

## THIS WEEKEND

# ‘Ring of Fire’ shows off Cash’s music at Bangor Opera House



COURTESY OF MAGNUS STARK

“Ring of Fire” is performed at the Bangor Opera House by the Penobscot Theatre Company.

BY JUDY HARRISON  
BDN STAFF

**R**ing of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash,” Penobscot Theatre Company’s first show of its 42nd season, will satisfy fans of classic country but leave theatergoers who prefer meatier material longing for the complexity of “August: Osage County,” the Pulitzer Prize-winning play that topped off last season.

This is the third year producing artistic director Bari Newport has scheduled a piece that showcased country music to kick off the season. “Always ... Patsy Cline” in 2013 and “Honky Tonk Angels” in 2014 were successful financially — and “Ring of Fire” should be, if Sunday’s sold out performance is any indication of Cash’s appeal in Greater Bangor. “Ring of Fire,” like the two previous season openers, has a thin plot that attempts to weave nearly 40 songs into the performance. After three consecutive years, this format is getting

tiresome, the way “A Christmas Carol” does after being performed for a number of consecutive holiday seasons.

The use of dozens of photographs of Cash, his family and band members projected on three screens throughout the two-act show make “Ring of Fire” appear to be a biography, but that was not the intent of creator Richard Maltby Jr.

Maltby told Playbill in 2006, when the show premiered on Broadway, “it’s about home and family and getting together and loving somebody and having a backyard and generations living together, it’s about what holds you together in the face of a hard life, it’s about the really basic family values.”

The cast of four men and one woman does a fine job capturing that sentiment while performing the full range of songs Cash wrote and recorded over his long career. Those songs range from “Cry, Cry, Cry” to “Big River” to “I Walk the Line”

to “Folsom Prison Blues.”

Andrew Crowe, a member of the ensemble and the music director for the production, is outstanding and at times carries the show alone. He plays multiple instruments but best charms the audience with his fiddle. Crowe has appeared in “Ring of Fire” many times, according to his biography — and it shows.

Crowe and fellow Actors’ Equity performer Jeremy Sevelovitz raise the bar for local performers Ira Kramer and Gaylen Smith. While each actor honors Cash in his interpretation of the songwriter’s music, the show soars when their voices harmonize.

Ashley Marie Lewis best performs the songs Cash wrote in the 1950s, including “I Still Miss Someone” and “All Over Again.” Her performance with Sevelovitz of “Ring of Fire,” written by June Carter and Merle Kilgore, is a showstopper.

Sound problems that have marred previous musicals have been solved for this

production, most likely by sound designer Brandie Rita. The rest of the technical team, which includes director Michele Colvin, set designer Tricia Hobbs, lighting designer Scout Hough and costume designer Kevin Koski, shared a seamless vision for production that allows each number to stand on its own.

As a vehicle for Cash’s music, “Ring of Fire” is a two-dimensional presentation of a man whose artistry was far more complex. The success of the production most likely will put PTC in a secure financial position for the rest of season — albeit one that doesn’t look like it will challenge audiences the way playwright Tracy Letts’ did this past spring.

“Ring of Fire” runs through Sept. 27 at the Bangor Opera House. For information, call 942-3333 or visit [penobscottheatre.org](http://penobscottheatre.org).

**Editor’s Note:** The Bangor Daily News is sponsor of the Penobscot Theatre Company.



TERRY FARREN | BDN

Matthew Moore of Forecastle Tattoo applies a sugar skull tattoo on Sara Weeks of Bangor at his shop on State Street hill in Bangor in 2013.

## Bangor Artwalk to feature tattoo work

BY SHELBY HARTIN  
BDN STAFF

Like painters, sculptors and photographers, creating works of art is their profession. But instead of brushes or lenses, their tool of choice is a needle and their canvas is the human body.

Tattoo artists create masterpieces every day that live permanently on their clients. Their work demands they be inspired, and yet their talents as artists often are overlooked.

The Bangor Artwalk, hosted by the Downtown Bangor Arts Collaborative, will attempt to remedy that problem Friday as they feature three tattoo studios in downtown Bangor for their event.

Diversified Ink, Blind Faith Tattoo and Forecastle Tattoo will be open for visitors to view their artists’ work on Sept. 18 as part of the DBAC’s September Artwalk, which will take place from 5 to 9 p.m.

Examples of artwork will be displayed in the studios, from the beginning sketches of the process to photographs of the final product. By highlighting these studios, the DBAC hopes participants leave with a new approach to viewing the art of tattooing.

“Tattoo art is amazing, and it takes a lot of skill in order to do it,” Brian Monahan, president of the DBAC, said. “What we decided to do as a group is feature that element in this particular Artwalk. Our focus is to bring people in to celebrate those studios.”

The goal of the DBAC is to promote cultural awareness in Bangor through events such as the Bangor Artwalk. Since 2008, the free Friday night event, which takes place four times per year, has allowed participants to meet local artists and interact with their work. With nearly 30 artists featured at this event, the Bangor Artwalk celebrates the diversity of art and those who create it.

“It’s about the vibrancy of the arts scene in downtown Bangor. What better way to do that than to get into the artists’ studios, talk to them and see what they’re working on?” Monahan said.

The DBAC also aims to connect Bangor with their

creative community while challenging traditional notions associated with art.

“We want to show the diversity of the art of Bangor and help people break through that general stigma of tattoo art,” Monahan said. “The idea was to help people see it as something more than what they typically see it as. ... It’s not your grandfather’s tattoo studio, where you walk in and pick a piece off the wall.”

Some of the art by the fea-

**“What better way to do that than to get into the artists’ studios, talk to them and see what they’re working on?”**

BRIAN MONAHAN

tured studios includes detailed portraits of clients’ loved ones, meticulously crafted calligraphy and pieces infused with color and intricate design. In addition to art, the studios help the community connect with other issues. Forecastle Studio recently took part in Project Semicolon and tattooed people with a small semicolon to raise awareness about stigmas surrounding mental illness and addiction. Diversified Ink will offer 18 complimentary pink ribbon tattoos to those affected by breast cancer on Oct. 13 in honor of breast cancer awareness month.

In addition to the artists, the artwalk will feature a community mural in Pocket Park next to Central Street Farmhouse for the community to contribute to. The Kindness Project’s street piano, a refurbished piece of art itself, also will be in the same location for anyone to play.

Other featured art includes work from Deborah Jellison on display at the Rock & Art Shop on Central Street, a selection of art from various artists from around the world at Mexicali Blues and a display at COESPACE on Columbia Street. Divisi, a contemporary choral group, will perform in West Market Square and throughout downtown Bangor during the event.

Maps of the Bangor Artwalk locations can be found at participating galleries, studios and businesses.

## End Violence Together Rally to return Bangor

BY SHELBY HARTIN  
BDN STAFF

Mary Ellen Quinn and Ilze Petersons have watched history unfold throughout the years.

The Civil Rights Movement. The Vietnam War. The Iraq War. The Gay Rights Movement. The list goes on.

Each conflict, each struggle, each moment during which violence was threatened or a struggle against violence ensued brought Quinn and Petersons to believe in the need for a different kind of culture: one of nonviolence.

Quinn, a social worker and co-coordinator of Pax-

**The event is one of many being held across the country as part of Campaign Nonviolence Week**

Christi Maine, a Catholic organization that opposes any form of violence, brought the End Violence Together Rally and March to Bangor in 2014 as part of the national “Campaign Nonviolence.” The event drew almost 200 people who took a stand against violence of all kinds, whether that be war and poverty or unequal treatment and environmental destruction.

“Nonviolence can be a very effective strategy for social change,” Quinn

said. “‘Campaign Nonviolence’ is trying to broaden that concept to say that nonviolence is a way of life.”

The rally and march is set to return on Sept. 19 to Bangor’s West Market Square with the support of more than 40 organizations.

This year the rally will begin at 1 p.m. It will feature drumming, speakers, music by Voices for Peace and information tables of sponsoring groups. Children’s activities coordi-

nated by the Maine Discovery Museum will be available. The rally will be followed by a march through downtown Bangor and a concluding ceremony at West Market Square.

The event is one of many being held across the country as part of Campaign Nonviolence Week to raise awareness about the relationship between war, poverty and environmental destruction.

“The issues we’re concerned about are connected,” Petersons said. “We can start working on any one of them and know we’re part of a larger movement.”

## Girl Scouts honor Bangor Savings executive for community service

BY JULIE MURCHISON HARRIS  
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — Carol Colson of Veazie, senior vice president and director of marketing and community relations for Bangor Savings Bank, was named Girl Scouts of Maine’s 2015 Juliette Award honoree during the annual Pearls of Wisdom breakfast held Thursday at the Hilton Garden Inn.

The Juliette Award is named for Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low and honors a woman who “exhibits a heightened sense of service to community and the courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place,” according to the Girl Scouts of Maine’s description in Thursday’s program.

Girl Scouts of Maine CEO Joanne Crepeau introduced board members and others attending. WABI TV5 anchor Caitlin Burchill was emcee.

Mikayla Carr, an ambassador Girl Scout with 12 years in Scouts, a member of Girl Scouts of Maine’s

board of directors, an accomplished athlete and a student at Maine Central Institute in Pittsfield, spoke about the opportunities she has had in Scouting, including participating in national and international events, that have helped to shape her courage, confidence and character.

**The significance of the pearls dates to Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low, who sold hers in 1912 for \$8,000 to finance her Girl Scout programs.**

Colson talked about fleeing domestic violence with her mother and family at age 15 with the clothes on their backs and \$50 in their pockets, and how that kind of adversity can either bring you down or make you stronger.

Colson shared the top five lessons she learned in the process of becoming stronger: You are not insignificant; it’s OK to be flawed and perfection is an



JULIE MURCHISON HARRIS | BDN

Nancy Morse Dysart (left), a member of the Girl Scouts of Maine board of directors and the 2012 Juliette Award honoree, and former Sen. Emily Cain, the 2011 Juliette Award honoree, attended the Girl Scouts of Maine’s annual Pearls of Wisdom breakfast held recently in Bangor.

illusion; shared laughter creates powerful bonds; not everyone is going to like you; and God gives you opportunities in life to help others, which are really gifts to you.

Colson poked fun at herself for being a “self-made extrovert” who had to work at interacting with people and for being “directionally challenged,” but stressed the impor-

tance of reaching out a hand to help other people directly.

Besides giving directly to individuals, Colson has served numerous nonprofits including Eastern Maine Medical Center’s auxiliary board, Jobs for Maine Graduates, Bangor Rotary, Bangor Region Leadership Institute, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Bangor Area Homeless Shel-



JULIE MURCHISON HARRIS | BDN

Joanne Crepeau (left), CEO of Girl Scouts of Maine, presented the 2015 Juliette Award to Carol Colson, senior vice president and director of marketing and community relations at Bangor Savings Bank, during the Scouts’ annual Pearls of Wisdom breakfast held recently in Bangor.

ter, American Heart Association, March of Dimes, Bangor Y, United Way of Eastern Maine, MS Society, Eastern Maine Healthcare MS Center, My Place Teen Center and Maine New Leadership. Representatives from many of these groups attended Thursday’s event.

Colson also has received the G. Clifton Eames Leadership Award and recogni-

tion from the Maine Legislature for her volunteer efforts.

A door prize of a strand of pearls donated by Quality Jewelers was awarded to Lori Sinclair of Bangor Savings Bank. The significance of the pearls dates to Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low, who sold hers in 1912 for \$8,000 to finance her Girl Scout programs.