



NEWSLETTER



2017 Benson Awards were a big hit



BENSON AWARDS With Hawaiian Theme

This is the year for the Benson Awards, OLT's version of the Tonys. The date of the event was June 10. Linda Johnson's hard work as chairman made it a great evening.

Shows that were in the running this year were "The Foreigner", "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes", "Eb Scrooge", "Dearly Beloved", "Dixie Swim Club", "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown", and "Oliver". The directors of the shows nominate Best Actors and Actresses, and Best Supporting Actors and Actresses. OLT members got ballots to vote in these categories as well as other categories such as best director and best show. **Video clips of all eligible shows are still available at OLTMENA.COM**



June 19, 2017 Embracing the theme the Timmermans on outrigger canoe in Hawaii

In 1979 Leda and Richard Benson organized and started the Ouachita Little Theatre. She directed Rest in Peace and Only an Orphan Girl that first season. Every year since then the OLT has produced three shows each season through feast and famine. While both Leda and Richard have passed away, their legacy lives on through the Benson Awards. These awards are presented every two years, much like the Tonys, for outstanding achievements in acting, music and technical areas. In the case of the OLT, the members vote on their choices by sending in ballots containing the directors' nominations for the various awards.



RESULTS OF BENSONS

Best Overall Play for the 2015 and 2016 Season Dixie Swim Club
 Ouachita Little Theatre Family of the Year The Burt Family

SPRING PLAYS

Dixie Swim Club and Dearly Beloved

Best Leading Actor Lamar Austin in Dearly Beloved
 Best Leading Actress Denni Longoria in Dearly Beloved
 Best Supporting Actor Chris Kuskie in Dearly Beloved
 Best Supporting Actress Jessica Kropp Dixie Swim Club
 Best Set design TJ Thompson in Dearly Beloved
 Best Lighting Robby Burt for Dearly Beloved
 Best Director Judy Kropp for Dixie Swim Club
 Best Spring Play Dixie Swim Club

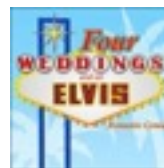
MUSICAL PLAYS

You're a Good Man Charley Brown and Oliver
 Best Overall Performance April Burt in Oliver
 Best Leading Actor Scotty Jenkins in Oliver
 Best Leading Actress Alexa Night in Oliver
 Best Supporting Actor Will Hose in Oliver
 Best Supporting Actress Amanda Baker in Oliver
 Best Set Design Rudi and Lorraine Timmerman for Oliver
 Best Lighting Robby Burt for Oliver
 Best Costumes Logan Sweeten for Oliver
 Best Sound Ruby Green for Oliver
 Best Choreography Gini Burt for Oliver
 Best Stage Manager Jessica Kropp for Oliver
 Best Director Rudi Timmerman for Oliver
 Best Musical Play Oliver

FALL AND WINTER PLAYS

The Foreigner, The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes, and Eb Scrooge
 Best Leading Actor Scotty Jenkins in The Foreigner
 Best Leading Actress Linor Thomas in Eb Scrooge
 Best Supporting Actor Will Hose in Eb Scrooge
 Best Supporting Actress Katelin Haines in The Foreigner
 Best Set Design Robby Burt for The Foreigner
 Best Lighting Ruby Green for Eb Scrooge
 Best Costumes Judy Thompson The Foreigner
 Best Sound Marvin Glenn for Eb Scrooge
 Best Choreography Linda Johnson for Eb Scrooge
 Best Stage Manager Makayla Kenyon-Ortiz for Sherlock Holmes
 Best Director Robby Burt for The Foreigner
 Best Fall Play The Foreigner

NEXT SEASON'S SHOWS



The director for OLT's Godspell, Jessica Kropp, along with Judy Kropp, Lorraine Timmerman and Rudi Timmerman attended Godspell at the Arkansas Rep June 11 and got some great ideas for our production next spring.

Tom Sawyer
July 14-16 &
21-23



This JOLT production is being directed by Scotty Jenkins and Alexa Night. In the letter to their cast they said, "Alexa and I want to thank all who took time to audition for Tom Sawyer. Congratulations to the cast" Rehearsals started after Memorial Day, and the show will be presented at the OLT **July 14- 16 and 21-23**. It is a great cast and the show will be wonderful. Please plan to support our young folks by attending their show.

Shakespeare's HAMLET

OCTOBER 20-23 and 27-30

Auditions and cast selection is complete. Those having been selected have been tasked with the job of learning their lines prior to the August 28 start of rehearsal. The cast consists of experienced as well as newcomers to the OLT stage. All in all it looks like a great cast.



Playing the lead as **Hamlet** will be Alex Atchley with Logan Sweeten as the understudy. **Ophelia**- Alexa Night, Tara Cornelius (understudy); **Queen Gertrude**- Kaitlyn Haines, Jane Buttermilk (understudy); **King Claudius**- Justin Fenwick, Kevin Loyd (understudy); **Polonius**- Bruce Bills; **Laertes**- Cody Gee, Elijah Barnes (understudy); **Ghost**- Scotty Jenkins; **Horatio**- Tyler Lane; **Rosencrantz**- Ian Cameron; **Guildenstern**- Justin Richmond; **Marcellus**- Chris Beaver; **Bernardo**- Keith Graves; **Francisco**- Annie Baker; **Osric**- Malcolm Moe; **Grave Diggers**- Kara O' Donnel, Heather Wilson; **Courtiers, Nobles, and Attendants**- Pamela Cost, Mary Neese, Lea Grant, Abby Langin, Jackie Biard, Melanie Wade, Brittany Ducote, Kristie Kenyon, Kammie Sweeten, Eva McCallister, Morgan Caldwell, Beth Coogan, Laura Saunstaire, Julie Moe, Angel Moe, Tia Moe, Morgan Richmond, McKayla Lane; **Stage Manager**- MaKayla Kenyon-Ortiz.



West-Wen Productions presented **Toni Roi** in **ELVIS Experience and more.** It

was well received and well attended with about 120 folks in the audience.

The Little Known, Less Cared About Department

The OLT address has always been, and still is, Box 1217, Mena, AR 71953. Mail sent to our street address, 610 Mena Street, has been returned to sender since we did not have an actual mail box at our street address. That has changed. We now actually have a mail box (slot in the door) so either address is valid.