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# MONTICELLO OPERA HOUSE

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SEASON BOOK  
2022-2023



## Michael Herrin, Executive Director

185 West Washington Street | P O Box 518 | Monticello FL 32345

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## **WELCOME** *from the Board Chair*

Welcome to the Monticello Opera House and its 2022-2023 Season! As this goes to print, we have already enjoyed a production of *The Altos Hit Broadway*, the hilarious sequel to last year's hugely popular *The Altos: Like the Sopranos, Only Lower Murder Mystery Dinner Theater* show.

The rest of the season will provide something for everyone with at least one new production each month: comedies, concerts, mystery plays and special events. See the show listings of this booklet for the schedule.

Keep in mind that the Opera House isn't just an arts venue. It is also the "civic center" of Monticello and a great place for parties, weddings, family reunions and meetings of all sorts. If you're interested in having an event at the Opera House, just call our Executive Director, Mike Herrin, at (850) 997-4242.

See you at the Monticello Opera House!

Jack Williams  
Chair of the Board



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Please join us in our mission to bring the magic of the performing arts to the Big Bend region, and to preserve and restore our rare historic theater for generations to come.

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## **HISTORY** *of the Opera House*

- MOH was built in 1890 by entrepreneur John H. Perkins and designed by renowned architect W.R. Gunn, who designed many civic buildings including the Grand Opera House in Macon, GA.
- It featured retail stores on the ground floor and a 300+ seat theater upstairs.
- The theater held live performances until the early 1900's when a change in the rail system reduced travel to Monticello and theater attendance declined.
- Retail continued downstairs into the late 20th century but the theater remained closed and fell into disrepair. The building was finally slated for demolition in 1972.
- Concerned citizens started a movement to save the building. Initial restoration efforts enabled live performances to return in the early 1980's.
- The theater is noted for its curved wall design which creates near perfect acoustics. The chandeliers are original and were converted to electricity from gas. The balcony seating is also original. The balcony railing is too low to allow for usage by the general public.

There is much more to know!

Tours of Monticello Opera House are available, and will give you a more complete version of the fascinating history of this institution.

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*White* Sauvignon Blanc,  
Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay  
*Sparkling* Prosecco  
*Sweet* Moscato  
*Pink* Rose  
*Red* Pinot Noir, Merlot,  
Cabernet Sauvignon



## **WINE BY THE BOTTLE**

\$20-30. See bartender for availability.



## **COCKTAILS 7**

*Light Liquor*  
Bacardi Light Rum,  
Captain Morgan Spiced Rum,  
Tanqueray Gin, Tito's Vodka  
*Dark Liquor*  
Crown Royal Whiskey,  
Jack Daniels Whiskey, Maker's  
Mark Bourbon, Dewar's Scotch



## **SPECIALTY 10**

Double Shot  
Featured Cocktails,  
Margaritas, White Russians



## **OTHER 1**

Sodas, Juices, Water

*Cash or Credit Card accepted. Drinks allowed in the theater.  
Prices and availability subject to change.*



# MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

Members make it happen!

The Monticello Opera House would like to give special thanks to each and every one of our members who help to make our work possible. These individuals generously give to make sure that arts remain a vital part of the Jefferson County landscape. We are so grateful for their support!

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Book and Lyrics by David Landau  
Music by Killer Tracks  
Directed by Melanie Mays

Our favorite Mafia family from last year's hugely popular *The Altos: Like the Sopranos, Only Lower* is back to open our 2022-23 Season! In this hilarious Murder Mystery Dinner Theater sequel, Tony and Toffee Alto are at it again....Toffee wants to be a Broadway star and Tony needs to "clean" some money. So he hires two producers to mount a hit musical – *The Mafia Queen*. What could possibly go wrong?

## THE ALTOS HIT *Broadway* Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

Sept. 2-24, 2022

By Robert Harling  
Directed by Jessica Brawner Webb

Welcome to Truvy's beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, where all ladies who are "anybody" come to have their hair done. Aided by her eager new assistant, Annelle, wise-cracking Truvy dispenses shampoos and advice to the town's rich curmudgeon Ouiser; an eccentric millionaire, Miss Clairee; the local social leader, M'Lynn; and her daughter, Shelby, the "prettiest girl in town." Filled with hilarious repartee and revealing verbal collisions, this play speaks to the underlying strength—and love—of true friendship.

## Steel Magnolias

Oct. 14-30, 2022



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Music and Lyrics by David Nehls  
Book by Betsy Kelso  
Directed by Robert Nelson

There's a new tenant at Armadillo Acres—and she's wreaking havoc all over Florida's most exclusive trailer park. When Pippi, the stripper on the run, comes between the Dr. Phil-loving, agoraphobic Jeannie and her tollbooth collector husband—the storms begin to brew. A Greek-chorus-like trio of trailer park women helps guide the story, playing any character or gender they choose while breaking the fourth wall at whim to air their own dirty laundry. The result is a sense of informality and community – the lifeblood of neighborhoods everywhere. Contains strong adult language and themes.



Nov. 4-20, 2022

Written by Noel Coward  
Directed by Melanie Mays

To gather background for his new book, novelist Charles Condomine and his second wife, Ruth, invite the extremely eccentric medium, Madame Arcati, to perform a séance. But Charles' spiritual skepticism vanishes when the ghost of his deceased first wife, Elvira, accidentally materializes—but only to him. Elvira's still in love and wants Charles back, and is not about to let a little thing like death stand in her way! From the delightfully wicked mind of Noël Coward comes *Blithe Spirit*, where love and marriage devolve into laughter and mayhem – and 'Till Death Do Us Part' no longer applies.

# BLITHE SPIRIT

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Jan. 13-29, 2023



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Directed by Liane Giroux

Our interactive and fun-filled MMDT performances are a “let your hair down” good time! Held in the downstairs Perkins Banquet Hall, the show is performed in between courses of the meal. Audience participation is welcome but not required. You’ll have a chance to play super-sleuth and determine who-dunnit, and the best detectives will win prizes including tickets to a future MMDT show!

# MURDER MYSTERY

*Dinner Theater*

Mar. 24-Apr.15, 2023

By Francis Goodrich and Albert  
Hackett

Adapted by Wendy Kesselman

Directed by Jeff Mandell

This moving and profoundly important drama, drawn from previously unpublished portions of Anne Frank’s famous memoirs, follows Anne’s precarious coming-of-age time as she and her family hide in a secret annex space above her father’s former office in Amsterdam, while the Nazis are deporting Dutch Jews to their deaths. In spite of her oppressive circumstances and the horrors that surround her, Anne’s spirit transcends, as she voices her belief, “in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart.”

# THE DIARY OF *Anne Frank*

May 19 - June 4, 2023



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## IMPORTANT DATES!

### March 1<sup>st</sup>

Applications for exemptions, agricultural and  
conservation classifications are due

### April 1<sup>st</sup>

Tangible Personal Property returns are due

### August (mid-month)

Truth In Millage (TRIM) notices mailed

### September (mid month)

Value Adjustment Board Petitions due  
(see date on TRIM Notice)  
Last Chance to update names & addresses  
as they will appear on November Tax Bills

Based on a short play by Alex  
Brookins. Script and lyrics  
by Melanie Mays.  
Music by Tod Barnard.  
Directed, music direction, and  
choreography by Melanie Mays.

Three little kittens, Kiki, George,  
and Tuna, have lost their mittens. So  
they begin a perilous journey to find  
them, meet some Bad Dogs along the  
way, and wind up in the Dog Pound!  
Mama cat, Duchess, is worried sick  
about her kittens. She hires Detective  
Sam Spadenneuter to sniff out their  
trail and find the lost kittens. It's a  
show full of fun and adventure and a  
few hairballs along the way.

# HOT DOGS, COOL CATS

*presented with*  
*The Monticello Acting & Dance Company*

**June 13-17, 2023**

By James Baldwin  
Directed by Bryan Mitchell

A scalding, uplifting, sorrowful, and  
exultant masterpiece of the modern  
American theater, *The Amen Corner*  
is a play about faith and family,  
about the gulf between black men  
and black women and black fathers  
and black sons. For years Sister  
Margaret Alexander has moved her  
Harlem congregation with a mixture  
of personal charisma and ferocious  
piety. But when Margaret's estranged  
husband, a scapegrace jazz musician,  
comes home to die, she is in danger of  
losing both her standing in the church  
and the son she has tried to keep on  
the godly path.



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SMR returns with their annual multiple artist concert featuring this region's best folk, country and American roots music artists.

### **THE KRICKETS AND THE CURRYS** **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW** **December 17, 2022**

These two nationally acclaimed folk and country music groups with Florida pan-handle roots return to the Opera House stage for their hugely popular annual holiday concert.

### **A NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE** **February 27, 2023**

Top-ranking tribute artist Keith Allyn presents a magical evening of love, romance, comedy, surprises and Neil Diamond favorites such as "Sweet Caroline," "Song Sung Blue," "Hello Again" and many more.

### **GAELIC STORM IN CONCERT** **April 6, 2023**

After two decades of touring in over 2,000 shows, this multi-national, Celtic juggernaut attributes their success to their fanatic and will diversified audience, with country-music folks who adore their storytelling, bluegrass buffs who love their instrumentals, Celtic fans who appreciate their devotion to tradition, and rockers who simply relish the passion with which they play their instruments.

### **AN EVENING WITH MARVIN** **GOLDSTEIN** **May 13, 2023**

For over sixty years, the captivating Tallahassee native Marvin Goldstein, an acclaimed pianist and highly sought-out performer, has extensively traveled and performed at places such as the Sydney Opera House, the Jerusalem YMCA, throughout Europe, Egypt, South America, Canada, and Mexico, and has also recorded over 50 albums.

*Keep visiting our website throughout the season  
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## Come Help Jefferson County Become Tobacco Free in the Community!

### About the Partnership

The Tobacco Free Jefferson Partnership is a coalition of Localcitizens seeking to contribute to the creation of a tobacco-free cultural norm in Jefferson County through education, youth advocacy and partnerships.

Our partnership works with the Jefferson County Health Department to coordinate and organize local initiatives to support tobacco-free Lifestyle

### Why should I Join?

**PROMOTE** adult and youth partnerships to support and encourage tobacco-free strategies and tobacco cessation.

Help **PREVENT** the use of tobacco products by children, teens and young adults.

**REDUCE** or eliminate the health hazards of second-hand smoke.

**PROVIDE** information regarding the potentially harmful effects of youth-targeted advertising and marketing.

### How to Join?

To Volunteer, contact Anna Messick at 850-427-4041.



## WHAT DOES THE *Monticello* JEFFERSON CO. CHAMBER DO?

THE MONTICELLO-JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROVIDES SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS TO ENHANCE THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS WELL AS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE GREATER MONTICELLO AREA.

*What do YOU want to do  
with the Chamber?*



Monticello-Jefferson County  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## WEDDINGS & RENTALS

The Monticello Opera House is a perfect venue for your special day!

We have top-notch amenities available locally to help your celebration be special in every way. Start with the Garden Courtyard to set up the ideal photographic setting to hold your ceremony and end with our ample Perkins Banquet Hall where your guests can mingle with pleasure. Or go for a truly memorable and unique wedding ceremony and take your vows on the historic opera house stage!

Catering your event is easy with our professional kitchen on site and interacting with our staff will make your wedding planning streamlined from start to finish. Our experience with weddings helps us help you at each step of the way. Wedding rates at our location are some of the most competitive available.

Call today for more information and to set up an appointment to view the space. 850-997-4242 or email: [director@monticellooperahouse.org](mailto:director@monticellooperahouse.org)



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