

NORTHERN FORT PLAYHOUSE

NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTS | NSU

LET'S FIND OUR INNER CHILD *with the 2024 Season at the Northern Fort Playhouse!*

Let's find our inner child with the 2024 Season at the Northern Fort Playhouse! Last season we solved mysteries as our intrepid group of actors played a real-life game of Clue and tried to figure out if there was Any Body Home. I thoroughly enjoyed my first season as Artistic Director for the Northern Fort Playhouse and was already looking forward to the next season as soon as we opened. We had an outstanding group of performers from Aberdeen and Britton that kept me in stitches for most of the summer. Not only did this group create hilarious characters on the NFP stage but also went above and beyond the typical list of duties when it came to working on sets and costumes. These kids can do it all!

Online auditions are now open for our upcoming season, and we hope to see some familiar faces back on our stage in 2024. This season, we'll enjoy embracing our inner child as we cheer on the competitors in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and laugh as a phycologist tries to make sense of a purrrr-fect young lady who's become a part of his home in The Feral Child. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee holds a special place in my heart as I've been a part of 3 professional productions during my career. These songs and characters will always make me laugh. Although some of their antics may be larger than life, it's still so easy to identify with their struggles,



stressors, and successes. Did I mention there is also audience participation involved in this show?! The Feral Child gives us an opportunity to showcase South Dakota playwright, Rand Higbee. Mr. Higbee grew up in Spearfish and attended SDSU. His play The Feral Child is a strangely serious and strangely funny comedy. It's focuses on the question of who gets to decide who we really are in a wholesome and hilarious way. I can't wait to see our cast sink their teeth into this script. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to create theater and entertain audiences right in my own backyard. The Fort is a special place and even on the most exhausting rehearsal days, I can still stand back and be thankful that we get to do this in this place. And that's all thanks to you, our supporters and audience members. Without you, we truly wouldn't be here. Thank you for your support over the years and I can't wait to see you at the Fort!

Kate Wismer | Artistic Director

Northern Fort Playhouse's 18th Season

BEGINS JULY 12, 2024

PERFORMANCES

July 12, 20 and 27 at 7:30 P.M. | July 14 at 2 P.M.



The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

by Rachel Sheinkin

An eclectic group of sixth-graders arrives at the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, each eager to win for very different reasons. Sweet and shy Olive brings only her best friend (the dictionary) with her to the bee; bold and hyperallergic speller William Barfee uses his “magic foot” to propel him to greatness; former champion Chip is struggling with his burgeoning puberty; easily distracted Leaf is unconvinced that he’s smart enough to be a challenger; overachiever Marcy is disappointed by her consistent success; and politically aware Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre only wants to impress her gay dads. In hilarious, touching, and catchy songs, each speller reveals his/her hopes, struggles, and passions as they make their way through the competition. With an engaging, tuneful score by William Finn and a sweet, funny book by Rachel Sheinkin, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* causes audiences to fall in love, both with the show itself and its “perspicacious,” “jocular,” and “effervescent” spellers.

PERFORMANCES

July 13, 19 and 26 at 7:30 P.M. | July 21 at 2 P.M.



The Feral Child

Playwright Rand Higbee

At the age of three, Mary disappeared near the Pench Jungle in India. Ten years later she was found. Fortunately, a family had taken good care of her for those many years. A family of tigers, that is. Mary now believes that she is a cat. Enter noted child psychologist Dr. James Hauser. Seeing an opportunity to not only save the girl, but to also earn a bit of fame for himself, James vows to turn the girl back into a human being. But what if Mary doesn’t want to be human? What if Mary would rather remain a cat? Playwright Rand Higsbee “is bravely creative, writing about diverse subject matters that I don’t see anyone else tackling. And I love that he writes shows that are appropriate for younger audiences. He earns his laughter without having to resort to foul language or grotesque imagery.” Dawson Moore, Coordinator of the Last Frontier Theatre Conference.

TICKET PRICES

All Seating is reserved

SINGLE SHOW PRICES

Adult \$16

Children \$10

Dinner show \$33

Lunch show \$29

SEASON SHOW PRICES

Adult \$30 (save \$2)

Children \$18 (save \$2)

Dinner show \$64 (save \$2)

Lunch show \$56 (save \$2)

State Park Entrance License covered by The Northern Fort Playhouse.

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 our Friday night receptions. Below are the featured artists and dates.



July 12 | Featured Artist: Elizabeth "Libby" Hendricks

Libby Hendricks is a recent resident of the Roy Lake area having moved from Hartford Beach this last fall. Her family consists of Mom (Rachel), Dad (Shawn), brother (Jackson), sister (Josie), and little brother (Cody). Not to mention all of the family pets of which Libby is their keeper and guardian. One of the incredible talents that Libby has is her artistic eye for drawing, painting, and crafting. She currently applies those passions at the Britton City Library where she works as part of the life skills program for 18-21 year olds.



July 19 | Featured Artist: Meghan Ward

My name is Meghan Ward and I am so thrilled to be back at Fort Sisseton for the summer. This is my third summer working at the fort and I am now post-grad! I graduated in May 2024 from Kansas State University with a B.A. in History and plan to continue my studies this fall, beginning a master's degree. I have worked in museums for nearly ten years and enjoy fostering historic preservation and assisting the public in learning stories of the past. In addition to museum work, I am a classically trained pianist with 15+ years of experience. I have also dabbled a bit in jazz, playing piano for my school's jazz band throughout high school. At times, my two passions cross-over as I've played for many history tours and events just like this! Among my favorite composers to play are Schumann, Schubert, and Stephen Foster.



July 26 | Featured Artist: Emily Jensen

"For me, art is my outlet for emotions and creativity. I began drawing and painting in 2020 as an activity that brought me comfort. I am self taught and use several different mediums; pencil, watercolors, acrylic, oils and collages. I enjoy painting nature and art that involves a creative expression of emotion. My influences come from Bob Ross, Monet, Dadaism and my mom. Art allows me to express myself without boundaries. My plans include honing my abilities for impressionism and develop new skills for realism.



Sing Catering

JOIN US FOR DINNER ON SATURDAY NIGHT OR A SUNDAY LUNCHEON

DINNER OR LUNCH

Saturday, July 13 | Beef Combo w/Mashed Potatoes and Gravy OR Pork Lo-Mein w/ Egg Rolls Lettuce Salad, Dinner Roll, Strawberries & Cream Parfait

Sunday, July 14 | Turkey Club, Fruit Salad, Chips, Caramel Apples

Saturday, July 20 | Spaghetti & Meatballs OR Swedish Meatballs with Noodles & Gravy, Garlic Green Beans, Lettuce Salad, Dinner Roll, Cupcakes

Sunday, July 21 | Egg Salad Croissant, Pasta Salad, Veggie Crudit  w/Dip, Oreo Truffle

Saturday, July 27 | Loaded Chicken Burrito w/Chips & Salsa OR Smothered Pot Roast Bowl w/Veggies, Lettuce Salad, Dinner Roll, Smores Dip

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. Sing Catering will serve all meals with water and coffee, "Spirits and soft drinks available for donation, Menus subject to change, Dietary restrictions can be accommodated with advance notice.

THE PLAYHOUSE IS SUPPORTED WITH FUNDS FROM:



TOUR THE FORT

2024 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 19 and 27

Stars, Strolls and S'mores: July 13

FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTIONS

Our Friday night evening performances will feature a **free will donation social hour**, complete with hor' dourves and drinks featuring the With the Wind Winery. Doors open at 6 p.m. with time to visit our feature artists on the 12, 19 and 26, enjoy some hor' dourves and time to connect with new friends and old.



Dempsey's is the 2nd oldest brewery in the state. Family run, with a fun atmosphere and Award-Winning Staff with 21+ Tap lines, house brewed beers (as well as Root beer/Cream Soda). Owner Sean Dempsey was trained in San Francisco and is the only licensed pizzaiolo and multiple Award-Winning member of the US Pizza Team. With locations in Aberdeen, Brookings and Watertown, Dempsey's is one of the most popular restaurants in the Northeast part of the South Dakota. Cheers!



With the Wind Winery,
Roshold, SD.

Owners, Jeremiah and Lisa Klein, are both originally from South Dakota. After living 9 years in Summit County, Colorado the couple returned to raise their children back in the home area of Jeremiah's roots. The couple purchased the bygone farm site in the Winter of 2012 as merely a place to call home for their family. Shortly after purchasing the picturesque property, an article in a local newspaper highlighted the ideal attributes of sites for Modern Midwest Viticulture. This initially caught the couple's attention as a unique 'hobby idea', but soon developed into a fully operational dream. Jeremiah and Lisa dove heart-first into this endeavor that is now 100% of the family's livelihood. They planted vineyards and built the winery facility that is dedicated to processing grapes, producing wines and hosting guests that visit the tasting room to celebrate life. The couple and their staff take great pleasure in producing and bottling all of the With the Wind Vineyard & Winery Wines onsite. Custom Italian-made Stainless Steel Tanks and Minnesota Oak Barrels house all of the wines. "Hosting Visiting Guests who visit the Winery is a true joy. Crafting the Delicious With the Wind Wines, to accompany every part of Life's Celebrations an honor. CHEERS to Life" - Jeremiah and Lisa Klein INFO@WITHTHEWINDWINERY.COM 605.537.4780

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.

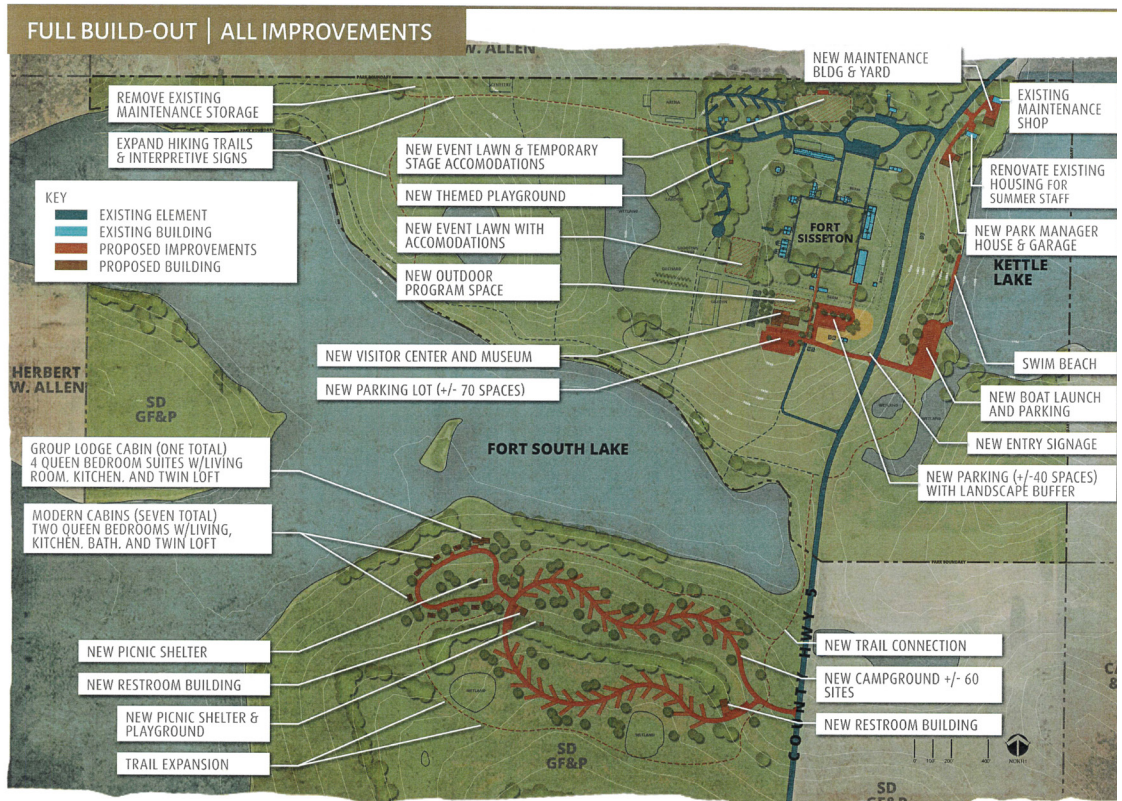
JOIN THE RANKS OF NORTHERN FORT PLAYHOUSE SUPPORTERS!



Historic Fort Sisseton Celebrates Milestone Anniversary with the Unveiling of a New Master Plan.

The Fort Sisseton Commission, appointed by the governor, has collaborated with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks to develop a comprehensive plan aimed at preserving the historic fort and surrounding area, while also enhancing the visitor experience. The recently unveiled \$22 million plan spans over the next decade and beyond and includes a range of initiatives to make the site a truly unique and diverse destination for visitors. The plan not only focuses on preserving the fort's rich history, but also on creating new opportunities for recreational activities, education, and community engagement. The Fort Sisseton Commission invites all stakeholders to join them in this important effort to protect and enhance this iconic park for future generations.

Late last year, the commission unveiled its master plan for the preservation of the Fort while still adding new amenities. The plan includes the construction of a new visitor center and museum on the south side of the property. This modern workspace and classrooms will



house artifact collection and protection and updated exhibits, allowing for the expansion of displays to include a more diverse history. Additionally, the plan calls for an event stage for concerts, programs, and weddings and a themed playground. The commission aims to tackle these goals in the next three to five years. The Fort Commissioners have acknowledged the ambitious nature of the Fort Sisseton Master Plan and the significant funding required to bring it to fruition. The plan is estimated to cost around \$5.7 million over the next three to five years, with the state expected to contribute a significant portion. However, the commission is aware that a substantial amount of fundraising

will also need to be done. To that end, the group has announced that they will be launching fundraising efforts and events soon. Those interested in contributing to the cause or learning more about the Fort Sisseton Master Plan can do so by reaching out to fortsisseton@state.sd.us or calling 605-910-4465. The Fort Commissioners are committed to making this project a success and appreciate any support from the community.

Ali Tonsfeldt | Park Manager
Fort Sisseton Historic State Park
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

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)

☐ Captain (\$200-\$299)

☐ Corporal (\$50-\$99)

☐ Colonel (\$500-\$999)

☐ Lieutenant (\$150-\$199)

☐ Private (\$25-\$49)

☐ Major (\$300-\$499)

☐ Sergeant (\$100-\$149)

☐ 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 2023 REGIMENT

GENERAL (\$1000 OR MORE)

In Memory of Frank Farrarr

COLONEL (\$500 - \$999)

MAJOR (\$300-\$499)

Fun After Fifty

SPONSORS (\$250-\$500)

In Memory of Judy Gulleeson

Kenneth & Cheryl Walter Family
Horton, Inc.

Britton Lions Club

Merxbauer-Maier Dental

Eden Lions Club

Ruby Tuesday

Bryan & Sheila Prins

Agtegra Cooperative

Mark Wismer & Caroline Furman

Spencer & Kathy Gross

Quality Quick Print

CAPTAIN (\$200-\$299)

Ember Dady

Calvin & Vivian Hove

Jerome Stiegelmeier

Carol Johns

G. Todd Garry, Public Accountant

CAPTAIN (CONTINUED)

Wayne & JoAnne Schlekewy

Mavis Jones

Cary & Stacy Bauer

Marge Rosin

Holly Wismer

Northern Lights Inn

Marshall County Health Care

IntelliFarms Northern Division, Inc.

Britton Bookkeeping and Tax Service

Scotts Lumber & Home Center

LIEUTENANT (\$150-\$199)

Perebooms Café, Webster

Wayne & Dianne Miller

Dave Hahler Automotive

Weber Body Shop

SERGEANT (\$100-\$149)

Duane & Jane Schneider

Vold Auctioneers & Realty

Meyer Hardware Hank

Matthew & Audrey Schuller

Norstar Federal Credit Union

Mike & Mary Dunn

Farmers Union Insurance/

SERGEANT (CONTINUED)

Tom Farber Agency

Strand Theatre

Bantz, Gosch & Cremer, LLC

Kens Food Fair

Twin Valley Tire

Holland Brothers Oil

Clyde & Sharon Frederickson

RPM / Rapid Precision Manufacturing

Robert J & Erin H Fouberg

Heart & Sole Foot Zone Therapy

CORPORAL (\$50-\$99)

Marlene Seeklander

The Blossom Shoppe & Gifts, LLC

Karen Heidel

Doug & Junia Meyer

Dave & Sue Bankers

Snaza Implement

Auto Value

Vollie Ann Williams

Paul & Faye Symens

PRIVATE (\$25-\$49)

Davidson Plumbing & Heating



School of Fine Arts

1200 S. Jay St.
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-626-2497

northern.edu/artsnsu

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Aberdeen, South Dakota
Permit No. 77



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 13 | 7:30 p.m.
July 19 | 7:30 p.m.
July 21 | 2 p.m., matinee
July 26 | 7:30 p.m.

The Feral Child
The purrfect play for your next
production by South Dakota
playwright Rand Higbee.



PERFORMANCES
July 12 | 7:30 p.m.
July 14 | 2 p.m., matinee
July 20 | 7:30 p.m.
July 27 | 7:30 p.m.



NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
PLAYHOUSE
NORTHERN FORT