

OYP Spotlight

News from Oconee Youth Playhouse Fall 2009

From the directors

Fall is whizzing by! Starting with OYP's annual Gala in August (see photos inside), we've been busy planning the upcoming season, which was announced that evening.

We're excited about these shows and think audiences will be too.

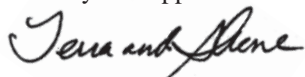
Grease auditions started in late September, and rehearsals got under way right after the show was cast in October. We had an incredible turnout for auditions and figured out a way to expand the cast to include more than 100 kids—about twice as many as when we first did this show in fall 2003.

We appreciate **Margot Hancock**, our original Sandy, for all her help with choreography—as well as assistant director **Amy Coenen** and music director **Rachel Townes** for all they do. Since we are expecting baby #3 (another boy) in March, their assistance is invaluable.

Auditions for *Children of Eden* will be held in January, right after *Grease* closes. This is another show we did in 2003 and one of our personal favorites. Amy, who played Eve back then, will handle a lot of the directing duties for this production.

Our summer show, *Children's Letters to God*, is a new show for us. Middle school and younger kids will have featured roles in this one.

As 2009 draws to a close, please consider a donation to OYP to help with the expenses for these shows and/or with our campaign to equip the black box studio with lights (see page 3 for details). Contributions are tax deductible. Thanks for your support!



Terra & Shane Hannon



GREASE is the word!

Audience favorite kicks off 2010

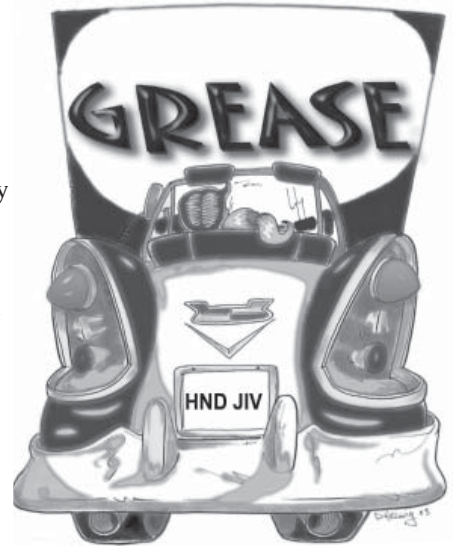
Grease

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

It's back to the Fifties, with Danny and Sandy and all the gang at Rydell High School. This ever-popular musical premiered on Broadway in 1972, was a smash-hit movie in 1978, and has had two recent Broadway revivals.

Heading up OYP's cast of more than 100 kids are **Nate Squires**, a North Oconee High School senior as Danny, and **Jackie Raye**, an NOHS sophomore as Sandy. They're joined by **Daniel Fowler** as Kenickie, **Abby Hufstetler** as Rizzo, and Pink Ladies **Collier Cobb**, **Anna Cail** and **Kelli Bull**. The T-Birds include **Justin Miskin**, **Dayne Joyner** and **Chase Brantley**.

Tickets are \$16 adults, \$14 students/seniors and \$12 for age 12 and under and are on sale now at Oconee Youth School of Performance, 1050 Jamestown Blvd. in Watkinsville during regular office hours (4-7 p.m. Monday-Friday). Tickets also will be sold in the lobby of the Oconee County Civic Center an hour before each show, subject to availability.



More great OYP shows in 2010!

Children of Eden

April 16-18, 2010
Oconee County Civic Center

Based on the Book of Genesis, this musical tells the tales of Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel in Act One and Noah and his family in Act Two. The focus is on the relationships between the characters and, ultimately, this is a story about family, love and faith. The powerful score is by Stephen Schwartz.

Children's Letters to God

July 30-August 1, 2010
Oconee County Civic Center

Based on an international best-selling book by Stuart Hample, this musical is about kids and events in their lives that lead them to ask a lot of questions—some funny, some serious and some surprising. The whimsically endearing tone has led reviewers to compare it to *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

Give the gift of theater this holiday season! Gift certificates for tickets for any (or all) of the above shows can be purchased at Oconee Youth School of Performance, 1050 Jamestown Blvd. in Watkinsville. Office hours are 4-7 p.m. Monday-Friday.



(From left) Mitch Davis, Gabrielle Wyatt, Bailey Chastain, Isabelle Hale and Megan Hodgson received awards for appearing in 10 or more OYP shows as of last season.



◀ OYP directors Terra and Shane Hannon present an award to former performer Amy Coenen (center), now serving as assistant director.

▶ Shane with Josh Darnell, a former performer who is still recovering from injuries suffered during military service in Afghanistan.



Annual OYP Gala draws good crowd

OYP's annual Gala fundraiser drew a crowd of more than 150 to Grace Fellowship on Aug. 30 for an evening of fun and entertainment. Cast members who appeared in OYP shows during the 2008-09 season were invited to present numbers from the upcoming season, which includes *Grease*, *Children of Eden* and *Children's Letters to God*.

Awards were presented to five performers who have appeared in 10 or more shows as of the past season: **Bailey Chastain, Mitch Davis, Isabelle Hale, Megan Hodgson** and **Gabrielle Wyatt**. **Amy Coenen**, a former OYP performer who is now serving as assistant director, also received an award. More than 40 performers have appeared in 10 or more shows since OYP's founding in 1998.

Performers who have appeared in five or more shows as of last season also were recognized, with a special recognition going to **Josh Darnell**, who has returned to Oconee County after serving in Afghanistan. He received a standing ovation.

The evening included the drawing for two raffle prize packages, with Penny Harrington winning the Super Entertainment Package and Chelsea Carter the Dawg Fan Package. Just over \$5,000 was raised from raffle and Gala ticket sales.

"This was the first year we tried a raffle rather than a silent auction," said Gala chair **Sharron Hannon**. "Although we raised slightly less than last year, given the current economy we were still pleased."

All proceeds are used to support OYP's upcoming season.



Joseph Hitchcock (center) presented a number from *Children of Eden* with other OYP performers.



(From left) Rachel Wolfe, Shannon Hodgson, Adam Leed, Jordan Meeler, Isabelle Hale and Anna Cail sing a number from *Children's Letters to God*.



Let there be lights!

OYP launches campaign to equip black box theater



Oconee Youth School of Performance in Watkinsville serves as home base for Oconee Youth Playhouse. It's where auditions are held and rehearsals for shows take place, where costumes are stored, sets put together and tickets sold. But when it comes to putting on a performance, OYP has always had to rent theater space in locations ranging from Athens Academy to the Oconee County Civic Center to The Classic Center in downtown Athens. Paying for these performance spaces accounts for a significant portion of the costs of staging a show.

In order to provide a lower-cost alternative in the future, OYP is launching a campaign to raise money to equip the black box theater at Oconee Youth School of Performance with theatrical lighting.

"We already own the lights we need," says OYP director **Terra Hannon**, "but the cost to install them is around \$10,000. So we need a special campaign to raise that money."

With professional lighting available, OYP can stage smaller shows in the black box theater at the studio, while still using other venues for mainstage productions.

"This would give us an opportunity to produce some shows with smaller casts, which we simply can't afford to do when we have to pay a lot for theater space," she adds. "It would give us a lot more flexibility."

Anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible donation to the "Let there be lights!" campaign can use the donor form below and mark the check accordingly.

Special thanks to donors!

Special thanks to the following donors who have recently made financial contributions to OYP in support of our 2009-10 season:

- American Pest Control**
- Norma & Jack Chastain**
- Kay Giese & David Sweat**
- Scott Hancock**
- Sharron & Kent Hannon**
- Clementi Holder**
- Heather & Scott Kleiner**
- Deena & Sidney Kushner**
- Nina & Ken Lamson**
- Traci & Michael Pruett**
- Molly & Marion Rice**
- Bob Saveland**
- Karen & Brian Saunders**
- Edward Saunders**
- Missy & Karl Sennowitz**
- Dorinda & Jerry Thompson**
- Myrna & Herb West**
- Jan & Mark Wheeler**
- Holly & Kurt Wolfe**
- Michelle & David Woodard**
- Vonnie & Arlen Zimmerman**

We also appreciate all those who bought raffle or Gala tickets. You will be acknowledged for your donation in our show program books.

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 new OYP web site was launched in August, with lots of photos from past shows. The site is being continually updated and expanded, so bookmark it and visit often. Former performers are encouraged to send news for the Alumni section.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming OYP shows!

GREASE

Jan. 8-10 & 15-17, 2010

Oconee County Civic Center

Fri & Sat shows at 7 p.m.

Sun matinees at 3 p.m.

Tickets on sale now at Oconee Youth School of Performance, 1050 Jamestown Blvd. in Watkinsville (4-7 p.m. M-F)

Children of Eden

April 16-18, 2010

Oconee County Civic Center

Auditions will be held starting the week of Jan. 18, 2010. See OYP web site for more details.

Children's Letters to God

July 30-Aug. 1, 2010

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