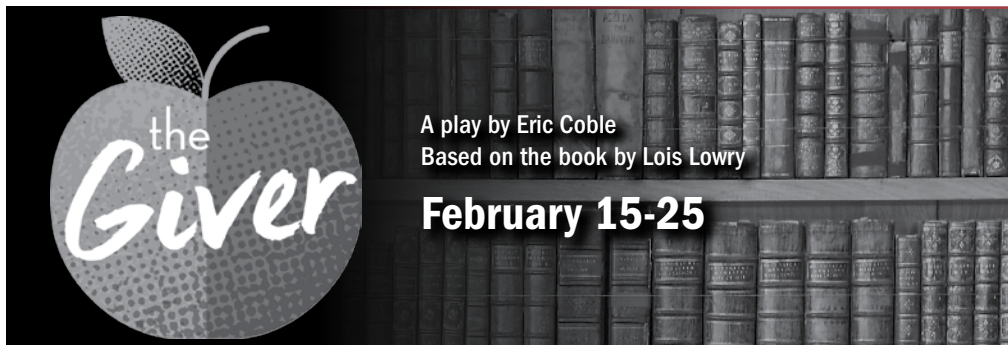


# THE CURTAIN RAISER



**Only The Giver knows humanity's past... until young Jonas is chosen to learn the shocking truth.**

Eleven-year-old Jonas (Matthew Minassian) lives in a seemingly perfect community with his family: Father (James Taylor), Mother (Laura Bradford), and younger sister Lily (Joyous Richards). There is no war, fear, or pain. All is "Sameness."

There also are no choices, as everyone is assigned a lifetime role at the age of 12. Some will care for the elderly, like Larissa (Danuta Jacob), who live in the House of the Old. In the Nurturing Center, others raise "newchildren." Others (Hannah Cobb, Mia Comas, Joy Newkirk, Darrell Riley, Camden Ruef, William Torres, Damon Vitale) serve as elders, instructors, laborers, birthmothers, and so on.

But as Jonas and his friends Asher (Sam Newkirk) and Fiona (Sandra McDonald) anxiously await their assignments at their Ceremony of Twelve, the Chief Elder (Linda Starkweather) makes a shocking announcement: Jonas has been chosen to become the next Receiver of Memory, the one person entrusted with the collective memories of humanity. Jonas will be trained by The Giver (Randall Moring), the previous Receiver of Memory.

As The Giver shares his memories and reveals the past, Jonas delights in snow and sunshine, love and colors, family and books. He also feels the pain of war and starvation, and discovers what happened when a previous Receiver of Memory, Rosemary (Grace Moring), mysteriously disappeared. And when Jonas discovers the shocking reality of his world, he must make one of the first and hardest choices of his young life. This haunting, thought-provoking drama is adapted from the best-selling young-adult novel, which inspired the 2014 film version featuring Jeff Bridges and Meryl Streep.

*The Giver* is directed by Chris Jorie. Stage manager is Ginny Riley. Set design is by Timothy J. Dygert. Costume design is by Eryn Brooks Brewer. Lighting and sound design are by Jeffrey M. Davis.

There will be 11 public performances from February 15-25, 2018. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$23 for Signature Series subscribers, and \$12 for full-time students (school ID required for college students). For more information, call (352) 236-2274 or go to [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com).

**Curtain times for *The Giver* are Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.**

## Opening Night Reception!

Reserve your tickets for opening night and join us on Thursday, February 15 at 6:30 p.m. for a reception an hour before the premiere performance. Complimentary light refreshments will be served, and beer and wine are available for purchase. Come celebrate the excitement of opening night!

## Coming Events

### ***The Giver***

Thought-Provoking Drama  
February 15-25

### ***The Foreigner***

Hysterical Comedy  
March 15 - April 8

### **Get Up and Go Drawing**

Begins March 15

### ***The Legendary Bobby Darin: A Tribute***

Theatrical Concert  
April 12-15

### **Golf Tournament**

April 13

### **The student production of *The Love of Three Oranges***

One-Act Fairytale Comedy  
On the outdoor stage  
April 28-29

### ***Mamma Mia!***

Smash-Hit Musical Comedy  
May 17 - June 17

## Auditions

### **The student production of *The Love of Three Oranges***

One-Act Fairytale Comedy  
March 5-6

### ***Mamma Mia!***

Smash-Hit Musical Comedy  
March 18-19

## The Foreigner



**March 15 – April 8**

By Larry Shue

**Sponsored By: Wind FM**

In this hilarious comedy, two British gentlemen, Froggy and Charlie, arrive for a weekend at a fishing lodge in rural Georgia. Poor Charlie is painfully shy and too depressed to talk to strangers – so Froggy tells everyone that Charlie is a foreigner who doesn't know a word of English. But when Charlie overhears some scandalous news and sinister plans, does he confess or keep up the charade?

*The Foreigner* is directed by Chip Morris. Stage manager is Patti Cole. Set design is by Timothy J. Dygert. Costume design is by Eryn Brooks Brewer. Lighting design is by Robert P. Robins. Sound design is Jeffrey M. Davis.

There will be 20 public performances from March 15 – April 8, 2018. Tickets go on sale February 19 at \$25 for adults and \$12 for full-time students (school ID required for college students). For more information, call (352) 236-2274 or go to [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com).

## Annual Get Up and Go Drawing begins March 15

It's back! For a donation of only \$5, you can have a chance to win one of the terrific prizes in this year's ever-popular Get Up & Go drawing, including restaurant and shopping packages, a Disney World weekend, and season tickets for the 2018-2019 season. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and will be on sale beginning March 15 at the Theatre box office. Tickets also will be on sale at performances of *The Foreigner* and *The Legendary Bobby Darin: A Tribute*. The drawing will be held at the Theatre at noon on Tuesday, April 17. For additional information, call (352) 236-2274.

## Auditions for Mamma Mia!



**March 18-19**

Music and Lyrics by Björn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson, and some songs with Stig Anderson  
Book by Catherine Johnson · Originally conceived by Judy Craymer

Young Sophie is about to get married on the Greek island paradise where she grew up. She wants her dad to walk her down the aisle... but she doesn't know who he is. Sophie reads her mother's old diary and invites three of Donna's former suitors from 20 years ago to the wedding. Will this blast from the past reveal her father's identity? Sunny, funny, and full of upbeat ABBA tunes, *Mamma Mia!* is the ultimate feel-good smash hit!

Auditions are Sunday, March 18 and Monday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. It is only necessary to attend one night of auditions. Full details are available in the February 2018 *Cue Sheet*.



**2017-2018  
SEASON**

### The Giver

February 15-25, 2018

### The Foreigner

March 15 – April 8, 2018

### The Legendary Bobby Darin: A Tribute

April 12-15, 2018

### Mamma Mia!

May 17 – June 17, 2018

## Tickets On Sale Now

• *The Giver*

## Tickets Go On Sale

• **February 12:**  
**ACT 4 Luncheon and Fashion Show**

• **February 19:** *The Foreigner*

• **March 12:**  
**The Legendary Bobby Darin: A Tribute**



## Volunteer Spotlight

Ed, Paulette and Michelle Hamilton

As most everyone knows, the Broadway musical *Hamilton* is a huge hit. At Ocala Civic Theatre, we have our own version of a smashing theatrical success: the Hamiltons.

Ed and Paulette Hamilton and their daughter Michelle are three of our most reliable volunteers. Ed and Paulette had been subscribers for several years before getting involved in 2013, when friends and OCT volunteers Marge and Chet Skapczynski asked them to help sell gift basket raffle tickets.

Michelle, who also had been a subscriber, began volunteering the next year, making it a family affair. Like her parents, she also began with selling raffle tickets, then started working in the Gift Box. "I really enjoy the Gift Box, showing all the unique custom jewelry," Michelle says. "It reminds me of the days when I worked at the jewelry department at Service Merchandise when we first moved to Ocala in 1987." She also has ushered and is a member of ACT 4.

Paulette's favorite volunteer activity is working in the Gift Box as well. She'd like to try working in a different kind of "box" in future: the box office. She says the most rewarding thing for her about volunteering at the Theatre is "being able to help people with their needs. I enjoy people and enjoy the Theatre." Paulette also sells Avon and loves to play bridge.

Besides selling raffle tickets (his favorite volunteer activity), Ed also works in the Gift Box and has ushered. He is the treasurer of ACT 4, has served four years on the ACT 4 board, and works on all of ACT 4's fundraising activities. He says the most rewarding thing about volunteering at OCT is "meeting all the people who work for the Theatre and interacting with the theatregoers." In his spare time, Ed volunteers as a cook at the Brother's Keeper Soup Kitchen two days a week and assists in planning the daily meals. He also enjoys creating stained glass.

Michelle finds it rewarding to help the Theatre by giving her time. "We sometime joke that this is my second home," she says. She also enjoys the perk of earning complimentary tickets through volunteering, and thinks it might be interesting to try set construction in future. Michelle is an Administrative Assistant at Watson Realty Corporation and has three cats: Ginger, Tigger, and Bubba, a rescue and the newest addition. She enjoys crafts, baking, computer games and puzzles, and enjoys spending time with her family.

And we're so thankful that the Hamilton family spends so much of their time volunteering together at Ocala Civic Theatre! You're all so helpful, dependable, and always willing to lend a hand. We appreciate all you do for the Theatre!

## Golf Tournament to Benefit Ocala Civic Theatre

**SAVE THE DATE: The 27th annual charity golf tournament to benefit Ocala Civic Theatre returns on Friday, April 13!**

The tournament will be held at the beautiful Candler Hills Golf Club at 8137 SW 90th Terrace Road. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. The tournament begins with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. The cost is \$85 per player, which includes a box lunch, on-course water and sodas, free range balls, greens fees, a cart, goodie bags, and more than 50 on-course and door prizes, with awards immediately following the tournament. (A discount is available for Candler Hills Golf Club members.)

There are opportunities to contribute as a corporate, scorecard, hole, raffle, or door prize sponsor. Sponsors who donate \$100 or more will receive a certificate for future play at Candler Hills Golf Club. To become a sponsor, please contact Mary Britt at (352) 236-2851, ext. 104.

## Restaurant Discounts

Several local restaurants offer discounts or coupons to our patrons throughout the theatre season. You must show your ticket stub to receive these discounts.

- **Blue Highway Pizza:** 10% off your check on day of show. Not valid with any other offer. 2130 E. Silver Springs Blvd., (352) 629-5555.
- **Braised Onion:** 10% off your check on day of show, or during the week of the performance at dinner hour. Excludes alcohol. 754 NE 25th Ave., (352) 620-9255.
- **Ivy On the Square** (new name and location for the Ivy House): 10% off your check. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. 53 S. Magnolia, (352) 622-5550.
- **La Cuisine French Restaurant:** 10% off dinner any night. 48 SW 1st Ave., (352) 433-2570.
- **The Mojo Grill & Catering Co.:** 10% off your check. Valid only at the East location (across from the Theatre): 4620 E. Silver Springs Blvd., (352) 291-6656.

## 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.

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

**Box Office: (352) 236-2274**

**Administrative Offices: (352) 236-2851**

## Social Media

 Ocala Civic Theatre and Ocala Civic Theatre Education Department

 @ocalacivic

 ocivictheatre

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 Ocala Civic Theatre

## A New Year, A New Look!

Phase One of Ocala Civic Theatre's exciting expansion begins this summer with new seats! We will be painting the auditorium, removing the current seats and replacing them with new, wider, more comfortable seats – 3"-5" wider!

We would love to have you be a part of this growth and invite you to donate to this first phase. A campaign goal of \$200,000 has been set to cover the expenses of Phase One. Each new seat has an established donor or tribute value of \$500. Donors will be recognized with an individual plaque permanently attached to the seat. Donors who choose to contribute at a higher level will be recognized on a separate plaque. Gifts and pledges will be welcomed in any amount. Call (352) 236-2274 and ask us for more details.

## Auditions for the student production of

# THE LOVE OF THREE ORANGES

By Hillary DePiano

## March 5-6

Prince Tartaglia's life is filled with misery until an evil witch curses him to search for three giant oranges. But this quest proves fantastically fruitful as the once-lonely prince discovers love, friendship, and laughter in his adventures among wizards and royalty. All the raucous slapstick of the classic Commedia dell'Arte scenario by Carlo Gozzi is distilled into a fast-paced one-act.

*The Love of Three Oranges* is directed by Kirstin Kennedy. Auditions are Monday, March 5 and Tuesday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m. It is only necessary to attend one night of auditions.

There are 18 roles available (eight female, six male, and four non-gender-specific) for ages 10-18. Students are asked to prepare a short comedic monologue for their audition and will be asked to participate in a short-form improvisation game at the auditions.

Rehearsals are Monday, March 19 – Friday, April 27, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Not all actors will be called to every rehearsal. Tuition is \$225 for this performance class.

There will be three performances on the outdoor stage: Saturday, April 28 at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 29 at 3:00 p.m.

For more information, call the Education Department at (352) 236-2851, ext. 107, or go to [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com).

## Book a performance today with the Golden Troupers!



The Golden Troupers are a terrific group of age 55+ performers who travel Marion County entertaining local audiences with comedy skits and songs. They perform at no charge for non-profit organizations, but donations are gratefully accepted. To join or to book the Troupers for your club or community, call (352) 236-2274 or Marlene Harr at (352) 687-3868.

Rehearsals are held at the Theatre on Mondays at 1 p.m. from September to May. Join the Troupers – it's a golden opportunity!



ACT 4 will host a ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW on Saturday, March 17, at the Ocala Elks Lodge (702 N.E. 25th Avenue), featuring Resort Fashions by Tiffany. Tickets are \$25.00 per person (tax and gratuity included). The doors will open at 12:00 noon, with pre-show shopping beginning at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m., followed by the fashion show and shopping at 1:45 p.m. Please join the ACT 4 models for this fun-filled afternoon of beautiful fashions! Reservations can be made starting February 12 by calling the Ocala Civic Theatre Box Office at (352) 236-2274.

ACT 4 members, friends of ACT 4, and those interested in finding out more about ACT 4 are all invited to an old-fashioned potluck supper. It's our sometimes semi-annual, sometimes annual, sometimes just-because TASTE OF ACT 4. The event will be held on February 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church (4047 N.E. 21st Street). Bring your favorite dish (and enough to share) for an evening of good food and surprise entertainment! There is no charge for this event, although reservations are required. Call President Joan Gustafson at (352) 622-5315 to let her know you'll be there and what dish you will be bringing.



## Notes from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Mary H. Britt**

Hello! The Theatre is really buzzing with activity right now! February has us finishing the final performances of *I Love A Piano*; holding auditions for *The Foreigner*; opening *The Giver*; securing the rights to the shows for our 2018-2019 season; touring Marion County schools with our literacy program; planning two fundraisers – our golf tournament and Get Up & Go drawing – and raising money for the auditorium renovation scheduled for this summer. It's exciting!

I hope you are planning to see ***The Giver***. It's a wonderful, thought-provoking drama based on an award-winning book by the same name. The story was also the basis for a 2014 movie starring Meryl Streep and Jeff Bridges. We have an incredible cast and I'm sure you will be impressed. If you come, please take note of the curtain times. **Evening performances for *The Giver* start at 7:30 p.m. The Saturday matinees are scheduled for 11:00 a.m.** and the Sunday matinees are the usual 2:00 p.m. We are expecting a larger number of families and young audience members for this one, as the book is taught in many of our schools.

Speaking of the schools, this marks our 12th year taking two programs into the schools. Often news of the school tours are a surprise to our patrons since they don't happen in our theatre, but I thought you'd be interested to hear about them. In October, we toured the schools with a play titled *Fit* about fitting in, bullying, and acceptance. *Fit* was performed at 18 schools and was viewed by 4,004 students and their teachers. Our other program promotes literacy and started a 6-week tour of local schools in January. The Literacy Tour works with the media specialists in each school to highlight the work of specific authors and encourage students to read and enjoy their books. We choose different authors to feature each year. This year's tour features *Rosie Revere, Engineer* and the works of Andrea Beaty for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade. And for students in 4th through 6th grade, we are featuring Lois Lowry's *The Giver* to coordinate with our mainstage production. The Literacy Tour continues through February 23 and we are still accepting bookings in case you know of a school that may be interested. Currently, we have 23 schools booked. Last year's Literacy Tour reached over 11,000 students. Oh, and both in-school programs are offered free to the schools. The Theatre accepts donations and applies for grants and sponsorships to cover the expenses so that it is affordable for every school. A grant from Marion Cultural Alliance helped us with *Fit*, and grants from the Richard B. Salsbury Foundation and the State of Florida helped with both programs. Their generosity has allowed us to serve over 170,000 students in the 12 touring years!

Plans for this summer's renovation of the auditorium are well underway. The new, wider seats will be welcome, but unfortunately, wider seats also mean that we will have fewer seats. We currently have 401 fixed seats. The new layout will have 350 seats and four additional locations for patrons who need wheelchair access. We will be starting the season ticket campaign earlier this year to give us more time to work on the seat assignments. Current subscribers will receive a letter outlining the changes and listing the deadlines to renew. Please make sure to renew by the deadline this year to have the best opportunity to receive the seat assignment you request. In past years, the box office made hundreds of reminder calls when long-time subscribers missed the deadline, and it will be more difficult to do that this year. When assigning seats, priority will be given to long-time subscribers, season ticket donors, and donors to the renovation campaign. We are grateful for the support of all our subscribers, many of whom have been subscribers for 20, 30, or even 40 years.

See you at the Theatre!

### 2017-2018 Board of Directors

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Jim Ross

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SEASON 2017 - 2018 ■ FEBRUARY 2018

# THE CURTAIN RAISER

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PERMIT NO. 9

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				1  ASL* <i>I Love a Piano</i> 8pm	2 <i>I Love a Piano</i> 8pm	3 <i>I Love a Piano</i> 2pm
4 <i>I Love a Piano</i> 2pm	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Tickets On Sale for ACT 4 Luncheon & Fashion Show	13	14	15 <i>The Giver</i> 7:30pm	16 <i>The Giver</i> 7:30pm	17 <i>The Giver</i> 11am & 7:30pm
18 <i>The Giver</i> 2pm	19 Tickets On Sale for <i>The Foreigner</i>	20	21 <i>The Giver</i> 7:30pm	22 <i>The Giver</i> 7:30pm	23 <i>The Giver</i> 7:30pm	24  ASL* <i>The Giver</i> 11am* & 7:30pm
25 <i>The Giver</i> 2pm	26	27	28			

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.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MARCH</b>				1	2	3
4	5 Auditions for <i>The Love of Three Oranges</i> 5pm	6 Auditions for <i>The Love of Three Oranges</i> 5pm	7	8	9	10
11	12 Tickets On Sale for <i>Bobby Darin</i>	13	14	15 Get Up & Go Drawing Begins <i>The Foreigner</i> 8pm	16 <i>The Foreigner</i> 8pm	17 ACT 4 Luncheon & Fashion Show 12:30pm <i>The Foreigner</i> 8pm
18 Auditions for <i>Mamma Mia!</i> 7pm <i>The Foreigner</i> 2pm	19 Auditions for <i>Mamma Mia!</i> 7pm	20	21 <i>The Foreigner</i> 8pm	22 <i>The Foreigner</i> 8pm	23 <i>The Foreigner</i> 8pm	24 <i>The Foreigner</i> 2pm & 8pm
25 <i>The Foreigner</i> 2pm	26	27	28 <i>The Foreigner</i> 8pm	29 <i>The Foreigner</i> 8pm	30 <i>The Foreigner</i> 8pm	31 <i>The Foreigner</i> 2pm & 8pm



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