

Providing quality local community theatre since 1984, the all-volunteer Prince William Little Theatre is partly funded by grants from the Prince William County Park Authority, the City of Manassas, and private contributions. PWLT has won NVT A One Act Festival Awards, Virginia Theatre Association awards, and Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) awards.

Live Theatre is Back! *Dial M for Murder* In Person at Hylton Center October 8-17



Dial M for Murder cast includes, left to right, Jim Harris as Max Halliday, Matthew Scarborough as Captain Lesgate, Anna Burrell as Margot Wendice, Richard Fiske as Inspector Hubbard, and Cameron McBride as Tony Wendice. Photo by Steven Rummel.

Susy Moorstein wanted to direct *Dial M for Murder* as our first show back at the Hylton because she loves the idea that almost from the beginning of the play you know “who done it”. Not to mention that she has always been a fan of Ray Milland who was in the movie of this classic Hitchcock tale. Plus, October is a great time to highlight a classic suspenseful story.

Set in the early 1950s in London England, *Dial M for Murder* features a determined inspector, a wife with a secret, and a faithful lover. Opening night is October 8th and the show runs through October 17th. We want you to feel safe to return as an audience and so all of our cast and crew have been vaccinated and we are following George Mason University and the Hylton’s safety protocols.

During rehearsals the cast was masked (although they will remove the masks to perform) and that provided some challenges. Anna Burrell said that challenge actually helped her work on her projection. She mentioned the cast worked really

hard on connecting with one another through eye contact and voice during a scene. It helped make the interaction more intimate.

Jim Harris was comfortable performing because of the protocols that theaters are putting in place. “I feel that if we all do our part, we can still have some fun and enjoy these types of things responsibly.” Cameron McBride pointed out that things change in rehearsals all the time. “Going from reading a script to off-book, to dealing with props, to making your way on stage...each step changes the show drastically. Wearing masks adds another layer, because things will change again once the show is all set up and we get to see each other’s faces again. However, it is a good challenge, and a way to make you work even harder to convey your emotions and thoughts just with your eyes.” Obviously, our cast rose to the occasion, and this should be an exciting play to watch.

Anna mentioned that the script is “good at drawing out tension in a scene right until the perfect moment. The whole script

is so clever and twists and turns brilliantly throughout. There are moments of dry wit and levity followed by thrilling intensity that keep the audience engaged until the end.” Jim enjoys plays that take place in the 1940’s thru 1960’s era and how people/characters are portrayed physically and emotionally.

The play will engage the audience because of the twists and turns. It misdirects your attention and keeps you guessing until the very end. Jim summed up why he thinks audiences will like the play is because of the detail in the play with the dialog as well as the development of the characters. “It is also a little different than most mystery stories because it not just a mystery story where the audience finds out who did it in the end. The audience will get to go on a fun and suspenseful ride to see why they did it and if they will they get away with it!”

Characters have different favorite lines in the play. Anna likes when Tony says, “Come on Max, your move.” She explained that “the way Cameron delivers this line makes me react every single time. Cameron does an incredible job at playing an absolute villain (which is amazing because he’s such a nice guy), and when he says this line, the measured evil in his voice is chilling.” Cameron said choosing just one without giving anything away is hard, but one of his lines is just so fun to say, and really gives insight into the cold and calculating mind of Tony, “That’s why I know you’re going to agree... For the same reason that a donkey with a stick behind him and a carrot in front goes forwards and not backwards.”

We have the set, lighting, props, cast and crew ready and excited to perform. All we need now is the audience. Prince William Little Theatre is delighted to welcome you back to our live performances.

Click [here](#) for ticket information.

Chrissy's Corner *Meet Your Board Members*



Photo by Mark Moorstein

Greetings theatre lovers! See you in September – well, October. October is the first show back in the theatre and boy, are we excited! *Dial M for Murder* is in rehearsal and getting ready to open on Friday October 8th. Tickets are on sale now at the Hylton Box Office.

Auditions are also upcoming our December show, *A Christmas Carol*. Auditions will be October 12th and 13th at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. Check out our website and Facebook page for more details.

Please be sure to review Hylton Covid protocols. As a resident Arts Alliance, we are also abiding by their guidelines. Our website will be updated to provide more information for PWLT protocols as we begin to perform live.

Let us know if you have any ideas. What would you like to see? We'd love to hear from you. Reach out to us at info@pwlt.org

Thank you for keeping up with PWLT.

Stay safe, take care, and keep performing.

See you at the theatre! (soon)

Chrissy Mastrangelo, PWLT President

Sharon Veselic



Sharon Veselic, left, with Sally Henderson.
Photo by Paul Knudsen

Both of Sharon Veselic's grandmothers were enthusiasts in theatre and music so she credits them with awaking her love of the arts. Her first live theatre experience was *The Matchmaker* and she was hooked from then on. In fact, she has a Theatre Arts degree. However, most of her training came from interning at Arena Stage. "I was the Directing/Stage Management Intern for three years at Arena and got to work with and observe some of the country's most talented and insightful Directors." In the workplace Sharon also worked with Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo Park. However, she has always been involved with directing community theatre productions.

Talk about being involved - while living in Texas she directed over 36 productions, from children's theatre to dramas to comedies and musicals. Since moving back to the Virginia area four years ago, she has directed shows at LTA, Reston, McLean, Dominion and Prince William Little Theatre. Sharon says she "loves a good classic drama, two of my favorites are *12*

Angry Jurors and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. My favorite comedy was *Boeing, Boeing*. As for musicals, I love *Cinderella*, and anything Rogers and Hammerstein."

Sharon ran for the Board because she felt PWLT stood out as being such a friendly and rewarding group. "Being a Board member can be taxing, and also distract from directing at times. But this group has a different existence. They are always there to help, contribute and reward." She hopes to expand and keep pushing the bar as high as PWLT can go and to train, encourage and help future boards, directors, performers and technical designers. *Sister Act* will be her first show with PWLT and Sharon says it is one of her favorite musicals. She is eager to work her magic and make this a memorable show.

Of course, Sharon also has other deep passions. Dogs for sure and crabs, one for playing with and the other for eating. In addition, she loves anything Disney and she points out that comes from growing up in the Mickey Mouse Club era.

When asked for a quote that sums up her feelings about theatre she used one from *Romeo and Juliet*, "Look to behold this night, earth treading Stars...that make Dark Heavens Light." Why does this quote speak to her? Sharon always thinks of the stars as actors.

Thanks for coming aboard, Sharon – we look forward to your insights, expertise and work ethic.

Sister Act Auditions

Auditions for open roles for *Sister Act* will be held October 25 at the Hylton Center from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and October 26 if necessary.

Prince William Little Theatre Newsletter

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Member Spotlight: Frankie Williams



Anyone who has ever encountered Frankie Williams will attest to his energy, zest for life, passion and will always, always mention his charm and smile. While he hasn't had any formal training in theatre he has continually been into music, singing and playing instruments. In middle school he became excited about live stage work and was in *Barnum*. While in high school Frankie was in a production of *Seussical* the musical. After that he didn't return to theatre until 2015.

Frankie says his dream role was playing the donkey in *Shrek* the musical. It was also his most challenging role because "the donkey is high energy all the time and I tried to live up to Eddie Murphy in the movie version and Daniel Breaker on Broadway." Of course, "I wanted to add my own twist to the character!"

Prince William Little Theatre was thrilled to welcome him to our cast of *Sister Act*, but unfortunate events prevented him from continuing with that production. Frankie was involved in a severe car accident on December 29, 2019 and was told he would never walk again. Since that time he has been doing in-home therapy and with a place called Encompass Home Health. Frankie said, "My physical therapist got me to the point where I

could stand and then started taking steps with assistance." Through determination, family and friend support he has persevered and is pleased to say, "I am now doing a lot on my own and have great therapists that are helping me stand and walk. I recently received the right equipment to help me reach my goal and see myself walking and being back on stage very soon."

Recently, Frankie narrated the play *Espionage and Superstition* in our Original Works productions. You can also see him singing on our float during the Haymarket Day's parade, October 16th.

Frankie points out he believes "Art is not what you see but what you make other see" by Edgar Degas and "Theatre gives you

wings as an actor" by Randeep Hooda. PWLT is behind you 100% and fully expect to see you spread your wings and bring art and laughter back to our stage very soon.

Haymarket Day, October 16



Mark your calendar for Haymarket Days' Spooktacular themed parade on October 16th. Prince William Little Theatre is one of many groups who will be participating in this annual event. The parade will start at 9:30. Be on the lookout for our float because we will have live performances by the following performers. Aaron Talley singing "Day-O", Peter Marsh singing "Spooky", Drew Fleming with Katie Morris singing "Monster Mash", along with Ashley and Frankie Williams singing "This is Halloween".

We also have spooky characters such as Beetlejuice, Coraline, Frankenstein, Zombie Elvis, Zombie Pirate and a Mad Scientist. Not to mention, both the Addam's Family as well as the Dracula Family and Characters from the *Nightmare Before Christmas*.

After the parade, be sure to stop by our booth to check out information about our upcoming shows.

Auditions for A Christmas Carol

Prince William Little Theatre is holding auditions for *A Christmas Carol* (Touring Version), written by John Jakes and produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois.

Auditions will take place at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in the Rehearsal Room, located first floor, behind the box office next to the Gregory Family Theater. Please park in the lot in front of the theater and follow signs on the right of the building to enter through the new wing.

Cast will be a total of eight actors/actresses, including 4 men, 2 women, and 2 children. Each cast member will be playing multiple roles within this production.

Each Auditionee will be required to fill out audition form and conflict information on the calendar provided at www.pwlt.org.

*NOTE: For the safety of our Cast and



Crew, PWLT requires all cast this this production to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Masks are required when entering the building and entering the audition space. Auditionees may remove masks when in the act of auditioning. Proof of vaccinated status will be required to be a member of the cast. At this time, masks are also required during rehearsals.