



March 21, 2025

TO: Arts & Entertainment Calendar Editor

A Classic Theatre in Association with St. Augustine Historical Society Presents:



By

Dr. Michael Gannon

My Friend Zelma: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings On Trial is an original play, written by UF Distinguished Professor of History Dr. Michael Gannon, where local history comes to trial. All performances will be presented at The Center for Spiritual Living, located at 1795 Old Moultrie Rd. **Friday April 4 at 7:30 pm, Saturday April 5 at 4:00 pm and Sunday April 6 at 7:30 pm.**

A portion of the proceeds of the April 5 matinee will benefit The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society and will be followed by a short post show discussion of the play.

Directed by Deborah Dickey, **My Friend Zelma** presents the landmark trial of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings for *Invasion of Privacy*. Rawlings was a Pulitzer-winning author who lived in rural Cross Creek, Florida as well as having a home in Crescent Beach. She wrote novels and stories focusing on rural themes, including **The Yearling** and **Cross Creek**.

In her novel, **Cross Creek**, Mrs. Rawlings mentioned her good friend Zelma Cason. Cason did not like the description given of her and sued Mrs. Rawlings for *Invasion of Privacy*. Cason and Rawlings had been close, until the publication of **Cross Creek** soured the friendship and led to a colorful courtroom battle. The trial drew nationwide attention and was a landmark case in the question of "right of privacy" in the state of Florida.

Tickets: www.aclassictheatre.org

