



NEWSLETTER

AUDITIONS FOR ANNIE START MARCH 1

Auditions for Annie; an OLT Family Affair?

By Julie Ulmer



Ouachita Little Theatre has a grand history of presenting Spring Musicals featuring large casts, live orchestras, imaginative choreography, beautiful costumes, and fine acting. The next such production is the popular 1977 Broadway musical “Annie.” It is based on the Harold Gray comic strip of Little Orphan Annie, featuring unforgettable characters like Daddy Warbucks, Mean Miss Hannigan, and Annie’s canine companion, Sandy. This award-winning musical features music and lyrics by Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin with memorable songs like “Tomorrow” and

“Hard Knock Life.”

OLT has slated for performances for May 16, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26. No show will be produced on MHS graduation day, May 19. The May 18 and 26 shows will be 2:30 pm matinees

Auditions for “Annie” will be held Friday, March 1 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Saturday, March 2 from 10:00 AM until noon, and Tuesday, March 5 from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. All try-outs will be held at the Ouachita Little Theatre.

There are a lot of roles that need to be filled for “Annie” by adults as well as children. It can be a great bonding experience for families. Even if you lack theater experience, or don’t consider yourself a “singer,” there are ways for you to be involved both onstage and backstage. Not all roles require singing.

Consider letting OLT become a “family affair” for you. Personally, Ouachita Little Theatre has been a big part of my family life for years. We spent valuable time together at rehearsals and helped each other run lines at home. We’ve made wonderful friends, shared a lot of laughter, and built great memories. I hope that many Polk County residents will do the same for their families with this opportunity to be in “Annie.”

Rudi Timmerman, who is co-directing this musical with Jessica Kropp, is a highly experienced director. Jessica Kropp has literally grown up on the OLT stage, and her experience there led her to her profession, as she is now the drama teacher at Mena High School. Judy Kropp is once again the musical director. Judy has directed the music and live orchestras for OLT musicals for nearly three decades. Choreography is being directed by the gifted Gini Burt, who has worked on several OLT shows. Lorraine Timmerman will paint and oversee all set artwork, which is truly worth seeing on its own merit, which is also true of the costumes by Jane Buttermilk.

This is your chance to be part of something that is truly “big” in Mena. You will make friends that last a lifetime. Guaranteed, you will have an unforgettable experience. Mark your calendar, and hopefully we will see you soon at OLT auditions for “Annie!”

What You Need to Know About Auditions



First of all, be assured that everyone has an equal chance for any part. There are no precast parts. Selection of roles will be based on personal ability as well as ones ability to work with others. Obviously age and height have something to do with it also. A six foot tall 30 year old woman would not be considered for Annie.

The directors will be looking at stage presence. Do you look comfortable on stage? Speaking ability including loudness and clarity will be considered. Directors will also consider singing ability. The importance of this will vary with the role being auditioned for. It won't matter at all if a non-singing role is auditioned for. Finally, those auditioning will be evaluated on their ability to perform some simple dance steps after being shown them by the choreographer. Judy Kropp, the music director has asked that those auditioning for major roles be prepared to do the following:

- Annie-will sing a portion of the song *Maybe*
- Rooster-*Easy Street*
- Hannigan-*Little Girls* (start @ little cheeks and go to dripping with little girls)
- 3 Boylan sisters-*Fully Dressed*
- Warbucks- *NYC*
- Grace-*I think I'm gonna like it here*
- Star to Be- *NYC*
- Healy- *Fully Dressed*

Everyone who auditions will be offered a part in the show!



Farce of Nature was a big success. Kudos to director , Scotty Jenkins and the cast and crew. The show was undoubtedly the funniest show in a long time. Folks left the theatre with big smiles on their faces. The wonderful set added a lot to the show. During "bows" one night an audience member shouted out "Great Set". It should be noted that due to illness two of the actors who had been rehearsing for the show were unable to be there opening night. Much thanks to Alex Atchley and Jennifer Schubbe for stepping in on short notice and doing a great job. Check our website, oltmena.com for more information about the show.

2019 WILL BE THE YEAR FOR THE BIENNIAL BENSON AWARDS

Scotty Jenkins will be the chairman for the Benson Awards this year. Plans call for a gala event open to the entire community as shows and actors from the past two years are honored. OLT members will be asked to vote for their favorites and the results of their votes will be made public at the ceremony. Members are reminded that clips from all our shows are online at our website, [OLTmena.com](http://oltmena.com), to help refresh their memories of the performances from the past two years.

Othello Workshop March 23



Ouachita Little Theatre is going to sponsor a workshop on Shakespeare's Othello. John Puddington, an OLT member and professional actor with credits from London to New York, will be

mentoring the workshop. John's goal is to develop a cast which, in the future, would, under his direction, present this classic play on the OLT stage. The date for the workshop will be March 23 from 10 am to 2 pm.

John wrote following about his Othello workshop:

On March 23d there will be a workshop/feasibility study for the play, Othello, for anyone interested in a possible later production or just learning about one of the the greatest and most demanding plays ever written; your attendance would be welcome. The roles that would be concentrated on would be:

OTHELLO: Male,, preferably of color, 30 to 60 years old

IAGO: Male - of 30 to 50 years

DESDEMONA - Female - late tens to early 30s

CASSIO - Male - of 20 to 30 years

EMILIA - female - 20- 50 years

RODRERIGO - Male - 20 to 40 years

There will be many other roles available but those five will be focused on in the workshop. Again, for anyone interested in learning about the play, hopefully leading to a future production, please attend.

The workshop is free and depending on attendance may be repeated in the future.

Familiarity with the play is strongly suggested. It would also help to read it and/or see it. I recommend the BBC version with Anthony Hopkins which is available on Amazon.

Questions and comments about the play in general or scenes in particular will be appreciated.

Answers to questions about the workshop are available from John Puddinton at 214-240-8671. PLEASE DO NOT TEXT

Second Wednesday Movie March 13



**New Business
Located at the OLT:
Sweet Emporium**

“Always Patsy Cline” on OLT Schedule



Lana Gail Coogan has agreed to perform as Patsy Cline in **Always Patsy Cline**. It is more than a tribute to the legendary country singer who died tragically in a plane crash in 1963. The **show** is based on a true story about **Cline's** friendship with Houston fan Louise Seger who befriended the star in 1961, and continued a correspondence with **Cline** until her death. The show will open August 2 of 2019 and run two weekends.

This is a big undertaking for OLT. This show has the highest royalties of any show we have done (almost \$3000). Part of that is due to the fact that there are over 26 all-time country hits from Hank Williams, Bob Wills, Willie Nelson, and many more which will be performed as part of this show. Don't miss this wonderful show coming up in August.

4 One Acts by Anton Chekhov for October



Anton Pavlovich Chekhov was a Russian playwright and short-story writer, who is considered to be among the greatest writers of short fiction in history. His career as a playwright produced four classics, and his best short stories are held in high esteem by writers and critics. (from [Wikipedia](#))

Many, when they hear the name Chekhov, think of dark and dreary stories. These 4 One Acts to be performed by OLT are comedies. They are The Bear, The Anniversary, The Proposal, and The Harmful Effects of Tobacco. The director, John Puddington directed these 4 plays with great success in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Auditions for the show will be held late August early September.



RETURNING TO THE OLT STAGE

Marty Haggard-Tribute to My Dad, Merle Haggard

Thursday, JULY 11

Work Continues on the Lobby

New tile flooring has been purchased. In order to accommodate its placement, the floor had to be made completely flat. In the process of performing that operation, other problems arose. One would expect that with a 96 year old building, but it is never a pleasant surprise. The board has hired MSBI to fix the floor properly and they are doing a fantastic job. The project should be complete before our musical, Annie.



OLT Working to Bring Remnants of Rock to Mena



The Remnants (of Rock) is the musical legacy of The St. James Group. The new band is made up from the original members that started out

together in 1968, with the addition of new keyboard player. The band's goal is to recreate the music of the 1960s as authentically as possible. Imagine walking into the student union for the homecoming dance on any college campus during the years 1965-1969 and hearing the best dance band you've ever heard! Close your eyes and think back, because this is the performance The Remnants will deliver. The band plays only the top hits from 1959-1969 – which is often called the sweet spot of the era.

Possible Date in September/October

Let Us Save Your Memories by Putting them on DVD

| INPUT | PRICE FOR DVD/GD |
|-------------------------|---|
| VIDEOTAPES 1-2 HOURS | 1 - \$20 2-10 — \$15 each over 10 - \$10 each |
| MOVIE FILM | up to 100 ft 0.20/ft over 100 ft 0.15/ft |
| AUDIO CASSETTES | 1 up to 90 min \$15 2 to 5 \$12 each over 5 \$10 each |
| DVD | 1 - \$10 each 2-10 — \$8 each over 10 - \$5 each |

Proceeds go to help with OLT programs

Membership

Our theatre is an all volunteer organization. We depend on donations, memberships, and season ticket sales to keep us going. A show like Annie costs us \$2500 just for royalties. On top of that we have all our other show expenses. Our memberships are for a year and require renewal each year. We have been sending out email reminders that memberships are expiring. Some folks have replied and rejoined. Thank you. A substantial number have not. Please check your emails for renewal notices. You can pay online, by mail, or in person at our office. Help OLT to continue and grow. Join or renew. Membership categories are online at oltmena.com, and in our show programs. While online you can join by following the screen prompts.