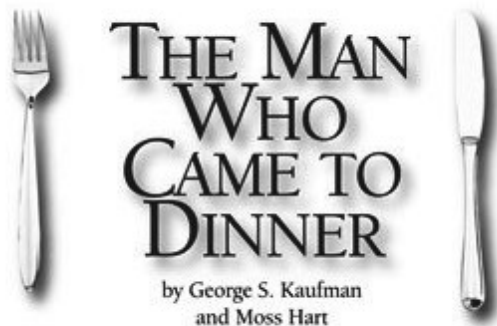


Volume 21, Issue 2

November, 2010

## TCT Presents



Start your holidays on a perfectly tuned comedic note with TCT's production of the classic Kaufman and Hart's *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. This celebrated Broadway hit tells the story of egotistical radio personality, Sheridan Whiteside, who is on a lecture tour in a small town in Ohio. He is invited to dinner at the house of Ernest and Daisy Stanley, but slips and falls on their front steps, breaking his hip and forcing him to recuperate in their house.

Whiteside's antics will leave the audience rolling in the aisles as he takes over the entire Stanley household with a combination of threats, intimidation, and acid-tongued wit, exiling the family to the second floor. He holds court in the living room for his wide circle of friends, runs up staggering long-distance bills to world leaders, monopolizes the Stanley servants, and populates the house with a menagerie of exotic animals. An interesting historical side note to the play is that Kaufman and Hart wrote the show as a vehicle for their friend, famed theatre critic Alexander Woollcott, who served as the model for the lead character Sheridan Whiteside. Kaufman and Hart had promised to write a vehicle for Woollcott but had been unable to find a plot that suited them until one day Woollcott showed up, unannounced, at Hart's home and proceeded to sleep in the master bedroom, terrorize Hart's staff, and generally act like

**December 9-11, 2010**

**7:30 p.m.**

**&**

**December 11, 2010**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Sponsored By**



Sheridan Whiteside. On his way out he wrote in Hart's guest book, "This is to certify that I had one of the most unpleasant times I ever spent." Hart related the story to Kaufman soon afterwards. As they were both laughing about it, Hart remarked that he was lucky that Woollcott hadn't broken his leg and become stuck there. Kaufman looked at Hart and the idea was born.

TCT has assembled an all-star cast and crew to present *The Man Who Came to Dinner* December 9-11. Start your holiday season off right and call Box Office Manager Lisa Hall today at 662-844-1935 to reserve your seat now. You don't want to miss this sure sell-out!

Directing *The Man Who Came to Dinner* is TCT newcomer Christopher Schager. Set Design is a collaboration between Steve Miller and Schager. Steve Miller also serves as the Master Carpenter, with Marianna Coffey as the Scenic Painter. David Atkins serves as Production Stage Manager and Jordan Harrel runs the backstage crew as Assistant Stage Manager. Bronwyn Teague is Light Designer, with Lindsey Tanner as Light and Sound Board Operator. Production assistants for this show include Patrick Hudson, David Dawson and Amanda Griswold. Bobby Geno serves as Costume Coordinator. The gifted cast for the show is listed on page 2.



# Notes from the Executive Director

Tupelo Community Theatre's 41st season is off and running. As it is with all community theatres, nothing would be possible without the countless volunteers and sponsors who work so hard to make our shows and events exceptional.

Director Sonja Jenkins, along with her cast and crew, presented a great artistic success with our opening show *The Fantasticks*. Thanks to Sonja for her clear vision for this production and thanks to Renasant Bank for their sponsorship of the show. Many of you will remember that *The Fantasticks* was the second show and first musical ever produced by TCT back in 1970.

Following closely on the heels of this hard working group was Director Steve Miller with our fifth annual Haunted Theatre. Steve and his volunteers spent countless hours preparing the historic Lyric Theatre for the thousands of visitors who enjoyed this unique experience. In fact, a record for attendance was set. This is just another example of how volunteers make a huge difference in the economic life of our organization and social life of our community. Thank you Steve, our sponsor Sprint Print, and the dozens of volunteers for your commitment to success.

As those of you who have ever been involved at TCT know, the work never stops. Christopher Schager,

director of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and his cast are hard at work rehearsing for the December 9-11 performances. We welcome Haire Wealth Management as the sponsor for this classic Broadway comedy.

Our success is dependent on our volunteers and community support. The TCT Board of Directors and staff work side by side with our volunteers to make excellence our only option and to be "The Model for Volunteer Community Theatre." Contact the



TCT office at 844-1935 for more information about how you can become involved!

-Tom Booth  
Executive Director



Tupelo Community Theatre is partnering with CDF Newcomers Club to reach out to the newest members of our community. All current members of the Tupelo Newcomers Club have been invited to a free viewing of a dress rehearsal for *The Man Who Came to Dinner* on December 6. They'll be treated to hors d'oeuvres at intermission and tours of the historic Lyric building afterward. If you know of newcomers to our area who'd like to be a part of this, contact the TCT office at 662-844-1935 or Angela Glissen at CDF at 662-842-4521.



## Cast List

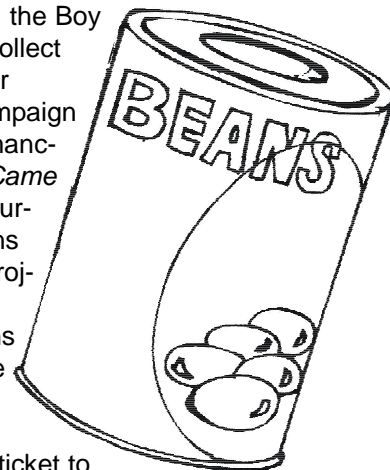
(from page 1)

Sheridan Whiteside  
Mr. Stanley  
Bert Jefferson  
Maggie  
June  
Richard  
Miss Preen  
Mrs. Stanley  
Harriett  
John  
Sara  
Mrs. Dexter  
Mrs. M<sup>C</sup>Cutchen  
Dr. Bradley  
Beverley Carlton  
Banjo  
Sandy  
Professor Metz  
Lorraine  
Westcott  
Expressmen

Harold Plunkett  
Bobby Geno  
Kenneth Griswold  
Maigen Patterson  
Chelsea Petty  
Ben Childers  
Christy Miller  
Sherrie Black  
Lee Harris  
Sam Cooper  
Jennifer Cummings  
Beverly Murphree  
Liz Dawson  
Johnny Peters  
Jerry M<sup>C</sup>Calpin  
Rick Hargett  
Alex Hargett  
Kevin Barrington  
Pamela Boutot  
Joseph Nichols  
Bob Hajek and Jimmy  
Grisham

## Scouts Sponsor Food Drive

Tupelo Community Theatre, in partnership with the Boy and Girl Scouts, will collect canned goods for their Scouting for Food campaign during all four performances of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. As an encouragement to our patrons to participate in this project, we will offer free concessions to patrons who bring at least one canned good to a performance. You may also purchase a ticket to the Saturday, December 11, 2:00 p.m. matinee performance for only \$10 if you contribute five cans of food (a savings of \$5). Please help TCT and the Scouts provide much needed resources to our local Salvation Army during the holiday season.



# “Mini” Season Tickets Available



You intended to purchase TCT season tickets and never got around to it? It's not too late to enjoy the four remaining productions of its 41st season, which includes three comedies and a Tony award winning musical. “Mini” season ticket packages are available for the

remaining shows in TCT's 2010-2011 season, *The Man Who Came To Dinner* (December 9-11), *The Dixie Swim Club* (January 27-29), *Harvey* (March 10-12), and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (May 5-7). Patrons purchasing season tickets receive 40% off ticket prices at the door. Also a popular Christmas gift, tickets for individual shows may be purchased in addition to ticket packages.

With something for everyone, there is no better time to become a season ticket holder and join more than 1,000 members in celebrating entertainment excellence right here at home. For more information about TCT, or to purchase a season ticket package, please contact Box Office Manager Lisa Hall at 662-844-1935 or [tctboxoffice@bellsouth.net](mailto:tctboxoffice@bellsouth.net).

## New Look for Posters

Many of our patrons may have noticed that TCT's posters have a different “artistic” look this season. Although we have always been proud of our art work, we are thankful to Marketing Committee Chair Josh Mabus and local artist Brent Farrar for making the posters for this season literal works of art.

Brent resides in Tupelo with his wife, Jenny and two sons, Gatlin & Fischer. He attended Mississippi State University in 1998, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture. During his senior year, Brent took watercolor painting as an elective. That class, led by Brent Funderburk, changed his life forever - leaving him with a love, and unearthed talent, for watercolor painting. Brent embraced this love and the result can be seen in his numerous works of original art. Brent has also been selected for various commissioned pieces including the official

image for the Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo's 2010 Charity Ball as well as the 2010 Down on Main Concert Series. Brent's work is featured in the Caron Gallery and can be purchased at [www.wateronpaper.com](http://www.wateronpaper.com) or at Reed's Bookstore, Tupelo, MS.

Each of you now have the chance to own either the original artwork or one of no more than five prints from each show. At each of the four performances of *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (and each of the other three remaining season shows), a silent auction for a print will be offered. Starting bid for each print is \$50. The original art is also available for \$300 to the first interested patron. If the art work from *The Fantasticks* is any indication bid early and often! Thanks again to Brent for his partnership with Tupelo Community Theatre to help connect the arts.

## Successful Haunted House

The fifth annual Haunted Theatre was a record breaking success in October. Thanks to Steve Miller for leading all the volunteers, including scene directors Allana Austin, David Collins, Dave Dawson, Bobby Geno, and Bentley Burns. They, with the help of almost 50 other volunteers, spent most of the month preparing the historic Lyric building to play host to more than 1500 patrons. A special thanks to our sponsor, Sprint Print, who helped make this year's event one of the best and scariest ever!



### TCT PERSONNEL

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### TCT

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P.O. Box 1094  
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[www.tct.ms](http://www.tct.ms)

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Fred Cannon  
Tracie Maxey-Conwill  
Liz Dawson  
Jay Dey  
Jauna Ellis  
Beth Stone Frick  
Tommy Green  
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Josh Mabus  
Steve McAlilly

Danny McKenzie  
Steve Miller  
Suzanne Oakley  
Rob Rice  
Debra Robison  
Donna Rumbarger  
Rosemary Rutledge  
Suzye Sheffield  
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Beverly Williams

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Gene Murphey  
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#### BOX OFFICE MANAGER

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#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lynn Nelson



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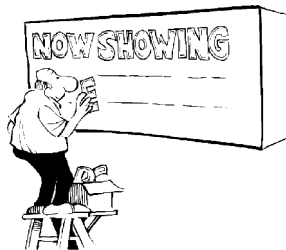
  
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One Theatre at a Time

## Lyric Marquee Receives a Facelift

In the entertainment business, facelifts for older actresses are not uncommon. The success may vary, depending on the performer and the professionals working on her! The Lyric is pleased to show off her “new face.” Recent work on our “grand dame” has restored windows, plaster, and drivet on the facade and repainted the building with a bold and vibrant art deco theme in five colors. The marquee was remodeled by repairing the metal frame, repainting the marquee itself, and adding eye-catching neon. The project is topped off by a historic plaque, recently unveiled at 40th Anniversary celebration, which honors the fourteen original founders of TCT.

This project received invaluable design advice from Kurt Shettles, Karen McCarty, and The McCarty Company – friends upon whom TCT has come to rely. Mike Lothrop and Troy Whitenton of Superior Signs implemented the design and offered not only craftsmanship but also a genuine interest in helping to develop the ideas of the archi-



tects and TCT’s Board.

Building chairman Rob Rice said, “Our Board became excited when they saw Amye Gousset’s model painting of the façade, which included the actual design colors on a 4’ x 8’ scale. That was such a valuable labor of love and skill from Amye.” Suzye Sheffield, President of the TCT Board, added, “This work would not have been possible without

the remarkably faithful support of our season ticket holders and patrons. Our Board also is deeply appreciative to the Carpenter Foundation for its generous gift of \$15,000 and to the Downtown Main Street Association for its grant of \$1500.” Sheffield also noted that the DTMSA had recently recognized at its annual meeting the TCT facade renovation.

The Board of TCT invites all its supporters and patrons to a re-lighting ceremony the evening of Thursday, **December 2 at 8:00 p.m.** For more information, call the TCT office at 662-844-1935.