



## An Inspiring Experience: WE'LL MEET AGAIN

By Coach Bruce Pearl, Auburn University

I am writing this letter to share the experience my wife, Brandy, and I had when we attended the musical, "We'll Meet Again," at the Opelika Center for the Performing Arts, and to encourage you to seize the opportunity to bring this inspiring show to your community.

Brandy and I knew very little about this world premiere when we were invited to attend. We had only heard it was about patriotism and the Holocaust; two things that mean a great deal to us.

That night, we were treated to something we really weren't expecting. We laughed and we cried. We enjoyed the music and the dancing. We were filled with great pride and happiness about the greatest country in the world that we love so dearly.

There have been times when this country has really stepped up. "We'll Meet Again" explores WWII, when America literally saved the world. This musical is based on the true-life story of Heinz "Henry" Stern, a six-year-old and his family who narrowly escaped the terrible atrocities happening with the rise of the Nazis in Germany. "We'll Meet Again" tells that story in a very sweet, historically accurate, interesting way, which you will enjoy. No doubt, it will cause you some pain and it will cause you to think, "If it happened once; it can happen again." However, there is a happy ending, because this country stepped-up – Alabama and Opelika stepped-up – and rescued this young boy and his family.

This production made a tremendous impact on me because Henry's story is also my story. My grandfather, my Papa, was able to escape to the United States when he was 11 years old, bringing his three younger siblings with him. Like much of Henry's family, the rest of Papa's family – my family – didn't make it.

The focus of this story is not all about the horrible things that happened. "We'll Meet Again" is more about the fact that this family came to America, were successful and their family lived on; as has mine.

Our young people today are not being taught enough about how good this country is; this production will make them proud to be an American.

Brandy and I were deeply affected by this production. We think it is so important for other people to see it, that following the show, we met with the playwright and the director to offer our encouragement and support to see how we could make that happen. We want as many middle and high school students as possible to see the performance during the day and as many families and adults as possible to attend in the evenings. The 1940's music and dancing, as well as the story, will inspire you.

I want you to think how "We'll Meet Again" can affect your community. I encourage you to bring this professional production to your facility, so others can laugh and cry and be moved and inspired – just like Brandy and I were.

Thank you for your consideration,

Coach Bruce Pearl, Auburn Tigers Basketball

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