

Oscar Wilde described the theatre as “the greatest of all art forms; the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.” The theatre can be a powerful force. It can change opinions—even change lives—by touching our most basic human need to connect with one another. When you attend a performance, you enter as an individual. But when you leave, you leave as a group, having been bound together by the same experience. Theatre allows us to share stories, imagine other experiences, learn from one another, to laugh, and to cry together. Theatre is a community experience.

The Board, Staff, and Volunteers of the Maplewood Barn Community Theatre believe in the transformative power of the arts to enrich lives and revitalize communities. We believe that great theatre should be a positive, transformative, and inclusive cultural experience for society as a whole. We also recognize the true value and the critical role that diversity serves in helping our theatre and community thrive.

In that vein, we are committed to nourishing a diverse, inclusive, and equitable space where everyone – patrons, artists, and volunteers alike – feels valued and respected regardless of sex, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, education, or ability. We respect and value diverse life experiences and heritages and endeavor to ensure that all voices are valued and heard.

We believe this is a continuous evolution as we strive to reflect and meet the needs of our patrons and our community. Community means so much to those of us at the Maplewood Barn. Since 1973, we have strived to create a sense of family among our volunteers, actors, directors, crew, administrators, sponsors, and our audiences at Mid-Missouri’s only Theatre Under the Stars.