

TCT Presents



Welcome to Agrabah, City of Enchantment, where every beggar has a story and every camel has a tail! All of your favorite characters are here in this stage adaptation of the Disney hit, including Aladdin and Jasmine—and of course, the Genie. Filled with magic, mayhem, and flying carpet rides, this musical will make the audience's spirits soar with excitement. Most of all, the tuneful, Academy Award-winning score with songs including "A Whole New World" and "Friend Like Me" will certainly make this musical a crowd favorite.

Patrick Sudduth plays the charming beggar boy, Aladdin, who desperately falls head over heels for Princess Jasmine, played by Alexandria Barnes. And with the help of the Genie, brought to life by Richmond Culp and his sidekick the Magic Carpet, Phillip Johnson, Aladdin

might win his true love from the evil Jafar portrayed by Eric Soderstrom. The cast also includes Parker Blaylock as Jasmine's father, the Sultan and Niki Cannon, Jafar's right hand....parrot.

The City of Agrabah's residents include: Ariel Alexander, Rachel Alexander, Whitney Allen, Jack Amelang, Jasmine Barnett, Mary Jennings Bouchillon, Sarah Childers, Caitlin Gardner, Morgan Hadley, Amber Clair Huddleston, Mary Clair Kelly, Amber Langford, Craig Lee, Lauren Lundy, Lily-Claire Mann, Harley Nabors, Mary Katherine Nesmith, Jeffery Orr, Stuart Rial, Melodie Sanchez, Keven Teeter, Rachel Williams, and Daphne Young.

Director Amye Gousset is assisted by Keith Gilbert. Assisting the Assistant Director is Susan Gilbert who is assisted by Lindsey Tanner. Laine Shaffer is stage manager.

Jonathan Bailey and Emma Cochran round out the "adult staff" for the show.

This fun-filled, larger than life musical is a must see show! Production dates are June 19-20, at 7:30 p.m. and June 21 at 2:00 p.m. There is also a Friday afternoon matinee for youth groups and day cares with special pricing. Call the TCT office today at 662-844-1935 for more information!

June 19-20, 2008

7:30 p.m.

June 20-21, 2008

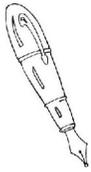
2:00 p.m.

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



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Notes from the President

We never stop. Seasons come and go, but the work of being the model of community theatre never stops.

This year's annual Gum Tree production, *Gypsy*, was a great production! Director Tom Booth and his cast of actors and production volunteers gave us what we have come to expect on Mother's Day weekend—a first class musical production. Almost a sell-out at each of the four shows, many people in Tupelo enjoyed this musical as if they had been on the "other" Broadway.

On Sunday after the production, the set was struck. The next day, practice began for our Summer Youth Theatre production of *Aladdin, Jr.* Director Amye Gousset and her team are working hard as we write to bring another

in a long line of superb youth shows to the stage. One of the best things we do, Summer Youth has become a launching pad for interest in theatrical arts for many of our youth in the Tupelo area. Often, it is the very thing that planted the seed for youth who have gone on to find enjoyment and fulfillment through a lifetime of involvement in theatre. See it at the Lyric June 19-21!

The Board of Directors is working to ensure the future of TCT as it evaluates the gifts of the members of the board and finds those who can complement the skills we bring. The starting place for board membership is being a season ticket holder. TCT bylaws provide that board members are elected from among the season ticket holders. We are always

looking to find good people to help serve as the foundation for providing the resources we need to continue improving the quality of our productions.

Backstage, the Lyric Krewe is planning and working to bring the annual fundraiser event, "Music, Monet and Margaritas." This year's event will be a great time. A street dance on June 14 on Broadway in front of the Lyric is an event many know shouldn't be missed. Buy your tickets soon and join us for the fun!

A season ends and one begins. We have a great lineup planned for next year. It's not too early to order your season tickets for next year's season. We never stop!
-Steve McAilly,
President



TCT Actor Has Role in Off Broadway

Veteran TCT actor Tim Hester has been selected to perform a role in the touring company of the off-Broadway hit *Tony n' Tina's Wedding*. This interactive dinner theater production is currently the longest running off-Broadway show in New York City. The professional touring company consists of four professional actors. The touring company auditions and selects local actors to perform the "supporting roles" in the wedding party. Tim has been selected to play the role of the groom's father.

The Mississippi State University Riley Center in



Meridian is hosting the touring company June 4-8, 2008. Patrons who attend this show will be treated as the guests at the wedding, attending the ceremony in the center's studio theater followed by the reception in the exhibit hall, where they will toast the wedding couple, enjoy an authentic Italian buffet dinner, and dance, all while enjoying the performance that goes on around them.

We're so proud that another TCT actor has been recognized for his wonderful talent. If you'd like information about tickets for this show, call the Mississippi State University Riley Center at 601-696-2200.

Help Needed with Summer Youth

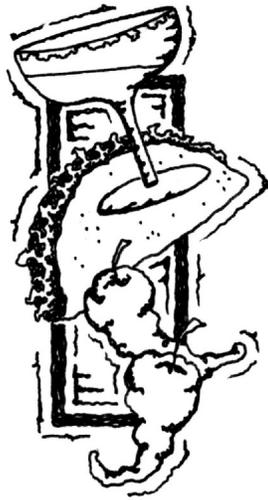
So often with all our summer youth programs, parents of youth in the show want to watch the program instead of working backstage. And rightfully so! Where would any of us be without parental support?

If there are any adults (or older youth) who would be willing to volunteer to help "wrangle" children backstage during rehearsals and/or programs, please call the TCT office today at 662-844-1935. Thanks!

Music, Monet & Margaritas!

TCT's fifth annual Street Fiesta, *Music, Monet, and Margaritas*, will be held June 14 from 7:30 until 11:30 p.m. on Broadway in front of the Lyric. Entertainment will be provided by the ever-popular Jeff Houin and the Jam Band. This year's event is sponsored by Strategic Wealth.

There will also be a silent auction of all types of original art works by local artists. Tickets are only \$15 and provide your first drink, as well as all the food you care to eat, great fun, and fabulous dance music.



Music, Monet & Margaritas is one of the annual events sponsored by the Lyric Krewe. Proceeds from the event help the Krewe sponsor educational events at TCT (like the Spring Education Event in the article below), as well as supporting TCT's mission, vision and goals.

Don't miss this great evening of fun and dance! For more information, or to volunteer to help throw this fabulous party, call Suzanne Oakley at 662-414-0238 or the TCT office at 662-844-1935.

Spring Ed Event Big Success

Traveling Puppeteers, Wood-N-Strings presented two different puppet shows for area schools in early April as part of TCT's Spring Education Event. These free performances were made possible by support from local sponsors AT&T, B & B Concrete, Inc., Journal Publishing, JBHM Education Group, Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Mississippi Arts Commission and TCT Lyric Krewe.

On April 2, two performances, of *Ananse! Early in the Day* were offered to fifth- and sixth-graders in the Tupelo Public Schools. Students from Lawndale Elementary and Milam enjoyed a wonderful story of Ashanti folklore. Drawing inspiration from West African music, masks, costumes and oral traditions, the puppeteers brought the stage to life with their vibrant scenic splendor and magic.



A young patron gets a close look at a puppet

Later that afternoon, *Into the Mist...A Dragon!* was presented at the Link Centre for C.A.S.A. and the Salvation Army's after school programs. It was presented again on April 3 to seventh- and eighth-graders at Tupelo Middle School. Using elegant reproductions of the classic Bunraku puppets of Japan, the main character encounters traditional folk puppets from North America, England and Indonesia, giving exotic glimpses of puppetry styles rarely seen in the U.S. A small group from West Union

also enjoyed *Into the Mist...A Dragon!* at the Lyric on April 4.

Through a \$4,500 grant from the Southern Arts Federation and the National Endowment for the Arts, a free public performance of *Into the Mist...A Dragon!* with a time for demonstrations and a question and answer session, was offered at the Lyric on April 4. After the presentation, audience members were able to come down and visit with the actors and puppets on stage.

Wood-N-Strings is just one group of artists who have been part of the Spring Ed Event at TCT over the last several years. They are the first group to return for a repeat performance. The Education committee is working on next year's Spring Ed Event which strives to bring professional performing arts to area youth in northeast Mississippi.

New Faces This Summer at TCT



Mandy Carlock and Jonathan Bailey

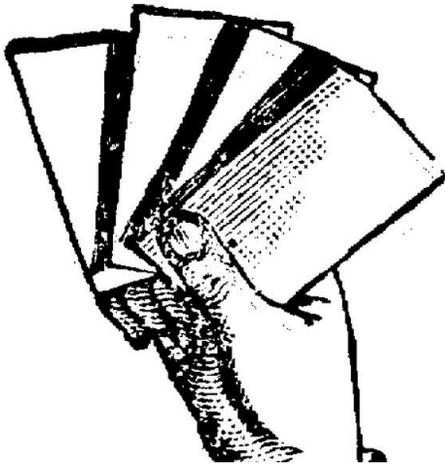
For the fourth year in a row, Tupelo Community Theatre has offered an opportunity for students to intern over the summer. This will be the first summer that TCT has hired two interns. Mandy Carlock and Jonathan Bailey are both very excited about their summer internship and the opportunity to learn more about the “real world” running of a community theater.

Mandy graduated from Tupelo High School with the class of 2007 and is now attending Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. She will be returning to Millsaps in the fall as a sophomore. Mandy has been involved with theatre for many years and has worked both on the stage and behind the scenes.

Jonathan Bailey was born in Clinton, Mississippi, but grew up in Tupelo. He was introduced to theater in Tupelo Community Theatre’s 2004 production of *The Hobbit*. He has worked on more than forty shows since; including nine productions at TCT. Jonathan is in his junior year at Mississippi University for Women and is a theatre major with a focus on technical theatre.

Please help us make these young people feel welcome when you call or visit TCT this summer!

2008-2009 Season Announced



The 2008-2009 season has been approved by the board of directors. It starts with *Bubba’s Revenge*, the sequel to the popular *Honky Tonk Angels* in October, 2008. This hilarious show continues the stories of all the girls from

Honky Tonk...and brings in a man or two to add to the hilarity.

The season continues in December with *Tuna Christmas*, the sequel to the popular *Greater Tuna*, seen in last year’s season. You’ll get to laugh again at the zany cast of characters from *Tuna, Texas* as they are played by two men.

To bring a laugh or two to a dreary and cold February, TCT is staging the great Neil Simon hit, *Star Spangled Girl*. This will be followed in March with Agatha Christie’s wonderful mystery *Ten Little Indians*.

The season topper will be the Gum Tree musical *Carousel*, a favorite of many with songs such as “You’ll Never Walk Alone.”



However, none of these shows can make it successfully to opening night without talented and dedicated directors. If you’re interested in helping with one of them, please call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 for information.

Would you like to receive e-mail notifications from TCT about special events and other opportunities to have fun? We are updating our e-mail lists this summer. Please e-mail TCT at 1tct@bellsouth.net or call the TCT office at 662-844-1935.

Scholarship Winners Announced



Scholarship Winners Amanda Nordin, Bahaa Awad & Heather Wiggington

Every year Tupelo Community Theatre provides scholarships to three lucky students. The winners of the scholarships this year are Amanda Nordin, Heather Wiggington, and Bahaa Awad.

Amanda Nordin, winner of the Huddleston Scholarship has helped with events at TCT and Pied Piper throughout high school. She's also been involved in many other activities, including Spanish club and being a Mississippi Thespian State Officer. She will be attending Mississippi State University in the fall. The Huddleston Scholarship is given in memory of long-time TCT set artist BJ Huddleston. It is awarded to a graduating senior from Tupelo High School who has demonstrated artistic ability, academic achievement, leadership and good citizenship.

Heather Wiggington, winner of the Liveakos Scholarship, has also been involved with TCT

over the years, performing in such shows as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Peter Pan*. Heather served as recording and corresponding secretary for Thespian Troupe 1949. She will also be attending Mississippi State University in the fall. The Liveakos Scholarship is given in memory of long-time THS drama teacher and TCT director Ruth Liveakos. It is awarded to a graduating senior from Tupelo High School who has demonstrated scholastic achievement and an aptitude for the dramatic arts.

The Geddie Scholarship was awarded to Bahaa Awad. He has participated in several performances at TCT and is a proud member of the improvisational comedy troupe called LabRats at Mississippi State. He will be returning to MSU in the fall as a sophomore. The Geddie Scholarship is given each year in memory of Martha Geddie, one of TCT's founding board members. It is awarded to a Mississippi student currently enrolled in college and majoring in drama, speech, oral communications, or related fields.

Each of these students has also spent many hours at the Lyric in TCT productions and attending camps and events. Congratulations to each of these deserving students. If you would like to learn more about our scholarships please check our web site at www.tct.ms, or call the TCT office at 662-844-1935.

TCT PERSONNEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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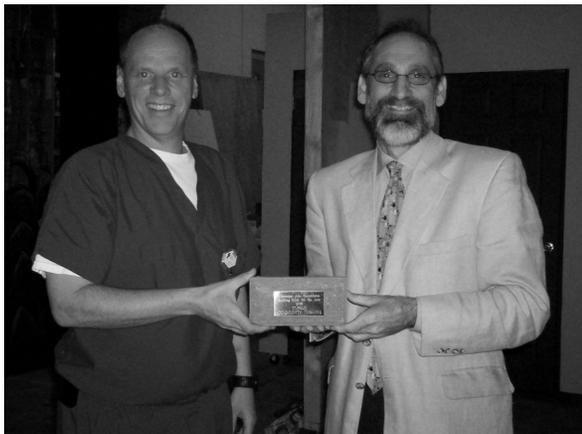
Season Sponsor: **BancorpSouth**

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 in part by a grant
 from the Mississippi
 Arts Commission



MAC Assists TCT Again

The Lyric Theatre, the historic home of Tupelo Community Theatre, has seen many improvements since its purchase in 1984. Quite a few of these have occurred over the last seven years thanks to the Building Funds for the Arts grant program provided by the Mississippi Legislature and overseen by the Mississippi Arts Commission. The BFA grants have had six rounds of funding and TCT has been fortunate to receive funding from five of those. This funding, with MAC providing 60% of the project cost, has allowed TCT to make our entrance and restrooms ADA com-



Malcolm White presents TCT Building Chairman David Hutson with a commemorative brick from MAC

pliant, refurbish the downstairs seating, and improve the HVAC systems in the theatre. Most recently we completed installing our new fly loft equipment as a result of our capital campaign along with the BFA grant.

These projects have totaled over \$700,000 in improvements. TCT just received an additional BFA grant of \$50,000 so look for continued work and improvements that will help make Tupelo Community Theatre “the model for volunteer community theatre!”