

TCT Presents

Neil Simon's
Star Spangled
Girl
 A PATRIOTIC, CHAOTIC COMEDY

Got the winter blues? TCT has the cure! Our winter production is the steamy Neil Simon comedy *Star Spangled Girl*. The show centers around Andy, Norman, and Sophie who are all young, hip and in love. Set in San Francisco in the 60's, it is a love triangle with plenty of humor and politics to go along.

Andy Hobart (Todd Barnett) and Norman Cornell (Russell Fox) are an "odd couple" of radical liberals who are trying to publish a protest magazine out of their apartment. Their new neighbor, Sophie Rauschmeyer (Samantha Garrett), is a former Olympic swimmer and all-American, Southern belle from

Arkansas. Norman becomes obsessed with Sophie and begins all kinds of crazy schemes to win her attention. Sophie then falls for Andy who is in love with his crusade. Mayhem ensues as comic madness unfolds for our trio of unfortunate lovers. Add a Lieutenant with the marines, a crazy daredevil landlord and some determined bill collectors and you have the makings of a great comedy.

Both Todd Barnett and Sophie Rauschmeyer are new to the Lyric stage. TCT audiences last saw Russell Fox in last year's production of *Curious Savage*. Teaming up for this production are Sherrie

Black as director, Beth Lundy as assistant director, and Lindsey Tanner as costume director.

Call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 to reserve your tickets for this classic Neil Simon comedy today!

February 5-7, 2009

7:30 p.m.

February 7, 2009

2:00 p.m.

**This production
 is sponsored by**

 **STANFORD**



Notes from the President

Tupelo Community Theatre continues to be the “model of community theatre”! At the recent Mississippi Theatre Association festival held in Natchez, our Executive Director, Tom Booth was honored for his service as MTA President for the last two years. Board member Judd Wilson and veteran TCT actor Clint Reid were selected as two of eight members of the “All Star Cast” from among all the actors there. If you were lucky enough to see *Tuna Christmas*, you know why! TCT also received an award for Best Costumes. It takes a lot of work to take a play to the MTA festival. TCT thanks director Lynn Nelson and assistant director Craig Helmuth, as well as their talented cast and hard working crew for representing TCT so well. Board member Lynn Nelson is

the Community Theatre Division Chair for the Southeastern Theatre Conference. SETC is holding its festival the first week of March in Birmingham. Check the link for SETC on our website and consider attending this year!

Although it is a new year on the calendar, we are in the middle of the TCT season. We never stop. *Star Spangled Girl* opens February 5, 2009. Sherrie Black and her cast and crew have been hard at work for weeks to bring you this classic Neil Simon comedy. Rehearsals have already started for the Agatha Christie whodunit *And Then There Were None*. The Gum Tree musical will be here before we know it.

We are fortunate to have such a great facility in downtown Tupelo. It

enables us to reach out to the community with partners like the Downtown Tupelo Association, The Elvis Presley Fan Club and others with similar missions.

The board is already working on next season’s schedule. If you have ideas for good plays for our season, please let us know. We’ll also be looking for directors to begin serving terms on the board in May. Only season ticket holders are eligible to serve on the TCT board of directors. Please let us know if you have ideas for qualified persons to serve as directors on our board.



Put all these assets together and you can see TCT’s impact is far and wide!

-Steve McAlilly, President

Play Selection Committee Needs Help!

Trying to determine a season at Tupelo Community Theatre is, in a word, challenging. There are literally thousands of shows available for the five time slots we have, and deciding which five plays to present is certainly an inexact science.

At TCT, we’re up for pretty much anything - but we do have to consider several things, including (but not limited to): our ability to cast a show; can our facility handle it; will our patrons support it; who can direct it.

For instance, we might want to present *Miss Saigon* but getting a helicopter to land inside the Lyric might be problematic. Then again, Tom Booth came up with a passenger train for *42nd Street* and the late, great Jess Mark pulled off a cruise ship for *Anything Goes*. So who knows? Still, as the Play Selection Committee reads, researches and discusses shows for the next season, it has to consider such things as helicopters, trains and ships.

And while the Play Selection Committee usually comes up with a pretty lengthy list of shows to check out, TCT is always open for suggestions. Our patrons are not shy about suggesting shows, and we like it that way.

Now, though, we want to take it one step further: We’d like to know which shows you would like to direct. That’s right; if you’re interested in directing a particular show, let us know. Tell us something about the show you’d like to



direct and about yourself. Here’s what we need to know about the show: title (duh), category (comedy, musical, drama, combination), story synopsis, cast size, why you think it would appeal to the TCT patrons.

Here’s what we need to know about you: theatrical experience, why you want to direct this particular show, why you believe actors would want to be in the show and why you think the show should be considered for our

season.

The Play Selection Committee is in the midst of choosing the 2009-2010 season (and beyond) so let us know if there is a show (or shows) you’d like to see or direct. Drop us a line at 1tct@bellsouth.net or give us a call at 662-844-1935.

If you’re serious about directing a show, we’re serious about working with you. Now, that doesn’t mean that just because someone suggests a play that TCT will automatically present it or ask you to direct it. The Board of Directors is really pretty picky when it comes to actually choosing a play, deciding on a director and setting a season. It is, after all, the board’s responsibility as caretaker of your community theatre to monitor quality and help us become “the” model of community theatre. So, if you’ve “got what it takes,” give us a call to talk about it! We want to hear from you.

Auditions for Carousel Soon

TCT patrons will soon have the opportunity to hear such Broadway musical classics as "June Is Bustin' Out All Over" and "You'll Never Walk Alone" when Tupelo Community Theatre presents its Gum Tree musical *Carousel* by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II on May 7-9, 2009. The original production opened on Broadway in 1945 and ran for 890 performances. It has had numerous revivals and was produced as a film in 1956 starring Gordon McRae and Shirley Jones.

The primary storyline features a young female millworker, Julie Jordan, who falls in love with a n'er-do-well, Billy Bigelow, the barker of the carousel in the carnival which has arrived in the small New England coastal town. The play follows Julie's and



RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S

Carousel

Billy's romance, marriage and ultimately Billy's tragic death. Both Rodgers and Hammerstein II said "*Carousel*" was their favorite collaboration. They broke new ground in musical theatre storytelling with their extended music-and-dialog scenes. The musical was also controversial in its time in that the leading man is a criminal anti-hero who abuses his wife.

Sonja Jenkins will direct this year's Gum Tree production. Audition dates will be announced soon. There are fifteen male and five female speaking roles; however, the show includes a chorus of townspeople, amusement park carnies, youngsters and seafaring men. Mark your calendars in May for this musical extravaganza. You don't want to miss it!

TCT Wins Honors at MTA



Photo Courtesy of MTA

TCT was proud to take *Tuna Christmas* to the Mississippi Theatre Association festival held in Natchez, January 16-18, 2009. MTA hosts a festival every January for both community theatres and secondary schools (among many other things) from Mississippi. It is a time where theatres can attend workshops, hone their acting or directing skills, network with friends from all over the state and showcase their talent.

Judd Wilson and Clint Reid were both named to the All Star Cast and the production also won an award for best costumes. We're proud of the cast and crew and thank them for representing TCT so well. Congratulations are also in order for our neighbors to the south, Starkville Community Theatre. Their production of *Catfish Moon* won best production and will advance to the SETC festival in March.

TCT PERSONNEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Scholarship Deadline Nears

Attention High School seniors and college students! The deadline for applying for any of the three scholarships offered by TCT is April 15, 2009.

The Ruth Liveakos Scholarship and the B.J. Huddleston Scholarship are both open to graduating seniors at Tupelo High School. The Martha Geddie Scholarship is open to any currently enrolled



full time college student majoring in theatre-related arts in Mississippi. All three of these scholarships honor the memory of long-time TCT board members.

Visit the TCT website at www.tct.ms for more information or to download an application. As always, if you would like more information, call the TCT office at 662-844-1935.