



An Unlikely Love Story Unfolds at the CTG



Amanda McMurray, Brian Petro, George Cummings, Judy Greenberg, Mimi Oden, and Michael Davies

Be My Baby is a delightful comedy that will touch the heart as well as the funny bone as two opposites meet, clash, and find that you're never too old to fall in love. Multi-faceted playwright Ken Ludwig based the two main characters on his parents who were also polar opposites. John is an irascible Scotsman (Michael Davies), and Maude is an uptight English woman (Judy Greenberg), both in their late 50s, who are unexpectedly thrown together on the journey of a lifetime.

John and Maude meet at his ancestral mansion in Scotland when his ward is about to marry her niece. They take an instant dislike to each other. Maude thinks John is crude and cheap, and John thinks Maude is uppity and opinionated. She's English, he's Scottish, and never the twain shall meet. The young couple is seemingly perfectly suited even though Christy, the groom (Brian Petro), and Gloria, the bride (Amanda McMurray), is flighty and very young. After Gloria suffers a miscarriage, they discover they will be unable to have children, so they are in the process of adopting a newborn baby from California. While Gloria is recovering from her trauma, California calls to say the baby must be claimed immediately, so the older couple is asked to put aside their differences and to travel 6,000 miles to San Francisco to pick up the child and bring her safely home to Scotland. Not only do John and Maude despise each other, Maude has never been on a plane and John is a less-than patient traveling companion. To make matters worse, they get stranded

(See *Be My Baby*, page 4)



Liam Johnson as Tom Sawyer and Curtis Crawford as Huckleberry Finn

Mark Twain's Classic, Tom Sawyer

Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain's beloved truant, is a natural show-off, who takes great pleasure in missing school, going fishing, and getting others to do his chores. Tom and his friends are being brought to life in the CTG's Family Season production of *Tom Sawyer*. This delightful play with music presents all the chief adventures of Tom and his friends including the famous white-washing, the school-room episodes, the graveyard experience, the pirate adventure with Huckleberry Finn and their friend Joe Harper, and the return to their own funeral at the village church. Also included are the trial of poor Muff Potter, the finding and losing of treasure, the getting lost in MacDougall's Cave, and the village rejoicing at their rescue.

These boys like going barefoot, playing hooky and just generally vexing their elders. Tom and his brother Sid live with their Aunt Polly who is not always sure how to deal with this carefree young spirit who never ceases to have adventures. "Tom Sawyer" brings back the miracle that is childhood in a time when life was harder but fun was more innocent. This musical adaptation will be fun for the whole family and will bring back a time in our history that children only learn about in history books.

Under the direction of Jeff Johnson, the cast includes Liam Johnson as Tom Sawyer, Curtis Crawford as Huckleberry Finn and Jill Young as Tom's young love, Becky Thatcher. Tom's younger brother Sid is played by Jackson Dow, Sam Hafermalz is Joe Harper, and Matthew Villars is Alfred. The adults include Laura Fetzer as Aunt Polly, Joe Miele as Injun Joe, and Rod Shreckengost as Muff Potter.

(See *Tom Sawyer*, page 4)



Artistic Impressions

TimBen Boydston
Executive Director of the CTG,
Artistic Director

It's spring in here in Old Town Land as the flowers bloom in our new streetscape, it is a lovely place to be. The Theatre Guild will be hosting not only its spring shows, *Be My Baby* and *Tom Sawyer*, but also some lovely special private events. With the weather turning gorgeous, have you ever thought of using the CTG's beautiful patio and bar area for your special party? Our rates and staff are first class and we can accommodate 50 to 500. If you're interested, please give me or Patti Finley a call at 799-2700.

Congrats to director **Patti Finley**, vocal director **David Kenny**, choreographer **Kamber Moen**, the artistic team, cast and crew, for a wonderful, fun Disney romp, *High School Musical 2*. It was an entertaining, high-energy performance, with lots of comedy. Once again, our talented young performers have done a great job entertaining their community.

Kudos also go to director **Leslie Berra**, choreographer **Nancy Alterman**, co-vocal director, **Tom Lund**, artistic team, cast and crew, for a stellar production of the Santa Clarita Regional Theatre's *Rent*. Standing ovations lauded the talented cast every night of the run and the show was compared favorably to regional touring shows and even the original Broadway production.

Many thanks to Board member and director **Jeff Johnson**, for creating our first annual CTG Poker Tournament. Everyone involved had a great time and we were able to raise almost \$1,000 for CTG programs.

Congratulations to **Mike Davies** and **Lissa Gibbs** for their very

entertaining after school workshop production of *Space Pirates*. Our workshop shows are a great training ground for our children teaching them the value of teamwork and giving them self-confidence. If you have a child or grandchild, or know of anyone who has a young person between the ages of 6 - 17, we are now taking sign-ups for our Summer Youth Workshop programs.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped at the Performing Arts Center, under the capable direction of **Kathi Lund** and **Teri Prata**. Thanks also to **Claudia Alexopoulos** and **Marla Khayat** for continuing to organize the volunteers at the CTG. If you have a little time, and love of the theatre, please give us a call. We can always use help.

Our gratitude to the City of Santa Clarita for our newly formed **Arts Commission**. Please check them out, attend their meetings, and become involved so that the arts in Santa Clarita will continue to flourish. The Commission meets on the Third Thursday of every month. When I was a member of the City Council, I had the honor of working toward the formation of an Arts Commission. The City of Santa Clarita has always been a friend to the CTG and we partnered with them to raise the funds and build our beautiful Downtown Newhall Playhouse.

The CTG has truly become an integral part of the fabric that is the City of Santa Clarita. As artists and citizens, we celebrate being part of this community.

I encourage you to be involved and make sure to vote on April 13th! We'll see you at the theatre!



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

Youth Workshop Updates

The spring semester is at an end and it's been a full and wonderful time for us. First of all, thanks to **Michael Davies** and **Lissa Gibbs** for their work with the 23 children in the **After School Workshop**. Their production of *Space Pirates* was great fun for the children and the audience alike. **Janet McAnany's** costumes were imaginative and fun and the comments from the parents were very complimentary. Some of those workshop students are currently in rehearsal for *Tom Sawyer*. Keep up the good work!

Our **Adventures in Theatre** daytime program for home-schooled children is in its final weeks of performance of the entertaining production of the whimsical play *Gooney Bird Greene and Her True Life Adventures*. This group of 21 students ranges in age from 7 to 17! Teacher and parent response to this program has been very enthusiastic this semester. The cast and instructors (**Patti Finley** and **Laura Lanoil**) recently brought scenes from the play to the Newhall Library. Thanks also to adult performers **Kamber Moen** and **Tim Kendall** who helped with this production, to **Doug Holiday** for building all the boxes used for the set, to **Janet McAnany** for the costumes (especially the gumball machine!) and to the terrific crew of workshop parents who did everything else.

Now we're looking forward to our **Summer Youth Workshops** and are happy to say that parents are already signing their children up for these popular classes. Complete information on these workshops (*See Workshop Updates, page 3*)

Spotlight on Taryn Hill



You may have noticed a new face in the box office in recent weeks. Meet **Taryn Hill**, the latest addition to the CTG Family. Taryn is 23 years old and is totally addicted to theatre.

A dramatic only child who loved to play “pretend,” Taryn says her theatrical leanings were evident at an early age. At the age of eleven, Taryn had the opportunity to appear in a show singing Disney songs (she claims to know ALL of them!), and that’s when it all began. At twelve, she started attending a theatre camp and at 14 she became one of the inaugural teaching assistants, teaching both acting and set construction to children from 6 to 18 years of age.

Taryn estimates that she has acted in over 96 shows over a five year period. She graduated from Palmdale High school where she was in the choir. In the summer



of her senior year, she traveled to Europe with the choir which won second place in the **Eisteddfod Festival** in Wales. Then Taryn attended **AMDA** (American Musical and Dramatic Academy) in Los Angeles for their two-year musical theatre program. After graduation, Taryn worked for Disney as a “soda jerk” at the **El Capitan Theater**.

Taryn worked at the **Palmdale Playhouse** for two years, beginning

as a makeup artist and assistant lighting designer, then working as prop mistress. She worked her way through their tech department designing sets, costumes and lighting.

Budget cuts eliminated her job in Palmdale, and she found herself with time on her hands and energy and enthusiasm to spare, so she contacted the CTG to see if we needed any volunteers. She plunged right in, hanging the Christmas lights on the building, cleaning our lighting locker and straightening up whatever she thought needed it. After the winter holidays, she joined our staff part-time in the box office, but still finds time to volunteer as a lighting designer and is ready to do whatever needs doing.

Taryn’s favorite show as an actor is **The Crucible** in which she played Tituba; her favorite show as a designer is **Alice in Wonderland** and her favorite overall show “hasn’t been written yet.” Her goal is to teach high school drama or become a professional lighting designer. Currently a student at COC, Taryn is a welcome addition to the CTG. Be sure to say “hi” the next time you see her!

(... *Workshop Updates*, from page 2) can be found on our website www.canyontheatre.org.

We’re happy to welcome back some of our popular instructors this year: **Ingrid Boydston** will once again be the lead teacher for our **CTG KIDS** classes (ages 6–10). They will meet from 9AM–Noon, five days a week, for two weeks. Their free public performance at the end of each session will be **Character Matters II**, a very entertaining musical in which some favorite fairy tale characters are put on trial for their lack of manners. **Laura Lanoil** will be leading the **CTG JUNIORS** in their three-week sessions (ages 10–13) where they will present the musical adaptation of **Alice’s Adventures**. The **CTG STARS** will be under the direction of **Michael Davies** for five weeks for their

production of **Into the Woods Junior** which will have four public performances at the end of their session. We have not increased the price of tuition for these workshops and are offering family discounts and some limited scholarships. We are also approved vendors for **Golden Valley, Sky Mountain, and SCV Charter Schools**, and the **Gorman Learning Center**. For more information on the 2010 summer programs, call the CTG Box Office: 661.799.2702.

Our workshop programs fulfill a large portion of the CTG’s Mission Statement: *“To make the world a better place by entertaining, educating, enlightening and enriching our community through quality live theatre.”* Give YOUR child a self-esteem boost; enroll them in one of our workshops. You’ll be glad you did.

Online Ticketing is Coming!

We hope you’ve had a chance to browse our new website. We are currently preparing to make online ticketing available. Imagine being able to make your reservations from the comfort of your home, at an hour convenient to you. Should you decide to make reservations for a show after dinner some evening, you’ll be able to go on line and select your seats for the performance of your choice! We’ll still be here to help you on the phone or in person, if that’s your preference, but when you want to reserve tickets before or after our business hours, it will only be a click away! Watch your newsletter for information on our big day.

(...*Be My Baby*, from page 1)

in San Francisco for several weeks and are expected to jointly care for the helpless newborn. There they form a new partnership and learn some startling lessons about life and love.

This show is cleverly crafted so that all the other roles are played by the same two actors: **George Cummings** is Adam, and **Mimi Oden** is Eve. Under the direction of **Ingrid Boydston**, who directed last year's comedy hit, *Leading Ladies* (also by **Ken Ludwig**), *Be My Baby* is poised to be warm, funny, a little madcap, and an evening of theatre you won't want to miss.

Be My Baby opened on April 3 with a champagne and wine reception. There will be 8PM performances on April 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, and May 1, and Sunday matinees at 2PM on April 11 and 25.

Ticket prices are \$10-\$12 for Juniors and Seniors and \$12-\$15 for Adults. Call the box office for reservations: 661.799.2702.

(...*Tom Sawyer*, from page 1)

Rounding out the cast are **Luke Crawford** as Nathaniel, **Abby Day** as Gracie, **Riley Flynn** as Susan, **Aidan Johnson** as Jim, **Halle Kortlander** as Janie, **Tanner Miele** as Zachary, **Mason Purece** as Ben, and **Avery Schroeder** as Amy. **Joe Aboulafia** plays Doc Robinson, **John Fortman** is the Preacher, **Kristi Johnson** is Mrs. Harper, and **Jim Robinson** is the Sheriff.

Tom Sawyer runs from April 3 through May 1, with 2PM matinees every Saturday, and Sunday evening twilight performance at 6:30PM on April 11 and 26, and one Sunday matinee on April 18.

Birthday parties are encouraged, just call the box office for details.

Tickets are \$10-\$12-\$15 and are available through the CTG Box Office: 661.799.2702.

Zony Gordon Art on Display



“A hundred million miracles are happening every day. And those who say they don't agree are those who do not hear or see.”

An Impressionist artist in Santa Clarita, CA, Zony lives with her family in Stevenson Ranch, a great place to enjoy and appreciate the beautiful imagery that nature can offer as a subject for ones art. Likewise, she continues to explore an immense array of avenues in the area to showcase her interest in varied subjects of art. She has always shown a fascination for it since childhood but never pursued it with vigor until now.

As a Mass Communications major, she took Art related classes and started a career in Advertising, working with Creative Directors for Ad layouts and campaigns in Manila and here in Los Angeles. At Sprint Corp she worked in Marketing and Project Management and participated in Community-wide Art projects. She picked up several art classes along the way, and dabbled for several years. She represented a number of artists in marketing their art, and promoted some performing artists as well.

In 2007, Zony quit her job and devoted more time to painting, primarily utilizing Watercolor and Oil. Since then, she has become an active artist, and developed a more serious focus. She is an Art Appreciation teacher volunteer and has chaired the local PTA's Art Reflections program at her Child's school. Zony is a SCAA Board member. She is also involved in Community Art enrichment programs and an Art Guild.

Featured are several pieces from her Watercolor series on flowers and seascapes.

Annie Auditions

SANTA CLARITA REGIONAL THEATRE announces auditions for the Supcoming production of “Annie” to be presented at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at COC.

Director **Patti Finley** is looking for people of all ages for this large cast musical. There are several featured roles as well as a large ensemble, from which some of the smaller roles will be cast. Everyone should come to the auditions prepared to sing about 16 bars (1 minute) of a Broadway show tune. Bring your own accompaniment CD, with no voices on the track. There will not be an accompanist at the auditions, and no acapella auditions will be permitted. Be prepared for a dance audition as well. Readings for specific roles will be done at callbacks. You should be familiar with the play. There is no pay. Rehearsals will be at the Canyon Theatre Guild.

The show runs weekends from July 24 through August 15. You must be available for all performances

Audition Schedule:

- **Children Only: Sunday & Monday, May 2 & 3 from 5-7pm.**
- **Adults Only: Monday & Tuesday, May 3 & 4 from 7-9pm.**
- **Callbacks: Wednesday, May 5, by appointment.**

Questions? Email: actormom39@yahoo.com

Board Nominating Committee Report

Mission Statement: 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.

Vision: Our vision is that when the CTG is mentioned, everyone in the Santa Clarita Valley knows who we are, what we do, and considers us an essential part of the social fabric of the community.

The Board of Directors of the Canyon Theatre Guild help guide the direction, operation and programs of the guild according to the values written into our Mission Statement and Vision.

Elections are coming up at our General Meeting in June when you will vote for three candidates to fill the member-elected positions on our Board of Directors being vacated by **Randy Aronson, Billy Davis and Flo Loring.**

This year, Board members **Andrew Fried** and **Frank Rock** are heading the nominating committee. Two additional committee members will be appointed from the General Membership.

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.
- 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, you may contact current Board members Andrew Fried (661.268.1519) or Frank Rock (661.373.6507) or our Executive Director, TimBen Boydston or Patti Finley, Assistant Director, CTG/SCRT (661.799.2700).

Be sure to attend the General Meeting at 7PM on Monday, April 19, 2010 where the names of the nominees will be announced, nominations from the floor will be accepted, and memberships will be verified by the committee. A Board Meeting will follow the General meeting.

The election will be held at the General Meeting on Monday, June 7, 2010. Members may also cast Absentee Ballots on (date to be determined) 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 12, 2010.

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!

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!

Save these Dates!

Apr 19 CTG General Board Meeting
Monday at 7PM

May 1 Tom Sawyer and Be My Baby
close, Saturday at 2PM & 8PM

May 2,3,4 Annie auditions,
See article on page 4.

May 10 CTG Board Meeting
Monday at 7PM

May 29 The Producers opens
Saturday at 8PM

2009-2010 CTG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President..... Randy Aronson
1st Vice President Billy Davis
2nd Vice President Jeff Johnson
Secretary..... Flo Loring
Treasurer..... John Morris
Members-At-Large:.. Claudia Alexopoulos
..... Michael Keane
..... Wade Bradford
..... Frank Rock
..... Andy Fried
..... Duane Harte

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

Be My Baby



Canyon Theatre Guild

Summer Youth Workshops 2010

Musical Theatre Workshops Ending With Public Performances!

CTG KIDS

FOR KIDS AGES 6-8

THREE 2-WEEK
SESSIONS

- NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
- LEARN HOW TO AUDITION, SING, DANCE, AND ACT!
- HAVE FUN PLAYING THEATRE GAMES, LEARN THEATRE TERMINOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES
- MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND GREAT MEMORIES
- FREE PUBLIC PERFORMANCE ON LAST DAY OF CAMP

CHOOSE FROM 3 SESSIONS

SESSION A

JUNE 14-JUNE 25

9AM-12noon

SESSION B

JUNE 28-JULY 9

9AM-12NOON

SESSION C

JULY 12-JULY 23

9AM-12NOON

\$299 + \$25 Registration Fee

LIMITED TO 20 STUDENTS

CTG JUNIORS

FOR KIDS AGES 10-13

TWO 3-WEEK
SESSIONS

- LEARN HOW TO AUDITION, WORK ON SCENES, AND DEVELOP A CHARACTER ALL WHILE SINGING AND DANCING IN A REAL PRODUCTION
- ENJOY PLAYING IMPROVISATIONAL GAMES AND LEARNING THEATRE HISTORY
- MAKE FRIENDS WHILE LEARNING HOW TO BE PART OF A TEAM WITH YOUR CAST AND CREW MATES
- FREE PUBLIC PERFORMANCE ON THE LAST DAY OF CAMP

CHOOSE FROM 2 SESSIONS

SESSION 1

JUNE 14-JULY 2

12:30-4:30PM

SESSION 2

JULY 5-JULY 23

12:30-4:30PM

\$399 + \$25 Registration Fee

LIMITED TO 25 STUDENTS

CTG STARS

FOR TEENS AGES 13-17

ONE 5-WEEK SESSION

- BE A PART OF AN INTENSIVE, ENTERTAINING MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP AT A WORKING THEATRE
- MAKE FRIENDS WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE SIMILAR INTERESTS
- EXPERIENCE BEING PART OF A SHOW FROM AUDITIONS TO PRODUCTION
- LEARN SINGING, DANCING, AND ACTING WITH A FOCUS ON CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT, SCENE STUDY, AND MONOLOGUE DEVELOPMENT
- WORKSHOP ENDS WITH FOUR PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

ONE SESSION ONLY

JUNE 14-JULY 18

10AM-5PM

\$499 + \$25 Registration Fee

LIMITED TO 30 STUDENTS

25% FAMILY DISCOUNT ON 2nd CHILD FROM SAME FAMILY
Some scholarships are available through the Boys and Girls Club
ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED - CALL TODAY! 661.799.2702