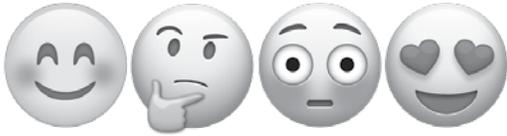


THE CURTAIN RAISER



FIRST DATE

January 10-20

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

SPONSORED BY: KTK 98.5 FM

Awkward nerd Aaron (James Ray Taylor III) has never been on a blind date before. Free-spirited bohemian Casey (Megan Wager) has been on way too many. What could go wrong? Well, just about everything, as these complete opposites soon discover. But when they meet for dinner, sparks fly.

The evening also features imaginary guest appearances by exes, friends, and family (Hannah Brannon, Deion Bruce Howard, Vanessa Quiñones, Patrick J. Stanley, Baylor Willis), who pop into Aaron and Casey's heads to offer advice served up with plenty of sass. Through song and dance, these mental narrators provide hilarious and heartfelt commentary on how the date's going.

Set in modern-day NYC, this 2013 Broadway musical is an outrageously funny, rapid-fire romantic comedy about finding love in surprising places. If you've been on a date, you can relate! **Please be aware: This show contains strong profanity and sexual innuendo.**

First Date is directed by Chris Jorie. Music director is Shane Bass. Stage manager is Dakota Brown. Set design is by Dave Berardi. Costume design is by Eryn Brooks Brewer. Lighting design is by Robert P. Robins. Sound design is by Steven Whipple.

There will be 11 public performances from January 10-20, 2019. The lobby opens one hour before each performance, at 7:00 p.m. before evening shows and at 1:00 p.m. before matinees. Beer and wine are available for purchase at the concessions stand.

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 are provided, and beer and wine are available for purchase. Come celebrate the excitement of opening night!

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.

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

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! Or you can post a photo or video on Instagram, share your story in the caption, and use hashtag #1stDateContest. We'll post the winning entry on our Facebook and Instagram pages (so keep it rated PG-13!). The deadline to submit your entry is January 7.

Coming Events

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

CAST (Creative Arts

Student Troupe)

For ages 11-17
 January 8 & 10
 5:00 p.m.

Silent Sky

Drama
 January 21-22
 7:00 p.m.

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.

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 Michael Cochran

February 11-12

SPONSORED BY: ELITE EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE

And you think your job is tough: Try being a Grim Reaper. Abe may not look like the traditional dark hooded figure with a scythe, but escorting departed souls to the afterlife is his job just the same. So can you blame Abe for delaying an "appointment" long enough to treat himself to an ice cream sandwich? Would it kill anyone? Well, actually, it might... since this little detour changes the lives (and deaths) of a young couple, a hotel detective, and a casino cocktail waitress. But what can't be fixed in a Las Vegas wedding chapel complete with Elvis impersonator - and a few ghosts? This divine comedy is to die for!

Eternity is directed by Chip Morris. Stage manager is Virginia "Frenchie" Bisiaux. Auditions will be held Monday, February 11 and Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. It is only necessary to attend one night of auditions. Roles are available for four women and five men. 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, February 8.



WE'RE MAKING SOME CHANGES!

ACT 4 is pleased to announce its new Gift Box Chairmen: Michelle Hamilton and Paulette Hamilton

You'll still be able to purchase lovely jewelry from some of our current artists, but we will be adding some new items in the next few months.

We are also pleased to announce that Glass Studio - Design by Daniel is back!

The next time you're attending a show at the Theatre, ACT 4 invites you to stop by The Gift Box and see what we have to offer!



Tickets On Sale Now

- 2018-2019 Season Tickets
- Three-Show Flex Passes
- First Date

Tickets Go On Sale

- *She Loves Me:* January 7
- *Silent Sky:* February 4
- *Eternity:* February 25

Volunteer Spotlight ACT 4

ACT 4, Ocala Civic Theatre's fundraising guild, recently celebrated its 30th anniversary! That's a volunteer milestone worth celebrating – so here's a little more about ACT 4's history and contributions to OCT.

The first meeting of ACT 4 was called to order by Founder Fran Clemons on November 30, 1988. By the end of that season, the Annual Meeting program listed 70 Charter Members, four of whom are still active members: Fred and Joyce Mullen, and Dick and Maxine Nelson.

ACT 4 has hosted many fundraisers over the past 30 years, most recently a Dinner Theatre Production, a Casino Night, and Casino Cruises. A new fundraiser is planned for the spring.

During the past two seasons, ACT 4 contributed more than \$24,000 to OCT, including \$7,000 for capital improvements, \$6,000 for scholarships for youth after-school theatre classes, \$4,500 for college scholarships, and \$6,500 for various Theatre needs. To date, ACT 4 has raised and contributed more than \$170,000 to OCT!

Items ACT 4 has purchased include the ladies room for the expansion, copy machines, hearing enhancers, wireless microphones and headsets, spotlights; the costume shop refrigerator, washing machine and dryer; the concessions stand refrigerator, scene shop tools, orchestra music-stand lights, and a variety of other items requested by the Theatre. Each season, ACT 4 pays the royalties for final dress rehearsals, which are open to Marion County students. It also sponsors a Golf Tournament hole, a program ad, and cast and crew "strike parties," and funds scholarships for the Theatre's youth programs. Additionally, Fran Clemons ACT 4 Scholarships are awarded each year to talented college students who major in the arts.

Special recognition for their dedicated service goes to current ACT 4 board members – President Joan Gustafson, Vice President Maxine Nelson, Treasurer Ed Hamilton, Secretary Ginny Riley, and Members-at-Large B. Thomas Fuson, Michelle Hamilton, Lizzie Lenon and John P.A. Sherman – as well as ACT 4 committee chairs: Lizzie Lenon (Casino Cruise), Maxine Nelson (Fundraising), Patti Cole (Gift Baskets), Michelle Hamilton and Paulette Hamilton (Gift Box), and Joyce Mullen (Membership). Last season, these individuals volunteered more than 2,000 hours fundraising for OCT!

ACT 4 currently has more than 50 members – and you're invited to join! For more information, call President Joan Gustafson at (352) 622-5315 or Membership Chairman Joyce Mullen at (352) 300-3482.

ACT 4 has made a tremendous difference to OCT and will continue into the future. Thank you, ACT 4, for all your contributions! We appreciate you more than we can say!

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!



Ocala Civic Theatre
Ocala Civic Theatre
Education Department



@ocalacivic



Ocala Civic Theatre



@ocalacivic
#ocalacivictheatre

Veterans History Project

As part of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, 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 veteranhhistory2018@gmail.com.

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



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

13th Annual Literacy Tour January 28 – March 8

Our 13th annual literacy tour kicks off this month! We are excited to visit local schools to celebrate the work of selected authors and illustrators while encouraging students to read. This year for grades K-6 we have Jacqueline Woodson's *Each Kindness*, a Coretta Scott King Honor book and the winner of a Jane Addams Pease Award. Chloe and her friends won't play with the new girl, Maya. When Chloe's teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship. Making the world a little better with its powerful anti-bullying message and striking art, *Each Kindness* will resonate with readers of all ages.

The literacy tour runs January 28 through March 8. If you're interested in being a presenter, call Education Director Terry LeCompte at (352) 236-2851, ext. 107.

Auditions January 21-22

CREATIVE ARTS STUDENT TROUPE

Led by Education Director Terry LeCompte, our new Creative Arts Student Troupe will meet twice a week throughout the winter and spring. Together they will explore stories and songs around a central theme to co-create a musical revue that will be presented in our black box theatre. Youth will develop their skills in all aspects of performing arts through practical, hands-on application. With guidance from guest teaching artists who specialize in areas of music and movement, ensemble members will all shine through acting, singing, and dancing.

Where interest is shown, some may write, direct, or choreograph pieces of the revue. To ensure engagement for all, the troupe is limited to 20 youth who will be selected at auditions.

Auditions are Tuesday, January 8 and Thursday, January 10 at 5:00 p.m. It is only necessary to attend one night of auditions. Youth do not need to prepare anything for the audition and should come dressed comfortably to move.

Class meets January 15 to May 2, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. (CAST will not meet the week of Spring Break, March 18-22.) Tuition is \$250. Performances are May 4-5.



February 7 – March 3

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

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 and choreographed by Kim Wise. Music director is Bryan Mercer. Stage manager is Faith Donahue. Set design is by Timothy J. Dygert. Costume design is by Eryn Brooks Brewer.

There will be 22 public performances from February 7 – March 3, 2019. Reserve your tickets for opening night and join us on Thursday, February 7 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!

Tickets go on sale January 7 at \$27 for adults 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.

Annual Get Up and Go Drawing begins February 7

The annual Get Up & Go drawing returns! For a donation of only \$5, you can have a chance to win one of eight terrific prize packages, including restaurant and shopping packages, a Disney World weekend, and season tickets for the 2019-2020 season. The grand prize is a Viking river cruise!

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and will be on sale beginning February 7 at the Theatre box office. Tickets also will be on sale at performances of *She Loves Me*, *Silent Sky*, and *Eternity*. The drawing will be held at the Theatre at noon on Tuesday, April 23. For additional information, call (352) 236-2274.



Notes from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mary H. Britt

Hello! I hope your holidays were filled with good food, family, and friends. It certainly seemed to me that 2018 flew by. We are only halfway through our season, so while 2018 might be behind us now, we are looking forward to several exciting productions ahead.

She Loves Me is in rehearsals and is sure to warm your heart with great music, as well as a romantic story which has been so popular that it has been used as the basis for several movies and plays. *First Date* is running January 10-20. It's a recent Broadway hit and is part of our Ovation Series. *First Date* allows us to slip inside the minds of two young people meeting for their first date: Will they like me? Will I like them? What will we talk about? Is there a connection? How much of the baggage from my former relationships do I unpack in this first meeting? What will my parents and friends have to say? So stressful, but if you find the right person, it could be a lifetime of happiness. Okay, that just added to the stress! Does it matter that these two characters are millennials? Not at all, because there is always the "first date," whether you are 30 and never married, or 40 or 50 or older and starting over. You want to put your best foot forward, but also need to listen to see what is revealed by your date. It's a modern romantic comedy with great music and a fun and hopeful story.

While we may only be halfway through the 2018-2019 season, our play selection committee has been meeting since August to craft the 2019-2020 season. The committee reviews dozens of scripts: plays, musicals, comedies, dramas, and mysteries. Committee members bring ideas. Subscribers make suggestions.

The Signature Series is crafted to appeal to general audiences and frequently includes a specifically family-friendly show, like this year's *The Addams Family Musical* and previous shows *Shrek* and *Mary Poppins*. The Ovation Series, on the other hand, may include issues or language that may be edgier. It may include dramas with no strong language, but serious topics. If there is strong language or subject matter, you will see a note included in the advertising for the show. Why? We'd like you to be informed before buying a ticket. If you see the note and would like more information, please call the box office and ask about the show. There is no way for us to know in advance what may offend each individual. We've often gotten calls after seeing the show to say they felt the warning was too strong, as they found nothing offensive, but we'd much rather err on the side of caution. We have presented many Pulitzer Prize-winning productions in the Ovation Series, such as *Wit* and *How I Learned To Drive*, plus others like this season's *Beyond Glory* that have been well-received in the community, but do contain serious subject matter and some strong language.

I recently received a letter to complain that we would offer any show that contained profanity and sexual innuendo. She had been a subscriber for several years, but said she did not intend to return because we were offering *First Date*. I am puzzled by this response. If she has enjoyed several years of productions at our theatre and didn't intend to buy a ticket to *First Date*, why would she decide never to return? Although there are vast differences between a live theatre performance and a movie or television show, the way we choose what we watch is much the same. When you attend a movie that disappoints you, do you decide never to return to that movie theatre? Same with television films or series: If you don't like one of the offerings, just choose another one that better suits your likes and dislikes. We are not a political organization and do not align with any particular party. Nor are we a religious organization. Both *The Sound of Music* and *Fiddler on the Roof* are shows on the very top of popular lists, not because they are either Catholic or Jewish, but because both offer stories about families' relationships and challenges to which we can all relate.

I am disappointed any time one of our patrons is unhappy with one of our productions. But we serve a diverse community and make an effort to provide a variety of shows to choose from. While theatre is often presented for its pure entertainment value, it can also be enlightening, educational, and a catalyst for change. If you have questions about the content, please give us a call and I'm sure you will find great shows that appeal to you in our upcoming schedule.

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
Jeffry 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

Costume Shop Assistant

Kaitlin Sikes



4337 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SEASON 2018 - 2019 ■ JANUARY 2019

THE CURTAIN RAISER

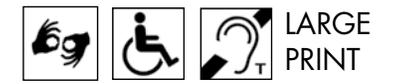
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OCALA, FL
PERMIT NO. 9

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY		1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Theatre closed	2	3	4 Ed. Dept. Open House 4:30pm	5
6	7 Tickets on sale for <i>She Loves Me</i>	8 CAST auditions 5pm	9	10 CAST auditions 5pm <i>First Date</i> 8pm	11 <i>First Date</i> 8pm	12 <i>First Date</i> 2pm & 8pm
13 <i>First Date</i> 2pm	14	15	16 <i>First Date</i> 8pm	17 <i>First Date</i> 8pm	18 <i>First Date</i> 8pm	19 <i>First Date</i> 2pm & 8pm
20 <i>First Date</i> 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		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY					1	2
3	4 Tickets on sale for <i>Silent Sky</i>	5	6	7 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm	8 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm	9 <i>She Loves Me</i> 2pm & 8pm
10 <i>She Loves Me</i> 2pm	11 Auditions for <i>Eternity</i> 7pm	12 Auditions for <i>Eternity</i> 7pm	13 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm	14 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm	15 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm	16 <i>She Loves Me</i> 2pm & 8pm
17 <i>She Loves Me</i> 2pm	18	19	20 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm	21 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm	22 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm	23 <i>She Loves Me</i> 2pm & 8pm
24 <i>She Loves Me</i> 2pm	25 Tickets on sale for <i>Eternity</i>	26	27 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm	28 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm		

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.



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