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BEAUMONT COMMUNITY PLAYERS

"where local talent is center stage"

Back Stage Whispers

September 2011

Directors Corner

By: Paula Bothe



Beaumont Community players will open the 2011-2012 season with the classic musical, "Gypsy." Featuring book by Arthur Laurents, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and music by Jule Styne, the show has become the icon of all that a musical can be. The show is often cited as having the "best book in musicals" and features one of the most recognizable scores in musical theatre. It also boasts the leading role coveted by nearly every musical star in America, Mama Rose. Loosely based on the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, the show is a "musical fable" about the life and times of one of the most famous ecdysiasts in the world.

From a beginning as a divorcee in Seattle, Rose Hovick badgers, pushes, and exploits her daughter June into being a child star on the vaudeville circuit. Her other daughter, Louise, is relegated to a subordinate role dancing as a boy in the act that features her sister. When June finally decides that she is too old to play a baby any more,

she runs away and marries a boy in the act. Left without June, Rose turns to Louise who has "no talent" and tries to make her into June. The conflict between the two women provides one of the most interesting mother-daughter conflicts ever presented on the stage. And along the way, they sing. "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Let Me Entertain You," "Some People," and "You Gotta Have A Gimmick" are just a few of the songs that are staples of American music. The show is timeless and has been revived on Broadway three times, each time winning Tony Awards. It has been made into a movie starring Natalie Wood as Louise and a TV show featuring Bette Midler as Rose.

Two familiar actresses will play the leading roles in the BCP production. Ramona Young, well know area director, will appear in the role of Rose and Natalie Cardona will be Louise. Cardona will be remembered for her outstanding performance

in "The Scarlett Pimpernell." The romantic lead, Herbie, will be played by Thomas Hall. Raine Jones and Corrine Renick will be featured as Baby Louise and Baby June. Renee Morris will be Dainty June. The show features a cast of 53 including newcomers as well as seasoned performers and ages range from 6 to senior citizens.

The show opens September 9th.

Local Drama Teacher Seizes Role of a Lifetime

By: Brooke Hall



“Rose is the role of a lifetime. I’m so grateful and honored to get the chance to play her, and I’m hoping I do her justice.”

Ramona Young is no stranger to the stage. She has been involved in Southeast Texas theatre for the past 34 years. She has directed or acted in 25 shows in the last 6 years alone! Her debut with Beaumont Community Players was about 15 years ago when she played a nightclub singer in “1940’s Radio Hour.” Other favorite shows include her directorial debut, “Sisters Rosensweig,” and “Pump Boys and Dinettes,” starring as Rhetta Cupp.

During the school year, Ramona teaches 6th, 7th, and 8th graders drama at All Saints Episcopal School. She started the school year by casting 56 kids in a hysterical variety show called “Hollywood Unplugged.” The storyline is based on skits Ramona pulled together, poking fun at such cultural phenomenon as the Twilight Series. In addition to directing the older students’ plays, she also coordinates the technical aspects of the younger children’s productions.

When school lets out, this Beaumont native takes off to LA for the bright lights of Hollywood! She has spent the last two summers helping author and playwright, Chambers Stevens, prepare young adults to become professional actors. During “Summer Boot Camp” she teaches 120 invited teens skills such as auditioning for casting directors and finding an agent. Last summer she

“workshopped” (blocked scenes, cast, directed) an original play by Stevens called “Hometown Girl,” now set to debut in a Chicago regional theatre this fall.

There is no question that this Theatre Dame has seen it all... including a gigantic tree roach crawl across a cast mate’s head and terrorize the Chorus as it zigzagged its way across the stage during the dramatic last scene of “Mame.”

She chuckles as she tells the story, “The Audience was cracking up as they watched this roach fly around for 15-20 seconds. Members of the cast were screaming, and I had to walk off stage because I was laughing so hard.”

Right now Ramona is looking forward to BCP’s production of “Gypsy.” She will be playing Rose, an overbearing stage mother who will stop at nothing to see her daughter succeed. Rose is bossy and demanding...and one of the most complex parts in American Musicals.

“Rose is the role of a lifetime,” she says. “I’m so grateful and honored to get the chance to play her, and I’m hoping I do her justice.”

Ramona is also hoping the audience will see a little bit of themselves in the character, especially when it comes to parenthood.

“We want our children to have more than we had. That can lead to living vicariously through them, and there is some selfishness in that kind of love.”

While she admits that Rose is certainly “on the extreme end of the spectrum,” Ramona relates to her because “all parents want the best for their kids.”

In a way, “Gypsy” takes Ramona back to her own childhood, when she wanted to be a professional actress “more than anything.”

“I wanted to go to New York at 18, but had no idea how to go about it.”

So today, she strives to support and teach those students who want to pursue acting professionally.

“I tell my kids that it’s not an inaccessible world. You need a fair amount of luck, hard work and dedication, but you can be from Beaumont, Texas and realize your dream.”

Ramona is a passionate advocate for her theatre students. She plays many roles in the community: teacher, director, actress, and mentor. Make sure you don’t miss her in the role of a lifetime, as she breathes life into Momma Rose in Beaumont Community Players upcoming production of “Gypsy.”

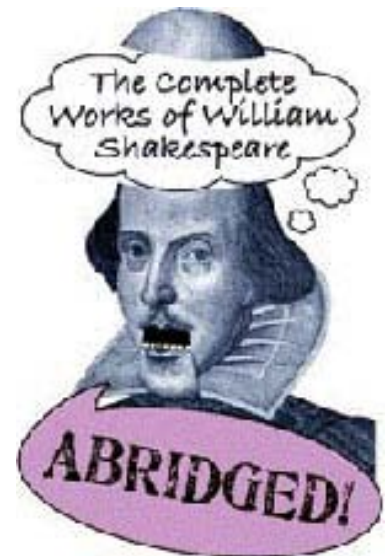
THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (Abridged)

Coming Soon...All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes! An irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's plays, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged). Join madcap men in tights as they weave their wicked way through all of Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies in one wild ride that will leave you breathless and helpless with laughter.

Director: Keith Cockrell

October 21, 22, 28, 29*, 29, November 3, 4, 5, 2011

Studio Theatre



Upcoming Auditions

William Shakespeare-Abr. Monday & Tuesday, September 12 & 13, 2011 7:00 pm

Scrooge - Kids aged 7-10 Saturday, October 1, 2011 1:00 pm

Scrooge - Kids aged 11-18 Saturday, October 1, 2011 3:00 pm

Scrooge - Adults Monday & Tuesday, October 3 & 4, 2011 7:00 pm

The Margaret Bolton School

Margaret Bolton School for the Performing Arts will be offering several workshops this Fall for students in grades 4-12. Workshops will include options in Acting, Musical Theatre Vocals, and Stage Movement .

Information will be posted soon on our website, BeaumontCommunityPlayers.com with dates and specific class offerings.

Volunteer At BCP

Beaumont Community Players depends on the support of volunteers to keep the theatre running. You can make a difference by giving a few hours of your time.

Come to an audition if you've ever wanted to be in a play. How about build or decorate a set? Ever wanted to work backstage making costumes, providing props, or smearing on make-up? If so, BCP invites you to become an active participant in its many fun-filled activities. There's always a need for people to perform the dozens of tasks required to present our plays.

Want to get involved? Here are some areas you may wish to consider:

Set Construction Props

Backstage Crew Office Support

Make-up Actors

Lights Set Strikers

Sound Costumes

To be notified of upcoming opportunities to audition for a play, work on constructing sets, or to find out about future events at BCP, please Join Our Email List, indicating the areas in which you are interested at www.beaumontcommunityplayers.com

Items Needed

BCP needs rolls of Christmas and Holiday wrapping paper. If you have leftover rolls that you don't intend to use this season, please bring them to the theatre before October 31st. We will use the paper for the set and decorations for Scrooge.

Box Office Hours

The Box Office is currently open Tuesdays through Fridays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

During the run of a show, the box office will also be open Saturdays beginning 2 hours before a performance.

In Memorial

The following people have made donations in memory of Kittie Manley:

Stanton Wolfrom

Rose Maxwell

Vincent and Ruth Barranco

Gethrel Wright

Beaumont Community Players

4155 Laurel Avenue
Beaumont, TX 77707

PHONE:
(409) 833-4664

FAX:
(409) 833-4667

OFFICE/BOX OFFICE
HOURS:
TUES.-FRIDAY
11:00 AM TO 6:00 PM

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.beaumontcommunityplayers.com

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