

ENCORE

{The Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy Newsletter}

Vol. 27 :: No. 5 :: February/March 2012



ON THE MAINSTAGE...



The Fresh Broadway Sensation

Music & Lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx

Book by Jeff Whitty

Produced through special arrangement with

Music Theatre International

Executive Co-Producer:

AT&T Real Yellow Pages & YP.com

Associate Co-Producers:

Bartlett & West

SUNFLOWER MARKETING

A Division of M-C Industries, Inc.

Media Co-Producers:

Cumulus Broadcasting

The WIBW Channels

march 2012

sun	mon	tues	wed	thur	fri	sat
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
					6pm dinner 8pm show	6pm dinner 8pm show
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				* 7pm show	6pm dinner 8pm show	6pm dinner 8pm show
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				7pm show	6pm dinner 8pm show	6pm dinner 8pm show
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
12:30pm brunch 2pm show			7pm show	7pm show	6pm dinner 8pm show	6pm dinner 8pm show
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
12:30pm brunch 2pm show			7pm show	7pm show	6pm dinner 8pm show	6pm dinner 8pm show

Phone lines open to members: February 14

Phone lines open to general public: February 21

About the show....

Winner of the Tony Awards equivalent to the "Triple Crown" this musical took home the awards for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book in 2003. *Avenue Q* is part flesh, part felt and packed with heart. *Avenue Q* is a laugh-out-loud musical that tells the timeless story of a recent college grad named Princeton who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on *Avenue Q*. There, he meets Kate (the girl next door), Rod (the Republican), Trekkie (the internet sexpert), Lucy the Slut (need we say more?), and other colorful types who help Princeton finally discover his purpose in life!

**Avenue Q* contains adult language and situations and is best enjoyed by mature audiences.



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American Association of Community Theatre
 American Association for Theatre in Education
 Topeka Tourism Alliance
 Theatre for Young Audiences/USA

This program is presented in part by
 The National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency and
 the Mid-America Arts Alliance

from the

PRESIDENT/CEO

{Vickie Brokke}

Greetings on behalf of the entire TCTA staff! I hope your new year is off to a great start.

As I am writing my comments for this Encore publication, Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy is abuzz preparing for our trip to *Avenue Q*. My goal is to make sure you, too, are ready for your experience on the Avenue.



When people think of musical theatre, puppets aren't usually what come to mind, but *Avenue Q* will totally change that! *Avenue Q* is a hilarious, raunchy Broadway musical with, yes, none other than puppets! The "R-rated" puppet musical, which is highly acclaimed in the Broadway world, is making its way to Topeka.

Who is *Avenue Q* appropriate for? Adults love *Avenue Q*, but they seem fuzzy on whether it's appropriate for kids. It's great for older teens because it's about real life. It is not appropriate for children and younger teens because *Avenue Q* addresses issues like sex, drinking, and surfing the web for porn. Parents should use their discretion based on the maturity level of their children.

People may be skeptical when they hear that *Avenue Q* is a puppet musical because they think that the show will be childish, but in reality, the show IS NOT for children at all. The show focuses on the realities people face as they become adults, such as getting an apartment, finding a job, dating, sex, love, drinking, money problems, homosexuality, religion, racism and even porn.

What is *Avenue Q* about? The show can almost be described as a parody on *Sesame Street*, which some people say the show was unofficially based off of. The parody is that there are puppet characters using choice words, dealing with adult issues and even engaging in "puppet nudity." The show has three human characters and eleven puppet characters, which are controlled by unconcealed puppeteers.

Princeton is the main character of *Avenue Q*. He is a recent college graduate who is looking for a job and apartment in New York City. He finds an apartment on *Avenue Q* and the story begins there. Along his way, he meets many neighbors in his apartment building who are dealing with their own issues.

The musical numbers are funny, witty and make people laugh about the hardships that we normally would be stressed about. For example, some of the song titles include "It Sucks to Be Me", "The Internet is for Porn", "What Do You Do with a B.A. in English?", "If You Were Gay" and "I Wish I Could Go Back to College."

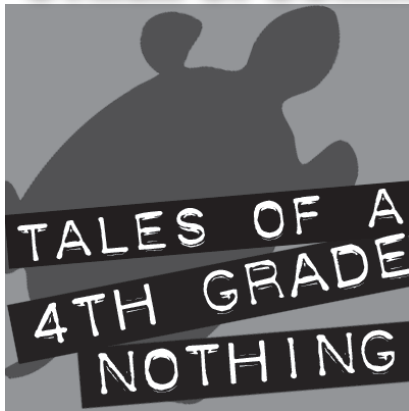
Avenue Q will entertain our audiences in many ways by making them laugh, maybe making them cry and stunning them. But one thing is for sure, after seeing *Avenue Q* the next time people think of musical theatre, puppets will come to mind! Winner of the Tony® "Triple Crown" for Best Musical, Best Score, and Best Book, *Avenue Q* is part flesh, part felt, and packed with heart. Don't miss out on this chance to see this long-running Broadway hit!

As you may know, TCTA is embarking on a six-month planning process to produce, by the summer of 2012, a multi-year Strategic Plan. We have hired the firm of Anderson Montgomery LLC to assist in facilitating and drafting the plan; a dear friend of the theatre is underwriting all the costs associated with the process. Many of you attended a focus group session or returned a survey. We appreciate your participation and are committed to keeping you informed throughout the process.

And finally, we hope you'll let us help you be a hero this Valentine's Day. A gift certificate for a romantic night of dinner and live theatre or an evening of fun at Laughing Matters makes a wonderful gift!

I'll see you in the theatre- Vickie

OTHER UPCOMING PERFORMANCES



Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing from the TCT Academy

February 10 - February 19, 2012

Based on the popular book by Judy Blume, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* tells the story of Peter Hatcher who faces sibling mischief in his attempts to deal with his impossible little brother, Fudge. The play is a humorous look at family life and the troubles that can only be caused by a younger sibling.

Tickets: Adults \$10, Students (12-21) \$8, Children (0-12) \$6 plus tax.



Laughing Matters

Improvational Comedy Show

Cold Drinks, Belly Laughs. Good Times.

Buy tickets for their April 6 & 7 show

Tickets: \$10 plus tax and fees

*Humor not suitable for all audiences



Laughing Matters JUNIOR

Improviation Comedy by Teens

Saturday, March 3, 2012

See the junior version of our highly popular Laughing Matters Improvisational Comedy Troupe. Our junior show is fun for all ages!

Tickets \$5 plus tax

March 9, 2012



Join our Senior Performers as the WTCT Radio Players bring you the best radio plays of the 30s, 40s, and 50s. And, the Senior Class brings you zany improv comedy*. Both shows are performed in the Oldfather Theatre. Tickets \$6 plus tax

*Senior Class humor not suitable for all audiences.

March 10, 2012



www.TopekaCivicTheatre.com

Get into the act with the TCT Academy!



The TCT Academy offers classes for kids and adults. To find out about our Spring theatre classes and highly popular Summer camps, call the box office at (785) 357-5211 or visit our website with convenient online enrollment at www.TopekaCivicTheatre.com

noteable

in our thoughts & in the news

condolences to:

TCTA Artistic Director SHANNON REILLY and volunteer ALEX REILLY and family, on the loss of Shannon's mother, Bernadette F. Reilly, who passed away on January 24, 2012.

TCTA volunteers CASSIDY, CHASE and CRISTEN TILDEN and family, on the loss of Cassidy and Chase's father and Cristen's husband, Jeffrey Tilden, who passed away on January 8, 2012.

The family and friends of TCTA member Rose Ann Eberly, who passed away on December 10, 2011.

TCTA members JESSICA and JEFF SCHELL, on the loss of their nephew, Isaac Weichert, who passed away on October 21, 2011.

TCTA volunteer LINDA BOYD and family, on the loss of her father, Dr. Kenneth Lovell, who passed away on February 7, 2011.

in tribute

As an expression of sympathy to Shannon Reilly and his family upon the passing of his mother, the Board of Trustees has established the Bernadette F. Reilly Children's TCTA Scholarship Fund. Contributions continue to be accepted. For information, contact Development Director Linda Falley at (785) 357-5213.

volunteer spotlight



You can find this month's Spotlight Volunteer in many places around the theatre. She works in the box office, hosts, works as an ambassador for groups attending TCTA and if you've seen the recent production of *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, you'll recognize her as Sunny Freitag. We are, of course, speaking of Robin Bonsall. Robin has been volunteering faithfully at TCTA in all of the above areas since October 2007 when she served on the crew for *Misery* after graduating with a BA in Theatre from Emporia State. That show, which will always hold a special place in her heart, led her to the Oldfather Theatre where she served as the assistant stage manager for *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Although each production she has been a part of presents special memories, getting to play Martha Watson in *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* resounds as her favorite. "It was such a positive experience all the way around. And, it was especially nice to have such positive feedback for doing something I love to do and work so hard at."

Robin Bonsall

Robin's interests are not restricted to just producing memories on the various stages at TCTA. She and her husband, Graham, love to cook, take walks, and are looking forward to volunteering at the Helping Hands Humane Society. Thankfully for TCTA, Robin is beginning to establish roots in Topeka with Graham beginning his "dream job" at Bartlett & West Engineers of Topeka and with Robin becoming a realtor. In Robin's words, "We feel very fortunate to be young professionals, happy in love, community, and careers. We're grateful for all the blessings we've received so far and are enjoying each positive moment as it comes!" Robin, we are grateful for the blessings you've bestowed on TCTA and here's to continued success!

To learn about volunteering at TCTA, contact Volunteer Coordinator Joanna Daffron at (785) 357-5213.

Avenue Q

VOLUNTEER NIGHT

VOLUNTEER NIGHT FOR *Avenue Q* will be Thursday, March 8, at 7:00 pm. Current TCTA volunteers can purchase up to 2 tickets for \$13.50 each (plus tax & facility maintenance fee) instead of the full price of \$25 plus fees. To schedule your tickets for this performance, call the Box Office at (785) 357-5211.

auditions

MISS NELSON IS MISSING!

A fun musical for TCTA's Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA series)

Book, Music and Lyrics by Joan Cushing

Based upon the books *Miss Nelson is Missing!* and *Miss Nelson is Back!* by Harry Allard

Adapted by arrangement with Houghton Mifflin Company

Directed by Jennifer Van Bruggen

Music Directed by Nancy Goodall

Auditions: February 18 and 19, 2012

Running April 6-15, 2012 in the Oldfather Theatre

Roles available for 3 men and 3 women

Talk about the worst behaved class in school! Spitballs flying across the room, paper airplanes sailing every which way and uncontrollable children send their gently, long-suffering teacher, Miss Nelson, over the edge. But the students of Room 207 are in for a surprise when Miss Nelson turns up missing and is replaced by Viola Swamp, a scary substitute teacher who assigns crazy homework! Auditions will be held on Saturday, February 18 from 1pm to 4pm and Sunday, February 19 from 1pm to 2:30pm. Callbacks will be held on Sunday, February 19 beginning at 2:30pm. Scripts are available for checkout from the box office.



HAMLET

The legendary drama by William Shakespeare

Directed by Shannon J. Reilly

Auditions March 3 and 4, 2012

Running April 20-May 5, 2012 in the Sheffel Theatre

Roles available for 22 men and 5 women

Prince Hamlet is visited by the ghost of his dead father, the King of Denmark, who tells him that his murderer is Hamlet's uncle Claudius, who has recently wed Hamlet's mother, Queen Gertrude. Seeking vengeance, Hamlet embarks on a twisted and bloody path to bring Claudius to justice, wreaking chaos and death until the final battle ensues. Be a part of this exciting and drama-packed Shakespearean tragedy! Auditions will be held on Saturday, March 3 from 1pm to 4pm and Sunday, March 4 from 1pm to 2:30pm. Callbacks will be held on Sunday, March 4 beginning at 2:30pm. Scripts will be available for checkout through the Box Office (a \$10 check or credit card deposit is required and refundable upon return of each booklet.)



THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL

A deliciously campy and trashy musical (studio series)

Music and Lyrics by David Nehls, Book by Betsy Kelso,

Produced through special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service

Directed by Joanna Daffron

Music Directed by Marilyn Foree

Auditions: March 10 and 11, 2012

Running May 4-20, 2012 in the Oldfather Theatre

Roles available for 2 men and 5 women

There's a new tenant at Armadillo Acres and she's wreaking havoc all over Florida's most exclusive trailer park! When Pippi, the stripper on the run, comes between agoraphobic Jeannie and her husband, the storms begin to brew. Complete with adultery, 80's nostalgia, spray cheese, road kill, kleptomaniacs and disco, this musical is a fun and humorous compilation of musical theatre! Auditions will be held on Saturday, March 10 from 1pm to 4pm and Sunday, March 11 from 1pm to 2:30pm. Callbacks will be held on Sunday, March 11 beginning at 2:30pm. Scripts will be available for checkout through the box office.



TCTA endowment

The Endowment Trust Fund of TCTA exists to provide a source of financial support for the Theatre's operations when needed. With current assets of around one million dollars, the Endowment is not yet of the size to be able to truly endow the operations or other programs of the theatre and, as such, we are always looking to grow the Trust Fund.

One of the best ways for you to help us do that is to consider making annual contributions or a legacy gift when preparing your estate plans. These types of gifts have potential tax benefits that can result in savings to you and increase the benefit to the theatre.

The Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy is a true jewel in our community and your support to our Endowment Trust Fund is one more way to ensure its perpetuation long into the future. To discuss the different options for supporting the growth of our Endowment, please contact me at 785-224-6201 or Linda Falley at 785-357-5213.

- Steve Briman, Endowment Trust President

development office

Seeking Co-Producers

TCTA is seeking Co-Producers for our exciting 2012-2013 season. For more information on how you can help the theatre while promoting your business, please contact TCTA Development Director Linda Falley at (785) 357-5213 or by emailing her at Linda@TopekaCivicTheatre.com.

Tax Time

In order to reduce printing and postage expenses and paper consumption and continue our goal to "go green", TCTA will only send end of year donation statements by request. If you would like an end of year statement, we'd be happy to send one to you. Please email Administrative Associate, Lynda Denton at Lyn-da@TopekaCivicTheatre.com or call her at (785) 357-5213.

box office

Looking for something?

Our box office is looking to reduce the amount of items in our Lost & Found. If you have an item you have been trying to find, and you think it may be at TCTA, please stop by or call our box office at (785) 357-5211. Any unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity on February 15. Thank you for your help.

Don't just give a gift - Give an experience

TCTA Gift Certificates are available for purchase.

Call the box office for more information! 785-357-5211

volunteers needed for:

MAINSTAGE THEATRE

AVENUE Q- March 2-31...Hosts, House Managers, Box Office, Ambassadors, Buffet Wing Volunteers

PERFORMANCE GROUPS

LAUGHING MATTERS, Jr. (Family-friendly improv)- Friday, March 3... Hosts, House Manager, Box Office

THE WTCT RADIO PLAYERS- Friday, March 9...Hosts, House Manager, Box Office

THE SENIOR CLASS- Saturday, March 10...Hosts, House Manager, Box Office

LAUGHING MATTERS (Adult improv)- Friday and Saturday, April 6 and 7... Hosts, House Managers, Box Office

ACADEMY THEATRE

TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING- February 10-19... Hosts, House Managers, Box Office

Want to stay "in-the-know" about shows and auditions? Check out our website at www.TopekaCivicTheatre.com or sign up for our E-Blast for weekly news by calling Marketing Director Chelle Decker at (785) 357-5213.



Special School Day Matinees

Did you know TCTA offers special school day matinee performances of theatre classics performed especially for junior high and senior high school students?

TCTA will be offering two school day performances of *Hamlet* on Wednesday, April 25th and Tuesday, May 1st at 10am. Tickets for school performances are at a reduced rate.

Please, contact the box office for details...and be sure to tell the teachers you know about this unique learning experience!



A note from Vickie Brokke, President/CEO...

Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy announces new marketing director

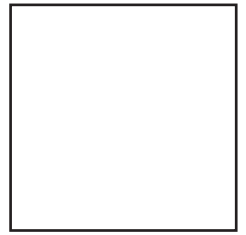
Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy announces the hiring of Chelle Decker as the new Director of Marketing, a position Chelle filled from July 2007 through January 2011. We are pleased to welcome Chelle back to Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy. This truly a joyful homecoming. Chelle has hit the ground running in her efforts to raise the visibility of our theatre and to help us share our programs with the community. We are excited about how her skills and talents will shape our marketing strategy. From her prior work experience with TCTA and her passion for the work we do, Chelle has a clear understanding of how live theatre impacts our lives and improves the quality of life in our community.

-Vickie Brokke, President/CEO





3028 SW 8th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66606



mark your calendars now!
upcoming events

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing
February 10-19, 2012

Auditions - *Miss Nelson is Missing* (youth)
February 18 & 19, 2012

**Avenue Q*
March 2 - 31, 2012

Auditions - *Hamlet*
March 3 & 4, 2012

Laughing Matters JUNIOR
March 3, 2012

TCTA Sneak Peek (see note to right)
March, 6, 2012

WTCT Players
March 9, 2012

*Senior Class
March 10, 2012

Auditions - *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*
March 10 & 11, 2012

*Best enjoyed by mature audiences.

**Have you ever
wondered what goes
on at TCTA when the
stage lights are out?**



**Stage Door Sneak
Peeks begin
at 7:00 p.m.
and last no more
than 1 hour!**

Here's your chance
to find out!

There's more to our story than what you see on stage...and we're eager to share it with you. See a little bit of a rehearsal, find out why we have so many dedicated volunteers, & find out what it's like to stand on stage rather than sit in the audience. If you're interested or would like more information, call Linda Falley at 785-357-5213.