

# THE CURTAIN RAISER



**January 10-20**

Book by Austin Winsberg  
 Music and Lyrics by Alan Zachary  
 and Michael Weiner

**SPONSORED BY: KTK 98.5 FM**

He's never been on a blind date. She's been on too many. When Aaron and Casey meet for dinner - with imaginary guest appearances by exes, friends, and family - sparks fly in this outrageously funny musical about finding love. It's a rapid-fire romantic comedy full of surprises!

*First Date* is directed by Chris Jorie. There will be 11 public performances from January 10-20, 2019. Tickets are \$27 for adults, \$25 for Signature Series subscribers, and \$13 for full-time students (school ID required for college students). Group rates are available as well. Call (352) 236-2274 or go to [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com). **Please be aware: This show contains strong profanity and sexual innuendo.**

Reserve your tickets for opening night and join us on Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. for a reception an hour before the premiere performance. Delicious refreshments will be provided, and beer and wine are available for purchase. Come celebrate the excitement of opening night!

### Got a great story of an unforgettable first date of your own?

Tell us about it! You could win tickets to the show, plus dinner and some other special perks to give you another memorable night out. Whether your first date was terrific or terrible, we want to hear about it. Message us on the Ocala Civic Theatre Facebook page with your story - you can write it (include photos if you have them!) or send us a video. Get creative! We'll post the winning entry on our page, so keep it rated PG-13... The deadline to submit your entry is January 7.

## Veterans History Project

Ocala Civic Theatre is coordinating a veterans history project to collect oral histories for the Library of Congress. Established by Congress in 2000, The Veterans History Project "collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war."

Ocala Civic Theatre is collecting oral histories from local veterans of American conflicts from World War II to the Afghan and Iraq wars. We will be happy to set up the interview, provide the camera equipment, record the history, provide the veteran with a copy, complete the necessary forms for submission, and send it to the Library of Congress, all free of charge to the veteran. There will be days when the public can view selected interviews, free of charge, at the Appleton Museum of Art and the Reilly Center for the Arts.

How can you help? Here's what we need:

- 1) Volunteers to interview, set up cameras, help with administrative tasks like scheduling, and serve on the steering committee.
- 2) Organizations that would like to volunteer as a group or to be trained to collect the oral histories for their organization (such as a VFW post).
- 3) Veterans who are interested in being interviewed, especially veterans of WWII and the Korean War because of their advanced age.
- 4) Donations. While there is no cost to the veteran or volunteers, there is a limited cost for materials, postage, and administrative expense.

If you're interested in participating, or for more information, please e-mail Project Chair Kim Wise at [veteranhistor2018@gmail.com](mailto:veteranhistor2018@gmail.com).

## Coming Events

Marion Ballet Theatre presents  
***The Nutcracker***  
 Classic Holiday Ballet  
 December 7-16

Marion Ballet Theatre presents  
***The Sugar Plum Fairy Tea Party***  
 December 8 & 15

**NYC Trip**  
 December 13-16

***First Date***  
 Musical  
 January 10-20

***She Loves Me***  
 Musical  
 February 7 - March 3

***Silent Sky***  
 Drama  
 March 7-17

***Eternity***  
 Comedy  
 March 28 - April 21

***The Addams Family***  
 Musical  
 May 16 - June 9

## Auditions

***She Loves Me***  
 Musical  
 December 10-11

***Silent Sky***  
 Drama  
 January 21-22

## Auditions for



Book by Joe Masteroff  
Music by Jerry Bock  
Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

### December 10-11

**SPONSORED BY: WOCA**

This charming musical is the story you know and love from several generations of classic films: *The Shop Around the Corner* with Jimmy Stewart and Margaret Sullavan, *In the Good Old Summertime* with Judy Garland and Van Johnson, and *You've Got Mail* with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. In this adaptation, Georg and Amalia, two bickering clerks in a Budapest perfume shop in 1934, can't stand each other. However, they're unknowingly each other's "Dear Friend," secret pen pals falling in love through their lonely-hearts letters. Wistful and warm-hearted, it's no secret why this romantic tale is such a favorite!

*She Loves Me* is directed by Kim Wise. Auditions will be held Monday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. It is only necessary to attend one night of auditions. Full details are available in the December 2018 *Cue Sheet*.

Not sure if there's a role for you? Check out a copy of the script for one week with a \$10 refundable deposit. Please call before coming to make sure a script is in stock. If you check out a script the week before auditions, you must return it by 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 7.

## 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:** 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.

## Auditions for



By Lauren Gunderson

### January 21-22

**SPONSORED BY: WUFT**

In the early 1900s, astronomer Henrietta Leavitt goes to work for the Girls' Department of the Harvard Observatory. She and two other brilliant women, Annie Cannon and Williamina Fleming, aren't allowed to touch a telescope, only assigned to map the heavens for their male colleagues. One of them, Peter Shaw, seems fated for a star-crossed romance with Henrietta. Meanwhile, her sister Margaret is balancing life as a wife and mother with a blossoming career as a composer of symphonies. This inspiring drama is based on the true stories of extraordinary women who reached for the stars.

*Silent Sky* is directed by Fred Mullen. Stage manager is Gregg Bleam. Auditions will be held Monday, January 21 and Tuesday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. It is only necessary to attend one night of auditions. Roles are available for four women and one man. Full details are available in the January 2019 *Cue Sheet*.

Not sure if there's a role for you? Check out a copy of the script for one week with a \$10 refundable deposit. Please call before coming to make sure a script is in stock. If you check out a script the week before auditions, you must return it by 5:30 p.m. on Friday, January 18.



## PLEASE JOIN US!

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, including scholarships for after-school and summer youth programs, and scholarships for college students majoring in the arts.

ACT 4 sponsors the Gift Box in the Theatre Lobby, Gift Basket Raffles, and various fundraising events throughout the year. Last season, ACT 4 contributed over \$9,000 to the Theatre, including \$5,000 for a new copy machine, \$1,000 for scholarships for youth programs, and \$1,500 for college scholarships, as well as an additional \$1,500 for various other Theatre needs. Since its incorporation in 1988, ACT 4 has raised and contributed more than \$170,000 to the Theatre.

We always welcome new members and invite you to join us! For additional information about ACT 4, 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.

## Tickets On Sale Now

- **2018-2019 Season Tickets**
- **Holiday gift certificates**
- **Holiday Flex Passes**
- ***The Nutcracker***
- **The Sugar Plum Fairy Tea Party**

## Tickets Go On Sale

- **First Date:** December 10
- ***She Loves Me:*** January 7
- ***Silent Sky:*** February 4



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Kraig and Deborah Pritts

Kraig and Deborah Pritts have volunteered at Ocala Civic Theatre since 2016. A week after moving here from New York, they came to OCT, purchased season tickets, and filled out volunteer forms. “We had been involved in community theatre, and this was a natural fit,” Kraig says.

Deborah and Kraig have quite a musical background. They met at the Eastman School of Music, where they earned their Bachelor’s degrees – Kraig in music education, Deborah in performance. They also are active in the music and youth programs at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, where Deborah plays piano and organ.

Kraig, a singer, has a Master’s in Education from Syracuse University and certification for Educational Administration from the State University of New York. A music teacher for 18 years, he directed and produced more than a dozen elementary-school and high-school musicals. As a superintendent of schools in upstate New York, he also substituted for music teachers, conducted the pit orchestra for the school production of *Cinderella*, and prepared students for their regional and state-level vocal competitions. Kraig also has performed in numerous musicals, including *Hello, Dolly!*, *The Music Man*, *Brigadoon*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Oliver!* An active ham radio operator and the leader of two national ham radio organizations, he also participates in various emergency response programs with the Marion County Sheriff’s Department Emergency Management Office.

Deborah has played piano since kindergarten. Her first exposure to theatre was playing in the pit orchestra in high school. She also is the alto section leader for the Central Florida Master Choir. Deborah, a retired United Methodist pastor, served in upstate New York churches for almost 30 years. As a curriculum trainer for the United Methodist Publishing House, she traveled across the United States and overseas. This past summer, she and Kraig took a musical tour of Italy.

“The musical and theatrical arts have always been an indispensable part of our lives,” she says. “When Kraig was teaching public school music, I was the pianist for all his school musicals. We even got up on stage a few times – we were Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol* a few years running! It was natural for us to get in touch with OCT when we moved down here.”

Both of them usher, and Deborah volunteers in the box office. Kraig serves as house manager and enjoys interacting with and providing personal assistance to theatre patrons. He adds, “Getting to know the people involved in the theatre and working alongside the other volunteers as everyone comes together for an enjoyable few hours is very rewarding.” He’s also thought about working backstage on a future youth production. “As an educator for more than three decades, I always love working with young people,” he says.

Deborah adds, “I volunteer because of my firm belief that the arts are a critical component of a strong community. Theatrical productions bring together musicians, actors, directors, builders, technicians, and more in a cross-generational community that values each contribution and applauds every honest effort. I volunteer because I delight in being part of that kind of community!”

And we are delighted to have you both here! Thank you, Deborah and Kraig, for being such a wonderful part of our volunteer community.

## 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!



## 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**



## 2018-2019 SEASON!

### First Date

Musical  
January 10-20, 2019

### She Loves Me

Musical  
February 7 – March 3, 2019

### Silent Sky

Drama  
March 7-17, 2019

### Eternity

Comedy  
March 28 – April 21, 2019

### The Addams Family:

**A New Musical**  
Musical  
May 16 – June 9, 2019

## NEW SEATS!

Phase One of Ocala Civic Theatre's exciting expansion began this summer with new seats! We have painted the auditorium, removed the old seats and replaced 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 more than 80% 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, and you may even make monthly payments. Call (352) 236-2274 and ask us for more details.

## December 7-16

Marion Ballet Theatre presents

# The Nutcracker



Marion Ballet Theatre invites you to celebrate the 38th annual *Nutcracker*! This magical production is a beloved Christmas tradition for the entire family. Performances are:

- Friday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 8 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 15 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for ages 13 and older, and \$15 for ages 12 and younger. To purchase tickets, call (352) 236-2274 or visit [www.OcalaCivicTheatre.com](http://www.OcalaCivicTheatre.com).

## December 8 & 15

Marion Ballet Theatre presents

# THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY TEA PARTY



The Sugar Plum Fairy Tea Party is a perfect way to create magical holiday memories with your children! Children will hear the story of *The Nutcracker*, meet and take photos with the cast (bring your camera!), and enjoy a ballet class. Sweets and treats will be served.

This special event is held onstage on the set of *The Nutcracker*. Children are encouraged to come dressed in their *Nutcracker* finery or favorite prince or princess costume.

There will be two sessions of the Sugar Plum Fairy Tea Party: Saturday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m. and Saturday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets are \$12 for children and \$10 for adults. Each child must be accompanied by an adult, who also must purchase a ticket and remain with the child for the full event. Limited tickets are available for each tea party. To purchase tickets, call (352) 236-2274 or visit [www.OcalaCivicTheatre.com](http://www.OcalaCivicTheatre.com).

## Give the gift of theatre for the holidays!



The magic of live theatre is a great gift idea for anyone! Gift certificates can be given in any amount and may be used for any show (once tickets go on sale to the public) or toward tuition for Education Department classes. Best of all, when you buy \$100 in gift certificates now through December 28, you get another \$25 free!

Holiday Flex Passes are \$75 per person and allow the recipient their choice of any three of the five remaining shows in the 2018-2019 season: *First Date*, *She Loves Me*, *Silent Sky*, *Eternity*, and *The Addams Family: A New Musical*. Flex Pass holders may make their reservations at any time during the season.

To purchase gift certificates or Holiday Flex Passes, call (352) 236-2274 or stop by the box office.



## Notes from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Mary H. Britt**

Hello! Have you finished your holiday shopping? I haven't even started! Well, I have a great gift idea to suggest: gift certificates from Ocala Civic Theatre, of course! Gift certificates are great for family, friends, and business acquaintances. They are always the right size and color. No need to wonder about whether they've read the latest book or own that DVD. Going to the theatre is great fun, and a gift certificate allows the recipient to choose the type of show they want. You choose the gift amount: one show, two shows, or a whole season of fun. What a great way to introduce someone, student or adult, to the magic of theatre! You can even use the certificate to pay for one of the classes offered by our Education Department. You can purchase the gift certificates in person or over the phone. We will be happy to mail the gift card to you or the person you designate. We have several people who live out of state who annually buy their parents tickets to attend our theatre. This year, we are offering a special discount: Buy \$100 in gift certificates and receive a \$25 bonus certificate! (You should keep that one for yourself as your reward for being such a creative shopper!) Let us help you with your holiday shopping!

I have an update on the renovation of the auditorium. I wish I could tell you that everything has been settled with the company from which we purchased the seats, but unfortunately, it's not settled yet. While I am thrilled with the seats themselves and we have gotten great feedback about how comfortable they are, we still don't have the correct arms or donor plaques. In fact, they have sent us the wrong arms and wrong donor plates twice. We are waiting now for the third shipment and for the company to send a crew to install them. I sincerely appreciate everyone's patience. Luckily, we have not made the final payment, so there is incentive for them to get the problems cleared up. I am hoping we will have everything installed by the end of the year. We will be sending the donors who "bought" a seat a letter in the mail with a form to fill out with their desired inscription and requested seat location. As soon as we get the correct arms and donor plates, we will have the plates engraved and have them installed. We are still seeking donations to reach our goal of \$200,000. We are about \$30,000 shy, so if you are interested in making a year-end charitable donation, please consider the Theatre and the many programs we offer to the community.

Don't forget: If you are 70 years old or older and would like to make a donation from your IRA, you can make the donation by cash or take advantage of the tax breaks by transferring stock directly from your IRA to the Theatre's accounts. By donating stock, you are able to take the full benefit of the stock's current value as a donation and will not need to pay the capital gains that would result from a sale of the stock. One of our supporters bought 80 shares of a stock 20 years ago at \$9 per share, and the current value was now \$1,300. When they transferred it to the Theatre, they were able to claim a charitable donation of the full \$1,300 and did not need to pay the tax on the increased value. That's a win for both of us. Check with your broker for details, or give me a call and I can direct you to someone who can answer questions. Thank you for considering us for a gift.

This time of year, especially, we all start to think about the many gifts we receive. Some are tangible gifts. Some are the gifts of family and friendships. We at the Theatre have many things to be thankful for this year. We are delighted to have new staff members - Dave Berardi, our Production Manager; Terry LeCompte, our Education Director; and Lynn Vinci, Box Office Assistant - and are grateful to those who have been with us for many years. We have many new volunteers and some who have been an integral part of the theatre's success for approaching 40 years (Randall and Susan Moring, Joan Gustafson, Fred Mullen, and Maxine Nelson). Next season, the Theatre celebrates its 70th anniversary. Yes, 70 years! We have amazing season subscribers. We welcome the new subscribers and appreciate those who have been subscribers for as many as 40 years. Our mission is to provide the community with the best live theatre, outstanding arts education, and opportunities to be a part of every show. Thank you for the part you've played in our success!

See you at the Theatre!

## 2018-2019 Board of Directors

### President

Philip Leppert

### Vice President

Herb Schmoll

### Treasurer

George Kirkland

### Secretary

Glenda "Rusty" Belote, Ph.D.

## Members

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Garry D. Adel       | Sarah Lankester    |
| Deborah Barckhausen | Joy Newkirk        |
| Jo Crowder          | Andrea Pizzuti     |
| Jeffrey David       | Darrell Riley      |
| Ana Dunwoody        | Gordon Schwenk, MD |
| Leslie Hagan, MD    |                    |

## Staff

### Executive Director

Mary H. Britt

### Production Manager/Technical Director

Dave Berardi

### Assistant Technical Director

William Spratt

### General Technician/Custodian

Ken Noble

### Scene Shop Intern

Mason Gray

### Administrative Assistants

Janice Kirk

Melody Murphy

### Box Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

Craig James

### Box Office Assistants

Ann Dietrich

Lynn Vinci

### Director of Marketing & Promotions

Larry Kiernan

### Social Media Coordinator

Sherece Gerard

### Director of Education

Terry LeCompte

### 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 2018 - 2019 ■ DECEMBER 2018

# THE CURTAIN RAISER

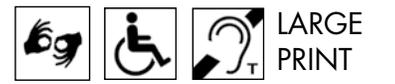
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| SUNDAY                         | MONDAY  | TUESDAY                                  | WEDNESDAY                         | THURSDAY                          | FRIDAY                            | SATURDAY  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>DECEMBER</b>                |   |  |                                   |                                   |                                   | 1   |
| 2                              | 3   | 4  | 5                                 | 6                                 | 7<br><i>Nutcracker</i><br>7:30pm  | 8<br>Tea Party 10am<br><i>Nutcracker</i><br>2pm & 7:30pm  |
| 9<br><i>Nutcracker</i><br>2pm  | 10 Tickets on sale for First Date Auditions for <i>She Loves Me</i> 7pm | 11 Auditions for <i>She Loves Me</i> 7pm | 12<br><i>Nutcracker</i><br>7:30pm | 13<br><i>Nutcracker</i><br>7:30pm | 14<br><i>Nutcracker</i><br>7:30pm | 15<br>Tea Party 10am<br><i>Nutcracker</i><br>2pm & 7:30pm |
| 16<br><i>Nutcracker</i><br>2pm | 17  | 18                                       | 19                                | 20                                | 21                                | 22  |
| 23                             | 24 Theatre closed   | 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! Theatre closed       | 26                                | 27                                | 28                                | 29  |
| 30                             | 31 Theatre closed   |  |                                   |                                   |                                   |   |

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>JANUARY</b>                 |   | 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Theatre closed       | 2         | 3                              | 4                              | 5                                    |
| 6                              | 7 Tickets on sale for <i>She Loves Me</i> | 8                                      | 9         | 10<br><i>First Date</i><br>8pm | 11<br><i>First Date</i><br>8pm | 12<br><i>First Date</i><br>2pm & 8pm |
| 13<br><i>First Date</i><br>2pm | 14  | 15                                     | 16        | 17<br><i>First Date</i><br>8pm | 18<br><i>First Date</i><br>8pm | 19<br><i>First Date</i><br>2pm & 8pm |
| 20<br><i>First Date</i><br>2pm | 21 Auditions for <i>Silent Sky</i> 7pm    | 22 Auditions for <i>Silent Sky</i> 7pm | 23        | 24                             | 25                             | 26                                   |
| 27                             | 28  | 29                                     | 30        | 31                             |                                |                                      |



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