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SECTION

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Musicals based on Amish lifestyle coming to Arthur in July

Theater moves to Penn Station from Green Mill Village

Amish Country of Illinois will soon be known for more than broomcorn and buggies. After a three-year hiatus, and a venue change, Cass Concepts Productions is bringing musicals to Penn Station, in Arthur.

From one-off events to scaling musical and mystery plays, Cass Concepts Productions, owned and operated by central Illinois native, Cassie Yoder, has produced and promoted hundreds of shows, functions and events since 2015. These shows originally operated out of Green Mill Village Theatre at the Best Western Plus Green Mill Village Hotel and Suites Convention Center in Arcola until the COVID pandemic struck.

"Timing is everything. Now that tourism and travel have returned post-covid, there's been a lot of planning to bring this unique theater experience back to the area in July," stated Yoder.

Thousands of patrons, from a total of 27 states traveled to the area to watch "Half-Stitched the Musical," "Adam & Even Go to Marriage Counseling," "Slay it again, Sam." "The Colossal Christmas Caper," "Murder at Bunny & Clyde's," "A Toast of Champaign," "A Touch of Class: Patsy Cline Tribute," "State of Grace," "Murder on the Disoriented Express," and "An Amish Country Christmas" from 2015-2019.

Marketing, tourism and entertainment is nothing new to Yoder. Since 2005, Yoder has owned and operated Cass Concepts, a full-service creative agency and marketing firm located in downtown Decatur. Her firm services businesses, entrepreneurs, events and corporate functions throughout central Illinois. Many of the businesses are are within the tourism industry.

"Marketing within the tourism and entertainment industry in Central Illinois has proven there was a need and demand for professional, family-friendly theatre, that had music and storylines as unique as the Illinois prairie," Yoder stated.

With her strong friendships

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CASSIE YODER, owner of Cass Concepts Productions & Cass Concepts Marketing, Media, Events poses with Wally Nason, writer and composer of Blue Gate Musicals.

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD James Holhubner of Longview takes aim during a Cub Scout camp Saturday, July 15, at Wimple Park in Tuscola. Dozens of Scouts from throughout the area joined the camp to earn merit badges. Fishing and a "Rain Gutter Regatta" were also on the agenda. *Photo by David Porter.*

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