



## CTG Season Opens with "Grease"

The Canyon Theatre Guild proudly opens their 2004-2005 season with the smash Broadway hit "Grease" cruising onto stage July 30-September 5, 2004.

"Grease," written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, first opened in February 1972 at the Eden Theatre in New York and was nominated for 7 Tony awards. It replaced "Fiddler On The Roof" as the longest running show on Broadway with its 3,243<sup>rd</sup> performance.

This ambitious undertaking at the CTG is directed by **Ingrid Boydston** who states, "This show has the highest production value of anything I've ever seen at this theatre!"

Over 100 hundred people auditioned for the show. **Bill Quinn**, co-assistant director says, "This show is so popular. [Casting] was an amazing process, and we feel extremely blessed to be able to work with such a talented group of people." Choreographer **Rena Bailey-Barrett**, who has worked as a dancer and choreographer for various cruise ship lines and production companies for over 12 years said of the dancing, "These numbers are just as complicated, if not more complicated then anything I ever produced on the ships."

The show features such popular musical hits as "Summer Nights," "Hand Jive," and "Greased Lightning" where the Burger Palace Boys dance around a full size 1950's Thunderbird Coupe. The show has incorporated "Hopelessly Devoted to You" and

"Sandy," favorite songs from the movie.

The cast includes **Samantha Strickland** as Sandy, **Joe Taucher** as Danny, **Stephanie Arbogast** as Frenchy, **Renee Cassanova** as Rizzo, **Shaina DePascal** as Marty, **Bonnie Sludikoff** as Jan, **Ovington Michael Owston** as Kenickie, **Matthew Lawrence** as Doody, **Tim Christianson** as Roger, **Enrique Figueroa** as Sonny, **Amber Thompson** as Patty, **Jennifer Alexopoulos** as Cha Cha, **Nathaniel Dobies** as Eugene, **Jonathan Simons** as Vince Fontaine, **Kyle Krogh** as Johnny Casino, **Jeff Lucas** as The Teen Angel, and **Tamara Ashton-Coombs** as Miss Lynch.



Burger Palace Boys are **Tim Kendall, Tom Lund, Hebert Pabon, and Chris Schamber**. The Pink Ladies are **Mindy Bedell, Emily Krogh, Justine Meza and Shannon LeClerque**.

The production team features **Jenni Helms**, vocal director; **Marc Steinfeld**, co-assistant director and lighting designer; **Tom Lund**, co-lighting designer; **Tim Christianson**, lighting design intern; **Brian Watts**, stage manager; **Jack Matson**, assistant stage manager; **Jill McGlynn** and **Flo Loring**, costume designers; **Lynn McQuwon**, costume mistress/assistant; **TimBen Boydston** and **Gary Schamber**, set design; **Frank Rock**, scenic artist; **Marty Erway**, prop mistress and set decorator; **Daniel Barsky**, sound design; light techs **Sabrina Neuman** and **Rachel DiPaola** and sound tech **Katie Burke**; stage crew **Jack Matson** and **Brian Ellison**; and head ushers **Felice Wurst, Paula Dobies, and Shannon Bouknight**.

Ticket sales for "Grease" have been brisk, so members are encouraged to make their reservations early so they don't miss out on the fun by calling the box office at 661-799-2702. "Grease" is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



### Mark Your Calendars!!

- July 24/25 – Final weekend of set building & workshop for house management (see article)
  - July 30, Fri – Opening & Champagne reception for "Grease"
  - Aug 2, Mon – General Meeting, 7 pm
  - Aug 7, Sat – Auditions for Night of a 1000 Stars, 11 am to 4 pm by appointment (see article)
  - Aug 9, Mon – Board of Directors Meeting, 7 pm
  - Sept 1/2 - Auditions for Adventures In Theatre and ACT II workshops (see articles)
  - Sept 11, Sat – Night of a 1000 Stars Gala Fundraiser, Valencia Country Club (see flyer)
  - Sept 13, Mon – Board of Directors Mtg, 7 pm
  - Sept 14, Tue – Newsletter articles due
  - Sep 25/26 – Final weekend of set building & workshop for house management (see article)
  - Oct 1, Fri – Opening & Champagne reception for "Return to the Forbidden Planet"
  - Oct 2, Sat – Opening of "Pom-Pom Zombies"
- For more information on these events, contact the box office at 661-799-2702

General meetings are usually the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday after an opening ... Board meetings are usually held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month ... your attendance is welcome and encouraged!

### Announcing the 2004-2005 CTG Board of Directors

- President ..... Ed Hill
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President ..... Ingrid Boydston
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President ..... Michael Davies
- Secretary ..... Marla Khayat
- Treasurer ..... Michele Krantz
- Members-At-Large:
  - Greg Finley ..... Dana Hill
  - Trevor Kimball ..... Jim Robinson

### Other People You Should Know

- Director of Operations ..... TimBen Boydston
- Membership & Newsletter Editor ..... Sharon Cummings
- Director of Daytime Programs ..... Patti Finley
- House Manager ..... Marla Khayat

### Contact Us

- Box Office ..... 661-799-2702
- <http://www.canyontheatre.org>

### *Greetings from Our New President*

As I begin this year as President of the Board, I must say that if the July meeting is any indication, it is going to be a great year. The Guild spoke and the Board listened. That is the way it should be.

I would like to take a moment and humbly thank a few of our great volunteers. Immediate past president **Greg Finley** has provided great leadership during the last year, and the Guild could not have functioned without **Jim Robinson's** hard work as treasurer. Fortunately, Jim and Greg will continue as Board members. Not so with **Carol Rock**, Carol has gone off the Board due to term limits and we will all feel the loss. Also we will miss **Darren Norton** this upcoming year. I thank Carol and Darren for their ongoing commitment to the Guild.

Returning Board members **Michael Davies**, **Marla Khayat**, **Michele Kranz**, and **Ingrid Boydston**, I thank you for your continued counsel and inspiration. And a warm welcome to our two new Board Members, **Dana Hill** and **Trevor Kimball**. I know you will find service on the Canyon Theatre Guild Board a rewarding experience.

I challenge the 2004-2005 Board to forget the past and focus on the future of the Guild. Please remember the CTG Board of Directors will function best when members work in the best interests of the organizations as a whole; recognize and utilize the unique talents and skills of each member; communicate with harmony in order to

provide direction and leadership; and lose considerations of self, thinking only of the common good.

Also, a great thanks to the Director of Operations **TimBen Boydston** and his staff. Your attention to the day-to-day operations of the Guild is critical. We may not say it enough, but your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Back to Board business for a few lines. We have instituted a "**Membership Comment**" section of the Board meetings. This will be early in the meeting allowing any Guild Member to come and speak to the Board. Since it is early in the meeting, you can decide whether you wish to stay for the rest of the meeting or not. Once you have spoken, the Board may respond or elect to look into the issue and get back to you. Either way, the Board will be pleased to listen.

Also, look in the next newsletter for a section on the Board of Directors. There will be a short synopsis of actions taken at each of the Board meetings. In this way you can keep up-to-speed on the happenings of your Board. Another great newsletter idea is a "wish list." Look for a section from directors of upcoming shows and events listing things they need. These new newsletter items are based on comments and requests of Guild members.

I am so excited about the upcoming year! I can't wait to see YOU at the theatre. *Ed Hill, President*

### *Saying Goodbye to Old Members*

**Denny Posten**, husband of **Charmaine**, passed away July 8th. For many years, Denny typed all of our newsletters. The family has said that donations may be made to the Canyon Theatre Guild, because "he enjoyed the shows and the fact that it gave his wife a place to have fun." This very moving picture of Denny next to a World War II era jeep was taken June 12 for "One Day In the Life of Santa Clarita," a project on which his daughter, **Jami Kennedy**, is working. The collage is a tribute created by Yoti Telio, co-editor of the book, as the production team's homage to Jami's father.

**Audrie Rothhammer** died July 4th after a battle with cancer. She was a lovely, feisty woman who was a huge supporter of the Canyon Theatre Guild. Whenever possible, the CTG promoted its productions at her Fun Tours Club Meetings (of which she was president) and she made sure all the Friendly Valley folks knew of our CTG productions and brought many supporters to the Guild. She was "take charge," with a great sense of humor and a fighting spirit. I'm sure her very supportive husband, **Grant**, will miss her very much as anyone who knew her will.



### *Saying Hello to New Members*

During the run of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," marvelous things happened:

- Jeff Vincent (Charlie Brown) proposed to Julie Morrow and she accepted
- **Tanner Joseph Miele** was born at 1:32 am on June 8th, weighing in at 7 pounds 14 ounces, and 20 inches "tall." His proud parents are Honor and Joe (Assistant Director).
- **George "Gg" Mojica Chavez III** was born at 1:02 pm on May 9th (Mother's Day). Vital statistics are: 6 pounds 9 ounces, and 20-1/2 inches. His proud parents are Kelli Maureen and George Mojica Chavez II (Snoopy).

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## Artistic Impressions

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As we start our new season it is great to welcome many new faces to the CTG. I encourage you to get involved and help us put on another season of the best live theatre that can be found anywhere. The volunteers of the Canyon Theatre Guild are what make it great! I would like to thank each and every volunteer for your hard work during the past season. I would mention you by name, except there are about 500 of you! I would also like to thank the leadership of the theatre guild Board of Directors led by President **Greg Finley** for their hard work this past year. A special thanks to board members **Carol Rock** and **Darren Norton** who completed their board terms this season. And welcome to new board members **Dana Hill** and **Trevor Kimball** and to returning board member, **Mike Davies**. You will have your work cut out for you as the CTG continues its exponential growth. Congratulations also to new board president **Ed Hill**. Ed brings a wealth of non-profit board experience with him. I look forward to tapping that expertise as our organization continues to grow, and I am excited about working with Ed.

Thanks to director **Sharon Cummings**, assistant director **Joe Miele**, choreographer **Jan Marie Hayes**, vocal director **Garrett Finley** stage manager **Melanie Kimball**, and the cast and crew of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" for putting on a great show! The music was wonderful, and the story was filled with laughter which delighted audiences both young and old. Also, congratulations to my cast and crew, including assistant director **Dana Hill** and stage manager **Caroline Morgan**, for mounting the hysterically funny farce "*Moon over Buffalo*." If laughter is the best medicine, then our patrons sure got a great big dose from this show!

I'd like to thank **Ingrid Boydston** for the wonderful job that she's done as our Summer Youth Workshop Administrator. Since Ingrid and I founded the first CTG Summer Youth Workshop 8 years ago, it has grown from one session involving 17 students to three programs with a total of 7 sessions serving nearly 200 young thespians! Our SYW workshops employ terrific instructors, who are putting on great shows. Thanks to our instructors, **Ingrid**, **Mike Owston**, **Phil Schwadron**, **Mike Davies**, **Erin Kranz**, our assistant instructor **Shaina DePascal** and

our intern **Brian Ellison**. Thanks also to set constructor/technician **Tom Lund** and to costumers **Flo Loring**, **Jill McGlynn** and **Lynn McQuown**. While I'm thanking our great staff, let me also thank our box office manager **Alanna Blair**, box office workers **Felice Wurst** and **Katie Burke**, and our facilities intern, **Nathaniel Dobies**. All of your hard work is helping us to teach the art of theatre to our next generation. On a note of sadness, we lost a key long time member of our CTG family, **Denny Posten**, who served the CTG for many years as our news letter editor. He will be sadly missed but happily remembered. It is with great optimism that I look forward to another season of great live theatre! I'll see you at Grease!

*Tim Ben Boydston*  
Director of Operations

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## Adventures In Theatre

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The Canyon Theatre Guild's successful daytime theatre program, Adventures In Theatre, is back for its fourth year! This program is structured for home schooled children, part-time students, and adults who are available during the day to participate in a performance-based workshop.

The Fall Semester's production will be a musical version of "*The Wind In The Willows*." Auditions for this workshop will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. For information or to schedule an audition appointment, contact **Patti Finley**, the Director of Daytime Programs, at 254-0064. **Jennifer Rennels-Magon** will be Assistant Director of the program.

The Spring Semester production will be **Ronald Dahl's "James And The Giant Peach."** Watch for audition information on this program in the November/December edition of this newsletter.

The fee for this ten-week workshop is \$129 per student, with family discounts available. Some scholarships are also available. The workshop will culminate in two weeks of daytime performances for our local elementary school children in Mid-November.

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## ACT III After School Workshop

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The popular After School Workshop, ACT III, will hold auditions for the Fall Semester on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00-6:00 pm. This performance-based workshop will present the musical,

"*Schoolhouse Rock, Junior*," and is open to all Junior High and High School students. The instructional team includes **Patti Finley**, Director; **Michael Davies**, Assistant Director; **Leslie Berra**, Vocal Director; and **Musette Caing**, Choreographer.

Call Patti Finley at 254-0064 to schedule an audition appointment or for additional information. Students should come to the audition prepared to sing, read from the script, and learn a dance combination. Students should bring their own musical accompaniment track for their vocal audition. A karaoke track would be great and may be either a CD or tape. There should not be any other voices on the track (some backup voices would be okay).

This workshop will meet Monday through Thursday from 4:00 – 6:00 pm for ten weeks with four performances scheduled at the end of the workshop period. The exact performance dates will be scheduled around the CTG's holiday production and will be announced later.

The fee for this workshop is being underwritten from the funds raised at last year's Holipalooza!, so students will only have to pay a materials fee. You won't want to miss being a part of this wonderful experience.

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## Stars for Students

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The Stars for Students are up!! This very special constellation is located on house left as you enter the theatre from the top of the stairs. One hundred and forty-two bronze-colored stars are beautifully lit in honor of the wonderful youth of the CTG (thank you, Board of Directors, for approving this additional track lighting and thank you, **Tim Ben Boydston**, for having it installed!). Five more stars are forthcoming, so if you can't find yours, don't worry – it's on its way!

These stars were part of the many fundraising efforts associated with last December's "Holipalooza!" which raised \$5,000 for our construction fund and \$9,000 for our ACT III Workshop Program. A special thank you to **Sharon Cummings** for coordinating this program and a very special thank you to **Rick and Dee Winsman** of Saratoga Engraving who donated all of the stars and engraving.

*Leslie Berra*



## **Annual Night Of A Thousand Stars**

The 7th Annual Night of a Thousand Stars Gala will be held on Saturday evening, September 11, 2004, at the Valencia Country Club. This year's theme is "PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ" and the flavor of the evening will be the elegance of the 1920s and '30s. This year's emcee will be Fox Channel 11's sportscaster, **Rick Garcia**. Rick hosted our Gala three years ago and we're happy to have him back for this special evening.

When calling the box office (799-2702) to make reservations, please be sure to let them know if anyone in your party is an active or retired Fireman, Policeman (or woman), Sheriff, or Military personnel. Since this year's Gala falls on the anniversary of 9-11, we are planning a special tribute to these heroes.

Please keep the enclosed invitation handy so you can make plans to attend this wonderful fundraiser and support the Canyon Theatre Guild's parking lot and patio phase of construction, while having a wonderful time. **Laurie Morgan** is the Silent and Live Auction chairperson and would welcome any donations you can provide to help make this auction a success.

The Gala Co-chairpersons, **Leslie Berra**, **Patti Finley**, and **Loretta Norton**, are planning an elegant, entertaining evening and hope you will plan to participate. If you are unable to attend, perhaps you can solicit some donations from merchants you patronize; or maybe you, yourself, have a service you can donate. Call the box office to arrange a pick-up of donations. We appreciate your help and your support.

Remember to keep the enclosed invitation and to read the accompanying article regarding the auditions. We'll see you at the Gala!

## **Night of A Thousand Stars Gala Auditions**

The entertainment committee for this year's Gala will be holding auditions on Saturday, **August 7<sup>th</sup>** from 11 am – 4 pm. The theme for this year is "**Puttin' On The Ritz**" and the committee would like the entertainment to reflect the tone and style of the 1920's and '30's.

Especially sought are group numbers, production numbers, and dance numbers. A group may have a featured soloist, but the committee is not looking for solo numbers. So put a group together and let us see what you have in mind. Auditions do not have to be performance ready, but should be polished enough to give a good idea of what the number will look like. If you do audition as a solo, please understand that the committee reserves the right to put you in a duet or a group number.

We are striving for the most impressive production numbers we can have, using larger groups of performers, in order to show the Guild off in its best light. It will be a night to shine as a member of a polished ensemble. In order to accomplish this, you must be available for group rehearsals.

If you have any questions, call a member of the Gala Entertainment Committee: **Mike Davies** (250-9525), **Patti Finley** (254-0064), **Laurie Morgan** (259-6789) and **Loretta Norton** (268-7695).

In order to assist you in selecting an audition piece, here are some song titles you might want to consider:

- Forty-Second Street
- I've Got Rhythm
- Jeepers Creepers
- Let's Do It
- Cheek to Cheek
- From This Moment On
- Fascinating Rhythm
- You're the Top
- Lullaby of Broadway
- We're In the Money
- Puttin' On The Ritz
- Begin the Beguine
- Top Hat, White Tie and Tails
- C'Est Magnifique

- De Lovely
- Embraceable You
- Let's Call The Whole Thing Off

We realize this list is longer than our program will be, so not all of these songs will be used. They are listed to give you some ideas of style, period, etc. A "Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers" type of number with dancers and singers would be nice. A big tap number would be great. We may also choose some songs that are not on this list. We're looking at 20 – 25 minutes of entertainment, and the numbers may be scattered throughout the evening. If you are a magician who would like to circulate among the tables doing "sleight of hand", please let us know.

So brush off your top hat and get ready to audition on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> between 11 am and 4 pm. Auditions will be in the White Building and are by appointment. Please call Patti Finley to schedule your appointment (254-0064) and we look forward to seeing you on August 7<sup>th</sup>!

### **Reservation Reminders**

☎ Reservations need to be made at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance to ensure preferred seating. The more people in your party, the sooner you need to call us.

☎ The **box office** is open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 am to 6 pm, and Friday through Sunday from noon to 7 pm. You may either phone **661-799-2702** or come by in person.

**REMEMBER TO RESERVE EARLY!**

### **Mystery Corner**

Our previous mystery photo was **Greg Finley** when he still had hair, flying through the air in the classic football "pose." This picture was taken for the 1964 edition of *The Watchtower*, Beverly Hills High School's year book.

*This issue's mystery person is another well-known CTG member. Know who she is? The answer will be revealed in our next issue, so stay tuned. Don't forget - upcoming mystery photos are being solicited. Either send them to your editor as jpeg files, or give her a copy to be scanned and returned to you.*



## **Outreach Activities**

Outreach opportunities seem to come in bunches! During the past few weeks, talented and very generous people from the CTG have reached out to support community events and to advertise our programs! I am so appreciative of the time, talent, and good-will that our CTG family gives so freely!

In May, **Patti Finley** and **Mary Ferguson** made a presentation at the Saugus High career day. They explained our programs and the opportunities that we provide.

Later, **Greg Finley** escorted **Olivia Barella** and **Danny Devan** to the HMNMH Volunteer Dinner. These entertainers absolutely enchanted all the 'grandparents' in the crowd.

On June 19, the following members provided entertainment at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, which was held at the COC: **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs, Matthew Lawrence, Chris Schamber, Tim Kendall, Shaina DePascal, Michele Krantz, Ovington Michael Owston, and Ingrid Boydston.** Our very own **Carol Rock** participated in the 24-hour event and purchased luminaries which she had solicited on our behalf.

July 1 found **Leslie Berra, Trevor Kimball, Jeff Vincent, and Garrett Finley** (all *Charlie Brown* cast members) at the Woodland Park Retirement Hotel in Woodland Hills. **Patti Finley** accompanied them as Sound Tech. They charmed the residents with songs from their show, as well as other old-time favorites. **Leslie Berra**, who coordinated the event, says she now has a new 95-year old admirer! Just imagine the pleasure that our CTG group received when they gave their talents to a wonderful collection of senior citizens. THANK YOU! You are the best!

On July 3, we had the opportunity to participate in the American Arts Festival sponsored by the Brave New World Comic store. This was a celebration of the five art forms that Americans can call their own: jazz, the banjo, musical theatre, the mystery novel, and the comic book. Members of the "Grease" cast who participated were: **Samantha Strickland, Matt Lawrence, Jeff Lucas, Shanon LeClerq, Tamarah Ashton and Enrique F. Gerora.** Adding to the hour-long presentation were CTG favor-

ites: **Danny Devan, Dan Sickafoose, Laurie Morgan, and Tammy Wurst.** **Michele Krantz** narrated the event and made sure that fliers announcing our new season were passed out.

July 4th was a very exciting day for the CTG! Our entry in the parade rated a first-place in the non-commercial float division. If you weren't there, you missed out! Youngsters in 'poodle skirts' came first, followed by a hoola-hooping **Jean Paletz.** Next was a decorated pickup filled with kids from summer workshops. The large truck, bearing the "Grease" sign, carried the cast and others, who often jumped off to sing and dance. Those who made our entry possible were: **Joe Taucher, Tim Christiansen, Enrique Figueroa, Matt Lawrence, Jeff Lucas, Nathaniel Dobies, Tim Kendall, Chris Schamber, Tom Lund, Hebert Pabon, Daniel Barsky, Joe Swartz, Michele Krantz & Hershey, Leslie Berra, Flo Loring, Gary Schamber, Doreen Barsky, Jean Paletz, Ashley Pfening, Ingrid, Anlyn & TimBen Boydston, Tara Myl, Kelsey Wells, Sammie VanLeauwen, Shanna Pinsker, Savannah Farrell, Cassidy Larralde, Samantha Burghout, Samantha Strickland, Shaina DePascal, Tamarah Ashton-Coombs, Emily Krough, Jennifer & Claudia Alexopoulos, Amber Thompson, Ellie Mangiafridda, Gail Thompson, Jonathon Simons, and Patricia Murphy.** Equally special were the family members who followed the float, but on the sidewalks, handing out fliers to announce our new season production.

As usual, I was very proud of our entry and of all who made it possible. There were many parents who came early and stayed late just so that their children could participate. Congratulations and thanks to **ALL** who helped to make our outreach to the community such a success!

Also on July 4, we helped the ladies from Zonta with their yearly "red, white & blue-berry breakfast" in front of our theatre. Those coordinating from the CTG were **Susan and Lauren Pearsall and Marla Khayat.**

**VOLUNTEERS** - God bless you! We have had an amazing response to the Volunteer Forms, and we love you! Those forms have provided many new helpers for set building! **Claire Depoutot** became the Costumer de-

signer for "Moon Over Buffalo" and several others have helped with sewing costumes on other shows. **JoAnn Kormann** assumed the responsibility of weekly reminder phone calls. THANKS to each of you! Volunteers are so important. You are vital to the CTG, and we appreciate your support!

July 19 is "CTG bartend night" at the Blues & Jazz concert at the Hyatt Valencia. See, there is never a dull moment! There is always some way to volunteer our talents to the community. This is called...Outreach!

PS: This report cannot be complete without special thanks to **Carol Rock**, the lady who keeps us abreast of community activities.

*Sincerely, Marla Khayat*

## **House Management/Help**

We need sincere and qualified people to work the Snack Bar and to Usher. We have expectations and we have needs; there is always something to do, and there are never too many people working! You may well ask: "What is a Team Leader? How do I usher? What are the requirements for the Snack Bar?" **QUALIFIED** means: "I know what needs to be done and how to delegate duties. I am willing to take responsibility". A Training Session to answer these questions and to encourage serious workers will be held during set-building on Saturday July 24 and Sunday July 25 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. Future workshops will be held the final weekend of set building for "Return to the Forbidden Planet" and "Pom Pom Zombies," (September 25-26).

### **Volunteers Needed**

The Board of Directors is looking for a volunteer or team of volunteers to head up committees to bring in more corporate sponsors and program ads. These are marketing style positions with which the Board will assist. We are also looking for a chair for the 2005 Goldie Awards, as well as a property master and someone to work with the Director of Operations on royalties and grants. If you have any interest in helping the Guild in any of these ways, contact a Board member or the Director of Operations.