

◆ EAST LYNNE THEATER CO. ◆ CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY ◆ Since 1980 ◆

◆ A LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT ◆ SUSAN TISCHLER ◆

I was both surprised and thrilled when approached to take over the role of President of the East Lynne Theater Company. My dear friend and former president, **Tommy Raniszewski** was, and still is, much admired by his fellow Board of Trustee members. Following in his shoes was somewhat daunting and yet I was eager to accept the challenge.

I have been a fan of ELTC ever since watching their production of Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology* in 1999, which was performed in the greeting room of the Cape May Presbyterian Church under the direction of **Gayle Stahlhuth**. It was her second show of her first season. No stage. No fancy set design. Just compelling acting and the intimacy of live theater. ELTC's mission to produce plays written by American Masters and new playwrights who embrace the American spirit has been a draw for me as a theater goer and later as a performer. The fact that I took the helm in December of 2019 only to be gobsmacked with a COVID-19 epidemic served to energize me to plow through and make the best of it – a philosophy which I blissfully share with our capable and creative Artistic Director Gayle Stahlhuth. She has found a way to persevere and overcome adversity. I admire her tremendously and look forward to a future which will lead us to another 41 years of theater.

None of this, however, would be possible without an enthusiastic and hard-working board of trustees. Our current board has members who have served for many years like our Vice President **Mark Lang**. A talented director and actor, he is also a thoughtful and capable board member. The contributions of his wife and acting talent **Alison Murphy** as well as the guidance of actors **Sam Clark**, **Emma Palzere-Rae** and new board member **Jeff Sharkey** have been enormously helpful in navigating these difficult waters.

A tip of my hat to board members **Lynn Bowlby**— who came up with the idea of a cash raffle— and our stellar Secretary-Treasurer **Cecilia Tyler**, whose efforts helped make the raffle a success. A shout out to new board member **Bernadette Matthews** who has been a great help in steering ELTC in new directions.



A special thank you goes to long-serving board member and former secretary **Joan Behr**. Although she no longer lives in Cape May, she continues to be an inspiration to me and a source of great wisdom in addressing some of the concerns we face as a theater.

I want to formally thank former board members **Dillon Mullock**, **Rob LeMaire** and **Sydia Cedeño Genat** for all their work and their continued enthusiasm. I would also like to welcome new board members **Daniel Magariel** and **Keating Weinberger**, whose contributions have already made a difference. Daniel is our newest member, and one of our most enthusiastic. Keating has been especially helpful in keeping us focused on the future.

Speaking of the future— in an effort to take some of the weight off our over-worked AD, Gayle, the board of trustees recently approved the hiring of a Director of Planning and Development. Theater enthusiast **Bill Grau** begins his role in January of 2022. I look forward to working with him.

Last but most certainly not least, I want to thank all of you who dutifully attended our performances this year both outside and inside. That effort got us back in the saddle again. Thank you. With your help, we hope to get back to a “normal” production season in 2022. We love you. We can’t wait to see you. I wish you a prosperous and healthy New Year. Until we meet again, Adieu.

◆ FIND OUT MORE: Full Staff and Board Bios are at www.tinyurl.com/eltc-staff ◆

◆ A LETTER FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ◆ GAYLE STAHLHUTH ◆

In January, we continued producing virtually, either filming on location or Zoomed, with a combination of full productions and readings. First up was *Ida B. Wells: Her Speech for the NAACP in 1909* read by **Stephanie Garrett**. Then it was *Get Happy! A Salute to Judy Garland*, which helped launch singer **Jenna Pastuszek**'s live tour of her show. *Enemies* (1916) by **Neith Boyce and Hutchins Hapgood**, starred **Veronique Hurley** and **Mat Labotka**, directed by **James Rana**.



a table at every West Cape May Festival and Farmers' Market, where he made balloon animals to the delight of young and old. Because of James' expertise, ELTC was invited to be part of **Cape May's Kids' Night Out**.

Our 15th annual **Student Summer Workshop** culminated in a production of *The Reluctant Dragon* on August 13, inside the Cape May Presbyterian Church, where we usually perform. It was the first time ELTC had been inside, performing for an audience since March 14, 2020. The rest of the season remained inside, too.



ELTC UPDATE

With funding from the New Jersey Humanities Council, I directed a cast of eight in *Something to Vote For* (1911) by **Charlotte Perkins Gilman**. Then it was *Aunt Hattie's House*, written and performed by **Emma Palzere-Rae**. In March, we brought back the fully-staged *Nothing Matters*, first shown in 2020.

In June, *Tales in the Backyard* returned during the summer, with a different topic every week ranging from the letters between **John and Abigail Adams** to a speech by **Edward R. Murrow**.

We also started the twice-revised 2021 Mainstage Season with an outdoor production of *Vaudeville Variety* starring **Holly and Will Knapp, Susan Tischler** and **Amanda Brinlee**, presented at West Cape May Borough's "Back Yard."

James Rana, who had been in Broadway's *The Band's Visit* and was waiting in Cape May until the National Tour resumed, helped ELTC with set-ups and strikes, and performed in *Tales in the Backyard*. He also saw to it that ELTC had

On September 11, ELTC presented *A Hundred Thousand Days of Light*, an evening of American songs performed by **Barbara Quintiliani**. Then it was the world premiere of *Dorothy Parker: A Certain Woman*, starring **Suzanne Dawson**, followed by *Nosferatu*, the classic silent horror film with live organ accompaniment, *Poe by Candlelight*, and *Sherlock Holmes Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*, performed like an NBC vintage radio play. For the holidays, we presented *Christmas with Harte and O. Henry*, stories by **Bret Harte** and **O. Henry**, adapted and performed by—well—me.

We finished up the season outside, with *Ghosts of Christmas Past Trolley Rides*, in partnership with **Cape May MAC**. ELTC supplies the stories and the storyteller, who is once again **Susan Tischler**, but MAC supplies the trolley.

I could not have kept the company going had it not been for **James Rana, Tom Byrn, Rob LeMaire**, President **Susan Tischler**, the Board of Trustees, ELTC staff, including new Production Assistant **Amanda Brinlee**, volunteers, and you, the audience. **Thank you!**

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2021 - 2022

1980

41
YEARS

2021

2021 & Looking Ahead to 2022

VIRTUAL EVENTS continue in 2022, including *AFTERLIFE* (1918) by Mary P. Burrill about a Black soldier in WWI, and the romantic comedy *THE GUARDSMAN AND THE ACTRESS*, before we go Live in March with *SHERLOCK HOLMES: Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*, and then we return in the summer!

2022 CAPE MAY SEASON



DOROTHY PARKER: A CERTAIN WOMAN

ELTC
EAST LYNNE THEATER CO.



THE RAINMAKER

1980 42 YEARS 2022

500 Hughes Street Cape May, NJ

eastlynnetheater.org ♦ 609-884-5898

Supported in part by a grant from NJ Dept. of State, Division of Travel and Tourism



DOROTHY PARKER: A CERTAIN WOMAN

One of the wittiest writers ever, starring Suzanne Dawson
June 15 – July 23 *BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND*

POSSESSING HARRIET

A runaway slave seeks freedom, by Kyle Bass
July 27 – September 3 *NJ PREMIERE*

BORN YESTERDAY

Garson Kanin's comedy about politics
September 21 – October 15

POE BY CANDLELIGHT

Tales by the master of the macabre
October 22

SHERLOCK HOLMES: ADVENTURE OF THE NORWOOD BUILDER

Our popular "radio-style" play
October 29 – November 5

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FROM THE PAST

Holiday classics come to life
November 25 – December 10

EQUITY PROFESSIONAL THEATER

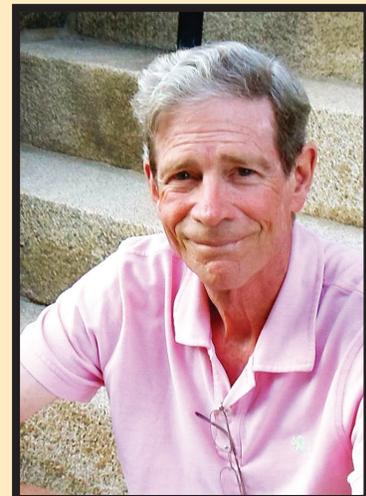
Lee O'Connor (February 19, 1948 – March 21, 2021)

Lee had a ready smile, a listening ear, a helping hand, a pure heart, and a way of calling a friend "you rotten kid," that made people laugh. When Lee's wife Gayle was asked to be the Artistic Director of ELTC in 1999, she asked him to be the Technical Director. Together, they brought 110 different shows to the ELTC stage. In October 2019, he was diagnosed with cancer, and for a while, it looked like he beat it. This past November, Gayle and Lee would have celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. He was selected to be the Grand Marshal in the West Cape May Christmas Parade, and Gayle represented him, holding his flag. He served in Viet Nam. Lee's obituary and service are at www.tinyurl.com/eltc-lee.

The ELTC Board of Trustees created a Memorial Fund in his name.

To contribute, please make checks out to East Lynne Theater Company, and put "Lee O'Connor Memorial Fund" on the memo line.

Lee is missed by many.



ELTC UPDATE

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2021 - 2022



EAST LYNNE THEATER CO.
 PO Box 121
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www.eastlynnetheater.org



★ Celebrating The American Spirit on Stage since 1980 ★



Go to our web site to join ELTC on Facebook, Twitter, and sign up for our E-News Blasts!

Be the first to know the ELTC news, updates and specials!

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS A LOT: VOLUNTEER OR DONOR

Thanks to the support of individuals like you, as well as support from businesses, foundations, and ongoing and special grants from government agencies, East Lynne Theater Company was able to adapt and fund its 2021 season to offer its programming online and in person, while prioritizing the health and safety of its performers, staff, volunteers and theatergoers. We overcame challenges the likes of which we've never seen, to offer yet another year of entertaining, diverse programming.

As we plan for a New Year, we are busily laying the groundwork for what promises to be yet another great theatrical season. To fulfill that goal, we invite you to support our efforts as either a volunteer or donor.

To volunteer your services as an usher, flyer and poster distributor, helper at the ELTC table at local festivals, or other team member opportunities, contact Frank Smith, Volunteer Liaison, through eastlynneco@aol.com or the office at **609-884-5898**.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, mail checks to **East Lynne Theater Company, PO Box 121 Cape May, NJ 08204**, or visit eastlynnetheatercompany.ticketleap.com to use a credit card.

Again, thank you for your support, both now and in the future.
 We look forward to sharing another great year of theater with you.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT: HOUSING

WANTED: Housing for out-of-town actors! 90% of our performers live in the New York City or Philadelphia areas. Contact Gayle Stahlhuth at eastlynneco@aol.com or call the office at 609-884-5898 if you can help with short-term accommodations. Thank you!

◆ THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS! Full list is at www.tinyurl.com/eltc-supporters ◆