



STAGE Write


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STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE

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Starkville Community Theatre
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Starkville, MS 39760



Grant

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Other changes will include improvements to the fire detection system, new enhancements for the visually and hearing impaired, upgrades to the lighting system, and renovation and enlargement of the sound and light booth.

"We expect to launch SCT's fund-raising campaign soon," Williams said. "The sooner SCT raises funds for its share of the project, the sooner construction can begin."

Lead

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Elizabeth Urbanik, who began volunteering in the box office on set construction shortly after moving to Starkville over a year ago, was elected Historian.

The officers were nominated by a committee, led by Terry McDowell, and voted on by the membership.

In addition to the new officers, Marianne Ulmer and Brenda Garner were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

SCT is testing waters with extra show

SCT's regular season concluded with "The Queen of Bingo" on April 13. "The Complete History," thus, represents a new SCT initiative.

SCT's Play Selection Committee approved plans for "The Complete History," in mid-March.

As an experiment, SCT is offering

this show before the summer Children's Workshop and show and the summer musical.

"Although "The Complete History" is a post-season show, SCT will honor any unused portions of season subscribers' tickets," SCT president Marsha Williams said.

Show

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ical time period.

"There are some pretty goofy 'takes' on American history, including pre-revolutionary times," La Foe added.

MSU economics professor Campbell "has several challenging and funny roles in this show," La Foe said.

Campbell's SCT acting credits, both in character and lead roles, include

seven plays, the last of which was "Bus Stop" last spring.

Smith, performing in his fourth SCT show, was Nunzio in SCT's "Over the River and Through the Woods" last fall. Smith's performance as Nunzio garnered him an All-Star Cast award at the Mississippi Theatre Association Festival competition in January.

Lyle Tate, La Foe said, "has performed in seven shows, directed 'Bus Stop,' and has had major

roles in SCT's summer musical revues.

"His range of activities, both onstage and backstage, over the past five years has been remarkable."

He has also been a leader in SCT's Christmas caroling group, which serenades senior citizens and neighborhood groups.

SCT urges subscribers and others to call 323-6855 to reserve seats for the show. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$7 for students.

\$59,000 grant will help SCT

Starkville Community Theatre has received a \$59,120 matching grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission.

MAC Executive Director, Tim Hedgepeth, announced the grant on March 20. SCT will use the \$59,120 matching grant for additions and improvements to the Playhouse on Main.

For the 60-40 matching grant, SCT will need to raise almost \$40,000.

SCT's proposal sought \$81,000.

"The Commission's independent outside reviewers were tremendously impressed with SCT's proposal and plans as well as SCT's history of successful productions and financial stability," SCT president Marsha Williams said.

The grant is a part of the state legislature's Building Fund for the Arts program.

"SCT members are especially grateful for the legislature's vision and interest," Williams added.

With grant funds and SCT's match, SCT will add a 728-square foot area for dressing rooms, and set design, construction and storage space.

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SCT presents an extra show

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"The Complete History of America (Abridged)" opens a four-performance run on Thursday-Sunday, May 8-11, at the Playhouse on Main.

In this comedy for mature audiences, a three-person cast will "explore in many ways the oddities of U.S. history," Director Thomas La Foe said.

The "Complete History" cast includes Charles Campbell, Gabe Smith and Lyle Tate.

"All have been active performers and SCT members," La Foe stated.

Written by Adam Long, Reed Martin, and Austin Tichenor,



Lyle Tate, Charles Campbell and Gabe Smith star in the upcoming production of "The Complete History of America (Abridged)."

who formed its original cast, "The Complete History" originally opened a decade ago at North Carolina State University, with subsequent runs in Cambridge, MA, the Lincoln Center (New

York), and the Kennedy Center.

Each actor takes multiple roles, and rapid costume changes enable audiences to identify characters and their histor-

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New officers to lead SCT

Marsha Williams will soon begin her second year as president of the



Williams

Starkville Community Theatre, and she will do so with the assistance of a newly elected slate of officers.

In addition to Williams, Vice President-Elect Ann Bonner and Treasurer Bob Anderson will return as officers. Bonner, like Williams, is serving the second year of a two-year term. She will succeed Williams as president in July 2004. Anderson was nominated and reelected for a second term as treasurer.

SCT veteran Dom Cunetto will serve as Vice President for Membership. Cunetto has served SCT in many capacities and offices, most recently as Vice President for Play Selection.

Molly Watkins, who directed *Foreigner* and this year's *Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got the Will?)*, was elected Vice President of Play Selection. Lyle Tate, a veteran both on stage and behind the scenes, was elected Secretary.

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Time to sign up for the annual banquet

Vintage plates and silver, and vintage memories will play their parts in Starkville Community Theatre's Annual Banquet, to be held starting at 6 p.m., Thursday, June 5, upstairs at the Playhouse on Main.

Several members are lending their old china and silver plate for the event. Only pieces that CAN be replaced (no family heirlooms or priceless fiddly-bits) will be used.

The banquet will be buffet-style in order to keep costs down. Estimated cost for the event is \$16 per person.

Contenders for providing the buffet

are City Bagel, Oby's, and "What's for Dinner?"

Menu items will include meat or a casserole, vegetables, bread, iced tea, and dessert. Anyone with a preference for the food provider may call Joan Embree at 324-0410 before May 5.

Entertainment for the evening will include the availability of SCT scrapbooks from many years and opportunities for members to recount their favorite SCT memories.

Sign up for the Banquet and/or sign on to do some reminiscing by leaving a message at the Theatre (323-6855).

Theatre lines up four great shows for upcoming 2003-2004 season

If you are looking comedy, mystery, drama, and romance look no farther because Starkville Community Theatre's 2003-2004 season features all of that and more!

Opening in September with "Deathtrap," the entire season promises to take on as many exciting twists and turns as the thriller that was a smash hit on Broadway in the early 1980s.

"Inspecting Carol," a classic holiday comedy that pokes fun at Charles Dickens's classic "A Christmas Carol," will follow as the second show. "Proof," which won a Pulitzer Prize and Tony, and the farcical "It Runs in the Family" round out the season.

Dates for the season, as well as audition dates for all four shows, will be announced at a later time.

Deathtrap

"Deathtrap" focuses Sidney Bruhl, a celebrated writer of Broadway thrillers who's suffering a dry spell. After a string of embarrassing flops, he's spending time in his comfortable Westport, Conn., home with his fragile wife, Myra.

To make Sidney's slump all the more painful, Clifford Anderson, a student in one of Sidney's writing seminars, has recently sent his mentor a copy of his first play for Sidney's review and advice.

Out of his desperate desire to once again be the toast of Broadway, Sidney cooks up an almost unthinkable scheme to gain control of Clifford's play.

But shortly after Clifford arrives at the Bruhl home, it's clear that things are not as they seem.

Inspecting Carol

Prima donna performers. Love affairs. Tyrannical directors. Unfazed stage managers. Child actors from Hell. A Dickens classic. An N.E.A. funding review. What else can go wrong?

When the bankrupt theatre, Soapbox Playhouse, tries to stage the perennial holiday success, "A Christmas Carol," with only four days rehearsal, and at the

same time ingratiate itself to a man they mistakenly assume could give them a \$30,000 NEA grant, a slapstick comedy results. The resulting farce is the most hysterically awful version of "A Christmas Carol" imaginable.

Proof

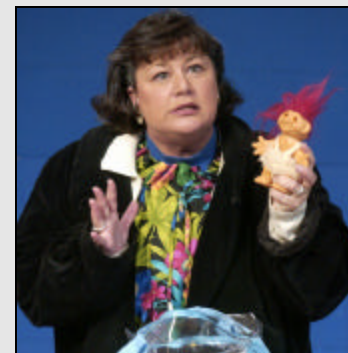
David Auburn won the 2001 Pulitzer for this poignant drama about love and reconciliation. The story follows Catherine, an enigmatic woman, who faces the challenges of a genius father, an unexpected suitor, and a mysterious mathematical proof—only to realize that love is the most complex equation of all.

Catherine is grieving over the loss of her father, a famous mathematician who had become a renowned figure in his field thanks to his ability to solve complicated proofs. But in his final years, his life was devastated by dementia. Just as Catherine begins to give in to her fear that she, too, might suffer from her father's condition, one of his former graduate students discovers a proof in an old notebook. Did Catherine's father solve the mathematical conundrum, or did Catherine?

It Runs in the Family

Set in the doctor's lounge of a London hospital three days before Christmas, the staff is preparing the annual holiday show. But that is only the sideshow. The real business is a conference of neurosurgeons. As Dr. David Mortimore is preparing his lecture that should guarantee him a knighthood and the hospital some badly needed funds, a former nurse bursts in with the news that their fling some 18 years and 9 months ago made Mortimore a father.

The boy (emotionally high strung and under arrest for driving under the influence) is downstairs, desperate to meet his long lost Dad. Now the good doctor really practices what he preaches. Lies pile on lies, as he enlists his colleagues to deceive his wife, his boss, a police sergeant and even his new-found son.



Madeline Golden (left) and Marianne Ulmer won their share of laughs in 'Queen of Bingo.'



'Queen of Bingo' is a real winner for SCT

The buzzword around Starkville Community Theatre last month was Bingo! And more than a dozen community residents - and avid SCT-goers - were yelling bingo in hopes of winning a frozen turkey as part of the 2003-2003 season finale at Playhouse on Main, "The Queen of Bingo."

Of course the cast and crew of the cast of The Queen of Bingo were the real winners. Newcomer Dennis Durham, Madeline Golden, Marianne Ulmer and Marcus Vowell enjoyed themselves thoroughly throughout the six-week rehearsal period and two-week run. And the audience picked up on their enthusiasm and energy.

The show provided some classic moments as Golden and Ulmer swapped stories - and insults - about many of the regulars at St. Joseph's Tuesday night Bingo.

From the Fat One to Lonnie, Cindy to Maxine - the audience got to know a handful of colorful characters through the eyes of Sis and Babe.

Directed by Pattye Archer and Molly Watkins, the show was deemed a success.

"This was such a fun show and such a wonderful cast," Archer said.

"Our goal was to entertain our audiences each night and I believe we accomplished that goal! It was fun to see the audience getting into the show each evening. And I really loved how excited they got playing bingo! It was an experience I will never forget."

Project P.L.A.Y. sets sail for a summer full of fun

Are you looking for something to keep your children entertained this summer? Well why not let them set sail on a magical theatrical journey?

SCT's Project P.L.A.Y. is a wonderful summer workshop and theatre experience for children of all ages!

"We have offered Project P.L.A.Y. at SCT for a number of years and each year we get

more and more interested children," said director MJ Etua. "We are pleased to offer this program and are looking forward to having a wonderful turnout again this year."

Project P.L.A.Y. teaches children about all aspects of the theatre - from what it is like to be on stage to what it takes to put on a major production. That is because each summer,

through Project P.L.A.Y., children in this community do put on a production.

This year's show is *Sails & Tales: Adventures on the High Seas*. The workshop and auditions get underway on Saturday, May 10, according to Etua.

Interested children will meet every Saturday in the May from 1-3 p.m., and weekday mornings from 10 to noon in

June, she said.

The show will run the week of June 23-27, with the curtain rising at 7 p.m.

"MJ is wonderful with this program and with the children," said SCT present Marsha Williams. "I encourage parents to get to their children involved."

For more information, please call 323-6855.



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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF ENTERTAINMENT



Starkville Community Theatre celebrated 25 years of entertainment during a formal gala hosted at Playhouse on Main. Under the wonderful direction of Ann Bonner and Joan Wilson, SCT supporters celebrated in true style.



Congratulations Gabe Smith
winner of the Kennedy Center ACTF National Critics Institute