

STAGE

"At Thursday's general membership meeting, Starkville Community Theatre elected new leadership and chose the shows for its next season at the Playhouse on Main. Current President-Elect Abigail Voller will be assuming the Presidency when the organization's fiscal year begins in July, while current President Paula Mabry will transition into a two-year advisory role as Past President.

Remaining as Secretary will be Lorraine Hughes. Newly elected volunteers include Ben Lang as Vice President for Membership, Nancy Walsh as Vice President for Play Selection, Sandra Sistrunk as Treasurer, and Lynn Spruill as President-Elect.

SCT's Board of Directors is getting five new members this year: Ann Bonner, in a one-year term to replace departing Board member Judy Leonard; Stacy Clark, in a two-year term to replace current Board member Sandra Sistrunk, who is ascending to Treasurer; and, serving three-year terms, Kris Lee, Heather McGinn, and Pickett Wilson.

Current Board members John Brocato, Tom Carskadon, Susan Diehl, and Kathi Hester will continue to serve next season.

In addition to elections, SCT approved a proposal for this summer's musical fundraiser performance.

SCT Unplugged 2 will open in July, directed by Carole Sorenson. Featuring several area musicians, this revue-style performance of popular acoustic rock, oldies, and more is the sequel to 2012's well-received *SCT Unplugged*. Performance and audition dates will be finalized and announced soon.

SCT also voted to accept a slate of shows for its next four-show regular season, including a fifth season-extra show that will not be included as part of its 2016-2017 subscription ticket.

The season will begin in September with the romantic comedy-drama *The Cemetery Club* by Ivan Menchell. Three feisty Jewish widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands' graves.

Ida is sweet-tempered and ready to begin a new life. Lucille just wants to have fun. Doris is priggish and judgmental, particularly when widower Sam the butcher enters the scene and initiates a courtship with Ida. Will Ida and Sam get a second chance at happiness, or will the meddling Lucille and Doris ruin things before they start?

November will see the opening of the hilarious *Urinetown - The Musical* by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollman. Don't worry - the deliberately awful title is part of the joke.

A decades-long drought has led the government to regulate water consumption to the point where all private bathrooms have been outlawed, and everyone must pay their hard-earned pennies to use public toilets. A ragtag, down-on-their-luck group of poor citizens are led in a revolution by a head-in-the-clouds young dreamer named Bobby Strong to challenge the authority of the corrupt businessman who controls all the city's "amenities."



Gabe Smith

Winner of multiple Tony Awards and critics citations, *Urinetown* satirically skewers everything from municipal politics to social irresponsibility to musical theatre itself, with side-splitting and unexpectedly poignant results. And it's all set to a soaring and memorable score, with ballads, production numbers, and even a toe-tapping gospel song.

In February, our third show will be the drama *Silent Sky* by Lauren Gunderson.

When Henrietta Leavitt begins work at the Harvard Observatory in the male-dominated early 1900s, she isn't allowed to touch a telescope or even to openly express her original ideas on astronomy. With a team of other dedicated female scientists, Henrietta attempts to newly quantify the light from stars, while trying to balance her dedication to her work with family obligations and the possibility of love. This inspiring true story salutes Henrietta and her peers as they seek to chart trails of scientific and social progress, changing the way we understand both the heavens and Earth.

Our regular season will close in April of 2017 with *Incorruptible*, an outrageous farce by Michael Hollinger.

Dubbed as "A Dark Comedy About the Dark Ages", this show takes you back to 1250 A.D. in rural France, where a struggling monastery with a patron saint, Ste. Foy, that hasn't produced a miracle in thirteen years. All eyes turn to the Pope, whose promised visit will surely encourage pilgrims to make the trek and restore the abbey to its former glory. Unfortunately, a rival church claims to have unearthed relics of Ste. Foy and that the saint's bones are now working miracles for them. All seems lost until the destitute monks take a lesson from a larcenous one-eyed minstrel, who teaches them an outrageous new way to pay old debts.

Outside the regular season, SCT will present the extra comedy *Fools* by Neil Simon in May of 2017.

Idealistic young Leon has landed his first teaching job in an idyllic Russian hamlet. When he arrives he finds people sweeping dust from their stoops back into their houses and people milking cows upside down to get more cream.

A centuries-old curse has left the townsfolk chronically stupid, and only Leon can set things right. Falling immediately in love with a girl who in her twenties has only recently learned how to sit down, Leon himself will turn dumb if he can't discover a way to break the curse within his first 24 hours in the town limits.

Directors have not yet been chosen for next season's productions. More information on the shows, including audition and performance dates, will be released soon. Season ticket sales will begin this summer. For more information on pricing and how to buy a season pass, please send an email to cao@sct-online.org.