

SPOTLIGHT



FOUNTAIN SQUARE PLAYERS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER

AMERICAN CLASSIC CLOSES SEASON

Fountain Square Players' twenty-eighth season will close at the Capitol July 12-15 with a wonderful musical that will appeal to all ages, *Oklahoma!* There are only a handful of shows that FSP has repeated during its history, and *Oklahoma!* now joins that short list. **Elizabeth Slattery** is the director and choreographer; **Julie Pride** is the music director.

Oklahoma! was the first musical play written by composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II. Some argue that it marked a revolution in musical drama: *Oklahoma!* implemented a number of new storytelling techniques, including focusing on emotional empathy; dealing with characters and situations far removed from the audience by time and geography; dealing with American historical and social materials; and its use of dance to convey plot and character rather than mere diversion for the audience.

Oklahoma!, which is based on Lynn Riggs's 1931 play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*, is set in Oklahoma Territory outside the town of Claremore in 1906, and tells the story of cowboy Curly McLain (**Wes Drummond**) and his romance with farmer girl Laurey Williams (**Selena Walker**). Their love is challenged by Laurey's threatening farmhand, Judd Fry (**Shane Holinde**), and much of the play follows the contest between Curly and Jud for Laurey's affections. A

comic subplot follows Laurey's friend, Ado Annie Carnes (**Maggie Blair**) and her on-again/off-again relationship with cowboy Will Parker (**Eric Doades**). Other primary characters include Aunt Eller (**Robyn Murphy**), Ali Hakim (**Jim Peterson**), Ike Skidmore (**Dan Swanson**), Andrew Carnes (**Rick White**), and Cord Elam (**Alan Simpson**). (The complete cast list is on page two).

The original production of *Oklahoma!* opened in 1943 and was choreographed by Agnes de Mille, who provided one of the show's most notable and enduring features: a 15-minute first-act ballet finale (often referred to as a dream ballet) arising from Laurey's inability to make up her mind between Jud and Curly. The original production ran for a then unprecedented 2,212 performances.

The play was adapted into an Academy Award-winning musical film in 1955, starring Gordon MacRae, Shirley Jones (in her film debut), Rod Steiger, Gloria Grahame and Eddie Albert. Rodgers and Hammerstein personally oversaw the film themselves to prevent the studio from making the changes that were then typical of stage-to-film musical adaptations—such as putting in new songs by different composers.

Bring your family to enjoy



OKLAHOMA!

CAPITOL ARTS CENTER

SHOW TIMES

July 12 - 14

Thursday - Saturday

8:00 p.m. &

Sunday, July 15

3:00 p.m.

TICKETS

Adult: \$12.00

Students & Senior

Citizens - \$10.00

Children - \$6.00

**reserved seats with
advanced purchase
tickets available at
Capitol Box Office
782-ARTS**

FSP is an affiliate of the capitol arts alliance



Upcoming Season



Membership Renewal



COMPLETE CAST LIST FOR OKLAHOMA!

Director & Choreographer: Elizabeth Slattery
 Assistant Director/Stage Manager: Miliska Knauff
 Music Director: Julie Pride
 Assistant Choreographer: Ashley Long

Curley	Wes Drummond
Laurey	Selena Walker
Ali Hakim	Jim Peterson
Ado Annie	Maggie Blair
Will Parker	Eric Doades
Aunt Eller	Robyn Murphy
Judd Fry	Shane Holinde
Ike Skidmore	Dan Swanson
Andrew Carnes	Rick White
Cord Elam	Alan Simpson



Kathleen Angerbauer	Shannon Morehead
Keith Bishop	Missy Piorkowski
Jessie Boeglin	Christopher Powell
Bob Buehl	Emily Pride
Michelle Brownlee	Cherri Reed
Ali Bryant	Natalie Richer
Cat Cantrell	Victoria Richer
Drew Chambers	Brett Riley
Melvin Chambers	Melinda Sears
Emily Kay Chrisman	Rick Shreve
Alexandra Davidson	Caroline Simpson
Jarod Dennis	Hannah Slattery
Leslie Dobbins	MacMillan Slattery
Lara Ellison	Nicholas Slattery
Laura Beth Fox	Melody Small
Allison Gee	Mason Smith
Jennifer Hicklin	Paul Swanson
Benita Hodges	Elizabeth Swiney
Rebecca Jernejcic	Alexis Tucker
Madeleine Jones	Alyssa Turner
Cate Kilgore	Alexandra Watts
Meredith Kilgore	Elizabeth Watts
Jessica Lunsford	Jane Embry Watts
Iajahnni Matthew	Victoria Watts
Andrew McDermott	Emily White
Elisabeth McDermott	Bethany Williams
Drew Mitchell	Sarah Wood

And Baby Makes Nine!!

A year ago we were announcing Heather & Craig Bitterling's latest addition to the family, Jeremiah Lincoln, born June 27, 2006. Well announcing Heather & Craig Bitterling's latest addition to the family, **Isabella Kency**, born June 19, 2007. She weighed in at 6 lbs 3 oz, with a head of black curls and ruby red lips. Everyone at the Bitterling house is ecstatic, perhaps most of all older sister Savannah, who will now have an ally against all of the brothers. Congratulations Bitterling family!

DANCING WITH FSP

A recent fund-raiser event for the Make A Wish Foundation had a certain FSP flavor. Presented by WBKO and WUHU 107 on May 15, the Dancing with Bowling Green's Own dance competition featured choreography by **Elizabeth Slattery**, and nine of the twenty contestants were present or former FSP members. Each of the ten couples performed either a Swing or Tango; four finalists then had to perform whatever dance they did not perform in the preliminary competition.

The competition was eventually won by **Adam (Winter) Winegarden** and **Ashley Long**. Adam was featured in FSP's last production, *Wait Until Dark*. Ashley is probably best remembered for her role in 2004's *No Sooner Won Than Wed*. Other finalists included **Nicholas Slattery** (with his partner Courtney Lassiter), **Anna Irons** (with Brandon Lokits) and **Elizabeth Slattery** and **Gene Birk**. **Hannah Slattery** and **Shane Holinde** also danced in the preliminary competition, as did **Jane Embry Watts** (with her partner Cliff Cothorn).

Congratulations to all the participants for providing a fun evening and raising money for a worthwhile cause.

BOARD VACANCY

FSP will have at least one vacancy on its fifteen member board of directors by the beginning of the new season. Board members are expected to attend the monthly meetings, head a committee or participate in committee work and eventually work into an officer position, and actively work on some productions each season. Board meetings are normally 8:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, but are occasionally changed to a preceding or following Thursday if the regular meeting date conflicts with an opening night performance. One must have been an active member for at least six months in order to be nominated. If you are interested in being nominated, contact Mike Grubbs at 781-5273 (home) or email jmgrubbs71@aol.com by July 16. The organization's bylaws describe the responsibilities of board members and can be viewed on FSP's website at www.fountainsquareplayers.org

29TH SEASON SET

Fountain Square Players' next season has a nice mix of comedy, drama, and music -- something for everyone! Season flyers will be out soon. Don't miss this great line up.

UPCOMING AUDITIONS

MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS

Legendary producer David O. Selznick has shut down production of his new epic, *Gone with the Wind*, a film adaptation of Margaret Mitchell's novel. The screenplay, you see, just doesn't work. So what's an all-powerful movie mogul to do? While fending off the film's stars, gossip columnists and his own father-in-law, Selznick sends for famed screenwriter Ben Hecht and pulls formidable director Victor Fleming from the set of *The Wizard of Oz*. Summoning both to his office, he locks the doors, closes the shades, and on a diet of bananas and peanuts, the three men labor over five days to fashion a screenplay that will become the blueprint for one of the most successful and beloved films of all time.

DIRECTOR: Lynn Gilcrease

AUDITIONS: Tuesday & Wednesday, September 4 & 5, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Capitol. The cast calls for three men and one woman.

Scripts should be available for check out from the Capitol Box Office ahead of time, but must be returned before August 31 (deposit required). Help will also be needed with set construction, costumes, props and stage crew, so even if you are not interested in auditioning, please come sign up to help with other aspects of the production.

PERFORMANCES: October 18-21 at The Phoenix (Thursday - Saturday @ 8:00 p.m., Sunday @ 3:00 p.m.)

THE REST OF THE SEASON

A BAD YEAR FOR TOMATOES

Directed by Bill Green

March 6-9 at The Phoenix

A hilarious success dealing with the very funny misfortunes of a famous television actress who seeks to "get away from it all" in a small New England town. What begins as a harmless story to keep well-meaning but curious neighbors and visitors at bay, eventually ends up as a murder charge. The

uproarious doings will keep audiences laughing right up to the final curtain, and then some.

THE EXACT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

Directed by Lynn Gilcrease

April 24-27 at The Phoenix

"Wise and funny...tickles with its juicy dialogue and zesty characters....An amiable comedy about a classic Southern dragon-lady mother." Vada Love Powell, the self-appointed doyenne of a small Southern town, sets out to scare off another prospective bride for her beloved son, but she meets her match. Her son is already secretly married. Now Vada must face her best friends when the three gather to "play canasta and consume sweets." They

agree that Vada "had this one coming," but she pretends nothing has happened. It's a complete surprise when her son returns with his shy bride, who astounds even Vada with her love for him.

FIRST BAPTIST OF IVY GAP

Directed by Bill Russell

May 15-18 at The Phoenix

With humor and pathos, six very different women find comfort, forgiveness and redemption in each other. Winner of multiple playwriting awards. "A warm and respectable story about six strong and resourceful characters ... very, very funny, all the more because it relies on deep human emotion". We first meet the characters during World War II. When we next see them twenty five years later, their biggest challenge isn't the church's upcoming centennial but revelations that shake relationships formed over a quarter of a century.



CRAZY FOR YOU

Directed by Kathy Wise Leonard

July 17-20 at The Capitol

Crazy for You is the story of Bobby Child, a well-to-do 1930's playboy, who's dream in life is to dance. And despite the serious efforts of his mother and soon-to-be-ex-fiancee, Bobby achieves his dream! Memorable Gershwin tunes include *I Can't Be Bothered Now*, *Bidin' My Time*, *I Got Rhythm*, *Naughty Baby*, *They Can't Take That Away from Me*, *But Not for Me*, *Nice Work if You Can Get It*, *Embraceable You* and *Someone to Watch Over Me*. It's a high energy comedy which includes mistaken identity, plot twists, fabulous dance numbers and classic Gershwin music. The musical won three Tony awards, three Outer Critics Circle Awards, and two Drama Desk Awards (all including Musical).

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Memberships come due September 1, at the start of the new season. Please renew your membership by completing the attached form and returning to FSP with your check for the appropriate amount. Contributors are automatically given membership. The form also provides a place to make a contribution to the Robert Crosby Memorial Scholarship Fund. FSP grants approximately \$1,000 in scholarships each year, to college students who have participated in FSP productions and are majoring in the performing arts.

www.fountainsquareplayers.org

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OKLAHOMA!
 JULY 12 - 15
 CAPITOL ARTS CENTER

FOUNTAIN SQUARE PLAYERS
 C/O CAPITOL ARTS ALLIANCE
 416 E. MAIN STREET
 BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101



HELP SUPPORT COMMUNITY THEATER! MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership is required of anyone performing any activity in FSP productions. Membership also entitles you to participate in social events, AND attend and vote at monthly board meetings (second Thursday of each month). It will also continue receipt of the member newsletter, the printing and mailing of which are barely covered by membership dues. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY THEATER BY JOINING. If you purchase season tickets **and** give a donation as a contributor, you do not have to pay dues.

NAME(S) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP ____ \$3 STUDENT (through college) ____ \$5 INDIVIDUAL
 ____ \$10 FAMILY list other family members _____

Donation to ROBERT CROSBY memorial scholarship fund: \$ _____

