



**A Note From RTG Director  
Doug Instenes**

**Making History**

I became a fan of Patsy Cline's when we presented two musical shows about her in 2001 and 2003.

One of the things I love about Patsy was her skill at crossing over into so many different genres. It is a mistake to think of Patsy as a "country and western" singer, as she used her versatile singing voice to interpret many styles of songs.

I think that *Always...Patsy Cline* is a terrific way to kick off the Racine Theatre Guild's 80th season. The playreading committee members spent hours and hours reading plays, both new and old. They chose plays that we hope will make you laugh, cry, hold your sides in laughter, and tap along with catchy songs.

From new comedies, like *Indoor/Outdoor* from the feline perspective, to musicals like *A Christmas Carol* and *Sister Act*, to a comic sequel to *Lend Me a Tenor*, *A Comedy of Tenors* we have something for everyone.

Being a volunteer organization, we are always looking for talented, actors, singers and dancers. We also need willing hands to volunteer in back-stage and off-stage capacities, from helping with wardrobe, props, makeup, lights, sound, and stage management positions. As we say, "The only skill you need is desire."

If volunteering is not your thing, please join us as season ticket holders, so you can enjoy all of our plays. We have wonderful subscriber packages and Flex Passes that allow you to pick and choose the shows you want. Give us a call or check our web site. We hope to see you in the seats for Season 80!

# CALLBOARD

racine theatre guild **July 2017**

## *Always . . . Patsy Cline* Opens July 14

The Racine Theatre Guild first presented *Just A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline* in 2001 and followed that with *Always... Patsy Cline* by Ted Swindley in the summer of 2003. They both were so popular that for years people asked when Patsy would make her return. The playreading committee has listened. *Always . . . Patsy Cline* opens July 14 and runs eight performances through July 23.

Ted Swindley wrote this play when he discovered that Patsy Cline performed in Houston in 1961, and had started a friendship with a local woman, Louise Seger. It is from Louise's point of view and letters that we learn about the singer who shot to stardom after her appearance on the Arthur Godfrey show in 1957. Cline's style of singing, her rich voice, and her interpretation of lyrics made her unique and a historic figure in the music industry.

Swindley noted that he was inspired to write this play about these two women. One is a famous singer, and the other a divorced working mom, but they share a wonderful friendship. Swindley worked in 27 of Patsy's most well-known songs, including "Crazy," "Your Cheatin' Heart," "You Belong to Me," "I Fall to Pieces," and many more.

Louise Seger's admiration and love of the singer helps the audience see Patsy Cline as a real person and a down to earth friendly star. Author Ted Swindley has done a masterful job of guiding us through Patsy's life so it makes the show all the more poignant when it ends with Seger finding out about Cline's death in a plane crash in 1963.

Continued on page 4

## Always ... Patsy Cline

Created and originally directed by

**Ted Swindley**  
(Based on a true story)

Sponsored by  
**WRJN / 92.5 The Shore**

### Cast

Patsy Cline .... **Kate Potter-Barrow**  
Louise Seger ..... **Anne Mollerskov**

### The Bobacious Bobcats Band

Piano ..... **Zach Johnson**  
Fiddler/Guitar ..... **Mark Paffrath**  
Drums ..... **Nathan Johnson**  
Bass ..... **Tim Ipsen**  
Steel Guitar ..... **Marv Dykhuis**

### Crew

Director ..... **Doug Instenes**  
Tech. Director ..... **Chris Reinhardt**  
Stage Mgr. .... **Scarlette Kinderman**  
Asst. Stage Mgr. .... **Peter Jones**  
Costume Design ..... **Kim Instenes**  
Wardrobe ..... **Jodi Gement**  
Light Design ..... **Tony Fumo**  
Light Tech ..... **Donna Nielsen**  
Spots ... **James Huard, Eryn Benner**  
Projections ..... **Michael Kurhajec**  
Sound Design ..... **Eric Goodwin**  
Sound Tech. .... **John Whyte**  
Props.. **Dave & Anna Marie Smetana**  
Hair/Makeup ..... **Kori Hassler**

*The Callboard* is written by  
volunteer Nancy Moldenhauer,  
a freelance writer

## July Production Calendar - Always . . .

S M T W TH F S

14 15

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

23

FRIDAY, July 14 7:30 pm  
SATURDAY, July 15 2:00 & 7:30 pm  
SUNDAY, July 16 2:00 pm  
FRIDAY, July 21 7:30 pm  
SATURDAY, July 22 2:00 & 7:30 pm  
SUNDAY, July 23 2:00 pm

## Getting to Know Patsy, Louise & Zach

Music Director Zach Johnson says that presenting *Always...Patsy Cline* is both a challenge and a joy. "We want to re-create the sound of Patsy Cline and her band in her recordings, and that means a lot of work to get it just right. For example, we are doing the songs in the exact key that Patsy sang them, not shifting them to another key. That makes it sound very authentic."

As a singer/songwriter himself, Zach lives in the Twin Cities, and he spent a lot of time going over the songs with Kate Potter-Barrow by phone and internet. "I would record a song and send it to Kate, so she could work on it just the way I wanted," he says. "I am lucky to have Kate portraying Patsy, because she has been through this before and has done a lot of work on her own."

Zach has done a lot of research about Patsy and appreciates seeing how this musical presents a side of the singer through the eyes of one her biggest fans. "I consider this show as a way that fans want to be in touch with musicians. Telling Patsy's story through the eyes of Louise Seger gives a streamlined view of the lives of both women."

The music director not only rehearses the songs with the actors, but for this show he also needs to put together the band. "I called a friend of mine from Austin, Texas, who plays pedal steel guitar, and he said yes right away," Zach says. "That was great, because it takes specialized skill to play that instrument. I compare it to playing the organ – you have to use your right hand, left hand, and also feet on the pedals. It is always great to have a live band on stage, and that is a critical element. I actually started putting together the band before there were auditions for this show."

Zach has a great deal of admiration for both Patsy Cline and for Kate and her skill in portraying the singer's style. "Patsy was a groundbreaking performer, in crossing over into different genres of singing, and she had such muscle con-

trol to sing rich low notes as well as clear and clean high notes. I love that her talent seemed so natural. She was an intuitive singer, not over-rehearsed, and she had the ability to slide from one note to another and shape phrases. Her style broke ground and influenced so many singers that came after. People will appreciate seeing this show as a way to appreciate Patsy Cline's songs as interpreted by Kate to capture her voice and style."

Kate Potter-Barrow says she is honored and humbled to be cast as Patsy Cline for the third time in her life. "It is remarkably fun to sing her songs in her style," Kate says. "I spend a lot of hours listening to Patsy's recorded songs over and over, but it was easier to get to her style this time, since I had done it 15 years ago. It's a little like getting back on a bike."

Kate is enjoying working with Zach, and his approach to re-creating Patsy's musical and singing style. Even though for the early rehearsal process, Zach was long distance, the two used a lot of e-mail to nail down the sound they were both going for. Kate's life has been very busy lately, and she is delighted that she had the time this summer to do *Always...Patsy Cline* again.

"When you repeat a role in a show 15 years later, it is fun to take a fresh approach," Kate says. "I have never worked with Anne Mollerskov before (playing Louise Seger), but it is so fun getting to know her. While I am singing all the time, Anne is talking all the time. There is pleasure in the friendship and plenty of comic relief. One of the joys of community theatre is getting to know the other actors and form bonds, and I'm thrilled to work so closely in this two-person show with Anne."

Kate has a huge admiration for Patsy Cline, as a person and as a singer. "Patsy was a very honest and down-to-earth person," Kate explains, "and so am I. I'm a farm



girl and I don't have any time for pretense. What you see is what you get with me, and I'm sure Patsy was that way too. I identify with who she was, and I'm sure she would have been my friend, had we met. She was a gutsy woman, and I love being able to portray her again."

"My goal is to make Louise Seger a believable and ordinary person," says Anne Mollerskov. "I don't see her as big and brassy and just a joke or a cartoon, but a real woman, working hard. She was divorced, raised two children and worked as electronic technician, none of which was common at that time in the early 1960s."

Anne loves how the musical shows the friendship between the two women, and how they clicked, both being strong, independent women, ahead of their time. "I don't see it as a two-person show. The band is like another character, and both Patsy and I interact with them. And then the audience is like a fourth character, as I am talking directly to them all the time. I think in this show I am doing the most talking I've ever had to do. It has many sweet and comic moments, but also a poignancy and realism."

Anne's most recent appearance on the RTG stage was in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, which she calls "cotton candy." In contrast, she calls *Always...Patsy Cline* "bacon and eggs." "I am working hard to get the Texas accent just right, not a caricature, but realistic. I want the audience to see how Louise admired Patsy and got to know her, support her, and act as a kindred spirit. I think Louise was a strong and admirable woman, and I'm happy to portray her. After all, my middle name is Louise, so that gives a little extra meaning to this role."

**RACINE THEATRE GUILD**

**ANNOUNCING  
2017 - 2018  
SEASON**

**SEASON TICKETS  
&  
FLEX PASSES  
ON SALE NOW!!**

.....

**VISIT THE BOX OFFICE OR  
CALL 262.633.4218**

**WWW.RACINETHEATRE.ORG**

Get into  
**SHOW**  
**"BUSINESS"**  
and Support RTG

- Buy a Playbill Ad**
- Reach Target Audience
  - Get Continued Exposure
  - Build Keepsake Value
  - Enjoy Bargain Rates

**Cheer on our cast  
and crew at  
every performance.**

Visit: [RacineTheatre.org](http://RacineTheatre.org)  
Call: (262) 633-1250 x 105  
for more details

**YOUR KIDS CAN LEARN  
SOMETHING NEW THIS SUMMER!**

**SUMMER  
Theatre  
CLASSES**

Creative Kids	Incredible Improv	Group Voice Mini Comp
Creative Kids Adventures	Dr. Seuss Dramatics	Never Fear,
Broadway Bound, Jr.	Kids Kamp	It's Shakespeare!
Fairy Tale Players	Show Choir	Curtain Up!

★ VISIT RACINETHEATRE.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ★

**Auditions for  
Indoor/Outdoor - 7 pm August 28 & 29**

A comedy with 2 men and 2 women. Rehearsals begin in Sept. with performances Oct. 20-Nov. 5. Scripts are available to check out from the box office.

**The Racine  
Children's  
Theatre**

**2017 - 2018 Season**

Sponsored by

**SC Johnson**  
A FAMILY COMPANY

**Curious George**  
October 6, 7, & 8 2017

**Ever After**  
November 10, 11, 12, 2017

**Caps For Sale**  
February 2, 3, 4, 2018

**Peter Pan**  
March 16, 17, 18, 2018

**Season Ticket \$18**  
or [www.racine theatre.org](http://www.racine theatre.org)

The Racine Theatre Guild  
2519 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, WI 53404  
**Box Office 262-633-4218**  
[www.racinetheatre.org](http://www.racinetheatre.org)

**LIKE US on Facebook**

Monthly, Issue 80-1

*Please let us know if you would prefer  
to read the **Callboard** online.*

Continued from page 1

"Always...Patsy Cline" has been hugely popular. It ran Off Broadway in 1997 and was the most produced play in the nation in 1998. Appreciation for Patsy Cline's singing has only grown in the years since her death, with a recent American Masters documentary featuring her life, songs and performances. Critics have praised this musical whenever it has been performed.

"This show is as much about the friendship of two working women as it is about the indelible voice of Cline, which is a huge plus."

"The songs are fabulous, from tear-jerkers like 'Sweet Dreams' to pop numbers like 'Stupid Cupid,' to Gospel songs like 'How Great Thou Art.' Louise is the emotional stand-in for everyone who ever loved Patsy."

"Always...Patsy Cline is a love story. It is about the childlike love that we bear for our heroes, the sustaining love of friendship, and the unrequited love that never frees us when we lose someone way before their time."

Make sure you get your tickets early for this show that is sure to be a sellout. It runs July 14 to 23. Call the box office at 633-4218 to order tickets or for further information.

**Take a trip with the RTG to see**



**July 19**

**For more information call 262-633-4218 or [www.racinetheatre.org](http://www.racinetheatre.org)**