



TRADITION. TRUTH.

TRANSFORMATION.

ACU THEATRE

2026-27 SEASON



Tradition. Truth. Transformation.

At ACU Theatre, we believe great stories do more than entertain – they connect us to our shared humanity, invite us to examine truth, and inspire transformation.

This season, we celebrate the traditions that ground us, the truths that challenge us and the transformations that shape our lives. From the enduring family legacy of *Fiddler on the Roof* to the heartfelt search for belonging in *Dear Evan Hansen*, from the resilient spirit of *Dancing at Lughnasa* to the joyful chaos of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, each production explores what it means to live, love, persevere and grow in community.

Alongside these theatrical journeys, our dance and cabaret performances showcase the creativity, artistry and emerging voices of the next generation. Through *One Night Only*, *Off the Cuff*, and the *Lights Up! Cabaret*, students and guest artists share stories through movement, music and imagination – celebrating faith, family, friendship and human connection.

New this season, Lights Up Receptions will take place during intermission of our Thursday evening Donate-What-You-Can Invited Dress Events, offering time for fellowship and conversation. Friday evening post-show discussions with our directors, cast, and creative teams will continue, giving audiences a closer look at the artistic process.

We are grateful for the faithful support of our patrons, alumni, donors and friends who make this work possible. Together, we continue a tradition of artistic excellence and Christ-centered education, training students to lead with creativity, integrity, compassion and purpose.

At ACU Theatre, this season celebrates stories rooted in faith, illuminated through truth and transformed through human connection. Join us as we gather around stories that matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawne Swearingen Meeks". The script is fluid and cursive.

Dawne Swearingen Meeks ('95)
Chair, ACU Department of Theatre

LIGHTS UP

Sons, Brothers, Husbands and Fathers Through Every Season:

A Musical Journey through the Life of a Man

Featuring Dr. Chris Hollingsworth and friends

Music direction by Marc Sanders

An intimate evening of entertainment,
reflection and song tracing a life shaped
by faith, purpose and grace.



Scan QR code to give.

LIGHTS UP!
FUNDRAISER

**Saturday,
Sept. 12**

7:30 p.m.

ABILENE
COMMUNITY
THEATRE – ACT II
BLACK BOX



THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

*By Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields
Directed by Joey Banks*

Brilliant mishaps, collapsing scenery and
nonstop surprises fuel this wildly
entertaining theatrical comedy.

CORNERSTONE
PLAY

Sept. 28-30*

Cornerstone students only

Oct. 2-3

7:30 p.m.

FULKS THEATRE

**Pre-show welcome
and conversation prior
to performance Sept. 28-30.*



Fiddler on the Roof

Music by Jerry Bock • Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

Book by Joseph Stein

Directed by Dawne Swearingen Meeks

Music direction by Dr. Chris Hollingsworth

Guest choreography by Lily Balogh

Music conducted by Dr. Steven Ward

A stirring celebration of faith, family and tradition as Tevye and his community navigate love, change and the enduring values that sustain them.

**HOMECOMING
MUSICAL**

**Oct. 29* –
Nov. 1**

Thurs.-Sat. at 8 p.m.
and Sun. at 2 p.m.

**BOONE FAMILY
THEATRE**

**Donate-what-you-can preview
dress invitation Thurs., Oct. 29.
12 and under price: \$35.*

DANCE CONCERT

*Featuring guest
choreographers and
emerging artists*

Nov. 21

7:30 p.m.

FULKS THEATRE

*Light reception to follow in
Hester North Lobby.*

An evocative evening of movement and artistry celebrating imagination, expression and creative collaboration.

ONE NIGHT ONLY

*Life is
Beautiful*



FUNDRAISER

*Co-directed by Dawne
Swearingen Meeks and
Dr. Chris Hollingsworth.
Music direction by
Dr. Chris Hollingsworth*

Dec. 5

7:30 p.m.

FULKS THEATRE

Charcuterie and dessert served.

A celebratory evening supporting student artists through music, mentorship, scholarship and shared performance.

LIGHTS UP!



*Selected area high school students perform
alongside ACU Theatre artists under the guidance
and direction of ACU Theatre faculty.*



By Stephen Karam

Directed by Chaya Powell

An intimate exploration of family,
uncertainty, humor and hope, revealing
the beauty and fragility of modern life.

STUDENT-DIRECTED
PRODUCTION

Feb. 20-21

Sat. at 2 p.m.
and Sun. at 7:30 p.m.

ABILENE COMMUNITY
THEATRE – ACT II
BLACK BOX



Dancing at Lughnasa

By Brian Friel

Directed by Dawne Swearingen Meeks

WINTER PLAY

Feb. 25*-28

Thurs.-Sat. at
7:30 p.m. and
Sun. at 2 p.m.

CULP THEATRE

*Talk back following
performance on Fri., Feb. 26*

**Donate-what-you-can
preview dress invitation
Thurs., Feb. 25 includes
intermission reception in
Hester North Lobby.*

Set in 1930s rural Ireland, five sisters gather in a lyrical portrait of memory, sacrifice, faith and resilience amid a rapidly changing world.



DEAR EVAN HANSEN

Music and lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

Book by Steven Levenson

Directed by Joey Banks

Music direction by Dr. Chris Hollingsworth

A deeply contemporary musical exploring isolation, authenticity and the longing for connection while reminding us that no one is truly alone.

SPRING MUSICAL

April 22*-25

Thurs.-Sat. at
7:30 p.m. and
Sun. at 2 p.m.

FULKS THEATRE

*Talk back following
performance on Fri., April 23.*

**Donate-what-you-can
preview dress invitation
Thurs., April 22 includes
intermission reception
in Hester North Lobby.*

Tickets

To order tickets for individual shows or ticket packages, visit acu.edu/theatre, mail in the form at right or call the box office at **325-674-ARTS**. For best value, consider one of the season ticket packages below.

SHOWSTOPPER PACKAGE: \$155 (\$25 savings) – All five shows

Includes seats for the entire season: Homecoming Musical, Cornerstone, Dance Premiere, Winter Play and Spring Musical.

FAB FOUR: \$130 (\$20 savings) – Your selection of four shows

Choose four of the five shows: Homecoming Musical, Cornerstone, Dance Concert, Winter Play and Spring Musical.

OPENING NIGHT: \$110 (\$70 savings) – Be the first to see the shows

Best savings of all packages for opening nights (or Sunday matinee) of all shows. If you need to switch your ticket to another night, you pay the full price difference.

ADD ONS:

- Add tickets for the Lights Up! fundraiser for \$45 each.
- Add student-directed production tickets for \$15 each.

			Show-stopper	Fab 4	Opening Night
		Full price	All shows	Choose 4	All shows
Cornerstone	<i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i>	\$30	included	☐	included
Homecoming Musical	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	\$50*	included	☐	included
Dance Show	<i>One Night Only</i>	\$40	included	☐	included
Winter Play	<i>Dancing at Lughnasa</i>	\$30	included	☐	included
Spring Musical	<i>Dear Evan Hansen</i>	\$30	included	☐	included
Your price per package		\$180	\$155	\$130	\$110
Savings			\$25	\$20	\$70

*12 and under ticket price for *Fiddler on the Roof* is \$35.

Order Form

CONTACT

NAME	ADDRESS
HOME OR CELL PHONE	CITY, STATE, ZIP
WORK PHONE	EMAIL

PAYMENT

Type of payment: ☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Am. Express

CARD NUMBER	EXP. DATE	CSV
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_____ Number of **Showstopper** packages @ \$155 each = \$ _____

_____ Number of **Fab 4** packages @ \$130 each = \$ _____

Select preferred dates:

☐ *The Play That Goes Wrong*

____10/2, ____10/3

☐ *Fiddler on the Roof*

____10/30, ____10/31, ____11/1

☐ *Dancing at Lughnasa*

____2/26, ____2/27, ____2/28

☐ *Dear Evan Hansen*

____4/23, ____4/24, ____4/25

_____ Number of **Opening Night** packages @ \$110 each = \$ _____

_____ Number of fundraiser tickets for *Lights Up!* Sept. 12 @ \$45 each = \$ _____

_____ Number of tickets for *One Night Only* Nov. 21 @ \$40 each = \$ _____

_____ Number of fundraiser tickets for *Lights Up!* Dec. 5 @ \$45 each = \$ _____

_____ Number of student-directed *The Humans* @ \$15 each = \$ _____

TOTAL DUE = \$ _____

Detach and mail to ACU Theatre Box Office at:

Abilene Christian University

ACU Box 27843

Abilene, Texas 79699-7843



ACU THEATRE
transforming artists

Abilene Christian University
ACU Box 27843
Abilene, Texas 79699-7843

acu.edu/theatre • Box office: 325-674-ARTS
Audition info: *app.getacceptd.com/acutheatre*

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Abilene Christian
University

Off The Cuff

SPONTANEOUS. INSPIRED.



LIGHTS UP! INITIATIVE DANCE SHOW

May 2

5 p.m. • FULKS THEATRE

Off the Cuff is a student-led dance concert featuring original works created, choreographed and performed by ACU Theatre and Dance students. Through dance, movement, and storytelling, emerging artists share meaningful expressions of creativity, faith and human connection. Join us for an evening of original choreography, fresh perspectives and inspired artistry as the next generation of dance makers brings their stories to life — off the cuff.