

NEWS FROM THE

LYRIC

FOR FRIENDS OF TUPELO COMMUNITY THEATRE

Volume 19, Issue 2

November 2008



December 4-6, 2008
7:30 p.m.
December 6, 2008
2:00 p.m.

This production is sponsored by

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If your Christmas holiday sometimes turns out badly, take heart. Things are worse in Tuna, Texas, the state's third smallest town—where good cheer, always in short supply, is threatening to dry up altogether. The annual lawn display competition, sponsored by radio station OKKK, is being sabotaged by the Christmas Phantom. The Smut Snatchers are trying to have "Silent Night" banned on the grounds that decent people don't sing about "round young virgins." And the Tuna Little Theatre production of *A Christmas Carol* may close before it opens if someone doesn't pay the light bill.

Return to Tuna, Texas on December 4-6 to watch your favorite characters in this rip-snortin', zany sequel to last year's hit *Greater Tuna*. Only in Tuna could 1 + 1 equal 22.

Judd Wilson and Clint Reid each play eleven residents of Tuna—young and old, male and female, nasty and nastier—and give us a bawdy peek into the lives of Tuna's citizens.

Those who saw *Greater Tuna* last season will remember some of Judd's characters—animal advocate Petey Fisk, twins Charlene and Stanley Bumiller, used weapons store owner Didi Snavelly, and Vera Carp (who has won the lawn display contest the last 14 years). He'll also introduce you to new characters like Tastee Kreme waitress Inita Goodwin and the combat-boot-wearing octogenarian Dixie DeBerry.

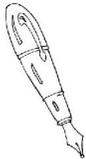
Clint Reid's characters include the memorable Bertha Bumiller, a long suffering wife with a philandering husband and three obstreperous children; Aunt Pearl Burrus who

has trouble with bluejays keeping her hens from laying; and UFO abductee R.R. Snavelly. His new characters include Tastee Kreme waitress Helen Bedd and Tuna Little Theatre director Joe Bob Lipsey.

A Tuna Christmas is directed by Lynn Nelson with assistant Craig Helmuth. Marianna Coffey is designing the set, with lights and sound being handled by Bronwyn Teague.

Call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 today to reserve your seat for this hilarious, satiric dose of Christmas cheer from your favorite Texas hamlet!

Please note that *Tuna Christmas* contains adult language and may not be appropriate for pre-teens. Call the TCT office for more information to determine suitability for your family.



Notes from the President

Being the model of community theatre is hard work! But thankfully Tupelo Community Theatre is blessed with many talented people committed to that vision. Tom Booth, our Executive Director, stepped into a “volunteer” role this fall to direct our season opener, *Bubba’s Revenge: Honky Tonk Angels’ Final Chapter*. He and his team delighted all who came with another great show!

As that came to an end, board member Renee Baldwin helped us collaborate with the Junior Auxiliary to produce an educational play for area students *I Didn’t Think*. That success resulted in several productions at the Lyric, Lee County Schools and several

of the surrounding counties. Thanks to Suzy Williams (who directed the play) and actors Renee Baldwin, Susan Fortenberry, Meredith Martin, Donna Rumbarger, Suzy Morgan, Merrie Hughes, Bobbie Kellum and Tom Booth for going beyond the call of duty to make this happen! And special thanks to the Rock River Foundation for providing funding that enabled the production.

Squeeze in some workshops about the technical aspects of producing plays and an acting workshop with Frank Vitolo and you wonder how we can find time to get ready for another play. But that’s what directors Lynn Nelson

and Craig Helmuth are doing. You certainly won’t be disappointed with *A Tuna Christmas* opening December 4. A sequel to last year’s hit *Greater Tuna* with the same cast and crew promises to get your holiday season off to a riotous start.

It’s not too late to become a season ticket holder either! Besides being the best entertainment value in Mississippi, season ticket holders join these volunteers who give their time and help us continue to bring quality theatre to the Tupelo area. If you haven’t bought a season ticket yet, now’s your chance!

-Steve McAlilly, President



Haunted Theatre a Huge Success

It was pretty spooky around TCT near the end of October! In just one short week the Lyric was transformed into the Tupelo Haunted Theatre. Over fifty volunteers worked to produce The Third Annual TCT Haunted Theatre. The Haunted Theatre was our most successful ever—exceeding attendance from the previous two years. Over 1000 people came through in just four nights.

These efforts were led by five individuals responsible for producing and directing scenes in various



spots throughout the theatre. Special thanks to Tracie Conwill, Allana Austin, Tom Booth, Dave and Liz Dawson, and Steve Miller for leading this effort. We would like to extend our thanks to the many volunteers that gave of their time and talents to make this one of our most successful events ever. An extra special thanks

also goes to Sprint Print who sponsored our Haunted Theatre again this year.

And if you missed it—don’t worry. We’ll be ba-ack!

“Mini-Season” Tickets Still Available

Just a reminder – we are still selling “mini-season” tickets for the four remaining shows. It’s a great deal (and makes a GREAT stocking stuffer for friends and family!). If you purchased tickets for the four remaining shows individually, it would cost \$65. However, if you purchase a “mini-season” ticket, it costs \$40. That’s only \$10 a show. Now that’s a bargain anyway you look at it.

Call the TCT office today at 662-844-1935 to get your Christmas shopping done in a jiffy (or just to get more information.) Support TCT and the Lyric all year round by becoming a member!



Educational Show on the Road

A grant from the Rock River Foundation and a partnership between TCT and Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo have made it possible for more than 2,300 hundred students from over 20 schools to have the opportunity to see a production of *I Didn't Think*, a play about conflict resolution. The cast, under the leadership of Suzy White Williams, has taken the show to TCPS in Tupelo, Saltillo Elementary, Itawamba County and City Schools, and Holy Family Catholic School in Holly Springs. The play will be presented again in February and March to schools in Lowndes, Clay, Tippah, Tallahatchie, and Prentiss counties. If you are interested in learning more about this education event, contact the TCT office at 662-844-1935.

Please enjoy this letter which we received from a Vardaman student who saw the show recently. Laci Jo, we're glad you got to see the show and appreciate your kind words. We hope to see you again soon at another TCT production!

November 6, 2008

Dear Mr. Booth and members of T.C.T.,

I would like to tell you that I loved the play, "I Didn't Think". It was a magnificent performance! Thank you for allowing me and my class to come. The learning experience was wonderful. Although it was only my second time to come to a T.C.T. production, it seems as if they get better each time. I would also like to thank you for paying our way to come. The sixth grade students from Vardaman Elementary School would just like to say, "Thank You!"

Sincerely,
Laci Jo Fugitt

Special Volunteers at TCT



Volunteers at TCT come in all shapes and sizes and from every area of North Mississippi! On November 12, four students and their teachers toured the Lyric Theatre and helped put up posters for our next production of *A Tuna Christmas*. This in itself is not anything out of the ordinary. What is "extra special" about this group is they are a special needs class from Pontotoc. Instructors Regena Boyd and Judy Wilder, along with assistant Sandra Williams, and their students spent an hour at the Lyric hearing about its history and the activities TCT offers each year. Tom Booth, Executive Director, told them how they could become more involved either acting or backstage. He even told a little about our theatre ghost Antoine! Afterward, the group spent time putting up posters in Downtown Tupelo, had lunch in the park, and even spent a little time bowling. Booth thanked the students, Katie, Morris, Brook, and Tony, and their teachers for their visit and their hard work by giving each a TCT t-shirt. If you would like to volunteer or be involved at TCT in any way please contact our office at 662-844-1935.

TCT PERSONNEL

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Auditions for Neil Simon Comedy

Auditions for TCT's third season show, *Star Spangled Girl* by Neil Simon, will be Sunday, November 23 at 2:00 p.m. and Monday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lyric Theatre. This hit comedy deals with two earnest young men, Andy and Norman, who use their San Francisco apartment as a publishing office for a "protest" magazine. Sophie, an Olympic swimmer and all-American girl, moves into another apartment on the same floor. Her friendliness and charm leave Norman hopelessly smitten. And while she is convinced that they are editing a dangerously subver-



sive magazine, our heroine soon finds that her real source of annoyance is that the wrong man is pressing his attentions on her. Happily this situation is reversed in time, as love and politics blend delightfully!

Veteran director Sherrie Black is seeking men and women college age to 35 years old who can "look the parts" described above. No advance preparation is necessary. Production dates for the show are February 5-7, 2009. If you have questions or need more information, contact the TCT office at 662-844-1935 or Director Sherrie Black at 662-844-1324.