



THE CURTAIN RAISER

SEASON 2017 - 2018 ■ JULY 2017

COMING EVENTS

Space Pirates

June 30 - July 1

The 4th Annual Tech Olympics

July 8

The Magic Tree House:

The Knight at Dawn KIDS

July 14-15

Annual Meeting of

The Marion Players, Inc., dba Ocala Civic Theatre

July 18

Cry-Baby

July 21-30

ACT 4 Casino Cruise

July 29

La Cage aux Folles

September 7 - October 1

AUDITIONS



July 17-18

The student production of



Book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan
Songs by David Javerbaum and Adam Schlesinger
Based on the Universal Pictures film written
and directed by John Waters

July 21-30

In 1954 Baltimore, rebel with a cause Wade "Cry-Baby" Walker (**Miguel Gonzalez-Floyd**) is a misunderstood, guitar-playing teen with a tough exterior and a hidden sensitive side. He is nicknamed for his ability to shed a single tear, driving the girls wild.

Cry-Baby is the leader of a gang of "Drapes," or leather-clad delinquents, who include his best friend Dupree (**Joshua Plante**); Cry-Baby's tough-as-nails sister Pepper (**Danielle Charboneau**), who is pregnant for the third time; the fearsome Mona "Hatchet-Face" Malnorowski (**Claudia Durrett-Cook**), who always carries a switchblade; and Wanda Woodward (**Kelsey Plante**), who really is pure at heart despite the many rumors circling about her. The rest of the Drapes (**Megan Brown, Katlin Leonard, Hannah Parsons, Emma Pruitt, Joshua Ramko, Jose Rivera, William Torres**) also do their best to represent the wrong side of the tracks.

But bad boy Cry-Baby only has eyes for good girl Allison Vernon-Williams (**Megan Wager**), whom he meets at the Anti-Polio Picnic and Vaccination Carnival. Allison is a pretty girl from a wealthy

[Continued on page 2.](#)

4th ANNUAL TECH OLYMPICS



July 8

Join us for the Fourth Annual Tech Olympics on Saturday, July 8 at Ocala Civic Theatre!
The games begin at 10:00 a.m. This fun event will test and celebrate the skills of our dedicated technical volunteers. Teams will compete in a series of technical theatre tasks based on moments from shows in the 2016-2017 season. These tasks will include a props shift, costume quick-change, scene shift (to include rigging), and a mystery challenge. Teams will be timed and scored. The winning team will be recognized with prizes and everlasting glory.

[Continued on page 2.](#)



ANNOUNCING THE
**2017-2018
SEASON!**

SUMMER SPECIAL

Cry-Baby

July 21-30, 2017

SIGNATURE SERIES

La Cage aux Folles

September 7 – October 1, 2017

**Over the River and
Through the Woods**

October 19 – November 12, 2017

I Love a Piano

January 11 – February 4, 2018

The Foreigner

March 15 – April 8, 2018

Mamma Mia!

May 17 – June 17, 2018

OVATION SERIES

**Man Is the Only
Animal Who Blushes...**

Or Needs To:

**An Evening With
Mark Twain featuring
Michael Edwards**

November 16-19, 2017

The Giver

February 15-25, 2018

**The Legendary
Bobby Darin:**

A Tribute

April 12-15, 2018

Season Subscriptions On Sale Now!

CALL 352-236-2274

Cry-Baby continued from page 1.

background, but she is tired of both her privileged life and her squeaky-clean boyfriend, Baldwin (**Jonathan Leppert**). He is the king of the "Squares" and other solid citizens (**John Aleman, Dakota Brown, Sloane Crowder, Alexia Kirshfield, Justin Landrum, Sandra McDonald, Madeleine Meadows, Jessica Mesnick, Elijah Newkirk, Garrett Rowland**). The staunchly conservative Baldwin is also the enthusiastic lead singer of the all-male doo-wop group The Whiffles, backed up by Peter (**Gary Sonneberger**), Mike (**Alex Maldonado**), and Johnny (**Soulange Beaudet**).

Baldwin isn't so keen on the budding attraction between his girl and Cry-Baby, while Allison's grandmother, the formidable society matron Mrs. Vernon-Williams (**Kiersten Farley**), outright forbids the romance. Meanwhile, Judge Stone (**Cole Howanitz**) has designs of romance all his own on Mrs. Vernon-Williams. Matters are further complicated by neurotic Lenora Frigid (**Shelby Randle**), who desperately wants two things: to be a Drape, and to be Cry-Baby's girlfriend. The madly-in-love Lenora has a few screws loose and is playing with less than a full deck.

After a suspicious case of arson puts the blame on the wrong squad, the unfairly accused teens go from the Jukebox Jamboree to the Jailyard Jubilee – definitely not the bash they wanted to crash. And when a riot breaks out between rivals at the Fourth of July celebration at Star-Spangled Funland, star-crossed lovers Cry-Baby and Allison are caught in the middle. But will a crisis of conscience from a surprising source full of secrets set everything right in the end?

Based on the cult classic film, this rousing rockabilly musical from the writers of *Hairspray* is full of upbeat songs and high-energy dance numbers. It's a jumping, jiving good time!



Please note: The show contains some "PG-13" material and is appropriate for teens and older.

Cry-Baby is directed by **Kirstin Kennedy**. Music director is **Shane Bass**. Choreographer is **Melanie Tarter**. Stage manager is **Tom Ferreira**.

There will be seven performances:

- Friday, July 21 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, July 22 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, July 23 at 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 27 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, July 28 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, July 30 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$16 for subscribers, \$10 for full-time students (student ID required for college students), and \$5 for Marion Players. Call (352) 236-2274 or go to www.ocalacivictheatre.com to purchase tickets.

Tech Olympics continued from page 1.

It's free to attend as a spectator, and no ticket is required. Anyone is welcome to attend. Come support and cheer on our amazing competitors! Lunch for all attendees will be served between the third and final challenge. Lunch is free for registered participants and \$5 for spectators.

Registration forms are available online at www.ocalacivictheatre.com or from the box office. If registering the first week of July (past the June 30 deadline), five points will be deducted from the team's final score. No experience is necessary. Enter as a team of four, or enter as an individual and be assigned to a team.

Let the games begin!

Annual Meeting Of The Marion Players

July 18 at 6:00pm

In accordance with the By-Laws of The Marion Players, Inc. (revised June 2014), Article IV, Section 1: Annual Meeting, the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MARION PLAYERS, INC. (DBA OCALA CIVIC THEATRE) will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at Ocala Civic Theatre, 4337 East Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, Florida. In accordance with the By-Laws, Article V, Section 2: Number, Term and Qualifications, and Section 3: Nomination of Directors, the following slate will be presented.

The following board members served a first term and are nominated for a second two-year term:

- Garry D. Adel
- Herb Schmoll
- Philip Leppert

The following board member candidates are nominated for a first term and will be eligible to serve a second term:

- Dr. Leslie Hagan
- Darrell G. Riley
- Sarah Lankester
- Gordon Schwenk, M.D.
- Andrea Pizzuti

The By-Laws, Article III, Section 4: Voting, read as follows: "In any election, or on any question presented at any annual or special meeting of the membership called pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, each member, 18 years of age or older, and a member in good standing in any category at least thirty(30) days prior to said annual or special meeting, will be entitled to one vote."

Note: Classes of membership are Active Participating Member (Marion Player), Patron Member (Season Ticket Holder), and Honorary Member and Director Emeritus.]

All are encouraged to attend.

Auditions July 17-18



Life is fabulous in the sunny south of France for long-time couple Georges and Albin, who run a nightclub in St. Tropez. But things get tricky when Georges' son from a one-night fling announces his engagement to the daughter of an ultra-conservative politician. Georges reluctantly agrees to play it straight when meeting the in-laws, but Albin, the star performer in the club's drag revue, has other plans... because doesn't every wedding need a mother of the bride? This hysterically funny musical was the inspiration for the hit movie *The Birdcage*.

Auditions will be held on Monday, July 17 and Tuesday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. It is only necessary to attend one night of auditions. Full details are available in the July 2017 *Cue Sheet*. *La Cage aux Folles* is directed and choreographed by **Kim Wise**. There will be 20 public performances from September 7 – October 1, 2017. For more information, call (352) 236-2274 or go to www.ocalacivictheatre.com.



ACT 4 CASINO CRUISE

July 29

ACT 4 is sponsoring a One-Day Scholarship Cruise from Port Canaveral on Saturday, July 29, at a cost of \$60.00 per person (photo identification is required). The excursion includes round-trip bus transportation, boarding, one meal, and \$20.00 Promo Slot Play after 8 points accumulated. Live entertainment and free drinks will be offered when gambling. The bus will leave from Ocala Civic Theatre to Port Canaveral at 8:00 a.m. (Please arrive at 7:00 a.m. for complimentary coffee and donuts.) The bus will return to Ocala Civic Theatre at 7:00 p.m.

For reservations, call Ocala Civic Theatre at (352) 236-2274 by July 21. All proceeds from this cruise will benefit Ocala Civic Theatre and its Education Department.

The youth production



July 14-15

As siblings Jack and Annie read a book about knights and the Middle Ages, Annie is intrigued by the Black Knight and the mysterious quest for knighthood. When the siblings go back to medieval times, they experience a grand feast, escape through secret tunnels, and dance with enchanted suits of armor as they find their way back home. This magical musical is presented by a cast of students ages 8-14.

Performances are Friday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 15 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for full-time students (student ID required for college students), and \$5 for Marion Players.

Notes From The Education Department



Summer 2017 is rolling along and everyone is having a great time! If there are classes you had your eye on, please make sure you enroll ASAP, as many classes are getting close to full.

Our student productions have begun and are a smashing success! **Starfish Circus** was a blast last month, while **Space Pirates** kicked off this month with some out-of-this-world entertainment. Next, visit us in **The Magic Tree House with The Knight at Dawn KIDS** for some marvelously medieval musical adventures on July 14-15.

Then, from July 21-30, there's **Cry-Baby**, the high-energy 1950s musical presented by our high school and college students. This show is "PG-13" and is appropriate for teens and older.

Complete information about each of these productions can be found in this newsletter.

Join us this summer, whether for classes or for the fabulous entertainment provided by our talented students!



Tom Ferreira

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Tom Ferreira has played many roles, both onstage and behind the scenes, over the past 25 years at Ocala Civic Theatre. His first role may have been his most unique to date: a moving tree in the 1992 production of *Into the Woods*. In his most recent stage appearance, *Shrek The Musical*, he was just a few pieces shy of being a whole chess board all by himself, playing King Harold, the captain of the guard, a knight, and the bishop.

Earlier in the 2016-2017 season, he was seen as Bellomy, Luisa's father, in *The Fantasticks*, and before that as the evil boss Franklin Hart in *9 to 5: The Musical*. Roles in recent seasons also include Monsignor O'Hara in *Sister Act*, Mr. Lyons in *Blood Brothers*, Alfred P. Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, Lank Hawkins in *Crazy For You*, Sir Bliant in *Camelot*, an Aggie in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, and the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*, as well as appearances in *Guys and Dolls*, *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum*, *Curtains*, and *Peter Pan*.

But Tom can be found just as often working behind the scenes as he can in the spotlight. He is currently stage-managing the summer student musical *Cry-Baby*, and previously stage-managed *The King and I*, the musical revue *If I Loved You*, and the Theatre's 60th anniversary concert *So This Is Love*. He also was the assistant stage manager for the student production of *13: The Musical*.

Tom has worked crew for many shows, including *Urinetown: The Musical*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *The Pajama Game*, *Leading Ladies*, and *Look Homeward, Angel*. He also worked in rigging for the summer student production of *Into the Woods* and was one of the crew members who made the magic of flying happen in *Mary Poppins*. And all this is just a small sampling of what he's done as a volunteer at OCT – not even a decade's worth of work! Tom has also served as dance captain, run follow spot, and operated the light board and sound board. There is almost literally nothing he has not done. He is known for his professionalism, his meticulous skills, and his calm, easygoing manner in handling whatever live theatre can throw at him.

Outside of his many years of OCT involvement, Tom also played Mortimer in a national tour of *The Fantasticks*. He has a B.A. in English literature, works for E-One, and enjoys theatre and reading.

Tom, we could not be happier that you are celebrating your "silver anniversary" with us. Thank you so much for your years of dedication and for giving so much of your time and talents to Ocala Civic Theatre. Here's to another 25 years – and many more! – as a fantastic OCT volunteer!

Interested in volunteering? Call Volunteer Coordinator Craig James at (352) 236-2851, ext. 102.

Box Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
On Saturdays with a performance:
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
The lobby and box office open one hour before each performance.

On sale now:

- 2017-2018 Season Tickets
- *Space Pirates*
- *The Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn KIDS*
- *Cry-Baby*

Tickets go on sale:

August 7: Season ticket exchanges and Flex Pass reservations

August 14: *La Cage aux Folles*

Get information and buy tickets online any time at www.ocalacivictheatre.com (A service charge applies to online purchases.)

Box Office: (352) 236-2274
Administrative Offices: (352) 236-2851

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Ocala Civic Theatre



Watch this column next month for complete information about the upcoming **ACT 4 FASHION SHOW** featuring RESORT FASHIONS BY TIFFANY. The event will be held on Sunday, October 8, beginning at 1:00 p.m. SAVE THE DATE. We promise a great time, with a delicious lunch, exciting fashions and lots of prizes!

ACT 4 has begun its **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN**. If you have previously been a member, we invite you to rejoin us. If you have never been a member, we invite you to find out who we are and the purpose of our organization. We have great plans for the coming season, including a dinner theatre production, while we continue to sponsor our Gift Box and Gift Basket sales. Membership envelopes are available in the Theatre lobby.

If you would like more information about the organization or have your name added to our mailing list, please call ACT 4 President Joan Gustafson at (352) 622-5315.



Mary H. Britt, Executive Director

Hello! It's great to be back in Ocala! Our June trip to New York was amazing, but it's always good to be home. We had a large group this trip - 59 travelers! Since they could choose any show they wanted, we ultimately had people at 24 different shows over the five day period, the Yankees game, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, several food tours, and so much more. It was great fun! Next on our list of theatre trips is a visit to the Shaw Festival (and Niagara Falls) at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Canada, which will be October 11 through 15 and back to New York December 14 through 17. If you are interested in joining us for one of our theatre adventures, email me or just call the box office and ask to be added to the mailing list. They are great fun!

In June, you may have noticed an article in the Star Banner about funding for the Appleton Museum. Governor Scott vetoed a line item which would have provided \$1.5 million dollars earmarked for operating expenses for the Museum for the July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 fiscal year. As this represented approximately 75% of the Museum's funding, the article indicated that the College of Central Florida was scrambling to find a way to replace the funding on very short notice. If the funding could not be found, there was a very real possibility that the Appleton Museum would have to close to the public on July 1. The good news is that the Appleton will be transferring funds from their endowment to cover this year's expenses and there will be no interruption in services or hours of operation. During the next year, they will be researching additional funding sources. I mention the article because I received a couple of phone calls and personal visits from patrons who thought that Ocala Civic Theatre was part of the Appleton Museum and would be affected by the funding crisis so I wanted to explain our relationship.

Arthur Appleton had a vision of a cultural park for Ocala and the surrounding area



Notes from the Executive Director

in the 1980s. Several local leaders - Doug Oswald, Jim Kirk, Jim Jernigan, Dick Chazal, and Clyde Nix - could see what a great opportunity this was for our community and worked to bring it to life. Together with the City of Ocala which donated the land, these visionaries created what is now known as the Appleton Cultural Center. Mr. Appleton and his family donated \$10 million to cover the cost of building the museum and he donated his vast and varied collection of art. The Appleton family contributed additional funds to start an endowment to support the operation of the facility and acquisition of new art. Once the park was created, with the museum under construction, Ocala Civic Theatre applied for and was granted a 99-year lease on 9.5 acres as a site for our new performing arts facility. The Theatre then raised the money locally, and combined with a large grant from the State of Florida, built our current facility, which opened on October 1, 1988.

The Museum's ownership (and the land) has changed hands a few times over the years. The original Appleton Trustees transferred ownership for awhile to Florida State University and the College of Central Florida. FSU eventually withdrew and now the sole owner of the land is the College of Central Florida. The College also operates the Appleton Museum, which has blossomed and grown into a beautiful cultural icon for Central Florida and an institution in which our community can take great pride. The Theatre's relationship to the "owners" of the Appleton Cultural Center has remained the same, even if the "owners" changed. The land on which our facility sits was leased to us. The Theatre funded the construction of the facility and funds all its operations so the Governor's veto would not have affected us. While the College is our "landlord", they are not involved in funding or operating the Theatre. The two organizations are great neighbors and we are thrilled that the funding crisis has been averted. We look forward to working with the Appleton Museum on some future projects.

Thank you to every one of you who attend and support the arts in our community!

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THE CURTAIN RAISER

SEASON 2017 - 2018 ■ JULY 2017

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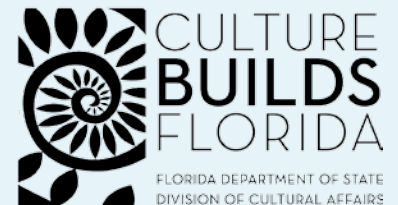
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JULY						1 <i>Space Pirates</i> 2pm
2	3	4 HAPPY 4th of JULY THEATRE CLOSED	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 <i>Knights at Dawn</i> 7pm	15 <i>Knights at Dawn</i> 2pm
16	17	18	19	20	21 <i>Cry-Baby</i> 7:30 pm	22 <i>Cry-Baby</i> 7:30 pm
23 <i>Cry-Baby</i> 2 pm	24	25	26	27 <i>Cry-Baby</i> 7:30 pm	28 <i>Cry-Baby</i> 7:30 pm	29 ACT 4 Casino Cruise <i>Cry-Baby</i> 7:30 pm
30 <i>Cry-Baby</i> 2 pm	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST						5
6	7 Season ticket exchanges and Flex Pass reservations begin	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Tickets on sale for <i>La Cage</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

The *Curtain Raiser* is the official newsletter of The Marion Players, Inc., dba Ocala Civic Theatre. The Theatre is located at 4337 East Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, Florida, 34470. The *Curtain Raiser* is published monthly and is available free of charge to anyone who is interested in our activities. For information about the organization or to be added to the mailing list, call (352) 236-2274.

Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts & Culture.



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If you have any questions, please contact Mary Britt at (352) 236-2851, ext. 104, or mbritt@ocalacivictheatre.com.