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A special production of *Always ... Patsy Cline* will be a fundraiser for stage improvements at the Holly Theater and features Gainesville's Kecia Strickland Garland as Patsy and Linda Thompson from Cumming as her fan and friend Louise. The musical, written by Ted Swindley, is based on a true story and features twenty seven songs sung by Patsy to a live band, and the comedy of Louise – a Texas housewife who traded letters with Patsy during her career. This dynamite duo and a live band wowed audiences in 2014 at the Holly for a limited run which earned a large donation from the Holly to its endowment fund.

Kecia Strickland Garland began her performance career at the ripe old age of four, when she sang her first solo at Jamestown Baptist Church in Waycross, GA. At the age of 12, she auditioned for, and was cast in, "Clover's & Co" – UGA's 4-H Youth Performing Arts group. She stayed with the cast for seven years, along with Jennifer Nettles (Sugarland), among others. Today, Kecia is on the staff as a Vocal Director with the group.

In 2001, Kecia released her first Album, WHERE I BELONG, and had two Top Ten songs on the Christian Country Music charts. She was named "Contemporary Country Artist of the Year" for the Atlanta Society of Entertainers, and nominated for "Female Vocalist of the Year" and "Entertainer of the Year". She also received nominations from The Christian Country Music Association for "New Artist of the Year" and "Female Vocalist of the Year".

She has headlined festivals and fairs, and has performed with Vince Gill, Clay Walker, Diamond Rio, Doug Stone, Trace Adkins, Rascal Flatts, Neal McCoy, Kenny Rogers, and others. She also has performed at the Ryman Auditorium with Hank Williams, Jr, Collin Ray, Marty Raybon, Dottie Rambo, and more.

Kecia is a former Miss Georgia Forestry, and was named twice to the Top Ten in both Miss Georgia America and Miss Georgia USA. She is a graduate of Brenau University, and recipient of its "Young Alumnae of the Year" Award.

For the past ten or so years she has taken a break from performing to raise a family but was intrigued by the auditions in 2014 for *Always...Patsy Cline* at the Holly. Kecia has continued studying with her vocal coach, Jan Smith, who coaches many vocalists including Usher, Sugarland and Justin Bieber.

Her portrayal of Patsy Cline had sold out audiences on their feet at the end of every show last year.

Linda Thompson is thrilled to return to the stage to reprise her role at the Holly, where she has a following for her roles in comedies: Florence Unger (*The Odd Couple*), Elaine Harper (*Arsenic & Old Lace*), Gwendolyn Pigeon (*The Odd Couple*), Mae Peterson (*Bye Bye Birdie*), Hedy La Rue (*How To Succeed In Business*), Maria Morelli (*Lend Me a Tenor*), Truvy (*Steel Magnolias*), and Miss. Hannigan (*Annie*). Carol Burnett was responsible for guiding Linda into the trenches for comedic acting. She even named her daughter after her favorite actress - Madeline Kahn. Linda is the director for the Holly's production of *Little Shop of Horrors* in October.

The show is directed by Tim Quigley and Leanne Kinney is the musical director. This is the same team that brought *Aways ... Patsy Cline* to the stage in 2014. A live band will again be on stage including steel pedal guitar, drums, guitar, fiddle, piano and bass.

Performances are November 19th – 22th only at the Historic Holly Theater in Dahlonega. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$20 and \$25 for adults and can be purchased on-line at www.hollytheater.com . The Holly Box Office is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am to 3pm [706-864-3759](tel:706-864-3759).