

THE GULFPORT LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Our 63rd Theatre Season – 2008-2009

Spring 2009

JANUARY 2009

Located 2600 13th Ave. Behind Chris' Beauty College

Website: WWW.gulfportlittletheatre.org

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APPLAUSE



Editor's Notes

We are now well into our 63rd season with Harvey in rehearsal and production opening night set for Friday, January 23 at 8 p.m., Pirates of Penzance ready to start rehearsals and Barefoot in the Park on the drawing Board. We give our heartfelt thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership, to the new members, to the patrons and sponsors and to all of our advertisers. Without you, we would not exist. You have a dedicated Board of Directors and Trustees that wants to produce the family oriented plays that you would like to see, so if you have a preference, please submit to the Play Selection Committee or call the theatre office and leave a message. We are here for you, so let us hear from you.

Volunteers are always needed. When you see the Audition dates in the news, if you would like to volunteer, come to the auditions and make yourself available or call the theatre office. Some ways that you can volunteer are: actors and actresses, collect props, set design and construction, working in the sound & light booth, collecting bio's from cast members, stage manager and numerous other jobs that have to be done even before a play production opens. Thank you all and have a Happy Year! See you at the Theatre.

Dot McDaniel

SHOW BIZ KIDZ KORNER

• WILLY WONKA JUNIOR

Thanks to Lee Green Pope and all the 73 member cast and the crew of "Willy Wonka Junior." The play was a huge success with a full house at most of the productions. The school field trip of the production was held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum on November 18 at 9:30 a.m. with more than 2500 school children in attendance.

In appreciation for the use of the Central Elementary School for the auditions and some rehearsals, the cast produced their musical numbers at the school after the Coliseum production.

Memoirs

I was asked to contribute some memories of GLT, especially from 1973-1995 when I was able to be most active. There are so many memories – and hilarious stories – it would take a book rather than a newsletter column to recount them.

GLT has meant a lot to me. Despite appearing in about 20 shows and directing another 10 or so, I think one of the biggest benefits of my affiliation with GLT has been the people I've met through the theatre. Not being a Coast native, that was important. Moving here in 1972, fresh from a stint in the U.S. Army, I needed to get known and get to know people if I was going to be an effective promotion and public relations representative for the (then) Daily Herald. And GLT was a great networking tool.

I drove a friend to an audition for *Nightwatch* in October 1973. I had no theatre experience nor any desire for it. I was just transportation. Warren McDaniel was directing and after auditioning for the leads and major supporting roles, he said he was looking for a couple of guys to play bumbling, "Colombo"-type cops. Small parts. My friend stood up and said "He'll try it!" – pointing at me. Before I could run out the door, Warren tossed me a script and teased me onstage with Tommy Gilbert, a local morning radio legend in Gulfport at the time. If you remember Tommy, you'll understand when I say that because Warren did cast both of us I spent the next eight weeks laughing my fool head off at Tommy's cornball humor and trying so hard not to screw up a show headlined by Dot Eaton and June Vincent.

Best of all, that show launched a friendship with Warren Mac that would last until his passing. In fact, it's no coincidence that when Margie and I met and married a few years later, we bought a home just around the corner from Dot and Warren.

Richard Glazier asked me to audition for the very next show, *Not Now, Darling!* I did and got cast as a loud-mouthed, obnoxious salesman (typecasting?) who was trying to juggle two girlfriends and a wife. Needless to say, I enjoyed that. The show also introduced me to an unspoken GLT tradition of "pranking the lead," a game in which the stage crew and supporting cast see how far they can distract the leads

without making them lose character onstage (a tradition I hope hasn't continued). I survived most of the pranks until closing night when someone filled my prop bottle of Johnnie Walker Red with... Johnnie Walker Red. My character had to hurriedly drink a full glass of "Scotch" at one point in the show. There's nothing like the shock of pretending to gulp down liquor that you know is really just iced tea but really turns out to be whiskey. I can't say I remember how that show ended...

Over the next several years came many shows I remember well, like *Lion in Winter* directed by the legendary Ethelynd Baxley; *Best of Friends*, directed by Charlie Kennedy; *The Night of January 16th*, directed by Doug Andrews; *Ordinary People*, directed by Eddie Galey; *The Diviners*, directed by Janie Still Walters; and *The Family Jewel*, written and directed by Mike Odom. There were many more I just can't (or won't) remember.

But my fondest memories are of working for Warren McDaniel in *Twelve Angry Men*, *Rebecca*, *A Far Country*, and *The Runner Stumbles*. And finally getting to boss Mac around when I got to direct him a couple times.

Warren never had a cast. He created a family. Sid King, Bob Lewis, George Leggett, Henry, Hank and Camilla Coolidge, Richard Glazier – all would drop everything to be part of his production crew when Warren decided to direct a show. He always cast extremely well: lead characters who "looked the part" and a good mix of popular veteran actors like Dot Eaton, Charlie Kennedy, Boyce Holleman, Richard Glazier, Mac Gibbs, Anthony Kahlberg, or Becky Moreton who could carry a show and newcomers who he would develop into crowd favorites. It was a great environment. And, as my wife and I learned to appreciate when we took turns as GLT chairs, Warren's shows always drew packed houses and made good money.

Oh, yeah, Dot and Warren threw great cast parties, too!

The GLT website lists Jack Harrington as director of *The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild* in 1978. That's almost true. Jack chose the play, held auditions, picked a cast, and organized the publicity, then had to leave town before the first rehearsal. The board was stuck with a show, a cast, a date and no director. Warren recommended me and the board agreed, as long as Warren promised to help. So that was my first shot as director. Thanks to a great cast and Mac as my "godfather," it worked and gave the Directors Group confidence to let me choose my own shows and direct *Happy Birthday*, *Wanda June*; *God's Favorite*; *Everybody Loves Opal*; *The Silver Whistle*; *Pack of Lies*; *Chapter Two* and *Lie, Cheat & Genuflect*, among others.

Each show has a special memory (and some hilarious stories) for me. But the best memories will always be the people and the friendships that continue to today.

Thanks, GLT.

John McFarland

2008-2009 Season

HARVEY

January 23, 24, 25 and 30, 31, February 1, 2009

Directed by Harvey Breazeale

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

March 6, 7, 8 and 13, 14, 15, 2009

Directed by Colleen Rabalais

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK

April 24, 25, 26 and May 1, 2, 3, 2009

Directed by Larry Clark

LOST IN YONKERS

June 5, 6, 7 and 12, 13, 14, 2009

Directed by Art Bailey, Jr.

- Plays and dates subject to change
It's Here!



1950 Full Length Comedy by Mary Chase that starred Jimmy Stewart as Mr. Dowd

THE STORY: Elwood P. Dowd is an endlessly pleasant and delightfully eccentric bachelor living in a small town that isn't quite aware that its newest citizen is a 6'3" white rabbit that only certain people can see. After supposedly meeting this rabbit - its origins attributed to the Celtic legend of the Pooka - Dowd's sanity is put into question by his equally eccentric sister. But as more and more people get wrapped up in the bizarre debate over an invisible white rabbit, the only thing we'll ever know for sure is that life is always a bit quirrier than we ever imagined and that sometimes a man's best friend can be a big white rabbit.

The Cast:

Elwood P. Dowd	Chester Delacruz
Veta Simmons	Cheryl Grace
Myrtle Mae Simmons	Amanda Allen
Dr. Lyman Sanders	Barry Newman
Nurse Ruth Kelly	Jessica Smith
Mrs. Chauvenev	Peggy Soukup
Dr. Chumley	Jim Russell
Betty Chumley	Lucy Dixon
Judge Gaffney	Jim Dugan
Cabbie	Jonathan Wetzel



Next up:

In *The Pirates of Penzance*, Frederic was as a child apprenticed to a band of tenderhearted, orphaned pirates by his nurse who, being hard of hearing, had mistaken her

master's instructions to apprentice the boy to a pilot. Frederic, upon completing his 21st year, rejoices that he has fulfilled his indentures and is now free to return to respectable society. But it turns out that he was born on February 29 in leap year, and he remains apprenticed to the pirates until his 21st birthday. By the end of the play, the pirates, a Major General who knows nothing of military strategy, his large family of beautiful but unwed daughters, and the timid constabulary all contribute to a cacophony that can be silenced only by Queen Victoria's name.

For donations to the Baxley-McDaniel scholarship fund, make check payable to Gulfport Little Theatre for the scholarship fund. This is tax-deductible.



What's Happening?

Gulf Coast Opera

Opera Bella Sera – Gala Fund Raiser
Featuring Khara Molsbee, native of Long Beach, MS.

Sunday, January 25, 2009, 6 p.m.
Al Fresco' Bistro

Biloxi Little Theatre

“INTIMATE APPAREL”, written by Lynn Nottage and directed by Lara Hall. Production dates are February 6 - 8 and 12 - 14, 2009.

Center Stage

“LEADING LADIES” by Ken Ludwig.
Production dates: February 5-15, 2009

BAXLEY-MC DANIEL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Gulfport Little Theatre wishes to announce that it is accepting applications for its annual \$1,000 Baxley-McDaniel Scholarship Award. The deadline for submitting an application is April 1, 2008. Application forms will be mailed to the area high school Guidance Counselors. Applications are also available online by visiting www.gulfportlittletheatre.org and downloading the forms or by calling the theater at 228-864-7483.

The Baxley-McDaniel Scholarship Fund was established in 1999 by Gulfport Little Theatre in memory of Ms. Ethelynd Baxley and J. Warren McDaniel, organizers and long-time supporters of Gulfport Little Theatre. This memorial scholarship was established to provide financial assistance to a graduating senior from the Mississippi Gulf Coast in their pursuit of a performing arts related degree. The scholarship recipient is determined each year by the Board of Directors of Gulfport Little Theatre. Eligibility requirements for the scholarship:

1. Each candidate must be a resident of Hancock, Harrison or Jackson County and actively involved in performing arts activities.
2. Each candidate must be a high school senior accepted to and planning to enroll in a college, university, or other institution for the purpose of furthering their education in any of the performing arts.
3. Each candidate must possess a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
4. Each candidate must complete the scholarship application form and submit it to the Gulfport Little Theatre Board of Directors.

The Gulfport Little Theatre Scholarship Committee will evaluate applications and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for awarding the scholarship. Scholarship awards will be made in two (2) payments of \$500.00 each and paid directly (via two-party check) to the college or university the student will be attending. A check will be issued for the first semester, and, pending the good standing of the student's enrollment, the balance will be issued for the second semester.

Dinner Theatre

Talk About Murder – January 17, 2009
St. Vincent de Paul on Espy Ave. Long Beach
Call 669-5015 for reservations

KNS

Jekyll & Hyde, the Musical. Production dates:
April 3-5, 2009 – Saenger Theatre

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center – WINGS

Singin' in the Rain - February 6-8, 2009
Biloxi Jr. High Auditorium

MGCCC/JD

Greater Tuna – February 18-22, 2009

Showstoppers – April 24-26, 2009

MTA Statewide Theatre Festival

Natchez, MS – January 15-18, 2009

SETC 60th Annual Convention

Birmingham, AL – March 4-8, 2009

THANKS

Many thanks to Beth Knight for opening her new home to the Gulfport Little Theatre Board of Directors and Trustees' Christmas Party. We all enjoyed the hospitality, fellowship and good food that Beth is so capable of creating.

Quiz:

Do you know the names of the seven children in The Sound of Music?

Baxley - McDaniel Scholarship Application Form
P.O. Box 567. Gulfport. MS 39502

SECTION I

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ High School _____

What college do you plan to attend? _____

What is your intended major? _____

Non-weighted High School GPA _____

SECTION II

Provide the following four (4) attachments

1. *Please list your performing arts activities or your artistic resume'. The list should include the name of the performance, type of involvement, and location for each.*

2. *Please answer the following questions: [500 words or less]*

a. *How has your involvement in theater changed you?*

b. *What have you learned through your involvement in the performing arts?*

c. *What contribution do you want to make to the world of performing arts?*

3. *Please attach sealed recommendations from any TWO of the following:*

Teacher; School Counselor; an individual who directed you in a theatrical performance or an individual with whom you have worked in the performing arts.

4. *Please attach a copy of the acceptance letter for college admission.*

SUMMARY

Be sure to include all of the following:

_____ Application Form

_____ Performance List or Artistic Resume'

_____ Essay question responses

_____ Two Sealed Recommendations

_____ Copy of college acceptance letter

Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2008

Answer to Quiz:



**Leisel, Freidrick, Louisa, Kurt
Brigita, Marta, Gretel**

GULFPORT LITTLE THEATRE
PO BOX 567
GULFPORT, MS. 39502

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