



PO Box 8271 | Salem, OR 97303



**Pentacle Theatre has been there during the major events in my life.**

When Pentacle Theatre has needed you – especially during this two-year Covid upheaval – you have responded...in a big way. **But Pentacle still needs your support and financial assistance.**

I'll get back to that but first I, like you, have a Pentacle story. It's a story that brought you and me to the theater, that keeps us here, interested and invested in the future of Pentacle.

**We all have a Pentacle story and I want to share mine with you.**

Pentacle Theatre came into my world on a fluke. In 1987 (34 years ago!), I was a stay-at-home mom with a one-year-old. I was longing for color, community, freshness in my life. *I knew nothing of Pentacle.* I was dragged to it by a friend who wanted me to support her during her audition. She suggested I audition too, you know, just for the experience.

We were the same age, both blonde. *She* was the theater and literature student at Willamette University. At one point during the audition, the director asked us both to meet her on Pentacle's back deck. She asked us:

“If you're cast, will you be willing to dye your hair dark brown for the run of the show?”

I said, “Yes!” My friend said “No!” And you can guess...my bond with Pentacle was cemented. That play was *Brighton Beach Memoirs* by Neil Simon. I was hooked.

Pentacle opened a whole new world for this stay-at-home mom. I loved the community, the process of creating a show as a team, and the thrill of performing before a live audience.

One year later, I had my second child. I went to the *Biloxi Blues* audition just to show off my daughter to my Pentacle friends. Though I had no intention of doing so, at six weeks post-partum, I was asked to audition and...you guessed it. I ended up playing Daisy, the love interest of Eugene. Huge hips, breasts leaking milk, I felt very ingénue-ish! There I was with back-to-back shows with my babies in tow.

I took a long hiatus from performing when I returned to school full-time and started my career in dental hygiene and professional speaking. Except, Pentacle's pull never left. My husband, Ron, and I became season ticket holders and we continued to support the theater in a variety of ways – both as volunteers and donors.

But I knew I had to get back on that stage. So, I did! In the last few years, I've had the honor and privilege of performing some iconic roles. Roxy Hart in *Chicago*, Mayzie La Bird in *Seussical*, Violet Newstead in *9 to 5 The Musical*, and Tonya in *Mamma Mia!*



It's hard to measure the impact Pentacle has had on my life. My closest friends are the ones I have met and worked with at Pentacle Theatre. My marriage has been strengthened by the love my husband and I share and the bonds we have with this place.

**Ron and I don't belong to a church or synagogue – for us the Pentacle family are *our* people.** They are the ones who love and support us. We even hosted Ron's retirement party at the Pentacle – bringing together folks from all parts of our lives: the medical community, Salem at large, his numerous beloved patients and many long-time friends.

Finally, last year, during the height of Covid, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. For me, this meant a double mastectomy and two large surgeries. The Pentacle family was there for me and for Ron. Reaching out, loving us, supporting us.

**Money can't buy that kind of loyalty and love, that kind of community.**

***To financially support Pentacle is to support one of the best things about our city. To financially support Pentacle is to invest in goodness and creativity and community.***

Pentacle Theatre has come through its own major event during these past two years. Your love and support have literally saved it. And yet, **your assistance is still needed.** The business office is moving to new offices downtown. Coming back for the 2022 season will cost money. There are hard-working staff who keep Pentacle humming and deserve fair wages.

**I'm asking you to invest in the goodness and creativity and community that Pentacle Theatre represents.** Without being dramatic, I'm not sure where I would be without Pentacle. It has meant that much to me during some of the most important and trying times of my life.

Thank you, in advance, for making a generous year-end donation to Pentacle Theatre, this amazing place that I – and many of you – call "home."

With best wishes for a wonderful holiday season,

Kelli Swanson Jaecks

P.S. You can give securely online at [PentacleTheatre.org](https://PentacleTheatre.org).