

Country Classic

Taking us back 40 years with Patsy Cline

The production *Always ... Patsy Cline*, is like attending a live honky-tonk country concert, not a theater, according to show directors. With 27 songs in two hours, including Cline's classic hits "Crazy" and "Walkin' After Midnight," the musical tracks the singer's tumultuous career.

Produced by Eugene's Willamette Repertory Theatre, "Always ... Patsy Cline" will open at the Hult Center Wednesday, Nov. 24. The musical's narrative, based on a true story, is told through the perspective of Louise, a friend and correspondent to Cline. Louise interweaves pieces of their letters between songs performed by a live five-piece band, providing insight into both Cline's life and music career.

"The narrative spans the earliest part of Cline's career to her death in a plane crash," said director Norm Johnson. "To follow some-

one who was a real historical figure is a compelling challenge."

Johnson, an associate theater professor at Ithaca College in New York, believes that the musical will seduce audiences into believing that they are at a Patsy Cline concert 40 years ago with powerful performances by Louise (played by Emily Gilbert) and Cline (played by Grammy award winner Shandra Sinnamon).

Cline, aka Virginia Patterson Hensely, was born in 1932 in Virginia. A natural entertainer as a child, Cline received her big break at 25 years old. She won a television talent program in 1957 with the hit "Walkin' After Midnight," ultimately sealing a record deal. Cline toured city bars and concert halls, playing at the Mecca of country music — the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville — in 1958, and becoming the number one female recording artist in the

early 1960s. She had her share of misfortune though, surviving both an abusive husband and a disfiguring car accident.

Although Cline died in an airplane crash in 1963 in Tennessee, her music continued to enjoy posthumous success. She was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1973.

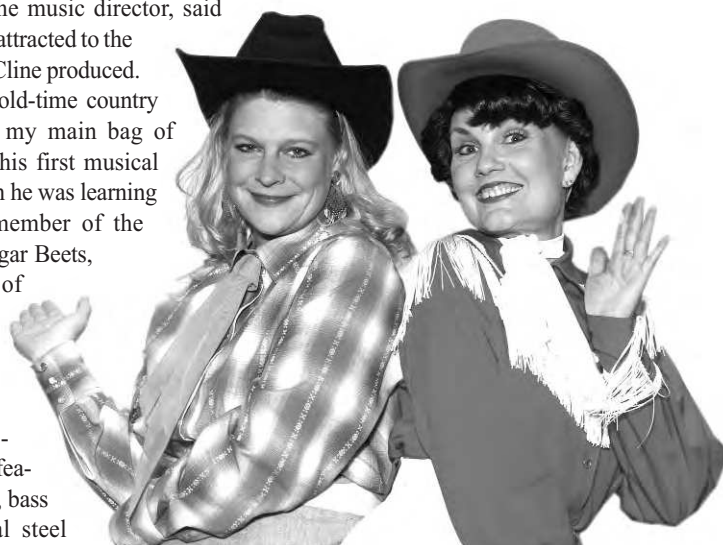
Scotty Perey, the music director, said that he was always attracted to the type of music that Cline produced. "The honky-tonk, old-time country thing was one of my main bag of tricks," or one of his first musical styles, he said when he was learning to improvise. A member of the local band, The Sugar Beets, and the winner of *Eugene Weekly's* Best Male Musician for 2004, Perey has assembled an all-star band that will feature a fiddle, piano, bass guitar and a pedal steel

guitar — a traditional flat guitar that was a "Nashville staple."

Always ... Patsy Cline will run Nov. 24 through Dec. 12 at the Hult Center Soreng Theater. Tickets can be purchased through the Hult Center at 682-5000.

EW

**Always...
Patsy Cline**
Nov. 25-Dec. 12
Soreng Theater
Hult Center



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TEST SUBJECT: Jason Gearhart

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— DAY 22 —

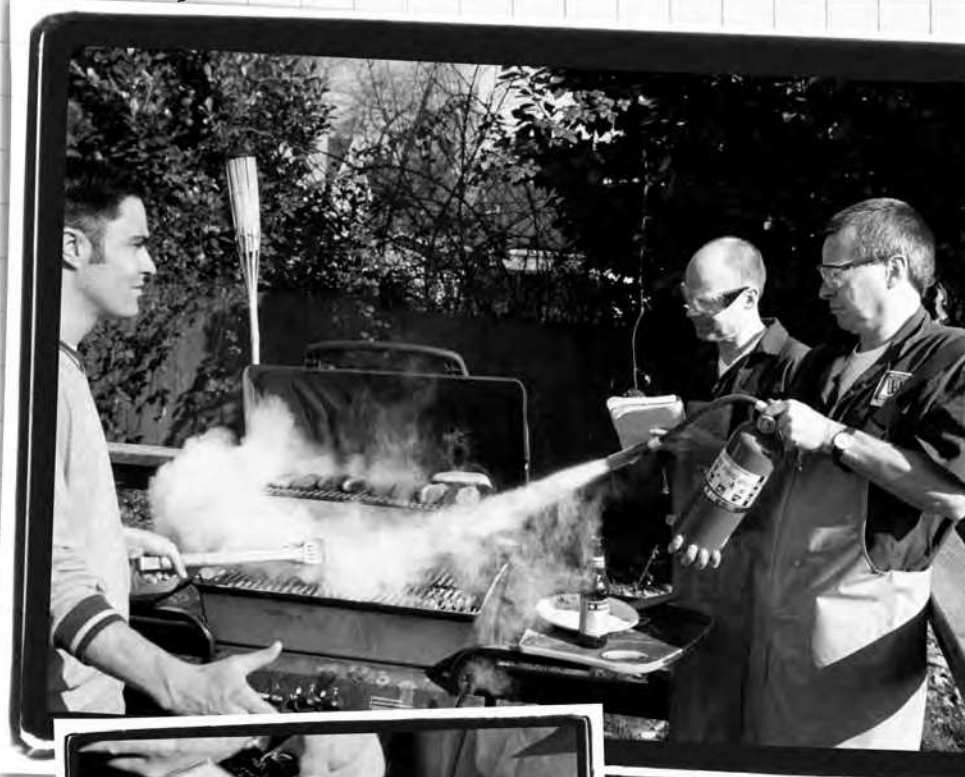


Today we tested the ideal "kindling mix" for proper brat grilling. The combination of chicory, half an abandoned hornet's nest and an old bra found underneath the subject's deck was deemed

ideal. Next, we measured the effects of lemon on our Hefeweizen. Results proved to be delicious, with the flavor consistently scoring above 9.5 on the Rheinmann/Gruber Pleasure Scale.

Kurt and Rob put out small chemical fire before lunchtime.

Smoke caused only minimal hair loss.



The brat tested positive for Hefeweizen compatibility — and trace amounts of Actinium-238.



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