

NEWS RELEASE

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The Donna Reed Foundation for the Performing Arts

From: Tim Tracy, American Icon Series Director

RE: 2013-2014 American Icon Series Events – 100 Years of Iconic Events

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Donna Reed Foundation's American Icon Series highlights the 100th Birthday of the Donna Reed Theater – and Iconic Anniversaries of the 20th Century

The Donna Reed Theater in Denison, Iowa, originally named the Germania Opera House, will be turning 100 years old in 2014. To celebrate this milestone, The Donna Reed Foundation's 2014 "American Icon Series" will highlight this and other iconic anniversaries of the 20th century.

Starting in November, the American Icon Series will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Life and Tragic Death of President Kennedy with an exclusive, complete and unedited presentation of the famous "Zapruder Film". February of 2014 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Beatles first appearance in America - featuring Beatles tribute group, the Cavern Beat. A Donna Reed film festival in addition to a special live presentation of the play "Dear Donna" follows in March to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Donna's winning the Academy Award® for best supporting actress in 1954. Finally, a 100-year-old play, "Within The Law" which was performed on the Germania Opera House stage in 1917 will be recreated live for today's audience.

"This year's American Icon Series features unique films, facts, performances and memorabilia rarely seen by the American public," said American Icon Series Director, Tim Tracy. "Each of the featured events impacted local and national history and we're excited about presenting a unique perspective on these iconic events."

Event Details:

Performance date: November 22, 2013

50th Anniversary of President Kennedy's Life and Tragic Death - "Images of an Assassination".

(Adults Only Recommended)

This event features a complete, unedited view of the "Zapruder Film", the home movie taken by Abraham Zapruder in Dallas, Texas, that documents the complete account of the Kennedy historic death that rocked the world in 1963. In cooperation with the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, The Donna Reed Foundation is honored to host one of the only public screenings of this film on the big screen. Many Americans have never seen the complete film, which includes the final fatal shot, because in the wake of the assassination in 1963 it was determined that it was too graphic and depressing to be viewed by the public. **For this performance we are urging adults only. The content is graphic showing the complete murder and loss of an American president. It is not suitable for children.**

In addition, special guest **Laura Belin**, the daughter of a Warren Commission lawyer, David Belin from Des Moines, will share her father's comments and anecdotes about the murder investigation. The Warren Commission held the official inquiry into JFK's assassination. Mr. Belin wrote three books on the subject. He was a staunch believer that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone and would argue with anyone who brought up a conspiracy theory.

The event will also include a video commissioned by the Zapruder family in 1998 after the film was returned to them by the government and digitized for posterity. And the event will feature a presentation about the Kennedy presidency, featuring rarely seen photos of Jack and Jackie in their early days before the White House years. Tickets \$15.00

Performance Dates: December 15, 2013

Free Screenings of the movie "It's A Wonderful Life" at 3 and 7 p.m.

Please join us as we host two free screenings of the forever, quintessential American film classic. This film only gets better with age, so treat yourself and the entire family to the joy of watching Donna Reed and Jimmy Stewart together on the big screen!

Performance date: February 8, 2014

50th Anniversary of the Beatles first appearance in America.

It's a Beatles Party! Featuring Beatle tribute group the "Cavern Beat" from Chicago. The Beatles first performed on American TV on Sunday night, February 9, 1964 on the Ed Sullivan Show – changing the course of popular music forever! The Cavern Beat will play the songs the Beatles sang that night – plus a number of your favorite Beatle hits! A large collection of unique Beatle items will be on display that evening as well. Relive the excitement of Beatlemania – "Right here on our stage . . ." Tickets: \$15.00

Performance Dates: March 20, 21 & 22nd, 2014

60th Anniversary of Donna Reed receiving her Oscar® for "From Here To Eternity".

Donna Reed's hometown celebrates the 60th Anniversary of Donna receiving her 1953 Best Supporting Actress Academy Award® by showing some of her rarely seen films and presenting a live performance of "Dear Donna" a play inspired by the many letters sent to Donna Reed during World War II from service men from all over the globe. More information on movie titles, times, and "Dear Donna" performance times will be available in January, 2014.

Performance dates: April 11 through 13, 2014

"Within The Law" A live performance of a play performed in Denison in 1917

In 1914, the year the Germania Opera House was constructed in Denison, Iowa, "Within The Law" by Bayard Veiller, was the hottest show on the Broadway and London stages running for 541 Broadway performances. On Thursday night, January 13, 1917, for one night only, a travelling company presented "Within The Law" on the stage of Denison's new theater. On April 11th through 13th, 2014, local actors will reenact this iconic play about a young woman who is released from prison and seeks revenge on her former employer for her false imprisonment. The play will be directed by Pat Fleshner. Tickets: \$10.00.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting the Donna Reed Theater at 712-263-3334 or info@donnareed.org. Advance reservations are encouraged for all performances. For more information see our website – www.donnareed.org

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