

Find more news from Stetson University at [Stetson Today](#).

STETSON UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stetson University Theatre Arts Remembers Life Before COVID-19 in Virtual ‘The Way Things Were’

Online production features reflections, re-enactments of occurrences prior to pandemic

DELAND, Florida, April 1, 2021 – [Stetson University Theatre Arts](#) ends its 115th season with a free, online performance entitled “The Way Things Were: A Virtual Theatrical Retrospective with First-Hand Accounts of Stetson University, DeLand and our Corner of Florida.”

The livestreamed production, directed by [Ken McCoy, PhD](#), professor of theatre arts at Stetson, is based on people and events not widely known or recognized at Stetson and in the DeLand area.

The virtual production will begin [streaming](#) on Thursday, April 15, 7:30 p.m., and can be viewed online through the remainder of the Spring 2021 semester. The run time is approximately one hour. The performance was edited and recorded by And You Films.

The production is based on interviews that were collected by members of the [West Volusia Historical Society’s Robert M. Conrad Educational and Research Center](#) and materials from Stetson’s archives, historical newspapers, letters and other remembrances of DeLand residents.

Running the gamut from poignancy to protest, the actors’ performances provide virtual audiences with cherished memories and a better understanding of the place that they call home along with providing insight on how folks can live together—whether permanently or just passing through.

“Stetson Theatre Arts doesn’t pretend to give a comprehensive history of the City of DeLand and Stetson University, or stick closely to a timeline,” said McCoy. “What we aim to do is present remembered fragments of the past and create the impression that even though the people from our past are no longer with us, their words live on.”

Cast:

Delicia Bent
Aliya Cruise
Julexis Gonzalez
Jackson Gray
Hugh Kiser
Caleb Roberts

Liza Tananbaum

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 4 on U.S. News & World Report's 2021 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 386 Best Colleges, 2021 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.

Contact: Sandra Carr

Media Relations

P: 407-256-5090

E: scarr3@stetson.edu