

AFT Frequently Asked Questions

For Details, Contact:

Holly Feldman

Phone: 920-854-6117

Email: hfeldman@folkloretheatre.com

2011 Season



american
FOLKLORE
T H E A T R E

What is American Folklore Theatre?

American Folklore Theatre is an experience like nothing else. Providing original musical theatre for the whole family!

What is the history of AFT? How long has it been around?

The story of American Folklore Theatre begins with a group called “The Heritage Ensemble.” This group was created by Dave Peterson, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who assembled the group after discovering a pine-rimmed theatre while camping at Peninsula State Park. Feeling the magic in this wooded setting, he assembled a group of singers and musicians to perform on the stage. The Heritage Ensemble would go on to perform on the Peninsula State Park stage for the next 20 years. During these 20 years, the troupe produced and performed original concerts and reviews covering many aspects of Midwestern folklore.

In 1990 long-time members of The Heritage Ensemble morphed into American Folklore Theatre with the emphasis on the creation and production of book musicals as well as concerts. The group's name was changed to **American Folklore Theatre** to broaden its scope while still depicting its roots in the traditions of populist culture. **This year marks the 21st Season for American Folklore Theatre.**

Is AFT a professional theatre company?

Absolutely. American Folklore Theatre only casts performers whose profession is acting. A number of our performers are members of the Actors Equity Association – a labor union that represents over 45,000 actors and stage managers working across the United States. AFT conducts professional auditions in New York, Chicago, Minneapolis and Wisconsin and company members now perform regularly on and off-Broadway and at major regional theatres throughout the country.

Where do American Folklore Theatre performances take place?

During our summer season, we perform outdoors at the large AFT Amphitheatre at Peninsula State Park in Fish Creek, WI. The theatre is not covered – we perform under a canopy of stars. Seating at the theatre consists of sturdy wooden benches with backs, and seat cushions are available for rental. During the fall season, AFT heads indoors to perform at the state-of-the-art and very comfortable Door Community Auditorium in Fish Creek, WI.

Is the theatre difficult to get to? Is handicap access available?

The AFT Amphitheatre is located in **Peninsula State Park**. Peninsula State Park has two entrances – the Fish Creek entrance and the Ephraim entrance. Watch for the AFT signs directing you to the Theatre from both entrances. The parking lot for the Theatre is actually the overflow parking lot for Nicolet Beach. Once you are parked in the lot, it's only about a three-minute walk to the amphitheatre. We also provide golf cart transportation for patrons with mobility issues. The theatre also has handicap access and parking.



AFT Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

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Is the Door Community Auditorium difficult to get to? Is handicap access available? (Continued)

Door Community Auditorium is located in the heart of Fish Creek just a short drive from many great dining establishments. Door Community Auditorium is completely handicapped accessible and has many on-site parking options. Tour busses will be directed to the rear of the attached school complex to a bus turn-around and drop off area on the south east side of the facility.

Is there anything else that I might need to know about American Folklore Theatre shows?

All AFT shows are appropriate for all ages. The shows range in average 90 minutes. Summer shows are all one-act shows with no intermission. Fall shows run slightly longer and usually offer an intermission. We do offer refreshments for sale at all our shows. Our concession stand is filled with AFT apparel, recordings, and other great items – all ready to purchase to take home with you!

Any special information I need to know about tickets and will call?

All tickets will be held at the theatre at the Will Call window. **Please be sure to arrive at least 30 minutes before show time.** Please make sure that everyone has a ticket in hand. When you get to the usher who is taking tickets, identify the name of your group and tell him or her that you have reserved seating. He or she will point you in the direction of the seating usher, who will seat you accordingly. That's all you have to do – other than sit back, relax, and enjoy the show, of course!

Any other questions that haven't been answered by this sheet?

Please call the AFT office at (920) 854-6117 or visit our website at www.FolkloreTheatre.com.

Mission Statement

The mission of American Folklore Theatre is to create, develop, and present professional musical and dramatic production which will further the knowledge and appreciation of the culture and heritage of the United States.

The Theatre is dedicated to maintaining standards of artistic excellence; celebrating and illuminating the human condition; reaching a large audience of all ages, including families; and fostering a humanistic work environment with adequate and appropriate emotional, financial and creative support for all those associated with us.

American Folklore Theatre
P O Box 273
Fish Creek, WI 54212
USA

Phone: (920) 854-6117
Fax: (920) 854-9106
Email: hfeldman@folkloretheatre.com
Website: www.folkloretheatre.com