



## *Bad Seed*

### CHILLING DRAMA FOR HALLOWEEN SEASON THRILLS



Jeff Johnson as Leroy and Fiona Perry as Rhoda

The Canyon Theatre Guild is proud to present Maxwell Anderson's hit Broadway play, *Bad Seed*, based on William March's novel. One of Broadway's outstanding hits, the *NY Telegram*, in its review of this play, said: "it is solely and honestly meant to entertain...As purely purposeful diversion it ranks with 'Dracula' and sometimes sets your spine to as much tingling...chilling."

Colonel and Christine Penmark (Joe Roselund and Laticia Widman) live with their daughter, Rhoda (Fiona Perry) in a small Southern town. Little Rhoda, is on the surface, the sweet and charming "perfect child" parents dream of. In reality, she is the evil queen of the story. Apparently full of old-fashioned graces, loved by her parents and admired by all her elders, Rhoda's mother begins to have an uneasy feeling about her when one of Rhoda's schoolmates, who had won a penmanship medal that Rhoda felt she deserved, is mysteriously drowned at a school picnic. As suspicions grow about how this accident could have occurred, other people turn up on the "mysteriously deceased" list.

Under the direction of Joseph P. Miele, the cast includes Jeff Johnson as the conniving handyman, Leroy; Lori D'Itri as the eccentric neighbor, Monica Breedlove; John Morris as her brother, Emery Wages; Andi Rhoads as Rhoda's teacher, Miss Fern; Carla Bambo and Brian Watts as Mr. and Mrs. Daigle, the grieving parents of the murdered little boy; Wade Bradford as the mystery writer, Reginald Tasker; Marc Deagon as Richard

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## *Musical!*

### *The Bard is Back!* MUSICAL MAYHEM COMES TO THE CTG

The fall Family Season offering at the Canyon Theatre Guild is a fun-filled show, *Musical! The Bard is Back!* As any theater aficionado knows, it is considered "bad luck" to speak the name of Shakespeare's *Scottish Play* while inside a theater. Those who are foolish enough to do so are "cursed" in their production. Well, when the students of a small high school decide to present a musical version of *Romeo and Juliet*, the director chosen for them by the school's principal, is horrified! It seems that years ago, when the director was a student at this same school, she starred in a disastrous production of Shakespeare's *Scottish Play* and she is afraid that the curse lingers on. Sure enough, everything goes wrong. The set for the balcony scene collapses, Juliet breaks her leg, her replacement develops laryngitis, and the semi-deaf costumer arrives with cowboy outfits (she thought the show was called *Rodeo and Lariat*). Add to this, the stage mother from hell and a mysterious cult of "techies" who sing an anthem to duct tape, and you've got a messy mayhem of a musical quicker than you can say *Macbeth* – oops!



Kirsten Raft, Lawrence Patchin, J.T. Friedman, and Kaylee Bodtke-Stout as "the stage crew" with Marla Khayat as Edna Phelps, the school's nearly-deaf secretary, costumer, and piano player.

This fun-filled romp is under the direction of Leslie Berra, and the cast includes Cristie Norman as Peggy Donahue, the harried, hapless director of the production; Jim Robinson as Principal Sanders, and Marla Khayat as the "older-than-dirt" costumer. Others in the cast include: Marina Moore,

(See *Bard!*, page 2)



## Greetings from the President

Well summer is almost at a close, soon the temperature will dip to the mid nineties, and a cloud will roll by to signify a new season.

I went to see *My Way* last night. The big crowd and the show just blew me away. **Ryan K. Massey**, **Tamara Wurst**, and **Kathy Lively** were outstanding but if you haven't seen and heard **Bill Lively** perform you have missed one of the great performances ever to grace our stage. To top it off, in the middle of the second act out trots year-and-a-half old **Tristan Massey** (Ryan's and Sarah's little boy) in full tux! What a moment! Not a dry eye in the house.

This is vastly becoming my favorite spot of the season because just two weeks ago I saw my second show of *Grease!* at the **College of the Canyon's Performing Arts Center**. Wow! Too many names to mention and some of

you I have literally watched grow up. I am tremendously proud of that cast. Doing shows at the **Performing Arts Center** is a great privilege, strain and risk. There is limited rehearsal time on the stage, not to mention the grand scale of the show. We cannot just be "good" – we have to be "great" – and *Grease!* far exceeded those goals. Hats off to directors **Greg Finley** and **TimBen Boydston** for a job well done. One of my favorite moments is while the cast is signing autographs afterwards: watching the little gals fight their way to meet and greet with **Shannon Bouknight** (Sandy). To the entire cast: you handled yourself and represented the CTG with tremendous professionalism; thank you and well done. No doubt about it, with 5 full scale productions at the **Performing Arts Center** under our belts, the **Santa Clarita Regional Theatre** has been (and will continue to be) a successful venture and banner. We've entertained a lot of folks, added new faces and energy to the CTG, and some of us have had the time of our lives. Thanks to all who supported the shows and a special thanks to our Executive Director **TimBen Boydston**.

By the time this hits your mailbox we will be near or right on the date of the biggest CTG fund-raiser of the year: our annual *Gala*. This year's event is an

*007 Casino Royale*; with a full casino, dinner, live and silent auctions, **Bond Girls** and the **Octopussy Lounge – and I am not hearing from you!!!** Come on membership: lets belly up to the bar, share a drink and grub and help the cause. Seriously, this theatre cannot grow and upgrade the quality of our complex without the support of fund-raisers like this. We have the best Gala team working for your entertainment. If you were able to witness last year's event you know how fun this Gala is and very much worth your support. For information on the event and to attend, call the box office immediately. **James Bond** will be there!

If you have any questions, concerns, or issues you'd like to bring to my attention; I have an e-mail address – you can reach me at [president@canyontheatreguild.org](mailto:president@canyontheatreguild.org) or call the box office with a message. I will get back to you.

**Support Live Theatre!**

*Randy Aronson,  
President*

(...*Bad Seed*, from page 1)

Bravo, Christine's father, and **Marc Steinfeld** as the Messenger.

*Bad Seed* opens on Friday, October 3RD, with a wine and champagne reception at 7PM, and will have performances every Friday and Saturday evening at 8PM through November 1ST. There will be Sunday matinees at 1PM on October 5, 12, and 19TH. Ticket prices are \$10-\$12 for Juniors (under 18) and Seniors (over 62); Adults are \$12-\$15. For reservations, contact the CTG box office at 661.799.2702. Performances are at the CTG's Old Town Playhouse, 24242 Main Street, Newhall.

(...*Bard!*, from page 1)

**Julie Brannon**, **Clare Tompkins-Cook**, **Paige Aronson**, **John Steele**, **Joshua DiPaola**, **Joshua David**, **Bradi Mowry**, **Mike Keane**, **Megan Tripp**, **Kaylee Bodtke-Stout**, **J.T. Friedman**, **Kirsten Rast**, **Lawrence Patchin**, **Natalie Fortman**, **Jenna Lanoil**, **Brittany Hartmire**, **Katie Fortman**, **Ross Mayer**, **Cassie Denault**, **Ashley Pfennig**, **Zoie Pulkka**, **Chloe Johnson**, **Taylor Kozlowski**, **Ashley Rasch**, **Kelsey Rasch**, **Cassie Schmitt**, and **Chad Spellman**.

The production team includes **Flo Loring**, producer and costume designer; **Tim Christianson**, assistant director and co-lighting

designer; **John Morris**, vocal director; **Rebecca Coombs**, **Matthew Lawrence**, and **Kamber Moen**, choreographers; **Jeff Hyde** and **Jim Robinson**, set designers; and **Sam Hyde**, co-lighting designer.

*Musical! The Bard is Back!* opens with a 1PM matinee on Saturday, October 4, and will run through November 1, with matinees every Saturday at 1PM and Sunday evening performances at 6:30PM on October 5, 12, and 19. There will be one Sunday matinee at 1PM, on October 26. Ticket prices for this fun-filled family musical are \$10-\$12 for Juniors/Seniors and \$12-\$15 for Adults. The Canyon Theatre Guild, Santa Clarita's oldest live theatre, is located at 24242 Main Street, in Old Town Newhall. For reservations, call 661.799.2702.



## Artistic Impressions

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

We just finished our 2007-08 Season and it was our most successful ever! Thanks to all our season ticket holders, audience members, volunteers, donors, staff and Board of Directors for making live theatre live in Santa Clarita. Special thanks to our County Supervisor, **Michael Antonovich**, and his Field Deputy Supervisor, **Rosalind Wayman**, for securing a Discretionary Grant which will help fund our youth programs. In addition, many thanks to the **Los Angeles County Arts Commission** and the **County Board of Supervisors** for grant funding which helped pay for our new Technical Director position. We are grateful also to the **City of Santa Clarita** who awarded us grants to help with production costs for the **Santa Clarita Presents** series and for our collaborative production of **Shakespeare in the Park** with our good friends at the **Repertory East Playhouse**.

The first shows of our seasons were both hits! In our **Santa Clarita Regional Theatre** season, **Grease!** had the audiences rockin' and rollin' and laughing and singing along at the **Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center** at the **College of the Canyons**. Congratulations to my co-director and co-musical director, **Greg Finley**; co-musical director **Jack Matson**; co-choreographers **Rena Bailey-Barrett** and **Matt Lawrence**, artistic team, cast and crew for bringing this rock 'n roll classic to life and making us fall in love all over again. In the CTG's Playhouse season, **My Way, A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra** held audiences spellbound with the joy of the music from a different era. Kudos to director **Mike Davies**, musical director **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs**, choreographer **Kamber Moen**, the artistic team, cast and crew, for a wonderful and magical trip back to a time to when you could understand the lyrics and hum along to the melodies.



## Youth Workshop Updates

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

After a very successful summer of Youth workshops, we're gearing up for our fall sessions. It's exciting and rewarding to watch our young people grow as they progress through our workshop programs. Many of the young people you saw in this summer's production of **Grease!** are "graduates" of CTG workshops, as are many of the cast members of the upcoming **Musical! The Bard is Back!** The future of the theatre is secure with the wealth of young talent we are growing! How fortunate we are to have dedicated, talented instructors to work with our young people, instilling self-confidence and helping them realize their potential as actors and members of a team.

Our fall lineup of instructors is set and we're happy to have such excellent teachers: Leading our Adventures in Theatre **Act II** workshop will be

**Patti Finley** with **Laura Lanoil** as assistant instructor and vocal director. This class will be working on **Madeline's Christmas**.

**ACT III** (After Class Theatre), for second through fifth grades, will be presenting **The Trial of Goldilocks** with **Michael Davies** as lead instructor.

Mike will also serve as assistant instructor for the **ACT IV** workshop for sixth grade and up, with **Lissa Gibbs** as lead instructor. Their production will be **Lucky Hudson**, a musical comedy.

It's going to be another exciting year and we're looking forward to meeting the new students and welcoming



A scene from last semester's  
ACT IV Workshop

Friday, September 26<sup>TH</sup> is our annual **Gala Fund-raiser** and this year's theme of **Casino Royale** should be great fun. We hear tell that **James Bond** will be here to try to thwart a double agent in his plot to take over the world. Our patio and adjacent areas will be transformed into the "**Octopussy Lounge**" where dinner will be served, and the **Casino Royale** where guests will be able to enjoy Blackjack, Roulette, and Crap tables. There will be adventure, excitement, and entertainment – so be sure to join us.

The very next day the **Street Art Festival** kicks off for a two-day run. You will not want to miss the fabulous Street Art painting, vendors, craft projects, family fun block, and a host of other activities in the five blocks of Old Town Newhall. You are certain to

(See *Artistic Impressions*, page 4)

back our returnees. We are proud to be able to offer these programs and we thank you, our membership and supporters, for your ongoing support. Did you know that we offer scholarships to these workshops through the **Boys and Girls Club**? Ten percent of our enrollment is reserved for scholarship students who would not otherwise be able to afford to attend these workshops. If you'd like more information on any of these workshops, call our Director of Daytime Programs, **Patti Finley**, at 661.799.2702. Hope to see you at the performances, cheering these young performers on! Our spring workshops will begin in January.

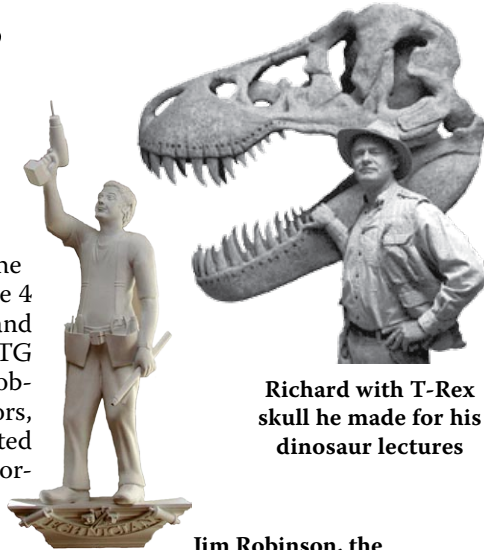
# Spotlight on Richard Wade



Have you ever wondered about the artist behind the statues of the 4 Muses (Comedy, Drama, Music, and Dance) on the front façade of the CTG and the Pillars of Theatre in the lobby (Writers, Technicians, Directors, and Performers)? The multi-talented Richard Wade has donated an enormous amount of his time and talent to provide us with these beautiful sculptures. In addition, the CTG has been enriched because each sculpture has been auctioned to be a likeness of a donor. Over the years the theatre has received over \$30,000 due to his efforts.

He created the intricate “Ebenezer Scrooge” headstone used in our *Christmas Carol* productions, and a working, portable fountain for Shakespeare’s *Taming of the Shrew*.

Richard has had several careers over the years. His love of being creative and for helping people has had him



Richard with T-Rex skull he made for his dinosaur lectures

Jim Robinson, the “Technician” in the lobby.

creating models for special effects in the movie industry (many of his works have exploded in front of your eyes!) to doing family counseling, and lecturing. He helps youth throughout Southern California by presenting science shows about dinosaurs, volcanos, and astronomy. He gets them involved by having them dig for dinosaur bones and making a model of a volcano actually erupt! Occasionally you’ll see him at Vasquez Rocks with the SCV “Local Group”



Scrooge at his headstone in *A Christmas Carol*



Two of the Four Muses (Diane Crawford is the Muse on the left, Cheri Fleming is the Muse on the right)

Astronomy Club showing people the wonders of the night sky.

Check out [www.sciencetalks.com](http://www.sciencetalks.com) to learn more about Richard’s endeavors.



Congratulations to **Jill Kocalis** (Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* and actress in many other productions) and **Jarod Scott** (last seen in *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas*). They became engaged at the Goldies! They met while performing *The Last 5 Years* in early 2007 at the **Repertory East Playhouse**.



Goldie Winners from 2007-2008 Season

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work up an appetite and a thirst while attending, so be sure to drop by the CTG’s Beer and Bear Garden and let us grill up some of your favorite foods. If you’d like to volunteer to help in this FUNd-raiser, give us a call at the office.

It’s going to be a great fall here at the CTG, and we look forward to seeing you here at your home-away-from-home – your Canyon Theatre Guild home!

## Chasing Open Spaces III



Live Oak Park  
Oil on Linen by Laura Wambsgans

Over 40 original landscape oil paintings by **Laura Wambsgans**, **Rod Edwards**, **Ernie Dollman**, and **Lorelle Miller**, historically document natural open spaces in and surrounding the Santa Clarita Valley. The exhibition will be held September 26<sup>TH</sup> thru November 1<sup>ST</sup> in our Gallery Hall.

As artists and residence of the Santa Clarita Valley we have been painting the oak trees, canyons and streams for many years, appreciating this valley more with each painting. The lighting, colors and vistas in this valley are so stunningly gorgeous that we find ourselves captive to our easels. By bringing these paintings together our goal is to have viewers discover a new appreciation for the untouched landscape of the Santa Clarita Valley.

This exhibit is about passion. If we can get a person to see a eucalyptus tree driving down McBean and have a light pop in their head and have them say “Ah Ha there are the pinks and blues in that trunk”, then we have awoken their “artists” eye. Hopefully they will never see this valley or anyplace else the same again after viewing this exhibit.

With this new language of art within them they will see one of the benefits of preserving the natural areas for future generations.

Just in the past few years fences and no parking signs have popped up all over our valley, stopping you from parking you car and just looking. To our city’s councils credit we have a great system of trails and bike paths winding though

the valley. We have several areas that will be preserved, such as Towsley Canyon, Pico Canyon, Placerita Nature Center for everyone to enjoy and view untamed wilderness.

In the morning quiet of these parks all you hear are clutches of quail taking off in unison as you approach; the rustle of deer’s hooves in the brush as they graze under the oaks; and hawks calling, seemingly out of pure joy. Cool air bounces off the rock walls, from the night before.



Sycamores in December  
Oil on Linen by Laura Wambsgans

The sun grazes the treetops and within minutes the whole tree is lit up and the day has begun. We see all of these wonders within minutes of our homes and in these paintings we are hoping to capture the emotions we feel and the scene on canvas. If successful, the viewers will share that morning each time they look at the painting. If we can awaken the artist’s eye in the community our valley will be cherished by all for the very dear place that it is.

Preview the artists’ work at these sites:

[www.rod-edwards.com](http://www.rod-edwards.com)

[www.laurawambsgans.com](http://www.laurawambsgans.com)

[www.lorellemiller.com](http://www.lorellemiller.com)

### 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

## Auditions for Holipalooza!

**Auditions for *The Magic of the Season*** will be held Saturday, October 11 from 4-6PM in the White Building. **Holipalooza!** is an all-youth musical variety show/fundraiser. To be eligible to perform you must be 18 years old or younger the night of the event (Friday, December 5<sup>TH</sup>).

Auditions are by appointment only. Please call **Leslie Berra** at 661.296.4530 for more information.



### 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!**

### 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!**

## Valuable Volunteers

CTG members, parents, and friends of actors generously volunteered to staff the Concession Stand during the Santa Clarita Regional Theatre production of GREASE. Seven people were needed for each of the 13 performances; quite a staff! Special thanks go out to the following who supported the CTG and the amazing talent in this show: **Teri Prata; Teresa Thompson; Jody, Amanda, and Krystina Nalian; Marlina and Gabi Rhodes; Mike Keane; Glenda and Ceidre Shim; Jill McGlynn; Paula Wahla; Marlowe Weisman; Lisa Melcome; Perry Roberts; Jennifer Lucas; Leslie Bouknight; Sandy and Gary Van Grinsven; Keri and Bradi Mawry; Diane and Ross Mayer; Marianne Moore; Holly Brannon; Tracey Tripp; John Alexopoulos; David and Judy Hartmire; Helen Johnson; Ann Norton; Frank Norton; Cheryl and Jose Castro; Flo Loring; Shana Vo; Marc Deagon; Kamber Moen; Rebecca Coombs; Halle and Tammy Kortlander; Barbi, Billy and Zachary Davis; Julene Allen; Jane Arnett; Jami Aronson; Sandie Allaway; Joe Miele, and Marla Khayat.** Most of these worked several shows; many came dressed appropriately in case they were needed.

In July, **Carol and Frank Rock; Carolyn Levine; Leslie Berra; Marc Deagon; Inez Roberts, and Julene Allen** represented the CTG as “waiters” at a *Jazz and Blues Evening Concert*. Their amazing abilities and charm garnered \$131 in ‘tips’ for the CTG.

Also during the summer a short-handed, but ever-ready group of ladies prepared for mailing both the CTG Spotlight and the mass mailing of the Youth Workshops: **Corla Burghout, Adeline Zimmerman, and Marla Khayat.**

We are grateful for the wonderful work all these people did and do, constantly! Our CTG thrives because of all our Valuable Volunteers! THANKS, again!

## Opportunities to Volunteer

Have you considered volunteering, but didn't know how to get started? It's easy! Now is a great time!

- Business Expo:** Sat. and Sun. October 11 and 12 at the College of the Canyons from 9 to 5.
- Kids' Expo:** Sunday, Oct. 19 from 10 to 4 at Golden Valley High School.

**Job Description:** Sit down. Smile. Promote the CTG by explaining and distributing our Brochure, Workshop flier, info on current shows, and encourage visitors to sign our Mailing List. Everything is provided for you. ‘Shifts’ are usually two-hours in length.

**Qualifications:** Enthusiasm!

Expos are fun! It's a nice way to meet people and share our love of theatre.

**STRONG BACKS** are needed for both events. These people help TimBen and Brian move “props” from the CTG, set-up, and then remove them.

- Musical! *The Bard is Back!*** Snack Bar and Usher Volunteers are needed for the run of this show: October 4<sup>TH</sup> to November 1<sup>ST</sup>.

- \* Every Sat. at 1PM.
- \* Sun. at 6:30 on Oct. 5,12,19
- \* One Sun. matinee on Oct. 26.

Needed: Someone to organize schedule and call to remind.

IF INTERESTED in any of the above opportunities, please contact Marla: 661.250.3664 or e-mail at [marlak8@yahoo.com](mailto:marlak8@yahoo.com). E-mail is fast and efficient. We can improve our requests and response by using it. THANKS, as always!

**Marla Khayat**  
Coordinator of Volunteers at  
the Canyon Theatre Guild.

### 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

Volunteers: Everyone who has given 50 hours to help the CTG can look forward to receiving a one-of-a-kind 'Thank You Volunteer' coffee mug very soon.

THANKS AGAIN!



### 2008-2009 CTG Board of Directors

President..... Randy Aronson  
1st Vice President..... Greg Finley  
2nd Vice President Tamarah Ashton-Coombs  
Secretary..... Flo Loring  
Treasurer..... Richard Smykle  
Members-At-Large: . Claudia Alexopoulos  
..... Billy Davis  
..... Mike Davies  
..... Andrew Fried  
..... Duane Harte  
..... Jeff Johnson  
..... Marla Kyayat

### 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 ..... Felice Wurst  
Newsletter Editor..... David Barsky  
Web Mistress ..... Cat Christine Ellen

### Contact Us

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





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Newhall, California 91321-2911  
Phone: 661.799.2702

WWW.CANYONTHEATRE.ORG

## Save these Dates!

- Sep. 26 Annual Gala, Friday at 6PM
- Oct. 3 *Bad Seed* opens, Friday at 8PM
- Oct. 4 *Musical! The Bard is Back!*  
Saturday at 1PM
- Oct. 13 CTG Board Mtg, Monday at 7PM
- Nov. 1 *Musical! The Bard is Back!* and  
*Bad Seed* Close,  
Saturday at 1pm & 8PM, respectively