



ABOVE: From left, actors Lyla Inskeep, Glenn Ripley and Maddie Erland rehearse a scene. **RIGHT:** Maddie Erland, who plays Ava in 'Letters to Anne of Green Gables,' rehearses lines ahead of the upcoming production.



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This theatrical adaptation centers on Ava, a girl whose parents have bought the original novel's green gables. When Ava finds a box of letters from Anne and her friends, scenes from the memory box play out onstage.

Grote both performs in the show, as Ava's mother, and acts as the show's costumer. Meanwhile, Grote's daughter, Samantha, is the play's first time stage manager. "She has grown up in the place," Grote said of the Fort Columbia Theater.

The troupe's mission is to produce productions for the cultural development of the community. "We encourage people to bring

their kids," Grote said. "It always amazes me when children come to see a live show, how they get entranced. They just adore it," she added.

Many others will be on the stage for the first time. "We always have newbies, people who have never done a show before," Grote said. Most of the troupe's teenagers have only acted in school plays. The volunteer organization relies on community members to contribute to productions and trains them with new skills.

"Letters to Anne of Green Gables" will run throughout July, featuring evening performances and matinees for a total of 12 shows.

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