

State Festival - Synopsis Information

Thursday, February 1 - 9:00 AM

Rapid City Central - "Queen of Scots: a rock opera", Justin Speck, Joey Lore, and Cast

- *Synopsis:* Dueling divas battle for the crown as Mary and Elizabeth discover the royal truth of being cousins, queens, and rivals in an epic clash that would change the course of history.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* This play contains moments of loud rock music, depictions of war, bright lights, hazers, fog, and geysers.

Thursday, February 1 - 9:45 AM

Sioux Falls Lutheran - "Antigone", Bonnie Roberts

- *Synopsis:* The dramatic story follows the attempt of Antigone to bury her brother, Polynices, after he dies in battle alongside their brother, Eteocles. Because Polynices was viewed as the enemy, he is not to be buried by order of King Creon, but she decides to go against the ruling of her king and uncle, defying him and placing her relationship with her brother above human laws. With her decision, chaos and tragedy ensues. The Chorus, not just bystanders but entities hoping to influence the outcome, engage with their counterpart characters while also narrating the story.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* This Greek tragedy does contain death (suicide).

Thursday, February 1 - 10:30 AM

Yankton - "They Promised Her the Moon", Laurel Ollstein

- *Synopsis:* The first American woman to test for space flight, Jerrie Cobb, steps into an isolation tank for a record-breaking nine hours as her memories unfold before her, from learning to fly a plane as a child in Oklahoma to testifying in Congressional hearings about the under-the-radar all-female Mercury 13 space program. They Promised Her the Moon is a compelling drama about the challenges of sisterhood and fighting for the greater good, based on a true story.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Historical Sexism, Bullying, Flashing Lights

Thursday, February 1 - 11:15 AM

Tri-Valley - "Game of Tiaras", Don Zolidis

- *Synopsis:* When the aging king of a Magical Kingdom (England) decides to split his empire between his three daughters, Cinderella, Belle, and the Snow Queen (who in no way resembles a copyrighted character), terrible tragedy ensues. Terrible, hilarious tragedy. Combining the gut-wrenching plot twists of Game of Thrones, and the soul-numbing despair of Shakespearean tragedy, this adaptation of King Lear will leave you dying with laughter as the body count mounts. When you play the Game of Tiaras, you win or you die.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 1 - 12:00 PM

Edmunds Central - "Nellie", Robby Steltz

- *Synopsis:* In the late 1800s rumors were circulating about alleged horrors taking place inside Blackwell's Island, home of the insane asylum of New York. Women were apparently the victims of abuse and torture, and one woman, a newspaper reporter, decided to risk her life to investigate. Nellie Bly committed herself to the asylum, documenting her findings and ultimately revealing the horrors to the entire world. Adapted from the Book Ten Days in a Madhouse.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Violence and Abuse

Thursday, February 1 - 1:00 PM

Rapid City Stevens - "Romeo And Juliet ", William Shakespeare

- *Synopsis:* Fate takes the stage as two star-crossed lovers navigate the trials and tribulations of their forbidden love born from their parents hate. Comedy, tragedy, romance and swashbuckling adventure ensue in this fairy tale esq. telling of William Shakespeare's classic work.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Death, stage violence, and suicide

Thursday, February 1 - 1:45 PM

Canistota - "Gossip", Brian Hampton

- *Synopsis:* A new student named Gossip comes to school, and nothing is the same once she arrives. Students navigate what is real and what is made up, who they can trust and who they can't.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Mention of suicide at the end.

Thursday, February 1 - 2:30 PM

Aberdeen Roncalli - "The Scheme of the Driftless Shifter", Carolyn Lane

- *Synopsis:* One bumbling cast and crew attempt to produce a serious melodrama, and everything that could go wrong does.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 1 - 3:15 PM

Watertown - "Drama Club", Anthony Giordano

- *Synopsis:* As auditions for the school play begin, drama club members hear a voice from the back of the auditorium claiming to be the

director, Mr. John Shakespeare - a character they made up to get permission to put on the play! The plot is complicated by teenage drama, the unrequited love of several students, a club member who lapses into characters from Shakespeare's most famous plays, and the possibility that Mr. Shakespeare might be the ghost of Alice's father! Will the drama club pull off the auditions for Romeo and Juliet or will former drama club president Jane and Principal Keeler figure out their scheme?

- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 1 - 4:00 PM

Kimball - "Bus Stop", Kendra Thomas

- *Synopsis:* Displaced, distrustful Ava has a hard time adjusting and fitting in after being separated from her dysfunctional parents and put into a foster home. And when Ava shows up one morning at a school bus stop, skeptical longtime friends Jillian and Chloe struggle to get to know the elusive newcomer, who comes off as distant and unfriendly. But Ava is fighting personal battles they cannot see: adjusting to her new foster home, enduring regular therapy and court appointments, and missing her parents. She especially longs to be back with her mother, who's locked in her own battle with drug addiction as she separates from Ava's deadbeat alcoholic dad, who eventually disappears altogether.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 1 - 4:45 PM

Beresford - "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane", Dwayne Hartford, from the book by Kate DiCamillo. Music by Kyle Sorrell

- *Synopsis:* Edward Tulane is an expensive toy rabbit made of china. He is loved by a little girl named Abilene, but Edward doesn't care. He is vain and self-centered. On an ocean voyage, Edward is accidentally thrown overboard and sinks to the bottom of the sea. So begins his journey—a journey over which he has no control, for he is a toy rabbit. As years pass by, Edward meets many different people in many different situations who teach Edward what it is to love, what it is to lose that love, and how to find the courage to love again. Based on Kate DiCamillo's beautiful novel of the same name, the play is a theatrical tour de force for a small ensemble of actors and musicians.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* N/A

Thursday, February 1 - 5:45 PM

Marion - "Elephant's Graveyard", George Brant

- *Synopsis:* When a traveling circus arrived in a muddy southern town in 1916, the hunger for spectacle and the power of hysteria collided and took a tragic turn. "Elephant's Graveyard" tells the true story of the hanging of Mary, a circus elephant, in the tiny town of Erwin, Tennessee in 1916. The play explores issues of justice, violence, fear, morality, and spectacle. It is a blend of fiction and fact that includes dialogue that is taken from primary source material such as real newspaper accounts of the incident.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* This play contains sensitive material regarding animal cruelty and may not be appropriate for young viewers.

Thursday, February 1 - 6:30 PM

Douglas - "Mockingbird", Julie Jensen

- *Synopsis:* Caitlin is an 11-year-old girl on the autism spectrum. Not all things make sense to her and often emotions block her understanding of the world. Having to deal with her brother being taken away by a school shooting, she has lost the one person who helped her cope. Now she is alone with her grieving father and a cacophony of children at school. She struggles to understand empathy, what facial expressions mean, and why a drawing might have more than one color. Eventually, Caitlin, her father, and others will need to come overcome their struggles so they can progress in life.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Discussion of school shootings Acceptance of people on the spectrum

Thursday, February 1 - 7:15 PM

Chamberlain - "Her Senior Year", Cody Moree

- *Synopsis:* Blaire has everything—good looks, popularity and a brain. It's her senior year, and she's going to be valedictorian. No one is surprised when she is chosen homecoming queen at the season's final football game. Her friends are delighted—everybody likes her. Then Blaire finds out that she has cancer.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Death by cancer

Thursday, February 1 - 8:00 PM

Aberdeen Central - "Singing in the Rain Jr.", Screenplay: Betty Comden, Adolph Green, Songs: Nacio Herb Brown, Arthur Freed

- *Synopsis:* Singin' in the Rain JR. has all the makings of a Tinseltown tabloid headline — the starlet, the leading man and a love affair that could change lives and make or break careers! In silent movies, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are a hot item, but behind the scenes, things aren't always as they appear on the big screen! Meanwhile, Lina's squeaky voice might be the end of her career in "talking pictures" without the help of a talented young actress to do the talking and singing for her.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Thursday, February 1 - 8:45 PM

Castlewood - "KUPD: Love Is on the Air", Jennifer & Adam Rudebusch

- *Synopsis:* When KUPD's radio comedy, "Good Grief Gary and His Gal Betty" loses its sponsor, leading lady, and--accidently--its dignity, the show's director and actors persevere, knowing "the show must go on!"
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 2 - 8:00 AM

Tea Area - "The Other Room", Ariadne Blayde

- *Synopsis:* Austin is a brilliant teenage astronomer who happens to have autism. Lily is his popular classmate who happens to have an interest in astronomy. When a chance encounter after school leads to a growing connection between them, Austin's imagination, intelligence, and constant struggles to connect with the world are revealed in the form of four characters representing his inner life.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Autism, Pushing

Friday, February 2 - 8:45 AM

Brookings - "Where Words Once Were", Finegan Kruckemeyer

- *Synopsis:* Young Orhan lives in a world where words are both very precious and very dangerous. The City is a place where language has been rationed, a sentence can get you sentenced, the silent are rising, and a word can change the world.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 2 - 9:30 AM

Rosholt - "Snow White and the Queen of Mean", Tommy Jamerson

- *Synopsis:* One of the most beloved fairy tales of all-time gets a sassy and snappy reboot when a princess with a "heart as pure as freshly fallen snow" crosses paths with the dastardly, and spotlight-stealing Evil Queen.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 2 - 10:15 AM

Brandon Valley - "Clue: The Musical", Peter DePietro

- *Synopsis:* A fun-filled family musical that brings the internationally popular game to life, Clue: The Musical invites the audience to help solve the mystery of who killed Mr. Boddy, in what room, and with what weapon.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 2 - 11:00 AM

Clark - "The Candidate", Brent Holland

- *Synopsis:* Four individuals are locked in a room and have no memory of how they got there or even who they are. One by one they disappear and it is revealed that they were a part of an interview process for a job at an agency.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 2 - 11:45 AM

Belle Fourche - "The Internet is Distract... Oh Look, A Kitten!", Ian McWethy

- *Synopsis:* Micah has only 20 minutes to finish her paper on "The Great Gatsby." She just needs to check a few facts on the internet first. Unfortunately, the web is a nefariously wacky place where boxing cats, Facebook lurkers, and pig-throwing games threaten to take over Micah's schoolwork, or worse. Will she finish her paper and escape with her life before the school bell rings? This comedy explores the rabbit hole we all go down, every time we go online.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* N/A

Friday, February 2 - 12:45 PM

O'Gorman - "Pobby and Dingan", Novel by Ben Rice and adapted for the stage

- *Synopsis:* An enchanting tale of childhood loss and a powerfully simple fable about the necessity of imagination.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 2 - 1:30 PM

James Valley Christian - "Username", Brian Hampton

- *Synopsis:* This play presents the ramifications of a plugged-in life and the benefits of finding balance with good old-fashioned human connection. Is Cameron the only one who feels alone in a sea of social media, or could there be others who feel the same?
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 2 - 2:15 PM

Milbank - "Oz", Don Zolidis

- *Synopsis:* Reeling from her sister's death, Beth suddenly finds herself journeying through a world suspiciously resembling the film The Wizard of Oz. But with the yellow brick road sold to foreign investors after a financial meltdown, the Scarecrow reveling in his ignorant bliss, the Cowardly Lion acting like a paranoid sociopath, and the Tin Man embracing his emotional numbness, Beth wonders what role she plays in this classic story gone awry. A hilarious and heart-wrenching exploration of grief and perseverance on the road to acceptance.
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* None

Friday, February 2 - 3:00 PM

Sioux Falls Roosevelt - "Dystopia! The Hungry Maze Game of Divergent Death", Don Zolidis

- *Synopsis:* Based on pop-culture books and movies, a group of teens are trapped against their will in a dystopian future. They must battle through a maze against emotionally sensitive guards, limited budgets, and the trigger-happy Gamemaster to be proclaimed the winner of

the games.

- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: None

Friday, February 2 - 3:45 PM

De Smet - "Everyman 2.0", Gwendolyn J. Kandt

- *Synopsis*: A modernized take on the morality play, Everyman, where we learn what truly matters in one's final hours.
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: None

Friday, February 2 - 4:30 PM

Custer - "My Brother's Gift", Claudia Hass

- *Synopsis*: Based on the remarkable true story of Heinz Geiringer, his family, and a promise, we follow the story of a young artist and loving brother living in unconscionable circumstances. Forced to live in hiding and silence, Heintz turns to painting and poetry to express his everyday terror but hope for the future. Through Heinz's inspired paintings, we are shown the power of art to offer hope and healing and the gifts people give to each other- seen and unseen.
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: Train sounds and Air Raid sirens will be used.

Friday, February 2 - 5:15 PM

Sturgis Brown - "Tara, Shaped by the Figures", Emily Hageman

- *Synopsis*: After Tara's best friend Clara dies from a heart condition, she is afraid to get close to the group trying to befriend her at her new school. The figures from history and fiction who Tara loves (including Anne Frank, Annie Oakley, Churchill, Sherlock Holmes, and Captain America) are joined by Clara in guiding Tara through her grief, until she tells her new friends about her loss.
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: Content deals with the death of a loved one.

Friday, February 2 - 6:15 PM

Kadoka Area - "Stage Parents", Don Zolidis

- *Synopsis*: During a dress rehearsal for a high school production of Medea, the parents of the cast members keep interrupting the rehearsal, from the helicopter mom who wants to watch rehearsals, to the director mom who isn't impressed, to a playwright dad with a new version of Medea, to the coach dad who offers his assistance to the theater team. One thing is for certain, Ms. Robin has her hands full in this spirited tongue-in-cheek comedy.
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: None

Friday, February 2 - 7:00 PM

Sioux Falls Lincoln - "Everybody", Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

- *Synopsis*: A modern adaptation of the 15th-century morality play Everyman
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: This is a play about life and death. Strobe lighting effects will be used during the performance.

Friday, February 2 - 7:45 PM

Timber Lake - "MmmBeth", Allison Williams

- *Synopsis*: A parody of Shakespeare's infamous Scottish play.
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: None

Friday, February 2 - 8:30 PM

West Central - "The Show Must Go On (During the Zombie Apocalypse)", Bradley Walton

- *Synopsis*: The school is putting on a play. The rehearsals were plagued with difficulties, but the cast, crew, and especially the director took the saying "the show must go on" to heart, and they've made it to opening night. Now, as the curtain rises, there's a new problem--the zombie apocalypse has begun. But even though zombies are eating audience members while the stage manager fights off zombies attacking the cast on stage, the performance continues, because the show must go on!
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: Cartoonish zombie violence

Saturday, February 3 - 8:00 AM

Sioux Falls Washington - "Nobody Sleeps", Guernsey LePelley

- *Synopsis*: The Busby family has a burglar as a house guest late one night. Spike, the burglar, tries to make a quick getaway, but the Busby family calmly insists on interrogating her. The reason for the interrogation is to give the mother of the family fresh ideas about the mystery novel she is trying to write.
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: A prop gun is used but is never fired.

Saturday, February 3 - 8:45 AM

Sunshine Bible Academy - "Unsound Effects", Christy Fredrickson

- *Synopsis*: It's 1938, the Golden Age of Radio, but things are not so golden at radio station KTSK. Their best show, "Polly in Peril" is plummeting in the ratings. This is mainly due to Benny, their disastrous sound man who manages to play the wrong sound at the wrong time. When a pair of bank robbers hole up in the station one night, it's up to an amazing combination of acting, plotting, editing, and perfectly ridiculous sound effects to save the day.

- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: None

Saturday, February 3 - 9:30 AM

Harrisburg - "Little Women 2: Wrath of the Undead", Don Zolidis

- *Synopsis*: How do you get a boy raised on video games to love Louisa May Alcott's Little Women? Violence. Add violence. A lot of violence...and other pop culture references that hook him in until he realized that Little Women is awesome!
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: Violence. A lot of violence - okay we do some lightsaber battles, fight a t-rex, deal with zombies, summon an eldritch god, go into the arena and maybe eat some brains. Maybe.

Saturday, February 3 - 10:15 AM

Elk Point-Jefferson - "Wild Strawberries", Jerry Ayers

- *Synopsis*: A story of lies, liberation, and love!
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: n/a

Saturday, February 3 - 11:00 AM

Avon - "Booby Trap", Ed Monk

- *Synopsis*: In the near future, an American soldier sits in a combat zone, trapped by a land mine. As he waits to see what will happen to him, scenes from his past, present, and future unfold around him.
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: death of a soldier during wartime

Saturday, February 3 - 11:45 AM

Huron - "A Trip to the Moon", Tracy Wells

- *Synopsis*: A Trip to the Moon tells the story of people reaching for their dreams. From a girl trying to convince her parent to let her go to Woodstock in "You Can't Always Get What You Want," to a woman trying to get a job at NASA in "Bad Moon Rising," to a soldier giving the new guy a reality check in "Fortunate Son," to a group of protestors showing a girl how to fight for what's right in "Come Together," these scenes teach us about who we once were and reflect on who we could be and remind us that to achieve the impossible, we must reach for the stars.
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: None

Saturday, February 3 - 12:45 PM

Mobridge-Pollock - "A Tripp to the Moon", Tracy Wells

- *Synopsis*: Set in the transformative summer of 1969, A Trip to the Moon tells the story of people reaching for their dreams ... dreams of love, dreams of equality, dreams of the stars. Told around the time of the moon landing.
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: Bomb and explosion sound effects are used

Saturday, February 3 - 1:30 PM

Pierre T.F. Riggs - "The Chips Are Down", Don Zolidis

- *Synopsis*: Students at a prep school are asked to investigate whether their beloved history teacher is a communist.
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: Reference to the atom bomb, duck and cover, and communism.

Saturday, February 3 - 2:15 PM

Philip - "Who Killed the Tax Man?", Thomas Hischak

- *Synopsis*: A woodcutter and his wife accidentally poison the tax man who has come to their cottage to collect payment. The couple panics and leaves the tax man's body outside the doctor's house; the doctor thinks he is responsible for the tax man's death, so he leaves the body at the door of the widow. The widow has the body moved where it is found by a thief. Shortly after, the sheriff arrives, blaming the thief for the death of the tax man. He thinks he has it figured out, but it will take some doing for the sheriff to figure out who killed the tax man!
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: None

Saturday, February 3 - 3:00 PM

Sioux Falls Jefferson - "The One Act Play That Goes Wrong", Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields

- *Synopsis*: There has been an untimely death at a country manor, everyone is a suspect, and an inspector is set on the case to find who the culprit is. However, when this play is performed by the accident-prone thespians of The Cornley Drama Society, everything that can go wrong...does!
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: Gun shot sound effects

Saturday, February 3 - 3:45 PM

Madison - "The Treasure of Huckleberry Ridge or Hey, Jude", Marietta Slater

- *Synopsis*: The villainous Milton Millhouse has a map to the buried treasure on Sadie Sagebrush's dude ranch property. Wanting time to sniff around for the treasure, he lures all of Sadie's patrons to his 'Paradise on the Prairie' dude ranch (false advertising, of course!).
- *Trigger Warnings(s)*: None

Saturday, February 3 - 4:30 PM

Bridgewater-Emery - "At the Bottom of Lake Missoula", Ed Monk

- *Synopsis:* Playscripts' synopsis reads: "After losing her entire family in a fatal tornado, Pam, a college sophomore, must embark on an unimaginable journey as she copes with her loss. To separate herself from her grief, she transfers schools and isolates herself from her fellow students, but these steps do not lessen her sadness and guilt over their deaths. Not until a fellow classmate makes an attempt at conciliation does Pam finally begin to realize that healing doesn't have to be a solitary endeavor. A moving exploration of the difficulty of continuing to live in the wake of great tragedy."
- *Trigger Warnings(s):* Some mild adult language.

Saturday, February 3 - 5:15 PM

Spearfish - "Cheating Death", Kamron Klitgaard

- *Synopsis:* When the Angel of Death visits a mental health facility to collect someone on his list, he accidentally reveals himself to the wrong person. Death attempts to correct his mistake and demands to know which one of them is actually the one he came for, but the patients refuse to give up their friend's true identity. Death resorts to joining the group session in order to perform his touch of death within the allotted time and prevent disastrous consequences.
 - *Trigger Warnings(s):* references to suicidal thoughts
-