

PRESS RELEASE

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STORY LEAD: TWO BUSY MOMS STAR IN OCC THEATRE PRODUCTION

In addition to juggling jobs and young children, **Elizabeth Brierley** and **Lauren J. Cooke** will soon star as the two leads in the **Ocean County College Theatre Company's** production of the beloved musical ***Always ... Patsy Cline***.

Always ... Patsy Cline is based on a true story about Cline's friendship with Houston housewife Louise Seger. After meeting in 1961, the two women struck up a friendship that lasted until Cline's untimely death in a plane crash in 1963.

Arthur Waldman, who will direct the OCC performance, praised Brierley (Patsy Cline) and Cooke (Louise Seger) in their return to the stage, and he quipped that the busy lives of the show's two stars, both of whom have two young children, remind him of one of Cline's signature songs: "Crazy"!

Besides Brierley and Cooke, the only other performers on stage in *Always ... Patsy Cline* are the members of an authentic country western band. "The audience will love them," Brierley stated. "They play nearly 30 songs, and it's a real rush to sing with such a talented group of musicians." In the production, Brierley, as Cline, sings all the songs, while Cooke, as Seger, has all the dialogue.

"Guaranteed, the audience will leave singing Patsy's songs," said Brierley. She added, "Lauren is the perfect tough-as-nails, heart-of-gold Louise. The audience will learn about the real-life, six-year friendship forged by these women as they tap their toes and sing along to the songs."

Always ... Patsy Cline will play at Manchester Township High School on **April 8** at 7:30 p.m.; **April 9, 10, 16, and 17** at 8:00 p.m.; and **April 11 and 18** at 2:00 p.m.

If you would like to interview Brierley and Cooke for a story, please email or call **732.255.0400, ext. 2043**, or email occpresrelease@ocean.edu.