



FALL 2011

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fall is the time to enjoy the cooler weather, rake leaves, plant shrubs, and begin a new theatre season. OCTA can help market your next auditions or production.

Let us know, and we will email a notice to all our members.

In addition, OCTA is working on a new website design that should be online by the first of the year.

Planning is already underway for Festival 2012 in Tonkawa. “Stake Your Claim” is the theme from OCTAFest Chairman Chris Williams. Hosting is Ponca City Playhouse and dates are July 11—15, 2012.

So enjoy the fall weather and new beginnings.

Sharon Burum,
OCTA President



OCTA Board 2011 Retreat in Ponca City! Left: Board with the cast of “Dixie Swim Club” Right: Board hard at work!

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OCTAFEST IS COMING YOUR WAY NEXT SUMMER

Oklahoma Community Theatre Association (OCTA) is issuing an invitation to theatres to “Stake Your Claim” on theatrical excellence by participating in the 2012 OCTAFest July 11–15, 2012 on the campus of Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, OK.

Oklahoma’s live theatres are invited to compete for the opportunity to advance to regional and national festivals within the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) system. Professional adjudicators evaluate one hour performances of licensed plays and musicals according to rules

established by AACT.

OCTA has a long history of winning theatres. In 2006, for the first time, two plays from Oklahoma theatres were selected to advance to regional



competition and in 2011, Broken Arrow Theatre advanced to national competition with their production of “The Gin Game.”

OCTAFest was founded in 1970 as a biennial competition and educational event for Oklahoma theatres. Performances of licensed plays and musicals are scheduled during the afternoons and evenings with theatre workshops during the morning hours. Productions are open to the public.

Information and OCTAFest applications will be available soon at the OCTA website, www.oktheatre.org.

SUSAN POWELL – MISS AMERICA 1981



Recently Susan Powell, a professional performer now of New

York City and former Miss America 1981, came back to her hometown, Elk City, Oklahoma, and was interviewed by the Elk City Daily News. When asked “What did you learn growing up in Elk City that you can use in your professional life today?” Susan replied, “Oh my ... well-everything. I think mostly I would say that I learned my view of the world there. My work ethic certainly is a reflection of the way I was brought up. I loved growing up in such a close knit community where I

felt loved and supported during my most formative years.” When asked “Any mentors from your hometown?” Susan replied, “My choir teacher, my band director. Really, all of my teachers. And everyone involved with the **Red Carpet Community Theatre**. Doing shows there provided really important hours spent learning how to work in the theatre. **I’m a cheerleader for community theatre because of what I know it did for me.**”

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

Agatha Christie’s “And Then There Were None” is in rehearsal and set to open October 21st at the **Broken Arrow Community Playhouse** located at 1800 S. Main Street in Broken Arrow. Jimmy Pike is directing a classic tale of ten strangers who are invited to a mansion on an island. Once there, it soon becomes evident

that there is a killer among them- and unless they can stop him or her in time, they will all be wiped out one by one.

Performances are October 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 28th, 29th, 30th (Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 2 pm.).

Season Tickets will be on sale until November 1st making the six money saving coupons (redeemable for any

show) a killer deal. Contact the box office for reservations and pricing— 918-258-0077.



THEATRE TULSA PRESENTS "DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE"

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher from the novella *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, by Robert Louis Stevenson

We all know the story. Henry Jekyll is the model Victorian gentleman . . . or is he?

In this new and sometimes shocking adaptation of Stevenson's novella, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, playwright Jeffrey Hatcher opens the window to the human soul in a slightly different and intriguing manner. Jekyll's experiments with "powders and tinctures" have brought forth the evil Edward Hyde, a sensualist and villain. Yet, Jekyll finds he is becoming lost in his own creation and in many ways is unable to control his newly released desires.

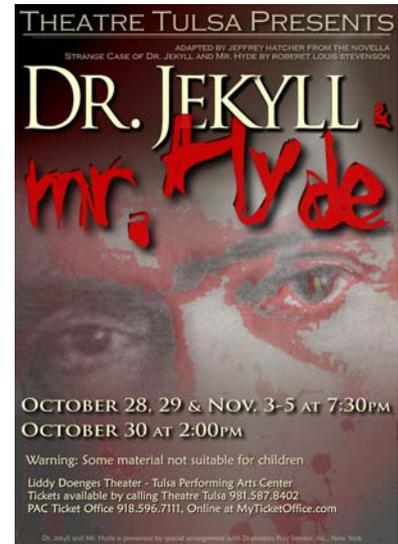
"If you consider the psychology of Mr. Hyde, the concept of multiple personalities makes sense because no

binge is the same as the last binge. No high the same as the last high. They are all different, so they could all be portrayed by different people," Hatcher says.

"The story is often described as being about good versus evil, but I think it's more about the stifling of parts of one's own personality. Victorian England was obsessed with the suppression of desire, the suppression of any appearance of weakness," the playwright continues. "We are used to thinking of Hyde as the bad boy side of milquetoast Dr. Jekyll. But I believe Jekyll is not really the person he wants to be."

The Cast includes: Mark Lawson as "Jekyll", Sarah Goss as "Elizabeth", Sean R. Stefanic as "Hyde/Utterson (Jekyll's solicitor)", Mike McEver as "Hyde 2 and others", Christopher Stefanic as "Hyde 3 and others", April

Russel as "Hyde 4, Poole (Jekyll's butler and others)". Performance dates: October 28, 29, 7:30pm October 30, 2pm Matinee and November 3, 4, 5, 7:30pm at the Liddy Doenges Theater - Tulsa Performing Arts Center.



OFF BROADWAY TROUPERS LEARN IMPROV!

"It was good fun!" "It was joyous!" "I loved, it was both informative and entertaining." These are just a few of the reviews of the Improv workshop held Saturday, March 19 as part of the Off Broadway Troupers program. The workshop was led by Julie Tattershall of **Heller Theatre and Laughing Matter Improv in Tulsa, Ok.**

Julie was very impressed with the eagerness and creativity of the students. "I was laughing a lot," she said, "and was delighted to find such a talented

group of kids." This was high praise coming from someone who learned improv at 2nd City in Chicago, among other places.

Twelve students took time on their spring break to learn the rules and skills of "Performance Improv" as opposed to the training exercises used in acting work. Sandy McCabe, coordinator of The Playmakers' youth theatre programs, and Suzanne Boles, Artistic Director of The Playmakers, admitted that they learned a lot as well. "We now have the skills, and students with

the skills, to teach others," said Ms. McCabe. "It's a valuable component of our theatre education program."

Students who attend workshops such as this one earn entrance into The Off Broadway Troupers Organization. They are then able to partake of other activities that the Troupers have such as attending Broadway Touring Shows at discounted rates. And attendance workshops such as this earn them points in the new apprenticeship program.





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FEATURED THEATRE
DUNCAN LITTLE THEATRE

Duncan Little Theatre's production of
"Here We Sit" September 2011



Check out Duncan Little Theatre on Facebook or at
www.duncanlittletheatre.com

Want your theatre to be featured? Send us some pictures!

PLAYMAKERS HAD "JUST PLAIN FUN"

The upcoming Playmakers' production entitled "The Kids Left, the Dog Died, Now What" was a musical revue opened September 10 in Grove, OK. It was one of those productions that is sheer entertainment—no deep meanings or symbolisms. It's just plain fun. As a theatre saying goes, "just leave your brains at the door and have a good time!"

You know when you look at the photograph above that these women--these particular women in the white Grecian robes--can't really be that serious. If you've seen them in other

comedic plays then you know something is up. A satire, a spoof, a farce maybe? Of course, it should be clear to those of us who are empty nesters and older that the joke is something familiar. Maybe the struggle to get your smart phone to work or an attempt to program your TV. What about when that unexpected letter arrives from AARP, the one that seems to appear earlier and earlier in the mail box. Maybe when gravity fails the body. You know what we're talking about, right?

Authored by Carole Lonner (Book, Music, Lyrics) and endorsed by



legendary producer Harold Prince, the humorous musical about baby boomers facing a host of midlife crisis first premiered at the New York Musical Theatre Festival in 2007. The Playmakers gave it an Oklahoma premier.



Young actors from Elk City and

surrounding areas came together over fall

JUNIOR ACTORS GUILD PRESENTED "AND"

break weekend to participate in **Red Carpet Community Theatre's Junior Actor's Guild (JAG) Theatre Boot Camp**, an intensive theatrical training workshop designed to refine and hone their characterization and performance skills towards the production of *And* on Saturday, October 22, at 2:30 pm.

The workshop, directed by guest director Sharon Burum of Duncan, culminated in a production developed during rehearsals over the three-day camp. Students performed from the play, *And*, by Alan Haehnel, which highlights the billions of stories that are happening at the same time in the lives of teens.