

For friends
of
Tupelo
Community
Theatre



Lyric

Volume 15, Issue 5

April, 2005

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

For forty-six years *The Sound of Music* has filled the hearts of theatre goers around the world. On May 5, 6, and 7, 2005, Tupelo Community Theatre audiences will once again enjoy the inspiring story and glorious melodies which have made Oscar Hammerstein's and Richard Rodgers' great Broadway musical a theatrical legend.

Based loosely on the true saga of the Trapp Family Singers, who escaped the German occupation of their Austrian homeland, TCT's production of *The Sound of Music* will feature a large cast of talented individuals from around northeast Mississippi. "I am thrilled that our cast features people from Okolona, Starkville, Oxford, Booneville, Shannon, Ripley, Fulton, Mantachie, as well as Tupelo," said director Sonja Jenkins. "This is truly regional theatre at its best."

Newcomer, Angela Hunt, Director of Music at Okolona First Baptist Church will star as Maria, the governess, who changes the lives of the Von Trapp Family. An Alabama native,

**May 5, 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m.
May 7 at 2:00 p.m.**

Angela received her bachelor's degree in vocal performance from the University of North Alabama and obtained her masters from the University of Mississippi. She appeared in leading roles in several university operas.

Wayne Williams, a Tupelo attorney and TCT veteran, takes on the role of Captain Georg Von Trapp, the distant and remote captain who is transformed by the love of Maria.

Dr. Jerri Lamar Kantack, Choral Music Director at Blue Mountain College and Pontotoc native, is making her debut at TCT in the role of Mother Abbess, who sings the show-stopping "Climb Every Mountain." The other principal nuns who will be sharing their distinctive talents are Sherrie Black as Sister Berthe, Brittany Bennett as Sister Margaretta, and Jackie Hawkins as Sister Sophia.

Taking on another great character

role in a TCT production is Jim Boyd as Max Detweiler, the impresario and friend of Captain Von Trapp. Dr. Boyd, a local radiologist, has been seen in recent years in a number of musicals including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Guys & Dolls* and most notably as Daddy Warbucks in *Annie*.

Margaret Goussett is appearing as Baroness Elsa Von Schraeder and brings with her a resume of great TCT roles in other shows.

As far as the Von Trapp children, audiences will enjoy the engaging presences of seven very talented young people – Darby Kellum as Liesl; Kelly Lence as Louisa; Kyle Young as Friedrich; Austin Kinsey as Kurt; Kara Young as Brigitta; Kristy McNair as Marta, and Hannah Gunnells as Gretl. Jenkins stated that competition was fierce for these roles, "We auditioned over 100 children, all of whom were so talented. It was the most difficult casting experience I have ever encountered but I am pleased with the end result."

Rounding out the principal cast are newcomers Stephen Torrent as Franz

(Continued on page 2)

This production of **The Sound of Music**
is sponsored by



NORTH MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER



Notes from the President

Because of the tremendous response TCT received from the business community last season, we once again offered the businesses an opportunity to sponsor one of our shows or events for the 2004 – 2005 season. Once again the relationship between business and the arts continues to be strong in Tupelo. On behalf of the TCT board I would like to thank our corporate sponsors for the 2004 – 2005 season.

* Renasant Bank sponsored our opening play in the fall, *On Golden Pond*.

* Our annual school show, *Wiley and the Hairy Man*, was sponsored by AmSouth Bank.

* Cellular South sponsored our

Christmas show, *Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular*.

* *Barefoot in the Park* was sponsored by SprintPrint.

* BancorpSouth sponsored our dinner theatre *Murder Under the Marquee*.

* The local sponsors who sponsored our spring education event were B & B Concrete, BellSouth, and the Northeast MS Daily Journal.

* North Mississippi Medical Center is sponsoring the Gum Tree production of *The Sound of Music*.

* The McCarty Company will sponsor our annual summer youth theatre project, *Peter Pan*.

The business community

has always been supportive of the arts organizations in Tupelo. The Tupelo spirit continues to thrive when we all work together to promote the arts. Thank you!

Be sure to join a talented cast as *The Sound of Music*, directed by Sonja Jenkins, comes to life on the Lyric stage during the Gum Tree Festival.

We are announcing next year's season in this edition of the newsletter. Watch for season ticket brochures this summer and be sure to get your season tickets early. It promises to be a blockbuster season and you won't want to miss a single show!

See you at the Lyric!

Polly Bailey, President



RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S THE SOUND OF MUSIC

(Continued from page 1)

the Butler, Sonya Gable-Wilson as Frau Schmidt, and John Rhodes Martin as Rolf.

A highlight of this year's production is the Nuns Chorus featuring 17 women with outstanding voices. The nuns will be wearing authentic habits from the Sacred Heart Convent in Cullman, AL.

Sonja Jenkins, a TCT veteran in both acting and directing, is serving as the director for this production. Katie Pannell, who serves as Co-Chair of the Lyric Krewe, is making her debut as assistant director. Karen Sudduth, Assistant Choral Director for the Tupelo Middle School, is the Musical Director for the production.

The hills of northeast Mississippi will be alive with music on Gum Tree Weekend so please plan to attend TCT's production of *The Sound of Music* May 5, 6, and 7. You don't want to miss it! Tickets can be obtained by calling the TCT office at 662-844-1935.

Sound of Music Cast List

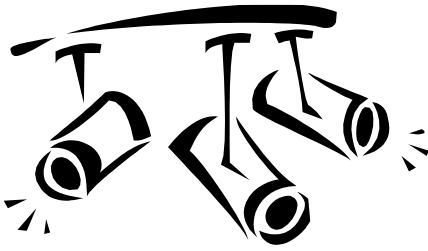
Principals

Maria Rainer—Angela Hunt
The Mother Abbess—Jeri Lamar Kantack
Sister Berthe—Sherrie Black
Sister Margareta—Brittany Bennett
Sister Sophia—Jackie Hawkins
Captain Georg von Trapp—Wayne Williams
Franz—Stephen Torrent
Frau Schmidt—Sonya Gable-Wilson
Liesl—Darby Kellum
Friedrich—Kyle Young
Louisa—Kelly Lence
Kurt—Austin Kinsey
Brigitta—Kara Young
Marta—Kristy McNair
Gretl—Hannah Gunnells
Rolf Gruber—John Martin
Elsa Schraeder—Margaret Gousset
Max Detweiler—Jim Boyd

Nuns Chorus

Danielle Adams
Alice Alexander
Rachel Alexander
Hilda Boyd
Barbara Eaton
Megan Ewing
Sonya Gable-Wilson
Michelle Henderson
Rosemary Jarrell
Marie Marquis
Suzy McGrath
Marion Rice
Claire Sonnier

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PATRONS



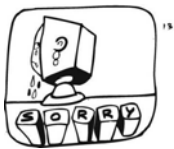
TCT has been involved in three big events in the last couple of weeks, *Murder Under the Marquee*, our spring education event with Kevin

Reese, and *Music, Monet and Margaritas*. Many dedicated individuals worked hard to bring these events to fruition, including their respective chairs, Beth Frick and Lynn Nelson, Shawn Brevard, and Katie and Jason Pannell. Thanks for a great job! The Lyric Krewe and the TCT board members devoted time and resources preparing food and manning these events.

Although our volunteers are the ones who spend endless hours planning and preparing for these productions, Tupelo Community Theatre would not be able to offer these events to our community without the corporate sponsors who put their products and dollars into these projects. This edition of "Spotlight" wants to recognize them and their generosity to the arts community in north Mississippi.

Sponsors who contributed to these three events were BancorpSouth, Rib Cage, Bar-B-Que By Jim, The West End Eatery, Bonanza, Park Heights Restaurant, Har-

vey's/Sweet Peppers, Yummy Yogurt, Reed's, Ramada Inn, Courtyard by Marriott, Downtown Tupelo Main Street Association, The Mall at Barnes Crossing, Tupelo Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Tupelo Fire Ants, The Wellness Center, Belle Áme Salon and Spa, Salon T'Lara, Magnolia Wholesale Florist, The Southern Arts Federation, Mississippi Arts Commission, Northeast MS Daily Journal, BellSouth, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Mississippi, B & B Concrete Co., Casa Monterrey, Main Street Liquor and Wine, Cash Distributing/Michelob Ultra and Tony Ford. Thanks for all you do for the arts, TCT, and north Mississippi!



WE'RE SORRY!!

In the last issue of *The Lyric* we printed a poem by a cast member of *Harry and the Wiley Man*. We gave the wrong name for the author in the article. Teresa Parker wrote this lovely tribute and we sincerely apologize for the slip of the fingers...or brain. Thanks to Teresa for sharing it with us.

TCT PERSONNEL

TCT

200 North Broadway
P.O. Box 1094
Tupelo, MS 38802
662-844-1935
E-mail address:
1tct@bellsouth.net

Visit us online at
tct.ms

Board of Directors

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TCT Theatre Camp

Hear ye, hear ye!!



Imagine it is the year 1605 and **Queen Elizabeth is having a talent search.** Actors, minstrels, and artists flock from all over to have a chance to perform before the queen. Such is the setting for TCT's Summer Theatre Camp 2005. Over the course of a week your child can be versed in all things Shakespeare. The camp will be focusing on the **art, music, dances, theatre, and daily traditions of Elizabethan England.** Specific scenes will be staged from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*

So...put **Summer Theatre Camp** July 18-22 on your schedule! Camp for **rising first graders through third graders is 8-11:30 a.m.**, and camp for **rising fourth through eighth graders is 1-4:30 p.m.**

We believe that by holding two separate camps for the different age groups, we are better able to give all campers an exciting, fun-filled week of theatre arts experience.

A performance by the morning group will be at 12:00 noon on Friday and afternoon campers will perform at 5:00 p.m., and both will be free and open to the public.

We are pleased to introduce our instructors for this year's camp: Camp director and drama leadership comes from Tupelo High School drama instructor **Allana Austin**, with visual art direction by Shannon High School art instructor **Debbie Pickens**, with **Karen Sudduth**, returning as music director.

Deadline is June 10th. Cost is \$100
Make check payable to TCT and mail to
TCT, P. O. Box 1094, Tupelo, MS 38802.
For more information call the TCT office at 662-844-1935
or visit our web site at www.tct.ms

TCT Theatre Camp
July 18-July 22, 2005

Camper's Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip Code _____

M _____ F _____ Grade Next Fall _____

Parent or Guardian Name _____

Day Phone _____ T-Shirt Size (Adult S, M, L or XL) _____

Health related or other concerns regarding camper:



We need more people to help us! Would you like to be a part of your community theatre but just don't know how? We have an ongoing need for all aspects of set construction and prop/costume design and creation. If you would like to participate, but just don't know how we want to make it easy to be a production volunteer at TCT!

We will host our first volunteer orientation on May 21st from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Lyric. This will be a brief overview and walking tour of the theatre, telling you of different ways you can contribute volunteer time and energy. Representatives from the Lyric Krewe will also be present to talk about our internal support organization/guild. We plan

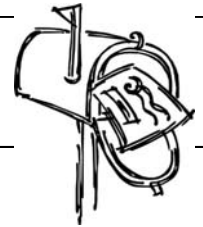
**No
Experience
Necessary!**

for this to be a regular, quarterly offering for a period of time to recruit the talent we know exists in our patron base.

For those who want a more "physical" challenge, watch for our hands-on set construction summer workshops open to ALL levels of experience and building skill.

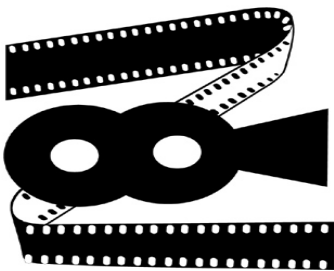
If you or anyone you know is interested in attending our first volunteer orientation on May 21st at 10:00 a.m. or are interested in learning more about our future set construction workshop, please contact the TCT office at 844-1935 during regular business hours. Pre-registration for this session is encouraged.

SEASON TICKET BROCHURES COMING SOON!



Watch your mailbox this summer...season ticket brochures will be coming in July. TCT is excited to announce our 2005-2006 season. Definite dates have not been set, so we're just going to let you know what's coming up to whet your appetite. It's a season we feel will be sure to entertain and engage you! As always, we'll offer several different ticket packages to best suit your needs. Our offerings will include:

- Plaza Suite*—this delightful Neil Simon comedy will be presented in the early fall
- Crow & Weasel*—a Native American coming of age story will be offered for the Fall Education play
- Greater Tuna*—our November offering in which two men play all the hilarious characters in this play set in Tuna, Texas
- Streakin'*—our annual Dinner Theatre will feature this 1970's rock and roll musical that has some surprises!
- Death of a Salesman*—this classic Arthur Miller drama will take the stage in early spring of 2006
- 42nd Street*—put on your "dancin' feet" and come on down to the Gum Tree musical in May
- Beauty and the Beast*—this classic Disney musical will delight the entire family for Summer Youth Theatre



Lyric Hosts 2nd Annual Tupelo Film Festival

The 2nd Annual Tupelo Film Festival will be held May 12-14, 2005 at the Lyric Theatre in Downtown Tupelo. The festival will kick off on Thursday the 12th at 8 p.m. with *Bluegrass Journey*, a free outside screening on the Lee County Courthouse Lawn. This film follows the history of bluegrass music with beautiful photography and outstanding music. It has been nominated for a Jammy Award as DVD of the year.

The festival will showcase over 25 independent films throughout the weekend with approximately 14 states represented. On Friday the 13th, films will begin at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday the 14th they will begin at 10:00 a.m. Further logistics for festival activities are being finalized and will be announced soon. To get more information about the film line-up please visit the Film Festival website at www.tupelo.net/filmfest. Ticket information is available from the TCT office by calling 662-844-1935.



Tupelo Community Theatre

P.O. Box 1094
Tupelo, MS 38802

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Mississippi Arts Commission



The Lyric

Peter Pan Auditions

Calling all fairies, pirates,
Lost Boys, and even
crocodiles!!!

Auditions for TCT's Summer Youth Theatre's *Peter Pan* will be held on Sunday, May 8 at 2:00 p.m. and Monday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. Production dates for the musical are June 23-25. There are various roles to be cast for rising 3rd graders through graduating 12th graders. All those auditioning will be required to sing "My Country



Tis of Thee" (or a similar song everyone knows) and read a scene from the script.

This perennial family favorite is adapted from the movie and has all the familiar songs like "I'll Never Grow Up" and "I'm Flying." Mark your calendars now for the June 23-25 production dates. You don't want to miss it!

If you have any questions contact the TCT office at 844-1935 or Director Allana Austin at 840-5351.