



The *Curtain Raiser*

Ocala Civic Theatre Newsletter

Volume/Season 2006-2007, Issue No. 6

December 2006

OCALA CIVIC THEATRE SALUTES ITS SPONSORS

WKTK 98.5 AND WSKY 97.3

WKTK and WSKY have long partnered with Ocala Civic Theatre as part of their focus on community service and dedication to publicizing events for charities and non-profit organizations. Last year, KTK and The SKY achieved a charity milestone by crossing the million-and-a-half-dollar mark with their sixth Annual Miracle Maker's Radiothon in August to benefit the Children's Miracle Network and Shands.

KTK is the dominant adult contemporary radio station in North Central Florida and has been since 1986. Join KTK in the morning with Storm Roberts and Chris Wells to start your day. Tune in at work with Camille Somers and drive home with Bruce Cherry, and then relax at home with Delilah. You can hear the best of the 70s, 80s, 90s and today on 98.5 KTK.

97.3 The SKY is the very best in News/Talk radio. Tune in for the "live and local" programming on 97.3 The SKY with Bob Rose in the morning, and Chip and PC during the Drive Time Happy Hour. You can also catch Rush Limbaugh or Neal Boortz during the day on Ocala's very own 97.3 The SKY.

WKTK and WSKY are owned by Entercom Communications, one of the nation's five largest radio broadcasters, and owner of 101 radio stations in 19 markets, including Boston, Seattle, Denver, Portland, Sacramento, Kansas City, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Memphis, Buffalo, Norfolk, Greensboro, Rochester, Greenville/Spartanburg, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Wichita, Madison, Ocala/Gainesville, and Longview/Kelso, Washington.

Hooray for Hollywood! A cornucopia of cinematic musical gems which have brought acclaim and celebrity to the American film industry and sent tens of millions of moviegoers home whistling and humming the memorable tunes, time and time again.

A Day In Hollywood, A Night On Broadway: A Silver Screen Musical Extravaganza

A Day In Hollywood, A Night On Broadway: A Silver Screen Musical Extravaganza will tantalize audiences with songs made famous by such stars as Gene Kelly, Judy Garland, Irene Cara, Shirley Temple, Robert Preston, Julie Andrews, and many more! Relive the movie magic as we take you through a century of songs native to the silver screen and songs from Broadway shows which later became films. Lights! Camera! Action!

The cast of *A Day In Hollywood, A Night On Broadway: A Silver Screen Musical Extravaganza* includes **Becca Ashley** (*Enchanted April, Cabaret*), **Bruce Clayton** (*My Favorite Year, Mack And Mabel*), **Jeff Cole** (*My Favorite Year, The Mikado*), **Caulder Dougherty** (*My Favorite Year, Little Shop Of Horrors*), **James May** (*A Toast To Broadway*), **Kendra May** (*My Favorite Year*), **Jessica Mongerio** (*My Favorite Year, The Mikado*), **Patrick Stanley** (*The Scarlet Pimpernel, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*), **Rechell Sears** (a newcomer), **Victoria Sexton** (*Annie, Aladdin*), **Becca Stone** (*My Favorite Year, Cats*) and **Madeline Thompson** (*Nunsense, A Piece Of My Heart*).

Greg Thompson is director and choreographer, with musical direction by **Jason Bartosic**. Scenic design is by **Timothy J. Dygert**, lighting design by **Josh Rogers**, sound design by **Timothy J. Dygert** and costume design by **Bridget Bartlett**. **Clark Dougherty** serves as production stage manager.

A Day In Hollywood, A Night On Broadway: A Silver Screen Musical Extravaganza opens on Thursday, December 28, and runs through Sunday, January 7. Curtain times are 8:15 p.m. for evening performances and 2:15 p.m. for matinees. Tickets are now on sale at \$15.00 for adults and \$7.00 for full-time students. A New Year's Eve Party is scheduled to follow the performance on December 31. For additional information or reservations, call (352) 236-2274. The box office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays on which there are performances

A Day in Hollywood A Night on Broadway A SILVER SCREEN MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Conceived and Written
by Jason Bartosic



from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Tickets can also be purchased online at www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

Previous original musical revues were big hits with Ocala Civic Theatre audiences and *A Day In Hollywood, A Night On Broadway: A Silver Screen Musical Extravaganza* promises to be a best-seller, as well. Call early to get your

seats (and reservations for the New Year's Eve Party) for this dazzling display of music, dance and laughter, featuring such songs as "Singin' In The Rain", "Over The Rainbow", "Broadway Rhythm", "Pure Imagination", "Circle Of Life", "Fame" and "New York, New York".

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 31

beginning
at 8:15 p.m.
with a special
performance of

A DAY IN
HOLLYWOOD,
A NIGHT
ON BROADWAY:
A SILVER SCREEN
MUSICAL
EXTRAVAGANZA

followed by hors d'oeuvres, desserts and a champagne toast at midnight (a cash bar will be available throughout the evening)

- \$45.00 per Person
- \$43.00 Main Stage Season Subscribers
- \$35.00 Marion Players
- (price includes both party and show)
- \$30.00 Special Presentations Subscribers (party only)

Reservations: (352) 236-2274

Note: Reservations for the New Year's Eve Party cannot be made online.



Coming Events

A Day In
Hollywood,
A Night On
Broadway:
A Silver Screen
Musical
Extravaganza

Special Presentation
December 28 - January 7

New Year's
Eve Party

Special Event
December 31

Seussical

MainStage
January 25 - February 18

The Foursome

Special Presentation
February 8 - 16

Sarah, Plain
And Tall

Theatre for Young
Audiences
February 24 - March 4

I Hate Hamlet

MainStage
March 15 - April 8

Humpty-Dumpty
Is Missing!

Or The
Mysterious
Case of The
Fallen Egg

Theatre for Young
Audiences
May 5 - May 12

42nd Street

MainStage
May 10 - June 3



Music by STEPHEN FLAHERTY

Lyrics by LYNN AHRENS

Book by LYNN AHRENS
and STEPHEN FLAHERTY

Co-Conceived by LYNN AHRENS,
STEPHEN FLAHERTY and ERIC IDLE
Based on the Words of DR. SEUSS

Seussical 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. Telephone: (212) 541-4684.
Fax: (212) 397-4684. www.MTIShows.com.

"After all those years being stuck on a page, did you ever imagine you'd see me on stage? Now I'm here, there is no telling what may ensue! No, there's no telling what! But I'll give you a clue ..."

So says the mischievous Cat in the Hat at the beginning of *Seussical* - the musical based on the words of Dr. Seuss. But this isn't just a string of his stories set to music. It's a story which weaves together his most famous tales and characters in unexpected ways, bringing together the two famous books starring the redoubtable pachyderm: "Horton Hears A Who", wherein he valiantly defends a miniature Who civilization from destruction by his disbelieving fellow jungle beasts, and "Horton Hatches the Egg", in which he's duped into sitting on a nest by a selfish bird interested in flying south for the winter.

But Horton's dual dilemmas are just the beginning. *Seussical* incorporates elements from more than fifteen of his books, as well as many of his best-loved and most familiar characters. Many of these characters never met one another before, but they meet in *Seussical*. And in the course of the show, some will fall in love, some will have desperate adventures and some will save the world. And they'll travel everywhere from the Jungle of Nool to McEligott's Pond to Palm Beach.

The score includes not only pop and gospel, folk and R&B, but also good old vaudeville razzmatazz, a torch song and silent movie melodrama, which makes it as much fun for adults as children.

The *Seussical* cast includes **Thomas Mothershed** as Horton The Elephant; (continued on page four)

Corporate Sponsors

Entercom: WKTK and WSKY
Target Stores
Marion Cultural Alliance

The Foursome

by Norm Foster

You may have heard that this is a play about golf, but don't believe it. Yes, golf is discussed and, after all, four guys are playing golf during the play. But, no, you don't have to know anything about golf to enjoy the show.

When it comes right down to it, *The Foursome* is a light-hearted comedy centering around four university buddies who get together for an early-morning round of golf after a night of partying at their twenty-fifth class reunion. As they weave their way through the course, they share old memories, and thoughts on life and women, bragging about their conquests and income levels - and trying to get one another off their golf games with juvenile commentary.

Corporate Sponsor

ESPN Radio
AM 900 in Ocala

Cameron is a sales director at a local television station and a bit of a hypochondriac.

He's married to the woman all four of the golfers chased after in college. He thinks there's something lacking in his life, like excitement, and is eager to relive the glory days of school. Plus, he's just a little sensitive about his only son's dance lessons.

Ted pulls in a good income at a computer store, but recently broke up with his wife and married a woman thirteen years his junior for whom he will do just about anything. And, he's got five beers into him before they get to the fourth hole.

Rick is a high-flying, arrogant, bachelor playboy who sells boats in Florida. He seems to be living the life and having the loves the others can only dream about. Then, he tries to sell the guys on an investment scheme which involves getting songbirds high on Brazilian Pepper fruit.

Finally, there's Donnie, who couldn't hit a golf ball if his life depended on it. He's a hardware store clerk with five kids and a wife who sells pottery. Unsophisticated and honest, he isn't ashamed that he spends so much time driving his children to their various activities that he has little time for himself.

Witty and honest, the show gives the audience an insider's look at what men talk about when they are alone. After the one-upmanship and posturing, the truths (continued on page four)



NEW YORK HERE WE COME!

The Theatre has organized annual trips to New York City for many years and 2007 is no exception. This year two trips are planned, each with the same itinerary - April 11 through April 15 and May 30 through June 3. Each group will leave from the Theatre parking lot on Wednesday morning and return on Sunday evening. The trip package includes the following: airfare, airport transportation, four nights at the beautiful Renaissance Hotel at Times Square (a four-star hotel located in the heart of the Broadway theatre district), one dinner, and your choice of three Broadway shows. We work hard to get you the best seats in the theatre and you can choose your shows from any that are currently running. I even have some tickets to *Jersey Boys!* This trip is very independent and includes lots of free time for you to shop, explore, see a baseball game, catch a rehearsal at the New York Philharmonic, visit museums, and, of course, attend Broadway shows. The cost for the April trip is \$1635.00 per person/double occupancy. The cost for the May/June trip is \$1525.00 per person/double occupancy. For more information, call Mary Britt at (352) 236-2851 or e-mail her at mbritt@ocalacivictheatre.com.

NEW TAX BENEFIT ON DONATIONS

One of the charitable provisions of the Pension Reform Act of 2006 allows donors who are over 70-1/2 to make a tax-free distribution from their IRA directly to a non-profit organization. The maximum amount allowed is \$100,000.00 per year.

This provision is only available for tax years 2006 and 2007. There are some rules on who can receive the donation but, for the most part, non-profit community theaters are eligible. The distribution must come directly from the Trustee of the IRA and not from the donor.

For information, contact your tax advisor or call Mary Britt at (352) 236-2851.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

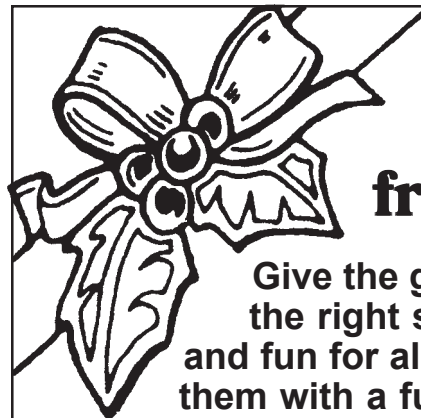
Hello! November and December are always a busy time around the theatre. Not only are we getting ready for the usual holiday celebrations, but each year we look forward to the arrival of Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre. We have booked this internationally-traveled giant puppet theatre company at Ocala Civic Theatre for over ten years now. Their unique, nine-foot-tall puppets bring classic children's stories to life on our stage. This year, the company brought its original production of *Rip Van Winkle* for ten performances. Children in grades kindergarten through third were brought to the Theatre by their schools to enjoy the performance. In fact, in just five days we saw over 3,200 students and their teachers! It's one of my favorite times of the year. Watching the faces of these little ones to see their reaction to experiencing live theatre for the first time is a real treat.



Mary Britt

For the last several years, the first weekend in December has been reserved for our fall Theatre for Young Audiences production. This year we presented *Aladdin* and what a great cast and crew! Nearly nine hundred folks were entertained by the talented group, which was a mixture of veteran performers and newcomers. I hope you had a chance to see the show. It was definitely one of our best. The Education Department has two more shows coming up in the spring on our outdoor stage. Make sure to mark your calendar and catch either *Sarah, Plain and Tall* or the hilarious *Humpty-Dumpty Is Missing! Or the Mysterious Case Of The Fallen Egg*.

Gift certificates and Christmas CDs are selling well. Both make great stocking stuffers for that special person on your gift list. You can purchase them over the telephone (and have us mail directly to your favorite person) or you can come in to the box office and we will be happy to help you. The gift of live theatre is truly unique - always the right size and color, non-fattening, and fun, too. And while you are finishing your holiday shopping, don't forget to put Ocala Civic Theatre on your shopping list. In the November newsletter, we enclosed a list of items used regularly around the Theatre. Many of you have sent the form back with a check. Thank you very much for including us in your charitable giving. Each gift is appreciated. (continued on page four)



Looking for a special gift for friends or family?

Give the gift of live theatre. It's always the right size and color, non-fattening and fun for all ages. Live theatre provides them with a fun and entertaining evening. Buy one show or buy them all.

Special Three-Show Package: \$55.00

Includes one ticket to each of the following:
Seussical • I Hate Hamlet • 42nd Street

**Call Ocala Civic Theatre to
order your holiday gift packages
today ... (352) 236-2274.**

SEUSSICAL (continued)

Sarah Rzepecki (*Nonsense, Noises Off*) as The Cat In The Hat; **Victoria Sexton** (*Annie, Aladdin*) as Jojo; **Sheila Steis** (*Cats*) as Gertrude McFuzz; **Abbey McBee** (*Annie, The Sound Of Music*) as Sour Kangaroo; **Giovanni Barrio** as The Mayor; **Megan Jetter** (*My Favorite Year, The Pirates Of Penzance*) as The Mayor's Wife; **Darrell G. Riley** (*My Favorite Year, The Mikado*) as General Gengus Khan Schmitz; **Dani Moreno-Fuentes** (*Cats, Nonsense*) as Mayzie La Bird; and **Alexandra Sexton** (*Annie, Aladdin*) as Cindi Loo Who.

Members of the ensemble include **Caitlin Boera**; **Brandon Bedford** (*Annie, Macabaret*); **Jessie Coan**; **David Collins**; **Madeline DuPlessis** (*Frumpled Fairy Tales*); **Brittany Renee Forde** (*My Favorite Year, The Elves And The Shoemaker*); **Alexa Fuller** (*The Jungle Book*); **Katie Horn**; **Travis H. Jackson** (*All My Sons*); **Cassie Kirk**; **Lenny Klatt** (*Talk Radio, Cabaret*); **Dylan Kollath** (*Aladdin*); **David Leppert** (*My Favorite Year, Mack And Mabel*); **Chelsea Life**; **Mary Katherine Murphy** (*The Wizard Of Oz*); **Ruth Patterson**; **Katie Pell** (*Cats*); **Lane Pindell**; **Peter Preverte** (*The Mikado, Cabaret*); **Lauren Robertson** (*The Ugly Duckling Princess*); **Allison Roure** (*Godspell, The Ugly Duckling Princess*); **Tyler Schank** (*My Favorite Year, Cats*); **Kacy Stebbins** and **Nigel Woods**.

Seussical is directed by **Jim Alexander**, who returns to Ocala Civic Theatre, having previously directed and choreographed *Little Shop Of Horrors*. Scenic design is by **Ann Dunan**, lighting design by **Robert P. Robins**, sound design by **Timothy J. Dygert** and costume design by **Bridget Bartlett**. **Ken Noble** serves as production stage manager.

The show opens Thursday, January 25, and runs through Sunday, February 18. Curtain times are 8:15 p.m. for evening performances and 2:15 p.m. for matinees. The box office will open on January 2 for Flex Pass reservations and subscriber exchanges. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on January 15 at \$19.00 for adults and \$9.00 for full-time students. For additional information or reservations, call (352) 236-2274. Tickets may also 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.

Seussical will take you to a wonderful place that existed only in your imagination - until now! It's a show to which children would be proud to take their parents, even a show to which their parents could venture unaccompanied. "If you open your mind, Oh, the thinks you will find lining up to get loose! Oh, the thinks you can think! When you think about Seuss!!"

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (continued)

Around the Theatre we are listening to the sounds of music from Hollywood films as we prepare for *A Day In Hollywood, A Night On Broadway: A Silver Screen Musical Extravaganza*. Jason Bartosic has brought together a talented cast and delightful music for the revue which will run December 28 through January 7. Don't forget that we are planning a New Year's Eve Party immediately following the performance on December 31. Join us for a great evening of songs and fun to ring in 2007. Tickets are limited and the party sold out each of the last two years, so if you are interested make sure to call as soon as tickets go on sale.

Lastly, I wanted to tell you how our "Seuss On The Loose" literacy project is coming along. We are scheduled to read at several elementary schools and are working on a special Green Eggs & Ham breakfast at The Veranda Gallery and Tea Room in January. If you are interested in having us read to your group or would like to donate new Dr. Seuss books to be given away to children at the readings, please contact me. I will happily give you additional information.

See you at the Theatre!

Happy Holidays!

THE FOURSOME (continued)

gradually start to emerge - and you realize they're just ordinary guys and they all have faults and failings.

The Foursome is directed by **Fred Mullen**, who previously directed such Ocala Civic Theatre productions as *The Champagne Charlie Stakes*, *Death In England* and *Sylvia*. **Bill Duell** serves as production stage manager.

The show opens Thursday, February 8, at 2:15 p.m.; with performances on Friday, February 9, at 2:15 p.m.; Sunday, February 11, at 8:15 p.m.; Monday, February 12, at 8:15 p.m.; Tuesday, February 13, at 8:15 p.m.; Thursday, February 15, at 2:15 p.m.; and Friday, February 16, at 2:15 p.m. The box office will open on January 15 for Flex Pass reservations and subscriber exchanges. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on January 22 at \$15.00 for adults and \$7.00 for full-time students. For reservations, call (352) 236-2274. 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. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

Playwright Norm Foster is routinely compared to Neil Simon and for good reason. *The Foursome* is a brilliant observation of the reality of the human condition told with subtle humor. There are enough in-jokes to keep golfers howling, but it never leaves the non-golfers on the sidelines. *The Foursome* delivers a hole-in-one!

AUDITION SCHEDULE

The Foursome

Special Presentations! Series

Auditions: December 18 and 19
Show Dates: February 8-16
Director: Fred Mullen

I Hate Hamlet

MainStage Series

Auditions: January 29 and 30
Show Dates: March 15-April 8
Director: To Be Announced

42nd Street

MainStage Series

Auditions: March 12 and 13
Show Dates: May 10-June 3
Director: SuSu Sparkman

For a complete description of audition requirements and available roles, please log onto www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

"Audiences are eating it up like Green Eggs and Ham. The fantastical world of Dr. Seuss awaits in the musical where anything's possible."

FILL YOUR HOLIDAYS WITH JOYFUL MUSIC!

Ocala Civic Theatre has a special treat for you this Christmas. Many of the talented singers you have seen on our stage have volunteered their time to create a recording of popular Christmas songs. Roger Bills has produced the compact disc in his studio and the results are truly amazing. Wait until you hear the songs! There are thirteen Christmas favorites on the album titled "Stage Presents" including the following:

- **"Santa Baby"** sung by Dani Moreno-Fuentes
- **"The Christmas Song"** sung by Jason Bartosic
- **"Santa Claus Is Coming To Town"** sung by Madeline Thompson
- **"My Grown Up Christmas List"** sung by Becca Ashley
- **"Baby, It's Cold Outside"** sung by Roger and Celia Bills
- **"God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"** performed by Diego Fuentes
- **"Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree"** sung by Laura Brahim
- **"Twas The Night Before Christmas"** performed by Fred Mullen
- **"Happy Christmas/War Is Over"** sung by Greg Thompson
- **"Breath Of Heaven"** sung by Heather Gifford
- **"Little Saint Nick"** sung by The Plaids (Michael Atkins, Patrick Stanley, Joel Brahim, and Carty Dougherty)
- **"O, Holy Night"** sung by James May
- **"We Wish You A Merry Christmas"** sung by Kendra May and supporting chorus

Several other singers contribute back-up vocals including Bruce Clayton, Todd Colbert, Sylvia Peth, Susan Moring, Jessica Mongerio, Jeff Cole, Mariah Hamby, Donovan Hamby, Julia Roure, Allison Roure, Lauren Gifford, Walker Gifford, Carly Casper and Ellen Tomaszewski.

This exciting Christmas CD is now on sale. The cost is \$16.00, which includes state sales tax. You can purchase the CD in person at the Theatre, The Veranda Gallery and Tea Room, Allergy and Asthma Care of Florida, Ocala Surgical Associates, Central Florida Heart Center, First Impressions Printing, Avanti HairBiz, Greiners, Market Place on Broadway, Polly Wogg Bookstore, Tres Chic, Orthopaedic Regional Bone and Sports Medicine, and several other retail outlets around Ocala. To purchase by mail or telephone and have the CD mailed to you, just add \$2.00 for shipping and postage. For discounts on purchases of twelve or more CDs, please call the Theatre at (352) 236-2274.

ED NOTES

Seasons Greetings to one and all! There's lots of news to tell you, so let's get started.

First, I want to congratulate the cast and crew of *Aladdin* on an outstanding production. I have received many warm and wonderful comments (as well as a few e-mails) from audience members. Bravo on a job well done!

I would also like to take this opportunity to say congratulations and thank you to all of the young performers who came out to audition for *Seussical*. While I know that not all of you were cast, the show's director told me he was very impressed by the level of preparation, talent and professionalism displayed by all the younger performers who auditioned. Keep up the good work.

The new Winter/Spring Class Schedule is out and we have a busy semester planned for our young performers. After-school class offerings for our Grades K-2 Discovery Company program include "Seuss On The Loose", "Treasure Chest Theatre" and "Wide World of Theatre". Our Theatre Explorers program for Grades 3-5 will include "Games Actors Play", "Foundations In Acting", "60 Second Theatre" and "Performing Musical Theatre". Finally, middle and high school students in our Young Artists Program can further develop their skills in our "Improvisation For Actors" and "Musical Theatre For Teens" classes.

For those students interested in performance classes, we will be offering two classes this semester which will culminate with full productions on our outdoor stage in the spring. Coming to the stage in February will be *Sarah, Plain And Tall*, based on the award-winning book by Patricia MacLachlan. Set in the early 1900s, this play brings to life the charming, heartwarming story of a Kansas farmer, Jacob Witting, a widower with two children, Anna and Caleb, who places an ad in the newspapers seeking a wife. The cast for this sometimes tumultuous classic, filled with gentle humor and wisdom, includes nine roles for students 13 to 18 years old and four students between the ages of 8 and 12. Auditions will be held at Ocala Civic Theatre on Saturday, January 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

In May, comedy prevails with *Humpty Dumpty Is Missing! Or The Mysterious Case Of The Fallen Egg*, an affectionate spoof of the private-eye thrillers of the 1940s and 1950s and an exciting, fun-filled way for young actors to be introduced to this classic genre. Casting for this fun-filled frolic through the world of private eyes and nursery rhymes includes eight roles for actors 13 to 18 years old and sixteen roles for actors between the ages of 8 and 12. Auditions will be held Saturday, March 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Also in March, students who take part in this year's Spring Break Musical Theatre Camp will prepare and present a concert performance of Disney's *101 Dalmatians*. A concert performance is one which focuses primarily on the acting and vocal skills of the performers and uses minimal sets and costumes.

Also returning this semester will be our Saturday morning workshops for Junior Girl Scouts and Brownies. Junior Girl Scouts can work towards their Theatre merit badge by attending the workshop held on Saturday morning, March 10. Brownies wishing to complete work on their "Let's Pretend" badge can attend workshops being held on either Saturday, February 17 or April 14. Cost for the workshops is \$10.00 per scout.

We will also be introducing a new workshop for Cub Scouts this semester which will include attending a performance of *Seussical*. Cost for this all-day workshop will be \$20.00. For all the information about classes, auditions, special workshops, tuition fees, and times and dates, please visit the updated Education Department portion of our website at www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

And speaking of updated technology, many of you may have already received the first of our Education Department e-mail updates. In between newsletters, we plan to keep you up-to-date on news and special opportunities with special "e-mail blast" updates. If you have not been receiving the updates so far and would like to be on the e-mail list, gives us a call at the Theatre so we can be sure to include you in these special announcements.

That should do it for this month. Let me take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you the happiest and safest of holidays. I am looking forward to an exciting 2007 and hope to have you join us for a fun-filled new year. Until next month, see ya'll around the Theatre! — Tom Whatley, Director Of Education

RESERVATION SCHEDULE

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

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

Now	Marion Performing Ballet: The Nutcracker - Tickets on sale.
Now	A Day In Hollywood, A Night On Broadway: A Silver Screen Musical Extravaganza - Tickets on sale.
Jan. 2	Seussical - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
Jan. 15	Seussical - Tickets on sale.
Jan. 15	The Foursome - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
Jan. 22	The Foursome - Tickets on sale.
Jan. 29	Sarah, Plain And Tall - Tickets on sale.
Feb. 19	I Hate Hamlet - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
Mar. 5	I Hate Hamlet - Tickets on sale.
April 9	Humpty-Dumpty Is Missing - Tickets on sale.
April 16	42nd Street - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
April 30	42nd Street - Tickets on sale.

GET UP 'N' GO RAFFLE

A mere \$5.00 buys you a chance to win a \$2,500 travel certificate. You can use it to fly to New York or San Francisco, or anywhere in between. You can use it for a cruise. You choose. And a travel professional from American Travel will help you with all the details!



There are a lot of great prizes in this year's "Get Up 'N' Go" Raffle, including restaurant and shopping packages, a Disney World weekend, and Season Tickets for the 2007-2008 Season.



Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00 and are on sale beginning January 25 at the Theatre box office. Tickets will also be on sale at performances of *Seussical* and *The Foursome*. The drawing will be held at the Theatre at 12:00 noon on Friday, February 23, 2007. For additional information, please call (352) 236-2851.

OCALA CIVIC THEATRE RENTS COSTUMES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Need a costume for a New Year's Eve masquerade party? A corporate event? A cruise? A murder mystery dinner? Your child's birthday party? Or do you just want to be different? Ocala Civic Theatre is your answer!

We rent costumes year round! Rentals are handled on an appointment-only basis. Those wishing to rent costumes must call the Theatre box office at (352) 236-2274 and leave their name and telephone number(s) where they can be reached both during the day and in the evening. The Costume Department will call to set up a fitting appointment, at which time a deposit must be paid and arrangements will be made for pickup and return.

Tired of sewing together old curtains? Tired of wearing a big white garbage bag and calling yourself a snowman? If you want to have the best costume at your event, call and reserve your costume now!

GOLDEN TROUPERS

The Troupers would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays. May your New Year be prosperous and, if you need entertainment - about 45 minutes' worth - for your group, the Troupers are now booking for January and February. We sing, we read, we will make you laugh. Call the Theatre at (352) 236-2274 to make arrangements.



ACT

OCALA CIVIC THEATRE, INC.

There will be no ACT IV General Meeting in December. We wish everyone happy holidays and a joyous New Year.

Our next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23, at 1:30 p.m. at the Theatre. You're invited to join us (even if you're not yet a member) as we discuss upcoming fund-raising projects, which include the annual Card Party; Queen of Spades on February 13; the annual Fashion Show on March 23; and the newest event, a Mystery Dinner Theatre planned for June 23 and June 24.

ACT IV is now in its nineteen season of supporting Ocala Civic Theatre through its volunteering and fund-raising efforts. Since its inception, ACT IV has raised and contributed more than \$100,000.00 to the Theatre. If you want to get involved at Ocala Civic Theatre, we hope you'll attend one of our meetings and find out how ACT IV makes a difference!

THE GIFT BOX

The Gift Box will be open again on Thursday, December 28 - the opening night of *A Day In Hollywood, A Night On Broadway: A Silver Screen Musical Extravaganza*. In the meantime, if you are interested in purchasing any of the items in the case, please ask at the box office. They will be glad to help you.

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VIP: VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE

This month's trio of lovely ladies has taken over a lot of the administrative duties for the Theatre's Golden Troupers and they are doing a great job. We'd like to introduce you to (left to right) **Lorraine Branch, Susan Pattie** and **Connie Licht**. The Golden Troupers is a volunteer group of singers and readers who perform for clubs and organizations all over Marion County. The group rehearses each Monday at the Theatre and schedules a short business meeting each week to plan which skits and music to present, who is going to perform, and prepare and hand out maps to each "gig".



Susan Pattie is this year's Chairperson. Susan moved to Ocala from Boca Raton in 1981. She and her husband have been attending shows at the Theatre for over 25 years. When she retired from SunTrust Bank after working for 38 years in the banking industry, Susan wanted to find something totally different to do as a volunteer. She took Drama in school, and acted and crewed on several productions, and loved it, so volunteering at Ocala Civic Theatre was on the top of her "Some-day List". She joined the Golden Troupers two-and-one-half years ago. Susan says, "I just love the folks I have had the pleasure to get to know and I consider being part of the Golden Troupers as one of the blessings in my life. My husband would probably say that it keeps me from drinking in the closet and out of my pajamas!" In addition to the Troupers, Susan has also done some ushering and crewed backstage.

Connie Licht moved from Albion, New York to Florida in 1997 into Del Webb Golf and Country Club. Once in Marion County, Connie joined the Golden Troupers right away. She says, "I was looking for something special and I certainly found it with the Golden Troupers. I have not only enjoyed my participation in skits, but the Troupers have been like a second family." Connie is the person who schedules all the Troupers' gigs and writes out all the directions. In addition to the Troupers, Connie is also one of the original clowns with Paula's Clown Alley. She stays busy with that group volunteering for lots of community activities. She is very proud to share the fact that the group took Third Place out of eleven states in a recent skit competition! "Life is certainly different after teaching for 35 years, but what a joy it has brought me!" Connie says.

Last but not least, meet world-traveler Lorraine Branch. She and her husband moved to Ocala in June 1984 from Clifton Park, New York. She said when she was invited to a Golden Troupers meeting, "I knew immediately I wanted to be a part of this group." Lorraine also ushers and has worked backstage as a crew member. Lorraine is very involved with church activities. With her husband, she has conducted two large-scale fundraising cruises to help in repairing the church roof. She has traveled extensively around the world and loves meeting new friends and learning their traditions. "I've never met a stranger and hope I never will," she says.

All three ladies share a common enthusiasm for performing. They apply their considerable organizational skills keeping the Golden Troupers humming. We know a lot of effort goes into coordinating all their separate volunteer activities, but they make it look easy. Hats off to this trio. They do a great job and we sincerely appreciate that they have chosen us to be part of their families.

Felix's

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**We strongly recommend you make
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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

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DECEMBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Golden Troupers Meet Every Monday at 1:00 p.m.				1 <i>Aladdin</i> 7:00 p.m.	2 <i>Aladdin</i> 2:15 & 7:00 p.m.
3 <i>Aladdin</i> 2:15 p.m.	4 <i>Musical Extravaganza</i> Flex Reservations and Exchanges Open	5	6	7	8 <i>The Nutcracker</i> 8:00 p.m.	9 <i>The Nutcracker</i> 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
10 <i>Nutcracker</i> 2:15 p.m. <i>Foursome Prep Class</i> 7:00 p.m.	11 <i>Musical Extravaganza</i> and New Year's Eve Party Tickets on Sale	12	13	14 <i>The Nutcracker</i> 8:00 p.m.	15 <i>The Nutcracker</i> 8:00 p.m.	16 <i>The Nutcracker</i> 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
17 <i>The Nutcracker</i> 2:00 p.m.	18 <i>Foursome</i> Open Auditions 1:00 p.m.	19 <i>Foursome</i> Open Auditions 1:00 p.m.	20	21 Volunteer Holiday Open House 4:00-6:00 p.m.	22	23
24 <i>Musical Extravaganza</i> and New Year's Eve Party: 8:15 p.m.	25 <i>Theatre Closed</i> Merry Christmas	26	27	28 <i>Musical Extravaganza</i> 8:15 p.m.	29 <i>Musical Extravaganza</i> 8:15 p.m.	30 <i>Musical Extravaganza</i> 2:15 & 8:15 p.m.
	31					

JANUARY 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>Happy New Year</i> Theatre Closed	2 <i>Seussical</i> Flex Reservations and Exchanges Open	3	4 <i>Musical Extravaganza</i> 8:15 p.m.	5 <i>Musical Extravaganza</i> 8:15 p.m.	6 <i>Musical Extravaganza</i> 2:15 & 8:15 p.m.
7 <i>Musical Extravaganza</i> 2:15 p.m.	8 Golden Troupers Meet Every Monday at 1:00 p.m.	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <i>Seussical</i> Tickets on Sale <i>The Foursome</i> Flex/Exchange Open	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 <i>The Foursome</i> Tickets on Sale	23 ACT IV General Meeting 1:30 p.m.	24	25 <i>Seussical</i> 8:15 p.m.	26 <i>Seussical</i> 8:15 p.m.	27 <i>Seussical</i> 8:15 p.m.
28 <i>Seussical</i> 2:15 p.m.	29 <i>Sarah, Plain ...</i> Tickets on Sale <i>I Hate Hamlet</i> Auditions: 7:00 p.m.	30 <i>I Hate Hamlet</i> Open Auditions 7:00 p.m.	30 <i>Seussical</i> 8:15 p.m.			

"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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