

THE CURTAIN RAISER



**March 28
– April 21**

By Michael Cochran

**SPONSORED BY:
ELITE EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE**

You think your job is tough? Try being a Grim Reaper. Abe (Randall Moring) may not look like the traditional dark hooded figure with a scythe – and neither does his counterpart, Edith (Susan Moring) – but escorting departed souls to the afterlife is their 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 young couple Jeff (Daniel DiCola) and Zoe (Cali Kathleen), streetwise teen Tony (Matt Peeler), Freddy the hotel detective (Ryan C. James), and Dinky the casino cocktail waitress (Miranda Morris).

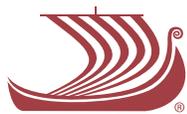
Even as the chain of events caused by his snack break spirals out of control, Abe is still determined to fix things. And really, what can't be fixed by a near-death-experience plane ride to Vegas for a quickie wedding – with a few ghosts for guests? Everyone finds out when they all end up in the Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel run by Priscilla (Joy Newkirk) and officiated by an Elvis impersonator (Jim Bain). Winner of the American Association of Community Theatre's NewPlayFest 2018, this divine comedy is to die for!

Eternity is directed by Chip Morris. Stage manager is Virginia “Frenchie” Bisiaux. Set design is by Dave Berardi. Costume design is by Eryn Brooks Brewer. Lighting design is by Robert P. Robins. Sound design is by Jim Foster.

There will be 21 public performances from March 28 – April 21, 2019. Concessions are available at each performance.

Tickets are \$27 for adults 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.

Annual Get Up and Go Drawing



VIKING

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 and at performances of *Eternity*. The drawing will be held at the Theatre at noon on Tuesday, April 23. For additional information, call (352) 236-2274.

Coming Events

Eternity

Comedy

March 28 – April 21

ACT 4 presents

Barbergators Chorus

Barbershop Quartet Concert

April 16

Get Up & Go Drawing

Winners drawn

April 23

Marion Ballet Theatre presents

Giselle

April 26-27

Marion Ballet Theatre presents

The Princess Parade Ballet

& Tea Party

April 27-28

BUILD by C.A.S.T.

(Creative Arts Student Troupe)

Student Production

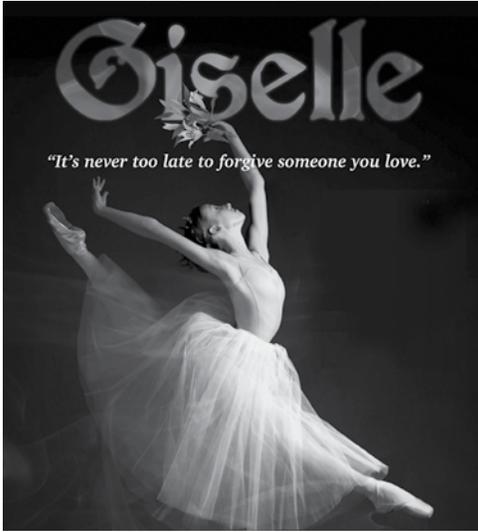
May 4-5

The Addams Family:

A New Musical

May 16 – June 9

Marion Ballet Theatre presents



April 26-27

Marion Ballet Theatre is proud to present *Giselle*, one of the great classical ballets. Come to witness the truth of a well known testimonial: "It's never too late to forgive someone you love." Transcend today's busy world and experience an insightful and inspirational spiritual journey.

There will be two performances of *Giselle*: Friday, April 26 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 27 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for ages 13 and older and \$15 for ages 3-12. Children ages two and younger are free, but must have a reserved seat.

April 27-28

Travel through time with Tinker Bell and her fairy friends, who will take you on a magical journey to visit all your favorite princesses! Visit Snow White in the forest, Anna and Elsa in the ice fortress, Sleeping Beauty at her wedding, Cinderella in her castle, and many more. Despite some evil encounters in our travels, we soon see that love conquers all! "Happily ever after" prevails as all the princesses parade!

There will be two performances of *The Princess Parade*: Saturday, April 27 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for ages 13 and older and \$15 for ages 3-12. Children ages two and younger are free, but must have a reserved seat.

Marion Ballet Theatre presents



April 27-28

Experience the adventure of a special program designed for children, from tiny tots to young ladies and gentlemen, at the Princess Parade Tea Party!

Meet the cast of *The Princess Parade* and become a shining star as you perform onstage under the lights with the characters! Wear your favorite prince or princess costume. Sweets and treats will be served. Parents, don't forget your camera for lots of photos with the cast!

The Tea Party will be held on Saturday, April 27 at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday, April 28 at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15 per person.

Marion Ballet Theatre presents



ACT 4 PRESENTS Barbergators Chorus

and the
**PHABULOUS
PHLEGMTONES**
Barbershop Quartet
featuring a program of classic barbershop with a touch of doo-wop, gospel, pop and comedy

Sponsored by
Aardvark Encore
Onstage at
Ocala Civic Theatre

Tuesday, April 16,
at 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$15.00 Adults,
\$8.00 Students,
Marion Players \$12.00
Now on sale

Call the Ocala Civic
Theatre Box Office
at (352) 236-2274 for
Reservations or
Purchase Online at
www.ocalacivictheatre.com

Tickets On Sale Now

- *Eternity*
- Barbergators Chorus
- *Giselle*
- *The Princess Parade* Ballet
- *The Princess Parade* Tea Party

Tickets Go On Sale

- **BUILD** by C.A.S.T.: April 8
- *The Addams Family: A New Musical*: April 15
- **2019-2020 season tickets**: May 1



Volunteer Spotlight Kelsey Plante

Education is important for so many reasons – and one of them is that it can lead to theatre! And to terrific volunteers!

Kelsey Plante is a great example of that, having been involved with Ocala Civic Theatre since she was in 8th grade. The Education Department gave a presentation at her school on our after-school classes and youth productions, as well as on *Peter Pan*, which was onstage at that time. That classroom presentation was enough to get Kelsey started auditioning for shows here. Her first stage appearance at OCT was in the ensemble of *Fiddler On the Roof* in 2012.

Kelsey has appeared in a number of OCT productions, including *Mamma Mia!*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Cry-Baby*, *Into the Woods*, and *Legally Blonde*. Her favorite roles have been Dragon in *Shrek The Musical* and Eileen in *I Love a Piano*, in which she appeared alongside her brother Josh (another mainstay of OCT shows – talent definitely runs in the family!).

She's also put in many dedicated hours behind the scenes, shining the spotlight and working stage crew for *Mary Poppins* and *If I Loved You*, and using her style skills to do hair for *Silent Sky* and *She Loves Me*. Kelsey also has helped out in the costume shop, which is one of her favorite volunteer activities besides acting. In the future, she'd like to be an assistant stage manager or possibly even stage-manage a show.

Kelsey also used her musical skills for serving as the music director of *Press Start*. And when she's not on stage, you'll frequently see her working in the concessions stand.

What keeps her coming back to OCT? "I love the support that radiates for the people here. No matter what is going on or how crazy life gets, I know that as soon as I walk through the doors I have a family that will be there for anything, and that is priceless."

You know what else is priceless? A really great volunteer. Thank you, Kelsey, for being such a wonderful, energetic volunteer, and for sharing your time and talents with us!

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

C.A.S.T. (Creative Arts Student Troupe) presents



May 4-5

Join C.A.S.T. (Creative Arts Student Troupe) as they present *BUILD*, a collection of stories and songs about building confidence, compassion, and community! These talented students ages 11-17 have been working together since January to create this original musical revue.

Presented in our Black Box Theatre, there will be three performances: Saturday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Tickets go on sale April 8 at \$10 for adults and \$5 for full-time students (school ID required for college students).

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.

Letter From the New Director of Education

Terry LeCompte



Hello! I am excited to be the new(ish) Education Director here at Ocala Civic Theatre. Six months ago I relocated here from New York City, where I worked professionally as a performing artist, director, arts educator and administrator for more than 15 years.

My letter of introduction can be found on our website under the Education Department. I want to utilize this opportunity to tell you about the exciting work our youth have been doing in the Winter/Spring 2019 semester!

Enrolled in our after-school creative arts, musical theatre, and theatre programs are approximately 60 young artists ages 5-17. Each week, youth learn and practice performance skills like communication and teamwork. Term 3 classes run April 29 - May 31, so there is still time for your youth to take part. You can register in person or online.

Our new ensemble, C.A.S.T. (Creative Arts Student Troupe), has been in rehearsals for their show *BUILD* - songs and stories celebrating confidence, compassion, and community. Performances are Saturday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Tickets go on sale April 8!

Summer S.T.A.G.E. 2019 is coming fast - details are on our website. The exciting news is that our new musical theatre and play camps are open to students up to age 17. Our elementary, middle, and high school students can keep practicing their skills, growing and improving through five weeks of training with performances of big-name shows on our main stage!

If you have questions about anything, call me at (352) 236-2851, ext. 107.

See you next month,
Terry LeCompte



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

May 16 - June 9

SPONSORED BY:
ACT 4
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 and choreographed by Katrina Ploof. Music director is Philip King. Stage manager is Faith Donahue. There will be 22 public performances from May 16 - June 9, 2019. Reserve your tickets for opening night and join us on Thursday, May 16 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.



Notes from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mary H. Britt

Hello! **Season tickets go on sale May 1**, and I'm pleased to announce a great lineup for the 2019-2020 season!

SIGNATURE SERIES

Matilda: The Musical: August 29 – September 22, 2019

The Savannah Sipping Society: October 31 – November 24, 2019

Always... Patsy Cline: January 30 – February 23, 2020

Father of the Bride: March 12 – April 5, 2020

Brigadoon: May 21 – June 14, 2020

OVATION SERIES

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike: October 3-13, 2019

Menopause: The Musical: January 2-19, 2020

Making God Laugh: April 16-26, 2020

A few of these are popular old favorites it was time to bring back for new audiences to enjoy, or for our long-time audience members to fall in love with all over again. There also are several exciting, new-to-our-stage shows to entertain you. Current subscribers, start looking for your new season brochures and renewal forms in the mail in late April. **The deadline to renew or request changes to your subscription is June 7, 2019.** If you aren't renewing, please call the box office at (352) 236-2274 or e-mail jkirk@ocalacivictheatre.com so we can release your seats.

One important change is that season ticket prices will be increasing slightly for 2019-2020. This is the first cost increase in five years. The price will now be \$115 per person for the Signature Series (five shows) or \$184 for all eight shows in the Signature and Ovation Series. This still gives you a significant cost savings over buying individual tickets. (The regular single-ticket price is \$27 for adults and \$13 for full-time students, except *Menopause: The Musical*, which is \$30 for adults and \$15 for full-time students.) We make every effort to ensure that our subscription packages remain affordable, as well as offer special benefits to our subscribers, while we continue to provide top-quality entertainment and facility improvements (such as the comfortable new seats!).

One great subscription perk is that season ticket holders may purchase in advance an unlimited number of tickets for any shows in our season, long before they go on sale to the public. For example, if you know you have family coming to visit next spring and you'd like to treat them to a night at the Theatre, you can buy their tickets as early as July 29, 2019 – which also is when you can begin making your Flex Pass reservations or exchanges for any of next season's shows. For more information on subscriber benefits, see the season brochure or call the box office.

Another change is that the subscription package formerly known as the Weeknight Wild Card is now the Three-Night Flex Pass, which is \$75 per person. Previously, this pass was only good for Wednesday and Thursday nights and excluded one show each season. However, the new Three-Night Flex Pass allows you to choose any three shows in the 2019-2020 season, for any evening performance. This gives you greater flexibility as well as the benefit of early reservations at a discount over single-ticket prices.

Interested in becoming a subscriber? You have a choice of either a Standing Reservation (same day/same seat for each show) or a Flex Pass (day and seat may vary for each show). There are four easy ways to subscribe: complete the order form and mail it back to us; turn in your completed order form at the lobby table when you come to see *The Addams Family*; stop by the box office for assistance Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (current subscribers, please bring the personalized form we mailed to you); or call the box office and we can take your order over the phone. You'll want to subscribe as soon as possible, as all orders for new subscribers are processed by the date received.

But before we move on to the 2019-2020 season, there's still more to come! Opening May 16 is the delightfully dark (yet family-friendly) *The Addams Family: A New Musical*, our grand finale for the 2018-2019 season. It's rightfully fun! Tickets go on sale April 15.

See you at the Theatre!

2018-2019 Board of Directors

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SEASON 2018 - 2019 ■ APRIL 2019

THE CURTAIN RAISER

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PERMIT NO. 9

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
³¹ Eternity 2pm	1	2	3 Eternity 8pm	4 Eternity 8pm	5 Eternity 8pm	6 Eternity 2pm & 8pm
7 Eternity 2pm	8 Tickets on sale for BUILD Scholarship prep meeting 5:30pm	9	10 Eternity 8pm	11 Eternity 8pm	12 Eternity 8pm	13 Eternity 2pm & 8pm
14 Eternity 2pm	15 Tickets on sale for Addams Family	16 Barbergators Chorus 8pm	17	18 ASL ^{6g} Eternity 8pm	19 Eternity 8pm Scholarship deadline 5:30pm	20 Eternity 2pm
21 Eternity 2pm	22	23 Get Up & Go drawing 12pm	24	25	26 Giselle 8pm	27 Tea Party 10:30am Princess Parade 2pm Giselle 8pm
28 Tea Party 10:30am Princess Parade 2pm	29	30	APRIL			

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
MAY			1 2019-2020 season tickets on sale	2	3	4 BUILD 7pm
5 BUILD 2pm & 6pm	6	7	8	9	10	11 Scholarship auditions
12	13	14	15	16 Addams Family 8pm	17 Addams Family 8pm	18 Addams Family 2pm & 8pm
19 Addams Family 2pm	20 Tickets on sale for The Jungle Book	21	22 Addams Family 8pm	23 Addams Family 8pm	24 Addams Family 8pm	25 Addams Family 2pm & 8pm
26 Addams Family 2pm	27	28	29 Addams Family 8pm	30 Addams Family 8pm	31 Addams Family 8pm	



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