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Friday, December 12, 2025

(with attribution)

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Athens, Tennessee

Mic Drop: Next Installment of AACA House Blend Concert Series Announced

Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) is pleased to present Mic Drop: The Women Who Rule Music, Friday, January 9, 2026. Directed by Traci McKenzie, Mic Drop is the next installment of AACA's 2025-26 House Blend Concert Series.

Traci McKenzie is an Athens Community Theatre director (The Addams Family, School of Rock) and performer (9 to 5 - The Musical), who also directed last season's smash hit Look What You Made Us Do.

Mic Drop is a diverse collection of songs that span genres and decades. And each one shares a defining trait: they were written or made popular by women.

Larae Graves will emcee the evening of legendary hits. Performers bringing the songs to the stage include Mahala Kelby in her House Blend debut, along with returning performers Miah Baker, Raegan Graves, Crystal Hall, Lindsey "Lu" Kimball, Alex Lauterbach, Natalie Leonesio, Emerson McKenzie, Kinsley Melhorn, Stephanie Roberts, and Christen Webb.

September Song, AACA's House Band, provides live accompaniment led by Andrew Kimball on guitar, Joe Littleton (bass), Kyle Littleton (lead guitar), and Matt Flowers (drums).

All **House Blend Concert Series** shows are in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater at The Arts Center. Prices for House Blend tickets range from \$15 to \$40. Some events are catered and include light hors d'oeuvres or a full dinner; the higher ticket price for these events reflects the included meal.

More information about AACA programs is available at <u>athensartscouncil.org</u>, or over the phone at 423-745-8781. Staff is available via phone, or in person, at The Arts Center. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Arts Center is located in Historic Downtown Athens, Tennessee, in the Main Street District, at 320 North White Street.

Source: Lauren Brown, AACA







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Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Gem Theater to Host Tennessee Songwriters Week Qualifying Round on January 31



The historic Gem Theater will once again take center stage as it hosts a Tennessee Songwriters Week Qualifying Round on Saturday, January 31, 2026. Local and regional songwriters will compete for the chance to advance to the next level of this statewide celebration of music and storytelling.

Winners from the Etowah qualifying round will move on to the Tennessee Songwriters Week Showcase at the Barrelhouse Ballroom in Chattanooga in February. From there, one standout songwriter from each showcase will earn a coveted spot in the private finale at the world-famous Bluebird Cafe in Nashville in March.

Tennessee Songwriters Week is an annual statewide celebration honoring the songwriters and creative voices that shaped Tennessee's rich musical heritage. The mis-

sion of Tennessee Songwriters Week is to support local music venues, provide meaningful performance opportunities for songwriters, and inspire travelers to explore Tennessee's vibrant music culture.

"Etowah is proud to be part of this statewide tradition," said Adrian Lambert, Director of the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association. "The Gem Theater is the perfect setting to highlight the incredible talent in our region, and we're excited to cheer on our songwriters as they take the stage."

Songwriters interested in participating can register online at <u>tennesseeoverhill.com</u> or call (423) 263-7232 for more information. More details on event schedule and tickets will be available soon.

















100 Decatur Pike, Athens (423) 745-4704

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens Community Theater Announces Auditions for *Proof*



Athens Community Theatre (ACT) is excited to announce auditions for the Tony Award winning play, *Proof*, by David Auburn, directed by Autumn N. Lowry, Sunday and Monday, January 11 & 12 at 6:00 PM at The Arts Center. Show dates for *Proof* are March 26 - 29, 2026.

Director Autumn N. Lowry needs four experienced actors ages 18 and older for this play. One notable role is Catherine, a woman approaching her 25th birthday. Any actor auditioning for this role will need to be able to play a 25 year old woman and feel confident they can memorize a lot of lines.

All actors auditioning should note that with a cast this small, everyone will get a lot of stage time and have a lot of lines!

Auditionees should come prepared to read from the script and be able to take simple direction. Anyone who wants to help with the production in any capacity should attend auditions. Everyone interested in being a part of the show will need to bring work, school, and family schedules for January 13 - March 30, 2026.

In Proof, we meet Catherine, a troubled young woman on the eve of her twenty-fifth birthday, who has spent years caring for her brilliant and famous but unstable father. Over the long weekend that follows his death, a burgeoning romance and the discovery of a mysterious notebook draw Catherine into the most difficult problem of all: How much of her father's madness—or genius—will she inherit?

Athens Community Theatre Mainstage Series includes multigenerational productions, dramatic classics, and celebrated musicals, in our Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater. Prices for ACT tickets range from \$15 to \$25. Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets early, as ACT shows tend to sell out on, or before, show dates.













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Athens, Tennessee

Current Classes Open for Registration at the Arts Center

Athens Area Council for the Arts is pleased to announce registration for a variety of art classes. Participants should register three days before class starts unless otherwise indicated.

Intermediate Pottery Wheel with Patricia Shook is open to ages 16 and older. This class is appropriate for those who have completed one beginner pottery class with this instructor. The class meets Mondays, January 12 to February 23, 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Learn to make lidded containers, vases, and other more advanced elegant forms. Students will use dipping glazes to finish their pottery, and receive instruction about decorative ways to enhance pottery. This six-week class is \$225 and all materials are included.

Live Drawing Studio is open to ages 16 and older. While the session is open to all experience levels, please note that there will be no instruction. Sessions are offered the second Wednesday of each month, with the next session on Wednesday, January 14, 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Participants can practice gesture and live drawing portraiture. Be advised that all of our live drawing sessions will include clothed models. Each Live Drawing session is free to participate, but cash contribution to the model is appreciated. Drawing materials are not provided, though easels and drawing boards are available for use.

Watercolor Studio with Sandy Brown is open to ages 18 and older. This class is appropriate for intermediate to advanced watercolorists. The class meets two Thursdays, January 15 and 22, 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Students explore and develop their painting expertise. The class emphasizes critique, compositional elements, and developing unity in a painting. Students should be prepared with supplies weekly. This two week class is \$40 and materials are not included.

Information about the instructors, as well as links to register for all classes, is available online at <u>athensartscouncil.org/classes</u>. Please note there is a transaction fee to register online; however, students may register over the phone at 423-745-8781, or in person at The Arts Center, with no transaction fee.

Past and current AACA pottery students can now sign up for pottery studio hours for \$20 a month! Students must sign up over the phone or in person during office hours.







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Athens, Tennessee

Church News and Events

- Athens Lutheran Church (710 Forrest Ave., Athens) is hosting their final Advent Midweek Service on Wednesday, December 17 at 7 pm. There will be a Pot Luck Meal at 6pm before the service.
- <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> meets every <u>Tuesday</u> at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every <u>Thursday</u> at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur.
- St. Mary's Legacy Clinic offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.

Obituaries

Mary Lillian Boyd, 59, passed away on December 10, 2025. Survivors and announcements to be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Arnold Ray "Monk" Branham, 88 of Ten Mile, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, December 10. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 2025 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Luminary United Methodist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends 12 - 2 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Branham family.

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