

STAGE WHISPERS

Spring / Summer 2013



IT'S A CELEBRATION!

And we want you to be there!

At the Historic Fayette Theater, there is always a reason to celebrate. But, this June marks the **20th Anniversary** of the Historic Fayette Theater in the Historic District of Downtown Fayetteville, West Virginia, and we are especially delighted to invite you to celebrate our birthday with us.

The Theater and the **Jon Kemper Band** have a special night of great music planned, along with some sweet treats and special acknowledgments of those who were an integral part of the HFT from the very start.

For 20 years, the HFT has been a dynamic part of the Town of Fayetteville,



bringing quality plays and music to the area, as well as serving as a venue for local organizations. The Theater was originally started by the Fayette County Historical Society. Then in 2011, the Theater building was purchased with the help of countless contributors and it became its own independent, non-profit corporation.

Although we believe the Theater's contribution to the Town of Fayetteville is substantial, the contribution that the Town and the Theater's loyal patrons give in return is truly beyond measurement.

We hope you can join us and the Jon Kemper Band on Saturday, July 6, for some great music and wish the HFT – YOUR LOCAL THEATER – a **Happy 20th Birthday!**

WALL OF FAME

As you have read, and many of you know, this year we at HFT will celebrate our 20-year anniversary. One project that many, including Gene Worthington, founder and Board President, have wanted to see happen this year is a "Wall of Fame" honoring all of the young actors/crew/volunteers who received their "initiation into community theater" here at HFT.

After looking at several options, the Public Relations Committee and the Board have chosen to do this with a "Wall of Fame" on one of the outdoor display cases. To qualify to be honored on that board is very simple: the applicant must have been affiliated with HFT as an actor, crew member, or volunteer while under the age of 18 AND have continued to include community or professional theater in their adult lives OR have used their youth involvement at HFT to enrich theirs or others lives. That's it!

The display for each honoree will include a 5x7 color photo (to be provided by the

applicant or the person nominating the applicant) and a brief description of how they are meeting the Theater's qualifications to be honored. The display will be a rotating display—for limited space—meaning that the photos and information will remain up until we "run out of space" and then will be rotated off for new honorees. The honoree being removed will be kept in the Theater archives.

So, come on all you parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, significant others, and friends of HFT. We ALL know people who need to be on this board, so let's "make it happen"! Once you have the applicant's permission, please email the Theater Administrator at: hft@historicfayettetheater.com and they will forward your request to the PR committee for approval and follow up with you for the required information. Our goal is to have this board up and at least started by our 20th Anniversary Celebration on July 6, 2013!

NEW YORK

PANACHE

April, 26, 27 May 3, 4, 5

Kathleen has always wanted a license plate with the word "PANACHE" on it...but Harry has it.

And in this romantic comedy nothing is as simple as it seems.

Duck Hunter Shoots Angel

Written by Mitch Albom
Directed by Bob Neil
In coordination with
Dramatists Play Service

July 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 at 8:00 pm

Matinee July 28 at 2:00 pm

Two bumbling Alabama brothers who have never even shot a duck think they have shot an angel.

Be sure to LIKE us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [website](#) for all upcoming HFT happenings.

And be on the lookout for our survey as to what you would like to see at HFT.

Inside this issue:

2013 Schedule	2
Drama Camp	3
Raising the Roof	4
Fall/ Winter Productions	4
The Boys Scouts are...	4

HFT opened 2013 with the patriotic tribute, spring musical **Kilroy was here!** This play was a wonderful tribute to all past, present and future military men and women. Playwright: Tim Kelly, Music by Bill Francoeur, Directed by Millie Petersen. And was followed by the final performance of the In-Cahoots Players, **Murder among the Meringues: : Murder Mystery Dinner Theater**

Panache

Kathleen wants a license plate with the word "Panache" on it - but Harry has it. Nothing is as simple as it seems, however, and what begins as a ridiculous squabble over the seemingly unimportant turns into a desperate quest to salvage two lives.

April 26, 27, May 3, 4, Matinee May 5

Mature audiences recommended.

Historic Fayette Theater's 20th Anniversary and 4th of July Celebration

July 6

\$10.00 General Admission Music featuring The Jon Kemper Band, and light refreshments provided.

Duck Hunter shoots Angel

July 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28

Two bumbling Alabama duck-hunting brother who have hunted all their lives and never killed anything, now think they may have accidentally just shot an angel.

2013 Youth Drama Camp

July 29 to August 3

Children engage in a variety of theater games and activities that encourage skills in team work and problem-solving while learning the theater and acting skills. A week long camp ends with a performance for family and friends. Director Tana Higginbotham

An Evening of plays by James McLure

September 20,21,27,28

A "She said, He said" comedic view of small-town American life.

Mature Audiences Recommended

10th Annual Video Boaters Challenge

October 2

The theater will partner again with the West Virginia Professional River Outfitters Association and IQ Media to present an evening of exciting white water entertainment.

Miracle on 34th Street

November 29, 30, December 1, 6, 7, 8

Kris Kringle takes on the cynics among us in this stage adaptation of this classic holiday favorite.

New River Youth Symphony Chorus

December 14 at 7:00 pm.

\$5.00 General Admission Listen to joys of the season with a concert of Holiday and classical music.

Advance ticket sales, group rates and **season tickets** are available. **Historic Fayette Theater accepts all major credit cards.** For more information or handicapped seating arrangements please call the Theater's Administrator at **(304) 574-4655.**

DRAMA CAMP 2013

HFT is once again gearing up for its 2013 Drama Camp! The theme of this year's camp is "Young Actors' Workshop." We are very pleased to announce that our camp director this year will be Tana Higginbotham, a well-known local theater teacher, director, performer, and theater supporter. Tana has taught drama in local public and private schools, churches, and private organizations for more than three decades. Rumor has it, that Tana is responsible for many of the HFT's actors, directors/crew being "bitten by the theater bug"! She brings with her a vast knowledge of the theater arts, creative visions, and

structured learning processes. Tana will be bringing with her several talented assistants to enrich the campers' stage experience. This year's camp is going to be based upon an Acting 101 premise and will include: stage etiquette; stage directions; movement and blocking; projection; and the all-important stage presence. The camp will close on Saturday, August 3rd at 7:00 PM on the stage at the Theater with a performance called "HFT's Children's Variety Show."

The dates and times for this year's camp are July 29th-August 2nd from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The camp will be for children between the ages of 8 and 14. The cost for the camp has not

changed. It remains at \$60.00 per child and that includes the camp and one ticket per child for the performance. The camp is limited to a MAXIMUM of 30 children to allow for each camper to receive quality instruction and attention. The spaces will be reserved on a "first come" basis and all reservations must be received and paid for by July 12, 2013. If spaces are still available to attend the class after that date, it will be listed on the website and our [Facebook](#) page or you can call the Theater for information.

Registration forms may be printed on the Theater's website www.historicfayettetheater.com or picked up at the Theater.

Raising The Roof - Literally

Or should we say "raising for the roof" – and many other improvements? An unfortunate consequence of owning an old, historic building like the Historic Fayette Theater is the almost-constant amount of upkeep and upgrading that it requires. Prior to the purchase of the Theater building in 2011, many upgrades could not be performed on the rented building. However, as most of you are aware, we determinedly began working towards fundraising the minute the option to purchase the building became available, and we have continued those fundraising efforts tirelessly to upgrade many things in the Theater. We have also applied for any and all grants for which we qualify and are fortunate to have received a great deal of help there, but those grants usually require matching funds which must be raised by us.

In efforts to raise those matching funds, we sold pillars in the Theater recognizing "Pillars of the Community" who purchased them with an engraved plaque placed on their purchased pillar. These individuals and organizations are largely responsible for the HFT meeting its monetary goals. Another successful fundraising effort was our "Best Seat in the House" campaign where you purchased tags for Theater seats recognizing loved ones and family members. Although it is impossible to describe how difficult it has been to get these tags not too wide, not too sharp, not misspelled . . . the tags are in the process of being uniformly laser printed so they can be installed on all chairs purchased. We thank you for your patience in the meantime, and if you don't see your chair properly recognized in the next few months, *please* let a Board member know so we can correct that. And there are more chairs to sell!!

Just to update you on what some of your fundraising monies have been applied to so far and what our impending plans are for upcoming years:

We were able to install a brand new sound system, including new speakers, monitors, a control board, projector, and upgraded microphones. This system also now gives us the very essential ability to have communication between the tech booth and backstage which was always a problem in the past when we tried to use two-way radios.

With the help of monies raised by Create Fayetteville and local Fayetteville restaurants, we purchased a nice, pull-down screen which hangs out of the way above the stage and lowers.raises with the push of a button. This, along with the new projector, allows us to show movies and have a quality screen for the annual West Virginia Whitewater Video Boaters Challenge in the Fall.

We had the roof repaired!! An ongoing problem for many years has been a leak in the roof that patching never seemed to cure. With grant monies and your support, we replaced the roof and will no longer have this problem. We are still replacing ceiling tiles as we can get to them that were damaged from the leaks.

Along with moisture from the roof, we have an unending problem with moisture on the back wall and one of our side walls that are underground. In July, however, the Boy Scouts of America are going to assist in reducing that problem by taking two days during their community service outreach to waterproof and paint the left side wall and back walls of the Theater. With all of the other upgrades, we hope this will take care of much of the moisture and mold we fight on a constant basis.

New lights are very much needed, and plans for these are also in the works. They will be LED lights, giving us not only a higher characteristic of stage lights, but also allowing us to change colors in lights without the need to climb and change color gels on the lights themselves.

Our absolute largest project to accomplish is, of course, our most difficult – and most needed. We plan to install a handicap-accessible bathroom on the lower level of the Theater. Needless to say, this will involve design, some engineering with regard to tearing out a wall, expensive plumbing to install through a concrete foundation, and some mess and inconvenience during the process. This is of great importance to the HFT, and we know our many patrons. Please be patient as the slow process continues.

Speaking of slow processes, if you look up when you're in the HFT, you can see the substantial height of the ceiling, and if you look below you, you will notice the slant of the floor where the seats are located, like in most theaters. Just changing a light bulb or ceiling tile involves borrowing or renting good scaffolding, getting it set up, and having brave volunteers who are skilled and unafraid to climb to those heights. Placing scaffold or a ladder over the seats is not possible for amateurs without the exact type of equipment needed. Many times we call around and look for a craftsman to pay for these chores, but it is not easy to find help for certain repairs. If you perform a service from which you think the HFT would benefit, please contact us for an opportunity to meet and discuss a quote. The support of our community and friends is our greatest asset by far!

Please join us this year for all of our great shows, and watch the changes as they continue to happen!

The Boy Scouts are Coming! The Boy Scouts are Coming!



During the Boy Scout (BSA) Jamboree this July, Boy Scout volunteers will be helping the Historic Fayette Theater (HFT) with some much needed repairs. With paintbrushes in hand they will weatherproof and paint the walls of the theater. "This is a project we have long wanted to tackle" said HFT President, Gene Worthington.

The Theater submitted an application for assistance last year to the WV Citizens Conservation Corps who are the clearinghouse for this BSA service project. The Theater will receive 2 days of volunteer help.

Over 40,000 Boy Scouts will take part in this volunteer effort when they visit the area for the 2013 Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree. These scouts will be performing about 300,000 hours of community service in nine counties. About 8,000 Scouts will be available per day for about 20-25 projects.

David Kopsa of the BSA Summit Bechtel Reserve believes, "this is one of the most important things we will be doing at the 2013 Jamboree, and it's one of the most important things for the relationship between the Boy Scouts of America and West Virginia."



Historic Fayette Theater

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FALL AND WINTER AT HFT

As the heat of summer inevitably comes to an end, things at the Historic Fayette Theater will just be heating up. Mark your calendar for the following fall and winter performances:

Evening of Plays by James McLure

September 20, 21, 27, 28

Miracle on 34th Street

Nov. 29, 30, Dec. 1, 6, 7, 8- 8:00 pm

Nov. 27 & Dec. 4 - 2:00 pm

New River Youth Symphony Chorus

Dec. 14 at 7:00 pm

AN EVENING OF PLAYS BY JAMES MCLURE

Once again, HFT will present an evening of one-act plays. This years plays are the "She said, He said," comedy shows **Laundry & Bourbon** along with its companion piece **Lonestar**, both by James McLure.

The shows will be presented September 20, 21, 27, 28 at 8:00 p.m. Both plays will show on Friday and Saturday, each weekend.

Mature audiences recommended, as both shows contain language and scenes not appropriate for all audiences.