

State Festival - Synopsis Information

Thursday, February 5 - 8:00 AM

Mitchell - "Mere Mortals", David Ives

- *Synopsis:* 3 construction workers have an in-depth conversation in regards to life and human nature 50 ft above the city on a skyscraper scaffolding.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Damn, hell, shit, reference to Jesus Christ in a biblical manner.

Thursday, February 5 - 8:45 AM

Edmunds Central - "Stuck at Home", Bryan Starchman

- *Synopsis:* A family is struggles with being stuck at home together during the Covid-19 lockdown. The Wi-Fi is out, the junk drawer is emptied, their running low on toilet paper...how many family nights can two teens handle...and who is strong enough to handle the dad jokes?? Join this family's struggle to endure each other during their quarantine.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 5 - 9:30 AM

Pierre T.F. Riggs - "darklight", Lindsay Price

- *Synopsis:* A group of teens navigate the isolating, confusing, and often invisible struggles of depression and anxiety, revealing the internal battles that hide beneath the surface of everyday life.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* This performance includes honest depictions of depression, anxiety, emotional struggle and death. Some moments may feel intense or hit too close to home.

Thursday, February 5 - 10:15 AM

Lennox - "Miss Matched", Sean Cercone

- *Synopsis:* In the quaint town of Everwood, an eccentric matchmaking service sets off a chain of comical and unexpected romantic adventures, proving that sometimes, the worst matches make the best stories.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* none

Thursday, February 5 - 11:00 AM

Watertown - "Where the Sky Meets the Sea", Mandy Conner

- *Synopsis:* Five Greek children find themselves abandoned on an island until an oracle sends them on a mystical quest to seek their release – at the cost of a sacrifice.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 5 - 11:45 AM

Sioux Falls Lutheran - "The Masque of Beauty and the Beast", Michael Elliot Brill

- *Synopsis:* A retelling of the well-known fairy tale, a merchant with three daughters must pay the price of becoming the Beast's prisoner after stealing his rose, but the man's youngest daughter, Beauty, willingly takes his place to save her father's life. Through the classic tale, we see how compassion is a gift and true beauty goes beyond physical appearance.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 5 - 12:45 PM

Sioux Falls Roosevelt - "A Mad Breakfast", Isabel McReynolds Gray

- *Synopsis:* This farce focuses on Mr. Jones and Ms. Brown, practical jokers, who tell each boarding house tenant that Mr. Long, a wealthy investor, is interested in supporting each of their individual hobbies. Nevertheless, Mr. Long is truly a journalist who is told the house is an insane asylum he is observing.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 5 - 1:30 PM

Hill City - "The Legends of Sherwood", Jennifer Mueller, Alyssa Pena, & Cast

- *Synopsis:* Robin, Marian, and their friends unite to take down Prince John, Lady Hissfork, and the Sheriff of Nottingham.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 5 - 2:15 PM

Marion - "Tracks", Peter Tarsi

- *Synopsis:* A group of strangers find themselves in a dirty subway station. They have arrived with limited personal belongings, their watches have stopped, and they all claim to be in different cities. Soon, they learn there is no way out of the station, and the unfortunate truth becomes clear: they are all dead. Since subway stations have two sides, they reason that the train leaving from one platform must be bound for heaven, while the train leaving from the other platform must be bound for hell. But which platform are they on? They reflect upon their lives, recalling and confessing past deeds of which they are not proud, hoping to figure out which platform is which. The arrival of someone from the other platform only complicates matters, and the answer remains unclear. As the subway train finally approaches, they must decide whether to stay and ponder their actions further or to have faith and climb aboard to their final destination.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 5 - 3:00 PM

Rapid City Central - "TOYBOX", Justin Speck, Joey Lore, and Cast

- *Synopsis:* Two young friends meet each day to play with their toys, create stories, and make magic. Little do they know the adventures they take are building a legacy beyond all expectations.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 5 - 3:45 PM

Vermillion - "Elephant's Graveyard", George Brant

- *Synopsis:* When a traveling circus arrives in a small Tennessee town, events spiral out of control, resulting in the only known lynching of an elephant.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Gun shot sound effects and graphic descriptions of loss of life and animal cruelty

Thursday, February 5 - 4:30 PM

Rosholt - "Wild Strawberries", Jerry Ayers

- *Synopsis:* A tale of lies, love, and lunch and one mistaken identity leads to another, loyalties and love are traded, and chaos ensues in the pursuit of Wild Strawberries.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Adult humor

Thursday, February 5 - 5:30 PM

Brookings - "A Hymn to the Hateful", Finegan Kruckemeyer

- *Synopsis:* A glimpse into the spread of hatred in today's society, created with high-school students and performed to their peers, this play turns negativity on its head, presenting a how-to guide for the hopeful.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Gun fire, bullying

Thursday, February 5 - 6:15 PM

Philip - ""The Unexpected Reformation of Jimmy Valentine"" , Thomas Hischak

- *Synopsis:* Cora admits to her teacher that she stole a watch from another pupil, but her confession lacks remorse, so the wise Mrs. Proctor tells her the story of a safecracker criminal named Jimmy Valentine and his unexpected reformation. After being released from prison, it doesn't take Jimmy long to fall back into old habits--even with a shrewd detective in pursuit. When Jimmy's travels lead him to a vulnerable bank safe in the sleepy town of Elmore, a beautiful bank manager's daughter inspires change. Jimmy reformation is going well, and he has Annabel's hand in marriage--until the day there is an emergency requiring him to leap into action. Jimmy must decide whether to reveal his former career or remain reformed.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* none

Thursday, February 5 - 7:00 PM

Milbank - "The One Act Play That Goes Wrong", HENRY LEWIS, JONATHAN SAYER & HENRY SHIELDS

- *Synopsis:* The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society puts on a murder mystery called "The Murder at Haversham Manor", but the performance is plagued by technical failures, forgotten lines, and cast members breaking character.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 5 - 7:45 PM

Brandon Valley - "A Year With Frog and Toad", Music by Robert Reale, Book and Lyrics by Willie Reale, based on the books by Arnold Lobel

- *Synopsis:* A Year with Frog and Toad follows two best friends, Frog and Toad, as they experience the small joys and challenges of everyday life over the course of one year. Set in a gentle countryside, the musical moves through the seasons, showing how the world around them changes as their friendship remains constant. By the end of the year, Frog and Toad discover that the true reward of each season is not what they accomplish, but the comfort and joy they find in being there for one another.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 5 - 8:30 PM

Kimball - "The Junction", Carson Pringle

- *Synopsis:* At a fog-shrouded train station suspended between destinations and time, a group of women—each with distinctive pasts, joys and burdens, find themselves waiting for a train that never quite arrives. Guided by a mysterious Conductor and joined by two lost children and one morally lost man, the women share stories, dreams, regrets, and hopes, all while solving a mystery about a lost key. The audience is invited to piece together who these women are and how they are connected, using the clues the women leave behind—subtle and fleeting, like the steam from a passing train.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 6 - 8:00 AM

O'Gorman - "Flora & Ulysses", By John Glore and based on the novel by Kate DiCamillo

- *Synopsis:* A squirrel is rescued by Flora Belle Buckman, a 10-year-old self-proclaimed cynic. She names him Ulysses and discovers he has been reborn a superhero. A show about the importance of hope in times of struggle or sadness, as well as the importance of family and friendship.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 6 - 8:45 AM

Chamberlain - "How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery", Don Zolidis

- *Synopsis:* Five mysterious color-coded guests. A mansion. A murder. Can the killer get away with it? And how will the sleuths bring them to justice? A handy guide to escaping the law when one happens to be a prime suspect in a mysterious murder. Told through vignettes in a style similar to 10 Ways To Survive The Zombie Apocalypse, this show hilariously skewers the tropes of the murder mystery: an airtight alibi, a long-winded monologue by a detective with an accent and even an impossibly complicated Rube Goldberg murder device.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 6 - 9:30 AM

Castlewood - "Us and Them", David Campton

- *Synopsis:* The paths of two societies cross on new ground.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Fight scene; mention of death

Friday, February 6 - 10:15 AM

Rapid City Stevens - "Between the Lines", Elyssa Samsel, Kate Anderson, Jodi Picoult, Timothy Allen McDonald

- *Synopsis:* This musical adventure follows highschooler Delilah McPhee, as she moves to a new town following her parents' divorce. Isolated and depressed, Delilah retreats into the world of a fantasy novel, ultimately falling in love with the piece's hero: The dashing Prince Oliver. One day, however, everything changes when the not-so-fictional Oliver begins to talk back. Now, fully smitten with the man in the book, Delilah embarks on an adventure of self-discovery, love, and fantasy-based frivolity.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 6 - 11:00 AM

West Central - "The Drowsy Professor", B. Dwayne Craft

- *Synopsis:* It's the 1940's, and a genius scientist has made the most amazing discovery the world will ever know. However, he's narcoleptic and can't stay awake long enough to tell anyone about it. His secretary will have to defend his discovery from a zany cast of secret agents, girl scouts, scientists, nuns, and more in a play that satirizes how society reacts to new scientific discoveries.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 6 - 11:45 AM

James Valley Christian - "Anne of Green Gables", Adapted by Jon Jory from the book by L.M. Montgomery

- *Synopsis:* Jon Jory brings his theatrical magic to this spirited one-act adaptation of L.M. Montgomery's classic coming-of-age drama. After a mix-up at the orphanage, Anne comes to live with Marilla and Mathew Cuthbert instead of the boy they were expecting. After turning everyone's life upside down, will they be able to civilize wild Anne or grow to love her vivacity and joy of life?
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 6 - 12:45 PM

Huron - "Anne of Green Gables", Justin Arnold

- *Synopsis:* Anne Shirley is mistakenly sent to live with a plainspoken farmer and his spinster sister, who thought they were adopting a boy! She wins over the Cuthberts and all of Prince Edward Island with her irrepressible spirit and imagination — and wins over audiences with this warm, poignant story about love, home and family.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 6 - 1:30 PM

Elk Point-Jefferson - "Dress Rehearsal Disaster", Emily Hageman

- *Synopsis:* Dress Rehearsal Disaster is about a theater troupe whose final rehearsal spirals into chaos as egos clash, tempers flare, and everything that can go wrong does.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 6 - 2:15 PM

Faulkton Area - "Like a Bolt of Lightning", Dennis Bush

- *Synopsis:* A compelling story of survival and true resilience, as Kai, now in her mid-20's, confronts the memories of an abusive childhood and teen years, a traumatic brain injury from a car accident, and a seemingly insurmountable new hurdle. Two younger versions of Kai (Kat, 19 and Katrina, 14) help tell the story along with her sister, boyfriend and others. With brutal honesty, Kai moves through the moments of her past and present to find the possibility of a happy ending.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* This play does contain descriptions of child abuse, addiction and depictions of an automobile accident. "All changes to the play for this production have been made with the special permission of the playwright."

Friday, February 6 - 3:00 PM

Aberdeen Central - "Antigone, Now", Melissa Cooper

- *Synopsis:* In the midst of a bombed-out city still feeling the aftershocks of war, the rebellious and intense Antigone defies her uncle to bury her disgraced brother.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Grief, Stage Violence, Discussion of Suicide

Friday, February 6 - 3:45 PM

Centerville - "Gossip", Brian Hampton

- *Synopsis:* This simple to stage one act by award-winning playwright Brian Hampton packs a powerful punch as it brings Gossip to life and gives its infectious spread a visible presence onstage. A group of high school theatre students befriends a charming yet sinister new student named Gossip. She immediately makes herself right at home as she secretly manipulates and twists the truth to get what she wants. But as her new friends begin to figure it all out, they turn on her as ruthlessly as she went after them, leading to a surprisingly twisted ending.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 6 - 4:30 PM

Sturgis Brown - "Schoolhouse Rock Live Jr. ", Originally conceived and directed by: Scott Ferguson; Book by: Scott Ferguson, Kyle Hall, George Keating; Music and Lyrics by: Lynn Ahrens, Bob Dorough, Dave Frishberg, Kathy Mandry, George Newall and Tom Yohe

- *Synopsis:* The Emmy Award-winning Saturday morning educational cartoon series and pop culture phenomenon is staged as a musical, bringing learning and fun to the stage! Featuring hits such as: "Interplanet Janet," "Interjections," and "Conjunction Junction."
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 6 - 5:30 PM

Aberdeen Roncalli - "Peter Pan: Non-Flying Version! (One-Act)", Adapted by Jon Jory from the book by J.M. Barrie; Music composed by Kimberly Carda & Leah Carda

- *Synopsis:* Fly away with Peter Pan to the enchanted island of Neverland! This play tells the story of the boy who never grows up. When audiences and Wendy join Peter on his magical island, they are in for exciting encounters with the Lost Boys, Captain Hook, and his pirates! Let the amazing adventures begin!
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Stage Combat

Friday, February 6 - 6:15 PM

Avon - "And", Alan Haehnel

- *Synopsis:* Eryn has something big on her mind, and she's having trouble getting it off her chest. She grapples with the fact that billions of different moments are happening simultaneously -- the comic next to the tragic, the life-changing next to the mundane. Ultimately, she goes through this mental exercise to try to come to terms with the fact that she was playing a video game at the same time her sister was being raped in the room right next to her.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* some deep themes: suicide, cancer, rape, war

Friday, February 6 - 7:00 PM

Sioux Falls Lincoln - "A VHS Christmas Carol", Clark Baxtresser

- *Synopsis:* Charles Dicken's classic tale of greed, ghosts, and redemption adapted as an all synth-pop musical experience.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 6 - 7:45 PM

Chester - "Queens", Kristen Doherty

- *Synopsis:* King Henry VIII is trapped in purgatory and bound to his throne by a sinister Fool. Here, he is forced to relive the sins he committed against his Queens as he endures the replay of his life.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* A miscarriage and simulated executions.

Friday, February 6 - 8:30 PM

Yankton - "The Drowsy Professor", B. Dwayne Craft

- *Synopsis:* A great scientist has made an incredible discovery; however, he's unable to stay awake long enough to tell anyone about it. A number of individuals come in to try to control, learn about, sell, or condemn this new, but unclear, discovery. Through it all, his devoted secretary tries to protect both the discovery and the professor.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Film strip motion projection (flickering light)

Saturday, February 7 - 8:00 AM

Douglas HS - "The Insanity of Mary Girard: A Drama in One Act", Lanie Robertson

- *Synopsis:* The Insanity of Mary Girard by Lanie Robertson is a one-act drama based on a true story from the late 18th century. The play centers on Mary Girard, a woman who has been committed to the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane by her husband, Stephen Girard, one of Philadelphia's wealthiest men. She is placed in a "tranquilizing chair" in the hospital cellar, accused of madness largely because she became pregnant by another man. Throughout the play, Mary is visited by a group of ghostly figures known as the Furies. These voices from her mind—or perhaps from beyond—force her to relive key moments of her life: her marriage, her affair, society's hypocrisy, and her ultimate betrayal by her husband. As the Furies shift between characters from her past, Mary's grip on reality blurs, and she descends deeper into confusion and despair. The play is both a psychological portrait and a social critique, exploring themes of gender, power, and the oppression of women in a patriarchal society. It ends ambiguously, leaving the audience questioning whether Mary was truly insane or a victim of the times.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Trigger Warnings: This play contains themes of psychological distress, emotional abuse, institutionalization, and mental instability. It also references infidelity, pregnancy, and loss. The performance includes stylized depictions of restraint and loud, sudden noises. There may be use of quick light changes

Saturday, February 7 - 8:45 AM

Baltic - "TESTED", Kendra Thomas

- *Synopsis:* Standardized testing is all about rules and protocol. Two #2 Pencils, sanctioned calculators, and carefully filled-out Scantrons. But is standardized testing really fair when the students themselves are anything but "standard"? Sure, for Hannah, it's no big deal. Testing is just a chance to earn ice cream rewards when she does well. Andrea sees standardized tests as another hurdle to overcome. Melanie is a creative type worried that "artsy" won't translate to "book smart". Jayden's homelife and responsibilities take precedent over all else, including much-needed sleep. Dyslexia, test anxiety, and ADHD have the students hitting the panic button. It takes their caring teacher to remind and reassure the class that each of them is far more than just a test score (Pioneer Drama).
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Saturday, February 7 - 9:30 AM

Warner - "Christmas in the Land of Oz", Tamara Tudor

- *Synopsis:* The Wicked Witch of the West becomes the grinch of this delightful holiday play when she steals Christmas from Munchkinland. It takes all your Oz favorites — Dorothy and Toto, Scarecrow, Tin Man, the Lion, and the Munchkins to bring the yuletide holiday back. In the process, the Tin Man recovers his sense of humor, the lonely Lion finds a lady companion, and Dorothy finds the spirit of Christmas to take back to Kansas for Auntie Em and Uncle Henry.

Saturday, February 7 - 10:15 AM

Spearfish - "One Stoplight Town", Tracy Wells

- *Synopsis:* The story of how the installation of a stoplight impacts one small town over the course of several years.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Saturday, February 7 - 11:00 AM

Mobridge-Pollock - "Calamity", E.J.C. Calvert

- *Synopsis:* Every legend has to start somewhere. Twelve-year-old Calamity Jane and her mother are on their way to California when they find themselves in the beleaguered town of Hoopersville. With all but a trio of townsfolk kidnapped by the hilariously hair-raising hoopsnakes, can Calamity Jane rally the remaining townspeople out of their hidey-holes to face the Hoopsnake Queen and rescue the populace? Or will they too end up as dinner-in-waiting? And most importantly, will there be pie?
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Saturday, February 7 - 11:45 AM

De Smet - "The Velveteen Rabbit", Adapted by John Stephens

- *Synopsis:* A timeless classic following the story of a new toy learning what it means to be really loved.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Saturday, February 7 - 12:45 PM

Tea Area - "A Wrinkle in Time", Morgan Gould

- *Synopsis:* Follow Meg Murry, her brilliant younger brother Charles Wallace, and their new friend Calvin O'Keefe as they travel across space and time through the process of "tessering." Their journey leads them to the dark planet of Camazotz, where they must confront a powerful, disembodied evil known as "It" in order to rescue Meg's missing scientist father. Along the way, Meg discovers that her love and inner strength are the ultimate forces capable of overcoming darkness and saving both her father and her brother.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Saturday, February 7 - 1:30 PM

Custer - "Sometimes the Voices", Dennis Bush

- *Synopsis:* "You were left in a box - like an unwanted kitten" was the beginning of an unusual adoption that, more than twenty years later, prompts a DNA test that tears the adoptive family apart as it leads to a biological brother and a heartbreaking glimpse of what life could've been. This seering one act explores emotional baggage, the intersection of past and present, and the stories we tell ourselves that linger in our minds. We're all each others mirrors, and we're all the voices in each other's heads.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Saturday, February 7 - 2:15 PM

Sioux Falls Washington - "The Poe Show", Jonathan Yukich

- *Synopsis:* The Sunnyvale Insane Asylum decides to put on an evening of Edgar Allen Poe stories for the public.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Saturday, February 7 - 3:00 PM

Kadoka Area - "Charley's Aunt", adapted by Gary Peterson

- *Synopsis:* Victorian-era university students Jack and Charley are both in love and plan to propose to their respective girlfriends, Kitty and Amy. They invite the girls over to meet Charley's millionaire aunt, Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez of Brazil, who just happens to be planning to visit Charley for the first time. But when the aunt cancels at the last minute, the boys enlist feckless friend and fellow Oxford student, Fancourt "Babbs" Babberly — dressed in costume as a woman for an amateur play — to impersonate Charley's aunt and clear the way for the boys' marriage proposals. Soon, however, Babbs as Charley's aunt finds himself juggling fawning admirers Kitty and Amy, along with the fortune-driven advances of two would-be suitors. When the real Donna Lucia comes to town incognito to check up on her nephew, hilarious hijinks and cat-and-mouse fun ensue!
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Saturday, February 7 - 3:45 PM

Madison - "The Lonely Lighthouse", B.D. Samuels

- *Synopsis:* During a stormy night, a group of friends takes shelter in an abandoned lighthouse. But when eerie things begin to happen, they realize they must unravel the lighthouse's haunted past if they want to make it until dawn.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Saturday, February 7 - 4:30 PM

Harrisburg - "How To Get Away With A Murder Mystery", Don Zolidis

- *Synopsis:* Five mysterious color-coded guests. Five scenarios of murder. Five detectives. Can the killers get away with it? And how will the sleuths bring them to justice? Join our homicide detectives as they train their new recruits (you) on How to Get Away With a Murder Mystery.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* It's a murder mystery spoof - If you're not into Murder She Wrote, Sherlock, Knives Out, Poker Face, and Cirque du Soleil(???) this show might not be for you. We hope you stick around - you just might find a new binge-worthy detective show. Hazer, Snow, and Water Effects will be deployed. And blood...there could be some blood.

Saturday, February 7 - 5:15 PM

Lake Preston - "Knock Knock", Jason Pizzarello and Kathryn Funkhouser

- *Synopsis:* When you deliver packages, anyone might be behind your next door, from your elementary school teacher to a burglar on the job. Jaded veterans Logan and Nora have "been around the block", while newbies Sam and Sara have a more optimistic point of view. The only sure thing in this job? You never know who's behind the next door!
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Saturday, February 7 - 6:00 PM

Sioux Falls Jefferson - "Yellow Wallpaper", Adapted by Kathryn Funkhouser From "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

- *Synopsis:* When Eleanor stumbles upon a hidden diary, she unlocks a family secret - and finds that danger lives closer to home than she possibly could have imagined. An ensemble of trapped spirits cracks open the door between generations in a theatrical adaptation that wraps the classic psychological horror story The Yellow Wallpaper in a Hitchcockian thriller.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Saturday, February 7 - 6:45 PM

Canistota - "Selfie", Bradley Hayward

- *Synopsis:* A group of high school seniors navigate the ups and downs of their final year while grappling with real-life pressures and the persuasive influence of social media. Facing challenges like bullying, family expectations, illness, and self-doubt, these teens document their experiences "one click at a time." Through the snapshots and moments they choose to capture, they eventually discover that life isn't about how others see them online - it's about the images they hold of themselves and the authentic experiences behind them.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* bullying, social pressure, illness