



**The Montford Park Players**  
**North Carolina's Longest Running**  
**Shakespeare Festival**

**92 Gay Street**

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<http://www.montfordparkplayers.org>

## **Notice of Membership Meeting and Picnic**

### **Membership Meeting & Picnic**

The Meeting of the membership of The Montford Park Players will be held Saturday, September 10, 2016 at the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre, from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

#### **Items on the Annual Meeting agenda include:**

1. Selecting three plays for the 2017 Summer Season;
2. Electing two adult members of the Board of Directors;
3. Such other business as may come before the membership meeting.

Our bylaws define a member of The Montford Park Players, *for purposes of voting*, as anyone who has participated in any way at MPP during the past two seasons (beginning with 2015's *Private Lives* through 2016's *Pride and Prejudice*, also including board and committee work, front of house volunteers, **AND ALSO** who is 12 years old or older). Guests and old members are always welcome, but do not have voting rights. Please sign in with the Managing Director on arrival to receive your ballot package. You will only be given one package so please do not lose it! Our Bylaws require that you be present in order to vote.

### **Picnic**

Our membership meeting and picnic is a pot-luck affair. MPP will provide hamburgers, hot dogs (regular and vegan), buns and soft drinks. Casseroles, salads, chips, melons, cakes and pies are always welcome and will be devoured by our starving actors. Lunch will begin at 12:00 pm; **the business meeting will begin at 1:00 pm.**

### **Your Board of Directors**

The board of directors of MPP is composed of up to 7 elected individuals.

Our current board membership is as follows:

#### **Class of 2016**

Jeff Catanese, Vice-Chair                      2<sup>nd</sup> Term                      [jcat8888@atticsalt.org](mailto:jcat8888@atticsalt.org)  
(Working Group Leader, Internal Affairs Working Group)

## Class of 2017

Jason Williams, Chair (Working Group Leader, External Affairs Working Group)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	<a href="mailto:jsunwilyams@mindspring.com">jsunwilyams@mindspring.com</a>
Steven Samuels, Treasurer	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	<a href="mailto:essesed@gmail.com">essesed@gmail.com</a>
Jane Hallstrom, Secretary	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	<a href="mailto:jmhallstrom@gmail.com">jmhallstrom@gmail.com</a>
Jessica Frantz (Working Group Leader, Governance Working Group)	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	<a href="mailto:jlrfrantz@gmail.com">jlrfrantz@gmail.com</a>

## Class of 2018

Adam Arthur	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	<a href="mailto:foghatjoe@gmail.com">foghatjoe@gmail.com</a>
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## Youth Representative

Lilly Mills	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	<a href="mailto:lilly.mills@montfordparkplayers.org">lilly.mills@montfordparkplayers.org</a>
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## Permanent Class

Hazel Robinson, Founder	<a href="mailto:johnandhazel@charter.net">johnandhazel@charter.net</a>	(828) 254-4540
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## Principal Advisors

John Russell, Managing Director	<a href="mailto:john.russell@montfordparkplayers.org">john.russell@montfordparkplayers.org</a>	(828) 275-1454
Scott Keel, Artistic Director	<a href="mailto:f.scottkeel@gmail.com">f.scottkeel@gmail.com</a>	(828) 215-4287

The Managing Director and the Artistic Director are the principal advisors to the board and to the Executive Committee, with voice but no vote.

**Jeff Catanese will be finishing his 2<sup>nd</sup> term this fall, and is not eligible for re-election, under our current Bylaws.**

**Additionally, Steven Samuels has given his intention to retire from the Board upon election of a replacement, so we will elect two (2) members to the Class of 2019.**

The board and staff are currently engaged in a Strategic Planning Process, facilitated by John Curtis of Integrated Organizational Development, Inc. The purpose of this process is to position Montford Park Players for the next several years as a thriving, mature theatre company adhering to the highest standards and operating on sound financial principles. This will include a Donor-Driven, Major Gifts fundraising campaign to begin late this year, along with changes in the manner in which the Board of Directors is operated. **The Board is transitioning from a Working Board to a board comprised of strategic thinkers and experts in the field of not-for-profit operations and fundraising. We encourage nominations of those persons who are capable of fulfilling these roles.**

## Selecting The 2016 Summer Season

The Artistic Director, acting under the authority of his fiduciary responsibilities to the Board of Directors and the organization, has selected a “pool” of shows for the 2017 summer season, divided into three categories:

- a) Tragedies;
- b) Comedies;

c) Other shows, including shows we have never before performed.

After consideration of input from both members and audience members, the Artistic Director has selected the following shows to be voted on by the membership (The membership will select 1 show from each of the following categories):

a) Tragedies:

Hamlet, Othello, Antony & Cleopatra, Macbeth, and King John

b) Comedies:

Taming of the Shrew, All's Well That Ends Well, The Winter's Tale, Love's Labors Lost, and Merchant of Venice

c) Other shows: 10 nominations maximum; **No plays can be nominated from the two previous lists. This does not mean we will not produce them. They just cannot be voted on in this category.**

### **Managing Director's Report to the Membership**

Dear friends,

I have the pleasure of telling you that 2015 was another successful year for the Montford Park Players. For the FOURTH year in a row, we ranked in THIRD place in total attendance among outdoor theatres in North Carolina, behind *The Lost Colony* and *Unto These Hills*, surpassing attendance for *Horn in the West*. Our total attendance was 10,298, a 12% increase over our previous season.

Our productions have been well received and highly-rated by audience members and critics alike! We're rated # 3 among theatres and concerts in Asheville by TripAdvisor.com, and we received their 2015 Certificate of Excellence.

Our construction plans were submitted to Development Services early this year for review. We have been in negotiations with them all year regarding issues that they want addressed, most of which are beyond our ability to fix, such as additional parking spaces. This is the principal reason why construction has not yet begun although our contractor is ready to start!

**This year so far**, we've managed to accomplish some great things!

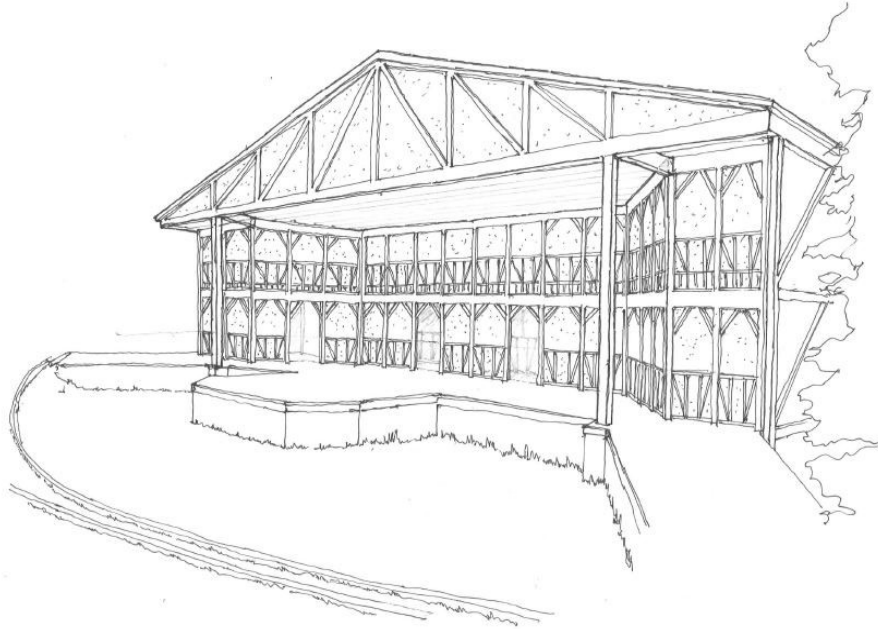
- We've had the highest attended show in our history – Much Ado About Nothing with 3,395 visitors!
- Our reviews have been stellar, as we continue to raise the bar on artistic quality.
- I look forward, as I know you do, to new facilities that will enhance our ability to perform Shakespeare and other playwrights, and that will enhance the comfort and enjoyment of our audience members.
- I'm extremely pleased with the progress of our Strategic Plan, and look forward to completing it and moving toward a Donor-Driven Major Gifts Campaign, under the leadership of John Curtis.

In conclusion, we've had a very positive year so far. I am excited to be working with you this year and helping MPP raise the bar even higher.

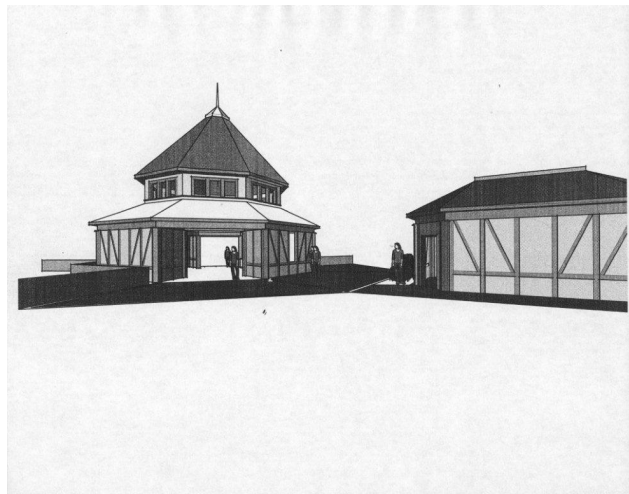
Regards,

John Russell

Managing Director [john.russell@montfordparkplayers.org](mailto:john.russell@montfordparkplayers.org)



*Our New Stagehouse!*  
**New Stagehouse Perspective Drawing by William Wheeler, Architect**



**New Welcome Center Perspective Drawing by William Wheeler, Architect**