



SEASON 43

THE ROLLING WORLD PREMIER
A Play By Kenneth Jones
HOLLYWOOD,
Nebraska
directed by Cushing Phillips

February 2 - 18, 2023

Book by Corey Kirkpatrick & John O'Leary
Music & Lyrics by Corey Kirkpatrick & Wayne Kirkpatrick
Something
ROTTEN
directed by Kristy Meanor

May 4 - 20, 2023

A Play By Nancy Frick
4 WEDDINGS
and an
ELVIS
directed by Kim Mason

July 27 - August 12, 2023

A Play By John Patrick Stanley
DOUBT.
a p a r a b l e
directed by Tony Davison

September 21 - October 7, 2023

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www.WetumpkaDepot.com

On behalf of my fellow Wetumpka Depot Board members, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 43rd season of the Wetumpka Depot Players. 43 years! Who could have imagined the exciting history ahead of our community theatre group with its humble beginnings all those years ago? As always, we thank you for joining us here as a valued patron of our award winning theatre! The Wetumpka Depot is truly a family composed of volunteers from throughout the River Region and beyond who provide invaluable community service in innumerable ways. While you enjoy the performers on the stage, please know that there is an entire network of volunteers behind the scenes that are invaluable to the success of our efforts. These include so many selfless individuals who provide the costumes, backstage guidance, props, lighting, sets, and hospitality that are so essential to the complete Depot experience. We are always looking for new family members at the Depot and hope that you will consider a volunteer role with us in the future!



Our Season 43 promises to be a year of incredible excitement and new opportunities! From gut wrenching drama to freewheeling hilarity to memorable musicals, you as a patron have an engaging menu of theatrical treats to choose from as the year unfolds. At the Depot, we are especially proud of the Penguin Project, a student showcase that has won the hearts of audiences and provided meaningful experiences that linger long after the curtain call. I would be remiss if I did not emphasize that all of these efforts are made possible by the excellent leadership

provided day in and day out by our extraordinary Artistic Director Kristy Meanor, We are grateful for her spirit of excellence that define the "Wetumpka Depot Experience"!

First and foremost, your support and patronage is the fuel that keeps the Wetumpka Depot alive and thriving as we navigate this momentous new season. Thank you for being here with us and how enjoy the show!!

*Jeff Langham
Depot Board President*



Wetumpka Depot Board of Directors



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Another Opening... Another Show! A Dynamic 43 Year History

For 43 years, Wetumpka Depot Players have thrilled audiences on stage, with original, world premieres and classic dramas, comedies and musicals.

It all started at the historic town train depot, in the spring of 1980, when a group of Wetumpka residents envisioned turning the deteriorating landmark into the home of a new community theatre. As if pulled from a Broadway script, the newly formed troupe debuted with *Nine Girls*, a play designed to entertain – and raise funds to renovate the building.

Thus, the Wetumpka Depot Players were born. Those early years could be difficult – especially for the cast, which layered costumes during winter performances to fight off the bitter cold. In summers, patrons wore shorts to combat the heat. Yet the Depot Players survived and thrived, and the community rallied around the group, thanks to tried-and-true plays such as *Count Dracula*, *Father of the Bride* and *Smoke on the Mountain*.

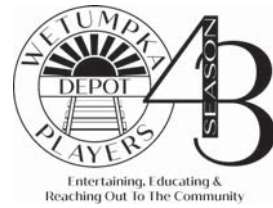
Growing in popularity with each passing season, the Players began looking for a bigger, better space in the mid-'90s. Performing as vagabonds in a variety of spaces before finding a permanent home, they turned the Elmore County Courthouse into the setting for *Inherit the Wind* and *Witness for the Prosecution*. Performances of *Nunsense*, *Oklahoma* and were staged at the Wetumpka Performing Arts Center.

Then the Pig came to the rescue. In December 1999, the Depot incorporated as a nonprofit to purchase and renovate an abandoned grocery store on South Main, creating a black-box theatre with a capacity of 160. For nearly a quarter of a century, the Wetumpka Depot Players have remained committed to providing the best performances possible –



Where the Lillies Bloom, 1983
Kristy Meador, Depot Artistic Director

from cutting-edge original fare to classic, thought-provoking and family productions – with the goal of entertaining remaining the driving force.



While some of our Depot volunteers have theatre degrees and professional experience, most are getting their first taste of the thrill of trodding the boards on the stage of a converted grocery store. No matter their past experience they've all been bitten by the theatre bug, ensuring that the Depot's commitment and professional attitude continues to transform and impact the community positively for generations to come.

Today, our outreach includes programs for all ages. Encore Players was founded in 2013 as outreach to our "young at heart" artists. When school's out, theatre is in and children receive training in the Depot summer programs. In 2019 we launched Penguin Project, our special needs theatre outreach. This December over 3000 area school children experienced live theatre during our production of *Charlotte's Web*. And, during our 43-year history many of our Depot alums had gone on to receive theatre scholarships and perform at the university level and beyond.

Our outreach extends well past 300 South Main Street as our group serves as ambassadors for Wetumpka across the state and on regional and national stages. Past casts have returned from state, regional and national competition with numerous awards, including best performances in 2009, '10, '13, '14, '16, '18 and '22 – as well as honors for technical design and direction. The casts of *Second Samuel* (2011) and *The Diviners* (2019) represented the Depot in national competition. This spring, the cast of *A Storm Came Up* will represent the state at Southeastern Theatre Conference in Lexington, Kentucky – the next step for an original piece that premiered on the Depot stage in February 2022.

Yet there's work to be done. Our beloved building needs maintenance and renovations for our ever-expanding programs. We have no doubt that if we work hard to maintain the quality of shows our audiences have come to love and appreciate, our future needs will be met. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to support the Depot Players. We thank you for being a part of our history and helping to make us the best little community theatre around!

Here's to the first 43 seasons. We can't wait to see what the next 43 have in store.

Celebrating 43 Years ... We've Saved You A Seat!

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2023 Playbill ... Wetumpka Depot Players

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Encore Players



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John Thornton
Probate Judge Elmore County

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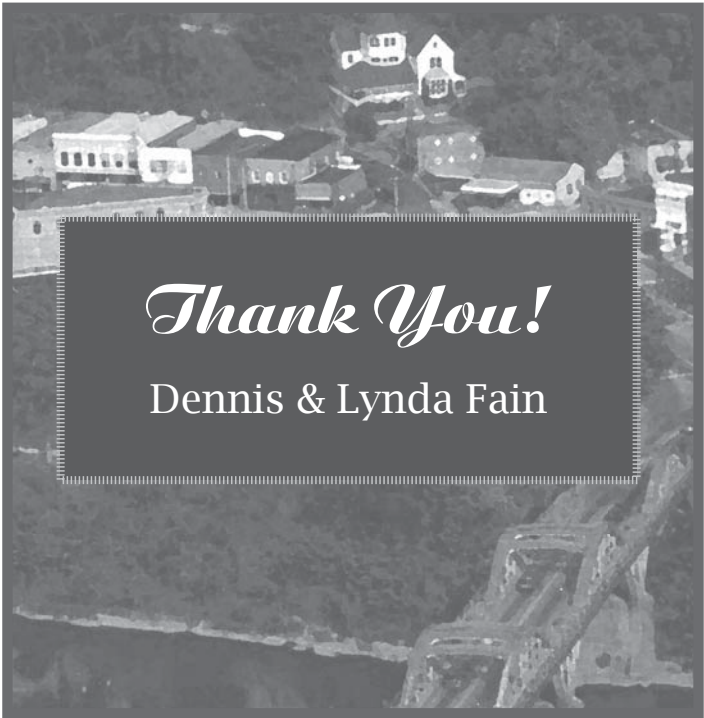
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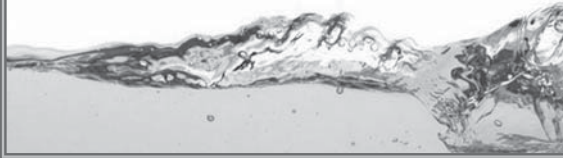
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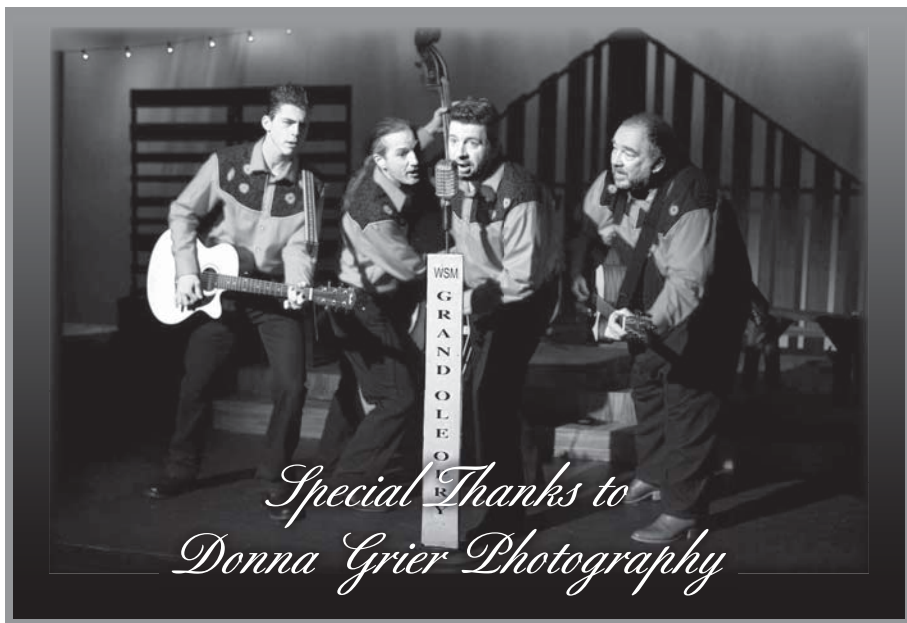
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Carolyn Osborn
Hazel Jones
Warren Jones



The Wetumpka Depot family thanks Carolyn, Warren and Hazel, for their leadership, talent, and loyalty to the Depot Players. For 42 years, their service went beyond attending board meetings. Each tackled the behind-the-scenes jobs to launch a community theatre into the nationally recognized theatre we are today- balancing check books, directing plays, running lights, popping popcorn, selling tickets, changing the marquee and so much more! The Depot Players wouldn't be who we are today without their visionary spirit and dedication. Thank you!!



2023 Playbill ... Wetumpka Depot Players

Outstanding 2022 Moments on the Depot Stage



Wetumpka Depot Players

*Storytelling
is in our heart*



*Thank you,
community partners!*

