



Rivertime Players is a non-profit community theatre organization based in Parsons that strives to present quality dramatic and musical theatre entertainment, and create opportunities for children and adults to develop talents in theatre arts. They are caretakers of the last Toby Tent Show which began as the Henderson Stock Company in 1898.

TOBY RIDES AGAIN

*Wild West
antics abound
in century-old
tent show*

"Saddle up, podner" for a wild west ride as Rivertime Players present The Good, the Bad & the Toby, their 2015 Toby Show performed in an authentic tent theater venue.

The Good, the Bad & the Toby finds Toby working as a farmhand in Arizona under the direction of ranch foreman with rage issues, Buck Grewsome, who has designs on Molly Medford, a simple gal, who is also the apple of Jack Norton's eye, whose car broke down while traveling from Atlanta with Slate McGyver, who is also smitten with Miss Molly, who doesn't know that her life is being threatened by Pale Kildee, a half-breed Navajo gal who just so happens to have had a Navajo wedding ceremony with Buck Grewsome, who has a lackey named Rowdy Stench, who is profoundly confused. Can Toby make sense of this whole situation? Can you? Wild West



wackiness is warranted!

Shane Bridges, Artistic Director, is the playwright, director and stars in the role of Toby.

"This is an old show. It's been done a million times by different Tent Rep troupes, and rewritten and

renamed half a dozen times. In that tradition, we've rewritten it and renamed it ourselves. Will Rogers once said, 'Don't squat with your spurs on.' Now, I'm not sure what he meant by that, but it's funny...just like this show,"

said Bridges, a 2015 Toby Hall of Fame inductee.

Toby shows were part of an American folk-theatre art form of touring tent dramas.

Beginning in the late eighteen hundreds, by 1929 over 700 of these shows were traveling the Midwest and Southeast, according to a 1949 New York Times article. "West Tennessee was the Bisbee's Comedians' territory from 1927 until 1964. Now only one Toby Show remains and it is here in Parsons," states Mark Tubbs, Executive Director.

Make plans now to enjoy an evening of Hysterical Historical Fun. The Good, the Bad & the Toby is scheduled to run for six performances: September 25th & 26th, October 2nd, 3rd, 9th & 10th. The tent opens at 6:30 p.m. and The Good, the Bad & the Toby will begin at 7:30 p.m. each night. The 45' x 90' tent theater will be setup beside the Parsons Municipal Building at 535 Tennessee Avenue South. Admission is \$7.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 13. For more information, visit www.rivertimeplayers.org or call 731-847-6358.