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Harvey, McLendon reprise roles for *Always Patsy Cline*

Local favorites Brandi Harvey and Christie McLendon bring the laughter, the music and the tears of *Always Patsy Cline* back to the Emma Kelly Theater on February 25-28.

The duo first performed the hilarious and heart-warming musical play, which was created and originally directed by Ted Swindley and is based on a true story, to a nearly packed house on March 24, 2018.

Harvey portrays the classy Cline, who is considered one of the most influential vocalists of the 20th century and was one of the first county music artists to successfully cross over to pop music. McLendon plays Louise Seger, a kooky Houston housewife who is obsessed with Cline's music and then strikes up an unlikely friendship with the singer.

Always Patsy Cline, which is sponsored by Morris Bank, Lanier, Deal and Proctor and Hoke Brunson, is tribute to the legendary country singer who died tragically in plane crash on March 5, 1963 at the age of 30. The show is based on Cline's friendship with Seger, who befriended the star in a Texas honky-tonk in 1961, and continued a correspondence with her until Cline's death.

The musical play, complete with down-home country humor, true emotion and even some audience participation, includes 27 of Cline's unforgettable hits such as "Crazy," "I Fall to Pieces," "Sweet Dreams," and "Walking After Midnight."

The show's title was inspired by Cline's letters to Seger, which were consistently signed "Love ALWAYS ... Patsy Cline."

Harvey has been dubbed the Sound of Downtown and has been a popular musical voice in the area and on the Jan Brown Anderson for many years. Her smooth, velvety voice most recently rang out in last month's *The Lady Legends and Guests*, in October 2020's *Into the Woods* and in 2019's *One: Brandi Harvey*, where she released her inaugural solo album, *Reckless*. She also is a music editor of *Discovering Bulloch* magazine and performs relentlessly with her band Moss City Groove.

McLendon, also a local favorite, hails from nearby Metter. She is probably most famous for the Andyline Darling character that she portrays with her Mayberry tribute shows. The bubbly blonde also plays a myriad of characters (Dolly Parton, Lucille Ball and Lilly Tomlin) and performs in local churches solo or with her vocal trio One Voice. She was also most recently on the Averitt stage last month, starring with Harvey and Rachel Elkins in *The Lady Legends and Guests*.

The six-piece band backing the pair is known as the Bodacious Bobcats and is headed by Jerry Roberson on piano and also features John Patrick (bass), Nathan Smith (guitar), Micah Bonn (fiddle and guitar), Matt Fallin (drums) and Eddie Lange (steel guitar).

Tickets for *Always Patsy Cline* are \$30 for adults, \$28 for Averitt members, members of the military, first responders and city of Statesboro employees. Show times are February 25-27 at 7:30 p.m. with a 3 p.m. matinee on the 28th. Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, seating is very limited. There are also no on-line sales. To purchase tickets, simply visit the Box Office at the Averitt Center Main Gallery (open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday) or call 912-212-2787.