

# CKT Presents: The Crucible

BY JENNA GEORGE

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The newest show at the Central Kentucky Theatre is "The Crucible," which will have one more weekend of showings before leaving the area.

This show originates from Arthur Miller in 1953, and is still relevant today. Giving the stern warning of every community which is torn by suspicion, the threat that is the most dangerous is sometimes the community itself.

Within this production the audience is placed into 1692 Salem, Massachusetts, where they see the outcome of a Puritan community and the possibility of witches in their presence. A handful of young girls fall ill with seemingly no earthly

cause, after being found dancing deep in the woods. Many of the Salem residents turn to suspect and believe there is possibly something more sinister afoot.

Along the way of trying to recover the health of these girls, many grudges turn violent, and different humiliating secrets become exposed and run through the rumor mill. The need for rooting out witchcraft and evil energies becomes more prominent than the supposed evil itself. No one is safe when it comes to a crime with no physical evidence and everyone becomes a suspect.

Next weekend will be the final chance to see if this community recovers from these accusations. On June 12 and 13, the show will begin at 7 p.m.,



Photo courtesy of Central Kentucky Theatre

**Steve Southerland (Judge Hathorne), Daniel Bannister (John Proctor), and Alyssa Mattingly (Elizabeth Proctor) perform the final scene of the play, in the jail, as the Proctors are reunited after three months of imprisonment.**

while on June 14 the show will be held at 2 p.m. Tickets will run the normal



Photo courtesy of Central Kentucky Theatre

**The girls, mysteriously afflicted with an unknown illness in 1692 Salem, Massachusetts, leading to the famous Salem witchcraft trials are portrayed in the Central Kentucky theatre's presentation of "The Crucible." They are: Sophia Rivers-Stein (Mercy Lewis), Amelia White (Betty Parris), Dixie Grisby (Ruth Putnam) Zoey Blair (Abigail Williams) and Emma Blandford (Susanna Walcott). This scene takes place in the court, as the girls claim they are being attacked by a spirit.**

## HOUSING

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In this year's legislative session, House Democrats proposed a broad housing package aimed at increasing housing supply, helping first-time homebuyers, supporting renters, improving infrastructure, and making it easier to build workforce housing across Kentucky. In addition, I filed legislation calling for a \$100 million appropriation from Kentucky's budget reserve trust fund to create a revolving affordable housing loan pool to help finance housing construction and redevelopment projects across the state.

The proposals never received a hearing before the full House.

One proposal that nearly passed this year was a Republican-sponsored bill with bipartisan support that would have allowed com-

munities to finance housing-related infrastructure over time instead of paying major upfront costs that can slow development.

Unfortunately, in the final days of session, the bill was loaded up with additional provisions, including language that

would have restricted local communities' ability to regulate short-term rentals like Airbnbs. That killed the bill.

One of the frustrating things about the lack of action on this issue is that there's already broad agreement that housing is a serious problem. We've had two legislative task forces focused on housing affordability and housing supply. We've talked about the issue extensively. Reports have been written. Recommendations have been made.

But this session also showed how easily housing legislation can get sidetracked once the final weeks of the

General Assembly become crowded with competing priorities and last-minute maneuvering.

If housing is truly a priority, it has to remain a priority when the General Assembly gavel in.

The interim period between sessions should now be used to build real bipartisan agreement around housing solutions. If lawmakers wait until the final weeks of a legislative session to seriously tackle an issue this large and complicated, the chances of meaningful progress shrink dramatically.

Housing needs to enter next session with momentum already in place, not left fighting for attention during the session's final days, when major legislation often gets tangled up in unrelated fights and last-minute negotiations.

Because the pressure Kentucky families are feeling is not going away.

And neither should the urgency to address it.

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