

Spinning stories

Ireland-born storyteller enjoys having conversations with audiences



Storyteller Yvonne Healy will be presenting both a workshop and performance at Monroe County Community College on Tuesday.



BY DANIELLE PORTEUS
dportteus@monroenews.com

Yvonne Healy draws on personal experiences and her family for the stories she performs. Born in Ireland and now living in Michigan, Ms. Healy is a professional storyteller, blending stories of her life with tales of old for her audiences.

"I'm always adding new stories and as I get older, the stories take different shape as I get a new perspective on life," she said.

As part of the One Book, One Community celebration, Ms. Healy will visit Monroe County Community College for a performance at 11 a.m. Tuesday followed by a workshop to help others learn to weave their own stories.

The performance will take place in the La-Z-Boy Center atrium, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd.

The humorist began her career in acting and after having children, she would frequent the library. People would overhear her talking to her children about books. Soon, she was asked to read stories to the kids.

Her storytelling career blossomed and she began creating and telling stories for a living.

Each performance features about 10 stories.

"I like to start with a humorous story that reveals a bit about me," Ms. Healy said. "I like it to be a conversation with the audience."

Adults and teens are the target audience for her Monroe performance and workshop. The workshop will take place beginning at 3 p.m. Tuesday in Rooms 271 and 272 of the La-Z-Boy Center. Participants are asked to bring anecdotes to the workshop.

During the last few years, her performances have shifted to a more adult audience. When she began her career, however, she spent about 80 percent of her time performing for children.

"That's shifted since 2008," Ms. Healy said.

The storyteller said she read this year's One Book, One Community selection, "One Amazing Thing" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.

"I really enjoyed it," she said. "It pulls you in very quickly and it's well written."

For more information, visit www.YHealy.com.

EVENTS FOCUS ON TELLING STORIES

One Book, One Community organizers are hosting two other upcoming events focusing on storytelling.

Media discussion

Expert storytellers offering different perspectives will host a panel discussion at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Monroe County Community College's La-Z-Boy Center, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd..

The event is sponsored by The Agora, the MCCC student newspaper and will be moderated by editor Nicki Kostrzewa.

Panelists include:

■ **Rebecca Regnier**, reporter and social media expert for ABC Channel 13 in Toledo. She is also a columnist for The Monroe Evening News, blogger on food and diet issues and the author of "Your Twitter Diet."

■ **Brent Snavely**, a business reporter for the Detroit Free Press who covers the automotive industry, including Chrysler, Fiat and the United Auto Workers. Last year, he won the Gerald Loeb Award, the highest honor in business journalism, for his coverage of UAW contract talks with General Motors.

■ **Dr. Paul Hedeem**, a poet and novelist who was named dean of the

MCCC Humanities and Social Sciences Division in 2012. He has published more than 100 poems in journals and fine arts newsletters, a book of poems and a novel. He recently finished his second novel.

■ **Lois Sprengnether Keel**, a professional storyteller, who features stories "from around the world and back through time," including a large repertoire of folk tales or reenactments of history as seen by the average person. Her programs are sometimes enriched by puppets, sign language, or music.

Artifacts tells stories

Community members are invited to share their One Amazing Artifact during a special program at the Monroe County Historical Museum.

Residents are invited to stop at the museum, 126 S. Monroe St., from 1 to 4 p.m. April 5 and share an object of importance either to the resident, the family or the community.

Museum staff will be on hand to help participants write a description of the "One Amazing Thing." The descriptions will be displayed at the museum for others to see.

Artifacts will be displayed for a week.

Crystal Bowersox Broadway bound in Patsy Cline musical



NEW YORK (AP) — Former "American Idol" contestant Crystal Bowersox will be taking a walk after midnight on Broadway.

Producers of the Patsy Cline musical "Always... Patsy Cline" say that Bowersox, who grew up in the Toledo area, will portray the legendary country singer in a new production this summer in New York.

John Rando will direct.

Performances begin in July with an August opening. The theater and exact dates haven't been announced.

Written in 1988 by Ted Swindley, "Always... Patsy Cline" is based on a true story about Cline's friendship with a fan from Houston who befriended the star in a Texas honky-tonk in 1961 and continued a correspondence with Cline until her death in 1963 in a plane crash at age 30.

The musical features 27 Cline hits, including "Walkin' After Midnight," "I Fall To Pieces," "Crazy," "She's Got You," "Sweet Dreams," "Back In Baby's Arms" and "Your Cheatin' Heart."

A live band accompanies the action.

Bowersox, born in Elliston, Ohio, had expressed interest in the project but producers only publicly announced its plans Tuesday.

The name of the musical is borrowed from Cline's letters to the fan, Louise Seger, which she signed "(Love) Always... Patsy Cline."

Oscar and Emmy nominee Annette O'Toole will play Seger.

The show made its world premiere at Stages Repertory Theatre in Houston, where it is playing in honor of the show's 25th anniversary.

It has been staged all over the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. This



— AP photo

Crystal Bowersox will star in the Patsy Cline musical "Always... Patsy Cline" this summer on Broadway.

year is the 50th anniversary of Patsy Cline's death.

Bowersox, 27, who lost season nine of "American Idol" to Lee DeWyze in 2010, is promoting her new release, the sophomore CD "All That For This."

She performed last year at Dundee's Mayfly Music Festival and in 2011 at Monroe County Community College.

Bowersox's previous acting roles include a 2011 appearance on ABC's "Body of Proof."

Other "American Idol" contestants to reach Broadway include Fantasia Barrino, Clay Aiken, Jordin Sparks and Constantine Maroulis, who return this year in "Jekyll and Hyde."

Plans fell through for another alumni, Bo Bice, to make his Broadway debut this spring when his show "Pump Boys & Dinettes" was scrapped.

Online: www.alwayspatsycline.net