



Miracles Happen on Main Street Too!



Miracles still happen, and the holiday classic, *"Miracle on 34th Street"* is happening on stage at the Canyon Theatre Guild. Feel the joy of the holiday season by coming to see this delightful, heartwarming production on our stage.

Young Susan Walker (Justine Kelly) has doubts about one of childhood's most enduring miracles, Santa Claus. Her mother, Doris (Amy Dunham Prieto), who has been disillusioned in love, told her the "secret" of Santa a long time ago, so Susan will not grow up believing in fairy tales. After meeting a special department store Santa, who is convinced he is the real thing, Susan wonders if he is truly Santa or just a nice old man with real whiskers. But then she is given the most precious gift of all – something to believe in.

Each year at this time, the Canyon Theatre Guild spreads the holiday spirit by presenting a classic and well-loved Christmas story. This year's offering is Valentine Davies' *"Miracle on 34th Street,"* and audiences of all ages will enjoy this glimpse into the past.. Though the story remains

the same, the message is fresh: As Susan and her mother learn, "Faith is believing when common sense tells you not to." Have faith and enjoy this holiday season! Join the cast of *Miracle* and travel back to a time when innocence was a quality to be treasured.

"Miracle on 34th Street" is being directed by Greg Finley who enjoys directing the Christmas show because "It just doesn't seem like Christmas if I'm not a part of the holiday show! I like having the opportunity to help people get into the Christmas spirit." Michael Davies, who also enjoys participating in the holiday show, will once again channel the spirit of Kris Kringle. Wade Bradford plays Fred Gailey, the idealistic attorney who sets out to prove that there is, indeed, a Santa Claus. The cast also features Frank Rock as Dr. Pierce, Ron Kari as Jim, the Zookeeper, Doug Holiday as Judge Harper, Paul Strickland as Mr. Sawyer, the neurotic store psychologist, John Alexopoulos as Mr. Macy, John Dow as Mr. Mara, the prosecuting attorney, and Jackson Dow (John's real-life son) plays young Tommy Mara. Bill Steele is Mr. Shellhammer, Harald Krueger is Mr. Gimble, and Leah Kari is Doris's assistant, Miss Adams.

Also in the cast are Amanda Kramer, Ashley Pfenning, Aubrey and Lexa Frail, Bethlehem Floyd, Claire Frankland (who understudies the role of young Susan), Claudia Alexopoulos, Emily and Mackenzie Bradford, Jean Paletz, Jillian Kelly, Kristen Hansen, Madison Frisch, Michael Keane, Sharron Gomez, Taylor Kozlowski, Teresa Tompkins, Vicki

Lightner and Wanda Cox in the role of Cleo, Doris's maid.

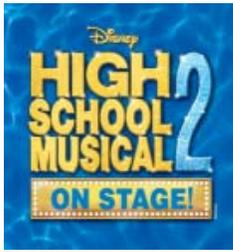
The production team includes Randy Aronson as the Assistant Director, Carol Rock as stage manager, Mike Davies and Frank Rock are the set designers, Jim Robinson is the master carpenter, and Pat Robinson is Set Decorator. Lighting design is being handled by Tim Christianson, Will Davies is designing the sound and Janet McAnany is creating the costumes for this 42 member cast.

There are performances through December 20 except for Friday, December 4, when there will not be a performance of *"Miracle on 34th Street,"* due to a special event at the CTG. Friday and Saturday evening performances are at 8:00 PM, and Saturday and Sunday matinees are at 2:00 PM. In addition, there will be mid-week performances at 7:00 PM on December 15, 16, and 17. Tickets for this show are \$12-\$15 for Juniors/Seniors and \$15-\$17 for Adults. Reservations may be made beginning November 9, 2009. Call the box office at (661) 799-2702 and bring the whole family. The Canyon Theatre Guild playhouse is located at 24242 Main Street (formerly San Fernando Rd.) in Old Town Newhall. Repeat after us: "I believe, I believe, I believe!"

Canyon Theatre Guild

24242 Main Street
(formerly San Fernando Rd, also called Newhall Ave.)
Newhall, CA 91321-2911
(661) 799-2702

The CTG is a 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization.



High School Musical 2 On Stage

Disney's smash hit musical will come to life on the CTG stage in February! The East High gang will all be here for an action-packed extravaganza as Troy, Gabriella and the rest of the Wildcats finish their Junior year and blast onto the summer scene. They all get jobs at the Lava Springs Country Club where Sharpay reigns supreme since her dad owns the country club!

Keeping every ounce of the light-hearted fun that makes *High School Musical* a household name, this buoyant sequel takes on the questions of real kids facing the realities of the adult world. Friendships are tested, summer romances go haywire, and the meaning of success is redefined. Growing with the characters, HSM2 doesn't miss one fabulous beat as the kids from East High get a taste of what it means to grow up. Rockin' songs and action-packed dance numbers, make this an entertaining event for audiences of all ages.

High School Musical 2 is being directed by Patti Finley, and her production team includes Tim Kendall as her Assistant Director, David Kenny as vocal director, Kamber Moen as choreographer, and Jean Paletz as costume designer. Jim Robinson and Frank Rock will create the set and Pat Robinson will decorate it. Michael Keane will serve as stage manager and Taryn Hill will design the lighting.

This crowd-pleasing, fun-filled charmer opens on February 6 with performances every Saturday evening at 8:00 PM and Sunday matinees at 2:00 PM through March 6, 2010. There will be one Friday evening performance on March 5. Season subscribers may begin making reservations on January 5. Reservations will be open to the general public beginning January 12. Call the box office at 661-799-2702. Season subscribers who would like an alternative production to *High School Musical 2*, may choose to see Shakespeare's "*Twelfth Night*" instead. See accompanying article for more information on this production

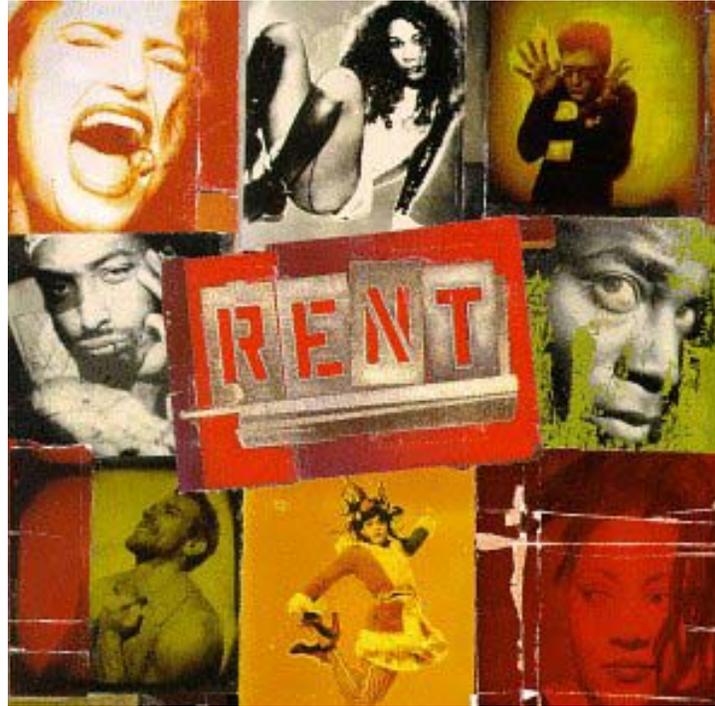


The leads of High School Musical 2 include (from left to right): Lawrence Patchin as Troy, Kamber Moen as Gabriella, Felice Wurst as Sharpay and Tim Kendall as Ryan.

Santa Clarita Regional Theatre presents "RENT" at the COC Performing Arts Center

"Rent" is Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer-prize winning Broadway musical based loosely on Puccini's opera *La Bohème*. It follows a year in the lives of seven impoverished young artists struggling to survive and create in New York's East Village under the shadow of AIDS.

Roger, Mimi, Tom, and Angel struggle to deal with both the physical and emotional complications of AIDS while Maureen deals with her chronic infidelity through performance art and her partner, Joanne, wonders if their relationship is worth the trouble. Benjamin, who was one of them, has sold out his Bohemian ideals in exchange for a hefty income and is "on the outs" with his former friends. Mark, an aspiring filmmaker, feels like an outsider to life in general, and is always behind the camera recording the events but never playing a part.



"Rent's" creator, Jonathan Larson, died suddenly the night before the off-Broadway premiere of his show. Subsequently, the show

The Santa Clarita Regional Theatre production is under the direction of Leslie Berra, with TimBen Boydston acting as the Advising Director. Tom Lund is vocal director and Nancy Alterman is choreographer. As of the date of this article, the show has not been completely cast and those details will be included in the next edition of this newsletter.

"Rent" is a very adult show and is not recommended for children. It deals with alternative life styles, AIDS, drug use, homosexuality, and contains profanity and provocative choreography. Please see accompanying article regarding an alternate production for season subscribers. There are no Junior discounts for this production.

won a Pulitzer Prize, and the production was a hit. The musical moved to Broadway in 1996 where it gained critical acclaim and won a Tony Award for Best Musical.

This musical is largely responsible for helping to increase the popularity of musical theatre amongst the younger generation.

The Broadway production closed on September 7, 2008, after a 12-year run and 5,124 performances, making it the [seventh longest-running Broadway show](#), eight years behind [The Phantom of the Opera](#). The success of the show led to several national tours and numerous foreign productions, and in 2005, it was also adapted into a [motion picture](#) that features most of the original cast.

Performances will be on March 6, 7, 13, 14, 19, and 20, 2010. Ticket prices are from \$12 to \$29 and are included in a season subscription.

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 would 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!

Special Limited Engagement of Twelfth Night



The twelfth night after Christmas, January 6th, was a time when servants and masters would exchange clothes and take on each others' persona. Shakespeare's play is certainly in this tradition. And, due to an unexpected opening in the CTG's calendar, we are pleased to be able to present "Twelfth Night" for a limited two weekend run, beginning just two days after twelfth night (January 8, 2010).

A shipwreck off the coast of Illyria leaves Viola thinking her

twin brother is dead. Disguising herself as her dead brother, she becomes an attendant to Duke Orsino, the ruler of Illyria. Duke Orsino sends Viola (now known as Caesario in her disguise as a boy), to the Lady Olivia, with whom he is in love. Things become complicated when Olivia falls in love with Viola, who she thinks is a man, and Viola falls in love with Duke Orsino, who also thinks she is a man. When her twin brother, who is not dead after all, turns up, things become even more confusing. Add to this Sir Toby Belch, Olivia's drunken uncle, and Sir Andrew Aguecheek, who also has his eye on Olivia, along with Maria, and Fabian, servants to Olivia, and Feste, a melancholy clown, all seeking revenge on the head servant Malvolio, and you have the recipe for total chaos and confusion!

Performed by the "UPSTART CROWS," a group of actors dedicated to classic theatre, the cast includes Kelly Bader, Robert Clark, Alexis Crane, Joshua DiPaola, Andrew Fish, Jason

Goldberg, Jeff Johnson, Mike Keane, Tim Kendall, David Kenny, Amanda Kramer, Kamber Moen, Joe Roseland, Brian Watts, and Raquel Westlake. The production is under the direction of Mike Davies and Tamarah Ashton-Coombs.

Performances of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" will be at 8:00 PM on Friday and Saturday evenings, January 8, 9, 15, 16; and at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 10 and 17. Tickets are \$7 for Juniors and Seniors and \$10 for adults. This show is not part of the Canyon Theatre Guild's regular season, however, if season subscribers would like to substitute this production for either "High School Musical 2" or the SCRT production of "Rent," they may do so. If you would like to see this show in addition to your regular show, then you may do so by purchasing tickets separately. To make a reservation, call the CTG box office at 661-799-2702.

OPTIONAL SHOW FOR SEASON SUBSCRIBERS

The CTG is doing one extra show this season, which is not included in our regular season. However, if you would like to exchange your season ticket for either "Rent" or "High School Musical 2," you may see our production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" instead. There will be performances of "Twelfth Night" on January 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17. If you want to see it in addition to the other shows, tickets will be \$10 for adults, and \$7 for Juniors & Seniors.



Workshop Updates

Patti Finley

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

Director of Daytime Programs, Patti Finley, is pleased to announce the Spring, 2010 workshops. We are beginning a brand new program for children from age 5 through age 7. This **"Star To Be"** workshop will introduce our younger performers to the fun of musical theatre by working on scenes and songs from some favorite, age-appropriate musicals. It will not be necessary for students to be able to read in order to participate in this program. We have received many requests from parents to offer a program for the younger children, and we are responding! So, sign your child up now as the class size will be strictly limited. This workshop will meet on Monday and Wednesday, from 3:30 – 4:30 PM for 8 weeks. There will be a public performance at the end of the session. Class begins January 11, and tuition is \$175 per child, with family discounts available. There are also some scholarships available through the Boys and Girls Club.

Adventures in Theatre, our daytime workshop for home schooled children will be holding admission auditions on Tuesday, January 5, 2010. This class meets on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM and is open to all ages. Children should be able to read unassisted. The Spring production will be **"Gooney Bird Greene and Her True Life Adventures"**, a comedy based on the book by Newbery Award-winning author, Lois Lowry. This is a delightful story of a new kid in school who steals everyone's heart. Gooney Bird Greene has red hair, wears pajamas and cowboy boots to school and the class is never the same again! She tells outrageous stories in which she casts herself as the hero. This is a wonderful blend of funny and memorable characters who teach us that our lives are as unique as Gooney Bird's and that we too can cast ourselves as the heroes in our own true tales of adventure. Tuition is \$175 per student (including registration fees) and there are family discounts as well as scholarship opportunities through the Boys and Girls Club. Our program has been approved by Golden Valley Charter School, Sky Mountain Charter School, and SCVi Charter School. Admission to this workshop is by director approval or audition, so call for an audition appointment now.

ACT III, AFTER CLASS THEATRE WORKSHOP is an after school program for students in third through eighth grade. This class meets on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4:00 – 6:00 PM for ten weeks. The class begins on Tuesday, January 12. The spring production will be **Space Pirates**, a fun-filled musical adventure. Then their babysitters are sucked into a video game, the kids must go inside the game to rescue them. Once there, they discover an evil sorceress who is draining all of the imagination and color out of Cyberspace. The kids enlist the aid of the rebellious Space Pirates to stop the sorceress, rescue the babysitters and restore peace and harmony to the universe. It is an energy-packed funfest. To register your child, call the box office at 661-799-2702. Tuition for the ACT III workshop is \$200 per child with family discounts and some scholarships available through the Boys and Girls Club.

Parents in recent workshops praise our programs:

- "A very nurturing environment." JC
- "A great experience for my child." KF
- "You've done such a great job and we look forward to the next one!" JC
- "My children love you." CP
- "A great experience for kids!" B

Start the New Year right for your child – give them the gift of self-confidence, the gift of theatre! Call Patti with any questions-(661) 799-2702.

VOLUNTEER AT THE CTG

Want to become more involved
in the Canyon Theatre Guild
And make lots of new friends?



Become a volunteer!



Call Marla at 661.250.3664
Or Claudia at 661.296.1774

to sign up



Artistic Impressions

TimBen Boydston
CTG, Executive Director
Artistic Director of the
Playhouse Season



Message From The President

Randy Aronson
President of the
CTG Board of Directors

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays from Old Town Newhall. I love this time of the year when our lobby is all dressed up and the smell of hot apple cider fills the air. Downtown never looked so good, and many thanks to the City for adding twinkle lights to the new trees in our streetscape. You have to come check us out after dark so that you can see the holiday magic for yourself.

Congrats to Director Patti Finley, Vocal Director Tamarah Ashton-Coombs, Choreographer Musette Caing, the Artistic Team, cast and crew of the incredible "Phantom". The CTG really raised the bar on this show, and the audiences showed their agreement by standing ovations show after show.

A giant Thank you goes to Director Leslie Berra and a cast and crew of thousands for the incredible Holipalooza fundraiser. This Holiday celebration shows off our CTG youth with lots of song and laughter, and it gets better every year. We all had a terrific time and raised funds for our children's programs.

A great big kudos to our Corporate Angels The Bank of Santa Clarita. They just refinanced our building at a great rate. (Hard to believe it has been 10 years) Bank President Jim Hicken has been a great supporter for about 15 years and you get really great service with our locally owned and operated Bank. Give them a try. You will love them.

As the calendar year comes to a close, it is a good time to reflect on our Blessings. The past year has been very challenging and our Organization, like most other non-profits has seen a large drop in our revenues. However, we have engaged in best business practices and cost cutting on a large scale, and this has enabled us to remain economically sound

I am grateful to my hard working staff, which is about 50% of what it was, for doing so much more, with so much less. I am also grateful to the volunteers who have stepped up to help us manage the workload. We have not cut any shows or programs and we continue to raise funds for our Children's Theatre. Many thanks go to all of our season ticket holders, supporters, audience members, Board Members, and volunteers. It takes all of us to make the Magic of Live Theatre happen. Thank you all, and in the words of "Tiny Tim"God Bless us every one!

The theatre turns 40 in the New Year. Forty years of laughs, drama, music and general mayhem. It has survived changes in economy, fires and floods, it has been praised and criticized, seen members and staff come and go. What it has proven is that it is stronger than any one person, but needs a constant flow of people to survive and thrive.

For me the CTG has been a place to watch my family grow, where my best friends congregate, and where I keep my creativity active and alive. So as I watch 2009 fade to fond memories I tip my hat to all those who helped the theatre survive this challenging year. I thank our executive director, TimBen, for navigating economic tsunami and personally sacrificing for the greater benefit of the theatre. Certainly to Patti Finley for the children's programs she spearheads.

So now fellow CTG members we are forty years old, a few more wrinkles but a little wiser. We are entrusted with a great gift and

with it comes the responsibility of what folks started building in 1970. We are the jewel in center of a revitalized downtown Newhall. I often ask myself "would there be a revitalization of downtown without a Canyon Theatre Guild to build around?" Just down the street we have another live theatre company Rep East Playhouse, doing great work and on any given weekend theatre patrons flood the stores and local restaurants in the area. What I am trying to say, is I am proud to member of the CTG and how it is contributing to the overall redevelopment of our city.

So happy 2010 to you all and Happy Birthday CTG!!

Look for special events concerning the 40th birthday in upcoming newsletters and website.

*Randy Aronson,
President*

VISIT CTG ONLINE

Get the latest news on our **website** at:

www.canyontheatre.org

Check out our **Facebook** group:



Follow us on Twitter



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Randy Aronson

1st Vice President

Billy Davis

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Jeff Johnson

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Flo Loring

Treasurer

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Wade Bradford
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Michael Keane
Frank Rock

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

Box Office Manager
Ryan Massey

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Jill McGlynn

Membership
Felice Wurst

Newsletter Editor
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Web Mistress
Cat Christine Ellen

BOARD APPROVES 2010-2011 SEASON

CTG PLAYHOUSE SEASON

Downtown Newhall

July/August

The Foreigner, a comedy

Halloween

Little Shop of Horrors, musical

Christmas

A Christmas Carol, non-musical

April/May

Ladies of the Camellias,
a comedy

June/July

Footloose, a musical

SANTA CLARITA REGIONAL THEATRE SEASON

at the Santa Clarita
Performing Arts Center
At COC

Summer: Annie

Winter: T.B.A.

CTG FAMILY SEASON

Downtown Newhall

Halloween

Sleeping Beauty

Jan./Feb.

Willy Wonka, the musical

April/May

Little Women

Those interested in applying to direct, or to serve on the artistic team for one of these shows may pick up an application from the box office. Applications must be turned in by January 5, 2010.

DIRECTOR SUBMISSIONS

Those interested in applying to direct, or to serve on the artistic team for one of these shows may pick up an application from the box office. Applications must be turned in by January 5, 2010.

Minimum requirements to direct at the CTG are:

- Applicant must have been a member of the Guild for at least one year
- Applicant must be at least 18 years old
- Applicant must have been an assistant director for a CTG show
- Applicant must have stage managed a CTG show

Dates To Remember

December 4

Holipalooza! Season of Love
at the Canyon Theatre Guild



December 5-6, 11-13, & 15-20

Miracle on 34th Street



December 25 - January 5

Theatre closed for holidays



January 5

Director Applications due

&

Adventures in Theatre workshop
auditions



January 8-10 & 15-17

Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night"



January 11

Star-to-be workshop begins

&

Board of Directors meeting



January 12

After school workshop begins