

Volume 22, Issue 2

November, 2011

TCT Presents

A Christmas Story

Y*ou'll shoot your eye out, kid!* These familiar lines ring from the stage of TCT as we present Jean Shepherd's *A Christmas Story*. Adapted for the stage by Philip Grecian, the show contains all of the ups and downs & ins and outs of Ralphie Parker's quest for a legendary official Red Ryder 200-Shot Carbine Action Range Model Air Rifle with a compass built right into the stock and this thing which tells time. The story transports us to Hohman, Indiana, in the 1940's as Ralph narrates the memories of his childhood – best friends, first romances, bullies, and celebrating the day around which every kid's year revolves. As Ralph, played by **Stan White**, relates the stories of his youth, the action comes to life as we experience all of the joys and trials right along with Ralphie, played by **Harley Nabors**.

Helping Ralphie in his quest for the ultimate Christmas gift are Flick and Schwartz, his two best friends played by **Jake White** and **Lee Pearson Simmons**. While helping Ralphie, Flick must deal with his own problem in the form of Scut Farkas, the town bully, played by **Nathan Jones**. Flick's arm is always sore because there is never enough time between bullying sessions for it to heal.

Brandi Reynolds portrays Esther Jane Alberry, whose Christmas wish is for Ralphie to give her the attention she so much desires in her first young romance. Although Ralphie presents her with a somewhat questionable item at the classroom gift exchange, she never loses hope of capturing his eye.

December 8-10, 2011
7:30 p.m.
&
December 10, 2011
2:00 p.m.

Sponsored by



Constantly supporting her is best friend Helen Weathers played by **Meredith Hendricks**. Helen is the intelligent teacher's pet who has no time for boys or any other such foolishness. Even the boys are afraid of her. Her only quest is to be the apple of Miss Shields's eye. Miss Shields is played by **Beverly Murphree**.

Rounding out the cast is the rest of Ralphie's family. His Mother, played by **Emily Hood**, appears at times to be the ultimately submissive wife. However, if one listens closely, appearances are not always as they might seem. The Old Man is played by **Stacy Scott**. His ability to create invectives is his claim to fame in Hohman and there are plenty of opportunities for him to use them! Add to all of this a little brother named Randy, played by **Tyler Tann**, who always needs to go to the bathroom and you have the exciting life of young Ralphie Parker. Also appearing on stage as the elves at Goldblatt's Department Store are **Josh Martin** and **Tyler Swinney**.

The show is under the direction of **Bobby Geno** with **Liz Dawson** serving as assistant director. Set design is by **Steve Miller** with the assistance of **Dave Dawson** and **Marianna Coffey**. Light design is by **Marianna Coffey**.

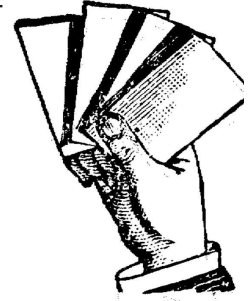
Evening performances will be at 7:30 PM on December 8, 9, and 10 with a 2:00 matinee on December 10. Call the TCT Box Office at 844-1935 and make your plans today to enjoy the holidays on Broadway!

Ticket Misprint

TCT installed new ticketing software this year and is very pleased with the product and process. However, we did have a small glitch in printing tickets.

~All Thursday patrons' tickets for *A Christmas Story* are printed Friday, December 9, 2011 rather than Thursday, December 8, 2011

~All Saturday evening patrons' tickets are printed Saturday, December 9, 2011 rather than Saturday, December 10, 2011.



These printing errors only affect *A Christmas Story*.

Your tickets remain valid for your normal season ticket nights and you do not need to exchange them. We will honor your tickets on your "regular" night unless you call the office to swap for another night. If you have questions, please call the TCT box office at 662-844-1935.

Mini Season Tickets Still Available

Do you enjoy award-winning theatre and you intended to purchase TCT season tickets but just never got around to it? Would you like to support the historic Lyric theatre and receive the benefits of membership? It's not too late to join almost 1100 other season ticket patrons and enjoy the four remaining productions of TCT's 42nd season.

"Mini" season ticket packages are available for the remaining shows in TCT's 2011-2012 season, *A Christmas Story* (December 8-10, 2011), *Second Samuel* (February 2-4, 2012), *Tuna Does Vegas* (March 22-24, 2012), and *Joseph*



and the *Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (May 10-12, 2012). Season ticket holders receive at least 40% off individual door ticket prices. 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. For more information about TCT, the benefits of membership, or to purchase a season ticket package, please

contact Box Office Manager Lisa Hall at 662-844-1935 or tctboxoffice@bellsouth.net.

Additional Activities with **A Christmas Story**

TCT is proud to announce that we're partnering with Boy and Girl Scouts' Food for Families drive for this production and will offer free concessions to those bringing canned food contributions.

TCT will offer two student productions of *A Christmas Story* on Wednesday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. The 9:00 a.m. show is sold out, but tickets are still available for the noon show. All tickets are \$4 each for these special performances. Call the TCT boxoffice at 662-844-1935 to reserve space for your class today!

Haunted Theatre is a Great Success

The month of October produced some pretty scary sounds, screams and characters around the Lyric building.....

In just two short weeks Tupelo Community Theatre was transformed into the Tupelo Haunted Theatre. More than fifty volunteers worked to produce The Sixth Annual TCT Haunted Theatre. And it was certainly a huge success – once again exceeding numbers from previous years. More than 1800 people came through in just six nights.

These efforts were led by Steve Miller and a host of individuals responsible for producing and directing various scenes in the theatre. Steve's leadership continues to make the Haunted Theatre a huge success. Steve's humbleness won't allow him to accept the credit due. But in his own words he summed the project up with, "I



owe the success of the Haunted Theatre to the dedicated actors, guides and set builders (David Dawson and Brian Gray). A big THANK YOU!! TCT has the reputation of quality work that stands out every time we open our doors to whatever the event might be. This, my friends is because we have volunteers who love to give, and give they did... so I thank you." Again, special

thanks to Dave Dawson and Brian Gray for assisting Steve in leading this effort.

The TCT Board of Directors would very much like to extend our thanks to the many volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make this one of our most successful events. We would also like to thank Sprint Print who sponsored our Haunted Theatre again this year. We could not do it without your support!

Hearing Assistance Reminder



Do you sometimes have a little trouble hearing during a performance at the Lyric? Do you sometimes miss the punch line for a joke or have trouble understanding the lyrics to songs? Did you know TCT has four hearing assistance devices available for each production?

The units are similar to a small radio and have one ear plug. Users can control the volume to enhance their enjoyment of each production.

If you would like to reserve one of the small, battery-powered units for a show, call the TCT office before the production and we'll have one waiting for you in the box office when

you arrive. If you don't reserve one in advance, you may check with the staff when you arrive to see if any units are still available.

As always, please let us know if there is anything else we can do at the Lyric to enhance your enjoyment of our productions. We don't want you to miss a single word!

TCT PERSONNEL

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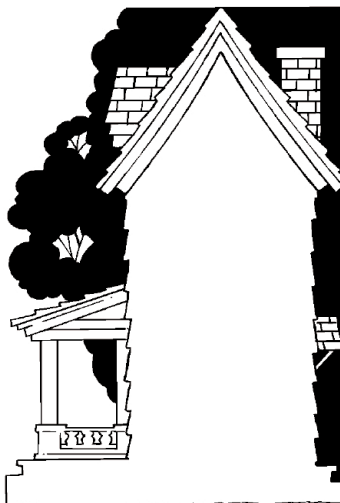
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One Theatre at a Time

Auditions for Second Samuel

On February 2-4, 2012, TCT will present Pamela Parker's **Second Samuel**, a story about small-town Southern life that offers not only a good dose of humor, but also some wonderful messages about acceptance. Auditions will be held at the Lyric on **November 21 and 22 at 7:00 p.m.** This Pulitzer Prize nominated play is directed by Jonathan Martin. Parts are available for eleven adult men and women. One of the male characters is African American. No advance preparation is necessary.

Second Samuel, GA was rebuilt after Sherman burned the first one to the ground in that late unpleasantness. It's a place where the men spend their time at the local



Bait and Brew while the women gather at Omaha Nebraska's *Change Your Life Hair & Beauty Emporium*. Set just after WWII, the inhabitants of Second Samuel prepare for the funeral of one of its most beloved citizens, piano teacher Miss Gertrude. But dark, dark secrets are revealed and everyone is in for a summer they'll never forget. Narrator "B-Flat" is a young man with disabilities who uses gentle humor to tell us his hometown's story and demonstrates that "he's got more sense than all the rest o' them."

Mark your calendars now. *Second Samuel* will be a sure sell-out hit. For more information, call the TCT office at (662) 844-1935.