

THE CURTAIN RAISER

MAMMA MIA!

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

SPONSORED BY:  **HIERS-BAXLEY**
Funeral Services
Celebrating Life Honoring Memories

Ocala Magazine • WOCA Radio

May 17 – June 17

Donna Sheridan may have had a little too much fun in the free-spirited 1970s. Her daughter, Sophie, is getting married on the Mediterranean island paradise where Donna raised her as a single mom, and now Sophie wants her dad to walk her down the aisle. The only problem? Sophie doesn't know who he is... and neither does Donna.

In her quest to discover the truth, Sophie reads her mom's old diary and invites three of Donna's boyfriends from 20 years ago to the wedding. Will this blast from the past reveal her dad's identity? It's a story of family and friendship, love and laughter, told through the magic of ABBA's music. Sunny and funny, it's a fabulously fun, feel-good musical!

Mamma Mia! is live on stage through June 17. Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$12 for full-time students (school ID required for college students). Group rates are available – make it a girls' night out! For more information, call (352) 236-2274 or go to www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

Harvey Awards – June 24

Join us on Sunday, June 24 for the annual Harvey Awards, Ocala Civic Theatre's version of the Tony Awards, to celebrate the best of the 2017-2018 season!

The evening begins at 5:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, followed by a trivia contest at 5:30 p.m. The awards ceremony will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Awards are given for excellence in acting, technical aspects, and volunteer service. Join us to recognize the outstanding work of our volunteers and designers!

Everyone is welcome to attend the Harvey Awards. Dressy to semi-formal attire is suggested. Tickets are \$10 and will not be available at the door. For reservations or more information, call (352) 236-2274 or stop by the box office before June 22. Don't miss this special evening – it's the social event of the season!

The Fifth Annual Tech Olympics – July 7

Join us for the Fifth Annual Tech Olympics on Saturday, July 7 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 challenges and will be timed and scored. The winning team will be recognized with prizes and everlasting glory.

It's free to attend as a spectator, and no ticket is required. Everyone is welcome to attend. Come support and cheer on our amazing competitors! Lunch for all attendees will be served and 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 29 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.

For more information, call (352) 236-2274. To register, stop by the Theatre during regular box office hours (Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). Let the games begin!

Coming Events

Mamma Mia!

Smash-Hit Musical Comedy

May 17 – June 17

NYC Trip

June 6-10

The student production

The Journey of the Noble Gnarble

June 22-23

Harvey Awards

June 24

The student production

Press Start

June 29-30

The 5th Annual

Tech Olympics

July 7

The student production

Starfish Circus

July 14

The student production

Bedtime Stories (As Told By Our Dad)

(Who Messed Them Up)

July 20-21

The student production of

Be More Chill

Musical

July 27 - August 5

Joseph and the Amazing

Technicolor Dreamcoat

Musical

September 6-30



Volunteer Spotlight – NORA GIBSON

Ocala Civic Theatre's Golden Troupers are a group of performers, age 55 and older, who travel Marion County entertaining local audiences with songs and readers-theatre comedy skits. The Troupers are valuable community ambassadors for Ocala Civic Theatre, but another great thing they do is bring in terrific new volunteers like themselves.

Nora Gibson is a perfect example. When the Golden Troupers performed for her Red Hat group at the Elks Club in 2013, she thought it looked like fun and decided to join. She's been singing with the Troupers for five years now, volunteering more than 500 hours! "I have really enjoyed being with the Troupers," she says. What's the most rewarding thing for her about volunteering with the Golden Troupers? "When people want us to come back. That makes it worthwhile." She also has a great time with the other Troupers. "We have such camaraderie and enjoy each other."

Singing with the Golden Troupers isn't Nora's first experience with performing. She grew up in Marion County and is a 1947 graduate of Reddick High School, where she performed in some school plays. She even co-hosted a local radio program with a friend her senior year.

Nora got married right after high school and went on to have six children, who all loved to sing and followed in their mother's footsteps by performing on local radio. Nora says she can't even count how many grandchildren and great-grandchildren she has, but her ninth great-great-grandbaby is the newest addition. She enjoys spending time with her large family.

After 50 years as a medical transcriptionist and secretary, Nora retired – at age 80! Now 87, she still socializes with her Red Hat group, and also enjoys cooking and playing dominoes and cards with her best friend. When she isn't singing with the Troupers, she can be found behind the mic at karaoke, and says if she were younger she'd want to be onstage in OCT musicals, too.

Sometimes we take the stage out into the community – and that's where the Troupers play such an important role. Thank you, Nora, for being such a great community ambassador for Ocala Civic Theatre through the Golden Troupers! We appreciate wonderful volunteers like you.



One-Day Fund-Raising CRUISE to Port Canaveral

SATURDAY, JULY 7

\$60.00 Per Person (Photo ID Required)
Includes Boarding, Transportation, a Meal
and \$20.00 in Promo Slot Play after
8 Points Accumulated

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND FREE
DRINKS WHILE GAMBLING!**

*Bus Leaves from Ocala Civic Theatre at 8:00 a.m.
(please arrive by 7:00 a.m. – coffee and donuts will be
served) and Returns to Ocala Civic Theatre at 7:00 p.m.*

**Call Ocala Civic Theatre at
(352) 236-2274
between May 14 and June 29
to Register**

ACT-4 is a not-for-profit Florida Corporation designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are deductible within the limits allowed by law. Proceeds benefit Ocala Civic Theatre and its programs, including scholarships for youth programs and college students.

The student production



Music and Lyrics
by Joe Iconis
Book by Joe Tracz
Based on the novel
by Ned Vizzini



July 27 – August 5

In this smart, quirky sci-fi musical, high school junior Jeremy Heere is a social outcast who just wants to be popular. He also desperately hopes to score a date with his crush, Christine. So Jeremy swallows a pill which implants a tiny supercomputer called "The Squip" in his brain, which tells him how to act cool. The Squip promises to bring him all he desires... but is getting everything he wants worth the risk if his own voice isn't the clearest one in his head?

Be More Chill is directed by Kirstin Kennedy. There will be seven performances from July 27 – August 5. Tickets go on sale July 2 at \$20 for adults, \$16 for subscribers, and \$10 for students.

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
(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

@ocalacivic

Ocala Civic
Theatre

Annual Get Up & Go Drawing Winners

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who participated in our annual Get Up & Go drawing, we raised \$20,005 to help support the Theatre! Here are the lucky winners we drew on April 17:

- **First Prize** – \$2,000 American Express gift card: Karen Feutz
- **Second Prize** – Round-trip airfare for two on Delta Airlines and two nights at a select Marriott hotel: Ann Warmington
- **Third Prize** – \$1,000 shopping spree at local stores: Sonja Johnson
- **Fourth Prize** – \$750 in gift certificates to local restaurants: Charles and Gloria Salvaggio
- **Fifth Prize** – \$700 “Pamper Yourself” package: Sandra Barnstable
- **Sixth Prize** – \$500 in gift certificates to local restaurants: Rich Hendrix
- **Seventh Prize** – Two one-day Busch Gardens Tampa park passes and one night at a Marriott-owned hotel nearby: Joycelyn Barton
- **Eighth Prize** – One pair of 2018-2019 season tickets to Ocala Civic Theatre, for both the Signature Series and the Ovation Series, with Prime Seating Option: Roy and Virginia Parker

Congratulations to all the winners! Thank you to everyone who helped support Ocala Civic Theatre by purchasing tickets, and special thanks to all the businesses that so generously donated the great prizes for the Get Up & Go drawing. Please support these terrific local businesses as they serve our community:

A Novel Idea Bookstore	Harry's Seafood Bar & Grille	PDQ
Avanti Hair Biz	HoneyBaked Ham	Perfect Paws
Beef O'Brady's	The Ivy House Boutique	Grooming Salon
Blue Highway: A Pizzeria	Ivy on the Square	Picasso's Palette
Brick City Southern Kitchen & Whiskey Bar	Jersey Mike's	The Proper Tease Salon
Bruster's Ice Cream	Katya Vineyards	The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa
Carrabba's Italian Grill	Ker's Wing House	Red Lobster
Chefs of Napoli IV	La Cuisine	Red Robin
Chelsea Coffee Company	Latinos Y Mas	Richard's Place
Cindy Dunlow Frames	La-Z-Boy Gallery	Salon WOW
Closet Envy Boutique	Miller's Ale House	The Salted Brick
Crones' Cradle Conserve	Mojo Grill & Catering	Serendipity Boutique
D&L Bonsai Nursery	Ocala Bicycle Center	Shannon Roth Collection
Dee Dee's Diner	Ocala Fresh Produce & Deli	Silver City
Downtown Diner	Ocala's Chocolate & Confections	Sonny's BBQ
Frank DeLuca YMCA Family Center	Olive Garden	Stella's Modern Pantry
Gause & Son Jewelers	The Olive Obsession	Sweet Potatoes Café
Gemini Salon	The Olive Oil Market	Tan USA
The Graceful Gardener	Outback Steakhouse	The Tilted Kilt
Greiner's for Men	Painting With A Twist	Twistee Treat
Guitar Center	Parramore Music	Your Heart's Desire
	Pasta Faire of Belleview	

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.



NEW SEATS!

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.

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. At this point we have raised 50% of our goal.

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.

Tickets On Sale Now

- **Mamma Mia!**
- **2018-2019 Season Tickets**
- **Harvey Awards**
- **The Journey of the Noble Gnarble**
- **Press Start**

Tickets Go On Sale

- **Starfish Circus:** June 18
- **Bedtime Stories (As Told By Our Dad) (Who Messed Them Up):** June 18
- **Be More Chill:** July 2



Announcing the 2018-2019 Season!

SUMMER SPECIAL

Be More Chill

July 27 – August 5, 2018

Musical

SIGNATURE SERIES

*Joseph and the Amazing
Technicolor Dreamcoat*

September 6-30, 2018

Musical

Born Yesterday

October 18 – November 11, 2018

Comedy

She Loves Me

February 7 – March 3, 2019

Musical

Eternity

March 28 – April 21, 2019

Comedy

The Addams Family Musical

May 16 – June 9, 2019

Musical

OVATION SERIES

Beyond Glory

November 15-18, 2018

Drama

First Date

January 10-20, 2019

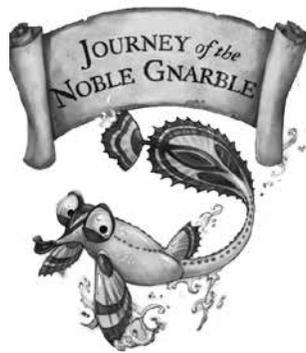
Musical

Silent Sky

March 7-17, 2019

Drama

The student production



June 22-23

The ocean floor is filled with the rarest of creatures, but none as rare as gnarbles. Their fins are small, their tails are floppy, and they have never strayed far from their homes... until now. This is the story of a little gnarble with a big dream, who tries to make it past doubting blyfish, sneaky subbalubbles, and hungry plinks on his way to the surface of the sea. Along the way he befriends the glinny glims who teach him the importance of positivity and determination!

Journey of the Noble Gnarble is presented by a cast of students ages 4-10. Tickets are on sale now at \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. There are two performances: Friday, June 22 at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 23 at 11:00 a.m.

The student production



June 29-30

Enter the bright, pixelated world of video games! When the famous characters we know and love run out of lives, they decide to put on a musical fundraiser that will help them raise gold rings and play on. Through hilarious and heartfelt musical numbers we see the heroes, villains, and sidekicks like we've never seen them before. But when things go terribly awry, it's the quiet sidekick Little Mushroom who must find the hero within to help save the day!

Press Start is presented by a cast of students ages 7-13. Tickets are on sale now at \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. There are two performances: Friday, June 29 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 30 at 2:00 p.m.

The student production



July 14

The circus is back in town... and local students are the stars! After a one-week camp, students will learn amazing feats of acrobatic skill and comic timing with aerial techniques, hoops, clowning, silks, balancing, and tumbling. The week ends with two chances to see students show off their new skills in a one-hour circus performance!

Starfish Circus is presented by a cast of students ages 7-18. Tickets go on sale June 18 at \$12 for adults and \$6 for students. Performances are Saturday, July 14 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The student production



July 20-21

It's Dad's turn to tell his three rambunctious kids their bedtime stories – but when he gets fuzzy on the details, the classics get creative. A prince with a snoring problem spices up *The Princess and The Pea*. The Boy Who Cried Wolf cries dinosaur instead. And Rumpelstiltskin helps turn all that pesky gold into straw. You may think you know your fairy tales, but not the way Dad tells them.

Bedtime Stories is presented by a cast of students ages 7-13. Tickets go on sale June 18 at \$12 for adults and \$6 for students. There are two performances: Friday, July 20 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 21 at 2:00 p.m.

No auditions or lottery for any Summer 2018 classes or camps – just sign up! First-come, first-served. Brochures include the registration form and are available in the Theatre lobby, or register online at www.OcalaCivicTheatre.com (click the Education link). Summer classes for ages 4-18 begin June 4.



Notes from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mary H. Britt

Hello! Can it really be June already? It's amazing how fast time flies when you are having fun! As we wrap up our 68th season, it's been a good year, and isn't *Mamma Mia!* a great way to close out the season? I think the cast, crew, director, and designers all deserve applause. *Mamma Mia!* runs through June 17, so if you haven't seen it yet (or you'd like to see it again), be sure to call right away for tickets. The matinees are pretty full, but there are still tickets available for evening performances. As I write this, the show has sold 9,336 tickets, which means it has passed *Cats* (9,267) on the attendance list and is bearing down on *Mary Poppins* (10,075) and *Les Miserables* (10,495). Will *Mamma Mia!* take over the top spot? It's possible. We'll have to wait until June 17 to find out. By the way, the box office maintains a standby list so if you call and the performance you would like to attend is sold out, ask to add your name to the standby list. When a cancellation or exchange opens up seats, we go to the cancellation list first to fill those seats.

Have you sent us your season ticket subscription yet? We've got a wonderful variety of shows on the schedule. June 8 is the deadline for current subscribers to renew or to request a change of seats or night. I would also encourage new subscribers to send in their forms by June 8 for the widest range of seat choices. You can mail your form to us, drop off your form at the table in the lobby when you attend *Mamma Mia!*, or call the box office at (352) 236-2274 to subscribe by phone. We'll start assigning seats soon after June 8.

Plans for the renovation are moving along. It will start on Monday, August 6, and we've set aside a three-week window to remove the old seats, paint, and install the new seats and carpet. Individuals who have donated to the renovation will be invited to a special open house to get a first look at the auditorium. What? You haven't made your donation yet? Well, there's still time. Gifts of any amount are welcome and encouraged. The fundraising is continuing in an effort to reach the \$200,000 goal. We have sold most of the seats, but there are still some available. Seats are \$500 each and include a donor plate affixed to the arm of the seat. Donors will also be recognized in the theatre lobby. I hope you can help with this needed facility renovation.

While *Mamma Mia!* is the finale of the regular season, that doesn't mean that the theatre schedule slows down. We shift our focus to the expanded opportunities the summer offers for our Education Department, and summer classes start even before the final performance of *Mamma Mia!* If you know of parents or students looking for a great summer activity, I highly recommend the Theatre's summer classes. We have activities for students ages 4-18. There are both skills classes and performance camps. There is no audition required this year for the performance camps. Four different camps are available, and each concludes with performances of a play. I think they all sound fun, but I just love the one titled *Bedtime Stories (As Told By Our Dad) (Who Messed Them Up)*. It's a fun play for students ages 7-13. In the script, Dad mixes characters from several different classic fairy tales for a really funny outcome. Even if you don't have students enrolled in the classes, these four plays make for a great family outing to enjoy a performance together. Our website, www.ocalacivictheatre.com, has information on both the performances and classes. You can download the class schedule and registration form directly from the website, or we will be happy to mail you a copy.

There's sure to be a great creative buzz around the Theatre as we go from *Mamma Mia!* to summer classes and performances, and on to the season opener in September: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

See you at the Theatre!

2017-2018 Board of Directors

President

Philip Leppert

Vice President

Jim Ross

Treasurer

George Kirkland

Secretary

Dr. Glenda "Rusty" Belote

Members

Garry D. Adel	Joy Newkirk
Jeffrey David	Andrea Pizzuti
Ana Dunwoody	Darrell Riley
Leslie Hagan, MD	Herb Schmoll
Sarah Lankester	Gordon Schwenk, MD

Staff

Executive Director

Mary H. Britt

Production Manager/Technical Director

Jeff Davis

Assistant Technical Director

William Spratt

General Technician/Custodian

Ken Noble

Administrative Assistants

Janice Kirk

Melody Murphy

Box Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

Craig James

Box Office Assistant

Nancy E. Bennett

Director of Education

Kirstin Kennedy

Director of Marketing & Promotions

Larry Kiernan

Comptroller

Marilyn Price

Costume Designer

Eryn Brooks Brewer

Costume Shop Intern

Brittany Hardison



4337 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SEASON 2017 - 2018 ■ JUNE 2018

THE CURTAIN RAISER

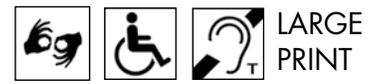
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OCALA, FL
PERMIT NO. 9

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JUNE					1 Mamma Mia! 8pm	2 Mamma Mia! 2pm & 8pm
3 Mamma Mia! 2pm	4	5	6 Mamma Mia! 8pm	7 Mamma Mia! 8pm	8 Mamma Mia! 8pm	9 Mamma Mia! 2pm & 8pm
10 Mamma Mia! 2pm	11	12	13 Mamma Mia! 8pm	14 Mamma Mia! 8pm	15 Mamma Mia! 8pm	16 Mamma Mia! 2pm & 8pm
17 Mamma Mia! 2pm	18 Tickets on Sale for Starfish Circus & Bedtime Stories	19	20	21	22 Noble Gnarble 6pm	23 Noble Gnarble 11am
24 Harvey Awards 5pm	25	26	27	28	29 Press Start 7pm	30 Press Start 2pm

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
1	2 Tickets on Sale for Be More Chill	3	4 Theatre Closed Happy 4th of July	5	6	7 Tech Olympics
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Starfish Circus 2pm & 7pm
15	16 Annual Meeting Auditions for Joseph	17 Auditions for Joseph	18	19	20 Bedtime Stories 7pm	21 Bedtime Stories 2pm
22	23	24	25	26	27 Be More Chill 8pm	28 Be More Chill 8pm
29 Be More Chill 2pm	30	31	JULY			



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