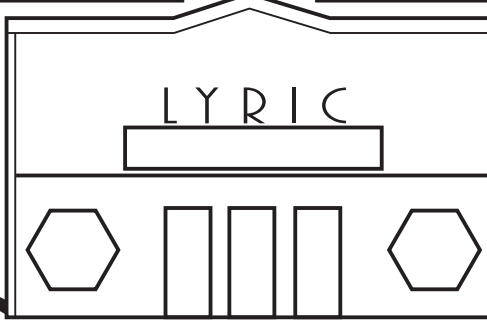


# LYRIC



FOR FRIENDS  
OF TUPELO  
COMMUNITY  
THEATRE

Volume 16 • Issue 3

January 2006

# Streakin'!

**a musical flashback to the 1970s**

Show tickets  
\$15 adults  
\$6 students  
Dinner tickets \$15

Everybody has a favorite song from the 1970's...admit it! And that song is probably in the new hit musical *Streakin'!* that TCT is producing January 19-21 at 7:30 each evening. Put on your bellbottom jeans and come share in the hilarity as a wonderfully talented cast sings the hits you know and love like "YMCA," "You Sexy Thing," "American Pie," "Everything is Beautiful," and even "I Will Survive."

Written and created by Jamie Rocco and Albert Evans, *Streakin'!* was an off Broadway hit in NYC several years ago. Using Saturday Night Live style skits, the show features over 30 hits and will leave you rolling with laughter. There is even audience participation...and be prepared for some surprises (remember the title!).

The pre-show dinner will also feature culinary hits from the 1970's with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Menu items like mystical stuffed mushrooms, fondue, and extra special brownies will please the palate and help set the mood for even more fun to come.

Veteran TCT director and child of the 70's **Lynn Nelson** has assembled a talented cast and crew. Assistant director is TCT newcomer **Cindy Ribble**. Music director is **Ralph Price**.

**January 19-21, 2006**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Pre-show dinner**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The ensemble cast includes Judd Wilson, Kenneth Griswold, Brandon Burnside, Shelley Futrelle, Suzanne Oakley, and Rene Traylor.

TCT veteran **Judd Wilson** stretches his acting skills by playing Donny, a clean-cut all-American type. He most recently played Biff in *Death of a Salesman* and has been seen in many TCT musicals. He is also a pharmaceutical representative for Novartis.

**Kenneth Griswold** plays Tripp, the show's "stoned-out" character. He is no stranger to the TCT stage, starting several years ago with Summer Youth. He most recently played a cameo role in *Death of a Salesman*. A graduate of both Millsaps College and Columbia University, Kenneth teaches in the Challenge program at Lawndale Elementary School.

**Brandon Burnside** is sharing his musical and acting talents for the first

time with TCT. He plays the part of Tyrone, a Lou Rawls style R&B singer and dancer. Brandon is a student at Pontotoc High School and has had leading roles in several of their stage productions, as well as singing with their award-winning chorus.

**Suzanne Oakley** is portraying Chrissie, a "ditz" blonde bombshell. TCT audiences are familiar with Suzanne's previous starring roles in *Honky Tonk Angels* and *Always, Patsy Cline*, as well as feature roles in other musicals and dramas. She is a guidance counselor at Calhoun City High School.

A recent newcomer to TCT, **Shelley Futrelle** previously starred as Willy Loman's wife in *Death of a Salesman*. She plays Gloria, a tough women's liber feminist. During the day you can find Shelley working as the S.A.M.S. coordinator at the Salvation Army.

Also sharing her talents for the first time with TCT is Ecu resident **Rene Traylor**. She portrays the disco diva Angela. An active mother of two teenage boys, Rene works at Security National Insurance.

This show is not part of the regular season ticket package, so call the TCT office at 844-1935 to reserve your tickets now before they're sold out!

This production is sponsored by





# Notes from the President

Happy New Year! 2006 kicks off with a bang at TCT. Mark your calendars now for *Streakin'* on January 19, 20 & 21 at 7:30 each evening. This is our annual dinner theatre that features hits of the 70s. The dinner portion begins at 6:00 each evening. So "disco down" to TCT for an evening of food and fun! Thanks to Hilliard Lyons for sponsoring this production.

Auditions for *Plaza Suite* will be held on January 7 & 8. This Neil Simon classic will be presented on February 23, 24 & 25. If you want to

tap, tap, tap the blues away, auditions for *42nd Street* will be announced soon. This fun musical gives us a glimpse of old Broadway. It will be presented during Gum Tree weekend on May 11, 12 & 13. Call the TCT office for more information about auditions for both of these great shows.

Our play reading committee is hard at work reviewing plays for the next season. If you have any suggestions, please call our office at 662-844-1935. We strive to bring our patrons what they want to see.

Renovations are underway to

update our HVAC and fly loft systems. This is a great use of our MAC grant money.

Mississippi native, Morgan Freeman stated, "There's no theatre if there's no community theatre." If all community theatres are as active as Tupelo Community Theatre, then the theatre is alive and well! Thanks to all of our volunteers and patrons who



help keep the theatre going strong in Tupelo! 2006 looks like it will be one of our best years ever!

--Tommy Green, President

## *Show for Summer Youth Changes*

Our season ticket brochures announced that the Summer Youth production for Summer 2006 would be *Beauty and the Beast*. The playreading committee decided that they would like to consider that show for a possible slot in upcoming regular seasons, so they searched for another wonderful production. This year's Summer Youth production will be the hit musical *Annie, Jr.* It is basically the same show as the original version, with the same songs, only scaled down slightly so that is accessible for young performers. Auditions will be held in May so watch your newsletter for that announcement and make plans to audition. Mark your calendars for production dates of June 22-24, 2006. It's sure to be a hit!



## HELP!

### Volunteers Needed

Interested in directing a show at TCT? What about becoming an assistant director or production manager? Always wondered what it takes? We are currently looking for a director for our Summer Youth Theatre production of *Annie, Jr.* June 22-24, 2006 and for help with other shows this spring. For more info contact Tom Booth at 844-1935 or Lynn Nelson at 377-5050.

### Warehouse Space Needed

Thanks to a very loyal and faithful patron, TCT has been provided warehouse space for set pieces and furniture for over 15 years. Unfortunately, due to damage from Hurricane Rita we must now look for new home. If you have a building that TCT might use or know of anyone who does please contact us at 844-1935.

## PLAYREADING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT

The play reading committee has been busy reading, reading, reading! We are reading plays that you, the community, suggested on our survey that was distributed during *Death of a Salesman*, and plays that we think would be interesting and entertaining to our patrons.

Our play reading committee has one important thing in common--to suggest the very best season of plays to the board for their approval. The committee members are: Polly Bailey, chair, Danny McKenzie, Beth Frick, Tonya Smith, Renee Baldwin, Judd Wilson, Lynn Nelson, Gene Murphey, Lisa Reed, Allana Austin, and Suzye Sheffield. We welcome your suggestions and ideas about our 2006-07 TCT season. Please feel free to call the theatre office or any member of the committee with your suggestions.



# IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR NYC!



In our last newsletter, we announced the deal of a lifetime on a trip to New York City to see the sights and see several Broadway shows from July 13-16, 2006. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$1600 per person. Twenty participants are needed to sign up in order for us to be able to offer the trip at this incredible price.

We have extended the deadline for payment of the \$250 deposit to January 16, 2006 so that we can get twenty enrollees.

The cost of the trip includes round trip airfare from Memphis to NYC, transfers to and from the airport, four days and three nights at the historic Warwick Hotel (with double occupancy), tickets to two Broadway shows, several sightseeing tours, and much, much more.

Don't miss this opportunity to see the "Big Apple." Consider giving the trip as a gift to your favorite graduate. Call the TCT office today at 662-844-1935 to reserve your spot!

## \$\$\$ THE LYRIC KREWE NEEDS YOU! \$\$\$

It's time to raise some money! The Lyric KREWE currently has two fundraising events on the 2006 calendar -- the third annual Music, Monet and Margaritas and the TCT Haunted House. Both events promise to be big successes for the KREWE if we get enough volunteers. Money that the KREWE raises goes to support educational outreach activities and other great projects that TCT supports.



There will be an informational/planning meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lyric. If you would like to help with either of these events, please plan to attend. If your calendar prevents you from attending but you would like to participate, let us know by calling Tracie Maxey at 841-2398 or the TCT Office at 844-1935. We always appreciate your help and support!

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE NEARS

The deadline for applying for scholarships offered by Tupelo Community Theatre is April 15, 2006. Requirements and application forms are available on the TCT website at <http://www.tct.ms>. Scholarships available include the Liveakos Scholarship, the Geddie Scholarship, and the Huddleston Scholarship.

Please encourage all High School seniors and full time college students to visit our website and apply!



### TCT PERSONNEL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**TCT**  
200 North Broadway  
P.O. Box 1094  
Tupelo, MS 38802

662-844-1935  
e-mail address:  
1tct@bellsouth.net

Visit us online at  
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# Auditions for *Plaza Suite*

Auditions for Neil Simon's classic comedy *Plaza Suite* will be held Sunday, January 7 at 2:00 p.m. and Monday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lyric Theatre. Leading roles are available for three adult men and three adult women, plus several supporting roles. No advance preparation is necessary. Positions are also available for technical support in the show, including assistant director and production manager.

*Plaza Suite* is a comedic confection of three witty tales set in Suite 719 of New York City's famed Plaza Hotel. In the first scene, Karen Nash discovers that her husband Sam is fooling around with his secretary. In the second, producer Jessie Kiplinger calls an old flame for a rendezvous but discovers that she has more on her mind than romance. And in the final scene, Norma and Roy Hubley are the frustrated parents of a bride-to-be who has locked herself in the bathroom moments before the wedding. A delightful comedy, *Plaza Suite* is written in Neil Simon's sensitive and sophisticated style.

Veteran TCT director Craig Helmuth is directing this fast-paced, uproarious comedy. Production dates are February 23, 24, and 25 at 7:30 each evening with a 2:00 matinee on the 25th. For more information about auditions or tickets, call the TCT office at 662-844-1935. Mark your calendars now for both the auditions and the production. You don't want to miss this hilarious comedy!

