

Volume 16, Issue 1

August, 2005

# *Always...Patsy Cline*

The “don’t miss” opening event of the 2005-2006 season will have you stomping your feet and humming long after the show is over! TCT brings you *Always...Patsy Cline*, one of the most produced musicals in the United States. The show is more than a tribute to the legendary country singer who died tragically in a plane crash at age 30. It is a musical comedy based on a true story about Patsy Cline’s friendship with a devoted fan from Houston, Texas, the feisty and funny Louise Seger. The two women met by chance at a Houston honky tonk in 1961, and continued correspondence until Cline’s death in 1963. The show’s title was inspired by Patsy’s letters to Louise, which were consistently signed “Love Always...Patsy Cline.” It was written by Ted Swindley, author of *Honky Tonk Angels* and *Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular*, which were both produced by TCT last year.

Featured as Patsy Cline is veteran TCT actress and performer, Renee Baldwin. Renee’s TCT credits

**September 15, 16 & 17  
at 7:30 p.m.  
September 17 at 2:00 p.m.**

include leading roles in *Anything Goes*, *Moon Over Buffalo* and *A Few Good Men*. She has directed two summer youth productions—*Peter Pan* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Renee is on the Board of the Tupelo Community Theatre.

Suzanne Oakley will portray Patsy’s number one fan, Louise Seger. Suzanne is fondly remembered for her role as Angela Bodine in *Honky Tonk Angels* and *Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular*. She was also in *Big River* and was choreographer for TCT’s summer youth production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Suzanne is a member of the Lyric Krewe.

*Always...Patsy Cline* is directed by Debra Ellis. Debra has been musical director for numerous TCT productions including *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Tapestry*, *Once Upon a Mattress* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Serving as assistant director for the show is Ralph Price. Ralph was musical director for *Honky Tonk Angels* and *Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular* and has had roles in *Oklahoma!*, *All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* and *Big River*.

This musical is complete with down home country humor, true emotion and even some audience participation, and includes many of Patsy’s unforgettable hits such as “Crazy,” “I Fall to Pieces,” “Sweet Dreams” and “Walking After Midnight”—as well as other country music and gospel favorites. Close your eyes and imagine you are at the Grand Ole Opry in its prime as we bring you the legend and music of Patsy Cline.

Sponsored by Renasant Bank, *Always...Patsy Cline* will be presented September 15, 16 and 17 at 7:30 each evening, with a Saturday matinee at 2:00. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$6 for students. Call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 to reserve your seat today!

This production of *Always...Patsy Cline*

is sponsored by





## Notes from the President

It's going to be a great season at TCT and I am excited to be a part of it. I am honored to be serving as the new President of the board of directors. Many thanks go to Polly Bailey who served as President for the past three years. Under Polly's leadership TCT thrived. I hope to continue with the high standards that Polly set during her tenure. Thanks also to Shawn Brevard and Joanne Brown who retired from our board of directors. Their years of service are greatly appreciated. We are happy to welcome Danny McKenzie and David Hutson as our newest board members. I look forward to working

closely with our entire board. The board of directors at TCT is a hard working organization that strives to bring our patrons the best that community theatre has to offer.

Our season ticket drive is underway. We hope to have a record setting drive this year. We are off to a great start in meeting this goal. Please encourage your friends to become season ticket holders.

Our season opener, *Always...Patsy Cline*, promises to be a smash. Be sure to mark your calendar for this show on September 15, 16 & 17. We appreciate Renasant Bank for being our corporate sponsor for this

show. Also, our annual Outback event will be on Saturday, September 17, before the evening performance. This will be a fun event that you will not want to miss. We truly appreciate Outback Steakhouse for their continued support of TCT. A big thanks also goes to our new sponsor for the entire season, BancorpSouth.

This season promises to have something for everyone...a little drama, a little comedy, a little music...and a whole lot of entertainment! I look forward to seeing you at TCT. Let us entertain you!  
—Tommy Green, President



## THE PHONES ARE RINGING!!

The 2005-2006 Season Tickets have gone on sale and the phones are ringing at TCT. It's a great season this year and now you have even more opportunities to see our productions. Beginning this season, a Saturday Matinee will be offered for every show. Rehearsals are currently underway for the season opener, *Always...Patsy Cline*. In November we will present the classic Arthur Miller drama, *Death of a Salesman*. In February, the Neil Simon comedy *Plaza Suite* will perk up the dreary winter with laughter. Finally, we will round out the season in May with the classic Broadway musical, *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*. Call now to order your Season Tickets, start the season with us, and take advantage of the 33% savings over individual ticket purchases. We have many ticket package options available including the new Saturday Matinee offering and the "Wild Card" package which is perfect for those that need a flexible schedule. We appreciate your support and the opportunity to "Let Us Entertain You!"

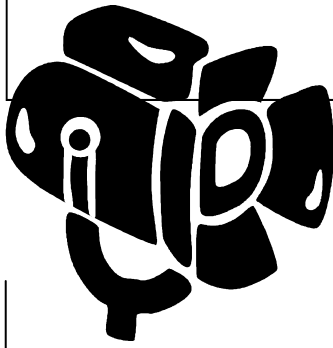


## Thanks To Our Summer Intern

Many of our patrons had the opportunity this summer to meet a new face in the TCT office. Melanie Pugh, our summer intern, is a junior at Mississippi State University and a Columbus native. Melanie is majoring in Public Relations and was interested in getting some on the job experience in an environment that depended on the community for support. Real public relations! While working from May until August, Melanie provided support in every area of the office from



answering the phone, selling tickets, filing and just about anything else that needed doing. She also helped do a major overhaul of our patron data base, both updating new member information and purging info that was no longer needed—a summer long task that she performed with ease. The staff and volunteers at TCT miss her already. We wish Melanie well in her remaining college time and know she will be a big success in whatever career path she desires. Good Luck Melanie!



# SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PATRONS

The Outback Steakhouse has been a valuable and visible partner of TCT over the past years preparing delicious cuisine for our annual fundraisers. TCT welcomes the new owner of Outback, Joe

Keating as he takes over the reins of a great community establishment from former owner David Steele.

Joe hails from Olive Branch where he has resided for the past 18 years. He is joined by his lovely wife, Becky and their children, Cal, attending Delta State University on a soccer scholarship, and Rosa, a junior at Desoto Central High School. Joe attended The University of Memphis and has owned businesses in Memphis for over 16 years. He is success driven and service oriented to ensure that his customers and community receive the highest level of service and assistance at all times.

Keating says he is anxious to work with Tupelo Community Theater, as well as other civic and community organizations, to continue Outback's tradition of excellent community service. He said Outback will continue to seek opportunities for outreach and ser-

vice to be recognized as a pillar of support in all facets of community life in this great Tupelo area.

Join us in welcoming Joe Keating to our community and theater family. We look forward to working with you...and dining with you!



Board member Catherine Mize (L) with Joe Keating

# You're Invited!

## Come Party with Patsy!!

Help us celebrate the opening of our new season on Saturday, September 17 on Broadway in front of the Lyric from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Dinner by Outback Steakhouse—GREAT ENTERTAINMENT and LOTS OF FUN!! Tickets are only \$15. Call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 today to reserve your ticket for this wonderful deal...and get your ticket to see *Always....Patsy Cline.*

## TCT PERSONNEL

### TCT

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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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Renee Baldwin  
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Ruth Liveakos  
Edith Thomas

**Executive Director**  
Tom Booth

## Tom Booth Named Executive Director

It didn't take Tom Booth long to learn the difference in being business manager and executive director of Tupelo Community Theatre. Shortly after being named executive director, he had to deal with an "exploding commode" during a performance of *Peter Pan*—a task he might not have had to deal with as business manager.

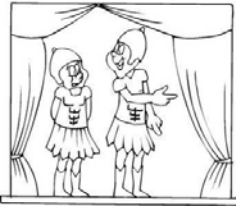
Booth, who in 2002 was named TCT business manager, was recently promoted to Executive Director of Tupelo Community Theatre in recognition of the growth of both his job duties and the theatre. He said the biggest difference in the two jobs is that as executive director he is more involved with the "non-business" side of the organization. "I've been involved with TCT since 1992, but strictly as a volunteer when it came to the artistic side—production, acting, directing, whatever," he said. "The executive director job is strictly hands-on,

whether it's dealing with a corporate sponsor, helping with the lighting, or pushing the garbage cans to the curb. I'm really looking forward to the challenge."

Booth, who has degrees in education from Mississippi State University and accounting from the University of Southern Mississippi, taught two years at Meridian High before entering the industrial accounting field. He has been involved in community theatre for more than 25 years, and has performed in and directed numerous shows at TCT and at Corinth Theatre-Arts. He will direct TCT's 2006 spring musical, *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*.

While he lives in Wren and is active in the Central Grove Baptist Church, Booth is also on the executive committee of the Downtown Tupelo Main Street Association, and is vice president of the Mississippi Theatre Association. Thanks for all your hard work, Tom!

## Acting Class at Ole Miss Branch



And speaking of Tom Booth's many talents, he will teach an adult acting class at the University of Mississippi Tupelo Branch on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30 starting September 26 through October 31. Cost for this continuing education course is only \$85. Call 662-690-6205 for more information and to register.

## *Crow & Weasel* in Rehearsal

Every year TCT presents a live theatre performance to more than 3,000 area elementary students as part of our educational outreach. This year's selection is a beautiful Native American folk tale, *Crow & Weasel*, adapted from a novel by Barry Lopez by Jim Leonard, Jr. This heart-warming story tells the story of two Animal People who travel to the Land Where Dreaming Begins. It's a coming of age story rich with implications for the way we live.

TCT will present four hour-long performances throughout the day on October 13 & 14 to area elementary students. However, this show is too good not to

share with all of our patrons. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend one of the evening performances of this poignant story at 7:30 each of those nights.

Call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 to reserve your ticket since this is not part of the regular season. You don't want to miss it!



# The Lyric KREWE Needs You!!

The Lyric KREWE would like to invite you to come join us. Whether you are a past, current or a potential member, we would like to welcome you to our 2005-2006 season and encourage you to take an active role. We will have two informational meetings on Tuesday, August 30 at 12:00 noon and 5:15p.m. in the lobby of the theatre. Please plan on attending and consider committing to one of The KREWE's many adventures for our upcoming season.

Originally formed as the Lyric Guild in 1988, The KREWE, is the fundraising and volunteer support auxiliary of Tupelo Community Theatre. Its membership consists of patrons of TCT and supporters of the dramatic arts.

The KREWE currently has two fundraising events on the 2005-2006 calendar; the TCT Haunted House and the third annual *Music, Monet and Margaritas*. Both events promise to be big successes for The KREWE if we get enough volunteers.

In addition to fundraising activities, The KREWE also provides ushers for all performances and assists in publicity through poster distribution. The KREWE is a vital presence in the life of TCT and is much appreciated.

The KREWE needs you!! If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to participate in The KREWE, please complete the form below and return to TCT. If you have any questions, feel free to call Tracie Maxey at 662-841-2398 or Renee Baldwin at 662-844-8140.

**Please mark your areas of interest and return this form to the TCT office by September 30, 2005:**

**Committee interest (check as many as you'd like!):**

Usher \_\_\_\_\_ Poster Distribution \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraisers \_\_\_\_\_ \*Active Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Contributing Membership \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00 minimum contribution)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*Active Membership requires participation in at least one of the above referenced committees.

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AT THE LYRIC ON BROADWAY  
P.O. BOX 1094 TUPELO, MS 38802

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The Lyric

# *Death of a Salesman* Auditions

**D***Death of a Salesman* is Arthur Miller's Tony Award winning play about the modern tragic hero. The story is known worldwide, dealing with the last days of a failing salesman, who seeks to find out, by a series of soul-searching revelations of the past life he has lived with his wife, his sons and his business associates, just where and how he has failed to win success and happiness. What is success in the modern world? How do we measure our worth in the world today?

Auditions for this classic drama will be



held Sunday, October 2 at 2:00 p.m. and Monday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lyric Theatre. There are parts for eight men and five women with ages ranging from 20 to 60. There are also opportunities for backstage positions.

Production dates are November 17, 18 & 19, 2005. Mark your calendars now. You don't want to miss this award winning drama!

For more information, call Allana Austin at 840-5351 or the TCT office at 844-1935.