

THE SHOWS WILL GO ON EVENTUALLY.

By Jean Pellegrini

The Tampa Bay performing arts theatres and local community theatres have been hit hard by the pandemic, But, the shows will go on eventually. Some local theatres have started opening with limited audiences. Quite a few have been doing virtual staged performances. while others have remained dark.

Largo Performing Arts (aka 8 O'Clock Theatre) recently opened in August with their musical "The Putnam County Spelling Bee". They were performing live with precautions, such as social distancing and restricted seating with tables for four. It is an excellent theatre with wonderful shows. Also, their first show in their Cabaret Series will be on October 2nd at 8:00pm, and it is "Inverted Broadway, A Role Reversal Revue."

Freefall Theatre on Central in St. Pete is implementing a drive-in model with outdoor entertainment and with snacks available that can be delivered to your car. Interesting and very creative. Their first play will be running 10/23 to 11/22 and is "War of the Worlds" written by H. G. Wells. Most of us know that one, and it could be pretty exciting in the outdoor venue. Worth checking out.

American Stage Theatre Company, downtown St. Pete, is only having virtual performances that are performed live without an audience if you want to stream. They will resume bringing audiences back in 2021.

The **Early Bird Dinner Theater** on 49th street is opening on October 24th with its first show "The Kitchen Witches" which runs until Dec. 6th. Should be a bright spot in this fall's dismal line up.

Tarpon Arts in Tarpon Springs seems to be going forward with their schedule to finish out the year. Look for "Mama Won't Fly", "Wild Women of Winedale" and "Sorry Wrong Chimney". These are all comedies and should be a lot of fun. Limited tickets are being sold to accommodate social distancing.

Francis Wilson Theatre is having ZOOM workshops and classes, theatre history and more virtual experiences. They are a very professional local theatre and hopefully we will see them re-open soon. Great musicals.

St. Pete City Theatre is another popular venue, but they are still doing webinars that are called "Coffee Talk" and "Spill The Tea", where they let viewers know about what is going on in the Greater Tampa Bay Community Theaters. You must check online for dates and times.

Latest news on the **Show Palace Dinner Theatre** is that that they will start their season November 6-13 with a delightful play called "My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish, And I am in Therapy". They are located in New Port Richey and are offering some special pricing.

Some of the larger performing arts theatres such as **Ruth Eckerd Hall** and **The Straz Center** in Tampa are mostly waiting for the 2021 season. Hopefully, we can look forward to some of the fine entertainment we have been used to next year. This doesn't list all of the community theatres, especially in Pinellas County, but gives a glimpse of some wonderful shows that should take place soon.