



The *Curtain Raiser*

Ocala Civic Theatre Newsletter

Volume/Season 2006-2007, Issue No. 7

January 2007

OCALA CIVIC THEATRE SALUTES ITS SPONSORS

TARGET STORES

Target Stores has been an Ocala Civic Theatre sponsor since 1995.

As the largest operating company of the Dayton Hudson Corporation, Target is a major participant in the corporation's nationally-recognized pace-setting program of community involvement.

Contributing 5% of its Federally-taxable income to programs which meet social and cultural needs, Target focuses on programs that have a direct, positive effect on families through partnerships with local non-profit organizations.

In providing financial support for quality arts programming, Target strives to provide arts experiences for family audiences.

Target has sponsored several shows for Ocala Civic Theatre, including "Oliver!", "Annie Get Your Gun", "South Pacific", "The Sound Of Music", "Grease", "Honk, Jr." and "Cats". This year the Theatre is the recipient of a grant to help underwrite the costs of producing "Seussical".



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 (continued on page four)

Corporate Sponsors
Entercom: WKTK and WSKY
Target Stores
Marion Cultural Alliance
The Richard B. Salsbury Foundation



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 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. (continued on page four)

Coming Events

Seussical

MainStage
January 25 - February 18

The Foursome

Special Presentation
February 8 - 16

Act IV Card Party

Special Event
February 13

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

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

16th Annual Golf Tournament

Special Event
May 19

SARAH, PLAIN AND TALL

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

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."

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 live production!

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.

OCALA CIVIC THEATRE SALUTES ITS SPONSORS

MARION CULTURAL ALLIANCE

Marion Cultural Alliance (MCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the arts in Marion County.

Founded in 2001, MCA has already made a significant impact on the community with its first project, Horse Fever, which garnered national attention and over \$840,000 for local charities. Not content to rest on its laurels, MCA has sponsored a series of visual art exhibits at the Chamber of Commerce and helped with the special library mural project. Recently the organization moved into the former Brick City Center for the Arts at 23 West Broadway, where it regularly hosts exhibits.

Providing financial assistance through a competitive grant program is one of the many benefits MCA offers arts organizations. In its first five years, the program has awarded over \$81,000 to local organizations.

Membership in the Marion Cultural Alliance is open to both individuals and organizations. Information about MCA membership, grants and upcoming events may be viewed on the website at www.mcaocala.com or by calling (352) 389-1500.

Ocala Civic Theatre gratefully acknowledges the support of MCA which, through its grant program, is a sponsor of "Seussical".

**OCALA CIVIC
THEATRE SALUTES
ITS SPONSORS**

**THE RICHARD B.
SALSBURY
FOUNDATION**

The Richard B. Salsbury Foundation was formed in 1995 to provide financial aid to Marion County non-profit organizations.

Mr. Salsbury was a season ticket holder and long-time supporter of the Theatre. He frequently bought tickets for newcomers to encourage them to attend. He was also a great music lover and a wonderful musician. He was a friend, not only to the Theatre but to many arts groups, including the Central Florida Symphony, Marion Performing Ballet, and other Marion County organizations. He believed he should give back to the community that he loved so much. For that reason, he created the Foundation.

The Richard B. Salsbury Foundation has funded projects for Ocala Civic Theatre each year since 1996. The funds have made it possible to upgrade, repair or replace equipment for our facility. In addition, funds have helped underwrite the costs of some of our productions, such as "Kiss Me, Kate", "Wiley And The Hairy Man", "Gypsy", "Annie" and "Cats". This season, The Richard B. Salsbury Foundation grant will support our production of "Seussical" and our original play touring elementary schools this spring.

We are honored by the continued support of the Foundation.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello! We had a great crowd at the Theatre for New Year's Eve - two hundred-forty guests, a great show, fun food and champagne. What better way to ring in a new year than with friends? We owe a debt of thanks to the cast and crew plus the twenty additional volunteers who made the evening special. People cooked, decorated, shopped, tended bar, served, and cleaned up the next day. Tim Dygert's set design for *A Day In Hollywood, A Night On Broadway* made a great backdrop for the party, especially when Bruce Clayton added colorful fabric swags to the look. One of these years, we'll get a "morning after" photo. Special thanks go to the eight volunteers who got out of bed on Monday morning to sweep up all the confetti; fold all the tables and chairs, clean the glassware, and put the shop back in order. We are ready for 2007!



Mary Britt

I would like to thank everyone who responded to our request for donations from our Christmas "Wish List". There have been a lot of increases in expenses this year plus some regular maintenance. Resurfacing the parking lot in October cost \$5,950. Repairing the sink-holes in the retention area in December cost \$1,125. We are currently repairing a section of the roof. Royalties, which are fees paid for the rights to produce a show, on an average musical are approximately \$16,000. Each donation was greatly appreciated. Ticket income covers only a portion of the operating budget, so donations help us with the all the additional expenses. This leads me into the next topic, which is to announce that tickets to our annual "Get Up 'N' Go Raffle" will be on sale at each performance of *Seussical* (January 25 through February 18) and *The Foursome* (February 8 through February 16). We've got great prizes, including hundreds of dollars in restaurant gift certificates, shopping sprees, travel, and get-away weekends. Tickets are only \$5.00 each or purchase five for \$20.00.

Speaking of *Seussical*, I hope you will join us for one of the productions. As you might guess from the title, this is a family-friendly show. What you might not know is that it is a show written to appeal to all ages. Each musical number in this terrific score is a different style including Latin, pop, swing, gospel, rhythm and blues, funk, and traditional musical theatre. It is fast-paced, upbeat, and set in a wonderfully colorful, magical world of Dr. Seuss on stage. Your toes will tap, your fingers will snap, and your imagination will run wild. We are also planning some special events in conjunction with the show. Volunteers will be reading in local elementary schools, at the public library, and on stage at the Theatre. The Veranda Gallery and Tea Room will host a "Green Eggs and Ham" breakfast on February 3. Check the special "Seussical" information boxes in this newsletter for more details.

Lastly, I wanted to tell you we are planning a special musical event for the beautiful new Circle Square Cultural Center at On Top Of The World for Saturday, March 31, and Sunday, April 1. It will be an original production designed especially for this venue. Mark your calendars. More information will be available in next month's newsletter. There are lots of good things in store for you in 2007.

See you at the Theatre!

NEW YORK, HERE WE COME - AGAIN!

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. We 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 additional information about the trips, call Mary Britt at (352) 236-2851 or e-mail her at mbritt@ocalacivictheatre.com.



SEUSSICAL (continued)

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; **Sarah Rzepecki** as The Cat In The Hat; **Victoria Sexton** as Jojo; **Sheila Steis** as Gertrude McFuzz; **Abbey McBee** as Sour Kangaroo; **Edwin Morrison** as The Mayor; **Megan Jetter** as The Mayor's Wife; **Darrell G. Riley** as General Gengus Khan Schmitz; **Dani Moreno-Fuentes** as Mayzie La Bird; and **Alexandra Sexton** as Cindi Loo Who.

Members of the ensemble include **Caitlin Boera**; **Brandon Bedford**; **Jessie Coan**; **David Collins**; **Madeline DuPlessis**; **Brittany Renee Forde**; **Alexa Fuller**; **Katie Horn**; **Travis H. Jackson**; **Cassie Kirk**; **Lenny Klatt**; **Dylan Kollath**; **David Leppert**; **Chelsea Life**; **Mary Katherine Murphy**; **Ruth Patterson**; **Lane Pindell**; **Peter Prevete**; **Lauren Robertson**; **Allison Roure**; **Tyler Schank**; and **Kacy Stebbins**.

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 (or grandparents) could venture unaccompanied by a child. "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!!"

Seussical

Bring the little ones and join us on stage for free readings of your favorite Dr. Seuss books on Saturday, January 27, and Saturday, February 10, at 10:00 a.m. Look for a surprise visit from characters in *Seussical, The Musical*. No reservations required.

FOURSOME (continued)

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

Members of the cast are **Ray Diaz** as Donnie; **Fred Due** (*Mack And Mabel*) as Ted; **John LaPaille** (*The Champagne Charlie Stakes, Harvey*) as Rick; and **John Nease** (*1776, South Pacific*) as Cameron.

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*. Scenic and sound design are by **Timothy J. Dygert**, with lighting design by **Josh Rogers** and costume design by **Bridget Bartlett**. **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!

OCALA CIVIC THEATRE SALUTES ITS SPONSORS

ESPN 900AM OCALA 1230AM GAINESVILLE

ESPN 900AM Ocala/1230AM Gainesville has partnered with Ocala Civic Theatre since the station began broadcasting in 1996. Ocala/Gainesville's only full-time sports stations offer a full lineup of locally produced sports programs and live play-by-play of high school and college sports, including the University of Florida Gators.

Start off your mornings with former Gator Great Brady Ackerman on "The Brady Ackerman Show" along with author-commentator Buddy Martin and others. You are sure to get off to a great day. National favorites Dan Patrick and Colin Cowheard, plus local shows on golf, prep sports, NASCAR and more can be heard throughout the midday. Afternoons hear "The Sports Fix" with former Gator Great Chris Doering and the most-hated man in sports talk radio, Adam Reardon. This team will make you a "Sports Fix" Fanatic.

Besides being a leader in sports broadcasting, ESPN 900AM Ocala/1230AM Gainesville has been dedicated to helping the community in raising awareness of events and fund-raisers for many civic organizations, including the March of Dimes, ARC of Alachua County and the Marion County Children's Alliance, to name a few. So for great stage productions, it's Ocala Civic Theatre. For great sports productions it's ESPN 900AM Ocala and 1230AM Gainesville.

Seussical



GREEN EGGS AND HAM BREAKFAST

The Veranda Gallery & Tea Room will host a "Green Eggs and Ham" Breakfast on Saturday, February 3, at 10:00 p.m. Polly Wogg Book Store will present readings from Dr. Seuss and drawings will be held for Dr. Seuss books. The cost is \$5.00 for children (up to 12 years old) and \$10.00 for adults. Seating is limited to 40 people. For additional information or reservations, call The Veranda Gallery & Tea Room at (352) 622-0007.

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 five 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, call (352) 236-2851.



ED NOTES

Happy New Year to one and all! And this year has started out with a bang! Here we are barely more than a week into the new year and we have already had our first Saturday Workshop, Audition Techniques for Youth. Plus, we had a great turnout for auditions for our first outdoor show of the semester, *Sarah, Plain And Tall*.

The first weekly classes of the new semester are filling up quickly, so don't wait any longer to reserve your spot or you may start out the year disappointed. For our Grades K-2 students, Seuss On The Loose will meet at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning January 16. And on Thursday, January 18, students in Grades 3-5 can join us at 3:30 p.m. for Games Actors Play. Both classes meet once a week for five weeks and tuition is \$30.00.

Cub Scouts won't want to miss out on our special Saturday Workshop for Scouts on February 10. This workshop is open to all area Cub Scouts in Grades 1-5 and their "supervising adults". The day will begin with a complete tour of the Theatre facilities, including a behind-the-scenes look at lighting, sound, rigging, costumes, props, dressing rooms, scene shop and backstage on the set of *Seussical: The Musical*. Following the tour, Scouts will participate in a workshop activity appropriate to badge requirements for Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear or Webelo. Following the activities, Scouts and their supervising adults will take time out for lunch. Finally, at 2:15 p.m., Scouts and their supervising adults will attend the matinee performance of *Seussical: The Musical*. Following the show, participants will have the opportunity to go backstage to meet the cast. Cost for the workshop is \$20.00 per scout and \$20.00 per supervising adult. Space for this workshop is limited, so make sure to sign up soon.

For more information about performance class auditions, after-school classes, special workshops and programs, and Theatre For Young Audiences productions, visit the Education Department area of our website at www.ocalacivictheatre.com/education.html.

As many of you may already know, through the miracle of modern technology (that would be our new computerized box office system), the Ocala Civic Theatre Education Department now has the ability to notify you electronically of upcoming youth events and activities. While we will continue to keep you up-to-date with this column once a month, we are now able to send reminders about upcoming shows, auditions and workshops as well as inform you of "breaking education news" as it occurs. If you have not been receiving these special Education Department Updates and would like to, please give us a call so we can add your e-mail address to our list.

Finally, a quick "Break a leg!" to all our area high school theatre students who will be competing at the District XII Thespian Festival on January 26 and 27 at CFCC. And a special "Thank you and good luck!" to the area drama teachers who work tirelessly to train and sponsor these students for competition. Here's hoping you all come home with Superior Ratings.

Well, with all the activity around the Theatre, that's about all I have time for this month. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and wish you peace and prosperity in the New Year. Until next month, see ya'll around the Theatre. — Tom Whatley, Director of Education

Brownies: Let's Pretend Workshop

Saturday, February 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Junior Girl Scouts Theatre Workshop

Saturday, March 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

These workshops are designed to meet the requirements needed for the Let's Pretend and Theatre badges. Scouts will take part in a variety of activities, including theatre exercises and improvisation games, a complete tour of the Theatre facilities, and backstage on the set of the latest Ocala Civic Theatre production. Cost is \$10.00 per scout. To reserve a space now or for more information, call Director of Education Tom Whatley at (352) 236-2851.

The Ocala Civic Theatre 2007 Winter/Spring Class Schedule is now available. Classes begin in January, February and March, so don't miss out. Call (352) 236-2274 or go online to www.ocalacivictheatre.com to get your copy.

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	Seussical - Tickets on sale.
Now	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.

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.

Hungry Howie's Pizza & Subs.

CARRY OUT SPECIAL

1 Large
1 Topping Pizza
\$5.99

With This Coupon



K-Mart Plaza • Ocala
3753 E. Silver Springs Boulevard

★ **694-7171** ★

THIS LOCATION ONLY

Expires Feb. 15, 2007 • Not Valid With Any Other Offer

ACT IV

OCALA CIVIC THEATRE, INC.

The next *General Meeting* of ACT IV will be held on Tuesday, January 23, at 1:30 p.m. at the Theatre. We will hear about final plans for the Queen of Spades Card Party (which will be held on February 13) from Chairman Marvel Mosteller and preliminary plans for the Annual Fashion Show (which will be held on March 23) from Chairman Charlene Knight. A third fund-raiser (which will be held in late June) is in the early planning stages, so maybe we'll hear more about that "dinner party" from Chairmen Bruce Clayton and John Sherman. The meeting will end with entertainment by the Golden Troupers.

ACT IV meetings are open to anyone interested in "promoting, assisting and sustaining the programs of Ocala Civic Theatre". Since its beginning in 1988, ACT IV members have contributed thousands of volunteers hours and over \$100,000.00 to the Theatre. Join us and find out how you can do your part ... and have fun doing it!

THE GIFT BOX

The Gift Box will be open during the runs of *Seussical*, *The Foursome*, *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.

Congratulations to Mary Weedman, winner of the Surprise Mystery Box Raffle. The box contained eighteen items (five necklaces, two bracelets, a watch, a pin, a pendant, an engraved pen, a gold bottle, wind chimes, a toy truck, a cookbook, a trinket box, an embroidered purse and a coin purse) with a total retail value of \$268.00.

Seussical

The Marion County Public Library System will present readings of Dr. Seuss books during the month of January. There is no charge for these readings and preregistration is not required. For additional information, please call the numbers listed below.

Ocala Public Library

2720 E. Silver Springs Boulevard
(352) 671-8551

Saturday, January 20 • 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 25 • 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, January 31 • 6:30 p.m.

Dunnellon Public Library

20804 W. Penn Avenue
(352) 489-4196

Thursday, January 18 • 10:00 a.m.

GOLDEN TROUPERS

"We don't dance - don't ask us!"
... but we DO act and sing.

We will tickle your ribs and pull at your heart strings. And sometimes we're corny. Book our special brand of entertainment for your next get-together by calling the Theatre box office at (352) 236-2274.



HEARING ENHANCEMENT UNITS

Hearing enhancement units are available at the Concession Stand prior to each performance. There is no cost for the use of the hearing enhancement unit, which can be used in any seat in the house, although donations are accepted to defray the cost of batteries. Hearing enhancement units can be reserved up to two weeks prior to your performance by calling the box office at (352) 236-2274. We'll have your unit waiting for you when you arrive.

Read *The Curtain Raiser*, find out the latest Theatre news and get audition information on line at www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

Comments? E-mail us at info@ocalacivictheatre.com.

VIP: VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE



Rosemary Thrasher Greene and Louise Thrasher Carpenter

(later known as Florida State University), whose motto was "Femina Perfecta". Both had degrees in Music, with Louise receiving a second degree in Voice. After graduation, Louise taught Music and French in the public schools for thirty years. While there are many similarities between the two sisters, one is their love of The Marion Players, and their willingness to commit their time and talent to seeing it succeed. You see, they are still volunteering today - fifty-seven years later.

It started with performing and directing. Some of Rosemary's favorites include performing with her husband, John, in *The Four Poster* (1954), *Witness For the Prosecution* (1961), *Barefoot In The Park* (twice - 1969 and 1992), and *Steel Magnolias* (1990). Louise directed the group's first musical, *The Fortune Teller*, in 1953 with Rosemary in the title role. In addition, the ladies have served on the Board of Directors and the Play Reading Committee, worked backstage, built and painted sets, made props, worked in the box office, and served on many other committees including the one that compiled a history of Ocala Civic Theatre for its 50th Anniversary celebration.

Volunteering was a family affair for Rosemary, working with her husband and involving her daughters, as well. She recalls having her daughter, Susan, then six years old, hold the script and read lines with her in the kitchen while she fixed dinner. She says that one of her proudest contributions to the Theatre is getting Susan involved and the hardest role has been learning the new computerized box office system.

Rosemary and Louise have a unique relationship with one particular play, *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Rosemary directed the Theatre's first production of the play in 1953 and then performed - with sister Louise - in the show in 1985 and 2000 as the leading characters, the Brewster sisters. Louise said, "Remembering the years we've had and the marvelous times now - who'd have thought??"

Well, it has been a long journey and having these two ladies along to guide us has helped bring Ocala Civic Theatre to where it is today. You can see Rosemary and Louise in the box office at the Theatre every week, selling tickets on that new-fangled reservation system. Often when they work together, you hear them singing - in harmony. Their knowledge of both theatre and the history of Ocala/Marion County makes life richer for all those who work with them. We think everyone would agree that they have set a marvelous example and lived up to their college motto - "Femina Perfecta". Bravo!

In 1950, a group of friends decided that it was time Ocala had its own community theatre. Until that time, traveling groups would stop in town for a few nights and then move on. So **Rosemary Thrasher Greene**, then 24 years old, her husband, and several other young friends organized The Marion Players, which would become Ocala Civic Theatre. The group started with workshops and offered their first full-length play, *My Sister Eileen*, later that same year. Her sister, **Louise Thrasher Carpenter**, moved back to Ocala in 1952 and immediately started volunteering with the group as well.

Both sisters were recent graduates of Florida State College for Women

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

2006-2007 Board of Directors

President
Philip Leppert
Vice President
Bill Duell
Secretary
Fred Mullen
Treasurer
MaryJo Cavalier
Immediate Past President
Frank Rzepecki
Members
Andrew Copeland
Beth Cordova
Clark Dougherty
Dr. Leslie Hagan
Henry W. Ince
Douglas L. Kirkland
John LaPaille
Paulette Millhorn
Tim Roberson
Dr. G. Edward Stewart
Donna Healy Strickland
Directors Emeritus
Bill Bartlett (d. 1983)
Bridget Bartlett
Gordon Mobbs (d. 1999)

Staff

Executive Director
Mary H. Britt
Production Manager/
Technical Director
Tim Dygert
Assistant Technical Director
Josh Rogers
Comptroller
Marilyn Price
Costume Designer
Bridget Bartlett
Marketing Director
Maxine Nelson
Director of Education
Tom Whatley
General Technician
Ken Noble
Box Office Manager
and Volunteer Coordinator
Becca Ashley
Administrative Assistant
Janice Kirk
Box Office Assistants
Peter Prevete
Sue Rzepecki
Custodian
Michael Corpe

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY 2007						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Happy New Year Theatre Closed	Seussical Flex Reservations and Exchanges Open		Musical Extravaganza 8:15 p.m.	Musical Extravaganza 8:15 p.m.	Musical Extravaganza 2:15 & 8:15 p.m.
Musical Extravaganza 2:15 p.m.	Golden Troupers Meet Every Monday at 1:00 p.m.					
	Seussical Tickets on Sale The Foursome Flex/Exchange Open					
	The Foursome Tickets on Sale	ACT IV General Meeting 1:30 p.m.		Seussical 8:15 p.m.	Seussical 8:15 p.m.	Seuss Readings 10:00 a.m. Seussical 8:15 p.m.
Seussical 2:15 p.m.	Sarah, Plain ... Tickets on Sale I Hate Hamlet Auditions: 7:00 p.m.	I Hate Hamlet Open Auditions 7:00 p.m.	Seussical 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.

FEBRUARY 2007						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Golden Troupers Meet Every Monday at 1:00 p.m.			Seussical 8:15 p.m.	Seussical 8:15 p.m.	Green Eggs Breakfast - 10:00 a.m. Seussical 2:15 & 8:15 p.m.
Seussical 2:15 p.m.			Seussical 8:15 p.m.	The Foursome 2:15 p.m. Seussical 8:15 p.m.	The Foursome 2:15 p.m. Seussical 8:15 p.m.	Seuss Readings 10:00 a.m. Seussical 2:15 & 8:15 p.m.
Seussical 2:15 p.m. The Foursome 8:15 p.m.	The Foursome 8:15 p.m.	ACT IV Card Party The Foursome 2:15 p.m.	Seussical 8:15 p.m.	The Foursome 2:15 p.m. Seussical 8:15 p.m.	The Foursome 2:15 p.m. Seussical 8:15 p.m.	Seussical 2:15 p.m.
Seussical 2:15 p.m.	I Hate Hamlet Flex Reservations and Exchanges Open					Sarah, Plain And Tall 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.
Sarah, Plain And Tall 3:00 p.m.		ACT IV General Meeting 1:30 p.m.				



Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.