



A YEAR OF FIRSTS

Season brings Shakespeare, *Daisy* and more new experiences

Every year, when we choose our theater season, we attach a theme to it.

Last year, fittingly, we dubbed the selections our “15th anniversary season.” Thanks to Broadway classics such as *My Fair Lady* and *Cabaret*, we called 2009/2010 our “Tony Award-Winning Season.”

This year is our “New Season.”

Now, that might not make sense to some folks – because every season is “new.” However, every show on our stage this season is a piece we’ve not performed here before.

Starting with *Dreamgirls* and carrying through to *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and next summer’s *Shout!* – we listened to the patrons whom we survey every year and respectfully selected five shows that, while familiar in name, have never been performed at the Arts Center before.

But we’re taking it a step further, and are looking for other “firsts” for the Arts Center. After 15 years and hundreds of performances (and performers), it’s not as easy as you think!

Our Presenting Series features several new experiences. One of America’s finest troupes, the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, will make its debut on our stage Jan. 14-15. The company will perform selections of classic and contemporary dance, including a piece choreographed by Dwight Rhoden of *So You Think You Can Dance*.

Coming March 2, we’re presenting Shakespeare’s *Comedy of Errors* by the Acting Company. Each year, we get a few requests to perform various William Shakespeare plays. So, for the first time ever, the Bard will make his debut on our Hilton Head Island stage in

this popular comedy of mistaken identity.

Finally, rounding out our season of firsts, a special theater bonus. We will be producing a limited run of *Driving Miss Daisy* on stage, March 17-April 1. One of our most requested plays this year, the Pulitzer Prize-winning show will debut with a gala premiere fundraiser on March 16 – featuring delicious food, great wine and a spectacular live auction.

We’re also planning other surprises this year along the way. And while they might not be firsts, they’re certainly favorites returning to the Arts Center due to popular demand.

As an accompaniment to our Town *Christmas Tree Lighting* Festival – which kicks off the holiday season on Nov. 26 – we’ll be closing the holidays with a special New Year’s Eve presentation of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Come to the early show at 4 p.m. for a pre-party performance, or help us countdown the New Year at the 9 p.m. show.

Also back by patron demand: Capitol Steps (Nov. 4-5) and Celtic Crossroads (March 12). These fantastic performers have joined us before, but each promises a unique and new experience this season.

We value our patrons, and each year we try to present them with a season full of firsts. This year – whether you’ve been with us all 15 years or are joining us for the first time – we’re confident we can offer everyone a new experience.

Here’s to a fabulous 2011/2012 season!

Kathleen P. Bateson
President/CEO