

## **2020 Board of Directors Candidate Nominee Bios**

### **John Fowler**

I became a member of SCP in 1994. Being a hairdresser, my first play, CYRANO de BERGERAC, was my first-time doing hair and wigs for a period piece. I have worked at SLOC and ACT throughout my time, countless plays and musicals. I first served on the Board in the late '90's. I was Secretary at the time. For the last three years, I have been Treasurer and the Chair of facilities. The Playhouse has been my second home and I have been fortunate to have the time to do what needed to be done. Outside of SCP, I have sung in local groups and church choirs and I love my gardens. I always look forward to helping at SCP.

### **Joel Katz**

Joel has been with the Playhouse for over 26 years. During that time, he has been involved in over 100 productions in roles ranging from sound and/or lighting design and execution, set design and construction and even a few rare appearances on stage. He has also frequently taken on the tasks of usher, house manager and hospitality. He is currently the box office manager and as such is at the Playhouse for every performance. He also is a member of the finance committee and runs the Civic website and all the Company's technologies. He also helps with most of the fundraising activities, including the murder mystery dinner theaters.

As a former Board member and Vice President of the Company he looks forward to not only helping to bring the Company through these trying times, but to help it grow and prosper for years to come.

### **Duncan Morrison**

Member since 1983. Since making his Playhouse debut as an actor in 1979, Duncan has appeared in more than a dozen Playhouse shows including memorable turns in CYRANO, LEND ME A TENOR, COASTAL DISTURBANCES, and WAITING FOR GODOT. Duncan has designed and built more than two dozen shows at The Playhouse including this past season's THIS RANDOM WORLD as well as directed seven Playhouse productions. Having more than 35 years of experience in stage design/stagecraft, Duncan has worked as a manager for Adirondack Scenic, the resident set designer for the Theater Institute at Sage and recently joined the local Stagehands Union with most of his work based at Proctors. Back at the Playhouse, Duncan has served on the Playhouse board (serving two years as President), managed the project for the replacement of the theater seating and initiated and coordinated the planning and prep for the recent addition to the theater building.

## **Ann Parillo**

I am a Sch'dy native and have lived here for all but 13 years while I lived in Junction City, Kansas. Junction City is where I was introduced to the Junction City Little Theater and where I participated on stage and behind the scenes. This is where I developed my personal love for the theater.

Although I have been a practicing pharmacist all my life, after retirement I entered the "entertainment" media arena by producing and hosting "Schenectady – Capital Region Today" since 1998. I have been promoting Community and Professional Theater throughout the Capital Region on the show as well as promoting other community and professional programs. I have been given recognitions for my involvement in community affairs including being named Sch'dy County's Senior Citizen of the year in 2019.

I have been on several Boards in the past. I currently serve on the Electric City Arts & Entertainment Board (440 State St. Inc) – we sponsor Jazz on Jay and the Kids Arts Festival. I am also a Board Advisor to Singles Outreach Services Inc as well as Open Stage Media.

I have been an usher at Sch'dy Civic Players for several years and enjoy participating in your activities and fundraisers. I have always been ready to "chip in" whenever asked at any of the productions. The Civic Players representatives have always been regulars on my show as well as being highlighted in my weekly e-newsletter. To see more of my background and more on the show, go to my website at [www.SchenectadyToday.com](http://www.SchenectadyToday.com) or check out my Schenectady Today Show Facebook page. Unfortunately for all of us, COVID-19 has set us all back a bit and I look forward to the time when we will all be able to meet face to face and see those great productions on the Civic Players stage.

## **David Quinones**

SCP holds a special place in my heart as it was my introduction into theater, and though I have ushered and served as houseman at SCP, what I recall most is the very first time I stepped foot on a stage in WAIT UNTIL DARK as Sam at SCP. I stumbled upon it by chance when the actor who was supposed to play Sam was no longer able to participate. A friend of mine posted on Facebook that an actor was needed, and I, having had a desire growing up to act, decided, "Why not?"

I was terrified to audition. I sat in my car outside the theater for possibly 15 minutes telling myself "No, you can't do this. Don't waste your time. Don't waste THEIR TIME! You don't belong here!" The only reason I silenced the doubts was because my friend had said she was going to vouch for me. So, I felt as though I owed it to her. I auditioned and was awarded the role. In turn, I met some of the greatest talents I had ever met in Colleen Lovett, David Rook, Matt Harvey, David Desorbo, and Sara Durocher.

I had been bitten by the theater bug. Immediately after WAIT UNTIL DARK, I auditioned for another show at SCP, THE CURIOUS SAVAGE. Again, I sat in my car thinking to myself the same nonsense I thought before. But this time I didn't have anyone vouching for me. This time I silenced my doubts by saying, "If not now, when?" I walked in. It was a packed room. I sat sweating like a dog, knees rattling. I was a mess. I had no idea what I was auditioning for, but knew I just had to do another show

at SCP. Long story short, I was awarded the role of Hannibal in what I consider to this day one of my favorite shows I had the honor of performing in. This was a most important turning point for me. I was no longer afraid to audition. I was no longer afraid to put myself out there. I LOVED being on that stage. I LOVED working alongside the many talented individuals in that space (like Pat Brady, Patti Noble, Robin MacDuffie, Joe Fava, Sara Paupini, to name a few).

Because of SCP, I got to fulfill a lifelong dream of performing on stage. My mother got to see me act for the first time at SCP. My wife and children got to see their first shows at SCP. It is truly an incredible space for local talent to shine and I am honored to have been able to contribute to its history.

I would be honored to be a member of the Board because I love SCP. I would like to see the playhouse continue its success, to expand its reach to a younger, more diverse community. I would like to be able to open the door to those who thought like I did, "I don't belong here." Which, now that I am a part of this community, I can't see how I could ever have thought that. They belong here. I belong here. You belong here.

### **Linda Veraska**

Linda Veraska discovered long ago that she has no artistic talents, so she became a dedicated patron of the arts by subscribing to local theaters (Proctors, Cap Rep, SCP) and then becoming more involved in the last few years as an usher (Cap Rep, the Egg, and SCP). During the summer, Linda goes to free music concerts, SPAC to see ballet, the orchestra and rock concerts, and Glimmerglass. During the winter, Linda enjoys plays, the Schenectady Symphony and the Union college concert series as well as traveling to a warm country for three weeks in November. Linda enjoys planning, organizing, and putting on events, so she is the Chair of an events committee for a local organization. During her free time, Linda also enjoys cooking, having people over for dinner parties, taking weekend trips. Linda really likes the people at SCP and would like to become more involved to ensure the theater continues to thrive and prosper.