



Bestest
Bedtime
Stories

(As Told by Our Grandpa)
(He's Silly)

Ed Monk

Lil' Rivertime Players present...

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Lil' Rivertime Players present summer comedy

*Bestest Bedtime Stories
(As Told by Our Grandpa)
(He's Silly) premieres
June 7-8 at The Hangar*

The Lil' Rivertime Players will present "Bestest Bedtime Stories (As Told by Our Grandpa) (He's Silly)" a comedy by Ed Monk at 6:30 p.m. June 7-8 at The Hangar in Parsons. Grandpa's a little out of practice when it comes to babysitting, but if he's ever going to get his bouncy grandkids to go to sleep, he's got to remember some bedtime stories fast. Or at least something pretty close to them. The play will touch on Hansel and Gretel, Sleeping Beauty, and Jack and Jill and the Beanstalk. Tickets are \$10

for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students (including college students with their college ID). Local kids ages 7 to 12 have been attending The Rivertime Players Summer Theater Camp at The Hangar for the last two weeks and are excited to show you what they've been working on. For the past five years, Shane Bridges and Mark Tubbs have invited kids onto the stage for an exciting theater experience. During the two weeks that they meet, memorize and rehearse, the children are



Bottom row from left, Halen Smith, Shiloh Monroe, Diamond Evans, Posey Bridges, Sarah Varnick, Bryana Fisher, Laine Rosson and Reese Crowell; top row from left, Carson Gurley, Hueston Smith, Aiden Lunsford, Sarah Lawlor, Jaycee Romines, Anna Kane Townsend, Houston Starrett, Georgia Stultz, Emalee Nance, Blair England and Andrew Lawlor

learning more than just lines and stage direction, they're also learning that they have to work together to make it all happen. Taking part in the camp is a lot of fun for the kids, but there are also benefits to performing in the theater that go beyond learning to work together as a team. Children are given an opportunity to speak and be heard in a positive and fun setting; they are using creativity and imagination, which all too often these days takes a back seat to technology. Learning and practicing their part can help strengthen memory and teach a strong work ethic; and, in addition to making new friendships, the kids get a confidence boost that comes from hard work, teamwork and the performance itself. Mark and Shane both say how

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gratifying it is to see kids go from shy and reserved to coming out of their shell and blossoming on stage. And these benefits con-

tinue after camp is over. In fact, three former camp attendees have gone on to receive theater scholarships from Bethel University. If you've never seen a show at The Hangar, the Lil' Rivertime Players production is a great choice. The ability of the kids to easily tap into their sense of play and the feeling of magic and wonder that they still have makes the entire experience joyful. After this weekend's performance, the older kids get their shot. They will be performing "The Internet is Distract...Oh Look, a Kitten!" June 14-15 at The Hangar. The kids shows are funded in part through an Arts Builds Communities grant from the Tennessee Arts commission, administered by the Jackson Arts Council.