



THE OUACHITA LITTLE THEATRE

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

OLT OFFICERS

President
Jay Rodgers

Vice President
Tim Hesse

Secretary
Liz Mattucks

Treasurer
Theresa Erwin

Past President
Janelle Baldwin

BOARD MEMBERS

Larry Block
Marilyn Brown
Phyllis Caldwell
Ann Hatley
Bill Hays
Judy Kropp
“Mac” McAllister
TJ Thompson
Rudi Timmerman

JOLT BOARD

President
Jordan Taylor

V.P. Zeke McPherson

Secretary, Kassidy
Summitt

Treasurer
Kimmi Hanners

Adult Advisor
Judy Kropp

AULD LANG SYNE

It is hard to believe that another year is gone, but it is so. It has been a busy year at Ouachita Little Theater. Entertainment highlights since our last newsletter were: The Benson Awards on the first of October which brought some changes and surprises, a successful six show run of THE ODD COUPLE in October, a Saturday Night at the Lyric performance of BLUES AND MORE on November 12th, a JOLT production of THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGENT EVER for six shows in December, The Ken Goodman Family Christmas Show on December 16th, and finally – a wedding. That is correct – Sylvia Martin, a fine young performer in OLT who most recently appeared in THE BOYFRIEND chose our theater for the location of her wedding on New Year’s Eve. We wish Sylvia only the best in her future.

BIRD MAN WALKING

Brad Storey has been a frequent performer and director at the Ouachita Little Theater for approximately the past fifteen years. He also served on the board of directors and was vice president of the organization. Earlier in 2011 Brad closed his painting business, retired and left the Mena area. However, Brad is not a person to sit and do nothing. A long-time bird watcher, Brad has undertaken a one man fund raising event for the National Audubon Society. He, with his dog, Xena, is walking across the country from coast to coast, speaking to fellow bird watchers and blogging about his travels. He started by dipping his foot in the ocean on the east shore of Georgia, recently passed through the Houston area where he visited with Jackie McClanahan, another former regular of OLT, and is presently in San Antonio, Texas visiting a niece and making preparations for the next leg of his trip which will take him across the desert. He expects to be back on the road in a week to ten days, and likely will exchange his backpack for a small cart, allowing him to carry additional supplies (primarily water) as he crosses a less populated area of the country. Anyone wishing to track Brad’s travels can follow him on Facebook at *Bird man walking (for Audubon)*, his personal page listed as *Bradford Storey* or his blog at birdmanwalking.wordpress.com. I wish Brad safety and success in his journey.

GOOD BYE TO A BLUES MAN

The local music community recently lost another outstanding player. Larry Barton, an incredible blues harmonica player died of heart problems. Known as “Bear” for his large size, Barton was a very gentle natured person. He played primarily with Richie Owens but blended his talent with those of various other musicians in the area. One of my fonder memories is the pleasure of having the accompaniment of Bear on harmonica and Dan Kinney on lead guitar when I played in Saturday Night at the Lyric on occasion at OLT. Bear will be greatly missed.



Page 2

▪ OLT Newsletter ▪ JANUARY 2012

BUILDING RENOVATION CONTINUES

The work on the costume area in the balcony of the Ouachita Little Theater continues and is nearing completion. As of now, the framing is done, the hanging racks are completed, the lights are hung and working and a floor has been laid for the storage level above. Thanks are extended to Mac McCallister, Tom Baldwin and Janelle Baldwin for the efforts they contributed to this project. Primary thanks go to Tim Hesse, who developed the plan, Scott Jenkins and Tim who did the bulk of the construction, and to Rudi Timmerman who was responsible for the electrical work. The next stage of the process is to hang a door to the area, put paneling around the outside of two walls and paint. When this is completed and the costumes relocated to this area it will enable the theater to again rent out or otherwise use the space on the right front of the theater.

AMBITIOUS SCHEDULE FOR 2012

January 13-15 - *The OLT Goes Dancing* - a show devoted to dance - Irish & Spanish folk dances, Latin Zumba, Belly dances, Tap, & Ballet

January 14 - OLT Goes Dancing - WORKSHOP 2:30 PM at Viviana's Dance Studio 305 Dallas Avenue

February 24-27 & March 2-5, 2012 - *School For Scandal*

April 27-29 & May 3,5, & 6 - *The Sound of Music*

May 19 - *Saturday Night at the Lyric* - Musical variety show performed live by local artists

June 1 & 2 – Lum 'N' Abner Radio Show

June 15-17 & 22-24 - *JOLT Summer Play*

September 1 - *Saturday Night at the Lyric* - Musical variety show performed live by local artists

October 19-21, 26-28 & 31 (Halloween) - *Dracula*

November 24 - *Saturday Night at the Lyric* - Musical variety show performed live by local artists

November 30, December 1-2 & Dec 7-9 - *OLT Holiday Play*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

As rehearsals begin for SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL, we need a few more men to fill out the cast. Whether you are old or young, an experienced thespian or a first-timer, we would like to talk to you if you are interested in being a part of this classic play about had gossip and bad manners impact people's lives.

We will be scheduling work days to clean off the back porch of the theater and another to sort, catalog and hang costumes in the new costume area. If you can spare a few hours to assist us, you will be most welcome.

The board of directors is presently working on a project to detail and streamline the duties of the theater committees. You do not have to be a board member to serve on a committee. If you feel inclined to help by serving on a committee, we will need you. We of Ouachita Little Theater want to provide you quality entertainment, but also an opportunity to be positively involved in this community.

**Ouachita Little Theatre
P.O. Box 1217
610 Mena Street
Mena, Arkansas 71953
(479) 243-0186
www.oltmena.com**

