

SMASH

PRODUCTIONS

Presents



NOVEMBER 3-5, 2021

SAVANNAH CENTER

THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA

THIS PROGRAM BENEFITS



**YOUR
HUMANE
SOCIETY
SPCA**

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Welcome to Rhapsody In Rhythm, the Best of Gershwin and Porter. This show is a labor of love that started more than two years ago after a conversation with some of the regular SMASH Productions Singers and Musicians. The idea crystallized as we discussed our favorite songs and musicals.

What better artists to spotlight than Tony, Emmy, Grammy and Pulitzer Winning brothers George and Ira Gershwin and Cole Porter. Their music created Broadway Shows including *Crazy For You*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Porgy and Bess*, and *Anything Goes* plus iconic classics like *Night and Day*, *Embraceable You*, *I Got Rhythm*, *I've Got You Under My Skin*, *Swanee*, *Rhapsody in Blue*, *Let's Misbehave*, *Of Thee I Sing* and numerous showstoppers.

This show was originally scheduled to come to the Savannah Stage last April two weeks after the pandemic started. But we persevered and are ecstatic to finally be here. As the Producer, I salute our Singers, Dancers, Musicians and Crew for their undying enthusiasm.

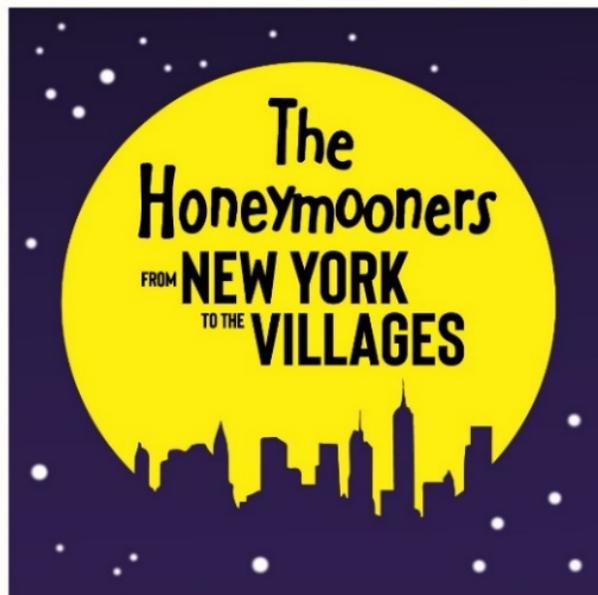
Kudos to Barry Corlew, Director, who kept the production focused with the changing environment and wrote the script. Joe Mankowski, Musical Director, who says he was born to perform this music and wrote all the arrangements, Mary Ann Rockenbach, Vocal Coach, who blends the voices of the wonderful singers; Barb Byers, Choreographer who brings the dances to life; Ed Slivken, Stage Manager who pulls the backstage together and Sammie Brassette, Props Mistress who set the scene to transport you to the Hotel Savannah. Jeff Jagmin, Technical Director, created the dream sequence.

Watch SMASH Productions in 2022 for *The Honeymooners From New York to the Villages*, *The Sound of Music* and *A Fiddler Live in Florida*.

Enjoy the Show!

Susan Feinberg, Producer

SMASH Productions



March 15-17, 2022, Savannah Center

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I always question what to write in my 'Director's Notes' for a program, and for this one it is a little different. First, a little background. I grew up in the late '50's and '60's ...but I have to admit, although I listened to the Beatles and the Beach Boys, etc....in my heart of hearts it was Jazz, Big Bands and Show Tunes (Broadway). One of my favorite memories is of listening to the Bobby Troup Jazz program from California late at night on a 'bounce' on my old radio! And I was in upstate NY! (You old timers will know what I mean!)

Now to be asked once again to write and direct a show of this music? Right up my alley! The Gershwins and Cole Porter. Does it get any better than this? There was and is so much to choose from. I can only hope we picked some of your favorites! Please sing along and dance if you can! That's what it all was written for!

I want to thank the Savannah Center Team, my backstage crew, unsung heroes all! Joe and his musicians, Mary Ann for her vocal coaching, Barb for her support and most excellent choreography, SMASH Productions for their trust, and most of all I want to thank my cast! What a wonderful group of talented folks they are! And finally, I want to thank my 'life partner' Bonnie. I could not have done this without you.

Barry Corlew, Director



COMING FROM SMASH PRODUCTIONS FALL 2022!

RHAPSODY IN RHYTHM MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

OVERATURE including Rhapsody in Blue to Lady Be Good – Joe Mankowski Trio
OF THEE I SING - Company
S’WONDERFUL - Company
NIGHT AND DAY – Bill Davis, Marilyn,
EMBRACEABLE YOU – Bob Stehman
SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME – Bonnie Williams
DON’T FENCE ME IN – Bill Krone.
WALK THE DOG – John Byers and Maximus
ALWAYS TRUE TO YOU - Marilyn Duncan
LET’S MISBEHAVE – Bill Davis and Holy Jeske
NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT – Joe Mankowski
SOMEBODY LOVES ME – Bob Stehman
I’VE GOT A CRUSH ON YOU – Billie Thatcher
MY HEART BELONGS TO DADDY – Janet Maloney Brodst
I’VE GOT YOU UNDER MY SKIN – Bill Davis
THEY CAN’T TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME – Bill McGaughey
I GOT RHYTHM – Company and Dancers

ACT 2

ENTR’ACTE Rhapsody in Blue to Rialto Ripples to TOO DARN HOT - Joe Mankowski Trio
SO IN LOVE – Bob Stehman & Marilyn Duncan
BRUSH UP YOUR SHAKESPEARE – Bill Davis & Bill Krone
WELL, DID YOU EVER? – Billie Thatcher & Bonnie Williams
BY STRAUSS – Holly Jeske
SWANEE – Bill Krone. with Company
IT AIN’T NECESSARILY SO – Janet Maloney Brodst
SUMMERTIME – Syd Tenenbaum
LOVE IS HERE TO STAY – Bonnie Williams
BEGIN THE BEGUINE – Dancers
ANYTHING GOES – Bill McGaughey. with Company
I GET A KICK OUT OF YOU – Bob Stehman
YOU’RE THE TOP – Billie, Bonnie, Janet (to Bob)
THEY ALL LAUGHED – Marilyn Duncan
THE MAN I LOVE – Billie Thatcher
YOU DO SOMETHING TO ME – Joe Mankowski
RHAPSODY IN BLUE – Dancers
WALK THE DOG – John Byers and Maximus
EVERYTIME WE SAY GOODBYE – Billie Thatcher
OF THEE I SING – Company....
CURTAIN CALL – STRIKE UP THE BAND

CAST AND CREW

SINGERS: Bill Davis, Bill Krone, Bill McGaughey, Billie Thatcher, Bob Stehman, Bonnie Williams, Holly Jeske, Janet Maloney Brodst, Marilyn Duncan, Syd Tenenbaum

DANCERS: Barb Byers, Diane Arduin, Holly Jeske, Jacquie Davis, Jean Ann Riordan, Patti Card, Vic Magee,

BAND: Joe Mankowski (Grand Piano and Keyboard), Dennis St. Germain (Drums), Don Hainlen (Bass)

VOCAL COACH: Mary Ann Rockenbach

HOTEL STAFF: John Byers, Louie Vassmer, Marcel Hogue

PROPS MISTRESS: Sammie Brassette

STAGE MANAGER: Ed Slivken

STAGEHANDS: John Byers, Louie Vassmer, Marcel Hogue, Stuart Feinberg, Tina Shapiro

SCENERY: Bill Tanner, Louie Vassmer, Sylvia Vassmer

VIDEOGRAPHER: Gerry Sherman

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY: Susan Feinberg

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: Jeff Jagmin



The poster is a vibrant red rectangle. At the top center, the text "Music in Motion" is written in a yellow, cursive font, with five yellow stars above it. Below this, a yellow silhouette of two dancers is shown. Underneath the dancers, the word "Presents" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. The main title "Tickets Please" is written in a large, yellow, serif font with a drop shadow effect. Surrounding the central text are eight small, square photographs of various venues, each with a yellow caption below it. The venues are: London Palladium (top left), Gaiety Theatre (top right), Carnegie Hall (middle left), Radio City Music Hall (middle right), Grand Ole Opry (bottom left), Shakespeare's Globe Theatre (bottom center), and Caesar's Palace (bottom right). At the very bottom of the poster, the text "SAVANNAH CENTER - FEBRUARY 15, 16 AND 17" is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. Below that, "SUPPORTING THE VILLAGES HOSPICE HOUSE" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, and at the bottom, the website "WWW.MUSICINMOTIONTHEVILLAGES.COM" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font.

London Palladium

Gaiety Theatre

Carnegie Hall

Radio City Music Hall

Grand Ole Opry

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre

Caesar's Palace

SAVANNAH CENTER - FEBRUARY 15, 16 AND 17
SUPPORTING THE VILLAGES HOSPICE HOUSE
WWW.MUSICINMOTIONTHEVILLAGES.COM

SPECIAL THANKS

Brian Russo and the Staff at The Entertainment Department

John Rohan and Pam Henry at The Recreation Department

Debra Hurtt and the Staff at The Savannah Center

The Villages Media Group at the Daily Sun

Rose Marie Peppe and Nancy Gibson at Eisenhower

The Recreation Staff at Manatee and Big Cypress

A special thanks to Bill Tanner and the Villages Theatre Group for building and housing our beautiful Hotel Savannah Set for the Show.

Our Show would not have been the same without the generosity of Jim Caisse from Music In Motion for the Dance Costumes.

Thanks to the Villages Vettes Corvette Club for working the Toys for Tots Collection Drive during all three nights of Rhapsody.

Begson Designs for Logo Design

SMASH PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



COMING NOVEMBER 8-10, 2022!

CAST AND CREW BIOS RHAPSODY CAST

BARRY CORLEW, DIRECTOR, began his theater career in 4th grade and has never stopped! He directed his first show as a student director in 6th grade. While in the U.S. Navy, Barry worked with The Rota Little Theater (Spain). Professionally, Barry has worked with Café Lena Theater Project in Saratoga Springs, NY. and performed with Riverview Entertainment Productions (NY). He directed *Embraceable Me* 'off-off Broadway' in NYC and was the assistant director and had a featured role in the film *The Old Livingston House* shot locally in central Florida. He has also appeared in 10 other films. He has over 150 theater credits as an actor and director. His favorite roles include, Henry in *The Lion In Winter*, Mr. Lundie in *Brigadoon* and Ben Franklin in '1776' with KC Productions this past summer.

A villager since 2009, Barry has worked with M&M Productions, VTC , where he recently co- directed with Bob Petrucelli 'A Visit From Scarface', VMT, Lake Miona, Melon Patch. For SMASH Productions he wrote and directed '*Over the Rainbow ...the Music of Harold Arlen*' and 'When You Wish Upon a Mouse.... the Music of Disney'. He is the artistic director for Broadway & Beyond Entertainment, working with his 'life partner' Bonnie Williams.

JOE MANKOWSKI, MUSICAL DIRECTOR is well known throughout The Villages as a "Cocktail" as well as "Stride" Pianist! He is presently president of "The Villages Piano Club" and house pianist for the "Rose Plantation in Fruitland Park. Joe specializes in the American piano music of the early 20th Century. He loves playing Ragtime and Novelty piano, such as those made popular by piano rolls. Joe's true specialty however is in Harlem Stride Piano. This is a style of piano made popular by artists like Thomas "Fats" Waller, where the player tries to imitate the sound of two people at a piano. He regularly competes at the "World's Old Time Piano Championship" in Peoria, IL where he has placed within the top 10 for five years. Back in his home town of Buffalo, NY, he was the organist for the Buffalo Sabres, and won the 1985 "Yamaha Electone Organ Contest." Joe, who holds a Masters Degree in Education, is a retired high school teacher from the Iroquois Central School District in Elma, NY. After relocating to The Villages, FL in January of 2015, he became quickly involved in the music scene as a piano player in different venues including restaurants as well as stage productions by local theatre groups. This is Joe's second SMASH Show after performing as the Band Leader for *Once Upon A Mouse 2—the Music of Disney*. Joe says that he was born to play the music in Rhapsody.

BARBARA BYERS, CHOREOGRAPHER is the Choreographer and Lead Dancer for Rhapsody In Rhythm. She worked at the Walt Disney World in the Entertainment and Education Department for 12 years. Her first show with SMASH was as Dancer and Choreographer for *When You Wish Upon A Mouse*. She has been involved in dance and musical theater for most of her life and owned her own dance school. Since moving to the Villages in 2012, she has performed with Villages Musical Theater in *Brigadoon*, *The Music Man* and *Crazy for You* and with Musicals in Concert, Music in Motion and the Pops Chorus. She was the Choreographer for Smash Productions *Nuncrackers*, *Nunset Boulevard* and *When You Wish Upon A Mouse 2*.

BILL DAVIS, Singer, has a lifelong background in music and musical theater, both as a performer and director, *Bill has been very active in The Villages since moving here in 2012. He has appeared on The Savannah Stage as Enoch Snow in "Carousel"; Enjolras in "Les Miz"; Harry in "Company", John Adams in "1776" and as Smudge in "Forever Plaid", which he also directed. Bill directed the Villages Musical Theater productions of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown", "Brigadoon", "Crazy For You" and "Sweet Charity".* Bill is also the director of The Villages Pops Chorus, a 140-voice chorus dedicated to performing choral arrangements of popular music, which he founded with his wife Sue and good friend, accompanist Jo Ann Hanebrink, as well as The Pops Chorus Folksingers and The Pops Chorus Folk Quartet. Bill has worked with SMASH since its first USO Show and Love & Marriage. He would like to thank his friends at SMASH for the opportunity to perform in this show!

BILL KRONE, Singer, a former High School Principal from a suburb of Buffalo, New York, has appeared in sixteen Broadway musicals in The Villages since 2008. Featured roles have included Tevye in *"Fiddler on the Roof"*, Billy Flynn in *"Chicago"*, Jigger in *"Carousel"*, Julian Marsh in *"42nd Street"*, and Lank Hawkins in *"*. He is thrilled to be in his sixth "SMASH" production in the company of so many talented performers starting with the first SMASH USO Show. As always, he thanks his wife, Martie, for her constant support of him in his theatrical adventures.

BILL McGAUGHEY, Singer, is thrilled to be performing in his first Smash Production with so many talented performers. A relative newcomer to The Villages he has sung with the Village Voices, Brothers in Song and currently sings with the Villages Pops Chorus and the Pops Chorus Folk Singers. Bill has a rich and varied musical background, traveling internationally and covering everything from network television to a Presidential Inaugural. He has enjoyed many theatrical roles over the years including Tommy in *Brigadoon*, Hucklebee in the *Fantasticks*, Ewart Dunlop in the *Music Man*, Captain Corcoran in *HMS Pinafore* and Giuseppe in *The Gondoliers*. In the past year he has jumped on the musicals bandwagon in The Villages performing in KC Production's *Carousel*, as Robert Livingston in *1776* and Harry Bright in *Mamma Mia*. Bill lives by his musical mantra: No fun without music and no music without fun.

BILLIE THATCHER, Singer, has been performing since childhood, and had had roles in musical theatre from leading lady to chorus. She's been performing here in The Villages since 2001, and has performed with the Villages Musical Theatre, Broadway Bound Players, SMASH and KC Productions, as well as her solo concert work. She played Sister Hubert for the three SMASH *Nonsense* Shows and has been involved with SMASH before it had its first show. She also is a featured vocalist with The Villages Swing Band, and a frequent entertainer for Honor Flight, one of her many charity projects.

BOB STEHMAN, Singer, was the Director for SMASH Productions hits *Nonsense*, *Nun crackers* and *Nunset Boulevard* Shows. He was a showstopper in dual roles as Father Virgil and Sister Julia Child. Bob has been an integral part of SMASH Productions since the first show and will be the Director for *Sound of Music* in November 2022. Bob performed numerous lead roles in regional and community theater for the past 49 years. He wrote, produced and directed three original Christmas shows for

deaf students in the public schools and regional theater in his home state of Pennsylvania. He brings his wealth of stage experience to direct and support his love of acting, singing and dancing to the incredible cast, crew and production team of SMASH Productions.

BONNIE WILLIAMS, Singer, is happy to be back with SMASH once again. She has appeared in every show since the SMASH inception in 2016. She was last seen in *Nunset Boulevard* as Reverend Mother after *When You Wish Upon A Mouse 1 and 2*. Active in community theatre for 40 years in the Albany, NY area, her favorite roles include Mama Rose in *Gypsy*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie* and of course Mother Superior in *Nunsense, Nuncrackers and Nunset Boulevard!* She will play the role of Mother Abbess in *Sound of Music* in 2022. In *The Villages*, Bonnie has performed with VTC, VMT, MIC, You'll Sing and as a featured performer with the Villages Pops Chorus. Along with her partner Barry Corlew, she performs with Broadway & Beyond Entertainment.

HOLLY JESKE, Singer, was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey. She performed on stage dancing, singing and acting from the age of 4 through 17. She studied classical voice as well as tap, ballet, and drama. She moved to the Villages in 2012 and has sung and danced in several shows with The Villages Musical Theater and KC Productions. She joined SMASH Productions for three *Nunsense* Musicals performing as the hilarious Sister Amnesia and sang in its two Disney Shows as Snow White and Cinderella. She is also a member of Music in Motion and The Villages Pops Chorus

JANET MALONEY BRODST, Singer, is a National Credit Manager from upstate New York. Her theatrical credentials are extensive at both the professional and charitable levels. Her performances include all three Village Squares, The Savannah Center and other Village Entertainment venues along with neighboring communities. Janet has also served as Vocal Director for seven musical productions. She has had character roles in numerous Villages musical productions including *Annie Get Your Gun, How To Succeed in Business, 42nd Street (Adelaide), White Christmas, Music Man, Crazy for You (Mother), Hairspray, Starry 2,3,4,5 and 8,* and others; Most recently performing in "*When You Wish Upon A Mouse - The Music of Disney*", (SMASH), *Sweeney Todd, My Fair Lady, Carousel* and numerous other book and non-book productions. Janet's Spring 2020 performances included "*The Producers*" and "*Hooray Hollywood/Hello Broadway*" and now in 2021 "*Rhapsody in Rhythm*". This is Janet's 4th SMASH Production.

MARILYN DUNCAN, Singer, is a newcomer to SMASH PRODUCTIONS from the world of sacred music. She has been a featured soloist in the Villages with the Christian Chorus, Christian Chorale, various churches, many women's retreats, as well as the New Horizons band. Her singing and acting dates back to high school where she performed in numerous Musical Reviews. A native of Illinois, she had the honor of competing in the Miss Illinois pageant. Currently, she is also a member of the Villages Pops Chorus.

SYD TENENBAUM has been singing as a bass baritone for the last 20 years. He has performed for over 17 years with a group at weddings, parties, clubs and corporate events throughout the Syracuse, NY area. Syd also has appeared in numerous of variety shows and musical events both in the Syracuse area as well as The Villages.

MARY ANN ROCKENBACH, VOCAL DIRECTOR has shared her talents with The Villages for over 25 years. Career highlights include musical direction in Holland, Belgium and Germany, eight years of coaching and accompanying at Walt Disney World, and employment with Orlando Opera, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, SAK Comedy Lab, Valencia Community College and Bergamo's Italian Restaurant. Originally from Burlington, Iowa, she is thrilled to be joining SMASH Productions as Vocal Director for Rhapsody. Her first SMASH Show was Musical Director for "*Nunset Boulevard*" in 2019. Mary Ann will be the Musical Director for *Sound of Music* with SMASH next November.

SAMMIE BRASSETTE, PROPS MISTRESS has had a life filled with excitement and challenges while raising two children in addition to working in emergency room and intensive care settings for 40 years. As a traveling nurse, she had the opportunity of traveling the world over' After moving to The Villages in 2009, she became involved with theater productions. My first show was "*Chicago*", where I fell in love with the confusion and darkness that goes on behind the scenes. I guess this reminded me of my years in the Emergency Room. I really loved the backstage management and organization. SMASH Productions has given me a greater insight into the professional world of theater and the lives of those involved in the performances where she has been involved since its inception in 2016 with all of its productions. Her job would not be possible without her husband Lyn. What she creates.....he makes into a reality!

JEFF JAGMIN, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, is a Multimedia developer and internet professional. He joined SMASH to produce the dream sequence in tonight's performance and is the SMASH Productions webmaster. In 1984, Jeff created a website featuring videos of his friend Olympic Gold Medalist Dan Jansen. Through the Dan Jansen Foundation, they have helped more than 1000 children and families battling cancer. Current Central Florida projects include simple online steaming videos to full feature HD videos with special effects, including Interfaith Community Programs, Holocaust remembrance observances and other special events. In his spare time Jeff enjoys creating fish theme art using natural Florida materials, ifishtails.com

SMASH
PRODUCTIONS

SMASH TO GO!

**High-energy entertainment for clubs, churches,
birthdays, fund raising...when you want a unique,
top quality performance for your events.**

Contact us at smashproductionsfl@gmail.com