

Newsy Letter



Letter from the President

Hello Florentine Players -

It is an understatement to say 2020 has been a challenging one for our group. We had to cancel our remaining productions for last year after an extremely successful run of our *Annual Battle of the Improv All-Stars* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. We had a very ambitious schedule (two Melodramas and a farce) put forth which was halted due to the pandemic which hit the world.

Your board of elected Florentine Players has voted to attempt to reopen a season again in May of 2021. Now... we have no idea what rules will be in place by then, but your board has all come together and made the decision with a strong, united front that we will resume productions in May. I want to thank you for your continued support of the Arts and the Florence Community Theater. Your donation to the Florentine Players to become a member is one of the things that allows us to continue to do our work in the Florence Community. Please consider making a donation to the Florentine Players by renewing your membership on the back of this newsletter. We have even included a postage-paid envelope for your convenience. In addition to renewing your membership and being a current paid Florentine Player, you will be able to cast your vote for members of our Board. We have eight very strong candidates and five open slots to be filled. Voting will end by March 1, tabulation will begin, and candidates will be announced at our Board meeting, Monday March 8th, 2021.

See you all very soon!
Derek Kowal

Inside this issue

- Making God Laugh 3
- Audition Notice 3
- Board Candidates..... 4
- Community Notes 6
- Volunteers 7
- Membership 7
- Letter from VP..... 7



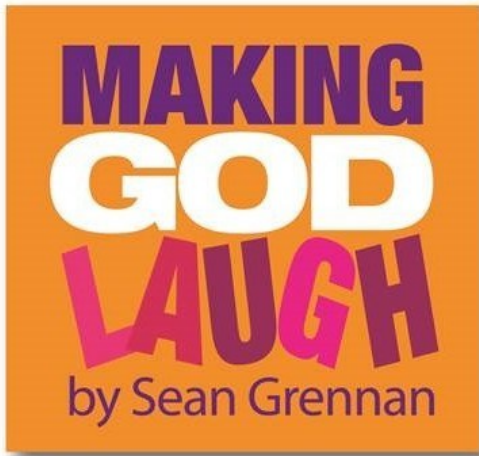
Florence
Community Theater
Home of the Florentine Players

WE HAD TO STRIKE THE SET EARLY ON 2020.
LET'S GET READY TO OPEN THE CURTAIN ON

2021

Florence Community Theater
2864 State St, Omaha
www.florencetheater.org





By Molly Anderson

It's time to play the music... It's time to light the lights... Two years ago, I was honored to direct the second of the FCT Studio series productions with Making God Laugh, by Sean Grennan. The small and close-knit cast and crew worked exceedingly hard to make this an unforgettable show, and for the few who were able to see it, it truly was. Unfortunately, the weather for that run didn't cooperate and we had to cancel a week-end performance. Dedicated beyond measure the cast, crew, and kitchen/bar staff

agreed to perform twice on Sunday, but the exposure this show deserved did not happen.

A year later, Covid darkened all stages in March and most have not had the opportunity to bring back the experience of live theater. Reviving Making God Laugh on the Florentine Players' stage is a dream come true. With the small cast and crew, we can do theater again and stay safe while we rehearse. We can give the performances the snow tried to stop. We can share this unforgettable story once again.

So, dust off the seats (that will be safely distanced), dim the house lights, and fade up to a full wash. Speaking for myself and the cast and crew of Making God Laugh, we are so ready to entertain you!

AUDITION NOTICE

For immediate release:

The Florence Community Theater will be reviving Making God Laugh, a family comedy/drama that centers around two parents of three adult children as they experience getting older, changing priorities, and how their decisions and actions affect those they love the most.

This is the second run of this show for the Florentine Players, however attendance for our last run was severely affected by a blizzard. We will be performing with nearly all of our original cast, with the exception of one character. These auditions are for that role only.

Thomas: The youngest child and the "good" son. A devoutly religious man, studying for the priesthood at the beginning of the show, he is funny, warm, and not at all rigid in his approach to life. He means very well, but like everyone in the show, his life turns out different than he planned.

The cast of characters is rounded out by Ruthie (the mother), Bill (the father), Richard (the oldest son), and Mad-die (the middle and only daughter).

Age: 20s-50s (really the show covers 30 years)

Show Dates: May 6,7,8,9

Audition Information:

Where: Florence City Hall / Firebarn - 2864 State St, Omaha, NE 68112

Date: February 21, 2021

Time: 3:00-7:00 PM

Auditions will be held in 20-minute time slots. Please e-mail Molly Anderson (mjbyers123@gmail.com) to reserve your time slot. Please show up 10 minutes early to complete an audition form. Auditions will consist of cold readings with the cast and a single monologue. Please email Molly Anderson for the monologue if you wish to review it prior to auditions (not required).

Board Candidates



Krista Freimuth

Hi, my name is Krista Freimuth and I would like to serve on the Florentine Players board. I was the stage manager for Leading Ladies and Hint. I have helped work in the box office for the production of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. During this time, I got excited about the theater group and its history. During the day, I am an IT Asset Manager. I have project management experience and have done social media promotion. I would like to help the Florentine Players be more well known in the Omaha theater company, and not just known for melodramas, but also for the great theater that is put on other times of the year. I'd also like to help with Marketing and Ways & Means. I believe I can have a positive impact on the Florentine Players in the community.



David Frolio

I would like to be re-elected for the board because I love seeing my friends once a month (even if it is over zoom). Even though I don't speak up very often, I like being in the loop and having a say on the ideas and changes for Florence. I like being present for choosing of shows for the season. But most of all, it's all about friends.

Ric Gustafson



Hello my name is Ric Gustafson. I have been a member of the Florentine Players since 2014. My first production was the 50th anniversary Melodrama. Since then, I have been involved in 17 productions. The group has become like family to me. If I became part of the Board, that would be my emphasis. The Florentine Players are like family. If it is your first production or your 17th, you are family. On the stage or behind the scenes, you are family. My emphasis would be to get people to join, to be part of the family. The Florentine Player family. Thank you.

Sig Gustafson

I am Sig Gustafson. I have been a member of the Florentine Players since 2014. My first production was the 51st Melodrama. Since then I have been involved in several more productions. If I am elected, I will work to make the Florence Community Theater one of the best in the region. I have been on the board of directors of both the Omaha Jaycees and the Cedar Rapids, IA Jaycees (in the mid-1990's). I will work with the other board member to make the Florence Community Theater the best it can be. Thank you for your consideration.



Faith Jansen

My name is Faith Jansen. I have been involved with the Florentine Players for about 15 years now. We have grown, we have progressed, and we have morphed into a Community Theater. It has been a struggle and a passion for many along the way. I would like to say I can be the Ying to the drama Yang of this group. Let's just say the proverbial "voice of reason". You may not think you need that. I certainly think it's a good value to possess with this wonderfully close knit group of friends who more than likely will also consider most as family. I would look forward to being more involved in an attempt to bring people to the wonderful world of theater and the community of Florence.



Tracie Mauk

Since 2009 I have called The Florentine Players my theatre home. I have served this board in different capacities since I was first voted in those years ago, as former Secretary, to current Production Committee chairperson and Vice President, my goal has always been to see The Florentine Players grow and prosper. I love the theatre and all the opportunities for creative expression it provides, but I love The Florentine Players because of the love and welcoming heart they have for each other and their community. It fills me with such pride to see how far we've come as artists and as an organization. 2020 came with many unforeseen setbacks, but I know we can bounce back from this with the same drive and imagination I've seen from the very first time I stumbled into the Florence City Hall 11 years ago. With your vote of re-election, I would like to help to put us safely back on track so that we may return to what we have done best, provide unique entertainment and fundraising events for the Florence community.



Cecelia Sass

Hi my name is Cecelia Sass and I am running for re-election this year on the Florence board. I would love to be re-elected so that I can continue my journey with Florence in making it the best place it can be for its patrons and performers. Over the last three years, I have strived to create a inclusive community of like-minded people and will continue to do so if I am elected. Florence has been an integral part of my growth as a performer, and mother over the last few years and I'm so excited to see where the continuation of my time on the board leads me.



Jim Watson

I would love to continue being on the board. We have accomplished so much. New shows, more members, a brand new float! It would mean more than I can say to help the amazing journey move further into the future. Thank you.



COMMUNITY UPDATES



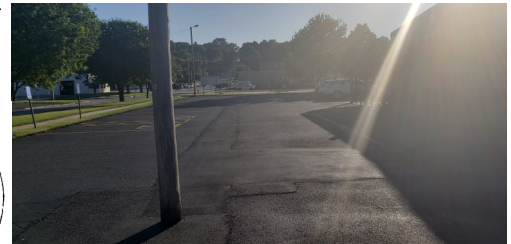
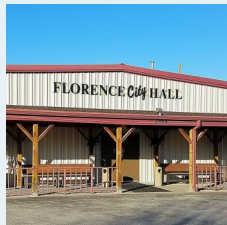
FLORENCE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

By Lisa Scheve, Secretary, Florence Historic

While the pandemic did put a halt to the Florentine Player's 2020 season, the Historical Foundation was able to make some minor improvements to Florence City Hall. This past year the foundation was able to expand and resurface the parking lot of the Hall. This major improvement project

wouldn't have been able to take place without the support of our patrons and donations made throughout the previous years. Having the parking lot not only expanded but resurfaced is a welcomed addition. Jointly together the Florentine Player's and Historical Foundation continue to find ways to reinvest into the theater and community – whether it be through the purchase of new lights (hopefully in 2021) or maintaining historical properties in the community like the Depot, Bank and Toll

House. Our needs will continue to grow and we welcome the opportunity for others to get involved in both organizations.



Florentine Players Helping Our Community

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make masks for UNMC in the spring of 2020. Your hours of work and dedication did not go unnoticed! We appreciate you!



Looking for Volunteers!



Do you have a talent for marketing? Do you look at this newsletter and say, "Hey I can do better than that." (Believe me, it's not hard) The Florentine Players and Florence Community Theater is looking for marketing volunteers to help us stay on top. We are seeking people to help with building and maintaining our website, creating brochures and promotions for our upcoming shows, and helping to keep our social media platforms up-to-date with vibrant content. Interested? Please send a message to derekkowal@gmail.com or text to (402)216-4944.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Florence Community Theater Home of the Florentine Players

Become a Member of the "Florentine Players"

For as little as \$5 a year, you can get all these great benefits:

- 4 quarterly printed newsletters per year
- Invitation to the annual *Florentine Players Awards Banquet held every January.*
- Voting rights to elect board members and changes to bylaws
- \$2 discount to *Florence Community Theater productions*
- Annual gift presented at the annual *Awards Banquet*
- Free promotion for your artistic endeavors through our social media channels and newsletter ("Florence Supports")

DONATE NOW— SCAN THIS QR CODE!!!

=====>>>

[Point the camera on your phone at this code, and it will take you to PayPal, where you can renew your membership on-line and be eligible to vote in the upcoming elections]



Letter from the Vice President:

By Tracie Mauk



Welcome all who made it with us to the year 2021! It seemed like such a long journey to take, but here we are and there are lights in sight at the end of this long tunnel we've been down. As Board President Kowal has said, we are very optimistic that we may open our doors again later this year, in some capacity, and we are very excited to get back to doing what we do best, serving the Florence community with the best live entertainment your donations and our imaginations can buy. Thank you for remembering us through this very unusual time, be it by your most flattering and moving nominations for us in the Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards, to your donations and messages. We miss our audiences and it's so heartening to know that we are missed in kind. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we've had to do our due diligence to best protect and serve our community and volunteers by following the best safety guidelines. We want nothing more than to open our doors to you again, but not until we know it's the safest time and safest way to do so.

Let's not make it weird, but... we love you

Okay, I made it weird

Florentine Players

**P.O. Box 12061
Omaha, NE 68112**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha, NE
Permit No. 1156



The Florence Community Theater

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Florentine Players Membership Form

For as little as \$5 per year, you will receive our Quarterly Newsletter, which will keep you up to date on all things Florentine Players, as well as other information related to the arts in the Metro and beyond! Membership entitles you to vote for the annual awards ceremony held annually.

Membership Valid January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021.

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

Please mark one of the following:
 This is a renewal
 I am a new member
I would like to receive my newsletter (mark one or more):
 by US mail
 by email at the address listed above

Membership Categories

Please select one

- Headliners \$1,000 and up
- Producers \$500
- Directors \$100
- Patron \$25
- Stars \$15 per family of 3 or more
- Players \$5

I would like to make a gift/donation in the amount of: \$ _____

Please mail this form and a check to:
Florentine Players Membership
PO Box 12061
Omaha NE 68112