

Volume 19, Issue 6

June 2009

TCT Presents

MEREDITH WILLSON'S
THE MUSIC MAN JUNIOR

River City, Iowa, 1912. Small town America. World War I is still far in the future. A Model T Ford can be had for \$575, in any color as long as it is black. A time of bandstands on town squares, and church socials. Happy, content, optimistic people until "Professor" Harold Hill steps off the train, just ahead of an angry crowd and proceeds to turn quiet, peaceful River City on its head!

Meredith Willson's rollicking show, *The Music Man, Jr.*, is an uproarious look at the adventures of traveling con man Professor Harold Hill as he hits town with his usual scam of starting a boys' band, selling the parents on the idea that he, and only he, can help keep their children from the temptations of the modern world, like spending time in billiard parlors and pool halls. All they need to do is give him money for instruments, uniforms, and instruction books, and he'll handle the rest. Of course, "the rest" never comes to pass.

TCT's Summer Youth Theatre production, *The Music Man, Jr.*, is a slightly shorter version of the original, compressing all the energy and hilarity into a little more than an hour. Veteran director Jimmy Grisham, in

his TCT directorial debut, reports that "This is one of the strongest casts I've ever worked with. Their energy has been remarkable all through rehearsals and they are eager to take the show to stage! I think our audiences will love it!"

While the show is a condensed version, all of America's best loved musical numbers have been left in: "Ya Got Trouble." Yes Sir, folks, you've got a pool hall right here in town, and your children are going to be corrupted by the hypnotic sound of billiard balls striking each other. Next thing you know, they'll be gambling, and going to saloons! And who can forget the immortal "76 Trombones"? To say nothing of the songs exchanged by the young lovers, "Marian the Librarian" and "Goodnight, My Someone." And then there's the wonderful barber shop quartet singing "Ice Cream/Sincere" as well as the comical Pick A Little Ladies singing "Pick a Little, Talk a Little." The rousing "Shipoopi" is as fun for the chorus as it is for the audience.

Director Grisham is ably assisted by Assistant Director Mandi Carlock. Sarah Plunkett is Choreographer and Music Director Matt Chisholm is wield-

ing the baton as Summer Youth brings to life this richly comic classic of American musical theatre.

Mark your calendars for June 18 & 19 at 7:30 p.m. and June 20 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. There is also a special showing on June 18 at 2:00 p.m. for school and daycare students with special pricing. Call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 today to reserve your ticket or to get more information about the group special pricing. You don't want to miss this American stage classic!

CAST LIST ON PAGE 2

June 18-19, 2009

7:30 p.m.

June 20, 2009

2:00 p.m.

(June 18 at 2:00 p.m. - special showing for school and daycare groups)

This production is sponsored by



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Notes from the President

Summer is a time of change. Weather becomes warmer, outdoor activities increase, vacations are planned and life, in general, offers a time to reflect, reevaluate and rejuvenate. Here at TCT, summer is definitely upon us. Sonja Jenkins has completed our main season with a wonderful Gum Tree production of *Carousel* and Jimmy Grisham is currently spinning a lovely yarn in our summer youth production of *The Music Man, Jr.* We had a fantastic educational event in April led by Tracie Maxey-Conwill and the education committee. Judd Wilson and his scholarship committee have chosen very talented students as scholarship recipients for 2009. Suzanne Oakley, Allana Austin and Marianna Coffey are planning a great theatre camp for children July 20 – 24. I hope you will join us for their showcase on Friday, July 24.

The TCT board of directors has spent numerous hours evaluating the

strategic plan that was created last year under the able leadership of Steve McAlilly, outgoing TCT president. We are so grateful for all that Steve has brought to TCT in the last two years. Part of that strategic plan was to create collaborations and we have several partnerships currently in the works. We partner with The Downtown Tupelo Main Street Association for the Elvis Festival each year and The Tupelo Film Commission for the Tupelo Film Festival. The Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau has awarded TCT a \$1000 grant for a collaboration with Roxie Thomas and her RDT Dance Group on July 17. And the new Shakerag improvisation group has been meeting at the Lyric for several weeks. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labor in the coming year.

TCT is blessed with wonderful volunteers and exceptional board members. We say thanks to four outgoing board member this year: Polly Bailey,

Lisa Reed, Tonya Smith and Christina Womack, while we welcome four new members, Liz Dawson, Jay Dey, Jauna Ellis and Josh Mabus. It is certainly a time of change and growth. Lynn Nelson will add to that growth as she travels to the American Association of Community Theatre Festival in June. Our own Tom Booth will serve as guest director of a production of *Life X 3* in Lake Tahoe. There are truly amazing things happening at TCT. Join us as we celebrate that excitement at our upcoming Music, Monet & Margaritas which has been so wonderfully planned by the Lyric Krewe under the leadership of another wonderful TCT volunteer, Jennie Bradford Curlee. Join us on



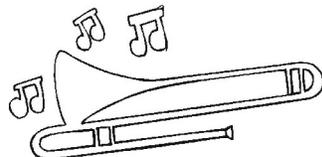
Broadway this summer. It's a great time to be a part of the magic at TCT.

-Suzye Sheffield,
President

Cast List for The Music Man, Jr.

Leading Characters

Harold Hill	Jacob Prince
Marian Paroo	Holly Harrington
Marcellus Washburn	Alex Hargett
Amaryllis	Allie Nichols
Winthrop Paroo	Parker Blaylock
Mrs. Paroo	Melodie Sanchez
Mayor Shinn	Eric Soderstrom
Mrs. Shinn	Alex Barnes
Zaneeta Shinn	Niki Cannon
Tommy Djilas	Hamilton Lence
Charlie Cowell	Ben Childers



Pick-A-Little Ladies

Ethel Tofflemier	Alyssa Miller
Alma Hix	Amanda Legge
Maude	Sarah Childers
Miss Squires	Lindsay Clark

Barbershop Quartet

Ewart Dunlap	Jamiaus Marion
Oliver Hix	Dalton Russell
Jacey Squires	Chase Stanford
Olin Britt	Cameron Westbrook

Boy's Band

Josh Martin	Cameron Boswell	
Harley Nabors	Chael Williams	Tyler Swinney

Ensemble

Addison Murphrey	Ariel Alexander
Austin Kinsey	Caitlin Gardner
Camille Bower	Charlotte Armistead
Claudia Colbern	Dana Jones
Danny Dobbs	Daphne Young
Emily Patterson	Garrett Boss
Hector Cabral	Holly Powell
Jeffrey Orr	Kelly Heath
Kelly Robinson	Layla Taylor
Mary-Claire Kelly	Rachel Williams

**There are still a few places available at Summer Theatre Camp July 20-24!
Call the TCT office today for details and to reserve your spot!**

Scholarship Winners Announced

Tupelo Community Theatre is pleased to announce scholarship recipients for 2009.

Alex Hargett received the Liveakos Scholarship which is offered each year to a graduating Tupelo High School Senior who has demonstrated scholastic achievement and an aptitude for the dramatic arts. Alex has been very involved in the theater program at Tupelo High School and has “grown up” at TCT.

Paul Kennedy received the B.J. Huddleston Scholarship which recognizes a graduating Tupelo High School Senior who has demonstrated artistic ability, academic achievement, leadership and good



Scholarship recipients Paul Kennedy and Alex Hargett. Not pictured is Mandi Carlock

citizenship. Paul has been very involved at TCT with backstage and set building as well as sound and lighting.

Mandi Carlock received the Martha Geddie Memorial Scholarship which is offered to a Mississippi student currently enrolled in college with full time student status majoring in speech, oral communications, drama, mass media and/or related fields. Mandi is a past recipient of the Huddleston Scholarship and has served countless hours at TCT as a summer intern.

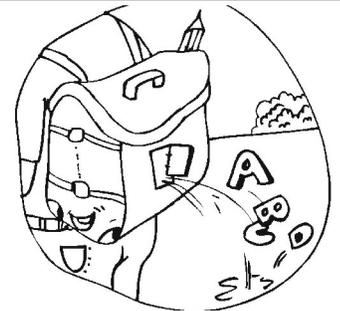
Congratulations to all three recipients and thanks to all those who applied for this year’s scholarships. We wish all well in their future educational endeavors.

Annual Education Event

TCT recently hosted two educational events for the Tupelo City Schools. John Stark brought a wealth of imagination to audiences through his song and story performances as he shared his talent with area second graders at six schools. In 1994, John produced an album, “Sister Water, Brother Sun: Songs and Stories of Nature for all Ages.” Topics of his lessons ranged from wildlife and the environment to the importance of stewardship, cultural diversity, tall tales and action songs. His performance was sponsored in part by Blue Cross Blue Shield, AT&T and B & B Concrete.

A traveling group from Memphis also performed for the 4th, 5th and 6th graders. Founded in 1995, *Voices of the South* is a Memphis based non-profit theatre company that creates, produces, and tours homegrown works of theatre that give voice to the southern perspective. VOTS also promotes literacy through their local and national touring program. The company’s extensive touring repertoire includes original plays and adaptations of literature from celebrated regional authors. Students from Lawndale and Milam were able to take advantage of this opportunity.

TCT gives a special thanks to our corporate sponsors, Blue Cross Blue Shield, AT&T, and B & B Concrete, as well as the Lyric Krewe who make these educational opportunities available for area students.



TCT PERSONNEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Renee Baldwin
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 Jay Dey
 Jauna Ellis
 Beth Stone Frick
 Tommy Green
 Craig Helmuth
 Rosemary Jarrell

Judd Wilson

Josh Mabus
 Steve McAlilly
 Danny McKenzie
 Lynn Nelson
 Suzanne Oakley
 Rob Rice
 Debra Robison
 Suzye Sheffield
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 Ruth Liveakos (1969-2008)
 Edith Thomas

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This project funded
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Arts Commission



New Board Members and Officers

One of the things that makes an organization great is its volunteers. Among the most involved and hard working volunteers at TCT are its board members. They give hundreds of hours of service to our organization. It is hard to tell Polly Bailey, Lisa Reed, Tonya Smith and Christina Womack who are leaving the board this year how much we appreciate their contribution to Tupelo Community Theatre. They will be sorely missed, but we know we'll continue to see them in and around the Lyric.



On the other hand, it is delightful to be able to welcome Jay Dey, Jauna Ellis, Liz Dawson and Josh Mabus to the board. We know they are bringing fresh insight and diversity with them.

Elections for officers are also held every May. Suzye Sheffield was elected President this year. Tracie Maxey-Conwill was elected Vice President, with Debra Robison as Secretary and Craig Helmuth as Treasurer. Thanks to all of our board and officers who work so hard to make TCT "the" model of community theatre!



Don't forget Music, Monet & Margaritas
June 20, 2009
Call the TCT office today to order tickets!