**FORT SALEM THEATER**

*Summer, 2018*

SALEM, NY -- Fort Salem Theater, Washington County's Theater Home for Music, Musicals, and Cabaret in Salem's Main Street Business District, has announced its 2018 season. In addition to its bread-and-butter musical and cabaret lineups, the Fort will feature three comedies without music. Several of the shows will play more than one weekend, in repertory.

Every summer the theater presents the World Premiere of at least one musical. This year's entry, by the theater's artistic director, Jay Kerr, and television newsman Jerry Gretzinger, is an homage to the two hundreth anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's novel, *Frankenstein.* It is entitled *Frank and Stein: A Karaoke Musical.* The authors submit that had Shelley been writing today, her work would have indeed been a musical, and quite possibly would have involved karaoke.

June 16 -- *The Whiskey River Band*, Mainstage, 7 PM. Equally at home playing in honky tonks or in concert venues, the band's repertoire features the classic country of their youth and that of their loyal following. Join them for some line dancing. Special time and price ($10), a rare chance to fall in love with a fresh, tuneful take on country classics.

June 23-24 -- *Couples: A Cabaret.* Cabaret, Saturday at 8 PM; Sunday at 2 PM. Celebrates the musical talents of two pairs of married performers. The Fort’s Lynne & Jay Kerr join Catskill celebrities, soprano Alison Davy and composer Carmen Borgia. Davy sings eclectic and irreverent songs by Borgia, her uke virtuoso husband. The two composers will accompany their wives and one another. $20.

June 29-30; July 7-8, 20-21 -- *Our Time.* A new comedy by Emmy Award-winner Ken Levine. Mainstage, in repertory. Fri/Sat at 8 PM, Sun at 2 PM. Three guys and a gal, Baby Boomers, struggle to break into the world of comedy in 1975 Los Angeles. The Vietnam War had ended; the Improv and Comedy Store were grooming Letterman, Pryor and Leno; and Mary Tyler Moore and Carol Burnett proved that women can be funny, too. $15-30.

July 1 -- *Deborah Weiler's America,* Mainstage. 2 PM. Returning for her third concert performance on our Mainstage Steinway Grand, the classically-trained Weiler celebrates Americana with patriotic and regional music, influenced by her boogie-woogie & spiritual roots. Ms. Weiler's inspired talent breathes a life and energy into the Steinway piano, which begins the afternoon as an inanimate object and symbiotically comes to life as the artist’s inspiration. $20.

July 13-15 -- *Frank and Stein: A Karaoke Musical.* Mainstage. Fri/Sat at 8 PM, Sun at 2 PM. TV's Jerry Gretzinger and the Fort's Jay Kerr celebrate the two-hundredth anniversary of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein novel with the World Premiere of their new work. Bobby Stein, genetic scientist by day and karaoke Sinatra wannabe by night, gives new meaning to Frank’s popular tune, “I’ve Got You Under My Skin.” Transplanting Sinatra’s DNA, easy. Getting ahold of it, not so much. $15-30. (Includes an optional Saturday evening Farm-to-Table Dinner at Gardenworks Farm.)

July 22, 27-28 -- *The Savannah Disputation.* A comedy by Evan Smith. Mainstage. Fri/Sat at 8 PM, Sun at 2 PM. Two mature Catholic sibling-sisters in Savannah find at their door an enthusiastic, charismatic Evangelical zealot who has come to save them — and all Catholics. Infinitely more humorous than when someone comes to save you! Illustrates that core beliefs and values are strengthened when challenged. $15-30.

July 29; August 10, 17-18. *Chinese Coffee.* A comedy by Ira Lewis. Mainstage, in repertory. Fri/Sat at 8 PM, Sun at 2 PM. Set in 1982 Greenwich Village, when and where being a starving artist was a badge of honor and of neither hunger nor failure. A photographer and novelist verbally spar over their life choices. With David Braucher and Ted DeBonis. $15-30.

August 11 -- *Farm-to-Table Dinner Theater Cabaret*, featuring Kelly Bird. At Gardenworks Farm, 1055 Route 30, Salem. Four-course dinner followed by on-premises performance, *Kelly Bird: In My Own Way.* Kelly is a songwriter, vocal coach & producer, known as the Capital Region’s “Jingle Queen,” having performed, written and produced national and regional broadcast commercials. Great jazz and pop song styling. $65.

August 12 -- *Riot With Three.* Cabaret. Chamber Music. 2 PM. Not your grandparents' chamber music! Riot With Three is devoted to engaging & entertaining audiences with surprising, lively, & varied classical recitals. Their combined resumé includes Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center & the White House. Riot creates a unique performance atmosphere with an approachable, personable style. Piano, classical saxophone, and voice. $20.

August 19 -- *Kelly Bird: In My Own Way.* Cabaret. 2 PM. Songwriter, vocal coach & producer, Ms. Bird is known as the Capital Region’s “Jingle Queen,” having performed, written and produced national and regional broadcast commercials. An adjunct at The College of St. Rose, she trains students in voice, songwriting and production. An intimate look into how someone born with the voice of an angel marries talent with skill and life experience. $20.

September 22 -- *Cheese, Chocolate, Wine, Woman, and Song.* At Gardenworks Farm, 1055 Route 30, Salem. 7 PM. Literally a tasteful evening of film portraits and product samplings of local purveyors of cheese, chocolate, and wine, integrated with songs about cheese, chocolate, and wine, performed “live” by Lynne Kerr, produced in the style of last year’s Route 30 by Fort Salem Theater and Gardenworks.