

**FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**  
**MARK THODE**



Friends, the PAC stage is buzzing many nights a week with various rehearsals. We had a busy holiday season with Davina & The Vagabonds, the Opland Singers and Arts & Mentoring Project's 2nd production of Scrooge: The Musical. Performances were well attended, and we are thankful to our audience for choosing local holiday entertainment in downtown Pipestone.

What many people may not understand... is how active our space is in between events. It may seem like our lights are only on every 4 to 6 weeks for a public event, but there are many days of rehearsal and preparation that take place prior to bringing in an audience. The PAC is used more than 230 days out of the year with active rehearsals, auditions, public events, private events, and meetings.

The Calumet Players planned to bring you a comedy in February titled "Cry It Out". Their leadership made the hard decision to pull this title from their season line-up, and instead produce a murder mystery / dinner theater event on February 23rd

and 24th. Dinner will be catered by the Lake Benton Country House and a cash-bar will be provided by Staci's Bar & Grill of Woodstock. Dinner will be served at 7:00p. Advance tickets are required, so get them right away through the PAC Box Office.

Children's Theater is rehearsing 5 nights a week, and the Al Opland Singers are rehearsing every Monday night and will soon be adding Tuesday nights to their rehearsal schedule. The Children's Theater will have their public performances on March 22-24, and the Al Opland Singers will present their spring production titled "Ways of Peace" for one weekend on April 4th-7th.

I'll wrap up my note by encouraging anyone who is interested in getting involved with our organization to reach out. We are in need of Box Office personnel to sell tickets, ushers, volunteers in the scene shop, and dedicated members for our different committees. We are very thankful for our generous donors and various grant fund resources. The greatest gift you can give is your time. Either it be through participating on stage or working behind the scenes, it takes many hours and many hands to keep the gears working here at the PAC.

**Board of Directors & Officers**



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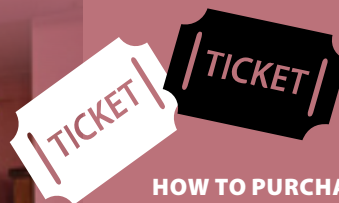
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Pipestone Performing Arts Center newsletter is published quarterly: August, November, February, and May by The Pipestone Performing Arts Center, Inc. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Arts Center Board members or staff. The PPAC, Inc.'s mission is to provide facilities, leadership, and encouragement of the arts through education, advancement, and presentation of a wide range of activities contributing to the enrichment of cultural life for the benefit of all in our community. Pipestone Performing Arts Center, Inc. is a 501(c)3 Public Tax Exempt Corporation, and any contribution is fully tax deductible. *Some of the activities are made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the SW MN Arts Council and the Minnesota State Arts Board thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.* To Contact Us: Mark Thode, Managing Director: (605) 838-7043, email: [director@pipestoneperformingartscenter.com](mailto:director@pipestoneperformingartscenter.com) // Box Office (Tickets) Tues-Fri 12p-4p: (507) 825-2020 or (877) 722-2787 // [www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com](http://www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com)

# Ticket Box Office



**HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS TO ONE OF OUR EVENTS**

- Call (507) 825.2020 Tuesday through Friday between 12:00p and 4:00p.
- Visit the Box Office in person at the Pipestone Performing Arts Center in Historic Downtown Pipestone between 12:00p and 4:00p (located in the lobby)
- Visit our website using a computer, smarhphone or tablet at [www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com](http://www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com)

**Box Office: (507) 825.2020**

**[www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com](http://www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com)**



STARRING

EMILY BLAESER

JOHN SULLIVAN

MONICA SULLIVAN

JESS POTTS

WALLY POTTS

TOBY POTTS

SYLVIA NEWELL

ALAN RIEDEL

A  
MURDER  
MYSTERY &  
DINNER THEATER  
EVENT

**FEBRUARY 23 & 24**

DINNER SERVED AT 7:00 PM

SEATING STARTS AT 6:30 PM

# SPUD LAKE CABIN SCANDAL

PRESENTED BY



WRITTEN &  
DIRECTED BY  
**KATRINA  
HART**

PPAC BOX OFFICE  
507-825-2020 or  
877-722-2787  
TUES-FRI 12P-4P

The Calumet Players of Pipestone are partnering with the Lake Benton Country House and Staci's Bar & Grill of Woodstock to bring a Murder Mystery weekend to Pipestone County February 23 & 24, 2024. The "Spud Lake Cabin Scandal" comes to the Pipestone Performing Arts Center for two performances along with two murder mystery dinners hosted by the Lake Benton Country House with a refreshing cash-bar provided by Staci's Bar & Grill. The meal will include hors d'oeuvres, Tater-Tot-Hotdish, Jello or Oreo fluff, fresh dinner rolls, and dessert.

The murder mystery dinners are interactive dinner theater performances; guests will enjoy a classic Northern Minnesota meal and share in the development and storytelling of this performance. A cast of Calumet Player veteran actors will headline the show. The setting is a relaxed family gathering at the family cabin (so dress should be casual). Bring your Minnesota accents!

The story goes - a married couple: Jak and Liv, wanted to have a reunion at the cabin of Jak's grandmother. Liv invited her family and Jak's family to come for homemade food (prepared by Jaks brother) and a night of fun, games, food and laughter. Who knew something bad was going to happen?

Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m., but nobody likes to keep grandma Annie waiting, so arrive on time.

Tickets are available at the Pipestone Performing Arts Center Box Office, Tuesday through Friday between 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can call 507-825-2020 or 877-722-2787 or you can also get tickets online at [www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com](http://www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com) at any time. Ticket prices are \$40 (includes the meal and performance). There is a limit of 50 tickets per performance, so please get your tickets early. Reservations are required, no tickets will be sold at the door. Performances are one weekend only on Friday, February 23 and Saturday, February 24. The event starts at 7:00 p.m. each night, and seating will start at 6:30 p.m.

*The Dinner Menu Includes*  
**HORS D'OEUVRES, HOMEMADE  
TATER-TOT HOTDISH, JELLO OR  
OREO FLUFF, FRESH BUNS & DESSERT**

*Dinner Catered By*  
**LAKE BENTON  
COUNTRY HOUSE**

*Cash Bar Provided By*  
**STACI'S  
BAR & GRILL**

# Youth Drama Takes The PAC Stage In March



This year Calumet Players Children's Theater is pleased to present their 2024 Spring Show in their traditional two show format once again. Please come out and support the hard work put in by all of the young actresses and actors.

**"Holmes on the Range"** by Craig Sodaro • Directed by Collene Landgren • Grades 1-4

**"Young Sherlock"** by Craig Sodaro • Directed by Amberlie Haak • Grades 5-8

On the surface, children's theater seems simple: a few over-the-top characters, some brightly-colored costumes, a simple plot borrowed from a children's book and maybe a catchy song or two. It's an hour spent together as family, then it is back to the "real world," as the on-stage images fade into a distant memory. Children's theater and youth drama programs have a powerful impact on children and their development. Studies show that engaging in imaginative activities like theater fosters increased intelligence. Seeing the world through a new perspective helps young minds imagine new worlds, new possibilities, and new ideas. Children who attend live theater have shown greater tolerance of different people and ideas, as well as increased empathy for others. They show a better understanding of reading materials and they view social study concepts in a new light as history comes alive in front of their eyes. There is no doubt that theater not only entertains, but also enhances children's lives in many ways.

"Without theatre, children not only miss out on an amazing artistic experience, but they lose the chance to experience an endless amount of learning opportunities. With exposure that not only raises school performance, but also encourages creativity, culture, communication, patience, morals, and imagination, an afternoon at the theatre is something that cannot be overlooked." - Danica Taylor

The Pipestone Performing Arts Center and the Calumet Players have provided children's theater programming to the Pipestone community for many years. We are proud this tradition has continued, and we are thankful to the many volunteers who make youth drama an opportunity to our area's youth. This year we welcome back the leadership of Collene Landgren and Amberlie Haak. It takes hours of rehearsal, organization, script reading, set building and costume creation to bring this programming to our stage. They and other past volunteers, have invested their time and energy to make it all possible. We are indebted to their service to the Pipestone Performing Arts Center and it's resident community theater group the Calumet Players.

Tickets will be \$10/Adults and \$7/Students as General Admission only, no reserved seating; tickets available in the Pipestone Performing Arts Center lobby one hour prior to show time! Produced with special permission by the author and by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado.



# Show Descriptions

## “Holmes on the Range”

Join the buffoonery and fun as Sherlock Holmes and, of course, his associate, Dr. Watson, investigate yet another murder in this clever farce. Poor Sy Raited, the owner of a knife company, has been slain. The entire cast of suspicious characters all have a possible motive: Claudia Celluloid, the famous movie star; Edgar McMuffin, the hamburger magnate; Dr. Fixit, the scientist; and many more! Watch as our sharp sleuth carefully unravels the mystery and the surprise motive behind it all! You will love the clever tongue-in-cheek humor and will be on the edge of your seats with hilarious uncertainty as Holmes and Watson solve the mystery at Bicuspid Manor.

This production features our first through fourth graders and is directed by Collene Landgren.

## “Young Sherlock”

Take a trip back in time to when young Sherlock Holmes was a student at Butterworth Academy. Two girls are kidnapped from the school, and John Watson hopes his friend and classmate will be able to solve his first crime. Despite a psychic, Madame Lulu, appearing on the scene and guaranteeing to find the students, the bumbling, inept Constable Bing begins his own investigation. When the psychic suddenly finds the girls after the parents have paid the large fee demanded in the mysterious ransom note, Sherlock is suspicious. He sets a trap to snare the criminal, launching his career as a great detective who can solve crimes even before the police can.

Our young actors love the fun action and dialogue of this intriguing mystery that delightfully brings together many well-known characters. This production features our fifth through eighth graders and is directed by Amberlie Haak.

## Photos From Last Year



AL  
**OPL&ND**  
SINGERS



**WAYS  
OF  
PEACE**

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

7:30 pm Showtime on Thurs-Sat  
Sunday matinee at 2:00 pm



Peace is a priceless commodity in a world that is anything but peaceful, but the Al Opland Singers will reveal to their audience ways to open their eyes and heart to the ways of finding peace in the world around us. Experiencing peace through music, in nature, connection to others, loving the Opland Singers share their love for creating beautiful music that is sure to fill everyone's soul with peace and joy.

Sit back, take a deep, slow breath, and let all your worries be washed away by "Ways of Peace" presented by Al Opland Singers on one weekend only, April 4-7, 2024, at Pipestone Performing Arts Center in Pipestone, MN.

Can You Feel the Love Tonight? As We Cover the World With Love, we are certain that guests will be inspired to see how our communities are Better

**TICKETS**

\$20 for Adults • \$5 for Students

Together. With a message of Shalom, we lift up our Kaleidoscope Hearts with the goal to Let the Sunshine In upon seeing The Light of a Clear Blue Morning. These performances are sure to be Glorious, so if you are Wanting Memories, invite someone you love and get your reserved ticket today!

Tickets are available at the PPAC Box Office, Tues-Fri from 12:00p-4:00p, or call 507-825-2020 or 877-722-2787. You can also get tickets online at [www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com](http://www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com), all seating is reserved, \$20 for Adults and \$5 for Students. Performances are one weekend only on April 4, 5, 6 at 7:30pm and April 7 at 2pm.

**PPAC BOX OFFICE**

**507-825-2020 or 877-722-2787**

**TUES-FRI 12P-4P**

[www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com](http://www.pipestoneperformingartscenter.com)



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



# OUR STORY

In 1947 - Al Opland, vocal and instrumental music instructor at the Pipestone High School, organized the Pipestone Male Chorus. The group first performed in a yearly concert with the United Male Choruses of Southern Minnesota. A yearly Spring Concert was added in the early 1960's. In late 1977, officers of the Male Chorus contacted three female singers in Pipestone— Mary Ann Yseth, Jeanine Olson and AnnaBelle Gilmore. They urged them to organize a chorus of 25 women to join with the Male Chorus and sing in the Pipestone Male Chorus's 1978 Spring Concert. After an enthusiastic reception, the women became a permanent organization on their own: the Pipestone Women's Chorus.

In 1979 the two groups performed spring concerts in Pipestone, Ruthton, and Lake Benton. Soon a Christmas concert was added and quickly became a tradition in Pipestone and surrounding communities. By 1980 the two choruses combined and honored their director by naming themselves the Al Opland Singers. Then in the Fall of 1983 the first Dinner Theater show was held and continued to be presented through the fall of 1997.

The Al Opland Singers were determined to carry on Allen Opland's love of music and standard of excellence after his passing in 1984.

The shows that the Opland Singers put on include solos, mixed ensembles, duets and barbershop along with dancing, glamorous costumes & dialogue. The group used to travel around the surrounding area to perform. The home performance venue was originally the Pipestone High School auditorium, but the group also traveled to put on shows at the Lake Benton Opera House, the Ruthton School Gym, as well as venues in Edgerton, Jasper, and Luverne, Minnesota. The Al Opland Singers no longer travel, but perform four shows each season (Christmas & Spring) at the Pipestone Performing Arts Center, which was opened for business in 1993.

The Al Opland Singers' performances cover many genres of music, including excerpts from Broadway musicals, popular songs, sacred and secular Christmas music, patriotic songs, as well as spirituals. However, the shows are not limited to music. Musicals, plays and smaller sections of each have been performed over the years.

# Lasting *Legacies*

The performing arts enriches the lives of all who take part in it, on either side of the stage lights. In an age when we often stream content isolated in our homes, the theater keeps small towns like ours vibrant and vital. Sitting in a collective, communal space, side by side, is a transformative community experience.

We owe our gratitude to the generous donors who've supported us over 30 years. Without their contributions, we couldn't sustain our operations. Local businesses and organizations have been steadfast Underwriters season after season. You can see a current list of the Underwriters featured on the next spread. These Underwriters keep ticket prices accessible for our Presenter Series events which have been a great success in bringing regional professional acts to the Pipestone Performing Arts Center.

Among the many, many donors, there is one individual who deserves a special mention. The Pipestone Performing Arts Center was the recipient of an exceptional gift and challenge in 2008 by Deeann Griebel, who established an endowment in memory of her aunt, Betty Rickerman. With \$25,000 raised locally, this endowment equaled an incredible \$145,000. According to Deeann, the Endowment and challenge was to "help create a sense of community!" In response, the Pipestone Performing Arts Center Foundation was established.

Live events require a diverse range of skills from numerous individuals behind the scenes. Often, as audience members, we don't get to witness the dedicated puppeteers dressed in black, pulling strings, operating buttons, sewing costumes, painting sets or board members who have served year after year. Our organizations have thrived thanks to countless loyal volunteers, technicians and board members.

Artists have certainly made their mark on these organizations, but it's heartwarming to see how the groups, in turn, have woven their influence into the lives of those who've generously shared their time and talents. Many people, from all walks of life, have entered and exited our stage during that time. But a few familiar faces and stars of our theater have left a lasting legacy. We would like to recognize and pay tribute to these puppeteers and ring masters of the Pipestone Performing Arts Center.







## Galen Dalin

1927-2005

With a background and education in social studies, english and speech, Galen was the chairman of the High School Speech Department and directed plays for 36 years. He brought these gifts and talents to the original task force of the Pipestone Performing Arts Center in 1992, and would continue to serve on the board for many years, and as president. You would often find Galen wearing a headset up in the light booth. The PPAC is a beneficiary of the Galen and Darline Dalin trust. Galen and Darline have left a lasting legacy on the PPAC that will last generations.



## Allen Opland

1918-1984

Pipestone's very own Music Man. The PPAC's roots can be traced back to the legacy of Al Opland. He earned dozens of prestigious awards and his music groups earned scores of honors. He was posthumously named to the Minnesota Music Educators Hall of Fame in 1999 and was inducted as one of the first members of the Pipestone Area Instrumental Hall of Fame in 2008. His attention to detail also produced one of the finest band reputations in the area. His impact on his students and community members is what led to the creation of this space.



## Les Kallsen

1927-2015

Les served on the Pipestone Performing Arts Center board for many years and as President. He was active in fund-raising and grant writing during his time on the board. Les performed in and directed numerous productions for the Calumet Players and the Al Opland Singers.



## Jim Hintermeister

1932-2022

A man of many talents, he was a factotum of the Pipestone Performing Arts Center from 1992 to 2006, serving as the House Manager and Photographer, among many other titles that kept this special place vibrant and well. He kept a detailed, photographic record of all of the productions that took place on the PPAC stage in the first decade and a half.

*“ When you reach for the stars, all you get are the stars. But... when you reach for the heavens, you get the stars thrown in. ”*

*- Mary Poppins*

# 30<sup>th</sup> SEASON EVENTS CALENDAR

*A Night to Remember*  
a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**30<sup>th</sup> SEASON OPENER**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**  
Showtime at 7:30 p.m.

**Dennis Warner**  
Folk / Americana  
Free to the public

In partnership with  
the Plum Creek  
Library System  
Annual Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Showtime at 6:30 p.m.

**Calmet PLAYERS**  
*Steel Magnolias*  
Comedy / Drama  
Community Theater Play

**OCTOBER 13-15 & 20-22**  
Evenings at 7:30 p.m., Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

*Davina the Vagabonds*  
Christmas Concert

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Showtime at 7:30 p.m.

**AL OPL&ND SINGERS**  
Finding the Hope of Christmas

**NOVEMBER 30, DECEMBER 1, 2 & 3**  
Evenings at 7:30 p.m., Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

**SCROOGE**  
the MUSICAL  
BY LESLIE BRICSS

**DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> - DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Evenings at 7:30 p.m., Matinees at 2:00 p.m.

**Pat Donohue & Friends**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Showtime at 2:00 p.m.

**Calmet PLAYERS**  
Murder Mystery  
Dinner Theater

**SPUD LAKE CABIN SCANDAL**

**FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Dinner Served at 7:00 p.m.

**Calmet PLAYERS CHILDREN'S THEATER**

**MARCH 22, 23 & 24**  
Evenings at 7:00 p.m., Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

**Ways of Peace**  
AL OPL&ND SINGERS

**APRIL 4, 5, 6 & 7**  
Evenings at 7:30 p.m., Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

**The Addams Family**  
A MUSICAL COMEDY  
**Calmet PLAYERS**

**JUNE 20-23 & 27-30**  
Evenings at 7:30 p.m., Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

**JOHNNY CASH & NEIL DIAMOND**  
tribute

**SATURDAY, JULY 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Showtime at 7:30 p.m.

## PPAC GENERAL FUND / ALL DONORS AS OF JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2024

The Pipestone Performing Arts Center, Inc. recognizes and is grateful to the individuals, families, businesses, resident arts groups and government agencies that help maintain our facilities by generously supporting our Center's work through contributions to the 2024 Annual Fund Drive that started September 1, 2023 and runs through August 31, 2024. The list includes current donors and those who have faithfully pledged and contributed for the current financial year but not yet paid.

### LEGACY (\$5000 & ABOVE)

Barbara Kaye Anderson  
Galen & Darline Dalin  
Decann Griebel  
City of Pipestone  
Dave & Marlyce Logan  
Schuster Family

### PATRONS (\$1000-\$4999)

Kathryn & Dominic Allocco  
Betty Ann Bullis  
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Carol Haubrich  
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David & Pamela Sonnichsen

### SUSTAINERS (\$250-\$499)

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*In Memory of Verne Long*  
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Chuck Draper  
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Shari Dalin Nelson  
Jean Neumiller  
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Carol Ann Sander

### CENTENARIANS (\$100-\$249)

Karen Amdahl  
Joan Baack  
*In Memory of Dave Baack*  
Carla Barkley  
Curt & Marilyn Bloemendaal  
Mildred Carstensen  
Alan & Karla Conrad  
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Jerry & Ricke Bly  
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*Corporate \$500 and above for sponsoring Presenter Series*  
American Family Insurance:  
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Hank's Foods  
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Pipestone Co. Medical Center &  
Family Clinic/Avera  
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Windy Ridge Veterinary Clinic  
Winter Realty Group

### DENNIS HANSEN HONORARIUM

Steve & Peg Lange  
*In Honor of Dennis Hansen*

### IMPROVEMENT CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS FOR PROJECTS

Pipestone Community Foundation  
Pipestone County United Way  
Minnesota State Arts Board  
Southwest Minnesota Arts Council

### COVID RELIEF

City of Pipestone COVID Relief  
Pipestone County COVID Relief  
State of Minnesota COVID Relief  
American Rescue Plan Grant

## 2023-2024 UNDERWRITERS

The following businesses support the Presenter Series throughout the year. They underwrite in part the expenses in presenting these shows.



Activities are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council and the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

WINTER 2024  
NEWSLETTER

Return Service Requested  
Pipestone, MN 56164  
PO Box 100



NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Pipestone, MN  
Permit #22



*SCROOGE: The Musical*  
*December 2023*