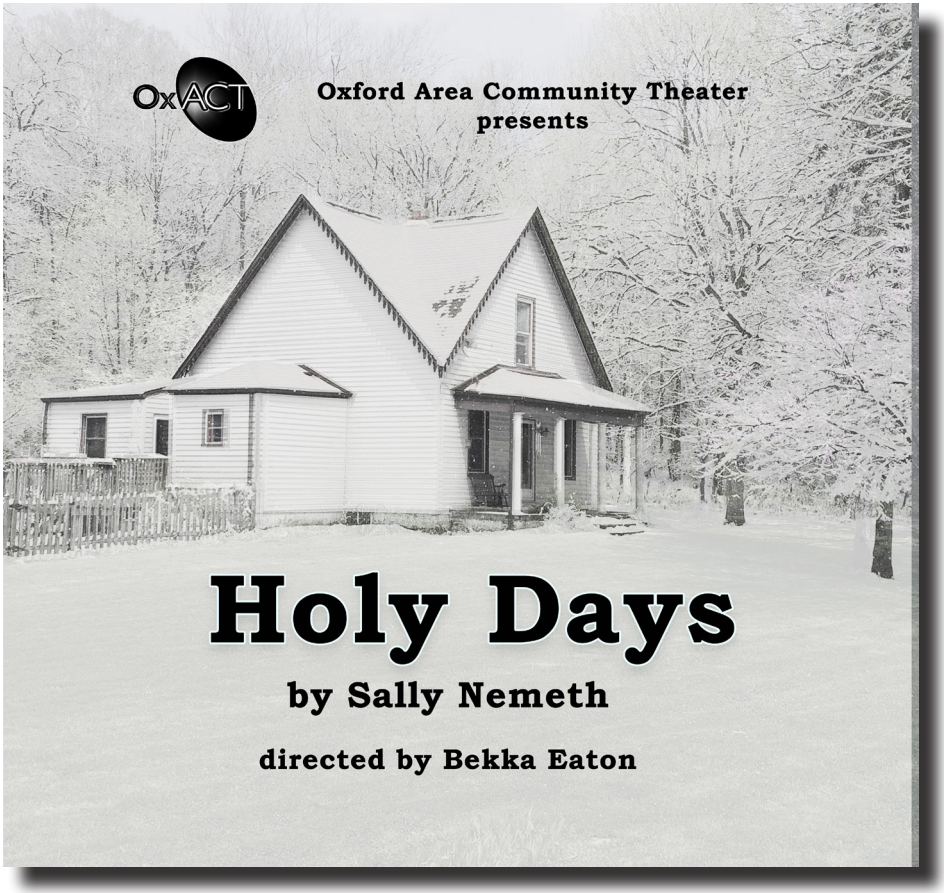
Oxford Area Community Theater
2025-26 Season



Fri. & Sat., Apr. 24 & 25 @ 7:30
Sunday, Apr. 26 @ 2:00
Fri. & Sat., May 1 & 2 @ 7:30
Sunday, May 3 @ 2:00

Premiered at the SoHo Poly Theatre, London
US premiere at South Coast Rep, Costa Mesa, CA

OxACT's Founding Patrons

Susan Braunig
Bill Brewer
Sgt. David Broxterman, USA
William and Charlotte Bruhn
Allan and Christina Button
Robert and Biz Campbell
Roger and Marilyn DeSoucy
Randy and Bev Devirendt
Edgar Dupont
The General Store/Finishing Touches
John and Kathy Gerberick
Dave and Becky Heckert
Bill and Jane Hollingsworth
Michael Keller
Joe and Janet Kretschmer
Jack Liles
John Lowrey
Marilaine's
Mrs. C. Rollin Niswonger
Jack and Sally Southard
C. E. and Betty Stousland
Dennis and Helen Sullivan
Stephen E. Toney
William and Dixie Utter
Kaye York-Longworth

OxACT Mission Statement

"The mission of the Oxford Area Community Theatre shall be to provide the community with the highest quality amateur theater possible. In order to achieve our goal, OxACT will present a mixture of musicals, dramas, and comedies from the classical and contemporary repertoire. We will do our best to achieve balance between shows that are appealing to the audience, cast, crew, and director, while increasing theatrical knowledge for all involved."

OxACT's 2025-26 Board

Rebecca Howard, president
Kayleigh Swatzell, vice president
Jenny Mattox, treasurer
Susan Meikle, secretary
Bekka Eaton
Ben Mattox
Mike McVey
Cecilia Shore

The OCAC's ADA-compliant restrooms are located down the hall as you leave the theatre to the left (women's) and to the right (men's).

The use of recording devices or cameras is strictly prohibited.

Please silence all electronic devices, such as watches, and

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE!

OxACT reserves the right to determine if or when latecomers will be seated, and may request patrons to leave the theatre if they become disruptive.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

~ The cast of 12 Angry Jurors for their help modifying the set

~ Tony Lambert

~ Ercel Eaton

~Chris Liles

~Budge Ossmann

~ The staff of the Oxford Community Arts Center

Thank you for your patronage! If you would like to help keep OxACT thriving and providing quality arts experiences to Oxford and surrounding communities, please consider becoming a donor or season sponsor. Visit our website at oxact.org for more information, or contact us by phone at 513-523-6228 or by email at info@oxact.org, or send a check to OxACT, PO Box 535, Oxford, OH 45056.

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SHOUT OUT TO OUR SEASON DONORS!

OxACT has always been supported through the generosity of community members who attend as patrons, or who donate to help us keep the lights on! If you would like to become a donor, you can make a donation through the PayPal portal on our website (oxact.org), or send a check to

OxACT, PO Box 535, Oxford, OH 45056

SEASON SPONSOR

Donald Daiker

BENEFACTOR $250+

Mary K. & Paul Allen
Elizabeth Rogers & Ernst Bever
Lisa & Marc Biales
Barb & Hardy Eshbaugh
Marilyn & Robert Johnson
Debbie & Jeff MacDonald
Jack & Sally Southard

MARQUEE $50-$99

Pat Brooks
Jane Flueckiger
Bob & Emilie Ratterman
Annie & Randy Ritz
Connie & Patrick Sidley

ANGEL $100-$249

Bill & Nora Ellen Bowers
Barbara Broida
Bobbe Burke
Patricia & Ronald Ellis
Lydia Hofmann
Elaine McClain
Kathey McMahon-Klosterman
Doug & Susan Meikle
Carol & Thomas Schaber
Karen Schilling
Chris & Lydia Skoglind
Ellen Weisman

PATRON $25-$49

Jerome & Josette Stanley

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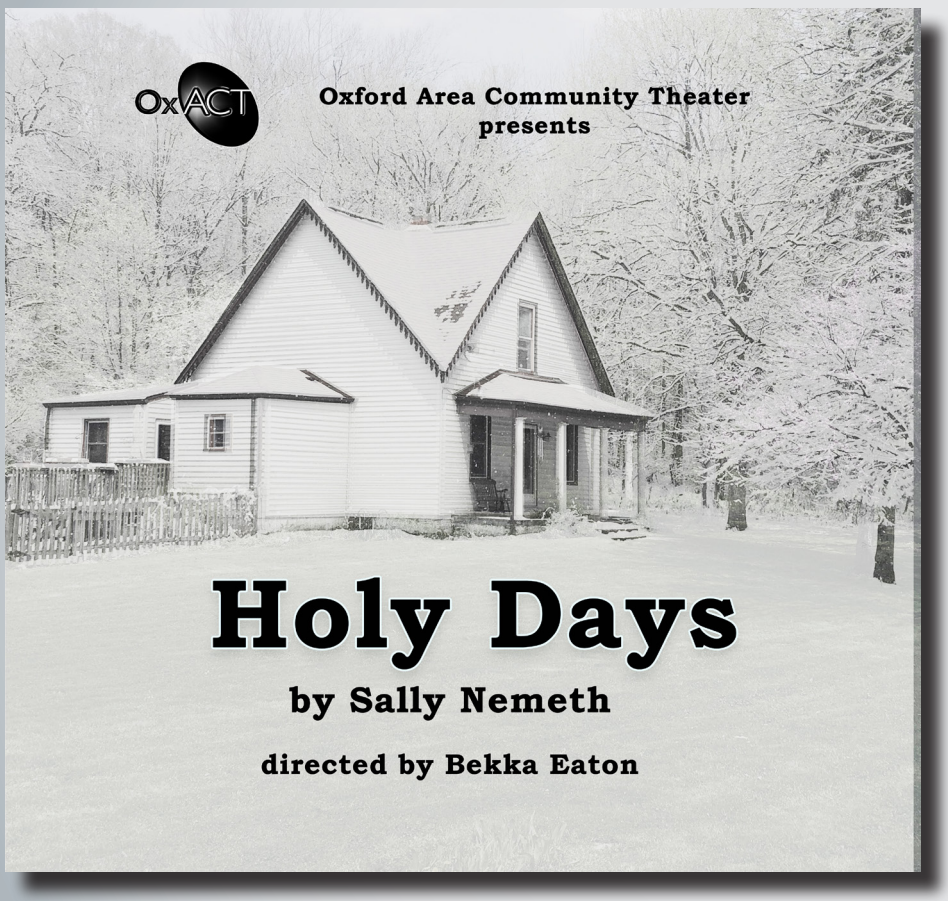
A Note from the Director

Holy Days is being performed tonight as a staged reading, a form of performance once known as Reader's Theatre. That name is now used more in connection with children's theatre; however, this particular presentation style has its roots in an artform developed over the years at Northwestern University. It eventually became known as Chamber Theatre or Oral Interpretation and its definition could be understood as an ensemble interpretation of literature that prioritizes language, rhythm, and imagination over "spectacle" (sets, lights, and such). This allows the participants—performers and audience— share the piece in their imaginations and brings the words of the author or playwright to the forefront of the experience.

Tonight's playwright, Sally Nemeth, was a student at Northwestern University during the hey-day of their Oral Interpretation Department in the 70s and 80s. She was a theatre major and wrote her first award-winning play as an undergraduate, but also, while there, she studied and attended many Oral Interpretation shows as well as traditional theatre productions. *Holy Days* works so well in this format because of the literary value of her writing. She was an award-winning playwright and fiction writer who wrote for every major television network, including NBC's *Law and Order* and a Young Adult novel called *The Heights, the Depths, and Everything In Between*. Sadly, we lost Sally in 2021 after a long illness. She left us powerful words that always present beautifully crafted symbolism, captivating characters, and worlds filled with a depth that always strove to capture the heroic struggles of everyday people.

Oxford Area Community Theatre

2025-26 Season



HOLY DAYS is produced
by special arrangement with
Broadway Play Publishing Inc, NYC
www.broadwayplaypublishing.com

CAST

Donna Benkin Danoff..... Rosie
Proxy Coleman ..... Will
Lindsey Rohrig..... Molly
Liam Steele..... Gant

PRODUCTION TEAM
Director:
Bekka Eaton

Dramaturg, Assistant Director, Stage Manager:
Amara Elysion

Production Design:
Bekka Eaton, Rebecca Howard

Costume Design:
Corinne Felt

Build Crew:
Bekka Eaton, Amara Elysion, Tom Cooke, Corinne Felt, Jay Fry, Rebecca Howard, Tony Lambert, Ben Mattox, Lynne Mattox, Cole Neiderman, Chris Skoglind, Kayleigh Swatzell

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

Proxy Coleman (Will) is excited to be part of this production with OxACT. They are currently a student with an undecided major. Their previous performances include Teen Angel in *Grease*, Barfeé in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors,* and Nicely-Nicely Johnson in *Guys & Dolls*. When they're not on stage, Proxy enjoys making music, cooking, gaming, and trying their hand at stand-up comedy. They would like to thank their lovely wife Lindsey for encouraging them to join this production, and Bekka, the director, for presenting them with this opportunity.

Donna Benkin Danoff (Rosie) Donna has not performed theatrically since her Intro to Acting Class at CUNY Brooklyn College circa 1993. She is thrilled for the opportunity to be part of the wonderful collaborative community theater world here in Oxford. She has a BFA in Creative Writing and an MA in Social Work. She is a part-time psychotherapist in private practice for the last 6 years, a photographer, and she loves to sing (in choir recently and in the shower always)! She wants to thank her 19-year-old son Julian, her husband Brian, and friends who have suppressed eye rolls and been supportive of this first-time endeavor at age 53!

Bekka Eaton (Director) In 2024, Bekka retired from Miami University having been an Associate Professor of Theatre for 23 years. Aside from teaching and designing multiple theatre courses for Miami and the community, she created Miami University Regionals' Theatre where she directed and produced many original and pre-produced plays. Bekka has directed for Miami's Theatre Department in the past as well. Her most recent projects were *Murder on the Orient Express* and the musical *Bright Star*. Bekka started her theatre career as an actor, performance artist, and writer. Her latest role (September '25) was Shirley in *The Secretary* at The Falcon Theatre in Newport, KY. She is a proud member of Actors Equity Association and The Screen Actors Guild.

Amara Elysion (Stage Manager, Assistant Director, Dramaturg) is a multi-disciplinary theater artist with over a decade of experience in live performance, script analysis, and technical theater. A Miami University alum, they previously served as Dramaturg for Miami University's *The Wild Party*; Light Board Operator for Miami's *Anniversary*; Co-Director and Set Designer for Butler Tech School of the Arts' *The Taming of the Shrew* (Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's Project 38); and Set Technician at Miami under Tom Featherstone and Curtis Mortimore. A lifelong actor and vocalist, Amara currently focuses on combining practical stagecraft and creative performance to foster civic pluralism and illuminate the spiritual dimensions of community storytelling.

Corinne Felt (Costume Design) is a costume designer from Logan, Utah. She received her bachelor's degree in Human Development from Utah State University in 2023. Her specialties include artistic clothing design, construction, and styling. She wonders at the beauty of dress as it reflects humanity, and hopes to one day be a part of an all female film production team. She is currently in the process of applying for graduate school to study costume design. In between the dreams she studies all things French, plays tennis, watches Star Wars, and dotes on her two cats and husband. She thanks you for coming to the production today!

Rebecca Howard (Production Design) has been active with OxACT for several decades (let's stop counting, shall we?), involved in 58 productions as a playwright, actor, director, set designer, lighting designer, or props diva. Last season, she appeared on stage as the psychotic killer, Annie Wilkes, in *Misery*, and on the other extreme, she was the absurdly perky Marilyn in OxACT's 2023 production of *Ripcord*. She likes to think that she exists somewhere comfortably between those two in real life. She studied in the Theater Conservatory Program at Webster University, and holds an MA in Theater from Miami. She has also appeared in productions with Hamilton Civic Theater, Fitton Center, and Miami University Summer Theater. Most importantly, she is a spouse and a parent--thank you Annie and Kaili for keeping me grounded and surrounded by love!

Lindsey Rohrig (Molly) is a senior Music Education Major with a Musical Theater minor at Miami University. Her previous roles for musicals, operas, and plays include Laura in *It's a Wonderful Life*; Mission Band in *Guys and Dolls*; Mrs. Luce in *Little Shop of Horrors* Marcy Park/Rona Lisa Peretti/ Olive's Mom in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; Peyton (Juliet) in *Quaran-teens*; Ensemble in *Lightning Thief*; Ensemble for *Paul's Case, Book of Hours,* and *Seven Sisters* (Opera), Ensemble in *Grand Night: Big Band Era*; and various leading roles in an Opera Scenes Program and 2 Musical Revues. When not on stage, Lindsey loves to teach, read, paint, swim, and hang out with her friends. She is very excited for this opportunity, and wants to give a special shoutout to Jacob and Bekka for getting her involved in this production.

Liam Steele (Gant) is a senior at Hamilton High School who attends classes full time at Miami University-Hamilton. Liam will be receiving his associate's degree in Humanities from MUH this spring. Liam is excited to be making his acting debut as this is his very first acting role. Thanks go out to my family and cast who have continued to believe in me.

1980-81
Mouse Trap
Blithe Spirit
The Boyfriend

1981-82
Barefoot in the Park
Wait Until Dark
The King and I

1982-83
Bus Stop
Harvey
Oliver

1983-84
Prisoner of Second Avenue
Inherit the Wind
Working

1984-85
Ah, Wilderness
Dial "M" for Murder
Pippin

1985-86
Godspell
6 RMS RIV VU
The Dining Room

1986-87
Evita
The Real Inspector Hound
Our Town

1987-88
Fiddler on the Roof
All My Sons
Morning's at Seven

1988-89
Baby
Painting Churches
Skin of Our Teeth

1989-90
Sound of Music
The Glass Menagerie
Arsenic and Old Lace

1990-91
Closer Than Ever
The Diary of Anne Frank
Once Upon a Mattress
Marriage of Figaro

1991-92
The Music Man
Gianni Schicchi and Suor Angelica
The Shadow Box
The Odd Couple

1992-93
Agnes of God
Ten Little Indians
Die Fledermaus
Oklahoma!

1993-94
Annie!
Fefu and Her Friends
The Fantasticks

1994-95
Working
The Miracle Worker
The Boys Next Door

1995-96
Carousel
Nunsense
The Lion in Winter

1996-97
Annie Warbucks
You Can't Take It With You
My Emperor's New Clothes

1997-98
Steel Magnolias
Sylvia
Adventures of
Peter Pan and Wendy
No Fish in the House

1998-99
Stefanie Hero
You're a Good Man
Charlie Brown
Bell, Book & Candle

1999-2000
Forever Plaid
The House of Blue Leaves
Talking With . . .
The Rainmaker

2000-01
E. Hemingway
Nuncrackers:
The Christmas Musical
The Prince and the Pauper
Dames At Sea

2001-02
Parallel Lives
I Do! I Do!

2002-03
Luv
Wizard of Oz

How many of these great OxACT shows have you seen?

2003-04
Cole
A Raisin in the Sun

2004-05
The Search for Signs of
Intelligent Life in the Universe
"Master Harold"...and the boys
Guys and Dolls

2005-06
The Cemetery Club
Between Men and Cattle
Free to Be . . . You and Me

2006-07
An Evening of Improv
Company
Cabin Fever, a Texas Tragicomedy

2007-08
Spoon River Anthology
Into the Woods

2008-09
Fiddler on the Roof
Quilters
Black Comedy

2009-2010
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
Quake
Pirates of Penzance

2010-2011
Doubt
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Always, Patsy Cline

2011-2012
The Crucible
Adaptation/Next
Prelude to a Kiss

2012-2013
See How They Run
The Book of Liz
Walter Cronkite is Dead

2013-2014
The Great American Trailer Park Musical
God of Carnage
The Retreat from Moscow

2014-15
The Last Reading of Charlotte Cushman
Seussical
Tuesdays with Morrie

2015-16
The Belle of Amherst
Lost in Yonkers
Always a Bridesmaid

2016-17
Art
Talley's Folly
Four by Two by Four

2017-18
Oh, Coward!
The Gin Game
Rabbit Hole

2018-19
The Other Place
39 Steps
Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

2019-20
True West
Bingo!

2020-21
COVID Called

2021-22
All the Roles I'll Never Have
The Octette Bridge Club
The Edgar Allan Poe Afterlife Radio Show

2022-23
All the Roles I Loved the Most
Two on the Aisle, Three in a Van
Ripcord

2023-24
The Woolgatherer
Educating Rita
Murder at the Howard Johnson's

2024-25
Out Cry
Misery
Every Brilliant Thing

2025-26
Strong Girls, Powerful Women:
Tales of Triumph
12 Angry Jurors
Holy Days

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR AMAZING 2025-26 SEASON!

STAY TUNED FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR SPECIAL PLANS FOR NEXT SEASON!

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