

Alan & Diane Gentges Present ...

GUNSMOKE

Stories of young America and the territories out west.

OCTOBER 6-8, 2022

7PM

Directed by **Shelby Brammer**
Written by **John Meston**

GUNSMOKE

Written by **JOHN MESTON**

Directed by **SHELBY BRAMMER**

Produced by **ALAN and DIANE GENTGES**

ACT I

Kitty
The Mortgage

ACT II

The Cabin
A Christmas Story

STAGE MANAGER

Diane Gentges

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT AND BODY MIC OPERATOR

Melissa Green

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Emma Hudson

SOUND DESIGN

Chris Cauthen
Evan Martin

SOUND and LIGHTING

The Center

COSTUME DESIGN

Susan Downs, Kati Berg,
Karan Berg Burch, Joan Gillham,
Rebecca Renfro

SCENERY, SET DRESSING AND PROPS

Sidney Brammer
Penny Williams
Katie Walker

SET DESIGN

Shelby Brammer

SET CONSTRUCTION

Diane and Alan Gentges





CAST

MARSHAL MATT DILLON	Adam Molloy
DOC ADAMS	Alan Gentges
CHESTER CROWFOOT	Evan Martin
MISS KITTY RUSSELL	Shelly Holdman
DODGE CITY MAN #1, CALEB ANDREWS, HACK	Fritz Green
DODGE CITY MAN #2, ANNOUNCER, AMOS	Greg Williams
DODGE CITY MAN #3, GAMBLER JACK, ALVIE	Eric Jaekel
DODGE CITY WOMAN, BELLE	Leasha Ryan
MARTHA BLAKE	Rachel Molinari
ED BLAKE, MR. HIGHTOWER	Jordan Gentges
JENNY BLAKE	Jozlyn Shidler
JOHN BUMBY, CLEM BATES, MR. SPRINKLE	Danny Holdman
MRS. SPRINKLE, SALOON GIRL	Krystal Briggs
MRS. MURPHIN, SALOON GIRL	Jackie Larmore
MISS MCNISH	Sidney Brammer
MISS BROWN, SALOON GIRL	Lydia Gentges
SAM, THE BARTENDER	Stephen Berg

THERE WILL BE A FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION BETWEEN ACTS



MEET OUR DIRECTOR

SHELBY BRAMMER

Shelby Brammer is grateful for the opportunity to put together entertainment for the Unity Square stage again after having directed last spring's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She is also proud to have served on the Price Tower at Unity Square Design Committee and hopes there will be many more wonderful productions on the green stage in the years to come. A big, big thank you to the cast, the crew, the designers of the costumes, props, and scenery, to Diane and Alan, and to Z. Ray who got me listening to Gunsmoke.

SPECIAL THANKS

DSR

The Center

Tracye Caughell

Price Tower Plaza

City of Bartlesville

Our backstage crew

*To family and friends of the cast and crew
for their support during this artistic process,
and to everyone in our community who supports the arts.*



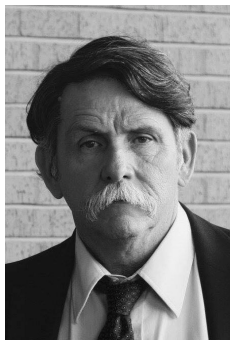
MEET OUR CAST

ADAM MOLLOY (*Marshal Matt Dillon*)

Originally from Northern California's Bay Area, Adam has appeared in past Theater Bartlesville productions including *The Kingdoms of Democracy*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Enchanted April*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Bus Stop*, *The Dining Room*, *Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Picnic*, and most recently as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He's also a part of the cast of Joe Sear's *Greater Tuna*, *A Tuna Christmas*, and *Red, White and Tuna* at the Heritage Theater. Over the last year he has worked on the films, *American Underdog: The Kurt Warner Story*, *Killers of The Flower Moon*, and *Land of Gold*, while also appearing in three commercials.



ALAN GENTGES (*Doc Adams*)



Alan is a local actor, musician, songwriter, attorney, municipal judge and grateful grandfather who has joined the casts of various productions of Theater Bartlesville such as *Bus Stop* and *Picnic*, directed by Shelby Brammer. Alan has had the pleasure of playing Arles Struvie in Tuna plays written and directed by Joe Sears. He played in the award-winning short films *Floor Fourteen* and *Avarice* written and directed by Chuck Price and produced by Dane Warner. He has played background in *Starbright*, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, the second season of *Reservation Dogs* and as the fisherman, in the upcoming feature film *Fancy Dance*. In May, he produced *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, written by William Shakespeare and directed by Shelby

Brammer. Alan and his wife, Diane are the producers of tonight's play, *Gunsmoke*, written by John Meston and directed by Shelby Brammer. The Gentges' are members of Bartlesville First Church.

EVAN JAMES (*Chester Proudfoot*)

Evan is from Bartlesville and began acting with Theater Bartlesville in 2018. His first performance was *Sherwood: Adventures of Robin Hood* and he continued doing shows for two more years. His last show was *All Rights Reserved* as the first show at Unity Square. After a two-year hiatus, he is happy to be back on stage as Chester Proudfoot in *Gunsmoke*.



SHELDENE (SHELLY) HOLDMAN (*Miss Kitty Russell*)

Shelly has had a passion for theater most of her life. Born and raised on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent, she was one of the founding members of the local theater troupe ODD (Organization for Drama Development) which dominated St. Vincent's Community Drama Competitions for years. She is the President and Victim Advocate for the non-profit SAFE-NOW. Shelly's greatest passion is her family – her husband Danny, the love of her life for over 20 years; their son Ian, a senior at BHS; and their niece Kris, a freshman at RSU. Shelly's debut with Theater Bartlesville was in 2016 in *The Kingdoms of Democracy*. Her other local credits include *The Dining Room*, *Enchanted April*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is Shelly's seventh production here in Bartlesville. She is thrilled to be working once again with the incredibly talented Shelby Brammer, and this amazing cast and production team.



FRITZ GREEN (*Dodge City Man #1, Caleb Andrews, Hack*)



Fritz Green is thrilled to be in *GunsSmoke!* His 37 years of theater credits include starring roles in *Sleuth*, *I Remember Mama*, *That Championship Season*, *Ah, Wilderness!*, *A Thousand Clowns*, *The American Clock*, *Talley & Son*, *Weekend Comedy*, *I Take This Man*, *Little White Lies*, and most recently, a supporting role in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has directed five stage productions: *Steel Magnolias*, *Sleuth*, *Rebecca*, *'Night Mother*, and *Pruning the Family Tree*, and has won 11 different awards for acting, best show, and set design. In addition to writing and directing several short films, he has several credits for acting in movies. He wrote and directed the movie *Every Hidden Thing* and directed the film version of Dan Gordon's stage play *Pruning the Family Tree*, which won the Audience Choice award at the 2013 Trail Dance Film Festival. Fritz adores his wife and creative partner, Melissa. Together, they started Copper Cup Images, a graphic design and website development studio, which they operated for 25 years.

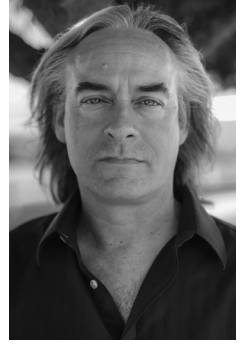
GREG WILLIAMS (*Dodge City Man #2, Announcer, Amos*)

Greg Williams was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and attended the University of Oklahoma, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. This is Greg's eleventh appearance with Theater Bartlesville. He was seen most recently here playing Theseus, the Duke of Athens, in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and has performed in more than a dozen other stage productions in Bartlesville, Dewey and Owasso. In addition to his stage credits, Greg has had principal, supporting and background roles in more than two dozen feature films, shorts and commercials, three live comedy improv performances and a radio broadcast. Greg just finished working as the stand-in for actors A.C. Peterson and Garrett Hedlund in season one of Sylvester Stallone's TV series *Tulsa King*, premiering November 13 on Paramount+. Greg would like to thank director Shelby Brammer for her patience and guidance, and Greg's many friends and family for their support and encouragement.



ERIC JAEKEL (*Dodge City Man #3, Gambler Jack, Alvie*)

Eric has been involved in theater and acting for four years. He has served as stage manager, technical director, set builder and actor on several productions. In 2022, Eric performed featured background extra roles in Season 2 of *Reservation Dogs* and the upcoming film, *Fancy Dance*. In 2021, Eric was cast as a background extra in *Killers of the Flower Moon*, working throughout the summer in multiple roles. In 2018, Eric became involved in theater at Theater Bartlesville serving as Stage Manager and Technical Director for the productions of *Bus Stop* and *The Dining Room*, in which he also made his acting debut. He went on to perform lead roles as Alan in *Picnic*, Sir Guy of Gisbourne in *Sherwood* and as Steve in *Becky's New Car*. A resident of Bartlesville for 25 years, Eric has a B.S in Fashion Design and Merchandising and an M.S. in International Business from OSU. He is the owner of Curtis Craftsman Construction specializing in downtown redevelopment.



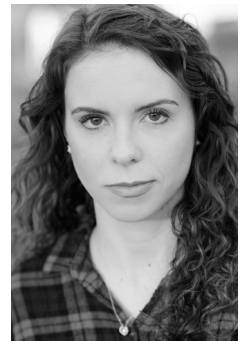
LEASHA RYAN (*Dodge City Woman, Belle*)



Leasha has appeared in plays in Bartlesville over the past decade, and some of her favorite roles include Corrie Bratter in Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park*, Maid Marian in *Sherwood: The Adventures of Robinhood* by Ken Ludwig, Cherie in *Bus Stop*, and Madge in *Picnic*; both plays by William Inge. Most recently, Leasha appeared as Hermia in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, produced this past spring on the Unity Square green stage. Leasha is also a hairstylist in downtown Bartlesville, and when she's not on stage or working, she loves going on adventures with her son, Ty.

RACHEL MOLINARI (*Martha Blake*)

Rachel made her Theater Bartlesville debut in 2017 as Rose of Sharon in *The Grapes of Wrath*. Since then, she has performed in several community theater productions in the greater Tulsa area. Some of her credits include Harper in *The Golffather*, and the Free Spirit in *How to Host a Murder Mystery Dinner Party*. She has also been featured in Tulsa PAC musical productions such as *Ragtime*, *A Christmas Carol*, *My Fair Lady*, and *The Tempest*. Rachel has also done background work in film and television in projects like *Killers of the Flower Moon* and *Tulsa King*. When she's not performing, Rachel enjoys drawing and spending time with her cat, Pascal.



JORDAN GENTGES (*Ed Blake, Mr. Hightower*)



Jordan was born in Tulsa but raised in Bartlesville. He went to OSU where he received his Bachelor's degree in biochemistry. From there, he has gone on to work in the energy industry primarily doing software engineering. He has had a lifelong love of theatre with his acting debut in *You Can't Take It with You* at Theater Bartlesville. He has since acted in *Hello Dolly*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. Jordan continues his idyllic life in Bartlesville with his wife, Lydia, and their two children, Freyja and Leo.

JOZLYN SHIDLER (*Jenny*)

Jozlyn is a student at Dewey Middle School and a member of the Cherokee nation. She enjoys reading, video games, and spending time with friends and family. This will be her debut as an actor and she's excited to show what she can do.



DANNY HOLDMAN (*John Bumby, Clem Bates, Mr. Sprinkle*)



Danny has been a resident of Bartlesville since 2009. His first memorable theater experience was with a single spoken line in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* in middle school. In college at East Central University in Ada, he participated in both musical and regular theater, with small roles in several productions including *The Fantasticks*, *The Crucible* and an original play written by one of his professors called *Governor, Governor*. After his Bartlesville acting debut as Egeus in Theater Bartlesville's recent production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, he joins this talented cast to lend himself in the roles of several of Dodge City's colorful townsfolk. He enjoys spending time with his family – his beautiful and beloved wife Shelly (a perennial favorite on Bartlesville's stage, the ageless "Miss Kitty" in this production), their son Ian (a senior at Bartlesville High School and a two-time veteran of Children's Musical Theater), a tail-chasing German shepherd and two aloof felines who graciously allow them to attend to their every need.

KRYSTAL BRIGGS (*Mrs. Sprinkle, Saloon Girl*)

Krystal, a Bartlesville native and member of the Cherokee nation, has always had a passion for the arts. She's performed in several plays such as Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as well as being part of the writing process for original plays performed by Bartlesville Youth Thespian Ensemble (BYTE) as a youth. Krystal enjoys spending time with her three kids, writing music, and playing bass



guitar, and just being outdoors. She looks forward to many more theatrical opportunities and ways to serve the Bartlesville community.

JACLYN LARMORE (*Mrs. Murphin, Saloon Girl*)

Jaclyn Larmore, after a long hiatus from the stage, returned to the theater for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and is continuing to pursue her love of acting. Acting was her first love; however, after high school she focused on other creative endeavors. Jaclyn Larmore is an indie author and writes fantasy and gothic literature under the name J.S. Larmore. She is also a cosplayer and makeup artist. She works in marketing for a small publishing press, Quill and Crow Publishing House. She lives in Bartlesville with her husband and young daughter, and enjoys watching horror comedy movies in her free time.



SIDNEY BRAMMER (*Miss McNish*)



Sidney appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Our Town*, *Mausoleum Stories*, and *Aunt Pearl's Christmas Eve* (as Young Aunt Pearl). She has worked as set dresser, prop master, and costume assistant on multiple shows here. She was a founding member of the award-winning regional theatre company, Big State Productions, whose signature production *In the West*, toured for a decade, playing Kennedy Center in 1989 representing the best of Texas theater. She worked behind-the-scenes on feature films and commercials in NY/LA for many years, is a produced screenwriter, and has directed award-winning shorts and national theatrical premieres. She has also been a dramaturg, story consultant, and editor for other writers and directors, and was a grant writer at UT-Austin. She was The Austin Chronicle's first drama critic, is a published fiction writer, and has taught creative writing for Austin Community College for 22 years.

LYDIA GENTGES (*Miss Brown, Saloon Girl*)

Lydia is a mother of two children, Leo and Freyja, and is married to Jordan Gentges. She has previously acted as a chorus member in the musical, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* and acted in the play *The Grapes of Wrath*. Lydia enjoys creating art, reading, singing, dancing, and spending time with her wild kids and husband. Lydia works as a children's therapist at Tulsa Women and Children's Center, working with women and children struggling with substance use issues. She also once auditioned for *American Idol*. Lydia is also an aspiring play therapist and wants to make it her life's work helping children heal through the magic of play.



STEPHEN BERG (*Sam, the Bartender*)

Stephen Berg, a Bartlesville native, is no stranger to the theater. He has been in six Theater Bartlesville's productions since 2014. This comedic actor and Bartlesville High School graduate has been in several different shows including *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Foreigner*, *Fox on the Fairway*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Enchanted April*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Greater Tuna*, and the Tulsa Spotlight Theater's production of the *Drunkard*. This will be his eighth Theater Bartlesville production. Also, he goes on to say that acting is a way you can express emotions mentally and physically letting stress out without being embarrassed about yourself and creating a beautiful picture of everyday life.



MEET OUR CREW

DIANE GENTGES (*Stage Manager*)

Diane enjoys retirement life after working at Phillips 66 Company and ConocoPhillips for 28 years. As an introvert – but a very organized one at that – she is much more comfortable staying behind the scenes, ensuring the details of each performance run as smoothly as possible. When she isn't stage managing and producing, Diane enjoys the company of her husband, Alan, their children, and grandchildren, plus their very spoiled dog, Misty, and three entertaining cats.



MELISSA GREEN (*Production Assistant and Body Mic Operator*)

Melissa is excited to work with the talented cast and crew of *GunsSmoke!* She loves the creative process and seeing a show come to life. She and her husband, Fritz, have been part of the downtown Bartlesville community since 1994.

EMMA HUDSON (*Production Assistant*)

Emma is a Bartlesville native and has worked on or performed in numerous productions in and around Bartlesville including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Love in the Universe*, *The Halloween Ball*, *Greater Tuna*, and the *Dead FM* radio play.



SUSAN DOWNS (*Costume Design*)



Susan was born into a house full of music and learned at an early age how to carry her part in the harmony, musically and in other endeavors. Having a strong voice and a good ear, she performed often in musical groups, choirs, and musical theater, which in turn exposed her to numerous other opportunities to explore/exercise her creative gene. Her parents indulged her curiosity, answering the constant “whys” and

“hows” and at a young age, dad explained how a sewing machine worked and mom showed her how to use it. Costuming gives her an opportunity to indulge in her passion for wearables and accessories. Her creations tend to lean towards the historical with a twist. A girl’s got to have a cell phone pocket. Ms. Downs currently lives and works in Bartlesville, pitching in where she can, calling the occasional Contra Dance, and giving in to artistic temptations.

KATIE WALKER (*Set Dressing*)



Born and raised in Kansas, Katie is a creator with a passion for design and decoration. She is a wife and full-time mom of two who also enjoys staging and styling homes through her business *Sweet Winfield*

Design. During her experience working background on *Killers of the Flower Moon*, she recognized the potential to bring her creative gifts and eye for detail to theater, television and film in Oklahoma. Katie was a student set dresser for Film Education Institute of Oklahoma’s *Terminal Boredness* and set decorator for *Love and Joy* (*A Skit Guys Christmas Series*). Katie most recently worked as set dresser and promotional window painter for Theater Bartlesville’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, which was her first experience in theater.

JOAN GILLHAM (*Costume Design*)



Joan grew up in Bartlesville. At 93 years young, she is blessed with a “song in her heart, and a twinkle in her eyes.” Joan has 11 children, 21 grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. Having sewn, all her life, Joan is a natural at

costuming. From creating square dance dresses to homemade quilts, Joan is a true Oklahoma seamstress.

KATI BERG (*Costume Design*)

Having studied Art and Music at NEO and OCU, Kati is a vocalist and a multimedia artist. She has performed in small venues for over 20 years, utilizing her multimedia skills to create specialty costumes and items



for private patrons, school programs and small local productions. Most recently, Kati was a background extra, in Martin Scorsese’s, *Killers of Flower Moon*. She also created costumes for Theater Bartlesville’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

KARAN BERG BURCH (*Costume Design*)

Having grown up in Bartlesville. Karan is a talented “Redneck Engineer” and contractor. Wife of a truck driver and rodeo cowboy, and the mother of three sons, Karan has 30 years of excellence, in customer service and execution of design, for private parties in Texas and Oklahoma.

FIREARM NOTICE

During tonight’s performance, there will be no munitions nor discharging of firearms on the stage. This includes live rounds, blanks, or caps. There is only one simulation of a shotgun firing and it is done with sound effects. The shotgun used is safety-checked by three individuals prior to each performance.

ABOUT THE WRITER

It is said that *Gunsmoke* was radio's first successful adult western. The hero of the show was an incorruptible United States Marshal named Matt Dillon, and the stories had an integrity and realism that didn't "pretty" things up and, as often as not, offered no happy ending.

John Meston, one of radio and television's most important storytellers is the writer credited with creating the show, along with director/producer, Norman MacDonnell. Overall, Meston wrote 183 of the radio episodes and 196 of the 635 episodes produced for television between 1955 and 1975. While he never won any major award for his work, Meston was a master writer, serving up memorable characters in authentic western settings. In addition to his work on *Gunsmoke*, Meston also served as a writer and editorial supervisor for other radio programs such as *Escape*, *Suspense*, *Lux Radio Theater*, and *Fort Laramie*; and in the 1970s, he wrote several episodes for two other television series, *Little House on the Prairie* and *Hec Ramsey*.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado, Meston developed his skills as a horseman working in the summer with cowboys and competing periodically in regional rodeos as a bronc rider. After graduation from high school, he received an extensive higher education at Dartmouth, Harvard, and in France at the Sorbonne. He served in WWII and ultimately landed a job as Network Story Editor for CBS Radio in Hollywood.

Following the successful beginning of *Gunsmoke*, Meston's scripts dominated the radio series' presentations for years, and the radio version continued production until June 1961, remaining popular even after the 1955 debut of the television version of *Gunsmoke*. By 1958, the two formats of the series were together drawing a weekly audience of 55 million listeners and viewers. The entire population of the United States that year, including all armed forces overseas, is estimated to be just over 173 million people.

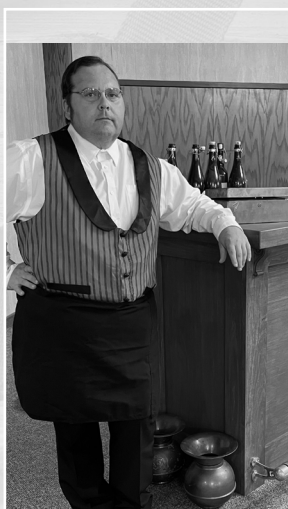
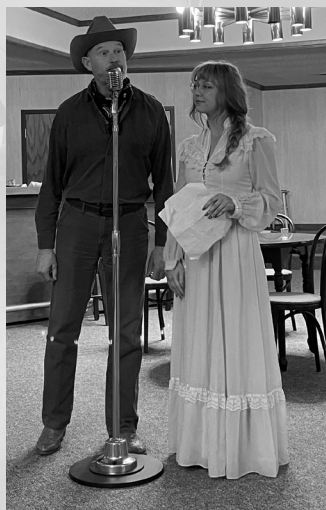
Producer and director, Norman Macdonnell made numerous and profound contributions to the now-classic Western, but Meston's enormous talents as head writer set exceptionally high standards for the series' story content. His engaging plots and realistic dialogue continued to distinguish *Gunsmoke* from the array of other Westerns being broadcast on both radio and television. Macdonnell in interviews about his own career often expressed his admiration for the scripts that emerged from Meston's "grubby little typewriter."

"I think it should be known that perhaps the most deserving award was never passed out. It was the one that should have gone to John Meston, who wrote hundreds of these scripts, and to the best of my knowledge, received no specific award, which I think is rather a tragedy and an oversight."

In an interview following John Meston's death in 1979, his wife, Mary Ann Meston described her husband as essentially a walking dichotomy, a complex person who defined himself and was motivated by simplicity:

"John was a man of letters...A man who was basically a philosopher and poet and somehow got involved with *Gunsmoke*. He wrote as he thought. Everything was simple. If Matt had something to say, he said it. After a few lines, you knew the character. This was his brain ... his philosophy."

Enjoy the show!





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SAFE-NOW promotes Prevention and Empowerment through Community Outreach Awareness events, and Educational Training classes.

OCTOBER EVENT

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WERE
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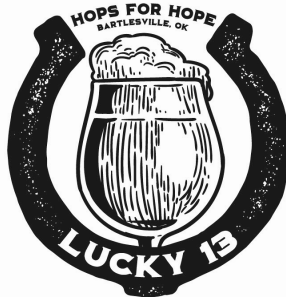
Survivor Exhibit
Bartlesville Community Center
October 4 - 27

FREE

Website: oksafenow.org
Email: oksafenow@gmail.com



NOVEMBER 5TH - 6:30 PM
BARTLESVILLE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

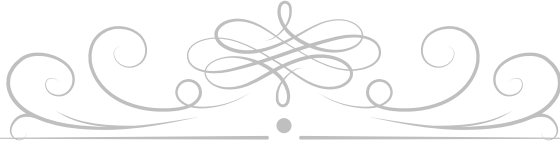


TICKETS:
RAYOFHOPEAC.ORG

PRESENTED BY:

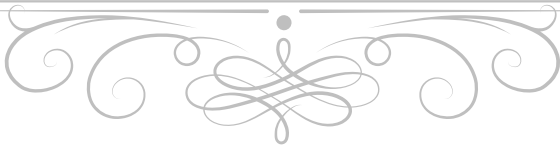


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PRICE TOWER PLAZA



DONATIONS ACCEPTED



All proceeds go to Theater Bartlesville
For information, go to: theaterbartlesville.com



GUNSMOKE

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