

The Gulfport LITTLE THEATRE Newsletter

Our 65th Theatre Season – 2010-2011

SUMMER 2011

APRIL 2011

Located 2600 13th Ave. Behind Chris' Beauty College

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APPLAUSE

A message from the Chairman

Betty Lou Watkins Daniels

It is difficult to believe that GLT is approaching the end of its 65th Season! The final production of the 2010-2011 fiscal year will be *The River Niger*, written by Joseph A. Walker and directed by Judge Felicia Dunn Burkes, May 27, 28, 29 and June 3, 4, 5. *The River Niger*, which won the 1974 Tony Award for Best Play, explores the camaraderie between black men and the role of men in the black family amidst the efforts of African Americans to achieve "the American dream." Additional information will be mailed to you prior to the production.

Once again, I am calling to your attention the need for donations for GLT's \$1,000 Baxley-McDaniel Scholar-ship Award, which will be presented in May to a graduating senior on the Gulf Coast who has been active in community theater and who plans to attend college in the fall to pursue theater-related endeavors. PLEASE help us continue this tradition by mailing a check to GLT Scholarship Fund, Post Office Box 567, Gulfport, MS 39502.

Thank you again for continuing to support YOUR community theater – Gulfport Little Theatre!

Betty Lou



SHOW BIZ KIDZ KORNER

UPDATE ON MARIANNE DAUPHIN

Lee Green Pope, Youth Director

In the January issue of *Applause*,

Marianne and Danny Dauphin were featured in the "Where Are They Now" column. At that time, Marianne was teaching English in Japan. This was a life-long dream come true since she had always had an interest in Japanese culture and had a desire to some day visit the country.

Family and friends were very concerned about Marianne's safety when the earthquake and tsunami recently struck Japan. I checked with her parents, Jackie and Dennis Dauphin, and learned that, although she felt the effects of

the earthquake where she lived in Tokyo, she was not in a devastated area, is doing well, just started a new teaching position, and has moved into a new apartment in Tokyo. She has no plans to leave Japan any time soon.

Marianne, please be assured that you and others in Japan who are facing the aftermath of this tragic event are in the thoughts and prayers of your GLT "family" and friends.

YOUTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As a part of Gulfport Little Theatre's Youth Program, GLT has recently presented --at MTA, various local schools and at GLT -- *Text This*, a one-act teen message play which concerns cyber bullying.

January 14: Youth Festival Mississippi State Theatre Association (MTA) - Riley Center in Meridian, Mississippi with an attendance of 300. Savannah Scafide won "All Star Cast" award for her performance.

January 18: Gulfport Little Theatre - Attendance: 100. Cast at GLT : Jaelynn Comeaux, Shelby Blankenship, Emily Naghspour, Alicia Williams, Kathleen Callender, Christina Clayton, Savannah Scafide, Hunter Griffin and Savannah Culver.

February 18: D'Iberville Middle School at 1:45 p.m. - Attendance: 550

February 24: Long Beach Middle School at 1 p.m. - Attendance: 250

March 14: Harper McCaughan Elementary School at 6 p.m. - Parent-Teacher Meeting - Attendance: 50

A question-and-answer period with the students and the cast was held after each performance at the schools. A school counselor was present to discuss and answer questions.



Left to Right: Hunter Griffin, Savannah Scafide, Christina Clayton & Savannah Culver.
Memoirs

Jackie & Dennis Dauphin

Our affiliation with GLT began as supportive “stage parents” to our children, Danny and Marianne, but soon led to 15 years of wearing many hats. Dennis Dauphin, Board Treasurer; Tech Booth, Onstage, ShowBizKidz

- Serving two terms as the Board Treasurer provided me the chance to share in the rebuilding of the GLT at a very critical stage. The building that was constructed in 1972 after Hurricane Camille destroyed the original had served its time and shown its age. It was literally eroding away and we badly needed more space anyway. It will always be a source of pride that those who served along with me were indeed committed to major renovations and we worked together to manage our expenses and boost our revenue to make it happen. With architect Don Leopard providing the vision and the fundraising efforts spearheaded by Board member Bob Bailey and many others, we were able to completely renovate most of the existing structure into a first rate theater. I remember the celebration when the late Bob Daniels took the stage to “burn the mortgage.” A major additional improvement came later when the old gravel parking lot became an asphalt paved parking lot, with great thanks to the efforts of Betty Lou Watkins Daniels and her contacts in the community. The Board of Directors (BOD) also approved the expense and authorized me to create the very first GLT website. Lo and behold, GLT joined the new age of electronic communications! As I left the BOD, Don Moore took over this task and did a masterful job in upgrading the website.

- The Tech Booth – Mr. Bill Elam was my introduction to the GLT tech booth. The booth electronics were a vintage classic...a history of years gone by. Another project at hand: the time had come to bring the tech booth into the modern age. It was part of the renovation but become an ongoing project long after. GLT owes a huge debt of gratitude to Ron Luetjen who oversaw the great transformation, as well as teaching me all I presently know about sound and lights. I’ve lost track of the number of productions I managed in the tech booth, along with the many faces, young and old, who came to “learn the ropes.” I remember that Scott Smith was very fascinated with all the electronics and proceeded to learn all he could. Additionally, we invited some talented teens to learn the tech booth operations. Hopefully, one of our “trainees” will go on to a professional career in the technical field. We smiled when we reminded the performers that there is no show without the technical crew!

- Onstage – my “artistic career” began with a bit part as a police officer in *Arsenic & Old Lace*. Director Lee Green Pope either felt sorry for me or was really short of performers. I manage to survive that production and went on to other shows such as *Dearly Departed*, *Charlie’s Aunt*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Beverly Hillbillies*, and *It’s a Wonderful Life* -- to name an unforgettable few. In the last two productions, I was joined on stage by Jackie in her rare stage appearances. The most memorable onstage event, however, was when I took the role of Mr. Brownlow the ShowBizKidz production of *Oliver Twist*. There I was, surrounded by all these young thespians looking up at me in the scene where we were trying to find Nancy...and I forgot my lines...a brain freeze. It’s hard to express the feeling of standing there with the kids and me looking for their help when you’re supposed to be the role model. You can call it a recurring nightmare! All in all, it was a great experience to work with Directors like Lee Green Pope, Cindy Gibson, Bob Barrett, Robert Smith, Bill Sumrall and Brian Giglione. I learned to appreciate all the effort that goes into the artistic side of community theater.

- ShowBizKidz: Sorry, Dot, but even if you gave me a whole year to produce an article, I couldn’t summarize all that went into producing ShowBizKidz musicals. I’ll turn this over to Jackie now and let her take a shot at it.
Jackie Dauphin: Costumer, Makeup Artist, Props, ShowBizKidz Producer

The most endearing moments of our years with GLT revolve around our jobs as ShowBizKidz Producers. This began with our two children finding a love of theater, which has remained with them until this day, but it also included witnessing the tremendous transformation in so many other kids as they went from nervous auditioners to polished performers. After auditions, the real adventure began. That means WORK! Working with Lee Green Pope, Roddy & Lucy Russell, Molly Cox and countless wonderful parents, our participation in GLT productions became a “second career” for us. Little did we know that it would become years of preparing for auditions, scouring the costume closet, building flats, scenery, set pieces, finding or creating props, painting the stage floor (over and over again), striking sets, cleaning up, and starting all over again. All that had to be done in addition to creating production programs, ordering T-shirts, decorating the lobby, printing “souvenir tickets” and handling ticket sales. It was extremely gratifying to see virtually every one of our ShowBizKidz musicals being completely sold out with folks outside waiting to get in the door. Oh, yeah...when summertime came, there was no vacation!

We served as Administrators of the ShowBizKidz Summer Camps.

It's no surprise that WWL radio of New Orleans said that Gulfport Little Theater had "the best youth theater program on the entire Coast." Of the many musicals that we produced, *Les Miserables-The School Edition*, was absolutely fabulous and went way beyond what anyone had ever attempted with youngsters in musical theater. David Shavers conducted the orchestra, Guy Bowering played a masterful piano, Jerry Chapman and Jeffrey Murdock were at the keyboards, Betty Bittner assisted the younger cast members with vocals, and Mary Elizabeth Rehmann played the flute and graciously recruited the other musicians. Her late husband Bill, along with Dane and Colleen Rabalais, constructed some truly magnificent set pieces, especially the "barricade." The audiences left the theater utterly dazed at the spectacle and the young talent. Gulfport Little Theater is the only community theater on the entire Gulf Coast to have attempted this very challenging musical. We will always be proud of that accomplishment! One of the biggest compliments (given by a lady with tears in her eyes) was that she "forgot that those were children onstage."

Our many wonderful memories would fill a book, so I will just skim through a few more highlights: performing each year at the Coliseum (My advice to nervous children as they saw thousands of audience members: "It's just like performing at GLT -- only more applause!"), *Shakespeare By The Sea at Beauvoir*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* – my favorite with our little flower fairies, and *CATS*, which really was not a ShowBizKidz production but featured so many of our young performers.

After Hurricane Katrina decimated so much of the Coast, the GLT web page served as a means for members of our theater family to spread the word that they were safe. That feeling of "family" is our most treasured theater memory.

Last Production of GLT's 64th Season

The River Niger

Directed by Judge Felicia Dunn Burkes
May 27 -29 and June 3-5

Productions at Other Theaters on the Coast:

Diamondhead Performing Arts Society:
April 17 – *Randy Riggie's Nostalgia Comedy Show* Details: 255-6348 or 255-2861

Center Stage: *Red, White & Tuna*
April 28 – May 11 Details: 388-6258
South Pacific coming in July

Long Beach Middle School
May 7 – *Annie* Details: 864-3370

Biloxi Little Theatre
Inherit the Wind
May 13-15, 19-21 Details: 432-8543

Christian Collegiate Academy
Disney's Beauty & the Beast, Jr.
April 29-30, May 1, 6, and 7
Gulfport Little Theatre
Details: 832-8262
NOTE: This is not a GLT production, but the Academy is utilizing the GLT facility.

Bay St. Louis Little Theatre
The Teahouse of the August Moon
Show opens June 10
Details: 216-4906 or 864-2882

Gulfport High School
The Perfect Lie - April 15 at 7 p.m.
Handsboro Community Center

WINGS –Lynn Meadows Discovery Center
Auditions for Rogers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* are May 1, 2-5 and May 2, 6-8 p.m. at Lynn Meadows.
June 2, 3, 4 - *Noises Off* – A hilarious comedy, dinner/dessert production – 7 p.m. at Lynn Meadows
June 18 WINGS - *Canteen* performance at National WWII Museum, New Orleans, 1 p.m.
June 23 -25 -- *The Little Mermaid* at Lynn Meadows
July 9 – *Cinderella* for Boys and Girls Club, MGCCC JD Fine Arts Auditorium, 6 p.m.
July 15-17 – WINGS presents Rogers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* at MGCCC- Jeff Davis Fine Arts Auditorium
Details: www.lmdc.org or call 897- 6039

IT IS TIME!!

It is time to be thinking about nominations for Directors and Trustees to serve on the GLT Board during the 2011-2012 65th Season. Directors and Trustees will be elected during the June General Membership meeting. If you are interested in serving on the GLT Board as a Director or Trustee, please talk with a member of the current Board. If a member of the Nominating Committee calls you, please give serious consideration to accepting a position. More people, new ideas and a willingness to work are essential to the future of GLT!

GLT AWARDS FOR 2010-2011

Nominations are now being solicited for the awards listed below:

Tommy Gilbert Award

Criteria for selection of Tommy Gilbert Award include:

- . Member in good standing of Gulfport Little Theatre
- . Made the most significant contributions to the success of Gulfport Little Theatre during the past season.

Prior recipients are not eligible for nomination.



GLT

Bailey-Leggett Award

Criteria for selection of Bailey-Leggett Award include:

- . Having made a major and generally identified contribution to Gulfport Little Theatre
- . Current and past active member of the theatre for a significant number of years
- . Taken an active role in participating and in promoting the image of Gulfport Little Theatre
- . Served in GLT leadership positions

Wall of Fame Award

Criteria for selection of the Wall of Fame Award include:

A deceased member who contributed much to the success of Gulfport Little Theatre by his/her long-time active participation and contributions to Gulfport Little Theatre.

You may submit your nominations by calling the Gulfport Little Theatre office at 228-864-7983 or by e-mail to Betty Lou Watkins Daniels at retpenpal@gmail.com.

GULFPORT LITTLE THEATRE

PO BOX 567

GULFPORT, MS 39502

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