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**Subject:** **ON GOLDEN POND Deseret News Review for Salt Lake City**  
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## 'Pond' is stocked with lots of talent

By [Ivan M. Lincoln](#)

Deseret Morning News

*On Golden Pond*, Kingsbury Hall, University of Utah, through Sunday (581-7100); running time:130 minutes (one intermission)



Rob Levine

Shadoe Alan Brandt and Tom Bosley star in "On Golden Pond."

Many folks will probably go into "[On Golden Pond](#)" with fond memories of the Cunninghams and the Waltons — but they'll surely leave Kingsbury Hall with a new appreciation for Norman and Ethel Thayer.

Curmudgeonly Norman Thayer may be a retired English professor, but he must have fared well in chemistry as well — both Tom Bosley and Michael Learned fill the stage with their own blend of emotional chemistry.

Instead of overshadowing Ernest Thompson's richly drawn characters with "star" power, they quickly immerse the audience in the heartfelt and dramatic reality of an aging couple contemplating the possibility that this summer in their lakeside getaway home may be their last.

Lovingly directed by Leonard Foglia, who also directed the recent Broadway version, "[On Golden Pond](#)" is a welcome departure from the Broadway in Utah's string of hit musicals. This ensemble is small (just six performers), but they pack the Kingsbury Hall stage with plenty of talent.

Bosley and Learned earned a well-deserved standing ovation at the end of the show — never letting on that they'd just spent 14 hours getting here from Tulsa (via Denver), where five of their Midwest shows were canceled due to ice storms.

They were weary, but they're also troupers. Norm and Ethel admit they're at "the far edge of middle age," but Bosley and Learned both deliver strong, vibrant performances.

The rest of the cast is just as accomplished.

Kate Levy, who has performed in several regional theaters — including once at Pioneer Theatre Company — is the Thayers' divorced daughter, Chelsea. Levy gives a finely tuned performance,

especially good when she's confronting and reconnecting with her parents.

Young Shadoc Alan Brandt scores big in his portrayal of sullen Billy Ray, the son of Chelsea's fiancé. Not only does Billy acquire a love for fishing and reading, he helps Norman adapt an energetic new lease on life.

Craig Bockhorn, who's been seen in several Pioneer Theatre Company productions, adds his own touch of comic relief in the role of Charlie, the mailman. Evan Pappas has a brief, but pivotal, role as Bill Ray Sr., the Los Angeles dentist Chelsea is about to marry.

The Thayers' summer at Golden Pond — their 48th trip there — is much more than just another vacation. It's a life-changing experience for all of them.

*Sensitivity rating: A minimal amount of PG-level language and situations.*