



Two Amazing Shows Start the New Year at the CTG



"To Kill a Mockingbird" is one of the finest family-oriented dramas ever written. The Canyon Theatre Guild's production of this Pulitzer Prize-winning story will transport its audience back to the Depression-era South, where the characters will bring to life the deeply affecting subject matter of racism. Listed in the American Film Institute's 100 greatest American Films, its timeless quality remains powerfully resonate in present-day America with its advocacy of tolerance, justice, integrity, and loving, responsible parenthood.

Atticus Finch, played by **Michael Levine**, is a small-town Alabama lawyer and widower father of two, who gives an impassioned defense of a black man wrongfully accused of the rape and assault of a young white woman. While his children, Scout (portrayed by **Kaylin Mahoney**) and Jem (**Dante Belardinelli**), learn the realities of racial prejudice and irrational hatred, they also learn to overcome their fear of the unknown as personified by their mysterious, mostly unseen neighbor Boo Radley (played by **John Candelaria**).



Rounding out the cast are **Michelle Davis** as Atticus' neighbor Maudie Atkinson; **Kimberly Sanders** as Calpurnia, the Finch's housekeeper; **Patti Finley** is Miss Stephanie, the town gossip; and **Leah Kari** plays Mrs. Dubose, the oldest woman in the town. **Antonio Silberman** plays Scout's young friend, Dill; **Steve Ruggles** is Sheriff Heck Tate; **Thomas Boldt** plays the judge; and Reverend Sykes is played by **Al Miller** and **John Bunch**. Tom

Robinson, the young man accused of assaulting a white woman, is played by **Parris James**, and his accuser, Mayella, is played by **Amber VanLoon**. **Jim Robinson** is Mayella's father, **Bob Ewell**, and **Ed Hill** plays prosecuting attorney Mr. Gilmer. **Bob Monteleone** is the farmer, **Walter Cunningham**, and **Aidan Mahoney** is his son. Also in the cast are **Brian Watts**, **Dave Barsky**, and **Harald Kreuger**. What emerges from this evocative presentation exquisitely is pure distillation of the themes of Harper Lee's enduring novel, a showcase of humanitarian artistry directed by **Tim Ben Boydston**, with assistance from **Brian Watts**. This riveting drama is a must-see for children and adults alike.

The production opens **January 27** and runs through **February 26**, with Friday and Saturday evening performances and Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$8-\$10 for Juniors & Seniors and \$10-\$13 for Adults. Call the box office at 661.799.2702 for tickets, reservations, and more information.



Mr. Willy Wonka, the candy-making genius whom nobody has seen for the last ten years, sent out the following notice today:

"I, Willy Wonka, along with the Canyon Theatre Guild, will be opening my factory for a limited time only and only to a very lucky group of people. The gates to my wonderful factory will open on Saturday, January 28th at 2 pm.

"Please join me, Mr. Willy Wonka (Jeff Lucas) along with the greedy chocolate eating boy Augustus Gloop (Liam Gillespie); the spoiled rotten brat Veruca Salt (Gabi Holme); the gum chewing dim witted Violet



Beauregarde (Chelsea Glickman); the television obsessed, video game freak Mike Teavee (Zach Kemper); and Charlie Bucket (Jonah DiPaolo), the brave and honest hero of our tale, as we partake on the journey of a lifetime.

"Everyone invited is allowed to bring one or two people from their family to help keep them out of mischief. Escorting the lucky 5 Golden Ticket winners will be Grandpa Joe (Marlowe Weisman), Mr. and Mrs. Salt (Gregory Leighton and Margo Caruso), Mrs. Beauregarde (Nancy Horak), and Mrs. Teavee (Claudia Alexopoulos).

"Adding a delicious flavor to our adventure are, of course, Charlie's family, Mr. Bucket (Jeff Johnson), Mrs. Bucket (Cathie Polk), Grandpa George (Larry Goetschel), Grandma Georgina (Marla Khayat), and Grandma Josephina (Alice Goetschel).

"Walking us through this tasty adventure is the energetic and delightfully entertaining Narrator (Herbert Pabon) and a wide variety of my workers, called Oompa Loompas. (Alexis Carrillo, Alberto Pabon, Jake Caruso, Deana Polk, Natalie Charouhas, Caitlin Reza, Chloe Henson, Anastasia Pagan-Silberman, Scott Hicken, Erin Springer, Sally Hyde, Meghan Tannehill, David VanName, Vanessa Tingling, Liam Johnson, Calliope Weisman, Neil Macias, and Denim Weisman).

"My factory will only be open for a limited time. To enter you must contact the Canyon Theatre Guild. Good Luck to all, and happy hunting."

Mr. Wonka will be brought to life by Director, **Ovington Michael Owston**. Assisting him is **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs** (Assistant Director), **Jeff Hyde** (Stage Manager), and **Lauren Pearsall** (Assistant Stage Manager). The Chocolate Factory is designed by **Jeff Hyde**, **Nanook** is providing the sound design, **Tom Lund & Tim Christianson** designed the lights, costumes have been designed by **Claudia Alexopoulos**, and original music is by **Chris Dane**.

The Chocolate Factory will be open **January 28** through **February 26**, Saturday and Sunday matinees and Sunday evenings. Check the box office for special performance times.

Greetings from the President



Welcome to 2006. It is already looking like a great year for the CTG. With a great run of "A Christmas Carol" just finished, I think anyone who did not like Christmas Carol should be boiled in their own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through their heart. Extreme? Perhaps, but the show was great! Greg, Patti, cast and crew should be proud of their contributions to the holiday season.

We have two great shows coming up, too. "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" is getting great reviews while still in rehearsal. I am looking forward to Mike O's CTG directorial debut. "To Kill a Mockingbird" is classic American literature. TimBen Boydston has assembled a strong cast and crew to tell this important story. Tell all your friends; these shows are worth seeing twice.

Last time I talked about volunteers. I think I said something like *"The Canyon Theatre Guild cannot operate without volunteers. We need everyone to help. The more people helping, the easier the task for everyone. It can be as simple as set building, or as complex as organizing a fundraiser. There is truly something for everyone."*



I meant it. Let's make 2006 "The Year of the Volunteer." Let's get everyone out to do something. I shall reissue the challenge: Ask not what your theatre can do for you, ask what you can do for your theatre. If you have never volunteered before, you need to start now. If you often volunteer once during the run of a show, you need to do it twice for every show. Talk it up, especially to anyone new to the theatre. Let's get some of our new friends involved.

I want to see YOU at the Theatre.

Ed Hill, President

Singing Sixties Cabaret

Winter is here again and that means it's time for the "Summer of Love" at the CTG! Drive away the cold and get ready to visit the hottest club in town ... the *"Swinging Sixties Cabaret!"* This year's Cabaret will take you back to the days of "Laugh-In," Haight-Ashbury, Woodstock, and tie-dyed clothes. Mark your calendar for **March 4** so you won't miss the best party of the year.

Our theatre will once again be transformed into a nightclub for one night only. The stage will be cleared and tables will be set up to create a happening scene. The grooviest Go-Go Club ever to be seen in Santa Clarita will feature the hippest talent around and dancing afterwards to the music of our popular live band, "The Usual Suspects."

This psychedelic happening will begin with fabulous food, drink, fun, and games in the club lobby at 6:00 pm, followed by our terrific Cabaret Show in our "Lava Lamp Lounge" on the stage at 7:00 pm. You can wear anything and everything "Sixties," but shoes are a "must." If you've got the dressy togs, sport 'em!



Tickets for this groovy evening start at \$35 for *Hippies* (regular theatre seating), and \$45 for *Swingers* (preferred theatre seating). We'll also feature, on or in front of the stage, groovy tables with waiter service. The *Haight-Ashbury* tables for \$250 (seat 2 Hipsters, including a bottle of wine or champagne); the *Flower Power* tables for \$500 (seat 4 Hipsters, including two bottles of wine or champagne); the *Woodstock* tables for \$1,000 (seat 4 Hipsters, including 2 bottles of wine or champagne & preferred seating); the *Rat Pack* tables for \$1,250 (seat 4 Hipsters, including 2 bottles of wine or champagne & most preferred seating); and the *Sock-It-To-Me* tables for \$5,000 (seating 4 Ultimate Hipsters, including a stretch limousine for the event, open bar, and a personal waiter). Only two *Sock-It-To-Me* tables are available.

So don't wait to make your reservations or you might be left out in the cold. Call the cool box office staff now: 799.2702. Come to the *"Swinging Sixties Cabaret!"*

Newsletter Editor Position

Do you have experience with layout? Are you computer-competent? Do you have some extra time on your hands? If so, why not volunteer to assist our CTG Newsletter Editor? This is a big job, and involves interfacing with the Board members, show directors, committee chairmen, and others; to gather their articles, lay them out, and edit them; to "nudge" them into meeting the deadline; and to be creative as well! It is a big job, but something you can do at home, in your spare time. You need not begin immediately, and our current editor will bring you "up to speed" to get you started, so contact TimBen or Patti at the theatre if you are interested in assisting with this important CTG communication tool.

Your Membership

We are so excited to see so many new faces at the CTG. If you **share your membership** with someone who does not live at your address, each of you can keep your half of the membership and receive your own mailings at your own address (newsletters, flyers, invitations, ballots, etc.). Please contact Sharon and she can set this up!

And remember, your membership is valid for a full calendar year and you WILL get a letter reminding you when it is time to renew!

If you have any questions about your membership, contact **Sharon Cummings** at 661.250.0761 or scummings@earthlink.net or call the box office.



Our "Swinging Sixties Cabaret" on March 4th needs volunteers to work a variety of jobs. Older teenagers and adults are needed to fill the positions of waiters, ticket sellers, technical positions, stage crew, check-in, and other fun jobs. To volunteer, or for more information, contact the Box Office at 799.2702. You may also call the director, TimBen Boydston at 799.2700. This is always a very fun event to work.



Artistic Impressions

Tim Ben Boydston, Executive Director & Artistic Director of CTG's Regular Season

A Happy New Year from beautiful Downtown Newhall! I am thrilled to announce that our parking lot project has finally commenced! In about three months, depending on rain days, we should be finishing up our beautiful parking lot for which we have been raising money for the past couple of years. Many thanks to all of you who have attended our fundraisers, as every dollar raised by our major fundraisers goes into capital projects.

Congratulations to Directors **Greg and Patti Finley**, and vocal directors **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs** and **Garrett Finley**, and the cast and crew for their wonderful rendition of the perennial classic, "A Christmas Carol." Every year, the Canyon Theatre Guild presents a Christmas show as a gift to the community for the holidays. My thanks to all of the people involved, who donated so much time and talent to give this holiday present to the SCV.

Kudos also for our other holiday extravaganza, the "Holipalooza," go to director/chairperson **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs** and choreographers **Rena-Bailey Barrett**, **Rebecca Coombs**, and **Kamber Moen** and the cast and crew for the wonderful holiday spotlight for the youth of the SCV. The Canyon Theatre Guild can be proud of the mentoring that it does to our youth. Thank you to all the volunteers and contributors to this great fundraising event.

I look forward to seeing all of you "groovy guys" and "tie-dyed chicks" at the "Swinging Sixties Cabaret" where we'll begin our fundraising for the patio project.

A final thank-you to those supporters of the theatre who gave us a little end-of-the year gift to kick-off our next phase of fundraising, especially **Jacquie and Harold Peterson**, and **Richard and Marian Sandnes**. When you donate to the CTG, you are investing in our community's future, in our youth, and in the noble art form of great live theatre.

The Many Faces of Mo

Spotlight on ... Mo Davis

This month's spotlight is on the always wild and wacky Mo Davis. The 6th of 8 siblings, Mo has never been afraid to make a fool of herself! She has graced the CTG stage with comedic turns in "Zombies From The Beyond," "Dracula: The Musical?," "I'm Sorry the Bridge is Out—You'll Have to Spend the Night" and "Sagebrush."

Mo is probably best known for her witty adlibs and performances in the theatre's Cabaret shows and as a member of the Bawdy Broads. One of the most fun things about Mo is always wondering who (or what gender!) she will turn up as — Marilyn Monroe, Elvis, Lucy, and even Michael Jackson are a few of her alter egos. Even when she is just ushering or tending the snack bar, you never know who she may be.

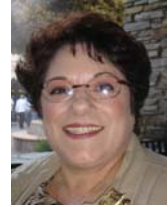
When she's not writing parody songs for friends' special occasions, creating her next character, throwing legendary parties, or hanging out with her wonderful husband of 26 years, Mark, and their three Keeshond dogs, Mo works for NBC Universal where she supports their TV productions. A CTG volunteer for many years, she has given her time and energy to many activities and events and arranged for *Tonight Show* tickets, Disney memorabilia, and NBC costumes to be donated to the Theatre.

Mo loves the camaraderie of the cast and crew when she's working at the theatre, and everyone loves to work with her for the professionalism and fun she brings to a show.

When told that she would be the Newsletter's spotlight subject this month, Mo's only request was that she have a higher word count in her article than her sister Leslie Berra had in hers. And with this, Mo, we are happy to oblige.

Daytime Programs

Patti Finley, Director of Daytime Programs & Family Season Artistic Director



The New Year has begun, and with it, new workshops for young people. The popular Adventures In Theatre Workshop, which is a Daytime Program for home schooled children, will begin **February 14**. Now in its sixth year, this program offers an opportunity to home-schooled children, and occasionally to some adults, of performing literature-based theatre for 2,000 elementary school children. This semester's production will be the musical "Schoolhouse Rock Live, Junior." This energetic show is based on the Emmy Award-winning television show of the same name and features such tunes as *Conjunction Junction*, *Unpack Your Adjectives*, and *A Noun is a Person, Place or Thing*. Learning has never been this much fun!

Auditions for this workshop production will be held at the theatre on Tuesday, **February 14**, between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. To schedule an appointment, call Patti Finley, Director of Daytime Programs, at 799.2702. Auditioners will be asked to sing a few bars, will learn some simple dance steps, and will read from the script.



Daytime Programs ... continued

The workshop meets on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm (with a lunch break in the middle of the day) and daytime performances will be April 27, 28 and May 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10. The workshop fee is \$150 and includes a T-shirt. Space is limited, so call now to reserve a spot in the Adventures In Theatre Workshop.

Our A.C.T. III (After Class Theatre) Workshop began **January 10**, under the directorial leadership of Michael Davies. This semester's production is Gilbert and Sullivan's "*Pirates of Penzance*." Laurie Morgan will be the vocal director and Musette Caing will choreograph. This workshop will meet Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30 – 6:00 pm with evening performances on **March 5 and 6**. This particular workshop is full, with a waiting list, so be sure to sign up early for our Fall A.C.T. III Workshop! The Canyon Theatre Guild is proud of the work we do with young people and thank you for your support of these programs. For more information on these or other workshops, call Patti Finley at 799.2702.

Special Thanks!

First of all, if we didn't have a chance to say it to you personally, we hope you had a very Merry Christmas and that your year is starting out wonderfully. Patti and I feel so blessed to have directed *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*. We think it turned out to be every thing we had it envisioned it to be, and it was fun from the first day of casting through the incredible cast party hosted at the fantastically beautiful home of Steve Krogh! And for those of you who attended that party, what more can be said about the gloriously romantic proposal we witnessed by Mathew Smith (Young Man Scrooge) to Kelly Nichol (Scrooge's True Love Belle). Wow! Talk about life imitating art!

We'd like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to everyone who was a part of the production. It is such a huge time commitment at a very demanding time of the year! We're so grateful for everyone's dedication and love! Of course, individually, there are several names which simply must be mentioned for work "above and beyond" the call of duty! Jill and Flo were creative and tireless costuming our

actors, and every challenge they faced was met with complete success. It was great to have Grandma Jo here again to help with the sewing! And weren't the Carolers in the lobby before the show a wonderful touch? Tamara and Garrett worked a literal Christmas Miracle by rehearsing the group into a perfectly balanced, harmonious ensemble. Jeff and Frank rose to the challenge and produced a set that was both functional and perfectly suited to the script and story. Didn't that London Street look incredible when it was back-lit? Charlie's flying set pieces worked flawlessly, too. As it always seems, the show wouldn't have gone up without Jim and his magic screwdriver. And Carol should get a purple-heart, and Jeff a Silver Star, for putting on the shoes of torture (who's stupid idea was that anyway?!) to make "Future" work! And NO ONE worked more tirelessly (or got more beaten up!) than Vicki. Finally, Tim, Sam, and Katie were flawless in the booth!

The Cratchit family was perfect and incredible. From the humor to the real tears in some of the most gut-wrenchingly sad moments we've ever seen on our stage, Jason, Jill, and the children were fabulous. And Randy's "this is MY Christmas" sent goose-bumps through the audience every night! Everyone worked so hard on their characters and their accents. And it really paid off.



One last, very special "kudo" is required. There were several brilliant auditions for the role of "Scrooge," and the selection process was agonizingly difficult. We thought having an authentic British accent for the title role would be the key to bringing this particular version of *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* to life, plus we always thought Mike Davies was a terrific actor, so he got the part! We just didn't know HOW terrific he could be. Mike captured every nuance in what can only be described as a tour-de-force transformation and characterization. Bravo!

We hope you enjoyed the experience as much as we enjoyed bringing it to you, and we look forward to seeing you at the theater for all the rest of our shows this season and for seasons to come!

Greg and Patti Finley

Volunteers: You Are Vital to the Success of the CTG

Volunteers from both the CTG and the SC Zonta Club joined together to provide hostesses for the HMNMH Home Tour on December 3rd. Their efforts were dedicated to the memory of Carmen Sarro, a Past President of both the Home Tour and the Zonta Club and a founder of the Canyon Theatre Guild. Those participating for the Friday night Gala were **Christine Sexton, Robbie Heintzman, Nancy Albrecht, Karen Malek, Danise Davis, Marla Khayat, and JoAnn & Glenn Kormann**.

On Saturday, volunteers were: **Barbara Stearns-Cochran, Diane Curtis, Kadee Hassen, Carole McCulloch, Patti Finley, Tamarah Ashton-Coombs, Alicia Estrada, Christine Miller, Caroline Levine, Kathy Lively, Laurie Morgan, Ingrid Boydston, Pat Willet, Marlena & Gabi Rhodes, Sarah Robe, Lois Bauccio, Mary Vogley, Marla Khayat, and JoAnn Kormann**. Many compliments were received on our presentation. Patrons said they learned a lot about the home and the family; information they did not receive at other homes. Many thanks must be extended to our hostesses for "selling" each room and the Spanish Wedding theme expressed throughout the entire home. Visitors actually asked, "Who is getting married? When is the wedding?" Co-chairs for this event were **Marla Khayat and JoAnn Kormann**.

On Sunday, December 4th, the CTG provided entertainment at the HMNMH Community Christmas Tree Lighting. **Ed Hill and Carla Bellefeuille** led the group as soloists. Others making up our CTG caroling group were: **Elizabeth, Gail Meagan & Glenn Teagle, Madison Wood, Tanisha Tingling, Mary & Garrett Deagon, Claudia & Jenn Alexopoulos, Alexis Carrillo, Rheanna Johnson, and Shawni & Marie Wise-Hawkins**. The performance was arranged by **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs and Marla Khayat**.

Marla Khayat
Outreach Coordinator

CTG Blood Drive Success

On Saturday, October 29th, the CTG held its 3rd annual blood drive. Providence Holy Cross set up a mobile donor trailer in our parking lot, decorated it for the Halloween season, and welcomed all those who gave blood! In exchange, donors received "healthy" treats, treat-or-treat candy, juice, and a certificate for a pint of Baskin-Robbins ice cream (pint for a pint).

Thanks to **Carol Rock** who organized the event. Some of those who donated were: **Jeff Hyde**, **Kelli Chavez**, **TimBen Boydston**, **Sharon Cummings**, **Jack Matson**, and **Frank & Carol Rock**. Here are some candid shots from that day:



NOTICE: Volunteers are now being recruited to serve as Ushers and Snack Bar volunteers during the run of "To Kill A Mockingbird" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." For information please call either Marla Khayat at 250.3664 or Dana Hill at 297.7647

What happens when you are a die-hard fan of Notre Dame and your team loses? Ask **Joe Miele** ... one time he had to rehearse in a tutu (in 2001) ... this time (losing a bet to **Jeff Hyde**) he had to wear a USC jersey and sing the USC fight song at the CTG Board meeting (which is on the board meeting tape if you want to hear it). What next?

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!

Save These Dates!!

- Jan 21-22, Final weekend of set building
- Jan 27 – Opening & Champagne reception for **"To Kill A Mockingbird"**
- Jan 28 – Opening for **"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"**
- Feb 4, Auditions for "Swinging Sixties" Cabaret (see notice on back pg)
- Feb 13, Mon, 7 pm – **Board of Directors Meeting***
- Feb 14, Auditions for Adventures in Theatre Workshop (see article on pg 3)
- Mar 4 – **"Swinging Sixties"** Cabaret (see article on pg 2)
- Mar 13, Mon, 7 pm – **Board of Directors Meeting***
- Mar 15, Auditions for Junior Cabaret (see notice on back pg)
- Mar 18-19, Final weekend of set building
- Mar 24– Opening & Champagne reception for **"Oklahoma!"**

* *Members are invited to attend Board meetings and participate in the "Members Comments" at the beginning of each meeting.*

For more information on these events, contact the box office at **661.799.2702**

Check the CTG website for updates on auditions and show times:
www.canyontheatre.org

Do you remember when they were this little...?

Taylor Wilhelmy, Kasey Rock, Kara Hayes, and Megan Hayes

Canyon Theatre Guild



24242 San Fernando Road
Old Town Newhall, California 91321-2911
Phone: 661.799.2702

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 273
SANTA CLARITA, CA

2005-2006 CTG Board of Directors

President Ed Hill
1st Vice President..... Ingrid Boydston
2nd Vice President..... Michael Davies
Secretary Marla Khayat
Treasurer..... Greg Finley
Members-At-Large:
Jeff Hyde Dana Hill
Frank Rock Gary Schamber

Other People You Should Know

Executive Director & Artistic Director
of the Regular Season..... TimBen Boydston
Artistic Director of the Family Season &
Director of Daytime Programs..... Patti Finley
Membership/Newsletter Editor..... Sharon Cummings
Web Mistress..... Cat Christine Ellen

Contact Us

Box Office 661.799.2702
<http://www.canyontheatre.org>

Auditions announced for upcoming cabarets

Performers for the "Swinging Sixties" Cabaret!

This year's Cabaret will take us back to the Swinging Sixties, a time of Go-Go Clubs, Hippies and lots of Love. It's a "happening" you're sure to want to be a part of. Performers will be picked by invitation and audition and we need singers, dancers, comedians and novelty acts.

If you're interested in performing, please let us know at 799.2702, or be prepared to audition on **February 4th** between 10 am and 12 noon. Since this is an adult cabaret, performers must be at least 19 years old to audition.

Junior Cabaret 2006: The Goodstock Festival

Co-chairs Leslie Berra and Mike Davies are excited to announce auditions for the Junior Cabaret 2006: The Goodstock Festival on **Wednesday, March 15**, from 4-6pm in the White Building. This youth fundraiser will feature songs promoting peace, tolerance, understanding and love (for mankind, not romantic!).

If you are a young performer who will be 18 or younger the night of the performance (currently set for Friday, May 12), please contact Leslie Berra at 296-4530 for an audition time.

Auditioners are encouraged to discuss their audition piece with Leslie ahead of time to ensure its suitability for the evening and to avoid duplication. Those interested in being an emcee should schedule an audition during which they will be asked to do a cold reading. Participation in this performance will be by audition and recruitment. Proceeds from the event will benefit all of the Guild's workshop and educational programs.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact Leslie.
