



Riverboat Roar

Monthly Newsletter
March 2025 Edition

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Welcome to our first edition of the Riverboat Roar Newsletter featuring information about the Valley Gem and the Major/Riviera Riverboats. Each month, we will spotlight upcoming events, staff, actors, menus, etc. Our Newsletter will be available to view on our website, on our Facebook Page, or by free email subscription. We hope you enjoy our publication and to see you on the river soon!

Captain's Column

Jason Sands,
Captain & Owner
How did you get involved in Piloting?



"I inherited the business from my family, and studied mechanical engineering before taking over. I use those engineering skills every day in my work here driving and maintaining the Valley Gem and Major/Riviera."

What's your favorite type of trip to drive?

"My favorite trips to drive are the trips with the best food, which is all of them nowadays."

What's your favorite food served on the boat?

"It's so hard to choose because everything is delicious. I really look forward to the Tri-trip steak, green beans, homemade salad dressings, and the cranberry orange chicken that's usually served in the fall."

What upcoming trip are you looking forward to?

"The Ohio River Day Tour is a really exciting new trip. There are some beautiful scenic views along that stretch of the Ohio River and I'm looking forward to taking the Valley Gem and our passengers out there for the first time."

What's the best/most rewarding part of being a riverboat captain?

"I love seeing all the ideas, planning, and hard work coming together for our special events, like the sold out Princess tea. That event is a brand new thing, plus the entire new winter season. Seeing everyone's contributions combining into new opportunities for growth is so cool to see."

AUDITIONS

for The Company at The Valley Gem & Major/Riviera
The Company is committed to producing and providing quality theatrical events and productions for riverboat cruises aboard the Valley Gem Sternwheeler and Major/Riviera that highlight connections to the human experience through history, pop culture, and classic literature. When The Valley Gem began this journey over three years ago, we never could have anticipated the growth and journey that our small riverboat acting troupe would go on to experience.

The Company at The Valley Gem has performed 300+ times in 3 seasons, and we are so excited to be entering our 4th year of producing and creating theatrical experiences on the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers using local Mid-Ohio Valley talent.

We are looking to expand our team of actor/singer/dancers for the upcoming busy season of programming on our riverboats. The Company will be holding auditions for nonunion professional performers on March 23 and 24 from 5-9pm *by appointment only*. All performers in The Company are paid for their performance at each event. All auditionees must be at least 16 years old by the date of auditions. If you'd like to learn more about audition requirements, details on what it's like to work for The Company, or to schedule an appointment, email TheCompanyVG@gmail.com and check them out on social media accounts listed below!

Instagram - @TheCompanyVG

Facebook - The Company at the Valley Gem & Major Riviera.



Chef's Corner



A Note from Chef Cassandra: "It is always fun to make a family friendly menu that is both comforting and tastefully exciting. This Easter Brunch has classic dishes like our Homemade Cozy Chicken Salad on Croissant and new foodie favorites like our Carrot and Goat Cheese Tart for an explosion of flavors everyone can enjoy!"

Easter Brunch Will Include: Scrambled eggs, Cheesy Potatoes, Sausage links, Fruit salad, Mini chicken salad croissants, Ham, Swiss, and spinach puffs, Deviled Egg Pasta Salad, Carrot and goat cheese flatbread, and Assorted desserts

Celebrate Easter on our Easter Brunch Cruise on Saturday, April 19 from 11am-1pm. This cruise will feature your very own meet, greet, and photo ops with the Easter Bunny!



Reservations are required. Ticket price includes menu items listed above, as well as coffee, tea, water and juice. The bar will be available for adults 21+ while cruising on the Ohio River. \$38 for Adults, \$36 for Seniors, \$28 for Children ages 3-12.

Mixology

Take a look "behind the bar" with resident Mixologist, Alex Lenzo! With 7 years in the bartending industry along with being a performer, Alex brings a dash of knowledge, flair, and expertise to every mixology class cruise.



Alex has taught over a dozen mixology classes aboard our vessels, and guests rave about her unique, relaxed teaching style and her delicious drinks, paired perfectly with Chef Cassandra's thoughtfully planned menu. In March's Mixology class, guests can look forward to drinks that feature fresh herbs, house-made syrups, and drinks themed around St. Patrick's Day! Grab your friends and join us for a Valley Gem Mixology Cruise on March 21st.

Crew Spotlight



Name: Jaelyn McAlarney, **Position:** Crew/Deckhand

How long have you worked on the boat?

Technically since September 2021

Favorite food item you've eaten on the boat?

Berry Trifle or Seafood stuffed salmon

Favorite thing about working on the boat?

The people I get to meet that come from all over and the people I work with on the daily

Favorite trip you've worked or attended?

Either Sternwheel fireworks dinner cruise or any music themed dinner that The Company sings

What are you most looking forward to in the 2025 season?

Mostly looking forward to seeing new and familiar faces coming to new trips we have this year and also getting to lock through the Muskingum River

Actor Spotlight: Chloe Rader

Chloe is an Insurance Representative by day, and spends most nights on the Valley Gem or at the Actors Guild of Parkersburg. She has played roles such as Belle in Beauty and The Beast, Miss Honey in Matilda, Rosalie Mullins in School of Rock: The Musical, and many others. She feels incredibly lucky to be able to spend so much time with her friends rehearsing and performing! She is eternally grateful to her family for being supportive and putting up with her hectic schedule.



How did you get involved with The Company? When I moved back from Athens last year, my friend and fellow Company member Olivia Parsons sent me a message that open auditions were coming up. I had seen posts of all of the exciting events the Company did in their past season, and was so excited to have a chance to audition! I had a few old friends in the Company that I got to reconnect with and have made SO many new friends from being involved!

Favorite shows or events you've done on the boats? I loved playing Elinor in Sense and Sensibility from our "Summer of Jane Austen" Series last year. Currently, we are about to close our murder mystery, A Killer Night at Club 85 and it has been such a blast to be involved in the murder mysteries. They are absolutely hilarious!

What cruise are you most looking forward to being involved with for the 2025 season? Our upcoming murder mystery, A Season to Die For, is going to be absolutely hilarious! As a die-hard Bridgerton fan, this show is pretty much a dream come true. Excited to return to the regency era!

What is unique about performing on the boat versus a traditional performance space/venue? It's hard to even compare the two! While the boat doesn't have a fancy lighting setup or space to have a lot of technical elements, that gives us the opportunity to really connect with the audience and we have a lot of freedom to use the space how we see fit. It really makes us think how we can use what we have to our advantage. Not to mention that in a traditional performance setting, the building usually doesn't move on you! It's definitely an adjustment to get used to the boat going over waves and having to remain in the moment.

Murder Mysteries



We're excited to bring you updates on our most popular theatrical entertainment event! With a new season upon us, we are currently in rehearsals for a brand new Murder Mystery for Spring. If you love

Bridgerton, Romance Novels, or the Regency Era, you'll love this all new hilarious parody show where YOU can solve the mystery! Our actors are busy in rehearsals crafting a performance that will keep you and your friends laughing and guessing all night: Who committed the murder? Our directors rate this murder mystery show PG-13, but tickets are available for all ages for this dinner theater experience. The Company at The Valley Gem has performed Interactive Murder Mystery Dinner Theater shows since its inception, and we are proud to partner with Bob LeBlanc and Sleuths Mystery Entertainment to provide us with quality comedic scripts for our murder mystery shows. We're so excited to perform A Season To Die For: A Romantic Comedy Mystery for three dates: April 5, April 26, and May 24. Get your tickets now!



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Music Cruises

We have several new and returning music cruises coming up, featuring vocalists from The Company at The Valley Gem! Enjoy a diverse lineup of talented local singers covering music's greatest and most awarded artists. Step back in time with artists like The Beatles, Journey, and Queen! Put on your



dancing shoes for Motown Night and Country Western Dinner Cruise, now featuring country line dancing. March is the month of music madness

and you can receive 20% off tickets for a music dinner cruise with the code MUSIC25 at online



checkout or when purchasing tickets over the phone. We can't wait to make music on the river this spring

with The Company at The Valley Gem!



Event Highlights

NEW THIS SEASON - Have tea on the River!

This year we are thrilled to be bringing a series of teas to the Valley Gem and Major/Riviera!



While our Princess Tea at the end of March is sold out, our guests can look forward to several other cruises this year for those looking for a proper and relaxing event! On April 5th, guests will attend our Victorian Tea with a spread fit for high society. Celebrate Mom on the Ohio River this year at the Mother's Day Tea Luncheon on



Saturday, May 10th. Our classic princesses, portrayed by actors from The Company, will be back for the Holidays with a Christmas Princess Tea on December 13th. Tickets for all our tea-themed cruises are available now. There's no finer place for a tea than a riverboat cruise with the Valley Gem & Major/Riviera!



DINNER THEATER ON THE OHIO - The Company announces 2025 Season



The Company at The Valley Gem & Major/Riviera is honored to begin another year packed full of exciting Dinner Theater experiences in our river town. From Jane Austen to Edgar Allen Poe, our theatrical entertainment troupe seeks to transform classic stories and stage them in immersive and refreshing ways for our dinner theater audiences aboard our historic riverboats. In our Cabaret series, guests can look forward to the return of our most popular annual

summer show, Red, White, & Broadway! on July 3rd and 5th. We are also excited to announce our third installment of Pirate Murder Mysteries taking over our fleet this summer. Guests will see the return of some of our favorite historical period themed



theatrical dinner cruise events, such as the Regency Ball and the Renaissance Cruise, and the addition of new events like the Disney Sing-A-Long, a Cruise to Oz, and the Classic Monster Mash cruise! The Company at The Valley Gem will commemorate 100 years since the release of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic American novel, The Great Gatsby with a fully immersive staged adaptation this fall, and our year will end with a full-length holiday musical that we'll be formally announcing

later this season! We're entering our 4th season with so much anticipation for the jam-packed year that's already underway, and we look forward to continuing to share the performing arts with our guests.



"The Company at The Valley Gem is thrilled to bring another season of exciting dinner theater to the Ohio River! Our 2025 season features new and classic stories of mystery, romance, and comedy, crossing various periods of history. We are excited to additionally feature our popular special events and themed cruises throughout the season. We are thrilled to feature specially-selected scripted theatrical works in an effort towards furthering our mission of providing exceptional performing arts entertainment for the passengers of the Valley Gem and



Major/Riviera all year long!" Artistic Director, Hope Eller