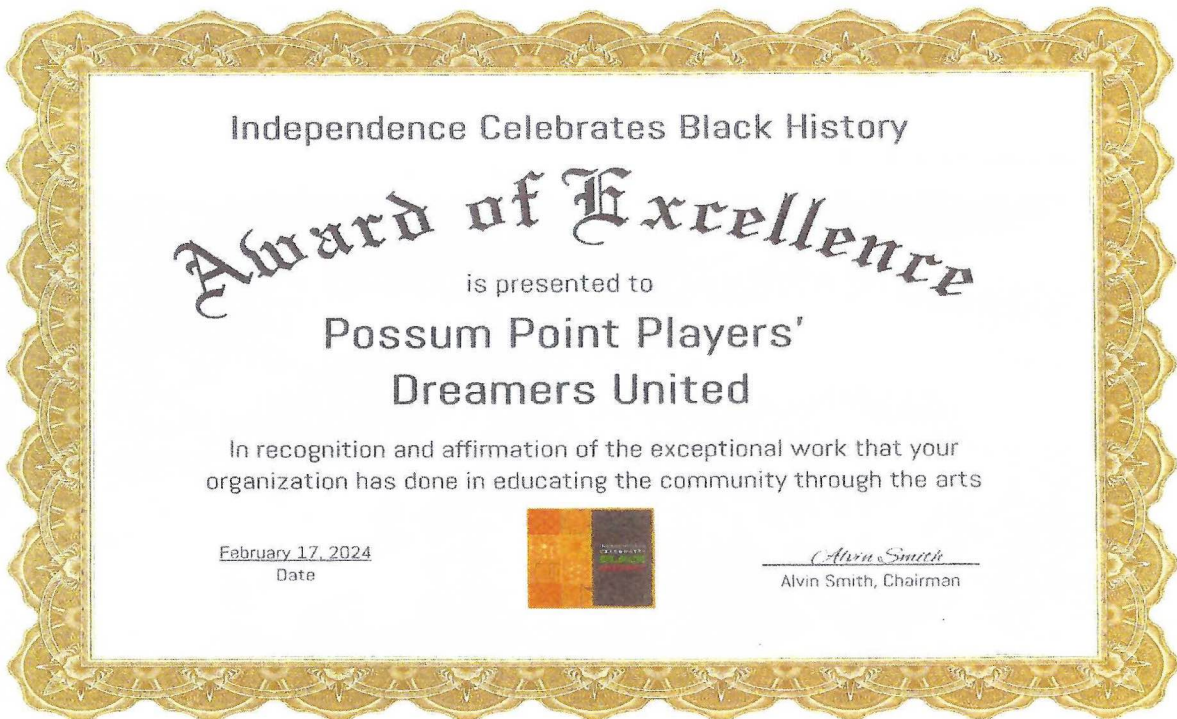
"The Arts make a bridge across this world in ways that nothing else can." –Julie Andrews

Dreamers United

Dreamers continues to meet every second Tuesday of the month. In February, they performed a scene from August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* at the Independence Community Black History event celebrating African Americans and the Arts. The cast included Claudius Bowden, Howard Dashiell, Teleea Jackson and Hansel Fuller.

The group continues to meet every second Wednesday of the month and has been working on reading and discussing *The Piano Lesson*. Due to scheduling conflicts, they were unable to perform in Georgetown's Juneteenth celebration but are looking forward to joining the event this coming year.

Submitted By Claudius Bowden



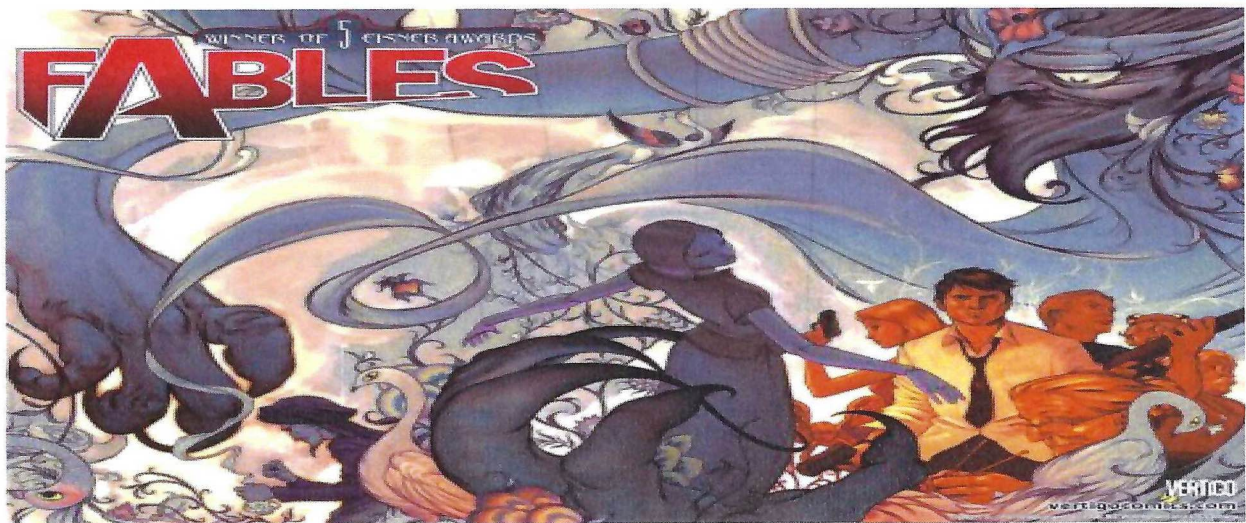
On The Edge

2024 was another eventful year for *On the Edge* – the boundary-pushing, think-piece theatrical subset of PPP! This year we were interested in exploring, devising and creating our own adaptation of DC Comics’ *Fables* by Bill Willingham, a comic-book writer and illustrator. *Fables* is an expansive series featuring iconic characters from fairy tales and folklore who create a clandestine community within New York City called *Fabletown*. They were forced to leave their Homelands, conquered by an elusive and deadly enemy known as “The Adversary.” The “Fables,” as they call themselves, have had to live in concealment for centuries – but the threat of “The Adversary” comes to call again.

How were we able to take on a property that was written in the last hundred years? Well, in an effort to keep the copyrights and trademarks out of the hands of a large corporation who couldn’t see anything ahead but the bottom line, Bill Willingham decided to release all of *Fables* into public domain... which is where our exploratory workshop came to be! With a small (but mighty) group of creatives, we attempted to do the impossible — stage the unstageable. It was fun to get the text up on its feet and breathe life into what was on the comic book pages. With the large scale of this project, *Fables* was our primary focus of the year. We ultimately decided that *Fables* would take some time to make, so we closed this chapter of it off to let it cook in the inner recesses of our brains.

We look forward to a new and exciting year for OTE, where we may return to our long-form workshop format and tackle subjects like *Poetic Realism* and *Contemporary Scene Study*. If you are interested in stretching the limits of what kind of theatre we can create and how we can make it happen, you are welcome to join us! We are always looking for new curious minds to join us!

Submitted By Devon Lynch



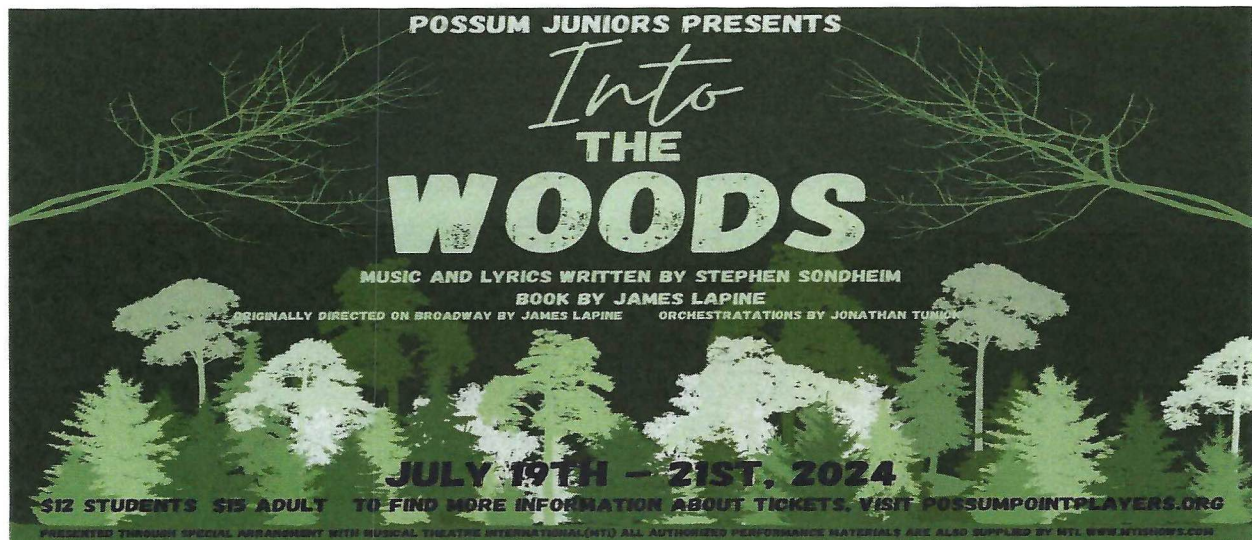
Possum Juniors

As our youth affiliate, the PJs are an integral part of PPP's commitment to educating and introducing the local youth to the world of live theatre. They continue to hold monthly workshops, events and volunteer work with a focus on all aspects of acting and live theatre. This year's monthly workshops covered topics such as: costuming, make-up, set design, musical theatre song and dance, auditioning, monologues and scene work, improvisation, and of course, our annual neighborhood caroling in December!

PJs performed in several mainstage shows, assisted as ushers and in various technical positions, and participated in our annual summer production.

The 2024 PJs production of *Into the Woods* was a success in many ways - in addition to strong ticket sales and positive reviews, we had a sizeable cast of students that ranged in experience and age, many of whom were new to the Possum stage. This particular show was also the full Broadway version not the student version and it was wonderfully done. This production was student-led in almost every aspect, with guidance and support from members of our artistic committee and Possums community. The PJs were rightfully proud of their hard work and look forward to another fun and successful production in 2025.

Submitted By Lorraine Leavel



Director's ~ Carter Huffman & Zach Burger
Cast of 23 Actors / 3 Performances
Audience Attendance 454

PPP Summer Theatre Camp

Our summer camps are for young theatre fans entering grades 2-10. The focus is on age-appropriate creative learning, and fun activities focused on developing self-confidence, performance skills and encouraging a curiosity for theatre in a fun and supportive environment.

Counselors, assistants, and helpers were PJ's and former PJ's. Over the course of the week, campers work in groups on various theatre skills, exploring theatre history, various themes, singing, dancing and improvisation. In just 4 short days each group pulled together skits to be preformed to a theatre filled with proud parents, family members & friends.

PPP would like to extend a special Thank You! to *Georgetown Arts & Flowers* and *Janney Montgomery Scott LLC, MCH Wealth Management*. Due to their generosity, we were able to offer scholarship assistance to 2 campers each week.

Submitted By Executive Administrator



Week 1 ~ 23 Campers



Week 2 ~ 19 Campers

Our Newest Affiliate ~ Possum Pictures

It is our hope that we will contribute to PPP and demonstrate that community theatre can happen on screen as well as the stage. Following are our first-year accomplishments.

Completed first full-length feature, *The End of the Run* – 5/24

Theatrically premiered *End of the Run* as a fund raiser for the theater – 6/24

Approved as an Affiliate Group – 6/24

First Affiliate Group meeting attended by 35 people – 6/24

Developed mission statement, core values, organizational structure and elected officers to two-year terms at four monthly meetings – 6,7,8,9/24. Meetings going forward will be held quarterly rather than monthly. Next meeting 2/25 Officers include:

- Chair, Ray Crew
- Vice Chair, Tony Gerdes
- Review Team: Jill Liberaski, Steve Givens, Donna de Kuyper, Karen Marshall, Lori Johnson, Gail Wagner

Full length features, *Loveliest of Trees* and *Dance with Me* hold open castings, table reads and begin principal photography – 8/24

Location agreement with Del. Tech. – 9/24

Developed a Partnership with Kent County Theatre Guild to show films at the Patchwork Playhouse – 9/24

Recorded and edited five episodes for PPP Radio Theater – 9 through 12/24

Established an internship with Del. Tech. – 9/24

Presentation of “The History of Horror in Cinema” to Georgetown Rotary – 10/24

The End of the Run is featured in the Cecil County Independent Film Festival – 11/24

Sherlock Holmes and the Angels of Vengeance holds open casting & table read – 11,12/24

Location agreements with Historic Old New Castle, Friends of the Old New Castle Green, New Castle Presbyterian Church, Greenbank Mill and the Philips House – 12/24

Submitted By Ray Crew



PPP Radio Theatre

In addition to having live readings at Possum Hall on the second Wednesday of the month, Possum Point Players Radio Theater performed one live show this year, on September 12, at Dover Place Retirement Home.

Participating actors included Jason Bowser, Bryan Gadow, George and Carole Mason, EJ Panico, Marilyn Ransom, Carol Richardson, Peters Schott and Bernie Noeller.

On April 12, we recorded two scripts for broadcast on Radio Rehoboth, FM 99.1, *Easy Aces – Jane Thinks Mink* and *The Whistler – A Matter of Patience*. In November and December, we recorded three more scripts, *Columbia Workshop – Highboy*, *Columbia Workshop – A Pride of Carrots*, and *Easy Aces – Jane Finds a Mate for her Mother*.

These recordings are aired on Sunday evenings beginning at 7:00pm on FM 99.1, and/or live streaming at www.radiorehoboth.com

We have also been asked to perform a live show at the Milford Public Library January 2025.

Submitted By Bernie Noeller

Possum Point Shakespeare Players

In 2024, we have read and discussed *Troilus and Cressida*, *Coriolanus*, and *Julius Caesar*. Attendance varied from three to seven participants. Overall, attendance is poor, considering the number of email addresses receiving the meeting notices.

Our best attended session was April when we celebrated Shakespeare's birthday with cake, ale (ginger), a contest with prizes, and a scene performance from two participants. Some of us brainstormed ways of attracting new participants, and the suggestion was made to announce a local community performance in order to attract possible actors. A good idea, but problematic since this involves a producer, director, and auditions, all of which the co-chairs are not equipped to expedite.

Submitted By Mary Moran

2024 Contributors

Producers Club

Delaware Division of the Arts
Longwood Foundation

Angels

Henley & Cheryl Graves
Jim & Patricia Griffin
Claire Haller
Jim & Louise Hartzell
Beth Howlett
Tracy Mulveny
Gwyneth & Jonathan Sharp
Jeff & Melody Westphal
Kenney Workman & Rosanne Pack

Benefactors

George Chaloupka
Carol Fitzgerald
Peter Jones
Cecilia Mitchell
Anthony Policastro

Patrons

James & Lorraine Carlin
Ruth Lawson
Jeffrey S. & Sara E. Rosen
Pete & Kathy Stoehr

Sponsors

Diane J Alpaugh
Scott Beadle & Steve Touzell
Sandy Browning
Phil & Mimi Drew
Geoffrey & Laura Howard
Richard S. Huffman
Edythe Humphries
Bernie Noeller & Marilyn Ransom
Jay & EJ Panico
Chase Schirmer

Sponsors [cont'd]

Gina & John Shuck
Russell & Patricia Stiles
Diane Trautman &
Tommy Ray Chedester
James & Lorraine Tyler III
John & Fior Zinzi

Friends

Cat & Rob Baker
Don & Vicky Birch
Christine Degnon
Jim & Barbara DeBastiani
Donna & Scott deKuyper
George & Laurie DeSantis
David Dickieson & Joanna Argenio
Joyce Felton & Susannah Griffin
Les & Linda Ferguson
Donna & Nicholas Flomp
Nina Galerstein
Eliot Howell
Patricia Hudson
John H. Hulse
Joanne Kempton & Judy Olsen
Harriet K. Mair
George & Carole Mason
Joan & Joseph Messick
Fern Plecker Morrison
Janet & Timothy Murphy
Ron Pakula
Tammy Schirmer
Marjorie Shannon
Marsha Shull
Leona & Don Tull
Kathy Turner
Ron & Meg Kelly VanLent
Sully Walker
Barbara Warnell & Michael Taylor
Richard & Lee Wheeler

2024 Contributors Continued

Associate

Anne Baker
Peg Buzzelli
Sue & Pat Cassidy
Victoria & Shepard Cook
Mitch & Linda Cooper
Thomas & Rebecca Craft
Ray Crew
Fred & Judy Dean
Blasé & Judy Gavlick
Ruby Haslam
Lori Ann Johnson
Jill & Kori Lewandowski
George Lodato
Don & Kennedy Megee
Ann Nicoles
Diane Pepiton
Bertha Stitt
Karen Swartout
Richard & Karen Vehlow

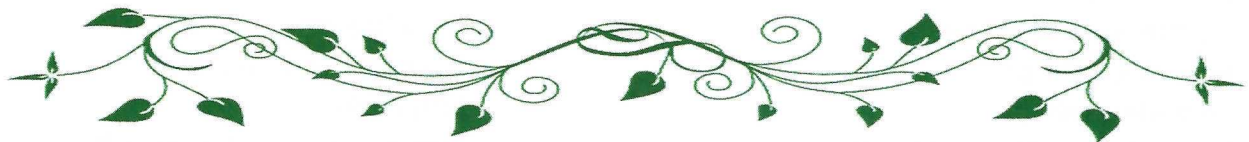
Family/Individual

Claudius Bowden
Howard Dashiell
Jayson Felker
Brian Flint
Hansel Fuller
Steve Givens
Joann & Francis Hennessy
Jordan Kilgore
Logan Lynch
Devon Lynch
Deana Lynch
Mina Malloy
Ed O'Conner
Steven Perry
Lorraine Steinhoff
Anna Toyna
Kerinne Walls

Senior/Student

William Howlett
Dolores Kusman
Heather Marine

Possum Point Players would like to extend
Our Deepest Gratitude
to all our contributors for their
financial support!



2024 Main Stage Productions

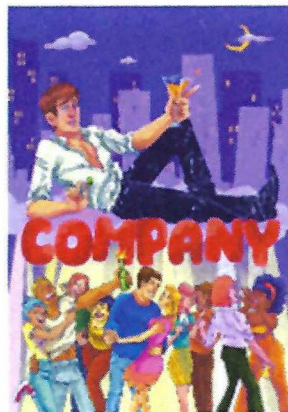


Director ~ Ray Crew

Cast of 10 Actors

6 Performances

Audience Attendance ~ 748

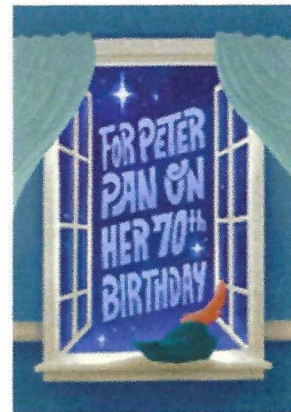


Director ~ Brian Flint

Cast of 14 Actors

6 Performances

Audience Attendance ~ 1009

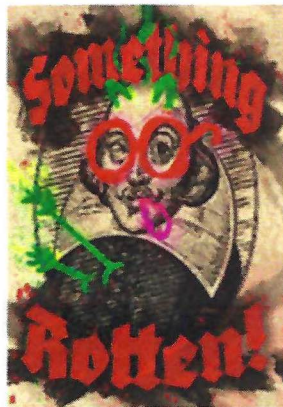


Director ~ Les Ferguson

Cast of 7 Actors

6 Performances

Audience Attendance ~ 574

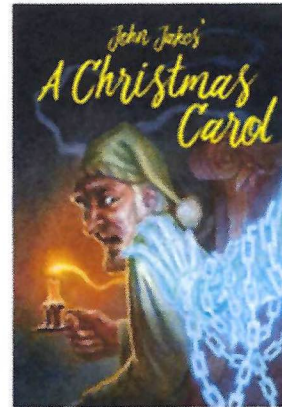


Director ~ Jim Hartzell

Cast of 23 Actors

6 Performances

Audience Attendance ~ 1038



Director ~ Steven Dow

Cast of 23 Actors

7 Performances

Audience Attendance ~ 1129

Possum Point Players values diversity and inclusion in casting and in all other areas of the organization

Possum Point Players 2025 Season



Our programs are supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.
The Division promotes art events on DelawareScene.com.