

## TCT Presents



**January 27-29, 2011**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**&**  
**January 29, 2011**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**T**hey met in college, five young women who forged their friendships as members of the school swim team. And they've remained friends through the blessings and bruises of life. They gather, these five Southern women, every August in the same beach cottage on the Outer Banks of North Carolina for a long weekend of sun and sand, of laughter and lounging. *The Dixie Swim Club* eavesdrops on four of those sultry summer weekends, spanning 33 years and invites you into the world of these five women, whose lives are very different, but who are melded together by a fierce friendship that transcends time and distance.

Sheree Hollinger, forever the team captain, organizes her life by the book, and tries to do the same for her friends. Dinah Grayson, an attorney by profession, serves up sarcasm along with her martinis. Then there's the vain but devoted Lexie Richards who never heard about a plastic surgery she didn't try. And Vernadette Simms? Think of Winnie the Pooh's beloved but bad-luck-draped Eeyore and you've got Vernadette. And the group's life-loving ray of sunshine is Jeri Neal McFeeley.

Under one roof one long weekend a year, these five, lifelong friends share hormones, hilarity and heartache; dreams and divorces; love and loss; memories of years gone by and apprehensions about years to come. You'll laugh along with these strong Southern women and, quite possibly, shed a tear at their more vulnerable moments.

Renee Baldwin is Sheree. She's served on the TCT board, and has been involved onstage and off through the years. A familiar face to TCT patrons, Renee starred in *Always, Patsy Cline*. She's also had memorable roles in *Anything Goes* and *Daddy's Dyin' – Who's Got the Will?*

Lisa Kimes is Dinah. Last season, Lisa played Geneva Musgrave in *Dearly Beloved*. Among her other roles are Lilly Belle Savage in *The Curious Savage* and Mrs. Mullen in *Carousel*.

The role of Lexie Richards is played by Merry Hughes. Merry made her debut on TCT's stage last year in the role of Izzy in *Rabbit Hole*, a role for which she was named Best Supporting Actress by the Mississippi Theatre Association.

Lynn Nelson, who is Vernadette, has been involved at TCT since 1985. She's been a board member and officer, and has directed, acted and assisted with numerous productions. Memorable roles she's had at TCT include June in *Smoke on the Mountain* and Mrs. Paddy in *The Curious Savage*.

Rounding out the cast is Robin Haire as Jeri Lynn. This marks Robin's return to the TCT stage – *The Dixie Swim Club* will be her first comedy in 15 years. Favorite TCT roles include Babe in *Crimes of the Heart* and Evalita Turnover in *Daddy's Dyin' – Who's Got the Will?*

*The Dixie Swim Club* is skillfully directed by Cheryl Sproles in her TCT directorial debut. Assistant director is Leslie Criss with lighting and sound by Bronwyn Teague, Lindsey Tanner and Sheena Barnett. Craig Helmuth is stage manager.

This heartwarming comedy about lasting friendship is a must-see. The production will be staged at 7:30 p.m. January 27, 28, 29, with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, January 29, at The Lyric Theatre. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$6 for students. Reserve your seat now – you don't want to miss this sure fire hit!



# Notes from the Executive Director

Happy New Year! 2011 is here! Time marches on and so does TCT. As anyone who has been involved in productions or events at the Lyric knows, the activity never ends. Thanks to Sonja Jenkins, Steve Miller, and Christopher Schager for directing our first three events of the year, *The Fantasticks*, *The Haunted Theatre*, and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. A big thanks goes to the dozens of volunteer cast and crew members who also made these events successful.

TCT began rehearsals for the wonderful southern comedy, *The Dixie Swim Club*, in December. Directed by Cheryl Sproles, it will hit the Lyric stage on January 27-29. We were thankful to once again partner with the Downtown Tupelo Main Street Association for

their annual Elvis Birthday Celebration on January 7. On January 15, TCT will participate in the Mississippi Theatre Association Convention and Festival in Meridian with a production of *Oleanna* by David Mamet. Look for a Tupelo performance of this Pulitzer Prize winning David Mamet play in February.

As soon as we return from MTA, Jonathan Martin, one of the actors in *Oleanna*, will hold auditions for *Harvey* on January 17 and 18. On February 5, TCT will partner with the Mississippi North District Junior Civitans to host *A Splash of Talent*, a youth talent competition. Many of you remember that TCT partnered with the Civitans for a dinner at Goodlett Manor before our production of *Catfish Moon* last season.

With a Mac McAnally concert February 26 and auditions for *The Drowsy Chaperone* in late February, you can certainly see our schedule for the few months of our year is full. As always, we need your support as volunteers and patrons. Don't let time slip away. If you have ever wanted to be involved in some capacity, there is a place at TCT for you. Give us a call at 844-1935 to talk about all the opportunities that abound. Thank you for all you have done to help make Tupelo



Community Theatre "The Model for Volunteer Community Theatre."

-Tom Booth  
Executive Director

## TCT Participates in MTA Festival

Tupelo Community Theatre will participate in the Mississippi Theatre Association Convention and Festivals at the historic Mississippi State University Riley Center in downtown Meridian January 14-16, 2011. TCT will complete in the community theatre festival with its production of *Oleanna*, by the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Mamet.

Mamet's most controversial drama details the relationship a college professor has with one of his students who is having difficulty with his class. The play questions the nature of education in American, its purpose and function in modern society, as well as the nature of political correctness.

John, the professor, is distracted – thanks to his upcoming tenure review and purchase of a new home for his family. Carol, the student, is distraught over her grades and her feelings about herself as a person. As they meet, the two discuss the nature of understanding and judgment in society, as well as



their very own natures and places in our society. During further discussions, the audience sees how their relationship changes.

*Time Magazine* called *Oleanna* one of the best plays of 1992. In 2009 *Oleanna* was revived on Broadway starring Bill Pullman and Julia Stiles. Jonathan Martin plays John in the TCT production. Last seen on the TCT stage in *And Then There Were None*,

Jonathan is an attorney and is married to local TCT favorite Lisa Ganaway Martin. They have two sons. Ole Miss Musical Theatre major and Columbus resident Sarah Weatherby plays Carol. The talented singer and actress had her Lyric debut in the 2010 Gumtree production of *All Shook Up* as Lorraine. She is the daughter of Arleen Peek Weatherby and the late Simeon T. Weatherby, Sr. Tom Booth directs this riveting drama and is assisted by Allana Austin. A local performance of production will be scheduled sometime in February.

# Welcome Back Mac!

TCT plans to start 2011 off right by welcoming Mississippi native and local favorite, Mac McAnally, back to our stage for a concert on February 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the historic Lyric Theatre. Music was the most obvious road for Lyman "Mac" McAnally to take from his Belmont hometown. He was a guitar and piano prodigy who performed in clubs at 13, wrote his first song at 15 and landed as a Muscle Shoals studio musician at 18. Mac signed his first record deal at 20 and launched two successful singles that were on the Billboard Hot 100.



written six number one singles in his career. Signed to Show Dog Nashville, Mac released "Down By The River" in August 2009, immediately drawing the kind of accolades you'd expect for a musician and artist who's been sought out by the likes of Reba McEntire, T.G. Sheppard, David Allan Coe, Shenandoah, Ricky Van Shelton, Charley Pride, Randy Travis, Steve Wariner, Hank Williams, Jr., Amy Grant, Jimmy Buffett, Travis Tritt,

Alabama took his "Old Flame" to Number 1 in 1981. The song cemented his status as a hit maker, a reputation that has never waned. As an accomplished and acclaimed music maker over his storied career, Mac's never seen anything quite like the last three years where he was named Country Music Association's Musician of the Year for 2008, 2009, and 2010. Mac was been honored with ASCAP and Nashville Songwriters Association International awards for "Down The Road," the Kenny Chesney smash which hit Mac wrote.

When he's not picking up trophies, McAnally is busy filling concert venues and pleasing fans. Named to the Songwriters' Hall of Fame in 2007 and the Mississippi Music Hall of Fame in 2008, McAnally has

and many more. And his guitar and vocal skills weren't confined to the studio as he joined Buffett's touring Coral Reefer band, an association that continues to this day. McAnally has also produced several of Buffett's albums and written many of his songs.

Two days before the concert in Tupelo, McAnally will receive the prestigious Excellence in Music award from Governor Haley Barbour at the annual Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts. The ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 24, 2011 in the auditorium at the Mississippi Department of Education in downtown Jackson. The event is free and open to the public. Congratulations Mac!

Tickets for the concert are \$45 and \$30. They may be reserved NOW by TCT season ticket holders and by the general public beginning January 17 by calling the TCT box office at 844-1935.

## TCT PERSONNEL

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**TCT**  
 201 North Broadway  
 P.O. Box 1094  
 Tupelo, MS 38802  
 662-844-1935

Visit us online at  
[www.tct.ms](http://www.tct.ms)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
 Tom Booth  
[1tct@bellsouth.net](mailto:1tct@bellsouth.net)

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**BOX OFFICE MANAGER**  
 Lisa Hall  
[tctboxoffice@bellsouth.net](mailto:tctboxoffice@bellsouth.net)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
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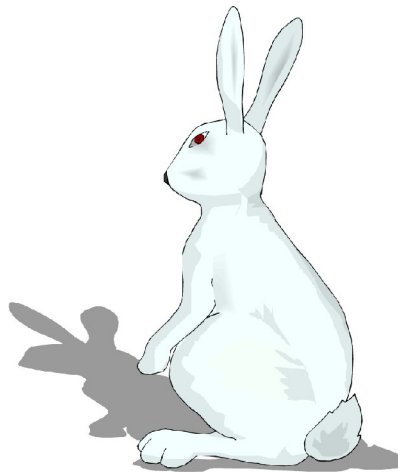
  
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## Auditions for Harvey

TCT will hold auditions for the classic Broadway comedy *Harvey*, by Mary Chase, January 17 and 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the rehearsal hall of the Lyric Theatre. Talented actor and local attorney Jonathan Martin will direct. No advance preparation is needed and parts for six adult men and six women are available. The 1944 play has become one of the most successful and popular plays ever produced. Many people are familiar with the story of Elwood P. Dowd thanks to the 1950 movie of the same name starring Jimmy Stewart.

The play begins when Elwood starts to introduce his imaginary friend, Harvey, a six-and-a-half-foot rabbit, to guests at a society party. His sister, Veta, has



seen as much of his eccentric behavior as she can tolerate. She decides to have him committed to a sanitarium to spare her family from future embarrassment. Problems arise, however, when Veta herself is mistakenly committed instead of Elwood. When the truth comes out, the search is on for Elwood and his invisible companion. When he shows up at the sanitarium looking for his lost friend Harvey, it seems that the mild-mannered Elwood's delusion has had a strange influence on more than one of the doctors. Only at the end does

Veta realize that maybe Harvey isn't so bad after all.

Production dates for *Harvey* are March 10-12, 2011. For more information about the auditions or for tickets, contact the TCT Office at 662-844-1935.