

LITTLE ROCK

# soirée

No 6

AUGUST 2016 § VOL. 15

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**AUGUST INSPIRATION / 12**

Allow the ABPG team to inspire you with its top picks of things to do and see this month.

**ASK THE EXPERT / 15**

Garvan Woodlands Gardens' director gives her top tips for helping our bees and creating a wildlife sanctuary in your own garden.

**TOP PICKS / 17**

We review the best facials to keep your skin in check during the hottest summer month.

**LITTLE ROCK, BIG HERO / 19**

Drew "the Dreammaker" Davis on setting up the Arkansas Dream Center and building stronger communities.

**CURRENT WOMEN / 20**

How three fearless women are conserving and protecting the Natural State's most precious resource, its rivers.

**SWEET BUT DEADLY / 26**

How cutting back on sugar and making simple lifestyle changes has been proven to drastically reduce your risk of cancer.

**TAKE ME AWAY / 34**

The Soirée guide to three of the world's most enchanting cities.

**LITTLE ROCK'S FINEST / 43**

Insurance can be daunting and confusing, but you can sleep a little easier with our guide to the best insurance agents in town.

*a Soirée special promotion*

**IN EVERY ISSUE**

Editor's Letter /8

Contributors /10

Datebook /56

Events /57

Morning Coffee to Lights Out /66



**ON THE COVER:**

Ranch North Woods Preserve in Little Rock, photographed by Jason Masters

**THIS PAGE:**

The Santiago skyline, Chile

31



Opening August 2016

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# Mad dogs and Englishmen

There's one question that, without fail, everyone I have met in the last few weeks has asked me, "Have you experienced an Arkansas August yet?" At first I was happy to reply that I had – I had arrived in the last week of August last year and felt some small sense of accomplishment that this pale English girl had lived to face another Southern summer. That is until my companion replies, "Oh, last year wasn't hot. Last year was a breeze. This August is going to be hot."

At first I thought people were exaggerating, then my team's suggestions for our "Things we're excited about this month" page started coming in and my heart sank as a clear pattern emerged. So many emails saying "shaved ice," "ice cream," "frozen margaritas" and "anything cold" came in that I had to ban any further suggestions of frozen things as the page was morphing from "things we're excited about" to "things we keep in our freezer."

Could it really be that bad? Throughout June I had relished having the patio doors open in the evenings and sitting outside at restaurants after work. "This is blissful," I thought, "It's like being on holiday every day. What is all the fuss about?"

Then sure enough, July rolled in. Almost overnight, having the doors open became unbearable. When driving downtown I started noticing people doing strange things like standing in the middle of the sidewalk staring at the road. After witnessing a few incidents like this I realized that were they actually waiting to cross the road, but were standing far back from the crossing so as to benefit from even the tiniest amount of shade provided by a nearby building. I soon found myself doing the same, and a Southern friend congratulated me on officially becoming a local when I made a reservation to have brunch with her in a restaurant famous for its garden but requested a table inside. "You're one of us now," she said triumphantly. "Only a tourist would sit outside in this!"

The heat and the distinct identity of the South seem to be inextricably linked. As one of Arkansas' famous sons, Charles Portis, put it, "the character of the authentic Southerner is forged in the oppressive heat of a July day and in the febrile sleeplessness of a July night. It is the month when we learn to walk on the shaded side of the street and to never pass up a drink of cold water."

The days are ticking by and the dreaded August will soon arrive. In preparation I'm even getting a haircut to try to minimize the havoc that the humidity will inevitably wreak on my already frizzy mane (my childhood nickname of Medusa was well earned). But something tells me that living through an Arkansas August is a necessary part of earning my stripes a Southerner; a rite of passage, if you will.

A renowned novelist from the other side of the pond, Rudyard Kipling, also attempted to express the delirium of the heat with his famous "only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun." But even he, quintessential Englishman as he was, might have changed his mind had he come to Arkansas. I'm sure he would have found it much more preferable to sit up in the shade of a porch with a glass of sweet tea instead.



Nicola Kavanagh-Trinidade, editor



## August in HOT SPRINGS

AUGUST 5

GALLERY WALK

Garvan Woodland Gardens

AUGUST 18

VINCE GILL IN CONCERT

Finish Line Theater,  
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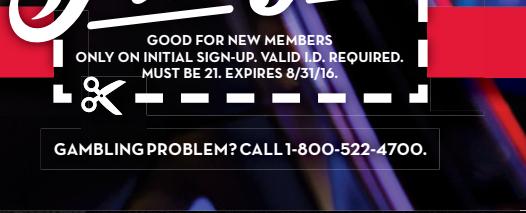
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## CONTRIBUTORS | AUGUST



BRANDY THOMASON MCNAIR launched Bella Vita Jewelry in 2008 at local art fairs, retail craft shows, and online at [BellaVitaJewelry.net](http://BellaVitaJewelry.net). Now her creations can be found at more than 100 stores across the country and in her new retail shop in Little Rock. When she isn't tending to her growing small business, Brandy enjoys spending time in the great outdoors with her husband, perusing local flea markets, enjoying drinks and dinners out with friends in downtown Little Rock, and cuddling with her 13-year-old lab mix, Arlo.

When surgeon AARON TRINIDADE isn't tending to his patients at UAMS, he is pursuing his other great love — travel. Having racked up over 60 countries to date, he proved to be the perfect aficionado for our first *Soirée* travel section. His insider guides to Charleston, Santiago and Mexico City tell you exactly where to see and be seen, eat, drink and sleep in three of the Western Hemisphere's finest cities.



ANGELA ALEXANDER is a Memphis native but has proudly called Little Rock home for 16 years. Angela styles all the *Soirée* features and photo shoots, as well as doubling up as hair and makeup artist. Her favorite part of the job is that she gets to meet interesting people every day and experience new and exciting parts of the Natural State. Angela is married to Isaac Alexander, art director of the Eric Rob & Isaac advertising agency, and they have two girls, Violet and Posey.

JASON MASTERS is an Austin, Texas, native now based in Little Rock. He has been shooting for *Soirée* for more than 10 years, and his work can be found in *Teen Vogue*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *The Knot*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Texas Monthly*, and *Martha Stewart Weddings*, among other titles. For this month's cover shot, Jason tenaciously balanced tens of thousands of dollars' worth of camera equipment on a precarious kayak to capture the beauty of Arkansas' rivers for our story on the work of the Nature Conservancy. When not photographing the world's most beautiful places and people, Jason can be found at the ballpark watching his two sons play, or sneaking away for a quick vacation with his "more beautiful than any model" wife and kids.



*Correction: From the Soirée Spy piece as featured in the July issue, Terri and David Snowden, Jr. are the 2017 Arkansas Art Center Tabriz Chairs.*

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AUGUST 2016 /VOL. 15 NO. 6

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SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE: \$29.95 PER YEAR IN PULASKI COUNTY :: \$34.95 PER YEAR OUTSIDE OF PULASKI COUNTY. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO ARKANSAS BUSINESS, P.O. BOX 3686, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203

SOIRÉE IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY ARKANSAS BUSINESS PUBLISHING GROUP, 114 SCOTT ST., LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201, P.O. BOX 3686, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203, PH: 501.372.1443, FAX: 501.375.7933.



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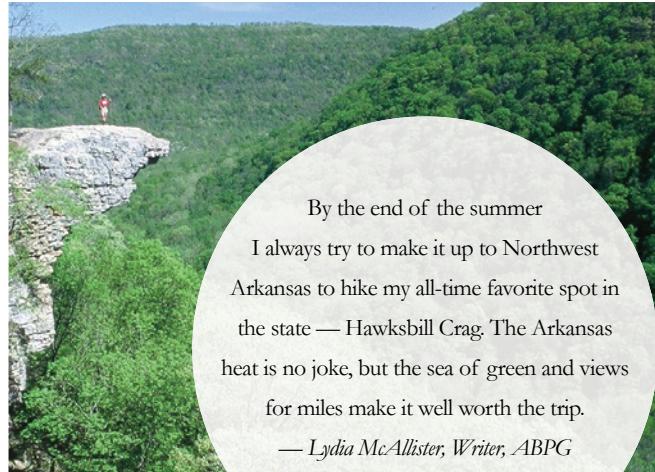
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August I'm excited about this, this,  
a thousand times this!

— Gwen Moritz, Editor, Arkansas Business



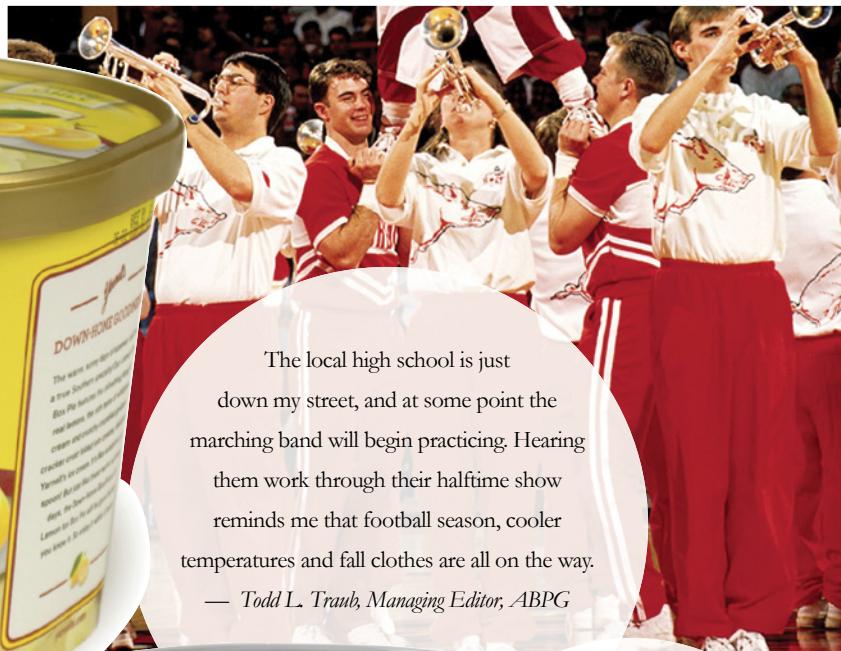
By the end of the summer  
I always try to make it up to Northwest  
Arkansas to hike my all-time favorite spot in  
the state — Hawksbill Crag. The Arkansas  
heat is no joke, but the sea of green and views  
for miles make it well worth the trip.

— Lydia McAllister, Writer, ABPG



I'm excited to beat  
the heat wave happening outdoors  
and visit the new Dave and Buster's  
for some weekend fun!

— Deran Malone, Marketing  
& Research Manager, ABPG



The local high school is just  
down my street, and at some point the  
marching band will begin practicing. Hearing  
them work through their halftime show  
reminds me that football season, cooler  
temperatures and fall clothes are all on the way.

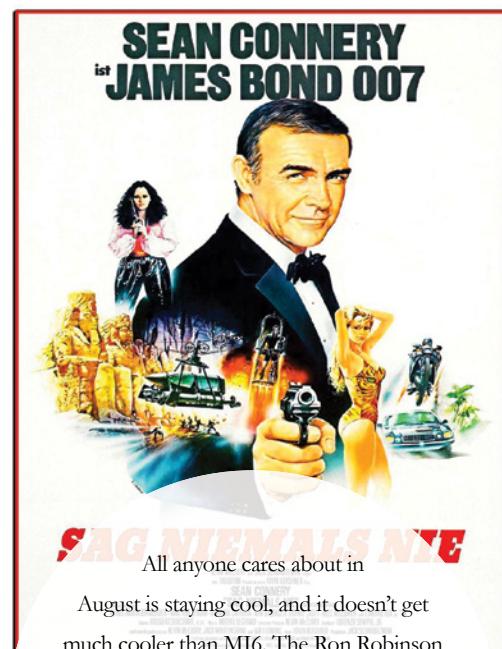
— Todd L. Traub, Managing Editor, ABPG



Belle & Blush

introduced their new product line  
By Terry, and I have fallen in love  
with the Baume de Rose Lip Balm. It  
makes my lips feel so smooth, and has  
the most amazing hint of rose scent.

— Mandy Richardson, Publisher, Soirée



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week Aug. 10-14 with themed activities every  
night. I wouldn't miss it for all the gold

on Jill Masterson's body.

— Jess Ardrey,  
Online Editor, Soirée





I'm excited about attending the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame event Aug. 25. There is a tremendous group of honorees being inducted, and it will be great to celebrate their achievements.

— Mitch Bettis, President, ABPG



August is my birthday month so I look forward to a birthday meal at YaYa's or Loca Luna, as well as whatever surprise my husband gets me from Barbara/Jean (usually something Tory Burch). He always does good.

— Lindsay Irvin, Editor, Arkansas Bride and FIT Arkansas



I look forward to National Thrift Shop Day on Aug. 17. I always love a good excuse to dig for old books, vinyl records, glassware and other collectibles at the thrift stores and antique malls all over central Arkansas.

— Dean Wheeler, Art Director, Soirée



Summer does bring with it some pesky irritations, so I'm excited to play around with doTERRA's essential oils starter kit, which includes Lavender for hot, restless nights, and

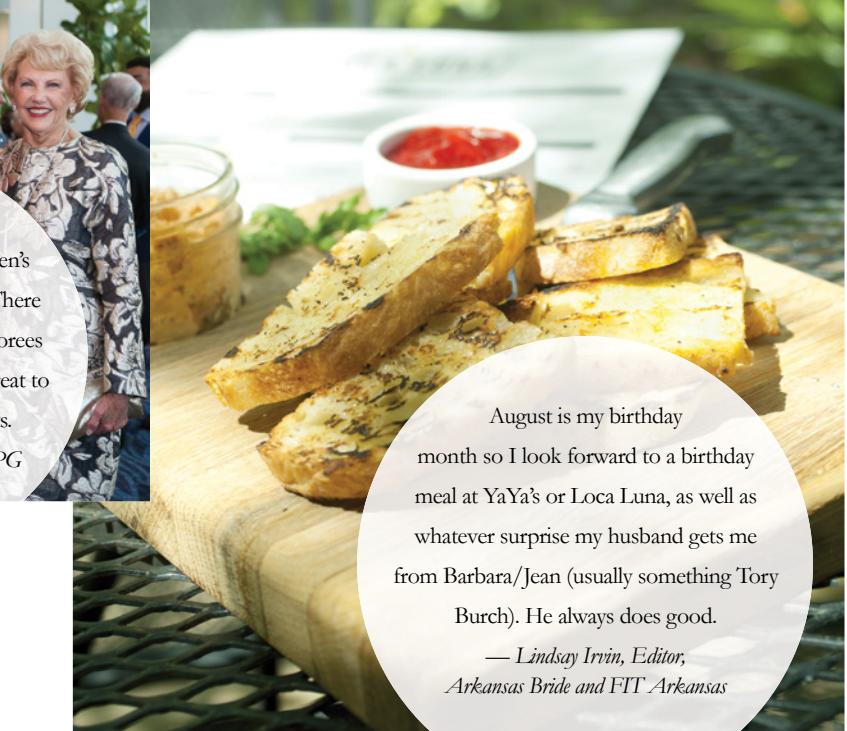
Breathe to relieve hay fever.

— Nicola Kavanagh-Trinidad, Editor, Soirée



In August, keeping cool is the name of the game, and one of the best places to do that is Kilwin's in the River Market, with an array of ice creams and other tasty treats.

— Lance Turner, Online Editor, Arkansas Business



# August inspiration

*Things we're excited about this month!*



## Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame

*Introducing the 2016 honorees*

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Dr. Betty Lowe*

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## THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

Becca Ohman, Gardens Director of the renowned Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs, gives her top tips for creating a sanctuary for nature's little helpers

BY NICOLA KAVANAGH-TRINIDADE . PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHERRE FREEMAN

### *Provide a refuge for butterflies, bees and other pollinators*

The plight of bees and endangered butterflies should not be underestimated, but by providing a healthy garden rich in biodiversity you encourage the presence of pollinators, other beneficial insects and creatures. Follow these simple steps to encourage a diversity in your home garden. First, choose plants that give a variety of different colors and sizes to attract as wide a variety of insects as possible. Second, create areas that offer both sun and shade; different pollinators have different preferences for habitat. Finally, provide "host plants," especially for butterflies. As you select the host plants, consider the whole life cycle of the butterfly and provide food for caterpillars as well as the adult butterflies. Native plants and their naturalized cousins are especially attractive to butterflies and beneficials. Examples include butterfly weed, Echinacea or coneflowers, and rudbeckia.

*Every creature plays a role* There are many other beneficial creatures for our home gardens. The greater the biodiversity of your garden, the healthier and more attractive it will be to pollinators and other creatures. Beneficial insects such as ladybugs and ground beetles are natural predators of pest insects that can damage your garden. Limiting the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides maintains the natural balance of your garden and allows these beneficials to do their job. Other animals like frogs, lizards and birds are also incredibly helpful to your garden's health. Their natural beauty and interest add to their practical role in insect control.

*Planning the layout of a garden* There are many factors to consider when planning the layout of your garden. However, they can be simplified into a few basic elements:

- Orientation — the direction your garden faces, and more particular, how much sun your garden receives — plays a critical role in its success. For butterfly gardens and gardens that attract other pollinators you need a minimum of six hours of sunlight.
- A good soil mixture provides the foundation for plant health. Use a mixture that is high in organic matter, such as compost.
- Create a garden that is beautiful to you and helpful to the beneficial creatures by selecting plants that provide year-round interest, habitat and nutrition. Do this by first selecting foundation or anchor plants such as ornamental grasses and evergreen shrubs to provide the backbone of your garden. Next, select plants that provide a variety of height, color and texture (size of the leaf and size of the blooms.) Place taller plants to the back and shorter plants at the front. As you become more familiar with your garden design, play with these heights to provide movement and character.

• Home gardens are easily personalized to express your interests, favorite colors or plants. Have fun, and remember as your garden matures that moving plants around or adding plants to your collection adds to your enjoyment.

### *Garden to-do list*

- Find natural alternatives for chemical herbicides and pesticides.
- Select non-invasive varieties of plants.
- Regularly take care of housekeeping items such as cleaning birdbaths and adding decals to your windows to keep birds from colliding with them.
- Build bat houses to add another layer of biodiversity to your home and to reduce pest insects like mosquitoes.



## LITTLE ROCK Soirée / ON THE ROAD

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The treatment is finished off with LED light therapy — blue to kill bacteria in clogged areas and red to calm the skin, improve circulation and stimulate collagen and elastin production. The result is immediate gratification and a glowing complexion, with benefits lasting 28 days. [advancedaestheticsar.com](http://advancedaestheticsar.com)

## POUT

Pout prides itself in providing the perfect balance of relaxation and effectiveness, and this is certainly felt as you walk through the bustling Pout store — trying not to be distracted by the staggering array of cosmetics — and emerge into a serene, candle-lit treatment room. Every facial includes a relaxing 10-minute hand and arm massage, and Pout is the only spa in Arkansas to carry product lines such as Chantecaille, a high-end botanical French skin care and cosmetics line as luxurious as it is effective. “It’s the best anti-inflammatory line I’ve ever used,” says facialist Treece Beck. There’s also Biopelle, a targeted skin care line so effective that previously it was only available in doctors’ offices. [poutoflr.com](http://poutoflr.com)

## BEAUTY GEEK

A brand new space means a brand new face. Well, not exactly, but walking into the new Beauty Geek location at 5709 Kavanaugh is like a breath of fresh air, and walking out after one of its lash extension, brow or facials treatments from licensed aestheticians is even better. The menu offers a full arsenal of chemical peels (salicylic or glycolic), crystal-free microdermabrasion, gentle and personalized eco-chic facials — many using products stocked in the lobby’s gift shop — but Beauty Geek’s queen bee is the HydraFacial. The relaxing treatment’s elements like DermaBuilder



and Britenol leave your skin glowing. “I love watching my clients’ reactions when they see their new healthy and hydrated complexion for the first time post-treatment,” says co-owner Tess Wilmans-Higgins “It’s the best!” [beabeautygeek.com](http://beabeautygeek.com)

## B. BARNETT

The Men’s Fitness Facial is a one-hour treatment involving deep cleansing and exfoliation with a surprising (for a first-timer, at least) element of massage as aesthetician Aimee-Claire Quinney applies acupressure techniques to the face, neck and shoulders. Barber towels and aromatherapy add to a relaxing experience customized to one’s needs, whether that’s soothing redness, removing unsightly blemishes or repairing sun damage. Male-centric product lines by Murad and Sisley are available, and 30-minute microdermabrasions (removal of dry, dead skin) are available, either as a stand-alone treatment or added to any facial. Quinney, who fell in love with her profession while tagging along to her big sister’s spa visits and who previously worked at Spa Bellagio in Las Vegas, notes it is less common for men in Arkansas to seek out skin care treatments. But the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, as well as skin cancer awareness, has increased interest in male skin care. Whether it’s about health, vanity or simple stress relief, as a client once said to Quinney mid-treatment, “I can’t believe I’ve denied myself this for 84 years.” [bbarnett.com](http://bbarnett.com)

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Meet our 2016 class of Best Insurance Agents and check out their extended interviews online. Just think of it as a get-to-know-you coffee date.

## Weekend Guides:

Whether you're on the hunt for the latest film festival or hot on the trail of the newest food truck, we've got the best lineup of happenings to help you find your Little Rock adventure.



## Little Rock Soirée Today:

Sign up for our daily newsletter and receive the premier social guide to the best of the city delivered straight to your inbox. Don't miss out on the latest local food, art, style and philanthropy news.

## Live Music:

Put the fancy headphones down and step away from the smartphone. It's time you rediscover the art of the concert, and we've got your weekly set list.



## More Mexico City, Please:

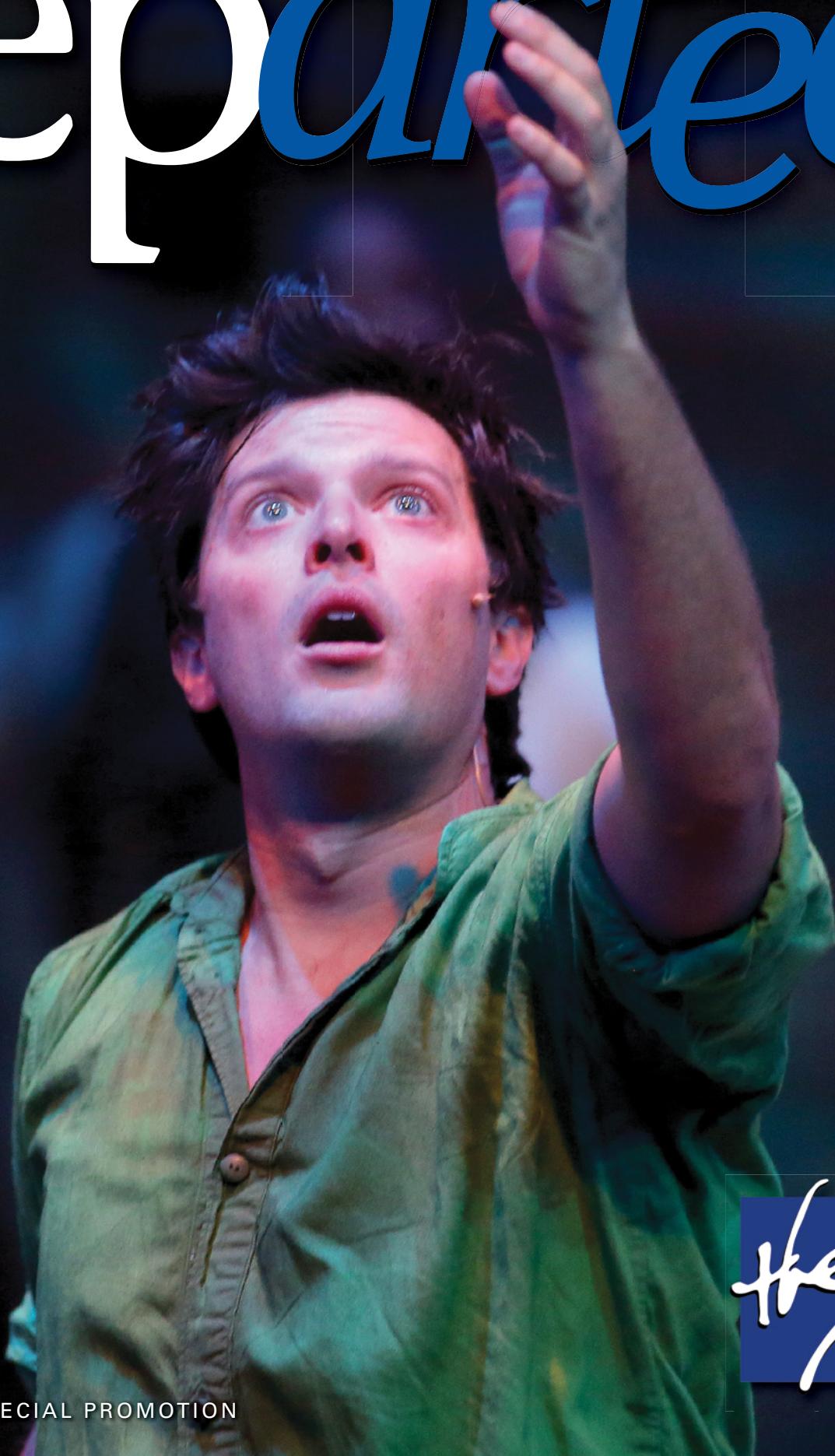
There's much more to see of the ultimate vacay destinations featured in this issue than we could ever fit in print, so grab your sunglasses and head online for a bigger taste.



ARKANSAS REPERTORY THEATRE

2016-2017

# reparté



A SOIREE SPECIAL PROMOTION

# THE REP IS:

**F**ounded in 1976, Arkansas Repertory Theatre is the state's largest non-profit professional theatre company. The Rep exists to create a diverse body of theatrical work of the highest artistic standards. With a focus on dramatic storytelling that illuminates the human journey, The Rep entertains, engages and enriches local and regional audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

## From Interim Producing Artistic Director Cliff Baker and Managing Director Michael McCurdy

### WELCOME TO OUR 41<sup>ST</sup> SEASON!

*"Change is good."*

In the non-profit theatre world, change is essential. Arkansas Rep is one of the few cultural institutions in the country that has flourished for 40 years under only two artistic director tenures.

So here we are on the brink of hiring a new leader who will bring a new vision and artistic point of view, unique to them, but shaped by our community. That is exciting; change is exciting! The Rep has a committed Board of Directors, talented staff and passionate audiences, dynamics that have attracted many top-notch candidates. It's an exciting time

at The Rep, and we invite you to be an active part of this unique time in our history.

Our 41<sup>st</sup> Season highlights our diversity and celebrates our strengths. It is a varied and exciting lineup of productions that includes Tony Award-winning artistic experiences and family favorites that exemplify The Rep's mission of producing diverse work of the highest artistic standards for Arkansas audiences. Throughout the season, we have many opportunities for you to engage with the theatrical works on our stage. From Behind the Theme and Clinton School Speaker Series to expanded educational programming and more, we hope you'll join us as we continue

sharing our favorite pastime with you: storytelling.

Be a part of our 41<sup>st</sup> Season and help us usher The Rep and our new leadership into the future. Bring your friends, bring the family or bring that special someone, and take an unforgettable journey at The Rep this season.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Cliff Baker  
FOUNDER, INTERIM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Michael McCurdy  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

## connect with The Rep:

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [TheRep.org](http://TheRep.org) | WE BLOG [Blog.TheRep.org](http://Blog.TheRep.org) | JOIN OR RENEW TODAY [TheRep.org/Support](http://TheRep.org/Support)



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[/ArkansasRepTheatre](http://ArkansasRepTheatre)



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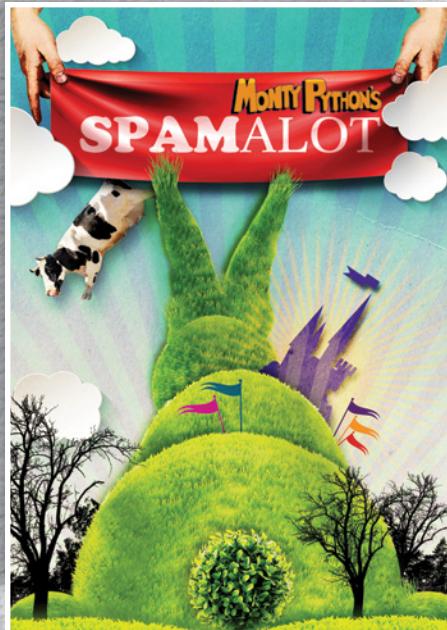


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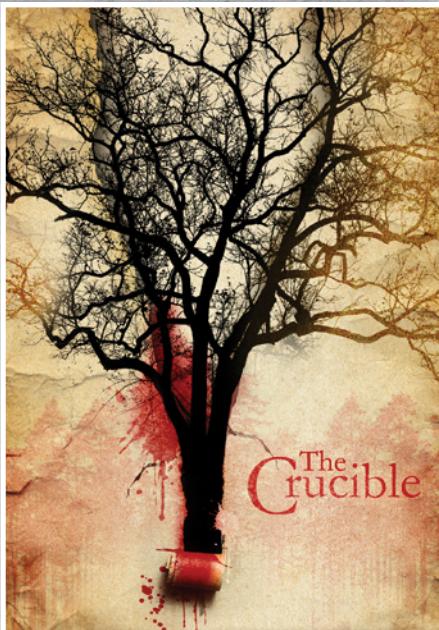
**On the cover:** Steve Pacek as Peter in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Photo by Stephen B. Thornton.

2016 - 2017

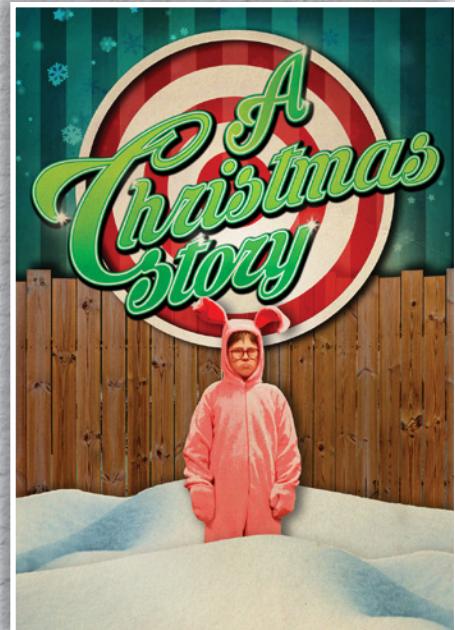
# MAIN STAGE SEASON



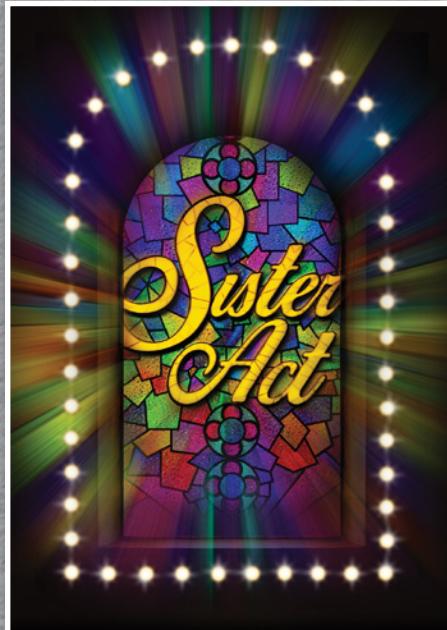
Aug. 31 – Oct. 2, 2016



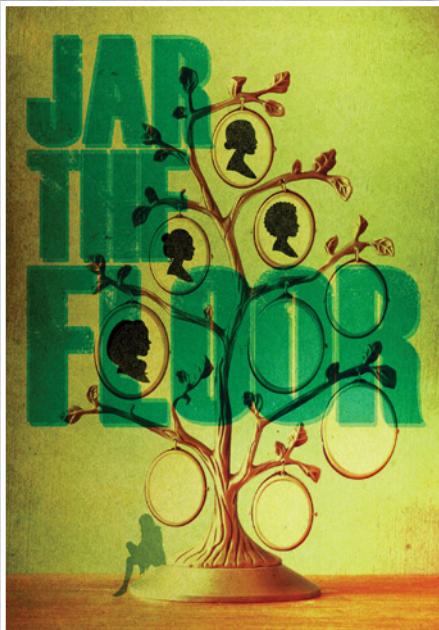
Oct. 26 – Nov. 13, 2016



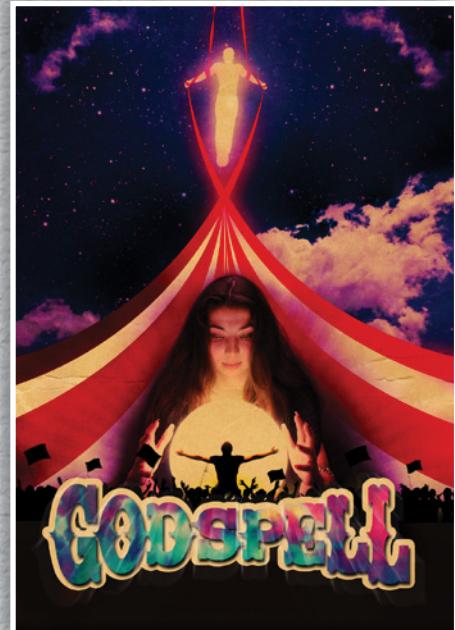
Nov. 30 – Dec. 25, 2016



Jan. 25 – Feb. 26, 2017



March 29 – April 16, 2017



May 31 – June 25, 2017

# Monty Python's SPAMALOT



# MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

AUG. 31 – OCT. 2, 2016

BOOK & LYRICS BY ERIC IDLE | MUSIC BY JOHN DU PREZ & ERIC IDLE | A NEW MUSICAL LOVINGLY RIPPED OFF FROM THE MOTION PICTURE "MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL" | FROM THE ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY BY GRAHAM CHAPMAN, JOHN CLEESE, TERRY GILLIAM, ERIC IDLE, TERRY JONES, MICHAEL PAIN | DIRECTED BY MELISSA RAIN ANDERSON

**F**rom the deliciously twisted minds of Monty Python's *Flying Circus* comes the irreverent, sidesplitting Broadway smash musical that proves that you should always look on the bright side of life, especially if you're not yet dead.

Witches, wizards, killer bunny rabbits with big pointy teeth and the French (naturally!) are just a few of the epic obstacles that Arthur and his brave knights (and Sir Robin) must vanquish on their eternal quest to find the Holy Grail; and create a hit stage show in the process.

Blending the most quotable parts of

the cult comedy classic *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* with a lovingly savage satire of the entertainment industry, *Spamalot* will have you rolling in the aisles and buying shrubberies in the gift shop on your way out of the theatre.

"I'm always compelled and inspired to work on great comedy," said Director Melissa Rain Anderson. "I think the tag line says it best: 'Lovingly ripped from the motion picture *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.' The Pythons are famous for their silly, quirky comedy and I'm a big fan of their style. Though the humor is irreverent, the tone is still

very buoyant. There's a sweet spot with delivering that type of humor. The key is committing to that zone and playing within that very specific zany realm.

"And it's all on the page," Anderson continues. "There's no need to comment or call attention to the jokes. It's a wonderful tight rope to walk, and I am committed to maintaining that honesty. It's a joyous event of a show and I'm thrilled to be working on *Spamalot*, again!"

One of the wackiest musicals to ever win three Tony Awards, including "Best Musical," *Spamalot* will delight even the most jaded theatregoer!

## ENGAGE WITH US

### BEHIND THE THEME

Thursday, Aug. 25, 6 p.m.

### \$5 for non-members/FREE for members of The Rep and The 601 Club

Enhance your theatregoing experience by joining us for a discussion exploring the cult following of this fan-favorite musical.

RSVP to [rlewis@therep.org](mailto:rlewis@therep.org)

### PAY WHAT YOU CAN NIGHT

Wednesday, Aug. 31

### Sponsored by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Patrons are invited to attend the first preview of Opening Week by paying any amount they wish for their tickets. Tickets must be purchased in person at the Box Office at 601 Main Street the day of the performance. The Box Office opens at 9 a.m. There are 100 tickets available for purchase, and tickets are limited to (2) two per person.

### PRESHOW DIRECTOR TALKS

Wednesday, Aug. 31 and Thursday, Sept. 1, 6:15 p.m.

Get exclusive insight into our production of *Spamalot* from Interim Producing Artistic Director Cliff Baker and the creative team before the start of the preview performances.

### CLINTON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, Sept. 1, 12 p.m.

Join Interim Producing Artistic Director Cliff Baker and members of the cast and creative team for a panel discussion on this production.

### BEER NIGHT WITH LOST FORTY AND ARKANSAS TIMES

Thursday, Sept. 1, 6 p.m.

### Sponsored by Arkansas Times and Lost Forty

Before the second preview of Opening Week, enjoy a complimentary beer tasting provided by Lost Forty Brewing.

### OPENING NIGHT PARTY WITH THE CAST

Friday, Sept. 2

### Sponsored by RSVP Catering and Floral Express

Party with the cast after the Opening Night performance. Enjoy a special champagne toast and light hors d'oeuvres by RSVP Catering.

### PAY YOUR AGE NIGHT

Sunday, Sept. 4

### Sponsored by Little Rock Soirée, Colonial Wine and Spirits, The Ride 106.7/The Point 94.1

If you're age 22-40, you can pay your age at The Rep! Top off your weekend with great theatre at

a great price. Plus, enjoy a complimentary wine tasting provided by Colonial Wine and Spirits. There are 50 tickets available for purchase, and tickets are limited to (4) four per household. Proof of age for each member of the party is required at time of pick-up. **Offer is based on seating availability.**

### LIVE FROM FOSTER'S WITH CROSSROADS

Friday, Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m.

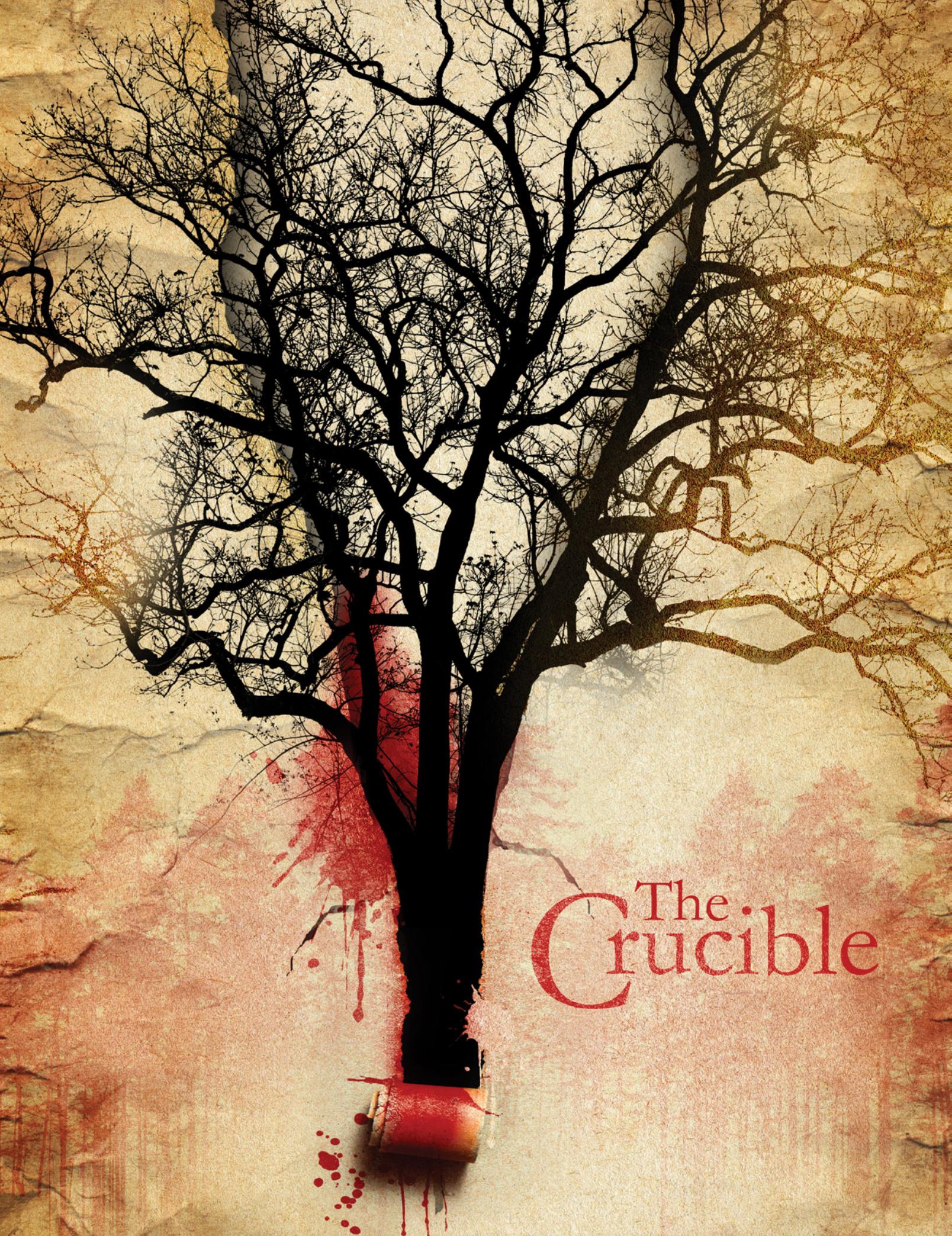
Get your evening started early with live preshow music in Foster's.

### THE AFTER-PARTY

Saturday, Oct. 1

Stick around after the performance for drinks and look for members of the cast to make an appearance in Foster's.

*Visit [TheRep.org](http://TheRep.org) for more details about the event lineup, including times and ticket information.*



# The Crucible

# THE CRUCIBLE

OCT. 26 – NOV. 13, 2016

PLAY BY ARTHUR MILLER | DIRECTED BY PAUL BARNES

**S**ince its premiere in 1953, master playwright Arthur Miller's chilling portrayal of the historic Salem Witch Trials has become an American stage classic as well as a terrifying metaphor for modern times. *The Crucible* explores the insidious dangers of paranoia, mass hysteria and prejudice, all potent issues that could be ripped from today's headlines.

Amid a rash of mysterious illnesses and rumors of strange behavior among the young girls of Salem, Mass., suspicions of malevolent forces at work begin to cloud the judgment of the town's citizens and they pledge to root out the evil in their colony.

But children's games soon turn deadly as the people of Salem are whipped into a bloodthirsty frenzy

by fear and distrust. Neighbor turns against neighbor, whispers become testimony and lies become truth.

As the minds of the townsfolk become poisoned by anxiety and doubt, even upright farmer and family man John Proctor is falsely accused of witchcraft and must fight a corrupt court to protect the virtue of his name.

"Arthur Miller, one of the great American moralists, wrote *The Crucible*, a play about the 17th Century Salem, Mass. witch hunts and trials, during another period of witch hunts and trials in America: the mid-20th Century Joseph McCarthy-led HUAC Congressional hearings," said Director Paul Barnes. "It is fascinating to view our new century through the probing moral questions that permeate Miller's

work: How do we define manhood? What does it mean to have a conscience and to let it guide us? How can we be better human beings? I'm thrilled to revisit Miller's great play at this tumultuous time in our country's history and continuing evolution, and in this centenary anniversary year in which Arthur Miller is being so widely honored and remembered."

Inspired by the "McCarthy Red Scare" of the 1950s, Miller's white-hot play is a powerful testament to the injustices that can be committed in the name of patriotism and to the self-destructive nature of intolerance.

## ENGAGE WITH US

### BEHIND THE THEME

Thursday, Oct. 20, 6 p.m.

### \$5 for non-members/FREE for members of The Rep and The 601 Club

Enhance your theatregoing experience by joining us for a discussion exploring playwright Arthur Miller's involvement with the House Un-American Activities Committee at the time of the writing of *The Crucible*. *RSVP to rlewis@therep.org*

### PAY WHAT YOU CAN NIGHT

Wednesday, Oct. 26

### Sponsored by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Patrons are invited to attend the first preview of Opening Week by paying any amount they wish for their ticket. Tickets must be purchased in person at the Box Office at 601 Main Street the day of the performance. The Box Office opens at 9 a.m. There are 100 tickets for purchase, and tickets are limited to (2) two per person.

### PRESHOW DIRECTOR TALKS

Wednesday, Oct. 26 and Thursday, Oct. 27,

6:15 p.m.

Get exclusive insight into this musical from Interim Producing Artistic Director Cliff Baker and the creative team before the start of the preview performances.

### CLINTON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, Oct. 27, 12 p.m.

Join Interim Producing Artistic Director Cliff Baker and members of the cast and creative team for a special panel discussion about this production.

### BEER NIGHT WITH LOST FORTY AND ARKANSAS TIMES

Thursday, Oct. 27, 6 p.m.

### Sponsored by Arkansas Times and Lost Forty

Before the second preview of Opening Week, enjoy a complimentary beer tasting provided by Lost Forty Brewing.

### OPENING NIGHT PARTY WITH THE CAST

Friday, Oct. 28

### Sponsored by RSVP Catering and Floral Express

Party with the cast after the Opening Night performance. Enjoy a special champagne toast and light hors d'oeuvres by RSVP Catering.

### PAY YOUR AGE NIGHT

Sunday, Oct. 30

### Sponsored by Little Rock Soirée, Colonial Wine and Spirits, The Ride 106.7/The Point 94.1

If you're age 22-40, you can pay your age at The Rep! Top off your weekend with great theatre at a great

price. Plus, enjoy a complimentary wine tasting provided by Colonial Wine and Spirits. There are 50 tickets available for purchase, and tickets are limited to (4) four per household. Proof of age for each member of the party is required at time of pick-up. Offer is based on seating availability.

### LIVE FROM FOSTER'S

Friday, Nov. 4, 6:30 p.m.

Get your evening started early with live pre-show music in Foster's.

### THE AFTER-PARTY

Saturday, Nov. 12

Stick around after the performance for drinks and look for members of the cast to make an appearance at Foster's.

*Visit [TheRep.org](http://TheRep.org) for more details about the event lineup, including times and ticket information.*

# A Christmas Story



# A CHRISTMAS STORY

NOV. 30 – DEC. 25, 2016

PLAY BY PHILIP GREGIAN | BASED ON THE MOTION PICTURE *A CHRISTMAS STORY*, 1983 TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO.  
DIRECTED BY MARK SHANAHAN

**A**ll Ralphie Parker wants for Christmas is an Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle with a compass in the stock, and this thing that tells time. All his parents can say in response? "You'll shoot your eye out!"

Based upon the memoirs of Jean Shepherd, the 1983 film *A Christmas Story* has become a modern holiday classic. This winter, relive your favorite moments from the movie as they come to life onstage at The Rep!

Enjoy Ralphie's hilarious misadventures as his family struggles to enjoy an All-American Christmas

on the brink of World War II. Armed with an overactive imagination and the wide-eyed optimism of childhood, he creates fantastic schemes to guarantee that he will find a BB gun under the tree, which backfire with hysterical results.

Bullies, his salty Old Man, even a store Santa, all conspire to prevent Ralphie from attaining his heart's desire in this bittersweet, quirky slice of life from a more innocent time. In the end, nothing can defeat the spirit of Christmas when you are surrounded by a family who loves you, warts and all.

"We've got a wonderful present to wrap up and put under the tree

this year at The Rep," said Director Mark Shanahan. "Audiences will be delighted as this classic Christmas tale comes to life in a uniquely theatrical way. *A Christmas Story* transports us to the bygone era of the 1940s and the recollections of a family Christmas like no other. Full of wit, imagination and heartfelt nostalgia, *A Christmas Story* is a holiday gift you'll remember all year-round."

We triple-dog dare you to keep a straight face at *A Christmas Story*. This raucous, heartwarming yuletide favorite will have the whole family rolling in the aisles. It is not for the fra-gee-lay of heart!

## ENGAGE WITH US

### BEHIND THE THEME

Thursday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m.

### \$5 for non-members/FREE for members of The Rep and The 601 Club

Join us for a special Behind the Theme where we'll participate in the creation of an oral history of Arkansas Christmas Stories. Bring your loved ones and enter one of our recording booths to record your personal Christmas Story that will then be sent to StoryCorps to be housed in their collection at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. *RSVP to rlewis@therep.org*

### PAY WHAT YOU CAN NIGHT

Wednesday, Nov. 30

### Sponsored by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Patrons are invited to attend the first preview of Opening Week by paying any amount they wish for their tickets. Tickets must be purchased in person at the Box Office at 601 Main Street the day of the performance. The Box Office opens at 9 a.m. There are 100 tickets for purchase, and tickets are limited to (2) two per person.

### PRESHOW DIRECTOR TALKS

Wednesday, Nov. 30 and Thursday, Dec. 1, 6:15 p.m.

Get exclusive insight into this family favorite from Interim Producing Artistic Director Cliff Baker and the creative team before the start of the preview performances.

### CLINTON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, Dec. 1, 12 p.m.

Join Interim Producing Artistic Director Cliff Baker and members of the cast and creative team for a special panel discussion on this holiday favorite.

### BEER NIGHT WITH LOST FORTY AND ARKANSAS TIMES

Thursday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m.

### Sponsored by Arkansas Times and Lost Forty

Before the second preview of Opening Week, enjoy a complimentary beer tasting provided by Lost Forty Brewing.

### OPENING NIGHT PARTY WITH THE CAST

Friday, Dec. 2

### Sponsored by RSVP Catering and Floral Express

Party with the cast after the Opening Night performance. Enjoy a special champagne toast and light hors d'oeuvres by RSVP Catering.

### LITTLE ROCK FAMILY DAY

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1 p.m.

### Sponsored by Little Rock Family

Join *Little Rock Family* for pre-show family fun! From a special holiday-themed photo booth to kid-friendly crafts, Family Day is an outing the whole family will enjoy.

### PAY YOUR AGE NIGHT

Sunday, Dec. 4

### Sponsored by Little Rock Soirée, Colonial Wine and Spirits, The Ride 106.7/The Point 94.1

If you're age 22-40, you can pay your age at The Rep! Top off your weekend with great theatre at a great price. Plus, enjoy a complimentary wine tasting provided by Colonial Wine and Spirits. There are 50 tickets available for purchase, and tickets are limited to (4) four per household. Proof of age for each member of the party is required at time of pick-up. Offer is based on seating availability.

### LIVE FROM FOSTER'S WITH HEATHERSMITH

Friday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.

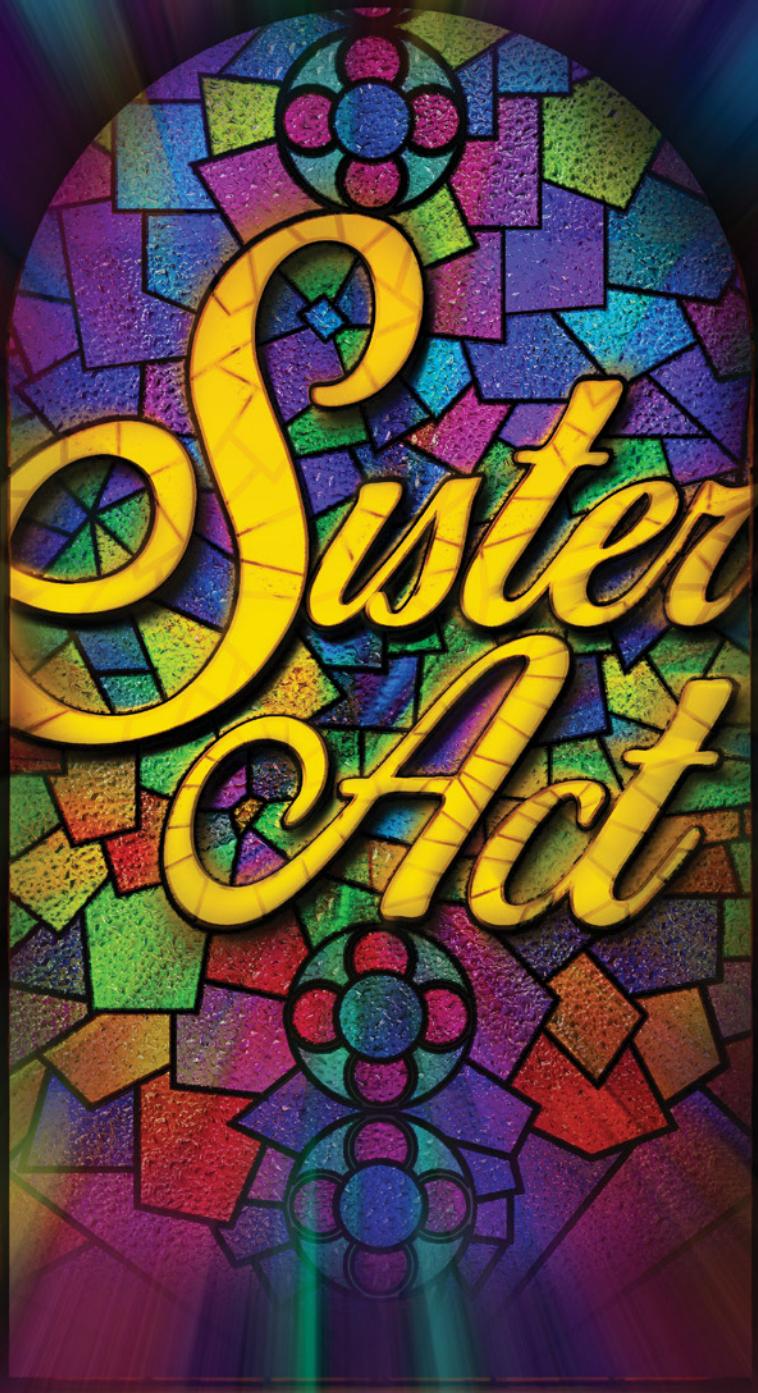
Get your evening started early with live pre-show music in Foster's.

### THE AFTER-PARTY

Friday, Dec. 23

Stick around after the performance for drinks and look for members of the cast to make an appearance at Foster's.

*Visit TheRep.org for more details about the event lineup, including times and ticket information.*



# SISTER ACT

JAN. 25 – FEB. 26, 2017

MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN | LYRICS BY GLENN SLATER | BOOK BY CHERI AND BILL STEINKELLNER

ADDITIONAL BOOK MATERIAL BY DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE | BASED ON THE TOUCHSTONE PICTURES MOTION PICTURE *SISTER ACT*  
WRITTEN BY JOSEPH HOWARD | DIRECTED BY CLIFF BAKER

**R**aise your voice with The Holy Order of the Little Sisters of Our Mother of Perpetual Faith in this rapturous new musical based on the 1992 hit movie starring Whoopi Goldberg!

After witnessing a violent crime committed by her mobster boyfriend, flamboyant lounge singer Deloris Van Cartier is placed deep undercover in the witness protection program. Posing as a nun in a convent, she struggles to fit in with the Mother Superior's strict rules and regulations.

Sharing her love for music, she injects modern panache into the

choir's stodgy performances. This soon turns their struggling church on its head and teaches the sisters the meaning of soul, and in return, they teach her the meaning of community.

A hilarious fish-out-of-water story with an infectious score by Alan Menken, the composer of *Little Shop of Horrors* and *The Little Mermaid*, *Sister Act* was nominated for five Tony Awards in 2011, including "Best Musical."

"Shake off those post-holiday blues and jump into 2017 with me as I direct *Sister Act the Musical*," said Director Cliff Baker. "A good number of years

ago, I saw this show when it was still in previews in London. I immediately knew Rep audiences would love this! The show joyfully celebrates our foibles and follies. It is suitable for the whole family, but it's not Disney, it's Whoopi!"

The Rep promises to raise the roof with this effervescent production that is sure to move your feet and your heart.

Can we get an "Amen"?

## ENGAGE WITH US

### BEHIND THE THEME

Thursday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m.

### \$5 for non-members/FREE for members of The Rep and The 601 Club

Enhance your theatregoing experience by joining us for a discussion exploring the power of gospel music and how it connects people from all walks of life.

RSVP to [rlewis@therep.org](mailto:rlewis@therep.org)

### PAY WHAT YOU CAN NIGHT

Wednesday, Jan. 25

### Sponsored by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Patrons are invited to attend the first preview of Opening Week by paying any amount they wish for their tickets. Tickets must be purchased in person at the Box Office at 601 Main Street the day of the performance. The Box Office opens at 9 a.m. There are 100 tickets for purchase, and tickets are limited to (2) two per person.

### PRESHOW DIRECTOR TALKS

Wednesday, Jan. 25 and Thursday, Jan. 26, 6:15 p.m.

Get exclusive insight into this production from the creative team before the start of the preview performances.

### CLINTON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

### DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, Jan. 26, 12 p.m.

Join members of the cast and creative team for a special panel discussion that looks at this Tony-nominated musical.

### BEER NIGHT WITH LOST FORTY AND ARKANSAS TIMES

Thursday, Jan. 26, 6 p.m.

### Sponsored by Arkansas Times and Lost Forty

Before the second preview of Opening Week, enjoy a complimentary beer tasting provided by Lost Forty Brewing.

### OPENING NIGHT PARTY WITH THE CAST

Friday, Jan. 27

### Sponsored by RSVP Catering and Floral Express

Party with the cast after the Opening Night performance. Enjoy a special champagne toast and light hors d'oeuvres by RSVP Catering.

### PAY YOUR AGE NIGHT

Sunday, Jan. 29

### Sponsored by Little Rock Soirée, Colonial Wine and Spirits, The Ride 106.7/The Point 94.1

If you're age 22-40, you can pay your age at The Rep! Top off your weekend with great theatre at

a great price. Plus, enjoy a complimentary wine tasting provided by Colonial Wine and Spirits. There are 50 tickets available for purchase, and tickets are limited to (4) four per household. Proof of age for each member of the party is required at time of pick-up. Offer is based on seating availability.

### LIVE FROM FOSTER'S WITH BEN BRENNER

Friday, Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m.

Get your evening started early with live pre-show music in Foster's.

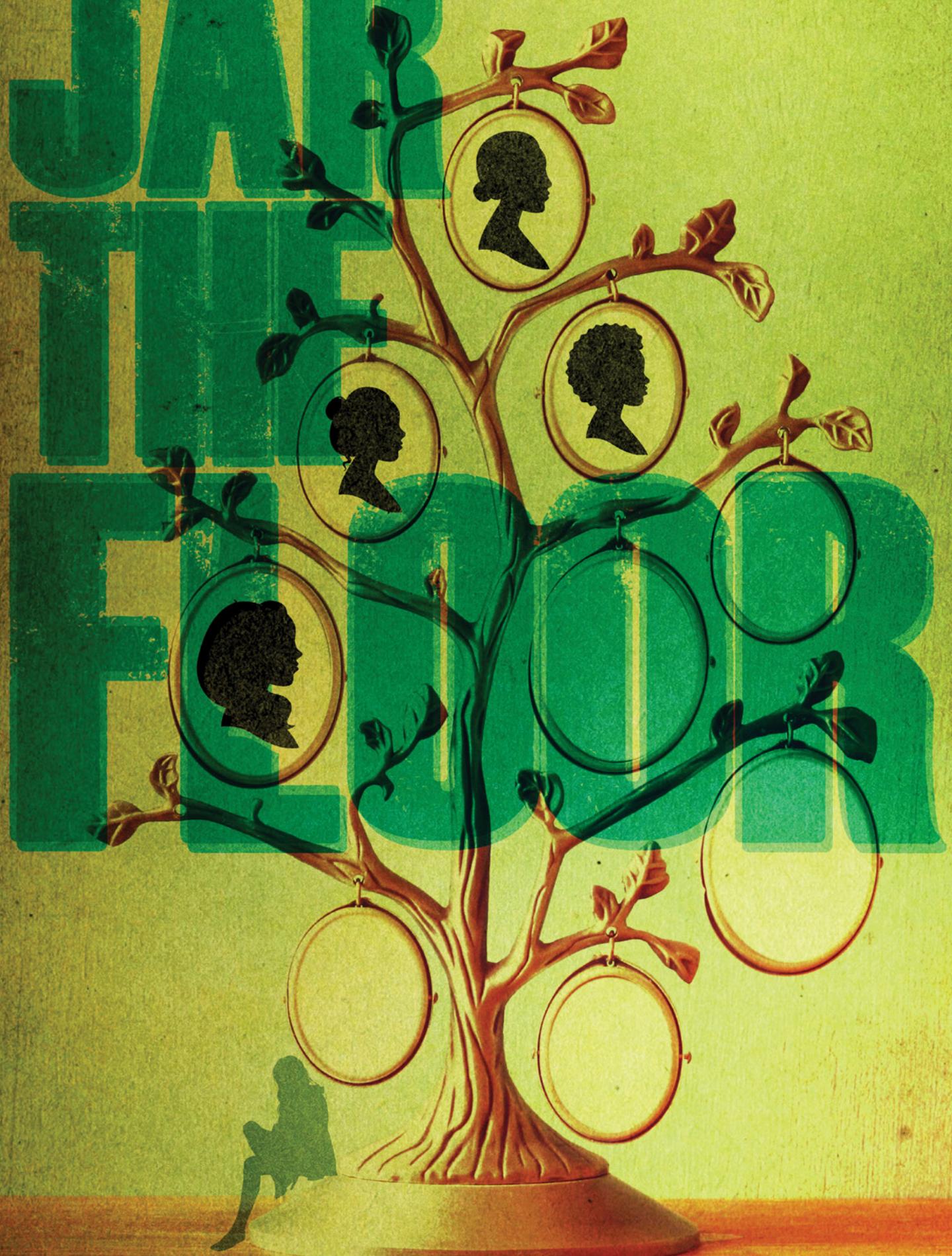
### THE AFTER-PARTY

Saturday, Feb. 25

Stick around after the performance for drinks and look for members of the cast to make an appearance at Foster's.

Visit [TheRep.org](http://TheRep.org) for more details about the event lineup, including times and ticket information.

# JAB THE F



# JAR THE FLOOR

MARCH 29 – APRIL 16, 2017

PLAY BY CHERYL L. WEST | DIRECTED BY GILBERT MCCUALEY

**F**our generations of African-American women gather to celebrate their beloved, outrageous matriarch's 90th birthday. The trouble is, recently widowed MaDear would rather watch her soap operas and read her Bible than blow out the candles on her cake.

Tempers flare and ugly secrets are revealed in this furiously fractured family portrait. Yet, even in the midst of so much turmoil, rollicking humor bites its way through the cycles of guilt and blame passed on from mothers to daughters.

Fierce and funny, *Jar the Floor* is a heartfelt comedy that proves blood

is thicker than water and the ghosts of the past should not rob us of the moments we have together in the here and now.

"In addition to the thrill of returning to direct my eighth production at The Rep, it's always exciting to work on a good play," said Director Gilbert McCauley. "It's even more fun to return to a good play more than once; this is the case for me with *Jar the Floor*. Each time I come back to this piece, I am pleasantly surprised by the appreciation and delight that audiences express as they peek into this special day-in-the-life of these four generations of women. I get the sense that audiences

enjoy it because the writing reflects an admiration for human resilience coupled with a compassion for human frailty. While it is filled with raucous and often poignant humor, the playwright says her play is also about making peace with one's scars, with one's history and...one's mother."

From Cheryl L. West, the award-winning playwright of *Before It Hits Home*, *Pullman Porter Blues* and *Holiday Heart*, *Jar the Floor* is a turbulent celebration of the ties that bind family, no matter how dysfunctional it may be.

## ENGAGE WITH US

### BEHIND THE THEME

Thursday, March 23, 6 p.m.

### \$5 for non-members/FREE for members of The Rep and The 601 Club

Enhance your theatregoing experience by joining us for a discussion exploring how powerful women can work together to positively impact their families and society as a whole, particularly within the African American community.

RSVP to [rlewis@therep.org](mailto:rlewis@therep.org)

### PAY WHAT YOU CAN NIGHT

Wednesday, March 29

### Sponsored by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Patrons are invited to attend the first preview of Opening Week by paying any amount they wish for their tickets. Tickets must be purchased in person at the Box Office at 601 Main Street the day of the performance. The Box Office opens at 9 a.m. There are 100 tickets for purchase, and tickets are limited to (2) two per person.

### PRESHOW DIRECTOR TALKS

Wednesday, March 29 and Thursday, March 30, 6:15 p.m.

Get exclusive insight into this heartfelt comedy from the creative team before the start of the preview performances.

### CLINTON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

### DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, March 30, 12 p.m.

Join members of the cast and creative team for a special panel discussion on this production.

### BEER NIGHT WITH LOST FORTY AND ARKANSAS TIMES

Thursday, March 30, 6 p.m.

### Sponsored by Arkansas Times and Lost Forty

Before the second preview of Opening Week, enjoy a complimentary beer tasting provided by Lost Forty Brewing.

### OPENING NIGHT PARTY WITH THE CAST

Friday, March 31

### Sponsored by RSVP Catering and Floral Express

Party with the cast after the Opening Night performance. Enjoy a special champagne toast and light hors d'oeuvres by RSVP Catering.

### PAY YOUR AGE NIGHT

Sunday, April 2

### Sponsored by Little Rock Soirée, Colonial Wine and Spirits, The Ride 106.7/The Point 94.1

If you're age 22-40, you can pay your age at The Rep! Top off your weekend with great theatre at a great price. Plus, enjoy a complimentary wine tasting provided by Colonial Wine and Spirits. There

are 50 tickets available for purchase, and tickets are limited to (4) four per household. Proof of age for each member of the party is required at time of pick-up. Offer is based on seating availability.

### LIVE FROM FOSTER'S

Friday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.

Get your evening started early with live pre-show music in Foster's.

### THE AFTER-PARTY

Saturday, April 15

Stick around after the performance for drinks and look for members of the cast to make an appearance in Foster's.

*Visit [TheRep.org](http://TheRep.org) for more details about the event lineup, including times and ticket information.*



GOSPEL

# GODSPELL

MAY 31 – JUNE 25, 2017

BOOK BY JOHN MICHAEL TEBELAK | MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

CONCEIVED AND ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY JOHN MICHAEL TEBELAK | BASED ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 2 RING CIRCUS | DIRECTED BY DONNA DRAKE

**P**repare ye the way for this irresistible, groundbreaking rock musical that blends the Gospel According to St. Matthew with an unbridled sense of joyous play. Timeless, haunting and full of humor and heart, *Godspell* is a celebration of the best of our humanity and shines a beacon of light in a dark and weary world.

Reimagined by visionary director Donna Drake as a Southern parable set in a down-on-its-luck circus during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, *Godspell* will transform your spirit and inspire you to journey out into the world and build a more Beautiful City. A hunted prophet and peacemaker are taken in by a traveling family of

entertainers lost in a world of political and religious unrest. Over the course of their brief time with this miraculous man, they rediscover new hope in a simple song, and salvation in basic acts of kindness and brotherhood.

The production team is joined by the aerial wizards of 2 Ring Circus, who created the spellbinding effects for last season's family favorite *The Little Mermaid*. This talented team will transform The Rep's stage into a wondrous big top where your wildest dreams will come true.

"I am overjoyed to be returning to The Rep next season as director of the newly conceived cirque/aerial version of *Godspell*, a new and thought-provoking

spin on an age-old story," said Director Donna Drake. "I wanted to develop and work on this production at The Rep because I know I will be surrounded by extraordinary talent, brilliant design, a supportive team and dear friends; all the tools needed to create magic. From *Mary Poppins* to *Godspell*, each production is a unique story of humankind being transformed by the teachings of love and compassion."

*Godspell* is one of the most beloved musicals of the late 20th century and features a jubilant score from Stephen Schwartz, the acclaimed composer of *Wicked* and *Pippin*, that includes the songs "Day by Day," "On the Willows" and "Beautiful City."

## ENGAGE WITH US

### BEHIND THE THEME

Thursday, May 25, 6 p.m.

### \$5 for non-members/FREE for members of The Rep and The 601 Club

Enhance your theatregoing experience by joining us for a special behind-the-scenes view of aerial rehearsals with 2 Ring Circus.

RSVP to [rlewis@therep.org](mailto:rlewis@therep.org)

### PAY WHAT YOU CAN NIGHT

Wednesday, May 31

### Sponsored by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Patrons are invited to attend the first preview of Opening Week by paying any amount they wish for their tickets. Tickets must be purchased in person at the Box Office at 601 Main Street the day of the performance. The Box Office opens at 9 a.m. There are 100 tickets for purchase, and tickets are limited to (2) two per person.

### PRESHOW DIRECTOR TALKS

Wednesday, May 31 and Thursday, June 1, 6:15 p.m.

Get exclusive insight into this fan favorite from the creative team before the start of the preview performances.

### CLINTON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

### DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, June 1, 12 p.m.

Join members of the cast and creative team for a special panel discussion on this reimagined favorite.

### BEER NIGHT WITH LOST FORTY AND ARKANSAS TIMES

Thursday, June 1, 6 p.m.

### Sponsored by Arkansas Times and Lost Forty

Before the second preview of Opening Week, enjoy a complimentary beer tasting provided by Lost Forty Brewing.

### OPENING NIGHT PARTY WITH THE CAST

Friday, June 2

### Sponsored by RSVP Catering and Floral Express

Party with the cast after the Opening Night performance. Enjoy a special champagne toast and light hors d'oeuvres by RSVP Catering.

### PAY YOUR AGE NIGHT

Sunday, June 4

### Sponsored by Little Rock Soirée, Colonial Wine and Spirits, The Ride 106.7/The Point 94.1

If you're age 22-40, you can pay your age at The

Rep! Top off your weekend with great theatre at a great price. Plus, enjoy a complimentary wine tasting provided by Colonial Wine and Spirits. There are 50 tickets available for purchase, and tickets are limited to (4) four per household. Proof of age for each member of the party is required at time of pick-up. Offer is based on seating availability.

### LIVE FROM FOSTER'S

Friday, June 9, 6:30 p.m.

Get your evening started early with live pre-show music in Foster's.

### THE AFTER-PARTY

Saturday, June 24

Stick around after the performance for drinks and look for members of the cast to make an appearance at Foster's.

Visit [TheRep.org](http://TheRep.org) for more details about the event lineup, including times and ticket information.

# ENGAGING LOYAL AUDIENCES

Through a variety of initiatives including panel discussions, talkbacks, in-venue activities and social media content and promotions, we strive to excite and engage diverse audiences of all ages.

## BEHIND THE THEME

From professors and regional directors to designers and more, audience members are given an in-depth look into the themes and issues present in each of our MainStage productions.

## CLINTON SCHOOL SPEAKER SERIES

In partnership with the Clinton School of Public Service, The Rep hosts panel discussions on productions running concurrently on the MainStage. Audience members receive insight from guest directors, actors and community experts on the compelling stories being told on The Rep's stage.



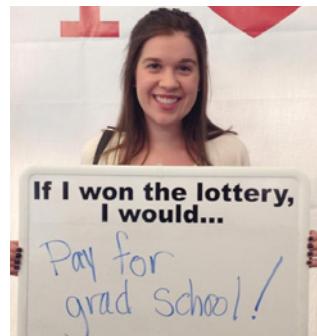
## NAME THAT ICE CREAM AND BEER

In partnership with local favorites including Loblolly Creamery, Stone's Throw Brewing and Moody Brews, we ask our patrons to help name the production-inspired ice cream and brew sold during our productions. During the 2015-16 Season, we received more than 300 audience submissions, leading to the creation of Out Damned Hops (*Macbeth*), Seas the Day Saison and Under the Sea Salt (*Disney's The Little Mermaid*), and Dark StAARGH (*Peter and the Starcatcher*).



## SELFIE STATION

Before the theatre doors open, audiences can engage with our productions by stopping by our Selfie Station. From life-size scrabble pieces for *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* to sharing what they would do with a \$350 million lottery jackpot during *Windfall*, patrons are invited to participate in thematic in-venue activities that enrich their theatregoing experience.



## FROM SCRIPT TO STAGE

In this online video series, The Rep interviews members of the creative team and cast. With three to four videos for each production, patrons receive exclusive behind-the-scenes access to the entire production process.

For more information about audience engagement at The Rep, visit [TheRep.org](http://TheRep.org).

# WELCOMING NEW AUDIENCES

The Rep, we're happy to say, keeps growing. Nurturing and encouraging new audiences is an on-going priority. Through our multi-faceted audience engagement initiatives, we make theatre affordable and accessible for all audiences.

## EACH YEAR, THE REP DISTRIBUTES MORE THAN 3,800 DEEPLY DISCOUNTED TICKETS, MAKING THEATRE MORE ACCESSIBLE, THROUGH THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:

### PAY WHAT YOU CAN NIGHT

The *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* presents Pay What You Can Night for every Wednesday preview performance of Opening Week. Patrons can pay any amount they wish for their tickets. Pay What You Can Night strives to make each of our MainStage productions accessible to everyone, regardless of income, by minimizing the financial barriers often associated with purchasing tickets to high-quality theatre.



### BLUE STAR THEATRE MILITARY DISCOUNT

In appreciation of all they sacrifice for us, The Rep offers special discounts to active-duty and retired members of the U.S. military, their spouses and children.

### SIGN INTERPRETED PERFORMANCES

In an effort to make The Rep more accessible, we have a Sign Interpreter section for the deaf on the third Wednesday performance of every production. Resident Interpreter Raphael James is positioned in front of the section, located on the First Mezzanine, signing directly for those who need his services.



*Discounts also available for senior citizens and groups.*

*For more information on these offers, visit [TheRep.org](http://TheRep.org) or call our Box Office at (501) 378-0405.*



### PAY YOUR AGE NIGHT

*Little Rock Soirée, Colonial Wine and Spirits, and The Ride 106.7/The Point 94.1* present this discounted ticket program for young adults ages 22 – 40, building loyalty in the next generation of theatregoers and cultural consumers. On the first Sunday evening of each production, Pay Your Age Night patrons enjoy great theatre at a great price, plus a complimentary wine tasting provided by Colonial Wine and Spirits.

### STUDENT DISCOUNTS

Through significantly discounted tickets to area students, The Rep continues to invest in the next generation of arts patrons.

# EDUCATION AT THE REP

The mission of The Rep's Education Department is to engage, inspire, and empower Arkansas students of all ages through involvement in theatre arts. Using our resources as a professional theatre company, we are dedicated to applying theatre as a tool to enhance teacher practice and deepen student learning in Arkansas schools. Our mission is manifested through a series of new programs, including student matinees, master classes and workshops, year-round classes, summer programming, pop-up special guest artists, school residencies, and more.



## STUDENT MATINEE PROGRAM

For as little as \$8 a seat, teachers from across the state introduce more than 6,000 schoolchildren to The Rep's MainStage productions. From *Macbeth* and *The Little Mermaid* to *The Second City* and more, the program introduces these students to a variety of challenging topics and provides them with what may be their first exposure to live theatre. Pre-performance classroom visits, study guides and post-performance talkbacks complement every performance.

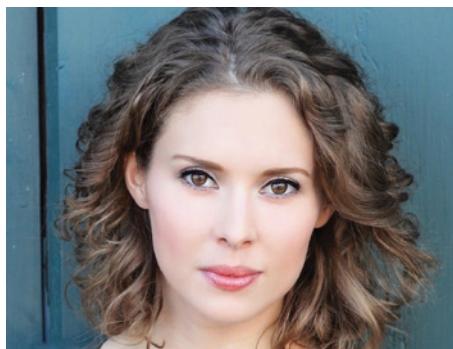
## THE ANNEX

Located at 518 Main Street, diagonally across from the main theatre building, The Annex is home to a 120-seat black box theatre and three classroom spaces.

## SUMMER AT THE REP

The Rep is re-inventing its education approach this summer. The Annex provides a space to increase participation and broaden focus with an inclusive, diverse lineup of theatre classes and outreach offerings. The Annex is the first new link in the Creative Corridor.

## MEET ANNA KIMMELL



## THE REP'S DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

In June, we announced the appointment of Anna Kimmell as the theatre's new Director of Education. Anna's proven track record and passion for arts education will be invaluable as we expand our educational offerings into a year-round program operating in our new Annex on Main Street. Arkansans of all ages will benefit from Anna's experience and leadership when the theatre launches its new education plan in 2017.

*"I'm headed your way from Roanoke, Virginia where I served as the Director of Education at Mill Mountain Theatre. And before that, I was an actor, and toured the country and worked regionally and was based out of Atlanta, Georgia."*

*"I see great potential for growth in the Education Department at The Rep. And I think that by expanding programming to include year-round classes, and deepening roots in the community through outreach education and outreach performances, we can create something really dynamic. I want the program to feel safe, supportive, challenging, inclusive and rewarding for artists of all ages and experience levels."*

For more information about educational opportunities at The Rep, visit [TheRep.org/Learn](http://TheRep.org/Learn).

- Anna Kimmell

# THE REP

## BY THE NUMBERS

Total Attendance  
**70,000**

Square Feet of  
Rehearsal Space  
**9,900**

Students Served  
**7,089**

Volunteers  
**1,010**

Number of Performances  
**221**

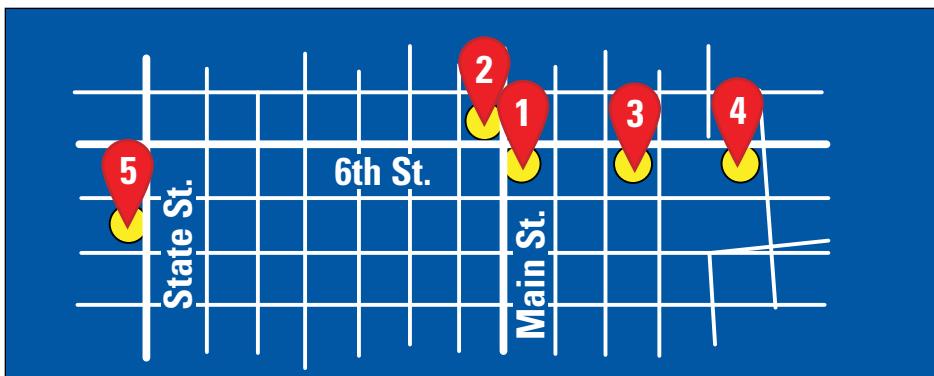
Actors and Artists  
**165**

Full Time Staff  
**27**

*2015-2016 Season*

## LOCAL INVESTMENT

The Rep maintains five properties in downtown Little Rock.



**1** ARKANSAS REPERTORY THEATRE  
601 Main St.

Seven to eight productions per season are created in the historic Galloway Building in downtown Little Rock.

**2** THE ANNEX  
518 Main St.

This multi-purpose space includes a 120-seat black box and three classroom spaces.

**3** PEACHTREE APARTMENTS  
East Sixth Street

More than 150 actors and artists are employed by The Rep each year and housed in this 16-unit building.

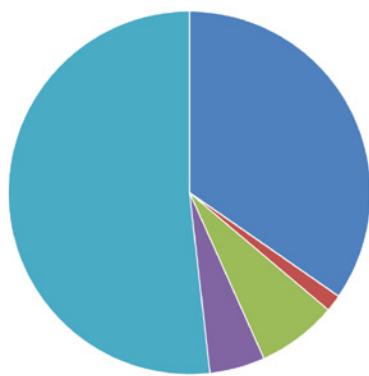
**4** IVY APARTMENTS  
East Sixth Street

The Rep maintains a national, highly competitive intern program for college graduates, recruited each season and housed in this three-unit building.

**5** SCENIC CONSTRUCTION FACILITY  
South State Street

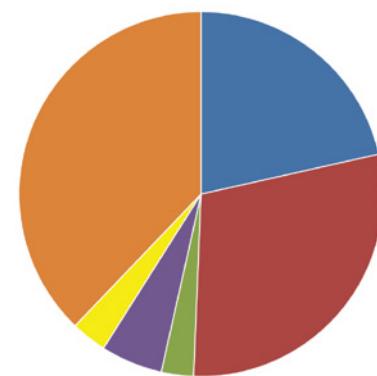
A 13,000 square-foot shop houses seasons of props and scenic materials. Our construction team builds every set from scratch, including massive pieces that are reassembled on The Rep stage.

### ANNUAL EXPENSES



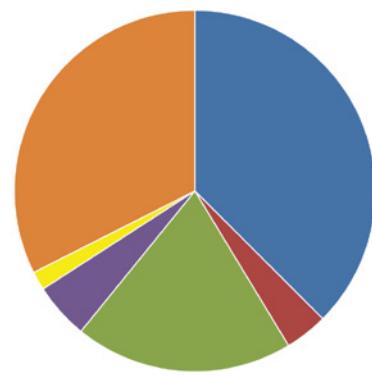
- Operation & Building
- Education
- Marketing
- Development
- Production/Artists

### ANNUAL REVENUE



- Subscriptions
- Single & Group Tickets
- Educational Programming
- Concessions
- Contributed Revenue

### ANNUAL CONTRIBUTED REVENUE



- Individuals
- Foundations
- Corporations
- Government
- Endowment
- Special Events

NUMBERS REFLECTIVE OF THE 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR.

# OUR DONORS SET THE STAGE

**A**rkansans step up to support The Rep, the state's largest nonprofit professional theatre company. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the \$4 million budget is supported by ticket sales and donations. Support for the theatre comes from government grants, private foundations, corporate sponsorships, special events and individual donations.

Not all subscribers are Members of The Rep. Members have made an additional annual gift to The Rep of \$75 or more. Join us as a Member and receive behind-the-scenes, member-exclusive experiences!

## MEMBER BENEFITS

	ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S INNER CIRCLE							
	CAST MEMBER • \$150	RISING STAR • \$250	STAGE MANAGER • \$500	SUPPORTING ACTOR • \$1,000	LEADING ACTOR • \$2,500	PLAYWRIGHT'S CIRCLE • \$5,000	DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE • \$7,500	PRODUCER'S CIRCLE • \$10,000
INVITATION TO ATTEND FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL								X
RECOGNITION ON THE TITLE PAGE OF A PRODUCTION								X
COMPLIMENTARY SHOW POSTER SIGNED BY THE CAST								X
FREE ADMISSION FOR SIX TO A BACKSTAGE PASS MEMBER EVENT							X	X
INVITATION TO ATTEND A DESIGN RUN THROUGH REHEARSAL							X	X
INVITATION TO CAST MEET & GREET							X	X
RECOGNITION ON LOBBY MARQUEE							X	X
INVITATION TO PRIVATE SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT WITH PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR							X	X
FREE ADMISSION FOR TWO TO A BACKSTAGE PASS MEMBER EVENT						X	X	X
ELIGIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL						X	X	X
ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL TRAVEL					X	X	X	X
DISCOUNT ON FOSTER'S RENTAL					25%	50%	100%	100%
INVITATIONS TO EXCLUSIVE DONOR EVENTS					X	X	X	X
TABLE RESERVATIONS IN FOSTER'S				X	X	X	X	X
ELIGIBLE FOR REGIONAL TRAVEL				X	X	X	X	X
SUBSCRIBER DISCOUNT ON SINGLE TICKETS		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
COMPLIMENTARY SHOW POSTER	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DISCOUNT ON SUBSCRIPTION PURCHASE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
INVITATION TO SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
RECOGNITION IN PLAYBILL FOR 12 MONTHS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DISCOUNTS ON WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
INVITATION TO BACKSTAGE PASS MEMBER EVENTS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TWO COMPLIMENTARY FOSTER'S CARDS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
RECEIVE QUARTERLY ENEWSLETTER: THE MEMBER REPORT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mike Watts and Fran Henderson | Members Since 2003



**"What do we love about the Rep? What's not to love** - Broadway quality productions at bargain prices in a theatre with no bad seats; a friendly and helpful staff in the box office (no Ticketmaster to deal with); opportunities to interact personally with the creative teams who put on the shows; special events that provide insights into each production; arts education for the young people of our state. The list goes on and on. We are so fortunate to have an artistic organization like the Arkansas Repertory Theatre in central Arkansas. **How could we live here and not love and support the Rep?"**

For more information on how you can contribute to The Rep, visit [TheRep.org/Support](http://TheRep.org/Support).

# CELEBRATE WITH OUR SPECIAL EVENTS



CO-CHAIRS JAY BARTH AND CHUCK CLIETT



More than 600 guests attend this annual black tie gala, offering a glimpse of the magic that The Rep provides for Arkansas audiences all year long. The event raises more than \$400,000 to support the theatre's professional theatre productions and educational programming.



## Art Works



Throughout each season, The Rep provides gallery space to more than 90 artists with 100 percent of proceeds from art sales going directly to the artists. Artists then donate their best work to a lively evening featuring silent and live auctions and dishes from Little Rock's best eateries to support The Rep's annual fund.



# OUR SUBSCRIPTIONS

Photo by Stephen B. Thornton  
Michael Stewart Allen as Macbeth in *Macbeth*



Katie Emerson as Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*.  
Photo by Stephen B. Thornton



Nikki Crible as Hannah Holmes,  
Lisa Ann Goldsmith as Kate Riordan  
and Cyrus Alexander as Chris Hart  
in *Windfall*.  
Photo by Stephen B. Thornton

## REP SUBSCRIBERS RECEIVE AN ALL-INCLUSIVE THEATRE EXPERIENCE

### 6-ADMISSION FLEXPASS

Use six admissions any way you like across the entire season. Perfect for couples, date nights and families.

### PREVIEW SUBSCRIPTION

Wednesday and Thursday of Opening Week are preview performances. At 6:15 p.m., learn more about the process of taking a production from page to stage, and ask your own questions of the creative team.

### SERIES SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your seats, your night, no reservations required. Plus, you get first choice on renewing your seats for the following season.

### OPENING NIGHT SUBSCRIPTION

Friday night of Opening Week immediately following the performance, mix and mingle with actors you've just seen on stage and celebrate as we toast the cast and crew on a successful start to the production run.

## SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS

- **"No Charge" Flexible Exchange Policy** Free ticket exchanges are reserved exclusively for season ticket holders and can be used as often as needed.

- **Additional Tickets at a Discount** Receive a \$5 discount on each additional orchestra ticket purchased.

- **Lost Ticket Insurance** Replace misplaced tickets right up to curtain time.

**SUBSCRIBE  
TODAY**

**BY PHONE:** (501) 378-0405

**ONLINE:** [THEREP.ORG](http://THEREP.ORG)

**BY MAIL:** COMPLETE THE FORM TO THE RIGHT AND MAIL IT TO THE REPERTORY THEATRE:

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
PO BOX 110  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203-0110



# JOIN US FOR A GREAT NEW SEASON!

 Arkansas Repertory Theatre  
601 Main Street | PO Box 110  
Little Rock, AR 72203-0110

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**New/Renew my subscription with changes** (indicate preference below)

Series Subscription (select day and seating preference):

Preview (\$210 ea.)  WEDNESDAY 7 PM  THURSDAY 7 PM

Regular (\$234 ea.)  WEDNESDAY 7 PM  THURSDAY 7 PM  SUNDAY 7 PM  
(\$276 ea.)  FRIDAY 8 PM  SATURDAY 8 PM  SUNDAY 2 PM

Opening Night with Champagne Reception (\$288 ea.)  FRIDAY 8 PM

My seating preference is: \_\_\_\_\_

**6-Admission FlexPass** (\$288 ea.) *You must call to reserve seats.*

**Under 21 Pass** (\$120 ea.) *One admission per production.*

**Please consider making a tax-deductible annual donation with your subscription**

\$75  \$150  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  \$2,500  \$5,000  \$7,500  \$10,000

Other *(Donors of \$75 or more are recognized as Members.)*

	<b>Handling Fee</b>	\$ 7.00
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment method:  VISA  MC  AMEX (Provide 1-5 below)  Check payable to Arkansas Repertory Theatre

1) Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

2) Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

3) CID Number \_\_\_\_\_

4) Amount to be charged \_\_\_\_\_

5) Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Subscribe:

**BY PHONE:** (501) 378-0405

**ONLINE:** TheRep.org

**BY MAIL:**

Arkansas Repertory Theatre

Subscriptions

PO Box 110

Little Rock, AR 72203-0110

## Questions?

**Call the Box Office**  
**(501) 378-0405**

# The Rep entertains generations of Arkansans



*Some of my earliest and happiest memories with my grandmother, MiMi Dortch, revolved around her involvement with the Arkansas Repertory Theatre. As a founding board member, she was very involved and was constantly bringing me to not only see the shows but to rehearsals and even cast parties she hosted. I can remember vividly when she took me to see Frankenstein and I got scared because of the smoke coming out of the stage!*

*Now, I continue her legacy by making new memories with my own involvement with The Rep. From a night out to see a production with my wife, Bethany, to going to special events like Saints and Sinners, The Rep continues to play a huge part in my life. And now my son is an official fourth generation Rep attendee as he was introduced to his first performance this past Christmas when we took him to see The Little Mermaid.*

*We are so fortunate to have The Rep right here in Little Rock. I encourage you and your family to go and make your own memories there as well!*

- David Johnson, Lifelong Patron,  
601 Club Member

## 2016-2017 MAINSTAGE SPONSORS



## EDUCATION PROGRAM SPONSORS (\$5,000 AND ABOVE)

BANK OF AMERICA FOUNDATION  
JOHN AND ROBYN HORN FOUNDATION

REBSAMEN FUND

STELLA BOYLE SMITH TRUST  
THE PHILIP R. JONSSON FOUNDATION  
WINDGATE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
WINDSTREAM



## DREAM BUILDER

Arkansas native Drew Davis is the founder of the Arkansas Dream Center and is on a personal mission to serve and restore people's dreams. The center has grown since 2009, reaching people across the state, from serving the homeless and feeding kids to helping them with homework and building relationships that save children from falling into the foster care system. Davis, with the help of 15,000 Arkansas volunteers, has served over 130,000 meals in the past year alone.

BY NICOLA KAVANAGH-TRINIDADE . PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON MASTERS

**What made you set up the dream center?** I was the senior accountant at New Life Church and my pastor Rick Bezet challenged me to take a look at the LA Dream Center. I researched it, and it really appealed to me to replicate their great work in our state. That was the start. We now have nine dream centers in Arkansas, in Conway, Little Rock, North Little Rock, Fort Smith, Heber Springs, Hot Springs, Cabot, Fayetteville and Russellville.

**What is the concept of the dream center?** We reach out to our community, we serve their needs, we help restore their dreams. It is all about relationships, coming alongside people, encouraging them and coaching them along. We have programs that work with kids, their parents, as well as the homeless. The typical kids we serve in downtown Little Rock, for example, have a very limited worldview. We come alongside them to show that there is a great big world out there, and that they can do whatever they set their minds to. So that might mean we need to get them fed and help them succeed in their education. We show them their potential and help them reach it.

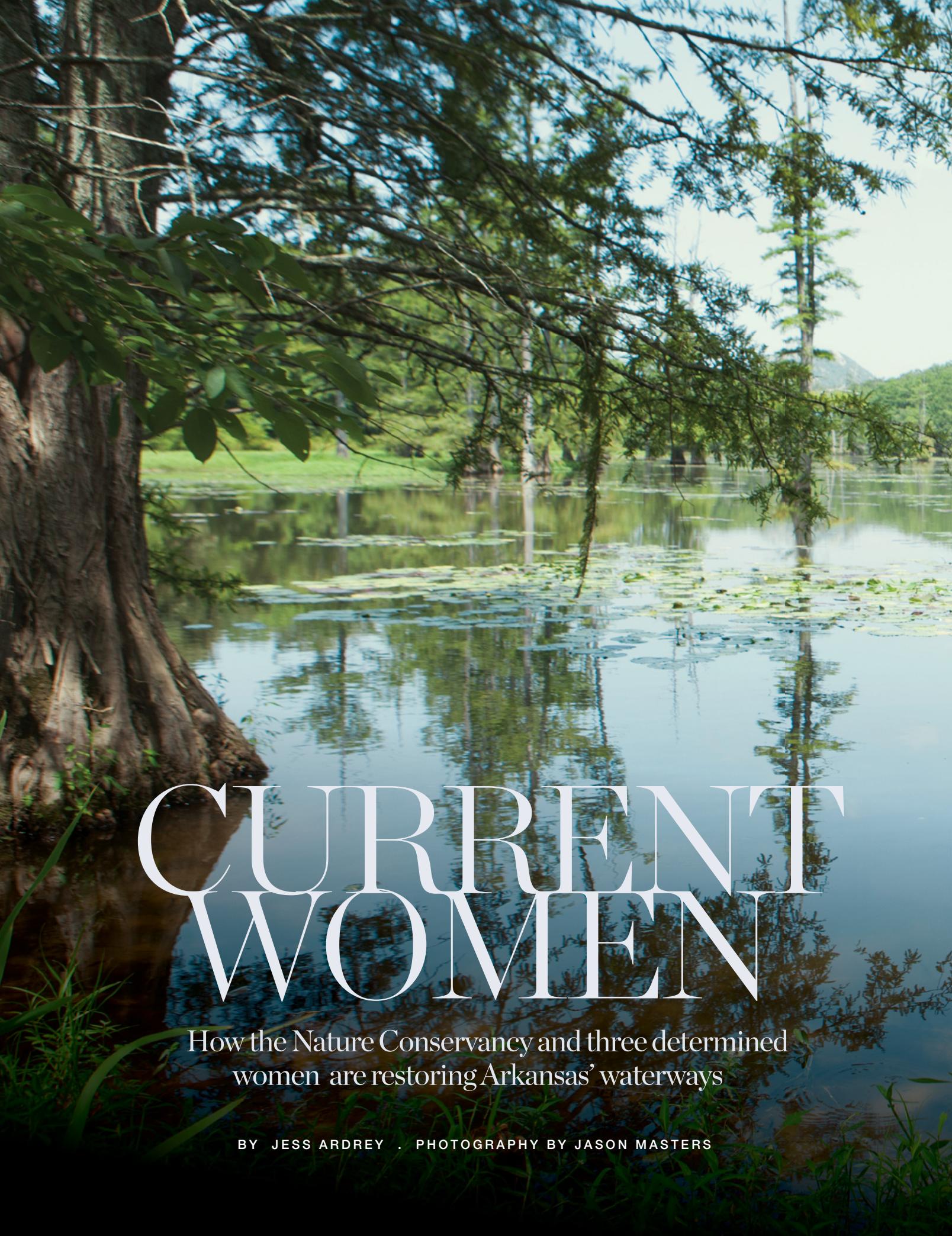
**Could you tell me the types of kids that you're helping? I understand that some of them have had to go to the hospital because of malnourishment, which is shocking in the U.S.** Yes, it is kind of crazy, so when you look at statistics it says that one out of five kids in our state deals with food insecurity. It doesn't always mean that they don't have any food; it's often that the food they have will not sustain them. A story that I tell is about a 12-year-old boy named Trey. I got a call from his aunt, and she said that they had taken Trey to the emergency room, where he was diagnosed with an anxiety attack; he went home. He was then taken back to the hospital a few hours later. After running multiple tests they found out that his body was completely void of vitamins. We sat down with him and asked what he was eating and he said: ramen noodles, mac and cheese, chips and sodas. It was purely carbs that were sustaining him. We make fun of the "hangry" joke, but it is a real thing, and it is all that some kids have,

they are malnourished. They really are because their bodies are craving food and they don't have the right food to eat.

**As well as giving kids nutritious meals (some children at the dream centers are so unfamiliar with fruit that they don't know how to peel an orange), what are your other programs?** We have an after-school program that rolls over during the out-of-school periods – including summer and holidays. We have life lessons, sports, games, homework and tutoring. We are mostly about encouraging children and creating relationships. We also try to expose kids to thinking about the wider world. A lot of kids don't know anything outside of the few blocks between their home and their school. For example, a few years ago we packed meals for children in Haiti, and our kids were helping box up these meals. It exposed our kids to poverty in other cultures versus in America. So we try to expose our kids to other cultures to expand their perspective.

**What success stories are you seeing?** We started in 2009, and we are at the point now that we are seeing our first kids graduate college. A lot of them are the first college graduates in their family. We make sure that these kids see themselves as more than just their neighborhood. We encourage them to go outside of it and go to college and make a difference to others. We start serving the child, and when we see that they are serving other people as well, then we are doing our job.

**What is the biggest lesson that you have learned from this experience?** Realizing there are no bad kids, just bad decisions. Don't ever turn a kid away because of something that happens. One kid we worked with pulled a knife on me once. Everything was okay and we were able to disarm him. I walked him home to his mom's and told her, "He is having a bad day today, but we still want him back and will see him tomorrow." His mom later said "you're the only organization that has ever said anything good about my child." That is what we want to be. We want to be that one ray of encouragement to those we serve in what can be a very dark world.



# CURRENT WOMEN

How the Nature Conservancy and three determined women are restoring Arkansas' waterways

BY JESS ARDREY . PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON MASTERS



## CURRENT WOMEN

**I**t's quiet. The sun is warm on her back as she pushes off from the shore. Soon all she hears are the ripples against the boat's edge as she floats through an almost forgotten corner of the universe. This is Joy DeClerk's happy place.

"Some of the most peaceful, healing moments I've ever had in my life were in outdoor settings," she says. "Those are the moments when life feels so naturally good."

When she's at the office, her mind is still on nature: DeClerk is the River Conservation Program Director for the Arkansas chapter of the Nature Conservancy, a science-based, non-confrontational environmental group dedicated to reducing the humanity's impact on the planet.

The conservancy, a nonprofit organization, has chapters in all 50 states and in 69 countries. Established in 1982, the Arkansas division has acquired 35,000 acres of land preserves and has conserved 325,000 acres in the state, everything from forests and woodlands to caves and swamps, and miles of rivers in between.

That's where DeClerk's team comes in. Her crew consists of Ouachita Rivers Project Specialist Melissa Jenks and Stream Restoration Technician Bonnie Earleywine. Their jobs, essentially, are to repair botched waterways.

"Rivers in Arkansas like to curve, and some humans think that they need to be straight," DeClerk says, describing some environmentally irresponsible projects of the past. "Sooner or later it starts to make its curve again. We help to retrain it back to its natural state with minimal disruption to surrounding natives, human and otherwise."

Many times, towns and farms suffer from rivers that too often flood because of poorly reshaped waterways, or have become increasingly shallow, filled with sediment from unpaved roads.

"That's where we come in with practical, on-the-ground solutions that help the landowners so they're not losing their land," Jenks says. "Usually they're in a desperate situation, so we can accomplish our goal and teach and help them in turn."

The method is called natural channel design, and it begins with an assessment. After traveling a river corridor, the team studies and surveys the area with an eye on biodiversity, the range and number of species in a given area. Being part of a small organization, the team must prioritize its projects, basing those priorities on conserving species and habitats.

"In the southeast region of the nation, our diversity is just incredible," Earleywine says. "We have so many species of plants, fish, mammals. For just about anything you can think of, this is the sweet spot."

Once the data is collected, the women return to the office to draw up plans. With a design in hand and grant money to back them, they begin the on-the-ground phase of the project, or as they like to call it, "the fun part." Excavators, dump trucks and bulldozers roll in and begin digging out and reshaping the banks.

Rock structures are then built to mimic natural elements in the system to keep the fresh earth from eroding. Next comes protecting the banks with hearty and "disturbance-loving" vegetation, transplanting species like willows and sycamores by cutting off the limbs and replanting the roots, where the trees' energy resides.

In a few years, the river, its banks and the surrounding species of plants and animals will return to their original state with little trace of disruption.

"It's a basic concept and message, even though our work sounds complex," Jenks says.

Though the endgame may be elementary, the work requires passion and skills that these three women have accumulated in a combined 23 years at the conservancy. But that doesn't stop the eyebrows from rising when they show up on a site.

"Oh yeah," DeClerk says, "we get a lot of weird looks."

Their work falls into the STEM category (science, technology, engineering and math), one that is largely dominated by men. Even though the conservancy's Arkansas office has more than an average number of women on its staff, an absence of women is particularly noteworthy in the emerging fields of environmental science and biology, which DeClerk, Jenks and Earleywine specialize in. This has presented obstacles in some of their projects.

Local residents are often already skeptical of the conservancy's work. They complain when the stream gets muddy during construction and annoyed when outsiders offer answers to town problems — and that goes double when the outsiders are women.



From left to right: River Conservation Program Director Joy DeClerk, Rivers Project Specialist Melissa Jenks and Stream Restoration Technician Bonnie Earleywine with some of their tools of the trade.

*Bonnie's makeup by Augusta Andrews at B. BARNETT; Melissa and Joy's makeup by Antonio Figueroa at B. BARNETT; All hair by Suzy Balkman at BRISTLE + BALM  
All clothes from SCARLET; All jewelry from BELLA VITA JEWELRY*

“We have to try and connect people in urban areas to the natural environment,” DeClerk says. “If we want people to support conservation in the future, they have to have a connection to it.”



"It's difficult because the overall concept is trying to break traditions in nontraditional ways," Earleywine says. "We have different approaches and we're women. We're coming in to change what's always been."

As part of the conservancy's nonconfrontational nature of working for the best overall outcome, the team isn't interested in mounting a soapbox and telling landowners what's best. But they're still faced with the task of explaining methods of improvement to sometimes prickly audiences. The trick is in the women's rural upbringings and determination to make a connection.

"It's all about building relationships," DeClerk says. "Every step along the way, they get surprised and we get a little more traction. We can speak the language; we just have to get in the door. Sometimes that's harder for females, sometimes it's easier. I might be able to get someone's ear more quickly, but they might not think I'm credible."

After residents see the finished project, however, doubts vanish. Still, the women admit that their methods don't always match up with their male counterparts' ways. They've seen projects hit snags that men would fix by muscling through. Instead, the women employ their work motto of thinking smarter instead of working harder — to discover a more efficient route.

"Yes, we use our lady brains really hard," Earleywine says with a laugh.

But working efficiently doesn't mean they don't get their hands dirty. In her first days, Earleywine (the smallest of the group) ran chainsaws for 10 hours a day, proving what her team now calls her "circus strength."

In recent years, a public push has encouraged girls to follow interests in STEM from an early age. Two prominent Arkansas programs doing just that are the Women's Foundation of Arkansas' Girls of Promise and the University of Central Arkansas' Girl Power in STEM. Both programs offer learning and hands-on experiences to eighth-grade girls to open them up to the possibility of being physicians, engineers, coders and or other professionals in STEM fields. DeClerk, Jenks and Earleywine have all participated as speakers and leaders at these programs — muddy boots and all — in hopes of changing the workforce forecast.

"We speak to a mix-match of girls from rural areas and cities," Jenks says, "and for some of them, our workshop is their first introduction to getting in a river at all. Even that can spark a small something in them."

It's the same small spark these three women experienced as children exposed to nature, one that ignited a lifelong devotion to the outdoors. They say that the same spark needs to catch flame in order for the Natural State to remain natural.

The growth of cities and suburbs detaches people from nature, they say, even in a rural state like Arkansas. And as that gap widens, our surroundings are suffering visible damage.

"We have to try and connect people in urban areas to the natural environment," DeClerk says. "If we want people to support conservation in the future, they have to have a connection to it."

Ranch North Woods is one way the Nature Conservancy is working to forge that connection. The preserve is adjacent to Pinnacle Mountain and just a short 10-minute drive from Little Rock. Like all conservancy preserves, Ranch North Woods is open to the public, but unlike the other preserves it has no notable biological significance or restoration projects in the works.

The conservancy acquired the property with the sole purpose of giving it to the people. With plans for more trails, float trips and leave-no-trace camping sites, its 234 acres of rivers, mountains, fields and forests serve as a connection to a natural landscape and a respite for asphalt-weary Arkansans.

DeClerk, Jenks and Earleywine get it. When they're not gone for weeks at a time on assignments, they lead busy lives away from work — DeClerk as a yoga instructor and Jenks and Earleywine as musicians. Yet still they keep a steady grasp on the past and the future of the natural world around them.

"When people talk about big, broad issues like climate change, what that means to me is not doom and gloom, but that our habitats need to be resilient," DeClerk says. "If history shows us anything it's that if the environment is resilient, it will change, but it won't be doomsday. It can adapt, but not if it has virtually no species left because of human impact. So if we're going to be resilient to climate change, we can still do the things humans need to do to survive, but we can be smarter. We can be so much smarter."

And so, like the trees protecting the banks of a restored river, these women and the Nature Conservancy serve as a line of defense for the heritage of The Natural State, and the energy is in the roots.

## CONSERVANCY QUICK FACTS:

### WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Follow projects on social media and blogs — Facebook: The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas; Instagram: @nature\_arkansas.
- Volunteer — Become a member and enjoy six issues a year of Nature Conservancy magazine, field trips to preserves, and other events.
- Join the young professionals group, the Central Arkansas Advisory Council.
- Visit preserves
- Donate

• **Leaf-off conditions:** Winter is the best time of year to survey because the lack of foliage means equipment can see farther and more accurately.

• **52:** Arkansas receives 52 inches of rain a year. Combined with the region's naturally long growing season, this creates ideal conditions for new plants along the riverbanks to grow fast and strong.

• **The yellowcheek darter:** Less than a year after the Nature Conservancy's restoration work at Archey Fork on the Little Red River near Clinton, the yellowcheek darter — an endangered fish species endemic to the area — returned following a three-decade absence.



# WHAT'S EATING YOU?

*50% of cancers have been found to be completely avoidable, yet cancer rates are on the rise. Where are we going wrong?*

BY NICOLA KAVANAGH-TRINIDADE . PHOTOGRAPHY BY DEAN WHEELER

ACCORDING TO CANCER RESEARCH UK — one of the world's most respected independent cancer research bodies — one in two people born in the United Kingdom and America after 1960 can expect to hear the words “you have cancer” at some point. This exceeds even the bleak odds of the previous generation, those born after 1930, whose chances of developing the disease were one in three. And it poses some uncomfortable questions. Why, for example, despite decades of research and science, is cancer becoming more prevalent rather than less? And could we be doing more to prevent this alarming trend?

**T**he answer to the second question is a resounding yes. According to a growing body of evidence, 50 percent of cancer cases today are caused by lifestyle habits, not genes. And, according to Dr. Christine Horner, one of America's leading breast surgeons, an astounding 95 percent of breast cancers could be eliminated just by making simple but far-reaching changes.

“The major culprits of the vast majority of cancers are within our control,” says Horner, who in the early 1990s became alarmed by the increasing number of very young women she saw diagnosed with breast cancer. When her own mother was diagnosed and subsequently died with the disease, Horner began an intensive search through medical literature to find what might be done to help prevent breast cancer. She was astonished by the results.

“The research that says that about 50 percent cancer could be prevented by diet and lifestyle alone,” she said. “Genetics has very little to do with it. Even if you have a predisposition for a particular type of cancer, what researchers have found is that we can manipulate the way our genes are read based on our diet and lifestyle. It's called epigenetics. Basically the food we eat, the time we go to bed, and the emotions that we feel, all these things produce chemicals in our bodies

that will hook on to the DNA and activate certain genes. We now understand that we can drastically alter the way our genes are read based on the foods we choose or choose not to consume and our overall lifestyle and emotions — emotional stress, for example, has been shown to be a huge factor.”

This last point is something that Little Rock native Bobby Harris can attest to. Harris, a veteran volunteer for the American Cancer Society (ACS) and recently appointed as a member of the Mid-South Region Board of Directors, is something of a local golden boy. He is a founding principal of Ifrah Financial Services, past chair of the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce “Ambassadors,” a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and a past president of the Arkansas chapter of the Financial Planning Association (FPA). But his life was turned upside down when he and his wife lost their first child, Noah.

The grief of this period enveloped the entire family, and within a year, four of Harris' loved ones developed cancer. “My wife had Hodgkin's lymphoma, my dad found out he had lung cancer, my sister found out she had breast cancer and my stepmom had cervical cancer,” Harris said. “I'm convinced that the stress that the whole family went through had something to do with these cancers showing up one after the other.”

“Sugar has now been determined to be a poison to the human body. And it has many different consequences, including cancer.”

— Dr. Christine Horner



Luckily, every member of Harris' family survived, and this August he and his family are being honored at the Cattle Baron's Ball in recognition of their years of service for ACS. But having lived through the nightmare of cancer, Harris is now one of Arkansas' strongest advocates of cancer prevention. "Prevention is one of the things that I appreciate most about the American Cancer Society," he says. "When they look at cancer, they do it from every aspect. I have a huge amount of respect for how they are going about tackling this disease."

The American Cancer Society is the largest cancer charity in the U.S. and is involved in an exhaustive list of initiatives, programs and activities to inform the public about cancer prevention. It is also active in government, trying to change laws to limit or prevent the sale of products that are known carcinogens.

But Harris is frustrated by the lack of urgency in tackling what is fast becoming America's biggest killer. "Let me put it this way," he says. "If the number of people lost every year in America to cancer were taken out in a terrorist attack, we would confront the problem immediately and with all available resources. But because this is cancer, we're just kind of used to it. The idea is that cancer is always going to be there. People just cross their fingers and hope it won't happen to them. But we don't want people to get into this habit of thinking that there is nothing else that they can do. There are so many things that can be done to minimize your chances of developing cancer."

Letitia Thompson, vice president of Mid-South Division Health Systems for ACS, passionately concurs and is a living embodiment of the organization's dedication to preventing unnecessary cancers. "I have lost four family members to cancer," she says. "I want to see that 50 percent of people with preventable cancer not get cancer. I want the other 50 percent to get the best possible treatment. That is the reason I come to work every day."

"All four of the cancer deaths in my family were smoking-related," she continues. "In relation to tobacco, I work with the FDA and the federal government to try to restrict its sale and impose tougher age limits. What we know about tobacco is that people with the strongest addictions started smoking before the age of 18. The harder we can make it, and the longer we can delay people getting their hands on cigarettes, the less likely they will have that addiction later in life.

Tobacco is the only product that, when consumed exactly as intended, will cause cancer." The same might be argued, however, about sugar.

When German doctor Otto Warburg won the Nobel Prize in 1931, it was for his groundbreaking discovery that cancer cells have a fundamentally different energy metabolism from healthy cells, and that their fuel is sugar.

Eighty-five years of subsequent research around the world has repeatedly confirmed links between sugar intake and the formation of tumors, as well as a dramatically accelerated growth of existing tumors. Yet average Americans today eat almost their entire body weight in sugar per year. Could this be where the continued rise in cancer rates is coming from? Horner has no doubt that it is a major culprit.

"Sugar has now been determined to be a poison to the human body," she says. "And it has many different consequences, including cancer. Cancer's favorite food is glucose (sugar that has been broken down by the body). So the more you consume sugar, the faster the tumors can grow. Sugar completely knocks out the immune system. There are studies that show that after a person consumes a high-sugar meal, the immune system's efficacy is reduced, in some cases by up to 90 percent for five hours afterwards. Sugar also increases inflammation, and we now understand that inflammation, along with oxygen-eating free radicals, are the common denominator for creating and fueling all chronic diseases, including dementia, arthritis and cancer."

So why, when the link is so clear, has sugar in its many various guises (there are at least 61 different names for added sugar permitted on food labels; these include high-fructose corn syrup, sucrose, dextrose, barley malt, maltose and rice syrup, to name just a few) been allowed to become so ubiquitous (74 percent of supermarket products contain added sugar)? And why is the government not doing more to restrict their use and prevent unnecessary American deaths?

"Because it is about money," Horner suggests. "Corporations run our government. Big business is something that affects our health and the food industry. It also comes down to education. When I was in medical school I did not have a single course in nutrition, so it's a very slow process of change. Doctors are not educated in nutrition so, sadly, their focus and attention is not on diet, and nor, in turn, is their patients'."



The ACS is trying to encourage producers of sugar and corn crops to find better ways to market their products to minimize health consequences. "We certainly want farmers to be able to grow products and for the economy to benefit from their work," says Thompson. "We don't want to deny anyone the opportunity to make a living. But we would love to see them use that corn, for example, to produce something more beneficial than high-fructose corn syrup."

"We are basically trying to move the mark not by not allowing advancements but by educating people. In the South, in the farming states, corn is important in our diet, but we are trying to work with the farmers to grow products that are not so detrimental to our health. Educating consumers is important, for example, teaching them the link between corn syrup and obesity. You don't have to buy sugar products; you can limit your intake of that. We want consumers to be knowledgeable and to know how to read labels. We want to work with companies so they label products correctly, and we are working with restaurants so that they advise consumers of the grams of fat and calories that are in those items. We hope to drive change by teaching people how to make better health choices."

So what are those health choices? "Paying attention to diet, eating whole foods and vegetables as much as possible," Horner says emphatically. "Avoiding eating processed foods, sugars and red meat. Exercise is extremely important, as is going to bed at 10 o'clock at night. If you stay up until midnight it causes incredible hormonal changes in

your body and doubles your chance of heart disease and cancers. Stress is also a major contribution, so doing stress-reducing techniques every day is beneficial; this could be something like meditation and yoga. And paying attention to relationships. Making sure that the people in your inner circle are people that you feel loved and supported by."

"There are so many ways that people can control their prospective cancer cell growth," continues Thompson. "Research is great, but it's actually applying it to the population that is so important. We want to show other countries the way to do it. The Cancer Society is working to do this and is pushing to combine global research efforts. Fundraising events like the Cattle Baron's Ball in Little Rock will allow us to do those studies and have staff in Arkansas that will go out and work with people and students in the community. It needs to be tackled at every level. For example, school systems need to have more balanced lunches. There is a reason why children are developing Type 2 diabetes. Parents need to stop giving kids apple pies from McDonald's and start giving them apples."

"Doing this volunteer work you hear a lot of sad stories," concludes Harris.

"It's a terrible disease, and if we could eliminate the cancers that we know we can prevent, if we are able to educate people, then I would consider that an enormous victory."

*The ACS Cattle Baron's Ball will be held in Little Rock on Aug. 20. For more information, visit [CattleBaronsBallCentralAR.org](http://CattleBaronsBallCentralAR.org).*



## AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S TIPS FOR MINIMIZING CANCER RISK



### WATCH YOUR WEIGHT:

- Be as lean as possible throughout life without being underweight. For those who are overweight or obese (which is two out of three Americans), losing even a small amount of weight has health benefits and is a good place to start. Even just having too much belly fat is linked with an increased risk of certain cancers.

### GET MOVING:

- Sitting is the new smoking — sitting for long periods of time greatly increases the risk of cancer, so try a stand-up desk or use a smart watch to remind you to move around every hour.
- Adults should get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity (or a combination of these) each week, preferably spread throughout the week.
- Children and teens should get at least an hour of moderate- or vigorous-intensity activity each day, with vigorous activity at least three days each week.

### EAT RIGHT:

- Eat a healthy diet, with an emphasis on plant foods — aim for two and a half cups of vegetables and fruits each day.

- Limit foods and drinks to amounts that help you get to and maintain a healthy weight.
- Limit how much processed meat (such as bacon, sausage, lunch meats and hot dogs) and red meat you eat.
- Read food labels to become more aware of portion sizes and calories. Be aware that “low-fat” or “non-fat” does not necessarily mean “low-calorie.”
- Limit your intake of “empty calories” in sugar-sweetened beverages such as soft drinks, sports drinks, and fruit-flavored drinks.
- When eating away from home, be especially mindful to choose food low in calories, fat and added sugar, and avoid eating large portion sizes.
- Prepare meat, poultry and fish by baking, broiling, or poaching rather than by frying or charbroiling.

### BE VOCAL:

- Individuals and public, private and community organizations need to work together at national, state and local levels to affect policy change and campaign for:
- Increased access to affordable, healthy foods in communities, places of work, and schools and decreased access to and marketing of foods and drinks low in nutritional value, particularly to the young.
- Provision of safe, enjoyable and accessible environments for physical activity in schools and workplaces and communities.



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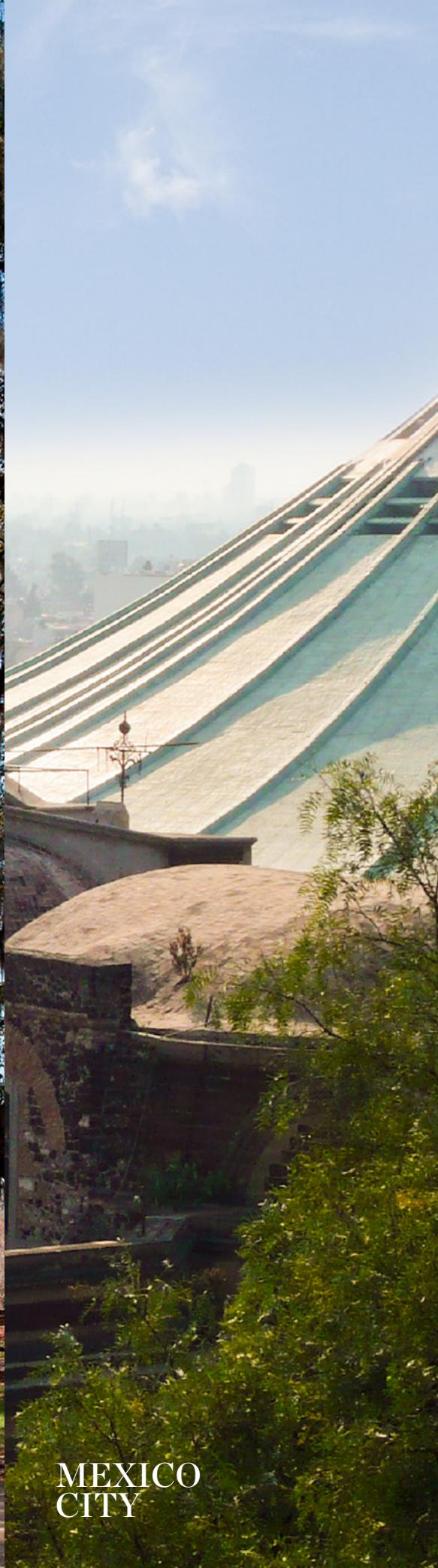
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BY AARON TRINIDADE





## CHARLESTON | Southern Charmer

**The Lowdown** Founded in 1670, Charleston is an all-time classic and a true jewel of the American South. Nestled around a large natural harbor, the city invites a refreshing Atlantic breeze to cool those steamy South Carolina nights. With its cobblestone streets, horse-drawn carriages and burgeoning foodie scene, this is the place to come for civilized decadence. A walk through the city's French Quarter should be at the top of everyone's list, while its handsome pastel antebellum houses are an architecture lover's delight. This is a walker's city, packed with sights but manageable given its small size. Its equally charming little sister, Beaufort, is also worth a visit and only an hour's drive south.

**Sights** Tucked in Charleston's downtown area, the **French Quarter** is the place to appreciate the city's architecture, art galleries and award-winning restaurants. Check out the **Pink House** tavern on Chalmers Street, one of the city's oldest buildings, standing since 1712. Get your shopping in and make sure to include a tailored seersucker suit.

Grab some sandwiches at the gourmet **Caviar & Bananas deli** (excellent gluten-free options available) and have a lunchtime picnic in **Waterfront Park**, where the famous **Pineapple Fountain**, immortalized in numerous paintings of the city, is located. If you have kids, take swimsuits so that they can join the local children taking a dip in its generous basin. Afterward, stroll along Battery Promenade for fantastic views of the ocean and harbor.

Get your historical fix with a visit to the beautiful but haunting **Magnolia Plantation & Gardens**, a short drive from the city center. The superbly preserved planter's house and curated museum are a treat, and several guided tours of the grounds are available. The gardens are a horticultural gem.

**Eats** A long lunch at **Slightly North of Broad** is highly recommended. Trendy and buzzing with an Art Deco feel, it features knowledgeable employees navigating you through an enticing menu of contemporary Southern fare, including a divine butternut squash bisque and Carolina trout served with miso butter. Be sure to cast your eye over the outstanding cocktail list.

Book a table and dine with the in crowd at über-trendy **The Grocery**, and enjoy your butcher's cut in a cool industrial-style setting. The confit duck leg is delectably moist, and the Wagyu beef melts in the mouth.

Famed for award-winning shrimp and grits, **Eli's Table** is a sure bet for brunch. There is no better way to get a true taste of the South in style, and the breakfast menu is served until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, so what better way to recover after a night on the town?

**Sleep** The **Renaissance Charleston Historic District Hotel** has all the glitz and glamour that one would expect during a stay in Charleston, without breaking the bank. It's a handsome building with a stylish décor and rooftop pool and gym. The convenient location right in the heart of the city makes walking to all of the top spots easy. Hotel bicycles are also available and a great way tour the town.

If you make it down to the picturesque nearby town of Beaufort, the **Rhett House Inn** is a picture-perfect vision of a classic Southern bed and breakfast. Winner of numerous accolades and awards, and a favorite of Barbra Streisand's, this hotel has nothing imperfect about it. From lounging in the hammock on the beautifully preserved porch to the complimentary afternoon tea and cakes and divine traditional breakfasts made by the jovial chef Beverly, it offers a holiday in and of itself.



Red dress by VERONICA BEARD at B. BARNETT, earrings by ROBERSON'S SIGNATURE COLLECTION at ROBERSON'S FINE JEWELRY, sunglasses by KREWE at B. BARNETT, hat by JANESSA LEONE at BEIGE, bag by ETIENNE AIGNER at FEINSTEIN'S, shoes by COLE HAAN at B. BARNETT, camisole by RACHAEL ZOE at FEINSTEIN'S, skirt by NICHOLAS at B. BARNETT, tassel earrings by VANESSA MOONEY at STEAMROLLER BLUES, bracelet by MIKAH at B. BARNETT

# SANTIAGO | Chile's Beating Heart

**The Lowdown** Chile's capital is a treat for all of the senses. Set in a fertile, vineyard-rich valley with the mighty Mapocho River cutting through it, the city is flanked by the snow-capped Andes on one side and the Chilean Coastal Range and the Pacific beyond on the other, offering something for every type of visitor. Its climate, akin to that of the Mediterranean, makes it a gastronomic destination, as attested by the proliferation of Chilean wines now available worldwide. Santiago was founded as long ago as 1541, and is rich in history and architecture. Its central location in Chile also makes it the perfect launch pad from which to explore the surrounding Central Valleys, the arid Atacama regions of the north, majestic Patagonia or the famous Moai heads of Easter Island.

**Sights** Start any trip to Santiago with a visit to the historic **Plaza de Armas**, the center of the city and its main square. It is a leafy place, popular with tourists and locals alike, and is the location of the grand neoclassical **Catedral Metropolitana** and its many crypts, among other architectural gems such as the beautiful old post office. From here, wander down one of several arteries that radiate out from the plaza into the city's center for shopping, local cuisine or simply people-watching.

Join a list of famous visitors, including Charles Darwin, and get a bird's eye view of the city from atop **Cerro Santa Lucía**, a vertiginous city park with beautiful fountains and staircases leading up to a hilltop fort that offers panoramic views of the city below. After a morning of taking in the bustling city, visitors find the park a peaceful retreat and a great place to have lunch with a to-go meal from **Nuria**, a popular lunch spot with locals and a short walk from the park's entrance.

Get your souvenir shopping done at the upscale **Patio Bellavista**



in the artistic **Barrio Bellavista** neighborhood, and relax after with a drink at one of several trendy bars there. While in the area, take an audio-guided tour of quirky **La Chascona**, one of three homes of the famous local poet Pablo Neruda. Alternatively, for more traditional arts and crafts made by local artisans, take the city metro to **Los Dominicos Handicraft Village** in the city's east. Once here, **Antilucan Café** is nice for a spot of tea.

**Eats** For truly authentic home-style Chilean food, eat at the informal **Vive La Vida** and start with the *pollo de coñac*, a rich chicken stew, or the *salmon ceviche*, and follow on with *pastel de choclo*, a baked corn and meat pie that is hearty and beautifully spiced. Wash it all down with bottle of local *Austral* beer.

**Barrio Lastarria** is Santiago's trendy neighborhood and is buzzing with upscale restaurants, such as the popular Peruvian **Tambo**, but our top choice for coffee and dessert is **La Manzana Confitada**, a chic little patisserie that serves a beautiful selection of cakes. The passion fruit yogurt cake is outstanding.

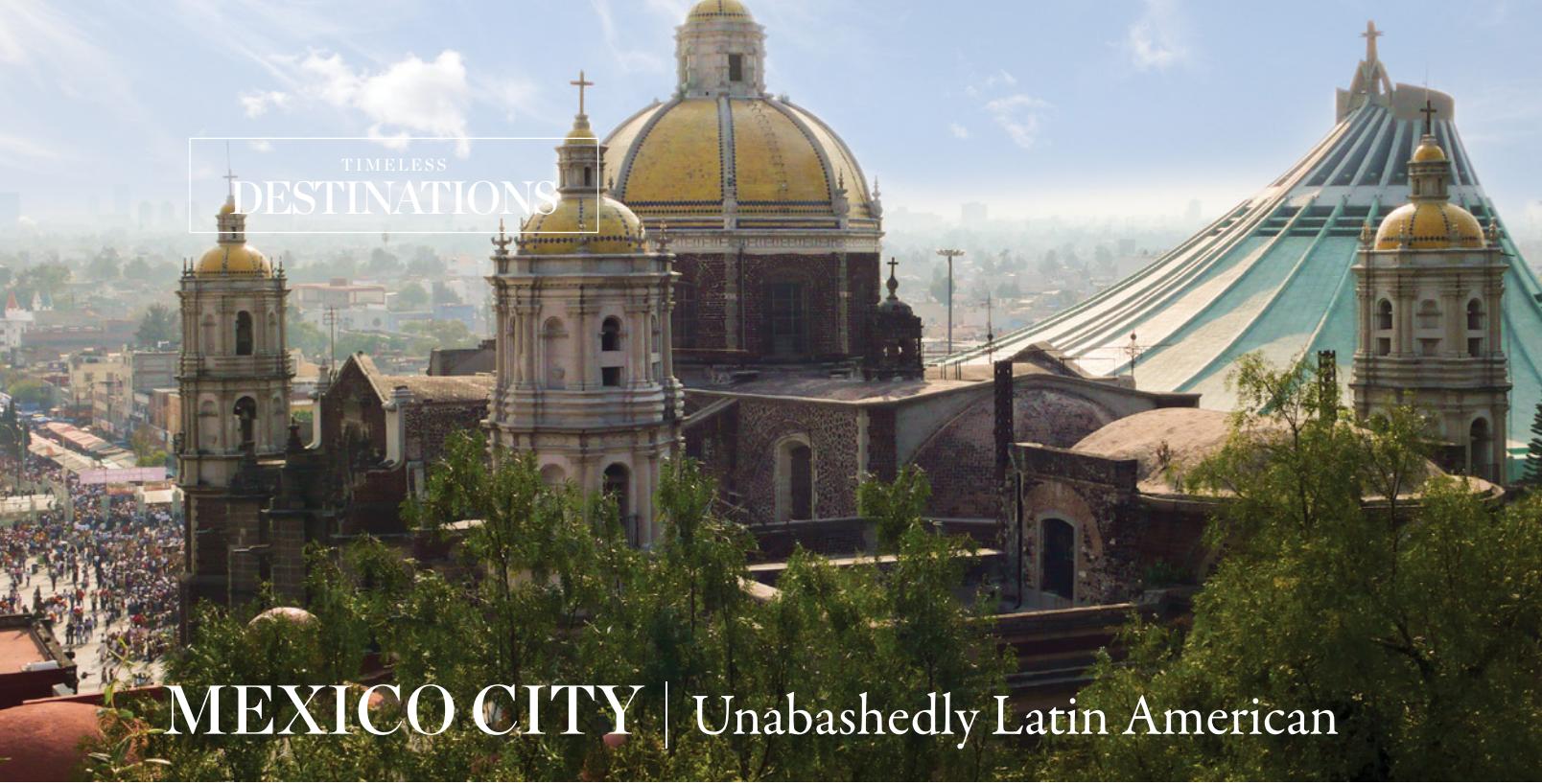
The **Aubrey Piano Lounge**, located in the same-named hotel, is where Santiago's glitterati go to dine. Quietly romantic, this is a great place for light eats and cocktails in a beautifully restored property.

**Sleep** The **Aubrey** oozes charm and has been voted by *National Geographic* as one of Chile's best hotels. A beautifully restored 1927 house built in the old mission style, and former home of the Chilean prime minister, this is Santiago's first true boutique hotel and, with only 15 rooms, one of its most exclusive. Its medieval stone water arches, manicured gardens and inviting pool make this a real oasis in the city. Highly recommended.



Sunglasses by STEVEN ALAN at BEIGE, knit top and skirt by RACHEL COMEY at BEIGE, mother of pearl earrings by ARMENTA at ROBERSON'S FINE JEWELRY, turquoise earrings by ERICA COURTNEY at ROBERSON'S FINE JEWELRY, shoes by JIMMY CHOO at BARBARA/JEAN, top by MILLY at BARBARA/JEAN, skirt by ROBERTO CAVALLI at BARBARA/JEAN, turquoise handpiece by NATALIE B JEWELRY at STEAMROLLER BLUES, clutch by JILL HABER at BARBARA/JEAN, oval ring by ARMENTA at ROBERSON'S FINE JEWELRY. Opposite page: necklace by ARMENTA at ROBERSON'S FINE JEWELRY

Model photo: Dress by ALC, shoes by SOLUDOS, both at BEIGE



## MEXICO CITY | Unabashedly Latin American

**The Lowdown** The first major metropolis one encounters south of the border, Mexico City is a force to be reckoned with. Founded in 1325 as Tenochtitlan, it has certainly stood the test of time. Despite a turbulent history, both distant and recent, the city has worked hard to shed its negative image. And the word is out: It's one of Latin America's hippest cities, and tourists are flocking from all over the globe. Here ultra-modern skyscrapers sit alongside historic architecture — both colonial-era and truly ancient. Grand parks help you cool down in the hot summer, museums and art galleries abound, and a world-class metro system makes this sprawling behemoth much more easily accessible. From rich cultural festivals to celebrated cuisine far beyond the clichéd tacos and burritos, this is a city where life is lived to the fullest.

**Sights** Mexico City's center can be explored through a series of walking tours, and its bustling cultural epicenter of **Plaza de la Constitución** (the closest metro station is Zócalo) is a great place to start. Architectural gems like the **Catedral Metropolitano**, **Casa de los Azulejos** and the **Palacio de Bellas Artes** are all must-sees. The ancient ruins of the Aztec **Templo Mayor** near the cathedral are also worth a visit.

Stroll through the popular **Bosque de Chapultepec**, the largest city park in the western hemisphere, where visitors can find a picturesque lake and two of the city's many excellent museums: the **Museum of Modern Art** and the finely curated **National Museum of Anthropology**.

If you can bear the crowds that can often line up well out onto the sidewalk, the most popular churros in the city — and some would argue the best in the world — can be found at **Churrería El Moro**. The café is always crowded, but order a large portion and a cup of thick “Spanish chocolate” to go and enjoy them in nearby **Alameda central park** — perfect for a spot of people-watching.

No trip to Mexico City is complete without a day trip to the breathtaking pyramids at the ancient Mesoamerican city of **Teotihuacán**, standing since about 100 B.C. It is about 30 miles north of the city and best accessed with a hired tour.

**Eats** For a taste of authentic Mexican cuisine done to an exceptionally high standard, reserve a table at **Chapulín** at the **InterContinental**



**Presidente hotel.** Start with the house guacamole — the best you'll ever taste — sprinkled with crunchy fried grasshoppers (chapulin in Spanish, hence the restaurant's name), a local delicacy, and follow with a regional specialty like the goat stew cooked in a spicy *mole*, or something more familiar like suckling pork tacos. Complement your dinner with a *cucaracha* (cockroach — this time not literally), a Kahlua and tequila cocktail theatrically set alight and poured at your table.

Swanky **Fifty Mils**, located in the **Four Seasons Hotel**, is as trendy as they come, with bearded hipsters serving you inventive cocktails in a stylish speakeasy setting. Dishes are simple but very well prepared bar food (they do a mean burger and tasty *tortas*). Our top cocktail choice is the Penicillin — whiskey, honey, lemon juice and fresh ginger.

For something a bit more intrepid, get your street food fix by roaming the two streets of Calle de Regina and Calle Lopez. This is where Mexicans come for their tacos, and you won't find more authentic chorizo or seafood empanadas anywhere in town.

**Sleep** In the upscale neighborhood of Polanco, the **InterContinental Presidente hotel** towers above the Bosque de Chapultepec park and offers incredible views of the city. Chic, modern rooms with plush furnishings make this a most elegant stay, and breakfast on the executive floor is worth the extra price for the panoramic views alone. It also benefits from having both **Chapulín** and **Pied de Cochon** restaurants within it, as well as several great restaurants and bars in the immediate vicinity.

The **Four Seasons Hotel** is a true oasis of calm from Mexico City's frenetic bustle and a top choice for the discerning traveler. Elegant rooms overlook a lush central courtyard, in which an outstanding al fresco breakfast is served, a top quality on-site patisserie offers daily freshly-baked fare and there is even a bespoke gentleman's barbershop. Top marks all round.



Coin bracelet by KONSTANTINO at SISSY'S LOG CABIN; heeled shoes by JEROME DREYFUSS at BEIGE; drop earrings by Erica Courtney, charm pendant earrings by ARMENTA, both at ROBERSON'S FINE JEWELRY; clutch by BEIGE at O'FAOLAIN LEATHER; coin ring by KONSTANTINO at SISSY'S LOG CABIN; folk dress by TORY BURCH at BARBARA/JEAN; tropical dress by SHOW ME YOUR MUMU at STEAMROLLER BLUES; espadrilles by SOLUDOS at BEIGE

Model photo: Dress by RACHEL COMEY, handbag by AMPERSAND AS APOSTROPHE, sunglasses by STEVEN ALAN, all at BEIGE



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# BEST INSURANCE AGENTS 2016

Each year brings new challenges, and having an appropriate insurance policy and a well-trusted agent to guide you through the process is essential to your peace of mind. Selecting that one agent who fits the bill can be a challenge. If you are in the market for a new insurance agent, we recommend taking a few steps. First, research the agents and agencies in town, interview individual agents to better understand their products, philosophies and customer service standards, and of course, ask for referrals.

**DAWN BAILEY** / THE HATCHER AGENCY  
**LISA BAMBURG** / INSURANCE ADVANTAGE  
**WAYLON BIGGS** / ALLSTATE INSURANCE  
**KAYLON BUCKLEY** / STEVENS-DELL INSURANCE  
**PAM CULWELL** / BANCORPSOUTH INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.  
**CARY CURZON** / SIMMONS FIRST INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.  
**ROBBI DAVIS** / THE ROBBI DAVIS AGENCY, INC.  
**JASON DICKINSON** / DICKINSON INSURANCE - ALLSTATE  
**PAM DRILLING** / THE ROBBI DAVIS AGENCY, INC.  
**KEN ESTES** / BANCORPSOUTH INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.  
**STEVE FERGUSON** / SHELTER INSURANCE  
**BILL FLETCHER** / WILLIAMSON INSURANCE AGENCY  
**PAT FRIZZELL** / STATE FARM  
**TED GARCE** / STEPHENS INSURANCE, LLC  
**LARRY GRAHAM** / GRAHAM & ASSOCIATES, LLC  
**CHARLIE HADFIELD** / HADFIELD AGENCY, LLC  
**GREG HATCHER** / THE HATCHER AGENCY  
**BROOKE HAYES** / AXPM  
**MARY ALICE HUGHES** / INSURANCE ADVANTAGE  
**MARLIESE KERR** / SIMMONS FIRST INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.

Little Rock Soirée asked its readers to nominate the best insurance agents in Little Rock based on customer service, accountability and ease of access. Forty agents made the list this year. A few agents purchased profiles, which you will find on the following pages, giving you the opportunity to learn more about them personally as well as their expertise, philosophies and customer service standards. More information about these agents can also be found at [LittleRockSoiree.com/Insurance](http://LittleRockSoiree.com/Insurance).

**ROBERTS LEE** / MEADORS, ADAMS & LEE  
**TRACY MATSON** / THE MATSON AGENCY  
**BILL MCGHEE** / MCGHEE INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.  
**ADAM MCGHEE** / MCGHEE INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.  
**CHAD MILLARD** / SHELTER INSURANCE  
**LISA MORICONI** / LEGACY CAPITAL GROUP  
**CHRIS NEWELL** / ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & CO.  
**CHRISTY PETTIT** / CHRISTY PETTIT AGENCY INC./SHELTER INSURANCE  
**JASON PRATHER** / LEGACY CAPITAL GROUP  
**JAY SNIDER** / JAY SNIDER INC. /SHELTER INSURANCE  
**JOHN STARLING** / JTS FINANCIAL  
**CAROL STEENBERG** / STEPHENS INSURANCE, LLC  
**STEVE STEVENS** / STEVENS-DELL INSURANCE  
**LISA THOMAS** / MEADORS, ADAMS & LEE  
**BRIAN THOMPSON** / SHELTER INSURANCE  
**OLIN WAGE** / STEPHENS INSURANCE, LLC  
**JAN WILLIAMS** / JTS FINANCIAL  
**MARK S. WILLIAMSON** / WILLIAMSON INSURANCE AGENCY  
**MATT WILSON** / MEADORS, ADAMS & LEE  
**SHON WOODIEL** / THE ROBBI DAVIS AGENCY, INC.

## Chad Millard SHELTER INSURANCE®

Chad Millard is the kind of insurance agent who likes getting out and talking to people. Getting to know Shelter's clients, he says, is the key to helping them understand the complex world of insurance. Born and raised in Carlisle, Millard is a graduate of Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, where he received a B.A. in economics. He and his wife, G.G., have twin 7-year-olds, Austin and Madison, and a 4-year-old son, Cooper. A 20-year insurance veteran who specializes in home and auto coverage at Shelter Insurance®, Millard says his mentor is G.G. "She is absolutely amazing at multitasking when it comes to running her business and managing a household with three young children."

**What type of coverage do customers forget?**

Inland marine policies on jewelry, fine arts, silver, etc. These items may need to be individually scheduled in order to ensure proper coverage since they will have monetary limits on a homeowner's policy.

**Is it better to have a high insurance premium and low deductible or vice versa?** My philosophy is to carry high limits. You can offset any increase in premium by carrying a higher deductible. It is extremely important to not be underinsured. If you have a large amount of assets, your limits need to be high as well.

**How often should coverage be reviewed?** At least every two years or when a major change in your life occurs, such as getting a raise or adding a child to the family. This is why it is important to establish a good relationship with an agent.

**Is there anything else you think our readers should know?** Don't text and drive. If something is that important, pull over. If not, then enjoy the view and put your phone away.

**MINI QUIZ**

**Neighborhood:** Robinwood

**Favorite app:** Google play

**Favorite food:** Ribeye from Hillcrest Artisan Meats, prepared in my backyard

**Favorite lunch spot:** Terrace on the Green

**Two things you like to do outside the office:**

Spending time with my kids and watching St. Louis Cardinals games

**Favorite show to binge watch:** "House of Cards"

**Favorite genre of music:** Country

**Dream vacation:** On the beach with my family



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## Christy Pettit CHRISTY PETTIT AGENCY INC./SHELTER INSURANCE®

Christy Pettit is a University of Arkansas at Little Rock Trojan, but she has a soft spot for the Arkansas Razorbacks. "My husband, Kevin, and I met through a mutual friend at a Razorback game in 2008 and have been married for four years. Pettit, born and raised in Little Rock, went to Hall High School before getting her degree at UALR. A specialist in home and auto coverage for Shelter Insurance®, Pettit points out that her five years in the business are supplemented by her team's 15-plus years in the industry.



**Which lines of insurance do you specialize in?**

Residential: home & auto

**What drives you?** My family and the desire to do my best.

**Who is your mentor?** My late grandfather for all of his wisdom over the years and my mother for her strong work ethic and selflessness.

**What does a typical day look like for you?** The thing I love about this industry is that there is never a typical day.

**What type of coverage do consumers often forget to purchase?** Life insurance is one of the most important products, however often many feel uncomfortable talking about it and as a result don't have adequate coverage. Umbrella policies are affordable and help protect you and your assets should a major-liability event occur.

**How often should coverage be reviewed?**

Annually or bi-annually unless there has been a recent change in your lifestyle, such as marriage, birth of a child or a career change.

**MINI QUIZ**

**Neighborhood:** West Little Rock

**Favorite app:** Pandora

**Favorite food:** Fresh and local

**Two things you like to do outside the office:**  
Travel and the outdoors

**Favorite genre of music:** I like all genres

**Dream vacation:** Maldives or Bali



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## Dawn Bailey THE HATCHER AGENCY

Dawn Bailey has tapped into her competitive nature to find success over 19 years at The Hatcher Agency. After growing up on a farm outside Benton, she attended Harding University and graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a double B.S. in health/hospital administration and science. A specialist in corporate insurance, she once would have said her goal was to be the best at whatever she attempts, but she now says she would be content to be a strong, well-rounded role model to her daughters Katy Belle, 10, and Lindley, 8. Her mentor was her sister, Robin Moody, who died last July. "She taught me if you empathize and work hard for your customer, becoming successful will just be a by-product."

**What type of coverage do consumers often forget to purchase?** Long-term disability. It is one of the most important coverages to have. It is very inexpensive premium, and it doesn't matter what income bracket you are in, having income protection if you're disabled is invaluable.

**What makes your customer service outstanding?** I am a problem solver and love connecting with people. If someone is calling me, it's typically because they have a problem. With healthcare reform, my role has expanded to a much broader scope. Whether it is compliance issues, employers struggling with providing affordable coverage, or someone diagnosed with a medical condition, I feel if they're calling me they have confidence that I will help resolve the issue. In this environment, just having someone to call that you know is willing to help resolve issues, or dig in to help provide resources, or help in finding a solution, is reassuring and comforting. I find it personally rewarding to resolve problems to the best of my ability, to report positive results and get to connect with people at a different level.

### MINI QUIZ

**Neighborhood:** Heights

**Favorite app:** Waze

**Favorite food:** Any fresh vegetables out of the garden

**Favorite lunch spot:** Cheers

**Two things you like to do outside the office:**  
Work out and cook with my girls

**Favorite show to binge watch:** "The Sopranos"

**Favorite genre of music:** Country and pop

**Dream vacation:** Traveling with the girls around the world, but getting stranded in Maui would be okay, too



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## Greg Hatcher THE HATCHER AGENCY

Greg Hatcher has been driven for so long that it's a habit, he says. Playing high school and college sports, he worked to get a little better and smarter each day. Those traits have continued through his 31-year career in insurance, in which he specializes in health coverage. Born in Fort Worth and raised in Kansas, Missouri and Michigan, Hatcher attended Alma College in Michigan before moving to Arkansas. He and his wife, Lee, a manager of commercial real estate, have children Kelsey, 26, and Haley, 22, who both work with him at the Hatcher agency, along with Larkin, 22, Layne, 17, and Mattie, 15. Greg looks to his wife, his college coach and his personal coach for advice.



**What does a typical day look like?** I get up and work out and then I meet with people all day. Clients, insurance carriers, boards, staff, and friends. I do all my paperwork and emails after hours for the most part.

**What type of coverage do consumers often forget to purchase?** Disability and liability coverages. Those two hurt you the worst if you don't have them.

**Is it better to have a high insurance premium and low deductible or vice versa?** It depends what you can afford. If you can take the risk, I recommend a higher deductible and lower premium.

**What makes your customer service outstanding?** Attitude and training. We have a two-hour training session every week with our entire staff to try to have everyone learn and get better. Our attitude is to do anything to make things easier and better for the customer.

**How can insurance cover inheritance tax for my children?** A second-to-die life insurance policy can be purchased that will provide cash to pay the taxes at the time of death.

### MINI QUIZ

**Neighborhood:** West Little Rock

**Favorite app:** Foreflight

**Favorite food:** Yogurt

**Favorite lunch spot:** Trio's

**Two things you like to do outside the office:** Watch my kids play sports and play them myself

**Favorite show to binge watch:** ESPN

**Favorite genre of music:** Country

**Dream vacation:** Aspen with my wife



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## Jay Snider JAY SNIDER INC./SHELTER INSURANCE®

Jay Snider was born and raised in Carlisle. A graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, he holds a B.S. degree in agriculture, food and life science. He has been married to his wife, Christina, for nine years, and the two have a son, Reaves, 5, and a daughter, Mary Grace, 3. He and his staff truly enjoy what they do, and that translates to their customer service. They are easily accessible to Shelter's existing clients and potential clients. They are also knowledgeable and efficient. "I love the anticipation of the day. New business, taking care of clients ... it's all part of the fun!" A 15-year veteran in the insurance business, Snider specializes in home, auto, and life coverage.

**What does a typical day look like for you?** I have an "up & at 'em, it's-a-new-day" attitude. Breakfast with the family, chasing lively children, work and the gym before dinner at home. Early to bed, early to rise!

**What type of coverage do consumers often forget to purchase?** Personal umbrella policies provide additional liability limits starting at \$1 million of coverage. These policies are relatively inexpensive, and can certainly help protect your assets if a major liability event occurs. Inland marine policies may provide better protection of property, such as jewelry, guns, fine art, small tools, family heirlooms, etc. These items often have limited coverage on a homeowner's policy.

### MINI QUIZ

**Neighborhood:** Maisons-Chenal

**Favorite food:** Anything local and fresh

**Favorite lunch spot:** Anything near the beach on 30A

**Two things you like to do outside the office:** Work out (have to stay fit to keep up with my lively children!), water sports with the family on Greers Ferry Lake

**Favorite genre of music:** I enjoy it all; it truly depends on my mood.



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## John Starling, J.D. JTS FINANCIAL

For John Starling, watching team members grow to their potential is the most gratifying aspect of business life. "We pride ourselves in taking the time to continually refine job positions and responsibilities to maximize individuals' strengths," said Starling, a Pine Bluff native who graduated from the University of Arkansas and its law school. A 23-year veteran in business and a specialist in health insurance, Starling said the decision to bring technology in-house six years ago had the biggest impact on his firm, JTS Financial. "We have learned the pitfalls awaiting other brokers," he said. "We know that any benefit administration system can look pretty, but they are only as good as the team building it."



**What separates JTS from the other brokers / insurance agencies?** We are an IN-HOUSE, single-source solution for all aspects of employee benefits. We have two salaried former practicing employment and labor attorneys in house for HR consulting. We have an in-house technology company to build and maintain HRIS systems. We have a HCR company to manage all aspects of the ACA compliance, including, but not limited to, filing of the 1095 and 1094 with OUR TCC code and compliance team. We own a health TPA. We are an enrollment firm with salaried benefit counselors. We own a billing reconciliation software company. In summary, we are able to provide comprehensive services to our valued clients without the need of outsourcing anything.

**What makes your customer service outstanding?** We have a very experienced and dedicated team of customer service specialists at JTS. In many cases our customer service team members are the same benefit counselors that enroll our clients' employees in their benefits.

### MINI QUIZ

**Neighborhood:** Heights

**Favorite app:** Twitter; it's a great source for current events

**Favorite food:** Cheese dip

**Favorite lunch spot:** Taziki's

**Two things you like to do outside the office:**

Spending time with my family and hunting

**Favorite show to binge watch:** I'm more of a binge reader; last book was "What Motivates Me," by Adrian Gostick

**Favorite genre of music:** Anything but heavy metal

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## Pam Drilling THE ROBBI DAVIS AGENCY, INC.

Health insurance expert Pam Drilling simplifies the Medicare process for people turning 65 or older, and she does it without charging a fee. Born in Fayetteville and raised in Fort Smith, Drilling gives older clients the understanding and the tools they need to make wise health and coverage decisions. She and her husband, Joe Drilling, have twin nephews, Matthew and Anthony, who are “like our own kids,” Pam says. The nephews are both married, and the Drillings enjoy spending time with them and their families. Pam, who has been in the insurance business five years, says her brother, Stan Eden of the Eden Financial Group in Fort Smith, is her mentor. “He has been in the insurance and financial business for over 40 years, and daily shows the discipline of honesty, integrity and totally caring for his clients.

**What does a typical day look like?** My day always includes phone calls, appointments with clients and research! I receive many referrals, for which I am very thankful and appreciative. Since I just turned 65 myself, I certainly understand the questions and concerns, and am pleased I can use my educational background to simplify the process.

**What type of coverage do consumers often forget to purchase?** Dental. There's an easy application to cover a benefit not covered by original Medicare or a supplement. Advantage Plans may cover dental on a limited basis, but not to the degree a stand-alone policy can offer. If their needs and situation change, at least they have the opportunity to make changes.

**Is there any other important information you think our readers should know?** My specialty is education, which I feel is a perfect fit for the Medicare services I offer. It is a complex program with deadlines, and penalties can last a lifetime if not done correctly in the beginning.

### MINI QUIZ

**Neighborhood:** Westchester

**Favorite app:** Google

**Favorite food:** Italian

**Favorite lunch spot:** Del Frisco's Grille

**Two things you like to do outside the office:** Go out for dinner and a movie with my husband and go to our favorite B and B in northwest Arkansas!

**Favorite show to binge watch:** “Matlock”

**Favorite genre of music:** Easy listening and country

**Dream vacation:** Canada



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## Pat Frizzell STATE FARM®

Pat Frizzell, an eight-year insurance professional who specializes in home and automobile coverage, is driven by three things: competitiveness, his family and taking care of his customers. Born in Helena and raised in DeWitt in Arkansas County, he attended the University of Arkansas. He and his wife of six years, Katy, have a 1-year-old son, Reid. For personal mentors, Frizzell says he turns to his mom and dad. For insurance expertise, his mentors are State Farm® Agents Alex Baldwin and Jay Bernard.



**Years in the business:** I started my career with State Farm® as a claim representative in Columbia, Missouri, in 2008. I stayed in that role for two years before moving back to Fayetteville to take on a role as an agent aspirant working for Alex Baldwin. In August 2013, I had the opportunity to open my own agency in Little Rock.

**What type of coverage do consumers often forget to purchase?** Life insurance is something that my team and I are very passionate about. We find that a large portion of the people that we talk to have never sat down to determine how much life insurance they need in order to protect their families if anything were to ever happen. A lot of times the life insurance that you have through work isn't enough, or can't go with you if you were to ever leave that job. It's always best to carry a policy outside of what you have through work because today is the youngest and healthiest that you will ever be. The earlier you can get a policy started the better. We make it a point to talk to all of our customers about their life insurance.

**What makes your customer service outstanding?** We try to make our process as laid back and easy to understand as possible. We understand that insurance isn't something that is on the forefront of all of our clients' minds, and that is why that come to us. We strive to go the extra mile and bring a small-town feel.

### MINI QUIZ:

**Neighborhood:** Maumelle

**Favorite food:** My wife's homemade lasagna

**Favorite lunch spot:** Cheers

**Two things you like to do outside the office:**  
Hang out with my wife and kid, and hunt

**Favorite show to binge watch:** "Shark Tank"

**Favorite genre of music:** I like them all

**Dream vacation:** Anywhere with a beach



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## Roberts Lee MEADORS, ADAMS & LEE

Roberts Lee likes to win. His determination helped him win the heart of his wife, Tammy, who he grew up with in Shreveport. "I've loved Tammy since we were kids," said Lee. That same determination led to 17 years of success in the insurance business, where he specializes in corporate coverage. Lee, who attended the University of Arkansas and Louisiana State University, says his children, Gray and Cash, are "my greatest joy in life. It's my job to teach them to be men, and it's the most important job I have." He said Allen Lee is his greatest mentor.

**What does a typical day look like?** Wake up around 5:30. Take the kids to ECS around 7:30. Hit the office around 7:45. Meet with my Account Exec and Producers at 8:30. Meetings with insurance companies, clients or prospects. Lunch at Flying Fish. Pick a fight (prospect). Either football, basketball or golf practice with the boys. Kids down around 8ish. A few minutes with my wife and hit the sack.

**What type of coverage do consumers often forget to purchase?** Crime, management liability, cyber, excess, pollution, earthquake, flood. It amazes me how the process of chasing the best price for insurance leads policyholders to lose sight of the most important thing: coverage.

**Is it better to have a high insurance premium and low deductible or vice versa?** Low deductibles are where you are trading dollars with the insurance carrier. Insurance is for catastrophic risk ... it's not a maintenance policy.

**What makes your customer service outstanding?** We Listen, Own it and Fix it. It's simple but powerful.

**When should companies consider coverage for employment practices or cyber liability?** Immediately.

### MINI QUIZ

**Neighborhood:** The Arbors

**Favorite app:** Spotify

**Favorite food:** Fried chicken

**Favorite lunch spot:** Anywhere local

**Two things you like to do outside the office:** Golf, and I'm a lake rat

**Favorite show to binge watch:** Not much TV for me

**Favorite genre of music:** Country

**Dream vacation:** Golf in Scotland and Ireland



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## Robbi Davis THE ROBBI DAVIS AGENCY, INC.

Robbi Davis says helping people every day is the driving force in her 31-year career in insurance. Born and raised in Pine Bluff, Davis just celebrated the 20th anniversary of her own firm. The Robbi Davis Agency Inc., looking to serve clients better, recently moved to a new office in west Little Rock. A health insurance specialist, Davis has been married for 24 years to Scott Davis, who joined the agency full time in 2014. They have two children: Maggie, 19, a sophomore at Brigham Young University, and Parker, 17, a junior at Central High School in Little Rock. This is the fifth consecutive year that Robbi Davis has been named by the Soirée readers a Best Insurance Agent.



**What type of coverage do consumers often forget to purchase?** Long-term disability. Group LTD is affordable when purchased by an employer under a group plan, and it provides protection for employees' paychecks if they become disabled prior to age 65. More than 50% of disabled Americans are in their working years, from 18-64.

**Is it better to have a high insurance premium and low deductible or vice versa?** I am a huge fan of the high-deductible health plans that can be funded by a health savings account or flexible spending account. It is smart to take the premium savings and fund one of these accounts on a tax-free basis. Overall, these plans provide a much richer benefit than the average deductible/copay plan.

**What makes your customer service outstanding?** Our goal is to make sure that each caller to the agency talks to an agent the first time that they call, and that we respond to all inquiries the same business day. Rarely does a caller receive a recorded message. My team goes above and beyond to treat each person the way that we would want to be treated.

### MINI QUIZ

**Neighborhood:** Pleasant Valley

**Favorite app:** Family Map

**Favorite food:** Seafood

**Favorite lunch spot:** Newk's

**Two things you like to do outside the office:**  
Shopping and interior design

**Favorite show to binge watch:** "Modern Family"

**Favorite genre of music:** Pop

**Dream vacation:** Costa Rica



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## Shon Woodiel THE ROBBI DAVIS AGENCY, INC.

After excelling in life insurance sales for 33 years, Shon Woodiel embraced the opportunity to become an expert in individual health insurance after the Affordable Care Act was enacted in 2014. Shon is a master in assisting individuals with enrollment in the Federal Marketplace and the Private Option and his services are provided at no additional charge. Born and raised in DeWitt, Arkansas, where his parents and one brother still live, he attended Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, graduating in 1981. He is a key member of the team at The Robbi Davis Agency in Little Rock, and his daughter is a licensed cosmetologist in Mountain Home.

**Years in the business:** I've spent 33 years in the insurance business, all here in Arkansas.

**How can insurance cover inheritance tax for my children?** Estate planning can be very complex. If your estate value at your death is above the federal estate tax limit, you should absolutely make sure that you have enough life insurance to cover this obligation to the federal government. Many people may have a large net worth on a personal financial statement but very little in cash assets or assets that are easily convertible to cash. I have seen so many cases through the years where someone did not properly plan for the federal estate tax liability and then large portions of the estate value and assets are lost to their heirs or beneficiaries because of federal estate taxes. People should always consult an attorney to advise them on setting up a trust, because they can minimize probate costs and federal estate tax costs by doing so.

**What type of coverage do consumers often forget to purchase?** With all of the focus nationally on healthcare today, many people overlook their need for disability insurance and life insurance.

### MINI QUIZ:

**Neighborhood:** Chenal Valley

**Favorite food:** Lobster, crab legs, fresh seafood

**Favorite lunch spot:** Trio's

**Two things you like to do outside the office:**

Travel and cooking

**Favorite show to binge watch:** Emeril Lagasse/ "Emeril Live"

**Favorite genre of music:** Pop and country music

**Dream vacation:** Southern Caribbean cruise aboard the Queen Elizabeth II



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RobbiDavisAgency.com



## Tracy Matson THE MATSON AGENCY

Tracy Matson of The Matson Agency works hard to get better at his job every day. That adds up to a lot of learning for the Little Rock native, who specializes in health insurance and has been in the business for 25 years. "I believe that in this industry, one develops skills and abilities and constantly learns a lot," he said. "This is very important for me and motivates me in my work." A graduate of Arkansas State University, he has a daughter, Emily, who is 12 and attends Pulaski Academy.



**Who is your mentor?** Irwin M. Fletcher

**What's a typical day like?** There are no typical days. Each day presents new challenges.

**How many years have you been in business?**

Twenty-five years

**What type of coverage do consumers often forget to purchase?** Dental

**Is it better to have a high insurance premium and low deductible or vice versa?** It all depends on the individual client. I try to assist people in making these decisions and getting them in the plan that best fits their need.

**How often should coverage be reviewed?** At least once a year

**What makes your customer service outstanding?**

We have had most of our clients for years. They are almost all friends, and we treat them as we would want to be treated. They see a lot of us and we enjoy getting out and meeting with them.

**What are the most important factors to consider when choosing an insurance company?** Check a company's ratings. Look into complaints against the company. When it's all said and done, the right company for you is the one that provides you with good recommendations and prices, has great customer service, and is financially sound.

### MINI QUIZ:

**Neighborhood:** Pebble Beach Estates

**Favorite app:** Major League Baseball

**Favorite food:** Steak

**Favorite lunch spot:** Doe's

**Favorite show to binge watch:** "House of Cards"

**Two things you like to do outside the office:** Play in horse racing handicapping tournaments and travel to Chicago to see my beloved Chicago Cubs

**Favorite genre of music:** Classic Rock

**Dream vacation:** This October in Chicago watching the Chicago Cubs play in the World Series



The Matson Agency  
2024 Arkansas Valley Drive, Suite 804  
Little Rock / 663.5161



## 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JULEP JAUNT

The UAMS Consortium Advisory Board hosted the premier Kentucky Derby watch party. Guests enjoyed a silent and live auction while watching the race as well as a hat contest. Proceeds from the day benefited the UAMS neonatal intensive care unit and the mom and baby renovation project.

- 1 Leslie Harmon, Prentice McIntosh
- 2 Traci and Mike Campbell
- 3 Kayla Wilson, Emily Tharp
- 4 Amber Bynum, JT Ferstl
- 5 Amy and Mac Bell, Julia Hamra
- 6 Jessica Rodgers, Hannah Jones
- 7 Shane Carter, Dr. Rhys Branman, Nick Copas
- 8 Shelli Jordan, Nikki Lovell
- 9 Nancy DeLamar, Kay Kelley Arnold, Jan Pilkington
- 10 Susan Erickson, Karen Greenlee
- 11 Leslie and David Mann
- 12 Joe and Amee Gould
- 13 Grant Walker, Stephanie Henry
- 14 Richard Warriner, Caroline Hardin
- 15 Jason and Julianna Garner, Aaron Christie, Sara Davis
- 16 Ashley and Ryan Younger
- 17 Brigitte Grant, Alexa Grant, Conner Grant





## DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

This year, *Dinner on the Grounds* was held on the sprawling yard of the Terry House. Proceeds of the night benefited Our House's programs. Event chairs Bobbi and Dustin McDaniel provided guests with a night of hospitality and fun. Jazz/soul band Lagniappe performed while artist/illustrator Lyuba Bogan created a piece of art which was auctioned off later that night.



1 Bobbi and Dustin McDaniel  
2 Georgia and Dominik Mjartan with Jozef  
3 Jessica and Warwick Sabin



4 Bethany and David Johnson  
5 Caroline Spencer, Jay Robbins  
6 Brittann Sanders, Kara Gilmore, Beth Freeman



7 Brooke and Jaye Gasaway  
8 Ryan and Ashley Younger, Dr. Chloe and Andrew Charlton



9 Adam and Sydney Ward  
10 Megan Bowers, Alicia Haflich



11 Tony and Courtni Champion  
12 Andrew and Yvette Parker



13 Candice Hickman, Cinda Derryberry  
14 Jackson Bittner, Katie Thompson



15 Grace Norton, Liz Kasper  
16 Nina DuBois, Lisa Guerra



17 Kelsie Hammons, Joe Sundell, Lyndsey Czapansky  
18 Kelly Owen, Paige Parham



19 Debra and Bill Jeffs

20 Chad and Meredith Causey



## SEERSUCKER SOCIAL

The fifth annual Seersucker Social was held on the lawn of the Old State House Museum. Guests of the 1836 Club donned their southern summer best and enjoyed mint juleps, hors d'oeuvres by the Capital Hotel, lawn games and live music all while raising funds to support the OSH School Bus Fund.

- 1 John Raymond Pitre, Rachel Bradbury
- 2 Andrew Ford, Jen Spore
- 3 Natalie Sanderson, Jon Stone, Angela Alexander
- 4 Kathy and John Roberts, Lana and Ed Bethune
- 5 Nicole Gillum, Janelle Lilley
- 6 Angela Strauss, Virginia Osborne, Andrea Womble
- 7 Matthew and Kathleen Pate, Bill Gatewood
- 8 Bailey Moll, Rebecca Smithson



## HAT CLUB SALUTE

The Hat Club's annual crawfish boil in downtown "saluted" the UAMS neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Attendees enjoyed some of the state's best boiled crawfish/sausage/corn, cold beverages, live music, raffle items, a silent auction and of course their one-of-a-kind live crawfish race.

- 1 Pat Frizzell, Charlie Kreps, Charlie Hadfield, Jeff Hendricks, Cory Davis
- 2 Laura and Matt Graham
- 3 Drew Allbritton, Jeremiah Wood, Turner Coleman, Ralph Bradbury Jr.
- 4 Eric Elizondo, Mark Young, Ben Viguerie
- 5 Ann McFerran, Beth Porter
- 6 Sheri Caveness, John Gillenwater
- 7 Christopher Lomay, John Crow, Matt Miller





## SOUTHERN SILKS

*Methodist Family Health celebrated the 142nd running of the Kentucky Derby with a post-race soirée that included faux horse races and guest jockeys. Attendees enjoyed a Derby-inspired dinner and libations, live and silent auctions, hat contest and more!*



- 1 Jane Dennis, Adam Smith, Denise Luft
- 2 Beth Sigler, Adam Sharp
- 3 Lindsey Dennis, Sidney Dennis
- 4 Guillermo Escobar, Alison Gizinski
- 5 Chelsa Collins, David Downs
- 6 Donna and Max Sharp
- 7 Heather and Kyle Notvest
- 8 D'Lisa and Matt Haas
- 9 Casey and Matt Finch
- 10 Daniel and Hannah Bright



## ARTWORKS XXVIII

*Once again The Rep hosted a fabulous night for the arts. ArtWorks XXVIII consumed all three floors of the Arkansas Repertory Theatre. Guests enjoyed an evening of art, food and drink all to benefit the theatre's programming.*



- 1 Donna Singleton, Michael Beverly
- 2 Kim Rand, Pam Fortner
- 3 Debbie Hayes, Debbie Pyle
- 4 Shirley and Ray Anderson
- 5 Leif Eklund, Janet Arias
- 6 Steve and Julie Jenkins
- 7 Robert Hupp, Julie Lutz, Clea Hupp
- 8 Kelly McGrew, Ken Johnson
- 9 Brian and Brianne Bush, Peter Mensky





## CARIBBEAN CABARET

The Women & Children First Peacekeepers hosted the 11th Annual Caribbean Cabaret at the home of Cindy and Chip Murphy. Over \$82,000 was raised while guests enjoyed a poolside evening of live music, delicious food and tropical libations.

- 1 Tiffany Robinson, Julia Grundy
- 2 Rebekah Tucci, Dustin Duke
- 3 Steve and Paris Henderson
- 4 Casey and Betsy Thomson
- 5 Evelyn Zepeda, Paola Sotomora, Dr. Ricardo and Eileen Sotomora
- 6 Terrance and Tanya James
- 7 Jane Hankins, Cathy Browne, Gloria Redman
- 8 Wake and Emily Young, Michelle DuVall



## INTO THE BLUE

The Thea Foundation's second annual 'Into the Blue: An Evening with President Bill Clinton' celebrated the life-changing power of the arts at the Clinton Presidential Center. Bill Clinton, 42nd president of the United States, and guests enjoyed an intimate dinner benefiting the efforts of the Thea Foundation.

- 1 Dorothy Morris, Paul Leopoulos, Catherine Johnson, Jacob Keith Watson
- 2 Bernadette Messina, Joe Griffith
- 3 Jeff and Sarah Priebe
- 4 Kaki Hockersmith and Max Mehlburger
- 5 Tommy Farrell and Paula Guajardo
- 6 Rusty and Stacy Mathis
- 7 Joe Newman, Linda Leopoulos
- 8 Carla Mouton, Glen Jones, Sunny Evans
- 9 Patrick and Dina Ifrah





## PAWS ON THE RUNWAY

*CARE's Ninth annual Paws on the Runway honored the memory of Lyndae Sain Allison and her many contributions to the animal-welfare community. Guests enjoyed food, beverages, and auctions while watching Little Rock's movers and shakers strut down the runway.*



- 1 Ashley Younger, Todd Bagwell, Becky Rogers
- 2 Lynne Davis, Rick Taylor, Isabelle Thrash
- 3 Jan Zimmerman, Laurie Smith
- 4 Annemarie Dillard Jazic and Ante Jazic
- 5 Stacy Sells, Gael Sammartino
- 6 La Dawna and Jeremy Fleckenstein, Dr. Chloe and Andrew Charlton
- 7 Capi Peck, Tony Peck
- 8 Mike and Jane Moore



## FIRST LADY'S TEA

*Arkansas First Lady Susan Hutchinson, alongside chairs Sarah Hutchinson Wengel and Stacey Sebree, hosted the annual tea for mothers and daughter at the Governor's Mansion. Proceeds of the lovely afternoon benefited the Governor's Mansion fund, which helps to maintain the building.*



- 1 Sarah Wengel, Stacey Sebree
- 2 Sandra Paradise, Susan Hutchinson
- 3 Angie Wilson, Tammy Browning
- 4 Le Anne Griffin, Emilie Monk
- 5 Jan Zimmerman, Stephanie Blevins
- 6 Lisa Todd, Shelia Beck
- 7 Emily Glenn, Martha Glenn, Elisabeth Seal, Rebekah Glenn
- 8 Cheryl Spore, Jen Spore
- 9 Anna Whitehead, Jenny Whitehead, Julia Whitehead



## JAZZ & JULEPS

The Seventh annual *Jazz & Juleps* fundraiser benefiting UALR's Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology was held at Pleasant Valley Country Club. Lynn Coates and her daughter Caroline Coates-Nelson were honored for their many contributions to the development of resources for families of children born deaf or hard of hearing.



1 Lynn Coates, George Davis, Caroline Coates-Nelson

2 Veronica Lagarde, Stephanie Frienmel, Emily Pierce, Kaitlyn Miller

3 Robert Morgan, Leah Thorvilson

4 Danielle Leeper, Stormi Pickens

5 Howard and Jane Turney

6 Katie and Matt Thompson

7 Jeremy Sasse, Sheena Howell

8 Christian and Julie O'Neal, Ann and Jim Bain

**TICKETS! TICKETS! TICKETS!**



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DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: SEPT. 19



## SCOTT CONNECTIONS SPRING DINNER

The annual spring dinner, held in support of the Scott Settlement, included an evening full of history as well as a lovely dinner. This year's spring dinner was held at the Ashley-Alexander House, which is part of the Scott Plantation Settlement.



## Through the Ages



 **The BridgeWay**  
Children • Adolescents • Adults • Seniors  
[www.TheBridgeWay.com](http://www.TheBridgeWay.com)

For over 30 years, The BridgeWay has been caring for Arkansans of all ages. Now, The BridgeWay offers Senior Care to adults, 55 and older, struggling with mental health concerns. In honor of those who raised us, we provide the following:

- New, state-of-the-art facility
- 24-hour nursing care
- Medication management and physician care
- Discharge and aftercare planning
- Neuropsychological testing
- Safe, serene environment in central Arkansas

Here we treat each patient with dignity and care that may bring hope, help and healing to those seeking a sense of wellness.



## August 2 / Tuesday

**Gridiron '16: 100th Anniversary****Opening Night Gala & Show, Arkansas**

Repertory Theatre, 6 p.m. party start, 8 p.m. curtain call. **Tickets:** \$60-65.

**Info:** 378.0405, TheRep.org.

5 / Friday

**10th Annual Walk for Children and**

**Families** to benefit Methodist Family Health, Big Damn Bridge - Cook's Landing, 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Registration & Info:** 906.4201, MethodistFamily.org.

6 / Saturday

**A Leading Edge: Emerging Designers**

**Graduation Luncheon** sponsored by the Arkansas Fashion School, The Little Rock Club, 11 a.m.-1p.m. **Tickets:** \$70.

**Info:** 663.3242, Facebook.com/A-Leading-Edge-Graduation-Fashion-Event.

11 / Thursday

**Art of Motion: Tango** at the Arkansas Arts

Center, 7-9 p.m. **Info:** 541.0681, ArkArts.com.

12 / Friday

**Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame**

**Banquet** presented by Arkansas Game & Fish, Little Rock, Statehouse Convention Center. **Tickets:** starting at \$125.

**Info:** AGFF.org/events.

12-14 / Friday-Sunday

**Paws at the Net** to raise support for CARE for Animals, Rebsamen Tennis Center, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. **Info:** 603.2273, CareForAnimals.org.

19 / Friday

**Taste of the Finest** for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Statehouse Convention Center, 6-10 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$75.

**Info:** Finest.CFF.org.

20 / Saturday

**Cattle Baron's Ball** to benefit the American Cancer Society, Alda's Magnolia Hill. Tickets: \$100. **Info:** 603.5226, CattleBaronsBallCentralAR.org.

24 / Wednesday

**Cocktails for a Cause** to benefit Women & Children First, Lost Forty Brewery, 5:30-7:30pm. **Info:** 960.6778, SPollack@WCFArkansas.org.

25 / Thursday

**Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame**

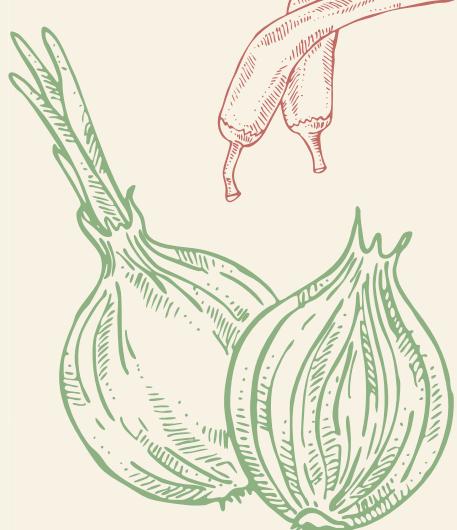
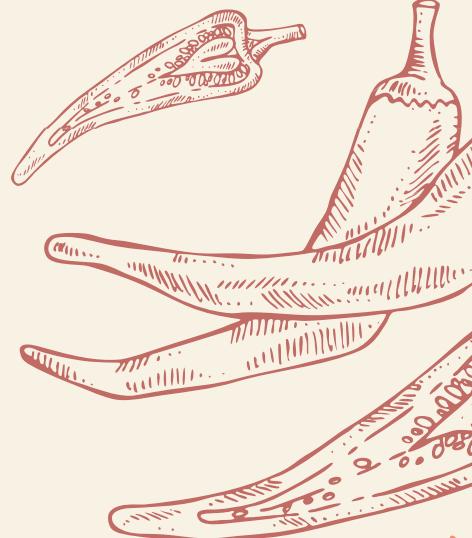
**Induction Ceremony & Dinner**, Statehouse Convention Center, 6-9 p.m. **Tickets:** \$200 per ticket, \$2,000 for a table of 10. **Info:** 372.1443, ARWomensHallOfFame.com.

27 / Saturday

**Easter Seals Rollin' on the River**

5K/2K, Clinton Library, 7 a.m.

**Registration & Info:** 227.3706, RollinOnTheRiver.RallyBound.com.





# events/ august

Dinner on the Grounds / Page 59  
Seersucker Social / Page 60  
Carribean Cabaret / Page 62  
Jazz & Juleps / Page 64

*Plus 8 more parties we attended!*

*Schrader's Barn* by Matt Coburn, Oil on linen, 20 x 24  
On display throughout August at Art Group Gallery

## A day in the life of: *Sally Mengel* Founder and Co-owner of Loblolly

**6:30 a.m.** Roll out of bed and let out my dog, Moo. He plays soccer (a great defensive player) while I tend to my plants. I then search through my clean laundry piles for my uniform: a Loblolly shirt, jeans, a baseball hat, and clean socks.

**7 a.m.** Grind coffee beans and make coffee; a ritual every morning. It's my moment of peace. I collect my thoughts and think about my schedule and my to-do list. I touch base with the team via text to prep them for today. Maybe I putter around the house. I'm late!



**8 a.m.** Arrive at the Loblolly Creamery Kitchen. I make contact with the kitchen crew, the operation manager, Shelby Houghton (the rock of the team), and see what gaps I need to fill before going to Ben E. Keith to pick up more brown sugar.

**9 a.m.** I prep the Loblolly mobile for an afternoon

food truck event. Sometimes I spend the week making ice cream base and churning, and sometimes I'm on the ice cream truck going to birthdays, weddings, office parties, food truck events and festivals all week long. Every week is completely different.

**10 a.m.** I open my computer for the first time today. (Ack! So many emails!) I get ready for Brain Freeze, our weekly team meeting. We go around the table sharing our previous week's reflections and coming up with solutions and opportunities. This is also where we discuss new flavors. We create our flavors by the season and by testing flavors out on one another. It's watermelon season now, so we are making watermelon sorbet.

**11 a.m.** I run to the Loblolly mobile and get the truck running. I head out to a special event to sell ice cream on the truck. I love getting to interact with the customers and share with them why our ice cream is different from others. The best part is giving out samples, because I get to see the reactions of the customers. Since we make everything from scratch, some of our flavors are a little different from traditional flavors – for example, our Fresh Mint Chip

(mint chocolate chip) is not green, and we use real mint leaves. People are always surprised that it tastes just like fresh mint.

**2 p.m.** Arrive back at the kitchen, clean up the truck, head over to the Loblolly Soda Fountain at the Green Corner Store — our retail store on Main Street.

**2:30 p.m.** I touch base with the soda jerk on staff (soda jerk was a term for people who made the sodas at traditional soda fountains). We chat about how the day has

been going, what ice cream is low, and how the customers have been. I try to check in with each team member and see how they are doing on a personal level. Our team is our most important resource.

**3 p.m.** Did I miss lunch? I swing over to Three Fold for a quick bite.

**4 p.m.** Meet up with Elizabeth, our guru of brand and marketing (my right-hand Loblolian), and we chat about our sales goals, wholesale customers, and upcoming caterings.

**5:30 p.m.** If I don't have another evening event on the truck, then I kick the soccer ball with my friends at MacArthur Park. It is my mini-vacation away from the ice cream world and where I can get some exercise in.

**7 p.m.** Head over to Stone's Throw Brewery after playing soccer for a beer.

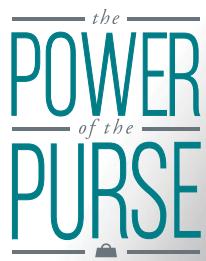
**8 p.m.** Shower, check emails, make a quick meal (salads or pasta are my go-to solutions).

**10 p.m.** Time for bed. Moo joins and I either veg out on a sitcom or read a book before doing it all again tomorrow!



*Plan B: If I hadn't gotten into ice cream then I probably would be working at a small nonprofit or become a zookeeper or worked as a professional closet organizer. But I most likely would have odd jobs helping others out.*





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When Northwest Arkansas businessman Cameron Smith was diagnosed with base of tongue cancer, he didn't waste any time. "We had work to do," he said. The first order of business included consulting UAMS' renowned head and neck surgeon James Y. Suen, M.D. Led by Dr. Suen, a team of physicians immediately began a rigorous treatment regimen that included a research clinical trial to reduce the side effects of radiation therapy. Now, almost five years later, Cameron appreciates life like never before and is proud to spread the word about UAMS as a board member of its Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.

*"My experience at the UAMS Cancer Institute is unlike anything I've ever experienced. Everything went like clockwork. I want everyone to know we have world-class cancer treatment right here in Arkansas. These folks are the real deal." - Cameron Smith, Rogers*

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