

For friends  
of  
Tupelo  
Community  
Theatre



# lyric

Volume 15, Issue 3

November, 2004

## HONKY TONK ANGELS HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

Our 2004 holiday production continues the story TCT began in January 2004, of Darlene, Angela and Sue Ellen, three “average” women from Mississippi, Texas and California who meet on a Greyhound bus on their way to Nashville and form a group called The Honky Tonk Angels. These performances were so warmly received by our patrons that the show was added to the Patron’s Choice season for 2004-05. Written by Ted Swindley, author of *Always...Patsy Cline*, the story picks up where we left the girls nine months ago—and with a new cast member, Charilee, Sue Ellen’s business partner.

Darlene grew up in the Mississippi Delta and has taken care of her father since her mother passed away. Darlene decided to stay in Nashville and now sings at the Hillbilly Heaven. Angela, from Waxahatchie, TX, is married to a beer truck driver named Bubba and is the mother of three chil-

**November 18-20 at 7:30 p.m.  
and  
November 20 at 2:00 p.m.**

dren. She and Sue Ellen decided that the Nashville life was not for them and returned home at the end of last season’s show. Sue Ellen is back in LA working in the business she owns with her partner, Charilee Chess. Charilee is the widow of the famous soul singer Tubby Chess. Now the foursome joins together for this holiday reunion and the pursuit of their dream of remaining Honky Tonk Angels.

With music by legends such as Brenda Lee, Dolly Parton, Ray Stevens, James Brown, Barbara Mandrell, The Beach Boys, Elvis, and many others the show is filled with both touching and hilarious moments we’re sure all ages will enjoy.

Featured as Darlene is veteran TCT actress Amanda Pitts. Amanda has a

Doctorate of Pharmacy from The University of Mississippi and works for NMMC’s Infusion Services. She is fondly remembered for her leading roles as Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun*, Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!* and Widow Douglas in the 2004 Gumtree production of *Big River*.

Although a new comer to TCT less than a year ago, Suzanne Oakley of Bruce has been active both on stage and behind the scene. Continuing in her role of Angela, Suzanne is the counselor at Calhoun City High School. She played Miss Watson in *Big River* and was choreographer for TCT’s 2004 production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Suzanne has been active in school and church productions and is the pianist at Lewis Memorial United Methodist Church in Calhoun City.

Reprising her role as Sue Ellen is Stacy Scruggs of Saltillo. Stacy is married to Sean Scruggs and works for NMMC’s Rehabilitation Services as an

This production of Honky Tonk Angels  
Holiday Spectacular

is sponsored by





## Notes from the President

The fall season is always exciting for me. School starts, choir rehearsals begin and with cooler temperatures (I wish), activities break out all over town.

TCT has certainly added to the excitement this fall season. Our school show opened the season and was enjoyed by hundreds of elementary age children. *Wiley and the Hairy Man*, a Southern version of the classic tale of magic and bravery was a delight to all ages. The play was overseen by veteran actress and director Allana Austin. TCT provides educational experiences for many children in our area.

Our 35th anniversary gala was a huge success. Over 250 people enjoyed a night of delicious food provided by Outback Steakhouse and David and Maria Steele. David and Maria have been such good friends to the theatre over the years. They

are examples of the true “Tupelo spirit” of community involvement and volunteerism. The evening was filled with nostalgic moments from the last 35 years of TCT productions.

And speaking of nostalgia, *On Golden Pond* was presented as our regular season opener. *On Golden Pond* was the first production 20 years ago in the Lyric building. This production was under the capable direction of Lynn Nelson and Mark Maharrey.

Mark your calendars now for the hilarious *Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular* to be presented November 18, 19, and 20 at 7:30 with a matinee on the 20th at 2:00 p.m. This is the sequel to the “sold out” performances of *Honky Tonk Angels* from last season. This unforgettable Christmas show will have

you laughing throughout the holiday season. Tom Booth is directing the production.

Remember that it is not too late to buy your TCT tickets and enjoy a wonderful season of plays chosen by you, our patrons. Thank you for your continued support and help at TCT.

On another note, the board of directors regrettably accepted Lee Montgomery’s resignation from the board. Lee needed more time for work obligations and his new farm. We certainly appreciate all the hard work Lee has done over the years...and we expect to still see him around the Lyric! The board elected Geoff Carter to fill his position. See Spotlight on Our Patrons for more info on Geoff.

See you at the Lyric!

—Polly Bailey,  
President



# Honky Tonk Angels....

Occupational Therapy Assistant. Stacy has been in numerous school and church productions through the years and attended Wallace State on a music scholarship.

Tonya Smith will portray our newest Honky Tonk Angel, Charilee. Her prior theatrical experience at TCT includes roles in *Showboat*, *Big River* and *Oklahoma!*. She is minister of music for St. Paul M.B. Church in Ecu, Mississippi and is a member of East Baptist Church in Pontotoc. Tonya is married to H. Richmond Smith, II and has children Annanias and Richie. Tonya is a claims representative for State Farm Insurance and a new member of the board of directors at Tupelo Community Theatre.

Director Tom Booth is overseeing this Honky Tonk Angels reunion production. This is Tom’s 10<sup>th</sup> show to direct for TCT. He has also directed two Mississippi Theatre Association festival production winners and an SETC winner in 2004. Serving as Musical Director again for the show is Ralph Price, who you may remember from productions of *Oklahoma!*, *All I Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten* and *Big River*. Assistant Director is Tracie Maxey. Tracie has been active at TCT for over 8 years and works for North Mississippi Medical Center in Education. David Hutson will serve as production manager, with Renee Baldwin as Stage Manager, Sallye Patrick as Assistant Stage Manager/Bar Maid, Beth Davis as props mistress and Tommy Green as costume coordinator. Light design will be provided by Jess Mark, with Geoff Carter and Brandon Archer in charge of sound design.

Sponsored by Cellular South, *Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular* will be presented November 18, 19, and 20 at 7:30 each evening, with a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for students. So get ready for some honky tonking at the Hillbilly Heaven and a night of Christmas music—country style. General public tickets will begin sales on Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. For reservations call the TCT office at 844-1935.



# SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PATRONS



This edition of *Spotlight on Our Patrons* features our newest board member Geoff Carter. He replaces Lee Montgomery who recently resigned to spend more time at his “day job” and his new farm. We

will certainly miss Lee and appreciate his many years of service to TCT.

Geoff is relatively new to our area, but is no stranger to community theatres throughout the southeast. He moved to Saltillo in December of 2001 to work as an RF Engineer to design and build television transmitters for Microwave Service Company, a division of WTVA, Inc. Geoff has degrees in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics and is currently pursuing his Master’s in Electrical Engineering from Mississippi State University where he also worked for several years prior to moving to the Tupelo area.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Geoff moved to Florida when he was ten years old and almost immediately became

involved in community theatre. Never interested in being onstage, Geoff has worked backstage for the past 26 years for hundreds of productions at the Vero Beach Theatre Guild, Riverside Theatre, Cocoa Village Playhouse, King Center for the Performing Arts, Universal Studios – Florida, The Meridian Little Theatre, and of course, Tupelo Community Theatre. Geoff has served in many capacities throughout the years for various theatrical organizations including Technical Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and as a technical consultant for several theater renovation and construction projects.



Geoff was married in March to his wife Jeri who has three children Jonathan, Austin and Brooks. We are excited to have someone as talented and knowledgeable as Geoff working with us. Welcome aboard Geoff!!

## HELP!

A dear, faithful TCT servant seems to be near passing on. The big, yellow box truck we use for hauling sets back and forth from the warehouse seems to be on its last leg, or should I say wheel! Two of our long time patrons donated a small van last year for our use and we never realized how much we needed a small vehicle like that—but we do still need a large truck. If you or anyone you know has a truck they might be interested in donating to TCT please call the theatre office at 844-1935. And as a non profit 501(C)3 organization we will be happy to supply you with an IRS tax deduction letter for your donation.



## TCT PERSONNEL

### TCT

200 North Broadway  
P.O. Box 1094  
Tupelo, MS 38802  
662-844-1935  
E-mail address:  
1tct@bellsouth.net

Visit us online at  
tct.ms

### Board of Directors

Polly Bailey  
Renee Baldwin  
Gail Boland  
Shawn Brevard  
Joanne Brown  
Geoff Carter  
Beverly Clement  
Debra Ellis  
Beth Stone Frick  
Tommy Green

Rick Griswold  
Craig Helmuth  
Steve Ludt  
Jess Mark  
Steve McAlilly  
Catherine Mize  
Lynn Nelson  
Rob Rice  
Tonya Smith  
Judd Wilson  
Christina Womack

### Emeritus

Gene Murphey  
Ruth Liveakos  
Edith Thomas

**Business Manager**  
Tom Booth

# The Lyric Krewe needs you!



The Lyric Krewe is off to a great start for the 2004-2005 season, but we need **you!** If you haven't joined The Krewe yet, or renewed your membership, it's never too late! We will hold our first meeting of the season on **Tuesday, November 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall.** Ranging from ushers to publicity workers, Krewe members are making their mark at TCT.

Plans are being made for our annual spring fundraiser, Music, Monet and Margaritas. Work has also begun on a very scary fundraiser (or hair raiser...?) for next October; stay tuned for more exciting details! Join now; the Lyric Krewe needs you!

Join the Lyric Krewe and help out! The Krewe helps TCT provide quality entertainment for the community by providing ushers for all events, assisting in publicity through poster distribution, and hosting annual fundraisers. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Katie or Jason Pannell at 662-844-3670 or J.P. Slater at 662-680-2372.

Please take the time fill out the form below and mail it to:

The Lyric Krewe  
P.O. Box 1094  
Tupelo, MS 38802

You may also bring the form to the meeting on November 2nd

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark your areas of interest:

Usher \_\_\_\_\_

Poster Distribution \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraisers \_\_\_\_\_

\*Active Membership \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.00)

Contributing Membership \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00 minimum contribution)



## HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!!!

Tupelo Community Theatre offers three \$500 scholarships annually. The Liveakos Scholarship is offered to a Tupelo High School senior who has demonstrated scholastic achievement and an aptitude for the dramatic arts. The B.J. Huddleston Memorial Scholarship is offered to a Tupelo High School senior who has demonstrated artistic ability, scholastic achievement, leadership, and good citizenship. The Martha Geddie Memorial Scholarship is offered to a Mississippi student already attending college who is majoring in speech, oral communications, drama, mass media and/or related fields.

Application forms for these scholarships can be obtained

from the TCT business office (844-1935) or printed from our web site [www.tct.ms](http://www.tct.ms). Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2005. There will probably be a crowd at the post office that day, but they will not all be applying for YOUR scholarship!



## Season Tickets Still Available



TCT offers an excellent season for 2004-05. With your help we have met our ticket goal for this year and now are very close to exceeding our all time sales record. Be a part of the Patron Choice 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. It's not too late for you to join us. Mini-Season tickets are available for the remaining three shows at \$10 off the original price. Regular tickets are \$30 each. Or maybe you're interested in a Wild Card ticket at \$25 each, which gives you the flexibility of attending a show on the performance night of your choice. Please join us for *Honky Tonk Angels Christmas Spectacular*, *Barefoot in the Park*, and *The Sound of Music*. Call the ticket office at 844-1935 to reserve your seats now.

## An Evening with Mac McAnally



TCT is partnering with the Downtown Tupelo Main Street Association, BancorpSouth, and Cellular South to present *An Evening with Mac McAnally* to benefit the Downtown Association on November 11, 2004. As an added attraction, the cast of *Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular* will open the concert and perform several numbers from their upcoming production.

Mac McAnally, originally from Belmont, MS, is a well known recording artist and songwriter, perhaps best known for his association with Jimmy Buffet. He has written several

**November 11, 2004  
7:30 p.m.  
At the Lyric Theatre**

hit songs for Buffet and wrote the title song for Buffet's latest album, *License to*

*Chill*. He also plays in Jimmy Buffet's Coral Reefer Band.

General admissions tickets are only \$20 (balcony) and \$30 (floor). Gold Circle tickets for \$75 entitle you to special reserved seating and attendance at a backstage reception after the concert. There is a \$2 service charge on all tickets. Call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 to reserve your seat now. Help support both the Downtown Tupelo Main Street Association and TCT!



**Tupelo Community Theatre**  
 P.O. Box 1094  
 Tupelo, MS 38802

Nonprofit Organization  
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 Mississippi Arts Commission



The Lyric

# *Barefoot in the Park* Auditions

Auditions for *Barefoot in the Park* will be held Monday, November 29 and Tuesday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. each evening at the Lyric Theatre. Parts are available for four adult men, (ages 20 to 60), one adult woman in her twenties and one adult woman in her forties. No advance preparation is needed.

As the third offering in our Patrons' Choice season, *Barefoot in the Park* is one of Neil Simon's funniest and most well known comedies. After a six-day honey-



moon, a new lawyer and his young bride move into a new high rent apartment she has chosen. Hilarity ensues as the couple deals with the difficulties of starting married life with no furniture, a leaking skylight, a bad paint job, visits from her mother, and no room for a double bed.

Directed by Craig Helmuth, production dates for *Barefoot in the Park* are February 3-5, 2005. Mark your calendars now! For more information, call the TCT office at 662-844-1935