

NEWS FROM THE LYRIC

FOR FRIENDS OF TUPELO COMMUNITY THEATRE

Volume 25, Issue 3

January, 2015



Tupelo Community Theatre presents

Father of the Bride

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Banks cordially invite you to the marriage of their daughter Kay to Mr. Buckley Dunstan. The nuptials will take place at the historic Lyric Theatre in downtown Tupelo at 7:30 in the evenings of February 5-7, 2015, and at 2:00 in the afternoon of February 7.

This third production in TCT's successful season is a faithful adaptation of the 1950 movie starring Spencer Tracy and Elizabeth Taylor. The stage play was written by Carolyn Francke, and the movie was an adaptation of the novel by Edward Streeter.

In *Father of the Bride*, Mr. Banks (**Clark Richey**) learns he's about to be the father of the bride when his daughter Kay (**Stewart Brevard-McMillan**) suddenly announces at dinner one night that she is engaged to a young man who has recently been "hanging out" around the house.

Kay says that she and her fiancé Buckley (**Josh Martin**) don't want a big wedding, just a simple affair with a few friends. Mrs. Banks (**Allana Austin**) is

thrilled, but Mr. Banks is in a dither and hilarity ensues.

The cast also includes **Jake White** as Ben Banks, **Jackson Finch** as Tommy Banks, **LaFadra Macklin** as Delilah, **Stephanie Roland** as Miss Bellamy, **Cooper Blalock** as Buzz, **Samantha Turba** as Peggy, **Bobby Geno** as Massoula, **Francois Brown** as Joe, **Beverly Murphree** as Mrs. Pulitzki, **Tony Tannehill** as Red, **Brad Blalock** as Pete, and **Emily Patterson** as Tim's Woman.

Directing this talented cast is Jonathan Martin. He is ably assisted by Mallory Davidson. To help transform the Lyric building into the perfect wedding venue, Big Brad Blalock and the Rhythm Aces will provide pre-show music. We encourage the audience to arrive early to enjoy this special treat. In addition Bev Crossen of The Farmhouse and well-known floral designer Traci Proctor will transform the lobby into an elegant wedding foyer. We are planning more surprises as well, so keep your eyes and ears open!

Make plans now to attend this family-friendly, warmhearted show, and please help spread the word as we expect sold out performances! Don't miss seeing when Kay, in a fit of temper, calls off the wedding and everyone's patience snaps. Will the father of the bride be a happy and proud man? Will he think it's worth all the money and aggravation to start his daughter on the road to married life? Join the festivities to find out!

Reserve your tickets now by calling the TCT box office at 662-844-1935. Adult tickets are \$18, and student tickets are \$6. Don't miss the best wedding you'll attend this season!

PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 4-12

Don't forget about TCT's new partnership with HealthWorks! For more information about PlayTime with TCT on Saturday, February 7, call the TCT office at 844-1935.

February 5-7, 2015

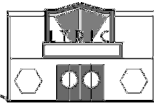
7:30 p.m.

February 7, 2015

2:00 p.m.

Sponsored by:





Lone Star Wins MTA



Tupelo Community Theatre maintained its reputation for taking award-winning productions to Mississippi Theatre Association by bringing home the

won more than 60 other awards over the years at the MTA festival.

Lone Star was originally produced along with its companion play *Laundry and Bourbon* at TOB last fall. It was directed by Jason West. When Jason moved to Edinburgh to marry his college sweetheart, directors Tom Booth and Lynn Nelson worked on getting the show ready for the festival. We contacted Jason for his reaction to *Lone Star's* success. His comments follow immediately below.

Warren G. McDaniel Best Production trophy for *Lone Star* on January 18, 2015. MTA was held in Oxford at the Gertrude C. Ford Center January 16-18. TCT was also given the award for Best Scenic design. Nathan Taylor, playing Cletis Fullernoy, was awarded All-Star Cast; John McCus-tion, playing Ray Caulder, was awarded Best Supporting Actor; Jamie Fair, playing Roy Caulder, was awarded Best Actor.

Lone Star will now advance to Southeastern Theatre Conference Community Theatre Festival in Chattanooga in March. We will announce very soon an opportunity for our patrons to come see the production before it travels to Chattanooga.

This is the fourth year in a row that TCT has won Best Production at MTA and the seventh time since 2001. TCT won last year with *SantaLand Diaries* at both MTA and SETC, and was first runner-up at SETC with *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* two years ago. TCT has

In addition to awards for *Lone Star*, several TCT actors participated in Individual Events at MTA. Suzanne Oakley brought home first place trophies in individual musical solo performance and monologue performance, and Mickey Gousset garnered a second place trophy in individual musical solo performance.

The happy group of winners is pictured to the right.



Jason West's comments about the success of *Lone Star*:



Leaving the TCT family was certainly one of the more difficult steps in returning to Scotland. With so many good friends and experiences shared over the years, it is hard to think of not being able to walk into the Lyric and feel so at home with others who share my own enthusiasm and love of theater. My experiences working with the cast of *Lone Star* were some of the best. Working with actors who truly understand their characters and continually work to discover more about them makes for a great production that can be enjoyed by everyone. I often thought to myself, "If the audience has half the fun watching this show as we did making it, then it will certainly be a tremendous success." When I was told that TCT was taking the show to MTA (a festival I have loved and been involved with my entire life), I was ecstatic! I knew that although I wouldn't be able to be there to see it, that with TCT's history for success and a dedicated team of competition veterans, the

Lone Star cast couldn't be in better hands. I look forward to hearing how things evolve as they move towards Chattanooga, and even from four thousand miles away, I can smile and say "Look at the arts in Mississippi. Look at the talent at TCT."

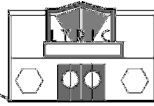
Scholarship Deadline

In order to promote our mission to stimulate, promote, teach, and develop interest in the dramatic arts, TCT offers four scholarships every year. The deadline for submitting applications for these scholarships is April 15, 2015. Information about each scholarship is available at www.tct.ms. Click on the education tab and go to the scholarship page. Requirements for each scholarship are listed as well as an official application form that must be complet-

ed and submitted. All information must be received at the Lyric office at 201 North Broadway before 4:00 p.m. on the deadline.

If you have additional questions please give us a call at 844-1935.





TCT Collaborates with NMDC



Pictured above are Beth Richardson holding CeCe Goodman, standing next to Macie Kellum and Lila Goodman.

TCT first partnered with North Mississippi Dance Centre in December 2013 to benefit St. Jude's Hospital. It was such a great success that we were proud to partner again this year. Beth Richardson and Mary Frances Massey from NMDC led the efforts again this year. The families of Magnolia Jane Reed and Connor Morris, both St. Jude patients from Tupelo, spoke to the

audience about St. Jude and their experiences there. The group raised more than \$14,000 this year with 131

dancers and eight staff members. Each dancer participating in the program had to find friends and family to sponsor them for the time they spent working on the project. There were scores of other volunteers, too, many of whom were parents of the dancers.

Beth Richardson told us, "The partnership that we have with Tupelo Community Theatre on this project demonstrates that when a community joins together to do something unique for others, we can truly make a difference in the lives of those who are in need. St. Jude relies solely on donations and fundraising to keep saving lives and finding cures for childhood cancers. We are ecstatic to have exceeded our original goal of \$10,000 this year. A huge thanks to Tom Booth and Tupelo Community Theatre for once again for giving Hope for the Holidays!!"

Make a Note of It!

- ◆ Congratulations to Director Maddie Pressley and cast members Katelyn Stieg and Belinda McKinion for an excellent production of the one-act play *Graceland* that helped TCT and Tupelo celebrate Elvis' 80th birthday! Additional entertainment at this TOB event was provided by Jeff Houin, Suzanne Oakley, and Judd Wilson. Thanks to all for their hard work! The Elvis trivia contest was a hit and gift certificate winners for each night were Tim Rogers, Sonya Keith, and Leah Headings.
- ◆ Mac McAnally did it again! He won the Country Music Association Musician of the Year for the seventh time in December, and just a few days later played with a few members of the Coral Reefer Band for a sold-out audience at the Lyric. Thanks to everyone who completed our survey about future concerts. Terri Stewart was the winner of the gift certificate. If you have suggestions on who you would like to see perform on the Lyric stage, please let us know. Many thanks to Mac for another fun night!
- ◆ The Play Reading Committee at TCT is busy reading plays for consideration in next year's season. The committee would appreciate your input. This is one of the most difficult projects we take on each year. If you have seen or read a show that you think would appeal to both current and future patrons, please let us know. Email your suggestions to 1tct@bellsouth.net.



TCT PERSONNEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fred Cannon
Tracie Maxey-Conwill
Bev Crossen
Liz Dawson
Bobby Geno
Tommy Green
Craig Helmuth
Jeff Houin
Mark Maharrey
Jonathan Martin
Meredith Martin

Steve Miller
Lynn Nelson
Suzanne Oakley
Rob Rice
Debra Robison
Donna Rumbarger
Rosemary Rutledge
Beverly Williams
Judd Wilson
Josh Wise

EMERITUS

Jess Mark (1982-2008)
Gene Murphey
Ruth Liveakos (1969-2008)
Edith Thomas (1969-2013)

BOX OFFICE MANAGER

Lisa Hall
tctboxoffice@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lynn Nelson

TCT

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

Visit us online at
www.tct.ms

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tom Booth
1tct@bellsouth.net



Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Tupelo, MS 38802
Permit No. 272

Address Service Requested

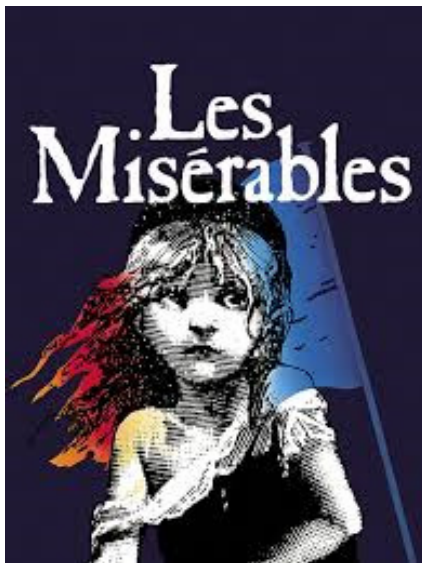
Season Sponsor:  **BancorpSouth**


mac
mississippi arts commission
support inspire enrich

Proud Member of

aact
Improving Communities
One Theatre at a Time

Auditions for Children's Roles



TCT will hold auditions for children's roles in *Les Misérables* on Sunday, January 25, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., and on Monday, January 26, at 6 p.m., in the Rehearsal Hall of the Lyric Theatre. Children 6-14 years old are sought for the roles available, and they must look the appropriate age for the characters: Cosette is age 6-8, Eponine is age 7-9, and Gavroche is age 8-12. Cosette and Gavroche must sing; young Eponine does not.

Advanced preparation is required for the singers. An accompanist will be provided. No a capella singing or taped accompaniment will be permitted. Music for the auditions will be available at the TCT office, 201 North

Broadway, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., beginning January 19. All must also complete an audition form found at www.tct.ms and email it to 1tct@bellsouth.net or return it to the TCT office. Production dates are April 30 - May 2.

All adult roles have been cast, and rehearsals will begin this month for this challenging blockbuster musical. Mark your calendars now—no one will want to miss the elegant stage adaptation of Victor Hugo's fictional account of the French revolution.

For more information about this or other opportunities at TCT, please call the TCT office at 662-844-1935.