

Main Street Players

presents

THE
GAME'S
AFOOT
OR
HOLMES FOR
THE HOLIDAYS

by Ken Ludwig

November 13-24, 2024

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A Message from the Director

Who is Sherlock Holmes?

Sherlock Holmes is a fictional character detective created by British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Referring to himself as a “consulting detective,” Holmes is known for his proficiency with observation, deduction, forensic science, and logical reasoning that borders on fantastic, which he employs when investigating cases for a wide variety of clients, including Scotland Yard.

The character first appeared in 1887. Over the course of his career, Conan Doyle featured Holmes in 56 stories, and 4 novels. Holmes' continued popularity led to much reimagining's of the character and adaptations over the years. *Guinness World Records* awarded Sherlock Holmes the title for “most portrayed literary human character in film and TV” in 2012.

What does The Game's Afoot mean?

William Shakespeare is not only known for his timeless dramas, but he is also equally famous for his use of language. Shakespeare coined, hundreds of words and phrases we use today, including “the game's afoot.” The saying first appeared in King Henry IV, Part 2, written in 1597. It gained popularity in the early 1900s with the widespread popularity of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous character, Sherlock Holmes. And it did not truly make its way into everyday language until the detective television series aired in the mid-1950s. But what does it mean?

In a figurative sense, it means that something is beginning, something has started, or a challenge has begun. It is used to imply that something is starting to get exciting and interesting. In a literal sense, game refers to wild game, or animals you hunt. The phrase could be used to mean the hunt is on the move, or the animals are moving.

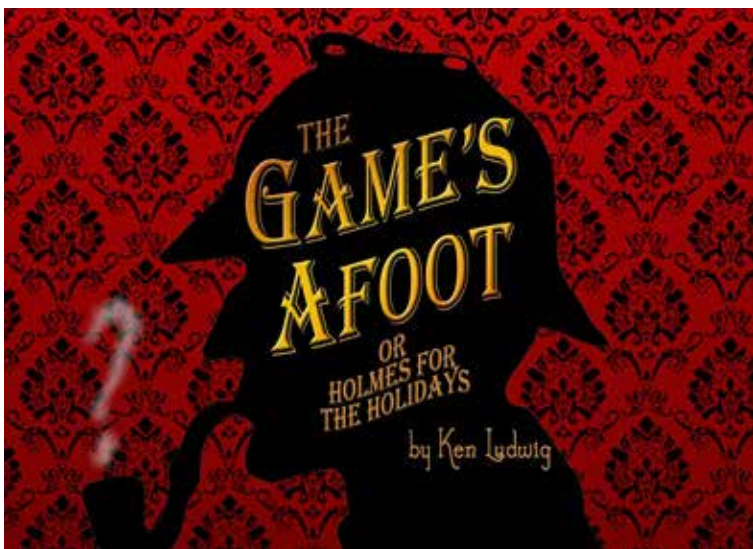
Is this a Christmas Play?

There are debates about what makes a Christmas movie or play. Some contend that Diehard is a Christmas movie, but It's A wonderful Life is not because Christmas is more central to the plot of the former, while the holiday makes only a cameo appearance at the end of the latter.

Using that logic, The Games Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays may not be a Christmas play. But there is a Christmas tree, decorations, and music. Salutations of “Merry Christmas” and presents. And this frothy fair is befitting of a very lighthearted, holiday celebration. Besides, associating this play with the holidays does allow for that particularly lame pun in the subtitle. So, who am I to quibble?

BJ Hughes

Director and Resident Scenic Designer



Director	BJ Hughes
Stage Manager	Keith Potter
Scenic Designer	BJ Hughes
Master Carpenter.....	Frank Dansby
Costume Design	Norma Richardson
Choreographer	Elise Wright
Lighting Design and Technician.....	Nate Barnes
Sound Design and Technician	Scott Wellborn
Production Assistants	Janice Aiken and Karen Stanford
Set Construction	Bridget Burpee, Frank Dansby, Sue Gilpin,Bobby Jean Hannon, BJ Hughes, Dan Jennings, Alan Manno, Keith Potter
Publicity	Norma Richardson and Marian Sorensen
Box Office	Shirley Beall and Phyllis Waldrep

SETTING

A wharf in Connecticut

The living room of the mansion of William Gillette on
the Connecticut River near East Hadden, Connecticut

TIME

December 1936

Act I

15-Minute Intermission

Act II

The Players *(In order of Appearance)*

William Gillette..... Steve Martin
Martha GilletteKaren Beyer
Felix Geisel.....Christopher Gansel
Madge Geisel Heather Shepherd
Simon Bright.....Will Pitts
Aggie Wheeler Elise Wright
Inspector Goring.....Carla Cloud
Daria Chase..... Jill Shedd



Shattered Vision
Operators Grant
Program



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Griffin DAILY NEWS



The Players



KAREN BEYER (Martha Gillette) played the role of “Mother” in MSP’s production of *Barefoot in the Park* and is delighted to return! She has worked in theatre for 40+ years; onstage at The Alliance Theatre, ART Station, Theatrical Outfit, Stage Door and Peachtree Playhouse as well as theatres in N.J. and N.Y. Offstage, she has directed and choreographed 50+ theatrical productions in GA. Some of her extensive credits in film and television include *Poms*, *The Resident*, *Queen Sugar*, *Acrimony*, *Naomi*, *Watchmen*, *Army Wives* and *Sleepy*

Hollow. Karen’s early dance career included study/performance with multiple East Coast ballet companies and competition in ballroom and disco. She and her husband, Bob, live in Sun City, where she is an assistant Tai Chi instructor and creates “Diamond Art by Karen.” Many thanks to BJ and the MSP family for another terrific opportunity!



CARLA CLOUD (Inspector Goring) just finished playing Grace in our season opener, *Grace and Glorie*. Other roles at MSP include M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, Marjorie Baverstock in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, Alice Bordin in *The Tin Woman* and Marlafaye Mosley in the *The Savannah Sipping Society*. Originally from the Atlanta area, she has spent most of her adult life just over the state line in South Carolina, but has been back in this area since 2019. Having appeared on many different stages over the last 40+ years,

her two most favorite roles are Hilda in *Hilda’s Yard* and Alice in *The Tin Woman*. In addition to theater, Carla has experience in all areas of media including film, TV, and VO. She was the lead female in the faith-based film, “Waiting for Butterflies” and most recently played a supporting role in the upcoming movie, “Signs of Your Heart.” She’s also taught children’s theater and modeling. Currently she’s the founder and Managing Director of A Gentle Witness, a non-profit outlet for the writing and performing of monologues of biblical women. She firmly believes that God has a special plan for each individual and feels blessed that hers includes using her talents here at Main Street Players. She SO appreciates the love and support she receives from her husband, Vince.



CHRISTOPHER GANSEL (Felix Geisel) appeared last season as Leo Clark in *Leading Ladies* and Matthew/Jesus in *Cotton Patch Gospel*. Other roles at MSP include Ken de la Maize in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Vanya in *Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike*, the Man in *Now and Then*, Kris Kringle in *Another Night Before Christmas*, Watson in *Holmes and Watson* and C.C. Showers in *The Diviners*. Griffin audiences may also remember him as Gomez in Griffin Ballet Theatre’s production of *The Addams Family*. Other

favorite roles include Robert Kincaid in *The Bridges of Madison County*, Edward Bloom in *Big Fish*, Peter in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and both Freddy and Lawrence in different productions of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Chris is a

two-time MAT Award nominee for his work as George Milton in *Of Mice and Men* and Dan Goodman in *Next to Normal*. He thanks the MSP family for making him one of their own.



STEVE MARTIN (William Gillette) has been part of MSP for many seasons. Audiences will remember him as Hector Nations in *Foxfire*, Dr. Evans/Dr. Watson in *Holmes & Watson*, Atticus Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Scrooge in *Christmas Carol*, the Agent/Sheriff in *Trip to Bountiful*, Jake Laurents/George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life - A Live Radio Play*, and Norman Thayer in *On Golden Pond*. He was born in Ohio and has lived in North and South Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia. Other stage experience includes Sir Toby Belch in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Film credits include an appearance as a featured extra in Tyler Perry's *Daddy's Little Girls* and the role of Swamp Robber in the children's DVD *The Swamp Robber* which premiered at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. He is married with three grown daughters and their families. He thanks the Lord for the privilege of working with a great group of people to bring this play to life for people to enjoy.



WILL PITTS (Simon Bright) played Paul Bratter in *Barefoot in the Park* and Butch Meyers in *Leading Ladies* last season. He graduated from Gordon State College with an associate's degree in Theater Arts. He has had many lead roles throughout his career including Jesus (*Cotton Patch Gospel*), Trinculo (*The Tempest*), The Ghost of Christmas Present (*A Christmas Carol*), and Vlad Popov (*Anastasia*). Lisa Cesnik Ferguson, Patrick Horne, and Lori Bush provided his theater training. Will has won awards for his acting, singing, and pianist work. Some awards include first place at regional literary for Duo-Interpretation, second place at regional literary for Male Quartet, and 6 years of superior ratings from the National Federation of Music Clubs. He is also in a small-town local band called MOD 20. Will is extremely grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank his family, friends, cast, and Jesus for all they have done!



JILL SHEDD (Daria Chase) appeared as Meg Snider in *Leading Ladies* last season. Other roles at Main Street include Bernice Roth in the *Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* and Masha, in *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike*. Favorite roles with other companies include the Ice Queen, Jadis, from *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*; Muriel, from *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*; Sylvia from *The Women*; and Rona Lisa Peretti from *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. But most significantly, she was able to perform as Francesca from *Bridges of Madison County* just as stages everywhere went black for the pandemic. She thanks the good Lord for talents and gifts, but more importantly, for an understanding husband who enjoys the performing arts.



HEATHER SHEPHERD (Madge Geisel) musically directed and played multiple roles in *Cotton Patch Gospel* last season. She is so glad to be on stage again here with her MSP family. This is her ninth show with Main Street- she sends her love to the whole cast and crew- they have been amazing to work with! Her last show with The Henry Players was *Next to Normal* which earned her a MAT award. She sends a huge thank you and love to BJ, Marian, and Norma for every opportunity to be a part of their family here. Shout out to her

bestie, friends and family, and the best bandmates ever. Greatest love and ultimate shoutout to her husband Paul, their children, and grands.



ELISE WRIGHT (Aggie Wheeler) is a Main Street Players regular. She just played Gloria in our season opener of *Grace and Glorie*. Last year she appeared as Corie Bratter in *Barefoot in the Park*, choreographed the show stopping number in *Leading Ladies*, played Beverly Nowak in *Miracle on South Division Street* and Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*. Previous roles at MSP include Helsa Wensel in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, Holly Burrell in *Foxfire*, Karol in *Another Night Before Christmas*, and Abby in *Now and*

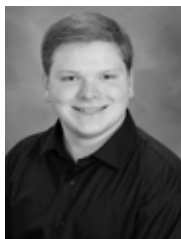
Then. Elise graduated from Lees-McRae College with a theatre arts degree and is currently working on her master's degree in arts administration at the University of Oklahoma. She is also grateful for everyone coming to support the arts!

Artistic Staff and Crew



JANICE AIKEN (Production Assistant) has helped behind the scenes on many MSP productions. Onstage performances include *War of the Worlds: The Panic Broadcast*, *A Trip to Bountiful*, *Inherit the Wind* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She was recognized by the GAAA Heart for the Arts as Main Street Player's Most Valuable Volunteer for the 2016-2017 season. Janice serves on our board and

has been volunteering for Main Street Players since the fall of 2012. She has been invaluable to our organization and has worked the Box Office, sold concessions, ushered, trained others to usher, answered the phones, helped clean the theatre prior to openings, worked set construction, repaired props and is an integral part of our Theater for Young Audiences program.



NATE BARNES (Lighting Designer/Lighting Technician) has been the Griffin Spalding County School System's Auditorium manager for the past eleven years. During this time, he has worked in both audio and lighting. Nate has experience in lighting and audio for several theatrical, ballet, and concert organizations. Nate also volunteers on the audio and visual team at Oak Hill Baptist. He is honored to work with MSP again and for the opportunities he has been given.



FRANK DANSBY (Master Carpenter) was Main Street's most valuable volunteer for the 2018-2019 season. He and his wife, Martha, are lifelong supporters of the arts and in particular theatre. They are active members at St. John Lutheran Church. Seven years ago, Frank joined Resident Scenic Designer BJ Hughes backstage at Main Street Players as a volunteer and quickly became a tremendous asset to the production team. Three years ago, he was added as Master Carpenter. Frank has worked on all productions since December 2017 for Main Street. With

his background as an airplane mechanic and owner of a small home repair business (Frank's Fix It Factory) plus his vast knowledge of DIY (do it yourself), he quickly noticed the construction techniques specific to theatre. With his construction and carpentry skills, he has allowed BJ to expand his vision of what our productions can look like, resulting in even more professional looking sets and scenery. Thank you, Frank, for being part of the Main Street family!!



BJ HUGHES (Resident Designer) is enjoying his fourteenth season with Main Street Players. He is even more delighted to be celebrating his 53rd anniversary in professional theatre during which he has worked as an actor, teacher, director, and designer. During his career he has produced, directed, and designed over 150 productions. BJ is originally from New Jersey. After obtaining a degree in theatre, he spent four years touring America in classical repertory before settling in Atlanta where for the next 30

years he acted, taught, and directed at the Alliance Theatre. He extends special thanks to Norma and Marian for inviting him to Griffin and providing a home with this creative theatre company.



KEITH POTTER (Stage Manager) appeared as the "out of breath delivery man" in *Barefoot in the Park* and was a musician (guitar) in *Cotton Patch Gospel* last season. This is his third season with MSP, serving as a volunteer in set construction, sound tech, stage management and stagehand work. He has been involved at MSP for the productions of *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, *Tin Woman*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Miracle on South Division Street*, *Leading Ladies* and *Driving Ms. Daisy*. Prior to this, he had been involved in theater for many years while serving in the US

Army in Korea and Germany where he participated in productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Greater Tuna*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Annie*, *Cyrano De Bergerac*, and *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. He loves collaborating with the staff and actors at MSP and is blessed to be able to take part in the magic that is The Main Street Players. He looks forward to a long adventure with MSP.



KAREN STANFORD (Production Assistant) has proved to be a versatile asset both on and off the stage to MSP. She was last seen as Luella Bennett in *The Diviners*. Other productions at MSP include multiple roles in *War of the Worlds: The Panic Broadcast*, *Charlotte's Web* as the Goose and Mrs. Dunlap in *Inherit the Wind*. She was honored as Main Street's Volunteer of the Year for the

2015-2016 season as she logged in over 150 hours of her time with set

construction. As a young lady, Karen was an avid participant in her high school's Thespian Club, as well as, performing in *Swingin' High* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*. She would also like to give a special thanks to her two children for their love and support.



NORMA RICHARDSON (Director/Artistic Director/ Costume Design) has been involved with theatre for most of her life and has appeared on several Atlanta stages, among others. As a director her credits include: *Cotton Patch Gospel*, *Miracle on South Division Street*, *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, *Another Night Before Christmas*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Honky Tonk Highway*, *Nunset Boulevard*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Titanic, the Musical*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*

(and *Then Some!*) in 2015 and 2019, *Mama Won't Fly*, and *Our Town*. On stage performances include *Foxfire*, *Now and Then*, *The Wild Women of Winedale*, *Fireflies*, *The Lion in Winter*, *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*, *Southern Comforts*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Love Letters*, *The Little Foxes*, *The Guys*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Grace & Glorie* (2 times), and *Same Time Next Year*. Her career in television began with Turner Broadcasting/CNN. After leaving Turner, she was an Executive Vice President with Primerica and General Manager for their corporate television production department for over 20 years. She is a native of Griffin, Georgia and is the Founding Artistic Director of Main Street Players.



MARIAN SORENSEN (Associate Artistic Director) began her journey in theatre 54 years ago in a summer stock production of *Man of La Mancha*. She received a minor in Speech and Drama from LaGrange College but received most of her theatrical training at the Alliance Theatre School at the Woodruff Arts Center. While there, she was contracted as a teacher (her other passion) for both their youth and adult programs. She served as the Assistant Director of the School from 1981-1986. Marian has performed and/or directed on the stages at The Alliance

Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Open City Theatre and Theatre in the Square. For MSP she has directed *Steel Magnolias*, *The Tin Woman*, *Foxfire*, *Now and Then*, *The Lion in Winter*, *The 1940's Radio Hour*, *A Tuna Christmas*, *War of the Worlds: The Panic Broadcast*, *The Dining Room*, *Driving Miss Daisy* (2011), *Grace and Glorie*, and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. She would like to thank her husband, Neil, for his continued support.



SCOTT WELBORN (Sound Design and Technician) is making his debut with MSP, but he is no stranger to the theatre. He has worked with audio and lighting in a variety of theatrical and concert venues over the years and has found himself most comfortable behind the scenes with the technical aspects of the theatre, though there have been a few rare forays on the stage. Scott enjoys lending his talents where they are needed including volunteering on the Audio/ Visual Team at First Baptist Griffin and looks forward to whatever opportunities may come his way moving forward.



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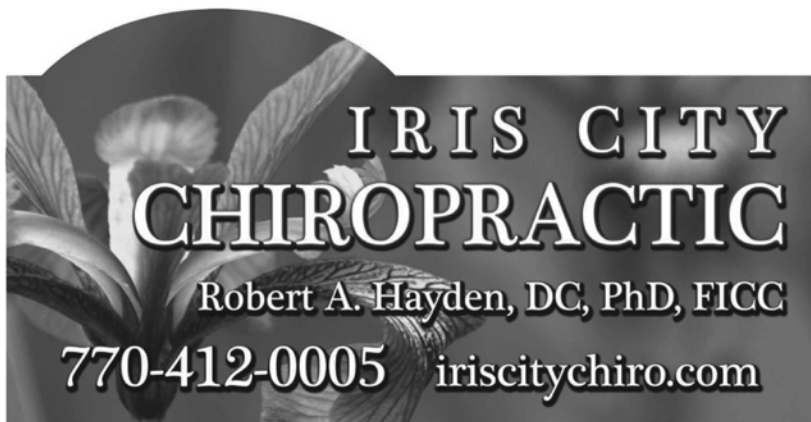
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Kate Voss & the Hot Sauce
Thursday, January 16, 2025

From Blues to Rockabilly to Western Swing: from Brenda Lee and Nancy Sinatra to Buddy Holly and Ray Charles, this trio breathes new life into timeless songs of decades past



The Hall Sisters
Thursday, February 20, 2025

"Their show features heart-wrenching ballads and instrumental, fiery folk tunes, and country classics sprinkled with pop."



Good Shot Judy
presents "The Century of Swing"
Thursday, April 3, 2025

With the swinging rhythms of the Big Band Era & Golden Age of 1930s Jazz music, their show "The Century of Swing" features standards like "Fly Me to the Moon," "Feeling Good," and more!"



Open seating only – no reserved seating

For more information call
770-228-3229

or visit www.griffinconcerts.org



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Trap

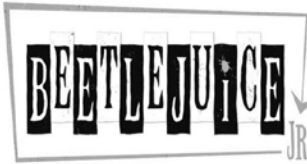
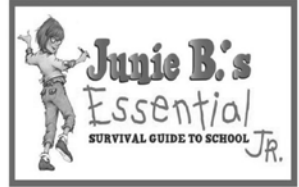
An incomprehensible event: every person in the audience of a high school play falls unconscious—all but one. Using interviews with witnesses, loved ones, first responders, and the investigators pursuing the case, a theatre ensemble brings the story of the strange event to life, documentary-style.

January 31-Feb. 02, 2025

Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School Jr.

Junie B. Jones is back! Based on the bestselling books, the saga of the wisecracking first-grader continues in Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School Jr., a goofy and heartwarming follow-up to Junie B. Jones, The Musical Jr.

April 11-13, 2025



Beetlejuice Jr.

Lydia Deetz is a strange and unusual teenager, still grieving the loss of her mother and obsessed with the whole "being dead thing." Lucky for Lydia, she and her father move to a new house haunted by a recently deceased couple and Beetlejuice, a delightful demon with a real zest for life. When Lydia calls on Beetlejuice to scare away anyone with a pulse, this double-crossing specter shows his true stripes, unleashing a (Nether)world of pandemonium.

September 26-28, 2025

www.camelottheatre.com

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Rhapsody

October 10, 2024 | 7:30 PM
Griffin First United Methodist Church



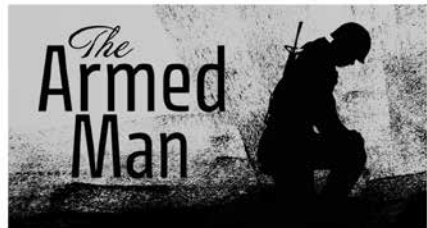
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December 10, 2024 | 7:30 PM
First Baptist Church of Griffin



May 2 & 3, 2025 | 7:30 PM
Griffin Auditorium

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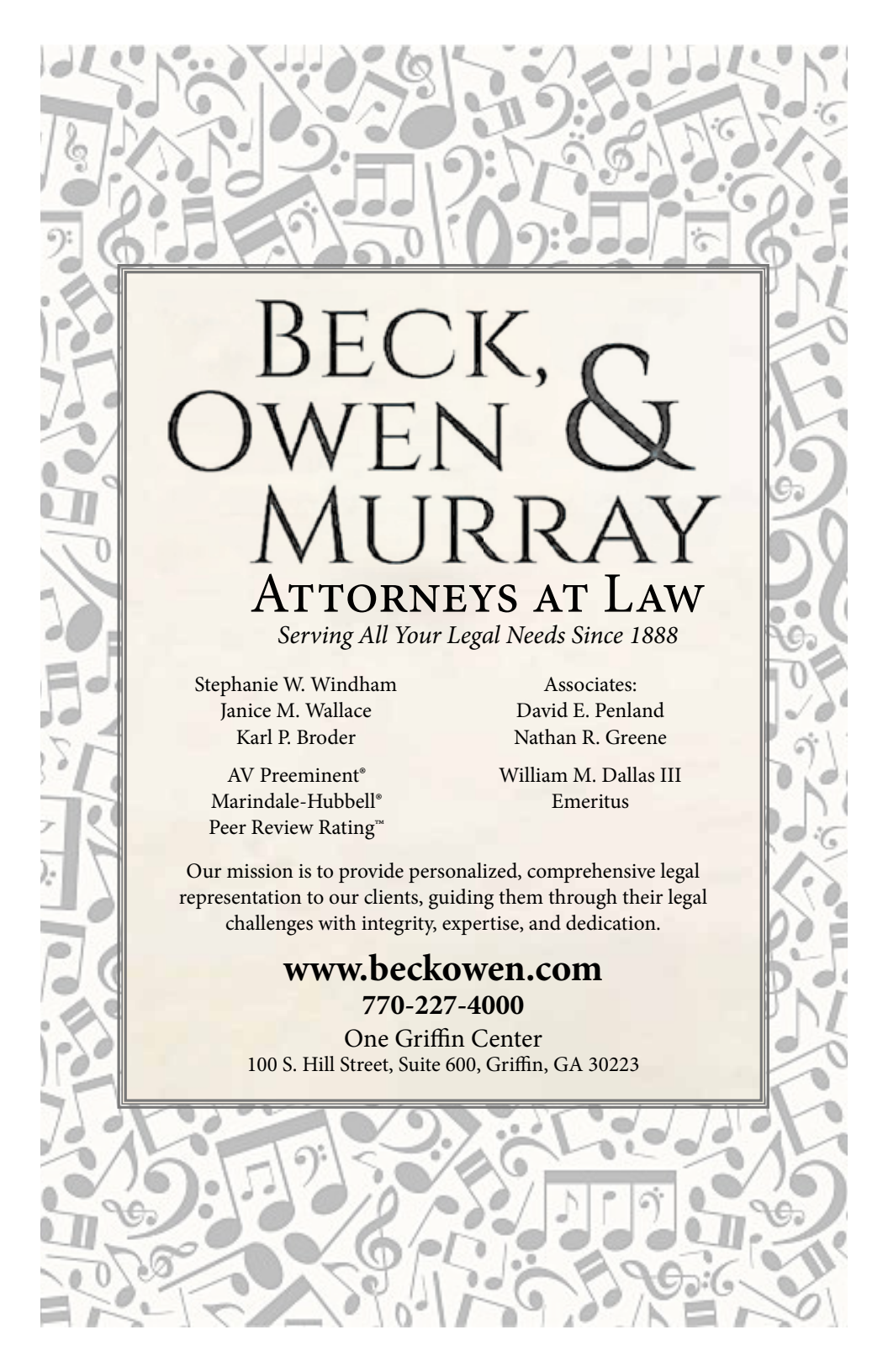
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