THE CURTAIN RAISER

January 30 – February 23

Written and originally directed by Ted Swindley • Based on a true story

SPONSORED BY: K-Country • Hiers-Baxley

You'll be crazy for Always... Patsy Cline! This sentimental, song-packed tribute musical is a love letter to legendary country music star Patsy Cline (Melody Murphy) and her friendship with Louise Seger (Laura Bradford), one of her greatest fans. Based on a true story, the show explores the unlikely bond between two women who met only once, yet became close friends through their correspondence.

Wisecracking Louise tells the tale of how she became first a fan - then a friend - of the iconic singer. In May 1961, Patsy appeared in concert in Houston, where she met enthusiastic fan Louise. The two women discovered a kindred spirit in each other and became fast friends, exchanging frequent letters and phone calls until Patsy's tragic death in a 1963 plane crash.

Heartfelt and humorous, the show features more than two dozen of Patsy Cline's greatest hits, including “Crazy,” “Sweet Dreams,” “Walkin’ After Midnight,” “Faded Love,” and “She’s Got You,” just to name a few. You’ll fall to pieces all over again for Patsy Cline!

Always... Patsy Cline is directed by Katrina Ploof. Music directors are Philip King and Steven Whipple. Stage manager is Gregg Bleam. Set design is by William Spratt. Costume design is by Eryn Brooks Brewer. Lighting design is by Thom Altman. Sound design is by Jim Foster.

There will be 22 public performances from January 30 – February 23, 2020. Reserve your tickets for opening night and join us on Thursday, January 30 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 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.

Join Us for the Big Reveal!

February 24

We hope you'll join us on Monday, February 24 for an event you don't want to miss - our first-ever season reveal party! Be the first to find out what shows we're doing in the 2020-2021 season as the secret is revealed in an unforgettable celebration.

We'll have delicious refreshments and drinks to enjoy as you listen to songs from the musicals in our exciting new season, hear a few scenes from the plays, and get some fascinating insight from those involved in the inspiration and creative process behind the upcoming productions. There will be a special reception for donors (Celebrities and above) following the reveal party. Doors will open at 6 p.m. The party begins at 6:30. The event is free and all are welcome, but as space is limited, please call the box office at (352) 236-2274 to RSVP by Wednesday, February 19. We can't wait to see you here!
By Special License from GFour Productions

January 2-19

SPONSORED BY: Equus Inn · Insight Credit Union · WUFT

Celebrate “The Change” in this hilarious parody of popular music from the baby boomer era as four women bond over the shared sisterhood of hot flashes, mood swings, night sweats, and sexual woes. This hit musical will have you laughing, cheering, and dancing in the aisles!

Menopause The Musical is live on stage through January 19. Tickets are $30 for adults and $15 for full-time students (school ID required for college students). Call (352) 236-2274 or go to www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

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!

There’s a seat with your name on it – or there could be! It’s not too late if you’d like to purchase a seat as part of our renovation campaign.

In August 2018, we installed new, wider, more comfortable seats in the auditorium. To help fund this much-needed improvement, we are “selling” seats at $500 each. (Monthly payments are available.) Donors are recognized with an engraved brass plaque attached to the seat, inscribed with a dedication of their choosing. There is a poster in the lobby that shows which seats are still available. Call (352) 236-2274 for more details.
First, a heartfelt thank you to Donna Carroll and Gary and Eleanor Simons for gifting the Education Department with the Think Board and Educational Theatre Association National Conference! Our learning community will greatly benefit from your generosity.

Happy New Year! I appreciate the sense of renewal that a new year can bring. Still, I love a fresh start wherever it falls on the calendar. A move to a new city. A blank page in a notebook. A group of students walking into our classroom studio – for their first time or their thirtieth time.

One of the most important things I have learned as an artist and educator is that every single moment can be a new beginning – both personally and interpersonally. The Education Department’s Term 2 classes began the top of January. We have 89 students registered – many in multiple classes. Thirty-two of those students are taking classes here for the first time! It’s brave and exciting to train in the performing arts. The practice and discipline of building skills and relationships are equally important. Though the rewards are beyond measure, it is challenging work.

Through 2020 and beyond – as we move towards the goals we have set for ourselves – we will make mistakes, fall down, see things end. The great news is, a fresh start can begin whenever we choose – there’s no need to wait ‘til 2021.

See you at the theatre,
Terry LeCompte

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Costume Sale!

The Costume Shop is having a sale! Whether you’re hoping to purchase costumes for a party, a theatrical production, or as a souvenir of your favorite show, we have lots of fabulous possibilities for you. A photo album of all costumes for sale has been posted on our Facebook page. The sale is by appointment only. Call the costume shop at (352) 236-2851, ext. 110, to book an appointment or for sizes and prices.
ACT 4 • OCALA CIVIC THEATRE, INC.
PRESENTS

Love Letters
by A.R. Gurney

STARRING FRED MULLEN AND JANET SHELLEY
IN A DINNER THEATRE PRODUCTION

Friday, February 21 • 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 22 • 3:30 p.m.

at the Ocala Elks Lodge
702 N.E. 25th Avenue - Ocala

ITALIAN BUFFET
Tossed Salad • Chicken Parmesan • Baked Ziti
Meatballs • Garlic Bread • Cannoli • Cash Bar

$36.00 per Person (Tax and Gratuity Included)
TICKETS ON SALE JANUARY 20

For reservations, call the Ocala Civic Theatre Box Office at
(352) 236-2274 or go to www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

This performance is a fund-raising project of ACT 4. Profits from this show are designated for use by Ocala Civic Theatre, including scholarships for youth after-school and summer classes and college scholarships for students majoring in the arts.
I’m one of those lucky people who has two families: the one I was born into, which is very, very small, with only one sister – and the one I have spent most of the past several decades’ most significant days with, consisting of a few close friends with whom I’ve shared much.

This bunch of friends and I gather for the standard holidays, and we are, for better or for worse, fiercely wed to our traditions. We read the Declaration of Independence every July 4th, including the names of everyone who signed. We have foods that we INSIST upon including on most every holiday, and woe to the person who doesn’t fulfill their end of the bargain and bring the required item!

Our New Year’s tradition has always been the lighting of paper lanterns and flying them out over Lake Weir. We’ve had some crazy years! But bad weather, wind, rain – we still try, and often succeed. Because the messages we write upon the lanterns are an essential part of our celebration for the new year, everyone spends quite a bit of time on their message. It’s usually deeply personal, always a greeting and a hope for the year to come, sometimes a wish for help or comfort.

I’m the subversive one of the group, because for the last few years, I’ve actually been writing a farewell to the year that is passing. Saying goodbye (and good riddance sometimes) to the past seems like a healthy choice for me. It helps me move into the next morning rather weightless. I enjoy the freedom of greeting the new year with an open mind, not sure of what I might need.

This year, I had a lot to say farewell to. My new position here at OCT means I’ll be selling my home of 31 years in Orlando, leaving neighborhoods and walking trails and gardens I know so well to begin a new life here in Ocala. Old friends will adjust to my new location, new friends will be made, and gardens will be planted here. But there’s much of my Orlando life that I will miss. I fully admit that saying goodbye to 2019 wasn’t easy. I was saying goodbye to so much more than a year.

But as always, I awoke on January 1 grateful for the promise of a fresh start and a new decade. I realized that morning that Ocala Civic Theatre and I are kind of beginning anew together. So much of what we have been through together this year is receding into the past. And it seems we can best honor the memories of those who have come before us by plunging headfirst into the future.

I hope that your December 31 had in it a moment of reflection, a tradition of saying goodbye to what had been. And I most especially hope that your New Year is filled with promise and light. We will be here at Ocala Civic Theatre, telling stories that inspire and move you into the new decade. Come see us!
SPONSORED BY: WOCA

Proud papa Stanley Banks is pleased when his newly engaged daughter Kay announces that she doesn’t want a lavish wedding. But as the big day approaches, the event spirals out of control. The guest list (and Stanley’s debt) grows ever larger, and the household is caught up in a flurry of caterers, florists, and dressmakers. Then the bride-to-be calls off the wedding in a fit of temper. Can Stanley fix things? If Father knows best, he will... This heartwarming tale was immortalized first in the 1950 film version with Spencer Tracy and Elizabeth Taylor, and again in 1991 with Steve Martin. Say “I do” to this dearly beloved classic comedy!

_Father of the Bride_ is directed by Fred Mullen. Auditions will be held Monday, January 20 and Tuesday, January 21 at 7 p.m. It is only necessary to attend one night of auditions. The show runs March 12 – April 5, 2020. Full details are available in the January 2020 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 17.

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 e-mail list, call (352) 236-2274.

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