

For friends
of
Tupelo
Community
Theatre



Lyric

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What happens to the lives of a newly married couple when they come home after a six day honeymoon and move into a new, high rent apartment that she has chosen for them? Everything they never expected! He's a spanking new lawyer, who has just won his first case for 6 cents in damages, and she, well, she's as pretty and addled as they come. But the difficulty is, in order to enjoy the charming character of the apartment, they have to climb six wheezing flights. And the apartment is absolutely bare of furniture and the paint job came out wrong and the skylight leaks snow and there isn't room for a double bed and an outlandish gourmet who lives in a loft on the roof uses it as the only access to his padlocked premises. Got the picture? The situation is enough to break the heart and burst the lungs of any stylish young lawyer; and indeed it does. One night he flatly refuses to join his wife in a barefoot walk through the snow in the park and she kicks him out. But he

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK



**February 3, 4 and 5
at 7:30 p.m.**

comes back not for reconciliation, but because he figures that since he's paying the rent she should be the one to go.

Such is the story of Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park*, which opened on Broadway in October 1963. TCT's production of this hilarious comedy is directed by Craig Helmuth. The cast includes real life married couple Christopher and Christina Womack as Paul and Corie Bratter. Neither is new to the TCT stage and many may remember Christopher for his award winning performance in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* in 2001. Christina has

been in and worked behind the scenes on numerous shows through the years, most recently on stage in the 2002 production of *Moon Over Buffalo*. Jennifer Collins, who is featured as Corie's mother, has acted in, directed, and

taught theatre. Jennifer was featured in the 2004 production of *Bel Canto* and won awards for her acting at both MTA and SETC. Victor Velasco, the quirky upstairs neighbor is played by John Carroll, who was seen last season in *Over the River and Through the Woods* and *Big River*. The supporting cast is made up of two new faces to the Lyric stage, Shane Vaughn as the delivery man and Richmond Smith as the telephone repair man. Assistant Director for the production is Nilda Fleitas, with light design by Bob Lence.

Barefoot in the Park will be presented at the Lyric Theatre in Downtown Tupelo on February 3-5 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be reserved by calling the TCT office at 844-1935.

This production of **Barefoot in the Park**
is sponsored by

SPRINTPRINT



Notes from the President

The holidays are over but there is no rest for the weary at TCT. Tom Booth delivered his usual superb job of directing TCT's holiday show *Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular*. The sold out performances with a cast of talented and seasoned actors were a real treat for our holiday patrons.

Before the holidays were over casts were chosen for Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park*, under the direction of Craig Helmuth, and the MTA production *Life X 3*, directed by Tom Booth, to be performed in Meridian.

You asked for us to repeat the fun interactive mystery *Murder Under the Marquee* and we are

honoring your request. In March you will be able to mingle with the characters while trying to find out who, what, when, where, and why the victim had to die.

Work will also begin soon on the Gumtree musical *The Sound of Music*, our grand finale to the regular season – and the summer youth production of *Peter Pan*.

The Lyric Krewe is already busy planning the always popular Music, Monet, and Margaritas. If this event is half as much fun as last year, it will be a huge success. Katie and Jason Pannell are the capable leaders of the Krewe and I'm sure this fundraiser to help support TCT will be something you will not want to miss. Watch for details

coming soon.

As I said, there is never a dull moment at the Lyric and there are always opportunities to become involved. If being on the stage is what you enjoy, TCT can help you. If you can hammer nails or run a spotlight or paint the props or fix flowers or set up tables or sweep the floor, TCT is where you need to be. The Lyric always has many opportunities for you to get involved. And one of the best ways is to come see the productions. They are well worth your time. This is YOUR community theatre and we need your support.

See you at the Lyric!

—Polly Bailey,
President



POETRY HONORS THEATRE EXPERIENCE

The recent TCT production of *Wiley and the Hairy Man* had several cast members who were new to the TCT stage. One of the new cast members, Teresa Cooper, wrote a poem and gave it to the director, Allana Austin, as a "thank you" for her experience. Teresa works as a Legal Assistant at Mitchell, McNutt & Sams law firm. She lives in Pontotoc and is the proud mother of two sons.

The poem was shared with the TCT board. It touched us so much, we wanted to share it with all of our patrons. It is wonderful to know that our community theatre can have such a wonderful impact on people's lives. And we hope to have Teresa back on our stage soon!

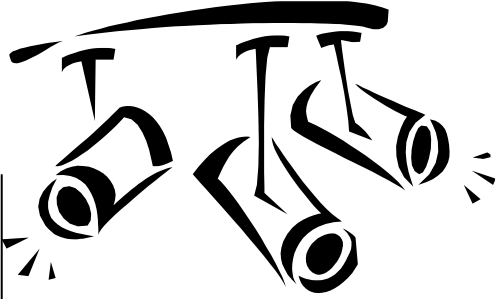
My First Theatre Play

You were my very first director
For being in a theatre play.
I'm rushed with lots of emotion today,
Not knowing exactly what to say.
I'll begin with "Thanks for the opportunity
To be a part of the Theatre Community."

It was one good experience I'll never forget;
A memory I won't let go of yet!
It is a very special feeling knowing
You're not really that boring.
Bringing smiles to so many different faces,
Trying to remember to cover all bases.
Hoping to please some people that you may meet.
To me it's been such a good treat.
So thanks again for letting me be
Part of the swamp tree!
I will never forget these past few weeks,
It's a memory I'll especially keep
Forever holding it very close to my heart,
Knowing I had an important part.
Some last words for me to say to you are:
"Thanks for the lectures, pressures, letting us have fun,
Most of all for being the director.
I enjoyed my first time in a play at
The Tupelo Community Theatre."



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PATRONS



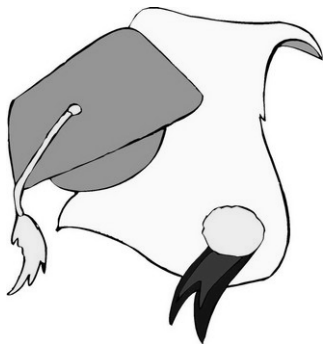
Some people are just inclined to be givers and our spotlight patrons this edition is a great example of one such family. The Brandon Nadler family of Tupelo became season ticket patrons at TCT three years ago. They moved here from Plaquemine, Louisiana in July of 2002 and Brandon is plant manager of Georgia Gulf in Aberdeen. Through Brandon's employer the family was able to double their support to TCT this year through the company's matching gift program.

Brandon enjoys playing guitar and he enjoys designing and building amps from "scratch." He plays guitar regularly with The Jam Band, who provided entertainment for TCT's spring fundraiser, *Music, Monet, and Margaritas*. Brandon and Suzanne teach 6th grade religious education at their church and she is currently serving as Lawndale Elementary School's

PTO President. They are the proud parents of two boys, Alexander 11, a 6th grader at Lawndale Elementary who has performed in Pied Piper Playhouse Productions and Andrew 14, an 8th grader at TMS. He just recently sang with the Renaissance group that caroled for the TCT board's Christmas party at the Brevard's home. Both boys are active in youth activities and serve as altar servers at their church, St. James Catholic. When asked about the move to North Mississippi Suzanne said "We love it here and hope to stay a long, long time. It's wonderful that the arts are so strongly supported in this community. Tupelo is the South's best kept secret in our opinion." Thanks to the Nadlers for being an important part of the TCT family and for all you do in our community.



Does your company have a matching gift program like Georgia Gulf? It doesn't hurt to ask...and it could greatly benefit TCT!



ATTENTION—ALL STUDENTS INTERESTED IN SCHOLARSHIPS!!

Check out TCT's website at www.tct.ms to get instructions for applying for the 3 scholarships TCT offers every year. The deadline for applications is fast approaching!

TCT PERSONNEL

TCT

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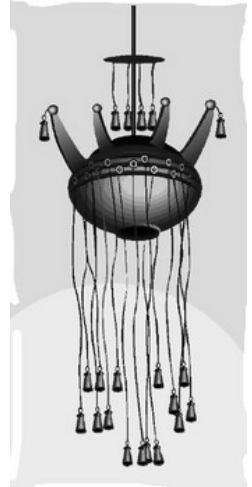
Spring Education Event

International performance and visual artist Kevin Reese will bring his delightful one-man show *A Perfect Balance* to Tupelo March 30th-April 2nd, 2005. Kevin portrays Sandy, a highly imaginative artist, who sets off in search of his masterpiece. Set in his studio, the play follows Sandy's many experiments to capture in his art what fascinates him most in the world—movement. Mr. Reese creates drawings, paintings, and sculptures on stage, some of which become characters to accompany Sandy in his struggle with the creative process. *A Perfect Balance* takes much of its inspiration from the work of American artist Alexander Calder (the inventor of the mobile). The play is a tribute to Calder's innovation—indeed, to all artists' triumphs and traumas along the road to create something new.

Kevin will present the piece to students from Tupelo and Lee County schools during the week, and will offer a community performance on Saturday, April 2nd at 11 a.m. at the Lyric Theatre. In addition to his performances, Kevin will work with members of the Boys and Girls Club Haven Acres unit to create a full-scale mobile for their community center. Kevin's wife, Mary Hall Surface, is a noted playwright and director. She will travel to Tupelo from their home in Washington, D.C. March 1st and 2nd for playwriting workshops with THS and TMS English and drama students.

High-caliber arts education experiences such as these would not be possible without the generous support of many sponsors. TCT is indebted to The Southern Arts Federation, the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, Bellsouth, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Mississippi, B&B Concrete Co., Cingular, and the Lyric Krewe for their financial support. Thanks to these sponsors, thousands of area children, teachers, and community members will be inspired, educated, and entertained.

For more information, contact Business Manager Tom Booth at 844-1935, or Education Chair Shawn Brevard at 844-9620.



TCT to Host Link Centre Lecture Series



Broadway actor Brandt Edwards will present *BROADWAY...Talent, Determination and a Lot of Luck* at the Link Centre Lecture Series, January 20th at 12:00 noon at the Link Centre on West Main (former location of Harrisburg Baptist Church). Brandt will share how he got from Byhalia, MS to the original cast of *A Chorus Line* and *42nd*

Street as well as feature dancer in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and touring companies of *Promises, Promises*, *Applause* and *See Saw* with Lucy Arnaz and Tommy Tune. Brandt will offer his opinion regarding what it takes to "make it" as a professional actor. He'll also show footage from some of his performances and a power point presentation of memorable moments from his twenty year career.

This presentation is part of the Link Centre Lecture Series sponsored by members of the Cultural Alliance of Tupelo/Lee County. TCT, as one of the founding members of CAT/LC, is happy to provide this arts luncheon for our community and hope that our patrons will take advantage of this opportunity. If you would like lunch call the TCT office at 844-1935 to order. You may select from a choice of sandwiches or a grilled chicken salad or feel free to bring your own lunch. We look forward to seeing you on January 20th at noon!

MTA Production

Tupelo Community Theatre will participate in the Mississippi Theatre Association Festival in Meridian on January 14-16, 2005 at Meridian Community College. The festival includes youth, high school and community theatres from all across the state. TCT will complete with five other community theatres for a chance to go on to the Southeastern Theatre Festival in March and the American Association of Community Theatres Festival in June.

Life X 3, a play by award winning author Yasmina Reza, will represent TCT at the festival and will performed at 11 a.m. on January 15th. Directed by Tom Booth, the cast in-

Life X 3

cludes Lisa Ganaway, Otis Tims, Chris Steiskal, and Susan Tims. Assistant Director is Allana Austin, with technical and stage assistance from Geoff Carter, Lynn Nelson, Sherrie Black, and Rob Rice. TCT won "Best Production" awards in 2001 and 2004 at MTA and was a win-

ner at the SETC festival in 2004 with *Bel Canto*.

Any theatre enthusiast is encouraged to attend the MTA festival. You'll be able to see two days of excellent theatre productions from community theatres and high schools from around the state. Tickets are available at the door. Call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 for more information.

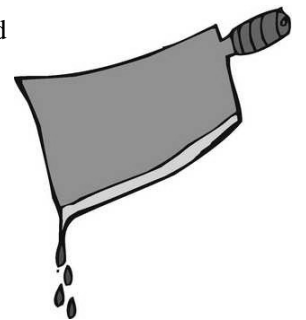
Murder under the Marquee



You asked for it and it's back! The first installment of this interactive murder mystery was so successful two years ago that

the Lyric Theatre will again be the home for another "tragic" killing. Meet and mingle with the characters during dinner and try to discover who, what, when, where, and why the victim had to die. The dates are March 10, 11, and

12 and the \$15 tickets are limited to 100 for each evening. A cash bar will be available and an entertainment package will be awarded each night to the patron who correctly answers the most questions. It's never too early to order your tickets by calling 844-1935. Put your detective's hat on and come on out for a great night of suspense TCT style.





Tupelo Community Theatre
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The Lyric

Sound of Music Auditions



Auditions for TCT's Guntree production of *The Sound of Music* are scheduled for February 13 and 14, 2005 for children and February 20 and 21, 2005 for adults at the Lyric Theatre. Sunday auditions will be at 2:00 p.m. with weekday auditions at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. There are parts for eight children/

teens ranging in ages from seven to seventeen. Only children who are in the second grade and up are eligible to audition. There are approximately fifteen speaking roles for adults. The show does not call for a full chorus but many extras will be needed for several scenes in the play. Also, there will be a nuns' chorus. Children do not need a prepared song for the audition; however, adults should prepare

a selection from the show if possible. A pianist will be provided. Performance dates are May 5, 6 & 7, 2005. *The Sound of Music* will be directed by Sonja Jenkins.

This beloved Rodgers and Hammerstein musical is part of our Patron's Choice season—many, many of you requested it. Mark your calendars now for this wonderful Guntree production. Better yet, come on down to the Lyric and audition! For more information contact the TCT office at 844-1935.

