



# The *Curtain Raiser*

Ocala Civic Theatre Newsletter

Volume / Season 2009-2010, Issue No. 1

July 2009

OCALA CIVIC  
THEATRE SALUTES  
ITS SPONSORS

**FAMILY TIMES  
MAGAZINE**

Family Times Magazine, the magazine that just says "friendly", is proud to be part of Ocala Civic Theatre's summer program for the third year in a row. This year we can't wait to see *Once Upon A Mattress*, featuring many of our young and talented local performers. Rose Derkay, Editor/Owner of FamilyTimes Magazine, loves being involved with the theatre as a theatre-goer and invites you all out to see this special summer play. Be sure to get your tickets for the family early, so you won't miss a thing. It's the perfect experience for everyone in your family! Also, log on to [enjoyfamilytimes.com](http://enjoyfamilytimes.com) for your chance to win a family four-pack of tickets to *Once Upon a Mattress*.

As always, we are so appreciative of the efforts of Ocala Civic Theatre, sharing their special talents with young members of our community. Every child should have an opportunity to be involved in theatre, whether as a fan, backstage, or front-and-center performing. Ocala Civic Theatre provides many different ways for your child to be involved; family-friendly programs, classes, summer programs, and ongoing projects. You're sure to find something that suits your child.

See Ocala Civic Theatre's ad in our current issue, or check us out at [enjoyfamilytimes.com](http://enjoyfamilytimes.com). And, don't forget to enter for your chance to win tickets to *Once Upon A Mattress*.

If you thought you knew the story of "The Princess And The Pea", you may be in for a surprise!

Most of us were told, when we were young, of the Princess who, because of her noble birth, was so sensitive that she was unable to sleep on a bed of twenty mattresses when a single pea was placed beneath the bottom mattress.

In the prologue to *Once Upon A Mattress*, the Minstrel warns the audience that the Hans Christian Andersen version does not cover all the facts, as he goes on to tell the story "as it really happened".

The kingdom is in a sorry state. King Sextimus has been struck dumb by a witch's curse and Queen Aggravain has assumed power. She has decreed that no one in the kingdom may wed until Prince Dauntless the Drab is married to a "true princess of royal blood". The not-too-bright Prince is eager to marry almost anybody, but his mother has rejected twelve previous applicants.

The knights and ladies-in-waiting of the court, having secretly evaded the non-nuptial rule, conspire to find a spouse for the Prince before they end up in the stocks, and Lady Larkii sends her lover, Sir Harry, to hitherto unexplored swampland to find a true princess.

News comes that a contender for the Prince's hand has been found and the Queen, determined that he shall remain single, plots with the Wizard to discredit any royal claims.

Princess Winnifred the Woebegone makes an impressive entrance - dripping wet - after swimming the moat to get to the castle, but has a bad night trying to sleep on a stack of mattresses arranged by the Queen.

Ultimately, as in all fairy tales, there is a happy ending, after the Minstrel and the Jester join forces to put the Queen in her place and unite the lovers.



Music by Mary Rodgers  
Lyrics by Marshall Barer  
Book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller  
and Marshall Barer

Carried on a wave of wonderful songs, by turns hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this rollicking spin on the familiar classic of royal courtship and comeuppance provides for some side-splitting shenanigans.

Chances are you'll never look at fairy tales quite the same way again.

The cast of *Once Upon A Mattress* includes **Amanda Amat** as Queen Aggravain; **Trevor Bedford** as The Wizard; **Tiffany Brumm** as a

Servant and Kitchen Wench; **Troy Brumm** as a Servant and Soldier; **Julio Chavez** as Sir Luce; **Angela Damato** as Lady Larkin; **Christopher Diaz** as Sir Harry; **Brooke Eliot** as Lady Rowena; **Alex Feliciano** as The Minstrel; **Grayson Jones** as a Knight; **Katy Land** as Princess Winnifred; **Judith Lasaga** as a Lady in Waiting; **David Leppert** as The Jester; **Rebekah Leppert** as a Lady in Waiting; **Chelsea Life** as a Lady in Waiting; **Christine Miller** as Princess #12 and the Nightingale of Samarkand; **Christopher Miller** as King Sextimus, the Silent; **Maureen Mohan** as a Lady in Waiting; **Lane Pindell** as a Servant and Soldier; **Vanessa Quinones** as Lady Lucille; **Lynnea Rhodes** as Lady Merrill; **Susan Rimel** as a Lady in Waiting; **Scotty Roberts** as Prince Dauntless, the Drab; **Dylan Sawyer** as a Servant and Soldier; **Tim Steis** as Sir Studley; **Inge Uys** as Lady Mabelle; **Caleb Wilson** as a Knight; and **Aubrey Wise** as a Lady in Waiting.

Performances are scheduled for July 23, July 24, July 25, July 30, July 31 and August 1 at 8:00 p.m., and July 26 and August 2 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are now on sale at \$15.00 for adults, \$13.00 for Ocala Civic Theatre Season Subscribers and \$7.00 for full-time students. For additional information or reservations, call the Theatre box office at (352) 236-2274. Tickets may also be purchased online at [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com). (A service charge applies to online purchases.)

*Variety* called *Once Upon A Mattress* "a gem ... a bouncing, yet delicate, farcical fable". The *New York Daily News* said that it's "fresh, inventive and funny, showing you can retell fairy tales with wit and sophistication". Make your reservations early ... don't miss this Broadway musical hit.



## Coming Events

### Starfish Circus

Theatre for Young Audiences  
July 10 - July 11

Annual Meeting of the Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre  
July 21

### Once Upon A Mattress

Teen Summer Musical  
July 23 - August 2

### Rumplestiltskin

Missoula Children's Theatre  
August 7 - August 8

### The Pajama Game

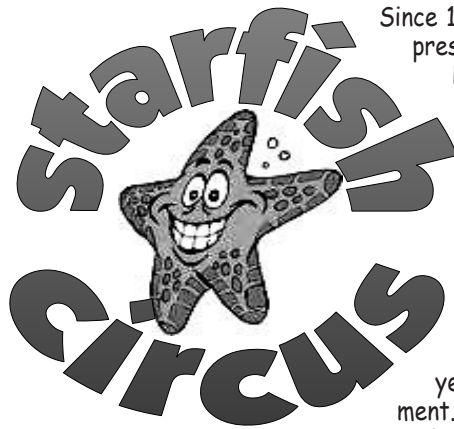
MainStage  
September 10 - October 4

### Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks

Special Presentations Series  
October 8 - October 18

### Look Homeward, Angel

MainStage  
November 5 - November 29



Since 1793, when the renowned British equestrian John Bill Ricketts presented the first circus in America in a wooden amphitheatre in Philadelphia, it is estimated that there have been more than two thousand circuses in this country. The American circus has a unique and often overlooked importance in American history. Indeed, in many cases the circus provided people's first view of new inventions, exotic animals and peoples, and popular entertainments. The circus was the primary form of entertainment and information for the nineteenth century population, especially outside cities and larger metropolitan areas.

A lot has changed in the content of circuses over the past 200 years, but one thing remains the same; the circus IS entertainment. And *Starfish Circus* certainly meets that standard. Whether you are a fan of traditional big-top/three ring circus fare like lions (played by the youngest members of the performance troupe), jugglers and clowns, or more current "Cirque du Soleil" aerobic feats, there is something for everyone in this one-hour show.

The focal point of the show is acrobatics. But it is not just hanging upside-down on a trapeze. Acrobatics are incorporated into every act, from clowns who do pratfalls, jugglers who balance on a rolling ball, to escape artists and young "lion cubs" who do not wish to follow their tamer's instructions. Of course, there are also the more traditional acrobatic performances one would expect, including trapeze, hoop and aerial silk routines (think Cirque du Soleil), as well as partner stunts (think human pyramid) and tumbling.

At the heart of the show is the goal of building of inner strength, confidence and athletic abilities in the students who learn their "circus craft" in only five days. The pride in accomplishment shown by these young performers is as entertaining and rewarding as the stunts they perform.

The cast of *Starfish Circus* includes Caitlin Adcock, Madison Cathey, Raheem Coleman, Bailee Croft, Mary Katherine Cusack, Katie Davis, Jensen Dillard, Reece Duvall, Joshua Escobar, Shelby Freeman, Madison Gibboney, Dalton Glover, Julian Gonzales, Ricardo Gonzales, Carah Hayes, Haley Hogan, Eric Horn, Ashley Huff, Andrew Hurst, David Kays, Melissa Kays, Kendayl Kendrick, Jacob Lenamond, Jonathan Leppert, Rebekah Leppert, Samantha McCormick, Emma McDonell, Donna McNair, Skylar Miles, Riley Grace Mixson, Zachary Player, Tori Reeves, Alison Robertson, Lauren Robertson, James Rubin, Zachary Sieg, Aaron Solomon, Jordan Sossong, Rheanna Standridge, Zachary Wadsworth, Sarah Walker, Haley Weaver and London Wise.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, July 10, at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 11, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are now on sale at \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for full-time students.

### Rumplestiltskin



Missoula Children's Theatre presents *Rumplestiltskin*, an original adaptation of the classic children's story. A strange little gnome appears from here, there and everywhere. He will spin your straw into gold ... for a price. If his price is too steep, you must guess his name ... Rumplestiltskin! Join in the fun of Festival Time and help Clara guess the mischievous little gnome's name. You will also encounter a Jester, Villagers, Wizards, a Queen, a King, Knights, and a band of busy little Bees. This heart-warming tale of mischief and friendship answers more questions than just "What is that little man's name?".

The cast of *Rumplestiltskin* includes Emma Bailey, Anna Barckhausen, Ian

Barckhausen, Sarah Boss, Lakin Cahill, Colton Cameron, Micah Diaz, Nathaniel Diaz, Maddie Eller, Jordan Fortier, Stephen Garlisi, Matthew Garlisi, Madison Gibboney, Olivia Haworth, Abigail Haworth, Michael Haworth, A. J. Herrera, Brittany Higginbotham, Chyanne Hill, Lily Hill, Joshua Howard, Joel Hunt, Lydia Hunt, Colby Judge, Katie Judge, Devon Judge, David Kays, Melissa Kays, Mackenzie Kinard, Veda Lakshminavayan, Gita Lakshminavayan, Kayla McNamara, Dylan Menard, Sarah Meza, Melissa Meza, Isabella Mizzoni, Lucas Moore, Jake Mosley, Cassandra Mosley, Angela Ounan, Eli Paro, Caroline Poole, Lauren Poole, Julia Poole, Hannah Reeves, Matthew Rice, Eric Rosenberger, Aidan Ryan, Gavin Ryan, Zachary Sieg, Leanne Sonneberger, Gary Sonneberger, Linda Squire, Aubree Stelogeannis, Emily Strickland, Elizabeth Underwood, Marissa Viselli, Alyson Viselli, Sarah Walker, Audrianah Webber, Allison Williams and Allilee Wood.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, August 7, at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, August 8, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale Monday, July 13, at \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for full-time students.

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE

# The Pajama Game

Book by George Abbott  
and Richard Bissell

Music and Lyrics by Richard Adler  
and Jerry Ross

Based on the Play "7-1/2 Cents" by Richard Bissell  
Presented through Special Arrangement  
with Music Theatre International

Conditions at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory are anything but peaceful, as sparks fly between the new superintendent, Sid Sorokin, and Babe Williams, leader of the union grievance committee. Their stormy relationship comes to a head when the workers strike for a 7-1/2 cent pay increase, setting off not only a conflict between management and labor, but a battle of the sexes as well.

A jazzy, upbeat musical, *The Pajama Game*, features such songs as "Steam Heat", "Hey There" and "Hernando's Hideaway". The original production opened on Broadway in May 1954 (with John Raitt as Sid and Janis Paige as Babe), winning three Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Nominated for seven Drama Desk Awards, eight Outer Critics Circle Awards and nine Tony Awards, the 2006 revival (with Harry Connick Jr. as Sid and Kelly O'Hara as Babe) received a Tony for Best Revival of a Musical.

*The Pajama Game* is directed and choreographed by **SuSu Sparkman**, who previously directed such Ocala Civic Theatre productions as *No Sex Please, We're British*; *Hello, Dolly!*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; and *42nd Street*. Musical direction for the show is by **Jason Bartosic**

The show opens on Thursday, September 10, and runs through Sunday, October 4. Curtain times are 8:00 p.m. for evening performances and 2:00 p.m. for matinees. The box office will open on August 17 for Flex Pass reservations and subscriber exchanges. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on August 31 at \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for full-time students. To make reservations, call (352) 236-2274. Tickets may also be purchased online at [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com). (A service charge applies to online purchases.)

*The Pajama Game* is a musical about labor disputes, love and, of course, pajamas. Don't miss this 2009-2010 Season opener, which critics called "bright and sassy", "deliriously daffy", "raucous and rollicking" and "fun".

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello! Happy Anniversary! On July 1, we started our 60th Anniversary Season and we're getting dressed up for the occasion. You won't believe the results of the make-over!

Last fall, we celebrated twenty years in our current building and, while we've worked diligently to make sure the building stayed in good shape, I have to admit that the lobby was starting to look a bit frayed. The wallpaper installed in the lobby, hallways and bathrooms was starting to peel. One of our Board members, Paulette Millhorn, decided to surprise us with a lobby make-over. She contacted Steve Allen Construction and David Gadlage of Koontz Company to ask if they would consider helping with a lobby renovation. David, a designer for Koontz Company, enthusiastically offered to create a new color scheme for the lobby. Steve offered to organize a team of contractors to execute the plan. Monday morning, bright and early, the trucks and workers arrived. The wallpaper came down. The entire area was masked, prepped, texture added to the drywall, primed and painted. Late Friday evening, it was all done. The end result is stunning!

And the entire renovation was done as a donation to the Theatre. The work done was extensive and valued at approximately \$12,000.00. Steve contacted two of his regular subcontractors and got them involved in the project: Constantino Painting and American Drywall. Both did their work at cost and Steve Allen covered their expenses. The paint was donated by Color Wheel Paint. Approximately 30 people worked on the project. I was very impressed with the attention to detail each company gave the project. They worked non-stop; kept everything clean; and worked around us, because the box office was still open and we had youth classes going on. We watched them working every day. If you have a need for renovation or new construction work at your home or business, I give them my highest recommendation.

We are also painting the exterior of the entire building this summer. It was last painted when we added the addition in 1998. I am in the process of getting bids right now - this one will not be donated - with the plan that the work will be complete before the opening of *The Pajama Game* on September 10. So, by the time we start our MainStage Season in the fall, we'll be all dressed up for the affair.

Speaking of our 60th Anniversary, we now have been contacted by 92 couples who will also be celebrating their 60th (or longer) Anniversary between now and June 30, 2010. This is exciting! Each month in the newsletter, we will list the couples whose anniversaries are that month, and take you back down memory lane with a few, fun historical facts. Harry S. Truman was President and gas was 26 cents a gallon. We are working on a musical revue for the spring, featuring music from the 1940s to 1950. And you are all invited to celebrate with us! It's a year-long celebration.

The best part of our anniversary season is, of course, the shows. We have three musicals in the MainStage Season, plus a hilarious comedy and a classic drama. The Special Presentations Series offers another musical, plus a mystery and another comedy/drama. Eight great shows! You won't want to miss a single one. The best way to guarantee that you see all the shows is to buy a season ticket. Subscribers get a substantial discount off the regular box office price. In fact, for the MainStage Season, you buy four shows and get one free! You get a choice of two types of seating - a Standing Reservation or Flex Pass - to fit your schedule. Questions? Call the Theatre at (352) 236-2274 and we will be happy to assist you. You can sign up over the telephone or in person, or ask for a brochure to be mailed. Put some drama in your life!

We've got two more summer shows before we open *The Pajama Game*. The delightfully comic musical *Once Upon A Mattress* will run July 23 through August 2. The original Broadway production starred Carol Burnett and is based on the tale of the Princess and the Pea. But Princess Winifred isn't your usual storybook princess. Tickets are on sale now, so brighten up your summer and bring the whole family. The Missoula Children's Theatre will be back with the classic children's story, *Rumpelstiltskin* on August 7 and 8. This is a show with a cast of 60 youngsters and is ideal for families with children. Our summers are filled with young actors, singing, laughing and learning. It's a beautiful noise!

See you at the Theatre!



Mary Britt

## 2009-2010 SEASON TENTATIVE AUDITION SCHEDULE

(Dates Subject to Change)

### **The Pajama Game**

*MainStage Series*

Auditions July 20 and 21, 2009  
Show Dates September 10-October 4, 2009  
Director SuSu Sparkman

### **Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks**

*Special Presentations Series*

Auditions August 24 and 25, 2009  
Show Dates October 8-October 18, 2009  
Director Christine Perry

### **Look Homeward, Angel**

*MainStage Series*

Auditions September 21 and 22, 2009  
Show Dates November 5-November 29, 2009  
Director To Be Announced

### **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**

*Special Presentations Series*

Auditions November 9 and 10, 2009  
Show Dates December 31, 2009-January 17, 2010  
Director Blair Bybee

### **The Big Bang**

*MainStage Series*

Auditions December 14 and 15, 2009  
Show Dates February 4-February 28, 2010  
Director To Be Announced

### **Leading Ladies**

*MainStage Series*

Auditions February 1 and 2, 2010  
Show Dates March 18-April 11, 2010  
Director To Be Announced

### **Dr. Cook's Garden**

*Special Presentations Series*

Auditions February 8 and 9, 2010  
Show Dates March 25-April 2, 2010  
Director To Be Announced

Rehearsals and performances for this show will be in the daytime with three evening performances.

### **Peter Pan**

*MainStage Series*

Auditions March 22 and 23, 2010  
Show Dates May 13-June 13, 2010  
Director Blair Bybee

All of our actors are volunteers. Each show has a mixture of Ocala Civic Theatre veterans, experienced actors who have earned their stripes at other theatres, and newcomers who are discovering the fun of being on stage for the first time. For additional information, call (352) 236-2274 or go to our website at [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com).

## OCALA CIVIC THEATRE CELEBRATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

They say time flies when you are having fun. That is certainly the case for Ocala Civic Theatre. Founded in March 1950, we are celebrating our 60th Anniversary. We have also invited local couples who have been married 60 years or more (to the same person) to celebrate with us. To date, we have been contacted by almost 100 couples! Each month, we will be telling you about some of our history and remind you of what life was like 60 years ago - and recognizing couples whose anniversaries are that month. Without our amazing volunteers, the audiences and local businesses, we wouldn't have lasted this long. With the support of the community, we have grown into one of the largest community theatres in the United States, serving over 70,000 people each year. Won't you join us in this celebration?

### **Ocala Civic Theatre History ...**

In the first five years, we did not have our own facility. Instead, we rented a second-floor loft in the downtown block which houses the Marion Theatre to rehearse and performed in Ocala High School (now Osceola Middle School) auditorium. After that, we moved into the Osborne Theatre (now Republican Headquarters) on Silver Springs Boulevard, our home for 35 years until we built our present facility, which we moved into on October 1, 1988.

### **60 Years Ago ....**

There were only 48 states (Alaska and Hawaii weren't added until 1959). Harry S. Truman was President. A first class stamp cost 3 cents. The population of the U.S. was 152,217,417. Oklahoma was the NCAA Football champion. The New York Yankees beat the Philadelphia Phillies (4-0) in the World Series. Coffee cost 79 cents per pound. *Guys And Dolls* opened on Broadway and *South Pacific* was still going strong.

### **Anniversaries ...**

- July 1, 1948: Charles & Lila Mauro
- July 4, 1948: Don & Lila Tuchman (season ticket holder since 2000)
- July 6, 1946: Charles & Renee Lord (season ticket holder since 1986)
- July 6, 1946: Charles & Ginny Wilson
- July 8, 1945: Olavi & Margaret Huhtala
- July 17, 1948: John D. & Mary Anne Seerley
- July 28, 1945: William & Marguerite Roach
- July 31, 1948: Dave & Merita Stormzand (season ticket holder since 1997)
- July 31, 1949: Donald & Louise Cox
- August 2, 1946: George & Arlene Cattleman
- August 15, 1934: Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Romberg (75 years!)
- August 20, 1949: Roger & Barbara Patterson
- August 30, 1947: Edward & Viola McGuire

## HAVE YOU MADE A CASH DONATION?

If you have given a cash gift to Ocala Civic Theatre, including a donation with your season ticket purchase or a gift to the youth scholarship fund, your current or former employer may match your donation! Many large corporations match the donations given by their current employees and retirees. Most require as little as \$25.00 to be donated to qualify for a match. The majority of companies will match your gift dollar for dollar.

Participating companies which **match both current and former employee gifts** include most Bell System, American Express, Bank of America, Coca-Cola, Dow Corning, Eli Lilly, ExxonMobil, General Mills, Georgia-Pacific, H.J. Heinz, John Hancock Life Insurance, IBM, Johnson & Johnson, Lexmark International, Maytag, McGraw-Hill, Merrill Lynch, Mutual of America, New York Times, PepsiCo Foundation, Pfizer, Progress Energy, SBC Communication, Sherwin-Williams, Sprint, Texas Instruments, Time Warner and Wisconsin Energy. This is a partial list. **Companies will match any gift - not just those given in conjunction with season ticket purchases.**

For additional information or to see if your company will match your donation, call Mary Britt or Jennifer Buckland at (352) 236-2851. It's not too late to match a gift which has already been sent!

## OCALA CIVIC THEATRE AWARDS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO ELEVEN STUDENTS

Ocala Civic Theatre is proud to support the future of the performing arts through its scholarship program. Marion County students who major in one of the performing arts are eligible to apply for a college scholarship. Profits from the Concession Stand are designated to pay for these scholarships. This year, ACT IV; Susan and Randall Moring, as individuals; and the friends and family of Patricia E. Pena joined the Theatre in awarding \$6,500.00 in scholarships to eleven students.

The Bill Bartlett Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **DeNaya Wilkerson**, a Belleview High School student who will attend college in the fall. The Barbara Purvis Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Spencer Reeder**, a University of Florida student. Fran Clemons ACT IV Scholarships were awarded to **Benjamin Frankenberg**, a Savannah College of Art and Design student; **Robert Jarosh**, a University of Tampa student; and **Sheila Steis**, a West Port High School student who will attend the University of Central Florida in the fall. The Susan and Randall Moring Scholarship was awarded to **Jacob Titterington**, a University of Florida student. The Leon Schmehl Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Amanda Amat**, a West Port High School student who will attend the University of Central Florida in the fall. The Harvey Klein Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Erika Clippinger**, a Central Florida Community College student. The Patricia E. Pena Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Christopher Diaz**, a Central Florida Community College Student. Scholarships were also awarded to **Michael Shaw**, who will attend The Juilliard School in the fall; and **Constance Rogalski**, a Central Florida Community College student.

Ocala Civic Theatre has awarded more than \$85,500.00 since the scholarship program was established. For information about Ocala Civic Theatre's college and Education Department scholarship programs, please call Executive Director Mary Britt at (352) 236-2851.

## THEATRE IS A HOT TOPIC!

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

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES AND VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT OCALA CIVIC THEATRE'S ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Ocala Civic Theatre volunteers and patrons gathered at Ocala Civic Theatre on Saturday, June 13, for the Thirty-Seventh Annual Awards Ceremony and Twentieth Annual Harvey Awards. The gala was the culmination of the Theatre's 2008-2009 Season. The evening began with a social hour, silent auction and hors d'oeuvres, followed by the awards ceremony at which Harvey Awards were presented to recognize outstanding performances in the following categories:

- Outstanding Performance in a Character or Cameo Role in a MainStage Musical: **Daniel Gray** for *The Wizard Of Oz* and **John P. A. Sherman** for *The Baker's Wife*
- Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role in a Special Presentations Series Production: **Jason Bartosic** and **Dani Moreno-Fuentes** for *Bloody Murder*
- Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role in a MainStage Comedy or Drama: **Alan J. Hickey** and **Stretch Tucker** for *The Unexpected Guest*
- Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role in a MainStage Musical: **Martie McLean** for *The Wizard Of Oz*, and **Patrick Stanley** and **David Leppert** for *Hello, Dolly!*
- Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in a Special Presentations Series Production: **Chip Morris** and **Alex Dagg** for *Moonlight And Magnolias*, and **Randall Moring** for *Tuesdays With Morrie*
- Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in a MainStage Comedy or Drama: **Alex Dagg** for *The Unexpected Guest* and **Alan J. Hickey** for *No Sex Please, We're British*
- Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in a MainStage Musical: **Chip Morris**, **Victoria Sexton** and **Alex Dagg** for *The Wizard Of Oz*

The following 2008-2009 Season "Wall Of Frames" technical awards were announced: Best Set: *The Wizard Of Oz*, Best Costumes: *The Wizard Of Oz*, Best Hair and Make-Up: *The Wizard Of Oz*, Best Lighting: *The Wizard Of Oz*, Best Sound: *The Wizard Of Oz*, Best Stage Crew: *The Wizard Of Oz*, Best Choreography and Dance Performance: *Hello, Dolly!*, and Best Musical Performance: *Hello, Dolly!*

Special recognition was given to several outstanding volunteers for the season. A Presidential Award was given to **Westley and Linda Schultz**. The Outstanding Young Volunteer Award went to **R.J. Lemire**; **Dick and Sally Kisner** received the Chuck Shannon Memorial Golden Trouper of the Year Award; **Fran Clemons** was named ACT IV Member of the Year; and **Patti Cole** was named Marion Player of the Year.

The Chris Ahern Memorial Award for outstanding service as a volunteer was presented to **Stretch Tucker**; the Mike Hewett Memorial Award for outstanding service on the Board of Directors went to **Christine Stone**; and **Dan and Judy Cheak** received the Dick Conover Memorial Award for outstanding sustained service to Ocala Civic Theatre. **First Impressions Printing** was recognized as Outstanding Business Partner of the Year.

The awards program concluded with the announcement that *The Wizard Of Oz* was selected by the judges as the Best Show of the Ocala Civic Theatre 2008-2009 MainStage Season.

## THE BEST OF THE BEST

Volunteers come in all shapes, sizes and ages. The time each donates varies depending on his or her schedule. Every hour contributed to the Theatre is a valuable ingredient in our recipe for success. This year, 462 volunteers logged a total of 57,824 hours on a variety of productions and projects. Many individuals reached the 75-hour minimum, making them eligible to join The Marion Players. Amazingly, 25 volunteers logged over 500 hours between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. A standing ovation, please, for the following people:

### 500-749 Volunteer Hours

Bruce Clayton	Melody Murphy
Jeff Cole	Paul Olson
Patti Cole	Christine Perry
Fred Due	Darrell Riley
Jane Geer	Ginny Riley
Phylis Leppert	Scotty Roberts
Ruth McCarthy	John Sherman
Christopher Miller	Ron Sudhoff
Elena Mixson	Stretch Tucker

### 750-999 Volunteer Hours

Gregg Bleam	Karen Hilton
Jessie Coan	David Leppert
Clark Dougherty	Richard Price

### 1500+ Volunteer Hours

Dani Moreno-Fuentes

## RESERVATION SCHEDULE

**BOX OFFICE HOURS**  
 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
 Monday through Friday  
 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
**Performance Saturdays**  
 Phone: (352) 236-2274  
[www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com)

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

Now	Theatre for Young Audiences: <b>Starfish Circus</b> - Tickets on sale.
Now	Teen Summer Musical: <b>Once Upon A Mattress</b> - Tickets on sale.
July 13	Missoula Children's Theatre: <b>Rumplestiltskin</b> - Tickets on sale.
Aug. 17	<b>The Pajama Game</b> - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
Aug. 31	<b>The Pajama Game</b> - Tickets on sale.
Sept. 14	<b>Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks</b> - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
Sept. 21	<b>Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks</b> - Tickets on sale.
Oct. 12	<b>Look Homeward, Angel</b> - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
Oct. 26	<b>Look Homeward, Angel</b> - Tickets on sale.
Dec. 7	<b>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</b> - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
Dec. 14	<b>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</b> - Tickets on sale.
Jan. 11	<b>The Big Bang</b> - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
Jan. 25	<b>The Big Bang</b> - Tickets on sale.
Feb. 22	<b>Leading Ladies</b> - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
Mar. 1	<b>Dr. Cook's Garden</b> - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
Mar. 8	<b>Leading Ladies</b> - Tickets on sale.
Mar. 8	<b>Dr. Cook's Garden</b> - Tickets on sale.

## ED NOTES

WOW! What a month of fun June has been. And, in July, the fun just gets bigger and better.

Since the week after school let out, there has been non-stop action around the Theatre. We have had exciting creative drama classes like Do The Right Thing, Adventurama and Once Upon A Time; music and movement classes like Tune Time and Moving Experience; and our Kamp Rock class was filled to capacity. Students in Greg Solomon's The Art of Performing Magic and The World of Magic and Illusion classes had a chance to show what they learned with a special showcase performance at the end of their class week.

In Mid-June, we had the Missoula Children's Theatre production of *The Princess And The Pea*. Sixty of our local students participated in this popular touring program. Congratulations to the entire cast for a job well done. If you missed this production, do not fear, as Missoula will be back August 7 and August 8 with their production of *Rumplestiltskin*.

We kicked off July with four performances of *Mother Goose, Inc.*, a musical comedy romp which told the tale of an age-old battle between Mother Goose and The Brothers Grimm for fairy tale supremacy. The performances included several daytime presentations for area summer camps. A big round of applause to the 27-member cast (all between the ages of 7 and 12) on a splendid run. And a special "hi-hi-ho-ho-ho" to the delightful show-stealing dwarfs. There will be even more on-stage fun this summer when *Starfish Circus* comes to town. With only a week of training, 50 local students (ages 7 to 17) will present an exciting, circus-style production featuring aerial dancing and acrobatics, tumbling, juggling, clowning and even lion-taming. Shows are at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 11.

Classes continue through the month of July with plenty more creative drama classes like Movement Stories, The Places I've Been and When I Grow Up for students ages 4 to 6. Theatre Arts, Video Ventures and Twisted Tales will offer students ages 7 to 10 plenty of creative opportunities in areas like make-up, costuming, props, video production, storytelling and script-writing. For those students 11 years old and up, who may be thinking about *Peter Pan* later next season, you don't want to miss The Musical Audition workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon the week of July 20 through July 24. And there are only a few spaces left in our No Fear Shakespeare camps for students ages 8 to 10 (from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon) and 11 and up (from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.). These specialty camps will run for two weeks, from July 20 through July 31.

As if all this were not enough excitement, there is also this year's Summer Teen Musical presentation of *Once Upon A Mattress*. Under the guidance of Director Tom Whatley, Musical Director Jason Bartosic, Choreographer Debbie McCreight, Assistant Music Director Shane Bass, Assistant Director Dani Moreno-Fuentes, and Stage Managers Jesse and Elena Mixson, this talented and superb cast of Ocala Civic Theatre newcomers and veteran performers from summer's past (*All Shook Up*, *High School Musical*, *Godspell*) have been rehearsing long hours to put together a high-energy, laugh-out-loud rendition of this Broadway classic you can't afford to miss. It is the perfect way to end a great summer of fun.

And speaking of ending, I have to do that now, so I can get back to planning and scheduling all of the Fall fun we have in store. Look for the new Fall Class Schedule to be out the first week of August. Until then, I hope to see ya'll around the Theatre. — Tom Whatley, Education Director

### SPECIAL ADULT WORKSHOP

Combine the art of dancing with acrobatics and silk ribbons in the air, and you get aerial dancing. Add in some stretching and flexibility exercises, partner acrobatics, balancing and some basic tumbling, and you have the makings for a two-hour workshop presented by members of the Michigan-based **Aerial Angels** performance troupe, who will be in Ocala for a week to teach many of these same skills to young students enrolled in their **Starfish Circus** program.

The workshop for adults (ages 15 and up) is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the stage at Ocala Civic Theatre. The cost for the workshop is \$20.00. Space in the workshop is limited. To register, call the Theatre box office at (352) 236-2274. For additional information, call Education Director Tom Whatley at (352) 236-2851 or e-mail him at [educationdir@ocalacivictheatre.com](mailto:educationdir@ocalacivictheatre.com).

## VIP: VERY IMPORTANT PERSON



This month's VIP is receiving national attention! **Drena Heizer** has a collection of her short plays being published by ArtAge Publications, a resource center for Senior Theatre activities. A draft of her book was on sale at the national festival of the American Association of Community Theatre from June 24-28, 2009. This year the festival was held in Tacoma, Washington, so it was terrific to see Drena's work on display 2,400 miles from Ocala. We asked Drena to tell us about herself, as we prepared to write this article, but being a writer herself, she replied with the following. We liked it so much, we printed it all.

"I was born at a very early age in Harrison, Arkansas. The date will not be mentioned, but Calvin Coolidge had just been sworn in as President of the United States.

"As a child my ambition was to become an artist, but growing up during the great depression convinced me that I would need to

have a different career to make a living, so after marriage and five children, I worked as a nurse and later as a hospital transcriptionist.

"Widowed in 1996, I moved to Ocala to be near my daughter and, with my lifelong interest in art, I was soon busy with painting classes. But, then, one day I saw a newspaper notice about auditions for the Golden Troupers at Ocala Civic Theatre. I had always thought acting might be fun, but my only experience in public performance had been in my music-teacher mother's piano recitals, and my only "theatrical background" had consisted of being married to a high school play director. Nevertheless, as the mother of five children, I did have a great deal of experience in voice projection, so I went in for an audition.

"Chuck Shannon was chairman of the Troupers at that time in 1997 and he soon assigned me a job as his assistant. We needed performance material and we searched everywhere, but couldn't find the kind of readers theatre comedies we wanted, so this became a do-it-yourself project. My only previous experience in comedy writing had been funny letters to my mother when the kids were small, but I suddenly discovered that my word processor had a goofy sense of humor, so comedy skits began to happen and just kept on coming, and casting and directing became part of the job as well.

"Then, in 2002, Chuck, the beloved heart and center of our group, passed away. The chairmanship fell to me and I served in that capacity until the job was temporarily assumed by Susan Pattie in 2006-2007, after which I flunked retirement and served again until Dick and Sally Kisner took over as co-chairmen in the fall of 2008. My Troupers ID badge now reads 'Den Mother Emerita' and somebody else is doing all the work, while I'm having all the fun. I plan to keep on performing with the Golden Troupers until they put me away for babbling and walking into walls.

"On a more personal note, I had arrived in Ocala alone thirteen years ago and, at my age, I had assumed that I would remain alone. However, in 2001, Ken Green came along and life began again. Now there are five of us - Ken and me and three cats."

It is typical of Drena that she praises others while making light of her own achievements. The publication of her short plays will allow readers theatre groups all over the country to enjoy performing with good material which is royalty free. She said, "It's not about the money. I just wanted to make the plays available". She has devoted years to making our Golden Troupers a success and the Troupers have touched the lives of thousands of people each year. We congratulate Drena on the publication of her plays, and would like to express our appreciation for her leadership and volunteer hours at the Theatre. Bravo!

## PLACE YOUR AD IN THE THEATRE PROGRAMS

Ocala Civic Theatre is a recognized leader on the state level and ranked among the top thirty community theatres in the United States. In September 2009, we will begin our 60th Anniversary season of presenting live, professional-quality theatre to Ocala and the surrounding area.

Advertising in our MainStage program will enable you to reach over 36,000 individuals - the kind of people you want to tell about your business - people who live, work and play in Marion County and its environs. Your ad will run for all five MainStage productions from September 10, 2009, through June 13, 2010. Each production is scheduled for at least eighteen public performances. Some shows will have holdover performances. Depending on the size of the ad, rates run from \$350.00 to \$900.00 for the entire season. Advertising in our Special Presentations Series program will run for three productions from October 8, 2009, through April 2, 2010. Each production is scheduled for at least seven public performances and should reach 6,000 individuals. Rates run from \$90.00 to \$240.00 for the entire season.

To find out how easy it is to place your ad, please call Marketing Director Maxine Nelson at (352) 236-2851 or e-mail her at [mnelson@ocalacivictheatre.com](mailto:mnelson@ocalacivictheatre.com).

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## JULY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 <i>Mother Goose, Inc.</i> 1:30 & 7:00 p.m.	3 <i>Mother Goose, Inc.</i> 10:30 a. & 7:00 p.	4 Happy Fourth of July
5	6	7	8 <i>Adult Starfish Workshop</i> 7:00 p.m.	9	10 <i>Starfish Circus</i> 7:00 p.m.	11 <i>Starfish Circus</i> 2:00 p.m.
12	13 <i>Rumplestiltskin</i> Tickets on Sale	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 <i>Pajama Game</i> Open Auditions 7:00 p.m.	21 Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m. <i>The Pajama Game</i> Auditions - 7:00 p.m.	22	23 <i>Once Upon A Mattress</i> 8:00 p.m.	24 <i>Once Upon A Mattress</i> 8:00 p.m.	25 <i>Once Upon A Mattress</i> 8:00 p.m.
26 <i>Once Upon A Mattress</i> 2:00 p.m.	27	28	29	30 <i>Once Upon A Mattress</i> 8:00 p.m.	31 <i>Once Upon A Mattress</i> 8:00 p.m.	

## AUGUST 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <i>Once Upon A Mattress</i> 8:00 p.m.
2 <i>Once Upon A Mattress</i> 2:00 p.m.	3	4	5	6	7 <i>Missoula Rumplestiltskin</i> 7:00 p.m.	8 <i>Missoula Rumplestiltskin</i> 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 <i>The Pajama Game</i> Flex Reservations and Exchanges Open Pick Up Season Tickets	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 <i>The Pajama Game</i> Tickets on Sale					

*"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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