

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE PELICAN PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATER

Editors: Barbara Boyle and James Williams

THE PRESIDENT'S SPOTLIGHT

BY: RICK SWENSON

Pelican Players

Community Theater of Sun City Center, Florida



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's hard for me to imagine Pelican Players Community Theater (PPCT) in 2026 without Rick Swenson as President. We have come a long way during the past six years. Since I joined four years ago, Rick has always been the president. As the newest member of the Board of Directors, I only hope I can measure up. Thank you, Rick, for all your hard work and dedication. I look forward to working with you on future Readers Theater productions.

2025 was busy, busy, busy, with not only three Main Stage shows and four Readers Theaters, but also a joint production with St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, Cabaret Singers, plus our semi-annual visits to Gannon University to work with their students. There is even an improv class now! And best of all, PPCT made three donations of \$1,000 each to local non-profits and awarded three scholarships to graduating high school seniors planning to study the arts in college.

2026 promises to pick up right where 2025 left off. We will begin with the murder mystery, *A Head in the Game*, directed by Sandra Foell-Goldman, January 9th and 10th. The wit of *Mark Twain Tonight!* brought to life by Harry Burgess, follows up on February 16th, and on March 15th Ruth Lake directs *Love or Best Offer*, which provides a comic view of online dating for the over 50 generation.

If you're new to Pelican Players, there are plenty of opportunities for you. These include, but are not limited to, marketing and promotions, props and backstage assistance, directing, sound and sound effects, hospitality (i.e. cast parties). Together lets make 2026 another great year!

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

A PRESIDENT'S LEGACY

“THANK YOU RICK SWENSON”

On behalf of the PPCT Board of Directors, we wholeheartedly thank Rick for his many years of service. Rick is a worker and trusted leader. He has steered PPCT through many projects and obstacles. He was willing to roll up his sleeves and keep PPCT running smoothly. He has volunteered endlessly. He wore many hats including: President, Actor, Stage Manager, Lighting Tech, Sound Tech, Coordinator, Organizer, Speaker and many other titles.

We know that you are always there for us if we need you.



These were GOOD TIMES! Rick Swenson posing on the runway of “*Crimes of Fashion*” Murder Mystery in 2023.

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

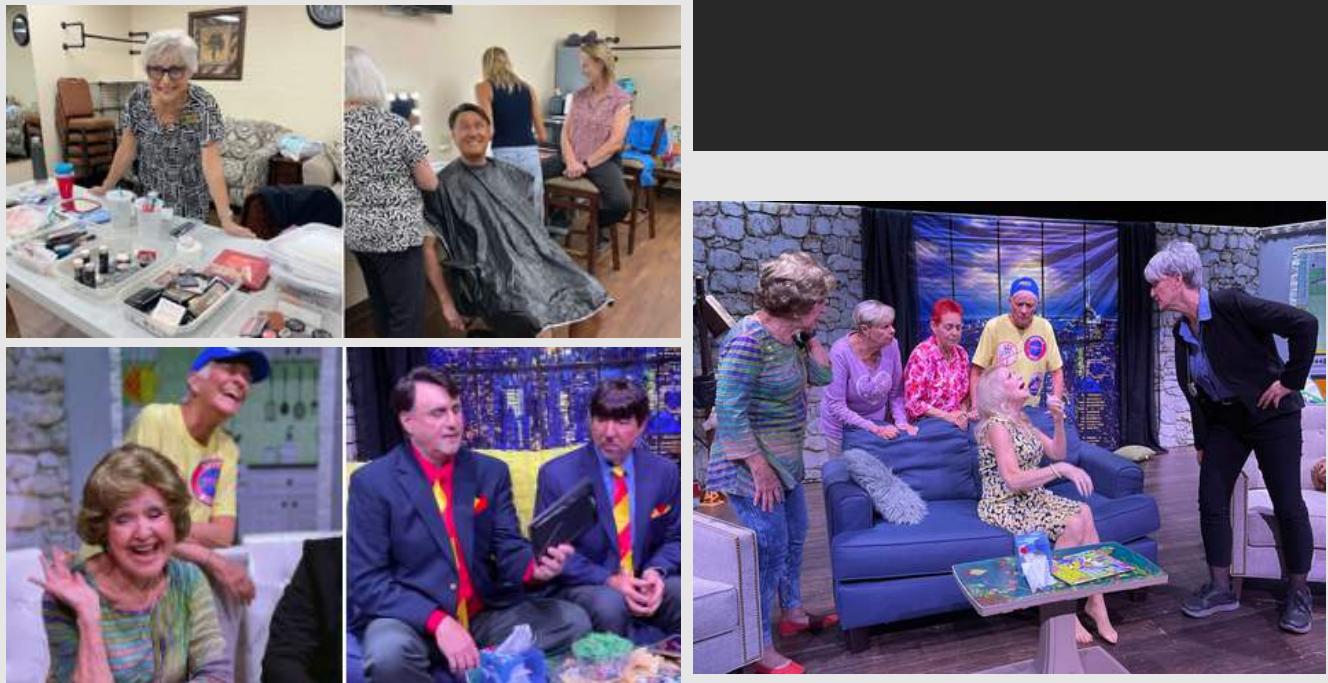


PHOTOS AND VIDEO

Photos posted on our FaceBook page.

Photographer: Carol MacAlister.

Videographer: Bob Dealmeida

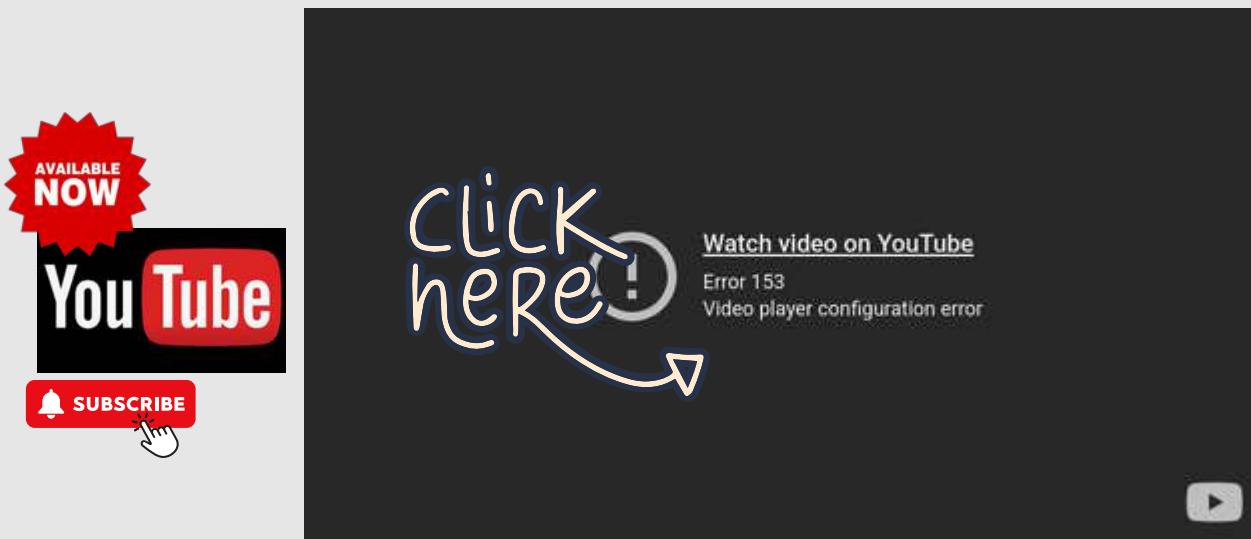


"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."
— Vincent van Gogh

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

NEW YOUTUBE RELEASE

We are pleased to release another YouTube audio. “*Three Skeleton Key*” was directed by Ron Banaszak and Bob Dealmeida did the post-production work. Click the link below and enjoy the performance.



SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 12, 2026 for our semi-annual membership meeting. It will be in the BANQUET ROOM. Doors open at 5:30 PM and the meeting will begin at 6:00 PM.

Hope to see you there!



The Pelican Players Scholarship Fund

continues to grow. This year, to date, we have added \$2,173.00 in donations.

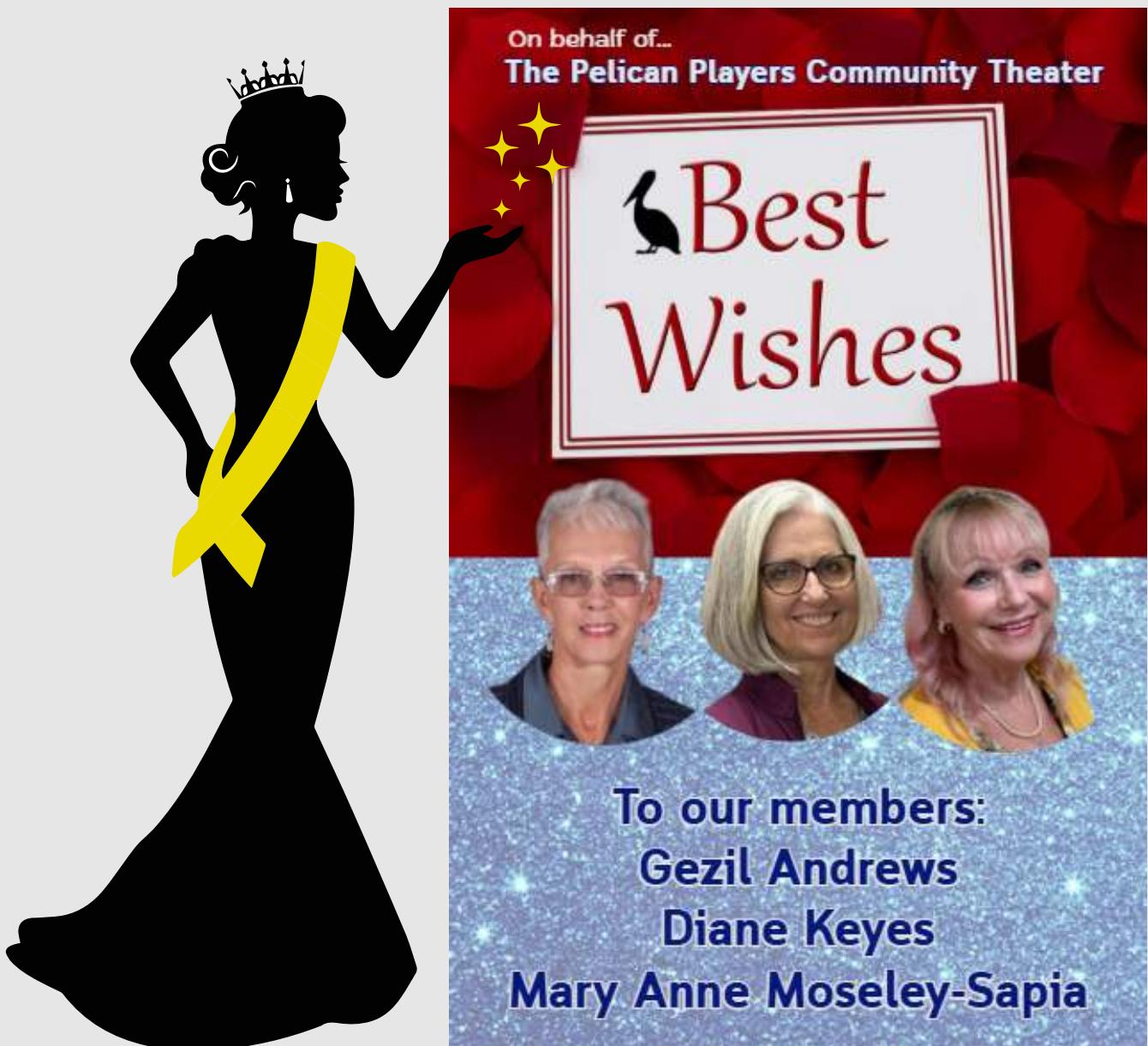
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MS. SUN CITY CENTER

On October 29th, three of our members participated in **The Ms. Sun City Center Pageant** at SCC's Community Hall.

They all did a fantastic job. Gezil wrote and performed a skit with her husband, Michael. Diane played a scientist with her two granddaughters and Mary Anne sang "*Come to the Cabaret*".

Diane Keyes was 2nd Runner Up. We are proud of you all!



NEWS STORY: click this link: [MS. SCC news](#) .

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PPCT AND CFTB ON OPENING NIGHT OF OCFV

You never know who will show up at a PPCT premier. Spotted in our audience was Community Foundation Tampa Bay representative, Lindsey Tindall. She brought one of our scholarship recipients with her (*Damon, Pictured below.*) They truly enjoyed watching “*Odd Couple - Female Version*” by Neil Simon.



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IN THE BEGINING, THERE WAS ADAM AND EVE!

On behalf of the PPCT Board of Directors, we would like to send a big THANK YOU out to **Marianne Palmer** and those who volunteered in the highly successful production of “*Adam and Eve*” by the late Ed Brown.



NEW MEMBERS CORNER

Please welcome our newest Pelican Players members:

Paul Cumisky
Tom Huth
Maria Huth
Bella Gurevich
Lloyd Banfield
George Ross
Jana Roberts
Cindy Dezort
Micky Flores

THANKS FOR JOINING - WE ARE THRILLED TO
HAVE YOU

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

PPCT AND MY WARRIOR'S PLACE ON OPENING NIGHT OF OCFV

Opening night of “*Odd Couple - Female Version*” the Pelican Players Board of Directors presented a \$1,000 check to My Warrior’s Place. Founder, Kelly Kowall, was thrilled to receive the check. Many veterans were in the audience and were asked to stand in recognition of their service. Pelican Players is proud to be a donor for such a worthy cause. For those unfamiliar with My Warrior’s Place this is their mission:

“To honor, support, and promote healing of the mind and spirit by providing a relaxed setting, special programs and to be a resource for any Military Service Member, Veteran, Fire Fighter, Law Enforcement Officer (active or retired), their immediate family members and Gold Star Family Members whose life has been touched and forever changed due to a tragic event and/or the death of a Fallen Warrior while in service to our country.”



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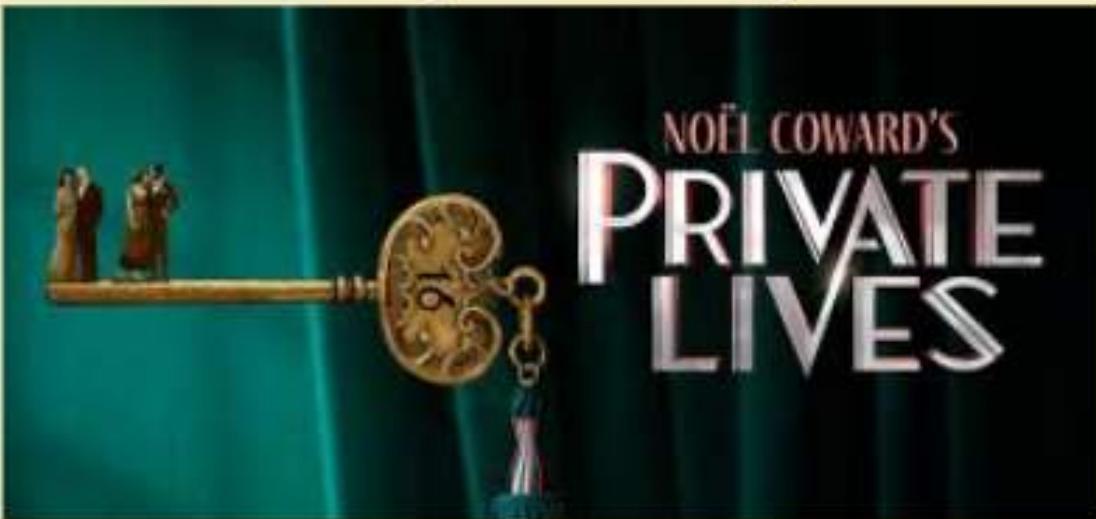
UPCOMING DATE

Tuesday, January 13 @ 4:30PM

East Social Room

Help us choose our 2026 season.

Noel Coward's Tony award winning *Private Lives*



IMPROV 101 with Diane Keyes

Mark
your
Calendar

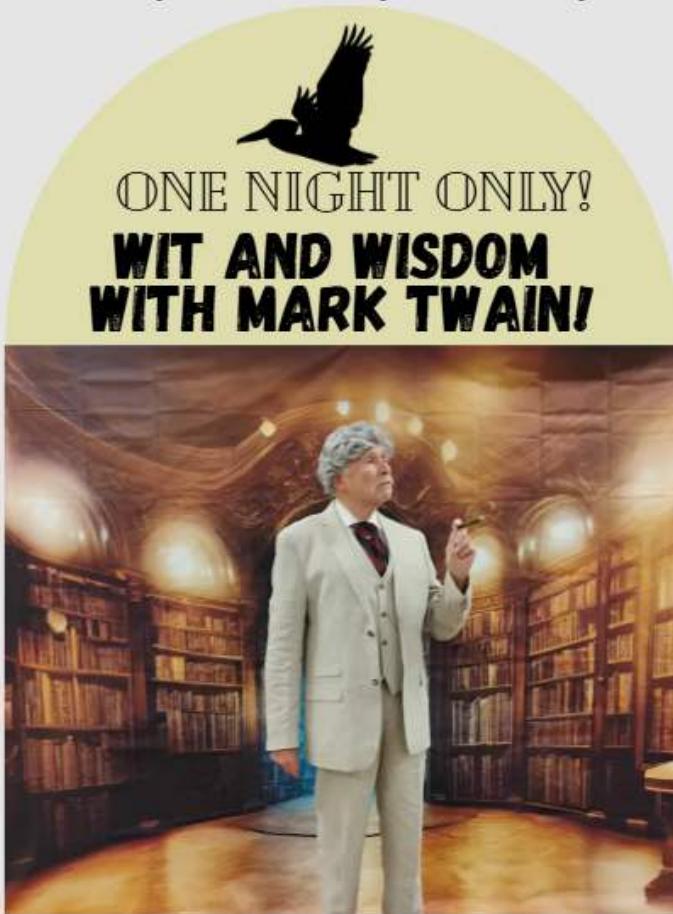
The following are the dates for the upcoming Improv classes: January 16th; February 10th and 24th; March 10th and 24th, April 14th and 28th; May 12 and 26th. All classes will be in the **East Social Room** in Kings Point **except** Jan 16 which is in the West Social Room. Classes start at 4:30 pm. until 6:00 pm. Join Diane and others for a fun time and a great way to improve your acting skills.

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TWAIN REPRISE

This show is a famous one-man stage show where an actor embodies Mark Twain, delivering humorous and poignant monologues from the author's writings, speeches, and life, offering a relevant, intimate look at the American icon's wit and wisdom through stories about interviews, religion, and everyday observations, all in Twain's signature white suit, cigar in hand.

Produced by: The Pelican Players Community Theater



PERFORMED BY HARRY BURGESS

\$10
ENTRY

Monday, February 16 @ 6:30PM

Doors open: 30 minutes prior
Tickets also available at the door.

Correct change is appreciated.

Kings Point Veterans Theater

1900 Clubhouse Drive
Sun City Center, FL

Kings Point Box Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



2026



www.pelicanplayerssscc.org

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LOVE OR BEST OFFER

We are pleased to announce “*Love or Best Offer*” written by Phil Olson and directed by our very own Ruth Lake. The show is set to debut on Sunday, March 15 at 6:30 PM.

“After failed blind dates, their best friends, Lori and Dave, convince them to try online dating with the new dating website, “Friends, Love or Whatever.” With the worst dating advice in the world from their friends, Cheryl and Stan set out to find happiness and true love—online.”

The show is bound to bring on belly laughs. Our cast includes: Barbara Boyle as Cheryl, Mary Ann Moseley as Lori, Jack Parry as Stan and Bob Horvath as Dave.

Produced by: The Pelican Players Community Theater

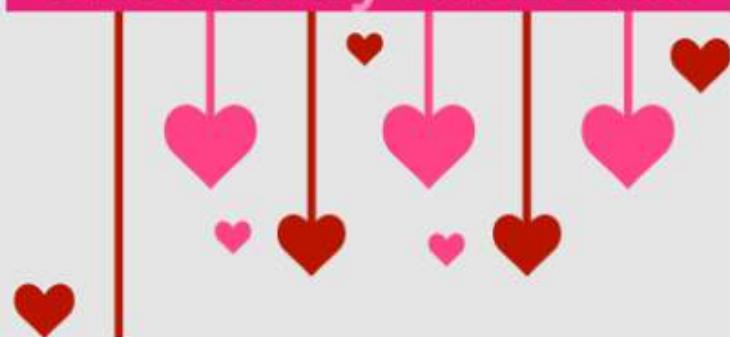


ONE NIGHT ONLY!
POP-UP SHOW
PHIL OLSON'S

**LOVE ...
or Best
Offer**



Directed by Ruth Lake



Sunday, March 15 @ 6:30PM

Doors open: 30 minutes prior

Tickets also available at the door.

Correct change is appreciated.

Kings Point Veterans Theater

1900 Clubhouse Drive

Sun City Center, FL

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2026

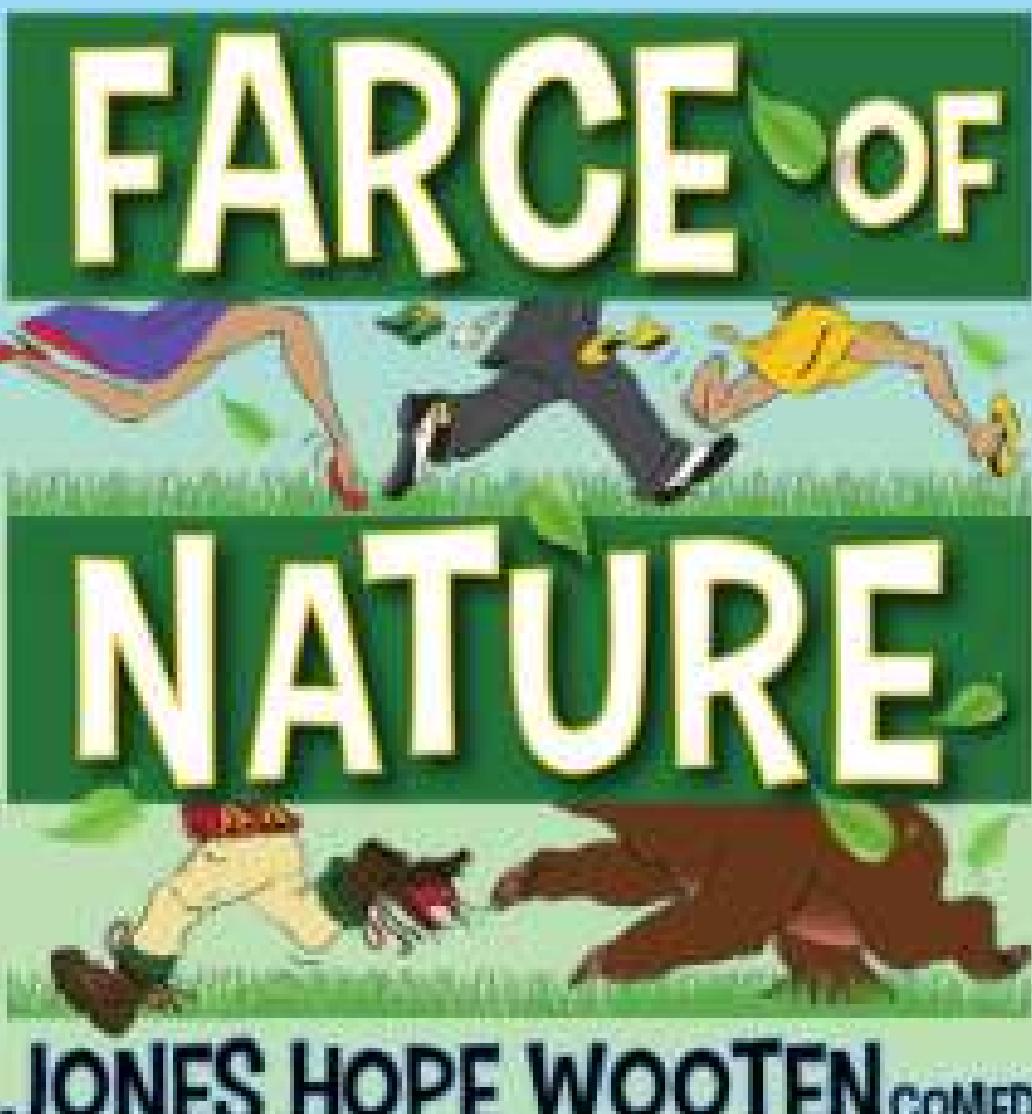


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COMING SOON

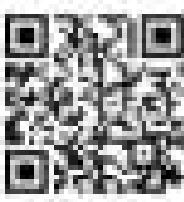
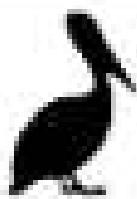
The Pelican Players Community Theater Present...



May 15-17, 2026



www.pelicanplayersccc.org



2026

""New Year, New Feels, New Chances.".

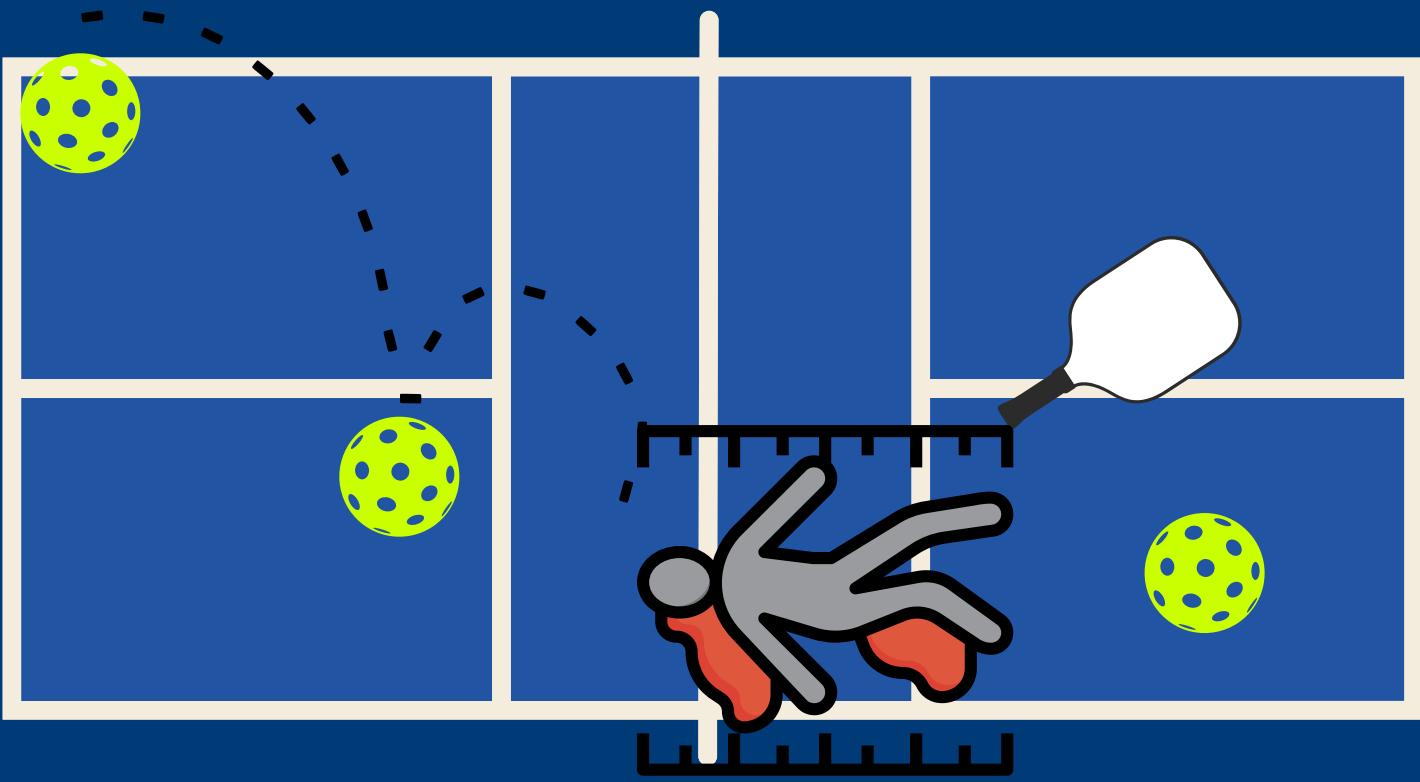
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The Pelican Players Community Theater Present...

A Murder Mystery by John Warbach

A HEAD IN THE GAME

Directed by: Sandra Foell-Goldman



January 9 & 10, 2026
Doors open: 4:30PM
Show begins: 5:00PM



www.pelicanplayersssc.org

— www.pelicanplayersssc.org —

Tickets & Show at:

St Andrew Presbyterian Church
1239 Del Webb West, SCC
Office hours: 10AM-1PM
Monday thru Thursday
\$30 for dinner& show



2026

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

IN HIS OWN WORDS - HARRY BURGESS



Where are you from?

I am originally from Leavenworth, Kansas. Yes, the common question is: Did they just let you out for the weekend?

What's your life experience e.g. jobs, family?

I grew up in community theatre and have a Bachelor's degree in Theatre/Education from Kansas State University. I am fortunate to have performed in summer stock and worked for three years semi-professionally in a Baltimore dinner theatre in addition to extensive community theatre work. Work outside the theatre has been varied and includes fifteen years as an Army Officer, twenty years with the U.S. Justice Department and early retirement years as a professional auctioneer, realtor and personal property appraiser. My wife, Camille, is my muse and greatest supporter. It is her help as a line coach that has made my best achievements in the theatre possible. We have been newlyweds for twenty-seven years.

When and how did you find out about The Pelican Players?

Prior to moving to Kings Point in December 2022, I spoke to someone here to see if there was an active community theatre program and was told about the Pelican Players. It was one of the reasons why we moved to Kings Point.

What is your experience with The Pelican Players and what is your favorite thing about belonging to this group?

My wife and I have been members of the Pelican Players since our arrival here. The first show I did for Pelican Players was Flamingo Court and I was impressed by the degree of professionalism and dedication of both the cast and crew. I have since performed in several Cabaret Singers concerts and the past two years in the annual Vesta Follies. I recently performed as Adam in a musical adaptation of the story of Adam and Eve. I am also currently performing my hour-long Mark Twain solo show to benefit various charitable organizations.

I am very grateful that the Pelican Players Board is receptive to new ideas and supported the development of my solo Mark Twain performance and allowed me time to showcase it during a reader's theatre here. Solo performance has been a lifelong dream that I have only been able to accomplish with the encouragement and support of the Pelican Players Board of Directors. I think the greatest thing about the Pelican Players is the wonderful sense of community and mutual support among its members. I am proud to be a member of the Pelican Players and always look forward to what's next.



*Harry, Thank you for all you do for The Pelican Players
Community Theater. You are so appreciated.*

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL



IN HIS OWN WORDS - ASHLEY LOBO

Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Mumbai, India. My parents and grandparents were born and raised in Goa, India, and so per the Indian culture, I always consider myself "Goan". Goa was a Portuguese colony for 450 years. It is truly a 'land of milk and honey' known for its simple life, warm weather, friendly people, beautiful mountains, unspoiled beaches, coconut palm trees, Portuguese-Indian food, and folk music, thereby attracting tourists from all over the world.

What are you job experiences?

I came to the USA in 1992 to pursue a career as a Computer Analyst and Programmer. I have traveled extensively throughout the USA because of my job and have been fortunate to make long-lasting friendships along the way. I have also sung in many choirs and orchestral groups during my travels. I eventually got a job in Ft. Lauderdale in 1998, and since then decided to stay in Florida because of the warm weather being very similar to Mumbai, India.

When and how did you find out about The Pelican Players?

I found out about Pelican Players when I moved to Kings Point in September of 2019. I was browsing the bulletin boards in the lobby of the North Club when I heard music and singing in the Veterans Theater. I walked in and realized that rehearsals were in progress for the upcoming Cabaret Singers show. I introduced myself to the director, Ron Deitsch, who later apprised me of Pelican Players and all the opportunities to participate in the various music programs here.

What is your experience with The Pelican Players and what is your favorite thing about belonging to this group?

My experience with the Pelican Players has always been very positive and fulfilling. Besides being an exceptional group of very talented individuals, they are always willing to encourage and guide newcomers. My favorite thing about belonging to this group is that after every show and performance, I always come away feeling like.. "I got to experience my little piece of Broadway".



Ashley, Thank you for all you do for The Pelican Players Community Theater. You are so appreciated.

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL



IN HER OWN WORDS - ADRIENNE LISKO

Where are you from?

I am from Connecticut where I was essentially born and raised, living mostly in Danbury, New Milford, and Naugatuck. I did a few college stints in Washington, DC and Pennsylvania (Go Nittany Lions!). I came to Florida in 2015 with my daughter Megan, and we lived in Fishhawk (Lithia) until she graduated from Newsome High School. The day after her graduation I closed on my Sun City Center house! I have a bunch of family members in SCC and Kings Point so I feel living here was my destiny.

What are you job experiences?

While my dream was a career in musical theater, I didn't have parental support to major in it in college, so I found myself instead drawn to a degree in Speech Communications. That experience led me to the field of Speech & Language Pathology, and in 1989 I started a 9-year career in Connecticut as a Speech Pathology Assistant, working with children who have speech delays, as well as adults with traumatic brain injury. Eventually, as I was living in one of the most expensive counties in the US, I needed a career change to survive, so my late brother suggested a career fair at the Relocation Management Company where he worked, and the rest is history. Twenty-seven years later and I am still working full-time, as a Project Manager for Cartus Relocation. I've often said, "This is the highest paying acting job I've ever had!" Thank goodness I am lucky enough to work from home, but I am SO READY TO RETIRE!!



When and how did you find out about The Pelican Players?

Upon moving to SCC, the first thing I did was inquire about a drama club. I was eventually informed that there no longer was one (at the time) in SCC but that I should look into The Pelican Players in Kings Point. I did a couple shows with Macbeth and Cheese out of the Firehouse Cultural Center, but then I decided to focus my attention on The Pelican Players. I saw The Witch in 204 and knew I just had to work with this great group!

What is your experience with The Pelican Players and what is your favorite thing about belonging to this group?

While I was in the audience at The Witch in 204, I read about the upcoming auditions for The Drums of Shakespeare/Real Housewives of Shakespeare. I auditioned and was incredibly honored that Kevin Steinke cast me in the role of Katherine Minola (from The Taming of the Shrew). I so enjoyed my experience in that show and received a warm welcome from everyone! I was not only very impressed by the entire cast, but also the incredible production staff and all of the amazing volunteers. It truly takes a village to do what The Pelican Players do - and the amount of committed volunteers that never fail to share their talents and hard work is astounding!

I then happily volunteered to assist in James Williams' production of The Bermuda Triangle Avenue- by being a part of the makeup crew, alongside daughter Megan, (now 20 years old who, incidentally, is a musical theater major at the University of Tampa and who recently won the Best Actress Falk award for her work as Olive Ostrovsky in UTampa's production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and both The Kim Mitchell award AND a Monti Best Supporting Actress award for her work as Inga in Young Frankenstein at Plant City Entertainment. You may also have heard Megan singing the National Anthem for the Tampa Bay Lightning's pre-season game on 9/26). What fun she and I had working backstage together. (Thanks to Carol Johnsen for that opportunity!).

I then had the wonderful experience, thanks to Kevin Steinke, of playing Eve in the Readers Theater/Radio Play called Adam and Eve, made famous (and scandalous) by Mae West in 1937. I had the pleasure of sharing the stage with the love of my life, John Chipman, who played Adam. That was fun! And we both were in the Adam and Eve musical at SCC's St John the Divine Episcopalian church, written by former Pelican Player President Ed Brown, and directed by his lovely daughter, Marianne Palmer. This time I'm Eve and John will be the voice of The Lord. (Don't congratulate him on his "promotion"- it'll go to his head!!)



By the way, SCC does now have a small Thespian Troupe to which I belong, and it's a great place for the curious to practice before trying out for a Pelican Player production!

I look forward to many opportunities to work on future Pelican Player shows, and I'm thrilled to make this wonderful group of people my new theater family!



Adrienne, Thank you for all you do for The Pelican Players Community Theater. You are so appreciated.

THE PELICAN PLAYBILL

This Puzzle Contains Words for NEW YEAR'S EVE!!!



Word games may give your memory a boost.

This is also known as your “immediate memory”, and exercising this special part of your working memory by regularly doing word searches, crosswords, and other word puzzles can be useful for your overall brain health!