



BACKSTAGE PASS

The Barnstormers Theatre, Tamworth, NH

JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER

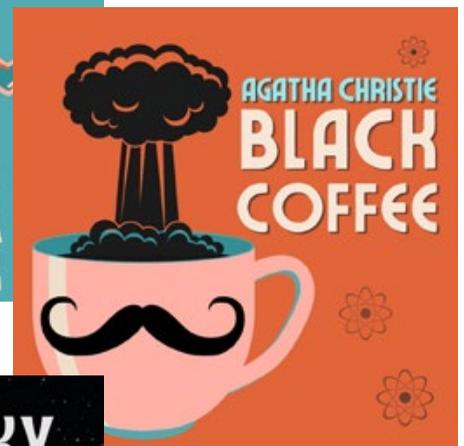
Our 92nd Season!

For the summer of 2022, our Artistic Director Sarah Rozene has put together an unforgettable season!

"I could not be more honored, and excited, to be taking on the artistic leadership of a theatre with such a rich history. I am optimistic that our first full five show season since 2019 will reinvigorate the love we all have in celebrating stories told through the beauty of live theatre. This season's programming allows The Barnstormers to celebrate the richness of our world, thus inspiring the creativity that nurtures great art, artists, and audiences. We are telling stories that may feel both familiar and foreign, overflowing with joy, while simultaneously brimming with sadness. In short, we are telling stories about what it is to be uniquely human. I am excited to share them with you when we open our doors in June."

We open our 92nd year with Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* with book by James Lapine, followed by the music-filled comedy *The Legend of Georgia McBride* by Matthew Lopez; Agatha Christie is back with *Black Coffee*, a Hercule Poirot mystery; then Lauren Gunderson's *Silent Sky* explores the cosmos in the early 1900s. The season wraps up with the madcap mayhem of *Lucky Stiff*, by Lynn Ahrens and music by Stephen Flaherty. The Barnstorming troupe is back on the road again in July for the music and dance revue *Manhattan Shuffle*.

We're starting summer early this season with three June events, including an evening with Fred Marple, then family-friendly juggling with Jason Tardy, and The New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus. Visit barnstormerstheatre.org for dates, showtimes and ticket information.



Catching up with Cheryl Mullings

You'll be seeing Cheryl in three shows this summer! Here's what she's been up to since last season's *Our Town*.

"Since I last appeared on stage at The Barnstormers, and in between recording self-tapes for auditions, I've also been on a few adventures with a new work opportunity!

It seems quite serendipitous that I will appear in this season's opening production of *Into the Woods*, because I've actually been in the woods (literally!) quite frequently as of late. Last summer, as we were all still finding our way through the pandemic and work for many actors was sparse, I was presented with an opportunity to work as a Forest Guide with Better Place Forests - America's first conservation memorial forests. I wasn't sure what might be in store, but I figured had nothing to lose!

Since last July, I have travelled to and worked in forests all over the country; in The Berkshires, MA, Santa Cruz, CA, Flagstaff, AZ (where I visited the Grand Canyon for the first time!), Litchfield Hills, CT, Lake Arrowhead, CA, Rock River, IL, and coming up this week I will be travelling to Yosemite, CA. After spending almost 18 consecutive months in NYC during the height of the pandemic, being able to travel, to see all of these beautiful places, to enjoy being outdoors in nature, and to connect with people from all over the country, has been very rewarding and healing.

In addition to my forest adventures, I had the joy of celebrating two weddings of friends, and I was very happy to be able to travel back home to Canada to see family and friends after too much time apart.

Also, when not travelling to forests here, there and everywhere, I have been enjoying the return of Broadway in NYC!

Right: Cheryl at the entryway to the Lake Arrowhead Forest in CA (February 2022).

Below Left: Cheryl at the Grand Canyon (Aug 2021)



Right: Cheryl and her friend Josh at his wedding in Colorado (Oct 2021)

I was so happy when I learned that The Barnstormers would be mounting a full season this year. I am thrilled to be returning to the stage for three wonderful and very different pieces; *Into the Woods*, *Silent Sky* and *Lucky Stiff*.

I'm really looking forward to returning to the stage and to Tamworth this summer. Until then, you're most-likely to find me learning my lines and rehearsing my music in a forest somewhere! See you soon! Cheryl!"



New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus. At the BST on June 18



NH Gay Men's Chorus, June 18

We are so excited to have the New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus perform at The Barnstormers Theatre. We anticipate a very festive event: we're auctioning off a birthday serenade by NHGMC during intermission, and Nativity Lutheran will be serving up delicious treats in our concessions tent. Mount Washington Valley Pride will be there to promote their event on July 25. Many thanks to Nativity Lutheran in North Conway and Thrivent Financial (Groleau Financial Group) for sponsoring this event, they are thrilled to enjoy time together with the people of the Mount Washington Valley and Lakes Regions!

Nativity Lutheran is committed to being a welcoming community to every single one of God's creation — regardless of where each one happens to be on their spiritual journey. nativitylutheranchurch.org

The Groleau Financial Group at Thrivent, located in Freedom, NH, Dedham MA and nationally. More information can be found at Thrivent.com/NewEngland.

Margaret Cleveland Scholarship



Margaret "Muzzy" Cleveland

The Barnstormers Theatre is pleased to announce the formation of the Margaret Folsom Cleveland Memorial Scholarship, which will be available in the Spring of 2023. No one was more devoted to The Barnstormers Theatre than Margaret "Muzzy" Cleveland, the longtime chairman of its board of directors. The granddaughter of a United States President and the niece of the theatre's founder, Muzzy grew up in Baltimore but experienced the magic of Tamworth summers in residence at her family's vacation home on Cleveland Hill Road. She began her association with the theatre by appearing in productions of *Toad of Toad Hall* like so many other Tamworth children and by working in the box office as a teenager. Later, while forging a busy career as a writer, editor, and consultant, Muzzy placed equal if not more importance on the responsibility she undertook to lead The Barnstormers into the 21st century. Under her stewardship, the theatre maintained its status as one of New Hampshire's most beloved and historical cultural institutions. She became "the voice of The Barnstormers"; her oral and written solicitations for support of the theatre so reflected the warmth and exuberance of her personality that they helped create a close-knit, almost familial bond with patrons. In addition to her desire to entertain audiences, Muzzy's vision for the theatre always included an emphasis on its role as a training ground for future generations of actors, designers, technicians, directors,

and playwrights. Accordingly, in celebration of her life and her passionate interests in drama and education.

The Tamworth Scholarship Committee manages this scholarship for Tamworth residents wishing to pursue performing and theatre arts studies. Donations may be made payable to **Tamworth Scholarship Committee** and mailed to PO Box 76, Tamworth, NH 03886. Please note that your donation is for the **Margaret Folsom Cleveland Memorial Scholarship**.



A Message from the Board

Our 2022 season is a rebirth of sorts, and an exciting time for the theatre. We are launching preseason events, a full slate of five plays, educational programming and more Barnstorming. The board has been focused navigating through our post-COVID new normal, a challenging environment which has delivered significant results for The Barnstormers.

The board has invested in expanding our staff to better serve the community, actors and crew. We have established Governance and Fundraising committees, charged with insuring the long-term sustainability of the theatre. We continue to be focused on financial stability, facility improvements, safety, community outreach, and artistic excellence as the board evolves and remains in step with our ever-changing landscape.

This spring the board appointed long-time Barnstormer Sarah Rozene as our Artistic Director. Sarah brings a wealth of industry knowledge to the theatre, along with her experience as a set designer and director at The Barnstormers.

We look forward to welcoming our longtime and new patrons this summer. The board appreciates your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lou Demaio".

Lou Demaio, Board Chair

2022 Spring Appeal

Your generous support helped us accomplish so much over the last year, including theatre upgrades and a refreshed educational program. **This year our goal is to upgrade the sound system for you.** This is a \$35,000 investment that will enhance your theatre experience, whether you sit in the front row or the balcony, or utilize the hearing assistance system. We also plan to improve the HVAC system, implementing phased improvements, so summer nights are cooler and spring and fall events won't require parkas for those shoulder season events we're planning. **Please make a financial contribution to Barnstormers.** A gift of any amount is important. Please give.

The Board of Directors and staff, paid and volunteer, are feeling VERY excited about our season ahead. Thank you in advance for helping us have an extraordinary 2022.

Please use the enclosed envelope to mail your check, or donate online at barnstormerstheatre.org



Educational Program

This summer The Barnstormers is pleased to announce a **Youth Theatre Summer Day Camp** taking place in June 2022! The camp will be available to middle school students from the KA Brett School and students in the local homeschool community. It will be a week-long introduction to theatre performance culminating in a short and fun public showcase.

The camp will be preceded by a series of three weekly **master classes** covering different disciplines in performance and theatre ranging from movement, song, and dance.

For more information about this free program, contact office@barnstormerstheatre.org.

William Clapham (Cope) Murray, 1931-2022



Cope Murray and his late wife Priscilla first came to The Barnstormers in 1958 to meet with Francis Cleveland in hopes of auditioning for a play. Cope became a teacher of English and Theatre Arts at New England College and made a significant contribution in educating generations of students. His first appearance at The Barnstormers was playing a footman in *The Sleeping Prince*. He last graced our stage in the production in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* in 2010. In between, he appeared in over 200 productions on The Barnstormers stage—from serious drama such as Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman* to high comedy in *Mrs. Temple's Telegram*. He was a very generous actor, never upstaging others, always ready to help bail out a floundering compatriot. Unfortunately, if he "went up" he kept on talking, making it impossible for the Stage Manager to give him the correct line!

In the 1990s, Cope began to assist Artistic Director Francis Cleveland. Following Francis' death in 1995, he became the Artistic Director, and held that post until 2002. In addition to performing, he also directed a number of shows. He was very popular with the actors, the staff, the crew, and the audiences. He will be sorely missed.

As Shakespeare put it, "May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

Sign up for our newsletter to get the latest Barnstormers news. Be the first to receive event updates, rush ticket info, and important announcements. Weekly newsletters throughout the summer, followed by periodic pre and post season news. Scan this QR code to sign up!



Mission Statement

To keep vital the value, spirit, and tradition of fine summer theatre in Tamworth and to provide a venue for and to promote varied cultural activities within the region.

THE BARNSTORMERS THEATRE

104 Main Street • PO Box 434
Tamworth, New Hampshire 03886
603-323-8500 • office@barnstormerstheatre.org