

Volume 19, Issue 5

April 2009

TCT Presents
RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
CAROUSEL

Carousel, written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, tells the story of a swaggering, carefree carnival barker, Billy Bigelow (Rick Brooks), who captivates and marries a naive millworker, Julie Jordan (Jauna Ellis). Billy loses his job just as he learns that Julie is pregnant and, desperately intent upon providing a decent life for his family, he is coerced into being an accomplice to a robbery. Caught in the act, and facing the certainty of prison, he takes his own life and is sent "up there." Billy is allowed to return to earth for one day fifteen years later, and he encounters Louise, the daughter he never knew (Caitlin Milne). She is a lonely, friendless teenager, her father's reputation as a thief and bully having haunted her throughout her young life. How Billy instills in both the child and her mother a sense of hope and dignity is a dramatic testimony to the power of love. Both Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein said that *Carousel* was the favorite of their works together. They broke new ground in musical theater storytelling

with their extended music/dialogue scenes, such as "If I Loved You" and, hauntingly, the "Soliloquy" (where Billy imagines his future child). The final anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone" has taken on a life of its own and is one of the most beloved songs in theatre history.

This talented cast also features: Mickey Gousset (Enoch Snow), Stuart Rial (Enoch Snow, Jr.), Robert Gatlin (Jigger Cragin), Monica Roden Spencer (Nettie Fowler), Ann Britt (Carrie Pipperidge), Lisa Kimes (Mrs. Mullin), David Neilsen (Starkeeper/Dr. Seldon) and Otis Tims (Mr. Bascombe). The ensemble is composed of: Alice Alexander, Ariel Alexander, David Atkins, Ben Boutot, Corban Boutot, Carol Boutot, Pamela Boutot, Lacey Carroll, Emily Gatlin, Abby Grace, Rick Griswold, Angie Howard, Austin Kinsey, Steve McAlilly, Carolyn Neilsen, Terry Perrine, Dona Porter, Rud Robison and Carolee Smith.

Carousel is directed by Sonja Jenkins, with Susan Tims serving as Assistant Director. The Musical

Director is Debra Robison and choreography is by Sarah Karrant. Set design is by Marianna Coffey and the lighting designer is Bronwyn Teague.

TCT will present this captivating musical during Gum Tree weekend on May 7-9, at 7:30 each evening with a 2:00 p.m. matinee on May 9. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Call the TCT office today at 662-844-1935 to reserve your ticket. You don't want to miss this classic of American musical theater!

May 7-9, 2009

7:30 p.m.

May 9, 2009

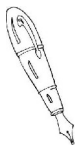
2:00 p.m.

**This production
is sponsored by**



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER**

Many musicals at TCT sell out. If you do not plan to use your season ticket, please call the TCT office and let us know so another patron may see the show.



Notes from the President

Last year the Tupelo Community Theatre's board of directors developed a strategic plan that is designed to help us reach our vision of being *the* model of community theatre. During the last week of April we will be meeting in an extended session to review the plan, our results in its implementation and deciding if any adjustments are needed.

Part of our strategic plan includes involving more volunteers. A community theatre is nothing without volunteers who believe in the organization's mission. Volunteers direct the plays, act in the plays, design and build the sets, run the lights and sound,

find the costumes, design the posters, put together this newsletter, and staff the theatre during performances. The continued life of TCT depends on our continuously finding new generations of volunteers. We would love for you to be a part of this. If you've ever wondered if you'd like to volunteer at TCT, it is never too late to "raise your hand." Give the office a call. We'll find a place for you!

We are beginning to see results of our efforts to find and recruit new volunteers. New faces are found everywhere—on the stage, backstage, in the light and sound booth and in the aisles. These new volunteers will take up

the mantle to build on the strong foundation that TCT's original leaders left for them, guaranteeing that we continue to be the model of volunteer theatre.

You will see the results of these efforts in this year's Gum Tree musical, *Carousel*. Sonja Jenkins, the director of this production, has left no stone unturned to bring our patrons what they expect—quality community theatre. We hope you'll be delighted when you join

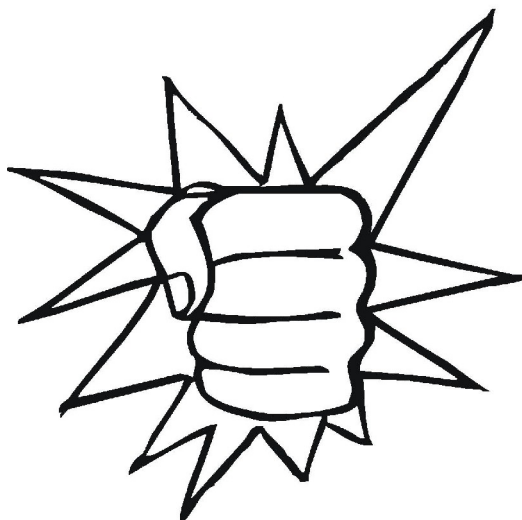


us May 7, 8 and 9 for another great TCT production!

-Steve McAlilly,
President

TCT Partners with S.A.F.E.

When Tupelo Community Theatre was formed forty years ago, our by-laws stated that one of the main purposes for our existence was to educate. TCT's Gum Tree production for 2009 is *Carousel*, the story of a naive young woman who falls for a swaggering carnival barker. After the barker loses his job he becomes increasingly angry and takes his frustration out on her. This classic Broadway musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein speaks about the cycle of domestic violence.



Emergencies, provides services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as counseling, on-site day care, court advocacy, and referral services. S.A.F.E. needs our help in many ways. Donations of furniture, house hold items, canned goods and used cell phones are in constant need. According to Executive Director Deborah Yates, S.A.F.E. has more than 60 volunteers but always needs others to help the organization. Look for more information concerning TCT's

North Mississippi is fortunate to have an organization in Tupelo that helps families deal with this tragic problem. S.A.F.E., Shelter and Assistance in Family

partnership with S.A.F.E. during *Carousel*. For more information contact the S.A.F.E. office at 662-841-9138 or 1-800-527-SAFE.

GO GREEN! JOIN THE MORE THAN 150 FAMILIES WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO RECEIVE THE TCT NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL. CALL OR E-MAIL THE TCT OFFICE TO LET US KNOW YOUR PREFERENCE. THANKS!

Summer Theatre Camp at TCT

Do the Monster Mash! Mwahahahaaa! Have you ever wondered what Dracula, Frankenstein, and the Mummy all do on summer vacation? They go to Theatre Camp! 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 Halloween in July. Students will be able to explore the origins and uses of theatre, art, and music along with hands on activities designed to enrich and entertain. Join us for trip into horror tales and urban legends from all over the United States.

TCT's Theatre Camp 2009 will be held the week of July 20-24. There will two sessions a day - rising grades K-3 in the morning and rising grades 4-7 in the afternoon. There will be a performance on Friday to showcase the students' work.

TCT is pleased to have camp counselors returning this year - talented actress and director Suzanne Oakley for music, Marianna Coffey, drama/art instructor from Tupelo Middle School for art, and Camp Director and drama instructor Allana Austin, actress, director and theater teacher at THS. The cost for the week is \$100 (which includes a t-shirt and snacks every day). Contact the TCT office at 662-844-1935 for more information.

TCT Theatre Camp July 20-July 24, 2009

Camper's Name _____

M _____ F _____ Grade Next Fall _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Parent or Guardian Name _____

Day Phone _____

T-Shirt Size Youth: S(6-8) M(10-12) L(14-16) Adult: S M L XL

Health related or other concerns regarding camper:

Deadline is June 26, 2009. Cost is \$100. Make check payable to TCT and mail to TCT, P. O. Box 1094, Tupelo, MS 38802. For more information call the **TCT office at 662-844-1935.**

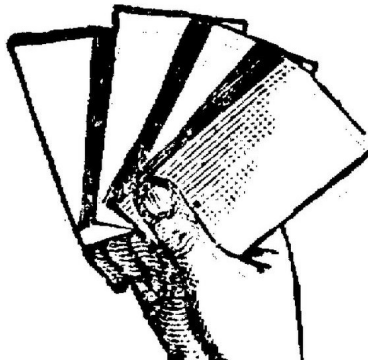
2009-2010 Season Announced

Comedy, music, drama and more music will command the Lyric Theatre spotlight in 2009-2010 when Tupelo Community Theatre offers something for everyone in its fortieth season.

Crowns, a play with music, and *All Shook Up*, the Gum Tree musical production, are the bookends of the season, with a pair of truly Southern comedies, *Dearly Beloved* and *Catfish Moon*, in between – plus a night of one-act plays. None of these shows have been performed by TCT before.

“Trying to pick just five shows is downright difficult,” said Danny McKenzie, chairman of the play selection committee. “The committee worked really hard to come up with a balanced season – mixing a good bit of comedy, a whole lot of music and some pretty deep drama. We’re excited about next season and think it will be one of the best TCT has ever offered.”

CROWNS – An endearing play with music is a tribute to the color-



ful church hats and the African-American women for whom they are symbolic crowns, a means to express themselves in the presence of God.

DEARLY BELOVED – The story of a completely dysfunctional but loveable Texas family in the throes of a series of life-changing events. The Futrelle Sisters are throwing a wedding while the rumor mill in their small town of Fayro, Texas, is working overtime.

NIGHT OF ONE ACTS – TCT presents *Rabbit Hole*, a Pulitzer Prize winning drama focused on a couple trying to cope with the

death of their four-year-old child, and another one-act play in a much lighter mood.

CATFISH MOON – Brookhaven native Laddy Sartin offers an hilarious Southern-fried look at fishing, beer and the meaning of life, particularly as it pertains to aging, friendship and the struggle between men and women – or more precisely, the struggles between men over women.

ALL SHOOK UP – Elvis and Shakespeare: A jukebox musical featuring the music of the Tupelo’s own Elvis Presley, with a story based (very) loosely on the plot of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*. *All Shook Up* is a musical audience members can sing along and laugh along with.

These selections for the upcoming season are tentative pending releases and contracts with the publishers. Watch for season ticket brochures in your mail later this summer. You’ll want to order soon before they sell out!

Music, Monet & Margaritas



The Lyric Krewe is seeking volunteers to help with its annual fundraiser *Music, Monet & Margaritas*. A planning meeting will be held on May 12, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. on the roof top at Park Heights Restaurant. Those interested in helping with this entertaining project are encouraged to join the Krewe for happy hour and lots of fun with planning.

Music, Monet & Margaritas, TCT’s annual street fiesta, will be held Saturday, June 20, 2009, in front of the Lyric Theatre on Broadway.

Sponsored by Strategic Wealth, the event will feature great food and drinks, Jeff Houin and the Jam Band, as well as a silent art auction with beautiful art pieces from talented area artists.

Tickets are \$15 each and are available at the TCT office. All proceeds from the event support educational programs at TCT. For more information, or to volunteer for the event, please contact Jennie Bradford Curlee at 662-842-4521 or e-mail jcurlee@cdfms.org. For more information, call the TCT office at 662-844-1935.

Dance Company Partnership

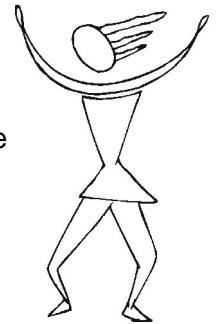


TCT is excited to announce a partnership with Roxie Thomas and the RDT Dance Theatre. Roxie Thomas, a graduate of Tupelo High School, the University of Mississippi, and Shenandoah University, will return to Tupelo to produce an evening of dance on July 17, 2009, at 8:00 p.m. "I

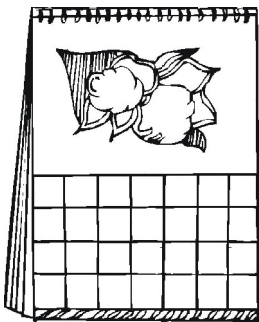
wanted to come home and share this dance concert with the people and community who have supported and encouraged me throughout the years." This multicultural dance company will perform original choreography created by Roxie over the past three years. "The concert will consist of recreations of some of my earlier works. It is also important for me to have pieces that deal with the cultural South. I will create works based on the devastation of the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, a dedication to Elvis Presley and a piece titled *Southern Suite*, which is an interpretation of my childhood, growing up in the

South, my innocent outlook on spirituality, and my family." Dancers from Tupelo, Canada, Spain and Virginia will come together for this performance. Roxie will also utilize the talents of professional lighting designer Christopher Ham.

The youth of the community will be encouraged to attend master dance classes during June and July and to attend the performance, all free of charge. This exposure to modern dance and to a multicultural group of dancers will be both educational and enlightening, giving students the opportunity to observe and participate in modern dance. Having been in many TCT and Tupelo High School productions, Roxie appreciates the value of her dance and theatrical education at the hands of so many talented teachers here in Tupelo. The concert is free of charge to the public but donations are encouraged and will be accepted to benefit the TCT scholarship programs.



Mark Your Calendars



May 7-9, 2009 - *Carousel*

May 14-16, 2009 - Tupelo Film Festival

June 4-6, 2009 - Elvis Festival

June 18-20, 2009 - *SYT Music Man, Jr.*

July 17, 2009 - RDT Dance Theatre partnership

July 10-24, 2009 - Theatre Camp

TCT PERSONNEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Tupelo, MS 38802

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 1tct@bellsouth.net

Visit us online at
 tct.ms

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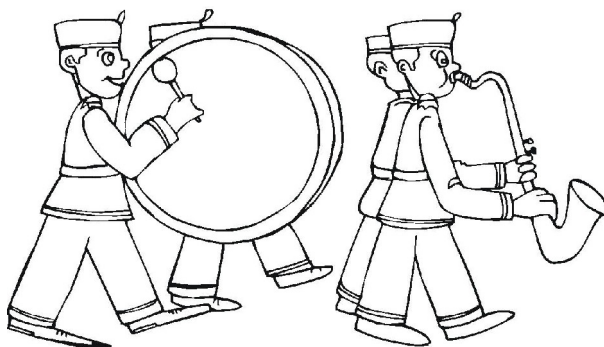
Season Sponsor: **BancorpSouth**

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



Auditions for Music Man, Jr.

Tupelo Community Theatre will hold auditions for its Summer Youth Theatre production of Meredith Wilson's *Music Man Jr.* on Sunday, May 3, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. and Monday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the chorus room of Tupelo High School. The cast will be made up of youth grades 4 through college sophomores. All parts are singing. No advance preparation is necessary for the auditions. Production dates for the show are June 18-20,



2009. This American musical classic tells the story of fast-talking musical instrument salesman Harold Hill, who visits River City, Iowa, and gets much, much more than he bargained for. Mark your calendars now so you won't miss it!

Director Jimmy Grisham also needs volunteers for backstage work, costumes, set, etc. For more information or for directions to the auditions call the TCT office at 662-844-1935.