FROM THE OAC DIRECTOR...

Michael Perry Time...

Michael Perry returns to the mainstage with a new adaptation of his popular book *Population: 485, Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time*. This moving, humorous and insightful look at a small town volunteer fire department in his hometown of New Auburn, Wisconsin has received outstanding praise from across the state. The OAC has been proud and honored to work with Mr. Perry on several projects over the years and we are excited that this opportunity came our way. Enjoy!

More to Come...

Two great performances still remain in our Cabaret series, *Tale Spin*, February 2 & 3 and *3M Trio* featuring Former TV anchor Mike Miller on March 23 & 24. Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day on March 17 with the return of the Contemporary Irish Band *Tallymoore*. Chef Jenny is planning a special Irish dinner beforehand. Call the box office for more details.

Finally, on Sunday, May 20 we will finish out the anniversary season with *One Night in Memphis*, a tribute show to the million dollar quartet of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis.

3rd Annual OAC Gala...

Be watching your mail or check out the info on our web site. The 3rd annual OAC Gala will be held this spring on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at La Belle Golf Club. A new venue with more room, great parking and excellent dinners by the chef. This year’s theme is *Swing in to Spring* and will feature a great swing band *Lake Country Swing*. It’s a lot fun! Come join us. Proceeds go to the OAC Building Preservation Fund to help keep our facility updated and looking great.

As always, thank you so much for your continued support.

Michael Duncan, Director, OAC

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Usher/House Manager Coordinator.................................Sharon Milway
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MISSION STATEMENT

The Oconomowoc Arts Center mission is to provide patrons and artists of all ages, a professional, cultural and educational experience with the highest quality programming opportunities possible.

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100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

ULS welcomes qualified students without regard to race, ethnic origin, creed, gender, or financial need.
We would like to thank our 2017-18 supporters…

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**Residence and Event Partnership**
- Hilton Garden Inn/Staybridge Suites – Official residence of visiting artists and events.

*With gratitude, the Oconomowoc Area School District acknowledges these local organizations, businesses and private patrons for their outstanding support of the Oconomowoc Arts Center.*

- Ace Hardware of Oconomowoc
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- Mr. and Mrs. Narendra Patel “Cuculidae” (Bird of Songs) Sculpture
- Neumann Company
- Oconomowoc Festival of the Arts
- Oconomowoc Foundation’s Scheriffus Fund
- Oconomowoc Service Clubs – Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions
- Oconomowoc Performing Art Council
- Oconomowoc Public Education Foundation
- Paul Phelps and Oakbrook Esser Studios
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- The Shirley Hamilton-Nehring Trust
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- Virginia Burns Charitable Foundation

Thanks to the UW Extension and the South East Wisconsin Master Gardeners for their assistance with the OAC gardens and their support of its educational value.
SUPPORT CONT.

Thanks to the Oconomowoc High School Landscape Class for their assistance with the OAC gardens.

The Oconomowoc Arts Center gratefully acknowledges a grant from the Oconomowoc Foundations Scheriffus Fund, the Richard R. and Karen Bertrand Charitable Fund, the Debbink Family Foundation and the Virginia Burns Charitable Foundation.

DIRECT GIFTS

Direct gifts in memory have been made to the OAC by the following supporters:

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THE VIC DONORS

The VIC is the rehearsal area named in celebration of excellence education in the Oconomowoc Area School District and in honor of Vic Passante, OHS theatre director, teacher and mentor from 1974 to 2007.

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And to the students, community members, and businesses who contributed to the 2007 celebration honoring Vic Passante’s dedication to the arts and to learning.

Population: 485
The Performing Arts Center Enhancement (PACE) Fund, a $500,000 capital campaign conducted by the Oconomowoc Public Education Foundation (OPEF) to ensure top-quality productions and experiences at the OAC, was completed in July, 2013. OPEF and the citizens of Oconomowoc would like to thank the following donors for their generosity. Their names or those they chose to honor or memorialize, are permanently displayed on the Gratitude Board in the OAC Lobby.

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Saturday, Jan 27, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.

There will be a 15 minute intermission

CAST

Narrator..................................................................................................................Michael Perry
Pam.........................................................................................................................Molly Barnes
The Beagle .............................................................................................................Brett Jensen
Jed.........................................................................................................................Sean Porten
Historian, Renata, and Ensemble........................................................................Barb Goings
Chief, Stan and Ensemble.....................................................................................John Murphy
Lisa, Barry Lynn and Ensemble ............................................................................Amber Dernback
Sarah & Fire Dancer.........................................................................................Clara Kennedy
**Molly Barnes** (Pam): Secondhand Van Productions—*Population 485* (Original Cast). Downstage Left—*The Amish Project*. The Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild—*Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, & *Godspell*. Loyola University of Chicago—*The Threepenny Opera*, *A Chorus Line*, *Baby, Electra*, & *No Exit*. St. Louis University—*Aunt Dan and Lemon*. Molly received her B.A. in Theatre from Loyola University in Chicago and her M.A. in English and Secondary English Teaching Certificate from The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She teaches English at Chippewa Falls Senior High in Chippewa Falls, WI. Molly and her husband, Steve, have 5 children between the 2 of them: Henry, Maxwell, Rosalie, Theo and Amos.

**Sean Carey** (Composer and Pianist): Theatre: Secondhand Van Productions—*Population 485* (Original Cast & Crew). Film: *Only the Brave* & *The Good Catholic*. Television: *Parenthood*, *Flaked*, *Teen Wolf*, *One Tree Hill*, *You Me Her*, *Missing*, *Skins* (UK), *Burn Notice*, *House*, M.D., *The Good Wife*, *Made In Chelsea*, & *The Vampire Diaries*. Sean has built his career as a touring and recording musician, producer, and songwriter. He is best known as the drummer and supporting vocalist for the indie folk band, Bon Iver, and as the frontman of his own band, S. Carey. Sean is originally from Lake Geneva, WI and moved to Eau Claire, where he received a B.A. in Music from The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He and his wife, Jen, have 3 beautiful children. Sean can be found online at scarey.org.

**Amber Dernbach** (Lisa, Barry Lynn, and Ensemble): Secondhand Van Productions—*Population 485* (Original Cast). Fanny Hill Dinner Theatre—*Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Odd Couple*, *Don’t Drink the Water*, *Don’t Dress for Dinner*, & *The Curious Savage*. Adobe Theatre—*A Doll’s House*. The University of New Mexico—*A Penny or a Stone*. Greenwood Players Children’s Theatre—*Sky is When I Close My Eyes*. Amber received her B.A. in Theatre, with a focus on performance, from The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and her M.A. in Theatre Education and Directing from The University of New Mexico. She is the Theatre Arts teacher at Memorial High School and South Middle School in Eau Claire, WI and directs Memorial Improv, school plays, and collaborates with students to create original performances. Her passion for social justice drives her work in Documentary Theatre and interactive actor-audience simulations of real-life events from around the world. Amber is also an improver and the founder of the Eau Claire Improv Festival, which annually draws talent from around the country. She and her husband, Jon, have two daughters, Esme and Lila. Amber would like to thank her parents, Barbara and Dan, for their constant support and local dancer Amy Ely-McKane for collaborating on the Barry Lynn choreography.

**Barb Goings** (Historian, Renata, and Ensemble): Secondhand Van Productions—*Population 485* (Original Cast). The Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild—*Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, & *Over the Tavern*. Barb received her B.A. in English and Theatre from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA and her M.A. in Education from The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She is the Academic Services Coordinator for the Eau Claire Area School District and lives in Augusta, WI with her husband, Mark, and their two children, James and Jackson.

**Sarah Hammes-Murray** (Stage Management and Choreography): Stage Manager: Secondhand Van Productions—*Population 485* (Original Cast). Fanny Hill Dinner Theatre—*Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Odd Couple*, *Don’t Drink the Water*, *Don’t Dress for Dinner*, & *The Curious Savage*. Adobe Theatre—*A Doll’s House*. The University of New Mexico—*A Penny or a Stone*. Greenwood Players Children’s Theatre—*Sky is When I Close My Eyes*. Sarah received her B.A.
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BIOGRAPHIES cont.

*Thoroughly Modern Millie, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamboat, & Spamalot.* Sarah lives in Eau Claire, WI and works at The Eau Claire Regional Arts Center, Clancy’s Bar, & The Local Lounge. She is the founder and teacher at If the Shoe Fits Dance Studio.

**Brett Jensen** (Bob The Beagle): Secondhand Van Productions—Debut. The Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild—*Annie, Tony & Tina’s Wedding, & Fiddler on the Roof*. Brett is a founding member of The Osseo Area Community Theatre and has produced and performed in numerous original pieces and children’s shows. He received a B.S. in Computer Science from The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Brett is the Integration Manager at Marshfield Clinic Information Services. He and his wife, Melissa, live in Osseo, WI along with their two children, Matthew (15) and Lydia (12).

**Clara Kennedy** (Sarah and Fire Dancer): Secondhand Van Productions—*Population 485* (Original Cast). The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire—*The Three Sisters, Love of the Nightingale, Cabaret, Shipwrecked! The Amazing Adventures of Louis De Rougemont (As Told by Himself), & The Heidi Chronicles*. Clara just received her B.A. in Theatre Arts with a dance minor from The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She is a Wausau, WI native and is now living in Chicago, IL pursuing a performance career. Clara would like to thank her mom, dad, and sister for their love and support in all she does.

**Jake Lindgren** (Director and Costume Design): Directing: Secondhand Van Productions—*Population 485* (Original Cast & Crew). Downstage Left—*The Amish Project, Peter Pan, 21A, Gruesome Playground Injuries, & The Shape of Things*. The Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild—*The Spitfire Grill, The Odd Couple, & A Christmas Story*. Lamb Lays with Lion—*The Black Arts, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, & The Seagull*. The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire—*Talley’s Folly & Die Fledermaus* (Assistant Designer). Jake received his B.A. in Comprehensive Theatre, with an emphasis on directing and design, from The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He is the founder of the Eau Claire-based theatre company, Downstage Left and was a founder of the Minneapolis based company, Lamb Lays with Lion, which was featured in the Guthrie Theater’s 2010 Emerging Artists Series. Jake lives in Eau Claire.

**Evan Middlesworth** (Sound Design): Evan’s musical path started at the ripe ol’ ages of 5, with a guitar, and at 13, with a four-track recorder. Many gigs and paths later, he has wound up in Eau Claire, WI as owner and operator of Pine Hollow Audio—a recording studio focused on *Creativity, Community, & Artistic Potential*. Evan received his B.A., with a focus on Sound Design, from Purdue University. He lived in Seattle, WA for 6 years working as a sound designer, composer, & pit musician. In 2010, Evan and his wife, Laura, relocated to WI. This is not Evan’s only Mike Perry project—he is also a member of Michael Perry & the Long Beds.

**John Murphy** (Chief, Stan, and Ensemble) Secondhand Van Productions—Debut. The Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild—*Sylvia, Grease, The Music Man, Young Frankenstein, Sister Act, Little Women, & South Pacific*. The Eau Claire Childrens Theatre—*Scrooge, Winnie The Pooh, & 1940’s Radio Hour*. John is a graduate of Brown Institute of Broadcasting in Minneapolis, MN. He is the Eau Claire Promotion Coordinator for Mid-West Family Broadcasting and is a morning
co-host on *The Morning Locker Room* on Sports Talk 105.1 WAYY. John and his wife, Juli, of 32 years, live in Eau Claire and are the proud “parents” of 2 very dramatic cats—Sherman & Turbo.

**Molly O** (Violin & Mandolin): Molly is a singer/songwriter who plays violin, mandolin, & guitar. Writing and playing her own brand of music, she landed a record deal with Warner Bros. in the early 90s. Two top 10 videos and two songs on the charts helped launch Molly’s long and diverse career. Now, she is a member of The Blue Canvas Orchestra and The Danger Band and is happy fronting a show or deep in the orchestra pit. Molly can be found online at mollyomusic.com.

**Michael Perry** (Playwright and Narrator): Michael is the author of *Population 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time*, the memoir upon which this play is based. His other books include *Truck, Coop, Visiting Tom, The Scavengers, The Jesus Cow, Roughneck Grace, Danger: Man Working, & Montaigne In Barn Boots*. Michael received his bachelor’s degree in nursing from The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He resides in rural Wisconsin with his wife and daughters, tours regularly with his band the Long Beds, and can be found online at sneezingcow.com.

**Sean Porten** (Jed): Secondhand Van Productions—*Population 485* (Original Cast). Downstage Left—*Peter Pan, 21A, & Gruesome Playground Injuries*. The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire—*Dracula* (Best Supporting Actor 2013), A Man of No Importance, Talley’s Folly, The Three Sisters, & You Can’t Take It With You (Best Supporting Actor 2016). Medford Area Community Theatre—Greetings, The Foreigner, & A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Sean is from Medford, WI and received his B.A. in Comprehensive Theatre, with a focus on acting, from The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Sean lives in River Falls, WI.

**Trace Richolson** (Lighting and Projection Design): Secondhand Van Productions—*Population 485* (Original Cast & Crew). YREP—*Alice in Wonderland*. The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire—*Boeing Boeing* (Assistant Lighting Designer). Trace is from Janesville, WI and just graduated from The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with a B.A. in photography. He serves as Creative Assistant to the Artistic Director for the Eau Claires music fest in Eau Claire, WI.
RESPECTFULLY OFFERED

This play is drawn from real people and real life. As such, it contains scenes and references to traumatic events, including death. Also a little cussing. ...And a moment of visual ribaldry.

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

First, I thank the director, cast, and crew. Without them, I’m just scribbling in the dark. I’ve never tried to put a book on stage before. First thing you learn is, the whole thing just won’t fit. So you cut and rearrange and maybe turn two firefighters into one firefighter, and then you cut some more. And then some more. As a writer, I don’t mind cutting my own work. In fact, I am merciless in that regard. But Population 485 is a book about real people. Real people I care about. People who raised me. People with whom I have trusted my life. From them I ask, if not forgiveness, understanding as I try to convey how my heart feels about a place and a people who provided me such solid ground from which to grow. Yessir: Nobbern.

This play is in its infancy. There are miles to go. No matter how that journey unfolds, this I already know: as a citizen, the single most meaningful thing I have ever done is serve 12 years beside my neighbors on the New Auburn Area Fire Department.

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