



The *Curtain Raiser*

Ocala Civic Theatre Newsletter

Volume/Season 2006-2007, Issue No. 8

February 2007

SARAH, PLAIN AND TALL

Adapted by Joseph Robinette from
Patricia MacLachlan's Award-Winning Book



OCALA CIVIC THEATRE SALUTES ITS SPONSORS

WAYNE'S ONE HOUR CLEANERS

What do you do when the 20 singing and dancing gangsters in *Guys And Dolls* need their suits cleaned and pressed in two days?

For over sixteen years, Ocala Civic Theatre has turned to Wayne's One Hour Cleaners to make sure that costumes look their best for each performance. While most of the costumes are washed in the Costume Shop, there are still many items that need dry cleaning. Wayne's One Hour Cleaners has done an excellent job on everything from suits to kimonos and provided us a discount that helps us keep operating expenses lower.

Some cleaners specialize in one area, but Wayne's is equally good with suits (*My Favorite Year*), dresses (*Enchanted April*), unusual costumes (*Seussical*), and everyday apparel.

Wayne's One Hour Cleaners, serving Ocala for over forty years, is currently located at 1111 East Silver Springs Boulevard (629-9533).

Set in the early 1900s - a time of dirt roads, oil lamps and horse-drawn wagons - *Sarah, Plain And Tall* brings to life the charming, heartwarming story of Kansas farmer, Jacob Witting, a lonely widower with two children, Anna and Caleb. Jacob's newspaper advertisement seeking a wife attracts a letter from Sarah Elisabeth Wheaton of coastal Maine whose new sister-in-law wants her out of the house. She will leave her beloved sea and visit the family for a month: "I will come by train. I will wear a yellow bonnet. I am plain and tall."

Narrated by Anna, the story unfolds in a fascinating flashback on that often exciting, sometimes tumultuous month when Sarah and the Wittings came to know each other, learning a few things about themselves as well. The joys and challenges of everyday life are richly depicted in this classic the *New York Times* called "an exquisite, sometimes painfully touching tale."

The cast of *Sarah, Plain And Tall* includes **Laura Earnest** as Sarah Wheaton; **R.J. Lemire** as Jacob Witting; **Rachel Rizzo** as Anna Witting; and **Jordan Sossong** as Caleb Witting. Others in the cast are **Adam Johns** as Matthew Nordstrom, a neighboring farmer; **Kristin Pritchard** as Maggie Nordstrom, his wife; **Julia Roure** and **Jasmine Umpleby** as Violet and Rose Nordstrom, their daughters; **Christian Lemire** as William Wheaton, a Maine fisherman, and **Erica Goodman** as his wife, Meg, Wheaton; **Allison Roure** as Anna Witting (in her late twenties); **Jacob Harn** as Ephriam, Eben and Titus; and **Erin Cole** as Hettie, Laurey and Hester Upshaw.

Sarah, Plain And Tall is directed by **Tom Whatley**, with set and sound design (continued on page two)



By Paul Rudnick

"I love this apartment because it's like a stage set, it's like the theater," says Andrew Rally, a young actor who has taken up new digs in Greenwich Village after the cancellation of his long-running television soap, "L.A. Medical". And no wonder. Andrew's new flat is the extravagantly Gothic apartment long ago occupied by John Barrymore, a suitably regal throne room for any show-business prince - past, present or aspiring.

Rally has returned to New York where he once studied acting (and where his girlfriend lives) with the idea of, perhaps, doing a new play. When his agent shows up with an offer to play the title role in *Hamlet* in Central Park, what is to stand in the way of his complete artistic full-

fillment? Only one thing. Much as Andrew loves his apartment, loves the theater and loves stardom, he hates *Hamlet*.

The fun begins when Andrew's real estate broker, who dabbles in spiritualism, conducts a seance and Barrymore himself comes back from the grave. "Am I dead," he wonders, "or just incredibly drunk?" Ultimately, Barrymore's ghost pledges to inspire his would-be successor and give him instructions in Shakespearean acting, not to mention life and love.

In this Ocala Civic Theatre production, the role of Andrew Rally is played by **Bruce Clayton** (*My Favorite Year*, *Mack And Mabel*). John Barrymore, the world-class debaucher, actor and hambone, is played by **Randall Moring** (*The Drawer Boy*, *Enchanted April*). Andrew's agent, Lillian Troy, who it turns out once had an affair with Barrymore, is played by (continued on page two)

Corporate Sponsor
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Coming Events

Sarah, Plain And Tall

Theatre for Young Audiences
February 24 - March 4

I Hate Hamlet

MainStage
March 15 - April 8

Act IV Fashion Show

Special Event
March 23

Two On The Aisle

Special Event
at Circle Square Cultural Center at OTOW
March 31 - April 1

Dancing With Ocala's Stars

Special Event
at Klein Conference Center at CFCC
April 21

Humpty-Dumpty Is Missing!

Theatre for Young Audiences
May 5 - May 12

42nd Street

MainStage
May 10 - June 3

Annual Golf Tournament

Special Event
May 19

Annual Awards Banquet

Special Event
June 9

SARAH (continued from front)

by Timothy J. Dygert, and costume design by Bridget Bartlett. Dani Moreno-Fuentes will serve as assistant director and production stage manager.

Sarah, Plain And Tall is a Theatre for Young Audiences production on the outdoor stage. The shows are scheduled for Saturday, February 24, at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.; Sunday, February 25, at 3:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 3, at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.; and Sunday, March 4, at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale January 29 at \$5.00 per person or may be purchased at the door. **The outdoor stage does not have fixed seating, so bring a lawn chair or a blanket.** For information or to purchase tickets, call the box office at (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 for the show may also be purchased online at www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

Patricia MacLachlan's story received the John Newberry Medal for most outstanding children's book. The *School Library Journal* said the book "is filled with wisdom and gentle humor ... a tender story about the fragile beginnings of a family relationship on its way to permanence." Make sure your family doesn't miss this production!

"42ND STREET" AUDITION DATE CHANGE

Due to scheduling conflicts, the audition dates for *42nd Street* have been changed. Complete information about the auditions can be found inside this newsletter and online at www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

HAMLET (continued from front)

Susan Moring (*Enchanted April*, *The Champagne Charlie Stakes*) and Felicia Dantine, his new-age real estate broker, is played by Laura Bradford (*The Musical Comedy Murders Of 1940*, *Laughter On The 23rd Floor*). Deirdre McDavey, Rally's adamantly virginal girlfriend, is Melissa Baller (*Mack And Mabel*, *The Pirates Of Penzance*) and Gary Peter Lefkowitz, a Hollywood television producer and no fan of the stage who tries to convince Rally to do another series, is played by Diego Fuentes (*My Favorite Year*).

I Hate Hamlet is directed by SuSu Sparkman. Scenic design is by James Morgan, lighting design by Robert P. Robins, sound design by Timothy J. Dygert and costume design by Bridget Bartlett. Ken Hilton serves as production stage manager.

The show opens Thursday, March 15, and runs through Sunday, April 8. Curtain times are 8:15 p.m. for evening performances and 2:15 p.m. for matinees. The box office will open on February 19 for Flex Pass reservations and subscriber exchanges. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on March 5 at \$19.00 for adults and \$9.00 for full-time students. For additional information or reservations, call (352) 236-2274. Tickets for this show may also 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 *New York Times* called *I Hate Hamlet* "an unapologetically silly and hilarious tale", an *Associated Press* reviewer wrote "it's a definite crowd pleaser ... audiences should feel right at home", and *Gannett Newspapers* proclaimed, "it's delicious ... well worth a trip (to the theater) for a refresher course on comedy". You may hate *Hamlet*, but you'll love this show!

ACT IV - OCALA CIVIC THEATRE, INC.

presents a fashion show

BIG CITIES ... SMALL TOWNS

Different Styles All Around

Welcome to an afternoon of fashion and fun ... facts and figures ... a time to learn more about how we came to this time in our long history of fashion fads ... and how we make choices which give us our own unique style. We begin in an apartment in New York City, the very center of the fashion scene in America. Later, we journey down south to Florida, where we will check out what we wear to work ... to play ... to entertain or be entertained.

MARCH 23 • 2:15 P.M. • OCALA CIVIC THEATRE

Refreshments • Door Prizes • Music and Entertainment
\$12.00 General Admission (Group Rates Available)

Tickets and Information: (352) 236-2274
or Online at www.ocalacivictheatre.com



"TWO ON THE AISLE"

March 31 at 7:00 p.m.

April 1 at 2:00 p.m.

Join us for a delightful musical revue created by Greg Thompson specifically for this performance. Songs from Broadway shows both familiar and new are woven into an entertaining two-hour production. You'll hear songs from *Sweet Charity*, *Mamma Mia*, *The Apple Tree*, *Victor/Victoria*, *One Touch Of Venus*, *Children Of Eden*, *Company*, *Guys And Dolls*, *Pajama Game*, *Chorus Line* and many more. Greg Thompson has directed several shows for Ocala Civic Theatre including *Cats*, *The Mikado*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and *The Sugar Bean Sisters*. In addition, he has created outstanding musical revues for Ocala Civic Theatre, and theatres in Atlanta and South Florida.

To celebrate the opening of the beautiful, new Circle Square Cultural Center, we asked him to create a new show. There will be two performances only. Tickets are \$19.00 for adults and \$16.00 for residents of On Top Of The World. Reserved seating is available by calling the Circle Square Cultural Center at (352) 854-3670 or by e-mailing them through their website at www.cscultural-center.com. A seating chart is available on-line. To purchase tickets in person, the box office is open Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In addition, the Circle Square box office is open late on Tuesdays until 7:00 p.m. Call right away for your *Two On The Aisle*.

DANCING WITH OCALA'S STARS

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 21, when Ocala Civic Theatre will present a benefit event patterned after the popular "Dancing With The Stars" television series. Eight local community leaders will be paired with professional dancers and showcase their talents to raise money for the Theatre. The event will take place at the Klein Conference Center on the campus of Central Florida Community College. Watch this newsletter for further announcements on how to get tickets and mark your calendar now!

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello! I hope you enjoyed our production of *Seussical*. Over and over again in the lobby I heard adults comment that they didn't know what to expect, but found the show delightful and were glad that they attended. The cast and crew did an outstanding job bringing the characters to life. Our companion literacy project, "Seuss On The Loose", was also very successful. We read to students in nineteen public schools, at the Main Public Library, Dunnellon and Forest Libraries, Barnes & Noble, The Veranda Gallery and Tea Room, and on stage at the Theatre. We read to an estimated 5,000 children, teachers and parents. We handed out hundreds of teacher study guides and hundreds of brand-new Dr. Seuss books. All of this was free to the students, thanks to the generosity of a few folks. Donating money for the project were ACT IV, Randall and Susan Moring, Susan Harris, Hobart and William Overton and Delores Rine. We are especially grateful to Dagny and Don Harris who made a significant donation which allowed us to buy hundreds of books to make the project a success. Our Director of Education, Tom Whatley, handled the bulk of the readings. He works so well with little ones! I'd also like to thank the other readers who helped: Stretch Tucker, Susan Moring and Laura Bradford. I even got to read at a few schools and I can tell you that there is nothing like a dose of kindergarteners to kick your day off right! We had so much fun with the project that we are looking for another book or author to feature next year. Once we get all the evaluation and attendance forms back from the schools, I'll give you a full report.



Mary Britt

Our next production is *I Hate Hamlet*, which is a fun comedy. It opens on March 15 and runs through April 8. The cast is already in rehearsal and I can hear the laughter tumbling down the hallway. We have two new projects in the works. On March 31 and April 1, we are presenting *Two On The Aisle* at the beautiful new Circle Square Cultural Center just off S.W. 80th Avenue. This is an entirely new revue created by Greg Thompson and featuring songs from a variety of popular Broadway shows. The new Center offers reserved seating and they are handling all of the ticket sales. Tickets are on sale now at the Cultural Center box office. For more information, check the article to the left. I'd suggest you call early for tickets, as there are only two performances scheduled. On Top Of The World is one of the sponsors for the show and OTOW residents receive a \$3.00 discount on their tickets. Our other special event is a fundraiser patterned after the highly popular "Dancing With The Stars". Local community leaders will be paired with dance professionals to showcase their talents. The evening will include dinner and - of course - dancing! Pencil in Saturday, April 21, on your calendar, because you don't want to miss this event. I'll have more details in the March newsletter.

We also have another family show coming up soon. *Sarah, Plain And Tall* is a play based on the award-winning book of the same name. It will be performed on our outdoor stage February 24 and 25 and March 3 and 4. There is no fixed seating for the outdoor stage, so we encourage you to bring lawn chairs or blankets plus the whole family to enjoy this uplifting production.

Oh, gosh, I am running out of room again! One more thing ... Have you ever thought of performing in one of the plays? Call the Theatre to be put on the audition mailing list. You'll be glad you did. There truly is nothing like performing live on stage.

See you at the Theatre!

IT'S YOUR CHOICE!

Ocala Civic Theatre has decided to move into the technological age by making the monthly Curtain Raiser newsletter available by e-mail! The newsletter will be attached to the e-mail in PDF format. If you want to receive the newsletter via e-mail and your address is not on file at the Theatre, please contact us with your name and e-mail address. We will be sending an e-mail announcement to those who already have their addresses on file. **If you decide to receive the newsletter via e-mail YOU WILL NO LONGER receive the newsletter in hard copy form through the mail.** Thank you!

GREAT FUN! LOTS OF PRIZES! 16TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 16th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit Ocala Civic Theatre will be held on Saturday, May 19, at Candler Hills Golf Club, which is located on S.W. 80th Avenue, one mile north of State Road 200. The format will be best-ball Florida scramble.



There will be hole-in-one prizes for the first hole-in-one on all Par 3 holes. The top prize is a **2007 Buick courtesy of Eagle Buick**. Each player will have the opportunity to win one of over 50 on-course and door prizes. Golfers will be divided into three flights, including at least one senior flight. The first-place team in each flight will win trophies and \$100.00 per person in gift certificates. The second-place team in each flight will receive \$85.00 per person in gift certificates. The third-place team in each flight will receive \$75.00 per person in gift certificates.

The tournament will have an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. Players may arrive as early as 7:00 a.m. to warm-up with range balls or enjoy coffee and donuts. The entry fee is \$85.00 per person, and includes coffee and donuts, on-course beverages, range balls, greens fees, cart, and a goodie bag with golf balls and more - plus a full-course turkey or roast beef luncheon. Make up your own foursome (or we will assist you). Mixed foursomes and ladies foursomes are invited. Sorry, no professionals are allowed to play. To request an entry form, please call the Theatre box office at (352) 236-2274. Entry forms are also available for downloading at www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

Sponsors are essential to the success of any tournament. There are opportunities to assist the tournament as a corporate, scorecard, hole, raffle or door prize sponsor. Sponsors will be recognized at the course the day of the tournament, as well as in the Theatre lobby during the run of *42nd Street*. **In addition, this year each corporate, scorecard and hole sponsor will receive a certificate for one foursome (without cart) for future play at Candler Hills Golf Club.** If you are interested in being a sponsor, please phone Mary Britt at (352) 236-2851 or send her an e-mail at info@ocalacivictheatre.com.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Ocala Civic Theatre is proud to support the future of the performing arts through its scholarship program. Encouraging young talent to pursue the performing arts is a part of the Theatre's mission. In addition to producing shows which allow students to perform and hone their technical skills, we offer scholarships to Marion County residents planning to major in the performing arts at college.

Scholarships are awarded in the fields of Theatre Arts (Acting, Play Writing, Directing, Technical), Music (Voice), Music (Instrumental) and Dance. This is a competitive process in which students fill out an application, write an essay, offer references, attend an interview and present their talent in an audition. The award amount varies, but is a minimum of \$500 per student. More than \$62,000 has been awarded since the program (supported by Concession Stand sales, ACT IV and individual donations) was established in 1981.

Applications are now available and may be picked up at the Theatre. To receive one by mail, call (352) 236-2274. The forms are also available in the guidance office at area high schools. The absolute deadline for submitting applications is Friday, March 9. The audition/interview will be held on March 31.

DONT FORGET!

Auditions for Humpty-Dumpty Is Missing! Or The Mysterious Case Of The Fallen Egg

A Comedy Whodunit by Joseph Robinette

March 17 • 9:00 a.m. to Noon

No preparation is necessary. Students will be asked to read scenes and perform a few improvised scenes.

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.

Cast Includes: 16 Roles for Ages 8-12 and 8 Roles for Ages 13-18

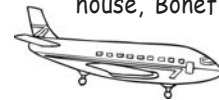
Class will meet 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, April 2-May 3. There will be five performances on the outdoor stage on Saturdays, May 5 and 12, and Sunday, May 6.

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 two restaurant packages, one with \$900.00 in restaurant gift certificates and another with \$500.00 in restaurant gift certificates. Great restaurants, too, such as Felix's, Carrabba's, Outback Steakhouse, Bonefish Grill, Reno's,



The Copper Pot, The Olive Garden and many

more. There is also a \$900.00 shopping spree with gift certificates from great stores such as Adobe East, Bakers & Cooks, Shannon Roth Collection, Tom Falveys and more. And, wait, that's not all. There is also a Disney weekend and a Busch Gardens weekend.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00 and are on sale through 12:00 noon on February 23. Stop by during regular box office hours to buy your tickets. The drawing will be held at the Theatre at 12:00 noon on Friday, February 23, 2007. For additional information, call (352) 236-2851.

JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT THEATRE WORKSHOPS

A Junior Girl Scout Theatre Workshop will be held at the Theatre on Saturday, March 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The fee is \$10.00 per scout. This workshop is designed to meet ALL the requirements for the Theatre badge. Scouts will take part in a variety of the games and exercises designed to develop skills in the areas of movement, voice and character creation. There will also be a behind-the-scenes tour of the Theatre, including the areas of props, costumes, set construction, lighting and sound.

ED NOTES

With the first session of classes for the winter/spring schedule coming to a close, classes for the second session are starting to fill up. Beginning the week of February 19, new classes will include **Treasure Chest Theatre** (Grades K-2), **Foundations In Acting** (Grades 3-5) and **Improvisation For Actors** (Grades 6-12). Space is limited in these classes, so make sure you register early. The third session of classes will begin in April, following Spring Break. Call, stop by or visit our website for a complete schedule of classes.

Rehearsals for *Sarah, Plain And Tall* are in full swing and the cast and crew are working hard. You won't want to miss this heart-warming story based on the Newberry Award-winning book by Patricia MacLachlan. This production will be presented on our outdoor stage, so don't forget to bring your favorite lawn chair or picnic blanket. For more information about the show, tickets and performance dates, see the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

And speaking of outdoor performances, auditions for our second Theatre for Young Audiences outdoor show of the spring will take place on Saturday, March 17, at 9:00 a.m. *Humpty Dumpty Is Missing!* is 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. The cast of 24 includes 16 roles for students ages 8 to 12 and 8 roles for students ages 13 to 18. No preparation is necessary. Students will be asked to read from the play and perform a few improvised scenes. For more details, visit the Education Department page at our website.

I also want to remind everyone that the dates for our final Scouting workshop of the school year are quickly approaching. For Brownies, our final **Let's Pretend** workshops will be held on Saturday, February 17, and Saturday, April 14. For Junior Girl Scouts, our final **Theatre Badge** workshop will take place on Saturday, March 10. Information and registration forms are available online at the Heart of Florida Girl Scout Council website (www.hfgsc.org) or at the Ocala Girl Scout Office (3620 N.E. 8th Place). You can also contact the Education Department at Ocala Civic Theatre.

There are still a few spaces available in our popular **Spring Break Theatre Arts Camp**, which will be held Monday, March 26, through Friday, March 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily. This year, students will spend the week preparing for a "concert performance" of Disney's *101 Dalmatians*. The week will conclude with a Friday "Brown Bag Lunch" performance for families and friends on the Youth Theatre outdoor stage. Whether you are just a beginner or a veteran performer, if you are in Grades 2 through 9 and looking to add a little excitement to your Spring Break, then you may want to check out this fun-filled week. No audition is necessary and students will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. But remember, class size is limited, so register early.

And as if all this activity wouldn't be enough to keep even the sleepiest of bears awake during the winter months, we are already beginning to put together our Summer Activity Schedule. We have received word from Missoula Children's Theatre that the two touring shows this summer will be **The Tales Of Hans Christian Andersen** (June 11-16) and **Jack And The Beanstalk** (July 23-28). Watch this newsletter and our website in the coming months for information about the annual registration lottery for these shows. And, if you have a class idea or workshop suggestion, let us hear from you. In the meantime, stay warm, stay well and I will see ya'll around the Theatre soon. — Tom Whatley, Director of Education

OPEN AUDITIONS FOR "42ND STREET"

Ocala Civic Theatre will hold open auditions for *42nd Street* - the final MainStage production of its 2006-2007 Season - on **Sunday, March 4, at 7:00 p.m. and Monday, March 5, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with callbacks on Wednesday, March 7, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Auditions will be held at the Theatre. Rehearsals for the show will begin on Monday, March 19, with performances beginning May 10 and running through June 3. The show is directed and choreographed by SuSu Sparkman, with musical direction by Jason Bartosic.

Please be prepared with a 16 bar up-tempo song from the era of the 20s, 30s or 40s. Bring the sheet music, or a tape or CD. An accompanist will be provided or you can bring your own. No a cappella auditions, please. [Note: Music Director Jason Bartosic will be available to give individual audition coaching. Please see the article on the next page for additional information about these sessions.] Most principal roles need to only "move" with the exception of Peggy, Billy, Annie and the girl "sidekicks" who need to tap. There are also character/ensemble roles available for adults of the non-tap variety who sing and move a little. Everyone will either have a movement audition or tapping audition, so please come "warmed up and dressed out" and with the proper hard sole shoes or tap shoes.

The following roles are available. All interested performers ages **16 and older** are welcome and invited to audition. Experience is helpful, but not required. Newcomers are always welcome.

- **Dorothy Brock** (40 to 55 age range). Established Broadway star. Torch belt/moves.
- **Peggy Sawyer** (young 20s looking). Talented and hopeful. High belt/sings and taps.
- **Maggie Smith** (30 to 40 age range). Co-Author of "Pretty Lady". High belt/moves.
- **Anne Reilly (Anytime Annie)** (25 to 30-something age range). High energy chorus girl. High belt/sings and taps.
- **Julian Marsh** (mid-40s age range). Broadway show director. High baritone/moves.
- **Bert Barry** (30 to 40 age range). Co-Author of "Pretty Lady". High tenor/moves.
- **Billy Lawlor** (20-something looking). Tenor lead of "Pretty Lady". High tenor/sings and taps.
- **Andy Lee** (20 to 40-something age range). Choreographer. Sings and moves.
- **Mac** (30 to 40-something age range). Stage manager. Sings and moves.
- **Pat Denning** (40s age range). Dorothy's love interest. Non-singer/non-dancer.
- **Abner Dillon** (50 something age range). "Angel" for "Petty Lady". Sings/moves a little.
- **Character/Ensemble** (16 to 60 age range). There are 14 additional character roles that are spread out within the singing/moving ensemble for all the available age ranges. Along with this there are "specialty" dancing parts available for both young ladies and men of the huge ensemble.

Copies of the script will be available for perusal at the Theatre during regular box office hours, Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The script may also be checked out with a refundable deposit of \$10.00, but call ahead to make sure there is one in stock. If you are unable to attend one of the scheduled auditions, call Mary Britt at (352) 236-2851 to inquire about a separate audition. For further information about the auditions, please call the Theatre at (352) 236-2274 or go online to the Theatre's website at www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

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 | Sarah, Plain And Tall
- Tickets on sale. |
| Now | Two On The Aisle
Reserved seating available by calling (352) 854-3670 at the Circle Square Cultural Center. |
| Feb. 19 | I Hate Hamlet - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open. |
| Feb. 19 | ACT IV Fashion Show: Big Cities, Small Towns, Different Styles All Around - Tickets on sale. |
| Mar. 5 | I Hate Hamlet - Tickets on sale. |
| April 9 | Humpty-Dumpty Is Missing! Or The Mysterioius Case Of The Fallen Egg - Tickets on sale. |
| April 16 | 42nd Street - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open. |
| April 30 | 42nd Street - Tickets on sale. |



The first ACT IV General Meeting of the new year was held on January 23. We were entertained by members of the Golden Troupers, who performed both skits and a series of songs. Our sincere thanks to this great group of entertainers for taking their time to be with us for this meeting. And, by the way, we highly recommend calling the Troupers if you need entertainment for your next meeting.

The February General Meeting of ACT IV will be held on Tuesday, February 27, at 1:30 p.m. at the Theatre. We'll be making final plans for our next fund-raising project, the fashion show, which will be held on March 23 at 2:15 p.m. at the Theatre. "Big Cities ... Small Towns - Different Styles All Around" promises to be bigger, better and more entertaining than last year's show, which was a sellout.

Speaking of fund-raising projects, the Queen of Spades Card Party was a great success. Many thanks to Chairman Marvel Masteller and her committee for their leadership of this annual event. Tables of people spending their afternoon playing cards, munching on homemade desserts and heading home with wonderful door prizes ... what more could you want?

And, while we're on the subject of fund-raisers, let's not forget The Gift Box. Chris and Gert Ziegler work tirelessly throughout the season finding and stocking items for our lobby store, as well as scheduling the salespeople who are there during all the shows. Each year The Gift Box raises many thousands of dollars which are donated to Ocala Civic Theatre. Stop by and support ACT IV by purchasing something - either for yourself or to give to a friend or family member.

We invite you to attend one of our meetings or, even better, become a member. You won't be sorry!

GOLDEN TROUPERS

"Let Us Entertain You"... The Golden Troupers are ready to perform for your group. We are now accepting bookings for February, March and April. We'll make you laugh out loud and hum a tune or two. We guarantee it! Call the Theatre at (352) 236-2274 and we'll fix you right up.



AUDITION COACHING FOR "42ND STREET"

Jason Bartosic, the Music Director for *42nd Street*, will be available to give individual audition coachings and help with song choices for a one-time low fee of \$15.00. The sessions are designed to identify your vocal strengths, choose the audition song that is right for you and appropriate for the audition, and offer vocal tips and instruction to better enhance your audition strategy. (Please bring a cassette or digital voice recorder to your session to record your audition piece.) Call Jason at (352) 208-8088 for additional information or to schedule your audition coaching session.

For those who are just searching for an era-appropriate 16 bars, snippets of songs for all voice parts (including selections from *42nd Street*) are available at the Theatre office during regular box office hours, Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Spring Break Musical Theatre Camp

Disney's 101 Dalmations

Monday-Friday, March 26-30
Daily from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Grades 2-9 • Tuition \$125.00

Call for more details or go to the Education Department page at www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

THE GIFT BOX

The Gift Box will be open during the runs of *I Hate Hamlet* and *42nd Street*, so stop by and see what's new and exciting for spring and summer. And, don't forget about The Gift Box when you need to purchase a birthday, anniversary or graduation gift. If you don't see what you want, The Gift Box managers Chris and Gert Ziegler will be happy to work with you to find exactly the right item.

Coupon ✂

Hungry Howie's Pizza & Subs.



1 LARGE
1 TOPPING PIZZA
WITH
ANY LARGE SUB
\$11.99

With Coupon • Pick Up or Delivery

K-Mart Plaza • Ocala
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THIS LOCATION ONLY

Expires Feb. 28, 2007 • Not Valid With Any Other Offer

VIP: VERY IMPORTANT PERSON

In *Seussical*, this month's VIP, **Dani Moreno-Fuentes**, plays Mayzie LaBird. Actually, her big song is "Amazing Mayzie", which fits Dani to a "T". She brings an enormous amount of energy and talent to every performance on our stage. Her first show in Ocala was *Little Shop Of Horrors* two years ago, when she was cast as Chiffon. Dani and her husband, Diego, had recently moved to Ocala from Los Angeles and she wanted to get back into theatre. She had been active in college and some quick research led her to us. Once she got involved in *Little Shop of Horrors*, she was committed. You have seen her on stage in *The Musical Comedy Murders Of 1940* (Helsa), *Annie* (Lily St. Regis), *The Mikado* (Ensemble), *Nunsense* (Sister Mary Amnesia), *Cats* (Bombalurina), *My Favorite Year* (Ensemble), and the current production of *Seussical* (Mayzie LaBird). Her singing and dancing ability make her a standout in each role she takes on. Watching her on stage, you know she is fully committed to the role and gives 110%. In fact, in just two years she has received three Harvey Awards for outstanding performances.



Dani donates her time off stage, as well. She was Make-Up Captain for *Cats*, which was an essential part of the show. She worked on the backstage crew for *Godspell* and is the Stage Manager/Assistant Director for our youth production of *Sarah, Plain And Tall*. She also has another unusual talent that she has put to use for the Theatre. She crochets! For *Cats*, every cast member needed gauntlets, leg warmers and tails. Dani was part of the small group of volunteers who crocheted thirty sets so each Cat could have items that matched his or her unitard. Dani also crocheted the baby kangaroo puppet that the actress playing Sour Kangaroo uses in *Seussical*. And most fun of all, during *Seussical* rehearsals, Dani taught all the young actors and actresses in the show how to crochet. Now they are making scarfs and hats and all kinds of things.

Dani often helps out in the Costume Shop - running errands, fitting, and other creative tasks. She volunteers for many Theatre projects including reading to children at the FAFO art show, performing in the Theatre-sponsored Racial Harmony musical event and, most recently, performing "Santa Baby" on the Theatre's Christmas CD. And she never seems to run out of energy! It's great to have Dani involved in a project. We are delighted that she and her husband have chosen to share their talents with us. Great work! Bravo!

TAP CLASSES AT OCALA CIVIC THEATRE

We will be offering tap classes every Tuesday and Thursday (starting February 13) that begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. The Director of *42nd Street*, SuSu Sparkman, will teach the classes. These classes will run up to the audition dates for *42nd Street* which are Sunday March 4, at 7 p.m. and Monday March 5, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., with call backs on Wednesday March 7 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Rehearsals will begin on March 19. We will be teaching the choreography from the show. If you would like to join in the fun, please come "dressed out" for dancing and either wear tap, character or dance shoes. If you do not own any of the mentioned shoes, wear any shoe that has a hard sole. Please do not wear sneakers or any rubber-sole shoe for they will stick to the floor. The fee for each class is \$5.00, payable when you come.

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.**

*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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 2007						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Golden Troupers Meet Every Monday at 1:00 p.m.			1 Seussical 8:15 p.m.	2 Seussical 8:15 p.m.	3 Green Eggs Breakfast - 10:00 a.m. Seussical 2:15 & 8:15 p.m.
4 Seussical 2:15 p.m.	5	6	7 Seussical 8:15 p.m.	8 The Foursome 2:15 p.m. Seussical 8:15 p.m.	9 The Foursome 2:15 p.m. Seussical 8:15 p.m.	10 Seuss Readings 10:00 a.m. Seussical 2:15 & 8:15 p.m.
11 Seussical 2:15 p.m. The Foursome 8:15 p.m.	12 The Foursome 8:15 p.m.	13 ACT IV Card Party 12:30 p.m. The Foursome 8:15 p.m.	14 Seussical 8:15 p.m.	15 The Foursome 2:15 p.m. Seussical 8:15 p.m.	16 The Foursome 2:15 p.m. Seussical 8:15 p.m.	17 Seussical 2:15 p.m.
18 Seussical 2:15 p.m.	19 I Hate Hamlet Flex Reservations and Exchanges Open	20	21	22	23	24 Sarah, Plain And Tall 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.
25 Sarah, Plain And Tall 3:00 p.m.	26	27 ACT IV General Meeting 1:30 p.m.	28			

MARCH 2007						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Golden Troupers Meet Every Monday at 1:00 p.m.			1	2	3 Sarah, Plain And Tall 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.
4 Sarah, Plain And Tall - 3:00 p.m. 42nd Street Auditions - 7:00 p.m.	5 I Hate Hamlet Tickets on Sale 42nd Street Auditions - 5:00 p.m.	6	7	8	9 College Scholarship Application Deadline 5:30 p.m.	10
11	12	13	14	15 I Hate Hamlet 8:15 p.m.	16 I Hate Hamlet 8:15 p.m.	17 I Hate Hamlet 8:15 p.m.
18 I Hate Hamlet 2:15 p.m.	19	20	21 I Hate Hamlet 8:15 p.m.	22 I Hate Hamlet 8:15 p.m.	23 Fashion Show 2:15 p.m. I Hate Hamlet 8:15 p.m.	24 I Hate Hamlet 2:15 & 8:15 p.m.
25 I Hate Hamlet 2:15 p.m.	26	27	28 I Hate Hamlet 8:15 p.m.	29 I Hate Hamlet 8:15 p.m.	30 I Hate Hamlet 8:15 p.m.	31 Two On The Aisle at OTOW I Hate Hamlet 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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