



May–June 2009

The Mission of the Canyon Theatre Guild is to make the world a better place by entertaining, educating, enlightening, and enriching our community through quality live theatre.

Issue No. 6, 2008–2009 Season

## Tragedy Tomorrow Comedy Tonight!



**Greg Finley, Michael Davies, David Kenny,  
and Wade Bradford**

One of the funniest musicals ever written, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* came to the Canyon Theatre Guild stage on May 23rd for a six-weekend run. *Forum* takes comedy back to its roots with fast-paced, funny dialogue and situations which make it the perfect escape from life's troubles. Broadway's greatest farce brings back the energy of old time vaudeville in a non-stop laugh-fest.

Under the direction of **Patti Finley**, the talented cast keeps the laughs coming and the action moving. **David Kenny** is Pseudolus, the slave whose desire to be free propels the action of the play. Senex, the aging, hen-pecked master of the house, is played by **Greg Finley** and **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs** is Domina, his over-bearing wife. Their innocent, day-dreaming son, Hero, is played by **Tom Lund** and the head slave in the House of Senex is the hapless, nervous Hysterium, played by **Wade Bradford**.

Next door is the House of Marcus Lycus, a buyer and seller of courtesans. Lycus is played by **Michael Davies** and his courtesans include the lovely Tintinabula (**Felice Wurst**), Vibrata (**Kamber Moen**), Panacea (**Samantha Strickland**), the Geminae twins (**Amanda McMurray** and **JanMarie Rennells**), and the larger than life Gymnasia (**Carol Rock**). Also in this house of the flesh lives the lovely but vacant

virgin, Philia (**Rebecca Coombs**) who is the object of Hero's affection, but who has been sold to a pompous warrior, Miles Gloriosus (**Billy Davis**).

On the other side of Senex's house is the house of Erronius (**Darel Roberts**), a doddering old man who spends most of the play searching for his son and daughter who were stolen by pirates. The Proteans are the ever-present "clowns" of this play, the "Greek Chorus" who play all of the other characters. They are portrayed by **Brad Rennells**, **Frank Rock**, and **Joe Roselund**. **Joshua DiPaola** is the Protean understudy.

The artistic team which keeps all of this madness in check includes **Billy Davis**, who is the assistant director and sound designer; **Greg Finley**, vocal director; and **JanMarie Rennells** and **Musette Caing**, choreographers. **Tom Lund** is assistant vocal director and **Janet McAnany** designed the colorful and historically accurate costumes. **Jill McGlynn** was the set decorator. **Sam Hyde** designed the lighting and **Michael Davies** and **Frank Rock** designed the Roman set.

"I am excited about directing "Forum" because I know it's going to be fun not only for the cast and crew, but for the audiences. We can all use some laughter right about now and this show is the perfect vehicle for that."

*Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* has performances every Saturday evening at 8PM, and Sunday matinees at 1PM. In addition, there will be Friday evening performances on June 5, 12, 19 and 26, and Saturday matinees on June 20 and 27.

Ticket prices are \$12-\$15 for juniors and seniors, and \$15-\$17 for adults. The Canyon Theatre Guild's Old Town Playhouse is located at 24242 Main Street, Newhall. The box office number is 661.799.2702.



**Darel Roberts and David Kenny**



## Greetings from the President

I just want to take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers who take the time to make our theatre one of the finest theatre experiences in the world. Lavish statement but let's face it we are pretty damn good. What keeps us in front of a lot of theatres are our volunteers.

I see you virtually every time I come in, filling the coffee pots, sewing the costumes, ushering, preparing the snack bar, learning the light board,

etc. The list is endless and knows no boundary. Recently, since I have been doing *Leading Ladies*, I come to theatre an hour before show time and I am always greeted by 3 or 4 of you tending snack bar and it always makes me smile and its not just because I know that coffee is almost ready. I am smiling because I know the folks who are coming to theatre are going to be welcomed by the backbone of the organization.

Let me explain, the "live" theatre experience is much more than the current production on stage. It is how the patron feels welcomed and comfortable. In this age of HDTV, 3D movies and other high tech entertainment, Live Theatre has a tremendous hill to climb when it asks an audience to suspend belief and enjoy the ride. The "show" does not start when the first actor/actress

utters their first line; it starts when the customer first opens the door to our venue and hears the first "hello". That's when they decide if they feel at home enough to spend a couple of hours w/ us and that is the reason they come back repeatedly.

They say that volunteerism (service in general) is sometimes a thankless job, I strongly disagree with that statement and think "service" is the most fulfilling experience one can have. Having said that to all of you who unselfishly donate your time, talent and energy,

THANK YOU. You are what keep this organization a float.

*Randy Aronson,  
President*



## Artistic Impressions

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

Greetings from the Old Town construction zone! If you've been to the theatre in the last few weeks, you know that there is a lot of construction taking place as the old sidewalks are being replaced by beautiful, new "paver stone" sidewalks. The City is replacing two blocks of the downtown streetscape. The improvements include a new storm drain, the aforementioned new sidewalks, plus new street furniture, lighting and landscaping. The landscaping will, of course, have automatic watering systems which will assure that our downtown will stay beautiful the year round. All of these improvements are targeted to be finished by the July 4th weekend. None of the businesses in Old Town are closed during this construction, so we invite you to shop at some of our neighbors such as the new cookbook store that has relocated across the street. Cookbooks Plus is a unique shop

and really deserves a visit. The theatre is also, of course, open for business although on some days the access to the box office will be through the patio and our side doors. If the front of the theatre is closed, just follow the directional signs.

Our new season is set and is going to be great! If you know anyone who is not a season ticket holder, be sure to let them know what a great entertainment value this is. Season ticket holders save almost 50% on their ticket prices and have a whole section reserved for them for each show of our Playhouse Season. There's also a bonus surprise for new and renewing members that our box office will tell you about. Call our box office for details.

Congratulations to the love of my life and a great director for a fabulous job on an incredibly funny comedy, *Leading Ladies*. The artistic team, cast and crew produced one of the funniest shows ever to cross our boards. Kudos also to director, **Mike Davies**, choreographer **Rebecca Coombs**, musical director **Tamarah Ashton-Coombs**, artistic team, cast and crew for a fun and funny family musical, *Treasure Island*. Special thanks to **Jeff Johnson** for the great idea of having treasure "booty" available. It was a really fun, mini-fundraiser. Every child that I spoke to, including my own

daughter, absolutely loved this show!

A big "congratulations!" to Chairman **Keri Mowry**, musical director **Leslie Berra** and choreographers **Rena Bailey-Barrett**, **Rebecca Coombs**, **Hannah Lively** and **Kamber Moen**, and a cast, crew and volunteers of thousands who put on an incredible, wonderful, warm, uplifting entertainment extravaganza, *Junior Cabaret 2009*. Watching our talented young people grow into better performers and responsible young adults make me proud to lead this incredible organization.

I'll see you at the theatre!

*TimBen*

### 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!**



## Youth Workshop Updates

Patti Finley

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

Our Spring workshops ended with terrific productions of *Humpty-Dumpty Is Missing* and *Henry and Ramona*. Each of the children brought something special to their show and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with them. Special thanks to the talented instructors and assistants who guided these fledgling actors for ten weeks. Watch for information on our Fall workshops!

Meanwhile, we are busy planning an exciting and fun-filled summer of workshops. All of our teaching positions have been filled and we're very excited to welcome some new faces and to welcome back familiar ones. Our **CTG Kids Workshop** for children between six and ten years old will be led by **Ingrid Boydston** who is one of the founders of our summer program. Ingrid teaches Kindergarten at Bridgeport Elementary and was a **California Teacher of the Year**, in addition to being a very talented director and actress. She will be assisted by a, Intern from USC, **Allison Husko**, who will be a wonderful addition to our staff this summer. This group will be presenting *The Emperor's New Clothes*.

**CTG Juniors** for students between the ages of 10 and 13, will be led by **Laura Lanoil** who has worked with our Juniors for several years in addition to working in our

### Demand for Seats is High

Due to the increased popularity of our shows, PLEASE call **805-255-2222** 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!

**Adventures in Theatre Workshops** during the school year. Working with Laura this summer will be **Jean Paletz** who runs the drama program for Legacy Academy and who has spent the last several summers at the CTG working with the STARS group as well as helping with Juniors and Kids. Both of these ladies bring a wealth of experience to our program. The Juniors will be working on *Kamp KAOS*, a fun musical comedy about a summer camp.

CTG STARS will be presenting *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* this summer and these students will be in the very capable hands of **Michael Davies** and **Leslie Berra**, both of whom are well-loved for their work with the children of the CTG, and both of whom are accomplished directors. **Rebecca Coombs** as choreographer will assist them.

These classes are filling up, so call now to reserve a spot for your child. It's a great way to spend part of the summer. Your child will thank you for it! Parents of some of our past students have said "Your program is perfect!" and "It really raised my child's self-esteem. Keep up the good work!" Join us this summer; you'll be glad you did!

### Save these Dates!

- June 1 CTG Elections, Monday at 7PM
- June 1-2 *Cinderella* auditions, See article on page 6.
- June 8-9 *Social Security* auditions, See article on page 6.
- June 8 CTG Board Meeting Monday at 7PM
- June 27 *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* closes Saturday at 8PM,
- July 11 Annual Goldie Awards

# 2009-2010 Season

## SANTA CLARITA REGIONAL THEATRE

at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at COC

July-August 2009

*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Musical)

Directed by **TimBen Boydston**

March 2010

*RENT* (Musical)

Directed by **Leslie Berra**

## CTG PLAYHOUSE SEASON

Downtown Newhall

August 2009

*Social Security* (Comedy)  
Directed by **Michael Davies**

September-October 2009

*Phantom* (by Kopit & Westin) (Musical)  
Directed by **Patti Finley**

November-December 2009

*Miracle on 34th Street*  
Directed by **Greg Finley**

April-May 2010

*Be My Baby*  
Directed by **Ingrid Boydston**

June-July 2010

*The Producers* (Musical)  
Directed by **Leslie Berra**

## CTG FAMILY SEASON

Downtown Newhall

July-August, 2009

*Cinderella*  
Co-Directed by **Michael Davies** and **Brian Watts**

February-March 2010

*High School Musical 2* (Musical)  
Directed by **Patti Finley**

June-July, 2010

*Tom Sawyer* (Play with music)  
Directed by **Jeff Johnson**

**WADE BRADFORD**

I have been in love with the theater ever since I appeared in a school play as Snowman #3. Since then, I have been writing plays, watching plays, and sometimes even starring in plays. From 1992 to 1999, I was the Youth Theater director for the Yorba Linda Civic Light Opera. After moving to Santa Clarita in 2001, I began teaching English at College of the Canyons. That's also the same time I discovered the wonderful Canyon Theater Guild. If elected, I plan to brainstorm with my talented colleagues to find innovative ways to promote the theater, develop new fundraising events, and foster our community's creative spirit.

All the best,

**Wade Bradford**

**CARLA BAMBO**

This is my very first election ever! I am honored and excited to have been nominated.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to the CTG. I became a part of this great family theatre in 2006, at a time in my life when I needed to "recharge my batteries." I have been in a few productions and loved every one of those memories. I have tried to help (and will continue to do so) in many opportunities to volunteer. I have met and made many treasured friends, young and older. I have a lot of passion for fine arts. I believe that as we are exposed to good, clean and wholesome entertainment, we become better individuals, we strengthen family and ultimately communities and our souls are refined. I am the only female running in this election and I believe I can bring a new, fresh perspective to the board of directors at CTG. I am a hard working individual. My goal is to bring enthusiasm, energy and commitment to the already strong board.

Personally, I am married and have three beautiful teens. I home schooled my children for most of their lives. I opened my own business as a child day-care center, of which I love. I was born and raised in Italy and moved to the states twenty-one years ago. I am multilingual and desire to know more, because I believe you can bridge the gap between many cultures by learning about them. I have an insatiable desire to learn new things and to improve myself by serving where and when I am needed.

**MICHAEL KEANE**

*"I feel the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more." – Jonas Salk*

It is no secret that I believe in the Canyon Theatre Guild and what it means to the arts and the community. I show my belief in the theater by volunteering my time in a myriad of ways, from lights & sound, to backstage, to helping with our fundraisers, and even with trying to increase and improve the theater's public profile. I would like to continue to help the theater, to do more for the theater by serving as a board member. In order to do that, I need the help of the general membership to provide me with that opportunity.

I currently do much to try to help the theater in any way I can. I have run the sound and lights for many of the shows since I have joined the CTG as well as stage managed many of our fundraising shows including both the Adult and Junior Cabarets. Many of you probably receive messages from me on Facebook informing you of upcoming shows, auditions, and other events. I initiated our Facebook presence as a way to increase the theater's exposure and to provide another avenue for information while costing us nothing. I am currently a member of the theater's marketing committee as well, working to insure that the image of the theater keeps up with image we wish to portray as well as devising new and interesting ways of invigorating the public's interest in our theater.

I like helping the theater, and I will continue to do so regardless of the outcome of this election. With your permission, the permission of the general membership, I would like to be rewarded the opportunity to do more.

**ELECTION  
REMINDER**

**Your membership MUST  
be current in order for  
you to vote.**

**General Election is  
Monday, June 1st  
at the CTG at 7PM**

**JOHN MORRIS**

I have resisted the urge to run for the CTG board for 2 years now... I felt I was still too new to the theatre, and needed to have a better understanding of what goes on here. Well, I don't really understand much more than I did two years ago, but... when I started thinking about tossing my hat in the ring, I wondered what I might bring to the table. I don't have any special business skills to speak of... no wealth of resources to draw from... I'm not even that much of a visionary. However... those of you who know me have heard me say more than once that this theatre, just being here, energizes me. It doesn't matter what kind of day I've had, I always look forward to coming to the theatre, whether it is to rehearse, perform, or volunteer my time and/or services. I can only hope to return this energy to my fellow thespians, our audiences, and the community at large. So what do I have to offer? While I may not be a visionary, I'm a great administrator... I can also bring enthusiasm... insights from my own personal experiences... and a great love for the theatre that I am proud to call my home. Thank you!

**FRANK ROCK**

Over the last decade, we've seen a lot of change at the Canyon Theatre Guild. We've gone from an enthusiastic group performing in an assortment of primitive performance spaces to a dynamic, creative force that has become the anchor of the arts district in Old Town Newhall.

The change has come as a result of teamwork – our members and board of directors, working with city officials and the community to give our patrons an unforgettable theater experience. I am proud to have been part of that successful team in the past and would be honored to serve you again as a member of the Board.

As the lead scenic artist for the Guild as well as an artist who has created several pieces of public art in Newhall, I have a working relationship with city staff and the arts community that would benefit the Guild.

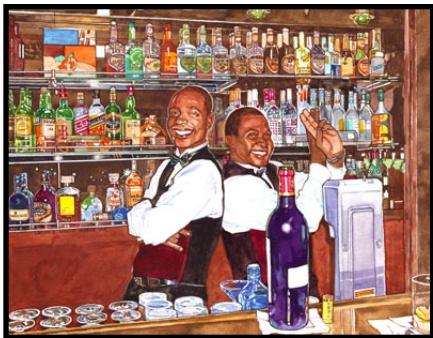
I've been an active member of the Guild for 15 years, working within the theater and on many community outreach efforts. I want to be a conduit for members to have their concerns and issues considered as the Guild moves forward as a leader in the arts in Santa Clarita.

Bottom line: I truly believe that our theater can make a difference in the lives of individuals as well as improve our community, even in these challenging times.

With our regional theater wing and expanded youth programming, I want to be there to help us move forward and enhance our presence in the community, especially in the historic Newhall Auditorium. I promise to keep true to the vision of the first actors who banded together to entertain their neighbors and serve the changing needs of our growing number of performers and audiences.

Please vote for Frank Rock in the upcoming board election. Thank you.

# Cecily G. Willis Art on Display



I am a graduate of the Otis Art Institute of Los Angeles County, MFA in Painting, 1968, and have been a professional artist for over 40 years

Now I'm retired and devoting all of my time to painting.

#### Painting Highlights:

- Watercolor, "Ernie's BBQ", won 2nd place in the

2002 California Art Club Paintout at the Pomona Fair.

- Acrylic painting, "Class of '67" was juried into the "Otis-L.A.:

Nine Decades of Los Angeles Art" show at the Barnsdall Art Gallery, Los Angeles

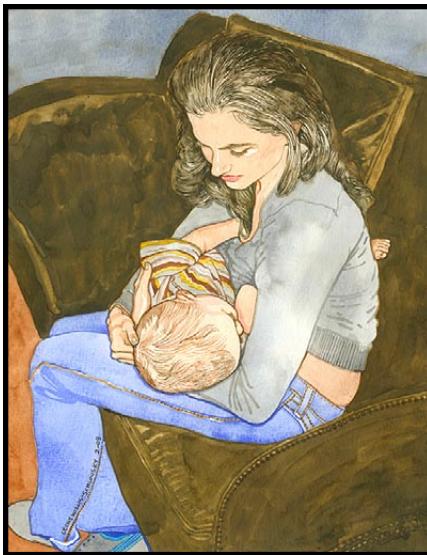
- Watercolor, "Rialto Theater, South Pasadena" was juried into the California Art Club's "Celebrating 100 Years of History" at the Women's City Club of Pasadena, '07, the Irvine Fine Arts Center show, '07, and the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce show, "Rialto Visions," '09

- Watercolor, "Sam & Flora's Night on the Town" juried into the Dia de Los Muertos exhibition at the Long Beach 2nd City Council Gallery, '07

Since moving to Santa Clarita 5 years ago and joining the Santa Clarita Art Association, I have participated in the following local shows:

- Chosen to be one of 10 artists to participate in the "Art of the Trashcan" community beautification project for the city of Santa Clarita, '06

- Watercolor, "Liz's Boys" won the silver medal at the '06 Santa Clarita Art Classic



• Watercolor, "Baby Dance" won the silver medal at the '07 Santa Clarita Art Classic

• Watercolor, "The Painting Lesson" juried into the Lancaster Art Museum's

24th annual all media exhibition, '09

• Watercolors, "Saugus Café" & "Backwoods Inn" juried into the "Santa Clarita, Where the Good Life Takes You" exhibit presently at the Santa Clarita City Hall

• Drawings, Black History Month Exhibit at Hart Park '09

I am very grateful for my varied commercial art experiences, especially since it gave me the discipline to use the same kind of commitment, devotion, and professionalism to my own personal work that I gave to my commercial art clients.

# Thanks!

Thanks to the following talented members for entertaining the volunteers at the HMNHM Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in April: **Leslie Berra, Erin Rivlin, Greg Finley, and J.T. Friedman**. They were very well received and we appreciate them taking time out of their busy day to showcase the CTG.

# Auditions

Auditions for the comedy, *Social Security*, will be held on Monday, June 8 from 8-10PM (following the General Meeting) and Tuesday, June 9, from 7-9pm at the CTG. Director **Mike Davies** is looking for 3 men and 3 women, ages 40 - 80. Auditions will cold readings from the script.

Auditions for *Cinderella: A Dream Come True* will be held on Monday and Tuesday, June 1 and 2 from 6-8PM at the CTG. Co-directors **Mike Davies** and **Brian Watts** are looking for male and female actors between the ages of 13 and adult. Auditions will cold readings from the script.

#### 2008-2009 CTG Board of Directors

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

#### Other People You Should Know

Executive Director & Artistic Director of the Playhouse Season...	Tim Ben 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.....	<a href="http://www.canyontheatre.org">www.canyontheatre.org</a>

# 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