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The Toby Show goes virtual

Cast seeks to connect with audience amidst pandemic

By Natasha Varnick

For the first time in 14 years, the Toby Show tent was not set up in Parsons this fall, as the show was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, director Shane Bridges (aka Toby T. Taylor) and other Toby show cast members created a talk show entitled "The Toby Show Show" where they caught up with one another and reminisced about their previous Toby show experiences. There are six episodes of "The Toby Show Show" to correspond with the six



Shane Bridges and Mark Tubbs record an episode of "The Toby Show Show."

nights that they usually perform the Toby Show in October. The first episode was posted on YouTube on Oct. 3, and the final episode was posted this past weekend on Oct. 17. You can catch all six episodes by going to

Shane Bridges' channel on YouTube, or you can find the link for the episodes on The Rivertime Players Facebook page.

Each of the episodes features two-three cast members along with Shane Bridges, and each

episode runs about one hour in length. Cast members featured include Mark Tubbs, Judy King, Amber Wallace, Posey Bridges, Ivan Hobbs, Elicia Spain, Adam Stanford, Jerry Evans, Hannah

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Mills, Makayla Blackstock, Bryce Kelley, Hueston Smith, Anna Kane Townsend, Hunter Jordan, Houston Starrett, Emily Keeton, David Taylor, and Dottie Hill. So for those of you who are missing the Toby Show this year, be sure to check out some of these episodes on YouTube, which also feature clips from previous Toby Shows. Director Shane Bridges stated, "We don't want our audience to forget about the Toby Show, and the Toby Show cast sure hasn't forgotten about them!"

According to Bridges, there will be another way to connect virtually with local actors and musicians



Shane Bridges interviews Dottie Hill and David Taylor, cast members of former Toby Shows.

in the near future. "The Parsons Potpourri" a local variety show, will begin airing monthly episodes on YouTube starting with a Christmas episode in December. The idea for this show was inspired by the

NPR show, The Prairie Home Companion, which some of you may remember listening to on the radio years ago. More information about "The Parsons Potpourri" will be available in the coming

weeks, both in The News Leader and on The Rivertime Players Facebook page.