

Volume 17, Issue 5

February 2007

TCT Presents

February 22-24, 2007

7:30 p.m.

February 24, 2007

2:00 p.m.

Sponsored by

SPRINTPRINT

Combine the elements of mystery, surprise, engaging humor and then mix that with old fashioned storytelling and you have the central core of *Proof* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Auburn. The 2001 Tony Award winner for Best Play is the story of a troubled young woman, Catherine, who has spent years caring for her mentally unstable father, Robert, who was also a genius mathematician. Catherine must deal with her father's death, the arrival of her estranged sister Claire for their father's funeral, her own volatile and unstable emotions, and the romantic attentions of Hal, one of Robert's former students. The discovery of a mysterious mathematical proof and who wrote it

will have the audience asking the question—just how much of her father's mathematical genius and his madness did Catherine inherit?

TCT veteran actress and director Allana Austin brings the part of Catherine to life on the Lyric stage. Allana, who has "grown up" at TCT, is currently a drama teacher at Tupelo High School.

Keith Gilbert, portraying the role of her father Robert, has worked with TCT for many years behind the scenes, but this is his first time on the Lyric stage. He works at Central Service Association.

Amye Gousset, who plays Claire, is no stranger to TCT audiences. She has been most recently in *Steel Magnolias* and

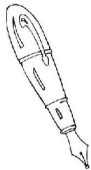
Oklahoma! She works at First United Methodist Church.

Hal is being played by TCT newcomer Josh Hewitt. When Josh is not at home with his wife and child, he works at Eagle Capital Corporation.

This timely and poignant drama is directed by Jennifer Cummings, who is ably assisted by Alicia Campbell. Production manager is David Hutson with lights and sound being handled by Bronwyn Teague and Mickey Gousset.

Mark your calendars now for February 22-24 at 7:30 each evening with a matinee performance on February 24 at 2:00 in the afternoon.

Additional information may be had by calling the Lyric office at 662-844-1935. Don't miss it!



Notes from the President

The New Year is off to a great start at TCT. We have already had one great show, we are in rehearsals for the next one, and auditions have been set for the Gum Tree Musical. The year started off with *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Mark Maharrey is to be commended for an excellent job in his directorial debut. Thanks to the talented cast for their outstanding performances in our "bonus" play of the season.

Jennifer Cummings has assembled an excellent cast for *Proof*. This Pulitzer Prize and Tony award winning play will be presented on February 22, 23 & 24. Make plans to attend this poignant drama.

Auditions for *Beauty and the Beast* have been set for March 4, 5 & 6. Jess Mark and Beverly Clement will be directing this production. We look forward to seeing this beloved fairy tale come to life during Gum Tree weekend on

May 10, 11 & 12.

Plans are underway for our annual *Music, Monet and Margarita* party. This fun event will take place in early April. Stay tuned for more information. We also have a Casino night planned for June. At TCT we are always ready for a party!

I am happy to report that TCT is the proud owner of a new truck. (Well, it's new to us!) This new vehicle will enable us to retrieve supplies from our Warehouse. Unlike the old one, this one actually cranks! The Lyric Krewe played a huge part in purchasing this for us. We appreciate their support. Thanks to former board member Catherine Mize for finding the truck for us. In her honor, we have named it "Cupcake"!

I am proud to announce that TCT was the recipient of a Carpenter Grant for \$10,000. This will be used toward our fly loft upgrade. The Mississippi Arts

Commission has also been generous with awarding TCT nearly \$300,000 in grants that have and will be used toward the upgrade. Thanks to both of these fine institutions for assisting TCT in reaching our goals. Speaking of the fly loft upgrade, plans have been made to begin receiving bids in March for this project. We hope to start with the renovations in May after the Gum Tree musical. We look forward to the completion of this much needed update.

If you have ever wanted to get involved with Tupelo Community Theatre, now is the time. We are always looking for volunteers. We work hard, but we always have fun!

So, you can see that 2007 is going to be a great year at TCT.

Come join the fun!

--Tommy Green,
President



Scholarship Application Deadline

Tupelo Community Theatre was formed in the spring of 1969 to develop, promote, teach and stimulate interest in the dramatic arts. During our almost 40 year history, we have held true to that mission and one way we do this is through education. TCT offers three scholarships every year to deserving students. These scholarships honor three individuals who helped TCT to get that dream going: Ruth Liveakos, B.J. Huddleston, and Martha Geddie.

The Liveakos Scholarship and B.J. Huddleston Memorial Art Scholarship are \$500 scholarships recognizing a graduating Tupelo High School Senior who has demonstrated artistic ability, academic achieve-



ment, leadership and good citizenship. The \$500 Martha Geddie Memorial Scholarship is given to a Mississippi student currently enrolled in college with full time student status majoring in speech, oral communications, drama, mass media and/or related fields. Selection is based on achievements in the performing arts and general scholarship.

The deadline for applying for these scholarships is **April 15, 2007**. Students may go to the Tupelo Community Theatre website www.tct.ms and click on the Programs tab and then the scholarship link on that page. They may also contact the business office at 662-844-1935 for more information.

Spotlight on Our Patrons



This installment of *Spotlight on Our Patrons* would like to recognize those patrons who have recently contributed to the Building for our Second Century Campaign. TCT is conducting the campaign in order to raise the more than \$400,000 necessary to reno-

vate and make the flyloft and stage area safe for our actors and tech crew.

A big thanks to the individuals listed below, as well as all of those who have already contributed and are listed in previous editions of the newsletter.

Morgan and Renee Baldwin
 Dr. and Mrs. Walter Bourland
 Dr. and Mrs. James W. Boyd
 Aaron and Joanne Brown
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 Wayne and Suzy Williams
 Bill and Sarah Young
 Ronny and Tami Young

**HAVE YOU MADE
 YOUR PLEDGE
 YET?
 CALL THE LYRIC
 OFFICE TO GET
 DETAILS ON HOW
 TO CONTRIBUTE!**

Carpenter Grant Announced



Tupelo Community Theatre and the historic Lyric Theatre building received a \$10,000 E. R. Carpenter Foundation grant toward a major restoration and upgrade of its 1912 fly loft. The fly loft is the super structure above the stage

containing much of the mechanical action necessary in advanced staging. The total project will cost over \$400,000, with \$136,000 from a Mississippi Arts Commission Building Fund for the Arts program.

Carpenter also announced \$100,000 in grants for five other organizations in Northeast Mississippi. All

of the Carpenter grants, made in communities and regions where it has operations, are related to the arts, education, medical and hospice care. Other recipients were: Catch Kids, Plantersville Middle School, Lawndale Elementary School, New Beginnings, and Tupelo Symphony.

Again, a big THANKS to the Carpenter Foundation for its support of Tupelo Community Theatre and the Building for Our Second Century campaign.

If you wish to help TCT reach its goal of \$500,000 please call the TCT office at 844-1935 for more information.



Annual Education Event



TCT is proud to present *Garry Krinsky: Toying with Science* as part of the spring education event at TCT. Garry will perform for Tupelo and Lee County students March 28, 29 & 30, provide a teacher workshop on Tuesday, March 27 from 4-6 and present a workshop for the Boys and Girls Club on Wednesday, March 28.

Mary Stremlau, Associate Director, Grand Theater, Wausau, WI says, "Garry Krinsky's show is both literally and figuratively a balancing act. The vaudeville style stunts are first rate. Better yet, he ties and reties each of them back to scientific principals. He has the unique ability to both entertain and educate..."

A free public performance, Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lyric is your opportunity to experience this unique performance which marries art and

science in an entertaining package that kids and adults alike are sure to enjoy.

Garry created his *Toying with Science* program in 1995 and has since been touring it across the U.S. and Canada to rave reviews. His performance is fast-paced, varied and dynamic. Commissioned and developed with the Museum of Science in Boston, his performance combines circus skills, mime, original music, and audience involvement. Garry and his audience investigate basic scientific information and delve into the imaginations of scientists who explore our world. During the program, Garry brings his science toys to life with motion, music, humor and insight. He turns audience members into stars as he playfully shares the stage, juggling, balancing and welcoming them into his colorful world as he performs original up-beat songs that explore fulcrums, levers and basic mechanics. He balances five ladders at one time on his chin as he demonstrates how to find the center of gravity! It is incredible how much action, fun and learning takes place in so little time!!!

The Krewe Needs You!

The KREWE is the fund raising and volunteer support team of Tupelo Community Theatre. Membership is comprised not only of TCT patrons and season ticket holders, but also occasional theatre goers who simply appreciate the value of TCT in our community!

TCT's first-ever *Haunted House* proved to be a frightening success this year, but its production was eerily understaffed. Do you have a knack for making people scream? The KREWE would love to have you on board for next Halloween—the more the scarier!

Our third annual *Music, Monet and Margaritas* is fast approaching

this spring. Are you a fabulous party-goer-and-thrower? The KREWE could use your expertise. Help us plan the perfect party mix of song, art, and spirits for the best evening ever!

The KREWE also provides ushers for all TCT performances and assists with poster distribution. It is a vital presence in the life of TCT. It's a great way to get involved without making a huge commitment over a long period of time—a perfect fit for all you movers and shakers who love an evening out and want to give a little back to TCT. **YOU ARE EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED!**

For more information on joining the KREWE, call Suzanne Oakley at 662-628-5112 or the TCT office at 662-844-1935.



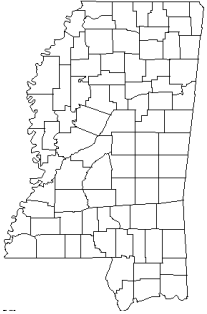
Regional Theatre News

Mississippi Theatre Association recently held its annual festival in January at the Ford Center on the University of Mississippi campus. Tom Booth, TCT Executive Director, was elected president of MTA and will serve a two year term. Lynn Nelson, TCT board member and publicity chair, continues to serve as Community Theatre Division chair. At MTA, Lynn also led a round table discussion for community theatre leaders and volunteers regarding their needs and concerns for their

hometown theatre companies. Congratulations to Starkville Community Theatre for their recent win as "Best Production" at MTA with their production of *Smoke on the Mountain*, one of our TCT patron's favorite shows. It also won awards for overall technical excellence, best director, best supporting actor, best actor and best actress.

Starkville will represent Mississippi at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Atlanta March 7-11, 2007. TCT was a

winner at SETC in 2004 with our production of *Bel Canto*. A community theatre from Mississippi has been one of the winners at SETC for each of the last three years. At SETC this year, Tom Booth will lead a workshop on "Making the Jump from Volunteer to Paid Staff" as well as serving on the financial and endowment committees.



DSU Summer Arts Auditions

The Bologna Performing Center at Delta State University will hold auditions for its Janice Wyatt Mississippi Summer Arts Institute at the Lyric Theatre Monday, March 5 at 4 p.m. Students age 12-18 should bring a 1 to 1 1/2 minute vocal piece. An accompanist will be provided or bring music on CD or cassette. A one minute the-



atrical monologue is required. Dance auditions will follow and no prepared piece is necessary. Call the BPAC at 662-8464-844 for an appointment, which is recommended, but not required. You may also check their website at www.bolognapac.com for more information and an application.

Let Us E-mail You Reminders!

We sent e-mail reminders about our last TCT show to everyone we have in our data base. We would love to be able to send our patrons more info this way, but we do not have many of your e-mail addresses or some of them may have changed since you gave them to us! If you would like to receive information through e-mail, just call the TCT office at 844-1935 and leave your name and email address. Remember to also let us know if your regular mailing address changes so we can keep you aware of what's happening at the Lyric.

TCT PERSONNEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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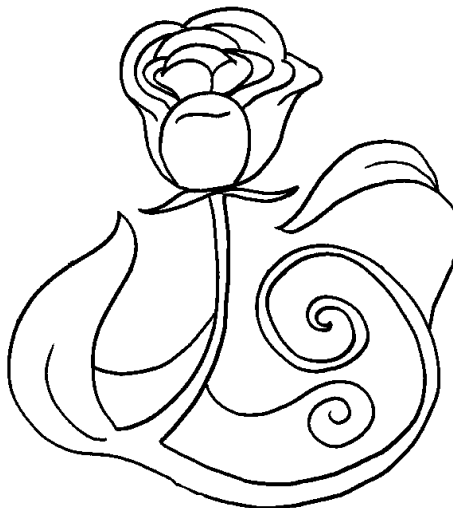
This project funded
in part by a grant
from the Mississippi
Arts Commission



Auditions for Beauty and the Beast

Tupelo Community Theatre announces that auditions for the Gum Tree production of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* will be held at the Lyric Theatre on Sunday, March 4 at 2:00 P.M. and on Monday, March 5 at 7:00 P.M.

The entire adult cast will have singing parts, so everyone auditioning will be required to sing. There is a single child's part, for a 6 – 10 year old boy. Others auditioning must be at least a junior in high school or older. Those auditioning for the



chorus need not have an audition piece. Everyone auditioning for a principal role should bring a prepared piece of music (preferably a Broadway show tune). An accompanist will be provided.

Beauty and the Beast will be directed by Jess Mark, with musical direction by Beverly Clement and choreography by Sarah Karrant. Production dates for the show are May 10-12, 2007. Mark your calendars now! For more information contact the TCT office at 662-844-1935.