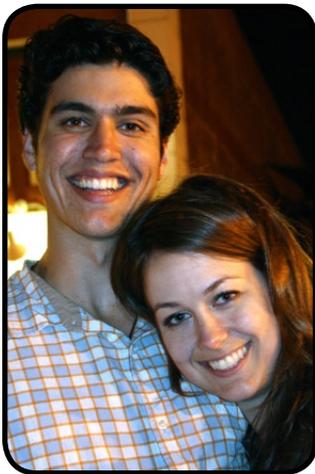




Footloose Explodes on the CTG Stage!

One of the most explosive movie musicals in recent memory bursts onto the live stage at the Canyon Theatre Guild with exhilarating results. When Ren (Raymond Castro) and his mother (Carla Bambo) move from Chicago to a small farming town, Ren is prepared for the inevitable adjustment period at his new high school. What he isn't prepared for are the rigorous local edicts, including a ban on dancing instituted by the local preacher, Reverend Shaw Moore (Billy Davis). Reverend Moore is determined to exercise the control over the town's youth that he cannot command in his own home. When the reverend's rebellious daughter (Mary Grace Wilson) sets her sights on Ren, her roughneck boyfriend (Nathanial Dobies) tries to sabotage Ren's reputation, with many of the locals eager to believe the worst about the new kid.



Raymond Castro and Mary Grace Wilson

The heartfelt story that emerges is of a father longing for the son he lost and of a young man aching for the father who walked out on him. To the rockin' rhythm of its Oscar and Tony-nominated top 40 score (the soundtrack album reached number one on the Billboard charts and has sold over 15 million copies!), and augmented with dynamic new songs for the stage musical, *Footloose* celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people, and guiding them with a warm heart and an open mind.

Under the direction and vocal direction of Leslie Berra, the cast includes Caitlin Thomas, Kelly Bader, Jenn Alexopoulos, Patrick Mannion, Donald Sweezer, Kamber Moen, Kevin Rhedin, Theresa Katz, and Sean Davis. The ensemble features Claudia Alexopoulos, Jennifer Marte, Katy Fortman, Kyrie Workman, Marcus Langston, Presston Jennedy, Sarah Rock, Natalie Fortman, John Joseph Kurkowski, Cassidy

(See *Footloose*, page 4)

THE MUSIC MAN Salutes Smalltown, U.S.A.

The Music Man is the Santa Clarita Regional Theatre's summer production at the Performing Arts Center and it is perfect family entertainment! The Music Man will appeal to young and old as they tap their toes to the delightful, up-beat score in this affectionate tribute to the small towns of America in a bygone era.

Meredith Willson's

The Music Man follows a fast-talking traveling salesman, Harold Hill (L. Michael Wells) as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a kids' band which he vows to organize – despite the fact that he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. However, his plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian the Librarian (Sarah Dixon), the local piano teacher. Along the way, she transforms him into a respectable citizen.



L. Michael Wells and Sarah Dixon (Photo by Tim Hart)

The Music Man has become an all-American institution thanks to the quirky characters and a one-of-a-kind, nostalgic score of rousing marches, barbershop quartets and sentimental ballads which have become popular standards. Meredith Willson who wrote the book, music and lyrics for *The Music Man*, was inspired by his boyhood in Mason City, Iowa and when his inspiration finally made it to Broadway in 1958, it won seven Tony Awards. The 2000 revival, took eight Tony Awards, and it endures as one of the most popular Broadway musicals.

Tim Ben Boydston and Patti Finley are co-directing this musical delight with choreography by Jan Marie Rennels, vocal direction by Carla Bellefeuille and

(See *Music Man*, page 4)



Artistic Impressions

TimBen Boydston
Executive Director of the CTG,
Artistic Director

Spring has sprung here in Old Town Newhall and that means that another season of great live theatre is finishing up with a bang. With *Footloose* opening, it is time to dust off those dancing shoes and take a trip back to the '80s. This fun musical, directed by **Leslie Berra**, is sure to make everyone who sees it feel 25 years younger! Don't miss it!

Speaking of great shows, we have had a run of terrific ones in this New Year. Congrats to Director **Patti Finley**, Vocal Directors **Greg Finley**, and **John Morris**, Choreographer **Allison Fiene**, the Talented Artistic Team and cast and hard-working crew, for the wonderful, fun, and record-breaking *Willy Wonka, the Musical*. What a terrific showcase for our talent both on stage and off. Many people took note of the extensive and intricate set, designed by **John Alexopoulos**, **Doug Holiday**, and **Frank Rock**, with special pieces built by **Jim Robinson** and **Jeff Hyde**.

Special thanks to Director **Randy Aronson**, the Artistic Team, and the amazing cast and crew for their warm and uplifting version of the classic story *Little Women*. It was a tour de force of acting which brought the story to life. The time flew by and left the audiences wanting to spend more time with the March family.

Kudos also to Director **Ingrid Boydston** and her energetic cast, crew and Artistic Team for their super fun and funny rendition of *Social Security*. This terrific comedy about getting older had the audiences begging for more as well.

Great things are happening here in Newhall with the opening of the new "Fresh" Boutique across the street, just a few doors down from the new salon. Come check out these new businesses. First Thursdays, when we have our **Art Walk**, **Farmers Market**, and **Food Truck Extravaganza**, would be a great time to do it. Mark your calendars for June 2nd.

The theatre is filled with the sounds of talented kids just about every weekday afternoon these days as the *Jr. Cabaret* led by the very talented **Wade Bradford** and **Leah DiPaola** are rehearsing their hearts out. Do not miss this fundraiser on June 3rd, which benefits our youth programs. It is sure to be a blast.

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 are planning a terrific summer of musical theatre for the talented kids of Santa Clarita. We are excited about our plans for the **2011 Summer Youth Workshops**. We have fabulous instructors and a program that is not only fun for the kids, but highly praised by their parents! ! There are some spaces available in all of the workshops as of this writing, but reservations are coming in every day.

CTG KIDS – This musical theatre workshop for kids from 6 – 10 years old meets Monday through Friday from 9AM–Noon for two weeks. Once again, **Ingrid Boydston** will be the lead instructor, working with our Intern, **Jessica Gillette**. Ingrid is a talented actress, director, and teacher and currently teaches Kindergarten at Bridgeport Elementary School. She is a California Teacher of the year and is well-loved by all of her students. Jessica is a student in the acting program at California Institute of the Arts. There are three sessions to choose from:

- KIDS A:** June 13 – June 24
- KIDS B:** June 27 – July 8
- KIDS C:** July 11 – July 22

This summer's production will be *Munchkin Mediation* featuring all the famous character from *The Wizard of Oz* who are having

(... *Workshop Updates*, from page 2) trouble readjusting upon their return to OZ. They've come to the Munchkins, experts on conflict resolution, to learn how to solve their problems. Campers will have a great time learning the songs and dances and portraying characters like the **Tin Man**, the **Cowardly Lion**, **Dorothy**, **Toto**, and even the **Good Witch** and the **Bad Witch**. Each session will close with a free performance for family and friends! Tuition is \$299 plus a \$25 registration fee.

CTG JUNIORS – These kids from ages 10–13 years will discover whether *Ever After* is really as happy as everyone expects it to be. This hysterical fractured fairy tale visits **Cinderella** and her middle-aged “beauty-impaired” stepsisters after they have been apart for 20 years! Can they get along? It will be a fun-filled experience as our campers put on *The Ever After* – *A Musical* filled with toe-tapping music! The instructor is Laura Lanoil, who has been one of our popular instructors each year. Laura is a veteran of film, television and theatre and during the school year, she is the assistant instructor for our daytime workshop. There are two, three-week sessions to choose from:

JUNIORS #1: June 13 – July 1

JUNIORS #2: July 5 – July 22

This class meets Monday through Friday from 12:30–4:30PM and there is a free performance on the last day of each class. Tuition is \$399, plus a \$25 registration fee.

CTG STARS – This five-week session for teens between 13 and 17 meets Monday through Friday from 9:30AM–4:30PM, and closes

with four public performances - 2PM & 7PM July 15 and July 17. The musical adventure this summer



Beast and Company

is Disney's *Mulan Junior*. Campers will travel back to the legendary, story-telling days of ancient China in this action-packed stage adaptation of the movie. Once again, “Sir Dude” (**Mike Davies**) will be directing this workshop, with **Carla Bellefeuille** assisting him in the vocal direction. Mike was a professional actor back in Jolly Olde England, and here at the CTG Mike is active as an actor and director. During the school year, he is an aide with the William S. Hart school district and is directing the CTG's summer production of *Always, Patsy Cline*. Carla is a fourth grade teacher at Bridgeport Elementary and is currently vocal director for the upcoming production of *The Music Man*. The fee for this workshop is \$499 plus a \$25 registration fee.

We offer a **20% discount** for siblings enrolling this summer, and payment plans may be arranged by calling **Patti Finley**. There are a limited number of scholarships available for each workshop through the **Boys and Girls Club**. For more information, or to reserve a spot for your child, call the box office now. Class sizes are limited, so call now. 661.799.2702.



Jeff Johnson
President, CTG Board of Directors

President's Message

As my last newsletter message as President I want to take a second to thank all of the many patrons who continue to support live theatre even in tough economic times. I have enjoyed getting to know so many people over the past 3 years as a Board member, many of you it was from seeing you time and time again in the lobby our beautiful facility.

I hope you continue to have a passion for the arts and share that with others, particularly the younger generation. Remind the kids to put down the Nintendo DS for a couple of hours and experience a play, or better still to come out and participate in a workshop or audition for a show. The arts have a powerful influence in the lives of many people. I have had the opportunity to watch a number of kids in our theatre grow and flourish in the 6 years I have spent as a member of this organization; it has been a true joy to witness those transformations from kids into young adults and from young adults into college age adults. I can't help but think that many of their lives would not be the same without the influence of and experience in the arts. I know that the growth my own children have experienced in regards to confidence has been a blessing and I look forward to their continued progress.

So thank you for allowing me to serve you for the past 3 years, I can tell you that I always approached my tasks on this Board with excitement and enthusiasm and genuinely put my whole heart into being a Board member and I truly hope that I have made some sort of difference for the better.

(...*Footloose*, from page 1)

Strong, and Spencer Pierson. Rena Bailey-Barrett is choreographer, and **Beth Anne Sweezer** is assistant director.

Footloose opens on May 28, with 8PM performances on June 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 25TH. There will be 2PM matinees on May 29, and June 5, 12, 18, 19, and 25TH. Tickets are \$12-\$15 for Juniors and Seniors and \$15-\$17 for adults. Call the box office **NOW** to see *Footloose*.

(...*Music Man*, from page 1)

Greg Finley, and Cheri Bradford serving as Assistant Director. **Janet McAnany and Jill McGlynn** are designing the costumes. The cast includes **Matthew Villar** as Winthrop and **Tim McGowan** as Marcellus, **John Fortman** is Mayor Shinn, **Kate Nelson** is his wife, Eulalie, and **Kara Hayes** is their daughter, Zaneeta. **Colin Robert** plays her boyfriend, Tommy, **John Morris** is Charlie Cowell, **Abby Thomas** is Amaryllis and **Frank Norton** is Constable Lock. The Pick-a-little ladies include **Stephanie Klimek, Gin Treadwell-Eng, Carla Bellefeuille, and Musette Caing. Matthew Dixon, Ethan Corbett, Dick Winger, and Jack Matson** make up the barbershop quartet. Also in the cast are **Jane Arnett** as Mrs. Paroo, **Dave Norman** as the Conductor and an ensemble including **Jim McGowan, Loren Burghout, Joe Aboulafia, Wade Bradford, Greg Hayes, Shirley Laurino, Liz Lewallyn, Margo Caruso, Tanisha Tingling, Vanessa Tingling, and Malkia Rachell.** The teens of River City are played by **Joey Langford, Lawrence Patchin, Tim Cervenka, Gregory Rosenberg, Michael Wells, Kaylee Bodtke-Stout,**

Annual Goldie Awards!

Our annual Goldie Awards are coming up Saturday, July 16 at the theatre, when the house will be transformed into the **Golden Canyon Revue** – where saloon girls and Wild West characters abound. We'll open the doors at 6PM for cocktails and appetizers, the awards will start at 6:30 and will be followed (around 8:30) by a delicious barbecue dinner on the patio. Be prepared to have a rip-roaring good time celebrating live theater!

Make sure your membership is current to get your invitation – it's \$30 per person for age 18 and over; \$15 per person for 17 and under. Look for your ballot in the mail soon!

Alexandra Dominguez, Taylor Lane, Tyler Bannerman, Kaitlyn Reuben, Justine Kelly, Kennedy Solcum, Abby Day, Katy Fortman, and Natalie Fortman. The children of River City are **Emily Bradford, Mackenzie Bradford, Jenna Bushton, Sophia Bellefeuille, Jillian Kelly, Isabella Eng, Tiffany Lewallyn, Eric Osovsky, Ethan Nelson, and Casey Hart.**

Don't miss this delightful piece of Americana while it's in Santa Clarita for a very limited run. *The Music Man* will have performances on Saturday evenings at 8PM on July 23 and 30TH, as well as August 6 and 13TH. Sunday matinee performances at 2PM will be on July 24, 30 and August 7 and 14TH. Tickets range from \$12 to \$29 and are on sale at the SCRT box office: 661.799.2702.

Board Election

The Election Committee is mailing the Candidate Statements to all active members of the CTG. Please read them so that you will know who is running for your Board. The Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members will be held on Monday, June 6 at 7PM at the theatre. Can't come that night? There are two opportunities for you to come and vote: Absentee balloting on Wednesday, June 1 from 6 – 8PM in the theatre Lobby OR Saturday, June 4 from 10AM - 12NOON, also in the Lobby.

Special thanks to the hard-working members of this year's Election Committee: Co-Chairs **Marla Khayat and Andy Fried,** and members **Kathi Lund and Cybele Perry.**

Volunteer "Family Reunion"

The Canyon Theatre Guild "Family Reunion" Volunteer Thank You barbecue on Saturday, July 9 on the patio at the theater. Volunteers are why our theater is so amazing and you have been our heart and soul for 40 years – so a "thank you" is in order. If you've done anything – helped build a set, served at the concession stand, run lights or sound, hemmed a costume, performed at an outreach event, kid wrangled - anything for the CTG over the last several years, please join us.

We'll be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, salads and sodas and giving out some recognition for all your efforts. All you have to do is RSVP via email to ctgfamilyreunion@yahoo.com.

Jr. Cabaret 2011 "Back to the Summer"

On June 3rd, starting at 6:30PM, the CTG proudly presents *Junior Cabaret: "Back to the Summer."* This fund-raising event, filled with music, dance, and laughter, features some of the most talented and enthusiastic kids in the Santa Clarita Valley. *"Back to the Summer"* is a musical romp through time, jam-packed with upbeat songs from across the decades! Best of all, the proceeds support the Canyon Theater Guild, a non-profit organization that offers the best in children's theater and family entertainment.

Seats are between \$20 and \$40. Order tickets our box office at 661.799.2702. (The sooner the better, because we might sell out!)

What is the Junior Cabaret?

The Junior Cabaret is an annual fund raising event that features young performers, from three to eighteen years of age. For nearly a decade the Junior Cabaret has been an evening filled with amazing songs and dance numbers. This year, playwright / co-director **Wade Bradford** has written an original script which ties all the musical numbers together. In fact, during the rehearsal process, Wade asked the children and teens to contribute to the story, adding their own hilarious skits. So, *"Back to the Summer"* is a theatrical fund-raising event and a **WORLD PREMIERE SHOW!**

Ticket prices include snacks, desserts, and other delicious food fare. In addition to the show, there will be a silent auction, raffle

tickets, and a costume contest. (That's right, audience members are encouraged to dress up in clothes from their favorite era!)

Raising Money for the Canyon Theatre Guild

The home of our theater family is a beautiful building located in the heart of Downtown Newhall. As you can imagine, the upkeep, utilities, and staffing gets expensive. (Not to mention all of the costumes, props, and sets.) Even though our shows are popular and tickets sales are great, fund raising events help our non-profit theater stay afloat, especially during tough economic times.

Audiences who attend the Junior Cabaret on June 3rd will be generating the funds we need to continue our affordable youth workshop programs, as well as family season shows such as the upcoming *Anne of Green Gables* and *A Little Princess*.

The young performers in the Junior Cabaret do not pay a fee; there is no tuition to be in the show. These terrific kids, and their equally terrific parents, have collectively volunteered hundreds over hours. During those long rehearsals, the kids learn a variety of theatre skills, and perhaps more importantly, they learn the value of team work and self-confidence.

Why is Children's Theater Important?

Whether a child wants to pursue a career in acting, or simply wants to have fun in a positive environment, the theater is an exceptional place for young people to learn and grow.

Patti Finley and **Leslie Berra**, both directors of countless Children's theater productions, have spent years nurturing and educating young performers. Many of those kids have come back to the theater as adults, contributing in hundreds of ways. For example, **Leah Di Paola**, the co-director of this year's Junior Cabaret and **Marcella Lively**, the show's vocal director, spent most of their teenage summers in shows and theater workshops. Now, they are fostering a new generation of theater lovers, ensuring that talent and creativity will continue to thrive in our community.

If you would like to sponsor this event, or if you would simply like to help make this a magical evening for the young performers and their families, please contact us at:

canyontheatre@sbcglobal.net

and/or profwade@hotmail.com

Save these Dates!

- May 28 *Footloose* Wine & Champagne Opening Night Reception 8PM
- May 30 Memorial Day - Remember our Fallen Soldiers
- June 1 Absentee Voting (Wed.) 6-8PM
- June 3 Jr. Cabaret (Fri.) 6PM
- June 4 Absentee Voting (Sat.) 10AM-Noon
- June 6 General Meeting and Election of Board Members. 7PM (Mon.)
- June 13 New/Old Board Meeting (off site)
- June 25 *Footloose* Closes at 8PM Sat.
- July 9 CTG Family Reunion BBQ
- July 16 Goldie Awards (Sat.) 6PM
- July 23 *The Music Man* opens at the COC Performing Arts Center

Gerda E. Maxey Art on Display

Gerda was born in Paraguay. She moved to Sylmar, CA where she had a number of careers before coming to Art in 1989. She studied at the Pasadena College of Design, West Lake Art Center, Valley College and privately as an apprentice to various master painters.

Gerda became fascinated with the classic painting methods of the great masters and devoted herself to become an expert in the Renaissance technique with teacher and master painter Lance Richlin of Torrance, CA. She loves painting and is happy to take commissions (portraits, etc.) upon request.



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

"Like" our Facebook Page

For up-to-date information
<http://www.facebook.com/canyontheatre>

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
- Claudia Alexopoulos
- Marla Khayat
- Michael Keane
- Andy Fried

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