

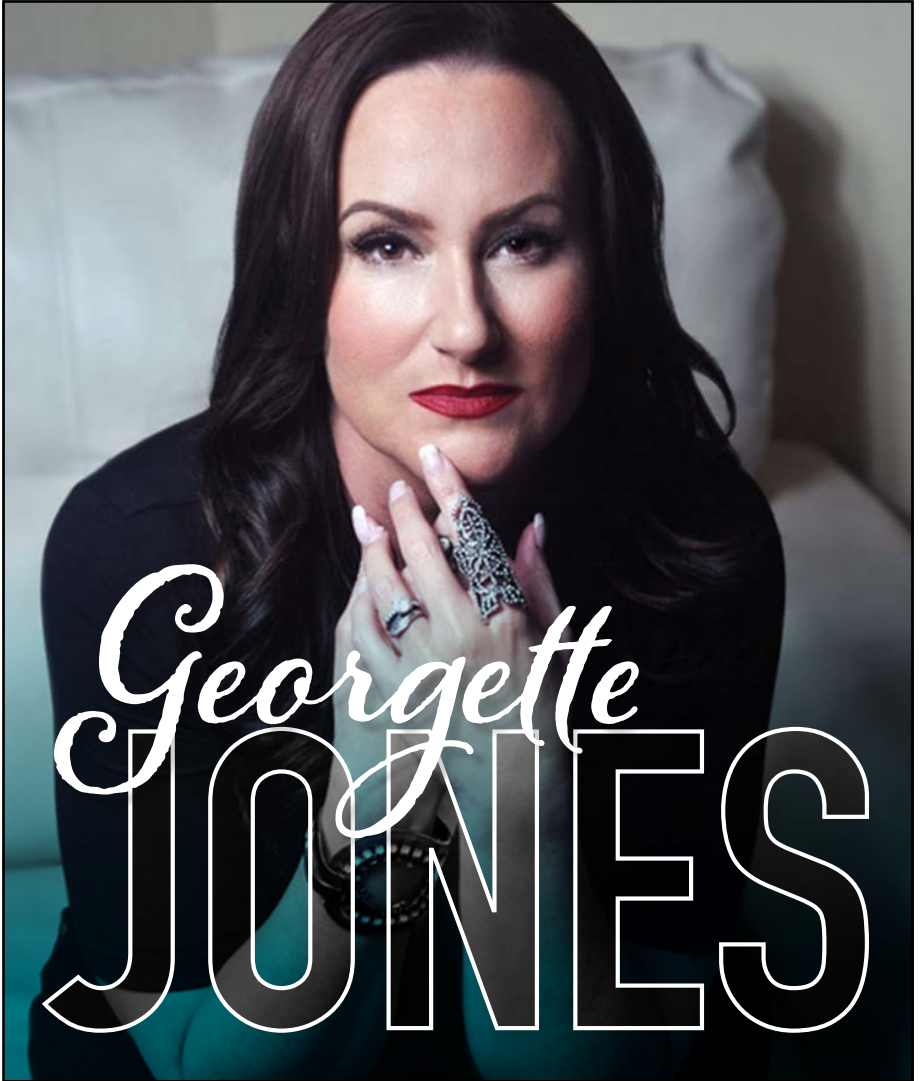
2025-2026 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON



THE REIF

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OCTOBER 28, 2025
WILCOX THEATER



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Reif Cozy Concerts: Mississippi Hot Club

Sunday, November 2 @ 2:00pm
The Reif: Ives Theater

The American Soldier

Friday, November 14 @ 7:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Reif Theater Arts Presents: Disney's The Lion King JR.

November 21, 22 & 23
Friday & Saturday @ 7:00pm
Saturday & Sunday @ 2:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Dave Simonett

Saturday, November 29 @ 7:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Reif Dance Presents: The Nutcracker

December 12, 13 & 14
Friday & Saturday @ 7:00pm
Sunday @ 2:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Rock & Roll Xmas Spectacular

Wednesday, December 17 @ 7:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Magic Carpet Ride

Sunday, January 11, 2026 @ 2:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Adam Bohanan

Saturday, January 17, 2026 @ 7:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Church Of Cash

Friday, January 30, 2026 @ 7:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Are You Ready For It? A Taylor Experience!

Friday, February 13, 2026 @ 7:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Buckets N Boards: Comedy Percussion Show

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 @ 7:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

The StepCrew

Thursday, February 26, 2026 @ 7:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

Reif Dance Presents: The Company in Concert

February 27 & 28, 2026
Friday & Saturday @ 7:00pm
The Reif: Ives Theater

Third Coast Chamber Collective

Thursday, March 5, 2026 @ 7:00pm
The Reif: Ives Theater

Them Coulee Boys

Thursday, March 19, 2026 @ 7:00pm
The Reif: Ives Theater

Reif Theater Arts Presents: The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition

March 27, 28 & 29, 2026
Friday & Saturday @ 7:00pm
Saturday & Sunday @ 2:00pm
The Reif: Wilcox Theater

TICKETS AT [TheReif.org](https://www.TheReif.org)

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Known as “Country Music’s First Princess,” the second-generation country music artist performed “*Daddy Come Home*,” a duet she had recorded with her father when she was 10 years old, on the 1981 HBO program “George Jones with a Little Help from His Friends.” George and Georgette perform “*You and Me and Time*” on the last George Jones album before his death, “Burn Your Playhouse Down: The Unreleased Duets,” which was released in 2008. A year after Tammy Wynette’s death, Georgette

paid tribute to her mother on Mother’s Day 1999 with the song “I Hope You Knew.” Georgette has performed at the Grand Ole Opry House and at the iconic Ryman Auditorium.

In addition to singing and songwriting, she is also an author. She wrote the highly acclaimed biographical book, “*The Three of Us: Growing Up with Tammy and George*.” The book reflects on life growing up with her famous parents. Jones’ book also provides us with an inside glimpse at



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the workings of the country music industry. She considers her own life of incorrect turns while looking for true love, her need for a home life, growing as a person, and continuing in the family musical tradition.

Georgette was recently a featured artist in Episode 2 of *Jills Veranda Nashville*, a Swedish Television/Warner Brothers International Television production hosted by Jill Johnson, Sweden's Queen of Country Music. The show is streamed on Sveriges Television AB - SVTPLAY.

In the 2024 Showtime original series about her parents, George & Tammy, Jones is given writing credit for two episodes and is given creative control over how stories about her parents' often-tragic lives in Nashville are retold. She also appeared as a backup singer in the final episode of the series. The show is in large part derived from Jones' book, "The Three of Us: Growing Up with Tammy and George." The limited series stars Oscar and Golden Globe winner Jessica Chastain

and Oscar and Golden Globe nominee Michael Shannon.

Together with Leslie Jordan and Olivia Newton-John, Georgette appeared in five episodes of the 2008 television series *Sordid Lives* as her mother Tammy Wynette. Jones sang on the soundtrack for the program as well. Jones has appeared on other TV shows such as *Crook and Chase*, *RFD-TV*, *Larry's Country Diner*, and *Tru Country*.

As a solo artist, Jones has recorded five albums: "Slightly Used Woman" (2010), "Strong Enough to Cry" (2011), "Till I Can Make It On My Own" (2013), "This Is Christmas" (2013), and *Skin* (2019), as well as the duet with her father, "You and Me and Time." She has also collaborated with other artists, including a duet with Billy Yates, "Golden Ring," a duet with Mark McGuinn, "*Better a Painful Ending*," which appears on McGuinn's album "One Man's Crazy" (2015), and "I Know What You Did Last Night" feat. Vince Gill (2019).

REIF THEATER ARTS PRESENTS

Disney
THE
LION KING ©Disney

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
Tim Rice & Elton John

BOOK BY
Roger Allers & Irene Mecchi

ADDITIONAL MUSIC & LYRICS BY
Will Van Dyke, Lebo M,
Mark Mancina, & Jay Rifkin

BASED ON THE BROADWAY
PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY
Julie Taymor



Based on the hit 1994 Disney movie and Broadway musical, Disney's The Lion King, JR. is the timeless tale of Simba, a young lion born to be king, who is forced to flee after the death of his father, Mufasa. On the outskirts of the kingdom, Simba learns about identity, family, responsibility, and what he has to do in order to make things right for the Pride Lands. Featuring classic songs like "I Just Can't Wait to Be King," "Circle of Life" and "Hakuna Matata," the entire family will enjoy the perfect theatrical spectacle that is The Lion King, JR.

Disney's The Lion King JR. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.



NOVEMBER
21, 22 & 23

Fri & Sat @ 7:00PM
Sat & Sun @ 2:00PM

The Reif: Wilcox Theater

ADULT/SENIOR ADVANCE PRICE \$22, DOOR PRICE \$27

STUDENT/LAP CHILDREN \$10

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EN PLEIN AIR | Itasca Plein Air Painters

Presented in partnership with MacRostie Art Center

For sales information visit www.macrostieartcenter.org/reif-gallery

This exhibit showcases artwork created from observation by area artists in a variety of mediums including pencil, charcoal, watercolor, gouache, acrylic, and oil. Each piece is created on location, a term known as “en plein air”, derived from the French meaning “in the open air.”

Each piece tells a story of discovery, understanding, and exploration. Whether the piece is a simple sketch, a more completed drawing, a color study, a work in progress, or a completed painting, each work combines technique and media with the artist’s understanding of the subject, their choice of media, and their artistic interpretation.

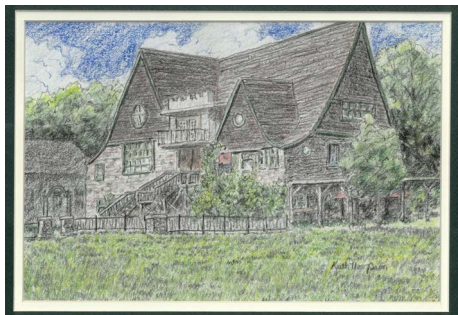
In a world of social media influencers and hyper-lapse video, here we see only a segment of the artistic process. Perhaps it is the beginning of an idea, a sketch loosely created. What

looks like scribbles to the viewer is a mental process of understanding line, contour and shape within the rhythm of the landscape. You will find a search for understanding with a pencil drawing that delves into the structure and anatomy of a tree and its myriad texture, line, and form. Notice the gouache painting that is a flurry of abstract color as the painter explores color relationships and the interplay of mass. Yet another piece done in oil is a study of light and shadow, and a watercolor looks into the minute details of a scene.

When you look through the exhibit, do you recognize a location? How does what you see here bring awareness to what you see every day? How does the approach to the subject vary from one artist to another? Notice how certain areas are suggested and other areas deeply detailed.



Nelia Harper French - County Fair



Keith Thompson - Ravenstone Abbey

cont. p. 9



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Exhibiting Artists Include:

Yvonne Byrd
Nelia Harper French
Jeannie Grover
Ken Johnson
Victoria Kragthorpe
Donna LaBeau
Mary Melton
Carol Morrill
Michelle Schwake
Jan Stenson
Karen Swanson
Keith Thompson
Sandra F. Thompson
Richard Thouin
Michael Wilkus
Jennifer Jordan Winkelman

Itasca Plein Air painters began in 2023 as a small group of artists gathered together to explore the Grand Rapids area and create art from direct observation. Through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council in 2024, the meetups expanded to weekly outings from May to October. The paints-outs have continued in 2025 with weekly meetups at a different location each Wednesday morning. The group has continued to attract new artists from beginners to seasoned artists as well as visiting artists from throughout Minnesota and the country. This exhibit showcases some of the work created by these artists over the past two years.



Michelle Schwake_Paint Out

“When I moved to Grand Rapids in 2023, I knew there had to be other people that love painting the outdoors as much as I do,” says Nelia Harper French, a local artist who has coordinated the paint-outs for the past two years. “I put up a flyer and invited people to paint with me, and we have continued to grow and paint together since then. As landscape artists, our inspiration comes from the land, the topography, the changes in seasons, the color and forms we find in nature, the grandeur of the sky and the nuance of what we see. It is only through the study of nature that we are able to grow as artists. Just as importantly, these weekly paint-outs also provide an opportunity to connect with other artists; network, build relationships, share knowledge, and share the joy of painting this incredible world.”

*More information can be found at
macrostieartcenter.org/plein-air-events or
OutdoorPaintersOfMinnesota.org*

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MORE Theater Ghosts and Superstitions!

Behind the Scenes – October 2025

by: John Miller, Technical Director



**Technical Director
John Miller**

It's my favorite season again, and no it's not Pumpkin Spice! It's time for autumn and Halloween! Last year I had fun researching theater superstitions and spooky theater ghost stories, and I thought I could find a few more. So, sit back and enjoy.

Unlucky Colors

Modern actors are a superstitious lot, but this old superstition is mostly irrelevant and forgotten today. Green and blue costumes were once considered unlucky, for vastly different reasons.

I've found three possible reasons why green costumes are unlucky. First, green costumes didn't react well to the greenish glow of "the limelight." Second, actors wearing green would blend into the background when they performed outside. But the best reason? Actor and playwright Molière was wearing a green costume when he began coughing and hemorrhaging on stage in 1673. He finished the performance but died shortly afterward, still in costume.



The reason for blue being unlucky is financial. At one time blue dye was very expensive, and producers spread the rumor that blue costumes were unlucky to save themselves money.

Thanking the Director

I've never heard of this one before! When a production closes it's considered good luck to give the director a bouquet of flowers stolen from a graveyard! Symbolically it represents the "death" of the show, but it may also just be a cheap way to butter up the director before the next production!

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Foreign Superstitions

Chinese theater and opera have many superstitions. They have their own unlucky costume colors, black and white. In Chinese culture both colors are associated with death and funerals.

In Chinese the number 4 is a homophone for the word “death,” so the cast and crew will avoid saying the number whenever possible.

Chinese theater has a long history of puppetry. Just as old is the superstition that the puppets would come to life after hours. To prevent this the heads of the puppets would be removed at night and stored in a separate box from the bodies. It may just be me, but the thought of all those little puppet heads coming to life seems even creepier!



I covered the “Scottish Play” last year, but I found a Polish variation. In Poland it is bad luck to say the name of the play *Marzepa* because an open casket appears on stage.

Mantorville Opera House

Last year I told you about the usher who haunted the old Guthrie Theater. This year I have another Minnesota theater haunted by at least 4 ghosts, including a cat!

South of the Twin Cities lies the historic town of Mantorville. Founded in 1854, it is one of the oldest towns in Minnesota. After a fire devastated the downtown area in 1918 the



Mantorville Opera House was constructed to provide a home for the arts and culture. Travelling shows would regularly stop to perform, but the building has had many other uses; silent movie house, club, roller rink, city hall and.... speakeasy! The rumors that a speakeasy had operated in the basement seemed to be confirmed when prohibition era bottles of booze were found behind a brick wall during renovations.



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Today the Mantorville Opera House is the home of the Mantorville Theater Company presenting a season of plays and musicals along with a summer melodrama.

Let's meet the ghosts!

Eddie

In the basement visitors feel the stare of an unseen male presence, perhaps a former employee of the speakeasy who still feels protective of the space. "Eddie" doesn't seem to like the paranormal investigators who have conducted over 50 investigations at the Opera House. They report being physically nudged to get them to leave and their cameras being turned off repeatedly.

Ellen

Ellen likes to play pranks and will move props and costumes around. Her disembodied voice has been heard in the theater and her footsteps on the stairs. Her presence is felt all around the theater, perhaps a former actress who never left the stage she loved.

The Forlorn Spirit

A mournful female ghost dressed all in black has been seen wandering the theater. Some believe her to be the spirit of a former business owner whose mercantile store was destroyed in the fire that cleared the way for the construction of the Opera House.

Spirit Kitty

The story goes that the mummified remains of a cat were found blocked up behind a wall in the basement. His meows are often heard in the basement, perhaps he is keeping Eddie company. Spirit Kitty gets around, he's also reported to enjoy hanging out in the sound booth!

Bonus: Ghost Crew

Actors have reported seeing shadowy figures up in the rafters and catwalks where the lighting and rigging crew would have worked. I aspire to be just as dedicated as these spectral crew members someday!

The Mantorville Opera House would make a great weekend getaway this October! Where else can you visit an historic building, see a show and do a little ghost hunting on the side! If you see Eddie, Ellen or the rest of the crew be sure to let me know.



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REIF MISSION

| 7

**To stimulate arts in
Northern Minnesota.**

Underlying principles that guide this mission include the Reif Arts Council's responsibility to provide a healthy organization and a well-managed facility in which a wide variety of visual and performing arts may be experienced, exhibited, and taught.

2025 - 2026

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