

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

May 17 – June 17

SPONSORED BY:



Ocala Magazine

WOCA Radio

Donna Sheridan (Gina England) and her best pals, Tanya (Michelle Geering) and Rosie (Danielle Posner), had a fabulous time performing as girl group Donna and The Dynamos in the free-spirited 1970s. In fact, Donna may have had a little too much fun in her younger days... she now has a 20-year-old daughter, Sophie (Shannon Guinn), who she raised as an independent single mother because she has no idea who Sophie's father is. Actually, Donna has *some* idea: It could be any one of her three romantic liaisons from the summer of 1979: Sam Carmichael (Patrick Stanley), Bill Austin (Tom Ferreira), and Harry Bright (John Corneilson).

Now caught up in her own romance, Sophie is about to marry Sky (Jonathan Williams) on the Greek island paradise of Kalokairi, where she grew up. She wants her dad to walk her down the aisle... but how can he when she doesn't know who he is? In her quest to discover the truth, Sophie reads her mom's old diary and invites Sam, Bill, and Harry to the wedding, hoping this blast from the past will reveal her father's identity.

And what's an identity crisis without friends for moral support? Tanya and Rosie come to the island for the wedding and end up providing advice, assistance, and of course some girl-group harmony as Donna's past confronts her. Sophie has her bridesmaids, Ali (Kelsey Plante) and Lisa (Megan Wager), and Sky has his buddies, Pepper (Deion Howard) and Eddie (Baylor Willis).

There's even Father Alexandrios (Darrell Riley) if divine intervention is needed. And the villagers of Kalokairi (Brittany Beall, Celia Bills, Gregg Bleam, Angie Brahim, Rachel Davidsen, Brian Hence, Jacob Humphrey, Jessica Mesnick, Caylinn Mosblech, Jose Rivera, Shelby Sakalo, Kim Wise) are ready to celebrate however the Sheridan saga ends. It's a story of family and friendship, love and laughter.

This fabulously fun musical is full of ABBA's greatest hits, with plenty of catchy, upbeat tunes like "Dancing Queen," "Money, Money, Money," "Waterloo," and "Mamma Mia!" Get away for a few hours and escape to a colorful Greek island full of splashy dance numbers, groovy costumes, and heartwarming nostalgia. Sunny and funny, *Mamma Mia!* is the ultimate feel-good musical!

Mamma Mia! is directed and choreographed by Katrina Ploof. Music director is Philip King. Stage manager is Ginny Riley. Set design is by Mihai Ciupe. Costume design is by Eryn Brooks Brewer. Lighting design is by Robert P. Robins. Sound design is by Justin Lewis.

There will be 28 public performances from May 17 - June 17, 2018. 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.

Opening Night Reception!

Reserve your tickets for opening night and join us on Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m. for a reception an hour before the premiere performance. Delicious refreshments are catered by HoneyBaked Ham, and beer and wine are available for purchase. Come celebrate the excitement of opening night!

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 Olymics
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

Auditions

The student production of

Be More Chill
Musical
May 21-22



Volunteer Spotlight

Angel Gastelum

A great volunteer can make a big difference in a short time. In 2015, Angel Gastelum was searching online for local volunteer opportunities when he discovered Ocala Civic Theatre. He began volunteering right away, working stage crew for *The Kitchen Witches* and *How I Learned to Drive*. Since then, he has volunteered almost 900 hours in the past three years, all behind the scenes.

Angel moved on from stage crew to become a wizard of the sound board. He has served as sound board operator for *The Fox on the Fairway*, *Sister Act*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Fantasticks*, *Shrek*, *Cry Baby*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *The Giver*, *The Legendary Bobby Darin: A Tribute*, and *Mamma Mia!*

Besides his excellent sound skills, Angel is known for being a highly dependable volunteer. He does his job quietly, communicates promptly, and is always right where you need him. Thoughtful and understanding, he puts the needs of the Theatre and the show first.

In the future, he's also interested in learning how to operate the light board. "It's all interesting for me," he says. The most rewarding thing for him about volunteering at OCT is "getting to meet all the different people. I have enjoyed talking to everyone here."

Born in Mexico, Angel became a U.S. citizen on his 20th birthday. He is a student at the College of Central Florida, majoring in biology. Homework and volunteering at the Theatre keep him busy, but in his free time he also enjoys browsing the Internet, watching anime, playing video games, and reading books. Angel currently lives with his parents and two sisters.

Thank you, Angel, for all the time you've given to Ocala Civic Theatre and for being such a fantastic young volunteer!



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 a social hour, hors d'oeuvres, and 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 go on sale May 21 at \$10. For reservations, call (352) 236-2274 or stop by the box office. Don't miss this special evening - it's the social event of the season!

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

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Ocala Civic Theatre

Auditions for the student production



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

May 21-22

In this smart, quirky musical, high school junior Jeremy desperately wants to be popular, so he takes a pill to implant a microchip in his brain that tells him how to act cool. But is it worth the risk?

Auditions will be held Monday, May 21 and Tuesday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Ocala Civic Theatre. High school and college students may audition. Director is Kirstin Kennedy. There will be seven performances of *Be More Chill* from July 27 - August 5. Full audition details can be found in the May 2017 *Cue Sheet* or on Facebook at Ocala Civic Theatre - Education Dept.



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 30 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.

Our Golf Tournament Winners and Sponsors!



A Flight Winners: Jerry Nugent, Gerald Kellogg, Brian Marcum, and Stan Schott



B Flight Winners: Jim Yancey, Kay Yancey, Rusty Belote, and Kathy Quelland

A ROUND (OF APPLAUSE)

The 27th Annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit Ocala Civic Theatre was held on Friday, April 13 at Candler Hills Golf Club. This year's tournament raised \$6,941!

We'd like to thank the following sponsors who made this event possible:

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A big thank you to the staff at Candler Hills Golf Club. We gratefully acknowledge our generous sponsors and thank each one for supporting Ocala Civic Theatre and its activities!



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*

Tickets Go On Sale

- **Harvey Awards:** May 21
- ***The Journey of the Noble Gnarble:*** May 21
- ***Press Start:*** May 28
- ***Starfish Circus:*** June 18
- ***Bedtime Stories (As Told By Our Dad) (Who Messed Them Up):*** June 18
- ***Be More Chill:*** June 25

The Journey of the Noble Gnarble June 22-23

The ocean is full of rare and special creatures: doubting blyfish, sneaky subbalubbles, hungry plinks, brave glinny glims, and little gnarbles with big dreams! Immerse yourself in this "tail" of the importance of positivity and determination.

This student production is presented by a cast of students ages 4-10. Tickets go on sale May 21 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.

Press Start June 29-30

Quiet sidekick Little Mushroom must find the hero within to help save the day in this musical video game! Hilarious and heartfelt, it's a whole new look at how heroes and villains "play on" in their bright, pixelated world.

This student production is presented by a cast of students ages 7-13. Tickets go on sale May 28 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.

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.



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

2018-2019 Season Tickets



An exciting new season is coming up! Season tickets go on sale May 1. We have eight great shows scheduled, with the following subscription packages:

- **Signature Series** (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Born Yesterday*, *She Loves Me*, *Eternity*, and *The Addams Family Musical*)
- **Ovation Series** (*Beyond Glory*, *First Date*, and *Silent Sky*)
- **Weeknight Wild Card:** This three-show Flex Pass is good for Wednesday and Thursday nights only. Choose three shows from the seven in the Signature or Ovation Series (excludes *Beyond Glory*)

When you buy a season subscription, you save 25%. The regular single-ticket price is \$27 for adults and \$13 for students (except *Beyond Glory*, which is \$35 for adults and \$18 for students). Full-time college students with school ID are eligible to purchase student tickets.

The Signature Series and Ovation Series offer you a choice of either a Standing Reservation (same day/same seat for each show) or a Flex Pass (day and seat may vary for each show).

- **Renewing Subscribers:** The deadline to renew or request changes is **June 8, 2018**. If you want to change your day or seats, please send in your request for a change as soon as possible, but no later than June 8. Priority in seat assignment is based on length of time as a subscriber and subscriber donor history. Consideration is also given to patrons who contributed to the renovation campaign.
- **Changing Your Seat or Day?** It is very important for the Theatre to receive your requested change and renewal form by June 8 to allow us the best opportunity to accommodate your request.
- **New Subscribers: Welcome!** Send in your subscription order form as soon as possible, preferably before June 8. We will not assign seats until after July 1, but all orders for new subscribers are date-stamped when received and are processed in that order. Consideration is also given to new donors.
- **Donations:** Please consider adding a tax-deductible donation. Ticket revenue covers only a portion of the Theatre's operating expenses. Your gift will help support the arts in our community and the best quality live theatre.
- **Matching Gifts:** Your employer may even match your gift! For more information about matching gifts, contact Box Office Manager Craig James at (352) 236-2851, ext. 102, or boxofficemanager@ocalacivictheatre.com
- **Subscriber Benefits:** Information about our great subscriber benefits can be found in the season brochure, or contact the box office.
- **Summer Special:** Subscribers may purchase an unlimited number of advance tickets, at a discounted price of \$16 each, for the Summer 2018 student production of *Be More Chill*. Subscribers may add this purchase to their season ticket order form.
- **Not Renewing?** Please let us know by telephone at (352) 236-2274 or by e-mail at jkirk@ocalacivictheatre.com if you do not plan to renew, so that we can release your seat to others.
- **Questions?** There will be a table in the lobby during *Mamma Mia!* with volunteers to answer questions and receive subscription orders. You also may call or come by the Theatre during regular box office hours (Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). We will be happy to assist you and answer questions. Join us for the terrific 2018-2019 season!

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!



Notes from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mary H. Britt

Hello! Subscriptions for the 2018-2019 season are now on sale! If you are a current subscriber, you will receive your renewal letter and the new brochure in your mailbox very soon. If you are not a subscriber but are on our mailing list, you also will receive a copy of the season brochure. We would love to have you join us, and there is a wonderful lineup next season with four musicals, two comedies, and two dramas.

There are four easy ways to subscribe:

- Complete the order form mailed to you and mail it back to us.
- Bring your completed order form with you when you come to see *Mamma Mia*. We will have a table in the lobby at each performance.
- Come to the Theatre in person Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Our staff and volunteers will be happy to assist you. (Current subscribers, please bring the personalized form we mailed to you.)
- Call our box office at (352) 236-2274 and we will be able to complete your order over the phone.

June 8 is the deadline to renew, request changes, and submit new applications. If you did not receive a brochure, call the box office and we will mail one to you. If you have any questions, please call or stop by.

While this season is coming to an end with *Mamma Mia*, our exciting summer season is just beginning. This includes skills classes and performance camps for ages 4-18, as well as four fun and family-friendly shows. You can download our summer brochure from www.ocalacivictheatre.com, or call our box office and we'll be glad to mail you a brochure. We also offer scholarships to students who demonstrate financial need.

Let's talk money. It's often an awkward conversation for not-for-profit organizations. You want to make your services accessible to the community and there is a wide range of income levels, but you also need to pay your bills. In our case, the "services" are plays, musicals, and arts education classes. If you priced these activities at a commercial rate as for-profit businesses do, the admission cost would exceed the entertainment budget for a lot of our patrons. So if we set the admission price at an affordable level and want to continue to offer some services free, how do we cover the costs? Some of the free services are the in-school touring program and literacy programs. The schools don't have the funds to pay for these activities, but we feel that exposure to the arts is important and would like students to have these opportunities.

How do we cover our expenses? For our organization, income to balance the budget comes from several sources: ticket sales, tuition, playbill advertising, corporate sponsorships, grants, and donations from individuals. It's a challenge that we work on all through the year. Recently, we received notice that two of our larger funding sources have been cut. The Richard B. Salsbury Foundation offered substantial grants to many local groups, including the Theatre, over the past 20 years. This year's grant award check arrived with a letter informing us that the Foundation was being dissolved and this award would be the final one from the group.

In addition, the Florida State Legislature made a very severe cut to its funding for the arts. Last year, Florida was ranked 10th out of the 50 states in per capita funding for the arts. After the dust settled in Tallahassee, Florida is now ranked 44th. While the State funding has declined over each of the past four years, this year, it jumped off the cliff. What does it mean to Ocala Civic Theatre? Out of 489 arts organizations of all types from around the State that were vetted and reviewed, our grant was ranked #2. We were eligible to receive \$135,000 and will be receiving 6.7% of that figure, which is \$9,400. Heading into the new season, we will be stepping up our efforts to increase funding from the sources I listed above, looking for new sponsors and grant options, which includes asking you to consider making a donation to the Theatre. If you are already a donor, please continue to donate. If you have never donated, we promise to put your gift to good use. Have you made your donation to the renovation? Or consider including a donation when you purchase your season ticket. We realize that not every patron has the ability to donate over and above the cost of a ticket, but to those who can, it is money well spent on improving the quality of life for our community. If you would like to discuss a gift, please give me a call. We have a wide range of activities where you can target your support to the area about which you are most passionate. I look forward to hearing from you.

See you at the Theatre!

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SEASON 2017 - 2018 ■ MAY 2018

THE CURTAIN RAISER

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAY		1 Season Tickets On Sale	2	3	4	5 Volunteer picnic 12:30pm-2:30pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Mamma Mia! 8pm	18 Mamma Mia! 8pm	19 Scholarship Interviews Mamma Mia! 8pm
20 Mamma Mia! 2pm	21 Auditions for Be More Chill 7pm Tickets on sale: Gnarble, Harveys	22 Auditions for Be More Chill 7pm	23 Mamma Mia! 8pm	24 Mamma Mia! 8pm	25 Mamma Mia! 8pm	26 Mamma Mia! 2pm & 8pm
27 Mamma Mia! 2pm	28 Tickets on Sale for Press Start	29	30 Mamma Mia! 8pm	31 Mamma Mia! 8pm		

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 Tickets on Sale for Be More Chill	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.

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