

# The *Curtain Raiser*

CELEBRATING OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

1950-1951 to 2009-2010

Ocala Civic Theatre Newsletter

Volume/Season 2009-2010, Issue No. 5

November/December 2009

## OCALA CIVIC THEATRE SALUTES ITS SPONSORS

### PC HOUSE PRODUCTIONS

Chip Morris and Mr. PC own and operate PC House Productions, which is a full-service marketing and advertising agency. Yes, it's the same Chip and PC you've listened to on the Drive Time Happy Hour! Both of them love theatre, entertainment and the ability to create emotion in a target audience. Their agency portfolio includes clients that operate small businesses, talented musicians, charities, international corporations and independent movie companies. Their vision is driven with a desire to "create" incredible media to brand their clients with compelling ideas for products, solutions and strategic placement within any market. PC House Productions supports the arts, not only because it is a huge part of their business model, but many times art can articulate concepts that words simply cannot. Visit [www.pchouseproductions.com](http://www.pchouseproductions.com) to experience their art!



By Ketti Frings

Based on the Novel by Thomas Wolfe  
Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, I, Inc.

An authentic American classic, this powerful and vital play captures both the comedy and the drama of Wolfe's largely autobiographical novel about a youth coming of age in North Carolina. Concentrating on the last third of Wolfe's story, the play vividly portrays Eugene Gant, a moonstruck, sensitive youth; his mother, Eliza, who is as tight with a penny as she is with her emotions; W.O., his father, a blustering, frequently drunk stonecutter; Ben, his frail brother, who longs to go off and fight the war he's heard so much about; and the eccentric residents of the family-run boarding house, a lively bunch who mostly argue and complain.

*Look Homeward, Angel* runs through Sunday, November 29. Curtain times are (continued next page)

Corporate Sponsor  
**Ocala Magazine**



## The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Barbara Robinson's touching and humorous classic holiday story returns to Ocala Civic Theatre for a second year. Called one of America's most memorable Christmas stories, *The Best Christmas*

*Pageant Ever* has been a favorite of young readers the world over since 1972. Funny, memorable and outrageous, it is the story of the Herdmans, a family of incorrigible children, who discover the Christmas story for the first time and help everyone else rediesover its true meaning.

The Herdmans are absolutely the worst kids in the history of the world. They lie and steal and smoke cigars (even the girls). They talk dirty, hit little kids, cuss their teachers, steal lunches, and set fire to Fred Shoemaker's old broken-down toolhouse. None of them has ever heard the (continued next page)

Corporate Sponsor  
**Family Times Magazine**

## BIG CHANGES IN NEWSLETTER DELIVERY!

Ocala Civic Theatre is going GREEN and finding new ways to better communicate with our patrons. Beginning this month, our printed newsletter will be published every other month. In other words, if you are receiving our newsletter by U.S. Mail, you will receive your next newsletter in January. More and more of our patrons are switching to e-mail delivery, which offers two excellent benefits - faster, more frequent communication from the Theatre AND a tremendous cost savings. In fact, the cost savings for switching to a bi-monthly printed newsletter is estimated to be approximately \$7,800 over the next seven months!

If you are receiving your newsletter by e-mail, we will soon be switching to a more interesting design, which will be easier for your computer to load. As an e-mail subscriber, you will receive periodic messages reminding you about upcoming shows and special events, as well as a monthly newsletter. We are also building an Official Ocala Civic Theatre Facebook page, where items of interest will be posted - show information, photos, cast lists. And, don't forget, you can already make ticket exchanges by email by sending a message to [exchange@ocalacivictheatre.com](mailto:exchange@ocalacivictheatre.com).

Both methods of receiving the newsletter - standard U.S. Mail and e-mail - are free for our patrons. If you would like to switch to e-mail delivery, just send us a message by e-mail with your request to [info@ocalacivictheatre.com](mailto:info@ocalacivictheatre.com) and we will be happy to switch you over. Thank you for your support!

## Coming Events

### Look Homeward, Angel

MainStage  
Through November 29

### The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Theatre for Young Audiences

December 4 - December 6

### The Nutcracker

Marion Ballet Theatre  
December 11 - December 20

### Holiday Duet

Special Event  
December 17 - December 20

### The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Special Presentations Series  
December 31 - January 17

### New Year's Eve Party

Special Event  
December 31

### The Curious Savage

Special Teen Production  
January 22 - January 30

### The Big Bang

MainStage  
February 4 - February 28

### The Seussification Of Romeo And Juliet

Theatre For Young Audiences  
March 6 - March 14

## LOOK HOMEWARD (continued)

8:00 p.m. for evening performances and 2:00 p.m. for matinees. Tickets are now on sale at \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for full-time students. For information or reservations, call (352) 236-2274. Show tickets may also be purchased online at [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com). (A service charge applies to online purchases.)

The acclaimed play, which won the Pulitzer Prize, also received five Tony Award nominations. A Broadway revival has been announced by Tony Award-winning director Daniel Sullivan and the Shubert organization.

The Chicago Sun-Times recently described *Look Homeward, Angel* as "... one of those delicious period pieces that hone in on the true nature of American life - evoking an earlier era, yet radiant in its timelessness." Don't miss this wonderful play!

## BEST CHRISTMAS (continued)

Christmas story before. Their interpretation - the Wise Men are a bunch of dirty spies and Herod needs a good beating - has a lot of people up in arms. So what happens when they take over the church's annual Christmas pageant?

The cast includes **Melissa Kays** as Mrs. Bradley, **Sam Dugger** as Mr. Bradley, **Rachel Rizzo** as Beth Bradley and **Zachary Player** as Charlie Bradley. The Herdman Children are played by **Emma McDonell** as Emogene, **Andrew Hurst** as Ralph, **Stephen Williams-Ortega** as Leroy, **Dominique Yarbrough** as Olivia, **Mary Marshall** as Claudia and **Kelly Sawyer** as Gladys. **Abby Hanks** is Mrs. Armstrong, **Ash-ton Johns** is Mrs. Slocum, **Angela Ounan** is Mrs. McCarthy, **Abby Simons** is Mrs. Clausing and **Josh Simons** is Reverend Hopkins. Other members of the pageant are **Calton Glover** as Elmer, **Ajax McDonell** as Hobie, **Andy Kraft** as David, **Bailey Shawver** as Alice, **Mariah Hamby** as Maxine, **Julie Rogers** as Doris and **Collette Waltz** as Beverly.

Choir members are **Cassidy Prusak**, **Jasmine Umpleby**, **Kaitlyn MacDonald**, **Shelby Randle**, **Julie Zylis**, **Lydia Hunt**, **Nicole Ordway** and **Katie Jewett**. The Baby Angels are played by **Matthew Minassian**, **Sofia Rosario**, **Taleah Poole**, **River Watkins**, **Madeline Hanks** and **Ava Moring**.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 6, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, December 7, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale at \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for full-time students. For information and reservations, call the box office at (352) 236-2274. Show tickets may be purchased online at [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com).

## 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.



Music and Lyrics by William Finn  
Book by Rachel Sheinkin  
Conceived by Rebecca Feldman  
Additional Material by Jay Reiss

Originally produced on Broadway by David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre Presented through Special Arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th Street, New York, New York 10019, Phone: 212-541-4684, Fax: 212-397-4684, [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com).

A real-time stage version of a small-town spelling bee, this musical comedy follows six students - plus four volunteer audience members - as they try to spell their way toward first prize and a chance to compete in the finals in Washington.

The six (adult) actors play a cross-spectrum of kids, full of the usual prepubescent insecurities and angst. They may be able to spell strabismus, copybara and phylactery, but that doesn't make it any easier growing up. There's the sweet, shy girl whose mother is off on a spiritual quest and whose father is not even in the audience cheering her on. Last year's winner is back, but the young man has hormonal urges that get him into trouble when he tries to concentrate on spelling. The classic over-achiever twirls a mean baton, can do splits and plays the piano, but is she really happy? There's the precocious, politically and socially-aware contestant with two daddies. A daffy, kindhearted lad who is there as a befuddled replacement. And, finally, a plump and pompous boy, suffering from a rare mucus membrane disorder and peanut intolerance, who has an unusual way of spelling.

Also on stage are three adults (also played by adults). A former Putnam County spelling bee champion and kind of mother hen to the contestants. The tightly-wound school vice principal who comments on the proceedings and delivers definitions of difficult words. And the bee's official comfort counselor who provides a hug and a box of juice as a consolation prize.

*Spelling Bee* started life as off-Broadway improv (originally called C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E). It was first staged as a full-length musical in Massachusetts, before returning to New York's Second Stage and later to its official opening at Broadway's Circle in the Square, where it won two Tony Awards.

The show is directed by **Blair Bybee**, who previously directed last season's (continued next page)

## SPELLING BEE (continued)

*The Wizard Of Oz.* Set and sound design are by Timothy J. Dygert, with lighting design by Tom Buckland and costume design by Bridget Bartlett. Ken Noble will serve as production stage manager.

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* opens on Thursday, December 31, 2009, and runs through Sunday, January 17, 2010. Curtain times are 8:00 p.m. for evening performances and 2:00 p.m. for matinees. The box office will open on December 7 for Flex Pass reservations and subscriber exchanges. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on December 14 at \$16.00 for adults, \$14.00 for MainStage subscribers and \$8.00 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.)

A New Year's Eve Party is scheduled to follow the performance on December 31. Information about this event can be found in the box below.



This play contains profanity and subject matter which may be offensive to some people. It is not recommended for children.



**NEW  
YEAR'S  
EVE PARTY**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
beginning at 8:00 p.m. with  
the opening night performance of  
**THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM  
COUNTY SPELLING BEE**  
followed by  
hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, desserts,  
coffee and a midnight champagne toast  
(cash bar available throughout the evening)

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\$30.00 for Party Ticket for  
Special Presentations Subscribers  
Sales Open for Subscribers on December 7

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\$45.00 per Person  
\$43.00 MainStage Season Subscribers  
\$35.00 Marion Players  
Prices Include the Party and Show  
Sales Begin on Sale December 14

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Reservations: (352) 236-2274  
Party Reservations cannot be made online.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mary Britt

Hello! Boy, do I have a lot to tell you this month. First and foremost, I want to let you know that we are changing our delivery of the newsletter. You have two choices for the method of delivery: e-mail and standard U.S. Mail. Our standard delivery will switch to bi-monthly starting this month. (In other words, your next newsletter by U.S. Mail will be delivered in January.) This will help with our desire to lessen our impact on the environment and also save approximately \$7,800 over the next seven months. Our requests for delivery by e-mail have increased tremendously. The second delivery option (by e-mail) offers you the benefits of a much faster delivery (10 to 12 days faster than standard mail, because we e-mail it to you the same day it is sent to the printer.) Also, since there is no cost for the e-mail delivery, we can send you periodic reminders of upcoming shows and special events. If you receive the newsletter by e-mail, you WILL get a newsletter every month. To switch your newsletter delivery, just send us a note by e-mail to [info@ocalacivictheatre.com](mailto:info@ocalacivictheatre.com). We are also working on an Official Ocala Civic Theatre Facebook page where you can access up-to-date information on the Theatre's activities. I feel like this old dog is learning some new tricks!! Our Education Department already has a very active Facebook page and it's time I caught up!

I also wanted to share with you a personal experience I had on October 29. My sister, who is a registered nurse, and I were privileged to travel on the chartered Honor Flight as escorts. You may have read, there is a national organization which is working tirelessly to bring as many World War II veterans as possible to Washington, DC to visit the World War II Memorial. Locally, an Honor Flight was organized by Rose Clements and Morrey Deen. Countless individuals and local organizations raised a total of \$70,000 to charter a flight and escort 102 veterans to Washington and back in a single day. The escorts paid their own way, but all the veterans were invited to travel as guests of a grateful community. We met at the Ocala airport at 6:00 a.m. and checked in, then the veterans were partnered with their escorts. I was privileged to spend the day with Bob Albee. There were almost 30 veterans in wheelchairs, so our total number of travelers was 172 - 102 veterans and 72 support personnel, including two doctors, five nurses and about six paramedics. We flew on a chartered 737 from Miami Airlines to the airport in Baltimore, Maryland, then took about a 45-minute bus ride to the World War II Memorial. We then visited the Korean War Memorial and arrived at Arlington National Cemetery to watch the changing of the guard and a very emotional wreath laying ceremony, which concluded with the playing of taps. Several active duty soldiers met us at the memorials to visit with the veterans. The flight home was smooth and the veterans were greeted at the Ocala airport by an enthusiastic crowd of over 500 people, who welcomed them home with cheers, signs and a sea of American flags. I saw a lot of familiar names and faces on the flight. Two of the Theatre's Board members - Jaye Baillie and Jim Hilty - were also escorts. It was a unique experience which was an opportunity to show, in a small way, how much the veterans' sacrifice was appreciated. If you get an opportunity to help the next group of veterans on an Honor Flight, don't miss it.

I am very pleased to announce that the Theatre and the Appleton Museum of Art are partnering to bring you a special opportunity for the Christmas holiday season. We are calling it a "Holiday Duet" because we are offering you two great opportunities wrapped into one package. Please check our description of the "Holiday Duet" in this newsletter.

I hope you are expecting to have a joyous and exciting Thanksgiving and Christmas season. With the slightly cooling temperatures, I start to think about the holidays. I'd like to ask you to put the Theatre on your holiday gift list. We are selling gift certificates, which make great presents. And I hope that you will remember us on your year-end donation list for charitable organizations. This season has presented several challenges and your thoughtfulness will be much appreciated.

See you at the Theatre!

# Win This 1957 Ford Thunderbird!

Proceeds to Benefit



*Sponsored in Part by  
Ford of Ocala  
and WIND 95.5 FM*



- 312 Engine (245 HP) 4 Barrell
- Red Exterior / White and Red Interior
- Automatic Transmission
- Power Windows / Power Seats
- AM / FM Radio
- Air Conditioning
- Includes Both Porthole Hard Top and Convertible Soft Top

With a donation of \$100.00 per ticket, you will be entered into a drawing by chance to win this classic 1957 Thunderbird. Drawing will be held on Friday, June 18, 2010, at 8:00 p.m. at Ocala Civic Theatre, 4337 East Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, Florida 34470. A maximum of 999 tickets will be distributed. You need not be present to win.

Vehicle will be awarded "AS IS". Neither Ocala Civic Theatre nor Ford of Ocala nor WIND 95.5 FM makes any warranties or representations, express or implied, regarding the vehicle.

For further information, contact Ocala Civic Theatre, 4337 E. Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, Florida 34470.  
Telephone: (352) 236-2274 • Email: [info@ocalacivictheatre.com](mailto:info@ocalacivictheatre.com)

**I would like to donate a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please send me \_\_\_\_ tickets (\$100.00 each) to enter the "Win This 1957 Ford Thunderbird" Drawing and help support Ocala Civic Theatre.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to Ocala Civic Theatre.

Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card.  Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Official Rules and Regulations:** 1.) The "Win This 1957 Ford Thunderbird" drawing by chance is being conducted by The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre. Proceeds from the drawing will benefit the programs and activities of Ocala Civic Theatre. 2.) The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre has been designated as a 501 (c) 3 organization by the Internal Revenue Service. It is also registered as a not-for-profit corporation with the Florida Department of Corporations and with the Florida Division of Consumer Services as a charitable organization. 3.) The drawing will be held on Friday, June 18, 2010, at 8:00 p.m. at an event to be held at Ocala Civic Theatre, 4337 East Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, Florida 34470. Winner does not have to be present to win. 4.) The prize to be awarded is a 1957 Ford Thunderbird (or \$15,000.00 cash). The winner of the drawing may choose between the 1957 Ford Thunderbird or \$15,000 cash. If the winner chooses the cash option, Ocala Civic Theatre will retain ownership of the vehicle and may keep or sell the vehicle after the drawing is complete. The approximate value of the vehicle is \$25,000.00. Neither Ocala Civic Theatre nor Ford of Ocala nor WIND 95.5 FM makes any warranties or representations, express or implied, regarding the vehicle. It will be presented to the winner "As Is". 5.) Suggested donation is \$100.00 per ticket. The odds of winning depend on the number of entries. A maximum of 999 tickets will be distributed. Individuals must be 21 years of age or older to participate in the drawing. The maximum number of entries allowed by any individual is five. Tickets may be purchased by mail or by calling Ocala Civic Theatre at 352-236-2274. A ticket order form may be downloaded from [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com). 6.) Prize will be acquired with proceeds from this drawing and other donations made to The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre. 7.) Board members, employees, volunteers, and affiliates of The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre may enter the drawing. 8.) One (1) winner is guaranteed. All entries will be placed in a container with one (1) ticket drawn. Winner will be notified by telephone, or registered mail to the name and address on the ticket stub. Deadline to claim the prize is 12:00 noon on Wednesday, June 30, 2010. In the event that the prize is not claimed, a non-event drawing will be held and conducted by the Executive Committee of The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre. 9.) If it is determined that the winner is not 21 years of age, the prize will be awarded in the name of the parent or guardian. 10.) In accordance with Florida law, no purchase or contribution is required to enter the drawing. 11.) In the event of any challenge or dispute of any nature whatsoever, the winner will be selected by the Executive Committee of The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre. The decision by the Executive Committee will be final and not subject to review. 12.) All applicable insurance, federal, state, and local taxes are the sole responsibility of the winner. Winner should be prepared to pay applicable taxes at time of prize delivery on or before 12:00 noon on Wednesday, June 30, 2010. 13.) The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre, Ford of Ocala, and/or WIND 95.5 FM are not responsible or liable for any actions or for any events that occur during or as a result of winner acceptance and use of prize. 14.) Winner agrees to allow The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre to use their name and likeness to promote Theatre activities and future drawings. The winner's name and photo will be posted on [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com) in July 2010. 15.) All contributions to the Theatre are final and non-refundable. 16.) Void where prohibited.

The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre, registration number CH14123, is registered with the State of Florida under the Solicitation of Contributions Act. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free 1-800-435-7352, within Florida. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

# HOLIDAY DUET

DECEMBER 17 THROUGH DECEMBER 20

Two great organizations have partnered to bring you a special holiday gift!

The Appleton Museum of Art and Ocala Civic Theatre invite you to a **Holiday Duet**, a special musical program starring Ocala Civic Theatre's leading actors performing traditional songs of the season on stage at the Appleton.

In addition to the music, this special ticketed event includes admission to the Appleton's popular "Art Of The Chopper" custom motorcycle exhibition, the new "Red" art exhibition, and all of the museum's permanent galleries – plus complimentary holiday treats and coffee.

Tickets for **Holiday Duet** are \$18.00 per person and available at Ocala Civic Theatre and the Appleton Museum of Art. Tickets may also be purchased online (with a service fee) at [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com).

**Holiday Duet schedule:**

**Thursday, December 17**

Museum doors open at 5:00 p.m. and concert at 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 18**

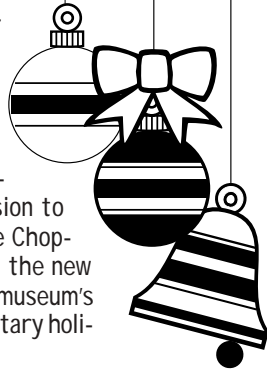
Museum doors open at 5:00 p.m. and concert at 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 19**

Museum doors open at 10:00 a.m. and concerts at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 20**

Museum doors open at noon and concert at 2:00 p.m.



## OCALA CIVIC THEATRE CELEBRATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

This season, Ocala Civic Theatre is celebrating its 60th Anniversary! Each month, starting with our July 2009 issue, we will be telling you about some of the highlights from our early years, reminding you of what life was like 60 years ago, and recognizing couples who have been married 60 years or more...

### Ocala Civic Theatre History ...

For a bit of our history, please enjoy this excerpt from "A Theatre Grows Up", published on the occasion of our 50th Anniversary: "During our early years, a vaudevillian by the name of Morris Osborne, came to town." He saw an opportunity in the hundreds of tourists visiting Silver Springs Attraction and purchased acreage on a stretch of open country road [now Silver Springs Boulevard] to build a theatre to house his shows. "The design was economically adapted to his concept, with trap doors and space beneath the stage for disappearance, but no wings for dressing, or depth for dramatic action. The space also lacked adequate storage and sanitary facilities, not to mention heat and air conditioning. Osborne became acquainted with The Marion Players and recruited several of our ranks to appear in his shows, which featured song and dance, and, his specialty – magic. Legend has it that Morris Osborne's ghost haunts the theatre to this day." A building lease was made available on a show-by-show basis starting in 1953 to the Marion Players for some of their productions. We eventually purchased the building in 1960.

### 60 Years Ago ...

Campbell's Pork & Beans was 25 cents for two 1 pound cans. The quart jar of Kraft Mayonnaise was 62 cents. The United States Joint Chiefs of Staff met in Japan to discuss the Korean War. Florence Chadwick swam the English Channel in 13 hours and 22 minutes. In 1950, there were 2,200 drive-in movie theatres – twice as many as in 1949. There were 10,500,000 TV sets in 10,400,000 homes. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Ralph J. Bunche, who was the first Black recipient and the Undersecretary of the United Nations at the time.

### Anniversaries ...

We will list couples in our newsletter throughout the season. To date, we have been contacted by a total of 141 couples! Here are our couples for and November and December ...

November 1, 1947: Jean & Erico Catalano

November 2, 1946: Paul & Evelyn Blow

November 4, 1942: Warren & Irene Hawkins

November 8, 1947: Hazen & Susan Keyser (subscribers since 1997)

November 10, 1945: Manley & Margaret Benmark (subscribers since 2004)

November 12, 1949: Steven & Barbara Scott

November 18, 1950: William & Norma Hockensmith

November 21, 1941: Marge & Phil Austin (subscribers since 1987)

November 28, 1945: Phillip & Shirley Calkins (subscribers since 1996)

November 28, 1948: Roy & Mary Francis

November 30, 1945: Don & Joyce Pixley (subscribers since 2001)

December 5, 1948: Robert & Beverley Johnston

December 11, 1948: Norman & Florence Klier (subscribers since 1994)

December 11, 1949: Roger & Phyllis Brilliant

December 17, 1948: Bob & Joan Luther

December 21, 1949: Donald & Peggy Harmon

December 24, 1944: William & Marie Robinson

December 24, 1947: Jim & Naoma Cotton (subscribers since 1988)

December 25, 1947: Don & Doris Morgan (subscribers since 2008)

December 26, 1947: Harold & Evelyn Stewart (subscribers since 2008)

December 26, 1948: James & Betty McGillen

December 26, 1942: Gene & Melba Moore

December 30, 1948: Tony & Helen Capillo (subscribers since 1988)

To be added to our 60th Anniversary list, please call (352) 236-2274 or e-mail [mbritt@ocalacivictheatre.com](mailto:mbritt@ocalacivictheatre.com).

# The Nutcracker

*presented by*

*Marion Ballet Theatre*

**DECEMBER 11 – DECEMBER 20**

*This all-familiar classic ballet celebrates the jolliness of the Holiday Season and creates the perfect opportunity for your family to gather and share in a magical experience.*

**Tickets Now on Sale**

Call (352) 236-2274, Ext. 100 or 101  
or go online to [www.ocalacivictheatre.com](http://www.ocalacivictheatre.com)

## 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	<b>Look Homeward, Angel</b> - Tickets on sale.
Now	<b>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</b> - Tickets on sale.
Now	Marion Ballet Theatre's <b>The Nutcracker</b> - Tickets on sale.
Now	<b>Holiday Duet</b> - Tickets on sale.
Dec. 7	<b>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</b> - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
Dec. 7	<b>New Year's Eve Party</b> - Tickets on sale for Flex Pass reservations and exchanges.
Dec. 14	<b>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</b> - Tickets on sale.
Dec. 14	<b>New Year's Eve Party</b> - Tickets on sale.
Dec. 21	<b>The Curious Savage</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. 8	<b>The Seussification Of Romeo And Juliet</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.
Apr. 19	<b>Peter Pan</b> - Flex Pass reservations and exchanges open.
May 3	<b>Peter Pan</b> - Tickets on sale.

## ED NOTES

Holiday Greetings to All. This happens to be my favorite month of the year. There's a nip in the air, giving thanks is on our minds, and family and friends are in our hearts. Here's what's been going on and what's coming up at Ocala Civic Theatre's Ed Department.

**A WARM CHRISTMAS STORY: *THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER*.** Rehearsals are underway and I'm pleased to report we're on task and looking divine. (Well ... except maybe not those pesky Herdman roustabouts.) Tickets are now on sale and we're all looking forward to sharing this beloved Christmas classic with you.

**CLASS EXPANSION: WINTER/SPRING CLASSES.** Ocala Civic Theatre is expanding its class offerings! On the horizon: a more growing schedule of classes with later times and wider school grades. Instructors will include Dani Moreno-Fuentes, Jamie Bevan, Mandy Seymore and Jeff Sensat. Our 2009-2010 Winter/Spring Class Schedule will be available in early December. Please join us for fun and to hone your stagecraft skills. • Our K-2 program includes Puppet Playground; Disco Disney; I Like To Move It, Move It; Theatre Trunk Junk; and Musical Theatre. • Programs for Grades 3-5 will include Comedy Sketch Group; Camera Acting; Freeing th Physical Actor; Character Singing; Theatre Alive; Musical Theatre; and Improvisation Station. • For Grades 6-12, check out Singing for Actors; Scene Study; Musical Theatre; and The Art of Improv.

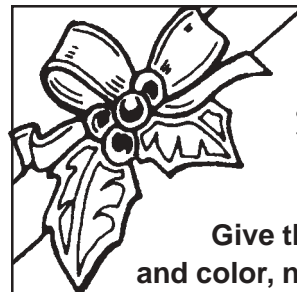
**SATURDAY WORKSHOPS.** Join us Saturday mornings this winter and spring for Broadway Belt with Jeff Sensat, Musical Theatre Dance with Blair Bybee, and Audition Techniques and Project Runway: Costume Design with Mandy Seymore.

**PERFORMANCE CLASSES.** The following performance classes are planned for the winter/spring session. • *The Curious Savage*. This teen-only performance of John Patrick's comedic and deeply touching story tells the tale of a widower who learns that love is the most enduring investment. Shows are January 22-24 and 29-30 in the rehearsal hall. Auditions: Monday, December 14, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Rehearsals begin January 4, Monday through Friday, 4:30-7:00 p.m. • *The Seussification Of Romeo And Juliet*. Auditions for this Seussified tragic-turned-comedic Shakespearean mashup is open to students in Grades 3-12. Performances will be on the outdoor stage. • *Give Me A Cookie*. This Spring Break Camp and performance is open to students in Grades K-5. • *Broadway Bound*. Students enrolled in the spring session Musical Theatre classes will perform in this musical revue.

**FACEBOOK.** Check out our Facebook page: "Ocala Civic Theatre - Education Dept." and become a fan. There are frequent posts including, most recently, pictures of *Macabaret VII* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ocala-Civic-Theatre-Education-Dept/151390277338?ref=ts>)

**PRIVATE VOICE AND ACTING LESSONS.** Refer to the Ed Department's Facebook page or the Ed Call Board for more information on times, prices and instructors.

**JUNIOR HARVEY AWARDS.** That's right! We're planning an evening of fun and accolades for Education Department students! More details soon ...



## Looking for a special holiday gift for friends or family?

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

**Special Three-Show Package: \$54.00**

Includes one ticket to each of the following shows:

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For information about this and other holiday gift options, call (352) 236-2274, Ext. 100 or 101.

## VIP: VERY IMPORTANT PERSON

Each month, we feature an outstanding volunteer. One of the most interesting aspects of interviewing the person is the wealth of background information uncovered. While we may see the person regularly as a volunteer, we don't always get the fascinating history of their life before they started as a volunteer. This is true of this month's VIP, **Bill Cassill**. Bill and his wife, Sandra, started as volunteers about five years ago. When asked for background information for this article, Bill sent us the following narrative. It's great, so ... "I was born in Iowa, but grew up in Ohio and graduated from the University of Toledo. Following graduation, I served in the U.S. Marine Corps. My wife, Sandra, and I have been married for 55 years. We have two children and four grandchildren.

"My working life was nomadic, starting in Michigan and Ohio, moving to the East Coast, then up and down the coast with homes ranging from Vermont to Florida - overall a total of ten states. The working career began with



AT&T for seven years, but then switched to IBM until retiring after 25 years. The IBM career also offered the highlight of working in Paris for three years and London for the last two years, allowing travel to most countries across Europe.

"After retirement and returning to the U.S., we settled in Vermont, where we converted an early-1800s farm home and farm into a Country Inn and became Innkeepers. This experience began at the same time as Bob Newhart's TV series. We didn't have all the situations of Newhart, but we had our share, and treasured our country life out of the hustle and bustle of our corporate life. After selling the Inn, we moved south with an eight-year stop in Savannah becoming adjusted to the South.

"And now we are finishing up six years in Ocala. While we love all there is here, finding Ocala Civic Theatre is one of the high points of retirement life. I remember *Little Shop of Horrors* as one of the first plays I saw, and was so impressed with the play and its staging that I clearly remember the large brick wall being raised and lowered. This marvel of theatre set construction, plus the back stage tour announced by Mary Britt, captured me as a volunteer in set construction. In the nearly five years of working with the set crew, I have worked on many excellent plays, but there are three sets that stand out - *Annie*, *God's Favorite* and *The Wizard of Oz* - and were my favorites.

"Throughout my life, I have made it a point to be involved as a volunteer, but I have found this theatre activity to be the most personally rewarding and satisfying. Every set is different and all are creative to different extents. The volunteer crew is made up of some fine men and women and the camaraderie is excellent. The talents all of us bring to the Theatre vary from those who can do it all to those of us who have lesser technical skills but still contribute to the final production. I feel lucky to be a part of Ocala Civic Theatre and its successes."

As you can tell from Bill's varied background, he brings a wealth of experience to the projects he tackles. In addition to set construction where his wife, Sandra, also volunteers as a painter, they both usher. One of the great virtues of the best set volunteers is attention to detail and the interest in always doing the best. Bill has both of these virtues in abundance. That and he's just plain great to be around! We don't know how long Ocala will be a stop on the Cassill's nomadic trail, but we are proud to have them as part of the Theatre family while they are here. Thank you!

### Felix's Italian Casa Restaurant and Catering

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Marge & Felix's newly renovated restaurant with the contemporary decor nestled in warm Tuscan colors. We have gone Italian, but still have many of your old favorites!

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

Valid only on day of show.\*  
Good for up to 4 people. Cannot be  
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\*Tickets for Sunday performances may be redeemed  
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We strongly recommend you make  
reservations on any evening you  
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Hours of Operation  
Tuesday through Saturday  
Lunch: 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Dinner: 4:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Sunday Brunch: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

### Moreno's UPTOWN Grill

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Offer good only the week of the performance.

Open 7 Days a Week Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner  
Breakfast and Lunch • Everyday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
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Plenty of Parking in Rear of Building

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## NOVEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Look 15 <i>Homeward, Angel</i> 2:00 p.m.	16	17	Look 18 <i>Homeward, Angel</i> 8:00 p.m.	Look 19 <i>Homeward, Angel</i> 8:00 p.m.	Look 20 <i>Homeward, Angel</i> 8:00 p.m.	Look 21 <i>Homeward, Angel</i> 8:00 p.m.
Look 22 <i>Homeward, Angel</i> 2:00 p.m.	23	ACT IV 24 General Meeting 6:00 p.m.	25	Happy 26 Thanksgiving Theatre Closed	Look 27 <i>Homeward, Angel</i> 8:00 p.m.	Look 28 <i>Homeward, Angel</i> 2:00 p.m.
Look 29 <i>Homeward, Angel</i> 2:00 p.m.	30					

## DECEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	<i>Best Christmas</i> <i>Pageant Ever</i> 7:00 p.m.	<i>Best Christmas</i> <i>Pageant Ever</i> 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.
<i>Best Christmas</i> <i>Pageant Ever</i> 2:00 p.m.	...Spelling Bee and New Year's Eve Party Flex Pass Reservations and Exchanges Open	8	9	10	<i>The</i> <i>Nutcracker</i> 8:00 p.m.	<i>The</i> <i>Nutcracker</i> 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
<i>The</i> <i>Nutcracker</i> 2:00 p.m.	...Spelling and New Year's Tickets on Sale <i>Big Bang</i> Auditions 7:00 p.m.	<i>The Big Bang</i> Open Auditions 7:00 p.m.	16	<i>The</i> <i>Nutcracker</i> 8:00 p.m.	<i>The</i> <i>Nutcracker</i> 8:00 p.m.	<i>The</i> <i>Nutcracker</i> 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
<i>The</i> <i>Nutcracker</i> 2:00 p.m.	21	22	23	24	Merry Christmas Theatre Closed	26
27	28	29	30	...Spelling Bee 8:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Party 10:00 pm	31	

## JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<i>25th Annual</i> ... <i>Spelling Bee</i> 8:00 p.m.	<i>25th Annual</i> ... <i>Spelling Bee</i> 8:00 p.m.
<i>25th Annual</i> ... <i>Spelling Bee</i> 2:00 p.m.	4	5	<i>25th Annual</i> ... <i>Spelling Bee</i> 8:00 p.m.	<i>25th Annual</i> ... <i>Spelling Bee</i> 8:00 p.m.	<i>25th Annual</i> ... <i>Spelling Bee</i> 8:00 p.m.	<i>25th Annual</i> ... <i>Spelling Bee</i> 8:00 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 electronically monthly and is available free of charge to anyone who is interested in our activities. A print copy is available bi-monthly upon request. For information about the organization or to be added to the mailing list, call (352) 236-2274.*

### ARE YOU AGE 70½ OR OLDER?

Here is a tax-deduction specifically for individuals 70½ or older! Through December 31, 2009 individuals who are 70½ or older are eligible to make a donation from their traditional or Roth IRA to a qualified charity (like Ocala Civic Theatre!) and receive special tax benefits. If you are interested in learning more, contact your tax advisor or call Mary Britt at 352-236-2851 ext. 104 and we can have someone contact you to answer questions. Help a local charity and gain tax benefits for yourself, too!