



## 100 ACRE WOOD COMES ALIVE AT THE CTG



Paige Aronson, Pat Robinson, Zachary Davis, and Tim Christianson at set build

The Canyon Theatre Guild's family offering this winter season is the popular *Winnie-The-Pooh*. Under the direction of **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs**, this enchanting production will feature lush scenery and some puppet characters as well as humans/animals. Winnie-the-Pooh (**Jeff Johnson**) is Christopher Robin's (**Tom Lund**) fat little bear of Very Little Brain, who would like to drift peacefully through life, humming tunes and stopping frequently to eat "a little something." However, he finds himself involved in all sorts of frantic adventures, assisted by such friends as the dismal Eeyore (**Zachary Davis**) and Rabbit (**Charles Bice-Bey**), with his countless relations.



Hayley Aronson painting a set.

Pooh's intentions are always the best, but his passion for honey and condensed milk keeps getting him into trouble. When Pooh's friend Piglet (**Amber Van Loon** and puppet) gets roped into Kanga's household and Kanga (**Kris-** (See *Pooh*, page 2)

## FIVE FOR FUN & PHILANTHROPY

In January the Canyon Theatre Guild will launch a new program, *Five-For-Fun & Philanthropy*, which will present five weekends of different productions. Each show will donate 50% of the proceeds to a different non-profit organization.

On **January 18 & 19** at 8PM the Canyon Theatre Guild will bring back the golden days of radio with a production of *The Man With Bogart's Face*, a radio comedy/drama. A man, who has his face altered to look like Humphrey Bogart, then becomes involved in a Maltese Falcon-type caper – like the old days when there were causes and dames and flags worth fighting for; and lots of laughs. Proceeds from this production will be donated to the Senior Center.

Then Hands Down Productions will be the guest artists with two different offerings. On **Friday, January 25** at 8PM they will present a staged reading of the comedy *The Perfect Party* by A. R. Gurney, and on **Saturday, January 26** at 8PM they will present a second staged reading, the Pulitzer Prize-Winning play, *Dinner With Friends* by Donald Margulies. The funds from these productions will be donated to the Homeless Shelter.

On **February 1 & 2** at 8PM, Jason Johnson and his Santa Clarita Playhouse actors will present a radio show production of *Noel Coward's Private Lives*. The action concerns a divorced couple, both recently remarried, who accidentally book adjoining suites at the same hotel for their honeymoons. The play centers on the two leads and their agonizing realization that they still care for each other, and contains some of Coward's best dialogue. Proceeds from this production will be donated to Shake Hands With Shakespeare, a student outreach program.

**February 8 & 9** at 8PM brings *Calypso*, an original production written by Phil Lantis and presented by the Eclipse Theatre. *Calypso* is a human comedy about a couple celebrating their anniversary at a Caribbean resort. This play is not for young children. Proceeds from this show will be donated to the Special Children's Art Foundation.

Eddie Frierson will present his acclaimed one-man show, *Matty: An Evening With Christy Mathewson* on **February 15 & 16** at 8PM. Called "One of the Ten Best Plays of the Year!" by National Public Radio, this play is more than a one-man show about a baseball player, it is the history of a hero brought to life. Clive Barnes, critic for the New York Post said that "Matty" is "A lively visit with a fascinating man... A perfect pitch! Pure virtuosity!" The show's director, Kerrigan Mahan, says "We need real heroes, heroes of (See *Fun and Philanthropy*, page 2)



## Greetings from the President

Welcome to 2008! It is already looking like a great year for the CTG. What a great run of *The Christmas Story*. The show was great! Greg, Patti, cast, and crew should be proud of their contribution to the holiday season.

We have a great family show coming up. *Winnie The Pooh* is getting great reviews while still in rehearsal. **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs** has assembled a strong cast and crew to tell this beloved story. Then it's on to *Man of La Mancha* at the College of the Canyons. Get your tickets for these shows early.

As my time on the Board of Directors winds down, I look at the great accomplishments that the Guild has made in the last six years. This is aside from providing great shows and family programs year after year. Here are a few: fundraising grows every year; the parking lot and patio are incredible; and against all odds the CTG now performs two shows a year at the COC Performing Arts Center. Great stuff, every one.

(*Pooh*, from page 1)

**tie Hoefflin** starts bathing him (with soap!) and forcing down spoonfuls of Strengthening Medicine, Pooh wants to fly to the rescue, but he's had so many snacks he gets stuck in the door. Others in the cast are **Michael Davies** as Owl, **Joshua DiPaola** (and puppet) as Roo, and **Ron Kari**, **Rebecca Coombs**, and **Brian Watts** as other woodland creatures (with puppets). **Leah Kari** is the Narrator. **Kamber Moen** and **Tim Christianson** are serving as Assistant Directors and **Billy Davis**, **Jim Robinson** and **Frank Rock** are designing the fanciful set. **Jill McGlynn** is the costume designer.

A.A. Milne's wit and special understanding of young people make this a production you won't want to miss. Children of all ages will delight in

But for me personally, I think the thing that makes me the happiest is the new stage. What new stage many of you may be saying? As I am writing this message, the new stage is being built. Many of you will remember that the old stage was built in three phases. Jim Robinson and **TimBen Boydston** did much of the work under nearly impossible time and budget constraints. There was no time to give any thought to the future, the show had to go up and there had to be a stage.

We have had eight great years of theatre, special events, and fundraisers on the old stage. The dancers got to know where the bad spots were and everyone learned to step lightly so it didn't sound like elephants marching.

The new stage will solve these problems and more. It is being designed and built with a bright future of great theatre in mind. I can't wait to see you all on it. (And if I'm lucky even get up there myself.)

For me a new stage was an "impossible dream". Thanks to you, your Board of Directors and your staff, the place you do theatre just got a whole lot better.

I can't wait to see YOU on the new stage.

*Ed Hill,*  
*President*

these familiar and well-loved characters. *Winnie-The-Pooh* opens on January 19<sup>TH</sup> and will have Saturday and Sunday matinee performances at 1PM, through February 16<sup>TH</sup>. Tickets are \$9, \$11, and \$14. Call the box office at 661.799.2702 for reservations.



## Artistic Impressions

**TimBen Boydston**  
Executive Director of the CTG,  
Artistic Director

Happy New Year to you and yours from our cozy office here in Downtown Newhall. The future is bright for the CTG, with exciting new projects just around the corner. The City will begin creating a beautiful new *Streetscape on Main Street* this year, with new sidewalk configurations, landscaping, lighting, and street furniture. We're looking forward to performing on our newly rebuilt stage surface, which will be great for dancing and very quiet. You will notice, if you look down, some great new things as well: First, at our patio entrance off of the parking lot, is the initial set of commemorative bricks, which were installed as a generous donation by **Watts Construction**; then, as you enter the lobby, you'll see our newly refinished hardwood floors by **Acorn Flooring**.

Many thanks to **Carol Rock** for once again taking the bull by the horns and organizing our annual Halloween Blood Drive. And a huge thank-you to **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs** for doing a won- (See *Artistic Impressions*, page 3)

(*Fun and Philanthropy*, from page 1)

the heart that we can emulate. We need the heroes in ourselves. I believe that is what this show you've come to see is all about. In Christy Mathewson's words, "Give your friends names they can live up to. Throw your BEST pitches in the 'pinch.' Be humble, and gentle, and kind." **Matty** is a much-needed force today, and I believe we are lucky to have had him. I hope you will want to come back. I do. And I continue to reap the spirit of Christy Mathewson." This is a performance not to be missed. A portion of the proceeds from this show will be donated to the Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry.

All of these performances will be at 8PM, and tickets are \$10 each or you may buy a series of tickets for all five weekends for \$25. Call the CTG box office at 661.799.2702 for reservations.



**Patti Finley**  
Assistant Director of the CTG,  
Artistic Director of the Family Season

## Youth Workshop Updates

The Spring 2008 workshops are now beginning and, once again, we're excited to be able to offer four different workshops for our young people!

**Adventures in Theatre**, our workshops for home schooled children, has two programs to offer: **Act One** is a beginning workshop for students from 6-13 years old. This group meets from 10:30AM-12:30PM, Mondays and Fridays from January 18 through April 7. The Spring production will be a musical adaptation of **Little Red Riding Hood**. This fun and "fractured" version will be a great experience for the entire class! The fee for this ten-week workshop is \$250. The instructors this semester will be **Laura Lanoil** and **Kamber Moen**.

The **Act Two Workshop** is an advanced workshop for all ages, but

the younger children must be able to read unassisted. Admission to this workshop is by audition only. The class meets from 10:30AM-2PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays from January 15 through April 4. Our Spring production will be **Willie Wonka Junior**, featuring the songs from the original movie! The workshop fee is \$250 for either class. The instructors for this workshop will be **Patti Finley** and **Laura Lanoil**.

**ACT III** (After Class Theatre Workshop) is a musical theatre workshop for students in second through sixth grade, and class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6PM, January 15 thru March 24. The Spring production for this class will be **The Wind in the Willows**, a musical adaptation featuring Mr. Toad and friends which is always lively and often hilarious! Class fee is \$250. The workshop instructors will be **Michael Davies** and **Jessie Gold**.

**ACT IV** (After Class Theatre Workshop) is also a musical theatre workshop for students in sixth through eleventh grade. The class meets Monday and Wednesday from 4-6PM, January 14-March 25. The Spring production will be **45 Minutes from Broadway**. A school drama club is putting on a play! When they can't decide which one, George M. Cohan comes to the rescue! The workshop fee is \$250. The instructors for Act IV will be **Michael Davies** and **Lissa Gibbs**.

We're excited to have two new instructors in addition to our "veterans." Some of these classes may be filled by the time this newsletter reaches you, but you can call the box office to see if there are any openings. Watch for news about our Summer Youth Workshops! They'll be here before we know it! Several of the outstanding children appearing in our holiday production of **A Christmas Story** are the product of our workshops!

## Membership Secretary Needed

The CTG is looking for a volunteer to take over the position of Membership Secretary for the Guild. If you can maintain and update a data base, this might be the perfect way to get involved with the Canyon Theatre Guild without having to leave the comfort of your home (except to gather membership forms at the box office).

Our current Membership Secretary, **Sharon Cummings**, will provide you with the data base we now use and bring you up to speed on what needs to be done and when. If you are interested in more information on this important volunteer position, please call TimBen or Patti at 661.799.2702.

(...*Artistic Impressions*, from page 2)  
derful job chairing and directing our annual Holipalooza! fundraiser. It is always a joy and a pleasure to watch our young people light up the stage with their talent and enthusiasm and it helped make the holidays complete. Speaking of the holidays, congratulations to directors **Greg** and **Patti Finley**, the artistic team, cast and crew of **A Christmas Story** for a fabulous re-telling of the classic. This heart-warming and hysterical production has become a perennial favorite at the CTG and this production was fun from start to finish.

Another very exciting development here at the CTG is the addition of three newly appointed board members bringing our total number to twelve. My thanks and congratulations to **Doug Sink**, **Duane Harte** and **Richard Smykle** for joining the CTG board. There will be more information on these generous gentlemen in upcoming newsletters.

I encourage everyone to spend the next several weekends enjoying our **Five for Fun and Philanthropy** series. Skip the movies and videos and come see a different show every weekend, with half of the proceeds going to charity! And don't miss the wildest CTG fundraiser of the year, the **Moulin Rouge Cabaret** on February 23! We'll see you at the theatre!

### 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 11AM to 6PM, and Friday through Sunday from noon to 7PM. You may either phone 661.799.2702 or come by in person.

**REMEMBER TO RESERVE EARLY!**

### Demand for Seats is High

Due to the increased popularity of our shows, **PLEASE** call ☎ and cancel if you are unable to use your reservations so we can release your tickets to others who'd like to see the show!

**THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!**

## Santa Clarita Regional Theatre to present *Man of La Mancha*

*Man of La Mancha* will come to life on the stage of the **Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center** beginning March 1. This is the second production of the season for the newly formed **Santa Clarita Regional Theatre**, and the first time *Man of La Mancha* will be presented in Santa Clarita.

*Man of La Mancha* started its life as a non-musical teleplay written by Dale Wasserman for CBS. Inspired by Miguel de Cervantes's seventeenth century masterpiece *Don Quixote*, it tells the story of the "mad" knight, Don Quixote, as a play within a play, performed by Cervantes and his fellow prisoners as he awaits a hearing with the Spanish Inquisition. The network disliked the title *Man of La Mancha*, thinking that its viewing audience would not know what La Mancha actually meant, so a new title, *I, Don Quixote*, was chosen. Upon its telecast, the play won great critical acclaim. Years after this television broadcast, and after the original teleplay had been unsuccessfully optioned as a non-musical Broadway play, director Albert Marre called Wasserman and suggested that he turn his play into a musical. Mitch Leigh was selected as composer and Joe Darion came on board as lyricist. The original 1965 Broadway production won five Tony Awards. Since then, the musical has become one of the most enduring works of musical theatre.

First playing at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut in 1964, *Man of La Mancha* opened off-Broadway in 1965, then moved to Broadway in 1968 where it ran until 1971, for a total of 2,329 performances. Now it is coming to Santa Clarita for six performances. Even those who are not familiar with the show have heard "The Impossible Dream," which has become an American classic. Co-directors **TimBen Boydston** and **Patti Finley** are currently in rehearsal, with **Musette Caing** creating the choreog-

raphy and **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs** handling the vocal direction. Finley is excited to be a part of this exciting production again. "My ex-husband, Ray Middleton, was the original Innkeeper/Governor on Broadway and I was at the theatre nearly every night. I loved this show and I think one of the reasons it was such a hit all over the world, was that it shows the triumph of the human spirit" Boydston agreed, "Man's spirit and imagination can help him rise above any adversity. This play shows that, while you might put a man in chains, his spirit remains free."

The role of Don Quixote, which is a demanding one both physically and vocally, has not been cast as of this time. The directors are looking for an outstanding performer for this part and expect to announce their choice very soon. Meanwhile, rehearsals are progressing with the rest of the stellar cast, which includes **Lori D'Itri** as Aldonza/Dulcinea, **George M. Chavez** as Sancho Panza, **Jarod Scott** as Carrasco/the Duke, **Michael Davies** as the Governor/Innkeeper, **Sean Goodman** as the Padre, **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs** as the Housekeeper, **Kelly Bader** as Antonia, the niece, **Kelly Roberts** as the Barber

and **Nicholas Laemmer** as Anselmo. Also in the cast are **Joe Aboulafia**, **Carla Bambo**, **Loren Burghout**, **Rebecca Coombs**, **Brent A. Denison**, **Caleb DiPaola**, **Joshua DiPaola**, **Kristie Hoeflin**, **Erik Klein**, **Kamber Moen**, **John Morris**, **Edward A. Nason**, and **Marlowe Weisman**.

This limited engagement opens on Saturday, March 1 at 8PM, with additional performances on Sunday, March 2 and 9 at 2PM, Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8 at 8PM, and Saturday, March 8 at 2PM, for a total of six performances. You won't want to miss this exciting theatrical event, so make your reservations now!

On opening night, there will again be the opportunity to become part of the fabulous *First Nighters' Club*. For \$100 per person, you will enjoy dinner and drinks at the lovely home of **Dave and Doreen Barsky** in the exclusive Woodlands Estates; then a quick trip across Valencia Boulevard and you'll be at the Performing Arts Center where you will be seated in the Golden Circle to experience all the excitement of opening night. Don't miss *Man of La Mancha*. Call the box office now at 661.799.2702.

# Man of La Mancha

"Dream the  
Impossible  
Dream"



## Holipalooza 2007 Wrap Up

This year's *Holipalooza!* was an amazing success in many respects! Through everyone's hard work and creative efforts, we were able to raise over \$12,000 to support the CTG's youth programs. Forty-two of the most talented young people entertained their way into our hearts, holiday spirits, and pocketbooks! This year's performers were ages 1½ to 16 years, with many of the older ones taking on leadership positions as choreographers, stage crew, and lighting techs.

There are so many people to thank for helping with this year's event, we can't possibly include them all, but we do want to give an extra special thank you to: **Leslie Berra** for so many things, **Laura DiPaola** for the amazingly yummy pre-show buffet, **Beth Hyde** and **Dana Hill** for organizing the silent auction and decorating all the baskets, **Kristi Johnson** for dessert coordination, **Dave Barsky** for recording, **Neil Harris** for photographing, and the parents for all those rides to and from rehearsals and for encouraging their children to be a part of live theatre!

Fundraising is one of the key components at the CTG to providing educational programming for SCV's youth. The proceeds from this year's event will go toward supporting these programs, and adding to our scholarship program. We hope you had a terrific time at this year's event! We definitely enjoyed putting it all together for you –our audience!!!

**Tamarah Ashton-Coombs,**  
Holipalooza! 2007 Chairperson

**Rebecca Coombs,**  
Student Director

## Spotlight on Frank Rock



I love the outdoors. I love big skies. Over the past ten years I have discovered my love for land and seascapes. They seem so calming. By trade I am a muralist with over 30 murals to my credit from 10 feet to 50 feet long, so painting on a small canvas is a new challenge.



From the time I was a toddler I have been drawing or painting. It all came naturally to me. Outside of a few design classes, I have had no formal training. I take great pride in the fact that I continue to learn and improve my talent with each new picture. It's an adventure because sometimes I really don't know what is going to end up on the canvas.

My greatest promoters/cheerleaders are my wife of 32 years, Carol, and our three children Sarah (27), Kerry (25) and Casey (20).

## Jaylene Armstrong's Artwork On Display

Jaylene Armstrong is a retired art educator from Madison, Wisconsin. She has a strong interest in the "Place for Art" in our lives. She is a member of the Santa Clarita Artist Association and chaired their annual fundraising event - the 2006 Art Classic.

Her professional background includes teaching art to elementary, middle school, and college level students. She was the president of the Wisconsin Art Education Association and a national vice-president of the National Art Education Association in Washington, D.C.



"Catch Me If You Can"

She designs high-end jewelry with semi-precious stones and participates in art festivals in Southern California. She has a strong interest in macro photography and finding bright colors and shapes with repeated patterns. David Hockney has been a strong influence in her compositions of photo collage. In her pastel paintings she likes the work of Wolf Kahn and his abstract landscapes has given her a strong direction in developing her pastel paintings. She is concerned with expressive lines, colors, textures, and shapes in all the media she uses.

She has a great desire for the city of Santa Clarita to become an "Art City" and has a vision of how this can happen.

### The Arts in Santa Clarita

If you would like more information on what's going on in the world of the Arts in Santa Clarita, put your name on the City's eNotify list. Just go to

[www.santa-clarita.com/enotify](http://www.santa-clarita.com/enotify)

and click on Arts & Events

## Resolution 2008!

**V**olunteer! It's good for you! Look for fliers in the Lobby listing ways that you can help us with activities all year long.

## Record Your Volunteer Hours

**H**elp us keep track of the hours you devote to the CTG by signing in & out at convenient locations: costume construction, set building, snack bar, or at the box office. The hours you spend will be turned into awards.

## Community Outreach

**F**or the fifth year, women from the CTG and the *Zonta Club of Santa Clarita* joined hands to serve the community and to pay respect to our departed friend and colleague, **Carmen Sarro**. These ladies volunteered as hostesses at the home of **Martin Avila** and **Fredye Gonzales** on December 1st for the *27th Annual Holiday Home Tour Event*.

Approximately 1,500 visitors viewed the homes; the profit from ticket sales provides necessities for the women's' section of the HMNMH. Working with

## Volunteer to Usher

**A**fter the box office, the usher is the first personal contact we have with our patrons. This is an important job and it is vital that we do it well. Our courtesy, efficiency and attitude should create a warm CTG welcome. Ushering requires only 1½ hours per performance. If you are interested in being trained to usher, contact Marla at 661.250.3664 or by email: [marlak8@yahoo.com](mailto:marlak8@yahoo.com).

### Volunteer at the CTG

Want to become more involved in the CTG?

Want to make lots of new friends?

Training sessions, incentives and reward programs are planned. With new changes, this job should be exciting and fun.

Questions? Call Marla at 661.250.3664 or Claudia at 661.296.1774

15 volunteers from the Zonta Club, were the following CTG members: **JoAnn & Glenn Kormann, Ingrid Boydston, Kathy Lively, Sue Disseo, Marlena & Gaby Rhodes, Mary Vogeley, Jill McGlynn, Janet McAnny, Patti Finley, Caroline Levine, Tamarah Ashton-Coombs, and Beth Hyde**. Coordinators for the event were **Marla Khayat, Christine Sexton, and Claudia Alexopolous**.

Many thanks to those who gave 4 or 5 hours of their time, at this very busy season, to help the local hospital!

This is just another way that Volunteers from the CTG participate in community events.

## Save these Dates!

- Jan. 18-19 *The Man with Bogart's Face* Friday and Saturday at 8PM
- Jan. 19 *Winnie-the-Pooh Opens* Saturday at 1PM
- Jan. 25 *The Perfect Party* Friday at 8PM
- Jan. 26 *Dinner With Friends* Saturday at 8PM
- Feb. 1-2 *Private Lives* Friday and Saturday at 8PM
- Feb. 8-9 *Calypso* Friday and Saturday at 8PM
- Feb. 11 CTG Board Meeting at 7PM
- Feb. 15-16 *Matty: An Evening With Christy Mathewson* Friday and Saturday at 8PM
- Feb. 16 *Winnie-the-Pooh Closes* Saturday at 1PM
- Feb. 23 *Moulin Rouge Cabaret* Saturday at 5:30PM
- Mar. 1 *Man of La Mancha Opens* Saturday at COC at 8PM
- Mar. 8 *Man of La Mancha Closes* Saturday at COC at 8PM

### 2007-2008 CTG Board of Directors

- President..... Ed Hill
- 1st Vice President..... Greg Finley
- 2nd Vice President..... Frank Rock
- Secretary..... Tamarah Ashton-Coombs
- Treasurer..... Randy Aronson
- Members-At-Large:.....Jeff Hyde
- .....Marla Khayat
- .....Billy Davis
- .....Flo Loring
- Appointed Board Members: .. Duane Harte
- ..... Doug Sink
- .....Richard Smykle

### Other People You Should Know

- Executive Director & Artistic Director of the Playhouse Season .TimBen Boydston
- Assistant Director & Artistic Director of the Family Season .....Patti Finley
- Membership .....Sharon Cummings
- Newsletter Editor.....David Barsky
- Web Mistress ..... Cat Christine Ellen

### Contact Us

- Box Office .....661.799.2702
- Internet..... [www.canyontheatre.org](http://www.canyontheatre.org)



# MOULIN ROUGE CABARET

2 - 23 - 08

**5:30 pm** ♦ Petit Buffet ♦ No Host Bar

**7:00 pm** Cabaret Show Followed by Dancing to the Live band "Usual Suspects"

**Benefiting the Canyon Theatre Guild**

## ÉLÉGANTE TABLES ON STAGE!

with "Can Can Dancer" & "Artist" Waiters

**The Eiffel Tower...\$5000** 4 Bohemians, Event named after you, Stretch Limousine to &

From the Event, Open Bar, Personal Waiter, Most Preferred table placement, & all other amenities

**The Louvre...\$1250** 4 Bohemians, Preferred table placement, & 2 bottles of wine or champagne

**The Arc de Triumph...\$600** 4 Bohemians, 2 bottles of wine or champagne

**The Artiste...\$150** 1 Bohemian, 1 bottle of wine or champagne per pair

**Theatre Seating:** Bourgeoisie...\$50 (Premium)  
Proletariat...\$40 (Regular)

**For Reservations call:**

**(661) 799 - 2702**

24242 Main St. (formerly San Fernando Rd.) Newhall 91321. [www.CanyonTheatre.org](http://www.CanyonTheatre.org)





Canyon Theatre Guild  
24242 San Fernando Road  
Newhall, California 91321-2911  
Phone: 661.799.2702  
[WWW.CANYONTHEATRE.ORG](http://WWW.CANYONTHEATRE.ORG)

# Man of la Mancha

“Dream the  
Impossible  
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**Coming in March!**