

Newsroom

March 29, 2019

Georgia Southern University

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The Masquers bring trailer park musical to Armstrong Campus with upcoming performance

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From left, Heather Byler plays Linoleum, Pandora Crumpton plays Betty and Hannah Davis plays Pickles in "The Great American Trailer Park Musical."

Student theater group, the Masquers are bringing the home of Stark, Florida, residents, Armadillo Acres, to the Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus during a performance of "The Great American Trailer Park Musical."

The performance will be directed by professor Pamela Sears, MFA, with music directed by Warren Heilman. The cast and crew is made up of Armstrong Campus students from a variety of majors.

The comedy tells the stories of the residents of the Florida town most exclusive trailer park, Armadillo Acres. Residents include the agoraphobic Jeannie Garsecki and her husband Norbert, the trailer park owner Betty, her friends Linoleum, who is currently waiting for her husband to get out on parole, and Pickles, who suffers from hysterical pregnancies. The trailer park gets turned upside down when a new girl, Pipi, moves in.

"My favorite thing about Jeannie is that she, at first glance, seems like a really weak character, but the more you look and peel back the layers, you really see she's the strongest one," said senior theatre major, Olivia Quillman,

who plays Jeannie. "Her power shows itself in small and quiet ways at first, but by the climax of the show she's surrounded by her own power, and it's beautiful to watch."

The show's music and lyrics are by Davis Nehls, and the book is by Betsy Kelso. The New York Sun described it as "'South Park' meets 'Desperate Housewives' in this big-hearted new musical comedy with a cheeky script."

"This show genuinely has it all, and it will be fun for audience members to see themselves in each and every character," Quillman said.

Performances will be held April 11 through 13 at 7:30 p.m., April 14 at 3 p.m. and April 18 through 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jenkins Hall Main Stage Theatre on the Armstrong Campus. It is recommended that audience members be 16 years or older for this show. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit georgiasouthern.edu/armstrongtickets.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

Tags: [College of Arts and Humanities](#), [Department of Theatre](#)

Georgia Southern to host mental health advocate Patrick J. Kennedy on April 1

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Georgia Southern University's School of Nursing will host pioneer in mental health policy and advocacy, former U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy, to discuss "My Journey: Making Mental Health Essential Health" on April 1. Kennedy's presentation is free and open to the public and will take place on the University's Armstrong Campus in the Fine Arts Building Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Kennedy served Rhode Island's First Congressional District for 16 years, championing causes essential to the well-being of all Americans. During his time on Capitol Hill, he was the author and chief sponsor of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (Federal Parity Law), groundbreaking legislation that requires insurers to cover treatment for mental health and substance use disorders no more restrictively than treatment for illnesses of the body, such as diabetes and cancer. Calling it the "civil rights issue of our time," he successfully oversaw the bill's passage, and in 2008, it was signed into law by President George W. Bush.

Upon leaving Congress in 2011, Kennedy devoted his professional life to advocating for those with mental health and substance use disorders. He founded The Kennedy Forum, an innovative nonprofit focused on advancing evidence-based practices, policies, and programming for the treatment of mental health and addiction, and co-founded One Mind, an organization that pushes for greater global investment in brain research, which Kennedy has called "the next great frontier in medicine."

He is the co-author of *A Common Struggle: A Personal Journey Through the Past and Future of Mental Illness and Addiction*, in which he weaves together both private and professional narratives to create a roadmap for equality in the mental health community and outlines a bold plan for the future of mental health policy.

Kennedy will visit Georgia Southern in collaboration with the University's School of Nursing, which established the APN-PMHNP track in 2015 to uniquely serve the psychiatric and mental health needs of rural and underserved communities. Georgia Southern was one of the first universities in the state to focus heavily on telemedicine training. The nine-course online track partners with clinical environments that provide team-based care, includes on-campus simulation learning experiences, and previously included short summer intensive sessions with national content experts.

The event is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award to the University's School of Nursing for advanced nursing education totaling \$1,588,794 with zero percent financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov).

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Diverse exhibit to showcase Georgia Southern Armstrong Campus seniors' art

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Soft sculptures, ceramics, fiber design, multimedia installation and photography will be on display for "The Art of Feeling," presented by the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art on the Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus. The exhibit will showcase the terminal work of five graduating art students: Jacqueline Claros, Briane Daniels, Chance Everett, Christine Freeman and Blair Perry.



"The Art of Feeling' is an exciting exploration of the senses," Everett, a fiber artist, said. "It is exciting to see that our group has come together to develop visual art that can be felt in so many different ways."

Exhibit-goers can expect to explore tactile works, some of which are inspired by the artist's volunteer work with the sight impaired. Soft sculptures bringing imaginative characters into life and flowing fabrics enhanced with inventive patterns that invoke the four seasons will also be on display. The collective

also features thoughtful portrayals of figures through photography and a chance to appreciate the world around us seen in fungi-inspired pottery.

Claros' series, "United by Touch," features mixed media pieces that allow each gallery goer a unique experience in audio, visual and tactile forms. "Sense Form," a series of portraits by Daniels, uses high contrast nudes in an exploration of figural form. Everett will display his hand made soft sculptures in the series "Crafty Creatures." Defined by her usage of organic and fluid shapes, Freeman creates surface designs for various types of fabric. Perry's sculptural pottery is inspired by southeastern fungi and celebrates the beauty in decay.

The exhibition will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays April 1 through 12 at the Fine Arts Gallery on the Armstrong Campus. A reception will be held April 12 at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, go to cah.georgiasouthern.edu/art/outreach-events/fine-arts-gallery.

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