A festive winter scene featuring a wooden sled with a red ribbon tied around it, resting on a snowy surface. In the background, there are snow-covered evergreen branches and falling snowflakes.

*A Laura Ingalls
Wilder Christmas*

by Laurie Brooks

December 11-13, 2020

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all for One productions proudly presents
A LAURA INGALLS WILDER CHRISTMAS

by Laurie Brooks

Directed by Tricia Marshall

CAST (in order of appearance):

CHARLES "PA" INGALLS.....Justin Herber
CAROLINE "MA" INGALLS.....Bethany Schmitt
MARY INGALLS.....Elise Estabrook
LAURA INGALLS.....Sophia Schmitt
CARRIE INGALLS.....Audra Estabrook
JOHNNY STEADMAN.....Jagar Diehm
MRS. STARR.....Teresa Bower

Time: Fall/Winter of 1876

Place: Mainly in and around a small hotel in Burr Oak, Iowa

Action: One Act, approximate running time 80 minutes

There will be no intermission

Victoria Gardner, Set Design/Construction

Brock Eastom, Lighting Design

J. Scott Kump, Sound Design

Deanna DeTurk & Mary Swerens, Costumes

Laura Maxwell, Director's Assistant

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Rehearsal Space: First Missionary Church

Load In: Lauren Nichols, Stacey Kuster, Victoria Gardner, Tricia Marshall

Piano: Lauren Nichols

Violin: Sophie St. John

Props: Mary Swerens, Julia Estabrook, Lauren Nichols, Hannah Weiss, Claire Weiss, Julia Maxwell, Mary Swerens

Sled: Sharon Henderson

Light Board operator: Lauren Nichols

Sound Board operator: Brent Kuster, Rachael Kuster

Office Support Staff: Catharine Cwanek

Promotional photographer: Rachel Wilhelm

Social Media Promos: Emma Bachtel

Volunteer Coordinator: Emma Bachtel



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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Tricia Marshall

This particular journey begins in my childhood. Whether it was *The Waltons*, *Andy Griffith*, *Brady Bunch*, or *Little House on the Prairie*, my family often enjoyed watching TV together. The Ingalls family was certainly the most familiar to us, as we experienced life on the family farm. We identified with these girls who helped their farmer father with animal care and other chores. We even saw similarities in the pluckiness of our mother and her ability to fill many roles in the community. As a middle child, I developed an affinity for the spunky half-pint, tickled by her way of getting into trouble each week.

Around a dozen years ago, I rediscovered the Ingalls girls through the eyes of my daughters. Soon after that we had the opportunity to see *Little House on the Prairie the Musical* with none other than Melissa Gilbert as Ma. I was teary-eyed from the instant she yelled “Laura” from off-stage. (Several parts of tonight’s production were influenced by that experience.) So when Lauren asked me to consider guest directing, I was ecstatic. My husband can attest that I wouldn’t stop talking about it. So it seemed the winding road of life had led me to the Ingalls family once again.

And then came 2020. As I’ve reflected on the important parts of life, family and togetherness are at the top of the hill. Though this year has been anything but normal, and this production was challenged in so many ways, it has truly been a privilege to witness the steadfastness of Pa, the unending love of Ma, and the way their girls come together in hard times. This cast has become a family, just as *afO* is a family. Whether it’s your first time, or you have been here for many years, you are part of it. I couldn’t be more pleased to welcome you to our show about a family who, despite life’s trials, presses on and finds a way through...together.

Blessings,

Tricia

CAST (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



Teresa Bower (MRS. STARR) Teresa would like to echo the comment of her character, Mrs. Starr, to both Tricia and *afO*: “You have made this old woman so happy!” Truly, this cast/crew and the show itself has been a rare delight against the landscape of 2020. After a long hiatus from performing, Teresa feels truly blessed to be back! Historically, Teresa has performed just about any place where they have a stage and an audience (in the Fort Wayne area). Along with husband, Larry, she is a founding member of Bower North Productions.



Jagar Diehm (JOHNNY STEADMAN) This is the first *afO* production for Jagar, an 11 year old 5th grader from Albion, Indiana. He hopes to have many more opportunities with *afO*. His three previous shows are *The Land of Sweets*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. He has a little sister and three dogs. He loves to collect action figures, draw and anything scary! His favorite colors are red and black. He loves to eat chicken wings, hot dogs, burgers and pizza. He hopes you enjoy the production of *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas*. May God bless you all.



Audra Estabrook (CARRIE INGALLS) is making her acting debut in *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas*. She is a 9-year-old lifelong homeschooling 3rd grader. She loves to read and is currently enjoying the *Clementine* book series. Audra is a karate student and has earned her green belt. She loves to watch and quote *Hamilton* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. In her free time, she likes to bake, grow sunflowers, and play sports. Audra’s favorite dessert is apple pie a la mode—please deliver to her father after the show!



Elise Estabrook (MARY INGALLS) has been involved in theatre for several years with Fire & Light and FWAHS Drama Camp. This is her first appearance with *all for One*. She has acted in several shows, but her favorite role was playing another Mary in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. She is a 12-year-old homeschooled 7th grader with science being her favorite subject. When she is not on stage, Elise enjoys playing basketball, baking, and making creative videos.

CAST

Elise looks forward to April Fool's Day and she loves to prank her family. Her favorite dessert is brownies—please deliver them to her father!



Justin Herber (PA INGALLS) is proud to be making his *afO* debut! Some of his favorite roles include Lloyd/*Noises Off* at Pulse Opera House, Sr. Naccarelli/*The Light in the Piazza* at TRMT, Ralph/*A Christmas Story* at FW Civic, as well as his Anthony Award winning role as Amos in *Chicago*. Other Civic shows include *Fiddler on The Roof*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Les Miserables*, and *Jekyll and Hyde*. In 2018 Justin made his directorial debut along with his wife Sarah, at St. Johns Catholic School in Fort Wayne. They directed *The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Peter Pan* in 2019.



Bethany Schmitt (MA INGALLS) is excited to be performing for the first time with *afO*. She has performed on most of the Fort Wayne stages, including the Civic, Arena, Black Box, and the Embassy. Bethany is also an amateur aerial artist. She has been studying the aerial arts for three years and plans to show her talents at future venues such as Buskerfest fest in the summer. Bethany feels blessed to be able to act alongside her daughter in this production and she would like to thank the director, cast and crew for being the wonderful people they are!



Sophia Schmitt (LAURA INGALLS) This is the first time Sophia has performed with *afO*. Sophia has performed on many stages around Fort Wayne to include the Black Box and Embassy stages. This is the largest roll to date for Sophia and she is excited to bring “Laura” to life for you! Sophia is also a cheerleader for Holy Cross. She loves to draw and hopes to learn to play the piano. Sophia would like to thank the director, cast, crew, but especially her family for their love and support.

DIRECTOR BIO



Tricia Marshall (DIRECTOR) has fond childhood memories of attending theatre with her grandma. She quickly caught the acting bug while sharing the stage with her sisters in high school & with her parents in Albion Community Theatre productions. While raising her daughters, Tricia turned her focus to directing as well as co-writing and establishing three children's theatre programs. She returned to the stage over the last several years, most recently as Dr. Sawyer in Civic's *Miracle on 34th Street*. This is her first production with *afO*. She's thankful for her family's support and understanding which allows her to continually make "big plans."

This activity is provided with support from Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne; the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



FUN FACT

Laura Ingalls Wilder penned her autobiography, *Pioneer Girl*, in 1930, but could not find a publisher willing to buy it during the difficult years of the Depression. Over time, the manuscript has been typed, revised, and photocopied for both historians and private readers.

In 2014, Pamela Smith Hill published a fully annotated version of *Pioneer Girl*. The South Dakota historical Society Press documented the process at pioneerproject.org.

TIMELINE OF LAURA'S EARLY LIFE

January 10, 1836 - Charles Phillip Ingalls (Laura's Pa) is born.

December 12, 1839 - Caroline Lake Quiner (Laura's Ma) is born.

February 13, 1857 - Almanzo James Wilder is born near Malone, NY

February 1, 1860 - Caroline and Charles are married in Concord, Wisconsin.

September 22, 1863 - Charles Ingalls buy land in Pepin, Wisconsin

January 10, 1865 - Mary Amelia Ingalls is born.

February 7, 1867 - Laura Elizabeth Ingalls is born.

1868 - Pa has a case of "itchy foot," sells Big Woods and moves to Missouri.

September 1869 - Pa leaves Missouri for Kansas, setting of *Little House on the Prairie*.

August 3, 1870 - Caroline Celestia (Baby Carrie) is born in Kansas.

May 1871 - Ingalls family moves back to Pepin, Wisconsin. It is during this time period that Laura's memories from *The Big Woods* takes place.

May 1874 - Pa's itchy foot again moves his family, this time to Walnut Grove, Minnesota, setting for *On the Banks of Plum Creek*.

November 1, 1875 - Charles Frederick (Freddy) Ingalls is born.

July 10, 1876 - Ingalls family sells property in Walnut Grove.

August 27, 1876 - Baby Freddy dies at less than 10 months old.

Fall 1876 - Ingalls family moves to Burr Oak, Iowa to help friends run the Masters Hotel.

May 23, 1877 - Grace Pearl Ingalls is born.

January 1878 - Ingalls family moves back to Walnut Grove, Minnesota

*Joseph and Mary were in need of shelter
that Holy Night. And it was to them,
in a humble dwelling, that the
Greatest Gift was entrusted.*

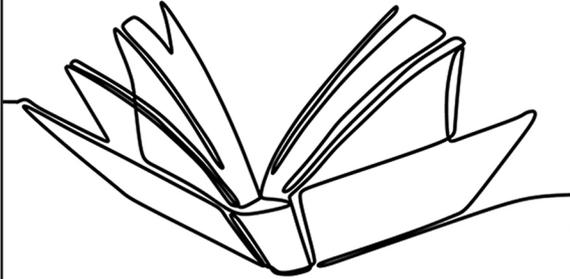


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Important Dates

October 17, 2020 -	YPF Writer Workshop
November 20, 2020 -	First submission deadline (optional, for comments and feedback)
December 4-7, 2020 -	Writer receives feedback for revisions to final submission
December 21, 2020 -	Final submission deadline
February 2021 -	Winning plays announced
March 9, 2021 -	Auditions to cast winning plays
March - May 2021 -	Rehearsals of winning plays
May 7 & 8, 2021 -	Young Playwrights Festival Gala Performances of winning and runner-up plays in the PPG ArtsLab

Contact Info

Tricia Marshall, Education Director

tricia@allforonefw.org

260.310.7492

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Mary's Wedding

by Stephen Massicotte



February 19-21 & 26-28, 2021

On the eve of Mary's wedding, the audience is invited into a dream. Charlie, a native Canadian, and Mary, a British emigrant, are neighbors on opposite sides of the social divide in their small town. Drawn together by their mutual love for horses, their friendship blooms, but is overshadowed by the looming threat of World War One. Then Charlie joins a cavalry unit and heads overseas to fight in Europe. This gorgeous piece of theatre is highly stylized, intimate and unforgettable. A tour de force for two talented young actors.

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The Charitable Sisterhood of the Second Trinity Victory Church

a comedy by
Bo Wilson



April 23-25 & 30-May 2, 2021

Flooded roads and washed-out bridges can't keep the dedicated ladies of the Charitable Sisterhood away from the church where they're sorting a mountain of donations for a relief effort. Meet Bea, the pastor's wife; Lorraine, tireless mother of nine; Tina, a transplanted Yankee; and Janet, a new arrival. One woman's trash is truly another's treasure, and that pile of donated goods yields some surprising--and hilarious--results. A side-splitting comedy with a serious lining, this feel-good area premiere is not to be missed.

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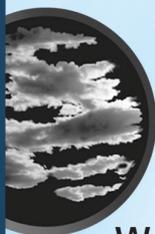
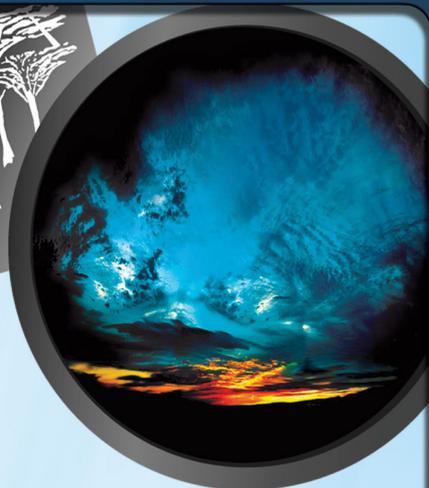
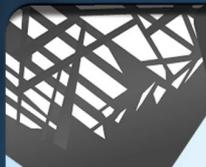


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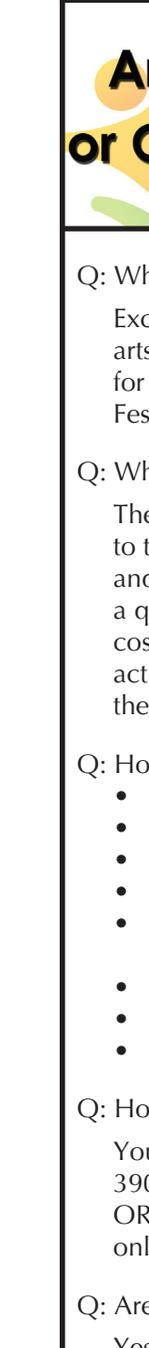
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Q: Why should I support afO?

The arts are rarely a self-sustaining pursuit. Even utilizing volunteers to the extent that we do, we still need support from individuals and corporations to keep our doors open and to keep producing a quality product. Ticket sales cover only 30% of our operating costs. Your donations will enable us to sustain our current level of activity and even expand our programs and serve more people in the Greater Fort Wayne area.

Q: How can I support afO?

- Attend our shows
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- Hang posters or flyers in shops or libraries near you
- Encourage young people you know to participate in the Young Playwrights Festival
- Underwrite (in part or in full) a production or Young Playwrights
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OR you can go **online** to www.allforonefw.org/donate and make an online contribution.

Q: Are my donations tax deductible?

Yes. afO is a 501(c)(3) corporation and all donations to afO are deductible to the extent provided by law.

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