

THE CURTAIN RAISER



March 7-17

By Lauren Gunderson

SPONSORED BY: WUFT

In the early 1900s, astronomer Henrietta Leavitt (Melody Murphy) is restless to leave her dutiful life as a clergyman's daughter. She jumps at an offer to work at the Harvard Observatory, where she meets the two fiercely smart women who lead the "Girls' Department": feisty Annie Cannon (Laura Bradford) and good-humored Williamina Fleming (Celia Bills).

Henrietta is dismayed to discover that, though she and the other women are all brilliant scientists, they aren't allowed to touch a telescope - only assigned to map the heavens for their male colleagues. One of them, head astronomer's apprentice Peter Shaw (Dan King), seems fated for a star-crossed romance with Henrietta.

Meanwhile, back home in Wisconsin, Henrietta's sister Margaret (Eryn Brooks Brewer) has stayed behind to care for their aging father, as well as her husband and child, and to serve as the church pianist. However, Henrietta isn't the only one in the family with passion and talent: Though outwardly more traditional, Margaret is balancing life as a wife and mother with a blossoming career as a composer of symphonies. In fact, her music gives Henrietta a flash of insight which leads to research and discoveries that affect our own understanding of the universe today. Lit with a luminous beauty, 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 Bleam and Megan Brown. 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 Steven Whipple.

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. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (352) 236-2274 or visit www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HENRIETTA AND THE STARS ON MARCH 10

James C. Albury, coordinator of Santa Fe College's Kika Silva Pla Planetarium and co-host of the nationally syndicated PBS television program *Star Gazers*, will give a brief presentation after the Sunday, March 10 matinee of *Silent Sky* to answer questions on astronomy. In April, the planetarium will present *Lives of the Stars*, which includes a history of astronomy with a focus on how Henrietta Leavitt and her team added to our knowledge of the cosmos.

Coming Events

Silent Sky

Drama
March 7-17

**Second Annual
Summer Camp Expo**
March 24

Eternity

Comedy
March 28 - April 21

**28th Annual Charity Golf Tournament
To Benefit Ocala Civic Theatre**
April 26

Marion Ballet Theatre presents

Giselle

April 26-27

The Princess Parade Ballet & Tea Party

April 27-28

C.A.S.T.

(Creative Arts Student Troupe)

Student Production
May 4-5

The Addams Family:

A New Musical

May 16 - June 9

Auditions

The Addams Family:

A New Musical

Comedy
March 25-26
7:00 p.m.



By Michael Cochran

March 28 – April 21

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, but escorting departed souls is his job just the same. So can you blame Abe for a delay to treat himself to ice cream? 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. There will be 21 public performances from March 28 – April 21, 2019. Reserve your tickets for opening night and join us on Thursday, March 28 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.

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT!

Michael Cochran, who wrote *Eternity*, will be with us on Sunday, March 31. He will give a talkback immediately after the performance (around 3:45 p.m.), with a meet-and-greet opportunity for the audience. Come meet the author of this hilarious, thought-provoking comedy!

Auditions for



Book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice
Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

March 25-26

**SPONSORED BY:
OCALA'S GOOD LIFE MAGAZINE · WIND FM**

The iconic TV show comes to life in a marvelously morbid musical! Wednesday Addams is all grown up and in love with an ordinary young man from Ohio. On a dark and stormy night, the future in-laws arrive at the macabre mansion to meet the “creepy and the kooky, mysterious and spooky” Addams Family: Morticia and Gomez, Pugsley, Uncle Fester, Lurch, and Grandma. Meeting the parents has never been so terrifying... especially when the spirits of the Addams ancestors in the graveyard rise to the occasion. This 2010 Broadway hit is delightfully dark, frightfully funny, and a gleefully Gothic good time!

The Addams Family: A New Musical is directed by Katrina Ploof. Auditions will be held Monday, March 25 and Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. It is only necessary to attend one night of auditions. Full details will be available in the March 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, March 22.



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've also added some exciting new items:

Glass Studio - Design by Daniel

Glamorous Gift Bags by Joyce Mullen

Note Cards featuring original artwork by Celia Bills

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**
- **Silent Sky**
- **Eternity**

Tickets Go On Sale

- **Giselle and The Princess Parade Ballet & Tea Party:**
March 25
- **C.A.S.T.:** April 8
- **The Addams Family: A New Musical:**
April 15

Save The Dates! Marion Ballet Theatre presents...

The great classical ballet

Giselle

An inspirational spiritual journey

“It's never too late to forgive someone you love”

April 26-27

Then it's happily ever after with

The Princess Parade Ballet & Tea Party

Travel through time with Tinker Bell and her fairy friends on a magical journey!

April 27-28



Volunteer Spotlight Herb Schmolli

Herb Schmolli, vice-president of the Ocala Civic Theatre board of directors, has been involved with OCT since before the current building was around. In fact, he's a big part of why it exists!

In 1985, Herb had his own theatrical supply and engineering company in Tampa when he heard that OCT wanted to build a new, larger facility. Long story short: Herb and his business partner became the consultants for the project. They did a feasibility study, came up with a strategy, helped locate the site for the current building, and were involved every step of the way until the grand opening in 1988.

After the dedication ceremony for the new building, Herb didn't return to OCT for 10 years, due to career changes and relocation. But then, after retiring, he and his wife moved to Ocala. In 2013, they came to see *Les Miserables*, and that was the beginning of his re-involvement with OCT. Executive Director Mary Britt asked Herb to chair the long-range planning committee, then he began serving on the board of directors.

Since then, he has volunteered in numerous ways: helped with set construction and the annual volunteer picnic, served as a judge for the Tech Olympics and scholarship committee, and assisted with last year's Summer Camp Expo and removing the old seats from the auditorium. In 2017, Herb won the Michael Hewett Memorial Award for an exceptional member of the board of directors.

In fact, his favorite volunteer activity is serving on the board. "It's a terrific combination of people who are loyal members of and contributors to the theatre. This is a great opportunity for people with a daily connection to the theatre to connect with others in the community."

Herb has been involved with a dozen non-profit organizations, and, he says, "This is the best one I've seen. This is an extraordinary enterprise. We are lucky to have a theatre like this in a community this size. It's a tribute to the board and their vision, the phenomenal staff and volunteers."

What's the most rewarding aspect for him about volunteering here? "My history with the organization, as well as my belief that every single person here shares a common goal: to do the absolute best thing for the community through our theatre. It's an enormous group of people who have made the commitment to do this at the highest possible level. Volunteers in any organization need to feel like whatever they do is worthwhile. And here, they do. This inspires people. It changes lives."

Anything else he'd like to try in future at OCT? Herb used to be a professional lighting designer and taught lighting design at UF, and might like to try it again. (Fun fact: He taught Bob Robins, long-time OCT lighting designer whose beautiful work can be seen in *Silent Sky*, in his first class at UF!)

Herb, thank you so much for all your tireless hard work and dedication, both 30 years ago and today. We literally wouldn't be where we are without you!

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!



College Scholarships Available

Ocala Civic Theatre is proud to offer a scholarship program for Marion County residents planning to major in the performing arts at college. More than \$147,050 has been awarded since the scholarship program was established in 1981.

Both high school and college students may apply. Scholarships are available in Theatre Arts (including Acting, Playwriting, Directing, and Technical Theatre), Music (Voice and Instrument), and Dance. This competitive process requires an application, an essay, letters of recommendation, an interview, and an audition. The awarded amount is a minimum of \$500. Scholarships will be paid directly to each winner's college by or before June 30, 2019.

Applications and instructions are available online at www.OcalaCivicTheatre.com, or stop by the Theatre box office. **The absolute deadline for submitting applications and ALL needed materials is 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19, 2019. No exceptions will be made for incomplete or late applications.**

There will be an optional prep meeting on Monday, April 8 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The audition/interview will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at the Theatre. If an applicant will be unavailable for the May 11 audition, please contact the Theatre regarding a video submission. Previous winners and new applicants are both eligible to apply.

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!

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

April 26



28th Annual Golf Tournament to Benefit Ocala Civic Theatre

Sponsored by



The 28th annual charity golf tournament to benefit Ocala Civic Theatre returns on Friday, April 26! The tournament will be held at the beautiful Candler Hills Golf Club at 8137 SW 90th Terrace Road. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. The tournament begins with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. The cost is \$90 per player, which includes a box lunch, on-course water and sodas, free range balls, greens fees, a cart, goodie bags, and more than 50 on-course and door prizes (including a chance to win a million dollars for a hole-in-one!), with awards immediately following the tournament.

There are opportunities to contribute as a corporate, scorecard, hole, raffle, or door prize sponsor. Sponsors who donate \$100 or more will receive a certificate for future play at Candler Hills Golf Club. To become a sponsor, please contact Larry Kiernan at (352) 236-2851, ext. 108. The registration form is available at www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

Annual Get Up and Go Drawing



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Exploring the World in Comfort®

The annual Get Up & Go drawing is underway! 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 Busch Gardens 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 are on sale now at the Theatre box office. Tickets also are on sale at performances of *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.

NEW SEATS!

Phase One of Ocala Civic Theatre's exciting expansion began last 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 85% 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.

Second Annual Summer Camp Expo March 24

SPONSORED BY:     



Come plan a great summer for your kids at our Second Annual Summer Camp Expo on Sunday, March 24!

Gather information and register your kids for summer activities offered by local organizations and businesses. This fun and FREE outdoor event is held from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of Ocala Civic Theatre and the Appleton Museum. In addition to information booths on local arts, sports, and outdoor camps, there will be games and activities, food trucks, and more!



Notes from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mary H. Britt

Hello! As you know, Ocala Civic Theatre presents a variety of musicals, comedies, and dramas throughout the year for the community. We have some of the very best volunteers, designers, directors, guest artists, and staff, all working together to make sure our community has the opportunity to enjoy live theatre at its finest right here in our hometown. Our recent production of *She Loves Me* is a great example of this drive for excellence. What we do on stage is the most visible of all the Theatre's activities, but did you know that the Theatre's mission includes a dedication to arts education? Much of our arts education work happens out of the spotlight, but I am very proud of what we've accomplished and would like to share some of that with you this month.

The arts education program is active year-round and managed by our Director of Education, Terry LeCompte. You may be aware that we offer after school and summer classes for students ages 4 to 18. These classes are divided into three sessions: Fall, Winter/Spring, and Summer. We offer both skills classes and performance classes which will result in a play performed for the public. Classes are small, so students get a lot of personal attention. There is tuition charged for the classes, but we also offer financial aid to students who demonstrate financial need.

Less widely known is the outreach work we do with local schools. For almost 30 years, we have booked a professional touring company to perform at the theatre, and schools can arrange field trips to bring their students to view the show. This production targets students in grades K through 3. After bussing students to the theatre for many years, we realized that many of the outlying schools didn't attend. After all, Romeo Elementary is 40 miles from the theatre. It was decided that we would create two programs to tour to the schools so no students would be left out. We have developed a great relationship with the administrative staff at the Marion County School Board to work with the schools to make sure that the programs are relevant and fit into the schools' yearly calendar. We are particularly proud of these two programs which have reached over 100,000 students over the last 13 years when this year's tour wraps up this month. In the fall, the Theatre sends a full-length play to schools targeting grades 2-6. The topic of the play varies, and we've addressed diversity, bullying, and classic stories as a general introduction to live theatre. This fall, we toured 18 schools with a production of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, performing for 3,264 students and their teachers. The second in-school program tours the schools in February and March and is a literacy program, encouraging students to fall in love with reading. Each year a different children's author is featured. It started with an author for students in Pre-K through 1st grade, and in 2014, we added a second author for 3rd through 6th grades. Last year's literacy tour reached over 11,000 students at 28 schools.

An extensive study guide is prepared for teachers for each of the in-school programs to help the students get the most from each presentation. Teachers are asked to complete evaluation forms to let us know what we are doing right and where we can improve. Both public and private schools are welcome to book the tours and attend the professional production.

Knowing that school budgets are underfunded for arts education, the Theatre has been committed to finding sponsors to cover the expense and offer it to every interested school at no charge. The cost of the three school-based programs over the 13 years? \$296,850. The major sponsor for many years for these programs was the Richard B. Salsbury Foundation. Several other local organizations have supported these programs, including Marion Cultural Alliance, Ocala Municipal Arts Commission, and the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs. This year, for the first time, the City of Ocala through its Community Grants program is helping to sponsor the Literacy Tour.

As you can tell, we are very proud of these outreach programs. If you'd like additional information, just let me know and we can meet.

See you at the theatre!

2018-2019 Board of Directors

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Ocala, FL 34470

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SEASON 2018 - 2019 ■ MARCH 2019

THE CURTAIN RAISER

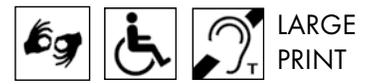
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MARCH					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 <i>Silent Sky</i> 8pm	8 <i>Silent Sky</i> 8pm	9 <i>Silent Sky</i> 2pm & 8pm
10 <i>Silent Sky</i> 2pm	11	12	13 <i>Silent Sky</i> 8pm	14 <i>Silent Sky</i> 8pm	15 <i>Silent Sky</i> 8pm	16 <i>Silent Sky</i> 2pm & 8pm
17 <i>Silent Sky</i> 2pm	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Summer Camp Expo 12pm-3pm	25 Auditions for <i>Addams Family</i> 7pm Ballet tickets on sale	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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 <i>Eternity</i> 2pm	APRIL		3 <i>Eternity</i> 8pm	4 <i>Eternity</i> 8pm	5 <i>Eternity</i> 8pm	6 <i>Eternity</i> 2pm & 8pm
7 <i>Eternity</i> 2pm	8 Tickets on sale for C.A.S.T.	9	10 <i>Eternity</i> 8pm	11 <i>Eternity</i> 8pm	12 <i>Eternity</i> 8pm	13 <i>Eternity</i> 2pm & 8pm
14 <i>Eternity</i> 2pm	15 Tickets on sale for <i>Addams Family</i>	16	17	18 ASL <i>Eternity</i> 8pm	19 <i>Eternity</i> 8pm Scholarship deadline 5:30pm	20 <i>Eternity</i> 2pm
21 <i>Eternity</i> 2pm	22	23	24	25	26 Golf Tournament <i>Giselle</i>	27 <i>Giselle & Princess Parade</i>
28 <i>Princess Parade</i>	29	30				

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.