

# RED BARN

## SUMMER THEATRE

The annual winter newsletter of the Red Barn Summer Theatre

### 2025, IN REVIEW!

On a beautiful May afternoon, the music of the Gem City Drifters and a celebratory group of patrons started 2025 out on a high note with our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Kick-Off. From there, the summer just got better (and funnier) as we opened the season with the energetic farce "Leading Ladies," featuring Luke McLaughlin, Xander Haan, and a million exhausting costume changes. Our second show, "The Cottage," kept the laughs flowing as Artistic Director Michael Taylor made a too rare appearance on-stage and was joined by two of our favorite "out-of-town" actresses, Katherine Abel and Kody Horrocks. "Xanadu" closed the season with a glittering mix of popular songs, roller-disco, and outrageous comedy. Cassidy Mae Benullo came back from Los Angeles for her second year at the Barn, and she was joined by talented Barn rookies Ben Brickner and Matthew Reich. Frankfort's gifted vocalist and Barn veteran Kiara Wood, as well as a talented group of local high school performers, filled out the cast. Our 57<sup>th</sup> season was another successful one for the Red Barn and we owe it all to you! We wouldn't be able to do any of this without the continued support of our patrons, volunteers, sponsors, and donors.

Every year at this time, we ask our patrons to consider donating to the Red Barn to help fund improvements. Last year, we asked for donations to have the Barn painted. Unfortunately, as in everyone's home, unexpected things take priority, and we had to direct your generous funds to new blowers for the AC units. We will probably have to delay painting for another year because this winter we have a VERY big job - it's time to build new restrooms. The pipes and plumbing are more than 50 years old, and it's no longer enough to patch them together. We are going to tear down the old restrooms and have new ones constructed. As a patron of the Barn, you know how necessary this project is.

**Thank you so much for your patronage and support of the Red Barn Summer Theatre.**  
**You keep us growing!**

With the help of a grant from the Capital Group, we have a start on the funding, but it's an expensive undertaking. If you should choose to donate this year, know that your contribution will go toward providing bigger, better, more convenient restrooms for our patrons. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Red Barn Summer Theatre.



### SEASON 58, SEASON 10

As we look forward to the 2026 season, we'd like to recognize two important milestones. The number "58" signifies that it will be our 58<sup>th</sup> season since Martin and Carol Ann Henderson founded the Barn in 1968. We appreciate and honor the work of the Hendersons and the talented group of local actors and crew members who created a theatre from Joe and Erma Maish's cow barn. Martin and Carol Ann, with the assistance of Steven Henderson, grew the Barn into a Central Indiana institution, and a landmark of which all of Frankfort and Clinton County could be proud.

The number “10” recognizes our second milestone. When the Hendersons retired after the 2016 season, the On-Stage Foundation Board handed the reins to Michael Taylor, a young but veteran member of the Red Barn company and drama instructor at Frankfort High School. Following in those founders’ footsteps was a daunting task, but after ten years, the Red Barn has not only survived but is thriving. The Barn today is a beautiful and inviting venue that attracts a growing audience with its own group of veteran local performers, as well as actors from all around the United States. Congratulations to Michael and the company of the Red Barn for continuing the legacy of the Hendersons and the Red Barn Summer Theatre for ten successful years. We look forward to the next decade.



**On- Stage Foundation Board of Directors**



## ANNOUNCING THE 2026 SEASON

For us, next summer begins every December when we announce--only for you, our loyal supporters and season ticket holders--our 2026 season.

### **THE GERMAN TROPICS**

A World Premiere by Michael J Taylor

Welcome to the German Tropics, a small bed-and-breakfast located on a 4-acre island just off the mainland. Timing couldn't be worse for the proprietor, Mrs. Coates, as a tropical storm is set to hit the island on the busiest weekend of the year. Among the guests are Jack, a family friend, and his girlfriend, April. They have prepared for a romantic weekend, only to find that Jack's crazy ex-girlfriend has decided to share the island with them, along with his boss, April's father, who is unaware of their romantic involvement. Trying to keep their secret sets in motion all of the classic elements of farce: mistaken identities, ambushes, improbable situations, and, of course, lots of slamming doors. The action moves at a rapid pace, and things only get more complicated as a murderous, escaped convict finds the way onto the island just before the storm hits!

### **WAIT UNTIL DARK**

by Frederick Knott | Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher

In 1944 Greenwich Village, Susan Hendrix, a blind yet capable woman, is imperiled by a trio of men in her own apartment. As the climax builds, Susan discovers that her blindness just might be the key to her escape, but she and her tormentors must wait until dark to play out this classic thriller's chilling conclusion. This new adaptation modernizes the brilliant tension of Knott's original play and builds on the 1967 film starring Audrey Hepburn.

### **SOMETHING ROTTEN**

Book by Karey Kirkpatrick & John O'Farrell, Music & Lyrics by Karey & Wayne Kirkpatrick

Set in the 1590s, brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as "The Bard." When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing, and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's very first musical. But amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom Brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self, and all that jazz.

### **HOW TO MAKE A YEAR END GIFT TO KEEP US GROWING:**

Give online at [redbarntheatre.net/donate](http://redbarntheatre.net/donate) or mail your check to:

**Red Barn Summer Theatre  
PO BOX 706  
Frankfort, IN 46041**

We are a not-for-profit organization; your gift is tax deductible.

In addition to our grant supporters, we'd like to sincerely thank each and every donor, sponsor, and advertiser for their generous gifts that help us keep growing. Happy Holidays from your friends at the On Stage Foundation and Red Barn Summer Theatre!