

SPOKANE CIVIC THEATRE

Firth J Chew Studio Theatre




October 28 - November 6, 2022

BY Bryan Harnetiaux, Resident Playwright

DIRECTED BY Jerry Sciarrio

ORIGINAL CIVIC PRODUCTION ARTWORK BY Chris Bovey



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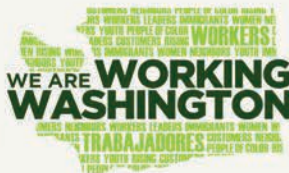
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Spokane Civic Theatre is the proud recipient of generous support and recognition from local, state and national government funding agencies.

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



75 years ago, on August 26, 1947, Dorothy D. Smith and other visionary founders signed the “Agreement of Incorporation” establishing Spokane Civic Theatre Inc. For the past three-quarters of a century, Civic has been Spokane’s leading community theatre and a major contributor to the cultural landscape of the city and Inland Northwest.

Initially, Civic operated out of a number of downtown Spokane venues, including the Post Theater and Riverside Playhouse. In 1967, we opened our newly constructed facility on Howard Street. This dream come true was made possible by the unrelenting efforts of our leadership, coupled with the generous support of our patrons and the Spokane community. In the ensuing years, our facility was upgraded, including the addition of a second stage in 1972, the 96-seat black box Studio Theatre, named after longstanding Board member and legendary fundraiser, Firth J. Chew. Since moving to Howard Street, we have mounted more than 500 productions, averaging 180 performances each season, along with conducting innumerable performing arts classes, predominantly for the youth of our community.

We celebrate our 75th anniversary at a time of burgeoning growth on the North Bank. With many dining, entertainment and recreation options, development in our area, including the outdoor downtown stadium, is booming. While we are thrilled to be in the midst of this transformation, where the potential for collaboration is ripe, we recognize that this growth requires us to soundproof our facility. Concurrently, this moment presents a golden opportunity for us to renovate our fifty year-old building and create more space for more art, artists and educational opportunities. To this end, we introduce 1CIVIC, our capital campaign meant to render our renovation plans — developed with Cortner Architecture and Trane Technologies — a reality. A successful campaign will fund facility-wide soundproofing and full ADA accessibility, an additional 7,100 square feet for rehearsal and educational space, redesigned environmental and mechanical controls, and improved production and technology capabilities.

We ask that each of you take this opportunity to participate in 1CIVIC and ensure a vibrant Civic for tomorrow. Whether you give \$10 or a million, your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

With a successful capital campaign, it will be necessary for us to move our programming to offsite venues until construction is completed. In the meantime, we celebrate Civic’s 75th Season with an extraordinary lineup, including timeless classics, acclaimed new plays, contemporary musicals, regional premieres, original works by local and regional writers, and more. Join us and experience a year of adventure, courage, discovery, and the limitless power of imagination. Help us lay the groundwork for the next chapter in the remarkable journey of Spokane Civic Theatre.

Thank you for contributing to Civic’s Mission-driven, history-grounded, living legacy.

Sincerely,



MISSION

To foster an enduring love for live theatre in every community member.

VISION

To enrich the lives of citizens through live theater by expanding their insight into the human condition.

VALUES

To provide a safe, inclusive and collaborative venue, sustained by a broad foundation of volunteers, where theatrical art is created to entertain, to enlighten, and to stimulate reflection and critical thinking.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SPOKANE CIVIC THEATRE

By Jim Kershner

August 2022

In November 1946, a tiny notice appeared in the Spokane Chronicle announcing the formation of a new dramatic organization, Spokane Civic Theatre.

At this point in Spokane's history, the city had already witnessed a parade of drama clubs, theater groups, repertory companies and "little theaters." Every one of them had come and gone. Live local theater had been silent since 1942. A group of local theater educators, theater artists, and theater lovers wanted to end that drought. They knew it would not be easy, as evidenced by the following confession: "Right now, the new Civic Theatre has a housing problem." In other words, the Civic Theatre had no theater.

The steering committee, led by local legend Dorothy Darby Smith, was unfazed. They forged ahead with plans to produce an adaptation of *Tom Sawyer*, in conjunction with another fledgling organization, the Spokane Children's Theatre. Rehearsals began in schoolrooms, living rooms and a cramped radio studio. The downtown Orpheum Theatre finally agreed to rent its space to the Civic — but only when it wasn't showing films. For that reason, the Spokane Civic Theatre's inaugural performance took place at a most unusual time: 10 a.m. on a Saturday morning, February 15, 1947.

Smooth was not the word to describe this particular debut. The group had to build all of its sets in an organizer's basement. They had to truck the sets to the Orpheum on Friday night and wait until the last movie ended. Then they had to frantically assemble the sets until 3:30 a.m. The Chronicle noted that, "The Civic Theatre group, including Grace Gorton, director, were a tired lot." During the performance itself, Bosco, the Orpheum's house cat, strolled onto the stage, peeked around one of the set pieces, and "made a rapid but dignified exit amid thunderous applause."

How did this bedraggled group evolve into one of Spokane's premier cultural institutions? To steal a line from Shakespeare, thereby hangs a tale.

In some ways, Spokane Civic Theatre was a smash hit from the beginning. *Tom Sawyer* ended up playing to more than 14,000 schoolchildren and even going on the road to Lewiston. Encouraged, organizers incorporated as Spokane Civic Theatre, Inc., in September 1947, and announced a three-play season with more mature and meaty fare. On October 1, 1947, it opened the Pulitzer-winning political comedy-drama *The State of the Union* at the Post Theater, another downtown movie palace. The critic for The Spokesman-Review said the show's quality and the hefty attendance "should establish the theater as a valued cultural asset for the city." Civic followed with a production of Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* at the Post.

Audiences were gratifyingly large. Spokane Civic Theatre was well on its way. Becoming a longstanding civic institution, however, required sustained commitment from volunteers, theater artists, and community donors. The strongest evidence that the Spokane Civic Theatre was here to stay came in 1957, when it took over an old movie theater on Riverside Avenue. Volunteers scraped, painted, hammered, and transformed the old theater into the Civic's own performing space, which they called Riverside Playhouse. The Spokesman-Review's critic said the move had finally brought "live theater to downtown Spokane on a scale the city deserves."

Civic was not satisfied. By 1965, it had dreamed up an even more audacious plan: Building

its own state-of-the-art theater. This was something exceedingly rare for a community theater, yet it would solve that “housing problem” once and for all. The Board purchased land next to the old Spokane Coliseum and within a year, had raised enough money to proceed. Within two years, it was finished. The first performance at the new Spokane Civic Theatre was the musical, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, on October 6, 1967.

A second, smaller, performing space called the Studio Theatre was added as part of an expansion in 1972. This small “black box” theater was later renamed the Firth J Chew Studio Theatre, in honor of a crucial guiding hand and volunteer. Today, Civic has the distinction of owning its own land and its own building, setting it apart from many of its peers.

Civic was also undergoing another kind of expansion — an artistic expansion. With two performing spaces, it could stage big crowd-pleasing musicals and hit plays upstairs, but it could also produce more edgy, experimental and occasionally controversial work downstairs in the intimate Firth J Chew Studio Theatre. Examples included *Angry Housewives*, *Falsettos*, *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone*, *Wit*, and *Metamorphoses*, which featured a full swimming pool for a set.

The Studio Theatre also hosted another ambitious endeavor: a new play competition, called the Playwrights’ Forum Festival, featuring new works from around the region. This was another indication that Civic was an outlier among community theaters. Another was the sheer quality of the talent pool and the productions. This was obvious to many theatergoers, including myself, who arrived in Spokane in 1989 as The Spokesman-Review’s theater critic. Over the next two decades, many of the best shows I saw were not the professional touring shows, but Civic’s. The knowledge that this was a community theater, in which all of the actors and many members of the production team were volunteers, made this even more impressive.

Artistic quality is hard to quantify. There is, however, one widely accepted measure of artistic quality in the community theater world, and that is the American Association of Community Theatre’s National Festival, in which regional winners compete against each other before a team of judges. Civic routinely won the Northwest regional competitions, and then, in 1989, Civic’s *Getting Out* won first place in the nation. It was subsequently invited to be the U.S representative to the World Amateur Theater Festival in Monaco.

This was just the beginning of a remarkable run at the AACT’s National Festival. Over the next decade, Civic finished in the top two in the nation for *Mama Drama* and *Assassins*, and won the top prize again for *Loneley Planet*. Civic has continued to win numerous national and regional awards ever since.

Back in 1947, that long-ago theater critic predicted that Spokane Civic Theatre would someday become “a valued cultural asset for the city.” Not everyone believes theater critics know what they are talking about. Yet that one turned out to be 100 percent correct.



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EXILE

by Bryan Harnetiaux

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Jerry Sciarrio

PRODUCER
Theresa Johnson

STAGE MANAGER
Marcie Summers

SCENIC DESIGN
Denny Pham

COSTUME DESIGN
Jamie L. Suter

LIGHTING DESIGN
Bryan D. Durbin

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CAST

Augie.....	Dan Bisbee*
April	Caryn Hoaglund
Frankie	Doug Dawson
Young Frankie.....	Jameson Elton
Jake	Kelly Hauenstein
Ruth.....	CaraLee Rose Howe

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Jerry Sciarrio
Producer	Theresa Johnson
Stage Manager.....	Marcie Summers
Scenic Designer.....	Denny Pham
Costumer.....	Jamie L. Suter
Lighting Designer.....	Bryan D. Durbin
Wardrobe Assistants.....	Karlin Kahler, Mica Pointer
Sound Board Operator.....	Jeremy Wissing
Light Board Operator.....	Ella Wissing
Backstage Crew.....	Jerrod Phelps
Board Angel.....	Corey Kahler

Asterisk (*) indicates Spokane Civic Theatre debut

SETTING

Here, not so long ago, or far from now.

DIRECTOR’S NOTES

Working in the theater, I find no greater thrill than being allowed to premier a new, full-length play. I have had the privilege to do this twice as an actor, and tonight I do so from the director’s chair. There are no previous productions to draw inspiration from or to compare our work to – the cast and crew get to dig into the text, seeking inspiration and insight, then are allowed to create. And with *Exile* we also have the playwright close at hand to offer tidbits, challenges, and sometimes perplexing questions.

This has been a wonderful collaboration, with everyone on the team bringing their “A” Game to knock it out of the park for a Grand Slam. (Baseball references? You’ll see) I hope you enjoy this slice of life half as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to the stage.

Jerry Sciarrio, Director

CAST



Dan Bisbee



Doug Dawson



Jameson Elton



Kelly Hauenstein



Caryn Hoaglund



CaraLee Rose Howe

Dan Bisbee (Augie) is a recent immigrant to Spokane and greatly appreciates the warm welcome to the theatre community. His favorite roles include Theo in *The Underpants* (Little Lake Theater), Timothy in *There Goes the Bride* (Baldwin Players) and Fool in *King Lear* (Public Domain). Dan was also a cast member of the Mask and Wig Club at the University of Pennsylvania.

Doug Dawson (Frankie) earned a BA in Theatre Arts from Eastern Washington University and is currently a SAG/AFTRA member. His favorite roles include Thénardier in *Les Misérables*, The Man in The Turn of the Screw (both with Civic), Pastor Greg in *Hand to God* (The Public Theatre of San Antonio) and Bill Anderson in *Mama Mia* (Spokane Valley Summer Theatre). A Pacific Northwest native, Doug likes to hike but is afraid of snakes.

Jameson Elton (Young Frankie) most recently was seen as the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* to open Civic's 75th Season. Throughout the years he's been involved with multiple shows at Civic including *West Side Story*, *Follies*, *Our Town* and *Funny Girl*.

Kelly Hauenstein (Jake) is excited to be on stage at Civic again, most recently seen as Chris Bean in *The Play That Goes Wrong* on Civic's Main Stage. Other favorite roles include Ensemble in *All is Calm* (The Modern Theater), Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Henry Condell in *The Book of Will* (both with Civic).

Caryn Hoaglund (April) is excited to be back at Civic. Her favorite roles include Hecuba in *Hecuba* (Stage Left), Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* (Spokane Falls Community College), Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (ART) and Louise in *Always...Patsy Cline* (Interplayers).

CaraLee Rose Howe (Ruth) studied musical theatre and dance at the University of Washington. She currently works as a dance teacher at Julie's Competitive Edge Dance Academy while studying forensic psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Recent credits include Ensemble in *Sister Act* (Spokane Valley Summer Theatre), Ensemble in *Anything Goes* (University of Washington), Joan in *Melancholy Play* and Principle Improviser in *Head Trip: An Improvised Drama* (both with Undergraduate Theatre Society).

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM



Bryan Harnetiaux



Jerry Sciarrio



Theresa Johnson



Denny Pham



Jamie L. Suter



Bryan D. Durbin

Bryan Harnetiaux (Playwright) is now in his 40th year as playwright-in-residence at Spokane Civic Theatre. Of the some 45 plays of his that have been produced, most premiered in this studio theatre space. Bryan's first play, *Caution: The Surgeon General Has Determined...* came to life here in June, 1977. "In many ways, Sue Ann and I raised our children-Ben, Ryan and Trish- around Civic, and consider it a second home. I'm forever grateful for the opportunity it has provided to develop my work here."

Jerry Sciarrio (Director) has been involved with the Spokane theatre community for 23 years. He also spent 21 years touring with an international theater company where he spent his time acting, directing and leading workshops. His favorite credits include Max Bialystock in *The Producers* (Civic), Barney Cashman in *Last Of The Red Hot Lovers* (Broadway Palm Theater, Ft Myers, FL), Clown 1 in *The 39 Steps* (Interplayers) and director of *Psycho Beach Party* (Civic).

Theresa Johnson (Producer) has been volunteering with Spokane Civic Theatre for 10 years, beginning as an usher and later taking on the roles of stage managing and producing. Her favorite backstage credits with Civic include stage manager for *Clue The Musical*, assistant stage manager for *Catch Me If You Can The Musical* and producer for *Songs For a New World* and *Significant Other*. "Thank you for supporting live theatre, and for sharing your time with us."

Denny Pham (Scenic Designer) is a local actor and the Technical Director for Spokane Civic Theatre. He holds a BA in Theatre from Eastern Washington University in Acting (Stanislavsky, Michael Chekhov and Shakespeare), and Technical Theatre with focus in Scenic Design and Lighting. He was awarded a Merit of Acting from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for his role as Doctor Nemur in *Flowers for Algernon*. He is a technical theatre veteran with 9 years of experience working professionally and locally in over 115 productions both on and off stage. Favorite credits Acting: Dennis Ziegler in *This Is Our Youth*, Caliban in *The Tempest*, Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q*; Scenic Design: *Cabaret*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Murder on the Orient Express*; Lighting: *Chicago*. He is thrilled and proud to be part of a company of artists that pushes for all degrees of creativity. Instagram: @Dennydpham

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Jamie L. Suter (Costumer) holds a BA in Theater Design and Technical Production with concentrations in Costume Design and Directing from Marymount Manhattan College in NYC, studying under Broadway professionals Gail Brassard, Liz Covey, and Bob Anton. Her favorite credits include Costume Design for *The Wonder!: A Woman Keeps a Secret* (T. Schreiber Studio), Assistant to the Costume Designer for *Sweeney Todd* (Avery Fisher Hall), Assistant Costume Designer for *The Lucky Chance* (Theresa Lang Theater), Director/Costume Designer for *Seven Femmes* (Rathskeller Studios), and Costume Designer for *The Lost Cabaret* (NYC Fringe Festival). Jamie is excited to get back into the fun and frivolity of live theater once again, and is incredibly happy to do that at her home away from home, Spokane Civic Theatre.

Bryan D. Durbin (Lighting Designer) has a BA in theatre and is very excited to be back as Civic's master electrician and lighting designer following the long hiatus. "I want to thank my family Heather, Evie, and Abby for all of their support."



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Lawrence Stone & Jan Jecha
Mallory Thomas

\$2,500 - \$4,999

David Ball Landscape
Innovia Foundation
Kathie Doyle-Lipe
In memory of
J. Herman Swartz
and Jean Kaye Swartz

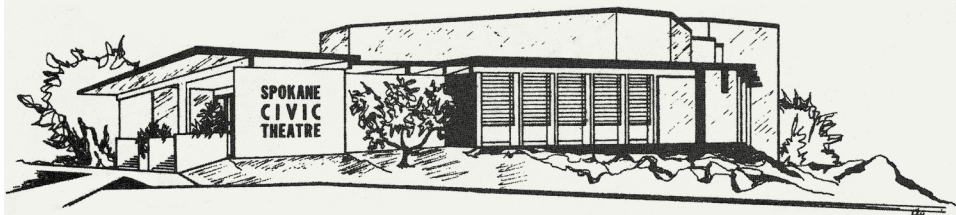
\$5,000 - \$9,999

ARTS WA
McDonald's of Greater Spokane
Patrick & Heather McHenry-Kroetch
Providence Medicare Advantage

\$10,000+

Bob & Pat Mielbrecht
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Spokane Civic Theatre Endowment
Washington Trust Bank

Please note: This list reflects donations made to the theatre between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.



DID YOU KNOW, YOUR SPOKANE CIVIC THEATRE IS AN

AWARD-WINNING, NATIONALLY RANKED COMMUNITY THEATRE?

2019, BUG

Kaleidoscope State Theatre Festival

Outstanding Performance as Lead Actress, Josephine Keefe

Outstanding Performance as Lead Actor, Danny Anderson

Outstanding Performance as Supporting Actor, Billy Hultquist

Outstanding Set Design, David Baker

Outstanding Properties Design

Outstanding Scene Transitions

2015, ORPHANS

American Association of Community Theatre Regional Festival

Best Director, Marianne McLaughlin

Best Set, David Baker

Backstage Excellence

Kaleidoscope State Theatre Festival

Outstanding Performance, Ensemble

Outstanding Ensemble Performance

Outstanding Set Design, David Baker

The Betty Wills Washington Treasure Award

Backstage Excellence

2013, THE TURN OF THE SCREW

American Association of Community Theatre Regional Festival

Outstanding Achievement in Acting, Doug Dawson

Best Technical Production

Kaleidoscope State Theatre Festival

1st Place

Outstanding Director, Susan Hardie

Outstanding Lighting Design, Peter Hardie

ADDITIONAL AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTIONS INCLUDE

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (2011)

Assassins (2007)

Joined at the Head (2001)

Lonely Planet (1999)

Mama Drama (1997)

Johnny Bull (1992)

Getting Out (1989)

Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean (1987)

VISIT SPOKANECIVICTHEATRE.COM/AWARDS FOR MORE DETAILS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Executive Director	Jake Schaefer
Business Office Manager	Rebecca Martin
Operations Manager	Kelli Cunningham
Technical Director	Denny Pham
Costume Shop Manager.....	Jamie L. Suter
Academy Director.....	Kearney Jordan
Music Director.....	Henry McNulty
Master Electrician.....	Bryan D. Durbin
Scenic Carpenter.....	Joshua Baig

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Christina Wolf
Vice President	Randy Schwaegler
Treasurer	Sallie Christensen
Secretary	Janice Abramson
Member at Large	Ted Redman
Board Members.....	Thomas Armitage, Kenneth R. Bick, Kathie Doyle-Lipe, Corey Kahler, Adell Whitehead
Member Emeritus	Margot Ogden (1925 - 2015)

ENDOWMENT BOARD

President	Mary Starkey
Treasurer	Steve Barrett
Secretary	Heather McHenry-Kroetch
Board Members.....	Bob Francis, Gail McLaughlin

IN RESIDENCE

Directors	Kathie Doyle-Lipe, Troy Nickerson
Playwright.....	Bryan Harnetiaux

BOX OFFICE AND CONCESSIONS

Christine Chavez	Theresa Johnson
Catherine Ellison-Seeger	Todd Lightfoot
Patty Fensel	Kari Rose
Paige Gullickson	Deanna Turner

HOUSE MANAGERS

Robbin Beach	Charles Fletcher
John Dean	Bob Francis
Lauretta Heaney	Beau Wilkinson
Troy Heppner	Michael Yellin

STONE GROUP OF COMPANIES

We Proudly Support Spokane Civic Theatre



The Stone Group of Companies is a diversified, privately owned and operated business that specializes in the manufacturing of light-gauge steel framing, the distribution of building materials, and the development of industrial properties.

Serving Spokane for over 60 years.



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