

NORTHERN FORT PLAYHOUSE

NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTS | NSU

IT WAS ... KATE WISMER AT FORT SISSETON

with the 2023 Season at the Northern Fort Playhouse!

We all remember solving a game of Clue back in the day (*when we were young or just young at heart*). I am thrilled to find the next “clue” of my life journey here as the new Artistic Director of the NFP. I grew up in Britton and cut my teeth on the stage in the South Barracks during the melodramas of the Fort Sisseton Historical Festival. I found every chance I could to get on a stage in high school and college, including the Miss America stage as Miss South Dakota 2007. I earned my master’s degree in music Theater Performance from Arizona State University and started my professional performance career in the Phoenix area in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and playing Vivienne in *Legally Blonde*. I thought I was doomed to play mothers and villains for the rest my career. My height had something to do with that! But I transitioned to leading ladies with Princess Fiona in *Shrek, The Musical*. I spent the next 10+ years singing and dancing in musicals all over the country in regional theaters and on national tours. My career also took me to New York City where I lived, trained, auditioned, and survived! Some of my favorite roles are Milly in the national tour of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, Nellie Forbush in multiple productions of *South Pacific*, Anna in the *King & I*, and playing Grace Farrell in *Annie* alongside Broadway’s original Annie, (*Andrea McArdle as Miss Hannigan, and directed by Emmy nominated choreographer, Al Blackstone*).

I moved back to South Dakota and continued to travel for work until the pandemic brought the theater world to a halt. I enjoyed the life I was building back in my home state so much, I decided that I was right where I belonged. It was time to spend my creative energy here at home surrounded by family and friends. So when the chance to take a creative leading role with the Northern Fort Playhouse presented itself, I knew that it was what I’d been waiting for!

The Fort means so much to me. I grew up coming to the festival and frontier Christmas with my family and witnessed the incredible restoration work happening from year to year. I also got a seat on the buckboard for most wagon or sleigh rides as my Great Uncle Curt Jones would be driving a team of horses around the grounds. Curt was a champion of the restoration work happening at the Fort. Being able to come back to a place that I love and do what I love is a total gift and I’m so grateful for the opportunity.

I knew I wanted to kick off my first season with the Playhouse with some fun and laughs!! You’re going to be delighted with *Clue*, *The Musical* and *Any Body Home!* Both shows will bring out the sleuth in you as you follow the characters’ bizarre antics. Just like the game, *Clue* never ends the same way twice so it’s worth seeing more than once! And *Any Body Home* will keep you in stitches as our heroine tries to keep her real estate sale afloat in some very turbulent waters! I can’t wait to welcome you all on opening night!

See you at the Fort!

Kate Wismer | Artistic Director

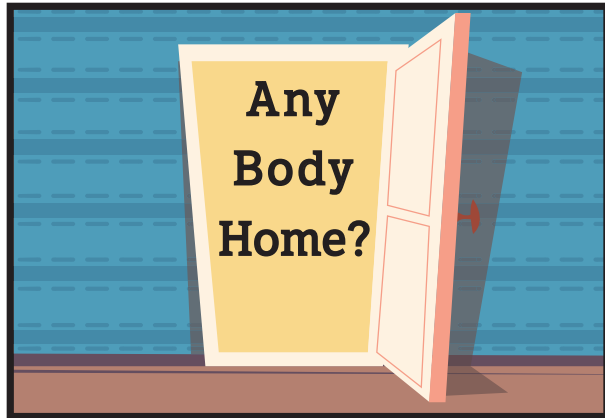


Northern Fort Playhouse's 17th Season

BEGINS JULY 7, 2023

PERFORMANCES

July 8, 14 and 21 at 7:30 P.M. | July 16 at 2 P.M.



Any Body Home?

by Carl Ritchie and Elise Dewsberry

Real estate broker Susan Strathcona wants to hold an open house, sell a condo and earn her commission. Frustrating her attempts are the owner's finace who is bursting to prove his masculinity; the little old 'honey' next door with her deadly herbs and a scorpion named "Shirley"; the international police on the trail of the mysterious "Phantom" and a rival real estate agent who will don any disguise in his attempts to steal the listing. Oh, yes. And the owner --- who is dead and laid out on the sofa! An uproariously funny farce.

PERFORMANCES

July 7, 15 and 22 at 7:30 P.M. | July 9 at 2 P.M.



CLUE The Musical

Book by Peter DePietro | Lyrics by Tom Chiodo

Music by Galen Blum, Wayne Barker, and Vinnie Martucci

The internationally popular game is now a fun-filled musical that brings the world's best-known suspects to life and invites the audience to help solve the mystery: who killed Mr. Boddy, in what room, and with what weapon. The audience receives forms to help them deduce the solution from clues given throughout the fun-filled evening.

TICKET PRICES

All Seating is reserved and social distancing will be observed.

SINGLE SHOW PRICES

Adult \$13

Children \$7

Dinner show \$30

Lunch show \$26

State Park Entrance License covered by The Northern Fort Playhouse.

SEASON SHOW PRICES

Adult \$24 (save \$2)

Children \$12 (save \$2)

Dinner show \$58 (save \$2)

Lunch show \$50 (save \$2)

PURCHASING PLAYHOUSE TICKETS

IN ADVANCE | BRITTON BOX OFFICE

Tom Farber Insurance Agency, 705 Main Street, Britton
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Ask for Pam Lunzman

BY PHONE

(605) 467-3247 | Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SEASON AND GROUP TICKETS

Bundle and save! For multiple performances or groups of 10+
Call us for details!

DAY OF PERFORMANCE | SOUTH BARRACKS

Tickets available 60 minutes prior to the start of the performance.

JOINING US FOR DINNER?

We encourage you to book at least three days in advance to allow our caterer to prepare.

PAYMENT

Credit cards, checks, and cash are accepted at all locations.

FEATURED ARTISTS

In an effort to highlight other area arts forms, the Northern Fort Playhouse will feature the talents of local artists during two Friday night receptions. This years Featured Artists will be Harry Moshier, of Sisseton and Dave Huebner of Bushnell, South Dakota.



July 7 | David Strom

Local talent, David Strom was diagnosed with autism at the age of 4 years old. He graduated from Groton High School and resides with his family in Claremont, SD. Dave, now 28 years old, enjoys pencil drawings - mostly anything to do with Disney and when he is not drawing he enjoys spending time with his family.



July 14 | Featured Artist: Harry Moshier, the Prairie Painter

Starting a new career after retirement, Harry paints in watercolor, pastels and acrylics. With over 200 original paintings and stories attached, Harry records the history of northeastern South Dakota. He has painted several series; country schools, fading towns, barns, dancehalls, local cafes and even has paintings of buildings that no longer exist. He also records local award winning events. Come, view, and reminisce. *(Some prints will be available for purchase.)*



July 21 | Featured Artist: David Earl Huebner "Dakota Stoneware"

Dave was born March 2nd 1945, in Orlando Florida. Dave graduated from South Dakota State College in Brookings. He painted his way through college as a Sign Painter and Graphic Artist. In 1969 Dave attended the US Army Engineer school and served as a Topographic Engineer in Hawaii. While in Hawaii, Dave worked closely with Isami Enomoto, a ceramic contractor. Dave worked with clay at the Army craft shops and has made a living as clay artist since 1972. He resides in Bushnell, SD and participates in art shows throughout the region and historic festivals as a "Frontier Potter". Dave has a gallery on Main Street in Bushnell and sells his craft from his store, dakotastoneware.com Dave's work ranges from historic reproductions, to contemporary, to whimsical items flavored by the SD prairie.



TOUR THE FORT

2023 Patrons of the Playhouse will have an added TREAT, following three of the performances. These added activities will be FREE OF CHARGE to patrons of the Playhouse.

Lantern Tours: July 7 and 21
Stars, Strolls and S'mores: July 15

FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTIONS

Our Friday night evening performances will feature a free will donation social hour, complete with hor' dourves and drinks featuring the One-Legged Pheasant and Happy Harry's Bottle Shop. Doors open at 6 p.m. with time to visit our feature artists on the 14 and 21, enjoy some hor' dourves and time to connect with new friends and old.



The One-Legged Pheasant, located on south Main Street, Aberdeen, SD features unique and specialty beers from soups to meades to porters and stouts. For those who are a little more comfortable with the tried and true domestics, they have the perfect brews for you.



Happy Harry's Bottle Shops have been an integral part of the North Dakota landscape and lifestyle for over 70 years. Their iconic "barns" average 16,000 square feet per store and are designed with your shopping convenience and enjoyment in mind. Each of their conveniently located stores in Fargo and Grand Forks offer one of the largest and finest selections between Minneapolis and Seattle. Their low prices and outstanding customer service doesn't hurt either!

STAY UP TO DATE!

We have our own Playhouse website for our friends and patrons. Check us out at Northern.edu/northern-fort-playhouse where we post upcoming news, menu information about our dinner theater nights and have an extensive photo gallery from our past seasons. Fans of Facebook can visit our page at that site for more news and to interact with other Playhouse friends.

JOIN US FOR DINNER ON SATURDAY NIGHT OR A SUNDAY LUNCHEON

SATURDAY DINNER

Any Body Home?

July 8 | Classic Pot Roast or Smothered Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Vegetable, Dinner Rolls and Pineapple Upside Down Cake

CLUE The Musical:

July 15 | Pork Combo or Swedish Meatballs, Stuffing and Gravy, Garlic Roasted Vegetables, Dinner Rolls and Double Chocolate Cake

July 22 | Lasagna or Chicken Sausage Enchiladas, Spring Green Salad, Garlic Bread or Chips & Salsa and Fruit Pizza Bits

SUNDAY LUNCH

CLUE The Musical:

July 9 | Chicken Salad Croissant, Mixed Fruit, Chips, Ice Cream and Sugar Cookie

Any Body Home?

July 16 | Chicken BLT Wrap, Pasta Salad, Grilled Veggie Kabobs and Chocolate Chip Blondies

Dinner seating begins at 6 p.m. followed by a 7:30 p.m. performance. Lunch seating begins at 12:30 p.m. followed by a 2 p.m. performance. All meals are catered by Hickory Street Kitchen and Cocktails, Sisseton.



THE PLAYHOUSE IS SUPPORTED WITH FUNDS FROM:



JOIN THE RANKS OF NORTHERN FORT PLAYHOUSE SUPPORTERS!



In 1864, the 30th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry under the command of General John Pope established Fort Wadsworth on 160 acres about 30 miles west of present-day Sisseton, South Dakota. (The Army soon realized that they already had a Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island, New York, and the name of the territorial outpost was changed to Fort Sisseton in recognition of the predominant Sioux tribe in the region.) Army and civilian workers making use of local timber and stone built officer's quarters and barracks for enlisted men. They built a powder house, a livery, and a house for the fort's commanding officer. They also built berms and other defensive earthworks around the perimeter of the fort. The fort offered protection to local settlers and served as supply and transit points for campaigning military units.

Fort Sisseton was an active Army post and frontier way station for 25 years but by the late 1880s, with the Native population largely subdued, it was clear to the federal government that the fort had served its military purpose. In 1889, the Army abandoned it. In 1890, an act of Congress turned over control of the fort to the State of South Dakota. The property was unoccupied and essentially unused for the next 47 years. In 1937, renovation and restoration of Fort Sisseton's 14 surviving historical buildings was authorized and funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

In 1959, the 35 remaining acres of the original fort's land and all of the buildings were designated a South Dakota Historic State Park. Fort Sisseton was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

Tours of Fort Sisseton are available all year and numerous events are held during the summer months. The Fort Sisseton Historical

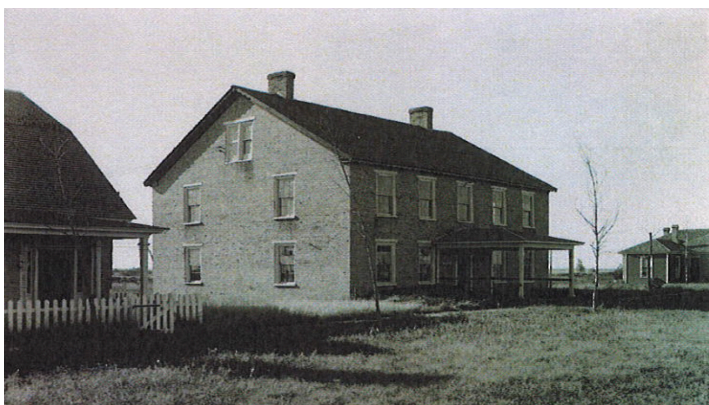
Festival is the largest annual event. First held in 1977, the Festival draws historical re-enactors and thousands of visitors during the first weekend of June.

Due to the dream of one man to share this beautiful Fort with others and his love of theatre, the Northern Fort Playhouse Foundation was formed in 2005. Under the direction of a group of volunteer Board Members from throughout northeastern South Dakota, the first season of live theatre was hosted in the beautiful South Barracks in 2006 and has continued each July, only missing one year due to the COVID pandemic. This unique experience, combines talents of acting students and the history of the Fort to provide for a summer experience that draws patrons to return year after year.

Each year, your financial support is important in providing this summer theatre experience. Donations at any level will help continue this tradition for its 17th season in 2023. As a member of the Regiment Corp. you will be recognized in the program and on our website. Those at the "Captain" level and higher will also receive two complimentary performance tickets.

To get the 2023 season off to a great start, please complete the form in this issue and return it with your check or credit card information prior to June 15, 2023 to Northern Fort Playhouse, P.O. Box 129, Britton, SD 57430-0129. For more information, call 605-467-3247. Thank you for considering a partnership with us to support and grow this unique theatre experience at historical Fort Sisseton.

Northern Fort Playhouse | *Board of Directors*



NORTHERN FORT PLAYHOUSE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Northern Fort Playhouse is to showcase the beauty of Fort Sisseton Historic State Park and the talents of the Northern State University School of Fine Arts by supporting and coordinating an entertaining summer theater experience that attracts audiences of all ages.

THE NORTHERN FORT PLAYHOUSE FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 129
Britton, S.D. 57430-0129

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

- General (\$1000 or more)
- Colonel (\$500-\$999)
- Major (\$300-\$499)
- Captain (\$200-\$299)
- Lieutenant (\$150-\$199)
- Sergeant (\$100-\$149)
- Corporal (\$50-\$99)
- Private (\$25-\$49)

Bill my credit card
Number _____ Exp _____ CVC _____ Zip Code _____

If you would like to join the 2023 Regiment or renew your contribution, fill out the form above and mail it with your donation to Northern Fort Playhouse Foundation at the indicated address. Thank you for your tax-deductible donation.

NORTHERN FORT PLAYHOUSE 2022 REGIMENT

GENERAL (\$1000 OR MORE)

In Memory of Frank Farrarr

COLONEL (\$500 - \$999)

Greg & Sherri Carmon
Agtegra Cooperative (Sponsor)
Ruby Tuesday /
L & J Construction (Sponsor)
Merxbauer-Meier Dental (Sponsor)
Horton, Inc. (Sponsor)

MAJOR (\$300-\$499)

Fun After Fifty
Eden Lions Club (Sponsor)

CAPTAIN (\$200-\$299)

Marge Rosin
Holland Bros. Oil Company, Britton
Karen M. Lane
BJ & Stacy Weist
Jonathan Allcock & Holly Wismer
David & Margaret Trefz
Terry & Sandi Jaspers
Calvin & Vivian Hove
Mavis Jones
Northern Lights Inn (Sponsor)

In Memory of Judy Gulleson (Sponsor)

Sisseton Arts Council (Sponsor)
Britton Lions Club (Sponsor)
Bryan & Sheila Prins (Sponsor)
Teal's Market (Sponsor)
Mark Wismer & Caroline
Furman (Sponsor)

LIETENANT (\$150-\$199)

Perebooms Café, Webster
RDO Equipment, Britton

SERGEANT (\$100-\$149)

Ken's Super Fair Foods, Britton
Dave Hahler Automotive
Vold Auctioneers & Reality
Britton Real Estate & Appraisals
Mike & Mary Dunn
Strand Theatre, Britton
Farmers Union Insurance/
Tom Farber Agency
Bantz, Gosch & Cremer, LLC
Gregg & Barb Magera
Matthew & Audrey Schuller
Meyer Hardware Hank
Robert & Erin Fouberg

PRIVATE (\$50-\$99)

The Blossom Shoppe & Gifts, LLC
Brewhouse
Karen Heidel
Snaza I Northside Implement
Dave & Susan Bankers
Vollie Ann Williams
Doug & Junia Meyer
Northland Auto Center
Auto Value
Twin Valley Tire & Community
Oil, Inc.
Spencer & Kathy Gross
Paul & Faye Symens



School of Fine Arts

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Aberdeen, SD 57401
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northern.edu/artsnsu

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Follow us on facebook and twitter:

@northernfortplayhouse and be sure
to share your favorite fort memories.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE NORTHERN FORT PLAYHOUSE
Pam Lunzman at (605) 467-3247

PERFORMANCES
July 8 | 7:30 p.m.
July 14 | 7:30 p.m.
July 16 | 2 p.m., matinee
July 21 | 7:30 p.m.



PERFORMANCES
July 7 | 7:30 p.m.
July 9 | 2 p.m., matinee
July 15 | 7:30 p.m.
July 22 | 7:30 p.m.



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