“It’s A Wonderful Life” is Wonderful!

If you want to feel the holiday spirit, be sure to see “It’s A Wonderful Life” on stage at the Canyon Theatre Guild. Based on a short story, “It’s A Wonderful Life” became a holiday classic as the Frank Capra film starring James Stewart and Donna Reed.

Director Greg Finley says, “I enjoy directing the Christmas show, because it helps me get into the spirit of the season and I feel it’s our gift to the community. The cast and crew make a huge time commitment to be a part of this show and we all become part of an extended family during the holidays.”

CTG newcomer Robert McCloy plays the central role of Everyman George Bailey who has given up his dreams of travel and career in order to help others. Forced to give up his plans for college so he can help run the family’s Building and Loan business with his Uncle Billy (George Helsens), George falls in love with and marries Mary Hatch (Nicole Kowalski). George gives his college money to his brother Harry (John Lucewich) who graduates from college while George remains in Bedford Falls, trying to make ends meet as he raises a family and helps support his widowed mother (Laurie Morgan).

The villain of the story, Henry Potter (Michael Levine) is a slumlord, and majority shareholder in the Building and Loan who considers George’s Building and Loan a thorn in his side. He does his best to try to destroy the business and George’s reputation and he nearly succeeds. Desperate and depressed, George stands

Join Us in Middle Earth for the Adventure of a Lifetime

It is unusual for a modern work to become a classic so quickly, but Tolkien’s “ring” stories, which began with The Hobbit are clearly in this very special category. Patricia Gray’s adaptation of The Hobbit is being directed by husband and wife team, Wade and Cheri Bradford and the production will open on February 1, 2014.

The “ring” stories stir the imagination and intellect of everyone they touch. Marcus Langston plays Bilbo Baggins, one of the most conservative of all Hobbits, who is asked to leave his large, roomy and very dry home in the ground in order to set off as chief robber in an attempt to recover an important treasure. It's the last thing that any sensitive Hobbit would want to do, but great benefit eventually results—not only for Bilbo but for all of the Hobbits who inhabit Middle Earth—and the hearts of those children and adults who continue to enjoy this kind of magic.

Marc Deagon plays Gandalf, an itinerant wizard who introduces Bilbo to a company of dwarves to help Bilbo in his quest. During the journey, Gandalf disappears on side errands, only to appear again at key moments in the story. Stevie Beecher plays Thorin Oakenshield, the proud, pompous head of the company of dwarves who makes many mistakes in his leadership, relying on Gandalf and Bilbo to get him out of trouble. Smaug (voiced by Michael Keane) is a dragon who long ago pillaged the dwarvish kingdom of Thorin's
Artistic Impressions

TimBen Boydston
Executive Director of the CTG, Artistic Director

Youth Workshop Updates

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

It’s the most wonderful time of the year! Our lobby is beautifully decorated for the holidays (special thanks to Claudia Alexopoulos and Susan Hart for coordinating the decorations) and Main Street is decorated with lights on every tree so that Old Town Newhall looks like Main Street in Disneyland! Yes, it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas everywhere we go, and you can almost feel the excitement in the air from the moment you walk in to our lobby.

I hope you will take some time away from the hustle and bustle of shopping to see this year’s holiday production, “It’s A Wonderful Life” directed by our own “Mr. Christmas,” Greg Finley. This is a warm and uplifting story which will not only put you in the spirit of the holidays, but, perhaps will help us all to realize that, in spite of everything, we have a wonderful life.

Congratulations to Director, Michael Davies, his artistic team, cast and crew for their terrific production of “Dial ‘M’ For Murder,” the thriller which kept audiences in suspense throughout the Halloween season. Audiences particularly enjoyed Michael’s impression of Alfred Hitchcock before each performance.

Kudos also to Director Randy Aronson, his artistic team, cast and crew for their inspirational production of “The Miracle Worker.” There wasn’t a dry eye in the house by the time the actors took their bows! This touching story of the early life of Helen Keller was a powerful piece of theatre.

Our fall workshops are nearing the end of the session and I want to express my thanks to those dedicated instructors who continue to work toward making the world a better place through live theatre. Thanks to Patti Finley and Rosemary Moffat who have been working with the homeschooled children on a lively production of the musical, SEUSSICAL JUNIOR, and to Michael Davies and Lissa Gibbs for their after school workshop which presented a delightful production of THE SNOW QUEEN. There are more workshops to come beginning

See Impressions continued on page 4

It has been my pleasure and privilege to work with hundreds of children in our workshops over the past ten years. I have enjoyed working with them and watching them grow as people and performers. Many of our workshop students have appeared in our main stage productions and some of them have even begun assisting in the workshops as choreographers, etc. I think the CTG is doing a great job with young people, by educating them, encouraging them, and helping them mature as they learn teamwork, responsibility, and commitment to a project.

We are fortunate to have so many talented and qualified people willing to work as instructors in our workshop programs. I hesitate to name names, for fear of leaving someone out, but I am grateful for all the help these committed teachers provide.

Our ACT III After School Workshop recently completed the fall semester with a delightful, imaginative production of “The Snow Queen.” Thanks go to Mike Davies, aka “Sir Dude,” and Lissa Gibbs for another great job with this workshop, and the Chelsea Jones who did the costuming. Preparations are underway for the next semester, which begins January 28.

Patti Finley and Rosemary Moffat are winding up the fall semester of our Adventures in Theatre daytime workshop for home schooled children with a lively production of “Seussical Junior.” “Oh! The thinks you can think when you think about Seuss!” This group of 17 children from the age of 8 through 15 has been hard at work learning the songs, dances and stories of the well-known Seuss characters. Jill McGlynn did the imaginative costuming and Kaitlyn Reuben, who has been a workshop participant for over nine years, stepped up to choreograph “Seussical Junior,” and is doing a wonderful job!

Whether or not your child has ever been in one of our workshops, you should sign them up now for the next semester! It isn’t too early to be thinking about
Here we are with Thanksgiving transitioning through our households and hopefully all of us are realizing many blessings for which to be thankful. With Christmas and New Years approaching we are definitely in the Holiday Season. Our featured play is the Frank Capra classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*. As most of you know it is the story of a man who has given up his dreams in order to help others and whose imminent suicide on Christmas Eve brings about the intervention of his guardian angel. It is, as most live-theatre plays are intended to be, an emotion-evoking vignette depicting a facet of the human condition. This aspect of live theatre brings me to the crux of this article.

In my training to become and my service as a peace officer, I was often confronted with the dichotomy of witnessing some of the most heart-wrenching, emotional experiences that a person may witness, yet, not being able to outwardly show the effects these events had on me. In effect, we were ‘taught’ to stifle our emotions. As one might expect, this behavior had a much-less-than ideal outcome for a great many of us during our careers and subsequent retirements. Ah, but I have found a cure… a remedy that allows me to express my inner feelings and reconnect with the empathy set aside in my past. The remedy… what else but live theatre?

I had the fortune to attend the final show of *The Miracle Worker*, here at our Theatre. During several poignant episodes, I found myself tearing up. With eyes welling and in one instance a tear streaking down my cheek, I was embarrassed and looked about to see who might be noticing… no one! I was alone in my emotional experiences; able to perceive and react to these truly beautiful thoughts and feelings offered by the actors in the play; all without fear and with the realization that others too were doing the same. In short, I realized that the live-theatre play is a conduit for uniting us with our inner emotions and our empathy with the human condition; regardless of the fact that the play itself is contrived by the author as a means of conveying these very emotions. I found no reason to fear the experience, no reason to stifle my inner self.

As a bottom line, I would beseech potential theatre-goers to see our live plays and “be not afraid” to let yourselves go. Let yourselves go and experience the emotions and deep-seated feelings of your own humanity. Be not afraid to feel and rejoice in the fact that we are able to reacquaint ourselves with the very emotions that have shaped our lives.

I truly hope to see you all at the Theatre.

Sincerely,
Your Board of Directors President,
Doug Holiday

PS
The gift of a season ticket membership makes a wonderful Holiday gift to a friend, acquaintance or significant other. It’s a wonderful way to give the opportunity to “feel” the live-theatre experience throughout an entire season at the Canyon Theatre Guild.

The Hobbit will play in tandem with *The Dixie Swim Club*, alternating performance dates through March 1. You won’t want to miss this adventure with entertainment for the whole family. Reservations for Season Ticket holders will begin on January 7, and to the general public on January 14, 2014. Performances will be on weekends through March 1.
WONDERFUL continued from page 1

on a bridge about to jump, believing he is worth more dead than alive. His guardian angel, Clarence Odbody (John Morris) suddenly appears and begins his attempt to save George’s life by showing him what a wonderful life it is. If he can save this one desperate man, Clarence will finally win his wings as an Angel.

The cast also includes Michael Smith, Cade Parker, Marla Khayat, Chelsea Jones, Bill Steele, Walter Hoskins, Melissa Bierend, Calista Steele, Shawnie Wise-Hawkins, Chris Passalacqua, Keri Pierson, Carla Bambo, Bradley Brooks, Nolan Dunnahoo, Cheyenne Weiner, Warren Steinman, Catie Robertson, Juliette Jamjian, Sarah Sherwood, and Bethany Steele. Patti Finley is assistant director, Jim Robinson is set designer, Carla Bambo is set decorator, and Chelsea Jones is costume designer.

Performances are at 8:00 pm on Friday and Saturday evenings, November 30, December 7, 13, 14, 20, 21; 2:00 pm on Dec. 1, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22; 7:00 pm on December 17, 18, 19, and 6:00 pm on December 22. Tickets are $15-$17 for Juniors and Seniors and $17-$19 for adults.

Take time out from the hustle and bustle of the holidays and spend an evening (or afternoon) at the Canyon Theatre Guild. While you’re at it, do your holiday shopping. Season tickets make a great gift! The theatre is at 24242 Main Street, Old Town Newhall. For reservations, call (661) 799-2702.

Workshop continued from page 2

in January, so give your child the holiday gift of being part of one of our workshops – they will thank you for it! Our students have such a good time, that they come back year after year to learn about theatre, to make new friends, and to appear on our stage in a production complete with scenery, costumes, makeup, props and an audience!

ACT III classes will begin on Tuesday, January 28 at 4:00 PM. This class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 4 – 6 PM for ten weeks. The production will be our own Wade Bradford’s very funny play “Sleeping Beauty and the Beast.” Sign your children up now for this hilarious musical comedy – with an emphasis on the comedy! No experience is needed, just a willingness to have fun!

Admission to the daytime workshop, Adventures in Theatre, is by audition or director approval. Auditions are by appointment, between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM on January 23. Call now to make your audition appointment! The classes will meet from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays for ten weeks. There will be a one-week spring break from March 31 – April 7 and performances will be April 14 – 25, 2014. The spring production will be “Ramona Quimby” based on the very popular books by Beverly Cleary.

Tuition to either workshop is $275 for the ten week session, which breaks down to $27.50 per week or $13.75 per class. It’s a great value and an unforgettable experience for your child!

Information on our very popular Summer Youth Workshops will be coming soon, so keep an eye on our website for information or call the box office to be put on our workshop mailing list.

iMPRESSIONS continued from Page 2

in January, so give a child the gift of live theatre – enroll them in one of our workshops now!

Speaking of children, we have a special event coming on December 6 when our Tenth Annual Holipalooza youth fundraiser will raise the roof and raise some funds for our youth programs! Under the direction of Rena Bailey-Barrett, John Morris and Juanita Small, some 50+ young people have been rehearsing for weeks to put on this holiday extravaganza featuring Songs of the Season. Plan to come and support these young people. The event features a light buffet, high-energy entertainment by our young performers, and silent and live auctions.

As 2013 comes to an end, we are thankful that we have not only survived another year in a difficult economy, but have continued to present quality live theatre, touching the hearts and minds of our audiences. Thanks to the support of our patrons and our volunteers, we have had a wonderful year. We wish you all a very happy holiday season and we’ll see you at the theatre!
UPCOMING AUDITIONS

Damn Yankees
Director Donna M. Manfredi
Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday, January 12, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

This is a large cast musical with many featured roles, mainly men. There are older roles and showcases for trained dancers. All adult ages are needed.

Please come prepared to sing 16 bars from a Broadway musical. Bring your own accompaniment tracks (no vocals on the track and no a capella auditions)
Wear appropriate shoes for the dance audition

Clariissa’s Closet
Director Ingrid Boydston
Saturday, January 18, 2014 from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday, January 19 from 1 – 4 pm

Adults and teens of various ages needed for this highly theatrical musical celebrating the power of imagination.

Please come to the audition prepared to sing 16 bars of a show tune or Disney song. Bring your own accompaniment tracks. There will be a dance audition.
Auditions for both shows will be held in the rehearsal studio adjacent to the theatre
Rehearsals will be weeknights beginning as soon as the shows are cast. Performances for both shows will run March 28 through April 26, 2014

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!

2013 -2014 CTG Board of Directors
Doug Holiday – President
Jim Robinson – 1st Vice President
John Alexopoulos – 2nd Vice President
Donna M. Manfredi – Secretary
Darel Roberts – Treasurer
Members-at-Large:
Michael Davies Tim Hart
Tom Lund John Morris
Brad Rennels John Fortman

Other People You Should Know
Executive Director & Artistic Director
TimBen Boydston
Assistant Director & Artistic Director
Of the Family Season
Patti Finley
Newsletter Editor
Dave Norman
GET READY FOR
THE CTG’S DIXIE CHICKS!

Director TimBen Boydston is very excited about his cast of amazing actresses for the CTG’s upcoming production of The Dixie Swim Club. The story focuses on a group of five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team. They set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. Free from husbands, kids and jobs, they meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina’s Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each other’s lives.

THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB focuses on four of those weekends and spans a period of thirty-three years. CTG newcomer, Barbara Kerford, plays Sheree, the spunky team captain, who desperately tries to maintain her organized and "perfect" life, and continues to be the group’s leader. Nancy Lantis returns to our stage as Dinah, the wisecracking overachiever, who is a career dynamo, but her victories in the courtroom are in stark contrast to the frustrations of her personal life. Gin Treadwell-Eng plays Lexie, who is pampered and outspoken, and is determined to hold on to her looks and youth as long as possible. She enjoys being married—over and over and over again.

Lori D’Itri is back on our stage as Vernadette, the self-deprecating and acerbic gal who is acutely aware of the dark cloud that hovers over her life, and has decided to just give in and embrace the chaos. And sweet, eager-to-please Jeri Neal is played by Mia Zumsteg who experiences a late entry into motherhood that takes them all by surprise.

As their lives unfold and the years pass, these women increasingly rely on one another, through advice and raucous repartee, to get through the challenges (men, sex, marriage, parenting, divorce, aging) that life flings at them. And when fate throws a wrench into one of their lives these friends, prove the enduring power of "teamwork," as they rally 'round their own with the strength and love that takes this comedy in a poignant and surprising direction. THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB is the story of these five unforgettable women—a hilarious and touching comedy about friendships that last forever.

The Dixie Swim Club opens on January 31, and will have weekend performances through March 1, 2014. Season Ticket holder can make their reservations for this delightful show beginning January 7, 2014. Reservations for the general public will begin January 14. Tickets will be $12-$15 for juniors/seniors and $15-$17 for adults. The CTG box office is 661-799-2702.

“Like” our Facebook Page
For up-to-date Information
http://www.facebook.com/canyontheatre

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 would like to see the show!

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!
Dody Rogers

I grew up in Burbank, California. My father, Don Griffith, was an artist his whole working life at nearby Walt Disney Studios. I was able to visit the studio often and the incredible artists there were my parents’ personal friends. Art was always an admired thing in our home and I also was drawn to art classes in High School and College.

As a college graduate I had a teaching credential for elementary school and I had the children doing incredible art projects to decorate our room for all yearly events. So much fun! I kept increasing my experimentation with different art forms as a hobby. When my son was born I quit teaching and was swept up in art and design, attending art fairs on the weekends and eventually purchasing an art gallery in Sherman Oaks. I created art accessories for children’s rooms, murals, and decorative items for kitchen/bath areas. This lasted for 10 years.

A real estate career began in 1976 which continued for 34 years and kept me out of the art world. I still used design and photography to promote properties that I was representing. Upon retiring, a renewed interest in oil painting and photography has blossomed again. Traveling to many countries and enjoying California outdoors has given me photo opportunities and oil painting subjects.

I have entered exhibits and displayed my artwork in shows in Thousand Oaks, San Fernando Valley and Santa Clarita Valley. As a member of the Santa Clarita Artists’ Association I have enjoyed the opportunities for learning and sharing artwork and the enthusiasm of the members.

Website: dody-rogers.artistwebsites.com
The Canyon Theatre Guild depends on donations of all kinds, including tangible goods and services, to help us in our mission to make the world a better place by entertaining, educating, enlightening, and enriching our community through quality live theatre.

We know that in order to donate this way, you must be aware of what the CTG needs. Who knows? You just may have a spare in your garage, or your company may have an overstock of that they’d love to donate! If you or your company would like to contribute one or more of the items or services listed below, or aid in the purchase of one or more of these items, please contact Patti or TimBen first to make sure we are still in need of that item.

**Administrative, Office and Events Supplies**

**Goods**
- Copy machine
- Copy machine toner cartridges
- Copy paper – all colors
- General Office Supplies
- Large shelving
- 5 Banquet Tables 6ft X 30in ($40.00 each)
- New carpeting for lobby stairs and landings
- New roof for main building
- Pickup truck

**Services**
- Online marketing services
- Desktop computer
- Large flat screen TV & DVD for rehearsal room
• Paint – flat black, white, beige
• 2” X 4”, 2” X 6” and 2” X 8” lumber
• Plywood – clean one
• Clearcom Featherweight Headsets

Services
• Volunteers for set building, painting, costuming (on a show by show basis)
• Backstage crew members (on a show by show basis)

Costume, Makeup Shop Supplies

• New Ben Nye basic makeup sets for our workshop students
• Fabric cutting scissors
• Costume Re-stocking supplies: Thread, Needles, Pins, etc. ($25-$500)
• Heavy duty storage racks (Z-racks)
• Laundry materials: Laundry bags, stain removers, detergents ($10 - $250)
• Rolls of muslin
• Dance shoes (all kinds, gently used)
• Wigs (clean and new or gently used)
• See-through plastic boxes – 56 quart size

Services
• Sewing volunteers
• Makeup artists
• Wig stylists

Misc.
• Easy-up canopy
• Patio heaters

Remember that your donation is tax-deductible!
You will receive a tax receipt for your contribution.
Tax ID #95-2903093