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## A note from Artistic Director, Krista Schafer Ewbank



We started off our sixth season strong with three wonderful productions and the addition of Maria Tejada, Director of Production and Audience Services, to our staff. Our audience was growing, and our work was well received. Then the season was cut short when the whole nation closed down to reduce the spread of COVID 19. We rescheduled our production of *This Random World* for the fall, and hoped we'd be able to carry on with *Marjorie Prime* as planned, but were unable to carry out either of those plans.

In the early part of our lockdown we held a Retrospective, gathering memories from our artists and posting photos and memories on Facebook and sharing recaps via email. We tried many things to keep our audience engaged including Audience Choice Awards with an alive Zoom ceremony including guest presenters, social media challenges, games, and more. In May of 2020, when it became clear that some outdoor gathering restrictions were being lifted, we began planning a new type of theatre... Driveway Theatre (which will be covered in NEXT YEAR'S annual report!)

We're grateful for the support of our donors! Most of our audience donated their unused tickets back to Open Book. We honored our commitment to pay the artists who had already put so much work into *This Random World*. We have kept myself and Maria working, and are busy applying for grants. We're busy digging into our mission, TO PROMOTE CONNECTION THROUGH THEATRICAL STORYTELLING, and thinking outside the box to keep live theatre going until we can gather once again in our beautiful building. We're giving artists and our audience avenues to respond to, and think deeply about, the world events we are all witness to. We're working to keep our organization strong so that we can come back strong!

In June we responded to the murder of George Floyd and the call of BIPOC theatre artists in Michigan by becoming an Anti-Racist theatre, releasing a [statement and commitment to change](#) including commitments to produce plays written by BIPOC, to hire more BIPOC artists, to diversify our board, and more.

We started off the season with three wonderful shows. We're ending the season with versatile plans for the unknown future. But through it all we know that stories matter, and Open Book Theatre is continuing to work hard to fulfill our mission. We are promoting connection through theatrical storytelling.



### Cast

Watson	Joe Zarrow
Eliza	Annabelle Young
Merrick	Patrick Loos

performances: 15

attendance: 707

### Production Team

Director	Krista Schafer Ewbank
Producer	Krista Schafer Ewbank
Stage Manager	Jillian Joie Dahl
Scenic Design	Bradly Byre
Lighting Design	Harley Miah
Sound Design	Krista Schafer Ewbank
Costume Design	Cheryl Zemke
Props	Krista Schafer Ewbank



Wow to Joe, Annabelle and Patrick for your exceptional performances! It blows my mind how you can switch from character to character so flawlessly. I was actually exhausted for you when we left the theater. All the design aspects were right-on. Kudos to you, Krista for this production. The play was so cleverly written – Nancy Franzen

Incredible play on so many dimensions! Intrigued by the playwright Madeleine George-what a mind connecting Watson from history to fiction to current high tech to sci-fi possibilities. Deserving of a standing ovation – Jane Rasmussen

Humorous (even with the mid and post show music!) Thought-provoking story, great stage direction, costumes & lighting! – Theresa Tejada

... delivered by this excellent cast, directed by Krista Schafer Ewbank. Lighting design by Harley Miah is key to changing centuries back and forth. Bradley Byrne's set is very useful for making the time changes without having to move the furniture. Ms. Schafer's sound design is at times very amusing. – David Kiley, [review for Encore Michigan](#)

Nov 15 – Dec 14, 2019

# Miss Bennet

## Christmas at Pemberley



### Cast

Mary Bennet	Annie Dilworth
Arthur de Bourgh	Dan Johnson
Elizabeth Darcy	Claire Jolliffe
Fitzwilliam Darcy	Jeremy Kucharek
Anne de Bourgh	Ashley M. Lyle
Jane Bingley	Luciana Piazza
Charles Bingley	Tim Pollack
Lydia Wickham	Danielle Wright

### Production Team

Director	Sarah Hawkins Rusk
Producer	Krista Schafer Ewbank
Stage Manager	Danielle Gilbert
Lighting Design	Harley Miah
Scenic Design	Stephanie Baugher
Costume Design	Cheryl Zemke
Sound Design	Sarah Hawkins Rusk
Props	Reyna DeSilva
Production Manager	Maria Tejada



**performances: 18      attendance: 1025**

The acting is superb, the pacing quick and the story clever and entertaining. – Sue Suchyta, [review for News-Herald](#)

Sarah Hawkins directed the cast, and exhibits her own command over the period story, which has equal elements of both drama and comedy, just as *Pride & Prejudice* has; it is a Regency-era rom-com – David Kiley, [review for Encore Michigan](#)

in a period piece such as this, design components like the set and costumes are of paramount importance, and on both fronts, Open Book delivers in spades. The set, designed by Stephanie Baugher, which depicts a portion of the interior of Pemberley, is fittingly elegant. Stately green wallpaper and an attractive wood floor dominate the aesthetic, while the upright piano, plush furnishings and hardcover tomes occupying the bookshelves work in tandem with Cheryl Zemke's dazzling and meticulously crafted costumes to vividly evoke both the period and the world of pervasive opulence that these protagonists call home. Moreover, Reyna DeSilva's thoughtfully designed and selected properties deftly reinforce these effects. – Dax Anderson, [Screed Reviews](#)

Jan 24 – Feb 22, 2020

# FRANKIE AND JOHNNY

*in the Clair de Lune*



## Cast

Frankie                    Krista Schafer Ewbank  
Johnny                    Patrick Loos

Radio Announcer    David Fair

performances: 15

attendance: 699

## Production Team

Director                    Wendy Katz Hiller  
Producer                    Krista Schafer Ewbank  
Stage Manager            Jillian Joie Dahl  
Lighting Design            Harley Miah  
Scenic Design             Stephanie Baugher  
Costume Design            Wendy Katz Hiller  
Sound Design              Wendy Katz Hiller  
Props                        Reyna DeSilva  
Production Manager      Maria Tejada



Director Wendy Katz Hiller encourages the two talented actors to bring their characters to life so believably that one almost feels like a peeping Tom. Most audience members will recognize their insecurities, hesitations and fears, as the characters weigh whether to risk the emotional wounds of rejection in the hope of finding reciprocated love, or whether to pre-emptively close one's self off to pain before even opening oneself to the emotional risk of relationship roulette.... The two remind us of the doubts and worries one deals with when choosing whether to be open to an emotional risk. Schafer and Loos take audiences on an emotional roller coaster ride, which reminds audiences that, despite its emotional messiness, most of us seek and even long for intimate human connections. Stephanie Baugher's set is a wonderfully functional apartment, and Harley Miah's lighting captures the nuances of both forgiving moonlight and the harsh glare of overhead lamplight. – Sue Suchyta, [review for News-Herald](#)

I love the intimacy of your shows, and the way you trust the audience to become a part of it. - Rhonda Raft

Passionate in regards to relationship. It's what I want most in my life so it's fun to see them striving for it! Well done! – Charles Gilbert

# Revenue and Expenses

*Our fiscal year runs January 1 -December 31. We are looking to change our fiscal year to match our season offerings.*

*The high general and administrative costs for fiscal year 17 reflects expenses of getting settled into our new building.*

	<b>Fiscal Year19</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 18</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 17</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Subscription Ticket Income	19,734	19,330	11,360
Single Ticket Income	61,267	38,781	30,158
Advertising revenue	1,825	500	1,150
Fundraising	4,347	6,015	4,652
Show Sponsorships	5,000	5,000	2,500
Individual Donations	35,671	46,873	43,428
Foundations	0	0	1,000
Government Grants	12,500	11,250	1,500
Other revenue	8,143	61	30
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>148,487</b>	<b>127,810</b>	<b>95,778</b>

## Expenses

Artist Stipends	22,260	16,450	18,880
Program expenses	90,050	81,096	20,563
General and Administrative	17,120	13,556	49,412
Fundraising	2,151	1750	3,395
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>131,581</b>	<b>112,852</b>	<b>92,250</b>

## Audience figures

	<b>19-20*</b>	<b>18-19</b>	<b>17-18</b>
Number of Productions	3	5	5
Number of performances	48	75	57
Number of subscribers	296	226	167
Total attendance	2431	3743	2899

**\* season cut short due to COVID-19**

*Open Book Theatre company is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization.*

# 2019-2020 Season Donors

## Gifts given between May 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020

### \$1-24

Rosalie Suhayda, Theresa Powers, Margaret Brown, Tye Chambers, Mary Ellen Cortez, Craig Ester, Herman Rugel, Katrina Brinkert, Sue Campitelle, Charles Davis, Annette Dumont, Anita Fegan, Erika Galloway, Michelle Ketepa, Katy Kujala, Natalie LaCroix-Tan, Kathe Stevens, Kelly Voigt, Sarah Hawkins Rusk, Joie Gibson, Ernie Phelps, Sheila White, Mary Louise Bahnmann, Alice Carrigan, Caren Chezick, Kathy Nachtrab, Roberta Piatkowski, Jean Silvassy, De Aufiero Joshua Brown, Aja Gregory, Dan Kanter, Kelly Komlen, Becky Leonard Ringler, Mandy Logsdon, Andy Pawlowski, Kelly Pino, Paul Primeau, Holly Scheib

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