



City Theatre of Independence presents

The New Mel Brooks Musical

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN



Written by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan

Original choreography by Susan Stroman

Directed by Nino Casisi

March 24, 25, 26, 31 April 1, 2, 3, 2016

8 p.m. except Sunday at 2 p.m.



Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

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Donation Levels:

Stage Hand-\$50

Designer-\$100

Stage Manager-\$200

Director-\$500

Producer-\$1000

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City Theatre of Independence is a proud member of the American Association of Community Theatres (AACT) and the Independence Parks and Recreation Dept.

www.aact.org

www.ci.independence.mo.us/parksandrec

CTI is also a member of the **Independence Attractions Coalition**.

**City Theatre of Independence
Powerhouse Theatre
Roger T. Sermon Center**

816-325-7367

www.CityTheatreofIndependence.org

Special thanks to Designer Donor

Elizabeth Scott

And Stage Hand Donor

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THANKYOU



208 North Main Street

Independence, Mo. 64050

816-461-5383

Girl's Night Out for Breast Cancer

GNO-4-BC

Girls Night Out For Breast Cancer (GNO-4-BC) will be holding their fundraiser on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Cotillion in Blue Springs, MO. The event will be 4 - 8 p.m. The theme this year is a Beach Party Luau. A beach party themed dinner will be served at 5 p.m. There will also be live music, dancing, vendors and more. Early bird tickets (purchased prior to March 30, 2016) will be \$20 per person. Tickets after March 30, 2016 will be \$25. For reservations, send your check to JoAnne White at 3819 N.E. 51st Street, Kansas City MO 64119 or visit our website to pay with PayPal.

Our web site is

<https://sites.google.com/site/girlsniteout4bc>

Money raised will be donated to Cancer Action.

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Ellie's Embroidery

www.ellasembroidery.com

**The
Examiner**

Independence—Blue Springs—Grain Valley

www.examiner.net

FAST SIGNS

3801 S. Noland Road

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The Bingham-Waggoner Estate

Mon - Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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**313 West Pacific
Independence, MO 64051**

Phone: 816-461-3491

The Bingham-Waggoner Estate is truly a one-of-a-kind gem located near the historic downtown of Independence, Missouri. This well preserved estate provides insights into the lifestyles of the 19th century wealthy residents.

The Estate is available for tours and for private events and rentals in addition to a variety of regularly scheduled public events.

Do-Sal's Collectible Treasures

111 N Main St, Independence, Mo. 64050

Powerhouse Theatre Foundation

Powerhouse Theatre Foundation is an umbrella organization which includes and benefits three community theatre organizations which operate out of the Roger T. Sermon Community Center: City Theatre of Independence, Children's Performing Theatre and Encore Theatre.

City Theatre of Independence

www.CityTheatreofIndependence.org

ENCORE

www.EncoreTheatreIndepMo.org

Children's Performing Theatre

Facebook: [Childrens-Performing-Theatre-of-Independence-Mo](https://www.facebook.com/Childrens-Performing-Theatre-of-Independence-Mo)

Join CTI

If you enjoy seeing our performances, you might also enjoy being a member of CTI . There are many opportunities to be part of the organization. In addition to acting, there are crew members on each production to run lights or sound, to help with properties and set changes, or costume design and set construction.

CTI is a member-run organization, where you can be part of the decision making process. Questions? Contact citytheatreofindependence@gmail.com.

Roger T. Sermon
Community Center

201 N. Dodgion Avenue, 64050
(816) 325-7370

See more at
www.ci.independence.mo.us/ParksAndRec/Sermon

NEW HOURS
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 2
AT THE SERMON CENTER
Mondays - Thursdays: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Fridays: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
CALL (816) 325-7370 FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Roger T. Sermon Community Center offers a wide variety of social activities and health related opportunities. Twelve clubs meet on a regular basis at the facility, as well as numerous outside organizations. There is a wide variety of rental space available in the facility including, four meeting rooms, a gymnasium, lobby area, and theatre. The building can accommodate small groups or large receptions for 500. A weight room and gymnasium are also available for different classes, programs and open play.

A New Mel Brooks Musical

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Book by

Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan

Music and Lyrics by

Mel Brooks

Original Direction & Choreography by Susan Stroman

Based on the 1974 Motion Picture, *Young Frankenstein* by

Gene Wilder & Mel Brooks

“Puttin’ on the Ritz” by Irving Berlin

Young Frankenstein is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.MTIShows.com

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Dr. Frederick Frankenstein – Christopher Murrell

Inga – Landis Merrill

Igor – Chad Burris

Frau Blücher – Ruth Baum Bigus

Elizabeth Benning – Charlotte Gilman

The Monster – Stephen Howard

Inspector Kemp – Brian DeMarea

Victor Von Frankenstein – Sam Gershman

Ziggy, the Village Idiot – Jeremy Walter

Harold, the Blind Hermit – Emerson Rapp

The Company

Eli Biesemeyer, Becky Clark, Heather Foose,

Moe Graenser, Ann Lauderdale, Tracy Pratt

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director – Nino Casisi
 Music Director – Chris Foglio
 Accompanist – Laurie Schwab
 Stage Manager – Mark Ramirez
 Stage Manager – Larry Bigus
 Choreographer – Anna Leigh Nissen
 Technical Director – R.J. Parish
 Lighting Design – Chuck Cline
 Costume Designer – Ruby Renee Purtee-Wood
 Costume Assistants – Rachel Nielsen, Janet Smith
 Sound Design – Nathan Alan Stone
 Scenic Design – Nino Casisi and R.J. Parish
 Poster Design and Publicity – Norita Taylor

Laboratory Equipment

R.J. Parish

The Hans Delbrück Deutsche Band

Conductor – Chris Foglio
 Keyboards/Accompanist – Laurie Schwab
 Percussion – Kenneth Storz
 Bass – Richard Burgess
 Drums – Tim Schwab,
 Cello – Benjamin Schwab
 Flute – Krysteena Ray

SCENIC CONSTRUCTION

RJ Parish, John Dempsey, Sandy Dempsey, Steve Kennedy, Mike Morrow, Nino Casisi, Eli Biesemeyer, Becky Clark, Ron Clark, Norita Taylor, Christopher Murrell, Charlotte Gilman, Jeremy Walter, David Calkins, Tracy Pratt, Daron Pratt, Brian DeMarea, Sam Gershman

Musical Numbers and Locations

ACT ONE

Overture – The Hans Delbrück Deütsche Band

Scene 1 – Transylvania Heights, 1934

The Happiest Town in Town – Villagers

Scene 2 – Johns, Miriam and Anthony Hopkins School of Medicine

(There is Nothing Like) The Brain – Frederick and Students

Scene 3 – Hudson River Pier, H.M.S. Queen Murray

Please Don't Touch Me – Elizabeth, Voyagers

Scene 4 – Transylvania Train Station, Track 29

Together Again – Igor, Frederick

Scene 5 – Woodland Clearing

Roll in the Hay – Inga, Frederick, Igor

Scene 6 – Outside Castle Frankenstein Front Gates

Scene 7 – Inside Castle Main Hall

Join the Family Business – Victor, Frederick & Ancestors

Scene 8 – Dr. Victor's Secret Laboratory

He Vas My Boyfriend – Frau Blücher

Scene 9 – Town Hall

The Law - Inspector Kemp & Villagers

Scene 10 – Dr. Victor's Secret Laboratory

Life, Life - Frederick

Scene 11 – Castle Courtyard

Welcome to Transylvania – Transylvanian Quartet

Transylvania Mania – Igor, Frederick, Inga, Inspector Kemp & Villagers

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.

ACT TWO

Scene 1 – Forest

He's Loose – Inspector Kemp, Villagers

Scene 2 – Dr. Victor's Secret Laboratory

Listen to Your Heart – Inga

Surprise – Elizabeth, Igor, Frau Blücher & Fashion Assistants

Scene 3 – Hermit's Cottage

Please Send Me Someone – Harold, The Blind Hermit

Scene 4 – Castle Dungeon

Man About Town - Frederick

Scene 5 – Lowe's Transylvania Heights Stage

*Puttin' on the Ritz – Frederick, Monster, Inga, Igor, Frau Blücher & Company

Scene 6 – Mouth of Cave, Somewhere Deep in the Forest

Deep Love - Elizabeth

Scene 7 – Frederick's Laboratory

Frederick's Soliloquy – Frederick

Scene 8 – The Village Square

Deep Love (Reprise) – The Monster

Finale Ultimo – All Company

*Puttin' on the Ritz (Words and music by Irving Berlin ©1928, 1929 by Irving Berlin (ASCAP) © Renewed)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jim Looker, Heather Foose, Eli Biesemeyer, Mark Ramirez,

Tyler Nissen, Mike Morrow, John Dempsey, Sandy Dempsey

**The videotaping or other video or audio
recording of this production is strictly prohibited.**

YOUNG FRANKSTEIN: THE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This show has been a rush of adrenaline since its table read back in February. This has been a dream for me to direct and a "cross off of the Bucket List." I would like to thank CTI for the opportunity to tackle one of my favorite musicals and classic films of all time. I have now directed both Mel Brooks' musicals (The Producers at Bell Road Barn Players in 2009) and now THIS!!!! I need to thank a few people who have made this journey possible: Chris, RJ, Anna, Renee, Laurie, Chuck, Nathan, Mark and Larry who have stepped up to the plate and created some beautiful moments in music, set, dance, costumes, lights, sound and stage management. Your mad skills will NOT be unrecognized. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this cast and crew so much, I'm taking us on tour. OK, well, maybe not on tour, but I'll cherish the memories we've made...and there have been many. This tireless cast deserves the credit for taking a script to an entirely new level, blending moments directly from the classic film as well as bringing other of Mel Brooks' humor from his other works to the stage. I've worked with many of these actors before so I knew what to expect, but there are some I've never worked with and they have floored me...nightly as well. I would also like to thank Mike Morrow for letting me work in this "crazy business of show."

Um...so, please take a few minutes to read the cast bios and enjoy our production of Young Frankenstein

P.S. (again)...no goats or chickens were harmed during the making of this production.

Nino Casisi

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN: THE DEDICATION

Penny Sumrall was an avid theatre goer, not only at City Theatre of Independence, but at almost every theatre in the Kansas City area. You could always see her smile after every show yet she wasn't afraid to tell you what she really thought of the production. Ms. Sumrall lost her battle with cancer this past November and will be sorely missed. It will be surreal not seeing her in the audience any longer, always running over to me to say hello. Her son, Ben Sumrall was on the CTI stage in the 1993-1994 season where we worked together as fellow actors in the musical comedy, *Anything Goes*. That began a long and endearing friendship. She told me every time she saw me, how excited she was to watch this production of *Young Frankenstein*, but didn't make it to opening night. So with that, I dedicate this show to her memory. "Penny, you will have a special balcony seat reserved for you...every night."

YOUNG FRANKSTEIN: THE CAST (in alphabetical order)

Eli Biesemeyer (Company, Dracula) is ecstatic to be part of such an outrageous cast. His past shows include *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Protean, The White Theatre), *It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play* (George Bailey, Summit Theatre Group), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Letch, Barn Players), *Assassins* (The Proprietor, Summit Theatre Group), *Musical of Musicals: the Musical* (Ensemble Man, OCTA), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Clarence the Angel, BSCT), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Pedant, CTI), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Doc Baugh, BSCT) and *Big, The Musical* (Adult Josh Baskin, BSCT).



Ruth Baum Bigus (Frau Blücher) is delighted to be making her City Theatre of Independence debut with *Young Frankenstein* and is delighted to work with old friends Nino, Charlotte, Chad and Eli and new friends, too. Ruth is a freelance journalist and nonprofit media relations' professional. She has performed with Spinning Tree Theatre, Starlight Theatre, Barn Players, OCTA, Theatre in the Park and at KU and the University of Michigan. Favorite Shows/roles- Anita, *West Side Story*; Roxie, *Chicago*, Maggie, *A Chorus Line*, Ma Strong, *Urinetown*. Special thanks and love to husband Larry for his encouragement and patience, Maya her dog and her kids Alex, Liz & Aaron.



Chad Burris (Igor) – Chad is back on stage at CTI for his third show. He also appeared as Hyde 3/Dr. Lanyon in *Jekyll and Hyde* and as Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Chad has performed in theatres across the city as Albert Peterson in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Sam Byck in *Assassins*, Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*, Mungojerrie in *CATS*, MacMillan/Zoltar in *Big, The Musical* and many more. He would like to thank his wife and family for all their love and support.



Becky Clark (Company) is a life-long resident of the Northland, a retired music educator (30 years!), performer and proud mom and grandmother. She has enjoyed her long board association with Gladstone Theatre in the Park and now Mid-Life Players. Throughout the years, Becky has worked as vocal director for 10 shows, performed in 19 shows and is so excited to make her debut with City Theatre of Independence! She wishes all her cast-mates a hearty “*Break-a-leg!*”



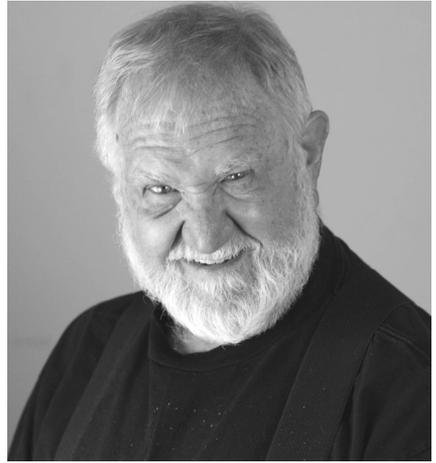
Brian DeMarea (Inspector Kemp, Company) is excited to be back in his 5th appearance on stage at CTI. After a six-year hiatus, he decided it was time to come back to the theatre community. While his dance moves and acting chops needing some dust removal, the passion immediately returned. The camaraderie that a group of strangers can establish in two months is unbelievable. The commitment to create something that will brighten the darkest day is inspirational. He hopes you enjoy this gift of musical comedy direct from your neighbors.



Heather Foose (Company) would like to thank Nino and the rest of the cast and crew for a wonderful experience. Her most recent theatre credits include the role of Jessie Mae in *The Trip to Bountiful* (CTI), Celisse in *Godspell* (Summit Theatre Group) and multiple roles in the CTI Playwright Festival. She has also choreographed several productions, including *Guys and Dolls*, *Oklahoma*, *Carousel*, *Anything Goes*, *Annie*, *Babes in Toyland* and *Shenandoah*.



Sam Gershman (Victor Von Frankenstein, Company) marks his seventh show with CTI having been onstage in their past productions of *Working*, *Company of Wayward Saints*, and others. He has done 30+ shows over the past twenty years. He enjoys his part-time work as an analytical chemist for a water treatment company and volunteering with various projects around town. He wishes to thank his wife for her patience in putting up with his acting hobby.



Charlotte Gilman (Elizabeth Benning) makes her debut at CTI. She works at Bloch Communication Center while pursuing her MBA at UMKC. She is also the vice president of Leawood Stage Company. Previous credits: *Alice*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *Usherette*, *The Producers* (The Barn); and *The Musical of Musicals: The Musical* (Best Show – OCTA) with Nino, for which she won Best Actress. Thanks to her family, Nino and the team for this monster of a show!!! Upcoming: *No Sex Please, We're British*, (OCTA).



Stephen Howard (The Monster, Company) is happy to be back where “it all started” at CTI. His last shows at CTI were *Chicago* as Fred/Emcee and multiple roles in *The Boys Next Door*. He has performed in over 50 productions in the Kansas City area, and with *Bottoms Up Sketch Comedy* in sketch shows and on YouTube. He lives and works in Kansas City, MO.



Moe Graenser (Steward, Company) has recently performed with the American Youth Ballet in *The Nutcracker*, the Mid Life Players in *Into the Woods* and *Rent* (which, as Angel, gave him a new found respect for corsets.) This is Moe's first production with the City Theater of Independence and he's looking forward to "Puttin' on the Ritz!"



Ann Lauderdale (Company) is a Kansas City transplant and also a native of Tulsa, OK, where she was involved in community theatre for over 15 years. Ann is excited to be a part of this show, her first appearance with City Theatre of Independence. Besides community theatre, Ann is also a seasoned burlesque performer and a member of TwoLips Burlesk out of Tulsa. She would like to dedicate her performance to her boyfriend, Jake.



Landis Merrill (Inga) is totally stoked to work with Nino again (fifth time, but who's counting) in this monster production. She was last seen in *Inspecting Carol* at Paradise Playhouse as M.J. McCann after working with him in *Leading Ladies* and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* earlier this year, and without Nino in *Who's Under Where?* in May 2014. Last summer, she was seen as Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme in Summit Theatre Group's production of *Assassins* with Nino directing, Peter/The Tailor in *The Taming of the Shrew* at City Theatre of Independence and Chorus in *Columbus Day* at The Living Room, both without Nino directing. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Christopher Murrell (Dr. Frederick Frankenstein) is proud to be back on stage in Kansas City after 11 years. His previous credits in Kansas City include Jonathan Harker in *Dracula*, and Romeo in *Romeo & Juliet*. In his home away from home of Columbia he has acted in the *Full Monty* and *RENT* for CEC, *Taming of the Shrew* for Maplewood Barn, and *Scrooge*, *Oliver*, and *Blithe Spirit* for Columbia College. He would like to thank the directing staff for this amazing opportunity. To Levi, Winter and the Robot, you are loved. ~Roosevelt



Tracy Pratt (Company) is excited to be performing for the first time with the City Theatre of Independence in *Young Frankenstein*. She has worked with the Summit Theater Group (STG) in *Assassins* and Blue Springs City Theatre (BSCT) in *Big*, *The Musical* and *Rented Christmas*. Prior to local theater, Tracy traveled with the USAF Tops in Blue worldwide tour singing and dancing for the troops and communities.



Emerson Rapp (Harold the Hermit, Company) is exciting, humorous, groundbreaking, humble. These are words as chosen by Emerson to describe Emerson, written only for people who are married to or are related to Emerson. On that note, Emerson would like to thank his wife Briana, his family, his father's heart donor and their family, his friends, Kansas City BBQ, Bill Murray, the end of Prohibition, huddled masses yearning for freedom, and anyone who has read this far. Hey.



CAST (cont.)

Jeremy Walter (Ziggy the Village Idiot, Company) is contractually excited to be part of *Young Frankenstein*. You might have seen him in CTI's *The Trip to Bountiful* and/or Bell Road Barn Players' *Because Their Hearts Were Pure*. You also might have seen him around town with a camera. Do not be alarmed. He's just looking for abstract minimalisms for his website www.jeremyimagery.com. But enough about him. How are you? Do you come here often? Nice shoes.



YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN: THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Nino Casisi (Director) is thrilled to be "Puttin' on the Ritz" here at CTI, where his directing credits include: *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Nerd* and *Steel Magnolias* as well as CTI's award-winning productions of *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Nice Family Gathering*, *Funny Money*, *Noises Off*, and *Plaza Suite*. Around KC, his directing credits include: *Leading Ladies*, *Inspecting Carol*, *Assassins*, *9 to 5 the Musical*, *Legally Blonde the Musical*, *Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *Cabaret*, *The Producers*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Sweeney Todd* (to name a few). Out of the director's chair, Mr. Casisi has acted in over 100 productions in venues ranging from regional to professional theatres including New Theatre Restaurant in *Funny Money* starring William Christopher from *M*A*S*H*. He also had small roles in the movies *Truman* and *Kansas City*, as well as being an extra in the A&E Reality show *Donnie Loves Jenny*. A special thanks to Mike, Bella and Bruno for allowing him to live his passion, and he dedicates this show to the memory of his parents and Penny Sumrall, who were all avid followers of CTI productions. Scratch this show off the bucket list. Nino will next d-i-r-e-c-t the musical c-o-m-e-d-y, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* for Summit Theatre Group in June.



YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN: THE PRODUCTION STAFF (cont.)

Mark Ramirez (Stage Manager) is excited to be working on his first production at City Theatre of Independence. He is no stranger to the technical side at all since he's been working backstage on shows for 25 years. He also worked at Longview Community College, doing technical work for 15 years. We welcome him.



Christopher Michael Foglio (Music Director/Conductor) is proud to return to the production side of the fine arts for CTI's *Young Frankenstein* after working as MD for *Little Shop of Horrors* last season. This musical madman has padded his resume with numerous commendations in music and the performing arts over the years alongside a long list of stage roles and production credits. He would like to thank his parents for supporting him through thick and thin.



Anna Leigh Nissen (Choreographer) has been dancing since she could walk and loves sharing the gift of dance with actors and audiences alike! She has worked on shows such as *Musical of Musicals the Musical*, *Pippin*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Gypsy*, as well as countless dance concerts and expositions. Anna is delighted to be working with an excellent cast for her first show at City Theatre of Independence and hopes for many more. Thank you to the cast for their hard work and their fearless spirit to dance!



Dinner Theatre

Have you tried our dinner theatre? Enjoy a meal before a performance. The first Saturday night of each production features an optional dinner in the Sermon Center catered by Nadler's of Wellington, Mo.

Next Dinner Theatre Date

JUNE 4

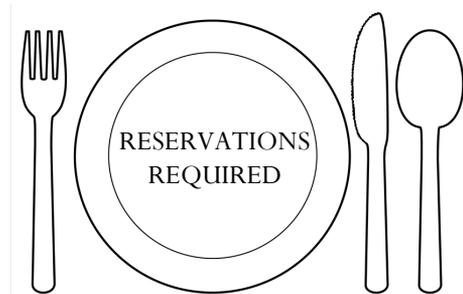
\$26 meal and show

Play It Again, Sam

Visit website for details on reservations and menus

www.CityTheatreOfIndependence.org

816-325-7367 Ticket Line



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Visit this URL address and you will find an easy form to fill out and get updates on auditions, shows and other events. <http://eepurl.com/KFHn>

PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL 2016



Each summer, City Theatre of Independence holds a festival featuring eight original works by playwrights from all over the United States.

This year's performance dates for the Playwright Festival will be July 28-31, 2016.

AUDITIONS

May 21, noon - 4 p.m.

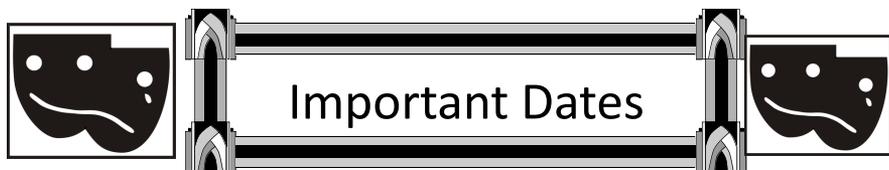
Sermon Center

PUPPETRY ARTS INSTITUTE

1025 E. Winner Rd. Independence, MO 64052 USA

816. 833.9777

www.hazelle.org



AUDITIONS

April 4, 5

Play It Again, Sam

7-9 p.m.

SHOW DATES

Play It Again, Sam

June 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 2016

Next CTI Business Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 7-9 p.m.

PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL

July 28-31

Auditions: May 21, Noon to 4 p.n.

AWARDS BANQUET

July 23

www.CityTheatreofIndependence.org

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