HICKORY IS



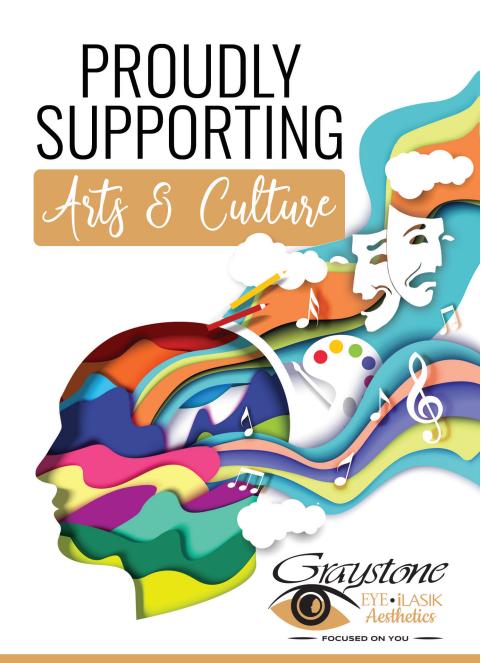


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## **Hickory Community Theatre History**

The Hickory Community Theatre had its humble beginning in 1948 when the Hickory Recreation Department employed Kay Johnson to form a theatre group. Her first offering was a series of radio dramas aired on WIRC. In 1949, informal meetings, encouraged by the Kramer family, led to the formation of what was then known as The Hickory Little Theatre. The HLT first production was an evening of one act plays, so successful that the company presented its first fulllength production, You Can't Take it with You in October in the auditorium at City Hall. The building has been the home of HCT ever since.

The Theatre grew in popularity and community support through the 50's and staged its first musical production, The Boyfriend, in 1958 – the same year that Charles Jeffers started his life-long involvement with HCT.

A new city hall was built in 1976 and HCT slowly moved into more of the old building. Renovations in 1984 led to the two performance spaces known to modern audiences, the extremely popular Firemen's Kitchen and the HCT Mainstage.

which the City Council renamed The Charles E. Jeffers Theatre in 1988, when the City turned over the entire building to the use of the Theatre. Renovations continued in the 1990's that completed the exterior restoration of the building and renovations to the Charles E. Jeffers Theatre.

Each year, HCT and its community of volunteers celebrate its yearlong season of productions, events and activities with the Kay Awards ceremony. "The Kays" honor the volunteers who have labored and shared their talents to support the Theatre throughout the year. The awards, named in honor of Kay Johnson are hosted by the Guild at HCT.

The Guild represent the highest level of volunteerism at HCT. Guild members, in addition to their individual volunteer service, collectively completing projects to improve the appeal and function of the Theatre and conduct special fundraisers for purchase of needed equipment.

Charles Jeffers, Managing Artistic Director since 1960, officially retired from his full-time duties in 2000. Pamela Livingstone was chosen as the new Managing Artistic Director and she assumed the mantle in the 2000-2001 Season, In 2005 the job of Managing Artistic Director was split into two positions because the Theatre had reached the point that two people were required to manage the business and artistic affairs of HCT. and John Rambo was welcomed as Managing Director, Pam retired in June 2020 and Eric Seale became the third Artistic Director of HCT.

The production quality at HCT has been recognized on the regional and state level, with actors and HCT receiving numerous awards from the Metrolina Theatre Association, The North Carolina Theatre Conference and the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

Extensive capital improvements took place from 2012 through 2020, resulting in beautifully restored and updated spaces that provide an exciting and comfortable experience for audience and artists alike.

Welcome to HCT, come play with us, and be a part of our history and our future!

# MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR THEATRE - TODAY AND TOMORROW

#### Providing for Today - The Jeffers Theatre Club & Sustaining Membership

The Jeffers Theatre Club is our major gifts program. The name was chosen to honor Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Jeffers, who created a lasting legacy here at the Theatre. Founded by HCT Past President, John Dallas Brinkley, III, the Jeffers Theatre Club provides Strategic Operating Support for the Theatre on an ongoing basis. Membership in the Jeffers Theatre Club requires a contribution of \$5,000 either as a single gift or in two installments. Members receive perpetual recognition on a plaque displayed proudly in the Theatre lobby. An annual recognition dinner is held to honor the Club and members also receive this recognition here in the Mainstage program.

#### The Members of the Jeffers Theatre Club are:

John D. Brinkley, III • Suzanne Millholland • Janice McNeil (charter members)

Dorothy Collier Best • Cavelle Davolio • Elizabeth Davolio

Anita Doran & Andrew Straw • Rev. Ralph & Betty Eckard • Dick & Norma Frank
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Suzanne Millholland • Janice McNeil • Patricia Mozgala

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Mike & Judy Powers • John Rambo • Chuck & Sharon Scheil • Buck & Helgi Shuford

Christine Stinson • Lynn & JoAnn Spees • Mark M. Teague • Sue & Dave Walker

Madeline Walle • Kenneth Wilkinson & Allen Wood, III • David & Maria Williams

We also recognize here are our Sustaining Members, who make an annual pledge of \$250



#### **Our Sustaining Members are:**

Diane Albers • Mary Jane Collier • Dorothy Collier Best • Bonita & Vince Ferretti • Guy Guarino • Ismo & Kim Kaariainen Kent Kerley & Thom Hutchens • Karin & John Koval • Cliff Moone • Trey & Jennifer Oursler • Mark Williamson

or more for general operations. The pledge may be divided monthly for your convenience.

To learn more about joining the Jeffers Club or becoming a Sustaining Member, please contact John Rambo, Managing Director at (828) 327-3855 ext 103

#### Planning for Tomorrow - The Kay Johnson Society



Named in honor of one of the HCT founders, the Kay Johnson Society is a place of honor for those who have chosen to leave a legacy of quality live theatre for future generations by making a bequest to the Theatre.

#### The Members of the Kay Johnson Society are:

John and Harriet Bates● John Dallas Brinkley, III ● Sandra and George Clay, III

Jackie and Tom Mate ● John Rambo

To make a bequest or other planned gift, please contact John Rambo, Managing Director at (828) 327-3855 ext 103

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#### 2023-2024 Officers

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#### Staff

Managing Director	John Rambo
Artistic Director	Eric Seale
Administrative Director	Christine Stinson
Technical Director	Duane Pagano
Artistic Director Emerita	Pamela Livingstone
House Managers	Paul Sapp and Julie Wright
Production Assistant to the Artistic Director	Ethan Fite
Legal Advisors to the Board William	E. Morgan, Kimberly Whitley

#### **Contact Information**

30 Third Street NW • Hickory, NC 28601 Phone: 828-327-3855 • Fax: 828-328-2284

Box Office: 828-328-2283 E-mail: boxoffice@hickorytheatre.org Website: www.hickorytheatre.org



Hickory Community Theatre Presents:



#### **BY CHELSEA MARCANTEL**

# DIRECTED BY ERIC SEALE

STARRING

BETHANY SPEARS REED WILLIAMS HOLLI ARMSTRONG
CLEVE WILLIAMS AND INTRODUCING ANGEL ROJAS
WITH ALEC VANOWEN AND ANNALEE GREENE

TECH DIRECTOR/SCENIC
CONSTRUCTION
DUANE PAGANO

SCENIC/PROJECTIONS/LIGHTING/ SOUND DESIGNER ERIC SEALE

STAGE MANAGER
ANGEL ALVAREZ

COSTUME DESIGNERS
EMMA LEE KURTS
ERIC SEALE

AIRNESS WILL BE PERFORMED IN TWO ACTS, THERE WILL BE ONE 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION VIDEO RECORDING OR FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

#### DRAMATIS PERSONAE

NINA	BETHANY SPEARS
SHREDDY EDDY	REED WILLIAMS
GOLDEN THUNDER	ANGEL ROJAS*
FACEBENDER	CLEVE WILLIAMS
CANNIBAL QUEEN	HOLLIARMSTRONG
D. VICOUS	ALEC VANOWEN
ANNOUNCER/SPRITE EXECUTIVE	ANNALEE GREENE

#### \*DENOTES DEBUT PERFORMANCE AT HCT.

#### CREW

DIRECTOR TECH DIRECTOR & SCENIC CONSTRUCTION SCENIC/PROJECTIONS/LIGHTING/SOUND DESIGNER. COSTUME DESIGNERS	DUANNE PAGANO
	ERIC SEALE
STAGE MANAGER	
ASSOCIATE ARTIST	
SCENIC CONSTRUCTION/PAINTING CREW	JOHN ALMEIDA
	SEAN ARBUCKLE
	JOE DALTON
	ETHAN FITE
	CLAUDE GAGNE
	<b>RUBY JONES</b>
	JOHN MCDONOUGH
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	DAVID WHITE
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& OUR SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMERS

ARMARANTHIA
BIG BAD BRAGGENSTEIN
FUNKY FIONA
LOUIS LE ROQ OPTIMUS
FINE
ROCK FONDA
THE SHRED-MAN

#### **WHO'S WHO**

ANGEL ALVAREZ (STAGE MANAGER) makes her debut as Stage Manager at Hickory Community Theatre with AIRNESS. Throughout the rehearsal process she has become a bit of an air guitar connoisseur. When she isn't frantically taking notes, she can be seen color-coordinating everything in sight. Her least favorite prop would probably be confetti. Pre-show she can be found emerging from the depths of the theatre, much like the hooded figure, hours before places need to be called. Angel loved working with this cast for her first stage managing position with HCT. She has enjoyed this process entirely and sends a special heartfelt thanks to "Joan! \*\*\*\*\*\*! JETT!"

HOLLI ARMSTRONG (CANNIBAL QUEEN) has been active in theatre for over a decade. She was most recently seen in CONFEDERATES as MissySue/Candice with Three Bone Theatre in Charlotte. She is excited to Rock back here at her home theatre but this time will be her first performance down on the Fireman Kitchen stage.

ANNALEE GREENE (ANNOUNCER/SPRITE EXECUTIVE) is excited to be your host of the evening in AIRNESS. Known for knowing too much about 50s-80s rock and being able to rattle off a fact about it at the drop of a hat, her favorite bands consist of Queen, Mötley Crüe and the Beatles. When she's not hyperfixating on her favorite show at the moment she can be found preparing for college and bike riding. Annalee would like to thank her family, especially her mom. She would like to dedicate this show to her 5 year old self who loved nothing more than to head bang in the back of her parents car to "mental health" by Quiet Riot.

EMMA LEE KURTS (COSTUME DESIGNER) continues her ninth season as resident designer for HCT. She has had a hand in design at many theatres around the area. Past design highlights include RAGTIME, THE REVOLUTIONISTS, and THE DROWSY CHAPERONE. She has been nominated for Metrolina Theatre Association Awards for Costume Design for THE PIRATE QUEEN and CADILLAC CREW. She has enjoyed collaborating on the design for AIRNESS with Eric. Enjoy the show and Rock On!!!

ANGEL ROJAS (GOLDEN THUNDER), people would say Angel is the type of person who walks in the room and you feel a presence. A beacon of coolness (and dare we say...AIRNESS) on the stage. Angel has been acting for 25% of his life (he's 18) and has had an all encompassing love for film and theatre for even longer. Portraying someone so passionate and energetic as Golden Thunder comes easily for Angel, as he is just as electric and awe inspiring as his character. This is his first show at HCT and he loves talking, so spark up a conversation with him at the end of the show!

# DUANE PAGANO (TECH DIRECTOR & LIGHTING DESIGNER) GOOOOOOD

Evening Hickory. So, now, Duane is obligated to thank any number of people for being a part of this production; no really, he is. So "thank you" to those certain individuals. Some things you might find interesting are; he is now almost ambidextrous, a Sagittarius, enjoys short walks across moonlit stages and was recently betrothed to a local girl. He has designed lighting and/or scenery for any number of productions, almost all of which you probably have not since he has just moved to Hickory. having spent the past seventeen years in New York City. So now you have the opportunity to use the Google machine on him. Of note, he is a graduate of the University of Miami, lived in many parts of the country and received a few awards, here and there, for some of his design work. Lastly, more than anything, he looks forward to his time with the Goober. Bean and Ava. As always, he dedicates his work to his biggest fan.

ERIC SEALE (DIRECTOR/DESIGNER) is happy to return to the Firemen's Kitchen as director (and designer of many things). Special thanks are owed to Emma Lee for letting him sketch terrible costume drawings! He is coming to the end of his fourth season as artistic director of HCT. Top 5 songs to listen to while he edits this program. "Sleep Is For the Weak" - The Dreadnoughts, "Bombs Over Baghdad" - Outkast "Hard to Kill" - Bleached

"Wake Me In The Morning" - The Bollox & "Do You Wanna Dance" -The Ramones

#### **WHO'S WHO**

**BETHANY SPEARS (NINA)**, 25, Taurus, can often be found backstage taking point fives of cast and crew when she should be at places. During rehearsals she can be seen throwing her pencils, sticking her tongue out, and giggling. She enjoys a nice Yoo-hoo, the color green, and kisses from Sir Samuel (the lovely dog you can find lurking around the theatre). She would like to thank The Arlo Alvarez for writing this bio and being very cool!

ALEC VANOWEN (D. VICIOUS) "If you listen to enough tunes and happen to take to the world of pretend, the day inevitably comes along, when you live out your rock & roll fantasy. Who wouldn't take that shot?" Shreddin' his way onto this scene, last seen aboard THE ORIENT EXPRESS, Alec is thrilled to be in the kitchen with this band of actors.

CLEVE WILLIAMS (FACEBENDER), after dreaming of a return to theatre for these past 20

years during which he was a foreign language cryptologic specialist for the US Air Force, then a stay at home parent and substitute teacher, Cleve can barley contain his joy to return to HCT with brother Reed Williams. As someone who heavily relies on music to get out of bed every morning, AIRNESS is a perfect return to stage for Cleve who doesn't have to try too hard to be Facebender. HCT is home for him but he has also preformed for CVCC, The Hub, and in an independent film by Ethan Hunter.

REED WILLIAMS (SHREDDY EDDY) is thrilled to be back on stage at HCT after 15+ years! It's especially rad because it's the first show he's done with his brother, Cleve, who inspired him to try theatre in the first place. In his heart, Reed would love to own a record/ video store and hold court with fellow music/ film lovers. So Shreddy Eddy is the perfect character for him to play. Come chat him up after the show if you want to talk about David Cronenberg movies or Doom Metal.

#### OFFICIAL RULES OF COMPETITION

(Source: /1ttps://www.usairguitar.com/rules)

# US Air Guitar obeys the rules set forth by the Air Guitar World Championships:

- Each performance is played to one minute (sixty seconds) of a song.
- The sixty seconds can start anywhere in the song.
- The instrument must be invisible and be a guitar.
- A competitor does not have to live in a city to compete in a qualifier held there.

#### ROUNDS

Round 1, Freestyle: Each competitor performs to a song of their choice.

Round 2, Compulsory: Top competitors from Round 1 perform surprise song.

#### **JUDGING CRITERIA**

All performances are scored on a scale from 4.0 to 6.0-6.0 being the highest possible. A single score is given to each air guitarist based on their overall performance in that round. The scores from BOTH ROUNDS are added to determine the

contestants' final scores. The score reflects the quality of the performance based on three key criteria:

#### **TECHNICAL MERIT**

You don't have to know what notes you're playing, but the more your invisible fretwork corresponds to the music that's playing, the better the performance.

#### STAGE PRESENCE

Anyone can do it in the privacy of their bedroom. Few have what it takes to rock a crowd of hundreds or even thousands all without an instrument.

#### "AIRNESS"

The last criteria is the most difficult to define yet often the most decisive of all. Airness is defined as the extent to which a performance transcends the imitation of a real guitar and becomes an art form in and of itself.



## **WHO'S WHO**



BETHANY SPEARS NINA



REED WILLIAMS
SHREDDY EDDY



ANGEL ROJAS
GOLDEN THUNDER



CLEVE WILLIAMS
FACEBENDER



HOLLI ARMSTRONG
CANNIBAL QUEEN



ALEC VANOWEN
D. VICIOUS



ANNALEE GREENE
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ERIC SEALE



ANGEL ALVAREZ STAGE MANAGER

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 $\begin{array}{l} \text{Dorothy Collier Best}_{\text{1,2}} \\ \text{Frans Boersma}_{\text{2}} \\ \text{Sandra \& George Clay, III}_{\text{2}} \\ \text{Chuck \& Sharon Scheil}_{\text{1,2}} \\ \text{Anita Doran \& Andrew Straw}_{\text{1,2}} \end{array}$ 

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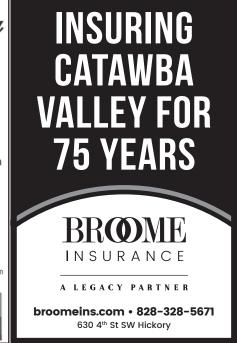
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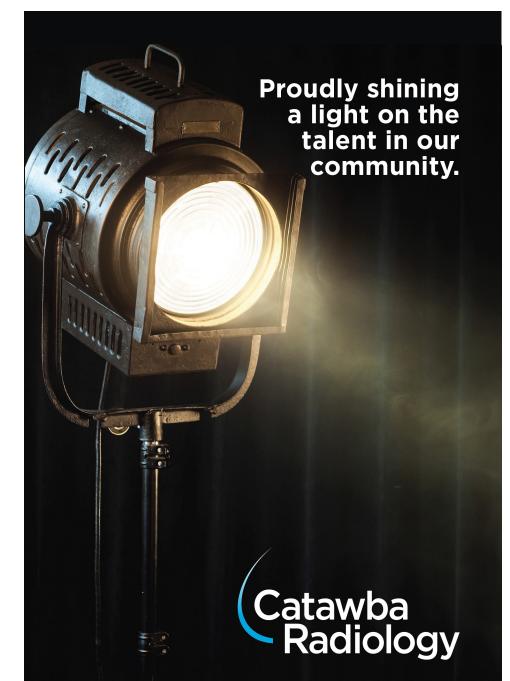
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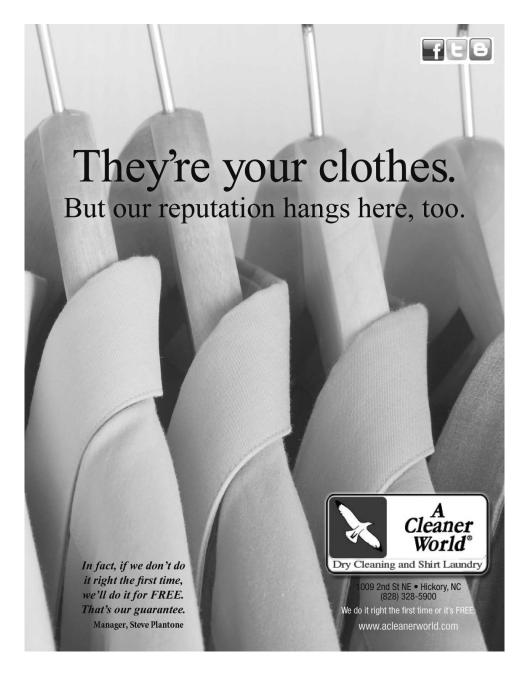




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