

Southern Broadway proudly presents

A Grand Christmas



Written by Lydia Dillingham

Owners of Southern Broadway Dinner Theater:



Lydia Dillingham

Playwright, Director, Audio Engineer

Raised in the Washington, D.C. area, Lydia Dillingham moved to Enterprise in 1987 when her husband began employment at Fort Rucker, AL. She developed a love for the theater during her college career after portraying lead roles in numerous productions. During college, she played in a public relations band and later gained experience in the entertainment industry by traveling full time with the U.S.O. after college, singing and playing music in a seven-piece performance band. Later, she attended law school, where she earned her Juris Doctorate Degree. She currently holds a full-time position on the faculty at Enterprise State Community College as Legal Studies Program Director and serves part-time as Coffee County Drug Court Counsel. Having a passion for creative writing, she has written numerous songs, including a published CD titled *If Not Now...* Lydia writes all of the plays produced here on the Southern Broadway stage, which now total 27 to date.



Susan Gilmore

Chef, Set Designer, Box Office Manager

Susan is a native of south Alabama. She is a graduate of Troy University, with a Master of Education degree in Educational Technology. Prior to owning Southern Broadway, Susan's career spanned such ventures as working as media designer for online post-secondary institutions to the culinary arts. Back in the early 80's, Susan worked as the head chef under Hayden Pursley for The Lobby Restaurant located on the ground floor of the old Rawls Hotel. She serves as Executive Chef while in production and creates the menus using her knowledge from her years working as a chef for many well-known restaurants, including The 500 East Club of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Susan also oversees the set design for each production and can usually be found wielding tools and helping build the sets. She loves God, family, friends, and this country.

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Setting:

Setting: South rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona in the late 1800s.

Backstory:

Levi Stryker was raised in the small town of Alnwick, England near the foothills of the Scottish Highlands. Emma Stryker was raised in the village of Coldstream which is right on the border of Scotland and England. They met in Coldstream, fell in love and married, with hopes of going to America, becoming citizens, and claiming land under the Homestead Act. When they travelled to the southwest and saw the Grand Canyon, they immediately knew this was the place they wanted to call home. You'll witness this young couple's joys and hardships and meet the interesting characters that helped mold their destiny.

Scenes and Time References:

Prelude: Early Spring 1899

Scene 1: Late Summer 1899

Scene 2: Same day

Scene 3: Six days later

Scene 4: After Winter - Late Spring 1900

Scene 5: Same day

Scene 6: The next day

Scene 7: After lunch

Scene 8: The day before Christmas 1900

Musical Numbers:

1. "A Place to Call Home" prelude, sung by Leah Lancaster and Jeremy Thom as Written by Lydia Dillingham
2. "Whack fol the Dah" sung by all cast
Author unknown - an old Scotch/Irish celebratory tune
3. The "Gold Rush Song" of 1849 sung by Jeremy Thomas, Leah Lancaster, Wayne White (also on harmonica), and Scotty Johnson
Original song by Jonathan Williams
4. "Siul a Ruin" (scene change song)
Author unknown - Ancient Gaelic origin
5. "Faith's Song" sung by Leah Lancaster
From the album "Keeping Faith" written by Amy Wadge
6. O America! sung by Teresa Young, Jeremy Thomas, Leah Lancaster and company, written by Brendan Graham and William J. Schwartz
7. Oh Holy Night sung by Teresa Young, Jeremy Thomas, Leah Lancaster and company, Composed by Adophe Adam in 1847
Lyrics by Placide Cappeau

Our Actors:



Jeremy Thomas

Levi Stryker - Character Description: Having lost his first wife and son during childbirth, Levi never thought he'd get a second chance at love until he met Emma in the village of Coldstream on the Scottish border.

Actor Bio: Jeremy Thomas is blessed to be performing in this, his 16th Southern Broadway production. In addition to acting on the stage, he has also assisted in composing and recording some of the musical arrangements used in several Southern Broadway productions. He is an alumnus of Troy State University where he was a member of numerous musical ensembles while in pursuit of a degree in music education. While at Troy, he was privileged to accompany musical artists such as The Temptations, Brian McKnight, and Lee Greenwood. He was also a co-founder and member of Troy State's first ever, award-winning a cappella group.



Leah Lancaster

Emma Stryker - Character Description: Working for her papa in the family inn and pub in Coldstream, which falls directly on the border of Scotland and England, Emma falls fast for Levi and finds out that they share a dream to move to America and claim land under the Homestead Act.

Actor Bio: Leah Lancaster has loved music since the day she was born and began performing onstage at the age of three. Her vocal talent and passion for theatre allowed her to play a number of ensemble roles in SEACT's *Les Misérables* in 2015 and won her the lead role of Elphaba in Troy University's production of *Wicked* a year later. Leah joined Southern Broadway in 2017 with a role in *Juror #7* and was a featured actress in *Mississippi Slim and the Deadwood Saloon*, *Merchants of London*, *Harbor Lights* and *Mystery at Moss Street Mansion*; most recently, she performed the lead role of Sophie Sheridan in SEACT's *Mamma Mia!* Miss Lancaster currently works as an administrative specialist with AECOM and is excited to return to the Southern Broadway stage.



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Our Actors:



Wayne White

Gus Barret - Character Description: Augustus was only 17 when he set out for California in 1849 with gold fever. Through the years he has travelled to many boomtowns across the west and has gained notoriety amongst the prospectors. Hearing about the rush at the canyon, he knows he must see it.

Actor Bio: Wayne White is making his fifth appearance with Southern Broadway, his most recent was the ghost of “Thomas Doughty” in *A Pirate’s Catch*. Wayne portrayed the Swedish cobbler, “Hans Shoemaker” in *Merchants of London*; an Italian immigrant, “Giuseppe Lorenzo” in *The Christmas Gift*; and a family lawyer, “Mitchell Lloyd” in *Cabin at Yellow Wood*. Wayne enjoys riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle, singing, strumming a good guitar, and dabbling in the culinary arts. Wayne also helped build the set for tonight’s performance.



Scotty Johnson

Samuel Lawson - Character Description: Like Gus, Sam has paid his dues as a miner and staked many a claim. Having just come off the Klondike in the Yukon, Sam is happy to join his old buddy Gus and see if the big canyon holds the true signs of actual gold, which has always been his life’s passion.

Actor Bio: Scotty Johnson has been in numerous theatrical/musical productions around the community for several years and is particularly proud of his roles in several Southern Broadway productions. He has appeared in *The Depot*, *Professor Ballyhoo and His Traveling Miracle Medicine Show*, *Hawkins Pass*, *Marooned on Madagascar*, *Coming Home*, *Juror #7*, *Mississippi Slim and the Deadwood Saloon*, *Granny’s Christmas Vacation*, *Harbor Lights*, and recently *A Pirates Catch*. He has also appeared in Christian movies, commercials and a musical CD. Scotty is on the Enterprise City Council representing District 4. Scotty is married to Dawn Johnson and their 54th Anniversary is on December 24. He thanks GOD every day for being able to perform in front of all the AWESOME people that come to see “live” Theater.



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Patrick Pezelj

Emory Kolb - A well-known photographer from the east.

Actor Bio: Patrick Pezelj He is the co-founder of Con Amore', a stringed ensemble that specializes in wedding and chamber music. He has performed in various groups locally including being principle cellist for several theater events hosted by ESCC. He has performed with the Tri-State Community Orchestra, SEACT theater orchestra, and various other organizations

in the Wiregrass and Florida Panhandle region. His interests include acting, music, and literature. In addition, he leads an active lifestyle and puts a healthy emphasis on fitness and sports. Patrick was last seen in *A Pirate's Catch* dinner theater. Patrick works as an IT specialist for the Geneva County School System. He believes in the mindset of "simplicity is more" and believes in making the most of every day.



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Our Actors:



Teresa Young

Margaret Nelson - "Lady" M inherited a fortune from her late husband, Lord Nelson of Durham, England.

Actor Bio: Teresa Young was last seen on the Southern Broadway stage in *Soda Shop Hop*. She is so excited to be back on stage in this production of *A Grand Christmas*. She has performed in numerous productions in California and Alabama, to include local performances of *The Music Man*, and *Nunsense*

with Enterprise State Community College. When not on a stage, she keeps busy by teaching piano and voice lessons and is a worship leader/musician at a local church. Teresa's passion is using her God given talent of voice. She enjoys performing and has been asked to sing our National Anthem on numerous occasions. Teresa also enjoys being an empty nester and stealing away on many adventures with the love of her life, her husband Bob.



Mimosa Whiting

Lizzy Frobisher - Servant & travelling companion to Lady M

Actor Bio: I'm so grateful to be performing with such an amazingly talented group of people for the second time! I have three performances for Southern Broadway under my belt and I'm so excited to see how much more I can learn. I've been in Enterprise for 10yrs now and couldn't be prouder of my town. We have such a unique and welcoming community, and of course

our very own Southern Broadway. I'm currently finishing up my undergraduate degree in Electronic Media Mgt. from Northern Arizona University. I have a connection to this show in particular because I owned a house in Williams, AZ and have ridden the Grand Canyon Railway Train numerous times. It helps that my best friend from college worked on the train, so spending the day at the Canyon was an amazing pastime for me. If you ever get the opportunity to go it's breathtakingly beautiful and don't skip Sedona. I hope you enjoy the show and have a blessed and very Merry Christmas!

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Favorite Holiday Recipes:

INGREDIENTS:

4 Baking Potatoes
1 cup Sour Cream
2 cups Shredded Sharp Cheddar Cheese
1 Tablespoon Chopped Pimento
1 Package Hidden Valley Dry Ranch
1 Teaspoon Garlic Powder
2 Tablespoons Chopped Parsley or Chives



Twice Baked Potato

INSTRUCTIONS:

Use the microwave to cook potatoes. Use a spoon to scoop out potato leaving the skin intact. In a mixing bowl, add remaining ingredients to the potatoes and stir. Using a large spoon add potato mixture to each of the potato skins. Top with shredded cheese. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 20 minutes or until the cheese is melted. Top with chopped parsley or chives. Serve immediately.

Favorite Holiday Recipes:

INGREDIENTS

1 Bunch of Parsley Chopped
1 Bunch of Cilantro Chopped
1 Tbsp Roasted Garlic Chopped
2 Tbsp Dried Tomatoes Chopped
¼ Red Onions Diced
½ Cup Red Wine Vinegar
½ Cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil
1 tsp Red Pepper Flakes
Salt and Pepper to taste



Chimichurri Sauce

Combine all ingredients. Chill 1 hour before serving.

Favorite Holiday Recipes:



Grilled London Broil

INGREDIENTS:

½ cup Caesar Dressing
½ cup Dale's Steak Sauce
2 lb. Skirt Steak (London Broil)
Salt and Pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS:

Using a meat tenderizer, pound skirt steak. In a flat dish combine Caesar dressing, Dale's Steak Sauce and the London Broil.

Refrigerator overnight. Grill steak on a 350° charcoal grill until internal temperature reaches (130° – 135° for medium rare) or (135° – 145° for medium). Slice on a diagonal cut. Serve with Chimichurri Sauce and Potatoes.

These recipes brought to you by executive chef ~ *Susan Gilmore*

Favorite Dessert Recipes:

INGREDIENTS:

1 Stick of Butter
1 cup Brown Sugar
8 Granny Smith Apples (peeled & sliced)
½ Lime (zest and juice)
½ Cup Sugar
2 Refrigerated Pie Crusts
1 Tbsp Cinnamon
1 tsp All Spice
1 tsp Nutmeg



Skillet Apple Pie

INSTRUCTIONS:

In a cast iron skillet over low heat, melt the butter and brown sugar stirring to make a caramel smooth consistency. Add 1 pie shell over caramel set aside. In a mixing bowl add all ingredients together except the pie shell. Mix until most of the sugar is dissolved. Add the apple mixture to the cast iron skillet and top with the other pie shell. Score the top of the shell to allow steam to escape. Place pie on a baking sheet or place tin foil underneath to catch the spillage. Bake in 350 degree oven for 50 minutes. Top with your favorite ice cream. Be sure to try the apple slices before you bake them. They are a real treat.



Blueberry Delight

INGREDIENTS:

2 blocks of Cream Cheese
1 can Condensed Milk (for less sweet option add only half the can and save the rest for later)
Juice of 1 Lime
¾ cup Heavy Whipping Cream
2 cups Fresh Blueberries
2 cups Graham Cracker Crumbs
1 stick of melted butter

INSTRUCTIONS:

Crust:

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine Graham cracker crumbs with melted butter in a 9 x 9 oven-safe casserole dish. Place in oven for 12 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool completely.

Filling:

Using a mixer combine all ingredients. Mix on low to begin with and then gradually increase speed until mixture is smooth. Pour onto prepared crust and top with fresh blueberries.

The base of this recipe is so versatile and can be used to create many variations. Simply leave the lime off for any non-fruit recipes. Try it with strawberries, peaches, raspberries, cherries, chocolate pudding, peanut butter, key lime, etc. for a variety of desserts and dishes.

These recipes brought to you by executive chef ~ *Susan Gilmore*

Set Builders / Imagineers:



Trey Clark
Set Builder/Imagineer

Originally from Northeast Oklahoma, Trey has worked in numerous theatres across the country, ranging from California to New York. He has been in Alabama since 2015, when he accepted positions at Troy University as resident fight choreographer, scene shop foreman, and assistant technical director. Trey has worked in every aspect of the theatre. Trey is usually seen on the stage and has many roles under his belt. Trey is also an advanced actor combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors, the premier fight choreography group.



Michael Storm
Set Builder/Imagineer

Mike has had a hand in creating the worlds for Southern Broadway shows for several years now, using his skills with tools and his imagination to help bring stories to life. His work is sure to make any audience member feel as though they are a part of the action with the characters of the show. Mike retired from the US Army where he served as a Nuclear Weapons Technician. He moved to Enterprise, AL, to be with his grandkids after retiring from his second career as a Program Manager, Patient Access Services for the Colorado Springs TriCare Market.



Jan Parker
Costume Designer and Set Assistant

Jan has been with Southern Broadway for several years now, working behind the scenes to create costumes that help put actors and patrons in the world of each show or assisting anywhere she is needed. She can most often be found serving as backstage manager during performance nights, making sure everything goes smoothly each night. Jan is always there to lend a helping hand to paint and build sets. She has also provided wardrobe for two independent films. She is a native of California but has called Alabama home for over 30 years.



John Williams
Set Builder

John is a native of West Virginia and was brought to Enterprise by the US Army. He recently retired from military service where he was employed as a Blackhawk pilot at Ft Rucker. John now works with URS as an instructor pilot.



Curtis Dillingham
Set Helper

Curtis has been seen on the stage portraying various characters. He was last seen in Hawkins Pass and Hawkin Pass 2. He has helped with plot development and his name has been featured as a co-author on 4 productions including Merchants of London.

A Note from our Author:

This is a story of hope and perseverance. It harkens back to a time when brave settlers made their way across this glorious country with hope and determination in their hearts. Not knowing what they might find, we can only imagine what they felt when they first set their eyes on something as magnificent as the Grand Canyon.

Perhaps it goes without saying that the year 2020 has been one for the history books. In writing this play, it was my desire to not only remind us of a simpler time, but to remind us of the wonder, pride, and patriotism that these early Americans felt. I have no doubt that our patrons, our community, our state, and vast numbers of citizens of our country still maintain these qualities, despite the obstacles and unrest we have faced during this year. The undeniable enduring spirit of America, her history, and all the good she stands for, still lives on. I pray we continue to trust in our Maker to keep it so. Merry Christmas and may God Bless you and yours!

HISTORY: Major John Wesley Powell was the first Euro-American to attempt to travel into the canyon. On May 24, 1869 he and his brother Walter, along with eight other men launched boats into the Green River in the Wyoming Territory with the intent to travel the Colorado River all the way through the canyon. In his memoirs, he states that he deemed the canyon to be perhaps the grandest thing he had ever seen, describing what they encountered to be “the most remarkable terrain found anywhere on earth,” and so he deemed it the “Grand Canyon”. Powell’s expedition is now considered one of America’s greatest adventure stories. In 1872, the U.S. Congress introduced the “General Mining Act” which stated, “The mineral lands of the public domain, both surveyed and unsurveyed, are hereby declared to be free and open to exploration and occupation by all citizens of the United States.” Prospectors began making their way to the canyon around the mid-1880s. It didn’t take long for some adventuresome opportunists to purchase a few mules and charge the would-be miners for rides into the canyon on the sure-footed animals.

Wesley Powell published his memoirs in 1895 and news of the “Grand Canyon” became accessible to the whole world. The growing knowledge of the canyon aroused a sense of pride and nationalism. Before long, photographers and adventurers began making their way to the canyon and “tent camps” were set up near the South Rim. In 1900 a spur railroad connected Williams, Arizona to the South Rim which carried in a whole new type of canyon visitor; from the prospector, to the hardy adventurer, and then to the wealthy elite who simply wanted to “sightsee” and experience the beauty of the canyon. The eventual bill to grant national park status to the area was passed in 1919 and signed by President Woodrow Wilson, encouraging more tourism, which has never slowed down to this day.

Up Next

Hostile Witness

Spring 2021

Synopsis:

“Hostile Witness” is a sequel to the riveting legal thriller “Juror Number 7” produced by Southern Broadway in the fall of 2017. Attorney Lindsey Walker and her trusted investigator Jodie Pender are at it again. A surprising case that cannot be ignored has “landed in their lap” in their small southern town in the mid 1990’s. You’ll be on the edge of your seat wanting to know how this “Perry Mason” style story pans out. Come watch Lindsey and Jodie take on this thrilling new case!

1st Course:

Spinach Salad with Hot Bacon Dressing, served with loaves of fresh-baked dark Bavarian bread



2nd Course: Smoked Rib Tips served, Back-Country Dirty Rice, Green Beans, and Savory Carrots



3rd Course: Hot Fudge Skillet Brownie ala Mode (Vanilla Ice Cream)



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