



MY FAIR LADY IS "Loverly"

One of Lerner and Lowe's most enduring and popular musicals, *My Fair Lady* arrives at the Canyon Theatre Guild on May 23RD for a six-weekend run. The show has been called one of the greatest musicals ever produced, and it features a host of singable tunes, energetic dance numbers, and lavish costumes. Almost everyone is familiar with the story of the cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, who is transformed into a "lady" by the brilliant, crotchety Professor Henry Higgins. It is a timeless, enchanting musical for audiences of all ages.

Filled with delightful characters, *My Fair Lady* features such songs as *I Could Have Danced All Night*, *Wouldn't It Be Loverly*, *With A Little Bit Of Luck*, *The Rain In Spain*, and *On The Street Where You Live*.

Directed by **Patti Finley**, this production features the talents of **Jill Kocalis** as Eliza, CTG newcomer **Bill Armstrong** as Henry Higgins, **Randy Aronson** as Colonel Pickering, **Michael Davies** as Alfred Doolittle, **Nicholas Laemmer** as Freddy Eynsford-Hill, **Jane Arnett** as Mrs. Higgins, **Nicki Heyd** as Mrs. Eynsford-Hill, and **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs** as Mrs. Pearce.

Others in the cast include **Jack Matson**, **Joe Abouafia**, **Edward Nason**, **Jordan Esbin**, **Jim Crawford**, **Harold Krueger**, **Jennifer Alexopoulos**, **Sandie Allaway**, **Carla Bambo**, **Carole Catanzaro**, **Rebecca Coombs**, **Sue DiSesso**, **Stephanie Jewell**, **Irene Krueger**, **Kamber Moen**, **Christina Noland**, and **Bridget Pugliese**.

The choreography is being created by **Rena Bailey-Barrett** with an assist from **Rebecca Coombs**, and the vocal direction is being shared by **Greg Finley** and **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs**.



Jill Kocalis as Eliza and Bill Armstrong as Henry Higgins. Photo by Neil Harris.

The costumes are being designed by **Janet McAnany** and **Jill McGlynn**. **Loren Burghout** is designing the lighting in addition to playing the role of Zoltan Karpathy.

Billy Davis is Assistant Director and co-set designer with **Frank Rock**. **Pat Robinson** and **John Alexopoulos** are handling set decoration and props.

For an enchanting evening of entertainment you won't want to miss *My Fair Lady*. Performances are Friday and Saturday evenings at 8PM, with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 1PM from May 23RD through June 28TH.

Join us for the champagne and wine reception at 7PM on opening night. Tickets are \$11-\$14 for Juniors and Seniors and \$14-\$17 for Adults. Call soon for reservations at 661.799.2702.

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!



Greetings from the President

Over the River and Through the Woods and A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas were some of the best theatre I have seen recently. I guess when the actors and the teams are doing their jobs, something special happens. I am very proud to be a part of an organization that can produce that level of art. Good job to all involved; you make us proud and continue the CTG tradition. *Man of La Mancha* was another great step in the regional theatre arena. A big "well done" to all those involved.

I am leaving in a few days to attend the graduation of my daughter Kayla from the University of Alaska. Family is coming from all over "the lower 48" and it should be quite a party at the Arctic Circle. After graduation she is moving to Anchorage and will work for Royal Carribean Cruise Lines. Courtney is doing well in her Aviation Management major at Arizona State University. She recently got a merit scholarship that covers most of her tuition. Dad gets to leave a little cash in the bank next semester.

Recession. It is an ugly word. I don't think there is any argument any more, it is here and it is real. 2008 may be stacking up to be a miserable year.

But there's good news. We here at the Canyon Theatre Guild sell escape. You want to get away? Leave your problems behind for a while? Go see *My Fair Lady*. Laugh at Henry Higgins' problems. Listen to the wonderful songs. Bring everyone you know. There won't be any presidential politics. No bleak economic news. Just great theatre.

The annual Board of Directors election is coming up. We need strong and fair-minded people to serve on the Board. People who will focus on what is best for the organization. People who can make the CTG a regional player while preserving the "family" feel. Please vote wisely.

This is probably my last column in the Spotlight. I want to thank you all for the support you have shown my family and me over the four years I have been president of the board. More than that, I want to thank you for supporting this fine organization. It is the people that set the Guild apart. Whether you build, direct, mix, light, paint, act, sing, dance, or donate your time in too many other ways to mention, without you, there is nothing. Keep the fire burning bright.

*Ed Hill,
President*



Artistic Impressions

TimBen Boydston
Executive Director of the CTG,
Artistic Director

Greetings from Old Town Newhall where there's always something new and exciting happening. A big thank-you to the City of Santa Clarita for the beautiful streetscape designs that have been approved for the block in front of the theatres of Old Town. There will be some disruption of traffic flow while the new storm drain, sidewalks, landscaping, street furniture, and water features are added; however, we will keep you up-to-date through our box office, newsletter, and website.

Speaking of the City, it has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your City Councilman over the past 16 months. Thanks to the hundreds of people who gave me encouragement, suggestions, and problems to solve. It has been a terrific experience and very rewarding to be a citizen legislator. I look forward to remaining involved, as I always have been, in our local community.

Congratulations to the love of my life and an incredible director, **Ingrid Boydston**, on her production of *Over The River and Through the Woods*. The artistic team, cast and crew, should be congratulated on their performance in a brilliant comedy, which left the audience gasping for breath one moment, and crying for joy the next.

Kudos also to co-directors **Jennifer Rennels-Magon** and **Leslie Berra** and their artistic team, cast and crew, for a wonderful rendition of life from a bygone era in *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas*. Our audiences were treated to a slice of Laura Ingalls Wilder's life filled with its hurdles and triumphs, beautifully portrayed.

(See *Artistic Impressions*, page 3)

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
-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



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

Youth Workshop Updates

Things are heating up as we prepare for our ever-popular Summer Youth Workshops here at the CTG! The first bit of news is that we received a Grant from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission for a Summer Intern. We are happy to announce that our own **Matthew Lawrence** will be filling that position! He is currently attending the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in Santa Maria and has been approved by the Commission to intern with us this year. He will be assisting in the CTG Kids workshop, as well as in the box office and the costume department. We're happy to have Matt with us again for a few months.

We are currently enrolling students in our summer workshops and the response for this year's program is excellent! In case you haven't signed up yet, there's still time, but some of the classes are filling up quickly, so call now!

(...Artistic Impressions, from page 2)

Huge congratulations to Co-chairs **Keri Mowry** and **Michael Davies** and a cast of incredibly talented kids who put on one heck of a show in our Annual Junior Cabaret, ***Cabareighties - I Love the Eighties!*** Each year, when we see our kids on stage, we know that the future of our organization and the future of theatre is bright.

If you were around the theatre toward the end of April, you may have run in to the Hallmark Channel filming an upcoming movie. The Canyon Theatre Guild playhouse will be featured as itself in the movie ***The Glass Seagull*** starring **Meredith Baxter** and **Leslie-Ann Warren**. It was a pleasure working with this fine company and look for us in the movie!

That's all for this time. See you at the theatre!

CTG KIDS is a two-week workshop for children ages 6-10 under the direction of "Sir Dude," **Michael Davies**. This year's production of ***The Three Billy Goats Go Calypso*** will have a free public performance on the last day of each class. The first three sessions meet from 12:30PM - 4:30PM:

Session A: June 16-27

Session B: June 30-July 11

Session C: July 14-25

Session D meets from 8AM - Noon
July 28 - August 8

The cost for this workshop is \$299 + \$25 registration fee.

CTG JUNIORS is a three-week workshop for children between the ages of 10-13 years. They will be presenting **Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Getting to Know...Once Upon A Mattress***. **Ingrid Boydston** and **Laura Lanoil** will be instructing this workshop and the children will present a free public performance on the last day of class.

Session 1: June 16-July 3
8:30AM-12:30PM

Session 2: July 7-July 25
8:30AM-12:30PM

Session 3: July 21-August 8
10AM-2PM

The cost for this workshop is \$399 + \$25 registration fee.



The American flag currently being flown over the Canyon Theatre Guild is to honor the service of Harold L. Ashton. He served our country from 1945-1946 as a corporal in the U.S. Army Air Force. Between the ages of 18-20, Harold was stationed at Scott Field in Illinois and Shepard Air Force Base in Texas.

The Canyon Theatre Guild and the Ashton-Coombs family salute you!

CTG STARS is a five-week musical theatre workshop for teens from 13-17 years old. There is only ONE SESSION: June 9-July 13 and the class meets from 10AM-4PM. This year's production, under the direction of Tamarah Ashton-Coombs will be ***Seussical the Musical Junior*** and there will be four performances of this production. The cost of this workshop is \$499 + \$25 registration fee.

Remember, class sizes are limited, so call now! 799.2702



Recent reconnaissance has uncovered a diabolical plot to take over the world. Our operatives in downtown Newhall have traced the source of the plan to one man who is working as a double agent at the CTG. Once a trusted member of Our Majesties Secret Service, his greed and lust for power has overtaken him, and now he is working for SEPTRE.

The CTG is holding its annual "Gala" on September 26, 2008 at 7PM where the double agent will begin his plot to take over the world. The theme of the event is a casino for supporters of the local theatre company. You must admit a brilliant cover. There will be food, drink, casino gaming, performance lounge, and of course breathtaking women and sinister men. A Casino Royale if you will.

Your mission is to pose as a high roller and infiltrate the GALA and stop the madman from taking over the world.

Further information to follow.

Good Luck and God Save the Queen



Spotlight on Keri Mowry

With her direction (with **Mike Davies**) of this year's Junior Cabaret on April 26, **Keri Mowry** has certainly become a rising star at CTG. One of the largest fundraising events at the Guild, this year's "Cabaret-eighties" celebrated "I love the 80s," and was a very successful first-time effort for Keri. "I've been amazed at the talent of the kids, as well as others in the Guild. I've told **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs**, (vocal director for the Junior Cabaret) how incredibly talented she is."

A real southern belle, Keri grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, and decided to move to California after getting an "extra" part in a movie being shot in Mobile Bay at the mooring of the battleship U.S.S. Alabama. "The makeup artist asked me to come visit southern California, I did, and I've never looked back." Keri studied acting with the Theatre Craft Playhouse in Hollywood, while her mother shipped canned goods "to make sure I had something to eat."



**Keri Mowry surrounded by
Cabaret Kids**

Although she studied acting, a well-hidden fact is that according to Keri, she is extremely shy and suffers stage fright.

She married her musician husband, Brad, in 1995, and they now live in Valencia along with their children Bradi and Crosby. Keri first became involved in the CTG three years ago when her daughter Bradi first participated in an after-school workshop. "Although the work with the Cabaret has been my most rewarding experience, my favorite show as been *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Coming from an Italian family, I could perfectly identify with the characters in the show."

The CTG family will look forward to **Keri Mowry** remaining in the spotlight, and congratulations and many thanks go to Keri for a terrific event for CTG Kids!

Summer at the College of the Canyons

The Santa Clarita Regional Theatre, a division of the Canyon Theatre Guild, will present the smash hit *Grease* at the COC from July 26 to Aug 17. If you are interested in helping by ushering and/or working the concession stand, please contact Marla at 250-3664.

COC requires that ushers be trained in order to learn seating and other rules of that large auditorium. You **MUST** be trained in order to usher! The bonus, of course, is that once trained, you are eligible to usher at other COC events. The next training at COC on on June 9 at 6:30PM.

Goldie Awards Celebrating 25TH Anniversary

The Canyon Theatre Guild was incorporated in 1970. In 1983-1984 the CTG held its first awards show celebrating the achievements of the many volunteers that contributed to the season. The winners of the first awards show were:

Best Director: **Rick Huntington**,
My Three Angels

Best Actor: **Rick Huntington**,
6 Rms Riv Vu

Best Actress: **Barbara Huntington**,
California Suite

Best Supporting Actor: **Jim Thomas**,
6 Rms Riv Vu

Best Supporting Actress: **Mary Cate Arndt**, *California Suite*

Irving G. Wallpaper Award:
Brad Peach

We give a special thank you to each of you for leading the way! Those early celebrations were pot-luck dinners at someone's home. Well, we've come a long way, baby and we would like to invite you to join us for a fantastic evening filled with love and appreciation for everyone who volunteers, and calls the CTG home.

The 2007-2008 Goldie Awards and Volunteer Appreciation night will be held at the Canyon Theatre Guild on July 12, 2008 and it's shaping up to be quite the event! There are lots of surprises in store, so plan to join us.

Save the date! We'll see you at the Goldies!

Jane Mick Artwork On Display

Jane Mick was born in London, England, but has lived most of her life in California.

She started her career as a fashion designer and then worked as a graphic designer. Art is such an important part of her life that during those years she always had art projects to keep her creativity going.



Jane is now focusing on oil paintings on canvas. Jane's art has won many awards: last year she received the Gold medal in oil and Best of Show at the Santa Clarita Artists' Association annual art show.

Jane is a self-taught artist, but she enjoys participating in workshops with different styles of painting such as "plein air" with artists Rod Edwards and Ernest Dollman. Jane takes her inspiration for her own art from architectural objects such as buildings, texture, glass, or any object that gives artistic inspiration. Inspiration is all around us. Jane Mick believes that art should stimulate the imagination of anyone that views it – whether it is telling a story or creating a mood. She believes that art has the ability to evoke emotion.

As you will see, her dance paintings are flowing, her landscapes are calming, her abstract paintings are edgy, and her paintings of celebration are created to bring together all different moods in our lives....a quiet moment, a special night, or just an interesting conversation piece.

Check out www.janemick.com to see what's new from the growing, changing styles of Jane Mick.

CTG Offers Scholarships

Once again, the Board of Directors is pleased to be able to offer not just one, but TWO scholarships to graduating high school seniors! In addition to the CTG's annual \$500 scholarship, this year we will be offering a second \$500 scholarship which was made possible through the donations of friends and family in memory of **Tatiana Weiss** who was one of the CTG's "Teen Queens" and graced our stage when we were located on Sierra Highway.

Scholarship applications are available at the box office now. Applicants will be interviewed by the scholarship committee: **Ingrid Boydston, Tamarah Ashton-Coombs, Marla Khayat, Patti Finley, and Stephanie Weiss.**

Five for Fun Seeking Directors

If you are interested in directing in the **FIVE FOR FUN** series, please turn in a resume, along with your idea for a show title. Some of these slots have been filled, but there are still some openings.

These shows run for one weekend in January-February, Friday and Saturday evenings (two performances). Be aware that rehearsals for this series will need to be held off-site, with one rehearsal on stage prior to the first performance. Also, there is no budget for these shows other than the CTG paying for royalties. Directors may use props, etc. that the Guild has on site. Anyone interested, contact Patti or TimBen.

Calling All Senior Citizens

Please accept my personal invitation to join our family of CTG Volunteers! There are so many things that need to be done in order to keep our theatre running, and we are constantly looking for help.

We need people to usher, to work at the concession stand, and to help with preparing the newsletter for mailing; these jobs are constant; they happen on a regular basis. The time involved is seldom more than 2 hours.

We also need help during the Street Fair in September; we have a CTG Food Stand, which needs people to cook, sell drinks and sell tickets. During the year, we support Blood Drives and parades. We sponsor a Book Drive to support the Newhall Library and need people to sell the books during the run of shows in January or February. There are various EXPOS in the fall. Our booth alerts the community to our services and performances; this task only requires sitting and providing information.

As a senior citizen myself, I can assure you that it is FUN to be involved, and that our participation is vitally needed and appreciated. If you have any free hours and are interested in helping the CTG, please call me: Marla 250-3664. I will be happy to explain our various needs in more detail. You don't need to feel 'trapped.' Just tell me that you are interested and I will alert you when events need help.

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!



Canyon Theatre Guild
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 Newhall, California 91321-2911
 Phone: 661.799.2702
 WWW.CANYONTHEATRE.ORG

Save these Dates!

- May 12 Board Meeting, Monday at 7PM
- May 17 Absentee Balloting, Saturday
10AM-4PM
- May 23 *My Fair Lady* opens, Friday at 8PM
- June 2 General Election, Monday at 7PM
- June 28 *My Fair Lady* closes, Saturday at 8PM
- July 12 Goldie Awards
- July 26 *Grease* opens, Saturday at 8PM
- Aug. 17 *Grease* closes, Sunday at 2PM
- Sep. 26 Annual Gala

A U D I T I O N S

GREASE

Co-directors **TimBen Boydston** and **Greg Finley** will be holding auditions for the Santa Clarita Regional Theatre's production of **Grease**, to be performed at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at the College of the Canyons.

Auditions will be held at the Canyon Theatre Guild from 10AM-4PM on Saturday, May 10 and from 7PM-9PM on Tuesday, May 13. Auditioners must be able to play at least 15 years old; there are also some adults in the cast. Please come prepared with approximately 16 bars of a show tune; bring your own accompaniment CD or tape, without voices on it. You will also be asked to dance, so wear appropriate clothes and shoes. Principal call-backs will be on Wednesday, May 14. Rehearsals will begin immediately.

The show runs from July 26 – August 17

MY WAY: A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA

My Way will be the summer musical at the CTG Playhouse in Newhall. Director **Michael Davies** will be holding auditions for two men and two women on Saturday and Sunday, May 17-18 from 10AM-Noon.

Man #1 is aged 40-60 and represents the "Rat Pack" years. This man sings many of the Sinatra standards and should be a baritone, have a feel for Sinatra's phrasing, and should be able to move well and sing close harmony. **Man #2** is aged 25-40 with the skinny, 1940's crooner look. He has a strong lyric baritone, be able to sing to a G, and should be able to sing parts and move well. **Woman #1** is 30-50 years old and should have dark, striking good looks. She is a mezzo with a belt and be able to portray a "torch singer." **Woman #2** is 25-35 years old, should be a striking blond or redhead, a la Marilyn Monroe, must be a good parts singer, have a band singer sound, and should be able to tap. Come prepared to sing with your own CD or tape accompaniment; you will also be asked to learn a dance combination.