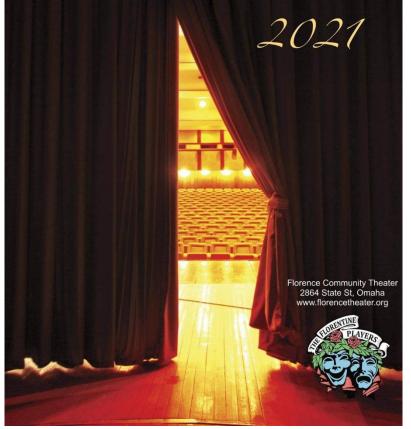
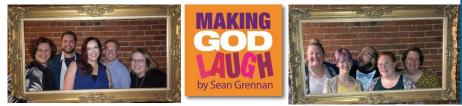
We had to strike the set early on 2020. Let's get ready to open the curtain on



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!



## **From the President**

Hello Florentine Players -

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. 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 has been extended to March 6, tabulation will begin, and candidates will be announced at our Annual Board meeting, Monday March 8, 2021.

It is an understatement to say 2020 had 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 DHM's will be in place then, but your board has all come together and made the decision with a strong, united front that we will resume productions in May - safely.

See you all very soon! Derek Kowal

> 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* Banguet 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

DONATE NOW— SCAN THIS OR 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

lections]



### Looking for Volunteers!

### f 0

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 peo-ple to help with building and maintaining our website, creating brochures and promotions



for our upcoming shows, and helping to keep our social me-dia 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



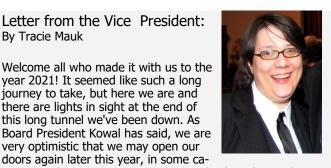
## Florentine Players Helping Our Community

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!



**Florence Community Theater** est. 1929





pacity, 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

Letter from the Vice President:

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

very optimistic that we may open our

By Tracie Mauk