



The *Curtain Raiser*

Ocala Civic Theatre Newsletter

Volume/Season 2007-2008, Issue No. 2

Aug/Sept 2007

OCALA CIVIC THEATRE SALUTES ITS SPONSORS

WRZN SUNNY 720 AM

"It Was A Very Good Year" is the title of one of Frank Sinatra's greatest hits and that title fits this past year for WRZN to a "T".

On the popular Adult Standards radio station, you not only hear Sinatra, but Tony Bennett, Doris Day, Frankie Laine, Peggy Lee, Patti Page and a host of other great singers of today and yesterday who bring to life the American Song Book. Big Bands are featured, too: Glenn Miller, Stan Kenton, Harry James, Ray Anthony, Duke Ellington, and the list goes on. WRZN is one of the few Adult Standards radio stations left across the country and, with 10,000 watts of power, Central Florida can hear its favorites from Gainesville to Orlando.

Every weekday, you can tune into The Don Bruce Show from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m., and Big Bands, Ballads and Blues with Gene Martin and Cafe Sunshine from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Both Don and Gene have delighted their audiences for years with contests and announcements about Ocala Civic Theatre. The association is rewarding for both organizations and will continue for years to come.

This last year has, indeed, been a good year for WRZN. The latest ratings have shown more people age 50-plus are tuned into 720 AM than any other station and its Annual Caribbean Cruise has broken all records with 231 listeners signed up to go on the fun cruise this year.

If you like the music of the American Song Book ... the music you have loved all your life ... join the musical fun on WRZN on the AM dial at 720. You'll probably hear them talking about Ocala Civic Theatre.

Based on the 1967 film, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is a tale about a small-town girl who moves to New York City.

It's 1922 and Millie Dillmount, fresh off the bus from Salina, Kansas, is determined to be modern. That means bobbing her hair and giving romantic love the brush-off in order to marry a rich guy in the big city. (One guess as to how that turns out.)

Millie get a job at the Sincere Trust Insurance Company, where her single boss, the very earnest Mr. Trevor Graydon, becomes the unwitting object of her premarital attention. (He, of course, is smitten

with Millie's friend, Miss Dorothy Brown, a lass from California who wants to wash off some of her gentility through contact with the lower orders.) Millie, against her ambitious instincts, is drawn to the slick-talking but secretly-sincere gad-about, Jimmy Smith.

Meanwhile, at the Priscilla Hotel, a residence for young ladies and home to both Millie and Dorothy, strange doings are afoot. Girls seem to be checking out with disturbing suddenness - girls who are "all alone in the world", as the proprietress, Mrs. Meers, a mysterious woman with a suspiciously awful Chinese accent, puts it. Little does Millie realize the hotel's guests, most of them aspiring actresses, are in danger of being kidnapped and sold into white slavery by Mrs. Meers and her two Chinese henchmen - who hope to raise enough money to bring their mother over from Hong Kong.



And, there's even more. At Gotham's most glamorous supper club, glamorous chanteuse Muzzy Van Hossmere dispenses worldly wisdom to the gang between torch songs, in a plot way too complicated to explain!

Thoroughly Modern Millie is full of irrepressible humor and sheer vivacity, filled with two songs



Book by RICHARD MORRIS and Dick SCANLAN

New Music by JEANINE TESORI

New Lyrics by DICK SCANLAN

Original Story and Screenplay by RICHARD MORRIS for the Universal Pictures Film

Originally Produced for Broadway by

Michael Leavitt • Fox Theatrical • Hal Luftig • Stewart F. Lane • James L. Nederlander • Independent Presenters Network • L. Mages/M. Glick • Bernstein/Manocherian/Dranatic Forces • John York Noble • and Whoopi Goldberg

THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th Street, New York, New York 10019, Phone: 212-541-4684, Fax: 212-397-4684, www.MTIShows.com

from the movie, including the title number, and a new score with jazz, ballads and up-tempo songs that will have you humming long after you leave the Theatre.

The cast of the show includes **Dani Moreno-Fuentes** (42nd Street, *Seussical*) as Millie Dillmount; **Derek Galarza** (*The Drawer Boy*) as Jimmy Smith; **Melody Murphy** (*The Mikado*, *The Sugarbean Sisters*) as Miss Dorothy Brown; and **Patrick J. Stanley** (*My Favorite Year*, *Forever Plaid*) as Mr. Trevor Graydon.

Hannah Lowther (*The Champagne Charlie Stakes*) plays Mrs. Meers, with **Diego Fuentes** (*I*

Hate Hamlet, *My Favorite Year*) as Ching Ho and **Jeff Cole** (*My Favorite Year*, *Harvey*) as Bun Foo. **Jessica Mongerio** (42nd Street, *My Favorite Year*) appears as Muzzy Van Hossmere and **Melissa Erwin** (42nd Street) is Miss Flannery.

The residents of the Priscilla Hotel - Gloria, Alice, Ruth, Rita, Lucille, Cora and Ethel - are played by **Allison Metcalf** (42nd Street, *Cats*); **Faith Carney** (42nd Street); **Stefanie Dale** (42nd Street, *Harvey*); **Katie Land** (*High School Musical*, *Godspell*); **Sheila Steis** (42nd [continued on next page])

BIG NEWS!
CURTAIN TIMES HAVE CHANGED!
8:00 p.m. Evenings
2:00 p.m. Matinees

Coming Events

Thoroughly Modern Millie

MainStage
September 6-30

The Woman In Black

Special Presentation
October 4-14

Macabaret 5.0:

The Good, The Bad And The Ugly

Special Event
October 19-27

On Golden Pond

MainStage
November 1-25

The Beloved Dearly

Theatre for Young Audiences
November 30-December 2

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

Special Presentation
December 28-January 13

Always... Patsy Cline

MainStage
January 31-February 24

Robert Fulghum's All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten

Special Presentation
February 14-22

MILLIE (continued from front)

Street, Seussical); **Marci Tempesta** and **Stephanie Jones**. Members of the ensemble include **Gregg Bleam** (*My Favorite Year, Cats*); **Keith Brumm** (*42nd Street, The Pirates Of Penzance*); **Chris Diaz**; **Brittany Forde** (*Seussical, High School Musical*); **David Leppert** (*42nd Street, Seussical*); **T.J. Lyons** (*High School Musical*); **Layna McIntosh** (*Man Of La Mancha, Annie Get Your Gun*); **Obed Resendez**; **Scotty Roberts** (*High School Musical*); **Tyler Schank** (*42nd Street, Seussical*) and **Brandon Teems** (*High School Musical*).

Thoroughly Modern Millie is directed and choreographed by **SuSu Sparkman**. Musical direction is by **Jason Bartosic**. Scenic design is by **Dennis Maulden**, lighting design by **Elizabeth Ann Reynolds**, sound design by **Timothy J. Dygert** and costume design by **Bridget Bartlett**. **Clark Dougherty** serves as production stage manager.

The show opens Thursday, September 6, and runs through Sunday, September 30. Curtain times are 8:00 p.m. for evening performances and 2:00 p.m. for matinees. [Please note that these times are a change from previous seasons.] Tickets are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for full-time students. For information or to make reservations, call (352) 236-2274. Tickets may be purchased online at www.ocalacivictheatre.com. The Theatre box office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on the Saturdays on which there are performances from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Billboard called *Thoroughly Modern Millie* "everything a musical comedy should be." New York Magazine said it's a "sheer mind-teasing, heart-tickling delight". And The Star-Ledger called it "a ceaseless whirl of high style - bright, light and splashy." Winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is a show you won't want to miss! Make your reservations now!

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

Join the cast and crew for an Opening Night Party immediately following the Thursday, September 6, performance of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

Everyone who has tickets for opening night is invited to stay for the party. There is no additional charge. If you already have reservations for another night, but would like to exchange your tickets for opening night, please call the box office at (352) 236-2274 and we'll be happy to exchange them. Join us for this delightful kickoff for *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

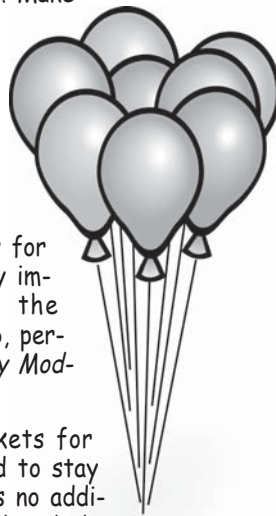
The Woman In Black

Adapted by STEPHEN MALLATRATT
From the Book by SUSAN HILL

Arthur Kipps, a middle-aged solicitor, hires a small Victorian theatre and the services of a professional actor to help him re-enact - and thereby hopefully exorcise - a ghostly event which befell him many years previously with horrifyingly tragic results. From the cluttered stage, Kipps begins to read his true story: painfully, self-consciously and hesitantly at first, but, coached by the actor and aided by theatrical artifice, he grows in confidence and ability as he assumes a variety of roles and the play moves from narration to enactment. The actor portrays the young Kipps, sent north by his London firm to settle the estate of an elderly reclusive, the late Mrs. Drablow, in whose isolated marshland house Kipps encounters the Woman in Black. This specter, seeking vengeance for the death of her young child, attaches herself to Kipps and unleashes a macabre sequence of events which culminate in a truly chilling twist in the play's final moments.

The show opens Thursday, October 4, and runs through Sunday, October 14. Curtain times are 8:00 p.m. for evening performances and 2:00 p.m. for matinees. [Please note that these times are a change from previous seasons.] The box office will open on September 10 for Flex Pass reservations and subscriber exchanges. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on September 17 at \$16.00 for adults, \$14.00 for MainStage subscribers and \$8.00 for full-time students. For information or to make reservations, call (352) 236-2274. Tickets may be purchased online at www.ocalacivictheatre.com. The box office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on the Saturdays on which there are performances from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Woman In Black was triumphantly staged in Scarborough, England, and subsequently enjoyed an extended run in London's West End. It ran for more than eight years in Mexico; has toured Spain, Austria, Greece and more than forty other countries (including the United States); and been translated into more than a dozen languages. City Limits (London) described it as "an immaculate example of the Gothic horror story, building to its climax with the slow, purposeful precision of an Edwardian timepiece." The New York Times simply called it "Blood curdling!" Whatever you call it, it's an evening of ghostly entertainment. Make your reservations early - it's a two-week, limited engagement.



MACABARET 5.0: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to theatre ... bigger, better and back once again by popular demand, it's our fifth annual **Macabaret** presentation



Come join the fun as a talented group of local teen performers act, sing and laugh the night away in a cabaret-style show with a Halloween twist. Packed with memorable music, comical commentary and plenty of Halloween atmosphere, **Macabaret V** is a definite must-see. Set in an intimate cabaret environment, every seat is the best seat in the house. And with a variety of desserts and beverages available for purchase during the show, this show promises not to be your typical night of theatre! Proceeds from the sale of food and beverages go towards the Education Department Scholarship Fund and tips go to cast members, who double as your wait staff.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, October 20, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, October 21, at 2:00 p.m.; and Saturday, October 27, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$6.00 per person (adult or child). Tickets will go on sale at the Ocala Civic Theatre box office on Monday, September 24. For additional information or reservations, call the box office at (352) 236-2274. Seating is very limited for this evening of howling good fun, so be sure to call and reserve your seats early, as all of our previous performances were standing room only!

DIRECTING FROM THE SCRIPT'S POINT OF VIEW

As an actor or director, have you ever read a script and wondered just what it was the playwright intended? If so, this workshop - presented by Annette G. Procnier who will direct Ocala Civic Theatre's upcoming production of *On Golden Pond* - is for you. The focus is on reading scripts and interpreting the meaning on a narrative and dramatic level. Participants will spend three hours looking at how to break down the words and ideas to make them understandable for actors and directors, while exploring the writing and its style from a dramaturgical point of view. This is not to be missed if you want to learn to read better. This workshop will be held at the Theatre on Sunday, October 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 for Marion Players and \$15.00 for non-members. To reserve your spot, call the Theatre at (352) 236-2274. Space is limited, so be sure to call early!

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello! Big news first! This year our curtain times are changing. The evening performances for MainStage and Special Presentations! Series events will be 8:00 p.m. and the matinee times will be 2:00 p.m. This is fifteen minutes earlier than in previous years. We've put up signs, sent e-mails, and told everyone calling the box office. Help us spread the word, because we don't want anyone to miss a single minute of this year's line-up.

Last year was a success on several levels. We reported at our annual meeting in July with numbers for each of our events and productions. The good news is that we ended in the black again this year. Our budget has grown to \$1,275,889 and we reported a record number of people served - 64,219. This figure includes two, new, in-school programs - "Seuss On The Loose" and "Talking Books Live!". Both marked a new venture into the local elementary schools. "Seuss On The Loose" visited nineteen elementary schools and several branches of the public library reaching 6,467 students and teachers. "Talking Books Live!", an original play, performed at eleven elementary schools to an additional 1,379 students and teachers. Again this season, our biggest thanks go to the hundreds of volunteers who work to bring all our programs to life for you. This year we documented a total of 60,081 hours from 435 individuals. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and from age six to 90. That's right. 90! Check out this month's VIP column to meet our two volunteers who are 90 years young.

We have a little breathing room in August, but we started preparing for new season as soon as the last note was played for *42nd Street*. (Some departments started even earlier.) We've got a great cast for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* to kick off the season. Subscription sales are up this year for both the MainStage and Special Presentations! Series. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, it's not too late.

One of the FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) the box office receives is "What do the little yellow boxes mean on the season brochure and calendar?". On the calendar, there are both white and yellow boxes that mark the performance days. The white boxes are the days which are open to subscribers that would like to come on a regular day and sit in the same seat each time - what we call a "Standing Reservation". If you call to make a reservation on those days for your Flex Pass or to buy a ticket to a single show, many of the seats will already be occupied by folks with a "Standing Reservation" for the season. The dates that are highlighted in yellow do not have any seats that are pre-assigned. On the first day of ticket sales, all seats on those days are available. Seats on the "yellow" days are available on a first-come, first-served to people calling to make a reservation. This allows Flex Pass holders and new folks to have a wider choice in seat selection. Subscribers with a "Standing Reservation" may exchange into those days if they are unable to come to their regular performance on the same first-come, first-served basis. I hope that explains the calendar. If not, just give the box office a call. Currently we have approximately 4,200 "Standing Reservations" and approximately 700 Flex Pass subscribers. Each MainStage show has between 7,200 and 8,400 seats available during the four-week performance run.

Opening night for our 58th Season is just around the corner ... I hope you will be joining us, either as a member of the audience, sponsor, actor, or other volunteer. See you at the Theatre!

THEATRE IS A HOT TOPIC!

For a change of pace at your next meeting, call Ocala Civic Theatre at (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.



Mary Britt

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION DOLLARS IN ONE EASY STEP

If you bought a season ticket in one of the donor categories; made a donation for the youth scholarship program; or any other cash donation to Ocala Civic Theatre since July 1, it may be eligible for a matching gift by your employer. Many large corporations have generously set up a matching gift program to support charitable giving by their employees and retirees. Most companies require a gift of as little as \$25.00 to qualify for the match. Most match the donation dollar for dollar so the \$25.00 gift becomes \$50.00 for the charity. And there are some companies which match at even greater than 1 to 1. The following season ticket holders participated in the matching gift program thus far this year:

- Bill Cassill - IBM
- Patricia Cram - GE
- Dagny Harris - AT&T
- Henry Ince - Exxon/Mobil
- William G. Lawrence, Jr. - Prudential
- Eileen Rehor - SBC Communication
- John Roberts - Exxon/Mobil
- Charles Steck - IBM
- Jack Stenson - IBM
- John Tamburro - Chevron
- Don and Lila Tuchman - Exxon/Mobil
- Howard Vandenburg - GE

There are literally hundreds of companies which offer a matching gift program. In addition to the ones listed above, some of the others include: American Express, Bank of America, most Bell System companies, General Mills, H. J. Heinz, John Hancock Life Insurance, Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, Merrill Lynch & Co., The New York Times, Progress Energy, Texas Instruments, and Time Warner. Companies match any cash gift - not just those given in conjunction with season tickets. Many require only a phone call on your part, and an one-page form to be completed by you and the Theatre.

We'd like to thank those individuals who have taken the time to include Ocala Civic Theatre in their charitable giving plan. Won't you join them? For additional information, call Mary Britt or Marilyn Price at (352) 236-2851.

DID YOU REPLACE YOUR EYEGLASSES OR HEARING AIDS RECENTLY?



Do you have eyeglasses or hearing aids that you no longer use? You don't want to just throw them away, but you don't know what to do with them? The Lions Club would love to have them.

This excellent international organization recycles eyeglasses and hearing aids to be given to folks in need. Several members of the local Lions Clubs are season ticket holders and have offered to come by the Theatre from time-to-time to pick up donated items. If you have something to donate, just bring it to the Theatre on your next visit. The Lions Club will put it to good use.

OPENING A NEW BUSINESS OR PERSONAL CHECKING ACCOUNT SOON?

SunTrust Bank has always had a strong commitment to community involvement and has recently launched the MyCause promotion designed to help raise money for non-profit organizations just like ours. Now through October 12, customers who open a new SunTrust Personal or Business Checking account, accept a new SunTrust Visa® Check Card, make any purchase using the card, and complete and submit an online redemption form by November 15, 2007, will be able to do one of the following:

1. Choose to have SunTrust donate \$100.00 to your favorite local charity, or
2. Choose to receive a \$50.00 gift card to keep for your own cause.

SunTrust Bank is not endorsing any specific non-profit organization. While we would like you to designate the Theatre as your charity, the program is open to any recognized 501(c)(3) organization designated by the IRS. There are over 500 eligible charities in Marion County alone.

If you choose to make your donation to the Theatre, please note that our legal name is The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre. The data base which SunTrust is using lists us only as The Marion Players. There is another organization listed as "Ocala Theatre Company". That is not us. If you would like more information about MyCause and how to make your \$100.00 donation or receive your \$50.00 gift card, go to suntrust.com/mycause. Now head to your nearest SunTrust Bank branch to open your new checking account. Thanks, SunTrust Bank for supporting local charities.

Felix's

917 East Silver Springs Boulevard
Ocala, Florida 34470
(352) 629-0339

**Bring your tickets
for Ocala Civic Theatre
and receive 10% OFF
your entire check.**

**Valid only on day of show.*
Good for up to 4 people.**

Cannot be combined with other discounts.

*Tickets for Sunday performances may be redeemed
Tuesday through Thursday of the following week.

**We strongly recommend you make reservations on any
evening you are dining prior to the performance.**

Hours of Operation
Tuesday through Friday: Lunch
11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday: Dinner
4:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday and Monday

2007-2008 SEASON TENTATIVE AUDITION SCHEDULE

(Dates Subject to Change)

All interested performers are welcome and invited to audition. Experience is helpful, but not required. Newcomers are always welcome. For additional information about auditions, call the Theatre at (352) 236-2274 or go online to www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

On Golden Pond

MainStage Series

Auditions September 17 and 18, 2007
Show Dates November 1-25, 2007
Director: Annette Procnier

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

Special Presentations! Series

Auditions November 5-6, 2007
Show Dates December 28, 2007-January 13, 2008
Director: Allen McCoy

Always... Patsy Cline

MainStage Series

Auditions December 17 and 18, 2007
Show Dates January 31, 2007-February 24, 2008
Director: Norm Small

Robert Fulghum's All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten

Special Presentations! Series

Auditions January 2 and 3, 2008
Show Dates February 14-22, 2008
Rehearsals and performances for this show will be in the daytime with three evening performances.

God's Favorite

MainStage Series

Auditions January 28 and 29, 2008
Show Dates March 13-April 6, 2008

The Music Man

MainStage Series

Auditions March 17 and 18, 2008
Show Dates May 8-June 1, 2008

**It's not too late to buy
season tickets!**

**Call the box office at
(352) 236-2274 for
information.**

GOLDEN TROUPERS

The Golden Troupers are back from summer break and scheduling for our upcoming 2007-2008 performance season. We have a variety of skits which we are sure will fit your needs. Our singers perform your favorite music from the 40s to the 70s with blues, country-western and Broadway musicals in the repertoire. All donations received for performances by the Troupers go to the Ocala Civic Theatre for great things such as children's programs and scholarships. Call the Theatre now at (352) 236-2274 for more information or to book the Golden Troupers' appearance at your next meeting or event.



The first ACT IV meeting of the 2007-2008 Season promises to be an elegant affair. All interested persons are invited to join ACT IV members for "Champagne and Strawberries" on Tuesday, September 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Theatre.

One of the purposes of ACT IV is to promote and enrich the Theatre through special fund-raising projects. In keeping with that purpose, the main order of business at this meeting will be to plan fund-raising events for the year. In the past nineteen years, ACT IV donated more than \$112,000 to the Theatre. This year, we're looking forward to raising and donating even more! And we're looking for some new ideas! Please join us in adding to the cultural life of the Ocala/Marion County community.

THE GIFT BOX

A
Fund-Raising
Project
of ACT IV

Check out The Gift Box! We have a new look and brand new merchandise for the 2007-2008 Season! Be sure to stop by before the show, during intermission or any time you are in the Theatre. You will find high-quality, hand-crafted merchandise from Ocala artists. When you need a great gift - or a special treat for yourself - make The Gift Box your first stop. You're sure to find the perfect item!

HALLOWEEN COSTUME RENTALS



Halloween costume rentals will be handled on an appointment only basis again this year. Those wishing to rent costumes must call the Theatre box office at (352) 236-2274 and leave their name, and the telephone number(s) where they can be reached both during the day and in the evening.

The Costume Department will call in mid-October to set up a fitting appointment, at which time a deposit must be paid. Costumes may be picked up at a later date.

RESERVATION SCHEDULE

BOX OFFICE HOURS
10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Phone: (352) 236-2274
www.ocalacivictheatre.com

This schedule lists dates when tickets go on sale. For performance dates, see schedules or articles elsewhere in this newsletter.

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|----------|---|
| Now | Thoroughly Modern Millie
- Tickets on sale. |
| Sept. 10 | The Woman In Black
- Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open. |
| Sept. 17 | The Woman In Black
- Tickets on sale. |
| Sept. 24 | Macabaret 5.0: The Good, The Bad And The Ugly - Tickets on sale. |
| Oct. 8 | On Golden Pond - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open. |
| Oct. 22 | On Golden Pond - Tickets on sale. |
| Nov. 5 | The Dearly Beloved
- Tickets on sale. |
| Dec. 3 | I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
- Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open. |
| Dec. 10 | I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
- Tickets on sale. |
| Jan. 7 | Always... Patsy Cline
- Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open. |
| Jan. 21 | Always ... Patsy Cline
- Tickets on sale. |
| Jan. 21 | Robert Fulghum's All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten
- Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open. |
| Jan. 28 | Robert Fulghum's All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten
- Tickets on sale. |
| Feb. 18 | God's Favorite - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open. |
| Mar. 3 | God's Favorite - Tickets on sale. |
| April 14 | The Music Man - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open. |
| April 28 | The Music Man - Tickets on sale. |

MEET ALLEN McCOY



Allen McCoy is excited to join the staff of Ocala Civic Theatre as Director of Education. He has over fifteen years experience teaching all forms of drama in Grades K-12, including acting, directing, movement, and Shakespeare. Allen has also worked with college students as an adjunct professor of theatre at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. He has developed theatre curriculums for both elementary schools and summer camp settings, as well as created a successful drama program for home school students in the Orlando area. Allen is a member of Actors Equity and has worked professionally for thirty years, starting as a child playing Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*. As an actor, he has worked throughout Chicago and the Midwest. In Central Florida, he has performed with Orlando Repertory, Universal and Walt Disney World, where he is a member of the *Epcot Acting Company*. He has also directed productions for Children's Theatre of Florida (Sanford), DeBary Children's Theatre (DeBary), Orlando Repertory Theatre, Sands Theater Center (Deland), and Circle School (Orlando). While living in Chicago, Allen ran a touring theatre company that performed in schools and libraries, where his duties included writing, directing, budgeting, booking, marketing, and grant writing. Allen is moving to Ocala with his wife and two daughters.

ED NOTES

Along with millions of other people, my family and I recently settled into an evening of television and popcorn as we tuned into the highly-anticipated *High School Musical 2* on the Disney Channel. As Gabriella swooned over Troy's voice and hip dance moves, I had an immediate flashback to July and one of my first visits to Ocala Civic Theatre.

Wow! The summer production of *Disney's High School Musical* was certainly an achievement. Congratulations to this cast and crew for breaking box office records with this exceptional production! The summer classes also proved highly successful, as Sessions One and Two saw a total of 450 enrolled students. This success, along with my predecessor, have left some large shoes to fill; however, it only encourages me and I am more than excited to take on the Education Department as the new Director of Education.

We have a great lineup of fall classes. Our 2007 Fall Class Schedule offers workshops for Discovery Company (Grades K-2), Theatre Explorers (Grades 3-5), and the Young Artists Program (Grades 6-12). We also have two Saturday specialty workshops: Audition Techniques for Young Actors (Grades 3-11) on September 22 and Performing Musical Theatre (Grades 6-12) on November 17. We will also continue the popular Brownies Let's Pretend and Junior Girl Scout Theatre Badge workshops on October 13 and November 3. We also have two youth production opportunities. We will begin with our Halloween teen cabaret, *Macabaret V*, followed by Doug Cooney's full-length comedy, *The Beloved Dearly*. Audition and performance dates for both productions are listed in our Fall Class Schedule. Classes are filling now, so don't wait too long to register.

I am also excited to tell you about the Adult Studio program. I have met with several adult patrons and past participants to brainstorm about new and exciting offerings in this area. This program exists to "promote the development of the talent pool at Ocala Civic Theatre by encouraging involvement from newcomers and providing the present talent pool with opportunities to strengthen their performance skills." Be sure to join us for these one-time studio classes and watch for more details in the near future.

On a personal note, I would like to extend a heart-felt "thank you" to everyone here at the Theatre and the Ocala community for making my first few weeks here a delight. You have warmly taken me into your "home" and I look forward to becoming part of your family.

If you would like more information on our fall programs, you can call (352) 236-2274 or visit the Theatre website at www.ocalacivictheatre.com. You may also email me at educationdir@ocalacivictheatre.com. I would love to hear from you. Or, better yet, stop by the Theatre. You can pick up the full brochure and we can meet in person.

I look forward to this exciting adventure! — Allen McCoy, Director of Education

VIP: VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE

This month's VIP's are redefining "retirement" and "active senior", because both volunteers are celebrating their 90th birthdays! **Ed Shapiro** celebrated his 90th Birthday in July by flying to California and visiting his sister. **Margaret Lehman** will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on January 21. Let us tell you a few things about Margaret and Ed.

Ladies first. Margaret grew up in Springfield, Pennsylvania. She was married there and had three children, but, unfortunately, her husband passed away leaving her with three small children, so she moved to Hollywood, Florida, in 1954 to be near her sister. There she remarried and eventually moved to Ocklawaha in Marion County in 1983. Margaret has always been active. While in Pennsylvania, she worked for American Chair and Cable. After moving to Hollywood, she was hired by Florida Power and Light. Margaret told us that she loved her job. She was a senior clerk, handling petty cash and bookkeeping, and performing secretarial duties. She retired at age 62, after twenty-five years with the company, because her husband was retiring, too. They traveled a lot, even to Russia, which Margaret says was her favorite trip, before settling in Ocala. She lives alone now in a lovely neighborhood near the Theatre. Her friends, Roger and Barbara Soucey, encouraged Margaret to volunteer at the theatre in 1988 and she has been a terrific volunteer ever since. You will often see Margaret ushering or working ACT IV's Gift Box in the lobby. And we rely on her to help in the office with the mailings. Always smiling and cheerful, Margaret is a pleasure to have on any project. We asked what was her favorite play and she replied *On Golden Pond* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. Now you may think that volunteering at the Theatre is a big part of her life, but for four hours every Tuesday, you will find her volunteering in the gift shop at Munroe Regional Hospital. She started working at the hospital 24 years ago. She told us that she is working on getting her 5,000 hour pin and has only 134 hours left to go. Happy Birthday, Margaret! You may have to slow down to let us catch up!

Ed Shapiro is a very familiar face at the Theatre. For the last several years, Ed has come by the Theatre one day a week to run errands for us, picking up and dropping off items for the Theatre all over town. Ed was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and grew up, lived and worked there until 1980. He told us that he made his theatre debut in 1934, which was his junior year in high school. He remembers that the play was a western, but said he can't remember whether he played a cowboy or cowgirl. (It was an all-boys school.) Ed said he had hair then, so it could have been either! He also told us that the lead was played by Garrison Morfit, who later became famous as Gary Moore. Very recently, he played an Indian in *The Saga Of Sagebrush Sal* at Spanish Oaks Park where he lives. Ed said he didn't have to worry about getting scalped because it was too late for that! His career was working in a bindery in Baltimore, but when he retired, he and his wife, Margie, moved to Ocala to be near her sister. Not one to sit around, Ed started volunteering for Ocala Civic Theatre in 1984. Over the years, he has ushered, parked cars (a regular job at the old theatre), helped with mailings and on set construction, but for many years now he has been our courier. Each week when Ed comes in he gets an update on the people and activities around the Theatre. He is our biggest fan. Several years ago, we created a special World War II project. One of the activities was the creation of a play called *In Their Own Words*, written from letters that were shared with us by veterans and their families. Ed shared his love letters home to Margie and we used one that brought tears to the eyes of the audience every night. It was so beautifully written. I asked what Ed about his favorite shows. He immediately said *La Cage Aux Folles*. It's a show we've never done, but Ed has seen it at five different theatres. His favorite Ocala Civic Theatre show is the production of *Fiddler On The Roof* that was presented in the old building. He says he was a regular on the parking crew at the time and saw the show every night. When asked what he does to keep busy, Ed said he regularly plays bridge, does card tricks as a hobby, and still enjoys traveling. The trip to visit his sister in California was a great way to celebrate his 90th Birthday.

Having Margaret and Ed as regular volunteers keeps all the rest of us on our toes. Thank you, both, for bringing joy to our lives. Bravo!



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SEPTEMBER 2007						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	Thoroughly 6 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 7 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 8 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.
Thoroughly 9 Modern Millie 2:00 p.m.	Woman In Black 10 Flex & Exchanges Macabaret Auditions 7:00 p.m.	Macabaret 11 Open Auditions 7:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 12 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 13 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 14 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 15 Modern Millie 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
Thoroughly 16 Modern Millie 2:00 p.m.	Woman In Black 17 Tickets on Sale Golden Pond Auditions 7:00 p.m.	Golden Pond 18 Open Auditions 7:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 19 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 20 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 21 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 22 Modern Millie 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
Modern Millie 23 2:00 p.m.	24	25	Thoroughly 26 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 27 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 28 Modern Millie 8:00 p.m.	Thoroughly 29 Modern Millie 2:00 p.m.
Modern Millie 30 2:00 p.m.	Macabaret 5.0 Tickets on Sale					

OCTOBER 2007						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	The Woman 4 In Black 8:00 p.m.	The Woman 5 In Black 8:00 p.m.	Beloved Dearly 6 Auditions 9:00 a.m. The Woman In Black 8:00 p.m.
The Woman 7 In Black 2:00 p.m.	On Golden Pond Flex Reservations and Exchanges Open	8	9	10	The Woman 11 In Black 8:00 p.m.	The Woman 12 In Black 8:00 p.m.
The Woman 14 In Black 2:00 p.m.	15	16	17	18	19 Macabaret 5.0 7:00 p.m.	20 Macabaret 5.0 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.
21 Macabaret 5.0 2:00 p.m.	22 On Golden Pond Tickets on Sale	23	24	25	26	27 Macabaret 5.0 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.
28	29	30	31			

"The Curtain Raiser" is the official newsletter of The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre. The Theatre is located at 4337 East 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 information about the organization or to be added to the mailing list, call (352) 236-2274.



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