



Leading Ladies for Continuous Hilarity at the CTG



Jason Endicott, Bridget Pugliese, Michael Collins, and Hannah Lively

How funny is Tony award winning author **Ken Ludwig's** latest in a trilogy of broad comedies (the first two being *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Moon Over Buffalo!*)? A scheduled three week run in Helsinki ran for over seven months before it was decided to run the show indefinitely! Critics have said "Ludwig's newest comedy is so funny it will make sophisticated and reasonable men and women of the 21st century cackle till their faces hurt."

Leading Ladies is about two Shakespearean actors in the early 1950s who are so down on their luck that they're playing "Scenes from Shakespeare" on the Moose-Lodge Circuit in the Amish country of Pennsylvania. When Leo (**Michael Collins**) and Jack (**Jason Endicott**) read about a rich old woman in York, PA (**Marla Khayat**) who is about to die and leave her fortune to her two long-lost nephews whom no one has seen since birth, they decide to high-tail it to York to impersonate the two men. It's only when they're a few minutes out of town that they discover that the nephews are in fact nieces, and that they must appear in York as "Maxine" and "Stephanie" if they're to collect the loot. While disguised as women, they fall for two local ladies (**Bridget Pugliese** and **Hannah Lively**) and the men's transformation from men to women again is hilarious and slightly reminiscent of *Some Like it Hot*. Adding to the mayhem are **Jeff Johnson** as Duncan Wooley, **Randy Aronson** as the inept Doc Myers, and **Brian Watts** as Butch.

The stellar cast, under the direction of **Ingrid Boydston**, will not only keep you laughing, but will keep you guessing as well. *Leading Ladies* opens on Friday at 8PM on March 27TH, (See *Leading Ladies*, page 2)

Treasure Island Proves That a Pirate's Life is Fun!

Treasure Island, the timeless tale of adventure, mutiny and friendship is told in this high-energy Canyon Theatre Guild production through witty lyrics, sparkling dialogue and humorous songs. This adaptation combines a terrific mix of comedy, music and drama and kids of all ages will love it! It captures the breathless and exhilarating mood of the book while adding a few irreverent touches that audiences will love. Presented in the style of Gilbert and Sullivan, the characters are interesting, the story is familiar, and the tunes are toe-tapping fun.

Under the direction of **Michael Davies**, the cast of *Treasure Island* features **Zane Sipotz** as young Jim Hawkins and **Marc Deagon** as Long John Silver. Also in the cast are **Brian Petro** as Squire Trelawny, **John Morris** as Dr. Livesey, **Tom Lund** as Black Dog, **David Kelly** as Big Jesse, **Don Sweezer** as Ben Gunn, **Michael Keane** as Billy Bone, **Jane Arnett** as Blind Pew and **Joe Aboulafia** as Mr. Arrow. The Pirate chorus includes **Jenn Alexopoulos**, **Carla Bambo**, **Loren Burghout**, **Vicki Endicott**, **JT Friedman**, **Chloe Johnson**, **Liam Johnson**, **Daniel Kummer**, **Ross Mayer**, **James McGowan**, **Cres San Jose**, and **Bethany Sweany**. Benn Gunn's Bevy of Beauties features **Kristie Hoefflin**, **Amanda Kramer**, **Kamber Moen**, **Bradi Mowry**, **Alexandra Nussey** and **Clare Tompkins-Cook**.



Zane Sipotz and Marc Deagon

The artistic team includes **Jeff Johnson** as Assistant Director, **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs** as Vocal Director, **Rebecca Coombs** as choreographer, **Tom Lund** and **David Kenny** as assistant vocal directors, **Billy Davis** as set designer and **Flo Loring** and **Jill McGlynn** as costume designers.

Treasure Island's the final production of the CTG's 2008-2009 Family Season and it will be great fun for audiences of all ages. The show opens on Saturday, March 28TH, and has performances every Saturday at 1PM through April 25TH. There are shows on Sundays at 6:30PM on March 29, April 5, and April 12. There is also a Sunday Matinee at 1PM on April 19th. Ticket prices are \$10-\$12 for Juniors and Seniors (See *Treasure Island*, page 2)



Greetings from the President

Even though there are a lot of happenings and events at the theatre this Spring, I am going to focus this "note" on the CTG's Children's Programs and how important I know these programs are to your child and their development as they grow into adults.

We don't just have events and programs for children and teens: we have outstanding programs for children and teens. Some are free but you have to audition (Musicals, shows and Jr. Cabaret, etc) - and some you have to pay for (workshops) where the instructors will teach you different acting techniques on our stage and how to audition. All are tremendous values and offer benefits that fit the young actor or actress. I do not guarantee any of these CTG programs will make your kid a STAR as some

(...Leading Ladies, from page 1)

with performances every Friday and Saturday evening at 8PM through April 25th. There will be Sunday matinees at 1PM on March 29, April 5 and April 12. Tickets are \$10-\$12 for Juniors and Seniors and \$12-\$15 for Adults. Call the box office for reservations at 661.799.2702. The Canyon Theatre Guild is located at 24242 Main Street, Old Town Newhall.

(...Treasure Island from page 1)

and \$12-\$15 for adults. Call the box office for reservations at 661.799.2702. The Canyon Theatre Guild is located at 24242 Main Street, Old Town Newhall.

other programs allude to. I do know that they will learn about theatre, gain confidence in their abilities, develop skills, and make friends that will enhance their lives as they enter adulthood. I know this because both my children have been raised in this theater - working back stage and performing here.

Sometimes, because we are a non-profit, some folks undervalue these programs, dismissing them because we are largely a volunteer-driven organization. Well here is the truth about that: nowhere will you find more qualified or experienced acting coaches and teachers than here at the CTG. We have Doctor of Music, educators, and actors/actresses who have worked professionally and non-professionally for many years. Any other theatre would be proud to have our staff, if they could afford them. A couple of other benefits we offer that others cannot, because we are a non-profit, is that our costs per hour of service can be 80% less than other outside programs.

Now it is time for you to think, "what is my child going to do this summer?" An inexpensive solution that will enhance their lives and ease your anxiety is to try our Summer Programs directed by the beautiful Patti Finley.

If you want a preview please come to our Junior Cabaret, directed by **Keri Mowry** and **TimBen Boydston** (Our Executive and Artistic Director). This year's theme is "*Fairy Tales Can Come True.*"

*Randy Aronson,
President*

Junior Cabaret is on the Way!

The 2009 Junior Cabaret is kicking off its 8th annual event on Saturday May 2ND. Our co-chairs for this event, **TimBen Boydston** and **Keri Mowry** are planning an incredible evening of entertainment provided by the talented youth of our community!

The theme for the evening is "**Fairy Tales Can Come True,**" and you will be enchanted with what you see. This will be an evening of food, fun and fabulous entertainment.

The doors will open at 5:30PM with food, no-host bar and opportunities to bid on fabulous silent auction items. The show will start at 7PM and it will be an evening to remember. There will be other wonderful opportunities to help us in our journey to raise money to build our new **Santa Clarita Children's Theatre** which will be housed in the historic **Newhall Auditorium**.

Tickets for this event are as follows:

Eight (8) on-stage tables at \$500 per table, seating for 5, with waiter service, 2 bottles of your favorite beverage and other special goodies.

VIP Seating, 1st four rows center section is \$50

Preferred Seating, in rows 5 through 10 is \$25.00 for adults, \$20.00 for Seniors/Juniors

Regular seating is \$20 for adults, \$15 for Seniors/Juniors.

Set aside Saturday, May 2ND, and plan to come to the Canyon Theatre Guild to support these young people as they charm and entertain you. Make your reservations ASAP! Call the box office at 661.799.2702 and make a date!



Artistic Impressions

TimBen Boydston
Executive Director of the CTG,
Artistic Director

Springtime is the season when new life bursts forth and the Theatre Guild is no different, with new shows sprouting up and great shows in full bloom. The theatre is also bustling with the activity of our Adventures In Theatre workshop where our director, **Patti Finley**, along with assistant director **Laura Lanoil**, are putting together another great show for the local elementary schools, *Henry and Ramona*. If you have children or grandchildren in grade school, be sure to call the box office and book tickets to this limited run. Now is the time to sign up for summer workshops as well. Our cadre of theatre professionals and award-winning teachers will be producing great memories, great friendships, and great shows all summer long.

Congratulations also to my co-director, Patti, our co-musical directors **Leslie Berra** and **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs** and our choreographer, **Nancy Alterman** for an incredible production of *A Chorus Line* which has been hailed by audiences and critics.

Many thanks also to my co-chair, **Leslie Berra**, for a wonderfully fun and fabulous evening of re-living the 70's at our *That 70's Cabaret*. If you missed it, you missed out on a fun evening where we raised approximately \$10,000 for our theatre programs. Our gratitude to everyone who contributed their time and resources in this economy. Your help is keeping the CTG strong.

We're very excited about our new season! Don't miss a single show.

See you at the theatre!

TimBen



Youth Workshop Updates

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

The Adventures in Theatre workshop is nearing completion and there are already ten schools scheduled to attend daytime performances of *Henry and Ramona* beginning April 13th. There will only be one evening performance of this production, on Monday, April 20 at 7pm. Be sure to come and enjoy not only a funny show, but some adorable home schooled children.

The After School workshop production of *Humpty-Dumpty is Missing! OR The Mysterious Case of the Fallen Egg* will have its evening performance at 7PM on Thursday, April 16th. Come and show your support for these aspiring actors who have been working on learning the art of live theater for ten weeks.

Summer Youth Workshops are accepting registrations now! Don't miss out – call today to reserve a spot for your child.

CTG KIDS –Ages 6 – 10 Three 2-week sessions

No experience necessary

Have fun learning how to audition, sing, dance, and act! Play improvisation games and learn theatre terminology. Make new friends and great memories!

Free public performance on the last day of camp!

\$299 + \$25 registration fee – Limit 25 students

This summer's production:
The Emperor's New Clothes

Choose from 3 sessions: (All sessions will meet from 12:30 – 4:30 PM)

Session #A: June 15 – June 26

Session #B: June 29 – July 10

Session #C: July 13 – July 24

CTG JUNIORS – Ages 10 – 13 Two 3-week sessions

Experience how to audition, work on scenes, and develop a character all while acting, singing, and dancing in a real production

Improvisational games and theatre history will also be covered

Make friends while learning how to be a team with cast and crew mates

Free public performance on the last day of camp!

\$399 + \$25 registration fee – Limit 25 students

This summer's production:
Kamp KAOS

Choose from 2 sessions: (Both sessions will meet from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM)

Session #1: June 15 – July 3

Session #2: July 6 – July 24

CTG STARS - Ages 13 – 17 One 4-week session

An opportunity to be a part of an intensive, entertaining musical theatre workshop at a working theatre. Make friends with others who have similar interests.

Experience being in a show from auditions to production!

Focus on acting choices, character development, scene study, and monologue development while acting, singing and dancing in a real production!

Workshop culminates in four public performances!

\$499 + \$25 registration fee – limit 30 students

This Summer's Production:
Disney's® Beauty and the Beast Junior

June 15 – July 12 (Session meets from 9:30AM – 5PM)

Family Discount: 25% discount on 2nd child from same family!

ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED –
CALL TODAY: (661) 799-2702

Some Scholarships are available through the Boys & Girls Club

(See *Workshop Updates* page 4)

2009-2010 Season

The Board of Directors has approved the following shows for the 2009-2010 Playhouse Season. All titles are pending the approval of performance rights.

Regular Season:

August 2009:

Social Security (Comedy)

Sept./Oct., 2009:

Phantom (Kopit & Westin version)
(Musical)

Nov./Dec., 2009:

Miracle on 34th Street

Jan./Feb., 2010:

Beau Jest (Comedy)

Spring, 2010:

The Producers (Musical)

June/July, 2010:

Be My Baby (Comedy)

Family Season:

August, 2009:

Cinderella

Jan./Feb., 2010:

High School Musical 2 (Musical)

June/July, 2010:

Tom Sawyer (Play with music)



(Workshop Updates, from page 3)

All workshops will be taught at the Canyon Theatre Guild's Old Town Newhall Playhouse. All of our instructors are trained in the State of California's VAPA Standards and are either professional teachers or theatre professionals. This program offers your child the gifts of self-confidence, self-esteem, the ability to work within a team, and helps develop responsibility and self-discipline. Give us a call to learn more about this very successful and popular program.

Save these Dates!

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Mar. 27 | <i>Leading Ladies</i> opens,
Friday at 8PM |
| Mar. 28 | <i>Treasure Island</i> opens,
Saturday at 1PM |
| Apr. 1 | Deadline: Director Applications |
| Apr. 13 | General Election Meeting,
CTG Board Meeting,
Monday at 7pm/8pm, respectively |
| Apr. 25 | <i>Treasure Island</i> closes
Saturday at 1PM,
<i>Leading Ladies</i> closes
Saturday at 8PM |
| May 16 | Absentee Balloting, Saturday |
| May 19 | Deadline: Scholarship Applications |
| June 1 | CTG Elections, Monday, 7PM |

Scholarship Opportunity

The Canyon Theatre Guild's Board of Directors is pleased to be able to once again offer a \$500 college scholarship to a graduating senior. If you are, or know of, someone who is graduating this year who would like to apply for this scholarship, applications are available in the box office. The committee must receive applications no later than **April 15TH**.

The scholarship committee consists of **Ingrid Boydston**, **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs**, **Marla Khayat**, and **Patti Finley**. Applicants are not required to be members of the CTG, but there are extra points allotted for participation here. Good luck!



A "Funny" Thing...

Due to production difficulties beyond the control of the Canyon Theatre Guild, our upcoming production of *Forty-Second Street* has been replaced with the hilarious Broadway hit comedy, *A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM*, with book by **Burt Shevelove** and **Larry Gelbart** and Music and Lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**. Director **Patti Finley** and her artistic team are excited about this new project and rehearsals will be under way as this goes to press. **Billy Davis** is Assistant Director and Sound Designer, **Greg Finley** is vocal director, with **Tom Lund** as Assistant Vocal Director. Choreography is by **Musette Caing** and **Jan Marie Rennels**, and **Janet McAnany** is designing the costumes. **Mike Davies** will design the Roman set and **Jill McGlynn** is set decorator and prop mistress.

"Tragedy tomorrow, comedy tonight!" Broadway's greatest farce is light, fast-paced, witty, irreverent and one of the funniest musicals ever written – the perfect escape from life's troubles. *Forum* takes comedy back to its roots, combining situations from time-tested, 2300 year old comedies of Roman playwright Plautus, with the infectious energy of classic vaudeville. The result is a non-stop laugh-fest in which Pseudolus, a crafty slave, struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan (Philia) for his young master (Hero), in exchange for freedom. The play is filled with the classic components of farce including mistaken identities, a chase, disguises, and lots of fast-closing doors. It's a laugh a minute and you won't want to miss it!

Performances begin on Saturday, May 23RD and go through June 27TH. Plan now for an evening of hilarity at the CTG.

Artists Currently Displaying in the Hallway

Gerda Maxey

Gerda was born in Paraguay, South America of German descent. She is fluent in three languages: English, German and Spanish. She came to the United States over fifty years ago where she settled in Southern California. After retiring from civil service work in 1989 she picked up her first paint brush and has been painting with a passion ever since. She studied at **College of Design Art Center** in Pasadena and **Cal Arts Institute in Westlake**. She has also studied privately as an apprentice to master painters Violet Parkhurst, Lance Richlin and Robert Tanenbaum.



Fascinated by the classic painting methods of the past, she devoted herself to becoming an expert in Renaissance techniques. She has challenged herself to recreate the most demanding masterpieces. Some of her favorite artists are Bouguereau, Cassatt, Cot and Ruben.

She loves to paint portraits and still life. Turn your favorite photo from a special event into a work of art. She is happy to take commissions upon request.

Gerda received Best of Show Award at The Santa Clarita Artists' Association's Annual Art Classic in 2002 and 2006.

Shirley Chekos

Shirley developed a fascination and deep connection with wildlife from an early age that later became her artistic inspiration. An award-winning, self-taught artist, Shirley has expressed her love of animals with oil paints since 1971. Her life-like artwork captures the beautiful details of each animal and bird she paints – from the regal male lion watching over his pride, to the female giraffe taking care of her baby – the African elephant leading its herd, to the hummingbird tasting a flower's sweet nectar. Each painted canvas depicts a quiet, yet breathtaking moment in time.

Based in Los Angeles, Shirley takes great pride not only in her own paintings, but in the work of her students as well. An oil painting teacher for 28 years, Shirley also finds joy in helping others discover their own artistic potential. In addition to teaching weekly art classes, she participates regularly in art shows and is acting treasurer for the Santa Clarita Artist Association.

Shirley's paintings have been acknowledged with numerous awards from organizations that include the Beverly Hills Art Show Extravaganza, San Fernando Valley Artist Association, Santa Clarita Excellence in Art, and many more.

After a recent journey to Africa, where Shirley experienced the country's wildlife and intense beauty up close and personal, her own artistic vision has been expanded. This added layer of compassion for nature's magnificent creatures is reflected in the new paintings she is currently working on.



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

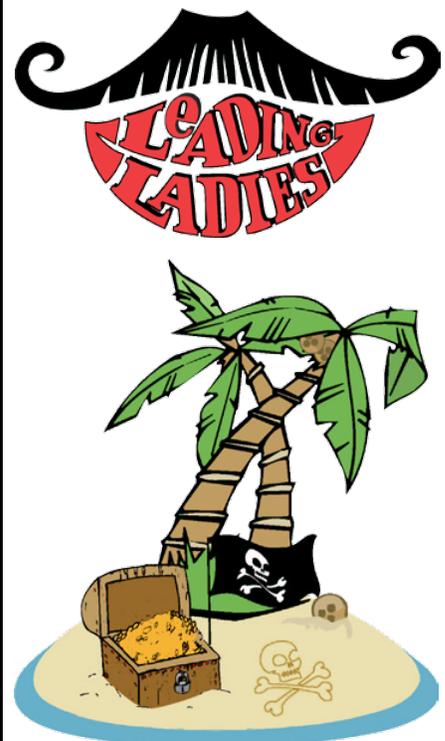
and click on Arts & Events

or visit www.661Arts.com for additional information on the visual and performing arts.

CTG Online Website:

www.canyontheatre.org

FACEBOOK Group:
Canyon Theatre Guild



Election Committee is Forming

Elections are coming up at our General Meeting in June when you will vote for the people to fill the member-elected positions on our Board of Directors. This year's Election Committee is being headed by outgoing Board members **Marla Khayat** and **Greg Finley**. Additional committee members will be appointed from the General Membership. There are two seats becoming available which are being vacated by **Greg Finley** and **Marla Khayat** who have each served for six years. According to our By-Laws, these two hard-working board members may not run for re-election this year. The third seat is currently being held by **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs**.

Candidates for the CTG Board of Directors must meet the following MINIMUM criteria as set forth in Section 2 of the By-Laws Rules and Regulations:

A candidate must have been a regular member of the organization for at least one year, and they must be at least 18 years of age.

In addition, Board members look after the business of the theatre guild and should be able to make the commitment of time and resources necessary. If you are interested in finding out more about our Board, contact **Marla** (250-3664) or **Greg** (714-0055) or our Executive Director, **TimBen Boydston** at 799-2700. Be sure to attend the General Meeting at 7PM on Monday, April 11, 2009 where nominations will be accepted, and memberships will be verified by the committee. (Board Meeting will follow General meeting)

The election will be held at the General Meeting on Monday, June 1, 2009. Members may also cast Absentee Ballots on Saturday, May 16 between 10AM and 4PM in the lobby of the theatre. To be eligible to vote, a membership must be current at least seven (7) days prior to voting. Newly elected Board members will assume their duties on July 13TH. Serving on

Director Applications

Those interested in directing in the CTG's 2009-2010 Playhouse Season may submit applications, which are available at the box office.

Applications must be returned by April 1ST.

The shows and dates will be listed on the application. Minimum requirements for all applicants are that they must be at least 18 years old, have been a member of the CTG for at least a year and have served as Stage Manager and Assistant Director. In addition, if you are interested in serving on one of the Artistic Teams (Assistant Director, choreographer, vocal director, costume designer, lighting or sound designer etc.) you must also submit a "Team" application.

the Board requires a considerable commitment of time, but it is never dull. If you'd like more information, talk to the member of the board listed in this newsletter, or contact **TimBen Boydston**, our Executive Director, at 661.799.2702.

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!

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!

2008-2009 CTG Board of Directors
President..... Randy Aronson
1st Vice President..... Greg Finley
2nd Vice President.. Tamarah Ashton-Coombs
Secretary..... Flo Loring
Treasurer..... Mike Davies
Members-At-Large: ... Claudia Alexopoulos
..... Billy Davis
..... 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