



300 Country Club Road,
Wylie, Texas 75098
Collin County
www.wylietexas.gov

City of Wylie
Public Information Office

SUBMITTED STORY

Media Contact: Craig Kelly
972-516-6016
craig.kelly@wylietexas.gov

Judy Truesdell
972-516-6017
judy.truesdell@wylietexas.gov

Wylie’s Smith Library to Host ‘From Script to Stage’ Event
Playwright, Actress to Trace Steps, Read from Script

Wylie, TX, June 9, 2015 – Find out how the play “A Southern Exposure” made the journey from idea to nationwide production when Wylie’s Smith Library hosts “From Script to Stage: ‘A Southern Exposure,’” June 23 at 6:30 pm. Playwright Kelley Kingston-Strayer and actress Robin Clayton trace the writing process that took the play from inspiration to stages across the country, including its 2013 Texas premier at First Baptist Church Wylie.

Kingston-Strayer is a fifth-generation Texan, and her family inspired the characters depicted in the play. “It is the story of my aunt, Ida, who as a young woman buried a son and carried his memory like broken glass,” she said. “She was a woman who raised coupon clipping to an art form, believed not sharpening the blades of your lawn mower after every use was a sin, and theorized that the Elizabeth Taylor/Eddie Fisher/Debbie Reynolds love triangle played a hand in the breakdown of the American family.” It’s also the story of Aunt Mattie, a woman of hope and faith, and other characters inspired by the family, many of whom grew up on a dairy farm in Anna.

“A Southern Exposure” was developed and produced by the Tony Award-winning Barter Theatre in Virginia for its 2011-’12 season, and it went on to be produced across the country, including Los Angeles, Calif., and Louisville, Ken. The play won awards at the Dallas County Writers Initiative in 2002; the State of Kentucky women Who Write in 2005; Cincinnati Playwrights Initiative in 2007; and the Appalachian Festival of Plays and Playwrights in 2009.

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Clayton was a member of the cast that performed at Plano's Pfamily Arts in 2014, and she will read from the script at the Smith Library event.

The presentation is suitable for teens and up and is part of the Smith Library Adult Summer Reading Club. To be eligible to win a Nook GlowLight and other prizes, keep track of books read and programs attended until Aug. 1. Reading logs may be turned in starting June 22; every entry earns a tote bag while supplies last.

All library events are free. For more information, visit wylietexas.gov/library or call 972-516-6250.

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About Smith Library – Founded in 1970 by Rita and Truett Smith, the library serves the informational, cultural and recreational needs of the over 44,938 Wylie residents. In 2014, the library checked out over 500,000 items and hosted almost 190,000 visitors. More than 35,000 citizens have library cards, and the library offers 459 programs, attended last year by over 25,000 participants. Wylie was incorporated in 1887 and is home to an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, and an ISO-1 fire rating. One of the fastest-growing communities in the state, Wylie has had a 197-percent increase since 2000.