



Plant from Outer Space Invades the CTG

Little Shop of Horrors, is the show that redefined the meaning of plant food. The musical by **Alan Menken** (*Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast*) and **Howard Ashman** is a cult classic about a down and out skid row floral assistant who raises a “strange and interesting plant” that feeds on blood. One of the longest-running Off-Broadway shows of all time, this affectionate spoof of 1950s sci-fi movies has become a household name, thanks to the highly successful film version and the subsequent hit Broadway production.



Kevin Rhedin as Seymour with Audrey II, Voiced by George Chavez II

The Canyon Theatre Guild production features **Kevin Rhedin** as the nebbishy florist, Seymour, who works in the Skid Row Flower Shop owned by Mr. Mushnik (**Greg Finley**). Seymour is secretly in love with fellow flower shop worker, Audrey, played by **Sarah Lang**. Audrey is dating a sadistic dentist (**J.P. Mamaril**) and frequently “accessorizes” by wearing a black eye or a sling. When Seymour discovers an unusual plant that looks like a cross between a venus flytrap and an avocado, business mysteriously starts to pick up but there’s a catch - the only way to keep the plant healthy is to feed it human blood! Seymour calls the plant “Audrey II,” but unlike the abused human Audrey, this plant is not a creature to be trifled with! Its appetite for blood is nearly insatiable and Seymour is torn between keeping the plant alive and his conscience. Will he sell his soul to this bloodthirsty plant?

Little Shop’s music is in the style of early 1960s rock and roll, doo-wop, and early Motown and includes several (See *Little Shop*, page 3)

A Sleeping Beauty Awakes!



Melanie Parsons and Lawrence Patchin with Jane Arnett and Carla Bambo

The Canyon Theatre Guild is proud to announce the first Family show in our 2010-2011 Season, a fun-filled, audience interactive production of the popular fairy tale, “Sleeping Beauty.” Directed by **Leslie Berra** and **Kamber Moen**, this *Sleeping Beauty* is the same story that parents and children alike are familiar with – but with a twist or two. To begin with, it’s a much more humorous approach to the tale, but it still tells the story of the beautiful princess who is cursed by the wicked fairy.

There are familiar, yet refreshingly new, characters, like the two fun and funny good fairies, Torwinda (**Jane Arnett**) and Morwinda (**Carla Bambo**). And you’ll surely want to “boo” the bad fairy, Griselda (**Taryn Hill**). Sleeping Beauty’s name in this telling is Beatrice (**Melanie Parsons**) and Prince Fredrick, the Narrator, and a Frog are played by **Lawrence Patchin**. What would a fairy tale be without a King and Queen? Well, Queen Penelope is played by **Clare Tompkins-Cook** and Kind Wallace is **Kyle Caldwell**. And what would the story be without a curse? Well, we have one of those too. It won’t spoil anything to tell you that Beatrice must avoid pricking her finger on a spinning wheel, or she will become a “Sleeping Beauty.” But you should come and see this version of *Sleeping Beauty* even though you know how it will end. This fairy tale is filled with fun for everyone.

In addition to the fairy tale characters, there are several Pre-show performers including **Amanda Grijalva**, **Kaitlyn Reuben**, **Allison Kupfer**, **Presston Kennedy**, **Kristin Rast**, **Emily Brown**, and **Megan Tripp**.

(See *Sleeping Beauty*, page 3)



Artistic Impressions

Tim Ben Boydston
Executive Director of the CTG,
Artistic Director

Congratulations to director **Patti Finley**, vocal directors **Greg Finley**, and **Kara Slocum**, choreographer **Jan Marie Rennels**, artistic team, cast and crew, on the smash hit Broadway musical, *Annie* which played at the PAC. Standing ovations greeted every performance and proved once again that you never want to miss a **Santa Clarita Regional Theatre** or **Canyon Theatre Guild** show.

Kudos also to director **Michael Davies**, artistic team, cast and crew, for a very funny production of *The Odd Couple*. The antics of Felix, Oscar and their buddies and girlfriends in this classic comedy, left the audiences "rolling in the aisles."

A special thank you to **Wade Bradford**, his artistic team, and a "cast of thousands" of young people who put on the wonderful, fun, and funny **Junior Cabaret**, *Rainbow Connection*. This fundraiser raised almost \$10,000 for our new Children's Theatre. Anyone who

saw the production will tell you that our theatre is filled with talented youth.

I would like to encourage you to make sure that you contact the City and City Council members to ask them to lease the parking lot across from the theatre. Sample letters are available at the box office, so if you don't have the time to write your own, please drop by and sign one, and we'll send it for you.

Don't forget to get your tickets for our **40TH Anniversary Gala** November 13. It will be a night to remember and we will celebrate 40 years of serving the SCV with great live theatre. Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered over the years and who have participated as audience members.

Don't miss the Halloween shows, because they are great! We'll see you at the theatre!

Save these Dates!

- Oct. 30 *Little Shop of Horrors* Closes, Saturday at 8PM
- Oct. 31 *Sleeping Beauty* Closes, Sunday at 2PM
- Nov. 13 CTG 40TH Anniversary Gala Saturday at 6PM
- Nov. 26 *A Christmas Carol* Opens, Friday at 8PM

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!



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

Youth Workshop Updates

Once again, we're busy teaching the art of live theater to eager young actors! The Fall Semester is in full swing, with rehearsals twice a week and instructors and students alike are hard at work preparing for two terrific shows.

Adventures in Theatre, the day-time program for home-schooled children, is rehearsing the musical *A Year With Frog and Toad*. Day-time performances of this play begin November 1 through November 12, with one evening performance at 7PM on Friday, November 5.

Act III, After School Workshop is preparing for one performance at 7PM on Thursday, November 4. They'll be singing and dancing their way through an original production, *Once Upon A Musical*.

Tickets for either of these shows are only \$7 per person. Try to come out to support these young people as they discover the exciting world of live theater.

The **Spring Semester Classes** will begin January 11, 2011. To audition for **Adventures in Theatre's** production of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, contact **Patti Finley** to schedule an appointment. Admission to the **ACT III Workshop** does not require an audition. Both classes start on January 11 and run for 10 weeks.

Our workshops are a great value and of great benefit to the children who participate, so why not register your child now? Call Patti at 661.799.2700 now for information.

President's Message

Jeff Johnson
President of the
CTG Board of Directors

In the beginning of the 1970's two things made their debut, the AMC Gremlin and The Canyon Theatre Guild... Only one of those things is still going strong 40 years later. This year marks the 40th anniversary of your Canyon Theatre Guild and it is truly an accomplishment to still be producing professional quality live theatre right here in the Santa Clarita Valley after that amount of time. Due to the hard work of literally thousands of volunteers the CTG has just gotten better with age.

(...Little Shop, from page 1)

well-known tunes, including "Skid Row (Downtown)", "Somewhere That's Green," and "Suddenly, Seymour." The story moves along with the help of three street urchins (**Sabrina Anderson, Mary Grace Wilson, and Jenna Nickerson**) who serve as a "Greek chorus" with attitude. Directed by **Patti Finley** and **Billy Davis** (who is also designing the plant), this "Little Shop" provides chills, thrills, and lots of fun but is not recommended for children.

Little Shop of Horrors will play weekends from September 25 through October 30. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$17 and reservations are recommended. Call the box office at 661.799.2702 for information.



As I celebrate merely my 36th anniversary of existence I can't help but be grateful to all of the people who have made this place possible for us to enjoy, I also love to hear the stories about the theater up the highway with it's rustic charms and rattlesnakes among other things. SO many things have been experienced and enjoyed within the current and past walls of the CTG. Friendships have been forged, young voices have grown and flourished and audiences have been entertained.

One of my favorite statements about theater comes from playwright Thornton Wilder who said, "I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being." I like to think that is what we are able to do through

(...Sleeping Beauty, from page 1)

The set was designed by **Billy Davis**, Lighting by **Tim Christianson**, costume and sound design by **Leslie Berra** and **Beth Sweezer** is stage manager.

Audience members are encouraged to come in costume and be ready to participate in the fun. There will be pre-show entertainment and the cast is available to participate in birthday parties (pending advance scheduling). Call the theatre for information on group sales, Princess Parties, and the availability of patio parties.

Sleeping Beauty has Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2PM on September 25, October 2, 3, 9, 16, 17, 23, 30, and 31. There are Sunday early evening performances at 6:30PM on September 26, October 10 and 24. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$15. Call the box office at 661.799.2702 for reservations.

the medium of live theater, as it is an interactive experience. The opportunity to forge a relationship between audience and cast can be spellbinding in a way that no other form of entertainment provides.

As I think on all the things that must have taken place over the last 40 years at the CTG I am drawn most specifically to the idea of all of the young lives that have been enhanced by their experiences here. The Canyon Theatre Guild offers children an opportunity to find their voices in ways that few experiences do. Where have all of those children gone, what have they all accomplished in their lives, and how many of them would point to the formative experiences of theater as a benefit in their lives as well as a crucial part of who they are?

I look forward to the day when we are celebrating the next 40 years of success in the Santa Clarita valley, many of the faces will change but the spirit and energy of this extended theater family will remain. I hope you will join us at your 40th Anniversary Gala on November 13th and contribute to getting us started on our next 40 years while celebrating the first 40.

Thank you for all you have done and given and for all you will do and give in the future. Every dollar that you donate, every show you attend, and every hour of your time you volunteer is a gift to the people of the community.

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

Musings About the Last Two Decades

Wade Bradford
CTG Board Member
Chairman of the Junior Cabaret

I'll never forget my first time running spotlight. Before the show, I watched the anxious people below. I witnessed their hushed awe as the stage manager lowered the houselights. Then, after the curtains were raised, and the opening number began, I spotted one energetic performer after another. After that night, I learned that local theaters benefit not just the audience but the entire community. That was back when I was 19 years old.

Today, I am quickly approaching 40, but the theater still enriches my life immensely. During August I had the pleasure of working with over fifty talented young performers during the Canyon Theatre Guild's Junior Cabaret. This year's production, called *Rainbow Connection*, was brought to life by Santa Clarita's amazing children, and some equally amazing grown-ups: **Laura Lanoil, Leslie Berra, Kamber Moen, Leah Di Paola, Frank Rock, John Morris**, and so many other wonderful parents and volunteers.

The **Junior Cabaret** is just one of many ways that we can come together and foster a thriving community of thoughtful, artistic citizens. With that in mind, here are **"Five Reasons to Support Your Local Playhouse"**:

Nurture New Artists

Many successful actors, directors, and writers have launched their careers in humble, small town playhouses. Just by attending and applauding, audiences give up-and-coming stars the positive feedback they need to continue their artistic pursuits.

Please Ask the City for HELP!

The City of Santa Clarita used to rent the parking lot across from the Canyon Theatre Guild. If you would like that parking lot to be available to you once more, please ask the City to rent that space again. It is not only convenient for patrons of the CTG, but also for the other shops along Main Street.

Please take a moment and write to the City Council asking them to once again rent that lot to help make parking available for downtown Newhall. If you don't have the time, or aren't sure what to say in a letter, we have sample letters available for you at the box office. You can just come in and sign one and we will mail it for you.

Thank you for your help.

Also, many local theaters offer classes for children's productions. The stage develops confidence and responsibility within young performers. I have seen the shyest of children improve her communication skills.

When I directed children's shows for a local civic light opera, I met a seven year old girl named Megan who only spoke in whispers. However, the choreographer noticed that she moved very gracefully. We gave her a special dance solo and boosted her self-esteem.

Share Valuable Skills

Theaters like the CTG need more than just cast members. Anyone that can sew a costume, paint a backdrop, build a staircase, or edit a sound effect is a desirable addition to the company. Novices of a particular skill, such as construction or lighting, can increase their ability by working alongside veteran craftsmen.

A Christmas Carol Opening Thanksgiving Weekend

A Christmas Carol opens Thanksgiving weekend, so plan to get into the holiday spirit by spending a couple of hours with Scrooge, Tiny Tim, the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future. You'll enjoy a trip back in time as you witness the redemption of Scrooge as adapted by our own Executive Director, **TimBen Boydston**. This version has not been produced since 1989-90, so you won't want to miss this fresh adaptation of the timeless tale. Directed by **Greg Finley**.



Likewise, experts can enjoy sharing their knowledge and passing their craftsmanship to the next generation.

Advertise Locally

Small business owners should financially support playhouses, and not just for altruistic reasons. A good thirty minutes before a show, most audience members spend their time thumbing through the program, inspecting the actor bios. It's the perfect opportunity to advertise.

Theater goers are essentially a captive audience while they scan through the program. Small business can use this time to reach hundreds of potential customers. Ad space is relatively inexpensive and will help the performing arts thrive.

Socialize with New People

Whether you work as an assistant director, a chorus member, the star of the show or a stagehand, one thing is certain: you will meet new friends.

(See *Musings*, page 5)

CTG GALA 40 Year Anniversary

The Canyon Theatre Guild is celebrating its 40TH Anniversary this year with a Gala dinner/dance/fundraiser on November 13TH. This very special event will be held at the **Odyssey Restaurant's Apollo West Banquet Room** and will feature a hosted bar from 6-7PM followed by a delicious dinner of either Prime Rib or Chicken Scaloppini.

The evening will offer both Live and Silent Auctions, a visual retrospective of the Guild's history, and exciting live entertainment. Co-chairmen **Duane Harte** and **John Morris** are planning a festive evening and hope you will be able to join us. Tickets are \$100 per person and table sponsorships are available from \$1,250 to \$5,000. Call the box office for more information or to make your reservation. The **CTG's 40th Anniversary Gala Celebration** will be talked about for years, so don your finest apparel and join us on November 13TH.

Janine Cooper Art on Display



Janine Cooper Ayres comes from a family of artists. All three of her older sisters were involved in the arts in Michigan where she grew up. They paved the way for her and made her believe that art was just a normal thing that everybody did. By the time she was in high school she was learning several techniques, from watercolor, acrylics and oils to pen and ink and printmaking.

During college Janine began developing her own artistic style. First came a series of abstracts and then futuristic space art and landscapes and then character design.

After college Janine moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in music. She toured throughout the United States playing bass guitar in a few different bands. While living in the Venice beach area she discovered Roger Corman's movie studio. She began working there as a scenic artist, then continued to work in the entertainment industry for over ten years as a scenic artist/prop maker/set dresser for companies like Universal Studios and Walt Disney.

Janine was a guest Art Teacher for the Santa Monica/Malibu School District for three years (2004 - 2006), teaching art to students, grades K-5. Nowadays she's teaching art to seniors one day a week at Sunrise Assisted Living in Santa Clarita. Janine believes that art is an excellent form of therapy and urges anyone who is anxious, angry or depressed to use the process of creating art as a tool for getting in touch with their thoughts and feelings.

Janine's art can be seen on her website at: www.j9art.com

(...Musings, from page 4)

There is something exhilarating about putting on a show. It brings people close together; it tests their skills, and it enlightens audiences.

Many lifelong friendships and relationships have been formed while practicing sword fighting, stage-kissing, or falling through a trap door. There is a strong bond with all who band together to put on a play. We become friends because we work as one to tell a story.

Be Part of the Storytelling Process

Plays are an ancient form of storytelling. It's a creative ritual still very much alive.

Most local theaters produce time-tested classics. Some are light hearted, others deep and profound. All offer a message. Classic and contemporary plays speak to us because they explore what it means to be human. Those who participate in the storytelling process can feel proud knowing they are spreading a positive message to their community.

So go audition. Offer up your skills. Advertise in the program. Contribute your time and energy. And by all means, go see a show! You'll become a part of the vibrant, long-cherished tradition of the stage.

2010-2011 CTG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President..... Jeff Johnson
- 1st Vice President.....Leslie Berra
- 2nd Vice President..... Frank Rock
- Secretary.....Wade Bradford
- Treasurer.....John Morris
- Members-At-Large:.....Tim Christianson
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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
- Newsletter Editor.....David Barsky