



THE
Tree of Life Theatre Troupe
NEWSLETTER

She is a Tree of Life to those who embrace her, those who lay hold of her will be blessed. ~ Proverbs 3:17-19

A Christmas Carol, *Live!!*

Tree of Life Theatre Troupe, Inc.
presents
A LIVE Holiday Production of



December 4 & 11 @ 7:30pm

December 5 & 12 @ 2 & 7:30pm

Freedom Christian Church
6400 Ridge Road
(behind Carrolltown Center)

Tickets

\$8 online pre-sale • \$10 at the door

For ticket information and news on our 2010 Summer Theatre Camp, go to

www.TreeofLifeTroupe.org

***Pardon our dust as our Website
has been under Construction!***

New and improved features are on the way along with photo pages and lots of information on shows and camps. Meanwhile you can contact us at treeoflifetroupe@yahoo.com.

Tree of Life
Theatre Troupe, Inc.
P. O. Box 1425
Eldersburg, MD 21784
www.treeoflifetroupe.org

November, 2009

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SAVE THE DATE!

2010 Tree of Life Annual Celebration

Saturday
February 6, 2010

Last year's was such a big success that we've decided to make it an annual tradition. Again, we want to thank our membership and invite new members and troupe alumni to join us for this gala affair and annual membership meeting. Please join us for music, entertainment and light hors d'oeuvres. The meeting will also include a vote for open board positions for 2010.

We are looking for talented individuals to assist with costumes, lighting, set design and more!



Suessical, Wow!

Twass the Sour Kangaroo...

By Vivian Davis

And the young kangaroo in her pouch said, "Wow! too! Yes, Tree of Life kicked off it's 2nd Musical Theatre show with an amazing sight and sound experience. Composed of actors of all ages this musical performed at the Carroll Community College theater to near sell out crowds!

Mix an eclectic cast of over 40, a creative production team, some hard working musicians and numerous volunteers and get a spectacular production that you'll want to watch over and over again. In fact, we have the dvds to prove it; moments captured in time including some bloopers that were a big hit. (i.e. The Cat in the Hat jumping in to mid air to pull Gertrude's extra long feathered tail off of Horton's drooping ear) Amazing improv like that cannot be recaptured! It was only a small sampling of the imaginative talent that was displayed through out the entire show.

Big kudos must go out to the pit orchestra as sometimes it proved to be quite a challenge to cue the vocalists. However, Music Director Kristen Ion just kept a smile on her face. It's then no wonder that the Cat in the Hat, Jonathan Wagner, just had to poke a little fun as he conducted the Orchestra prior to Act 2. Lucky for us, they were well rehearsed and had a wonderful sense of humor.

It was my first time acting in a long time and I was fortunate to perform alongside my daughters and a wonderful group of young creative actors. It would be an understatement to say how comfortable this cast and crew helped me feel while rehearsing some challenging diva moments. These fine actors were so supportive and showed great admiration for

one another. As the characters started to unfold, and as costumes and make up came on, we truly became a show family. From prayer circle to power circle, everyone found their inspiration for the show.

Once again, a TOL team worked hand in hand with the Carroll County Public Library's summer reads program to bring the Seussical characters to life. As the brainchild of TACTICC's Director Tony Cimino, he worked with his interns, Kate Cowart and Shane Moran to direct a sweetened condensed version of the show to audiences of children, ages 4 – 10. They were a big hit!

So summer's come and gone and we are left with some wonderful memories. From a story that ends in compassion and triumph to songs that remind us that you should never give up on your convictions. God has a plan for all of us and with his love and forgiveness, "Anything's Possible!"

A Great Big Thanks Again to:

LHS Drama Program
 South Carroll HS Program
 Carroll Community College
 Wards Chapel United Methodist Church
 Carroll County Public Libraries
 Carroll County Arts Council
 Maryland State Arts Council
 Community Foundation of Carroll County
 PUNCH Graphics
 Body Shapes in Eldersburg
 Tony Cimino Performing Arts Center
 Jim & Holly Robinson
 The Tree of Life Troupe Board of Directors
 Mrs. Hutchinson
 Kerry & Sue Anders
 Stewart Harshbarger
 Savage Dance Company
 Mrs. Bennett
 The Ag Center
 Sandy Oxx
 High School Band Directors of
 Carroll County Public Schools
 The Ion Family
 The Cimino Family
 The Bennett Family
 All of the volunteer Parents!

And most importantly, to all of the cast members & production team for their hard work and dedication.

Thanks for the memories!



Our Summer Under the Sea

By Michele Field

While many Marylanders went off to sun themselves on the sandy shores this past summer, countless others enjoyed an adventure under the sea right here with Tree of Life's summer camp! Our production of *The Little Mermaid* performed for sold out audiences, bringing laughter and excitement to our stage.

We had a remarkable program that consisted of more than 40 students, 6 counselors, 2 interns, and the many helping hands of the behind-the-scenes staff! With the use of special effects, we once again transformed the fellowship hall of Wards Chapel United Methodist Church into an underwater world complete with sharks, octopi, an assortment of fish, several beautiful mermaids and one unforgettable crab! Above the depths of the ocean, the human world consisted of fair ladies, a handsome prince, and the ever-humorous seagulls that drifted between the two worlds.

During our two-weeks, campers memorized their lines, learned their blocking, choreography, and songs. Many learned the fine art of mobility on hee-lies that allowed them to glide carelessly among the reefs. The students also wrote and performed their own original skits for a special parent presentation night.

While each of our summer camp programs has offered students and audiences a varied experience, the one consistent element of our Tree of Life Summer Camp is the unity of it's cast and it's dedication to excellence on and off the stage! We hope we will continue to see the faces of previous students while welcoming new campers into the coming year's program.

Beginning in December, TOL will be accepting applications for internships and camp counselors for the 2010 season. Please contact us at treeoflifetroupe@yahoo.com for more information.

Tree of Life Theatre Troupe's Summer Intensive Theatre Camp!

Presenting 2 Camps in 2010:

The Phantom Tollbooth

for grades 1-6

The Princess Bride

for grades 7-12

The Program will focus on the skills you will need to develop as an actor, technician, designer, and production team. Students will build their own sets, memorize their lines, learn theatre games and most importantly have fun!!! Sign up Now!!! Don't wait, Camp will fill up fast and we want to share the experience with you. Camp is for students of all levels of training ages 7 to 18. For only \$3/hr the students will receive 80 hrs. of instruction and 20 hrs. of performance time. Tree of Life offers better quality for less. It's even cheaper than paying for a baby sitter! Most importantly campers will have an unforgettable experience that builds confidence, strengthens theatrical skills, unites friends and creates an atmosphere of professionalism.

Our Summer Intensive Camp takes students on an unforgettable journey. From Auditions to performing, to strike, ToL students will learn every facet of theatre and will be able to mount a full length play in only two weeks! The students will be taught in both small groups with an average student to teacher ratio of 10:1 as well as learn in large group setting following an Tree of Life's educational theatre curriculum.

A portion of the proceeds from our 2009 summer shows were proudly given to:

FOCAS

Since March 2001, Families of Children with Autism Support Group (FOCAS), Carroll County, Maryland, provides support to families of children with autism and those who provide services to them in Carroll County. By providing numerous resources, they strive to improve the quality of life for these children and their families.

Margaret Byrd Rawson Institute

Established in 2001, the Margaret Byrd Rawson Institute is a non-profit organization providing community outreach and teacher training in dyslexic education. It is dedicated to advancement in the education of dyslexic children, their parents, their teachers and the local, regional, and national community.

COME AUDITION AND BE A PART OF THE 2010 SEASON!

***It's never been a better time to renew your
Tree of Life Theatre Troupe Membership***

*****Exciting NEW Benefits to be announced at the February Gala!!*****

What does it mean to be a member of the Tree of Life Theatre Troupe? The following should help clarify what we're all about (if you don't already know). If you're already a member, please use the form below to renew your membership for 2009 or spread the word and have a friend join.

What is the Tree of Life Troupe?

We are a volunteer organization; we have been granted official non-profit status by the State of Maryland. Consequently, we rely on the voluntary contributions of troupe members (in terms of their time and talents) to achieve our goals. We are multi-generational: troupe members include children, as well as adults.

What do you do?

We provide quality family-oriented drama. We desire to produce plays in a way that will glorify God and reveal his love for others. We also strive to honor Him by giving a portion of each production's ticket proceeds to a worthy local cause. We select an appropriate beneficiary prior to each production. We typically produce two productions a year.

How can I be involved?

Lots of ways! For starters, you can become a member of the troupe. Individual memberships are \$15; family memberships are \$30. Membership is required for participation in a production, because it helps the troupe for planning purposes, to better keep track of available talents and abilities.

What is the purpose of the membership dues?

Membership dues are used to cover the administrative costs of operating the troupe. They pay for such things as the Post Office box, storage, postage, web page, scripts and printing. At some point we hope to have enough members to support additional services and capabilities.

I've never done this sort of thing before; what could I possibly contribute?

In more ways than you can imagine. In addition to on-stage talent, we can always use people to help with costumes, make-up, props, set design, construction, publicity and the many other aspects of a successful production. There is also a Strong need for leadership talent to work on directing, producing and the Board of Directors. The only real requirement is a willingness to help. Many of the people who assisted with our recent productions were involved in community theatre for the first time.

Are there any other benefits to my membership (or our family membership)?

Yes. Along with early registration for Troupe Theatre Camps, newsletter updates and members only auditions, we will be adding new benefits for 2010.

Okay, I'm convinced; what do I need to do to join?

It's simple. Fill out the form below and mail to: *Tree of Life Membership, P.O. Box 1425, Sykesville, MD 21784*

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Membership Renewal: _____ New Membership: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____

City/ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Type (Check one): Individual (\$20) _____ Family (\$40) _____

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Tree of Life Theatre Troupe, Inc.

Board of Directors

The following offices are open for election at the 2010 Annual Membership Meeting

1st Vice President

Duties: Responsible for chairing general membership meeting in case of President's absence. Oversee development of program book. Membership committee chair reports to 1st Vice President.

2nd Vice President

(2 year term) Duties: Presides in absence of president and 1st vice president; oversees publicity (e.g., public relations committee); filing and obtaining government permits as required.

Treasurer

(2 year term) Duties: Responsible for keeping the books, reporting to the Board of Directors on a monthly basis, writing checks and depositing of all monies received to the appropriate account. Submit invoices for dues on an annual basis, tracks receipts of dues from new and existing members. Preparation and filing of any and all State and Federal Tax Returns. Preparation of Annual Report.

Administrative Secretary

(2 year term) Duties: Responsibilities include checking the mail as necessary and distributing it accordingly. Tracking new member applications, noting vital information such as name, contact, address, phone, e-mail; forward new member applications to the membership chair; Prepares and edits the membership newsletter.

Nominations may be accepted on the day of the annual meeting. All nominees must be paid members of the Tree of Life Theatre Troupe.

The members of the 2009 Board and their contact information:

President 443-604-3291	Michele Field fieldtripmom@yahoo.com
Vice President 410-751-3560	Tony Cimino anthonymn@yahoo.com
Vice President 410-795-4538	Sharon Cowart imadreamer82@hotmail.com
Treasurer 352-678-0521	Ed Malinoski projectdebtrescue@gmail.com
Artistic Director 410-795-4538	Sharon Cowart imadreamer82@hotmail.com
Recording Secretary 410-489-6781	Evelyn Harshbarger evelyn489@aol.com
Admin. Secretary 443-622-3111	Vivian Davis viv@hopelessuccess.com
Ex-Officio Member 410-207-9544	Joe Shinault jkshinault@verizon.net



Tree of Life Theatre Troupe Mission Statement:

The Tree of Life Theatre Troupe is a not for profit organization founded in 1995 whose membership includes any person interested in furthering its objectives, which are to:

- * Provide quality entertainment which glorifies God through theatrical productions.
- * Showcase local talent, especially that of our many gifted young people.
- * Entertain our audiences with wholesome, family-oriented comedies and dramas.
- * Encourage artistic expression, provide an educational environment, and promote civic awareness and responsibility throughout our community
- * Honor God and the community by donating a portion of proceeds to a local worthy cause.



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