

THE GULFPORT LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Our 64th Theatre Season – 2009-2010

SPRING 2010

January 2010

Located 2600 13th Ave. Behind Chris' Beauty College

Website: WWW.gulfportlittletheatre.org

E-mail: GLTinfo@gulfportlittletheatre.org

Phone: 228-864-7983

APPLAUSE



A Message from the Chairman

Don Moore

You may have heard the expression, “perceptions are reality” when it comes to peoples experiences. Organizations always need to keep a handle on how their customers or patrons perceive them. To this end, let me share some recent correspondence to Gulfport Little Theatre. On January 8 and 9, GLT facilitated the production of Barrymore under the direction of Craig DeRoche. After a week of rehearsals and two outstanding performances, I received this email from the director.

“On January 8, 2010, I had the pleasure of producing and directing the Tony Award winning play Barrymore at GLT. This was accomplished with the help of Denise Bruce (former Chairwoman), current Chairman Don Moore and the GLT Board of Directors. It was also made possible through continued relationships, friendships, business associates, networking and people who just care about this organization and the community.

This was an easy and completely enjoyable experience for me. I have volunteered at other theaters along the coast, and they taught me valuable lessons and methods on how those organizations operated. Like other theaters, I think GLT is on a continued track to even greater success. I'm sure this is not news to many of you.

It's great to have complete support on all levels in an organization. Often times advertising and promotion is not accomplished across the board. Or it's not as important on one production as it is with another. This is not the case at GLT especially if Don Moore is involved. GLT, has without a doubt and without question, the total package when it comes to all aspects of a theatrical production. Each member, contributor, donor and sponsor can be proud that they are associated with this group of men and women who truly have the best interests of GLT at heart. It is impressive, and you can be proud of their dedication.

Which brings me to Darrel Volesky. During Barrymore, he helped, assisted and volunteered his time generously. I can't say

enough about how nice and professional he was. He is a true asset to GLT. But it's not the first time he has done this for me. In 2004, I directed A Few Good Men at Biloxi Little Theatre, and one of the actors could not continue with the show. It was a supporting role and Darrel came in six days before curtain, memorized the lines and gave a performance remembered for his suicide on stage. He assisted not only a director, but another theater when they were in desperate need. That's the spirit to emulate.

My involvement with GLT has been a rewarding learning process. Friendly professionalism, enthusiastic work spirit has been displayed by everyone and I'm convinced that I want to return. I hope you will have me.”
Sincerely and with great respect,

Craig DeRoche

Wow! It is so gratifying to see that GLT is carrying out its mission of being a COMMUNITY Theatre. In the Sunday, January 10 edition of the Sun Herald, one of the Sound Off articles cited, “I want you to know there was something magical on stage at Gulfport Little Theatre on Friday. It was world-class entertainment. . . .” another affirmation that we are doing some things right. And we will continue trying new things and working with new directors and actors. It's an exciting time of growth and direction for the Theatre.

The theatre is all about people. One of the best things we have accomplished this year is to invite Darrel Volesky back to the board. Darrel is a former Chairman (2002-2003) and has a wealth of knowledge with set building and design. For Barrymore, Darrel committed to multiple rehearsals Monday through Thursday to adequately prepare for the Friday and Saturday night performances. In just a few days, he learned our lighting board and set all the cues for the show. We could not have carried out the performances without his unselfish commitment. Those of you who know Darrel know what an asset he is for the theatre. No rest for the weary! He just spent the remaining part of his weekend working on the set for Last of the Red Hot Lovers. Darrel is not only fully committed to the theatre, he is so gracious to work with.

I present this story as an encouragement for anyone wanting to come back, or anyone who would like to volunteer to support Gulfport Little Theatre with your time, talents, or resources. We extend open arms to anyone who

can help us take the Theatre in a positive direction, and we will do our best to make it a fun and rewarding experience for you. Be sure to sign up for our emails by going to www.gulfportlittletheatre.org. If you wish to contact me, please call 228-896-0791. My thanks to the GLT Board of Directors and our community leaders and patrons for your ongoing support of performing arts and Gulfport Little Theatre.

From a Member of the Board of Trustees:

Lynda Conwell writes:

When Dot McDaniel asked me to write a “bit” for the newsletter, it reminded me of the time Chester Delacruz looked at me and said, “OK, Lynda, you’re up! It’s your time to direct a play!” So, I mumbled “ok, ok,” to both Dot and Chester. Then the big decision – what do I write about? Then I remembered what my mother always said, “Remember to write thank you notes!”

Here is mine:

Thank you Gulfport Little Theatre for being a great community theatre. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to:

- Follow Mr. George (Leggett) around as his gofer, learning how to put sets together.
- Learning stage craft from Warren (McDaniel).
- Learning from Mrs. Baxley to leave Lynda in the wings when I stepped on stage, giving me the courage to become other people on stage.
- To make a multitude of friends by doing things together.
- Learn everything about the operation of a theatre from front door to the back.
- Being selected to serve on the Board of GLT.
- Being an active member of the Director’s Group.
- Being given the opportunity to direct plays.
- Being selected to serve as a Trustee for GLT.
- Having the opportunity to attend some wonderful performances and for all the wonderful performances to come. I am looking forward to them.

But most of all “Thank you for all the fun!”

And “Thank You, Lynda” for being such a vital spoke in the wheel of Gulfport Little Theatre.

Dot

Memories of
Terry I. Miles

It all began in April of 1977. Gosh, that seems a long time ago, but in a way, just a blink of the eyes! I was working at Hancock Bank in the accounting department. As usual, I was humming a tune while doing my filing. Mr. George Schoegel ambled by and asked me, “What’s that tune?”

I replied, “From the movie, Funny Girl.”

“They’re having auditions at GLT for that.” He asked “Why don’t you go down there?”

I did and was signed up for the chorus. Now, I know a lot of you are saying, “Yes, she’s so outgoing, so friendly.” Really, I was quiet, shy and reserved. But eleven nights of performing and hearing the clapping and applause, I became an extrovert quickly! Ha! Ha! I was hooked!

Still, I was reserved a bit. I only auditioned for musicals. On several occasions, my youngest daughter, Susan, was in the shows with me. I met some wonder people. Bob Bailey, Fred and Donna Hutchinson, Camilla and Hank Coolidge, Lee Green Pope and many, many others. Oh, I must mention Andy Kalberg and Janie Still Walters, two dear and steadfast friends.

The years passed and I began auditioning for regular season plays, one right after the other. I thoroughly enjoyed each and every one. Several of them I did both for GLT and Biloxi Little Theatre.

One of my favorites is “Everyone Loves Opal.” Of course I played Opal. She was a character, lived behind the city dump with her cat Mr. Tanner. She loved everybody and wanted everyone to love her, however, three unscrupulous characters found out she had money and wanted to do her in. They arranged all kinds of dangerous things, but Opal came through fit as a fiddle and even had those three change their ways. In the end, she toasts a cup of tea to them and praises all of their friendship. I loved Opal!

Now, don’t think for a minute I was only on stage. Oh no. I helped backstage, in the lobby, painting, building, tickets, you name it. The theatre is work. Your reward is seeing the results of your labor.

Through the years, I performed up and down the coast, on the military bases, in the schools and then.....became the writer that I wanted to be!

My first book, “I’ll Love You Till I Die”, was published while I was playing a murder publisher in a play at GLT. Lynda Conwell was director and Peggy Soukup. was co-director. That was thrilling.

I have to go back a bit to mention several other plays. My Three Angels, with Andy doing the set, John McFarland directing Andy and me. That was a hoot! Andy almost falling off the stage in “Lil Abner”. Opening night for Oliver and two minor characters forgetting to come on stage with Eddie Hodges (Mr. Bumble) and me (Widow Corney). Also opening night for Arsenic and Old Lace, Aunt Martha’s upstairs door was locked! Had to go through Teddy’s door, and I had to jump ten feet down into David Delk’s arms. What a catch!

These and many more memories grace my wall, hallway and books at home and of course, inside my small brain.

May I suggest you too can create your memories at GLT. Come join us. On stage, off stage and in the lobby!

Remember what some people say,
“Smile....it makes people wonder what you are
up to.” As for me, I’m always looking for new
characters for my cozy little murder mysteries!

SHOW BIZ KIDZ KORNER

By Lee Green Pope
Youth Program Director
BAH, HUMBUG!

Bah, Humbug! completed six performances at the theatre, that were well attended and received standing ovations. The following Monday, a rehearsal was held at the Coliseum to make adjustments for the cast to the different environment. In addition, sound, lights and special effects adjustments were necessary. Attendance at the Coliseum performance on Tuesday morning was approximately 1,650 and the students showed their enjoyment with cheers and applause.

After lunch, the cast traveled to Central Elementary and performed musical numbers for a full house. Bryce Russell acted as host and encouraged audience participation as he narrated the familiar story to the enthusiastic audience.

Later that evening the cast held their cast party at a theatre where they enjoyed watching Jim Carrey perform in The Christmas Carol. It is apparent that all the children are now well familiar with Charles Dickens’ classic Christmas tale.

BAH, HUMBUG! POSTSCRIPT:

On September 20, GLT held auditions at Central Elementary School and 47 days (six weeks and 5 days) later, Bah, Humbug! with a cast of 60 young people opened on November 6. In those 47 days, we held music, dance and blocking rehearsals, costumed the cast, built a set, acquired the props, worked with sound, lights, special effects, programs, “T” shirts and Kiss the Cast.

How was all this accomplished?
Certainly not by one person. It was a true example of team work! As a result, we have made new friends for the theatre. In spite of all their hard work they can’t wait for “the next show.” Thank you, thank you very much!!

See you next time at Kidz Korner!

Baxley – McDaniel Scholarship Application Form

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

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

Baxley-McDaniel Scholarship Committee

Gulfport Little Theatre

P.O. Box 567

Gulfport, Mississippi 39502



2009 – 2010 Board of Directors

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2009-2010 Season
Celebrating our 64th Year
“Come Ride with Us”

The Last of the Red Hot Lovers

Directed by Larry Clark

January 22-23, 29-30, 2010 at 8 p.m.,

January 24, 31, 2010 at 3 p.m.

Master Harold and the Boys

Directed by Judge Felicia Dunn Burke

March 5 -7, 12-14, 2010

A Place by the River

Directed by Ronny Broussard

April 23 -25, April 30, May 1-2, 2010

Somebody Save My Baby Ruth

Directed by Brandy Mills

June 4-6, 11-13, 2010

** Plays and dates subject to change

Making Reservations & Purchasing Tickets

If you are not a member, you may purchase show tickets through PayPal from the Little Theatre web site: WWW.gulfportlittletheatre.org using Visa or Mastercard. Tickets will be available in your name at the box office one hour before show times, or you may call 864-7983 to reserve tickets by telephone. Reservations for each show are encouraged.

What's Happening at other Theaters?

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center –

WINGS

“GREASE”

February 19-21, 2010

Center Stage

PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT

January 28-February 7, 2010

LEND ME A TENOR

March 18-28, 2010

GULFPORT LITTLE THEATRE

PO BOX 567

GULFPORT, MS. 39502

Return Service Requested

Next



LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS

January 22, 23, 24 and 29, 30, 31, 2010

Directed by Larry Clark

Biloxi Little Theatre

***HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME, WISH YOU WERE HER**

Written by William Van Zandt and Jane Milmore

Directed by Keith Gregory

February 5 - 7 and 11 - 13, 2010

***ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST**

Written by Dale Wasserman

Adapted from the novel by Ken Kesey

Directed by Lisa Parker

March 26 - 28 and April 1 - 3, 2010

Diamondhead Performing Arts

March 28, 2010

An evening of Benny Goodman teamed with songs of the Andrew Sisters performed by the Terry Myers Orchestra & the Swing Sisters from Florida.

April 25, 2010

Neil Diamond songs performed by Bobby Bruce backed by his Solitary Band.

Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra

THE BRITISH ARE COMING!

Saturday, January 30, 2010 8:00 p.m.

Nicholas Ciraldo, soloist

Elgar: Pomp & Circumstance No. 1

Harvey: Guitar Concerto

Vaughan Williams: Symphony No. 2

GERMAN MASTERS

Saturday, March 13, 2010 8:00 p.m.

Julius-Jeongwon Kim, soloist

Beethoven: Symphony No. 8

Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is April 10, 2010.

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