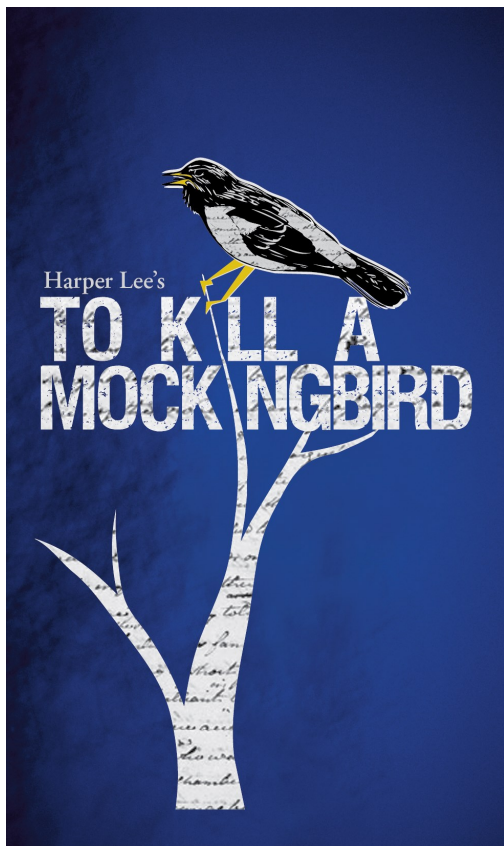


NEWS FROM THE
LYRIC FOR FRIENDS
 OF TUPELO
 COMMUNITY
 THEATRE

Volume 23, Issue 3

March, 2013

TCT Presents



Tupelo Community Theatre is proud to present Christopher Sergel's adaptation of the compelling drama, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. Lee's novel was an instant success when it was first published in 1960, winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1961. The lessons that Jem and Scout learn as they watch their community struggle with issues of racism and moral responsibility are timeless and equally important to all of us today.

Set in fictional Maycomb, Alabama, this coming of age story follows Scout Finch (Mary Conlee Wilson), the daughter of Atticus (Jonathan Martin), a small town lawyer who, despite threats to himself and his family, defends Tom Robinson (John E. Young), a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. Told from the perspective of a grown-up Scout, Jean Louise (Erin Beall) looks back at her childhood, delivering a powerful message about prejudice, injustice, and humanity.

Scout and Jem Finch (Jacob Roland) are being raised by their widowed father and his housekeeper Calpurnia (Sally Williams) with help from several neighbors. Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose (Leslie Criss) is the neighborhood crank who throws insults at the Finch children as they pass by her home. Miss Stephanie (Beverly Murphree) is the neighborhood gossip, offering the children and anyone else within earshot her opinion. Miss Maudie Atkinson (Martha Ann Wilson) holds a special place in her heart for Atticus. Meanwhile, Dill (Cole Wilson), Scout's childhood friend, arrives and brings with him the notion of getting the reclusive Boo Radley (John McCustion) to come outside.

After Tom is arrested, things get bitter and hostile. A wide-eyed Scout marches into the heat of things when her father holds vigil outside the jail to protect his client from an angry mob. Her innocent presence helps disperse the mob so that Atticus can fight his legal battle.

When the town learns of Tom Robinson's death while attempting to escape jail, Bob Ewell (Josh Sullivan) doesn't believe justice has been served and seeks further revenge on Atticus by attacking his children. Boo Radley comes to the children's aid, and Bob Ewell is killed in the struggle. Scout agrees with Sheriff Heck Tate (Russell Fox) that Boo should not be forced into the limelight for defending them. "It'd be sort of like shootin' a mockingbird, wouldn't it?" she says.

Other members of the cast are Nicole Wilson as Helen Robinson, Judd Wilson as Nathan Radley, David Neilsen as Judge Taylor, Torris Purnell as Rev. Sykes, and Ron Stephens as Mr. Horace Gilmer. The play is directed by Suzye Sheffield, with set design by Steve Miller and stage management by Cheryl Sproles. *To Kill a Mockingbird* will be staged March 21 - 23, 2013 at 7:30 each evening with a Saturday matinee at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available by calling the TCT box office at 844-1935. Reserve your seat today—don't miss it!

March 21-23, 2013

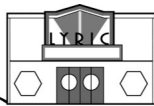
7:30 p.m.

March 23, 2013

2:00 p.m.

Sponsored by:





Notes from the President

It is almost my favorite time of the year – when trees and flowers begin to bloom, days are getting longer and everything seems to be coming back to life. The two productions scheduled this spring at the Lyric are certainly “springing” to life! *To Kill a Mockingbird*, directed by Suzye Sheffield, brings a perennial favorite to life at TCT. The classic novel was adapted as a play by Christopher Sergel. Sergel’s adaptation debuted in 1990 in Monroeville, AL, starring a Presbyterian minister whose face was very familiar to long-time TCT patrons – Mort McMillan. Mort was fond of quoting Gregory Peck, saying “Atticus Finch was the kind of man I wish I was.” Monroeville still produces the play every spring on the courthouse lawn. Be sure to come see the great work Suzye and her cast and crew are doing

with this exemplary production on March 21-23.

Another theatrical highlight of spring will be the fun, light-hearted musical, *Bye Bye Birdie* in May. Suzanne Oakley and Carean Dendy are teaming up to bring us this delightful musical inspired by Elvis Presley being drafted into the United States Army in 1957. *Bye Bye Birdie* opened on Broadway April 14, 1960 and was the first big hit for songwriters Charles Strouse and Lee Adams, librettist Michael Stewart, and director Gower Champion. Mark your calendars for May 2-4 and treat yourself to an evening of laughs and toe-tapping music.

I would also like to recognize and congratulate Tom Booth and his cast and crew for their work with *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. The show

was selected as one of two productions to represent Mississippi at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Louisville, KY. This is the fifth time in the last eleven years that TCT has been selected to represent MS in the regional competition. Please join me in encouraging Tom and the entire cast and crew to break a leg in Louisville!

With the start of our spring season we would very much like to invite you to come be a part of TCT. There is something here for

everyone – great acting, great sets, great costumes, a great venue and great fun! All we need is you. See you soon at the Lyric!



-Tracie Maxey-Conwill, President

Scholarship Deadline

Tupelo Community Theatre's mission is to stimulate, promote, teach, and develop interest in the dramatic arts. One very important way we work to accomplish that mission is to provide four \$500 scholarships each year. The scholarships are awarded in memory of former board members who gave thousands of volunteer hours in the pursuit of quality theatre in northeast Mississippi.

The Liveakos Scholarship is offered each year to a graduating Tupelo High School student who has demonstrated scholastic achievement and an aptitude for the dramatic arts. The Martha Geddie Scholarship is awarded to a Mississippi student currently enrolled in college and 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 B. J. Huddleston Memorial Art Scholarship is a scholarship recognizing a graduating Tupelo High School student who has demonstrated artistic ability, aca-

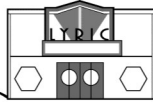


demic achievement, leadership, and good citizenship. In 2011 TCT presented the first Jess Mark Scholarship, which goes to a Mississippi high school student who has had involvement with Tupelo Community Theatre.

The deadline for submitting applications for any of these scholarships is April 16, 2013. The application form may be obtained at the TCT business office or printed from the TCT website at www.tct.ms. Applications are reviewed by a panel selected from the TCT Education Committee and Board of Directors.

Recipients will be notified by June 1. Students must complete at least 12 hours each semester (or the equivalent if on the quarter system) and maintain a 2.5 GPA. If you have questions concerning TCT's scholarship programs, please call the Lyric office at 844-1935, or e-mail 1tct@bellsouth.net.

Please take advantage of these financial opportunities to further your education in the dramatic arts and related fields!



TCT Advances to SETC



January 19, 2013, was a big day for the cast and crew of TCT's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. On that day, the 15-member production team presented the show to three adjudicators and a large, enthusiastic audience at the Mississippi Theatre Association convention at MUW's Whitfield Auditorium. High schools and community theatres from across the state brought productions for competition, as well as a participating in a 10-minute play festival, individual events, and theatre for youth.

Community theatre festival rules require each theatre to store their set in a ten-foot by ten-foot area. They then have ten minutes to move their set to the stage and sixty minutes in which to perform. At the end of the performance, the theatre must return the entire set to the measured area in less than ten minutes. If time limits are exceeded in any segment, the group is disqualified. Thanks to a huge response and laughter from the MTA audience, TCT came within one minute of disqualifying! Director Tom Booth said that the time was so short that at the end of the show he was off stage calling for the actors to leave the stage. "It was well received by the audience and everyone was having so much fun I think the cast just lost touch with the competition element for a mo-

ment," Booth stated. The award ceremony proved the work was well worth the effort. The production won nine awards, including best ensemble, director, set design, technical excellence, acting awards for Danielle Frerer, John Carroll, and Mark Maharrey, and the Warren McDaniel Award for Best Production.

Travel, registration and hotel expense to MTA and SETC are expensive, totaling almost \$10,000 each year. We believe TCT gets a huge return on this investment, helping us improve production values, hone acting and directing skills, and learn and grow as a theatre. TCT offers a very special *thank you* to our patrons who contributed more than \$4000 at the Lyric performances of *The Bee* to help us offset those expenses.

On March 7, TCT will reprise the performance at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Louisville, KY. Theatre groups from each of the ten states in the region will gather to learn and share in the five-day event. TCT's performance will open the community theatre festival on Thursday evening. During the rest of the time at the festival, the team will enjoy the other productions, workshops, network with fellow theatre enthusiasts, and spread the word of the quality work being produced in Tupelo!

TCT PERSONNEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fred Cannon	Jonathan Martin
Tracie Maxey-Conwill	Steve Miller
Bev Crossen	Lynn Nelson
Liz Dawson	Suzanne Oakley
Jay Dey	Donna Rumbarger
Kenneth Griswold	Rosemary Rutledge
Craig Helmuth	Beverly Williams
Jeff Houin	Judd Wilson
Danny McKenzie	Josh Wise

EMERITUS

Jess Mark (1982-2008)
Gene Murphey
Ruth Liveakos (1969-2008)
Edith Thomas

BOX OFFICE MANAGER

Lisa Hall
tctboxoffice@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lynn Nelson

TCT

201 North Broadway
P.O. Box 1094
Tupelo, MS 38802
662-844-1935

Visit us online at
www.tct.ms

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tom Booth
1tct@bellsouth.net



Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Tupelo, MS 38802
Permit No. 272

Address Service Requested

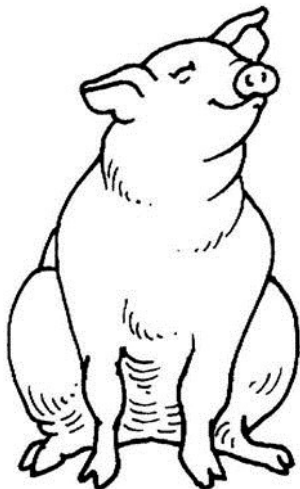
Season Sponsor:  **BancorpSouth**


mac
mississippi arts commission
support inspire enrich

Proud Member of
aact
Improving Communities
One Theatre at a Time

Charlotte's Web Auditions

Auditions for Tupelo Community Theatre's Summer Youth Theatre production of *Charlotte's Web* will be held April 21 & 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall of the Lyric Theatre. Auditions are open to students completing 3rd grade through high school. Mallory Davidson will direct. No advance preparation is needed, but students will be required to read from the script.



The Children's Literature Association named this "the best American children's book of the past two hundred years," and Joseph Robi-
nette, working with the advice

of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. Determined to save Wilbur, Charlotte begins her campaign with the "miracle" of her web in which she writes, "Some pig." It's the beginning of a victorious campaign which ultimately ends with the now-safe Wilbur doing what is most important to Charlotte.

Production dates are June 20-22, 2013. For more information contact the TCT office at 844-1935 or visit www.tct.ms.

