

2021-2022 THEATRE SEASON

The Great Intermission is over, and **MERELY PLAYERS** is back!

The long months during which we were not able to produce live, indoor theatre were filled with questions, struggles, and faith. Grateful for our supporters and community every step of the way, we both held on and moved forward. We adapted and innovated, producing *Zoom Alice* and *Wakey, Wakey* virtually and developing our YouTube series "Waiting in the Wings." We created our Studio Series with a Shakespearean foray into a park, and we eventually found ourselves presenting *ART* on a truck in a parking lot.

Most importantly, we've been moving into and renovating our own performance venue, **Merely Underground**, which will host our shows for the very first time this season! We remain committed to offering rich theatrical experiences in our region, and we invite you to become part of **MERELY PLAYERS'** exciting theatrical scene.

Season Subscribers receive substantially discounted ticket prices, avoid ticket and exchange fees, have access to our Season Subscriber phone line, and get a name listing in our programs. In the past, we've had to turn disappointed people away because almost every performance was sold out. Subscribers get first shot at our tickets, resulting in getting the best seats in the house. PLUS, Subscribers get the satisfaction of helping to keep quality theatre in Durango.

Thank you for helping us to hold on. We adore you. **AND NOW -**

For the laughter, the tears, the magic, and the creativity we've all yearned for,
we are

TOGETHER AGAIN!

MEN ON BOATS

"We're on the river now, crew! There will be churning, there will be swells. Keep your bearings. Oars Up! Oars Out!"

Ten Explorers. Four Boats. Two Casts. One Grand Canyon. Merely Players joyfully opens our new venue with Jaclyn Backhaus's creative retelling of John Wesley Powell's 1869 expedition. Race down the rapids with us as we gleefully spin theatrical, historical, and gender expectations into an inventive, thrilling, and humorous escapade. No Men. No Boats. All Adventure.

MERELY UNDERGROUND Opening Night Soiree and Show on OCTOBER 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. includes a post-show gathering with the actors and creatives, refreshments, and a cash bar

More performances:

OCT. 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 7:00 pm OCT. 3, 9, 10, 17 at 2:00 pm

ALL TOGETHER NOW!

A Global Event Celebrating Local Theatre

Music Theatre International makes theatre history by providing an exclusive musical review for theatre companies across the world to perform on the same weekend. It's a glorious global celebration of theatre's comeback, featuring some of your favorite local actors singing and dancing their way through some of the most memorable songs of musical theatre. It's a worldwide, life-affirming party, and Merely Players is thrilled to be a part of it!

NOV. 12 and 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm NOV. 14 at 2:00 pm

THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940

"Since whoever cut off the power escaped through the tunnels, I thought we could foray into the walls to look for clues. I'll put together a picnic lunch in case we get lost."

In the winter of 1940, an ominous blizzard cuts off all possibility of escape from a mansion where the creators of a new musical are assembled. When the infamous Stage Door Slasher strikes, the comic mayhem begins amidst secret passageways, a revolving bookcase, vintage espionage, and a host of colorful suspects. John Bishop's wildly funny and clever play (which, btw, is *not* a musical) gives us the release of laughter that we've all been craving. If Agatha Christie were to write a farce, this would be it.

JAN. 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 2022 at 7:00 pm JAN. 16 and 23 at 2:00 pm

THE CHILDREN

“Right now, I’m looking for a team of twenty people over the age of 65. To take over and let the young ones go, while they still have the chance, while there’s still the possibility of, well, life.”

Two retired nuclear scientists live in an isolated cottage by the sea. In the aftermath of a nuclear disaster, they are determined to preserve normalcy even as the world around them crumbles. When an old friend arrives with a frightening request, they must explore notions of accountability, guilt, and mortality. Maureen May, Jeannie Wheeldon, and Stephen Bowers star in Lucy Kirkwood’s unforgettable and eerily relevant drama. What do we owe our children?

FEB. 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 2022 at 7:00 pm FEB. 20 and 27 at 2:00 pm

MATILDA THE MUSICAL

“Sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty.”

She’s magical; she’s mischievous; she’s miraculous – she’s Matilda! The winner of 47 international awards, Roald Dahl’s popular musical is the story of an astonishing girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny. Packed with extraordinary music and exuberantly fun choreography, *Matilda* will captivate and charm the entire family. We’ve been waiting to do this show for two years! We’re Revolting!

MAY 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 2022 at 7:00 pm. MAY 8, 14, 15, 22 at 1:00 pm.

We also have more shows planned, as a part of our STUDIO SERIES. You’ll find out more information about those shows on our website and in our newsletters!

BUILDING A SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE

Tickets in flex packages are discounted, without any additional ticket fees, making them an even greater value. Plus, subscribers have the opportunity to order early and snag the best seats in the house!

Flex Passes – Flex passes offer maximum flexibility and substantial discounts. When you buy digital ticket punch passes, you can use the tickets however you wish. You can use them all for one show, or divide them up among the shows any way you wish. You can even use them for our Studio Series shows.

Design Your Own Package - See the individual ticket prices listed here to put together a subscription that’s just right for you, while avoiding additional box office ticket fees.

Gift Card - Let us know if your order is a gift, and we will send a card notifying the recipient.

A separate phone line is available for our Season Subscribers. Tickets not purchased in a season package will be subject to ticket fees. **Avoid those fees and access personal attention by becoming a Merely Players Season Subscriber!**

HELPING

Live theatre is a dynamic, expensive venture, and our costs keep rising. Ticket sales pay for only a fraction of what it costs to produce quality shows. Scenery, costumes, publicity, actor and artist salaries, royalties, rent, administrative fees, and technical elements all create financial demands. The level of theatre we can produce is directly tied to the donations we receive. We humbly ask that you consider contributing to Merely Players, a 501(c)(3) organization. Theatre adds vitality and variety to a community, and your tax-deductible donation helps to ensure that we can continue to thrive.

Each donor will be listed in our programs in one of these Giving groups:

ARTISTIC: All season subscribers

DYNAMIC: \$10 - \$49 over the subscription package amount

IMAGINATIVE: \$50 -\$99 over the subscription package amount

CREATIVE: \$100-\$249 over the subscription package amount

INNOVATIVE: \$250-\$499 over the subscription package amount

VISIONARY: \$500 - \$999 over the subscription package amount

INSPIRING: \$1000 - \$4999 over the subscription package amount

EXTRAORDINARY: \$5000 - \$9999 above the subscription package amount

SUPERLATIVE - \$10000 or more above the subscription package amount

We are grateful for any donation you choose to make. We truly appreciate your consideration and generosity. If you wish, you can set up a monthly donation on our website.

“All the world’s a stage,
and all the men and women
Merely Players.”

- William Shakespeare

ORDERING

No processing or ticket fees. The price you see below is the all-inclusive price of your purchase. You can also order online at our website, if you prefer:
www.merelyplayers.org

1. INFORMATION for PURCHASER:

NAME: _____

Street: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

We will communicate about your subscription via email. We promise we won't share it!

PHONE NUMBER: _____

In case we have questions about your order

2. YOUR SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE (Flex packages offer a substantial discount from individual prices.)

6-Ticket Flex Pass # of packages _____ x \$156.00 = \$ _____

5-Ticket Flex Pass # of packages _____ x \$130.00 = \$ _____

4-Ticket Flex Pass # of packages _____ x \$104.00 = \$ _____

3. INDIVIDUAL TICKET ORDER

We are also offering individual tickets for our productions at this time. If you wish to design your own package or need tickets in addition to those in your flex package, this is the most inexpensive time to get them, as these prepaid tickets incur no ticket fees. *If you order tickets to at least 2 of our shows, you qualify as a subscriber.*

____ Individual Ticket to *MEN ON BOATS*, the opening night soiree and show for the **first-ever performance** in Merely Underground (*or you can use two of your flex passes*)

of tickets _____ x \$50.00 = \$ _____

____ Individual Ticket to non-opening show of *MEN ON BOATS*

of tickets _____ x \$30.00 = \$ _____

____ Individual Ticket to *ALL TOGETHER NOW!*

of tickets _____ x \$25.00 = \$ _____

____ Individual Ticket to *THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940*

of tickets _____ x \$30.00 = \$ _____

____ Individual Ticket to *THE CHILDREN*

of tickets _____ x \$30.00 = \$ _____

____ Individual Ticket to *MATILDA THE MUSICAL*

of tickets _____ x \$35.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL FOR INDIVIDUAL TICKET PURCHASE = \$ _____

4. DONATE: Your contribution helps keep us making theatre! Ticket sales account for 50% of our operating expenses. The rest comes from the generosity of those who love theatre. **Thank you for your support; we literally cannot do this without you.**

Tax- Deductible Donation (You're the Best!) \$_____

ADD IT UP:

Subscription Total from #2 \$_____

Individual Ticket Total from #3 \$_____

Donation from #4 \$_____

Grand Total \$_____

WITH CHECK, PAYABLE TO MERELY PLAYERS

WITH CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____ **SEC. CODE** _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

**PLEASE MAIL TO MERELY PLAYERS, 49 WEDGEWOOD CIRCLE,
DURANGO, CO 81301. Or you may order online at www.merelyplayers.org
or by phone at 970.749.8585.**

IF THIS SUBSCRIPTION IS A GIFT, please provide this information for recipient:

NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

MESSAGE YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED WITH GIFT CARD:

The SEASON SUBSCRIPTION DEADLINE is SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

MERELY UNDERGROUND

All shows will be at our new performance venue at 789 Tech Center Drive in Durango.

We have designed our new space with a state-of-the-art ventilation system, so that you can breathe easy. We have a main ventilation system that is rated at 4 tons and have added an Energy Recovery Ventilator system, which is Energy Star rated and conditions 120 cubic feet of air per minute, expelling some of the air and intaking fresh air. Both air streams run through the HEPA filter system, which removes 99% of particles as small as 0.1 microns from the air it filters. We also installed a UV anti-bacteria/virus unit rated to match our space. The UV light can help eliminate many types of fungi, bacteria, mold, germs, viruses, and pathogens. Additionally, we have installed an ionization unit, making it easier for dust, dander, pollen, bacteria and viruses to be filtered out of the air.

*“Thy **safety** being the motive” - King Lear*

MERELY PLAYERS' vision is to enrich the cultural life of our community by consistently providing quality theatre, as we celebrate imagination, innovation, and creativity in every aspect of our productions.

Visit us: www.merelyplayers.org

Find us: Merely Players – Durango on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube

Questions or Phone Orders: 970.749.8585

*You will be contacted **by email** approximately one month before each show to select your dates. At that time, you can redeem as many of your flex pass tickets as you wish. All ticket orders are final and non-refundable. Tickets may be exchanged for another performance of the same show as space is available with a minimum of 24 hours advance notice. Flex passes must be redeemed within the 2021-22 season. Merely Players reserves the right to make show, location, and/or date substitutions or cancellations. Should a show be cancelled for any reason, you will, of course, have the opportunity to roll your tickets over to another production or to receive a refund.*