



**The Richland Players
Application for Directors 2019-2020 Season**

All applications due April 14, 2019

Email to: president@richlandplayers.org

You can also drop off in person to The Richland Players Theatre, 608 The Parkway,
Richland, WA 99352 during box office hours.

Name:

Phone:

E-mail:

Plays (in order of preference) you are applying to direct:

Do you have any foreseen conflicts or prior commitments that might interfere with the production of these plays in their currently proposed time slots?

Please attach a separate sheet answering the following questions. Attach answers for EACH play you are applying for:

1. Please briefly include a list of your theater experience or any educational experience you have that qualifies you to direct at the Richland Players.
2. Why are you interested in Directing *this* play?
3. What challenges do you foresee with this production and how to propose to address them?
4. What opportunities do you foresee with this production and how would you hope to capitalize on them?
5. What is your general artistic vision for this production and what support staff are you likely able to secure to help you successfully obtain this vision?

Thank you for your interesting in working with The Richland Players. We look forward to hearing from you.

Richland Players

2019/2020

Diamond Anniversary Season

This season of plays will celebrate and reflect the history of the Richland Players as well as its place in the Hanford and Tri Cities community. To this end, we have chosen a season of retrospective: six plays that were performed by the Players representing each decade from the 1940s to the 1990s/2000s, with a seventh “new” play that has never been performed at the Players before. Two of the plays will be single weekend “readers theater” style limited runs in order to fit all seven into a single season. They reflect a variety of styles, some classics and some surprises. The overall theme offers rich opportunity for publicity, promotion and tie ins to the larger community that can make the Richland Players Theater the place to be as we celebrate 75 years of bringing quality theater to the Tri Cities.

The 1940s- **Bertha the Beautiful Typewriter Girl** by Charles George
Originally performed October 1944, available from Samuel French. 6m, 4f
Aug. 30, 31, Sept. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15

Filled with the raging conflict between “Good” and “Evil”, this is an absolutely hilarious melodrama about Desperate Daniel Desmond and his vile attempts to betray Bertha, the beautiful typewriter girl. Every possible angle of the old-time melodrama is incorporated: stolen diamonds, a vengeful scheme, manly heroism and the pure and noble actions of our hero and heroine who unflinchingly face almost insurmountable odds! This play was the third production that the Richland Players ever staged.

The 1950s- **Inherit the Wind** by Lawrence and Lee
Originally performed Feb 1959, available from Dramatists Play Service. 21m, 6f, 2 boys, 1 girl
(many parts may be doubled)
Nov. 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17

A classic work of American theatre, based on the Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925, which pitted Clarence Darrow against William Jennings Bryan in defense of a schoolteacher accused of teaching the theory of evolution
The accused was a slight, frightened man who had deliberately broken the law. His trial was a Roman circus. The chief gladiators were two great legal giants of the century. Like two bull elephants locked in mortal combat, they bellowed and roared imprecations and abuse. The spectators sat uneasily in the sweltering heat with murder in their hearts, barely able to restrain themselves. At stake was the freedom of every American. One of the most moving and meaningful plays of our generation.

The 1960s- **Visit to a Small Planet** by Gore Vidal
Originally performed May 1962, available from Samuel French. 5m, 2f

Nov. 29,30 Dec. 1 (Reader's theater, Thanksgiving weekend)

An alien comes from another planet to do a bit of sightseeing and to see or start a war. He thinks he has arrived in time to see the Civil War, which he expects will be jolly, but he has misjudged his landing and gets here in 1957. This interplanetary visitor, who can read human minds, and even have an enchanting conversation with a Siamese cat, plops himself into an average community whose population includes an average general, an average boy and girl in love, an average TV newscaster and an above-average cat. Since he has missed the Civil War, the visitor from outer space (not from Mars, he insists) decides to make his own war — he's enchanted with all the new playthings the twentieth century has invented for war-making, and he wants to toss a few of them around. Since on his planet emotions withered away to make room for intellectual development, he sees no reason why a few people shouldn't be happy to die for his amusement; and it takes the combined action of the entire cast to persuade him to call off his war.

The 1970s- **The Miser** by Moliere (adaptation by George Malleon)

Originally performed Jan 1971, available from Samuel French. 10m, 5f

Jan. 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 31 Dec. 1, 2

The plot concerns the classic conflict of love and money. The miser Harpagon wishes his daughter Elise to marry a wealthy old man, Anselme, who will accept her without a dowry, but she loves the penniless Valère. Harpagon himself has set his eye on young, impoverished Mariane, whom his son Cléante also loves. Much of the play's action focuses on Harpagon's stinginess. Valère and Mariane are revealed to be Anselme's long-lost children, and they are happily paired with the miser's son and daughter by the play's end, after Harpagon insists that Anselme pay for both weddings.

Although *The Miser* is usually considered to be a comedy, its tone is one of absurdity and incongruity rather than of gaiety. The play, based on the Aulularia of Roman comic playwright Plautus, recasts the ancient comic figure of the miser who is inhuman in his worship of money and all too human in his need for respect and affection.

The 1980s- **Wait Until Dark** by Frederick Knott

Originally performed Sept 1989, available from Dramatists Play Service. 4m, 2f (1 girl)

Mar. 20, 21, 27, 28, 29 Apr. 3, 4, 5

A sinister con man, Roat, and two ex-convicts are about to meet their match. They have traced the location of a mysterious doll, which they are much interested in, to the Greenwich Village apartment of Sam Hendrix and his blind wife, Susy. Sam had apparently been persuaded by a strange woman to transport the doll across the Canadian border, not knowing that sewn inside were several grams of heroin. When the woman is murdered the situation becomes more urgent. The con man and his ex-convicts, through a cleverly constructed deception, convince Susy that the police have implicated Sam in the woman's murder, and the doll, which she believes is the key to his innocence, is evidence. She refuses to reveal its location, and with the

help of a young neighbor, figures out she is the victim of a bizarre charade. But when Roat kills his associates, a deadly game of cat and mouse ensues between the two. Susy knows the only way to play fair is by her rules, so when darkness falls she turns off all the lights leaving both of them to maneuver in the dark until the game ends.

The 1990s/2000s- **White Bluffs** by Bonnie Rutherford

Originally performed July 2000, available by special arrangement with the Rutherford estate.

3m, 2f

Apr. 17, 18, 19 (Reader's Theater)

To represent the 1990s/2000s we chose White Bluffs. It was written by a very active member of the Richland Players who unfortunately passed away at a fairly early age. This performance would serve as both a tribute to Bonnie and bring our series of retrospective performances full circle to the beginnings of the Hanford Project when the Richland Players were formed.

Kim and Danny are a young couple looking to get established in the boom time of the early days of Hanford. They live in a trailer camp next to an older couple, Gladys and Willie. With a promotion in the offing and a higher security clearance necessary, Kim reluctantly reveals a secret from her past that could cost Danny his chance for advancement. When Gladys overhears this revelation her raw feelings about her son who died in the bombing lead to emotional reactions that threaten to tear the young couple apart.

New Play- **These Shining Lives** by Melanie Marnich

Available from Dramatists Play Service. 4f, 2m

May 22, 23, 29, 30, 31 June 5, 6, 7

Based on the true story of four women who worked in a watch factory in Ottawa, Illinois, the play dramatizes the danger women faced in the workforce in the 1920s, and the lack of concern by companies for protecting the health of its employees.

Narrated by one of the workers, Catherine Donohue, *These Shining Lives* shows women getting a chance for a well-paying job in the 1920s and early 1930s, which was uncharacteristic for the time in the United States. The job, which seems easy enough to the four main characters, is painting the hour markings onto different sized watch dials using a radium compound which glows in the dark. Radium Dial, the company that hires the women to do the painting, tells them that there is no evidence that radium is harmful, and even has health benefits. After a few years, the workers notice that their hands start glowing in the dark, but assume that it is just from the radium powder that is used to paint the faces. The ladies develop ailments, including jaw infections and bone pain, but several local doctors tell them that all they need is aspirin, which of course does not help. After years of search, they find a doctor who is willing to put his name on the line and diagnose the women with radium poisoning. This in turn helps the four main characters decide to file a lawsuit against Radium Dial. An attorney, Leonard J. Grossman, agrees to take the case for free with Donohue as the lead plaintiff. They win, but Donohue succumbs to radium's effects. The real Catherine Donohue died on July 27, 1938,

shortly after testifying before the Illinois Industrial Commission.