

THE CURTAIN RAISER



**February 7
– March 3**

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

**SPONSORED BY:
WOCA · HIERS-BAXLEY**

In 1930s Budapest, love is in the air along with all the sweet scents of Maraczek's Parfumerie. The perfume shop has a small staff, but it's full of secret romances.

Georg Nowack (Will Winter) is corresponding with a woman he only knows as "Dear Friend" from their anonymous lonely-hearts letters. As it turns out, his secret pen pal is actually new clerk Amalia Balash (Ashlyn Gibbs). By day, these two bickering clerks can't stand each other – but by night, unbeknownst to each other, they're falling in love.

Meanwhile, the shop's owner, Mr. Maraczek (Tom Ferreira), suspects that his wife is having an affair with one of his clerks – and he's right. But it's not the one he thinks. His wife is actually cheating on him with Steven Kodaly (Tyler Schank), who is also having a fling with another clerk, Ilona Ritter (Elizabeth Allen). Through it all, clerk Ladislav Sipos (Jose Rivera) and delivery boy Arpad Laszlo (Matthew Minassian) are there to provide personal and professional support for their romantically entangled coworkers.

And the ensemble (Jessica Allen, P.J. Allen, Tamara Alvarado, Gregg Bleam, Joey Coombs, Marcus Cote, Don Maines, Kelly Myers, Danielle Posner, Shelby Randle) portrays a variety of characters who add to the Old-World charm of long-ago Europe.

This delightful 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. 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. Lighting design is by Robert P. Robins. Sound design is by Justin Lewis.

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 are \$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.

Coming Events

She Loves Me

Musical

February 7 – March 3

Silent Sky

Drama

March 7-17

Second Annual

Summer Camp Expo

March 24

Eternity

Comedy

March 28 – April 21

The Addams Family:

A New Musical

May 16 – June 9

Auditions

Eternity

Comedy

February 11-12

7:00 p.m.

The Addams Family:

A New Musical

Comedy

March 25-26

7:00 p.m.

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.



By Lauren Gunderson

March 7-17

SPONSORED BY: WUFT

In the early 1900s, astronomer Henrietta Leavitt goes to work for 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 managers are Gregg Blean and Megan Brown. There will be 11 public performances from March 7-17, 2019. Reserve your tickets for opening night and join us on Thursday, March 7 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.

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

- **Three-Show Flex Passes**
- **She Loves Me**
- **Silent Sky**

Tickets Go On Sale

- **Eternity:** February 25
- **The Addams Family: A New Musical:** April 15



Volunteer Spotlight Amy Heath

You never see Amy Heath on stage – but you do see evidence of her artistry in our wonderful sets and props, which is how she shares her considerable talents.

She began volunteering at Ocala Civic Theatre in the summer of 2016. “A friend of mine who was a volunteer at OCT took me to a show, and as I was admiring the set, she informed me that the sets for the shows were built and painted with the help of volunteers,” Amy says. “I knew that there were volunteer opportunities at the Theatre, but I was pleasantly surprised to find out that aspect was also open to volunteers. I’ve always been interested in scenic design and other behind-the-scenes work, so as soon as I got the chance, I signed up to volunteer in the set shop.”

Amy got started by working on set construction and painting for *9 to 5: The Musical*. “The first task I was assigned was mudding plywood desks with joint compound,” she recalls. “I favor painting overall, particularly when a certain finish or effect is needed, like wood grain or stone.”

Though set painting has been the way she’s put in the greatest number of hours, she’s also assisted with special events like the “How Do We Do That?” Open House and the Senior Expo. She also helped remove the old seats from the auditorium this past summer.

More recently, Amy has begun working on props. She found or created the beautiful vintage-looking props you’re seeing this month in *She Loves Me*, bringing to life the Old-World charm of 1930s Budapest. “If a certain prop has to be made, I enjoy researching the item and attempting to make it look like the real thing,” she says. “It’s very rewarding to create a prop that plays its part well.”

Working on props has led her to work a little in the costume shop as well, on prop items that require sewing. In fact, she’s enjoyed it so much that she hopes to spend more time volunteering in the costume shop.

What’s the most rewarding thing for her about volunteering at the Theatre? “Meeting the talented people that I’ve had the opportunity to work with. I’ve met a lot of fun and creative people that have made volunteering at OCT a great experience.”

Thank you, Amy, for being such a great volunteer!

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



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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 veteranhistor2018@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



Notes from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mary H. Britt

Hello! 2019 is starting off well with a successful run of *First Date* in January and the romantic musical comedy *She Loves Me* running the month of February. By the way, there is a performance of *She Loves Me* on Valentine's Day, in case you're looking for a grand night out with your sweetheart.

We will also be kicking off this year's Get Up & Go Drawing at *She Loves Me* - and have I got news for you! In the past, the top prize has been a \$2,000 American Express Gift Card. This year, the top prize will be a European River Cruise provided by the incredible Viking Cruise Lines, such as their eight-day Rhine Getaway, Romantic Danube, Danube Waltz, or Lyon & Provence cruises. There still will be a total of eight prizes for those entering the drawing, including two restaurant packages, a local shopping spree, Busch Gardens Tampa getaway, and more. Tickets are only \$5 each (or buy five for \$20 and it's like you get a bonus ticket for free!). Tickets will be available beginning February 7, and the drawing will be on April 23 at noon. There is no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase.

We're excited to announce the return of the Summer Camp Expo, scheduled this year for Sunday, March 24. Last spring's event was such a hit that we knew it needed to be an annual event. This year we are pleased to be co-hosting the Expo with our friends and neighbors, the Appleton Museum of Art! This fun, FREE outdoor event will be held on the grounds of Ocala Civic Theatre and the Appleton Museum, so come enjoy what we hope will be a beautiful spring day.

We're also holding the Expo a month earlier than last year so you can get a head start on planning summer activities for your kids. Lots of local businesses and organizations will be here with information booths, making this a convenient way for you to check out all the great camps our community will be offering this summer. We will have our Education Department summer schedule out earlier than ever before, so Summer 2019 brochures and class registrations will be available at the Expo. Make Ocala Civic Theatre part of a great summer for your family!

We also can announce the date for our 28th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. We'll be at the beautiful Candler Hills Golf Club on Friday, April 26 with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. Sponsor forms and registration forms will soon be coming your way, but circle that date on the calendar. It's always a fun day with more than 50 on-course and door prizes. I'll send in our request for beautiful weather, too.

I wanted to give you an update on the last of the renovation's missing pieces. We've been waiting for quite some time now for the 36 right-hand aisle armrests with the donor plate of the correct size and location. The manufacturer has now sent three sets of the wrong design. The latest set, which will hopefully arrive next week, will finally be correct and we can have the project finished. Once the shipment arrives, I will get a date when the installers can return to install them. I apologize to everyone who donated, as no one would have anticipated it would take this long. For anyone still wishing to purchase a seat or make a donation in any amount, we would love to hear from you. Thank you for your patience.

And most of all, thank you for every way you continue to support Ocala Civic Theatre, whether through your ticket purchases, donations, volunteer hours, or one of the easiest ways: word of mouth! Invite your friends to join you for a great evening or afternoon of entertainment. Today's guest could be tomorrow's season ticket holder, actor, set builder...

See you at the Theatre!

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4337 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SEASON 2018 - 2019 ■ FEBRUARY 2019

THE CURTAIN RAISER

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

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 ASL <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MARCH					1 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm	2 <i>She Loves Me</i> 8pm
3 <i>She Loves Me</i> 2pm	4	5	6	7 <i>Silent Sky</i> 8pm	8 <i>Silent Sky</i> 8pm	9 <i>Silent Sky</i> 2pm & 8pm
10 <i>Silent Sky</i> 2pm	11	12	13 <i>Silent Sky</i> 8pm	14 <i>Silent Sky</i> 8pm	15 <i>Silent Sky</i> 8pm	16 <i>Silent Sky</i> 2pm & 8pm
17 <i>Silent Sky</i> 2pm	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <i>Eternity</i> 2pm	25 Auditions for <i>Addams Family</i> 7pm	26 Auditions for <i>Addams Family</i> 7pm	27	28 <i>Eternity</i> 8pm	29 <i>Eternity</i> 8pm	30 <i>Eternity</i> 2pm & 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.

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