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TCT Presents



If you have ever sat in a dark theatre and thought, "Dear Lord in heaven, please let this be good," then this is the show for you!! *The Drowsy Chaperone* opened on Broadway in May 2006 and won multiple Tony Awards including Best Book and Best Score. It started as a spoof of old musicals created by a group of friends for a wedding party. Following the party, the authors were encouraged to expand the show into a full-fledged musical.

The Drowsy Chaperone pays homage to the American musicals of the Jazz Age. The audience is greeted by a narrator, The Man in Chair (Rick Griswold) sitting in the dark in his apartment. He is a fan of old musicals, and when he is feeling blue, he likes to cheer things up by playing a record of one his favorite musicals. He puts the record on and the musical comes to life in his apartment. He then narrates and takes us back to a fictional 1928 Broadway theatre's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

The opening number "Fancy Dress" introduces us to the cast. Mrs. Tottendale (Debra Grisham) is a wealthy dowager who is accompanied by her proper butler Underling (Bobby Geno). Next we met the wedding party: the dashing bridegroom Robert Martin (Clark Richey); the harried and bumbling best man George (Kenneth Griswold); Feldzeig (Tom Booth), the disgruntled producer; the ditsy would-be showgirl ingénue Kitty (Angela Howard); gangsters (Jimmy Grisham and Nathan Wallace) disguised as pastry chefs; Latin lothario Adolpho (John Carroll); Janet's *Drowsy Chaperone* (Suzanne Oakley); the popular showgirl bride Janet VanDeGraff (Lisa Martin); and Trix (Liz Dawson) the aviatrix.

Throughout the show The Man in Chair leads us

May 5-7, 2011
7:30 p.m.
&
May 7, 2011
2:00 p.m.

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through the plot of the show-within-a-show that centers on Janet VanDeGraff, a showgirl who plans to give up her career in order to marry an oil tycoon, Robert Martin. However, Janet is the star of "Feldzeig's Follies," and a lot of money is riding on her name to sell the show. Feldzeig, the producer, is being threatened with bodily harm by two gangsters employed by his chief investor. Disguised as pastry chefs these two pun-happy thugs attempt to stop the wedding in order to ensure Janet's participation in his next production. In order to save himself, Feldzeig gets Adolpho, a bumbling Latin lothario, to seduce Janet and spoil her wedding. Meanwhile there is a massive misunderstanding between Janet and Robert, and Adolpho mistakenly seduces the Chaperone. The rest of the story incorporates spit takes, dream sequences, mistaken identities, and other 1920s comic gags ending in not just one wedding but four weddings!!!

The talented ensemble includes Todd Barnett, Lacey Carroll, Anne Carter, Austyn Davis, Maggie Davis, Mallory Davidson, Chris Hussey, Teracia Killion, Michelle Prince, Melodie Sanchez, and Margaret Wilson. The production staff is led by director, Debby Gibbs; assistant director, Derek Russell; music director, Monica Spencer; production manager, David Dawson; set designer, Alex Dent; lighting designer, Steve Miller; stage manager, Allana Austin; and choreographers Angela Howard and Beverly Beasley.

For an evening of mad cap fun and zany antics join us on May 5, 6, and 7 at 7:30 p.m. or May 7 at 2:00 p.m. for the TCT Gum Tree production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*! Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and younger. Call 844-1935 to reserve your seats today.

2011-2012 Season Announced



Humor of all sorts and some interesting looks at life will share the spotlight during the 2011-2012 Tupelo Community Theatre season. TCT will open the season with one of the most recognizable titles in modern American literature – *Tuesdays With Morrie*. The autobiographical story of Mitch Albom, an accomplished journalist driven solely by his career, and Morrie Schwartz, his former college professor, was a *New York Times* bestseller for more than four years and has sold more than five million copies.

A powerful mixture of pathos and humor, *Tuesdays With Morrie* reunites student and professor as Morrie deals with the inevitabilities of Lou Gehrig's disease. What begins as a one-time visit turns into a weekly trip and a final class in the meaning of life. The TCT production will be part of a community-wide reading initiative – Tupelo Reads: We're All on the Same Page – sponsored by the Mayor's Task Force on Education.

The Christmas season will come to life at the Lyric when TCT presents *A Christmas Story* – an adaptation of the wildly popular movie about Ralphie, Santa and a Red Ryder BB gun.

The folks in small town of Second Samuel, Georgia, (First Samuel was burned down by Sherman) are in for a shock in *Second Samuel*, an

uproariously funny play with some gentle messages about acceptance thrown in.

Speaking of small towns, the knuckleheads from Tuna, Texas, will return to the Lyric stage with *Tuna Does Vegas*. The two-man show that includes seemingly hundreds of characters, has added yet another pair: Elvis "tribute artists," and TCT will reprise the show during the Elvis Festival in June.

The annual Gum Tree musical and 2012 season finale will be *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Last produced by TCT in 1998, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical based on the Biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colors is one of the most frequently requested shows among our patrons.

"TCT patrons will be laughing a lot next season," Danny McKenzie, chair of the play selection committee, said. "Mixed in with the laughs and music, though, will be some messages we all need to take to heart. I think this will be one of the most delightful seasons TCT has produced in a long time, and we've produced some good ones."

Season ticket brochures will be mailed later this summer. Watch for it and order your tickets early to ensure a great seat at a great price for all of the upcoming season!



TCT is always looking for production staff for our upcoming productions. If you are interested in being considered for a position as a director, music director, assistant director, set, light or sound designer, stage manager, or volunteer in any other way contact the TCT office at 844-1935.

Mark your calendars now! Tupelo Film Festival at the Lyric Theatre May 12-14. For more info, visit <http://www.tupelo.net/film-festival>



Summer Youth Underway!

Summer Youth Theatre is underway at TCT! Auditions were held April 9 & 10 for *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*, set to be performed at The Lyric on June 16, 17, & 18. This fanciful adventure of a show will feature nearly 60 student actors from Tupelo, Mooreville, Saltillo, Smithville, Guntown, Pontotoc, Amory, Houston, Okolona, Fulton, and Nettleton.

Suzanne Oakley of Bruce, veteran TCT actress and theatre camp music teacher, will direct. Dalton Russell of Bruce will serve as Assistant Director.



Dalton has appeared in TCT's summer youth production of *The Music Man, Jr.* and last season's *Gum Tree* musical, *All Shook Up*. He is a freshman at Northwest Community College where he is majoring in theater. Anna Morgan of Saltillo will serve as Music Director. Anna is a junior at Mississippi State where she is majoring in music education with an emphasis in piano.

This is Anna's first volunteer experience at TCT.

Mark your calendars now - don't be late and miss this breathtaking trip to Wonderland!

Music Monet and Margaritas



The Lyric Krewe is seeking volunteers to help with its annual fundraiser *Music, Monet & Margaritas*. The annual TCT street fiesta will be held Saturday, May

21, in front of the Lyric Theatre on Broadway. Sponsored by Strategic Wealth, the event will feature great food from Outback Steakhouse and delicious drinks, as well as a silent art auction from talented area artists. Music will again be provided by Jeff Houin and the Jam Band. Lucy Purnell Nash is serving as chair of this year's event.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available at the TCT office. TCT Executive Producers, Producers and Directors receive tickets as part of their patron support of TCT. Proceeds from the event support educational programs at TCT. For more information, or to volunteer for the event, please contact Lucy at lpnash@aol.com or call the TCT office at 662-844-1935.

Metro Theatre Company of St. Louis presented *The Tomato Plant Girl* on April 7 and 8 to students at Tupelo Middle School and Milam Elementary, a public performance at the Lyric Theatre, as well as a workshop with the Haven Acres Boys and Girls Club. This educational presentation was made possible by the generous support of B & B Concrete, Inc., Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi, the Mississippi Arts Commission, South Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the TCT Lyric Krewe.



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Summer Theatre Camp

“Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse!” Did you know that there is a redneck version of this beloved poem as well as a pirate version?

This summer students will have an opportunity to enjoy an early holiday! TCT is once again offering a summer Theatre Camp for school age children. The theme this year is Christmas In July. Students will be able to explore the origins and uses of theatre, art, and music along with hands on activities designed to enrich and entertain. We will discover different customs and traditions that come along with the holiday season.

TCT is pleased to have returning as camp coun-



selors this year talented actress and director Suzanne Oakley for Music and Marianna Coffey, art instructor from Tupelo Middle School, for Art. Returning as camp director and drama instructor is Allana Austin, actress, director and theater teacher at THS.

TCT's Theatre Camp 2011 will be held the week of July 18-22.

There will two sessions each day. Students who will be in grades 1 through 4 in the fall will meet from 8:00-11:30 a.m. each day. Students who are rising fifth through eighth grade will meet from 1:00-4:30 p.m. There will be performances on Friday to showcase the students' work. Deadline for registration is July 1. The cost for the week is only \$100. Contact the TCT office at 844-1935 for more information.