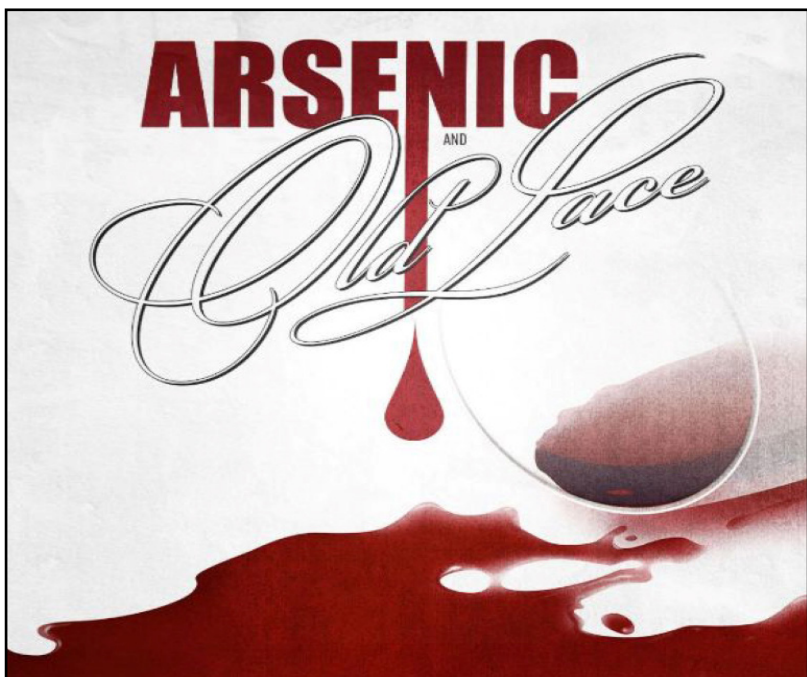


**Manatee Players and
Producing Artistic Director Rick Kerby**

Present



**Author
Joseph Kesselring**

**Director
Jim Floyd**

**Set Designer
Ralph Nurmela**

**Lighting Designer
John Michael Andzulis**

**Costume Designer
Caren Brady**

**Stage Manager
Brittney Klepper**

September 3 - 20, 2026
Bradenton Kiwanis Theater at Manatee Performing Arts Center
An Action Through Acting Program

Theater Information

Each audience member must occupy a seat and have a ticket. Although there are no age restrictions, parents should use discretion regarding appropriateness of some offerings. Information on shows, including recommended ages, is available at our Box Office.

LATECOMERS

Tickets are valid only if presented for admission before the start of the date and time of the show listed. Patrons arriving late are not guaranteed admission, but may be seated on an “as available” basis at the sole discretion of management.

SMOKING/VAPING

Smoking or use of e-cigarettes is strictly prohibited within the facility.

ELECTRONIC & RECORDING DEVICES

Due to copyright restrictions, audio and video recording is strictly prohibited during performances. Please turn off all electronic devices.

EMERGENCY EXITS

Please familiarize yourself with nearest exit sign.

ACCESSIBILITY

We strive to make our performances and facilities accessible to everyone and adheres to all regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations.

BOOSTER SEATS

Booster seats are available by request for those who need them. Please see a team member at the information desk located in the lobby.

NOISE REDUCTION EAR PROTECTION

We have both adult and child-sized hearing protection for those with sound sensitivity. Stop by the information desk to secure a set to better enjoy the live entertainment.

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm and 1 hour prior to a show.

Phone: 941-748-5875

Online: ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com

STONE HALL



BRADENTON KIWANIS THEATER



Arsenic and Old Lace - Cast

Martha Brewster.....LuAnne Pezel
Abby Brewster.....Barbara Farruggia
Mortimer Brewster.....Shawn Genther
Jonathan Brewster.....Dan Yonko
Teddy Brewster.....Mark Heuberger
Elaine Harper.....Aleah Colón-Alfonso
Dr. Einstein.....Jack Harkleroad
Rev. Dr. Harper.....Craig Engle
Mr. Gibbs.....Charlie Tyler
Lt. Rooney.....Craig Engle
Officer Brophy.....Richard Foster
Officer O'Hara.....Doug Wetzel
Officer Klein.....Noah Elijah Johnson
Mr. Witherspoon.....Charlie Tyler

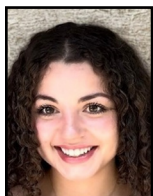
There will be (2) 15 Minute Intermissions

Crew

Production Manager.....Kristin Ribble
Assistant Technical Director.....Larry Crouse
Master Electrician.....Thomas Anderson, Tom Sparks
Stage Manager/Light Board.....Brittney Klepper
Sound Design.....Cory Boyas, Jim Floyd, Kristin Ribble
Props.....Jim Floyd, Brittney Klepper, Kristin Ribble
Scenic Artist.....Ralph Nurmela
Set Construction.....Thomas Anderson, Phil Croome
Mike Harris, Steve Leggett
Ralph Nurmela Jim Uberti
Set Painting.....Thomas Anderson, Mike Harris
Steve Leggett, Ralph Nurmela, Jim Uberti
Costume Construction.....Caren Brady, Gwen Certo
Barbara Duncan, Kristen Garruto, Gail Hargaden
Arda Letson, Karen Roach
Cheryl Voltolina, Wayne Waletich
Special Thanks.....Diane Broda, Dan Yonko

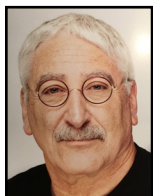
***The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this
production is strictly prohibited.***

Arsenic and Old Lace - Cast Bios



Aleah Colón-Alfonso

(*Elaine Harper*) Aleah is a student of the arts with a passion for science. She holds degrees in Biological Psychology, Neuroscience, and Theatre. Her love of the arts has taken her from Off-Broadway cabarets to a moving trolley. Offstage, she creates custom cookies and cakes at AleahBakes.com



Craig Engle

(*Dr. Rev. Harper / Lt. Rooney*) Craig is glad to be a part of this hilarious show. Previous shows at MPAC include *Kiss Me Kate* (Baptista), *Gypsy* (Pop/Cigar), *Anything Goes* (Whitney), *Something Rotten* (Shylock), *Parade* (Starnes), *Tootsie* (Stan Fields), *Beauty and The Beast* (Maurice), *Full Monty* (Reg) and at Players Theater *Funny Girl* (Ziegfeld). Thanks Jim!



Barbara Farruggia

(*Abby Brewster*) Barbara is a Julliard graduate, Fulbright and Rotary International Scholar whose career has spanned both Opera and Theater. Favorite theatrical credits include *Nunsense* (Mother Superior) and *Die Fledermaus* (Adele). She's performed at Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, numerous theaters across Europe, and won The American Opera Auditions, among others.



Richard Foster

(*Officer Brophy*) Richard is happy to be back at MPAC after last season's *Prince of Egypt*. He is even happier that this show's audition didn't include high-energy dancing! Previous non-MPAC roles include *Living Together* (Norman) and *Local Affairs* (Keith). "Thanks to family and friends for their support."



Shawn Genther

(*Mortimer Brewster*) Shawn is originally from Easton, PA and has been acting in Florida since about 2005 in theatre, film, improv and commercials. This is his fourth production with Manatee, the previous being *And Then There Were None*, *39 Steps* and *Misery*. "I'd like to thank my wife for all her support!"



Jack Harkleroad

(*Dr. Einstein*) Jack is a seasoned actor who has performed in numerous musicals, comedies and dramas in theaters throughout the Southeast. He has also performed in many commercials and films throughout his career. He is delighted to have this opportunity to perform again at the Manatee Performing Arts Center.

Cast Bios Continued



Mark Heuberger

(*Teddy Brewster*) Mark makes his fifth appearance at Manatee Players, including *Sound of Music* (Butler/Bishop), *Terms of Endearment* (Dr. Maise) and two shows with Dramature, *High School Musical Sr.* and *Those Were the Days*. Other roles: *Movies Were Movies* (Curly Howard) and *Man for All Seasons* (Assistant). Mark is a retired pastor and life-long resident of Bradenton.



Noah Elijah Johnson

(*Officer Klein*) Returning for a second performance at Manatee Performing Arts Center, after playing Fred Narracot in *And Then There Were None*. Noah's acquired his amateur experience from High school theatre, as well as putting on skits for the childcare team at his church.



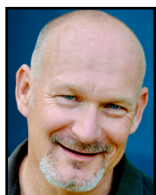
LuAnne Pezel

(*Martha Brewster*) LuAnne is excited to bring Martha Brewster to stage! Some favorite roles include, *The Cemetery Club* (Doris), *Hello, Dolly!* (Dolly), *Nunsense I&II* (Sr. Mary Regina) & *Little Women* (Marmee). She would like to thank her supportive husband Mike, director Jim, The Riverside Club Community, and the talented cast of characters!!



Charlie Tyler

(Mr. Gibbs / Mr. Witherspoon) Charlie Tyler has been acting for sixty-five years. He was last seen at MPAC as General Mackenzie in *And Then There Were None*. In his professional life, Charlie was an educator and principal for 35 years. He lives in Sarasota with his wife Michele.



Doug Wetzel

(*Officer O'Hara*) Doug is glad to be performing in his second show at MPAC. Previous performance was Sam in *The Cemetery Club*. He has also worked locally with Theater Odyssey and The Sarasota Jewish Theater. Doug holds an MFA and BFA in theater performance from FAU. "Thank you for supporting local theater!"



Dan Yonko

(*Jonathan Brewster*) Dan is blessed beyond belief to be part of this talented ensemble. Thank you, Jim, for your trust and encouragement with this role. Special love to Sarah and Addie for your limitless support and for believing in me, even when I doubt myself. You are my everything. Psalm 56:3.



- Denotes Manatee Players

Creative Team



Jim Floyd

(*Director*) – Jim is thrilled to be making his Florida directorial debut here at MPAC with this delightful golden oldie, *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Favorite acting roles of his include *The Odd Couple* (Oscar Madison), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Atticus Finch), *Death of a Salesman* (Willy Loman), *12 Angry Jurors* (Juror #3), *Annie* (Daddy Warbucks), *Cherry Docs* (Mike Downey), *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Vanya), *Doubt* (Father Flynn), *A View from the Bridge* (Eddie Carbone), *Sylvia* (Greg) and his one-man *A Christmas Carol*, where he portrayed over 20 characters. In addition to performing (and now directing!), Jim likes to write and hide away from humanity. In addition to thanking his friends and family for their support, he would like to thank Rick Kerby and Kristin Ribble for giving him this amazing opportunity. He would also like to thank you, the audience, for coming out and supporting live, local theater. We need you now more than ever!



Ralph Nurmela

(*Set Designer*) – Ralph previously retired after 30 plus years as a principal in the public school system. He is thrilled to have the opportunity to paint many sets for MPAC in Stone Hall, as well as to be set designer/scenic artist for the productions in the Bradenton Kiwanis Theatre! He recently served as Scenic Artist for the Stone Hall Productions of *Anything Goes*, *She Loves Me*, *Something Rotten*, and *Company*. Some of the recent

sets that Ralph has designed in the studio theatre have been *And Then There Were None*, *The Cemetery Club*, *Terms of Endearment*, *Misery*, *Gutenberg*, *The 39 Steps*, *Death of Salesman*, *Steel Magnolias*, *On Golden Pond*, *The Fantasticks*, *Glass Menagerie*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Rocky Horror*, and *Songs For A New World*. Other scenic design credits in the Bradenton Kiwanis Theatre are *Go Ask Alice*, *Pets*, *Rent*, *Danny King of Basements*, *Doubt*, *Goat Song Revel*, *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Grey Gardens*, *Clybourne Park*, *Shirley Valentine*, *Oh Freedom*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Calendar Girls*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, *2.5 Minute Ride*, *Baby*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Flowers for Algernon*, *Anna in the Tropics*, *The Father*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Wit*, *13: The Musical*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *Sylvia*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Yank!*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Miracle Worker*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Agnes of God*, *Godspell*, *Mornings at Seven*, and *Greater Tuna*.

Creative Team



Caren Brady

(*Costume Designer*) – Caren Brady is celebrating 38 years as a Fairy Godmother for all things costume. A graduate of Bluffton College, Caren started her career at Stagecraft Theatrical in Cincinnati Ohio and eventually opened her dream business, Cincinnati Costume Company. This shop costumed productions throughout Ohio and the nation. Eventually, Caren joined Cincinnati Landmark Productions

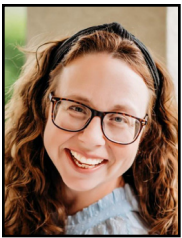
as their Costume Shop Manager, Costume Designer, and Props Mistress and served there for over 12 years. Caren is pleased to be on staff here at Manatee Performing Arts Center. She is happy to be working with this cast and production team. Caren also works as the Village Seamstress doing personal alterations and custom sewing in Village of the Arts. Much love to family and friends far and near who always support the crazy costume lady!



John Michael Andzulis

(*Lighting Designer*) – In his 18th season at The Venice theatre as Production Manager and Resident Lighting Designer. A Technical Theatre Graduate from Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA, and has continued his technical career with lighting and scenic designs for productions such as Handy Award winning *Metamorphosis*, *Honky Tonk Laundry*, *The Jungle Book*, *Urinetown*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Peter Pan*, *Ragtime*, *Sweeney Todd*,

Godspell, *Boeing Boeing*, *Avenue Q*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Radio Gals*, *Dreamgirls*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Here at MPAC, John was lighting designer for *Fame*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Misery* and *The Sound of Music*. John is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the design team for *Arsenic and Old Lace*.



Brittney Klepper

(*Stage manager*) – Brittney is excited for the opportunity to stage manage *Arsenic and Old Lace*. She previously served as Stage Manager for *Terms of Endearment*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *She Loves Me*, *Go Ask Alice*, *The Music Man* and *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and co-stage managed *Fiddler on the Roof*. Brittney is also an avid performer who was recently seen on MPAC stage in *Big Fish*,

Bright Star (Lucy), *Hello Dolly* (Ensemble), *Prince of Egypt* (Ensemble), *Kiss Me Kate* (Ensemble), *Drowsy Chaperone* (Kitty), *Something Rotten* (Ensemble), *Company* (Jenny), *Gypsy* (Tessie Tura) and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Smitty). Previous shows at MPAC include *White Christmas*, *Hairspray*, *Shout*, *Ring of Fire*, *Always*, *Patsy Cline*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Sylvia*, *My One and Only*, *Les Misérables*, *Shrek*, *Evita* and *Anything Goes*.

Author Bio

Joseph Kesselring

(Author/Playwright) – Joseph Otto Kesselring was born in New York City on June 21, 1902. His career was always linked in some way to the theatre. His early years were spent as a singer (boy soprano and adult tenor), and at the age of twenty, he began teaching music and directing amateur theatre productions at Bethel College in Newton, Kansas. At twenty-three, he left academia to pursue acting, writing short stories, and producing vaudeville plays. He acted professionally in *GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES* at the age of twenty-four and, at thirty-one, one year after his marriage to Charlotte Elsheimer, he devoted himself to writing, continuing to pen short stories and initiating his career as a playwright. Between 1933 and his death in 1967, he authored twelve plays—mostly light comedies. His first play to be produced, *AGGIE APPLEBY, MAKER OF MEN*, premiered in 1933, and four later plays were produced on Broadway: *THERE'S WISDOM IN WOMEN* (1935), *ARSENIC AND OLD LACE* (1941), *FOUR TWELVES ARE 48* (1951), and *MOTHER OF THAT WISDOM* (1963). Mr. Kesselring died on November 5, 1967, at the age of sixty-five.

Arsenic and Old Lace (AMATEUR PERFORMANCE RIGHTS)

Is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of
Dramatists Play Service.
www.concordtheatricals.com



Action Through Acting

Action Through Acting (ATA) is Florida Cultural Group's social impact initiative, using the power of live theater to spark dialogue, raise awareness, and inspire action on issues that affect our community. For our actors, it deepens their craft by connecting performance to real-world challenges. For our audiences, it transforms the theater experience into more than entertainment — it becomes a call to empathy, understanding, and change.

This production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* is presented in partnership with The Food Bank of Manatee Meals on Wheels Plus — an organization dedicated to fighting hunger and supporting the nutritional needs of individuals and families throughout our community. Through food distribution, meal delivery, and vital support services, they help ensure that neighbors facing food insecurity, seniors, and other vulnerable members of our community have access to nutritious meals and the resources they need to thrive.

Through ATA, we affirm that the arts are not only a reflection of life,
but a catalyst for change.

Director's Notes

Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the Brewster House.
The time is late September 1941.
The place is Brooklyn, New York.
A quieter time.

A 'simpler' time.

A peaceful time – though still a tense time. We are, after all, only six weeks away from the attack on Pearl Harbor, the devastating event that would catapult the United States into World War II.

....but we're not there yet.

Allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to introduce you to the Brewster sisters: Abby and Martha. The kindest, sweetest ladies you'll ever meet. They'd give you the clothes off their backs if it would help you out. You want a meal? They'll feed you. A place to stay? They'll house you. Ask anyone in the neighborhood and you'll find that the Brewster sisters are amongst the highest revered in the town. But even sweet little old ladies have their secrets....



Jim Floyd

Arsenic and Old Lace doesn't force its audience to do a lot of heavy thinking; it just asks them to sit back and enjoy the escapades of all the wacky characters they're about to encounter.

So please. Do just that.

Sit back. Relax.

Let the Brewster sisters clothe you and feed you and house you.

In fact, I hear they have a new wine they'd have you try.

Elderberry wine, they call it.

In fact, I'm about to have a glass of it myself.

I hear it has a real kick.

(Before I drink, though, I'll raise my glass to this wonderful cast, my amazing stage manager Brittney, and a fantastic creative team. Thank you for this experience!)



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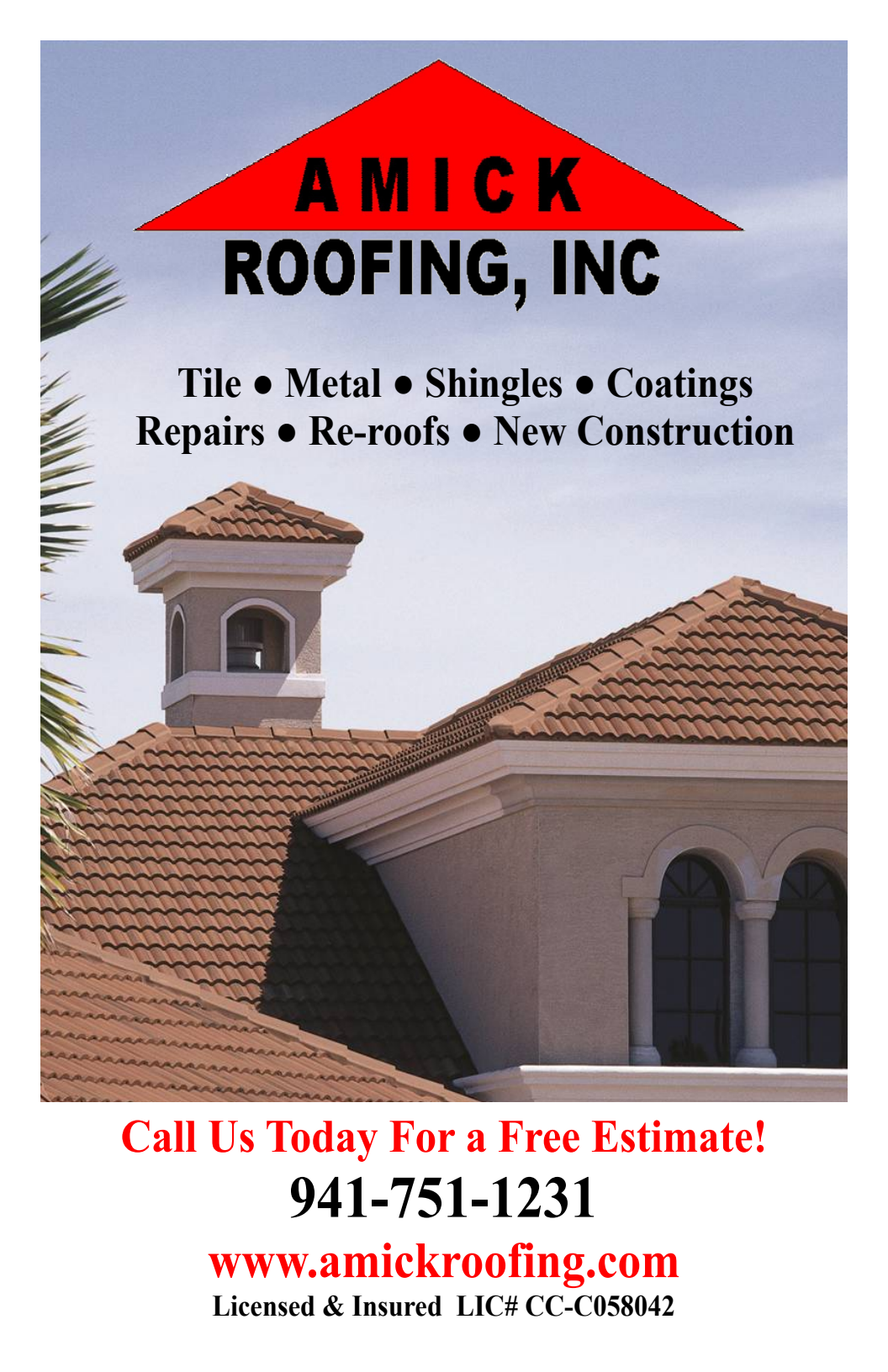


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LEAVE A LEGACY

The Manatee Players, Inc. is fortunate to have a loyal and generous audience that has grown with us over the past 70 years. As we continue to grow into a cultural center that better serves our community in the future, we need to have consistent funding sources.

We see a simple solution to our future funding needs. With a much larger endowment fund, we can assure the future of The Manatee Players, Inc's vital programs. You have treated us like a member of the family coming back every year and supporting us beyond the price of your tickets.

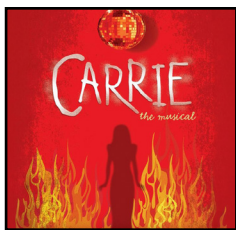
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Here are a few of the ways you can easily provide for and ensure The Manatee Players, Inc's future through a Legacy Gift:

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- Retirement plan beneficiary designation
- Life insurance policy beneficiary designation



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October 15 - November 1, 2026

Experience Stephen King's haunting Carrie—powerful music, raw emotion, bullying, isolation, and shocking consequences collide onstage.



Dear Evan Hansen

October 22 - November 1, 2026

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Old Time Sailors

November 27, 2026 (2pm & 7pm)

Experience centuries-old sea shanties like never before—sing, dance, and celebrate with Old Time Sailors!



Anastasia

December 3 - 13, 2026

Journey to the past with Anastasia—an enchanting musical of mystery, romance, adventure, and discovery.



The Da Vinci Code

January 14 - 24, 2027

Crack the clues, uncover secrets, and experience The Da Vinci Code's thrilling mystery live onstage.