



PRESENTS

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**FUNERAL**

By Osborne & Eppler

Directed by Jesse Sundet

**PERFORMANCE LOCATION**

**Eagle Performing Arts Center (EPAC)**

1125 E State St., Eagle, ID 83616

**PERFORMANCE DATES**

**April 11-13, 19 & 20, 26 & 27**

SPRING 2025

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## **Message from the Mayor**



As Mayor of the City of Eagle, I want to welcome you to Eagle Theatre Company and their exciting 2024/2025 season! The new theatre is thriving. It continues to provide lively and engaging entertainment for our Community, and this season's line-up is no exception. From comedy to drama, there's truly something for everyone—including the opportunity to volunteer. As a non-profit, Eagle Theatre Company is run and solely supported by volunteers who want to have a positive impact on the Eagle Community. I think you'll agree, the performing arts play a unique role in bringing people together. Please join me in supporting their efforts to grow and enrich the local Arts Community, and be a part of what makes Eagle a special place to be. Enjoy the show!

Mayor Brad Pike  
City of Eagle

# Welcome to Eagle Theatre Company!



From deep in our hearts, we thank YOU, our faithful and enthusiastic supporters, for the incredible journey we've shared since first opening our doors in January 2023. As the third season comes to a close, our mission remains to impact our community in a significant way--through the art of live theatre.

The 2024/2025 season brought a wider variety of shows and a fresh new look to our theatre seating. The new chairs were sure to have enhanced your theatrical experience, made possible by a myriad of talented and passionate volunteers. Our love of theatre and the opportunity to bring a meaningful story to life is at the heart of what we do. We welcome you to join us and become a part of the ETC family.

To our Member Donors and Business Sponsors, your generosity has been vital to our success in creating a thriving community theatre. To EPAC, we are thrilled to perform our shows in your Black Box Theatre and value the opportunity to work together. To all the dedicated volunteers, the show would not go on without you. To my fellow Board members, my heartfelt appreciation for sharing in the leadership of our organization. And to all of you, thank you for believing in ETC--now celebrating eight productions and fifty-six performances together!

Ever grateful,  
Deborah Hertzog  
President, ETC Board of Directors

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## Welcome to Eagle Performing Arts Center



Eagle Performing Arts Center (EPAC) welcomes Eagle Theatre Company (ETC) to our Black Box Theatre!

EPAC is a classical ballet school, training dancers ages 3-1/2 through adult. Since 2004, we pride ourselves on providing the highest caliber of ballet and dance training in the Treasure Valley. With a nurturing and humanistic approach, we strive to instill a lifelong love for the art form and provide training of the whole dancer. Since

the inception of EPAC's Black Box Theatre in 2020, my vision for our ballet school has been to become a true "Performing Arts Center" and community partner. ETC is the first organization outside of EPAC and Idaho Regional Ballet (Idaho's premier pre-professional ballet company) to utilize the space. We continue to welcome ETC with open arms and look forward to another fantastic season and many ENCORE performances!

Elizabeth Keller  
Director, Eagle Performing Arts Center  
Artistic Director, Idaho Regional Ballet

# Eagle Theatre Company Organization

## Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: ..... Deborah Hertzog  
VP1 (MEMBERSHIP): ..... Open  
VP2 (PLAY SELECTION/PRODUCTION): ..... Bethany Bertulis  
SECRETARY: ..... Fred Plassman  
TREASURER: ..... Irina Kazakova  
FUNDRAISING: ..... Karen Arguello  
MARKETING: ..... Kathryn Hendricksen  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: ..... Susan Hume

## Additional Roles

BUSINESS MANAGER: ..... Irina Kazakova  
GRANT COORDINATOR: ..... Karen Arguello  
PATRON COMMUNICATIONS: ..... Open  
PHOTOGRAPHER: ..... Sue Anderson, Black Cat Photography (Owner)  
GRAPHIC DESIGN: ..... Christine Erwin, Evette McDowell  
WEB DESIGN/ADMINISTRATION: ..... Sue Anderson, Kathryn Hendricksen  
TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR ..... Fred Plassman  
ADVISORY BOARD: ..... Ross Ely, David Garrison, Norb Murray

## Meet Our Board of Directors



Deborah Hertzog



Bethany Bertulis



Fred Plassman



Irina Kazakova



Karen Arguello



Kathryn Hendricksen



Susan Hume

# ***Southern Fried Funeral***

**By Osborne & Eppler**

**Directed by Jesse Sundet**

## **Show Synopsis**

Dewey Sr. is dead, and his widow Dorothy is left to pick up the pieces. But between the nosy lady from church busting in unannounced and uninvited, her friends breathing down her neck (though they mean well), and her full-grown daughters reliving their childhood rivalry, she might not ever get a chance to breathe, let alone grieve. Not to mention Dewey's good-for-nothing brother has turned up, and is up to no good. Dorothy is going to need the love of her family, both blood and chosen, just to survive this funeral.

Genre: Comedy

Audience: Ages 13+

## **Scene Breakdown**

**Act 1, Scene 1:** The Day of Dewey's Death

**Act 1, Scene 2:** Later that Night

**Act 1, Scene 3:** The Next Day

## **Intermission**

**Act 2, Scene 1:** The Day of Dewey's Funeral

**Act 2, Scene 2:** After the Funeral, that Afternoon

## **Cast In Order of Appearance**

Fairy June.....	Amanda Turner
Martha Ann Fox .....	Cory Brestler
Benny Charles .....	Michael McAuliffe
Dorothy Frye.....	Brynn LaFluer
Dewey Frye, Jr.....	Aiden LaFluer
Sammy Jo Frye-Lafette .....	Sophia Skarvan
Uncle Dub Frye.....	Canon Ashford
Harlene Frye.....	Kiala Siman
Atticus Van Leer .....	Jeff Mercer
Ozella Meeks.....	Elaine Ambrose
Beecham Lafette .....	Michael Vessel

# ***Southern Fried Funeral***

## ***Director, Stage Manager and Cast***



**Jesse Sundet**  
Director



**Lexi Ashford**  
Stage Manager



**Brynn LaFluer**  
as Dorothy Frye



**Sophia Skarvan**  
as Sammy Jo Frye-LaFette



**Kiala Siman**  
as Harlene Frye



**Aiden LaFluer**  
as Dewey Frye, Jr.



**Cory Brestler**  
as Martha Ann Fox



**Amanda Turner**  
as Fairy June



**Michael McAuliffe**  
as Benny Charles



**Jeff Mercer**  
as Atticus Van Leer



**Elaine Ambrose**  
as Ozella Meeks



**Canon Ashford**  
as Uncle Dub Frye



**Michael Vessel**  
as Beecham LaFette

# Who's Who

## Jesse Sundet, Director

Jesse Sundet has been in and around theater for 10 years now. Jesse is excited to be returning to his roots not only with this show, which was his initial directorial debut, but to a true Black Box where intimacy is king, and you feel like you're a part of the story. Most recently, you may have seen him on this stage as Tom in *These Shining Lives*. He would like to thank both his homebound and local support systems for all of their support.

## Director's Note

Southern comedies have always struck me as something special. How they can switch from hysterics to drama and back again has always intrigued and entertained me, and I'm so excited to bring the antics of this family to this stage. Back in 2018, this was the first show I ever directed, and of all shows, I never thought I'd be lucky enough to be doing it again. I hope you see the care, heart, and hilarity that's been worked on by this lovely cast. They say your first always holds a special place in your heart, and this show is no exception. Showing you all, this piece of mine, is my greatest honor.

## Alexandra (Lexi) Ashford, Stage Manager

Lexi is excited to be stepping into the role of Stage Manager for the first time! You may have seen her recently in ETC's production of *These Shining Lives*. She wants to thank Jesse for giving her the opportunity to learn a different aspect of theater! Enjoy the show y'all!

## Cast

### Brynn LaFluer as Dorothy Frye

Brynn is so excited to be making her ETC debut with such a fun show and so many talented people! Past theatrical credits include Agatha Hammond in *Tomb With A View*, Janis Joplin in *Beehive! A 60s Musical*, and Martha Watson in *White Christmas*. Many thanks to her kids for putting up with her theater malarkey.

### Sophia Skarvan as Sammy Jo Frye-LaFette

Sophia Skarvan is a model, film, and stage actress. She has participated in projects from San Juan Capistrano, California, to Salamanca, Spain. Sophia is both humbled and grateful for the opportunity to join ETC's production of *Southern Fried Funeral*; her first stage production in over a decade. Sophia would like to thank her family, friends, fellow cast and production crew members for their unyielding trust, encouragement, and support.

### Kiala Siman as Harlene Frye

Kiala Siman is a New Jersey born poet, singer and actress. She has participated in community theater locally, with roles such as Gary Coleman - *Avenue Q* at Stage Coach Theatre, Dionne - *Hair* at Alley Rep Theater, and is so grateful



to have her Eagle Theatre Company debut with this amazing cast! All my love to my husband and 2 kiddos, Chandon, Lilou, and Atlas. Your support means everything to me!! "Life beats down and crushes the soul, and art reminds you that you have one." - Stella Adler

### **Aiden LaFluer as Dewey Frye, Jr.**

Aiden is stoked to be performing on the ETC stage for the first time ever. Aiden loves to sing, play video games and just think about stuff, you know? Past credits include Bruce Bogtrotter in *Matilda The Musical* and several BLT summer youth shows. Hugs to Mom for raising a dramatic child.

### **Cory Brestler as Martha Ann Fox**

Cory's theatrical journey from backstage to onstage at Eagle Theatre Company began with writing *In Lieu of Flowers* for a staged reading, and operating lights for *These Shining Lives*. When asked to audition for *Southern Fried Funeral* her initial reaction was, "I can't!", which evolved into "Can I?" And ultimately, "I can!". She is delighted to share her stage debut with such a talented cast and is grateful to Jesse for the unwavering encouragement.

### **Amanda Turner as Fairy June**

Amanda Turner is a screenwriter, playwright, and the NYT bestselling author of *How to Be Awkward* and other books. She previously appeared as Lydia in *Things My Mother Taught Me* and Cheryl in *Love...Or Best Offer* at Boise's Stage Coach Theatre; and Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit* and Portia in *The Author's Voice* for the Eagle Theatre Company. She is delighted to once again work with director Jesse Sundet and has nothing but love for this incredible cast.

### **Michael McAuliffe as Benny Charles**

Michael has acted for 28 years. He was an extra in the 1997 sci-fi/fantasy film *Ionopsis*, alongside *Godzilla vs. Megalon* star Robert Dunham. He was Police Officer 1 in the 2020 movie *Pinewood*, by Idaho filmmaker Matt Mudd. At Boise Little Theater, Michael played Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol*, directed by Aubrielle Holly in 2023. In 2024, he was Lucien Tomb in *A Tomb With a View*, directed by Jesse Sundet.

### **Jeff Mercer as Atticus Van Leer**

Originally from Northern Nevada, this is Jeff's first production in Eagle. He is excited to bring this southern charm on stage. He thanks his friends and wonderful girlfriend for all their support. Notable performances include Kimar in *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*, and Brian in *Avenue Q*, both at Stage Coach Theatre, and Tommy in *The Normal Heart* at Alley Rep.

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Eagle Theatre Company



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## Cast (Continued)

### Canon Ashford as Uncle Dub Frye

Canon is thrilled to be back for his second ETC show. You most recently saw him in *These Shining Lives* as one of the villainous men. He's back for *Southern Fried Funeral*, this time as a villainous man. Is that a pattern? He'll let you decide. He'd like to thank his mom for giving birth to him in the South and Jesse for putting that to good use. Enjoy the show!

### Michael Vessel as Beecham LaFette

Michael is excited to be part of this insanely talented cast! This is the third time he has been on the ETC stage, having previously acted in their productions of *These Shining Lives* and *Almost, Maine*. He was also recently in shows/readings for Boise Little Theater in *She Kills Monsters* and Boise Contemporary Theater in *Tovik*, *Tomte*, and *The Trolls*, and can be seen in the feature film *Beautiful Missing People*.

### Elaine Ambrose as Ozella Meeks

Elaine Ambrose is a bestselling author of 14 books including the humorous titles *Midlife Cabernet* and *Midlife Happy Hour*. She also is a ventriloquist, viral blogger, storyteller, writing coach, and performer in local comedy shows. She is thrilled to be included in her second show for the Eagle Theatre Company and appreciates this cast and director. Elaine lives in Eagle with her patient husband and near her children and grandchildren.

## ETC's Grateful Acknowledgements

Raffle Basket donated by Elaine Ambrose

Hope Blooms Flowers and Things!

Albertsons

Foothills Christian Church (new theatre chairs)

Heartwood Properties (trailer to transport the chairs)

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## ETC FYIs

- This play has a 15-minute intermission.
  - Concessions and Raffle Tickets are available before the performance and during intermission.
  - Please silence phones and watches.
  - Please remain seated during the performance to keep the aisles clear for the actors.
  - The use of any audio/video recording device and any photography, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.
  - Smoking or vaping is not permitted anywhere in the building.
- 
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## Production Crew

Director: ..... Jesse Sundet  
Stage Manager: ..... Lexi Ashford  
Costumer for Ozella Meeks and Uncle Dub: ..... Jessica Pasco  
Prop Master: ..... Cheri Ure  
Light & Sound Operator: ..... Bailey LaFluer  
Light Design: ..... Ryan White  
Sound Design: ..... Rick Anderson

## House Staff and Volunteers

Opening Night Reception ..... Karen Arguello  
Stacy Beem  
House Staff and Set Crew Volunteers ..... Susan Hume (House Manager)  
Karen Arguello, Irina Kazakova, Linda Fulkerson  
Deb Hertzog, Kathryn Hendricksen, Kathleen Cookman  
Marianne Robinson, Heidi Prigge, Shari Gonzales  
Fred Plassman, Debbie DePaul, Dana Lundgren  
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## Get Involved with Eagle Theatre Company

- Become a Member Donor and support our vision and purpose
- Consider one of the many ETC volunteer opportunities:
  - **Acting, Directing, Behind the Scenes**
  - **House Staff:** Ushering, Concessions, Raffle
  - **Committees:** Budget and Finance, Fundraising, Marketing, Membership, Play Selection/Play Production, Volunteers

To join, donate or volunteer please visit [eagletc.org](http://eagletc.org) for more information

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## Upcoming Events

For more information visit: [eagletc.org/events](http://eagletc.org/events)

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Eagle Theatre Company is a proud member of  
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and Idaho Association of Community Theatre (I-ACT)



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Heather Marcus and Greg McVay • Leah and Norb Murray  
Linda Odom • Tami and Brad Pike

## **Producer (\$250+)**

Christine and Bill Avey • Cory Brestler and Mike Sieler  
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Naomi Kinert • Anne and Greg Roegiers  
Patricia Walker • Joseph Wright

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Melanie Vining

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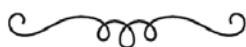
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