

NEWS FROM THE

LYRIC

FOR FRIENDS
OF TUPELO
COMMUNITY
THEATRE

Volume 16 • Issue 6

June 2006

Summer Youth Theatre presents

June 22 & 23, 2006

7:30 p.m.

June 24, 2006

2:00 p.m.

**Call 844-1935 today
to reserve your tickets**



**This production of *Annie, Jr.*
is sponsored by**



The McCarty Company

The synergy between concept and reality.

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Tomorrow! Tomorrow! I love ya, Tomorrow! You're only a day away!" What theater goer's spirit wouldn't be lifted by such an optimistic idea? Starting June 22, Tupelo Community Theatre supporters will be treated to the Broadway Junior version of *Annie*, one of the most upbeat plots with some of the most flamboyant characters in musical history.

This historically beloved musical will feature nearly 60 of the Tupelo area's most talented and energetic young people with Ashley Williams in the role of Annie, a spunky, lovable orphan eagerly awaiting her parents' return. Richmond Culp will play the influential billionaire Oliver Warbucks, and Rachel Alexander will play his ever-efficient and loyal secretary Grace.

Morgan Ricks will play the bitter, apathetic (however, hilarious!) Miss Hannigan, mistress of the orphanage. Her seedy, sleazy partners in crime will be played by Alex Hargett (Rooster Hannigan) and Amanda Nordin (Lily).

Principal orphan roles will be played by Rachel Williams (Molly), Mylie Haire (Kate), Precious Hill (Tessie), Rachel Macklin (Pepper), Amanda Legge (July), and Addison Murphree (Duffy). Annie and the other orphans will treat us to high energy singing and dancing on such musical favorites as "Hard Knock Life," and "You're Never Fully Dressed without a Smile," and they will tug at your heart strings with the lullaby classic "Maybe."

The Orphan Chorus is made up of Ariel Alexander, Brianna Barrett, Kaycee Barnes, Mary Jennings Bouchillon, Caitlin Gardner, Abby Grace, Katie Grace, Katherine Foreman, Emily Hink, Mary Katherine Howell, Sarah Howell, Peyton Johnson, Mary Holliman Lanphere, Hannah Lippard, Lauren Lundy, Riley Macklin, Larkin Robbins, Allie Skinner, Alston Tyer, and Emily Weldon.

Other supporting roles will be played by Stuart Rial (Bundles), Ainsley Hunt (Dogcatcher), Megan Cannon (Apple Seller), Rick Deaton (Lt. Ward), Kevin

Teeter (Drake), Lauren Dye (Cecille), Morgan Hadley (Mrs. Greer), Reid White (Annette), Shelly Collins, (Mrs. Pugh), Jessie Grimmatt (Star-to-Be), Annannias Word (Bert Healy), Jeffrey Orr (President Roosevelt). The Warbucks Servants/New Yorkers Chorus is made up of Taffany Anderson, Mallorie Butler, Katy Deaton, Luke Deaton, Madison Dyson, Michelle Nettleton, Chelsea Palmer, and Kristi Veasey.

The *Annie, Jr.* cast is being led by Suzanne Oakley (Director), Brenda Gilbert (Musical Director/Choreographer), Laine Shaffer (Assistant Director), and Allison Griswold (Choreographer).

Don't miss this entertaining production of one of the most beloved musicals in theater history. It's sure to be a sell-out, so order your tickets today!

Annie, Jr. will open at Tupelo Community Theatre June 22 (7:30p.m.), 23 (7:30 p.m.), & 24 (2:00 p.m. only). For more information and to reserve tickets, call the Lyric office at 662-844-1935.



Notes from the President

As the curtain goes down on another season at TCT, we reflect over the past year. Many thanks to all the directors, performers, sponsors, patrons and countless volunteers who made the 2005-2006 season such a tremendous success. We anxiously anticipate the 2006-2007 season which will begin in just a few months. We hope that you will be a part of it. It promises to be exciting!

42nd Street was a tremendous success. It was one of the all time highest attended shows in the history of TCT. Thanks to Tom Booth and the entire cast and crew for presenting such a wonderful show. We are glad that you allowed us to meet those

dancing feet on *42nd Street!* (Personally, my feet are still tired!)

Suzanne Oakley and her cast are hard at work on our Summer Youth Production of *Annie, Jr.* This promises to be a delightful show. Mark your calendars to attend one of the performances on either June 22, 23 or 24. Remember... "you're never fully dressed without a smile!"

We welcome Tracie Maxey, Suzye Sheffield and Kenneth Griswold as our newest board members at TCT. I look forward to working with them. We want to say a big "thank you" to Catherine Mize, Geoff Carter and Rick Griswold for their service to our board. We will miss them. However, we know that they will continue to stay

actively involved with TCT.

As my first year as TCT Board President comes to a close, I want to thank the entire board for all their hard work this past year. It has been my pleasure to work with each of you. Your dedication has helped make TCT one of the best community theatres in the nation. I look forward to another year as President. I am proud to be associated with such a wonderful organization. If you have any suggestions on ways to improve our theatre, please let us know.



Have a safe summer!
We hope to see you soon at TCT!

--Tommy Green, President

Welcome New Board Members



New TCT Board members from left - Suzye Sheffield, Kenneth Griswold, and Tracie Maxey.

Tupelo Community Theatre recently elected three new board members to replace outgoing board members Rick Griswold, Catherine Mize and Geoff Carter. They are Suzye Sheffield, Kenneth Griswold, and Tracie Maxey. Rick, Catherine and Geoff all resigned because of other work and personal commitments and will be sorely missed. We are deeply grateful for their years of dedicated service and certainly hope that they will continue to remain active with TCT for many years to come.

Suzye Sheffield brings many years of theatre experience with her. Suzye graduated from University of Memphis with a BFA in theatre performance. After working in professional theatre for several years, she moved back

to her home town and became active at TCT. She previously served on the board of directors at TCT before moving to Arkansas several years ago. Now that she's back, Suzye and her son Tyler are active at First United Methodist Church. She is also the Information Systems Manager at Nesco Electric.

Kenneth Griswold is well known to TCT audiences, having featured roles in both *Streakin!* and *42nd Street* last season, as well as many other roles in the past. A talented singer and performer, he has been active at TCT since he was a student performing in Summer Youth Theatre. A graduate of both Millsaps and Columbia University, Kenneth teaches gifted students at Lawndale Elementary and is active in the choir at First United Methodist Church. (And yes, he is the oldest son of former board member Rick Griswold.)

Tracie Maxey has never graced the stage at TCT (but not because we haven't asked!), however, she has been an integral part of many shows, serving in a myriad of backstage roles, including stage manager and assistant director. She recently served as president of the Lyric Krewe and works as the Continuing Medical Education coordinator at NMMC. Tracie is currently planning her wedding in July and is a member of the Orchard.

Even though we are going to miss our resigning board members, we welcome these three newest board members and look forward to working with them for many years. Their talent and enthusiasm for excellent theater will be put to use!

Hurry - It's Not Too Late!

Register for TCT Theatre Camp

Did you know that the word "thespian" has its origin from the very first actor in Ancient Greece? Did you know that the "orchestra" of a theatre was originally the acting area?

This summer students will have an opportunity to discover all this and more. TCT is once again offering a summer Theatre Camp for school age children. The theme this year is Ancient Greece. Students will be able to explore the origins of theatre, art, and music along with hands-on activities designed to enrich and entertain. Join us for a journey through ancient temples, gods and goddesses, togas, and masks.

TCT's Theatre Camp 2006 will be held the week of July 17-21. There will be two sessions a day from 8-11:30 a.m. and from 1-4:30 p.m. There will be a performance on Friday to showcase the students' work.

TCT is pleased to have as camp counselors this year talented actress and director Suzanne Oakley for Music and Debbie Pickens, art instructor from Shannon High School for Art. Allana Austin, actress, director, and theater teacher at Tupelo High School, is returning as camp director and drama instructor. The cost for the week is \$100. Contact the TCT at 844-1935 for more information.



Call the TCT office today to register for TCT Theatre Camp. We still have a few places left!

New in the Office



Those of you who have called or visited the Lyric over the last few months may be wondering who the new faces in the office and voices on the phone are. We are very fortunate to have two "very early retirees" who are volunteering as office help for TCT.

Faye Barlow is a long time season ticket holder and patron of the Lyric. Faye worked for Cooper Tire until recently and decided that she would like to give some of her "free" time to help. She and her husband Andy are currently building a new home in the area.

Loretta Hettler grew up in the Tupelo area, but lived and worked for FedEx in the Memphis area before returning home. She and her husband Jim are also season ticket holders and support TCT by ushering and helping with many projects at the theatre.

Both ladies work in the office a couple of days a week and help make life much easier for Tom Booth, our Executive Director.

The third new face at the Lyric is our summer intern Wesley Hayes from Pontotoc. Wesley has attended ICC for the past two years and will be at Ole Miss in the fall majoring in music. Wesley is very interested in all types of performance and is planning a career in education.

Thanks to all three for their help in making everything run smoothly at TCT. We couldn't survive without help from volunteers. If you would be interested in volunteering in any capacity, call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 for more information.



Spotlight on Our Patrons



At right is the ad David Puckett placed in the "Scene" section of the Daily Journal the Thursday after he attended *42nd Street*

Congratulations!

Who Needs New York?

Tupelo's got its own Broadway and
Tupelo Community Theatre

"*42nd Street*" was the most excellent
performance yet by **TCT**.

The only thing missing was the presence of Son Puckett, who was a huge fan of a good song-and-dance routine, and who would have absolutely loved your rendition.

Well done, and thanks for the enjoyable performance.

David Puckett

David Puckett and his father, Son Puckett, have both been long time and enthusiastic supporters of Tupelo Community Theatre. Even though Son passed away earlier this year, David continues to be one of our biggest fans and supporters.

David, who works at Renasant Bank in downtown Tupelo, is a familiar sight to all who work and visit there. He is one of those folks "who never met a stranger" and supports Tupelo and all its endeavors. When David attended the recent production of *42nd Street*, he was impressed

enough to place this congratulatory ad in the "Scene" section of the Daily Journal.

42nd Street was one of the highest attended shows in TCT history and we received many wonderful comments from patrons, but David's expression of congratulations and gratitude deeply humbles us. We strive to produce the highest quality in community theatre and this kind of wonderful thank you from one of our most enthusiastic patrons lets us know that we're at least on the right track.

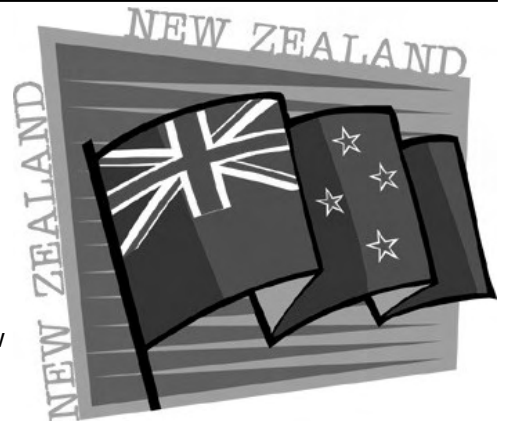
Thank you David Puckett!

TCT Goes Global

OK, we admit it. We're proud at TCT of our award-winning website. Originally designed by Tom Wicker, our website is currently maintained by Christopher Womack and Tom Booth. However, we truly did not realize how far-reaching our influence was until we got an e-mail a few weeks ago from a high school student in Auckland, New Zealand!

Gina Minahan took time out of her busy school schedule to e-mail TCT a thank you note for the help our website had given her in working on a school project. She told us that she often considered e-mailing a site owner or webmaster but never had before (and likely never would again) but was so impressed with ours, that she really wanted to. Gina said that she "was stunned that it's an actual community theatre website. It has a perfect overview of the history of theatre..." She continued "I'm so blown away! The work you have all put in is stunning...to the point where I thought I should stop and tell you."

Gina, thank you for your kind words. Part of TCT's mission statement is to stimulate, promote, teach and develop interest in the dramatic arts. It warms the very cockles of our heart to know that we are doing just that...and that we are doing it on a global level now! Best wishes for your further studies in theater. Keep in touch!



Scholarship Winners Announced

Every year TCT offers three scholarships to area students -- the Liveakos Scholarship, the Huddleston Scholarship and the Geddie Scholarship. We have always been proud of our scholarship winners and this year is no exception.

Amanda Bobo is the winner of this year's Liveakos Scholarship which honors long-time THS drama teacher Ruth Liveakos. Amanda graduated with highest honors from Tupelo High School this year and plans to attend Mississippi State. She has been active with the THS drama department, Pied Piper Playhouse, and TCT for many years.

Morgan Ricks is the winner of the

Huddleston Scholarship, which honors the memory of long-time TCT "techie" B.J. Huddleston. Morgan also just graduated from THS with honors. She has been active with TCT Summer Youth for many years. Morgan plans to attend Northeast Community College.

Winner of this year's Geddie Scholarship, which is in memory of long-time TCT volunteer and board member Martha Geddie, is Melanie Pugh. Melanie is a student at Mississippi State University, majoring in Communications. She most recently served as the volunteer summer intern last summer at TCT and has been involved in music and drama

since high school.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship winners. We wish you the best as you continue your studies and look forward to your return to TCT!



Directors & Assistant Directors Needed



You've seen the t-shirt that says "But what I really want to do is direct." Well, have you? TCT is always looking for new, good people to direct shows. We are currently searching for directors and assistant directors (as well as other help) for our new season. (See the article on page 6 about the shows in our upcoming season.)

It doesn't require a theatre degree, or even that many years of experience. However, we do require that all directors and assistant

directors be season ticket holders. In fact, we have a long-standing policy that anyone who is issued even a temporary key to the building have a "vested" interest in the organization by being a season ticket holder.

We also look for those who do have stage experience and excellent organizational skills, leadership ability, and creativity. Normally, we ask that directors serve in an assistant director capacity at least once with a seasoned TCT director in order to learn the "ropes" concerning budgetary guidelines and the way we organize productions at TCT.

If you have an interest in serving in any volunteer capacity at TCT, call the office at 662-844-1935 or Production Committee Chair Lynn Nelson at 662-844-2815 for more information.

We always need a few more good men...and women!

TCT PERSONNEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TCT
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Visit us online at
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2006-2007 Season Announced

Watch your mailbox later this summer for the 2006-2007 season ticket brochure. You'll want to order your tickets early because we're sure to sell out with this hit season.

Opening the season in September, 2006 will be *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, a musical farce written by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart (of *M*A*S*H** fame) with songs by Stephen Sondheim. Many patrons will remember the award-winning 1966 movie starring Zero Mostel. It also won the 1996 Tony for Best Revival of a Musical and starred comedic genius Nathan Lane.

The holiday show in November, 2006 will be the much loved stage adaptation of C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Originally produced by TCT in 1991, this moving story from *The Chronicles of Narnia* is a sure-fire family pleaser and will put you in a wonderful holiday mood.

Mark your calendar in February, 2007 for *Proof*, the award winning drama about the daughter of a brilliant, but disturbed mathematician. Winner of multiple Tony awards,



this drama was also an award winning movie in 2005, starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Anthony Hopkins.

Rounding out the regular season will be the hit musical *Beauty and the Beast* in May, 2007. As one of the longest-running shows on Broadway, this show is one of the most beautiful love stories ever told. It tells the story of Belle, who finds a prince inside a beast. It contains some of the best known songs in American theater, including "Be Our Guest" and "Beauty and the Beast."

Also scheduled as non-season offerings are *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* in January, 2007 (a hilarious musical comedy about relationships) and the annual educational offering *Snow White* in October, 2006 (a classic fairy tale to introduce young students to live theater).

If you are interested in helping with any of these productions, see the article on page 5. We need your help! Season ticket brochures will be mailed in late July. This promises to be one of our most popular seasons ever, so don't delay in ordering your tickets!