



News & Information

909 South St. Andrews St. Dothan, AL 36301

Contact: Jennifer Love Doherty

(334) 794-0400 seact@seact.com

Community theatre adopts Wiregrass Drama Club

Middle and high school programs, classes now available at SEACT

DOTHAN, AL Sep. 11, 2020. Southeast Alabama Community Theatre recently expanded its organization to include the award-winning Wiregrass Drama Club. The parent-run club has operated for less than a year, performing *Once on this Island, Jr.* at the Alabama Youth Theatre Experience competition in March, and bringing home multiple awards by the students. The pandemic scuttled plans to perform the show locally, but the club moved forward with virtual meetings and classes over the summer.

A group of parents formed the drama club in January to bring together middle and high school-aged students from all over the Wiregrass area to form friendships through theatre. Their goal was to create a welcoming environment for all levels of experience, that was also affordable for families. SEACT General Manager Jennifer Doherty says these elements align perfectly with the community theatre's own mission. "Along with high-quality theatrical productions, SEACT's mission is to offer creative opportunities to artists and youth educators introducing and developing a love of theatre. There are so many life and future job-related skills to be gained through the team sport of theatre. SEACT is proud to have the Wiregrass Drama Club to develop future careers in theatre, but also future audiences who love and appreciate theatre."

Through Wiregrass Drama Club, SEACT gains the opportunity to offer year-round programming for youth, previously hard to manage with a patchwork of volunteers and teachers. The parent group functions as a new committee under the guidance of the SEACT Board of Directors, and already has a number of classes meeting. An actor's prep program focuses on fundamentals of acting for stage performance. An individual competition prep class focuses on student pieces that will be presented at theatre festivals. On Sep. 26, the club will hold auditions for musical theatre actors and tech members for its competition ensemble. The team of 25 or more will be performing *Seussical Jr.* next year.

Contact SEACT for more information on productions or becoming a SEACT contributor with ticket reservation privileges. SEACT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to enrich the cultural lives of Wiregrass residents through the presentation of high quality theatre, to provide creative opportunities to talented individuals to perform on stage and behind the scenes, and to introduce the theatrical experience to area youth.

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Rosana Burnett is the parent committee chair, and says that students from any school can join the club at any time. “There is always going to be another class, another meeting, another opportunity for these kids. And we have even bigger plans once we can safely gather in large groups together again.” The only cost to join the Wiregrass Drama Club is \$25, and as with all of SEACT’s youth programming, there are fundraisers and scholarships available to make sure class and competition fees do not create barriers to participation.

For more information on how to participate or donate in support of SEACT’s Wiregrass Drama Club, visit SEACT.com. Current activity information is also posted [@WiregrassDramaClub](#) on FaceBook and Instagram.

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