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Alabama Shakespeare Festival

June 4, 2018

**STARS IN THE PARK – Free Outdoor Concert at ASF on July 3**  
**Celebrate Independence Day with the Cast of ANNIE!**

**MONTGOMERY, AL**— The Alabama Shakespeare Festival presents **STARS IN THE PARK**, a free outdoor concert featuring the cast of ASF’s production of the musical **ANNIE** at 7 p.m. on **July 3, 2018**. The concert commemorates Independence Day in conjunction with the City of Montgomery’s fireworks display in Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.

The festivities will begin at **7:00 p.m.** on an outdoor stage in front of the theatre. Artistic Director Rick Dildine will be master of ceremonies for an evening of song, inspiration, and commendation. A Citywide Choir will kick off the event with “The Star-Spangled Banner” and perform patriotic songs throughout the evening.

Troy University Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr. will bestow the Troy University Alabama Educator of the Year Award to an outstanding arts educator from the State of Alabama. ASF will recognize five “Tomorrow Kids” selected from the community. “[Tomorrow Kids] are high school students who exemplify the ‘spirit of Annie’ by putting service before self,” said ASF Artistic Associate Greta Lambert. “These students are being honored because their giving back helps create a better tomorrow for their community.”

ASF Artistic Director Rick Dildine will introduce the cast of *Annie*, which officially opens July 6 with preview performances on July 4 and July 5. The cast will entertain the audience with several favorite songs from the beloved musical about a spunky orphan who, despite having a “hard knock life,” believes “the sun’ll come out tomorrow!”

For a patriotic finale, 50 River Region community members will each read from the Declaration of Independence. As the programmed part of the evening ends the crowd will be ready to watch the city’s magnificent fireworks display illuminate the sky over the park.

ASF encourages families to bring blankets, chairs, and a picnic for this evening under the stars. No outside alcohol is permitted, but beverages will be available for purchase. Stars in the Park is made possible by sponsors the City of Montgomery, Ruth Lee Charitable Trust and Troy University (sponsor of Alabama Educator of the Year Award), with additional support from partners Alabama Power Company, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, Cathy Caddell and Charlie Warnke, Barrie and Laura Harmon, Merrill Lynch, Publix Super Markets Charities, and Vulcan Materials Company.

To order *Annie* tickets, please visit [asf.net](http://asf.net) or call the box office at 1-800-841-4273. For previews on July 4 and July 5 and opening night on July 6, tickets for any seat in the house cost \$41 for adults and \$36 for youth ages 4 to 16. Starting on July 7, prices will increase and vary depending on chosen seating zone and date.

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*The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston because of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount’s gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park. This program has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.*