

FEB 2026

# The Flame

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND FRIENDS



**A once-in-a-lifetime event  
is re-created live on stage.  
Be here when it happens this  
summer!**

## Johnny, Jerry Lee, Carl & Elvis - The Million Dollar Quartet!

ON DECEMBER 4, 1956 CARL PERKINS, WHO HAD A BIG HIT WITH HIS SONG "BLUE SUEDE SHOES" WAS RECORDING SOME NEW SONGS AT SUN RECORDS IN MEMPHIS, TN. SAM PHILLIPS, THE LEGENDARY FOUNDER OF SUN RECORDS WANTED TO FATTEN UP THE INSTRUMENTATION ON THE SESSION AND SO HE BROUGHT IN A YOUNG MUSICIAN THAT HE HAD JUST SIGNED TO PLAY PIANO. HIS NAME WAS JERRY LEE LEWIS.

Yes - that Jerry Lee Lewis. He was virtually unknown outside of Memphis at the time. Sometime in the afternoon a former Sun Records artist named Elvis Presley stopped by with his girlfriend to visit Phillips. Before you knew it, Perkins, Presley, and Lewis started singing songs they all knew. They were joined by Johnny Cash who also recorded for Sun and had come by to listen to the recording session. As the four of them talked and sang, the recording engineer decided to record it.

Phillips, always the promoter, called up the entertainment editor of the Memphis Press-Scimitar who came over with a photographer. The next day there was an article about the session titled "The Million Dollar Quartet."

The tapes sat around for years after Sun Records was sold in 1969. They were rediscovered in 1981, released in Britain, and the legend was born. The stage musical, written in 2007 by Floyd Mutrix and Colin Escott, has played in Chicago, on Broadway, in London's West End, and both National and International tours, and Regional Theatres like ours pretty steadily ever since!

**We're thrilled to bring back this very popular show for another exciting run. Everyone loves the music, but the show also reveals a compelling human story about success, loyalty, and making choices in life. Join us for the story and live music that will, in its own way, be just as exciting as the original jam session!**

The  
**FireSide**



# CELEBRATING 62 YEARS OF KLOPCIC FAMILY HOSPITALITY!

Record Producer Sam Phillips was the man responsible for the once-in-a-lifetime event that became the musical MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET. Known as the "Father of Rock 'n' Roll" after discovering both Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash, he was trained as a DJ and sound engineer. His recording company, Sun Records, produced more rock and roll records than any other label of its time. He looked for innovation and encouraged his artists to experiment with their personal style.

Note this early advice he gave to a young Elvis - *"Elvis, son, I don't record singers, I record souls. I can tell without askin' you're up from Mississippi. I can tell you and your folks are good people, but you ain't never had nothing. I can tell the other kids looked down on you. Look me in the eye boy . . . can you play that git-tar and let me hear some a' THAT? I wanna hear your soul boy."*

You can hear more of Sam's story along with those of Elvis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, and Jerry Lee Lewis who make up the "Million Dollar Quartet" this summer at The Fireside!

*The Klopac Family*



From our 2016 production of MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET.





Rose Jordan-Pauli shares 27+ years' experience in planning tours!

## LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER!

Rose Jordan-Pauli grew up (mostly) an Illinois girl and began her career in the motor coach industry in Davenport, Iowa. After a short time in Florida, she returned to Illinois to be near and spend time with her aging parents where she also found a home at Peoria Charter.

For the first five years or so, Rose worked on charters, providing the transportation for banks, churches, and other groups who planned their own trips and just needed the bus. Once she was promoted to the tour department, she really found her passion planning both one-day and overnight tours. She has a few standard trips that sell out every year such as Branson, Door County, Mackinac Island, and the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. Beyond that, she likes to mix it up and try out some new destinations. Overall, they have about 150 tours every year so there's a lot to do! This year's calendar includes a huge variety from close-by trips to Galena and the Shawnee Forest to Albuquerque, Washington, DC, and some mystery trips. She's already starting to work on 2027!

Their Fireside trips fall in the one-day tour category being just four hours away. Those are easier to arrange, just needing a break stop each direction and usually fill up easily.

Rose doesn't travel with the groups. She has eight sets of escorts who take care of that. She also has a helper in the office and a colleague handling international trips and cruises. The age of their clients ranges from 50 to 90 including many repeat customers and some who need the assistance of a cane or walker. Their marketing efforts include an annual tour magazine and tri-fold flyers with all the tours listed that are handed out on each trip. They also use email blasts and Facebook - both ads and pictures of happy travelers taken by the escorts.

Peoria Charter has offices in both Peoria and Champaign-Urbana, Illinois and they service travelers within a 75 mile radius of those. Peoria is the home of Caterpillar with a population of about 200,000 people. The company struggled, of course, during the Covid-19 years doing about one trip a month, but Rose was happy to report that business has come back even better than before. People really do love to travel!

In her spare time, Rose is on her own. She lost her husband four years ago and is still looking for a hobby or activities to fill that void. Her two grown daughters and five grandchildren are far enough away that she has to plan those trips, too, and of course loves to do so!

“Take your time - be patient, friendly, and detail oriented, with a good work ethic.”

Rose is, no surprise, a very detail oriented person. She sets up a binder for each trip that includes the contracts, itinerary, mileage info, and due dates that also go into her calendar so she doesn't miss anything. That's just one of the reasons Franki and the group sales staff here enjoy working with her so much. When asked about her advice for others, taking care of details was certainly important. First though, she said “Be patient, take your time, be friendly - even if they aggravate you - and have a good work ethic.”

Rose has seen a lot of changes and challenges over 27 years in the industry. One struggle is vendors moving deadlines back from a typical 30 days to 60 as it's harder to get people to commit to something as far as 60 days out. What she loves the most is working with the people - both travelers and vendors - especially her repeat customers. The travel business does need to be one of dotted i's and crossed t's but at its core it's one of people and relationships, connections and shared experiences. Rose has made a life of creating those for people and their worlds are richer for her efforts - bless you, Rose!

KNOW  
WHAT'S  
NEW!

## INTRODUCING CREG SCLAVI, GUEST DIRECTOR FOR MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET!



Here are the shows you may remember seeing Creg in at The Fireside:

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET - Elvis (2016)  
A FIRESIDE CHRISTMAS (2016)  
A FIRESIDE CHRISTMAS In Concert (2020)  
Fireside Stars In Concert with Creg Sclavi (2021)  
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (2022)  
RING IN THE NEW (2022)

We are thrilled to announce that **Creg Sclavi** will be directing this summer's production of **MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET** at The Fireside. Creg performed the role of Elvis in our 2016 production and understudied that role for a National Tour. He also co-directed the show at the Paramount Theatre in Aurora, Illinois which earned him a Best Director nomination for the Jeff Awards (Chicago's equivalent to the Tony Awards), and directed it for the Rubicon Theatre Company in Ventura, California. Creg knows and loves this show and our creative team is very excited to work with him in this new capacity.

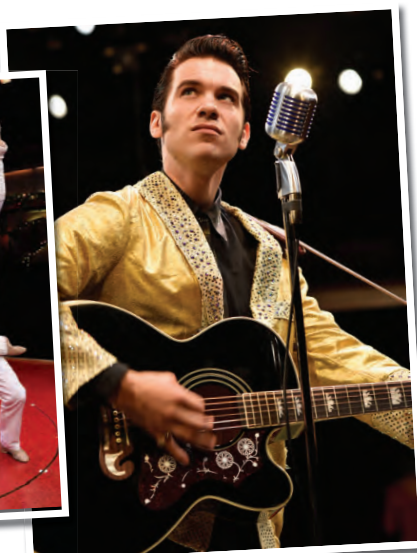
Creg has an MFA in Acting from Florida State University. His experience there includes several's productions with Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota. At the Paramount Theatre in Aurora he Associate Directed their productions of **NEXT TO NORMAL** in 2023, **THE FULL MONTY** in 2024, and **TRUE WEST** in 2025. He also project managed the design, construction, and opening of their new Stolp Island Theatre space.

This is just the beginning of a long and no doubt highly successful career for Creg! We asked for his thoughts on this new production:

*"I am excited to revisit **MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET** at The Fireside Dinner Theatre, because the production I was a part of here ten years ago really helped define how I approach the show. I remember being onstage here and for the first time working on this show, feeling the energy of a jam session.*

*Presenting **MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET** in a theatre-in-the-round connects to the reality of what that night was. It wasn't a performance; it was a recording session, and the show gives the audience a peek into that historic night, allowing them to see beyond the legend and into the hearts of these artists. I aim to bring fresh life to the show in this space, allowing Fireside audiences to experience **MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET** in a way they may not have before."*

Thanks, Creg - let's rock this!



**Book Now for MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET Opening June 4th!**



It's hard to believe we're already previewing our early summer production, yet nice to think about warmer weather!

We're really proud of this menu and the many varied tastes you can choose from. Of course, everyone will start out with our Jam Session Salad and end with Vanilla Bean Crème Brûlée.

Our Chicken Cordon Bleu and Beef Short Rib have been popular staples for many years. You can't go wrong with either of those! You could also enjoy the Grilled Red Snapper which went over very well last year during THE LITTLE MERMAID. Our new Vegetarian option is two delicious Stuffed Bell Peppers. Each entree will come with our Garlic Parmesan Orzo and a Parisian Vegetable Mix.

While we're still finalizing our presentations, these photos will give you an idea of what to expect. Enjoy!

Joey Scott, Sous Chef



SEE  
WHAT'S  
COOKING



## FEATURED MENU

*For Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Matinees,  
Saturday Evenings,\* and Sunday MIDDAY.*

### Jam Session Salad

Spinach, Baby Kale, Arugula, and Frisée Lettuce, Hard Boiled Egg, Cucumber Coins, and Grape Tomatoes topped with a House-Made Sweet Sour Dressing, Jones Cherrywood Smoked Bacon Chips, and French Fried Buttermilk Onion Strings.

### Freshly Baked Breads from our Artisan Bakery

### Chicken Cordon Bleu

Boneless Breast of Chicken filled with Jones Cherrywood Smoked Canadian Bacon, Garlic and Herb Cream Cheese, Swiss Cheese, and Dijon Mustard, rolled in our Seasoned Breadcrumbs, sautéed to a golden brown, and baked to finish. Served on a delicious Creamy Dijon Sauce.

### Grilled Red Snapper

A Seasoned, Flame-grilled 6 oz. filet of Fresh Red Snapper accompanied by a Smoked Paprika Beurre Blanc Sauce.

### Beef Short Rib

A generous 8 oz. portion of Beef Short Rib slowly braised in our own homemade Beef Stock and crowned with a glorious Red Wine Demi-Glace.

### Vegetarian Stuffed Bell Peppers

Two large, assorted Bell Peppers stuffed with Brown Rice, Quinoa, Plant-based Protein, and Marinara Sauce, topped with Shredded Parmesan Cheese.

Above entrées served with Garlic Parmesan Orzo and a Parisian Vegetable Mix.

### Vanilla Bean Crème Brûlée

*Coffee, Tea and Milk*

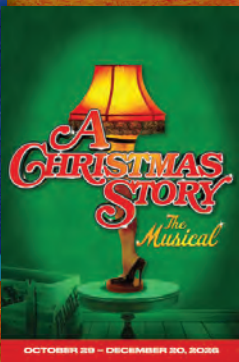
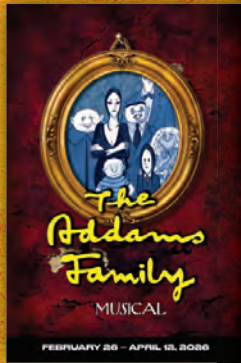
**The Thursday Evening Signature Buffet** begins with our Signature Salad topped with Papaya Chutney Dressing and served with Freshly Baked Breads. Enjoy two special entrée selections in addition to Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Barbecued Pork Back Ribs, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Beer Batter Fried Cod, Shrimp and Scallops Fusilli with Tomato Butter Sauce, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Whipped Idaho Potatoes and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Crème Brûlée for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk.

**The Sunday Matinee Brunch** begins with Pastries from our Bakery and a Fresh Fruit Smoothie. Enjoy Roast Turkey and Corned Beef from the carving station with a buffet of Eggs Benedict on Jones Canadian Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Jones Bacon and Sausage Links, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, French Toast, Breakfast Potatoes, a featured Beef Tenderloin dish, and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Crème Brûlée for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk.

*Saturday Evening's menu also includes an Appetizer course.*

## Coming Shows!

We look forward to helping you promote your trips to The Fireside. Promotional materials can be ordered for any of our upcoming shows through Group Sales or on our website.



## GROUP SALES CORNER



I don't think it is a secret that I love music. So, I don't think anyone will be surprised to hear me say that I love the show MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET. What I particularly love about this show is the bit of history you get about the artists.

The show dramatizes the real-life, impromptu, jam session featuring rock and roll legends Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins.

I remember enjoying the show so much the first time I saw it that I rebooked to see it again. I hope you have booked your group already. If you haven't, please call soon, you do not want to miss this one. It is a toe tapping, hand clapping, sing along good time.

For personal help with any of your bookings, call us at 920-563-9505 or email [groupsales@firesidetheatre.com](mailto:groupsales@firesidetheatre.com).



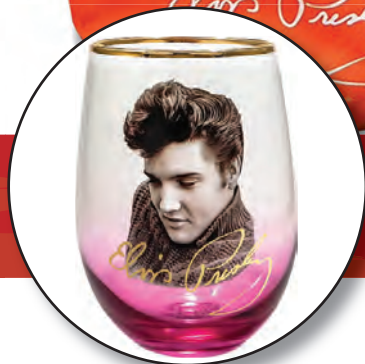
Remember to book for COME FROM AWAY this fall if you haven't done so yet. If you were booked for that time and had promotional material made up with "To Be Announced" make sure you reach out to have us update that for you. Promo material for any show can be ordered online at [firesidetheatre.com](http://firesidetheatre.com) under groups/group information - there's a button in the yellow sidebar on the right.

You can always reach me or another Group Sales rep Monday through Friday from 11 - 5 at 920-563-9505, or email your question or request to [groupsales@firesidetheatre.com](mailto:groupsales@firesidetheatre.com). We're so excited about all the great things happening at The Fireside this year. Happy Traveling!

*Frankie Elmore*

Frankie Elmore, Group Sales Lead

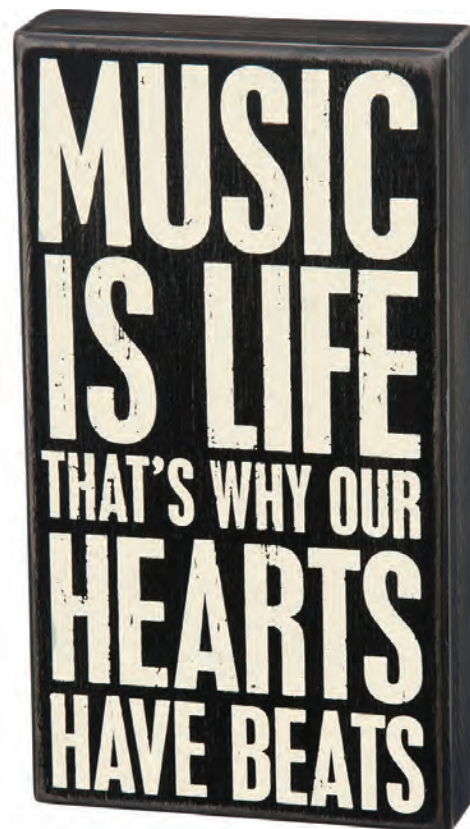
## GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT



Shop online anytime at  
[firesidetheatre.com](http://firesidetheatre.com)

Elvis fans can never have enough fan gear!

Over the last nearly five decades our gift shops have grown from one shop to four with an extensive selection of gifts and home decor for all ages, seasons, and occasions. Since the opening of the music shop that specializes in music themed items and fan memorabilia, Elvis Presley merchandise has remained at the top of the popularity list. We keep the selection fresh and new, just for you!



## CONTACT US TODAY AND SAVE!

CALL 920-563-9505

EMAIL [groupsales@firesidetheatre.com](mailto:groupsales@firesidetheatre.com)

ONLINE [FiresideTheatre.com](http://FiresideTheatre.com)

## GROUPS ARE OUR SPECIALTY - SO SPECIAL DISCOUNTS APPLY!

### WHAT IS A GROUP?

At The Fireside, there are many benefits for any group of 13 or more people (18 for the Sunday Middy). Our prices include both dinner and the show, however gratuity is not included.

Hold seating with a small deposit while you finalize your count, due four weeks before your visit. For weekday matinees, 18 paid tickets earns a complimentary package. For all other shows every 20 paid tickets earns a comp. There is plenty of safe, free parking on-site for coaches and cars. The Fireside is accessible to guests with disabilities. Please let us know what special needs you have when making reservations.

- Save up to \$17.00 per person over individual ticket prices when you book a group of 13 or more. Please see our menu page for the menu choices for MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET.
- The three-course dinner and show for groups of 13 or more is \$84.93 (\$80.50 tax exempt) per person.
- The Premier Group Rate offers an additional discount of \$3.00 per person when your group attends a performance of MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET from June 4 - 28, 2026.
- 2026 Premier Group Rate is \$81.76 (\$77.50 tax exempt) per person.
- The four-course Saturday Night Group rate is the same price as the other shows!
- 2026 Youth Group Rates for ages 14 and under with the youth meals are offered at \$61.72 (\$58.50 tax exempt) per youth.
- 2026 School Group Rates are available for Thursday and Friday matinees as low as \$74.50 tax exempt rate per student. Chaperones qualify for the Group Rate.