

Press Release re: Ashland CHAUTAUQUA

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Ashland Chautauqua Postpones “In Times of War” Event

Ashland Chautauqua’s annual five--day event is being postponed. Originally scheduled for July 14-18, 2020, the event will now be held July 13-17, 2021. The theme, *In Times of War*, and the five scholars will remain the same.

As is the case for so many crowd-drawing events this summer, postponement or cancellation seems highly advisable and perhaps even inevitable. Two major factors in the decision to postpone the Chautauqua event were the need for scholars to travel to Ashland and the size of the audiences that Chautauqua typically draws. Even if physical distancing is possible at the Guy C. Myers Memorial Band Shell, this could not be accomplished if a performance needs to be moved indoors.

The entire Chautauqua event will happen in 2021 – the daytime workshops, Coffee with the Scholars, the five nights of outstanding first-person performances, entertaining opening acts, and other special activities. The characters scheduled for the *In Times of War* theme are: Ernest Hemingway portrayed by John Anderson, Gertrude Bell portrayed by Karen Vuranch, Erich Maria Remarque portrayed by George Frein, General Benjamin O. Davis portrayed by James Armstead, and Winston Churchill portrayed by Kevin Radaker.

The Ashland Chautauqua planning committee decided to postpone after consultation with planners for other Chautauqua events around the country, with the five scholars scheduled for this year, and with the primary funding sources.

Ashland Chautauqua’s mission to provide a unique blend of education and entertainment is not diminished. Faithful attenders and new audience members can expect the same high-quality programming in 2021 and beyond. In the meantime, Ashland Chautauqua will provide news and entertaining items to keep the Chautauqua spirit in the forefront of the community. Stay connected on Facebook - www.facebook.com/AshlandChautauqua. For more information, visit our website www.ashlandchautauqua.org, email info@ashlandchautauqua.org or call 419-281-4584.