

## High School Plays: American Heritage kicks off fall season with 'Trail of Dreams'



15 HOURS AGO • [SHANNON SMITH - CORRESPONDENT](#)

If shorter days, frost on windshields and falling leaves were not enough to signal that fall is here, on Oct. 24 the American Heritage School kicks off the high school theater season with their production of "A Trail of Dreams."

"In seven weeks, we hold auditions, cast performers, build sets and rehearse, because we have to get done so the school can use the gym for basketball," drama teacher Johanne Perry said.

The musical, "A Trail of Dreams," was originally commissioned and performed in 1997 as part of Utah's sesquicentennial celebrations.

"This is my favorite show on the planet. It is my favorite musical ever," Perry said.

"Trail of Dreams," portrays the hardship and miracles experienced by the Mormon pioneers as they left Nauvoo, Illinois; and trekked to the Salt Lake Valley. Perry said the authors, James Arrington, Marvin Payne, and Steven Kapp Perry used first person accounts from journals and diaries of the early settlers to create the narrative.

"This show is so powerfully written because these people were real," Perry said.

"It's so appropriate for this school and community because more than half of these kids descend from the people who were portrayed in the show," she said.

Perry said one student, a direct descendant of Martha Spence Heywood, is speaking her ancestor's lines.

Linnea Miner, 16, a cast member, portrays Elsie Nielsen. "Trail of Dreams" is Miner's fourth play. She works hard keeping up with school and finding time to practice piano but said, "This is my fun."

Miner said Elsie's strength inspired by her.

"Her husband's feet freeze and he tells her to leave him. My character says, 'Zion is together.' To me it means no one gets to Zion alone," Miner said.

The American Heritage School is a private school dedicated to educating students in a LDS environment. Perry believes the arts can "educate hearts and minds and to elevate, uplift and inspire through good wholesome entertainment."

"Trail of Dreams" runs Oct. 24 to 26 at the school, 736 N. 1100 East in American Fork. The show starts at 7 p.m. and there will be a matinee on Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets for students and seniors \$5, adults \$7, family pass \$30.

In north Utah County, there are other high school productions opening as well. American Fork High School students are producing "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," Lone Peak High has "West Side Story," and Lehi High will be staging "Shrek the Musical."

## **If you go**

### **Trail of Dreams**

American Heritage School, 736 N. 1100 East, American Fork

Oct. 24 to 26, 7 p.m.; Oct. 26 matinee, 2 p.m.

### **Production Musical Plays**

Pleasant Grove High School, 200 S. 700 East.

Nov. 11 to 16, 7 p.m.

### **Musical Theater Production**

Rockwell Charter High School, 3435 N. Stonebridge Ln, Eagle Mountain

Nov. 4 to 9, no additional information found

### **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers**

American Fork High School, 510 N. Caveman Blvd.

Nov. 14 to 19, American Fork

### **West Side Story**

Lone Peak High School, 10189 N. 4800 West, Highland

Nov. 18 to 26, begins at 7 p.m.; Nov. 23 matinee at 1 p.m.

### **Shrek the Musical**

Lehi High School, 180 N. 500 East

Nov. 20 to 26, 7 p.m. Nov. 23, 2 p.m. matinee