

OYP Spotlight

News from Oconee Youth Playhouse Winter 2010-11

From the directors

As 2010 draws to a close and we prepare for the first show of our 2011 season, we want to pause a moment to give thanks to some people who are very important to the continued success of Oconee Youth Playhouse.

We are now entering our 13th season of productions and have done a total of 37 shows involving literally hundreds of local young people. Throughout this time, we have relied on the support of parents whose children are involved in OYP to carry out a multitude of tasks – from sewing costumes to constructing and painting sets to selling tickets and serving as ushers for the show. So the first big thank you needs to go to all those volunteers who willingly take on these jobs. You put the community in community theater.

Then there are those parents who go above and beyond – like **Phillip Chastain**, whose set design work on *Willie Wonka* was truly extraordinary; **Barbara Bowen**, who has been known to paint set pieces into the wee hours; and volunteer coordinators **Stacy Cail** and **Holly Wolfe**. Not to mention costume coordinators **Karen Cobb** and **Diana Beckett**, who for years have been the key people responsible for making sure OYP casts always look great on stage. Diana recently retired from active duty (now that son **Tyler** has gone off to college), leaving some big shoes to fill.

Of course OYP's musical director **Rachel Townes** is essential to each and every production. We are so grateful for her talents. Besides working with the cast, she lines up the musicians in the orchestra pit so that we always have



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Annie opens OYP's 2011 season

Little girls playing the part of orphans in New York City in the early 1930s will overrun the stage of the Oconee County Civic Center when Oconee Youth Playhouse presents the ever-popular musical *Annie* in January. Tickets are \$12-16 and will be on sale from 4-7 p.m. at Oconee Youth School of Performance, 1050 Jamestown Blvd. in Watkinsville the week before *Annie* opens. They also will be sold in the lobby of the Oconee County Civic Center an hour before each show.

OYP previously presented *Annie* in 2000. The current production features a cast of 170, ranging in age from kindergarteners to adults. "This is the largest cast we've ever worked with," says co-director **Terra Hannon**.

"Actually, it's six different casts of the youngest orphans – a different group for each show. We had so many kids audition and saw so much talent that we decided to try this. It's a lot of work, but rehearsals have been going really well."

Claire Vogel landed the title role. This is her fourth OYP show, but first main part. Other featured orphans are **Megan Hodgson** (Pepper), **Bailey Chastain** (July), **Antonia Bowen** (Duffy), **Gracin Wilkins** (Tessie), and **Sawyer Bradford** (Kate). **Malia Horst** is the youngest orphan Molly. **Kelli Bull**, a junior at the University of Georgia, will play Miss Hannigan, who runs the orphanage. Daddy Warbucks will be played by **Richard Hoard**, the pastor at Oconee River Church. Among other featured cast members are **Collier Cobb** as Grace Farrell, **Chase Brantley** as Rooster, **Jackie Raye** as Lily St. Regis, and **Dayne Joyner** as Bert Healy.

oconee youth playhouse
presents
Annie
Book by THOMAS MEEHAN Music by CHARLES STROUSE Lyrics by MARTIN CHARNIN
Jan. 7-9, 14-16, 2011
Oconee County Civic Center
Fri. & Sat. @ 7pm • Sun. @ 2pm
Ticket info: (706) 769-2677 or
oconeeyouthplayhouse@gmail.com



Annie (Claire Vogel, front left) and some of the gang of orphans rehearse a scene.

2010 Season in Review



GREASE

Jan. 8-10 and 15-17, 2010
Oconee County Civic Center

Grease was again the word as OYP reprised one of our most popular shows of all time. **Jackie Raye** (Sandy) and **Nate Squires** (Danny) headed up a talented cast ranging from 1st graders through college students. OYP first presented *Grease* in 2003 and **Margot Hancock**, who played Sandy then as a high school freshman, assisted Terra with choreography. **Amy Coenen** served as co-director with Shane and Terra.

Children of Eden

April 16-18, 2010
Oconee County Civic Center

Children of Eden was another show OYP originally did in 2003. **Margot Hancock** and **Joseph Hitchcock**, who have played opposite each other in many OYP shows, were Adam and Eve, **Collier Cobb** was Yonah, **Daniel Fowler** was Cain/Japeth, and **Bryan Shaw** reprised his 2003 role as Father. **Amy Coenen**, who was Eve in 2003, took on most of the directing duties while Terra and Shane welcomed baby #3 to the family.



WILLY WONKA

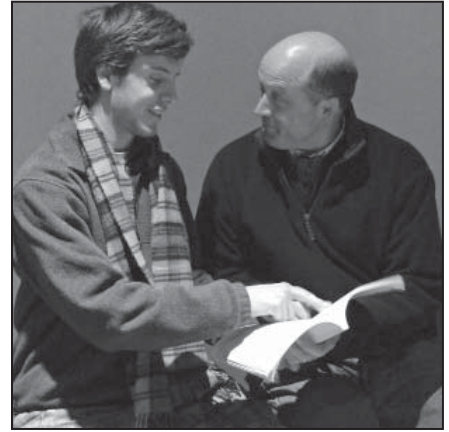
July 30-Aug. 1, 2010
Oconee County Civic Center

Bryan Shaw was a wonderful Willy Wonka in this first OYP production of the musical based on Roald Dahl's book, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Seventh grader **Simon Beckham** was Charlie and **Richard Hoard** was his Grandpa Joe. With fanciful sets and costumes, the show was incredibly popular and audiences found themselves with a powerful craving for Wonka bars.

Behind-the-scenes notes on the **Annie** cast

Several parents of OYP performers are taking the stage in *Annie*. They include **John Brantley** as President Franklin Roosevelt, and **Bob Googe, Jeff Dibling** and **Mark Vagle** as cabinet members. Brantley, who is making his OYP debut, says he is excited to be sharing the stage with his son **Chase**, a senior at Athens Academy, who has been performing with OYP for the past 10 years and plays the role of Rooster in this show.

“Chase came to see our first production of *Annie* when he was seven years old and told his mother that he wanted to be on stage, too,” recalls **Terra Hannon**. “He has been doing shows with us ever since and recently received a Best Actor award in the Georgia High School Association one-act play competition. We’re really proud of him.”



Chase Brantley helps his dad with his lines.



Other cabinet members are **Doug Ivey**, who played Daddy Warbucks in OYP’s 2000 production of *Annie*, and **Lynn Renna**, who was seen in *Willy Wonka*.

In addition to Doug Ivey, another performer who was in *Annie* in 2000 will again take the stage. **Buddy**, who made his debut as a mere pup, has been recruited to reprise his role as Sandy, *Annie*’s faithful companion.

The 2000 cast featured 71 performers (besides Buddy). Among them was OYP co-director **Shane Hannon** who appeared as Bundles the laundryman, Bert Healy and cabinet member Cordele Hull. *Annie* was one of several early OYP shows in which Shane performed, with his most notable role being Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, also in 2000. These days he’s just as happy working in the sound booth during the shows.

Buddy (front) in the 2000 show.

From the directors (cont. from page 1)

fabulous live accompaniment.

This past season we also have been blessed to have former OYP performer **Amy Coenen** back in town to help with directing duties. We couldn’t keep up with all the work involved in putting on a show without Amy’s help.

Finally, a huge thank-you to those who provide financial support to OYP. Putting on high-quality productions is expensive. Your support truly helps keep the shows coming! Thanks to all and here’s to a great 2011!

Terra & Shane Hannon

I want to help support Oconee Youth Playhouse. Enclosed is my check for:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25-49 Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500-999 Gold Benefactor
(includes two season tickets) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50-99 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000-1999 Platinum Benefactor
(includes four season tickets) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100-249 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2000-up Grand Benefactor
(includes eight season tickets) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250-499 Silver Benefactor | |

Name (as you wish it to appear in playbill) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address for notices of upcoming shows (optional) _____

Note: Checks should be made payable to Oconee Youth Playhouse, which is a non-profit organization, and mailed to the address below. Contributions are tax deductible, less the value of the tickets.

Oconee Youth Playhouse • 1050 Jamestown Blvd • Watkinsville, GA 30677 • (706) 769-2677

Oconee Youth Playhouse
1050 Jamestown Blvd.
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Do you know someone who would like to be on OYP's mailing list to receive notices about our upcoming shows? Please send name, mailing address and/or email address to Oconee Youth Playhouse, 1050 Jamestown Blvd., Watkinsville, GA 30677 or email oconeeyouthplayhouse@gmail.com.



Visit OYP online: www.oypoosp.com/playhouse

The revamped OYP web site was launched in 2009 with lots of photos from past shows. The site contains information about current shows and auditions and is updated regularly, so bookmark it and visit often. The Alumni section will be developed in 2011.

OYP's 2011 season

Annie

Jan. 7-9 and Jan. 14-16, 2011
Oconee County Civic Center
When OYP first presented this show in 2000, it was a sell-out! The 2011 cast includes close to 170 performers.

Thirteen

April 15-17 and April 22-23, 2011
Oconee County Civic Center
This is a show about the trials of being 13. Our production will be the first in this area. Auditions will be held after *Annie* closes. Check the OYP web site in mid-January for information.

Summer show to be announced

July 29-31, 2011
Oconee County Civic Center
We'll close out our 2011 season with a fun end-of-summer production.