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THEATRE TUSCALOOSA ANNOUNCES THE 2014-15 SEASON THEMED “TO LIFE”

July 15, 2014 (TUSCALOOSA, AL) – As the current season comes to a close with Hairspray in July, Theatre Tuscaloosa announces its 2014-15 season lineup themed “To Life.” “To Life” is the title of a song from Fiddler on the Roof, the summer musical for the upcoming season. Fiddler will wrap up the season that begins with Hands on a Hardbody, followed by Little Women in December and Wit in February 2015. The lineup also includes two special events outside of the mainstage programs: Page to Stage: Kate Campbell and Dr. Wayne Flynt; and the Shelton State production of Brigadoon.

“Our 2014-2015 season is a celebration of all the highs and lows, joys and sorrows, and inspirations and challenges that life brings to every one of us,” said Tina Turley, Executive Producer of Theatre Tuscaloosa. “We are thrilled to bring our audiences this diverse line-up of exciting shows.”

Hands on a Hardbody, written by Doug Wright with lyrics by Amanda Green and music by Trey Anastasio and Amanda Green, is based on the documentary film of the same name. The musical takes place in Texas and tells the story of ten contestants in a radio contest who are competing for a “hardbody” truck: last one with a hand on the truck wins it. Anastasio, of the band Phish, has put together a musical score with a mix of country, rock, bluegrass and gospel, with each song focusing on a specific character. Turley will direct Hands on a Hardbody, which runs September 26-October 5, 2014. This will be the Alabama premiere of Hands on a Hardbody.

The holiday season will bring the classic Little Women, written by Peter Clapham, based on the timeless novel by Louisa May Alcott. This version of the play follows the novel, visualizing the story of the March sisters; Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy; their mother; and Laurie, the boy next door. The tale shows how the family celebrates joyous events, cries during heartache and loss, and manages day-to-day life, all while the girls’ father is away in the Civil War. Turley will also direct Little Women, which runs December 5-14, 2014.

Wit is the third show of the season, a Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Margaret Edson. The play takes place in the last few hours of the life of Dr. Vivian Bearing, an English professor, dying of ovarian cancer. During these hours, Vivian, played by Theatre Tuscaloosa veteran Drew Baker, reflects on her life, largely using wit from the early 17th century English poet, John Donne. Edson used inspiration from her work experience in a hospital to write this real-life representation of the transformation of one woman as she finds new meaning in death, and life. Jeff Wilson will direct Wit, which runs February 20-March 1, 2015. Theatre Tuscaloosa will team up with the Norma Livingston Ovarian Cancer Foundation for the show.
Fiddler on the Roof, directed by Paul Looney, will wrap up the 2014-15 season. In this musical, Tevye struggles with instilling into his five daughters the value of tradition. He must teach them the importance of their Jewish heritage while the Russian culture and government are growing increasingly anti-Semitic. For 10 years, Fiddler held the record for Longest Running Broadway Musical after it opened in 1964. The book by Joseph Stein is based on tales by Sholem Aleichem. For the on-stage production, Jerry Bock wrote the music with lyrics by Sheldon Harnick. The musical runs July 10-19 of next year.

The 2014-2015 season will contain two special events. The first is Page to Stage: Kate Campbell & Dr. Wayne Flynt. This event is a collaborative exchange of songs, stories, and readings between acclaimed singer-songwriter Kate Campbell and award-winning author/historian Dr. Wayne Flynt. Campbell’s literate songs weave effortlessly with Flynt’s chosen passages from some of the South’s most noted authors. This presentation by Alabama artists will have two performances only, on January 16 and 17, 2015.

The other season addition is the Shelton State production of Lerner and Loewe’s Brigadoon, directed by Michael Carr with Glinda Blackshear as musical director. From the writers of My Fair Lady and Camelot, Brigadoon tells the story of two men who stumble upon a mysterious Scottish village that only appears once every 100 years. The tourists get to take part in the local festivities while getting to know the villagers and learning about the mystery surrounding the village of Brigadoon. Presented by the Shelton State Fine Arts Division, Brigadoon will run April 23-26, 2015.

Season tickets are currently on sale for the 2014-15 season. A subscription includes a ticket to each of the mainstage productions, with an offered discount on tickets to add-on special events. Patrons can choose either a traditional season subscription, in which they receive the same reserved seat on the same night for each production, or a flex subscription, which includes four vouchers redeemable in any order and combination. Patrons save 15% on ticket prices by purchasing a season subscription. Subscribers also have the advantage of being able to exchange tickets to different performances or productions, a benefit not offered on individual-ticket purchases.

To purchase tickets or get more information, visit theatretusc.com or call the Theatre Tuscaloosa ticket office at 205.391.2277.

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Theatre Tuscaloosa is a 501c3 not-for-profit community theatre located on the Martin Campus of Shelton State Community College. Theatre Tuscaloosa has been enriching the greater Tuscaloosa community since 1971 through quality theatrical productions and educational outreach.