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**Acadiana Center for the Arts' Spotlight Theater & Dance Series
Presents Locally Written & Produced, All-Original Musical,
Ms. Warbucks**



LAFAYETTE, LA - May 6, 2024 - Have you ever wondered, "Whatever happened to Annie?" Ms. Warbucks, an original musical adapted from Harold Gray's "Little Orphan Annie" cartoon from the 1920's, answers that very question. This delightful and thought-provoking musical about forgiveness, aging, and coming home is as much about Annie as it is about all of us and our relationship with our past and the meaning we attach to family and belonging.

Beginning as a seed of desire and inspiration, this production has been nurtured, grown, and born from pure creative collaboration and love. On June 6th, 7th, and 8th you can see this homegrown musical at Acadiana Center for the Arts, as part of the Spotlight Theater & Dance series, presented by Standard Title.

Ms. Warbucks takes place in 1961. Annie is all grown up, 39 years old, alone again, living in New York City, and has begun to visit her former, hardened Orphanage Director in a nursing home. This "orphanage for the elders" and its lively cast of characters become the backdrop for Annie's next search for Home.



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In this setting, Annie recognizes the same struggles she faced as a child: institutionalization, abandonment, and above all, a longing for family. The old folks are the orphans now. An activist trying to care for the elderly, Annie faces a corrupt system. To succeed, she must face her own need for love and belonging.

This original script was written right here in Acadiana by Caroline Helm Huval and Dr. Bonny McDonald. The musical score was written by Johanna Divine & Chas Justus, and the play will be directed by Christy Leichty.

Caroline Helm Huval describes how this project came to be, "Have you ever been obsessed with a character for your whole life and not really known why? Well that is me and Little orphan Annie. Embarrassingly so. People used to say... Do what you love! And inside, I would think, all I love is Annie, what in the heck am I gonna do with that?! I even auditioned in high school. I did not get Annie, but was proud to be Pepper in the production. So... I have now, alongside Dr. Bonny McDonald, co-written a musical where...I finally get to be Annie!"

Cast:

Caroline Helm Huval, as Annie

Peggy Dersch, as Ms. Agatha

Eugene Kwarteng, as Leo

Trevor Chapman, as Joshua/Auditor

Daniel Ladmirault, as Dr. Ralph

Alyson Shexnayder, as Mae

Logan Domingue, as Patricia

Amanda Newbery, as Ms. T

Carmen Nicholson, as Barbra

Cissy Whipp, as Mabel

Jane "Scooter" Yerow, as Ruth

Roger Peak, as Tom

Duncan Thistlethwaite, as Mr. Newton

Alice Basden, as Auditor

Caroline Ancelet, as Aunt Sister

Media & Links:

[Ms. Warbucks ticket link](#)

[Ms. Warbucks poster](#)

[Ms. Warbucks GoFundMe](#)

About AcA

As the community leader in arts and culture, Acadiana Center for the Arts (AcA) serves to bring elevating arts experiences to the people of Acadiana through many approaches including holding public concerts, presenting art exhibitions, providing grants to artists and cultural organizations, and bringing artists into schools across the region. AcA brings equitable access to the arts through year-round education and outreach activities and aims to build a more sustainable cultural ecosystem for future generations in Acadiana.