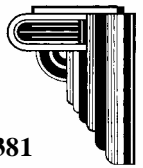


December 2008

# Tennessee Valley Theatre



423-365-PLAY (7529)

PO Box 81

184 West Jackson Ave

Spring City, TN 37381

## CHRISTMAS CAROL - THE MUSICAL

On Dec. 5,6,7,12,13, & 14, TVT will present "Christmas Carol - the Musical." Adapted from the beloved Dickens story, it is *an all-new production* of a show originally done in 1981 by the Chorus Class at RCHS. The script for that production was written by Suzie Varga and Thomas Rodgers. Bob Merrill and Jules Styne supplied the songs. Presented over two nights, that show still holds the RCHS record for largest average ticket sales per performance.

The new production has had a fresh rewrite of the script, an expanded cast and three new songs by Hunter Rodgers and Thomas Rodgers added. The director is Thomas Rodgers. Roy Smith, the excellent pianist for the recent "Some Enchanted Evening," is again playing, and Karen Slikker of that same show is supplying choreography.

The cast features Clyde Armstrong as Scrooge, as well as Nathan Harrison and Jamie McIntosh as younger versions of Scrooge. Spring City Mayor Mary Sue Garrison plays Mrs. Fezziwig, wife of Old Fezziwig, played by Jim Hevelone. Chris Beam is Bob Cratchit, Anessa Van Horn his wife, while the the kids are played by Jamie Stiles, Jamie McIntosh, and Shane McInernery as "Tiny Tim." The cast includes a slew of Hortons (David, Christian, and Evan), all also recent members of "Some Enchanted Evening." Robert Rains is the ghost of Jacob Marley.

In addition the ensemble includes a "Ghostly Chorus," a Den of Thieves, a gaggle of caroling Street People as well as a herd of Street Urchins. All-told, the cast includes 21 people.

Roger Hinsdale is heading up a construction crew supplying some

imaginative sets.

In addition to the regular week-end performances, there will be a number of mid-week matinees for local school students and home-schoolers.

*The project is funded, in part, by Arts Build Communities – A program funded by the Tennessee General Assembly and administered in cooperation with the TN Arts Commission and the Southeast Tennessee Development District.*

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

### BACKSTAGE BANTER WITH HARRY LANDRETH

In an earlier column, I talked about experiences for children at the theater. This year, under Karen Hilleary's supervision, more effort has been given to children and youth than anytime in TVT's history. In addition to the children, the parents, relatives, and friends in support of these activities have spent many hours.

*Treasure Island*, directed by Karen Slikker, was an outstanding production featuring a student cast. Our Youth Summer Workshop by Kari Ballentine and Children's Summer Workshop by Karen Slikker set attendance records. *A Christmas Carol*, opening on December 5, features many youthful actors. Already seven of the nine scheduled school matinees are sold out.

For most area children, TVT provides their only opportunity to see and participate in live theater. If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, children of friends, please encourage them to participate.

Your comments, questions, and suggestions about the theater are always welcome. Please contact me at: [harry@tennesseevalleytheatre.com](mailto:harry@tennesseevalleytheatre.com).

## UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Don't know what to give this year? TVT season tickets make an excellent choice! Call 365-PLAY for details.

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The TVT Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the theater on Friday, December 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. Food and entertainment will be provide, and it's free! Please call 365-PLAY for reservations.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Gwen Reeves is the Concessions Volunteer Coordinator at the theater. Gwen was born and raised in Campaign-Urbana, Illinois, home of the Fightin' Illini at the Univ. of Illinois. She graduated from there with a major in Speech Therapy. She met her future husband, Don Reeves, when they were both sophomores at the U of I and were married after they graduated in 1956. For the next 23 years they lived a Military life. Don made his career in the Army Corps of Engineers and Gwen was a preschool teacher.

They have twin sons, Robert and Richard, and three grandchildren (2 boys and a girl). All live in various places in Tennessee where Gwen and Don settled after retirement.

Gwen learned how to Braille and volunteered at that for a few years. For the past 13 years, Don and Gwen have been heavily involved with the Pine Grove Volunteer Fire Dept Assoc. Currently they are being trained to become a CASA volunteer - a new venture in Rhea County to help the Judicial system in making decisions regarding home placement for children who have had to be removed from their homes for their own safety and well being. Gwen is also a volunteer for the Sheriff's SCAN program

Gwen is a member of the Sassy Sisters Red Hat group.

#### BOARD MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Karen Hilleary is our Board Member of the month. Born in North Carolina, Karen has been in Tennessee for 21 years, and involved with the theater 20 of those 21! She graduated from University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she was voted by faculty as bring the most outstanding student in Textile Science and Apparel arts. During her college days, she developed a love of the theater while working with the concert and lecture series. She went on to get her masters from NC State in Textile Marketing & Management minoring in Textile Chemistry. She was a textile designer before moving to Tennessee.

Karen has been on stage with TVT appearing in *Blithe Spirit*, *Rocket to the Moon*, *On Golden Pond* and several other shows. She organized the first children's drama workshop for the theater and continues to promote the arts among young people. Karen chaired the building committee when the theater was remodeled and has served on the board of directors for more years than she wants to count. She owns Creative Carousel Embroidery and her products can soon be seen on the internet by visiting [www.wellsown.com](http://www.wellsown.com).

She attends Open Door Fellowship, has served on the United Way board and the Girl Scout Board of directors for the Chattanooga area, and is a member of the Stillwaters Emmaus Community. She considers herself truly blessed and her children Parker, Rebecca, and Drew as her greatest gifts God could have ever given.

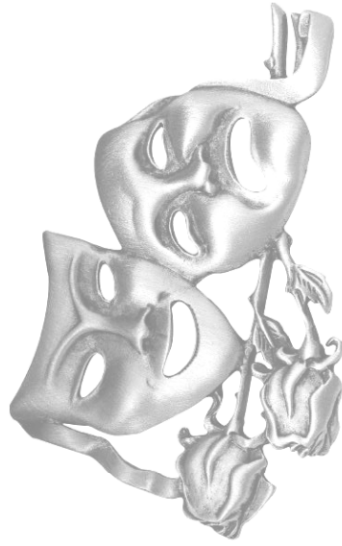
#### 2009 SEASON COMING SOON

Be sure to keep an eye out in December for the announcement of the 2008 season.



184 West Jackson Ave.

# Tennessee Valley Theatre Newsletter



## December 2008

Put a little drama in your life!

[www.tennesseevalleytheatre.com](http://www.tennesseevalleytheatre.com)

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