

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

High resolution images available

Theresa Jenkins, Executive Director

Marietta Welcome Center and Visitors Bureau

tjenkins@marietta.ga.gov; 770-429-1115

The world is your stage in theatre-loving Marietta

Experience off-Broadway close to home at the newly restored Strand Theatre and Theatre in the Square in this historic and happening Georgia town

MARIETTA, GA – How far is the excitement of Broadway from Marietta? Just 900 miles and two ambitious (and historic) theatres away. Located on Marietta’s gorgeous Antebellum Square and against a dramatic mountain backdrop, the newly restored Strand Theater and the Theatre in the Square offer a stellar playbill that includes traditional and off-Broadway favorites, classic comedies and dramas, splashy musicals and holiday charmers in intimate settings. Surrounding the theatres are a slew of internationally spiced restaurants and watering holes that are perfect pre- and post- theatre gathering spots—plus museums, antique shops, boutiques and art galleries and all anchored by Glover Park. This gem sparkles as the centerpiece of the square and buzzes with activity all year long: theatre, concerts, community events, picnic suppers, shopping and more. Make reservations for great theatre; beautiful views are included in the ticket price.

Fasten your seatbelts. . .

It’s going to be a dazzling night. The newly restored and sumptuous **Strand Theatre** presents light stage productions as well as movies and classic films, film festivals, lecture series and concerts. Formerly a major motion picture house that originally opened in 1935, this Art Deco masterpiece has been trimmed with classic theatre detailing, from its khaki, black and gold lobby to its burgundy interior with curving balcony to its rooftop terrace from which Kennesaw Mountain may be seen. **The Atlanta Lyric Theatre** will bring its trademark high-stepping productions to The Strand as the sole musical theatre company in residence. For information about upcoming schedules visit, www.atlantalyrictheatre.com or www.earlsmithstrand.org.

Theatre 'As You Like It'

Housed in a former cotton warehouse, **Theatre in the Square** has been called "the most charming performing space in the Southeast" by *Southern Living Magazine*. Year-round performances are the hallmark of this award-winning theatre—as charmingly Southern as space permits in its historic brick digs in a former cotton warehouse and edged with a black wrought-iron entrance gate and a cobblestone alley. The theatre, an intimate 225-seat facility featuring Broadway-caliber production, has a highly regarded reputation for “flash and sass, glitz and grit and just plain heart tugging, aisle-rolling, mind-expanding great theatre.” For a list of their upcoming schedule, visit www.theatreinthesquare.com.

A fabulous evening in two acts

Dinner and theatre go together in Marietta like drinks and appetizers. Almost all of Marietta’s full-service restaurants offer pre-theatre dinners and there are plenty of places to gather afterward to take refreshment and talk theatre. **Shillings on the Square** delights diners with a 20 percent discount when they show their theatre tickets, along with two distinct dining atmospheres and experiences beneath and above the striped awnings of this historic circa 1900 building: A street level pub bubbles over with fun and, upstairs, the service and the scenery are elevated to white tablecloths, candles and a scenic view of the square. **Simpatico** has a cozy neighborhood bistro feel and serves an eclectic menu plating up spicy pasta and signature dishes like bacon-wrapped shrimp over saffron risotto. Tucked next door to Simpatico is **Willie Rae’s** and a menu celebrating low country cuisine (seafood gumbo, oysters on the half shell, po’ boys, jambalaya) in kick-back digs sparked up with folk art. **La Famiglia Ristorante**, whose chef-owners are from Naples and Florence in Italy, is known for good Italian food served with magnificent sauces.

“The world’s a theatre, the earth’s a stage-”

Besides dynamic theatre, Marietta offers several excellent museums on (or just off) its square: the three-gallery Marietta Museum of History; the Marietta Gone With The Wind Museum: Scarlett on the Square that contains the famous Bengaline Gown worn by Vivien Leigh as

Scarlett among its vast collection; the circa 1845 living history Root House Museum; and the Marietta/Cobb County Museum of Art with significant traveling shows and a substantial collection focusing on 19th and 20th century art. Also on the square: boutiques filled with fashions, accessories and gifts from timeless to trendy, antique shops crowded with treasures from the simple to the sublime and elegant Victorian-style bed and breakfasts blessed with gracious accommodations. Marietta's is a spirited square downtown that is nothing short of uptown—and a picturesque place for theatre.

Come play in Marietta where the curtain goes up on all the excitement of great theatre without the blinding neon lights.

*Marietta is graced with an historic town square, five National Register Historic Districts, a dramatic mountain backdrop, a beautiful Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel & Conference Center, the charming Stanley House B&B and Whitlock Inn B&B—and just enough mileage between it and Atlanta to give it the élan of a cosseted and well-heeled small town with the vibrancy of an urban environment. A pocket-sized parcel 18 miles northwest of Atlanta, this county seat of Cobb County is rich in arts and culture, Civil War history and heritage. The Marietta Trolley offers one-hour, fully-narrated tours, Thursday-Sunday, from Antebellum Square, past grand Antebellum homes, to the battlefields at Kennesaw Mountain. Purchase a Marietta Heritage Passport for savings on admission to the Marietta Museum of History, The Root House Museum and the Marietta Gone With the Wind Museum: Scarlett on the Square. For information about accommodations, theatre, shopping and dining, contact the **Marietta Welcome Center and Visitors Bureau at 1.800.835.0445 or www.mariettasquare.com.***

Media Contacts:

Theresa Jenkins, Executive Director

Marietta Welcome Center & Visitors Bureau

tjenkins@mariettaga.gov

Shelby Bodiford, PR Manager

welcomem@bellsouth.net

770-429-1115