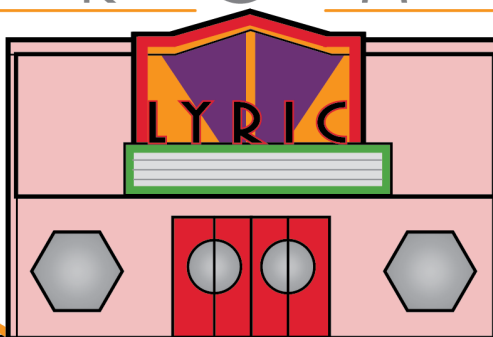


# LYRIC

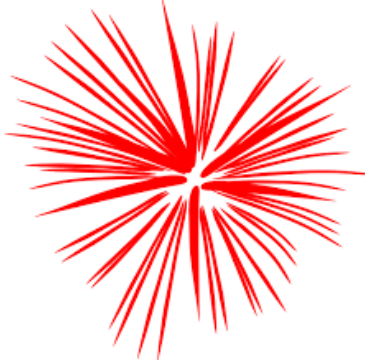


FOR FRIENDS  
OF TUPELO  
COMMUNITY  
THEATRE

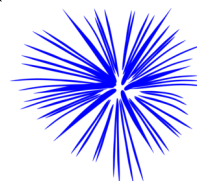
Volume 26, Issue 3

January 2016

TCT Presents



## You Can't Take It with You



**T**errorism threats... Government surveillance...  
Burdensome taxation... Economic collapse... Cul-  
tural conflict... Income disparity... Welfare depend-  
ence... Russian menace...

Issues in the New Hampshire primary? The Iowa  
caucuses? Yes and Yes. But hilarious? Yes. Yes.  
Yes!

These themes and more find expression in Tupelo  
Community Theatre's production of the classic come-  
dy *You Can't Take It with You*, scheduled for four per-  
formances January 28-30 at the Lyric Theatre.

While the themes may seem to be ripped from to-  
day's headlines, the action takes place eighty years  
ago as the nation begins to emerge from the Great  
Depression. At its core, the play is concerned not with  
whether American capitalism or Russian communism  
is the better economic system, but with whether either  
can satisfy the human soul. Too much concern with  
success, we learn, leaves one filled with emptiness --  
and indigestion. "The world's not so crazy," the play's  
central character tells us, "it's the people in it. Life's  
pretty simple if you just relax.... Life is kind of beautiful  
if you let it come to you."

The storyline is as old as theatre itself: Boy and  
Girl from different worlds fall in love. Girl fears that her  
eccentric family will cause her to lose Boy. Boy brings  
families together. Mayhem ensues. Elders reason to-  
gether, and wisdom prevails. Love triumphs! The fun  
is in the unfolding of the story.

The play won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize for drama for  
Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman and ran for 838  
performances on Broadway in 1936-38. It was

adapted for the screen and won 1938  
Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Director.

Prizes and awards aside, the comedic force of *You  
Can't Take It With You* has made it one of the most  
frequently produced and best loved American plays of  
all time. And even though much of the humor has its  
roots in events of the 1930s, the laughter has not di-  
minished with the years. The action takes place in  
1935 in the Upper Manhattan home of Grandpa Mar-  
tin Vanderhof (**Harold Plunkett**) who, thirty-five years  
earlier, realized that he was not having fun as a Wall  
Street businessman, and simply quit being one. Now  
he practices darts, collects snakes and attends col-  
lege commencements. With him live his daughter  
Penny (**Alanna Austin**), who writes unproduced plays  
because a typewriter was delivered to their door, her  
husband Paul Sycamore (**Danny McKenzie**), who us-  
es the basement to make fireworks, the older Sycam-  
ore daughter Essie (**Roxie Thomas Clayton**), who  
makes candies in the kitchen and fancies herself a  
dancer, Essie's husband Ed Car-  
michael (**Jeff  
Houin**), who  
plays the xylo-  
phone, likes to  
print slogans on  
cards and sells  
Essie's candies,  
and the younger  
Sycamore  
daughter Alice

(Continued on page 2)

**January 28-30, 2016**

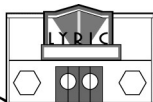
**7:30 p.m.**

**January 30, 2016**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Sponsored by:**





(Continued from page 1)

(**Maddie Ludt Pressley**), a “normal” young lady who is in love with her boss’ son. Grandpa’s house also shelters Mr. DePinna (**David Neilsen**), who delivered ice there eight years before and never left, the Irish servants Rheba (**Suzanne Oakley**) and Donald (**Jason Pannell**), and Gay Wellington (**Lee McKenzie**), an alcoholic would-be actress that Penny met on a bus. Essie’s dance teacher Boris Kohlenkov (**Tim Burke**) frequently takes his meals at the Vanderhof/Sycamore table.

Outside of the household are Alice’s love interest Anthony Kirby, Jr. (**Todd Barnett**) and his wealthy parents Mr. Kirby (**Bobby Geno**) and Mrs. Kirby (**Liz Dawson**). The Countess Olga Katrina is played by **Carolyn Livingston**. Rounding out the cast are IRS Agent Henderson (**Rick Griswold**), and three G-Men (**Rob Rice, George Rutledge, and Rud Robison**).

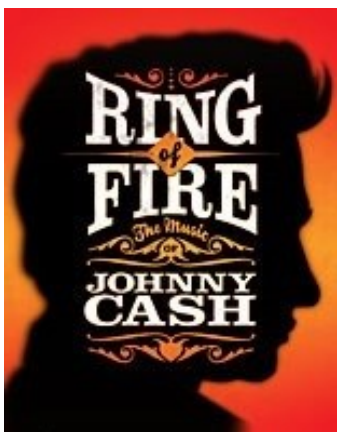
“Taken as a whole, this is the most talented cast that Susan and I have ever had the opportunity to direct,” said co-director Otis Tims. “I think this is the best cast TCT has ever assembled for a non-musical production, and we are honored to work with them.”



Susan and Otis Tims are co-directors. Jameson Rogers and David Neilsen are heading up set construction. Bronwyn Teague is lighting designer.

The show is family friendly, but audience members should be prepared for loud noises. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. each night, and the Saturday matinee is at 2 p.m. Call the TCT office at 662-844-1935 to reserve your ticket before they sell out! Prepare yourself for two hours full of laughter and fun!

## Ring of Fire at TOB



TCT’s hidden treasure, TCT Off Broadway (affectionately known as TOB), is coming into its own. Located at 213 East Franklin Street just north of the BancorpSouth Center, TOB has hosted several award-winning productions in the two years since it opened. You don’t want to miss the next offering there—*Ring of Fire*, a musical that celebrates the life and music of the legendary Johnny Cash.

From the opening chords of vintage country to rockabilly, rock n’ roll, searing ballads, and gentle songs of love and deep faith, *Ring of Fire* packs a score that provides a rich fabric in which to lay down the story of Johnny Cash. The show gives the music the spotlight, as a group of five talented actor/musicians celebrate the songs that are such a part of our collective experience. The cast members are Greg Conwill, Mersaidee Soules, Ryan Pressley, John West, and Bob Swanson. Haley Agnew directs the talented cast, and Christopher Walrath of Starkville Community Theatre renown serves as assistant director.

Patrons who’ve seen shows at TOB know what a delightful venue it is for an intimate show like *Ring of Fire*, but that also means limited seating. Do yourself a favor. Mark your calendar right now for February 25-27 at 7:30 p.m. Call the TCT Box Office to reserve your seat today! Don’t miss this family-friendly show that’s sure to sell out! Tickets are \$20. For more information or to purchase tickets, call TCT at 662-844-1935.

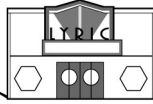
## Scholarship Opportunities

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, 2016. Information about each scholarship is available at [www.tct.ms](http://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 completed 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 662-844-1935.



# Auditions for *Mary Poppins*



TCT will hold auditions for the musical *Mary Poppins* on Monday, February 1, and Tuesday, February 2, at 6:00 p.m. onstage at the Lyric. Callbacks will be held Thursday, February 4, at 6:00 p.m., in the rehearsal hall at the Lyric. Production dates are April 28-30. Limited rehearsals (1 or 2/week) will begin February 22, and a full rehearsal schedule will begin March 6 (4/week). Suzanne Oakley will direct, assisted by Christi Houin. Scott Munson will direct music.

Many wonderful roles are available for singer/actors and dancers of all ages. This beloved children's classic stars Mary Poppins (20s), her chum Bert (30s), the tap-dancing chimney sweep, the Banks children Jane (11) and Michael (9), and their parents George (40s) and Winifred (30s). Also a part of the Banks household are the frazzled Katie Nanna (20s/up), the comically overworked housekeeper Mrs. Brill (20s/up), and the hapless houseboy Robertson Ay (20s/up).

The Banks' lives are filled with other interesting characters... There's the respected neighborhood Policeman (20s/up), the haughty next-door neighbor Miss Lark (20s/up), and the boisterous retired Royal Navy Admiral Boom (40s/up) who thoughtlessly pass by the Bird Woman (30s/up) selling bags of crumbs for the birds. The Park Keeper (30s/up) enforces park regulations while marble statues like Neleus (15/up) and Queen Victoria (40s/up) come to life when a certain nanny is around. (Note: Neleus is a lively personality who

must dance ballet or lyrical very well.)

At the bank where George is employed, we observe his boss the Bank Chairman (40s/up) and the chairman's humorless secretary Miss Smythe (40s/up) in their dealings with shady

German businessman Von Hussler (30s/up) and community-minded English businessman John Northbrook (30s/up). From George's childhood, we meet Mrs. Corry (40s/up), the owner of a magical gingerbread shop, her daughters Annie & Fannie (15/up), and George's very scary and overbearing nanny Miss Andrew (40s/up). The production is rounded out by a singing/dancing ensemble (15/up) of nursery toys, park-goers, shoppers, etc. (basic movement), and chimney sweeps (basic tap).

No advance prep is necessary. Cold reading (with an accent appropriate to the character) from the script is required for the acting audition, and a familiar tune from the show will be taught for all to sing. (Additional sight-singing may be asked of those seeking principal roles.) Those interested in feature dance roles (Neleus & chimney sweeps) will learn short combos to perform on the spot.

Please note that ages listed next to each character are what each actor must be able to *play* rather than what age each actor must be. Also note that Mary must stand in first position throughout the show, and neither she nor Bert may be afraid of heights. If you have any questions, feel free to contact director Suzanne Oakley at [goakley@hotmail.com](mailto:goakley@hotmail.com).

## TCT PERSONNEL

### TCT

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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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[1tct@bellsouth.net](mailto:1tct@bellsouth.net)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jeff Houin  
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Meredith Martin

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

### EMERITUS

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

### BOX OFFICE MANAGER

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lynn Nelson



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## Save the Dates!



At the Lyric on Broadway:

- March 10-12—***A Higher Place in Heaven***
- April 28-30—***Mary Poppins***
  - June 11—***Music, Monet, and Margaritas***
  - June 16-18—Summer Youth production of ***Cinderella***
  - July 11-15—***Theatre Camp***

At TCT Off Broadway:

- April 7-8—***Boys Next Door***
- May 5-6—***Art***