



PRESENTS

Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End

by Margaret Engel and Allison Engel

In-Person and Livestream

DECEMBER 2020



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AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE
PRESENTS

**Erma Bombeck:
At Wit's End**

by **Margaret Engel** and **Allison Enge**

Linda McClane

Director

Wendy Gilvey

Stage Manager

Pat Henderson

Assistant Stage Manager

December 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19
2020

Main Stage In-Person and Livestream

Originally developed for the stage with David Esbjornson

“Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End” is presented by arrangement
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Notes from the Director...

Probably everyone of a "certain age" has been exposed to Erma Bombeck in some fashion, especially women who experienced firsthand the subjects that she wrote and talked about.

Erma Bombeck lived from 1927 - 1996. Married, with three children, she had the bold idea to write honestly and with humor about the daily lives of wives and mothers. By the end of her life, Erma Bombeck had become a syndicated columnist with over thirty million readers, the author of fifteen books and numerous magazine articles, a popular speaker, and a television personality on *Good Morning America* where she was featured in funny segments and serious interviews. She even wrote a book on children with cancer called *I Want to Grow Hair, I Want to Grow Up, I Want to Go to Boise*, based on a child's three wishes.



Linda McClane, *Director*

Fewer people may be aware of her years of activity with Gloria Steinem, Liz Carpenter, and Bella Abzug to secure ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. They weren't successful, but not for lack of trying.

Whether she was dealing with family, illness, or critics of her ERA advocacy, Erma never lost her own sense of humor. As she said, "When humor goes, there goes civilization."

I think we can all attest to the importance of a sense of humor during the year 2020.

It has been a pleasure to laugh and work with our talented team on this play, and a treat to be back inside Amelia Community Theatre. The pandemic may have changed the way we present live theatre, but it doesn't change the dedication of ACT volunteers and staff, or the fact that we still depend on the support of our community. We are grateful to our 40th Season sponsors, and to all of you in our in-person and livestreaming audiences.



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Scene Synopsis

SETTING

The Bombeck home in suburban Dayton, Ohio, during the present, and various times between 1962-1996.

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Cast

(in order of appearance)

ERMA BOMBECK.....Karen Harper King



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Cast Biography



Karen Harper King (*Erma Bombeck*)
Frequently seen on the ACT stage and other local theatres, Karen started with ACT in the role of Simplicity Truckle in *Sly Fox* and was seen here most recently as Grandma Covington in *The Savannah Sipping Society*. Incredibly, she also has costumed more than a dozen shows for ACT, including *The Dixie Swim Club*, *Always a Bridesmaid*, *Cabaret* and *Noises Off*.

As a former teacher, she is perfect for another volunteer role as Princess Amelia, with the Amelia Island Museum of History. Outside the theatre, her interests include sewing, reading, gardening, and playing with her new puppy, Bentley. Karen is married to Geoffrey, another ACT favorite, whom she met while acting in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Because of her children and grandchildren, Karen remembers when she was “just a housewife.” Thus, she understands Erma Bombeck’s humor and followed her for years through books and on television.

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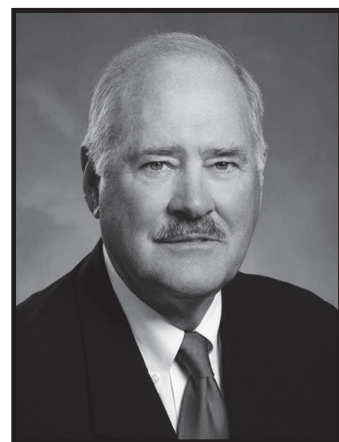
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Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award



Missy Tremblay

Some people have so many gifts; it's difficult to choose only one to highlight. Dedicated volunteer, Missy Tremblay, generously gives all of her gifts that benefit many areas of ACT.

This past season, as a lead costumer, Missy used her sewing and creative talents to outfit the actors in *Leading Ladies* and *The Humans*. Most recently, she worked with the director of *The Book of Will* to build Renaissance costumes for 11 actors, some with multiple changes!

Missy's backstage organizational skills were also welcomed on the props crew for *The Humans*, which had the added challenge of preparing food that was used in various scenes during each performance. Next, she quickly jumped into *The Book of Will* to help with props ... as she also worked on the costumes. And, if that wasn't enough, she helped with set construction and painting for these two shows.

Most notably, Missy accepted a new challenge when *The Book of Will*, scheduled to open in March, was delayed until late August due to the pandemic. There were multiple schedule and cast changes over that time period, resulting in the loss of several actors. But what did Missy do? She offered to take on not one, but four, onstage roles! She knew the play must go on and ventured onto the stage for the first time.

As ACT makes adjustments to the traditional in-person, live theatre performances by adding the option for patrons to livestream shows at home, Missy is tackling a new skill. She is learning how to be a camera operator who films the play real-time for patrons watching at home. Whatever she can do, she does. Whatever she doesn't know how to do, she learns. Her determination to promote the excellence of ACT is evident in every task she manages. Her positive energy lights up all who are around her.

The many hours she spent at ACT last season also included ongoing cleaning and sanitizing efforts to protect the actors and crew during *The Book of Will*, which is not one of the most appealing volunteer jobs. But, when she completed that task, Missy quoted Mary Poppins and said, "In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun!" We could not describe Missy and her giving spirit better than that.

Thank you, Missy, and congratulations on being Volunteer of the Year!

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Production Biographies



Linda McClane (*Director*)

As a director, actor, and recently retired managing director, Linda is a well-known part of ACT. Her most recent role on stage was as Deirdre in *The Humans*. Having directed more than thirty Main Stage and Studio shows at ACT, some of her more recent plays include *Epic Proportions*, *The Game's Afoot* or *Holmes for the Holidays*, and *Calendar Girls*. A

University of Florida graduate, her hobbies include reading and Tai Chi. Linda and her husband, John, are charter members of ACT and have two sons, Jack and David. Her future plans at ACT include working with Peppermint Players this winter and getting ready for theatre camp next summer.



Wendy Gilvey (*Stage Manager*)

Another talented actor and crew member at ACT, Wendy is the stage manager for this show while reuniting and having fun with her *Dixie Swim Club* gals. On stage, we have seen Wendy in *Red Herring*, *Almost Maine*, *God's Favorite*, and *A Christmas Story*. Backstage, she has been indispensable as a stage manager, props, and makeup artist. Wendy retired from the United States Navy

after 22 years and has a degree in professional aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Now, she works as a substitute teacher in Nassau County and loves singing in the Grace Notes, a contemporary Christian band, travel, and sports.

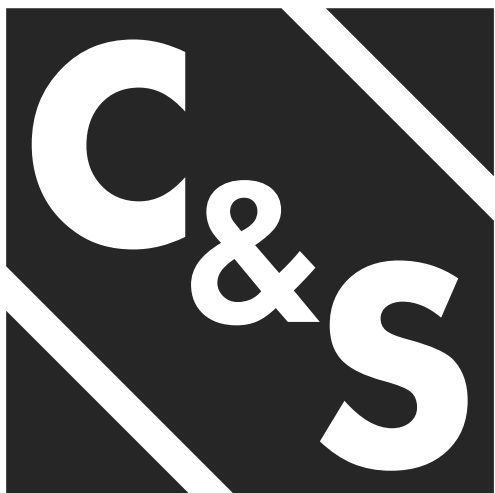
Production Biographies, Continued



Pat Henderson (*Assistant Stage Manager and Costumes*)

Pat is a familiar face backstage where she used her love of working with children to costume summer camp shows for many years. After agreeing to work with adults as well, she helped costume *The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. An active volunteer, she has contributed much to ACT, from initiating the task of organizing the costume rooms to serving as president of the ACT board of directors. Pat retired as a registered nurse and now spends her time playing golf, knitting, sewing, cooking, playing bridge, and traveling. She and her husband, Bob, have four children and six grandchildren. She says this show brings back memories.

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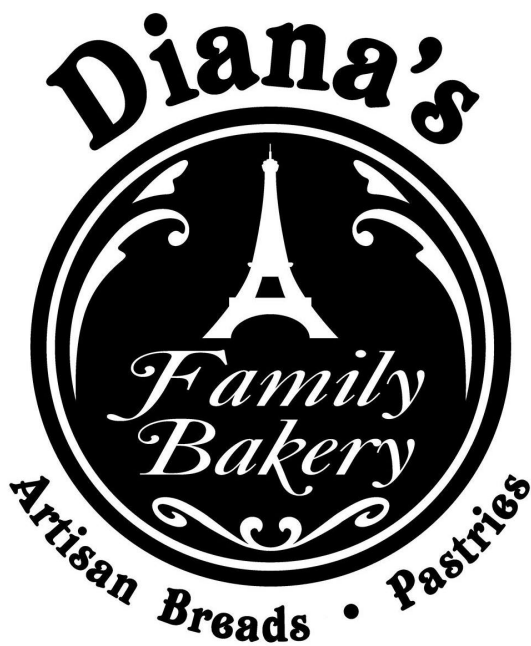
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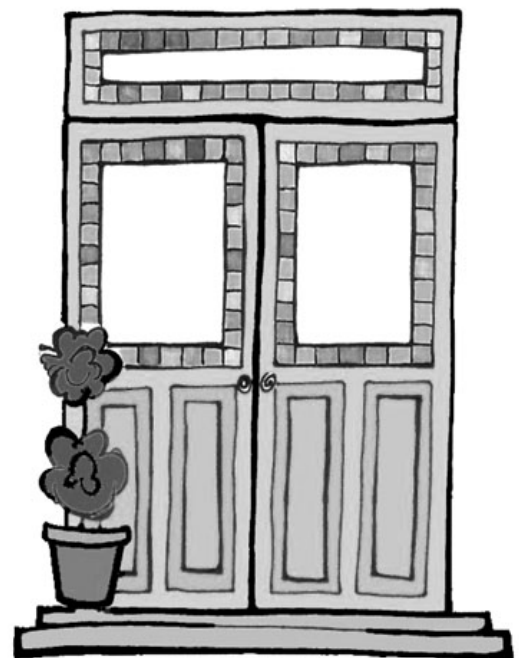
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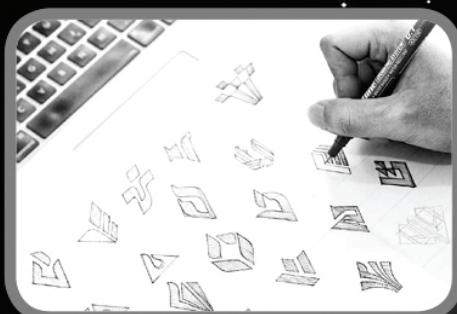
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Assistant Stage Manager and Costumes Pat Henderson
Technical Director Geoffrey Moss
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Ed Sprang, Missy Tremblay
Set Painting Jayne Jeney, Jennifer Webber
Voice Actors John Chastine, Linda Chastine,
Journey Coltrane, Herman Gaines, Wendy Gilvey,
Pat Henderson, Geoffrey Moss, Matthew Scruggs,
Julian Tabony, Jim Tobias
Backstage Crew Pat Chiarelli
Camera Operators Bob Eberle, Jayne Jeney, Ron Leiseca,
Don Olsen, Missy Tremblay, Jennifer Webber
Director of Photography Tener Wade
Video and Audio Production Geoffrey Moss

Special Thanks to Everyone in the 39th and 40th Seasons!
Usher Coordinator Debbie L. Price
Beverage Bar Coordinators Paul Condit, Rob Hull
Box Office Manager Meghan Maranto
Crew Ruth Carter, Shelia Davidson,
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We also thank our volunteers who serve as ushers and bartenders, and other volunteers whose names were provided after the publishing deadline.

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ACT is a not-for-profit, volunteer organization that depends on our hundreds of dedicated volunteers to help us present shows. Your safety is our highest priority. Talk to a staff member about ways to volunteer from home!

What Do ACT Volunteers Do? Direct and act in shows, stage manage, work on lights and sound in the tech booth, costume the actors, work in the box office, build sets, and much more!

How to Volunteer: Simply visit AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org and click on the "I Want to Volunteer!" link to get started. Minors are welcome to become volunteers along with a guardian.

LIVESTREAM FAQ

How do I buy/book/receive my livestream ticket?

Season members book tickets online using the code you use for your Flex Tickets. Your unique season member code will be automatically approved for your household for the livestream performance you have booked. If you would like to give or share a livestream ticket to another individual or household, you will need to call the box office to receive an additional one-time use unique ticket code.

Non-members book tickets online and when the box office processes your ticket purchase, you will be emailed your unique code for that performance. The latest you might receive your code is 24 hours before the livestream.

What are livestream ticket prices and when can I buy?

Advanced livestreaming tickets are available online until 24 hours before the performance. Advance tickets are available by phone at (904) 261-6749, during box office hours.

Advance Individual \$15
Advance Household \$30
Advance Group \$90

"At-The-Door" livestreaming tickets are available beginning 60 minutes before the performance, online only. These livestream tickets "admit" you to the show automatically when you purchase them. No code is required when you purchase an "At-The-Door" ticket.

"At-The-Door" Individual \$20
"At-The-Door" Household \$35
"At-The-Door" Group \$95

More information and FAQs are available online at AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org/Livestream.

Supporting Our Community

ACT is pleased to have donated show tickets to many local organizations, including:

- AIFBY Chamber of Commerce
- Amelia Island Book Festival
- Amelia Island Jazz Festival
- Amelia Island Museum of History
- American Business Women's Association
- American Cancer Society's Relay for Life
- Blackrock Baptist Church
- Douglas Anderson School for the Arts
- FBMS Desserts of Amelia
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- Girl Scouts of Gateway Council
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ACT was chartered by the State of Florida
in 1981 as a not-for-profit corporation.
Auditions and memberships are open to all.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*“To provide quality theater and artistic experiences to the
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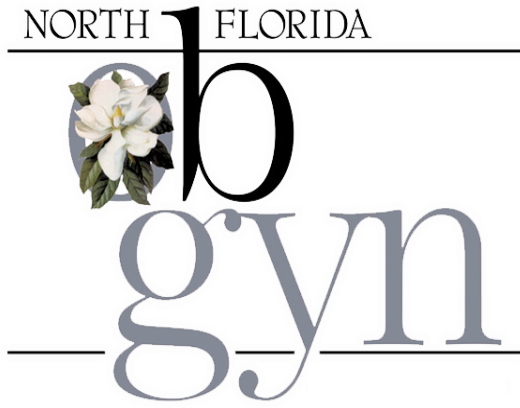
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