

# OYP Spotlight

News from Oconee Youth Playhouse Winter 2012

## From the directors

We are thrilled to kick off OYP's 2012 season with *Legally Blonde*. Putting the show together was a challenge, since it involves complicated music, incredibly difficult scene changes and lightning-fast costume changes. But our amazing cast and production team rose to the occasion. Special thanks are due **Kelly Ozust**, who returned to OYP after earning an MFA from UNC-Wilmington just in time to help direct *Legally Blonde* and also take on the arduous task of being stage manager.



Another person crucial to this production was **Phillip Chastain**, who is responsible for the incredible set, which would not exist without his creativity and hard work. As always, OYP's amazing music director **Rachel Townes** not only ran music rehearsals with the cast but also assembled a talented orchestra – eight pieces counting her on keyboard!

**Shannon Nunn** again did a great job as costume coordinator and also came up with the salon chair and dryer props. **Taylor Davis**, who has worked with us on many shows, did some special lighting for this one, and we enjoyed working with **Starr Wright**, a new staff member at the Oconee County Civic Center, who served as technical director.

Our parent volunteers made valuable contributions in many areas – from moving the set to the theater to painting set pieces, selling tickets, ushering and all the other tasks involved in an OYP show. **Holly Wolfe**, **Stacy Cail**, **Lori Hodgson** and **Lisa Bonet** served as volunteer coordinators to make sure all ran smoothly. A big round of applause to all!

*Terra and Shane*  
Terra & Shane Hannon

## Legally Blonde kicks off 2012 season

Oconee Youth Playhouse presents *Legally Blonde: The Musical* starting Jan. 6 at the Oconee County Civic. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 6-7 and Jan. 13-14, with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Jan. 15. The musical is based on the popular Reese Witherspoon movie.

The cast of 66 is headed by North Oconee High School senior **Jackie Raye** as Elle Woods. NOHS senior **Collier Cobb** plays her friend Paulette. University of Georgia graduate student **Josh Darnell** plays Warner, who dumps Elle for someone “more serious,” and **Joseph Hitchcock**, who majored in vocal performance at UGA, is Harvard Law student Emmett.

NOHS senior **Kalyn Hardman** plays fitness guru Brooke Wyndham, and Athens Academy junior **Rachel Bonet** plays Warner's new girlfriend Vivienne. Among Elle's Delta Nu sorority sisters are Oconee County High School sophomore **Rachel Wolfe**, Prince Avenue Christian sophomore **Anna Cail**, and Athens Academy sophomore **Shannon Hodgson**.

Clarke Central senior **Eliza Rothstein** plays a Harvard student named Enid, while Athens Academy senior **Emmeline Hale** is Kate, another Delta Nu sorority sister. **Andrew Youngerman**, an Athens Academy sophomore is Kyle, the UPS guy. **Allen Rowell** is Professor Callahan.

The cast would not be complete without Elle's beloved chihuahua Bruiser, played by “**Luna**” **Dibling**. “**Champ**” **Tidd-Sanders** will be seen as Paulette's bulldog Rufus.

Tickets are \$12-16 and will be on sale in the lobby of the Oconee County Civic Center an hour before each show.

See inside for dress rehearsal photos of *Legally Blonde* and information about OYP's special January fund drive to support our 2012 season.

oconee youth playhouse  
presents

# LEGALLY BLONDE



*The Musical*

Music and Lyrics by  
LAURENCE O'KEEFE & NELL BENJAMIN

Book by  
HEATHER HACH

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown and  
the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture.

**January 6-7 & 13-15, 2012**

Oconee County Civic Center  
Fri. & Sat. @ 7:30pm • Sun. @ 2pm

Ticket info: (706) 769-2677 or  
oconeeyouthplayhouse@gmail.com

oypoysp.com/playhouse

Legally Blonde is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

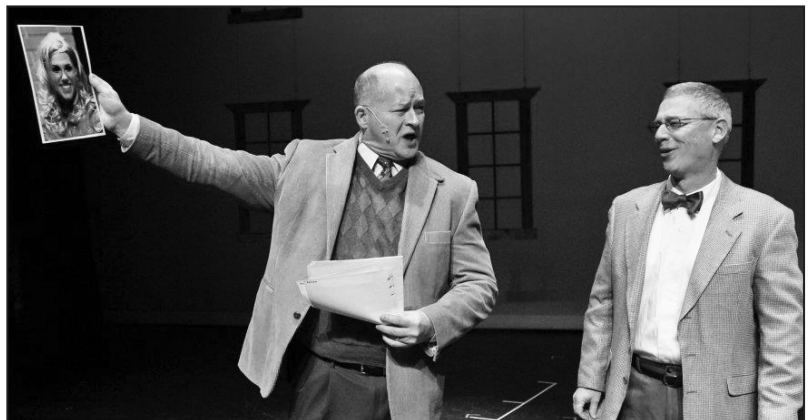
## Legally Blonde dress rehearsal week went well!



North Oconee High School senior Jackie Raye, who plays Elle Woods, previously played Sandy in OYP's 2009 production of *Grease*. She is seen above with "Luna" Dibling, who is making her stage debut as Elle's beloved dog, Bruiser.



Josh Darnell (above), a graduate student at the University of Georgia, returns to the OYP stage as Warner, the boyfriend who dumps Elle for someone "more serious." Dick Hoard (below left), last seen as Daddy Warbucks in OYP's 2011 production of *Annie*, plays a Harvard professor, along with Bob Googe. Both are veterans of several OYP shows.



(Above left to right) Anna Cail, Rachel Wolfe and Shannon Hodgson – sophomores at Prince Ave. Christian, Oconee County High School and Athens Academy respectively – are Elle's best friends at the Delta Nu sorority.



Collier Cobb (above) plays Paulette, who runs a beauty salon. Collier was last seen as Ida in OYP's 2011 production of *Honk!*

## OYP January Fund Drive

Oconee Youth Playhouse is conducting a special fund drive in January in support of our 2012 season. **Donate \$25 or more and you have a chance to win two orchestra tickets to 100 Years of Broadway on February 6, 2012 at the University of Georgia's Performing Arts Center.**

The winner of the tickets will be randomly selected from donors who make a contribution to OYP through January 31, 2012. The winner will be announced on the OYP web site on February 1 and notified directly.

**100 Years of Broadway** will be presented at 8 p.m. on February 6 in the Hodgson Concert Hall in the Performing Arts Center. Direct from New York, five of Broadway's finest stars will perform songs from the greatest musicals ever produced.

**Donate today to support Oconee Youth Playhouse and have a chance to win two tickets to 100 Years of Broadway!**

Fill out the form below and mail with your check made payable to Oconee Youth Playhouse.

## Snoopy auditions Jan. 8

Auditions for OYP's March 2012 production of *Snoopy* will be held Sunday, Jan. 8 at Oconee Youth School of Performance, 1050 Jamestown Blvd. in Watkinsville.

These are group auditions and no advance preparation is necessary. Auditions are open to kindergarten and up at the following times:

K-2nd grade: 3-3:45 p.m.  
 3rd-6th grade: 4-4:45 p.m.  
 7th grade & up: 5-5:45 p.m.

*Snoopy* is the sequel to *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and will be presented March 30, 31 and April 1 at the Oconee County Civic Center.

For more information about the OYP audition process, see the "Auditions" section of the web site: [www.oypoysp.com/playhouse](http://www.oypoysp.com/playhouse)

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

Name (as you wish it to appear in program) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email 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 any tickets received.*

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](mailto:oconeeyouthplayhouse@gmail.com).**



## Broadway preview

Two Oconee Youth Playhouse performers – **Rachel Bonet** (at left in photo) and **Rachel Wolfe** – got a chance to meet Broadway performers, directors and casting agents this past summer when they attended a “by audition” intensive in New York City along with students from all over the country. Both enjoyed classes in dancing, voice and acting.

In a class with the dance captain from the hit musical *Anything Goes*, Rachel Wolfe was pulled out to dance the Sutton Foster part. Rachel Bonet’s name was drawn to sing for Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, who wrote the music for *Hairspray* and *Catch Me If You Can*.

“The feedback both girls got was really great,” says **Holly Wolfe**, who accompanied her daughter to New York. “They felt like the training they are getting with OYP and OYSP really served them well.”

Both girls are members of the competition performance companies with Oconee Youth School of Performance and have won numerous awards for solo performances at the Access Broadway regional talent competition held in Atlanta each year.

Both also are veterans of several OYP shows and have featured roles in *Legally Blonde*. Ironically, they shared the Star-to-Be role in OYP’s 2011 production of *Annie*, each getting a turn to belt out the song “N.Y.C.”