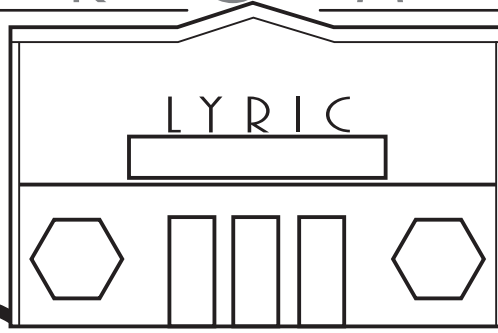


LYRIC



FOR FRIENDS
OF TUPELO
COMMUNITY
THEATRE

Volume 16 • Issue 4

February 2006

TCT Presents

PLAZA SUITE



February 23, 24 & 25, 2006

7:30 p.m.

February 25

2:00 p.m.

Call 844-1935 today
to reserve your tickets

This production of *Plaza Suite*
is sponsored by



Built for only \$12 million and opened to the public in 1907, the famed Plaza Hotel on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Central Park South in Manhattan is one of the most recognizable landmarks in New York City. It symbolizes the gracious and sophisticated lives exemplified by New York society. Neil Simon uses this famous landmark as the setting for one of his best-known plays, *Plaza Suite*. The play is a comedic confection of three witty tales that are all set in Suite 719 of the Plaza Hotel. TCT first brought this award winning comedy to its stage in 1971 and is bringing it back for a side-splitting reprise February 23-25, 2006.

In Act I, Karen Nash (Sherrie Black) discovers that her husband Sam Nash (David Collins) of 23 years (or is it 24 years?) is fooling around with his secretary, Jean McCormack (Kristi Blount). In Act II, famed Hollywood producer Jessie Kiplinger (Mickey Gousset) calls on his former high school sweetheart Muriel Tate (Jennifer Cummings) for a rendezvous, but soon discovers that she has more on her mind than romance. In Act III, Norma Hubley (Jennifer Collins) and Roy Hubley (Danny McKenzie) are the frustrated parents of Mimsey (Kate Chamblee) who

has locked herself in the bathroom moments before her wedding. All of these actors are familiar to TCT audiences, having previously appeared in numerous comedies and musicals. Russell Fox is playing the part of the Waiter and is new to the TCT family. The part of the Bellhop is being played by Junior McCollum who was last seen on the TCT stage in *A Man For All Seasons*.

A delightful comedy, *Plaza Suite* is written in Neil Simon's sensitive and sophisticated style. It is directed by TCT veteran Craig Helmuth, and ably assisted by Laine Shaffer who is new to the TCT family. Jonathan Bailey is serving the show as the stage manager and also playing the part of Bordon Eisler. Bob Lence is the lighting designer.

The beautiful Suite 719 from the Plaza Hotel was recreated on the TCT stage by Polly Bailey, Catherine Mize, and Gail Boland with the help of Jess Mark and Tom Wicker. The set could not have been decorated without the beautiful furniture generously donated by Lisa Hawkins at Room To Room.

You don't want to miss this hilarious comedy. Call the TCT office now at 662-844-1935 to reserve your tickets before they sell out!



Notes from the President

“There’s no business like show business!” That can definitely be said about TCT. We have kicked off 2006 with a bang!

Our dinner theatre production of *Streakin’!* was a huge success. This highly talented cast and crew delighted our audiences with musical (and clothing) flashbacks to the 1970’s. Thanks to Hilliard Lyons for sponsoring the show and to all who worked so hard to make this a great event.

The preaudition workshops for *42nd Street* have been well received. Over 30 people have been polishing

up on their tap dancing skills to prepare for auditions. Even if you have not attended one of these workshops but still want to try out, then come on down to the Lyric on March 6 & 7. This popular musical is sponsored by NMMC and will be presented on Gum Tree weekend, May 11, 12 & 13. Come and meet those dancing feet on 42nd Street!

Be sure to check into *Plaza Suite* February 23-25. This classic Neil Simon comedy, directed by Craig Helmuth, is sure to be a favorite. Thanks to SprintPrint for being our

corporate sponsor for this play.

Tom Booth and Lynn Nelson both represented TCT last month at the MS Theatre Association festival in Starkville. Tom was elected Vice President of MTA and Lynn was asked to serve on the board of MTA as the Community Theatre Chair. We are proud of them for representing TCT so well!



Hope to see you soon at another TCT production. It’s on with the show!

-Tommy Green, President

Spotlight on Our Patrons



Pictured at right are just some of the patrons who came from Calhoun County to see *Streakin’!* on Friday night



Wow! The folks in Calhoun County really love to come to TCT ... especially when Calhoun County native Suzanne Oakley is in the cast. Over 100 patrons from Tupelo’s neighbor about an hour south of us came to see the recent production of *Streakin’!*

Norma Caviness, a member of Lewis Memorial United Methodist Church in Calhoun City (where Suzanne is the pianist), organized a group to come on Friday night that

numbered over fifty members. Students from Calhoun City High School came. Members of First Baptist in Bruce came. In fact, on two nights patrons from Calhoun County were selected to participate in the “game show” portion of the play.

Many of the patrons from Calhoun County have become season ticket holders in the last few years. TCT truly appreciates all the support y’all have given us!

TCT Participates in Fundraiser

TCT is always glad to help other organizations when we are able to do so. Actors and singers from some of TCT’s favorite shows, such as *Honky Tonk Angels*, *Always...Patsy Cline* and *Streakin’!*, will perform in a benefit show for the Sally Kate Winters Memorial Children’s Home in West Point on April 8th at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the evening are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under and will include a dessert reception at the Civic Center. For more information contact Shelia at 494-4867.

MAC Funds at Work



The comfort of our patrons is important to us at TCT. In past years, we have made additions and modifications to our HVAC units in an effort to evenly cool and heat the large auditorium. While there has been an improvement, we still have problems and a consultant has shown us that more can be done.

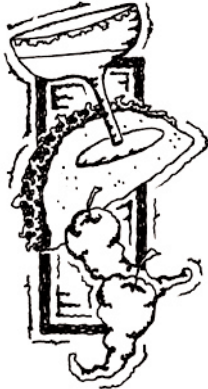
With the help of a generous Mississippi Arts Commission building grant, TCT will begin work in a few weeks to improve the HVAC units. Because of the age of the Lyric (it's

almost 100 years old!), we are about to have to make some repairs in the flyloft system to make it safe and usable. The framework for our flyloft system is original to the building. In preparation for that work, some of the HVAC units and ductwork will be moved. This will also help make the system more efficient.

The work should be completed in a few months and we trust that everyone will be more comfortable soon. Watch for more news on repairs to the flyloft.

Lyric Krewe Update

Members of the KREWE met on Tuesday, January 10 to work on plans for its upcoming fundraiser *Music, Monet & Margaritas*. This popular annual event will take place on Broadway in front of the Lyric Theatre on Friday, April 21, 2006, from 8 p.m.-12 midnight. The evening will include a silent auction for uniquely designed margarita glass sets which have been created by local artists. There will be a live band, street dance, dinner, cash bar and lots and lots of fun. Please be sure to mark your calendars and we'll see you there!



Plans are tentatively being made for a haunted house at the Lyric next October. All money raised by the Krewe is used to help fund educational outreach by TCT. Without their help, TCT would not be able to produce the fall educational show or the Spring Education event for the community.

The Lyric Krewe always needs more volunteers. If you would like to help with *Music, Monet & Margaritas*, or any other Krewe activity, contact Tracie Maxey at 662-841-2398 or Margaret Goussett at 662-841-7958.

Scholarship 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

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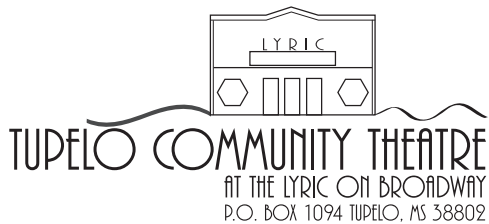
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This project funded
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Auditions for *42nd Street*

Auditions for *42nd Street* will be held March 6 and 7, 2006 at 7 p.m. each evening at the Lyric Theatre in downtown Tupelo. Parts are available for both men and women. Anyone interested in a principal role should prepare a one minute selection from a Broadway style song. This production requires singing and tap dancing for most roles. Backstage and tech positions are still available for those interested. Tom Booth will direct *42nd Street*, assisted by Tracie Maxey with musical direction by Ellen Johnston and choreography by Sara Karrant.

42nd Street is a hugely successful Broadway stage musical, loosely based on the movie of the same name. It also contains songs from certain other Busby Berkeley 1930s movies. The musical is generally considered among the most successful productions in the history of Broadway theater. It premiered in 1980 at New York City's Winter Garden Theatre and won Tony Awards for Choreography and Best Musical.

42nd Street was revived in 2001 at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, which is actually on 42nd Street in New York City. This revival closed on January 2, 2005 after playing 31 previews, 1524 regular performances, and one Actors' Fund performance. The revival won Tonys for best Actress in a Musical and best Musical Revival.

Production dates are Gumtree Weekend (May 11-13, 2006). Mark your calendars now...put on your dancin' feet and come on down to Broadway. For more information concerning auditions or the production contact the TCT office at 844-1935.

