

Kentucky haunted legend gets retelling in new folk musical

Bowling Green writer and Russellville native Tammy Oberhausen premieres a staged reading and music performance of her folk musical, "The Girl in the Window," a retelling of the haunted legend of the Girl in the Window at Sexton House in Russellville.

Locals as well as travelers to the small town of Russellville have heard the legend explaining the white-painted cupola window at the Maple Grove Cemetery sexton's house. Long ago, the sexton's daughter was waiting for a distinguished young man to pick her up in his carriage to take her to a dance (and perhaps propose marriage). When a terrible thunderstorm blew in and her parents forbade her to go, she ran up to the

window, cursed God, and was struck by lightning, killing her and etching her image into the glass. Though the window was repeatedly painted over and even replaced, her image returns, to this day, on dark, stormy nights.

Now, the legend gets a spooky, lively, and moving retelling, from the girl's perspective. Levina has a passion for attending barn dances with her new friend, Izzy, but her parents have other ideas about how she should spend her time. Delbert, the deadly serious local undertaker, is, in their opinion, the perfect match for their daughter, who is a bit too wild and free. When tragedy strikes the family, Levina, facing her own sorrow and questions about

the beyond and communing with the spirits that reside outside her window, must choose between staying in a life that feels like death and seeing for herself what's on "the other side."

With music arrangements by Dylan May and under the music direction of Mary Beth Dowden, performers will bring the story to life in a staged reading in the Girl in the Window's own hometown.

"As a child, I saw this as just a spooky, spine-tingling

story, but as an adult I was inspired to consider the perspective of the Girl in the Window," Oberhausen says. "What if she was motivated not by a desire for marriage or by rebellion against her parents but by her own heart's desire to dance and experience the world outside her window?"

A staged reading and music performance of "The Girl in the Window" will be held at Logan County High School Performing Arts Center, 2200 Bowling

Green Rd., Russellville, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026.

Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Submitted



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