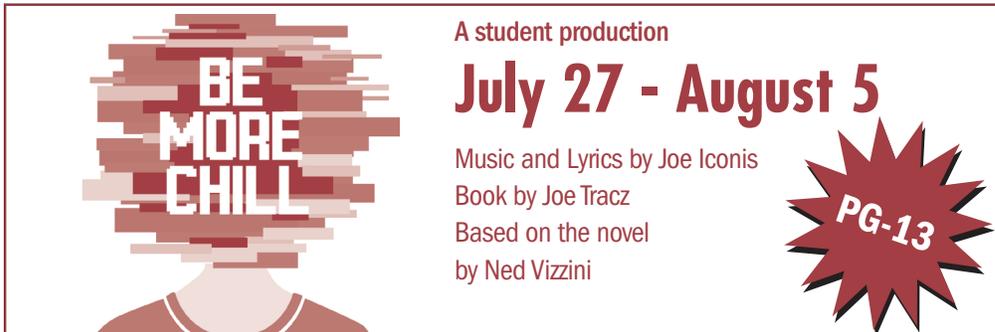


THE CURTAIN RAISER



A student production
July 27 - August 5
 Music and Lyrics by Joe Iconis
 Book by Joe Tracz
 Based on the novel
 by Ned Vizzini

Awkward high school junior Jeremy Heere (Devin Skorupski) is a social outcast who basically just wants to survive life in suburban New Jersey. His mom left, so now he lives with his dad (Adolfo Luis Benitez Otero), who works from home and thus sees no reason to wear pants.

Besides dreaming of being popular, Jeremy also desperately hopes to score a date with his crush, theatre nerd Christine (Megan Brown). He even tries out for the student production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – which drama teacher Mr. Reyes (Trey Campfield) has set in the post-apocalyptic future, featuring zombies instead of fairies.

School bully Rich (Jose Rivera) tells Jeremy about an amazing pill that will implant a tiny supercomputer called “The Squip” – Super Quantum Unit Intel Processor – in his brain, which will tell him how to act cool. So Jeremy takes the pill – and suddenly, the voice of The Squip (Gary Sonneberger) is in his head, sounding a lot like Keanu Reeves. And things instantly get cooler.

But do they really? Jeremy thinks he’s arrived when he scores an invite to the raddest Halloween party in town, at the home of ultra-cool Jake Dillinger (Dylan Coulson). But then The Squip tries to sabotage Jeremy’s budding romance with Christine by throwing two more girls into the mix: Chloe (Shelby Mae Randle), the hottest girl in school, and Brooke (Megan Wager), the second-hottest girl in school. Then, Jenna Rolan (Madeleine Meadows), who knows everyone’s business, manages to stir up even more drama. Finally, The Squip makes it clear to Jeremy that there’s no place in his super-cool new life for his geeky best friend Michael (Joshua Plante).

And when The Squip takes a role in the school play, his influence spreads throughout the entire ensemble (Thaylia Freeman, Brian Hence, Amber Marino, Morgan Morris, Hannah Parsons, Guillermo Torres). The Squip promises to bring Jeremy all he desires... but is getting everything he wants worth the risk if his own voice isn’t the loudest one in his head? This smart, quirky sci-fi musical is hilarious, thought-provoking, **and rated PG-13 for typical teenage language, humor, and content.**

Be More Chill is directed by Kirstin Kennedy. Music director is Jason Longtin. Choreographer is Melanie Spratt. Stage manager is Faith Pruitt. Set and lighting design is by William Spratt. Costume design is by Eryn Brooks Brewer.

There will be seven public performances from July 27 – August 5, 2018. Reserve your tickets for opening night and join us on Friday, July 27 at 7:00 p.m. for a reception an hour before the premiere performance. Delicious refreshments will be served, and beer and wine are available for purchase. Come celebrate the excitement of opening night!

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for full-time students (school ID required for college students). For more information, call (352) 236-2274 or go to www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

NEW TICKETING SYSTEM!

Starting July 1, Ocala Civic Theatre will have a new ticketing system. If you purchase tickets online at www.OcalaCivicTheatre.com, you will notice a new look and some great new features to make your ticket-buying experience more user-friendly. So don't be surprised by the change in appearance -- you're in the right place. The look of our tickets will be changing, too. When you purchase tickets at the box office after July 1, or when you get your season tickets in the mail later this summer, they will look different than they have for many years. But the great entertainment they admit you to enjoy is still the same!

Coming Events

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
Be More Chill
 Musical
 July 27 - August 5

Joseph and the Amazing
Technicolor Dreamcoat
 Musical
 September 6-30

Born Yesterday
 Comedy
 October 18 - November 11

Beyond Glory
 Drama
 November 15-18

Auditions

Joseph and the Amazing
Technicolor Dreamcoat
 Musical
 July 16-17

ATTENTION, SEASON TICKET HOLDERS!

Monday, August 6 is the first day for Flex Pass subscribers to make their reservations or for Standing Reservation subscribers to make exchanges for the 2018-2019 season. You may do either one in person at the box office or by phone at (352) 236-2274, Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting July 16

In accordance with the By-Laws of The Marion Players, Inc. (revised June 2014), Article IV, Section 1: The ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MARION PLAYERS, INC. (DBA OCALA CIVIC THEATRE) will be held on Monday, July 16, 2018, 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:

- Jeffry David
- Ana Dunwoody
- George Kirkland
- Joy Newkirk

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

- Deborah Barckhausen · Dr. Glenda (Rusty) Belote
- Jo Crowder

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.

Announcing The 2018 College Scholarship Winners!

Ocala Civic Theatre is pleased to provide several college scholarships each year to students planning to pursue a degree in the performing arts. Many local students get their start in our Education Department programs, and we are delighted to watch them develop their talents and remain active in theatre as they grow up. Since Ocala Civic Theatre's scholarship program was established in 1981, more than \$147,050 has been awarded to Marion County students majoring in the performing arts.

This year, Ocala Civic Theatre and ACT 4 are honored to provide a total of \$7,250 in scholarship funds to 11 talented students. We are proud to support their pursuit of higher education as well as the future of the performing arts.

This year's winners are:

- ACT 4 Scholarships: Aleigh Papagno, Joshua Plante, and Zoe Proeber
- Barbara Purvis Memorial Scholarship: Kelsey Plante
- Bill Bartlett Memorial Scholarship: Zachery Gilligan
- Bridget Bartlett Memorial Scholarship: Faith Pruitt
- Founders' Scholarship: Jonathan Leppert
- Harvey Klein Memorial Scholarship: Jonathan Leppert
- Leon Schmehl Memorial Scholarship: Ramona Shiwbaran
- Susan and Randall Moring Scholarship: Soulange Beaudet
- Other Scholarships: Amanda Raices

Congratulations to all of these outstanding students!



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 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

- **2018-2019 Season Tickets**
- **Starfish Circus**
- **Bedtime Stories (As Told By Our Dad) (Who Messed Them Up)**
- **Be More Chill**

Tickets Go On Sale

- **Season ticket exchanges and Flex Pass reservations begin: August 6**
- **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat: August 13**
- **Born Yesterday: September 10**
- **Beyond Glory: October 15**



Volunteer Spotlight – SHELBY RANDLE

Shelby Randle has been performing on the Ocala Civic Theatre stage since she was 10 years old. “I saw my brother in an Education Department production of *The Jungle Book* when I was about eight and remember thinking that maybe I could do that too,” she says. “I started taking classes, and then I started getting involved in as many shows as I possibly could. I started doing youth productions when I was 10, I did my first mainstage when I was 15, and I started teching when I was 17.”

Her first appearance was the 2009 production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Nine years later, performing is still her favorite volunteer activity. Shelby will take to the stage again later this month in *Be More Chill* and has appeared in *La Cage aux Folles*, *Cry-Baby*, *Urinetown*, *Blood Brothers*, *Into the Woods*, *13: The Musical*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Spoon River Project*, and *Legally Blonde*, among others. Any favorites? “There are so many that are dear to my heart... I’d say Little Sally in *Urinetown* and Lenora in *Cry-Baby*.”

Behind the scenes, Shelby was a dresser for *9 to 5* (her favorite tech job); worked deck crew for *Stocking Stuffers*, *Red Riding Hood*, and *Starfish Circus*; operated the spotlight for *Menopause: The Musical*, ran the sound board for *My Fair Lady* (her first tech experience: “Amazing!”) and *Dr. Coppelius’ Carnival*; and has been a youth assistant. She also has worked as a teaching artist for the Education Department. In future, she’d like to try being an assistant stage manager.

Shelby is a student at the College of Central Florida, where she has served as secretary of the theatre department. She works at Picasso’s Palette as a studio artist, and in her spare time enjoys movies, comedy, cooking, and her three dogs.

What’s the most rewarding thing about her ongoing involvement with OCT? “All the incredible friendships I’ve made. After years of being involved at the same theatre, these people are really like family to me. Getting to know everyone in the cast and crew, working tirelessly with them for weeks, and having an awesome production to show for it at the end... there’s no better feeling in the world.”

We agree! Keep coming back as long as you can, Shelby – we appreciate you for being a wonderful volunteer and are glad to have you in the theatre family.



The purpose of ACT 4 is to “promote, assist, and sustain the programs of Ocala Civic Theatre through the volunteer service of its members.” All funds raised by ACT 4 are designated for use by the Theatre.

ACT 4 sponsors the Gift Box in the Theatre Lobby, Gift Basket Raffles, and various fund-raising events throughout the year. During the 2017-2018 Season, ACT 4 donated over \$9,000 to the Theatre, including \$5,000 for a new copy machine, \$1,000 for scholarships for youth after-school theatre classes, and \$1,500 for college scholarships, as well as an additional \$1,500 for various other Theatre needs. In fact, since its incorporation in 1988, ACT 4 has raised and contributed \$170,000 to Ocala Civic Theatre.

We always welcome new members and invite you to join us! We have some exciting events planned for the upcoming 2018-2019 season, including another Casino Night and a new Dinner Theatre production. For additional information about ACT 4 or to request the ACT 4 monthly newsletter, please call Board of Directors President Joan Gustafson at (352) 622-5315.

ACT 4 – Ocala Civic Theatre, Inc. 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.

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 (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



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

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 are \$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 are \$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 2018 classes for ages 4-18 run through August 3.

Auditions July 16-17



**JOSEPH
AND THE
AMAZING
TECHNICOLOR
DREAMCOAT**

The beloved musical celebrates its 50th anniversary! This humorous reimagining of the Biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colors takes him from trials and tribulations to triumph. After his jealous brothers sell him into slavery in Egypt, poor Joseph is unjustly imprisoned. But when his gift of interpreting dreams saves the land from famine, it also miraculously reunites him with his long-lost family. The catchy pop score by Andrew Lloyd Weber features a variety of musical styles from country to calypso, disco to rock. It's an amazing Technicolor dream of a show!

Auditions will be held on Monday, July 16 and Tuesday, July 17 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*. There will be 22 public performances from September 6-30, 2018. For more information, call (352) 236-2274 or go to www.ocalacivictheatre.com.



Notes from the
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary H. Britt

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 34 in this group. Only 24 left from Ocala. The other 10 travelers met us along the way – four at the Orlando airport, one at La Guardia, and the rest at the hotel in New York! Since we do all the booking – not an outside travel company – we can be very flexible about arranging for your friends and family to join us. The theatre package includes Broadway shows, and we allow you to choose anything that's running, provided I can secure great tickets for you. On this trip, three shows were included in the package and our 34 travelers were happily scattered over 26 different shows! Several went on harbor cruises, went sight-seeing, visited museums, and planned special dinners. We'll be headed to Niagara-On-The-Lake October 3-7 to visit The Shaw Festival, Canada's wine country, and an overnight stay at Niagara Falls, and then back to New York City December 13-16 to see the holiday decorations and more Broadway shows. If you have an interest in receiving more detailed information on our trips, just call our box office and let them know to add you to the list. It's great fun!

It's July, so is there a summer slow-down? Not at Ocala Civic Theatre! The Theatre is filled with young people learning all about theatre from mid-June to early August. Students ages 4-18 are enrolled in summer camps where they can learn new skills and also be in a play. There are still spots left in some of the classes, so if you have children or grandchildren who might be interested, give us a call. And if you are looking for a fun family outing, come see one of the summer productions. *Starfish Circus* and *Bedtime Stories (As Told By Our Dad) (Who Messed Them Up)* are both really fun shows. By the way, you don't need to bring a child with you to be admitted. These shows are fun for all ages!

Of course, the other big project that's keeping us busy this summer is the renovation of the auditorium. We are set to start removing the old seats on August 6. We'll then be painting the auditorium and installing the new seats and carpet. The carpet will also be replaced in the lobby and hallways. We should be ready for you when you attend *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in September with a great new look. For those folks who generously donated to the renovation, we will be scheduling a special open house so you can get a first look at the completed project. You haven't made a donation to the renovation project yet? Well, it's not too late! I hope you will send a gift. Give me a call and we can discuss it.

New seats mean new seat assignments, and we are starting to assign seats for all the season ticket holders who prefer standing reservations. If we are able to give you what you requested, you won't hear from us. We will mail you your tickets in early August. If we are not able to give you what you requested, we will call you and give you some choices for your seats. We will also be contacting everyone who "purchased" a seat as part of the renovation project to let you choose the seat and also determine what you'd like on the donor plate.

That's not all! There will also be some fun new changes in the concession stand offerings, and we are switching to a new computerized ticketing system. Slow down in the summer? No way!

See you at the Theatre!

2017-2018 Board of Directors

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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

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Mary H. Britt

Production Manager/Technical Director

Dave Berardi

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

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Kirstin Kennedy

Director of Marketing & Promotions

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4337 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SEASON 2018 - 2019 ■ JULY 2018

THE CURTAIN RAISER

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO. 9

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST			1	2 <i>Be More Chill</i> 8pm	3 <i>Be More Chill</i> 8pm	4 <i>Be More Chill</i> 8pm
5 <i>Be More Chill</i> 2pm	6 Season ticket exchanges & flex pass reservations begin	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Tickets on Sale for <i>Joseph</i>	14	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.

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