

The Bank Theatre Presents a Sun Parlour Players Production of

DEAR JOHNNY DEERE

Book by Ken Cameron

Based on the music and lyrics of Fred Eaglesmith

Additional music and arrangements by David Archibald

Directed by Todd R. Pepper

Setting is a rural town in Ontario in the current era.

Audition Dates:

Thursday September 5 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Saturday September 7 - 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Audition Location:

The Bank Theatre, 10 Erie St. S. Leamington, ON. Parking is available behind the theatre in municipal parking lots off of Mill Street, or street parking on Princess Street.

REHEARSALS DATES - TBA - WILL BEGIN THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 14TH

Performance Dates:

March 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 with evening performance on the Fridays and Saturdays and matinee performances on the Sundays.

Cast Requirements: All Actors MUST be able to sing. The ability to play an instrument would be a bonus.

McAllister – Male – 60ish – narrator, owner of the local newspaper, neighbor to Johnny

Johnny – Male – late 30's early 40's – local farmer

Caroline – Female – 10 years younger than Johnny – wife of Johnny

Mike – Male – same age as Caroline – high school boyfriend of Caroline, real estate developer

Hendrik – Male – 50ish – father of Johnny – deceased at the time of the play but appears in flashback sequences – Dutch accent

Swing – Female – any age – plays several characters

Please come prepared with your own 1 minute monologue from a play of your choosing, or select one of the following:

McAllister: “My brother used to say nothing brings a town together like a church picnic. But that was just another stupid thing he used to say. A church picnic is just a bunch of Anglicans drinking tea with other Anglicans and Presbyterians eating sandwiches with other Presbyterians, and Pentecostals doing... whatever it is Pentecostals do with other Pentecostals.

Forget the churches. What binds a town together is faith. Faith that they can find a good deal. Let’s use that imagination again, if you got any left. The furniture’s over here, a big pile of it on the front lawn. Some of it’s kinda cheap, plastic lawn chairs and the like. The kitchen stuff, silverware, pots and pans and appliances are all over here. And over here is the farm equipment. This is where all the farmers are gathered. And most of them are gathered around an old tractor.”

Caroline: “I have no clue what it’s all about. He was out by the train station. I don’t see what the difference is: he’s behavin’ the same way, he’s screamin’ and talkin’ and prayin’ for things. He was yelling for me tonight. He wants the train and then he wants rain, now he wants me, he just wants stuff, I don’t know what he feels but he’s pretty into it. He’s really tryin’; he’s prayin’ he’s screaming’ and just goin’ on for it, and if he ain’t talking about his feelings it’s pretty clear he’s feeling them. That can’t be a bad thing, when someone’s that... I dunno, what’s the word... Passionate.”

Johnny: “That no one loves me! Because I’m a White Trash and I’ve got no education and I drink too much and my car won’t start and I’m a loser! Those are my feelings. You like them? “Cause I don’t. My feelings are scared and weak and I hate them. When I have to talk about my feelings I feel weak, I feel unlovable, I feel alone. I frickin’ hate feeling alone. I want to protect myself, shut down, curl into a ball and disappear. Only no matter how hard I try I’m still here. *(laughs at self)* See. Who’d ever want to feel... all this junk inside... feels stupid being like this.”

List of Songs	Who Sings It
Yellow Barley Straw	All
White Trash	McAllister, Johnny, Caroline
White Rose	McAllister, Mike, Caroline & Swing
White Trash	Reprise – Johnny & Caroline
Yellow Barley Straw	Reprise – All
Spookin’ the Horses	Johnny & Caroline
Small Motors	McAllister on 1 st verse, All on 2 nd verse
John Deere B	McAllister on verses, All on refrain
The Tractor Auction	Johnny
John Deere B	Reprise – All
I Wanna Buy Your Truck	Caroline on verses, Mike joins on chorus
Bench Seat Baby	Johnny on verses, Caroline joins on chorus
Wilder Than Her	Johnny & Caroline
Time to Get a Gun	Johnny on verses, All on chorus

Yellow Barley Straw	Reprises – All
Ordinary Guy	Johnny & Caroline
I Wanna Buy Your Truck	Reprise – Johnny & Caroline
White Rose	Reprise – Swing
Small Motors	Reprise – Johnny on verses, All on refrain
Yellow Barley Straw	Reprise – All
Old John Deere	Johnny, McAllister & Swing on last refrain
Freight Train	Mike on verses, Caroline, McAllister & Swing on chorus
Worked up Field	All except Hendrik
York Road	Johnny on verses, All (except Hendrik) on chorus
Wilder than Her	Reprise – All

Please come prepared to sing one of the following Fred J Eaglesmith songs:

John Deere B which can be viewed on YouTube at the following link:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=CJCuwGBpOos&pp=ygUcam9obiBkZWVyZSBiIGZyZWQgZWFnbGVzbWI0aA%3D%3D;>

In the first verse substitute “down in Oshawa” for “up in Omaha”. In the chorus after the 2nd verse substitute “museum up in Ottawa” for “restaurant up in Omaha”.

Or:

Wilder than Her which can be viewed on YouTube at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/OsDL7GIn1uw?si=ebXbCn8qaNyRJBd3>

Or:

Come prepared to sing a song of your own choosing either a cappella or with recorded accompaniment.

Contact Todd R. Pepper for further information by email at peppertoddr@gmail.com; or by text or WhatsApp at 519.984.1338.