

THE GULFPORT LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Our 65th Theatre Season – 2010-2011

WINTER 2010

OCTOBER 2010

Located 2600 13th Ave. Behind Chris' Beauty College

Website: WWW.gulfportlittletheatre.org

E-mail: GLTinfo@gulfportlittletheatre.org

Phone: 228-864-7983

APPLAUSE

SHOW BIZ KIDZ KORNER

Chairman's Message:

Ladies and Gentlemen –

October 15, 16 and 17 are our last chances to see GLT's current production *Dracula, The Musical?* Friday and Saturday night performances begin at 8 p.m. and the Sunday matinee begins at 3 p.m. This riotous Mel Brooks style spoof of the classic horror tale, along with everybody's favorite vampire, is complete with music, dancing, special effects, and awful puns. *Dracula, the Musical?* is an unparalleled romp from start to finish and is suitable for all ages.

We are so very fortunate and thrilled to have the very talented and experienced Barbara Medlock once again directing a production at GLT, having lived out of state for a number of years. Combine Barb with the talents of Brandon Ring, Musical Director/Pianist, and Jeannie Reaux, Choreographer -- along with the oh-so-talented cast members and other members of the production team – and we are bound to have a successful production!

Then on the heels of *Dracula*, we have *Disney's My Son Pinocchio – Geppetto's Musical Tale*, coming up November 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14, with the Coliseum show November 16 at 9:30 a.m. The talented Bryce Russell, Maria Turnage, Lee Green Pope and countless of talented others promise to once again bring us family entertainment at its finest!

We continue to solicit volunteers and help develop talent to assist with productions in a variety of forums. We need your volunteer assistance at GLT – whether helping to build sets, working with sound and lighting, greeting patrons, taking up tickets – just being there to assist in any way needed. Please e-mail me at retpenpal@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering in ANY capacity at GLT.

Betty Lou Watkins Daniels
GLT Chairman 2010-2011

DISNEY'S MY SON PINOCCHIO ~ GIPPETTO'S MUSICAL TALE

Pinocchio got started with a record breaking audition of 124 young people. After two call backs director Bryce Russell made the difficult choice of narrowing the cast down to 75, a more manageable number. Half are new to GLT and about 25 have never been on stage before but all are talented, enthusiastic and stay focused on their parts.

The brand new music in the show is by Stephen Schwartz who also wrote the music for "Wicked" and also includes familiar music like "When You Wish Upon A Star" and "I've Got No Strings." Music and song by a five piece live orchestra are all through the show with four specialty numbers choreographed by the talented, teen Maria Turnage.

Audiences are sure to be impressed with the sets, especially the Whale which swallows Pinocchio and Geppetto. The whale is ten feet long and six feet high with great eyes that light up. (Bryce's uncle Greg Russell worked four weeks building the whale.)

Then there is the New Children Machine which consists of a tunnel and a slide on which the new children slide onto the stage. The Pleasure Island set is a whimsical fun house for the "Bad Boys." Pyrotechnics and laser lights add to the visual enjoyment of the show.

One of the highlights of the show is when the two foot Pinocchio puppet is magically transformed into a real boy with the aid of some razzle dazzle special effects. Ten year old William Meynardie plays Pinocchio who learns that, "Until you give your heart to someone else you might as well be made of wood." Fifteen year old Brittani Carver is the "Oh so cool" Blue Fairy and fifteen year old Kenny McGravey plays the villainous Stromboli.

Playing the role of Geppetto is Dr. David Reeves. David is well known in theatre for his roles with the Gulf Coast Opera, U.S.M Civic Chorale, Sounds Of The Holiday, Evita, Camelot and many more. But I especially remember and am fond of his participation in GLT's "Cat's" in which he played Munkustrap and most memorably the role of Gus the Theatre Cat.

Production dates for this truly family show are November 4, 6, 7, - 12, 13 and 14 at the

theatre and November 16 at 9:30 am at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum. Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 pm and Sundays a 3:00 pm.

Please note that November 4 is a Thursday. The show is not playing on the first Friday because of the homecoming football game which is scheduled for that date and many members of the cast must participate in the activities.

The cast and crew are working hard to make this a successful show. They are wishing on a star and with your support their dream will come true. See you there!!

*** COMING ATTRACTIONS:**

The Teen dramatic play, "Text This" The theme of the play directed by Lee Green Pope concerns "Cyber Bullying" and its consequences. Call 864-7261 for details.

Next edition of *Kidz Korner* we will be featuring a brother and sister who were long time members of Show Biz Kidz. He loved playing the villain and she loved playing a witch. He is in Jackson now and she is in Japan. Guess Who!

See you next time on the *Korner*.

Lee Green Pope
Youth Program Director."



Memories of GLT

I was so honored when Dot asked me to share my memories of GLT-- so here goes. I had just moved to the coast and saw GLT was having auditions for some one acts. Everyone was so friendly. I showed up and got cast! That began a 10 year relationship with GLT which led to me starting a children's theatre program, summer camps as well as serving as Executive Director (after I had written a few grants.)

We didn't have much money back then so I wrote several children's musicals with my writing partner Buddy Dubourg (no royalties involved, ha!). Although it was a lot of work, I can't think of anything more rewarding than taking a show from page to stage.

GLT was also very involved with MTA and we won the Warren McDaniel award four times while I was there for *The Belle of Amherst*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *Trial of the Big Bad Wolf* and *Cotton Patch Gospel*.

I had two children while I worked with GLT. Aubrey and Gracie both spent many hours at GLT and I kept a playpen at the theatre for them. Aubrey was in her first play at 2 years old, *Spirit of the White Buffalo* (as a young boy) and Gracie's first show was *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (as Cindy Lou Who.) GLT allowed me to begin and develop the children's program and I was so grateful when Lee Green Pope joined me as we were able to offer even more

opportunities for children.

My favorite role of all time was in *Shadowlands* portraying Joy. I connected with David Gresham, Joy's son and C. S. Lewis' stepson thanks to a contact through Becky Rutz our director. He sent us program notes. Many years later we reconnected and he wrote a note to our cast of children performing in the *Chronicles of Narnia* the summer after Katrina.

One of my favorite anecdotes was about the theatre fairy. We've all had the experience of wondering if a show was really going to come together? I told one cast of young performers that the theatre fairy always visits children's shows and magically they become wonderful! After I said this Mr. George walked in and one of the kids raised their hands and said, "Ms. Tonya, is that the theatre fairy?"

GLT gave me the opportunity to spread my Wings and this of course led to the WINGS program at the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center. Many of the WINGS kids perform at GLT and several of our Advisory Board members share their skills with GLT as well. I try to make it to see the kids as often as I can.

GLT will always have a very special place in my heart. It is where I made some dear friends such as; David Delk, Eleanor Johnson, John McFarland, Lou Black, Mary and Bob Bailey, Mr. George, Warren and Dot McDaniel, Bob Daniels and so many others.

Thank you for all you did for me!

Tonya Hays



Schedule for 2010-2011 Plays

DRACULA, the Musical

October 15, 16, 17 - Last Chance

Directed by Barbara Medlock

Auditions will be held Sunday, August 8 from 2-4 p.m. and Monday, August 9 from 7 – 9 p.m. at GLT.

DISNEY'S MY SON PINOCCHIO

November, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 & 14. November 16 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum.

Directed by Bryce Russell

TEXT THIS.

Directed by Lee Green Pope

The theme of the play is cyber-bullying and its consequences.

Production dates are Nov. 19-20.

THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 16

January 14, 15, 16 and 21, 22, 23, 2011

Directed by Lee Green Pope

AN EVENING OF SONDHEIM

February 18, 19, 20 and 25, 26, 27

Director TBA

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
April 8, 9, 10 and 15, 16, 17, 2011
Directed by Chester Delacruz

RADIO GOLF
May 13, 14, 15 and 20, 21, 22, 2011
Directed by Judge Felicia Dunn-Burkes

Other Theatres:

Center Stage:

The Late Christopher Bean by Sidney Howard
November 4 – 14, 2010

Biloxi Little Theatre – 220 Lee St.
“The Philadelphia Story” at 8 p.m. Oct. 15-16, 2
p.m. Oct. 17 and 8 p.m. Oct. 21-23. Tickets are
\$12, \$10 for seniors, students and military.
Details: 432-8543.

The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe
Show dates are Dec 3 - 5 and 9 - 11.

KNS
“Aida” – Nov. 19-21, 2010 at Saenger Theatre

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center – Wings
WINGS Canteen - A musical journey celebrating
the greatest generation and the sacrifices they
made abroad and on the home front featuring
our high school students. Nov. 12 and 13 at 7 PM
and Nov. 14 at 3 PM at LMDC in the WINGS
Arts and Education Building.

Annie Jr. - Don't miss the joy and fun as middle
school WINGS performers bring you this
blockbuster musical. Dec. 10 at 7 PM, Dec.
11 at 3 PM. and Dec. 12 at 3 PM. You can also
enjoy a very special *Breakfast with Annie* at a
morning performance on Dec. 11 at 9 AM.
Twas the Night Before Christmas - WINGS
youngest performers present a fun Christmas
musical on Dec. 18 at 11 AM and 1 PM.

Bay St. Louis Little Theatre
Opening night in new theatre building – “Lilies
of the Field” Friday, Nov. 5

ArtsAlive! tour scheduled

The Arts, Hancock County has announced that
the annual ArtsAlive! Studio Tour will take
place over two weekends from noon to 5 p.m.
Oct. 16-17 and Oct. 23-24.

The self-guided tour will feature art studios
north of I-10 the first weekend, and south of I-10
the second weekend. More than 40 studios are
included in the tour.

Details: www.hancockarts.org.

It Is That Time Again:

Renew your membership now or join us
for the first time. You will enjoy!!

WWW.gulfportlittletheatre.org

Opportunity to Volunteer:

Notice to members:

Volunteers are always needed for each
production, not only as actors, actresses,
set design, set construction, technical &
lighting assistance, etc. but as lobby
greeters, tickets takers, concessions,
promoting membership & other things.
A suggestion - if you want to help: When you
call for your reservation, leave a message
that you will help in a designated area of
your choice before you see the play.
Of course, if you want to just fill a seat, that
is okay too, but please support your
theatre, Gulfport Little theatre.

2010- 2011 Board of Directors and Trustees

Chairman -Betty Lou Watkins Daniels
Vice Chairman & Publicity – Don Moore
Secretary - Leslie Johnson
Treasurer - David Jones
Box Office - Kathy Harris
Building & Grounds - David Faul
Concessions - Lynda Conwell
Historian & Newsletter Editor - Dot McDaniel
Lobby - Patrick Bergin
Membership – Mary Bailey
Productions - Darrel Volesky
Programs - Lisa Russell

Trustees:

Beth Faul Peter Harris Diane Lawson
Eleanor Johnson Twyla Moore Lee Barnes

MTA – Mississippi Theatre Association
2011 Festival Site Announced

It is with great pleasure that the MTA Board of
Directors announce the location of the 2011
Festival. The MSU Riley Center in Meridian, MS
will serve as the location for the 2011 Festival
being held over the Martin Luther King Jr.
weekend – January 13-16, 2011. The Riley
Center will provide a wonderful opportunity for
our theatres to showcase their works. This
historic theatre often referred to as the Grand
Opera House is simply breath taking. It offers an
exquisite location and facility for a large portion
of the MTA Festival. For more information
about the Riley Center visit

<http://www.msurileycenter.com/>

DID YOU KNOW

A membership to Gulfport Little Theatre
entitles you to admission to six plays but if you
want to bring a friend to a performance, you
may use your card for your friend also. This
would then require you to pay for an admission
later if you attend all the plays. Thus, you can
use your membership card for one play if you
bring five others to see a particular play.

Gulfport Little Theatre
Post Office Box 567, Gulfport, MS 39502
(228) 864-7983

Membership Form
2010-2011 Season

Celebrating our 65th Season. Family theatre at its finest.
Located at Pass Road and 13th Avenue

www.gulfportlittletheatre.org
228-864-7983 (voice mail)

Your membership entitles you to six admissions, and you may attend any performance on any production date. Fundraising events are NOT included in your membership, however. Reservations may be required for some productions.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Zip _____

E-mail address _____

____ Check enclosed (*Please make payable to Gulfport Little Theatre*)

____ Credit Card ____ Charge to VISA ____ MasterCard

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

I wish to order:

Regular Season Ticket ____ x \$ 55 = _____

Senior Citizen (55 & Up) ____ x \$ 45 = _____

Military (with ID) ____ x \$ 45 = _____

Student (18 & Under) ____ x \$ 30 = _____

Family (2 adults & 2 students) ____ x \$130 = _____

Senior Family (2 senior & 2 adults) ____ x \$150 = _____

Patron (1 Season ticket, listing in program for each production) ____ x \$ 65 = _____

Sponsor (2 Season tickets, listing in program for each production) ____ x \$140 = _____

Corporate (2 season tickets, program and website listing) ____ x \$200 = _____

Donation (tax deductible) _____ (Please specify if for Scholarship Fund.)

If you would like to be a volunteer at GLT, please call: 228-864-7983 or go to website:

www.gulfportlittletheatre.org

W/O Membership – Tickets prices will be \$15 for Adults, \$12 for Seniors/military and \$10 for Students

GULFPORT LITTLE THEATRE
PO BOX 567
GULFPORT, MS. 39502

Returned Service Requested

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Gulfport, Ms Permit # 119
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GLT