

READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Pennsylvania's Third Oldest Community Theater ... Founded in 1920



THE CALLBOY ▪ NEWSLETTER FOR READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS ▪ July 2011 ISSUE

Happy Fourth of July!!

Other July Dates to Remember

- July 12 Board Meeting
- July 17 Reading Pride Celebration in Centre Park ... FAME performs
- July 19 Play reading committee meeting at the Hendel, 7PM
- July 29 FAME opens!!!!
- July 30 Pat Perfect throws a party!!

Too bad you missed "A Little Princess"! Cheryl Thornberg didn't. Here's her review. Check out her Blog!

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

'A Little Princess' brings back memories and creates new ones

By Cheryl Thornburg

There are some amazing young actors in this area as I have witnessed in recent weeks, and Reading Community Players' production of "A Little Princess" showcases many of them.

This classic tale of Sarah Crewe, who grows up in India and is pampered by her wealthy father, will be familiar to many of us thanks to the timeless Shirley Temple film about the little girl who is her father's "little princess." He sends her to a boarding school in London, but then dies suddenly and Sara becomes a pauper and has to work as a servant at the school where she was once a student. Kathryn Majesky plays Sara Crewe in RCP's "A Little Princess." It is based on the 1905 novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett that has been retold in many forms -- even Japanese anime.

Kathryn Majesky, a 6th-grade student at Oley Valley Middle School, plays Sara with the poise and composure befitting a princess as she goes from princess to pauper. Her portrayal of the kind-hearted Sara is believable and endearing.

Not endearing is the play's villainess, Miss Minchin played with iron-clad talent by Debbie Maier. She brings the stern, self-centered school mistress to life, creating one of those characters that you love to hate.

Also relishing a role as a mini-villainess is Christina Flamporis as Lavinia, the school's "mean girl" who is always causing trouble for the other girls. Christina, who will be a 7th-grader at Exeter Junior High in the fall, is delightfully devious as the outgoing and mischievous Lavinia.

Her real-life twin sister, Melissa, plays another of the students, Jessie, who is the opposite of Lavinia, quiet and shy.

Playing other students in the school are Cassandra Scheese, as Emengarde who has to eat throughout the entire show; and Alannah Seyler, as Lottie who gets to throw an amazing temper tantrum.

Julia De Gruchy, a 10th-grader at Wilson High School, makes the most of her role as Becky, the beleaguered, over-worked maid. She brings whining to a whole new level.

Other young actors include Mazie Sol Strouse as Annie, Nicole Greenfield as Janet, Rebekka Schwenk as Nora, and Robert Harwell as Guy Lawrence.

Though the young actors shine in this production, there are also some fine performances by adults in the cast including Deb Brubaker, as Amelia, Miss Minchin's submissive and put-upon sister; Mindy Wheeler, as Sara's French maid, Marie; and Diann Stewart, as Miss Tibault, the French tutor. Ruth Martelli played Mrs. Perrins in last Sunday's show (Kathy Newville also will play that role for some performances); Patrick McCaffrey, plays a lawyer, Mr. Barrows; Brian Miller, Mr. Carrisford, a friend of Sara's father; Steve Dzielak, Lascar, a servant; and Greg Harwell, Mr. Michaels, another lawyer.

The show is directed by Debbi Silas, assisted by Marissa Hoover.

It offers great family entertainment for just a little more than a trip to a movie and adds the intimacy and excitement of live theater. This is a perfect show to introduce your children and grandchildren to what can lead to a lifelong passion for the performing arts.

Thanks, Cheryl!!

Successful Auditions for To Kill A Mockingbird.

When a show has a cast of twenty, a director might be a bit worried, wondering if his auditions will bring out enough good actors to fill all the roles. Any fears Bruce McLean may have had were allayed when many talented actors attended auditions on June 19 and 20. Bruce is currently on a two week vacation, so those who auditioned will have to wait a few more days until the cast is announced.

Right this minute, grab a pen and circle the dates for this amazing show: September 23, 24, 25 and 30, October 1 and 2.

FAME 2011

Dance! Music! Drama...and more drama!! That's life in a Performing Arts High School! It's the 80s in New York City and a large group of kids all want just one thing...FAME! Too bad all must auditions and few will be chosen. Please join us as Reading Community Players, with permission from MTI, presents FAME 2011 directed by Hope O'Pake. Her crew of assistants include Amanda Leam, choreography; Greg Mazurek, music director; and Josh Austin assistant director. This production marks ten years since Carol and Ed Butler helmed FAME 2001. Both Hope and her daughter, Amanda Leam, appeared in that production; in fact, Hope will reprise her role from 2001!! A large cast includes teens from throughout Greater Reading. We've already witnessed their enthusiasm, talent and dedication to this project. Please help support them by filling each of the houses to celebrate FAME 2011!!!

July 29, 30, 31, August 5, 6, 7. Check the website, www.rcptheatre.com or call the theatre, 610-375-9106, for tickets.

The cast of FAME will be performing at the Reading Pride Celebration in Centre Park on July 17!! Check their website for the time. They'll also be performing at the Cabaret at the Crown Plaza on July 8.

FAME 2011 CAST LIST

MEN:

Leroy - James Barksdale

Alex - Alex Forsyth

Angel - Michael Roman

Barbershop Quartet - Nick Moore, Zach Weisman, Dan Lesko, Colin Long

Bruno - Owen Halsey

Monty - Alex Potcovaru

MC - Mikee Echavarria

Michael - Karl Kemmerer

Ralph - Bronson Taylor

Featured Performers - Karl Kemmerer, Alex Torres

WOMEN:

Doris - Elizabeth Pienta
Phenicia - Shannen Moser
Joy - Katie Spencer
Nicole - Ali Clark
Dana – Sydne Lyons

Coco - Amanda Gray
Lydia - Kelly Fries
Marianne – Danielle Moore
Marisol - Daphnee McMaster

Chelsea Elizabeth - Jess Feldman
Lisa - Amy Swartz
Deirdre - Allison Gieringer
Hilary – Erika Guthier

Featured Dancers - Krista Grevas, Briana Hafer, Jen Heydt, Cece Peery

ADULTS:

Shorofsky - Kirk Lawrence
Angelo Martelli - Greg Mazurek
Berg - Marjory Ewald

Farrell - Chuck Austin
Schwartz - Laura Stewart
Sherwood - Hope O'Pake

ENSEMBLE MEMBERS: Logan Hatt, Summer Rose Biros, Billy Bailey

Party Time!!

I'd like to extend an invitation to you and all of RCP to the Hendel July 30th 12-4 PM for a picnic and some fun. Please invite folks from Christmas Carol w S, Doubt, Hats, FAME , Little Princess via the Callboy, that'd be great. The address is 746 Centre Ave. Reading. We have parking all around the streets there and, since we'll party in the PM, hopefully folks from Fame can make it too I know it's opening weekend for them but anyway, we'll hope they can make it, I'll be giving out the Christmas Carol w S DVDs from Gary and thought it'd be fun for everyone to enjoy music, water balloons, fun, food, and beverages.

Pat

Happy Birthday, Jerri!!!!

Many thanks, and happy birthday, to Jerri Boyer Richards for requesting that guests celebrating her 90th make donations to RCP rather than giving her gifts. What a tremendously thoughtful gesture!! Here's looking at you, Jerri!!!

Donations, Please

Like all non-profits, RCP relies on the kindness of strangers, okay, friends, to help us fulfill some of our needs. So, here are some items from our wish list for your consideration:

A laptop computer
Several dehumidifiers for the basement
Paper supplies for the bathrooms

Gift cards to Lowes
Gift cards for 1-800-Got-Junk

Thanks!

Other places to see live theatre in Berks:

High School Musical at Genesis July 15-24

Symphony of Dreams at the Miller Center July 23, 24

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Alpha from July 29

Our condolences to Pamm Savage and her family on the recent death of husband, Richard, and to Hope O'Pake and family on the passing of her brother.

READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS 2011 SEASON

HATS

Directed by Ruth Martelli
February 19 & 20

DOUBT

Directed by Bruce McLean
March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

A LITTLE PRINCESS

Directed by Debbi Silas
June 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26

FAME

Directed by Hope O'Pake
July 29, 30, 31, August 5, 6, 7

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Directed by Bruce McLean
September 23, 24, 25, 30, October 1, 2

HOUSE OF YES

Directed by Ray Rhoads
November 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

www.rcptheatre.org



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