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GRAND BOULEVARD



Emerald Coast Theatre Company (ECTC) is a non-profit theatre company based in Miramar Beach, Florida. ECTC's mission is to enrich and entertain the Emerald Coast community through professional and educational theatre; it operates year-round with a two-fold mission to provide both educational and professional offerings to the Northwest Florida community.

ECTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STACEY BRADY Director of Marketing and Communications, Grand Boulevard at Sandestin; Executive Director, South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival

MELISSA OROPESA CARROLL Customer Success Manager For Simpleview

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NATHANAEL FISHER (Co-Founder) Producing Artistic Director of ECTC

JAMIE HALL Owner, Sage Marketing

JASON HEDDEN (Co-Founder) Executive Director of Recruitment and Community Relations, Gulf Coast State College

MATTHEW SAVOIE Principal/ Architect, Savoie Architects, P.A.

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THE HEART OF ECTC IS YOU

NATHANAEL AND ANNA FISHER –
PRODUCING AND ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS/ CO-FOUNDERS

Season 10 had all the growth and fanfare we could have wished for. From the epic Season 10 Celebration Gala to the sold out performances of The Sound of Music we were blown away and touched by the way you, our community, rallied around us. We saw a 45% increase in the attendance of our shows and so many of you donated or increased your VIP Membership in support of our mission to enrich and entertain the Emerald Coast through professional and educational theatre!

That exponential growth is you. You have embraced us as a community, and your support is the reason why we are able to continue offering excellent professional theatre to the Emerald Coast. We are always striving to outdo ourselves, and with your help we know that is always possible.

It is with great joy and celebration that we present Season 11! This season we are taking you back to the 1950's with Million Dollar Quartet, feeling all the warmth of the holiday season with A Christmas Carol, bringing those zany girls back with the Wonderettes: Caps and Gowns, sending laughter to the stage with The Play That Goes Wrong, continuing with the comedy (albeit a little dark) with those crazy sisters in Crimes of the Heart, and finishing the season with everyone's favorite magical nanny, Marry Poppins. Our Theatre for Young Audiences shows are Junie B Jones, Yes Virginia there is a Santa Claus, and Mother Goose on the Loose is the Theatre for the Very Young production this year.

We intentionally chose shows to lift your spirits and bring the laughter and warmth we all need. With people still recovering from the pandemic or hurricane Michael, to political unrest and the looming word of recession constantly in the news, we have made a conscious choice to produce shows that lighten the load of life and give you the opportunity to connect to our creative community. Two things guaranteed to lift your spirits: laughter and community!

Whether it is your first time here, or if you found us ten years ago in whatever space we transformed to produce a show in, we welcome you. We want you to know how much it means that you have partnered with us and come alongside us to dream and create. We would not be here without you, and that is why we say "The heart of ECTC is you."



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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I WAS A THEATRE KID

JASON HEDDEN - BOARD PRESIDENT/ CO-FOUNDER

In a lot of ways, 34 years later, I still am. I was bitten by the theatre bug in middle school and have never looked back. ECTC's educational programs immerse students in high quality arts experiences that will empower them for the rest of their lives. Over the years, many of you have shared with us the profound impact ECTC has had in the lives of your children. Those stories move and inspire us to continue to create an environment where our young people can dream, create and thrive.

Meanwhile, our professional programming enriches and entertains audiences of all ages. This season includes something for everyone. We are a professional theatre company, but at the heart of what we do is community. The heart of ECTC is YOU.

It is my great honor to serve as a co-founder and board president of ECTC because it means a front row seat to this amazing journey. The future of ECTC is bright and as our story continues to be told, we are overwhelmingly thankful to our staff, volunteers, sponsors and patrons. We could not do it without you!

Thank you for supporting ECTC as we embark on Season 11. This is a special place of creativity, collaboration and community. Lives are changed within these walls. I know, because I have seen it, again and again. I know because I am also one of those lives.

I hope to see you soon - Jason Hedden







SEASON 11 CENTER STAGE









SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 1

Thursday - Saturday at 7:30PM Sundays and Wednesdays at 2:30PM

Million Dollar Quartet explodes on stage with a monumental night of rock 'n' roll. Inspired by the most famous jam session in recording history, this smash-hit musical tells the story of legendary music icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins as they come together on December 4, 1956, at the famous Sun Studios.

OCTOBER 13 - 22

FIELD TRIPS:

Fridays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9:30AM & 10:30AM Saturday, October 14 at 9AM | Saturday, October 21 at 6PM Sundays at 2:30PM

A production of ECTC's Theatre for Young Audiences Program: It's Junie B.'s first day of school, and suddenly a lot of things are changing for her: Junie's friend, Lucille, doesn't want to be her best pal anymore, but on the bus, Junie B. makes friends with Herb, the new kid at school.

DECEMBER 1 - 9

FIELD TRIPS:

Fridays at 9AM & 10:30AM | Saturdays at 9:30AM Sunday, December 3 at 2:30PM & 4:30PM

Two compelling stories come together in this heartwarming play inspired by the famous editorial Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve, 1897, in New York City, eight-year-old Virginia is left pondering whether or not Santa really exists after a series of unhappy events. Meanwhile, a young newspaper editor also struggles against tough holiday times as he is faced with losing his job if he can't find his writer's voice by morning.

DECEMBER 8 - 22

Thursday - Saturday at 7:30PM | Sundays at 2:30PM Wednesday, December 13 at 2:30PM Wednesday, December 20 at 2:30PM & 7:30PM

From the first "Bah humbug" to the final "Wassail," this timeless classic is sure to rekindle your holiday spirit.





January 19 & 20 at 7:30PM | January 21 & 24 at 2:30PM February 28 at 2:30PM February 29, March 1, March 2 at 7:30PM March 3 at 2:30PM

We're back in 1958, and it's time for the Wonderettes to graduate in this delightful sequel to the smash Off-Broadway hit! Join Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy, and Suzy as they sing about their final year in high school, celebrate with their fellow classmates and teachers, and prepare for their next step toward a bright future.



JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 4

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30PM Wednesdays & Sundays at 2:30PM

Called "the funniest play Broadway has ever seen," this classic murder mystery by award-winning Mischief is chock-full of mishaps and madcap mania! Welcome to the opening night of The Murder at Haversham Manor, where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous.



FEBRUARY 16 - 25

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30PM Wednesdays & Sundays at 2:30PM

Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize-winner is a deeply touching and funny play about three eccentric sisters from a small Southern town rocked by scandal when Babe, the youngest, shoots her husband.



APRIL 4 - 7

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 9AM Saturday at 6PM | Sunday at 2:30PM

Where's Mother Goose? Where could she have gone? Did she jump over the moon? Is she visiting the old lady who lived in a shoe? Did she follow Jack and Jill up that hill? No one knows! Join her children as they try to find their beloved Mother Goose, and sing and dance along the way!



MAY 3 - 19

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30PM Wednesdays and Sundays at 2:30PM

Sprinkle a spoonful of sugar on your spring with the delightful and enchanting Mary Poppins! This show is "practically perfect in every way" for all ages and feels like a "jolly holiday" with friends and family.

SPECIAL EVENTS



OCTOBER 14 AT 7:30PM MARCH 9 AT 7:30PM

Come for an uproarious night of laughs! ECTC presents some of the Southeast's most hilarious comedians. Hosted by resident funny guy Jason Hedden.



OCTOBER 26 - 29

Thursday, October 26 at 7:30PM Friday, October 27 at 2:30PM Saturday, October 28 at 7:30PM Sunday, October 29 at 2:30PM

"That's Entertainment!" The bells are ringing for this night of "Ritz," glitz, glamour and the beautiful music of Judy Garland and Gene Kelly.



DECEMBER 16, 19, 21

Saturday, December 16 at 2:30PM Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30PM Thursday, December 21 at 7:30PM

Mix, mingle, and enjoy live holiday musical selections performed by our talented vocalists. Enjoy classic holiday songs from some of your favorite Christmas musicals like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "Snow," and of course, "White Christmas."



FEBRUARY 13 & 14

February 13 at 7:30PM February 14 at 2:30PM, 5:30PM & 8PM

Share this evening or afternoon event with the ones you love. Enjoy beautiful love songs from yesteryear performed by our top vocalists and ECTC's live musicians.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS

STACEY BRADY - MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



As a long-standing steward of our community, Grand Boulevard understands the value of strong community partnerships. For more than 15 years, Grand Boulevard's support and investment in our community has focused on healthcare, education, charities and cultural arts.

We have been a presenting sponsor of Emerald Coast Theatre Company for more than six years. Additionally, we are the proud home of Emerald Coast Theatre Company. This meaningful partnership has been advantageous for both of our organizations. From an altruistic perspective, the Town Center support fulfills a goal of nurturing cultural arts which are necessary for any thriving community. When we first met the founders of ECTC, Nathanael and Anna Fisher, we were immediately struck by their vision, creativity, and business acumen. They had already launched ECTC as a professional theatre company and were producing shows in the area. Their passion and ability to convey their plans for the theatre resonated for Grand Boulevard, who immediately recognized the benefit of a long-term partnership.

Having ECTC in Grand Boulevard has added an exciting entertainment component to our thriving Town Center mix. Their exceptional programming, including live performances, and the substantial educational portion, attract thousands of people to the theatre annually and, importantly, to Grand Boulevard's popular restaurants and stores. Many people plan day trips to our Center and stay in our hotels, specifically to take in a performance at Emerald Coast Theatre Company. Having an entertaining theatre company in your Town Center comes with other advantages as well! In 2023, we debuted ECTC's "Broadway on the Boulevard," which performed in Grand Park on Thursday nights, and it played to enthusiastic audiences for 10 weeks. The depth of programming provided by ECTC continues to grow and the quality of the work continues to impress.

Grand Boulevard recognizes the value of the relationship with ECTC and appreciates being able to contribute to the success of this meaningful arts organization. The new ECTC signage on the building points to a very bright future for this flourishing art organization!





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BY MARRIOTT

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BISTRO

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AMENITIES

Stay comfortable, productive, and connected with everything you need to move forward. Enjoy our outdoor pool with a hot tub, 24/7 Fitness Center, on-site laundry facilities, 24/7 Business Center, daily housekeeping, and The Market - a 24-hour pantry.

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VIP MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

THE PERPETUAL GIFT

CAROL MCEWEN - PLATINUM VIP MEMBER Pictured with husband, Gerald McEwen

What is the best present you've ever received—either from yourself or a loved one? A fur coat? A Rolex? Or maybe a new Mercedes?

My present is something much less tangible, but a whole lot more fun and long-lasting— a membership to Emerald Coast Theatre Company (ECTC for short.)

I've always loved theatre performances but from many rows back when my husband and I were young. As we aged and grew more affluent, our seats moved closer to the stage. But even the best tickets were far removed from most of the large theater stages in the Washington DC area.

So when we moved here and had a chance to buy tickets and be "up close and personal" at ECTC, we were delighted, even though we weren't sure what we'd see there. My southern friends call that buying "a pig in a poke."

That first year, we joined as Silver members and loved our proximity to the stage, the lively shows and the skilled performers. Not a pig in sight!

Like true addicts, the following year, we upped the ante to Gold Membership and were thrilled with another year of rollicking fun, right here in the resort. Afterward, we had a short trip home, with no need to fight the traffic on Highway 98.

This year, we're Platinum members and can't wait for the fun to begin. If the theatre is lit up, we'll be there. As they say, "On with the show!"







EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!



Your VIP Membership support allows us to offer a variety of high-quality productions for audiences of all ages as well as reach hundreds of children through our Educational Theatre programs and field trips. We depend on our VIP patrons each season to join us in providing our community with the kind of poignant, heartwarming, funny, and thought provoking shows that have become Emerald Coast Theatre Company's signature. Membership benefits include tickets to productions as listed, access to the VIP Lounge, eight complimentary drinks (wine, beer, or water) for the season, and MORE!

STANDARD VIP MEMBERSHIP

VIP benefits that include one ticket to each of the Professional Productions, and 4 Flex Pass* tickets to use for any Theatre for Young Audiences, Theatre for the Very Young, or Educational Theatre production.

WANT TO SUPPORT ECTC MORE?

Silver, Gold, Platinum and Legacy VIP Memberships are Available!

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LITTLE TREASURE

BRIAN HAUGEN - ECTC SPONSOR

When I first attended an Emerald Coast Theater Company performance I was amazed by the quality of the show and the passion of the troupe. It was then that I knew we needed to sponsor this great organization in order to help get out the good word about this little treasure we have here at home. That was five years ago. Since then all we've done is raise our sponsorship levels. I can't wait to see what ECTC will bring us in this new season!



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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

LOVE IT!

LIZ WILSON - ECTC VOLUNTEER

I love volunteering at Emerald Coast Theatre(ECTC) because I feel like I am helping make Miramar beach a better place to live. I was very happy to discover this " jewel " near my condo when we purchased it in 2014.

I retired as a University Librarian from Lincoln University in Missouri and we had wonderful theatrical productions by students. I also traveled to St.Louis to the Fox Theatre to see "The Lion King" and was astounded by the music and the beautiful characters in the show. I also loved traveling to Chicago to the Goodman theatre to see "The Color Purple." The theatre gave my husband great joy as well, so we were thrilled to find an awesome theatre near us in Florida.

ECTC has given us so much joy for the past few years as my husband became ill with dementia. We were still attending plays and he still enjoyed the music and the awesome presentations at ECTC and I felt that it helped to keep his brain active also. I continued to volunteer throughout his illness and his passing because it helped me keep living and enjoying life as he would have wanted for me after our 53 years of marriage. We often traveled to Pensacola & Fort Walton Beach to attend the theater, but ECTC was our favorite because it was close to home. My husband, Retired CSM Robert Wilson, always loved Frank Sinatra and his favorite song was "I Did it My Way," and it was the last show he saw before he passed away. He loved it and sang all through the presentation with the actor. It made him happy and it made me happy too.

Volunteering for ECTC has helped me so much to enjoy life on the Emerald Coast and feel like we chose the best place to live in Florida. It's a place where we have the beautiful gulf and the luxury of having the opportunity to see the most awesome theatrical presentations without driving to a big city and staying in an expensive hotel. This is home, and the best place we lived in our 27 years as a military family around the United States & Europe.









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SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						2
3	4	5	5	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	MILLION ELVIS PREATE DELLAR CARL CARL CARL CARL CARL CARL CARL CARL	15 MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET 7:30PM	16 Million dollar quartet 7:30PM
17 MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET 2:30PM	18	19	20 Million dollar quartet 2:30PM	21 MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET 7:30PM	22 Million dollar quartet 7:30PM	23 MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET 7:30PM
24 MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET 2:30PM	25	26	27 Million dollar quartet 2:30PM	28 Million dollar quartet 7:30PM	29 Million dollar quartet 7:30PM	30 MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET 7:30PM

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET 2:30PM	2	3	4	5	6	COMEDY
8	9	10	11	Comments of the state of the st	JUNIE B. JONES - FIELD TRIP 9:30AM & 10:30AM AN EVENING WITH BRYAN KENNEDY 7:30PM	JUNIE B. JONES 9AM COMEDY ON THE BOULEVARD 7:30PM
JUNIE B. JONES 2:30PM	16	17	18 JUNIE B. JONES - FIELD TRIP 9:30am & 10:30am	19 JUNIE B. JONES – FIELD TRIP 9:30am & 10:30am	20 JUNIE B. JONES - FIELD TRIP 9:30AM & 10:30AM AN EVENING WITH BRYAN KENNEDY 7:30PM	21 Junie B. Jones BPM
JUNIE B. JONES 2:30PM	23	24	WE AND SAL	26 ME AND MY GAL 7:30PM	27 ME AND MY GAL 2:30PM	28 Meand My Gal 7:30PM
29 ME AND MY GAL 2:30PM	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				FINDING NEMO LITTLES	FINDING NEMO BIGS	FINDING NEMO BIGS
				FINDING NEMO	FINDING NEMO	FINDING NEMO
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					MEAN GIRLS 9TH-12TH	MEAN GIRLS 6TH-8TH Mean Girls 9TH-12TH
						MEAN GIRLS
12	13	14	15	16	17	FINDING NEMO DEFUNIAS SPRINGS MINISPITTES & BIGS/TEENS FINDING JR.
FINDING NEMO DEFUNIAK SPRINGS MINIS/LITTLES & BIGS/TEENS	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				VIRGINIA. SANTA CLAUS PRIMITE 1-1	1 YES, VIRGINIA THERE IS A SANTA CLAUSE – FIELD TRIP 9AM & 10:30AM	YES, VIRGINIA THERE IS A SANTA CLAUSE 9:30AM
3 YES, VIRGINIA THERE IS A SANTA CLAUSE 2:30PM & 4:30PM	4	5	6	CHRISTMAS CAROL	8 YES, VIRGINIA THERE IS A SANTA CLAUSE - FIELD TRIP 9AM & 10:30AM A CHRISTMAS CAROL 7:30PM	9 YES, VIRGINIA THERE IS A SANTA CLAUSE 9:30AM A CHRISTMAS CAROL 7:30PM
A CHRISTMAS CAROL 2:30PM	11	12	A CHRISTMAS CAROL FIELD TRIP - 9:30AM A CHRISTMAS CAROL 2:30AM	14 A CHRISTMAS CAROL FIELD TRIP - 9:30AM A CHRISTMAS CAROL 7:30PM	15 A CHRISTMAS CAROL 7:30PM	A JINGLE JANGLE 2:30PM A CHRISTMAS CAROL 7:30PM
A CHRISTMAS CAROL 2:30PM	18	19 A Jingle Jangle 7:30PM	20 A CHRISTMAS CAROL 2:30AM & 7:30PM	21 A JINGLE JANGLE 7:30PM	22 A CHRISTMAS CAROL 7:30PM	JINGLE JANGLE CHERTAL MINECAL BITCH.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	- Marcha Madarita- Caps on Gowns	THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES CAPS AND GOWNS 7:30PM	THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES CAPS AND GOWNS 7:30PM
THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES CAPS AND GOWNS 2:30PM	22	23	THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES CAPS AND GOWNS 2:30PM	THE PLAY THAT GOES WROND	26 THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG 7:30PM	THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG 7:30PM
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG 2:30PM	29	30	31 THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG - FIELD TRIP 9:30PM THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG 2:30PM			

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG 7:30PM	THE PLAY THAT GOES WEONG 7:30PM	3 THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG 7:30PM
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG 2:30PM	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU WASHINGTON BOTH HERET	13 I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU 7:30PM	14 I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU 2:30PM, 5:30PM, 8PM	CRIMES HEART	16 Crimes of the Heart 7:30PM	17 Crimes of the Heart 7:30PM
18 CRIMES OF THE HEART 2:30PM	19	20	21 Crimes of the Heart 2:30PM	22 Crimes of the Heart 7:30PM	23 Crimes of the Heart 7:30PM	24 Crimes of the Heart 7:30PM
25 Crimes of the Heart 2:30PM	26	27	THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES CAPS AND GOWNS 2:30PM	29 THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES CAPS AND GOWNS 7:30PM		

MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES CAPS AND GOWNS 7:30PM	THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES CAPS AND GOWNS 7:30PM
THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES CAPS AND GOWNS 2:30PM	4	5	6	7	COMEDY BOOLEGE 1 1 2 2 PM	9 COMEDY ON THE BOULEVARD 7:30PM
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	MOTHER GOSE ON THE LOSE	4 MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE - FIELD TRIP 9AM & 10:30AM	5 MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE – FIELD TRIP 9AM & 10:30AM	6 MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE 9AM & GPM
7 MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE 2:30PM	8	9	SPŌNGEBÖR Musical:	11 Spongebob the Musical (EDU)	12 Spongebob the Musical (EDU)	13 Spongebob the Musical (EDU)
14	15	16	17	18	19 Spongebob the Musical (EDU)	20 Spongebob the Musical (EDU)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	29	30				

MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	MARY POPPINS	MARY POPPINS 7:30PM	4 Mary Poppins 7:30PM
5 Mary Poppins 2:30PM	6	7	8 Mary Poppins 2:30PM	9 Mary Poppins 7:30PM	MARY POPPINS 7:30PM	11 Mary Poppins 7:30PM
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HOW ECTC CAME TO BE

NATHANAEL FISHER - PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/ CO-FOUNDER

The Sound of Music, a fan favorite and our most popular and well attended show to date at ECTC, was the cherry on top of our glorious tenth season. Anna Joy Powell did such a great job of bringing Maria to life on stage and part of that was her genuine and honest interactions with the children. We had two casts of children, and Anna Joy had a child of her own in each cast. Even as a child myself, one of the first songs I learned in choir was "Do, Re, Mi." Does your mind read those words in tune with the music? Mine does! Well, as you know, the song begins with, "Let's start at the very beginning, it's a very good place to start." So for this story, that is where I am going to begin... I'll start at the beginning, the very beginning for me anyway, and hopefully it will be a very good place to start.

It was October of 2002 and I was living in Orlando. My job at the time was playing Spiderman at Universal's Islands of Adventure. Side note: I was the second Spiderman ever hired and my most favorite moments were when I was given the opportunity to meet a "Make a Wish" kid. Wearing spandex everyday is a little humbling, but not as humbling as the realization that the "Make A Wish" child in front of me wishes their last wish to meet Spiderman and I was the guy honored to help make that wish come true. During that period of my life, I took a little vacation from the work of superheroes and flew to Virginia Beach, Virginia to



visit some close friends of mine. Mark VonWellshiem was in graduate school at Regent University studying film, and his wife Tracy was in the graduate program for theatre. Tracy picked me up from the airport and took me to their apartment where her good friend and fellow theatre student was babysitting their young daughter. I entered the apartment, and there stood

Anna Ogle. If you hear Anna's version of this story she will tell you that when the door opened she knew she was looking at her future husband. It took me a little longer to realize what was happening, but clearly I got there. The weekend ended up being a bit of a double date with dinners, sightseeing, attending a One Act Festival that Anna was in, and just fun. The night before I was supposed to leave. Anna and I were saving our goodbyes and exchanging contact information. She jokingly invited me to join her at the library where she would be desperately trying to complete a paper that was due at midnight (one that she had ignored all weekend to be able to spend time with me). To her surprise I showed up! She finished the paper in record time and we headed off to the International House of Pancakes where we talked until the early hours of the morning, savoring the few last moments together before I had to return to "saving the world" at Universal. That night I asked Anna what her dream was. She shared her vision of theatre impacting people's lives in a life changing way. I've always believed that dreams are important, that they are a gift from God to lead us, a rudder to guide us. In undergraduate school at Palm Beach Atlantic University my only dream was to work professionally as an actor. I felt like I had been blessed with the fruition of that dream, and when I met Anna I was in the process of defining what my next dream was. I knew theatre was at the heart of it, but there are so many directions to go in the profession of theatre that I was searching for inspiration. I was seriously considering starting a theatre company or finding a way to teach and impact children through theatre. When Anna told me her dream, I felt like I heard my own. I think that is when I knew I had met my future wife. The dream of theatre impacting people's lives is what literally brought us together.

Mother Abbess in The Sound of Music sings "Climb every mountain, Ford every stream, Follow every rainbow, 'Till you find your dream!" I won't share here every mountain Anna and I had to climb... or every stream... let me just share a few of the rainhows we followed.

In August of 2006 our beautiful twins Mia and Bella were born in Orlando, Florida. Talk about a double blessing- we love our girls! Anna grew up in Destin, and in the 1990s her family moved to Santa Rosa Beach. My first time visiting the area was December of 2002 there was no hospital at the corner of Mack Bayou and 98, their street was not payed, and the new and exciting place to go at the time was Baytowne at the Sandestin Resort. Fast forward to December of 2008 when we brought our toddlers to visit with Papa Jerry and Grandma Claire (Jerry and Claire Ogle). They took us to this brand new really cool lifestyle center that had just been built nearby. We came to Grand Boulevard, ate lunch at Tommy Bahama, and let our girls play around the fountain and the huge Christmas tree in the Grand Park. Keep in mind that Anna and I had no intention of moving back home at this time, but that day we did dream a little and discuss how nice Grand Boulevard was and how with all the restaurants and shops it would make a great place for a theatre!





We'll fast forward to the next rainbow in our story...
March of 2012. Our mountains and streams had taken
Anna and I on a wild path, but we ended up back in
Virginia Beach where Anna finished her Masters in
Theatre Studies and I was graduating with my Masters
of Fine Arts in Acting at Regent University. I had been
sending my CV to Universities around the southeast

because I thought the best way for me to provide for my family was to launch a career in higher education. I was fortunate enough to have a job offer with another strong prospect in the wings. The challenge was that both of these jobs would require us to move further away from family. The twins were five at the time and Anna was pregnant with our third child so we were not thrilled about moving further away. I had a call with my father in law who congratulated me for getting a iob and doing the right thing for my family. He then said that he believed there had to be something better for Anna and I. So, he offered for us to come live with them for a year. We would have minimal expenses and I could continue putting my resume out there in search of a better opportunity. Anna and I made the decision to take him up on that offer.

The moment I knew we were moving to the area I began researching any theatre, art, performing artsanything I could find in the Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay County area. This search took me to the Gulf Coast State College website where I found Jason Hedden who was a theatre professor there at the time. Because theatre circles can be very small sometimes. I looked him up on Facebook. I didn't see any mutual friends but I did see he had over 1,000 friends so I figured he wouldn't mind if I reached out via messenger. Here's what I wrote: Hey Jason, I hope you don't mind me being a bit forward. I found your information because of your position at the college. My wife is from Santa Rosa Beach and we are moving there this summer. I am finishing up my MFA in Acting, so I was wondering, would you be open to having a conversation about what acting opportunities there are in the area? He responded, and within a few days he and I were on a call that lasted a little over 90 minutes. Clearly I had met someone very like minded. On that call Jason advised me that if in moving here I was looking to participate in the arts there were only a very few opportunities, but if I was interested in providing the arts, that the ground was fertile.



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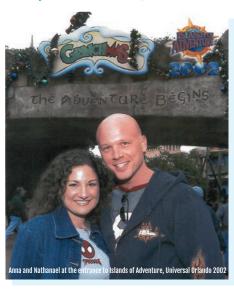
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In June of 2012, Anna and I packed up our things and moved to Santa Rosa Beach. Prior to moving I was able to connect with Marcia Hull, the executive director of the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation at the time. Anna's brother, Chris Ogle, knew someone that knew someone else in the arts scene here and Anna's boss from the performing arts center at Regent University had graduated from the Northwest Florida State College's theatre program and connected us with someone at the college as well. My thought was that if we were going to be here for at least a year we would do what we could to be involved in whatever arts programming was available. Our research informed us that there was no opportunity for elementary school children to get involved in theatre in Okaloosa or Walton County, and only Liza Jackson Preparatory School in Okaloosa had a theatre program for middle school students. Most of the children in the two counties had to wait until high school to be involved in theatre. Anna and I pondered this, talked about opportunities and programming with Marcia, and kept asking questions that led us to the stream that pointed to the next dream for us.

While we were investigating the arts scene, I had been hired as an adjunct theatre professor at University of West Florida and Jason had connected me with the department head at Gulf Coast State College who hired me as an adjunct instructor there too. I was in Pensacola two days a week and Panama City two days a week for teaching as well as working part time at Tommy Hilfiger at the Silver Sands Outlets. I also took some part time work at an event company when I could fit it in. Anna and I continued to ask for meetings and reach out to anyone who would listen. The need for theatre education was clear but what wasn't clear was if someone was willing to allow us to come under an existing organization or if we should start something new. We pondered the next steps for several months. It was a day in September of 2012, Anna was now 6 months pregnant with Zoe, and she was in the kitchen helping her mom make dinner. I looked at her pensively, hoping to communicate my seriousness and said "Honey, what if we just start a theatre company?" If you know Anna you can probably imagine her response. Anna is always up for an adventure! One of our first pictures together while we were dating was at Islands of Adventure at Universal. where we're standing under a stone bridge that says, "The Adventure Begins." It was a perfect foreshadowing of our future together. She immediately responded to my question about starting a theatre company with an excited "Let's do it!" We collaborated on possible names, citing the fact that we want everyone in the area to have access to theatre.
"What if we call it Emerald Coast Theatre Company?"
With the dream in her eyes and all the faith that
naturally comes to Anna she said, "I love it!"



The next time I was in Panama City I went to Jason's office and asked him, "What if we start a theatre company? Will you be a board member, do you want to help us?" He was in, and he promised to do anything and everything he could to help us. Anna and I then went to her brother Chris, a wealth advisor with Benjamin Edwards, told him of the dream of Emerald Coast Theatre Company, and he agreed to become our first Treasurer. Finally, we had recently worked with an incredibly creative person at a local church, Mike Harris, who became our fifth board member. We spent the money ourselves to make sure the 501C3 non profit paperwork was correct, had our first board meeting, and in October of 2012 Emerald Coast Theatre Company was born with the mission to enrich and entertain the Emerald Coast community through educational and professional theatre.

Our first programming was launched in January of 2013. It was an after school theatre class in partnership with the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation at Destin Elementary school with ten students enrolled. We were "climbing every mountain" to find our place here, and I was literally "following every highway" like I-10 and HWY98 from Pensacola to Panama City, our Zoe was making her grand entrance into the world on January 10th, and my six year old twins were settling into a new life in Santa Rosa Beach. If you had told me that ECTC would eventually serve over a



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thousand children each year through its educational and field trip programs and that thousands of people would come on a regular basis to find community and connection, my response would have been "Wouldn't that be a dream come true!"

"Follow every rainbow, 'Till you find your dream!" If we are ever in a conversation, don't be surprised if I ask you what your dream is, because if you ask me... dreams do come true.









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THE LIFE CHANGING BENEFITS OF THEATRE

HEATH CARROLL - EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR



Theatre changed my life. As a sophomore in high school I joined the drama club on a whim. I was just a kid looking to get into something—anything, really. And I was incredibly surprised to find a sense of community within it. It was a chance to play and create. For two hours a day after school my problems didn't matter. I was someone else. I was somewhere else. I could immerse myself in art. I could entertain. The joy of drawing laughter out of an audience was unparalleled; not to mention addictive. Then, I discovered that doing theatre would help pay for college. Are you kidding me?! Once I learned it was a whole career that I could spend my life doing, I couldn't believe it! I got to travel the country doing theatre. I even met my wife in the theatre. I didn't see that coming!

Eventually, I reached a point when I decided that I had to give back. I had to share these opportunities with other kids looking for a place to belong. I've been in theatre education for 10 years and my joy now comes from seeing these realizations in our children. Joining Emerald Coast Theatre Company as Education and Outreach Director has been an incredible milestone in my life. The importance of arts and culture in a child's education can't be understated. Theatre holds so many aspects of the humanities vital to a creative and fulfilling life: dance, language, storytelling, communication, visual arts, and multimedia presentation. Fine arts education bolsters a child's skills and has been proven to improve their scores in their core curriculum. Theatre education creates great speakers and communicators. Theatre is a collaborative art form that requires diverse views, ideas, and backgrounds. Because of this, we endeavor to cultivate a positive atmosphere of culture and socialization.

ECTC works hard to provide a learning environment that supports that which a child may or may not receive in school. Performance is looked at as a product, but our main business is people. Each child deserves a chance to grow and shine. The work they commit to doesn't feel so much like work when there is joy and friendship in it. At ECTC, the end goal for every child is to strengthen their passion, expression, and sense of community. This makes for better, happier adults. It certainly has for me.



PARENT SPOTLIGHT

A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

GILEAH TAYLOR - ECTC PARENT

Nine years ago, my kids were three, six and nine years old, and a new school year was fast approaching. I was on my annual, Goldilocks-like search for The Just Right Extracurricular Activity, so when I heard about the theatre company, I signed my older kids up. Never mind that I'd never heard either of them intimate that they harbored dreams of being on stage.

Miss Anna was the director of their first play - Aladdin - and ECTC was in its second year. The girls were given ensemble roles, and we invited friends and family to the show at the end of the semester. All of the children were costumed wonderfully, and I was relieved I'd chosen a seat in the back row, because my shoulders were shaking from laughter and my face hurt from smiling. I don't think I heard a peep from my girls, and I'll never forget the boy who played Jafar, who held out his arms and menacingly murmured, "The power of the universe is running through my veins!" At the curtain call, I watched the kids smile and bow, as the parents stood and clapped, and I cried just from the absolute joy of watching the children do something so special and life-giving. We were hooked.

A couple of years and several productions later, we signed up for Seussical the Musical. My husband and I and our youngest, Tim, were captivated. Clara played Horton the elephant. The little girl who didn't utter a sound in her first play, wistfully crooned to the Whos on their fluffy flower. Mercie held a ukulele as a prop and sang as Mayzie the bird. I cried, again, for the millionth time since we joined ECTC, and thought, "Now this is just right."

We haven't missed a semester since we started at ECTC. And when they added opportunities like Junior Thespian Troupe, Junior Company and summer camps - we signed up for all of them! Of course, I must mention Tim, who went from watching his big sisters on stage, to joining them when he was old enough: playing Mowgli in the Little Players presentation of The Jungle Book and Johnny Casino in the Grease summer camp this year. He's doubled in height since his first play, and I'd say his confidence has tripled.

What would we do without ECTC? What would we have done all these years? I don't know, and I'm so thankful I don't have to wonder. Every class and show that we've been a part of has been priceless. When I look around the audience at curtain call, at the end of every show, I see proud parents just like me, many of them with happy tears in their eyes, and I'm sure we would all agree that this community theatre we call home is Just Right. I'd go so far as to quote Mary Poppins (one of Clara's roles in recent years) and say that ECTC is "practically perfect in every way."













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PRODUCTION DESIGN SPOTLIGHT

THE BACKYARD

REBECA LAKE - SET DESIGNER/ ACTRESS/ TEACHING ARTIST

"So when did you start getting into theatre?" This is the main question I get whenever I tell someone that my full time job is working for a theatre. The problem is I don't have a good answer, but I do have a good reason. The reason that I cannot pinpoint a specific moment on a timeline is because I am the kid that never grew out of it. For as long as I can remember I was always gathering friends, siblings, and the occasional reluctant pet to take part in the time honored tradition of the backyard play under a magnificent magnolia tree. I would create the sets and props out of cardboard and paper bags, raid closets to create fantastical costumes, and carefully adapt stories we were all familiar with or create a new story to fit whomever I had coaxed into joining me. I was never comfortable with attention as a child, but creating stories for me was the way I was most comfortable connecting with other people.

As I grew up most of my friends grew out of telling stories. For a time creating theater was not a huge part of my life, but it was always in the periphery. I was either writing scripts that are tucked away in old notebooks or sketching costumes and sets that I dreamed up. Theatre formally reentered my life when I started doing summer shows on the beautiful stage at Northwest Florida State College while I was dual enrolled. The little kid in me was in awe every time I got to step on that stage. I graduated and transferred to a four year university where I was a music education major for ONE day. I sat through orientation, first thing the next day switched to a double major in music and theatre, and I have never looked back. I have gotten to create some beautiful stories in some amazing backyards with some incredible people.

The beauty of theatre to me is that it brings together such a diverse group of people, and there truly is a home for everyone in the theatre. I never knew how to express the collaborative nature of theatre, until I found a delightful German word. It is "gesamkunstwerk" and it simply means a total work of art. Wagner popularized this word to describe opera, but I absolutely believe it applies to theatre and reaches even farther than he imagined. Every single skill set can be and has been used in theatre to create the art of the story. We need researchers, scientists, historians, accountants, musicians, producers, directors, designers, performers, educators, writers, developers, architects, and the list can go on. Even though I never grew out of theatre, I firmly believe it is never too late to "grow in" to theatre. So if you have been thinking about sending in the audition, volunteering your time, or bringing a group of friends to see a show come on out. The backyard has room for everyone.







MEET OUR STAFF



EMILY BAINBRIDGE
Patron Relations Manager/ Teaching Artist

Emily Bainbridge is so excited to join ECTC. Emily is originally from Lancashire, England, and graduated from London Theatre School in 2009 with a degree in Dance. Emily started her career as a dancer/aerialist aboard cruise ships where she sailed the seas for over seven years with Norwegian Cruise Line. It was there that she met her husband Trenton, and together they enjoyed performing many contracts, traveling around the world, and learning about and working with other cultures. After moving to Florida in 2016 Emily began performing in many theaters around the Tampa Bay- Orlando area in theaters such as The Wick, American Stage, and Suncoast Broadway. She also got the once in a lifetime chance to perform at Radio City Music Hall in NYC. One of the proudest moments of her career by far was co-producing and performing "Roque Cirque," an original rock aerial show, with her husband Trenton.

Throughout her career, Emily has also had the pleasure of teaching young dancers and professionals at Norwegian Cruise Lines, Suncoast Broadway, and various regional dance schools. Most recently, Emily has grown to learn and love the ins and outs of running a theater as Patron Relations Manager for Suncoast Broadway and now, at ECTC!



TRENTON BAINBRIDGE
Managing Director/ Teaching Artist

Trenton Bainbridge is proud to join team ECTC as Managing Director. Trenton is originally from Odessa, MO but happily calls Florida home. Trenton received his BFA from Roosevelt University's Theatre Conservatory of Chicago College of Performing Arts where he majored in Musical Theatre and minored in voice. After graduating he started his career performing in theaters across the country but soon found the love of traveling the world and performing aboard Norwegian Cruise Line. Shortly, after a couple of contracts, he met his wife and they continued to work for Norwegian Cruise Line for several years. After cruising they decided to settle in Florida, working for theaters such as The Wick, Broward Stage Door, American Stage, and Suncoast Broadway. One of the proudest moments of his career was co-producing and performing "Roque Cirque," an original rock aerial show, with his wife Emily. At Suncoast Broadway, he was soon granted the new position in management where he operated for 4 years as production manager and eventually took over the role as the general manager of the theater. Trenton is thrilled to translate that experience into his new role as Managing Director of ECTC!



HEATH CARROLL Education and Outreach Director

Heath has been involved with theatre since his awkward teenage years. He discovered the stage and decided quickly to make it his life's pursuit. He received his Associate's degree from Chipola College and his Bachelor's from the University of West Florida. While at West Florida, he crewed for Ballet Pensacola, the Pensacola Opera, and was a member of "Improvable Cause" Improv Troupe. Favorite credits include apprenticing with the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company (Thousand Oaks, CA) for two seasons as an actor/crewmember and writing the book for "Canteen" (New York, NY). He has been in Fine Arts Education for the last 10 years, where he continues to write and produce new scripts for young actors.

MEET OUR STAFF



ANNA FISHER
Associate Artistic/ Education Director

Anna Fisher is a Destin native and is the Associate Artistic and Education Director and cofounder of Emerald Coast Theatre Company. After growing up in Destin she is thrilled to have returned to her roots here on the Emerald Coast to create opportunities for the children here that were not available to her as a child. She graduated with her B.A. in English Literature from Samford University and went on to receive her Master's in Theatre Studies from Regent University. Anna enjoys every facet of the stage and and has become well versed in the art of directing, producing, design, costuming, prop construction, writing, and teaching. Some of her recent favorite projects include costume and props designer for The Fantasticks, Around the World in 80 Days, Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, and Pinkalicious the Musical. Since founding Emerald Coast Theatre Company she has worked on over 66 productions. When she's not busy writing theatre curriculum, building props, organizing costumes, and teaching young thespians, you can find her relaxing at the beach with her husband Nathanael and their twin daughters Mia and Bella, and the littlest Fisher, Zoe Claire.



NATHANAEL FISHER
Producing Artistic Director

Nathanael Fisher is the cofounder of Emerald Coast Theatre Company (ECTC). A Florida native, Nathanael received his B.A. in Theatre Studies from Palm Beach Atlantic University and later went on to receive his M.F.A. in Acting at Regent University, Immediately, following undergraduate studies, his professional career was launched through the Equity Membership Candidacy Program at Jupiter Theatre. Nathanael has had the pleasure of performing on many of the stages throughout Florida, including American Stage, Eckert Theatre Co., Burt Reynolds Theatre, Angel Garden Theatre, Ballet Florida, The Mark II, Riverside Theatre, and Seaside Music Theatre and on stages across the United States. Favorite roles include Chris in All My Sons, Pete in Crazy for You, Sohovic in Damn Yankees, Gerry in Dancing at Lughnasa, and Rochefort in Ken Ludwig's adaptation of The Three Musketeers. As a producer, he has presented two projects at the Orlando International Fringe Festival and founded the Regent Educational Theatre Tour that performed abridged Shakespeare and socially relevant plays for middle and high school students. Nathanael has directed productions of reasons to be pretty, A Christmas Carol, and Anton in Show Business at University of West Florida and adapted and directed A Christmas Carol into a three actor play called A Dickens Christmas for ECTC. Nathanael has also written several Theatre for Young Audiences plays (The Pirate Who Learns to Say Please, Pirate Pete and the Case of the Missing Fisherman, and The Adventures of Andy the Angler) as well as directed over 40 productions for ECTC. Over the course of his career, Nathanael has directed Shakespeare, children's theatre, theatre for young audiences, and professional theatre, as well as taught theatre classes for ages 6 through adult. He is considered an "Actor Combatant" with the Society of American Fight Directors having passed skills proficiency tests in unarmed, broadsword, quarterstaff, and rapier/dagger stage combat. Nathanael lives in Santa Rosa Beach with his wife Anna, the littlest Fisher Zoe, and twin teen daughters Mia and Bella.



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WESLEY GERNSETTERProduction Assistant

Wes Gernstetter is thrilled to join the team at ECTC! Before attending Florida State University, Wes spent five years working in theatre, both on the stage and off. He has since graduated with a Bachelors in Digital Media Production, and aims to use his knowledge to grow the media presence and support the technical needs of ECTC. In addition to loving every aspect of the theatre, Wes also enjoys filmmaking, and can be found writing and working on different films in his free time.



REBECA LAKE
Set Designer/ Actress/ Teaching Artist

Rebeca Lake is a set designer, actress, and educational instructor. Her collegiate education began at Northwest Florida State College, and Rebeca continued on to receive two Bachelor of Arts from the University of Mobile, double majoring in Music and Theatre. She graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with her MFA in Technical Theatre with an Emphasis in Scenic Design. During her time there, her design work was nominated for and received and award from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. For the past three years Rebeca was an Associate Professor of Theatre at the University of Mobile until she joined ECTC in August 2019 as the full time Technical Director and leader of the Junior Thespian Troupe.



TAYLOR WALKER
Costume Designer/ Teaching Artist

So pleased to find a place on ECTC staff, Taylor is thrilled to pursue her passions of education, costuming, and performance all in one place. Though you could count her years in Destin on one hand, Taylor is happy to call Florida home. She was born and raised in South Dakota where she attended college and discovered her love of theatre. She pursued every opportunity to design and perform in college, to equal over thirty productions before graduating with her degree in Early Childhood Education and a minor in Theatre. Taylor looks forward to bringing shows to life on stage through costume designs. She is most excited, however, to work with all the amazing students that come into Emerald Coast Theatre Company. When she isn't whipping up a costume or teaching a class, Taylor enjoys baking, board games, and time with loved ones.



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MEET OUR STAFF



ORA WOLFGRAM Production Assistant

With her theatrical debut in Emerald Coast Theatre Company's inaugural educational theatre production of Aladdin in 2013, Ora Wolfgram fell in love with the colorful and lively world of theater. A Northwest Florida native, she has been an active member of the community through volunteering and collaborating with local art organizations, including ECTC where she's volunteered as an assistant instructor, stage manager and production assistant throughout middle school and high school. She is also a member of the Arts & Design Society and the Cultural Arts Alliance. Her breadth of work spans from fine art and illustration to production design and fabrication. Ora received her Bachelor's of Fine Arts from University of Florida in 2023, where she majored in Drawing and minored in Art History and Graphic Design. During that time, she designed props and costumes for UF Florida Players productions 35MM; A Musical Exhibition and Push Up, as well as costumes for ECTC's 2020 summer production of The Tempest. In addition to being an artist and designer, Ora has served as a production assistant for Xanadu, Grease and tech assistant for Broadway on the Boulevard. She is beyond thrilled to join the ECTC family and be a part of where it all began. When she's not in the production studio, Ora enjoys baking sweet treats, creating frocks from vintage patterns, and cuddling with her cat, Precious.





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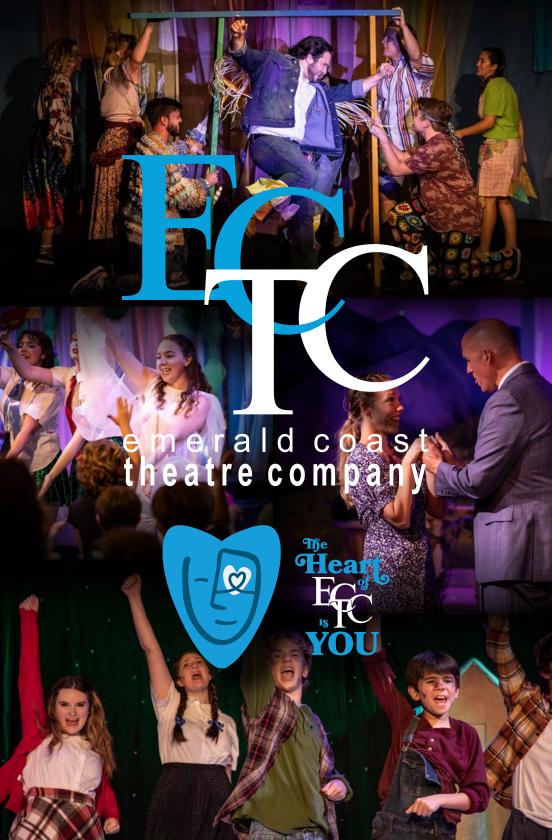
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ARTBEATS

Oscar Wilde phrased it perfectly when he said "I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being." Theatre is the bridge that connects us to each other and allows us to explore different perspectives that we may not have contemplated before. By experiencing dialogue, characters, and situations outside of ourselves, we are able to flex our empathy muscles. It is through this empathy and connection that our lives become more enriched and meaningful. This belief is at the heart of everything Emerald Coast Theatre Company does and everything it seeks to bring to the Emerald Coast Community.

ECTC's mission is to "enrich and entertain the Emerald Coast community through professional and educational theatre." Enrichment through the art of theatre happens in so many ways within our community. Nathanael Fisher, Producing Artistic Director and Co-Founder elaborates on this by stating "What we really do is community. We just do it through the art of theatre." It happens through the entertainment that is offered at ECTC year round, but even more so in the hundreds of tiny "artbeats" that ripple through our beautiful region. Associate Artistic Director and Co-Founder, Anna Fisher, highlights her perspective on the heart of theatre being that of community as well. "Being able to provide audiences with professional theatre performances that create a sense of community can be a safeguard against isolation. It's a cultural event that happens in real time with real people."

Volunteer engagement is a perfect example of this, as more and more people discover the joy of coming to gather at this very special place. Volunteers at ECTC have often said that they feel a greater sense of purpose when they give of their time and skills to help support the theatre. Others have made dear, lifelong friends who have enriched their everyday lives outside of ECTC. Still others have expressed gratitude at having a place where they belong and are appreciated for all that they have to offer.

The Emerald Coast community has embraced ECTC wholeheartedly as evidenced in the 45% increase in audience attendance during Season 10. So many returning patrons and new patrons have come to appreciate the real time benefits of live theatre. There is something about being in the moment and breathing the same air as the actors and people around you that creates an unforgettable experience. It is an ephemeral one time event that can only happen that way, during that time, and in that space. It is a magic of sorts that can never be recreated.

ECTC's educational programs hold a magic of sorts as well, contained in the hearts of every child who walks through the doors. What started as an after school class of ten students in 2013 has grown to a thriving program of over 500 student registrants between the ages of 5 and 18 years old. When surveyed, between 80%–90% of parents cited the biggest reason for enrolling their children in ECTC's theatre programming was because of the self-confidence they have seen develop and grow from this experience. As ECTC's co-founder, Nathanael Fisher, so passionately shares, "in a world that is driven with screens, peer pressure, and bullying, if 90% of the parents are seeing their kids grow their self confidence, that's what I want, that's what ECTC is here for..." There are so many benefits for children who are involved in theatre, including positive emotional maturity, a deeper understanding of their studies, higher literacy rates and test scores, and a more developed ability to imagine a bright future for themselves. Being able to create a world and express emotions and actions through speech, movement, song, and dance helps to develop both self-confidence and empathy for others. Our junior high and high school theatre programs are intentional about shaping our society by creating a place where children can learn how to be empathetic, work well with others, and have the confidence to change the world. These benefits extend beyond the theatre classroom and reach our young audience members through the field trip program as well.

ECTC's Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) productions not only provide a safe and unique family experience that is both interactive and "smartphone free," but also inspires children to learn more about the world

and themselves in the process. Some of these shows bring the pages of popular children's books to life on stage, while others introduce new and inspiring material for children to experience. When children are exposed to live theatre they enjoy many of the same benefits as they would while participating in a theatre class. They see a story from another viewpoint and learn empathy and understanding from multiple perspectives. Teachers are often able to connect learning materials to the field trip shows and create teachable moments that extend seamlessly into the classroom. This is just one more artbeat that reaches into our community through ECTC.

ECTC exists because so many have felt these artbeats in our community and have responded with generous support of their time and resources. Our VIP members, sponsors, donors, patrons, and volunteers have all created a strong foundation upon which ECTC will thrive for many years to come. Please consider joining this generous group of people and supporting the artbeat of ECTC in your community. Here are some of the ways to help and be a part of this unique gem on the Emerald Coast.

You can become a VIP member. Your VIP Membership support allows us to offer a variety of high-quality professional productions for audiences of all ages as well as reach hundreds of children through our educational theatre programs and field trips. Benefits include tickets to the show, first access to booking or buying tickets to any ECTC event, invitation to private VIP events, and other perks (like free wine!) Upper levels of VIP Membership includes all the benefits of the regular VIP Membership and more! The additional donation levels for the Silver, Gold, Platinum and Legacy Membership include a greater, tax deductible financial donation in support of ECTC's professional and educational programs.

You can become a sponsor through your business. Business sponsors enjoy marketing opportunities in the program, on the website, through the ECTC newsletter, social media, and various other platforms as well. We value everyone's contribution to our mission at Emerald Coast Theatre Company and feel that no donation is too small! You can pair your support with your tickets by making a meaningful donation to ECTC as you plan ahead for a fantastic season of performances. Adding a donation (no matter the amount: \$5, \$50, \$500) to your ticket purchase will go far in helping ECTC serve our community.

We depend on our donors each season to join us in enriching our community with the kind of poignant, heartwarming, funny, and thought provoking shows and educational theatre that have become Emerald Coast Theatre Company's signature. No matter how you are involved, we are here because of you! Thank you for partnering with us to continue sending artbeats to the community we all love and live in.



FAMILY OF DONORS

ECTC would like to thank all of our Family of Donors for their generosity.

Below is a list of gifts and pledges made to ECTC's Annual fund as of November 16, 2023.

*Denotes those that combine a donation to ECTC's Annual Fund with the purchase of a VIP Membership.

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Please note: A 50% deposit is due to hold the seats, and the remainder of the balance will be due the week before.

Please email heath@emeraldcoasttheatre.org for more booking information.



JUNIE B JONES

Friday, October 13 - 9AM & 10:30AM Wednesday, October 18 - 9AM & 10:30AM Thursday, October 19 - 9AM & 10:30AM Friday, October 20 - 9AM & 10:30AM



THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG Wednesday, January 31 - 9:30AM



YES, VIRGINIA, There is a santa claus

Friday, December 1 - 9AM & 10:30AM Friday, December 8 - 9AM & 10:30AM





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Thursday, April 4 - 9AM & 10:30AM Friday, April 5 - 9AM & 10:30AM



MARY POPPINS

Wednesday, May 8 - 9:30AM Friday, May 10 - 9:30AM



LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

The Emerald Coast Theatre Company Legacy Endowment Fund is a significant milestone in our commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability and growth of the arts in our community. This fund represents an enduring investment in the vitality and creativity of ECTC, allowing us to expand our artistic reach and enrich the cultural landscape of our region.

The endowment serves a dual purpose: first, to provide a stable financial foundation for our organization, ensuring that we can continue to produce exceptional theater productions and educational programs for years to come. Second, it will facilitate our capacity to explore new artistic horizons, launch innovative projects, and engage in community outreach initiatives that might otherwise be financially challenging. By contributing to the Endowment Fund, you are supporting the legacy of arts and culture in our community, enabling us to thrive and evolve as an organization. The generosity of donors to the endowment will have a lasting impact, empowering us to realize our artistic vision and inspire generations to come.

We invite you to join us in this exciting endeavor to secure a vibrant future for the Emerald Coast Theatre Company and the arts in our community. Together, we can ensure that our stage remains a place of inspiration, education, and entertainment for years to come.

ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTORS

Special thanks to our early contributors for their vision and generosity. Melissa Raulerson, Shirley Simpson, and Anonymous Donor

For more information about the Legacy Endowment Fund or to make an endowment contribution, please contact Anna Fisher, Associate Artistic Director, at anna@emeraldcoasttheatre.org or 850-684-0323.













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VIP Members and Sponsors as of September 1, 2023.

ECTC WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE MEDIA SPONSORS:





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