

Jonesboro Foundation of the Arts

Enhancing Lives

ERIC MCGEE

STAFF WRITER

Since 1986, The Jonesboro Foundation of Arts has strove to enhance the quality of life in Jonesboro. Their approach is multi-faceted. The FOA has consistently presented high quality stage productions in the Forum Theater on Monroe street. They have also provided instruction in the performing and visual arts at their Arts Center on Maine street. Also, the FOA has ensured through community outreach programs that the economically disadvantaged can enjoy the benefits of the arts.

Kristi Pulliam has been the Executive Director of the FOA since 2013. She is primarily responsible for implementing the foundation's vision and maintaining the FOA brand. Since taking the helm, Kristi has expanded the scope of FOA's vision. This includes more than doubling the amount of Forum productions every year, creating The Strand Movie Series and establishing Stage, Too, a second theater venue.

The 2019-20 Main Stage (Forum) theater season will present 9 productions. Each production runs four days. In an interview with Kristi, she states that she is not so much interested in doing more productions but would like to extend production running dates. She has also implemented The Strand Movie Series for the 2019-20 theater season. The FOA will present six classic movies on the big screen at the Forum Theater. Each movie corresponds with a different holiday and are free to the public. On Dec. 21 they will feature the Christmas classic, "It's A Wonderful Life."

Kristi Pulliam has been instrumental in creating a second theater venue. "Stage, Too" is a more intimate venue located at the corner of Main and Monroe. Kristi emphasizes that the purpose of Stage, Too is to offer audiences productions that may challenge their comfort zone. The theater is much smaller and more up close and personal. It is also a more dynamic space in that stage design can be changed with every production. This allows for different options such as theater in the round or maybe even a black box theater. Stage, Too has it's own theater season.

The FOA has an extensive education program for both children and adults. They offer classes in theatre, dance and visual arts. They offer tuition assistance and work study programs for those that need financial assistance. Classes are held at the Art Center on Main street. They have an extensive list of highly qualified instructors that offer instruction in dance, music, painting, photography, acting and yoga.

The Jonesboro Foundation of Arts is a non-profit organization. They depend heavily on volunteers. Stage hands, artistic crews and actors are always needed. If interested, you can contact them at (870) 935-2726 or foajonesboro.org. Audition dates for productions can also be found on their website. They will be presenting two Christmas Productions this year. The Nutcracker Ballet from Nov. 22-26 and "A Holiday Blast: An FOA Music Show" from Dec. 13-16.

Support the arts.



PHOTOS BY ERIC MCGEE, STAFF WRITER

The front of the Forum theatre downtown (above).

Theatre seating in the Forum theatre downtown (below).

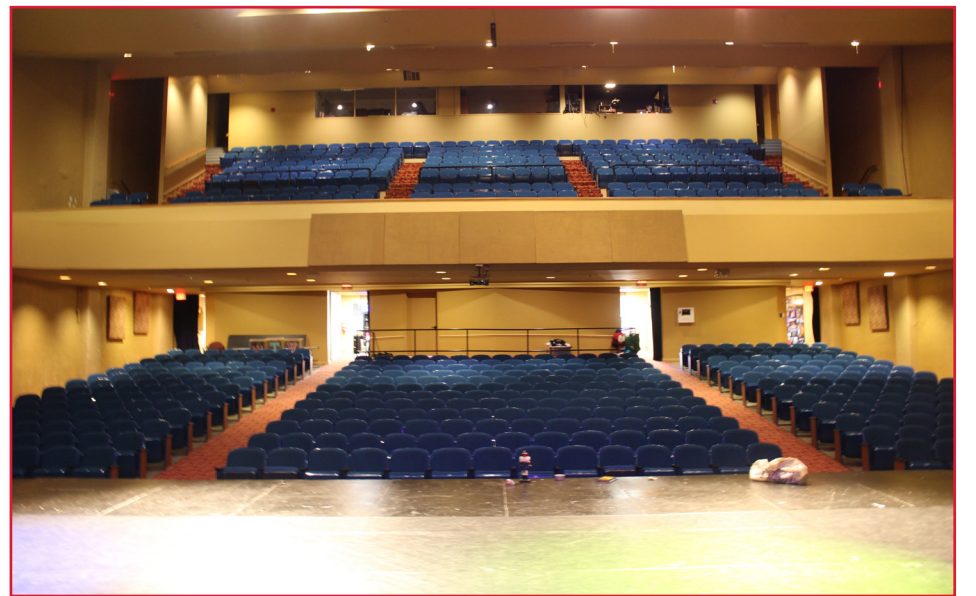


PHOTO BY ERIC MCGEE, STAFF WRITER

"Stage, Too," an FOA production venue located downtown.

THIS WEEK'S POP PICK



ALBUM ART COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

"Christmas Drag" EP - I DON'T KNOW HOW BUT THEY FOUND ME

IDKHow came through for the holidays and dropped the "Christmas Drag" EP Nov. 15. The EP features three songs: "Christmas Drag," which is a re-recording of a song formerly released by IDKHow frontman Dallon Weekes' time in The Brobecks, "Merry Christmas Everybody," a cover of a track originally by Slade and "Oh Noel," a new song co-written by Weekes and his friend Nate Pifer.

Weekes seems to specialize in holiday songs that just sing to that seasonal depression, as the sad tone to "Oh Noel" goes along with the Christmas tracks he released during his time

as bassist for Panic! At The Disco. If you're looking for that different take on a holiday song, check out "Sickly Sweet Holidays" and "Please Don't Jump (It's Christmas)". IDKHow is a musical duo consisting of Dallon Weekes and Ryan Seaman. The band is signed to Fearless Records, and currently has another EP entitled "1981 Extended Play."

HOROSCOPES

ALEX CLARK

MYSTIC CORRESPONDENT

ARIES (March 22 - April 19) Do not overthink everything. Sometimes, a problem can be solved by just trusting what you feel is right.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) You don't have to be unaffected by everything. It is alright to show your softer side to those close to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) You should focus on learning skills that will fulfill your long-term goals. Take any opportunities that arises.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) Take the high road whenever you can. It is not always easy, but it will benefit you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Stick to the plans you have made. They may not be the fastest way to get things done, but they're reliable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Now is a great time to show extra kindness. It will bring more positivity into your life, and give you a brighter outlook.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20) Be honest and up-front about things, especially your feelings. Do not suppress negativity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Be patient with yourself. This will help you find comfort and confidence in your abilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Progress is not always linear. Don't be disappointed if not everything is always moving up, just keep trying to move forward.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22) It is a good time to put plans into motion, but do not rush them. Things will be successful and you will finish what you start.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Accept that you cannot change everything. Even if things aren't 100% how you wish they were, you can still find some good.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 21) It would benefit you to express yourself more authentically. Hiding aspects of yourself will just attract those who do not fully accept you.