

PIONEER PLAYHOUSE

Spring NEWSLETTER 2025

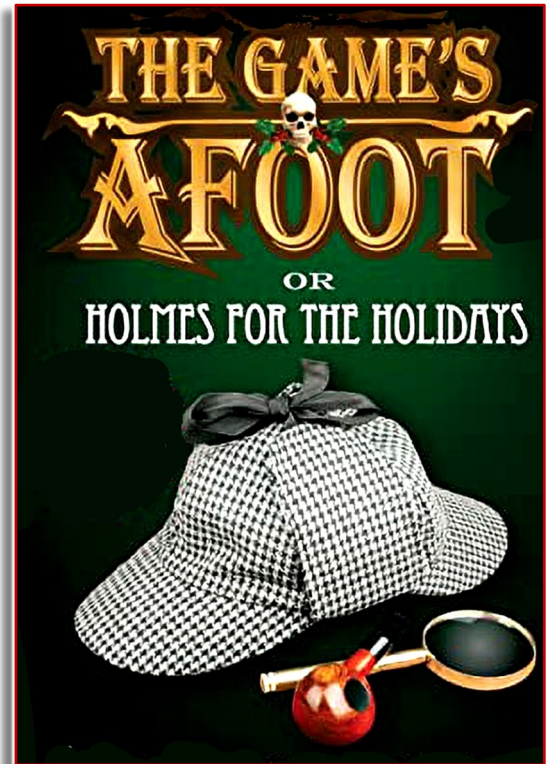
★ **June 6 - June 28** ★

A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY

By Ken Ludwig

It's 1936, and Broadway star William Gillette, admired the world over for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes, has invited his fellow cast mates to his isolated mansion for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests ends up dead, the festivities in this bizarre house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn dangerous. It's up to Gillette himself, assuming the persona of his beloved Holmes, to track down the killer! A roller coaster ride of thrills and laughs!

Rated PG

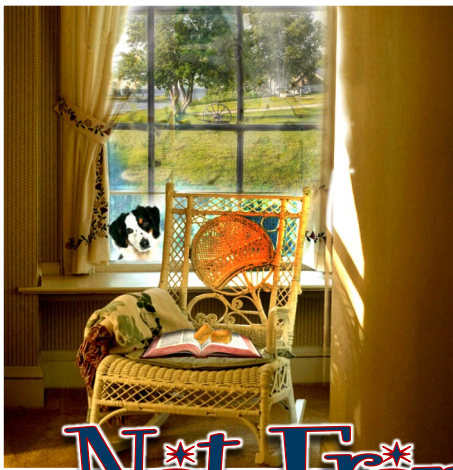


WALKING ACROSS EGYPT

★ **July 1 - July 19**

Adapted by Catherine Bush
(from the book by Clyde Edgerton)

Mattie Rigsbee is definitely slowing down. So instead of taking in that little stray at her door, she calls the dogcatcher, which unwittingly sets off a chain of events that include car theft, prison breaks, and a juvenile delinquent named Wesley. Armed with only her mouthwatering corn bread and a deep, abiding faith, Mattie is determined to make things right...if she can just stay out of jail herself! A funny, uplifting southern comedy. *Rated G*



★ **July 22 - August 9**

Not From Around Here

By Jennifer Goff and Brian Scruggs

It's 1988, and the Smiths and the Joneses are picture perfect neighbors. They've shared everything together. Even their kids want to get married - after college, of course. Life is good and everything's as normal as can be ...until the Joneses get some news that is truly out of this world! How do you break it to your best friends and family that you're moving...about a zillion light years away?! A delightfully zany new comedy.



Rated G



Good Rockin' Tonight!

Elvis Presley and Wanda Jackson!
The King and his Rockabilly Queen!

A night of celebrating Elvis and the vibrant music he made with the undisputed Queen of Rockabilly, Wanda Jackson!

TWO ELVISES! ONE WANDA! FULL LIVE BAND!

August 14, 15 & 16 ★

Pioneer Playhouse Proudly Presents Original Plays!

Pioneer Playhouse continues its long tradition of offering premiere productions of original plays with *NOT FROM AROUND HERE* written by Jennifer Goff and Brian Scruggs.

Many patrons will know Jen from her work here. She has directed some of our biggest crowd pleasers, including the *SOUTHERN FRIED* plays and last summer's block buster *THAT BOOK WOMAN*. Instead of directing this season, however, Jen will be acting on stage in her own play co-written with her husband, Brian. And Brian will be in the director's chair!

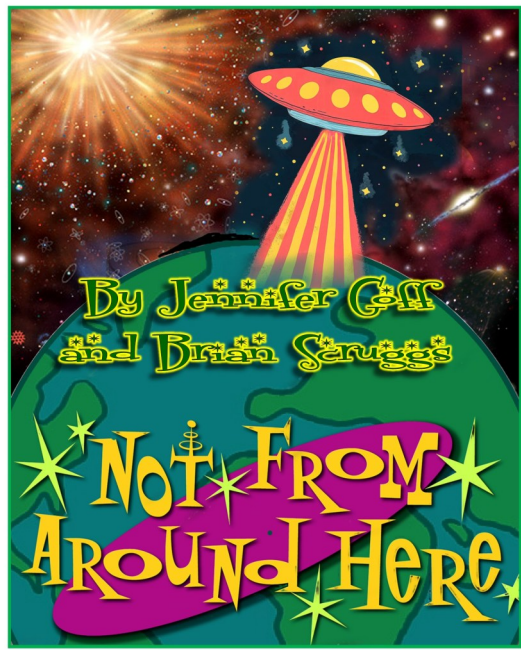
We asked Jen and Brian to tell us about their inspiration for *NOT FROM AROUND HERE*:

"We started writing this play based on a story prompt a couple years ago, something about aliens,



Brian Scruggs and Jennifer Goff

which is a bit of a sweet spot for both of us--we love sci fi! We also started to realize that aliens are a great way to talk about a lot of things--friendship, young love, family--because we've all felt a little out of this world from time to time. As we started writing, we actually had the Playhouse in mind. It's a place Jen has loved working for the past four summers, and a lot of the roles took shape with specific actors in mind. Having some of those voices in our heads probably made it easier to write. We've also gotten to know the audience pretty well over the last four years, so we felt pretty tuned in to what hits the funny bone here. We love being part of this Playhouse family so much, and the fact that they are willing to take a chance on our little play is just about the coolest thing we can imagine! We are so excited to share it!" *NOT FROM AROUND HERE* won 3rd place in the Kentucky Theatre Association Roots of the Bluegrass new play competition and 1st place at the Las Vegas Little Theatre New Works competition, where Jen and Brian got to see it performed for the first time. We can't wait for patrons to enjoy this fun, 80's sitcom-type show about family, friends, and being a little...different.



TEAM KENTUCKY
TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET

New
Kentucky
Home

Our ASL nights for the 2025 Season!
Sponsored by Community Trust Bank

For one performance of each play, **Community Trust Bank** provides an American Sign Language professional to interpret the dialogue.

These performances for 2025:

June - 17 Games Afoot

July 8 - Walking Across Egypt

July 29 - Not From Around Here



★ VOICES INSIDE – WHAT IS IT? ★



Voices Inside, our year-round prison outreach program, has been going strong for over 15 years! Founded by the late **Holly Henson** and playwright Elizabeth Orndorff, the program is now run by **Robby Henson** and **Erika Lee Sengstack**. Each week, Robby and Erika, and various other visiting artists, go to **Northpoint**, a medium-security prison just outside Danville to lead writing workshops with inmates. Some of those inmates have gone on to have their plays performed in professional theatres in NYC, had stories published in national journals, and one of our writers has twice won the prestigious **PEN Award** for **Best Inmate Drama in America**.

Pioneer Playhouse also partners with theatres, both in Kentucky and in NYC, to offer an annual national playwriting contest, open to inmates from all over the US. Winning plays have been produced in Lexington in collaboration with **Antagonist Productions** and also in NYC in collaboration with **Ivette Dumeng/Nylon Fusion** and **TheaterLab**.

The mission of **Voices Inside** is to use theatre arts and creative thinking to increase communication skills, build self-esteem, and humanize the lives of those behind bars in an effort to help fight recidivism. And it's worked! Many of our incarcerated writers have been paroled, and are now leading meaningful, and creative, lives on the outside.

For 15 years, **Voices Inside** has been mainly funding by the **National Endowment for the Arts**. This year, we were told that we would again receive a grant, but it's now uncertain if funds will be forthcoming due to federal cuts. While we are incredibly grateful to our other ongoing sponsors like the **Nancy Friday Foundation** and the **Kentucky Arts Council**, if **NEA** money does indeed go away, we will need other sponsors to help us continue this life-altering program. **Please ask Artistic Director, Robby Henson, how you can help!**



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★ Pioneer Playhouse - Celebrating 76 Seasons! ★

Unwind ... Under the stars!

Dinner & theatre: \$40 • Theatre only: \$22

Dinner 7:00 pm • Showtime 8:30 pm

Elvis/Wanda Jackson show: Time Change! 7:00 dinner; 8:00 show!!

Reservations: (859) 236-2747

Monday – Friday: 9 am - 1 pm

pioneerplayhouse@att.net

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE ★ www.pioneerplayhouse.com

Don't Miss our 76th Anniversary Bash! Saturday, June 14th! 7 pm-11 pm

\$75 per person ★ Includes dinner plus 1 free drink at the cash/credit bar!

Live Music by **Kelly Caldwell** and **Kashmere**, KY's premiere dance band!

Alumni Weekend! Friday, June 13: Come for dinner and show!

Saturday, June 14: Help us celebrate turning 76!

Discounts will be available at local hotels! Call the box office for more info!

