

welcome to

Center Stage

OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



OCU TO STAGE MULTI-ETHNIC VERSION OF AMERICAN CLASSIC 'OUR TOWN'

COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY

A staging of the American classic play "Our Town" will take a diversified approach in Oklahoma City University's production April 9-12.

The OCU School of Theatre will stage Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece in the Kirkpatrick Fine Arts Center at 2501 N. Blackwelder. The production will breathe new life into the 1938 archetype, reimagining the fictional Grover's Corners through the diverse lens of 21st-century Oklahoma.

While the play famously explores the universal "slice of life" in a small New England town, Director Kris Kuss and the OCU creative team are grounding this revival in the lived experiences of today's populace.

"We are asking the question: why this old play, and why tell this story now?" Kuss said. "The heart of the story—community, love and the sacredness of daily life—isn't exclusive to one time or place. What makes this our story is the people telling it."

OCU's production features a cast reflecting the school's diverse student body and the broader American landscape. By casting families of various heritages, the production emphasizes that the themes of "Our Town" belong to everyone.

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**OKLAHOMA
PERFORMING ARTS
APRIL 3**

**STAGE 405
APRIL 10**



**SYDNEY WEHMEYER
APRIL 17**

**MAIZIE LIGHTFOOT
APRIL 24**



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"Traditionally, this play is visualized as a story about white people," Kuss noted. "By intentionally depicting these families as multi-ethnic, we show that these universal human experiences of grief, joy and connection apply regardless of background."

In keeping with Thornton Wilder's original intent, the production features a minimalist set using mime in place of props and Foley sound design with live sound effects. From the sizzle of a breakfast fire to the rhythmic whir of a rotary lawnmower, audiences will hear the world of the play constructed in real-time.

Renowned local actor Ashley J. Mandanas (known for their work in films and on stages including Lyric Theatre and OKC Rep) will join the cast as the Stage Manager, providing students an opportunity to work alongside a seasoned professional.

Audience members also are invited to contribute to an interactive installation in the theater lobby, sharing their own memories and perspectives on what "Our Town" means to them. Opening night will feature a celebration inducting distinguished alumni into the School of Theatre's Hall of Honor. Tickets for "Our Town" are available online at okcu.edu/tickets or by calling 405-208-5227.

WANT TO BE A PART OF OUR TEAM?

**HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WORKING
WITH US?**

If you would like to join Oklahoma OnStage in its endeavor to encourage, support, and promote all things theatre in the state of Oklahoma, give us a shout and let's see where we can plug you in!

oklahomaonstage@gmail.com

APRIL AUDITIONS

ROUTE 66: A NEW ROMANTIC COMEDY MUSICAL - CENTRE THEATRE (EL RENO) - APRIL 13 & 14
LION KING JR - CHICKASHA COMMUNITY THEATRE - APRIL 18 & 19

APRIL PRODUCTIONS

OKLAHOMA CHILDREN'S THEATRE (OKC) - DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS THE MUSICAL - APRIL 2-10
NW OPTIMIST PERFORMING ARTS (OKC) - LEGALLY BLONDE JR - APRIL 3-4
ROSE STATE COLLEGE (MIDWEST CITY) - SHORT AND SWEET: A PLAY FESTIVAL - APRIL 3-4
MUSKOGEE LITTLE THEATRE - SOMETHING ROTTEN - APRIL 3-11
OU THEATRE - THE BIRDS - APRIL 3-12
RIFFRAFF TULSA - ANTIGONE & ISMENE - APRIL 8-11
CHARLES PAGE HS (SAND SPRINGS) - ALICE BY HEART - APRIL 9-12
OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY - OUR TOWN - APRIL 9-12
EDMOND NORTH HS - MARY POPPINS - APRIL 9-11
CENTER THEATRE (EL RENO) - GET A CLUE - APRIL 10-19
STORYTELLER THEATRE (OKC) - 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA - APRIL 10-18
OKMULGEE COMMUNITY THEATRE - HONEYMOON AT GRAVESIDE MANOR - APRIL 10-11
LAWTON COMMUNITY THEATRE - MISCAST - APRIL 10-11
TAHLEQUAH COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE - MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS - APRIL 10-19
3RD ACT THEATRE CO. (OKC) - DECISION HEIGHT - APRIL 10-MAY 3
SPOTLIGHT PRODUCTIONS/INSPIRED THEATRE CO. (EDMOND) - ARSENIC & OLD LACE - APRIL 10-11
NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY - YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU - APRIL 15-18
TOWN & GOWN THEATRE (STILLWATER) - A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE - APRIL 16-26
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA - THE BIBLE: THE COMPLETE WORD OF GOD (ABRIDGED) - APRIL 16-19
OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY - WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST - APRIL 16-19
NOBLE HS - EMMA: A POP MUSICAL - APRIL 16-19
TULSA COMMUNITY COLLEGE - BRANDY & CECELIA, VAMPIRE HUNTERS - APRIL 16-19
DISCOVERY OUTPOST PERFORMING ARTS (LAWTON) - ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR. - APRIL 17-18
ROSE STATE COLLEGE (MIDWEST CITY) - ROMEO & JULIET - APRIL 17-26
SOUTHWEST PLAYHOUSE (CLINTON) - DIAL M FOR MURDER - APRIL 17-26
WORLD STAGE THEATRE (TULSA) - FRANKIE & JOHNNY AT THE CLARIE DE LUNE - APRIL 17-26
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & ARTS OF OKLAHOMA (CHICKASHA) - FESTIVAL OF STUDENT ONE-ACTS - APRIL 23-26
MIAMI LITTLE THEATRE - ROUTE 66 - APRIL 23-MAY 3
CHICKASHA COMMUNITY THEATRE - ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING - APRIL 23-26
SAND SPRINGS COMMUNITY THEATRE - SILENT SKY - APRIL 23-26
OCU BASS SCHOOL OF MUSIC - THE BOYS IN THE BAND - APRIL 23-26
DUNCAN LITTLE THEATRE - TWELFTH NIGHT - APRIL 24-25
BEDFORD THEATRE (NICHOLS HILLS) - SEUSSICAL - APRIL 24-25
NW OPTIMIST PERFORMING ARTS (OKC) - THE FANTASTIC MR. FOX - APRIL 24-25
OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY - ANASTASIA - APRIL 24-26
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY - CINDERELLA - APRIL 24-26
SHAWNEE LITTLE THEATRE - YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN - APRIL 24-MAY 3
ARDMORE LITTLE THEATRE - SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS - APRIL 27-MAY 2



SUMMER TIME IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!!

IF YOU HAVE A SUMMER CAMP THAT YOU
WOULD LIKE PROMOTED, DROP US SOME
INFORMATION AT
OKLAHOMAONSTAGE@GMAIL.COM
AND WE WILL GIVE YOUR EVENT A SHOUT
OUT NEXT MONTH!

LET US HELP YOU GET THE WORD OUT!!