

THE CURTAIN RAISER



o SEASON 2010 - 2011 o ISSUE NO. 2 o OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2010

COMING EVENTS

Macabaret VIII: For A Ghoul Time Call!

October 23-30 - Tickets on sale now

Lend Me A Tenor

Laugh Out Loud Comedy!

November 4 - 28 - Tickets on sale now

Auditions for - Holiday Duet

Sunday, November 7 - 7:00 p.m.

Auditions for - The Full Monty

Monday, November 8, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 9, 7:00 p.m.

Open Forum

Tuesday, November 9, 6:00 p.m. - Free!

Romance in D

Delightful Comedy

November 11-19 - Tickets on sale now

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Family Favorite!

December 3-5

Tickets on sale November 1

Marion Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker

December 10 - 19

Tickets on sale November 1

Auditions for The Marvelous Wonderettes

Monday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

The Full Monty

Drop Everything!

December 30 through January 16

Tickets on sale November 29

Macabaret VIII

For A Ghoul Time Call ... October 22, 23,
24, and 30

Come join the fun for our eighth year of **Macabaret** – a showcase for advanced acting students with a Halloween twist. The actors also serve as your waiters. You will be escorted past spider webs and skeletons to a quaint cabaret decorated for Halloween. Yes ma'am, those are dead flowers in the arrangement on your table! Once the show starts, the performers will take the stage in this intimate setting to present a combination of comedy, drama, music and improvisation for your viewing pleasure. Much of the material has been written (or re-written for added spook-value) by the students, but there will be familiar material, too. This year's cast of talented performers includes **Tattiana Blackman, Austin Britt, Zackery Calder, Jensen Dillard, Madeline Duplessis, Amanda Franz, Emily Fulford, Jasmine Henry, Chyanne Hill, Deion Howard, Amol Jethwani, Melissa Kays, Jacob Lenamond, Melissa Ordeneaux, and Eugenia Titterington.**

A variety of desserts, such as cheesecake, brownies, and ice cream, and beverages will be available for purchase before the show and at intermission. Proceeds from the sale of food and beverages go towards the Education Department Scholarship Fund. All tips are split equally by the cast, who double as your wait staff.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, October 23 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, October 24 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.; and Saturday, October 30 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students. Tickets are currently on sale at the Theatre box office in person, by

telephone at (352)236-2274, or online at www.ocalacivictheatre.com. A service charge applies to online purchases. Seating is very limited for this entertaining nod at Halloween, so for a Ghoul Time call right away!



November 4 - 28

In times like these, we could all use a good laugh and playwright Ken Ludwig's hysterical farce, **Lend Me A Tenor**, provides the right recipe for an entertaining evening. When the curtain rises, it is 1934 and we see one of the best hotel suites in Cleveland. It is the biggest night in the history of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, for they have invited the world famous tenor, Tito Merelli (also know as Il Stupendo), to perform in **Otello**, his greatest role, at the gala season opener. Mr. Sanders, General Manager of the Opera Company, hopes Merelli's appearance will put Cleveland on the operatic map, but where is Merelli? He wasn't at the train station when Max went to pick him up. There are hundreds of people waiting and the curtain will go up in a matter of hours. Tensions rise when Merelli finally sweeps in and it's too late for a rehearsal with the cast. Through a wonderfully hilarious series of mishaps, as everyone tries to keep the high-strung Merelli calm – and sober- Il Stupendo is accidentally given a double dose of tranquilizers which, mixed with all the booze he has consumed, causes him to pass out. His pulse is so low that Saunders and his assistant Max believe, to their horror, that he has died! What to do? Max is the company gofer and an aspiring singer and Saunders persuades him

to get into Merelli's Otello costume and try to fool the audience. Max succeeds admirably, but the comic sparks really fly when Merelli comes to and gets into his other costume and heads for the theatre. Now we have two Otellos running around in costume and two amorous lady fans chasing them, each thinking she is with the famous Il Stupendo!

Jason Bartosic (*Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks*) appears in **Lend Me A Tenor** as the grand Tito Merelli. Tito's fiery wife, Maria, is played by **Allison Metcalf** (*The Pajama Game*). The frustrated Mr. Saunders, General Manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera, is played by **Jeff Cole** (*Moonlight and Magnolias*), while his overworked assistant Max is played by **Richard Price** (*All Shook Up*). **Laura Bradford** (*Leading Ladies*) appears as Diana, the Opera's leading soprano, with **Faith Carney** playing Saunders' daughter Maggie and a hopelessly devoted fan of Tito's. Rounding out the terrific cast is **Janet Grogan** (*Look Homeward, Angel*) as Julia, the Chairman of the Opera Guild, and newcomer **Armando Guerra** as the Bellhop who breaks into song every time he comes into the hotel room.

Lend Me A Tenor is directed by **Carlos Francisco Asse**. Set Design is by **James Morgan** of The York Theatre (New York). **Bridget Bartlett** serves as Costume Designer while Lighting Design is by **Tom Buckland** and Sound Design by **Timothy Dygert**. **Ginny Riley** serves as Production Stage Manager.

Lend Me A Tenor opens on November 4 and runs through November 28. Check the calendar on the back page of the

newsletter for curtain times. Evening performances begin at 8:00 p.m. Matinees begin at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for full-time students. (Please note that **Lend Me A Tenor** IS NOT A MUSICAL. It IS a deliriously funny farce full of mistaken identities and assorted mayhem that will have you laughing from beginning to end.) For reservations, call (352) 236-2274 or stop by the box office. You may also buy tickets online at www.ocalacivictheatre.com. (A service charge applies to online purchases.) A night in Cleveland has never been this much fun!



November 11 through 19

Love sometimes finds us at the most unexpected times and places. In **Romance in D**, a comedy by James Sherman, two next door neighbors discover that life can be more interesting together. Set in present day Chicago, the comedy introduces us to Charles Norton, a musicologist, who leads a quiet life surrounded by his books and music. When he senses something

wrong with the new next door neighbor, Isabel, and calls 911, he ends up saving her life and two shy people begin a new relationship. Hot on the heels of the young couple are their parents. Charles's mother Helen stops by regularly and bumps into Isabel's widowed father, George, when he is visiting his daughter. Will Helen and George fall in love and leave the children to fend for themselves? Will Charles confess his love for Isabel and risk another heartbreak? Will Isabel go back to her husband or put her head back in the oven? All four characters use their knack for music and words as they navigate the path of true love.

Charles Norton is played by **Howard Christ**, most recently seen on stage as Mr. Needham in *No Sex Please, We're British*. His neighbor, Isabel, is played by **Melody Murphy** (*Curtains, The Music Man, On Golden Pond*). George Fox, Isabel's father, is played by **John LaPaille**, most recently seen at the diabolical Dr. Cook in last season's *Dr. Cook's Garden*. Charles's mother is played by the talented **Martie McLean** who has appeared in productions such as *"The Wizard of Oz"*, *"Nonsense"*, and *"42nd Street"*.

Romance in D is directed by **Susu Sparkman** with **Kim Wise** as production stage manager. Seven performances, including four weekday matinees, are scheduled - Thursday, November 11 at 2:00 p.m.; Friday, November 12 at 2:00 p.m.; Sunday, November 14 at 8:00 p.m.; Monday, November 15 at 8:00 p.m.; Tuesday, November 16 at 8:00 p.m.; Thursday, November 18 at 2:00 p.m.; and Friday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets

OPEN FORUM - Tuesday, November 9 - 6pm

Got a great idea you'd like to share with us? Wondering how we choose the plays? A compliment? A complaint? If so, you are invited to mingle with board members and staff on Tuesday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Theatre. Everyone is welcome. Can't make it on November 9? You can email questions or comments to Executive Director Mary Britt at mbritt@ocalacivictheatre.com or Jim Hilty at jhilty@ocalacivictheatre.com. Or send inquiries by mail to 4337 East Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, Florida 34470. Regular board meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. Let us know what's on your mind.

are on sale now at \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students. Stop by the box office or call (352) 236-2274 for reservations. You can buy tickets online at www.ocalacivictheatre.com 24 hours a day. (A service charge applies to online sales.) Join us for this delightful comedy to watch as two solos become a duet and, maybe, a quartet.

Auditions for - *Holiday Duet* Sunday, November 7 7:00 p.m.

Jason Bartosic is creating a one-hour holiday concert that will be performed at the Appleton Museum of Art December 10-12. This is the second year for *Holiday Duet*, a partnership between the Appleton and the Theatre. Singers ages 10 and older are invited to audition. Cast members should be available for weekend and early evening (5:00 to 6:30 p.m.) rehearsals for this production. Two young singers and six adults will be cast for the show. Please be prepared to sing 16 bars of a holiday song at auditions.

Box Office Hours: Monday through Friday - 10:00 to 5:30 p.m.

The box office is open 45 minutes before each performance.

Get information and buy tickets online 24 hours a day at
www.ocalacivictheatre.com
(A service charge applies to online purchases.)

Box Office
(352) 236-2274

Administrative Offices
(352) 236-2851

VIP



OCTOBER VIPS!

This month our outstanding volunteers are a trio of Wise women, that is to say Kim Wise and her daughters Megan and Aubrey. To say that it was destined that Megan and Aubrey would be involved in the performing arts is an understatement. Kim danced with the Marion Performing Ballet for nineteen years and served on their board of directors for 15 years. Kim was dancing on stage with the ballet when she was pregnant first with Megan, then later with Aubrey. The girls both watched from their cribs in the wings when Mom rehearsed for *The Nutcracker*. The girls were always fearless and accustomed to having a crowd of people around. As Megan says, "We didn't know that our life was unusual!" While all three ladies had performed in our facility with the Marion Performing Ballet, it wasn't until Megan auditioned for *Cats* that they crossed over to be involved with Ocala Civic Theatre productions. Megan wowed audiences every night as the White Cat, Victoria, her junior year in high school. With her extensive dance background, she really made the character stand out. Megan returned the following season to perform in the ensemble of *My Favorite Year*. This time, Kim came along to volunteer as a backstage dresser. In the summer of 2007, all three ladies worked on *High School Musical* – Kim on costuming, Megan and Aubrey performing in the ensemble. As Megan entered college, studying Health Science at University of Florida, she has had less time to volunteer, but still managed to help backstage with the summer production of *All Shook Up* and recently appeared as a featured dancer and the Grown Wendy in *Peter Pan*. Aubrey has now appeared in the ensemble of eleven shows, including most recently *Peter*

Pan, *Footloose*, and *Curtains*. She is a senior now at West Port High School in the MCCA Musical Theatre Program and will soon be off to college herself. Kim worked backstage on several shows when Aubrey performed, but has been auditioning herself, too. She performed in *Wizard of Oz*, *The Pajama Game*, and *Curtains*, where she was able to put her years of dance experience to good use. Moving up the ladder backstage, Kim has worked as a dresser, in costuming, volunteered as the sound board operator for two shows and now is stage manager for the current production of *Romance in D*. Their shared passion for the performing arts is contagious and their focus on perfecting their part – whether on stage or backstage – always adds to the success of the show. They enjoy participating, but also take pride in always doing their very best on stage. This trio of terrific ladies has really been an asset to the Theatre. Thank you for the gift of your time and talent! Bravo!



For up to the
minute news and
photos, follow us
on Facebook!

Sign up to be a friend of both our Ocala Civic Theatre page and Ocala Civic Theatre – Education Department if you have an interest in youth activities.

Notes from the Executive Director



Hello! Is it already November? My, the year has gone by so fast! This is the busiest part of our season with several shows overlapping. We have comedies, youth productions, and musicals coming up, too. In addition, the Marion Ballet Theatre will be using our facility again this year to present their production of *The Nutcracker*. No wonder the days fly by! What does all this activity mean for you? It means there is a great variety of theatre choices. Try one of the youth productions. ***Macabaret VII: For A Ghoul Time Call*** is a great way to celebrate all the fun of Halloween without the scary and gory trappings. Ready for a laugh? Try ***Lend Me A Tenor*** or ***Romance in D***. Something to put you in the mood for the holidays? Try the classic ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*** or the ***Holiday Duet***. Live theatre is one of the best entertainment experiences in Ocala! Bring a friend. It's not too early to start thinking about holiday gifts and a theatre gift certificate is always the right size and color.

All this activity also means that if you are looking for volunteer opportunities there are lots of ways to get involved – ushering, working concessions, carpentry, painting, office tasks, writing copy for press releases and brochures, grant research, acting, stage crew and so much more. You will meet some great people and can be a part of creating a great show that will be seen by thousands of people! No experience? Not a problem. We will train you for the volunteer job you choose. Some volunteer jobs, like ushering, require only a 90 minute time commitment. Other jobs, like working

on the sets, offer a day-time schedule to volunteer. If you would like to know more about volunteering, just call our Volunteer Coordinator Craig James. He can be reached at (352)236-2851 ext. 102 or by email at boxofficemanager@ocalacivictheatre.com.

Our December trip to New York is coming up very soon and we are already taking deposits on the June 2011 trip. We started organizing a theatre trip to New York in 1997 and have escorted just over 1,000 people in that time! Each trip offers Broadway shows and lots of free time to experience all the best of the Big Apple. If you are interested in receiving information about our New York trips, please call the box office and asked to be added to the special mailing list. The dates for our next adventure are June 22-26, 2011. The cost per person, double occupancy for that trip is \$1,664 if paid by cash or check and \$1,714 if paid by credit card. It's great fun!

We said goodbye to one of our long time volunteers in August. Ed Shapiro, who volunteered for the Theatre for over 20 years, passed away at 93 after a short illness. Over the years, Ed volunteered in many capacities, most recently as our official courier. Right up until the week he went into the hospital, Ed came to the theatre each Wednesday to run errands for us. He had many good qualities, but of all the things that struck me most about Ed was how devoted he was to his wife Margie. We used a touching letter he had written to his new bride in the 1940s when the Theatre created a play using actual letters home during WWII called "In Their Own Words". He talked about her often. Margie died several years ago after a long illness and I remember a conversation when someone asked him how long they had been married. Ed said 64 years and the person remarked that that was a really long time. Ed's response was that wasn't nearly long enough. He was ready to see Margie again. We will miss him dearly.

See you at the theatre!



Notes from the Education Department

Hello! The Fall Semester classes have been going well and we will shortly be sending out information about our Winter/Spring classes. Coming up soon are two Saturday workshops for Brownies and Girl Scouts to earn their Theatre Badges (November 6 for Brownies and November 20 for Girl Scouts). Also, there is still space in the Calling All Carolers class. This class meets Tuesdays & Thursdays beginning on November 2 and will be performing the songs they learn before the performances of ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*** on December 3, 4, & 5. For additional information or to sign up for classes, contact the theatre at (352) 236-2274 or you can download the Fall Class Brochure and registration form from our website at www.ocalacivictheatre.com. Theatre classes are both fun and educational!

Halloween Costume Rentals!

Tired of a costume that comes out of a plastic bag and falls apart before you even get out of the house? Looking for something that will have your friends talking? A pirate? A bobby soxer? Call the Ocala Civic Theatre costume shop to reserve your special Halloween outfit today! Rentals are handled by appointment only. Call (352)236-2274, extension 110 to arrange for your costume fitting. Appointments can be made either during the day or in the evening. It will be frightfully fun!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Trash to Treasures Sale

Join us on the back patio at Ocala Civic Theatre for a yard sale. This is an ACT IV event to benefit Theatre Scholarships. The sale will be held on Saturday, November 6, from 8 am till 4 pm (no early birds please). Give yourself plenty of time to browse among the thousands of items we have spent over a year collecting for this event.

Someone's "Trash" may be just the "Treasure" you seek!



Do you have opening night tickets for *Lend Me A Tenor?* – November 4

The Appleton Museum of Art's After Hours event for November is scheduled for opening night of *Lend Me A Tenor* – November 4. As a "tip of the hat" to our production, the Appleton has arranged for Italian Opera Vocalist, David Worker, to sing at their event, which runs from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. There will be music and dancing, special art activities, and a tasty sampling menu. Admission is free for members of the Appleton Museum and \$8.00 per person for non-members. You can start your evening at the Appleton and then walk over to the Theatre to enjoy our production of *Lend Me A Tenor*. Not seeing *Lend Me A Tenor* on November 4? You are still invited to try any of the Appleton After Hours events! Check out their exhibit and activity information at www.appletonmuseum.org.

2010-2011 Patron Survey

Enclosed with this newsletter is a two-page patron survey. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to Ocala Civic Theatre by mail at 4337 E. Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, Florida 34470 or bring it to the theatre when you attend either *Lend Me A Tenor* or *Romance In D*. Our Play Reading committee is very interested in your feedback as they prepare to select the shows for our 2011-2012 seasons. If you would prefer to complete the survey online, go to <http://ocalacivictheatre.questionpro.com>. (Please note: DO NOT include "www" in the address to be directed to the correct website.) Have fun and let us know what you think! Your opinion matters.

December 3, 4, and 5, 2010



What happens when the most inventively awful kids in the history of the world take over the annual Christmas pageant? You won't believe the fun – and mayhem – when the Herdsmans collide with the Christmas story head-on. Ocala Civic Theatre's Education Department will present this American Classic December 3, 4 and 5. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students. Group rates are available for reservations of 20 or more. On sale November 1. It glows with the true meaning of the holiday spirit.

Theatre Is A Hot Topic!

For a change of pace at your next meeting, call (352) 236-2851 and ask Executive Director Mary Britt about providing a speaker from the Theatre or arranging a guided backstage tour for your group!



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OCTOBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
17	18	19	20	21	22 Macabaret 7pm	23 Macabaret 2pm/7pm
24 Macabaret 2pm	25	26	27	28	29	30 Macabaret 2pm/7pm
31						

NOVEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Tenor 8pm	5 Tenor 8pm	6 Tenor 8pm
7 Tenor 2pm	8 Auditions Full Monty 7pm	9 Auditions Full Monty 7pm	10 Tenor 8pm	11 Romance 2pm Tenor 8pm	12 Romance 2pm Tenor 8pm	13 Tenor 2pm/8pm
14 Tenor 2pm Romance 8pm	15 Romance 8pm	16 Romance 8pm	17 Tenor 8pm	18 Romance 2pm Tenor 8pm	19 Romance 2pm Tenor 8pm	20 Tenor 8pm
21 Tenor 2pm	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26 Tenor 8pm	27 Tenor 2pm
28 Tenor 2pm	29	30	Dec 1	2	3 Best Christmas 7pm	4 Best Christmas 2pm/7pm

The Curtain Raiser is the official newsletter of The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre. The Theatre is located at 4337 E. Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, Florida 34470. The Curtain Raiser is published monthly and is available free of charge to anyone who is interested in our activities. For more information about the organization or to be added to the mailing list, call (352)236-2274.

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