OUT OF THE WINGS
Theater makes a comeback after pandemic year
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What would you like to see more/less of in 2022?

Earl Horlyk
Staff Writer
earl.horlyk@lee.net
"More creativity in movies and TV, and far fewer sequels and reboots that nobody cares about. Except that 'Saved By The Bell' reboot, which was awesome and can stick around in 2022."

Mason Dockter
Staff Writer
m Dokter@siouxcityjournal.com
"I'd like to see more of me working from home, and less of the opposite of that."

Chad Pauling
Publisher
cpauling@s iouxcityjournal.com
"Less COVID and restrictions for sure. More unity and community would be great."

Marbin - A Night of Progressive Jazz, 8 p.m., Jan. 8; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: http://www.vangardearts.com/events

Martina McBride, 7 p.m., Jan. 13; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Avey Grouws Band - Blues, Rock and Soul, 8 p.m., Jan. 15; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: http://www.vangardearts.com/events

Casey Donahew, 8 p.m., Jan. 22; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Mitchell Tenpenny, 8 p.m., Jan. 28; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7625.

Sioux City Art Center: Al Harris-Fernandez: Abstracted, Oct. 9 to Jan. 9, Red Plus White, Oct. 30 to Jan. 23; Molly Wood: The Poison Garden, Nov. 13 to Feb. 6; Sioux City Camera Club: Renewal, Nov. 13, Feb. 6; Grant Wood's Corn Room mural, ongoing; Artists of the Upper Midwest, ongoing; Artists in the Permanent Collection, ongoing.

Winter Storytime, 10 a.m., Jan. 8, Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

Blessing of the Missouri River, 11:30 a.m., Jan. 6; South Sioux City Marriott Riverfront, 385 East 4th Street, South Sioux City. Information: 712-258-7166.

LSI Foster Care and Adoption Orientation, 6 p.m., Jan. 6; Virtual event. Information: fosteradopt@LSIowa.org.

CINCH World’s Toughest Rodeo, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 21, 22; Tyson Events Center, 401 Gordon Drive. Information: 712-279-4850.

Way of the Warrior 4 USA Boxing, 5 p.m., Jan. 22; Long Lines Auditorium, 401 Gordon Drive. Information: 712-204-7084.

Couple’s Dance Class, 12 p.m., Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30; 801 W. 13th St., South Sioux City. Information: 712-204-4500.


Line Dance Classes, 10 a.m., Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 801 W. 13th St., South Sioux City. Information: 712-204-4500.

Couples Country Dance Class, 7:10 p.m., Jan. 13, 20, 27; KD Annex, 1951 Leech Ave. Information:
‘THE 355’ (Rated PG-13 for strong violence, brief strong language and suggestive material)

When a top-secret weapon falls into mercenary hands, a wildcard CIA agent joins forces with three international agents on a lethal mission to retrieve it, while staying a step ahead of a mysterious woman who’s tracking their every move.

New DVD releases for this week:

‘Antlers’
‘Black Friday’
‘The Superdeep’
‘The Djinn’
‘Zeros and Ones’

‘THE LEGEND OF LA LLORONA’ (Rated R for some violence and language)

While vacationing in Mexico, a couple discovers their son’s disappearance is tied to a supernatural curse.

‘AMERICAN SIEGE’ (Rated R for violence, language and some drug content)

An ex-NYPD officer-turned-sheriff of a small rural Georgia town has to contend with a gang of thieves who have taken a wealthy doctor hostage.

‘THE COMMANDO’ (Rated R for strong violence, language throughout and some drug use)

A DEA agent with PTSD returns home after a botched mission and must now protect his family from a home invasion after a recently freed convict and his henchmen come after their stash of millions inside of the agent’s home.
Say toodle-loo to Tannenbaum!

Have a bad case of evergreen envy? Let it go ... literally. Take your used Christmas tree to the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road, between now and Jan. 17. They’ll chip it up and use it for their nature trail.

Ups & Downs of winter!

Is 2022 going downhill already? That may be a good thing. Check out the tubing hills at Cone Park, 3800 Line Drive. Call 712-222-2663 to reserve a spot.

Bingo, now with more buzz!

With a history that dates back to 16th century Italy, bingo is a game apparently beloved by everybody’s grandma. How do you make bingo more challenging? By adding an adult beverage to the game. Wise I Brewing Co., 15 Second Street, N.E., Le Mars, will be hosting a Bingo & Brew event, from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday. Check it out and see why grandma is so cheerful after bingo.

‘Frosty: The Sequel’

The best and worst thing about snow art is the knowledge your masterpiece will eventually melt. Still, you can receive some serious cred at da Vinci of snow sculpture by entering the creative snow building contest, between now and March 19, at Ponca, Neb.’s Ponca State Park. Winners will get a night’s stay in a four-bedroom mini lodge.

Puck-er up!

The Sioux City Musketeers will be battling the Lincoln Stars and the Fargo Force, respectively, on Saturday and Sunday at the Tyson Events Center, 401 Gordon Drive. The ice may be cold but the Muskies always bring the heat.

Go fish!

Captains Lewis & Clark met many fellow travelers during the Corps of Discovery. Perhaps the fishiest came in the form of an oversized marine mammal. Take the kids and hear the Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center’s Sara Olson tell one “Whale of a Tail,” from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at the center, 900 Larsen Park Road.
Beach party in January at LaunchPad Children’s Museum

Ready to head off for the beach? Wait, are we still in January?

Don’t tell that to the party planners at LaunchPad’s Children’s Museum, 623 Pearl St. They will hold a Day at the Beach programs for students on Wednesday as well as on Jan. 14.

Sioux City School kids will be able to bring a beach towel, make a sand castle and conduct water-related experiments from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, which is a no-school day.

Similarly, Bishop Heelan Catholic School and Sergeant Bluff-Luton School students will be encouraged to wear beachy attire from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, which is their no-school day.

To register or for additional information, go to launchpadmuseum.com or call 712-224-2542.

Campsite is highlight of Encounter Center exhibit

Longtime volunteer Dan Whitlock will highlight a new wayside Lewis and Clark Expedition exhibit at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Betty Strong Encounter Center, 900 Larsen Park Road.

Whitlock will discuss some of the events leading up to the death and burial of Sgt. Charles Floyd, along the Missouri River in the area that is now Sioux City. Floyd is the only crew member to perish during the Corps of Discovery.

In addition, Whitlock will offer an update on a new wayside exhibit that is being installed near the campsite location as part of the Chris Larsen Park development, that will be completed in the summer of 2022.

An open-to-the-public reception will follow Whitlock’s program.

The Betty Strong Encounter Center and the adjoining Sioux City Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center are part of a private, nonprofit cultural complex that is built and sustained by Missouri River Historical Development, Inc. (MRHD).

Syphilis is on the rise in Iowa.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection. Early numbers show a 75% increase in syphilis cases in Iowa from 2020 to 2021.

It’s more common and easier to get than you might think.

Syphilis is curable but can cause serious health problems without treatment. Talk to your doctor about whether you are at risk.

Find a testing location near you: gettested.cdc.gov

Free and low cost options available

Learn more about syphilis at ahasexualhealth.org/syphilis

Registration for final Prairie Grass Film Challenge now being accepted

SIoux CENTER, Iowa – Dordt University is currently accepting registration to its 15th and final Prairie Grass Film Challenge (PGFC).

Open to competitors, high school-age and older, registration will close Jan. 18.

Participants will have 48 hours to make film, starting at 4 p.m. Jan. 20. The final awards ceremony will take place at 8 p.m. Feb. 18 at B.J. Haan Auditorium, with a screening of all films at 5:45 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Dordt Science and Technology Center 700 Seventh St. N.E.

Founded in 2006, the PGFC challenge gives competitors a strict timeline and parameters to include in a film. Movies will be judged in three age groups: high school, college, and post-college.

Teams who’ve won the “Dordty” award over the past 14 years are invited to compete in this one-time category.

“The PGFC promotes and honors filmmakers from around the region,” PGDC founder and Dordt digital media production instructor Mark Volkers said. “This has become the premier event of its kind in the Midwest. Children who grew up attending went on to compete in high school, college and are, now, post-college competitors.

“Many have gone on careers in the media,” he added.

For more information on the Prairie Grass Film Challenge, go to pgfc.film/about/
BY EARL HORLYK

Looking out into the audience prior to the start of the Le Mars Community Theatre’s production of “Jake Revolver: Freelance Secret Agent,” leading man Joe Ouradnik knew there wasn’t a bad seat in the house.

After all, if audience members didn’t want to sit on metal folding chairs, they could always watch the show on the bleachers, near the basketball hoops.

Wait, bleachers? Basketball hoops?

It’s true. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Le Mars Community Theatre had to temporarily exchange the Postal Playhouse, a 107-year-old former post office building which is its normal home, for the Plymouth County Historic Museum, a 116-year-old building that previously housed Le Mars’ former Central High School.

THEATER WITH PLENTY OF BLEACHER SEATING?

Not only did the Le Mars Community Theatre stage May 2021’s “Jake Revolver” – a parody of steamy 1940s crime noir melodramas – inside a former high school gymnasium, September 2021’s “Vintage Hitchcock” – a quirky show-within-a-show – also utilized the museum as a makeshift theater.

“At the Postal Playhouse, the shows were so intimate,” Ouradnik, who is a corporate trainer by day, admitted. “For ‘Jake Revolver,’ we need to go big in order to match the stage.”

“The Historical Museum may not have the same acoustics or the stage lighting we have at the Postal Playhouse,” director Pete Laskie added. “But it does offer plenty of social distancing.”

Keeping both actors, stage crews and audience members safe became key as area theater groups began performing again after a long coronavirus-driven hiatus.

LOUD CARS, BARKING DOGS AND THE THRILL OF OUTDOOR THEATER

That included the New Stage Players, who performed the Tony Award-winning “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” outside of their South Sioux City theater in June 2021.

“I’ve never acted on an outdoor stage before,” actor Dani Youngberg said at the time. “We were rehearsing a scene when you can hear a train passing by a few blocks away.”

Youngberg’s costar Mary Baker had a similar experience.

“Loud cars, barking dogs, rabbits running across the field,” Baker noted. “Those things can happen at any moment.”

But there were some pluses to staging an outdoor show.

FIGURATIVE AND LITERAL FIREWORKS

When Morningside University’s School of Visual and Performing Arts presented William Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer
Night’s Dream” on the campus’s Buhler Outdoor Performance Center in August 2021, it had lots of dramatic fireworks during the show and literal fireworks as part of an explosive grand finale.

“The fireworks will be an extra incentive,” Morningside performing arts assistant professor Taylor Clemens said at the time. “You couldn’t do that with a show inside of Klinger-Neal (Theatre).”

OK, we’ll grant him that. But we’ll also mention an indisputable fact: Klinger-Neal is equipped with air conditioning and an outdoor show will be pretty oppressive in August.

This is why Clemens and his crew pared the three-hour-plus “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” into a more manageable show.

ONE PLAY, TWO DIRECTORS, HANDFUL OF ACTORS & 209 STORIES

Think it was tough editing Shakespeare? The Sioux City Community Theatre had two directors, a handful of actors and characters from 209 different fairy tales in a single production.

Its July 2021 production of “The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon” took every fairy tale you loved as a kid, turned it on its ear and, then, supersized it.

“We wanted to do a show that was fast-paced and packed with laughs,” director Erik Sorensen said. “(Due to COVID), everyone has been cooped up for so long.”

“I think the audience has missed seeing live, local theater,” codirector Benji Cotter said. “It is also true for the people who put on plays.”

In both “The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon” as well as in December 2021’s “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” the Community Theatre chose plays with smaller casts and more chances to remain socially distanced, on and off the stage.

PERFORMING ARTS DURING A PANDEMIC AGE

This was the same approach taken by Lamb Arts Regional Theatre, which in March 2021, presented a play in which characters communicate solely through email.

“So, it is something schmaltzy and romantic like A.R. Gurney’s “Love Letters,” right?” Um, no. Written by one of the actors from TV’s “Mystery Science Theatre 3000,” Lamb’s production of “Hate Mail” was a case of love-gone-wrong with a duo of bickering Gen Z-ers.

Lamb’s subsequent staging of the madcap “Unnecessary Farce” (in October 2021) and the musical “Winter Wonderettes” (in December 2021) was indicative of the 417 Market St. facility’s desire to bring back the performing arts even during a ongoing pandemic.

“I think people are ready for some feel-good entertainment,” Lamb cofounder Russ Wooley said.

While attendance is down from pre-pandemic times, he is optimistic about theater in Siouxland.

“We made the decision to only do shows that have small casts, plus our seating is staggered to ensure social distancing,” Wooley said.

Meredith Malenosky, an actor in the Community Theatre’s “The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon” and a codirector of “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” echoed Wooley’s sentiments.

“Nothing beats seeing a play being live on a stage,” she said.
ADVICE
ANSWERS FOR ALL YOUR WOES

SCIENCE ADVICE GODDESS
AMY ALKON

I spent an entire Sunday with a really cute guy I met through a dating app. We kissed a bit, and I stayed over at his place (though I said no sex). Things felt weird Monday morning, so I texted to see whether we were still on for dinner. He asked to push it to Tuesday, but I had a conflict and asked whether the weekend would work. He never responded. That weekend, I saw him out with guy friends, but he basically ignored me. I got him alone and asked him to go home with me. He declined. “Just for tonight or forever?” I asked. He said, “just tonight.” That was the last I heard from him, and I’m going crazy trying to figure this out.

—No Closure
If you really, really need closure, date a door.

It’s normal to want closure: defined by psychologist Arie Kruglanski as “an answer on a given topic, any answer.” We’re deeply disturbed by “confusion and ambiguity” — a cloudy mess of unanswered questions — and we feel driven (and even desperate) to replace it with a solid brick wall of facts.

A practical (though admittedly cuckoo-sounding) solution might be trying to fire up a quirk of the mind psychologist Elizabeth Loftus calls the “imagination inflation effect”: our tendency to convert events we imagine and then repeatedly recall into “false memories” we come to believe are the real facts.

We’re deeply disturbed by “confusion and ambiguity” — a cloudy mess of unanswered questions — and we feel driven (and even desperate) to replace it with a solid brick wall of facts.

A practical (though admittedly cuckoo-sounding) solution might be trying to fire up a quirk of the mind psychologist Elizabeth Loftus calls the “imagination inflation effect”: our tendency to convert events we imagine and then repeatedly recall into “false memories” we come to believe are the real facts.

I offered reasons the two MIGHT be a bad match. I also identified potential stumbling blocks — like being a “My needs last!” habitual pleaser — and suggested practical steps she could take to kick them out of the way.

My ultimate goal is helping people help themselves: giving them the psychological and behavioral chops they need to render me unnecessary! I typically retell the story they’ve told me in ways I hope will help them gain perspective — that is, understand what they’re going through and why. I then lay out a set of tools — ways they might tweak their thinking and behavior — in hopes of empowering them to dig themselves out.

Basically, my column is the advice version of that well-known fish saying — uh, as I like to rewrite it: Give a woman a fish and she’ll have dinner. Teach a woman to fish and she’ll have dinner for a lifetime...OR — let’s be honest — because my column and I are big on realism: She’ll order her fish dinner in a Paris bistro, poring over photos of a fabulous Chanel fly-casting suit and sketching out her plot to rob the Louvre to pay for it.

Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave. #280, Santa Monica CA 90405 or email AdviceAmy@aol.com

Barking Bad
I read your response to “Conflicted” (the woman dating a guy so needy he wanted her to ditch all her friends and spend every minute with him). I suggest you tell her it’ll never work out and she should date someone else.

—Advice From 60-Something Male

Telling people what to do is necessary in certain situations, like when it’s a more successful battle strategy than “You do you!”: dispatching the troops to engage in the military version of interpretive dance.

However, in general, direct advice — “Do this!” or “Do that!” — tends to backfire big-time, revving up a state psychologist Jack Brehm calls “psychological reactance.” “Reactance” describes our fear-driven freakout — our reaction — when we perceive a threat to our freedom to do as we choose. We go on the defensive — rebel against being controlled — typically by doing whatever we were doing...only longer, stronger, and louder.

Understanding this is why I’m an advice columnist who specializes in NOT giving advice. I use hedgy-wedgy language like “you might” and “you could” that leaves big wide-open spaces for personal choice. Accordingly, instead of telling this woman, "Dump Mr. Needypants pronto!" I offered reasons the two MIGHT be a bad match. I also identified potential stumbling blocks — like being a “My needs last!” habitual pleaser — and suggested practical steps she could take to kick them out of the way.

My ultimate goal is helping people help themselves: giving them the psychological and behavioral chops they need to render me unnecessary! I typically retell the story they’ve told me in ways I hope will help them gain perspective — that is, understand what they’re going through and why. I then lay out a set of tools — ways they might tweak their thinking and behavior — in hopes of empowering them to dig themselves out.

Basically, my column is the advice version of that well-known fish saying — uh, as I like to rewrite it: Give a woman a fish and she’ll have dinner. Teach a woman to fish and she’ll have dinner for a lifetime...OR — let’s be honest — because my column and I are big on realism: She’ll order her fish dinner in a Paris bistro, poring over photos of a fabulous Chanel fly-casting suit and sketching out her plot to rob the Louvre to pay for it.
Community members needed for the MLK Day Choir

Community members are invited to participate in the MLK Community Choir in commemoration of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday celebration. This year’s event will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 17 at Kingdom Ministries Church (the former Concordia Church building), 2000 Military Road.

Sponsored by the Sioux City Chapter of the NAACP, Human Rights Commission, and the Mary Treglia Community Center, the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration will feature volunteer choir members, Sioux City Community School District Superintendent Paul Gausman as a drummer, West High School student Leeyah Pearson in an interpretive dance solo, and such speakers as Lorenzo Suter, CEO of UnityPoint Health - St. Luke’s.

Under the direction of Sandra Pearson, the MLK Community Choir will be rehearsing at 7 p.m. Thursday and Jan. 13 at the Kingdom Ministries Church.

Anyone interested in singing in the choir can contact Sandra Pearson at 712-204-1885.

Twelfth Night Handbell Festival taking place on Sunday

Featuring some of the area’s top handbell musicians, the 40th Twelfth Night Handbell Festival will take place at 4:30 p.m. Sunday at Morningside University’s Eppley Auditorium, 3625 Garretson Ave.

Under the direction of Don Nelson, the 15-member band will perform a seasonal selection of music, suitable for the 12 nights which follow Christmas.

In addition, the handbell choir will use the event to give thanks to Eleanor Tasker, its founder. Tasker, 94, recently retired from her role as the choir director.

“Bright and Glorious Is the Sky” – a new tune which was commissioned in honor of Tasker – will be performed live under the direction of its South Dakota-based composer Cathy Moklebust.

The event is free and is open to the public.
Local journalism matters now, more than ever.

SUBSCRIBE FOR $1

THE SUNDAY EXTRA
ON THE SUNDAY E-EDITION PLUS

As a Platinum News+ Member you have access to the exclusive electronic section
The Sunday Extra available every Sunday on siouxcityjournal.com/eedition.

DON’T MISS THIS PERK!
We deliver to inboxes

Subscribe and give yourself local news, entertainment and inspiration with our email newsletters. Stay connected with breaking news, weather, the e-edition and more.

See newsletters at siouxcityjournal.com/email
Siouxland Homes App
Makes your home search easier!

For those looking to buy, finding homes in Siouxland couldn’t be easier. Our new app can help you find the perfect fit for your next home and keep you up to date on new local MLS listings that can easily be filtered for your preferences.

Download the App now!
Search “SIOUXLAND HOMES”

Siouxland Homes Magazine • siouxlandhomesmag.com • 712-293-4237
Love That New Career Smell

All NEW Rates Starting in November!!

Maintenance Tech  $31.99
Asst Machine Operator  $26.67
Production Worker  $20.42

Free ice cream every day.

Visit our Wells Employment Office
4501 Southern Hills Dr, Suite 14 in Sioux City

Apply, interview and get an offer!!

...and Sweet Benefits
- Annual Bonus
- Average Hours Premium
- Referral Bonuses & Prizes
- Perfect Attendance Bonus
- Night Shift Differential
- Overtime & Doubletime
- Paid Time Off & Paid Holidays
- Comprehensive Benefit Package
- New On-site Health Clinic
- 401k Employer Match

WellsCareers.com

*Pre-employment background check & drug test required
Wells Enterprises, Inc. Is an EEO/AA Employer. M/F/Vet/Disabled ©2021 Wells Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved.
An app runs on code. A REALTOR® stands by one. In our Code of Ethics, we promise to put people first.
New Year, New Career
Join The Joy At
BoDeans Baking Group

New Pay Rates & Sweet Benefits

Packers & Line Attendants: $19 - $21/hr
Operators: $23 - $24/hr
2nd Shift Maintenance $27/hr*
   *after training is completed
Warehouse Manager $25 - 29/hr*
   *based on experience

We Offer Super Sweet Benefits including Amazing Pay, $2,750 Referral Bonus, 401k w/ Company Match - you put in 10% & we’ll match 6.5%, Amazing Medical Plan, FREE Dental & Vision for all Employees & their Families, Great Tunes & Coworkers & MORE!

Stop In Or Visit Our Website Today!
1790 21st St. SW Le Mars, IA 51031

www.BoDeansCareers.com
Thank you FOR VOTING!

On February 24th, the Weekender will be releasing a special commemorative edition announcing the results of the 2022 Siouxland’s Choice Awards!

Results will also be announced in the Sioux City Journal on February 27th.

STAY TUNED!

GO.SIOUXCITYJOURNAL.COM/QBSENX