



Music, tears and laughter

Terry Hale/Contributed image

April Van Tassel, left, plays Nanna and Fern McConnell is Winnie Foster in the musical "Tuck Everlasting," which opens Nov. 20 at the Elgin Opera House.

'Tuck Everlasting' opens Nov. 20 at Elgin Opera House

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

ELGIN — Would you live forever, if you could?

That is the question facing young Winnie Foster in "Tuck Everlasting," which opens Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Elgin Opera House, 104 N. Eighth St.

The musical is based on the 1975 novel by Natalie Babbitt.

"It's going to be a lovely, lovely show," said Director Terry Hale. "The music is phenomenal — it's beautifully written."

Performances will be at 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 20. After that — including Thanksgiving weekend — shows will be at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays through Dec. 11. Tickets are \$18 for the orchestra level and lower balcony, and \$8 for the upper balcony. Purchase tickets at www.elgin-operahouse.com or by calling 541-663-6324.

The show opens with the Tuck family, who all drink from a spring in the woods. When they don't age or die, they realize the water made them immortal.

Decades later, a girl named Winnie wanders into the same woods.

"She runs into Jesse Tuck just before she drinks from the spring," Hale said.

The Tuck family members don't agree on whether Winnie should drink the magic water or not. Jesse urges her to drink the water when she's 17, the same age as him.

"So he doesn't have to be alone," Hale said. "But we don't know until the end whether she drinks or not."

Hale describes the show as "sad, but in a heartwarming way."

"It still gets me every time," he said. "There's something about this show, where we are, that makes it special."

But it's not all about the tissues.

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