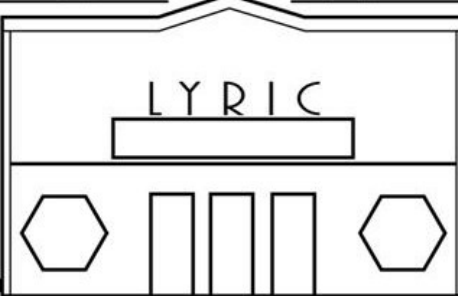


NEWS FROM THE

LYRIC

FOR FRIENDS OF TUPELO COMMUNITY THEATRE



Volume 18, Issue 1

September 2007

September 27-29, 2007
7:30 p.m.
September 29, 2007
2:00 p.m.

At the Civic Auditorium

Sponsored by



TCT Presents



Buckle your seatbelt, hold on to your hat, and prepare to laugh your socks off as TCT's production of *Greater Tuna* takes you to Tuna, Texas—the third smallest town in Texas, where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies. Without a doubt, the citizens of the greater Tuna area are some of the most zany and eccentric people in the entire country. Two actors depict most of the inhabitants of Tuna—men, women, children and animals—in this satiric look at life in rural America.

Life in Tuna revolves around their local radio station and much of the plot for *Greater Tuna* is revealed during a full day of programming with announcers Arles Struvie and Thurston Wheelis, played by veteran TCT actors Judd Wilson and Clint Reid respectively. Judd and Clint also bring eighteen more quirky characters to life. Among the characters Judd

plays are Petey Fisk, the slow-witted but good-hearted director of the Greater Tuna Humane Society; Charlene Bumiller, a high school senior who is devastated to learn that she has not made the cheerleading squad again; and Stanley Bumiller, her reform school graduate twin brother. Clint's characters include Elmer Watkins, head of the local Klan; R.R. Snavelly, the beleaguered and much-maligned husband of Didi Snavelly (owner of the local used weapons

store); and Rev. Spikes, pastor of Coweta Baptist Church and founder of Smut Snatchers of the New Order.

Greater Tuna is directed by Lynn Nelson, who is ably assisted by Craig Helmuth. Keith Gilbert is handling sound design. Marianna Coffey and Kenneth Griswold are lending their talents to creating the set. Jennifer Cummings is coordinating costumes. Brad Hilliard is the technical director for the Civic Auditorium and has been a great help to TCT while we are unable to use our home stage.

Reserve your seat now by calling the TCT office. You don't want to miss this ribald peek at the lives of the funniest people in Texas!

Please note that *Greater Tuna* contains adult language and may not be appropriate for pre-teens. You may call the TCT office for more information to determine suitability for your family members.

Remember that due to construction in the Lyric, *Greater Tuna* will take place at the Civic Auditorium on Varsity Drive. We will be reserving the front rows of the theatre for our season ticket patrons. Please call the TCT office at 844-1935 if you need more information. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation!



Notes from the President

What do the end of one hundred degree days, the start of school and the first football game mean? Clearly, it's the beginning of a new season at Tupelo Community Theatre! The Theatre's board of directors has been working diligently through the summer to get ready for this new season.

We are pleased to announce a season lineup with great shows: *Greater Tuna*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Smoke on the Mountain*, *Homecoming*, *Curious Savage* and the Gum Tree musical, *Gypsy*. Rehearsals are already under way for *Greater Tuna*, which will run September 27-29.

The board has also been working diligently to provide our patrons with a first-class venue to host you. We are fortunate to have the Lyric as our home. We completed a capital campaign for needed upgrades. Last year we overhauled the heating and air conditioning system. We are in the middle of rebuilding the fly loft to make it safer and provide better staging opportunities.

As fate would have it, our best laid plans to complete the fly loft before the opening show have not panned out. Since the fly loft will not be ready in time, we will open *Greater Tuna* at the Tupelo Civic Auditorium. After exploring every

possible alternative, we believe the Civic will provide our patrons with a great experience and we will work hard to make it easy on you!

There is something here for everyone—comedy, drama, music. There will be great acting, great sets, great costumes, a great venue and great fun! All we need is you! We hope you will join us this year. Your support—gifts, season tickets, and your presence at

the shows—means we can continue to provide Tupelo a community theatre that is second to none!



Steve McAlilly, President

Haunted House Plans

Things are getting pretty spooky around TCT ... Lyric Krewe leaders met in August to make plans for the Second Annual TCT Haunted House, tentatively set for October 26-27, and October 30-31, 2007.

Last year, the first TCT Haunted House was a rousing success and this year's event promises to be better and scarier than ever. Of course, TCT's resident ghost Antoine will host this year's Haunted House again. But to put on an event of this magnitude, the Lyric Krewe needs even more volunteers.

The Krewe is currently seeking "room directors" for the Haunted House. Each director will accept the responsibility of one room to bring to life ... uh, or death. Some directors from last year are returning and one new director has already come forward. In addition to the room directors, we need volunteers and participants to come be a part of one of Tupelo's main autumn attractions. Opportunities are available in designing, decorating, acting and "working" roles.

If you would like to help with this event, contact Tracie Maxey Conwill at 841-2398; Suzanne Oakley at 414-0238 or TCT at 844-1935. Please be sure to mark your calendars and we'll see you there!



Scholarship Winners Announced

Tupelo Community Theatre is pleased to announce the scholarship recipients for 2007.

The Ruth Liveakos Scholarship was awarded to Julie Grisham, a 2007 graduate of Tupelo High School. Julie will be attending Roosevelt University in Chicago this fall. Mandy Carlock, another 2007 THS graduate, was the recipient of the B.J. Huddleston Memorial Art Scholarship. Mandy will be entering Millsaps College in Jackson. Kate Chamblee was the recipient of the Martha Geddie Memorial Scholarship and is a senior at Mississippi University for Women. Kate has also served as our student intern at TCT. Congratulations to these deserving students. We wish them well as they continue their studies!



Kate Chamblee (L) and Mandy Carlock (R), winners of two TCT Scholarships

Pulitzer Potluck Date Set

Because much interest was expressed in the Pulitzer Pot Luck series announced in the April edition of the newsletter, Tupelo Community Theater will sponsor a reading series of Pulitzer Prize winning plays. The readings will be held in homes, are quite informal, and will include a pot luck supper. Anyone who has an interest in top-notch American drama, young or old, is encouraged to attend one, some, or all of these free events.



prize for drama, four Tony awards including best play, and the New York Drama Critics Circle award. The event will be held on **November 8, 2007, beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

We are looking for a host for the first session, so if you would be interested in hosting this exciting project in your home, please contact the TCT office or e-mail us at 1tct@bellsouth.net.

Our inaugural selection will be *Doubt: A Parable* by John Patrick Shanley, winner of the 2005 Pulitzer

We will publicize more details as they firm up and we look forward to seeing you there!

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
tct.ms

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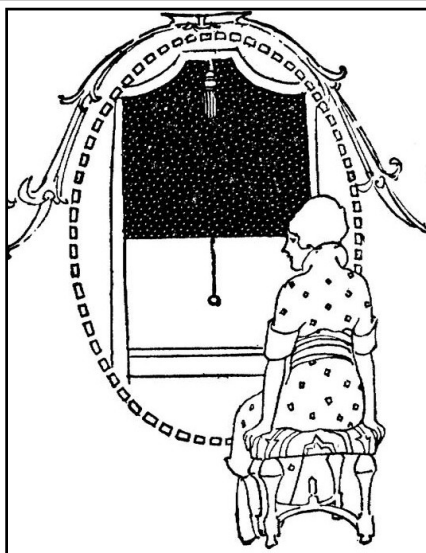


Anne of Green Gables Auditions

Auditions for TCT's production of the timeless classic *Anne of Green Gables* will be held September 16 at 2:00 p.m. and September 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the rehearsal hall at the Lyric.

Parts are available for 6-12 men and 12-19 women, ages 14 and up. No advance preparation is necessary. Those auditioning will be asked to do "cold readings" from the script. Production dates are November 15-17, 2007.

This production of *Anne of Green Gables* is a new dramatization of L.M. Montgomery's enduring classic about an orphan girl, Anne Shirley. The play faithfully recreates the memorable events and characters from the



brilliant novel. All the tragedies and triumphs that mark Anne's growth from adolescence to early adulthood are in the play: her friendship with Diana, her feuds with Gilbert, her adoration of Matthew, the mistaken wine bottle, the cake disaster, the broken leg, the scholastic achievements, and the saving of Green Gables. Whether you're an "old friend" of Anne's or meeting her for the first time, this play will solidify a lasting friendship between the audience and one of literature's most unforgettable characters.

Mark your calendars now for both the auditions and the production. For more information, call the TCT office at 844-1935.