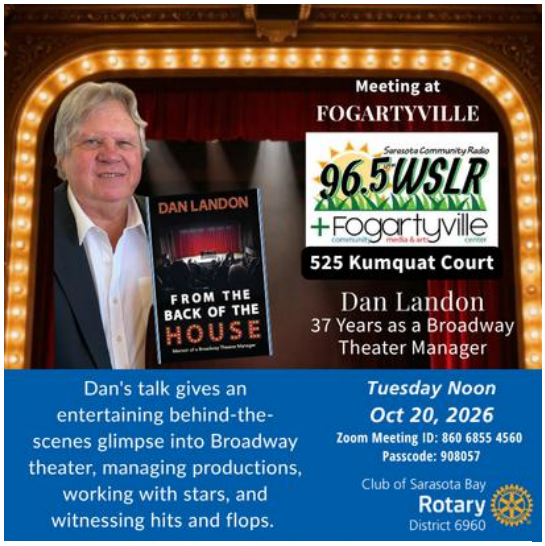
Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay

BAY BREEZE

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Enabling our Members for Fun, Fellowship and Service to the Community and the World

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Meet Our Speaker: Dan Landon

Dan Landon spent 37 years in the back of the house on Broadway, most of them as House Manager of the Ethel Barrymore Theatre and nearly three decades with the Shuberts. He worked more than 9,000 performances of 50 shows, alongside stars, stagehands, hits and flops.

Dan began as an actor, appearing on Broadway for exactly one opening night before moving into theatre management. Now a Bradenton resident, he is also a produced playwright and novelist. His 2024 memoir, *From the Back of the House*, is what he calls his "love letter to Broadway."

Join us Tuesday at noon for stories from the other side of the curtain.

Tuesday, Oct 20 • Noon • Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Nov 3	100 Central	Peter Rothstein, the new artistic director of the Asolo Repertory Theatre
Nov 17	100 Central	Teresa Taft, Sunrise Rotary Club: *"Tree of Joy"*
Dec 4 Friday		Holiday Party Home of Leslie & Lindsey Glass

COMMUNITY SERVICE · PLANTING DAY NOV. 14



Help Plant a Veterans Forest

PROMENADE ESTATES · PALMER RANCH, SARASOTA

Florida Veterans for Common Sense Fund and the Promenade Estates HOA are raising $15,000 to plant a microforest and public walking trail at Honore Blvd and East Bay Street. Planting day is Saturday, November 14.



Site plan: the Veterans Forest (purple) beside last June's Rotary forest.

"Your contribution will grow into hundreds of native trees and a maturing Forest Park."

— Promenade Estates campaign

How You Can Help

"Join us for a hands-on experience in planting, or let your generosity take root with a small donation if you can't make it. Either way, you'll help our forest grow!"

Saturday, November 14, 2026

Give: givebutter.com/PE-MF

Questions: charles.c.reith@gmail.com • 703-342-6185

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A BROADWAY LIFE, FROM BACKSTAGE

Thirty-Seven Years in the Back of the House

GUEST SPEAKER DAN LANDON · TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026

Author and former Broadway theatre manager Dan Landon, introduced by President Todd Morgan, brought the stage door to the Club on October 20 with stories from his memoir, ***From the Back of the House***.



> ***"Whatever goes wrong, he makes right."***
>
> *— Priscilla López, Tony Award winner, on Landon's memoir*

PROGRAM DETAILS

Dan Landon

Author & Retired Broadway Theatre Manager

Dan grew up around show business. His father wrote industrial shows for companies like Buick and Esso, and Dan caught the bug, acting in high school and then in New York, where he appeared on Broadway once and Off-Broadway three times. An actor's life was hard, so he moved into management at the American Place Theatre, which gave him a better view of how a show was really doing. He went on to spend 37 years on Broadway, most of them as house manager of the Barrymore Theatre.

Members got a house manager's-eye view. Dan handles payroll for everyone but the actors and dressers, across 14 unions, and fields intermission complaints from unhappy patrons. He told of Alec Baldwin's dressing-room sink with no hot water, a banging radiator that nearly sent Maggie Smith out of the theatre, and Danny Glover chasing down a purse snatcher outside the Barrymore. He also explained the Tony Awards: some shows have so many producers who don't know one another that a friend told him he could simply walk on stage and take a bow. Only the top producers receive a free Tony, and everyone else can buy one for $2,000.

> ***"This is my love letter to Broadway and all the stars and luminaries my job allowed me to meet."***
>
> *— Dan Landon*



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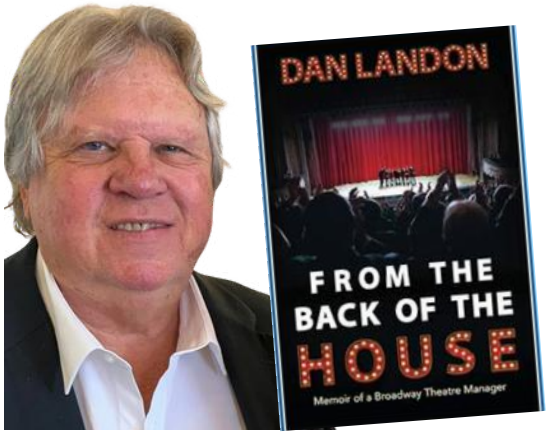
BACKGROUND

About Dan & the Book

37	50	9,000+	1978–2018
YEARS ON BROADWAY			

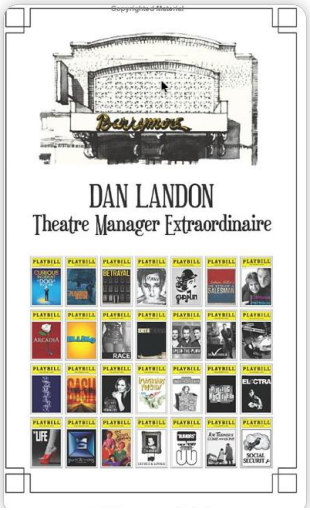
The Book

From the Back of the House: Memoir of a Broadway Theatre Manager (Ibis Books, June 2024) is a backstage tour of four decades on Broadway. Landon recounts encounters with Whoopi Goldberg, Bob Fosse, Bernadette Peters, Maggie Smith and Stephen Sondheim, plus the daily work of keeping a show running.



A Career Behind the Curtain

Landon began as an actor, appearing on Broadway for one opening night and Off-Broadway. He then moved into theatre management at the American Place Theatre, with producer Alexander Cohen, and for over three decades with the Shubert Organization.



> ***"Anyone interested in the Theatre will love this book, and discover that sometimes the drama going on backstage is more interesting than the drama onstage."*** *— Pat Maloney (Tony Awards Associate Producer and Television Director)*

From the Q&A

Dan took on the role of manager for both *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*, and he had a connection with Lin-Manuel Miranda from their lunches at the diner located across from the Barrymore Theater. He shared that the majority of Broadway's theaters are owned by the Shubert, Nederlander, and Jujamcyn organizations, which lease them to productions on a week-to-week basis. If no payment is made, the show is out the following week. New musicals undergo various revisions in workshops until they are "frozen" just prior to their opening. Cats and Phantom: Dan filled in as manager for both, and cried through the whole of Phantom.

Beyond Broadway

Landon is also a produced playwright and published novelist; his plays include *Punchy* and *Gatsby: A New American Musical*. After retiring, he and his wife, Lyle, moved to Bradenton, where both are active in the Gulf Coast theatre scene, and his comedy *Happy Dale* premiered at The Players Centre in Sarasota.

Things you can do

Pick up *From the Back of the House* in paperback or ebook
Look for Dan's plays on Gulf Coast stages

Amazon Link Click Here

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Drafted with AI assistance.

FIRST-EVER ROTARY CONVENTION

A Lifelong Dream, Fulfilled in Taipei

Vinay Gandhi Billapati is a second-generation Rotarian; his father joined the Rotary Club of Anakapalle. the year he was born. Yet one dream remained unfulfilled: attending a Rotary International Convention. In June 2026, he finally made the journey to Taipei — his first Rotary Convention and his first solo international trip.



Billapati, left, and fellow Rotary member Jagan Mohan Maddi at the 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei.

> ***"Rotary was the common language that united us all."***
> *— Vinay Gandhi Billapati*

NEXT CONVENTION
Barcelona, Spain
June 26–30, 2027
Then: Minneapolis, May27–31,2028 (tentative)

Welcome came early. Host committee volunteers greeted arrivals at the airport and at nearly every metro station, and registration took barely five minutes. The inaugural ceremony at the Taipei Dome, with the President of Taiwan as chief guest and a spectacular Parade of Flags, reflected Rotary's global spirit. Breakout and general sessions, the House of Friendship, Rotary Village, and Rotary Peace Park were "beyond anything I had imagined."

Highlights included a photograph with 2024–25 Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick and serving as a breakout-session volunteer. The people of Taipei left a lasting impression, too: when the two friends missed their tour bus, a taxi driver got them to their destination and walked with them until he found their guide.

Looking back, Billapati calls it one of the most rewarding experiences of his Rotary journey — proof that Rotary is "a global family united by service and friendship." His advice: **attend at least one Rotary Convention.** The friendships, ideas, and inspiration last a lifetime. He is already looking forward to his next.

Details on future conventions: convention.rotary.org