

NEWS FROM THE
LYRIC FOR FRIENDS
 OF TUPELO
 COMMUNITY
 THEATRE

Volume 19, Issue 1

October 2008

TCT Presents



October 16-18, 2008
7:30 p.m.
October 18, 2008
2:00 p.m.

**This production
 is sponsored by**



The third time is the charm! Nothing could be truer for Tupelo Community Theatre patrons when they enjoy the October 16-18 production of *Bubba's Revenge: The Honky Tonk Angel's Final Chapter*. In 2004 TCT brought both *Honky Tonk Angels* and *Honky Tonk Angel's Holiday Spectacular* to the Lyric Theatre to sold-out crowds. The story began with three young women—Darlene Purvis, Angela Bodine, and Sue Ellen Smith Barney Fife—meeting on a bus on their way to Nashville to become country music stars. We learned about their backgrounds and families and Darlene even found success in Music City USA. The second show introduced Charlee, a psychic manicurist who worked for Sue Ellen in L.A. She joined the group for a Christmas that no will ever forget.

This highly anticipated final *Honky Tonk* production brings the girls together again at the Honky Tonk Heaven. Through many twists and turns of the plot, we learn even more

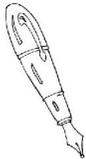
about the characters, are introduced to three of their male friends, and enjoy an evening of classic country and gospel songs such as "On the Road Again," "Rhinstone Cowboy," "Down By The River Side," and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken."

Reprising their roles from the first two productions are Suzanne Oakley as Angela, and Amanda Summers as Darlene. Both of these talented actresses have been seen on the Jess Mark Stage numerous times. Suzanne began her TCT career with the role of Angela in 2004 and was most recently seen as Rose in the 2008 Gum Tree production of *Gypsy*. Amanda appeared as Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun* and was also seen in *Gypsy* as the horn-playing burlesque stripper Mazeppa. Joining this talented line up is TCT newcomer Anne Britt. Anne and family recently moved to Tupelo from Kentucky where she played the part of Darlene in a production of *Honky Tonk Angels*. Playing the part of the show's name

sake, Bubba Bodine, is Greg Conwill. Although Greg has helped many times with set construction and other back stage duties this is the first time he has been on stage. Jackie Wimberley makes his TCT debut playing Sue Ellen's love interest, professional wrestler Cornell Crawford. Rounding out the cast is TCT veteran Craig Helmuth who portrays Little Jimmy Timmy, the owner of Nashville's largest costume and wig supply store. Returning as director and assistant director for the third time are Tom Booth and Tracie Maxey Conwill. Also returning is musical director Ralph Price.

Order your tickets early before it sells out! Adult tickets are \$20 and student tickets are \$10. They may be purchased by calling the TCT office at 662-844-1935. Mark your calendar for our 2008-2009 season opening production and join us in Nashville with Darlene, Bubba, Angela, Sue Ellen, Cornell, and Little Jimmy Timmy!

It's not too late! With season tickets, you can see FIVE shows for as little as \$45. Call the TCT office to learn more!



Notes from the President

Fall is in the air. School is back in session. Football fans are in their element. And with Tupelo Community Theatre, that means a new season! Another year to continue the tradition of first-class community theatre—one of the things that makes Tupelo a great place to live.

The lifeblood of our organization is our volunteer base. There is a place for everyone to serve. In addition to actors, directors and musicians we need painters, electricians, carpenters, lighting and sound people (or those who are willing to learn!), people to read and suggest plays, people with the gift of hospitality, and anyone

who just likes to work and see good results! Board members who have those gifts are invaluable, but there is far more to making TCT the model of community theatre than those twenty-one people could ever do!

Of course, the lifeblood is also our patrons—season ticket holders and donors. They provide the foundation for everything that happens with TCT! Without them we would not exist.

We have a great season planned for you. *Bubba's Revenge: Honky Tonk Angels' Final Chapter* kicks us off October 16, 17 and 18. Production is well underway and

you'll love it! The rest of the season will be great pleasers too: *A Tuna Christmas, Star Spangled Girl, And Then There Were None* and *Carousel* make this one of the best season line-ups ever.

If you haven't renewed your season tickets, it's not too late. You won't want to miss this year at TCT! You will enjoy yourself at the Lyric. And you will help us maintain the foundation that enables us to continue to be the model of community theatre!



-Steve McAlilly, President

Haunted Theatre in Late October

It is getting pretty spooky around TCT.....The Lyric Krewe has announced dates for this year's TCT Haunted House. October 24-25, and 30-31.

The Krewe is currently seeking director roles for rooms in the Haunted House. Each director will accept the responsibility of bringing one room at the Lyric to life—or death. Some of our directors from last year are returning this year. We've had one new volunteer for directing a room, but the more we have, the...ahem...mer-



rier we'll be!

In addition to the director roles, we are also looking for volunteers and other participants. Opportunities are available in designing, decorating, acting and "working" roles for the actual dates the haunted house is open.

If you would like to help with this event, contact Tracie Maxey Conwill at 841-2398, Jennie Bradford Curlee at 842-4521, or TCT at 844-1935. Please be sure to mark your calendars and we'll see you there!

Upcoming Auditions

Auditions will be held in the coming weeks for two season TCT productions. Auditions for *A Tuna Christmas* will be held Sunday, October 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lyric. If necessary, callbacks will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 13. Parts are available for two men who will play all of the zany characters from Tuna, Texas (the third smallest town in Texas). No advanced preparation is needed. Scripts for "cold" readings will be available at the audition. Production dates are December 4-6, 2008.

Preliminary auditions for the four leading roles in the beloved musical *Carousel* will also be held in October. Dates will be announced soon. The four leading roles include two men and two women, Julie, Billy, Carrie and Enoch. Directed by Tupelo native Vickie Helms Carter, this beloved musical will be staged in May, 2009. Those auditioning should prepare a Broadway style song. Accompaniment will be provided.

Come down to the Lyric and audition for one of these great shows in the season line-up! Call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 for more information.



Capital Campaign Thanks



Campaign Chair Beverly Clement (r) and TCT President Steve McAlilly (l) give remarks at the recent cocktail party honoring campaign donors.

On September 19, The TCT Board of Directors hosted a cocktail party at Park Heights for the major contributors to the “Building for the Second Century” Campaign for the Lyric. All individuals and corporations who contributed a \$1,000 or more were invited to attend. The plaques denoting these contributors were on display and will soon be placed in the lobby of the Lyric. Steve McAlilly, TCT President, Beverly Clement, Campaign Chair and Ted Moll, Community Chairman, gave brief remarks and thanked the contributors. They were happy to announce that the \$500,000 goal set for the campaign was achieved.

The Mississippi Arts Commission was also recognized for their \$136,000 contribution through their Building for the Arts program. The guests enjoyed cocktails and heavy hors d’oeuvres prepared by the chef at Park Heights. The Johnny Fears Jazz Trio provided background music. It was a wonderful way to say thanks to the contributors and to celebrate the success of the campaign as the Lyric prepares for its second century.

New Board Members

Replacing decades of experience is never easy but the beauty of community theatre is that there are talented and generous citizens able to step in and serve when they are called.

Fred Cannon, Suzanne Oakley, Michelle Waits and Wayne Williams have been elected to the Tupelo Community Theatre board of directors. They fill positions left vacant by TCT stalwarts Beverly Clement, Kenneth Griswold, David Hutson and the late Jess Mark. Clement had served on the board for 21 years and Mark had served 25 years before his recent death.

“It’s hard to lose the experience that our former members brought to TCT,” Steve McAlilly, board president, said.

“David and Kenneth were involved in so many different areas of TCT, both back stage and out front, and Beverly is a TCT legend. It’ll be hard not having her on the board, but we know her phone number and we won’t hesitate to call when we need her input. And we all know how much Jess meant to TCT. Losing him created a big void not just in the theatre but in the Tupelo community as a whole.”

Cannon, Oakley, Waits and Williams have all been involved in TCT productions and activities, working behind the scenes as well as on the stage. “They will give us the fresh insight that is vital to the success of any board of directors, and will certainly help TCT become the model of community theatre.”

TCT PERSONNEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Polly Bailey
 Renee Baldwin
 Fred Cannon
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 Beth Stone Frick
 Tommy Green
 Craig Helmuth
 Rosemary Jarrell
 Steve McAlilly
 Danny McKenzie

Lynn Nelson
 Suzanne Oakley
 Lisa Reed
 Rob Rice
 Debra Robison
 Suzye Sheffield
 Tonya Smith
 Michelle Waits
 Wayne Williams
 Judd Wilson

Christina Womack

EMERITUS

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

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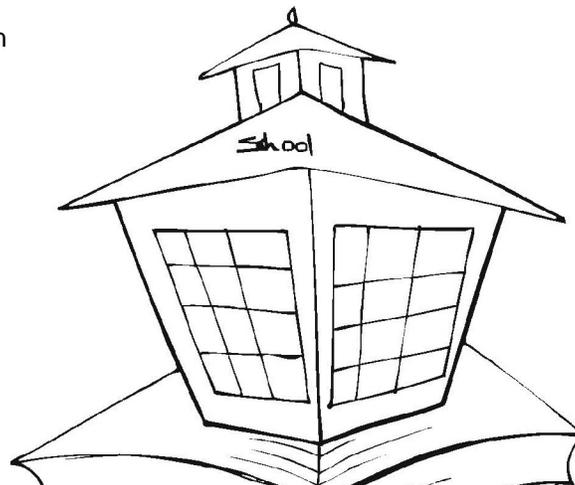
Season Sponsor: **BancorpSouth**

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in part by a grant
from the Mississippi
Arts Commission



TCT and JA in Joint Project

TCT recently received a grant from the Rock River Foundation to perform an educational touring show and at the same time, the Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo began a new project that involved presenting a drama to elementary children about issues they face. TCT and the Junior Auxiliary have formed a partnership to bring this project to life. After consulting with area school counselors, it was determined that the biggest concerns facing elementary age students today were bullying and conflict resolution. TCT and JA will present the play "I Didn't Think" to address these two concerns and, at the same time, to introduce some fun "drama" into



the lives of area students. There will be a Study Guide offered along with the play that reinforces the lessons taught and teaches the students about drama. And perhaps the two groups will inspire TCT's future "stars". The show will be presented the week of October 20 with several of the productions held at TCT following which the travelling troupe of local actors will present the play in area schools. There are also plans to take the show on the road in the spring to schools in the Delta. If you are interested in either helping with the project or bringing a group to see the show, please contact the TCT office at 844-1935.