

The Gulfport LITTLE THEATRE Newsletter

Our 65th Theatre Season – 2011-2012

SPRING 2012

January 2012

Located 2600 13th Ave. Behind Chris' Beauty College

Website: WWW.gulfportlittletheatre.org

E-mail: GLTinfo@gulfportlittletheatre.org

Phone: 228-864-7983

APPLAUSE



Thoughts from the Chairman, Don Moore

This past year at Gulfport Little Theatre has been both fun and challenging. Keeping in mind that the theatre is run 100% by a volunteer group, I am so appreciative of the time and resources that our Board of Directors, Trustees, and patrons have given to GLT. We would not be in business and profitable without the support of the volunteer base. And candidly, we have been financially marginal at best, due to a number of factors. Not all shows are blockbusters like Les Miserables and Sweeney Todd. And with so many entertainment choices on the coast, we realize that you, our patrons, are pulled in many directions.

It is our truest desire to present plays of choice to satisfy audiences young and old. We have branched out into different genres of productions, knowing that “if we keep doing what we have been doing, we can’t expect different results.”

Our Play Selection committee has been chaired by Twyla Moore. It is the task of this committee to generate a slate of productions that will draw an audience and generate revenue for the theatre. It is also their challenge to meet with potential directors to determine who is willing to dedicate two months of their lives to a show.

During the past season, we have had to make adjustments to the slate due to circumstances that affected some of the volunteers, be it Directors or Actors. Let me assure you that this is not the norm, but simply situations we had to work with. We are getting back on target and are excited about the new slate being generated by the Play Selection committee. It gives me the opportunity to solicit your suggestions. If there are plays you feel strongly about, please email your thoughts to dmoore@wlox.com I will submit your requests to the committee. This is a good time for us to make long-range plans for the coming years. I am proud to serve as the Chairman of Gulfport Little Theatre and value the trust you have placed in me during the past years. Speaking for the Board of Directors and Trustees, we will



continue in our efforts to make GLT the happening place to be!
Happy New Year to each of you.

SHOW BIZ KIDZ KORNER

Lee Green Pope, Youth Director
SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS
THE MUSICAL:

Well, as they say, it’s all over but the shoutin’. Hooray! Snow White completed its eighth performance on November 15. There were six performances at the theatre which were well attended, the Coliseum performance where 1,400 attended and then the final performance at Central Elementary School where the cast performed for a full house of enthusiastic students.

After a show is over, people sometimes comment on whether or not the show was a success. What makes a show a success? Is it making a lot of money? Is it having full houses every night? There’s no doubt that is success.

After all, we’ve got to make money to pay the bills and keep the doors open.

But there is another kind of success that has nothing to do with money. Did the kids have fun? Did the children learn something from their experience? Did they make new friends? Did they learn responsibility and team work? Did they overcome shyness and improve their self-esteem? Did the parents and friends support their children in their participation? Did everyone enjoy being a part of Gulfport Little Theatre and want to continue to attend and participate? If all these things happened then you can consider the show a success.

There are always success stories to tell after a production. This one, although not unique, is just an example of what can happen in youth theatre. Mr. Magee brought his three children, Keoria 11, Kyree 9, and Kyrelle 5 to auditions with the thought that only one of them wanted to audition. Somehow all three filled out a form and all three auditioned. Thanks to the “Merry Little Elves” who assisted me with auditions, everyone who auditioned was put in the show.

Keoria was cast as a Snow White dancer, Kyree a raccoon, and Kyrelle decided he wanted to be a turtle. The parents, with help from our costumer, were responsible for costumes. I could not help but wonder how anyone could come up with a turtle costume. I needn't have worried because at dress rehearsal Kyrelle showed up in dark green and camouflage material, a patterned turtle hump on his back and a green face.

Five-year-old Kyrelle had no clue about being on stage, let alone singing and dancing. The choreography for this show consisted of a variety of dance styles, including hoe down, tango and many ballet moves. Several times when it seemed Kyrelle wasn't exactly sure what this experience was all about, I asked him if he wanted to stay in the show. This young man of few words just nodded his head and said yes. His brother and sister were always there to help and watch over him.

Came the night of the show and there he was on stage dancing with that turtle hump on his back. At one point in one of the dance numbers he was in the front line. I watched as he kept time with the others. His arms went up when the others did, he stepped to the right and left with the others and all the time singing at the top of his voice. I dabbed at a tear. At the cast party I gave him a crystal star as a reward for determination, persistence and most improved. All the parents and kids applauded.

Most of the children in this show had never been in a play, never been on a stage, much less sing and dance on a stage. I am so proud of each and every one of them and thankful to their parents, relatives and friends who supported them. All things considered, I know that Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs The Musical was a resounding success!

MISSISSIPPI THEATRE ASSOCIATION:

The M.T.A. Festival will be on the Coast from January 12 – 15, 2012. Please mark your calendars for these dates. I have been to M.T.A. many times and usually it is at faraway places like Oxford, Tupelo and all points north. Please take advantage of this opportunity to attend when it is here at home. There is so much to see and do and learn. I believe the Youth theatre productions will be on Friday, January 13. I am doing a one hour workshop on "Writing Plays For Children's Theatre" at M.T.A. It is scheduled to be on Saturday, January 14. I haven't been given the time and place yet, but that information will be on line when it is available. I can't promise you will become a playwright in one hour, but you will be provided with basic guidelines for playwriting. Time permitting, the group will have fun writing a play. Visit on line for more information at

www.mta-online.org

YOU KNOW YOU WORK IN COMMUNITY THEATRE IF...

- You've gotten a part because you were the only one who showed up for auditions.
- The audience recognizes you the minute you walk on stage because they saw you taking the trash out before the show.

- You have a Frequent Shopper Card at the Salvation Army.
 - You've appeared in a show where the cast outnumbered the audience.
- That's all folks! I'll see you next time on The Korner.

Notes from the Production Chair, Becky Rutz

Happy New Year everyone! It just doesn't seem like another year has come and gone and we are welcoming 2012.

I am Becky Rutz, Production Chairman for the current year on the GLT Board of Directors. I'd like to let you know that I am attempting to get many aspects of the production end of the theatre organized.

First, I am not new to GLT. I am returning after about 8 years "off" to explore other things. I've served on the board in many different capacities in the past and am returning to Production.

Over the summer, several ladies joined me in getting the costume closets cleaned out and organized, almost! There is still some organizing to be done, but you can find things now and I am fairly conversant with what we have. I do ask that if you have a donation of costume items or props for the theatre, please let me know so I can categorize and get them stored properly – no more bags of clothing on the floor! Additionally, I am keeping the doors to the costume closets locked in an attempt to keep the area neat and to prevent some of our costume pieces from permanently vacationing somewhere else.

The backstage area has had a major housecleaning. In September we were fortunate to have a large, industrial dumpster donated. Many board members and interested parties joined in a major cleaning – they filled the dumpster. In October more work was done organizing the backstage area, the loft and the "back porch" area.

The prop closet is a work in progress. That's one area where I haven't had time to do much organizing, but you now can get in the door and close the door!

The next few months will find many productions on stage, nearly back-to-back. I am hoping we will have many volunteers come forward to assist in building sets and putting everything in order at strike.

At our board retreat in September, the group I worked with was tasked with looking at all the job descriptions in the theatre. Those are a work in progress. However, I have reviewed the theatre policies and procedures and the Director's Guide/Manual. These are now (Ms. Dot already had them but I didn't know that) in electronic form and have been sent to all board members and trustees. I am hoping final approval of suggested changes will come at the January board meeting. I am also hoping that these policies, procedures and the director's guide will be followed. If so, I think everyone will be pleased with the outcomes of better auditions, better and more productive rehearsals, great

sets, and more profit from each production to support other projects of the theatre.

So, with a lot of help from a lot of people, the rest of the season looks rosy!

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES At GLT

“Crimes of the Heart”

Directed by Keith Gregory
February 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12

TBA

March 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 & April 1

“Fuddy Meers”

Directed by Brandi Mills
May 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

2012 MTA Theatre Festival Convention

Mississippi Gulf Coast, January 12 – 15

Contact: Stephen Cunetto – 662-323-1097

OTHER THEATRES

Coast Community Concert

“The Water Coolers”

January 19

At the Saenger

Details: 374-2661

Bay St. Louis Little Theatre

“Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”

March 23-25, 30-31, April 1

Details: 864-2882 or 216-4906

Gulf Coast Symphony

Torke: Bright Blue Music

Debussy: Clair de lune

Hovhaness: Mysterious Mountain

Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition

Cultural Collaboration with OhrO'Keefe
Museum of Art

January 28, 8pm Saenger

“Flash Cadillac”

From American Bandstand to American Graffiti, this famed six-piece rock n' roll band has performed their 50s and 60s repertoire for over one hundred performances with symphony orchestras! Cultural Collaboration with Biloxi Little Theatre, Center Stage Theatre, Gulfport Little Theatre and KNS Theatre

March 3, 8pm Hard Rock Live

Details: 896-4276

Diamondhead Performing Arts Society

“Let's Hang On,” a stage show tribute to “Jersey Boys.”

March 11

“Sing the Rat Pack”

Three Men and a Baby Grand

April 15

Details: 255-6348 or 255-2861

WINGS Performing Arts

“Aladdin”

March 15-18

Please see the website www.lmdc.org or call 897 6039 ext. 311 or 301 for more information

Center Stage:

“Getting Frankie Married and Afterward”

February 9-19

“The Odd Couple”

April 12-22

Details: 388-6258

Biloxi Little Theatre

“Auntie Mame”

by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

Directed by Judy Madden

March 23-25 and 29-31

“Vagina Monologues”

April 13-15

Details: 432-8543 or www.4blt.org

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donations are now being solicited for GLT's \$1,000 Baxley-McDaniel Scholarship 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 theatre-related endeavors. A copy of the application is contained in this newsletter and may also be downloaded from the GLT website (gulfportlittletheatre.org). Please help us to continue this tradition by mailing a check to GLT, P. O. Box 567, Gulfport, MS 39502, or by placing your donation in the basket in the GLT lobby. All donations are greatly appreciated – regardless of the amount – including your change from the concession stand!

Opportunity to Volunteer:

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 and 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.

2011-2012 GLT Officers & Trustees

Chairman – Don Moore

Vice Chairman & Treasurer – Cindy Gibson

Secretary – Amy Rishel

Box Office - Kathy Harris

Building & Grounds - David Faul

Concessions - Lynda Conwell

Historian & Newsletter Editor - Dot McDaniel

Lobby –

Membership – Mary Bailey

Productions – Becky Rutz

Programs - Miyoshi McGravey

Publicity – Cindy Ladner

Trustees:

Beth Faul, Harold Gibson, Peter Harris,
Ginny Macken, Twyla Moore and Bernice
Simmons

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, 2011

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

Baxley-McDaniel Scholarship Committee

Gulfport Little Theatre

P.O. Box 567

Gulfport, Mississippi 39502

GULFPORT LITTLE THEATRE
PO BOX 567
GULFPORT, MS 39502

Returned Service Requested

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



GLT