

# PITTSBURGH PLAYHOUSE

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY



## Shirley Jones

Smithton native Shirley Jones is an Academy Award-winning actress and celebrated Broadway performer who also gained lasting fame as America's coolest mom in the iconic TV series "The Partridge Family."

Her entertainment career began in 1952, when she won a two-year scholarship at the esteemed Playhouse Theatre School, allowing her to take acting, dancing and singing classes during the day, and audition for Playhouse productions that ran in the evening.

"The Pittsburgh Playhouse is the reason I am in show business," Jones said. "It was truly a wonderful place."

In the summer of 1953, at the age of 19, Jones borrowed \$160 from her father and set off to New York City. She managed to get herself in line at a Rodgers & Hammerstein audition. She left with the only personal contract ever awarded by the legendary Broadway geniuses.

Jones won the Academy Award for Best Actress in Supporting Role for her performance in the 1960 film "Elmer Gantry," starring Burt Lancaster and directed by Richard Brooks. Over the course of her award-winning career, she has appeared in more than 40 films and 16 main stage shows. These include many of Broadway's iconic hits, such as "Carousel," "Show Boat," "South Pacific," "Oklahoma!," "The Music Man," and "The King and I."

Jones received an honorary degree from Point Park in 1991.