



# NewsCAST

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## The Lady With All The Answers Opens October 23 at McClellan Theatre

Time to plan now! We know your schedule is busy, so pick a date between October 23 and November 9, and put it on your calendar so you won't miss our next CAST production.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$8 for students, with Thursday nights as "pay what you want" prices. Group rates are available for 12



people or more. *The Lady With All The Answers* is written by David Rambo, directed by Kim Dobbs, with Debby

Mathews in the title role as Ann Landers. Visit our website, [www.castalabama.com](http://www.castalabama.com) to buy tickets and get more information.

For decades, renowned advice columnist Ann Landers answered countless letters from lovelorn teens, confused couples and a multitude of others in need of advice. No topic was off-limits or too hard for her. Landers kept her readers' intense interest with direct, insightful, and often humorously honest responses. But, late on a 1975 night in her upscale Chicago apartment, an unsettling twist of events confronts her with a looming deadline for a column dealing with a new kind of heart-break of her own. The one-woman show brings moments of comedy and drama and as Debby explains, the audience becomes part of the action.

Debby likes acting challenges. She rose to the challenge in portraying "The Bird" in *Once Upon A Mattress*

and "Florence" in *The Odd Couple* (with women). She identifies with Ann Landers in several ways, she says. And, "In this production, Ann asks a multitude of questions that will make the audience think," Debby said. "She addresses war, sibling rivalry, marriage, among other issues," Debby said. "She was very passionate about causes, and a cool lady."

Landers had a strong feeling of patriotism. Incidentally, she and her twin sister, writer of "Dear Abby" were born July 4, but Landers' feelings came from another trait: the ability to think things through, and her love for her country. Also, she grew and matured during her career, Debby said, as seen by her responses to readers' questions through the years.

To get "the answers" come to the show, starting October 23. Call 820-CAST (2278) for reservations and be sure to leave your name and phone number.

## Letter from the Editor

Hi, Patrons,

It was great to see you at *The Sound of Music*. About 2400 came, and evidently you told your friends about us because our audiences kept building. For everyone, it was a musical to remember for its talent, set, and songs. Indeed, artistic director Kim Dobbs and everyone involved "climbed every mountain" to give it the polished and professional touch.

Soon, *The Lady with all the Answers* will be opening. The dates are October 23 through November 9 at McClellan Theatre. Debby Mathews is playing

the role of Ann Landers in the one-woman show. What a treat to listen to such wisdom! (Perhaps many of us are looking for the same solutions as those who wrote in to her). But the playwright takes the situation one step further: later in her life, the columnist faces a personal dilemma that she didn't count on.

In that case, from whom does "the lady with all the answers" seek advice?

The box office is open now. Call 820-CAST (2278) for reservations. Making a reservation means we have a seat for you but open seating is our seating method, unless you are a donor or an advertiser.

So please get to our theater lobby before 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Be aware that the final Sunday's production is always crowded, so come early if you want seats near the stage. Our donors have the privilege of the actual reserved seats.

We all have lots to learn by seeing CAST's next show.

See you at the theater!

*Hervey Folsom*

Hervey Folsom

# LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

October 2008



Dear CAST Supporters:

Thank you all for attending *THE SOUND OF MUSIC*. The crowds were large; the applause was deafening; the cheers were thrilling. We had a great time! As I adjust to a cast of one from a cast of 34, I am excited to bring to life the story of Ann Landers, columnist to the masses. This script *THE LADY WITH ALL THE ANSWERS* is enchanting and the actress playing Ann Landers (Debby Mathews) is a powerhouse. We are having a great time exploring the grit, the charm and the humor of a renowned journalist who provided comfort, direction and aid to so many who sought her guidance. Please join us as we bring to life this appealing theatrical piece for your pleasure.

Thank you for supporting live theatre in our community.

Kim Dobbs, Artistic Director

## Volunteer Spotlight

### CAST hair stylist Gail Tatton

#### Met "the real" Maria von Trapp in Vermont

Not all of our performers are on stage. You don't see all of them, for they are in the dressing rooms or backstage, performing with their skills each night before curtain time. Gail Tatton is such a performer. Many of the characters' hair-dos you've seen are the work of her hands.

Gail's skill as a professional hair stylist has taken her inside some interesting dramatic productions, and she has met some celebrities.. She was Shelly Winters' personal hairdresser in *84 Charing Cross Road*, a Falmouth (Massachusetts) Playhouse mystery/romance. (Falmouth is 50 miles south of Boston.) But more recently, during a vacation to Stowe, Vermont, Gail met Maria von Trapp at the Trapp family lodge. The year was 1975. "We stayed there four days, and she was there, in the garden early every morning, directing people about planting flowers and weeding," Gail said. "She was very gracious to her guests, but there was no question that she was in charge of the daily work."

That's easy to understand when we realize that the von Trapp lodge was Maria's home. "It was almost as if she and the property were connected as one being," Gail added. Stowe reminds one of Austria, which is the setting in the musical *The Sound of Music* and the property, Gail said, had a rustic charm. Later during the Tattons' stay there, they enjoyed having afternoon tea with Maria.

"I was very excited when I heard CAST was going to do *The Sound of Music*, Gail comments. "The story has become personal to me. And Sumer (Buckner) did a wonderful job as Maria."

Gail is a much appreciated volunteer with CAST and winner of The President's Award at the Randy Hall Awards Night this past June.

### *The Lady with all the Answers*

**tickets are available at** Farmers & Merchants Bank of Anniston, NobleBank of Anniston & Oxford, Golden Springs Pharmacy, Crow Drug in Jacksonville and Cheaha Bank in Oxford and Jacksonville. They are also available online at [castalabama.com](http://castalabama.com) for a small convenience charge. Call CAST at 256-820-CAST(2278) for reservations and group information.

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