



OYSP holds Open House Aug. 8

Oconee Youth School of Performance will hold its annual Open House on Aug. 8, 2009. New students may register for classes from 1-3 p.m. that day. Continuing students who took classes at the studio last year may register in advance of Open House by filling out and returning registration forms found on the OYSP web site (<http://www.oypoysp.com/>).

“We invite prospective students and their families to come see our facility and meet our staff during the Open House,” says studio director Terra Hannon. “We have a lot of class options, particularly for younger students.”

OYSP offers classes in all areas of the performing arts: singing, dancing and acting. A full range of dance classes – including ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop – are offered, including a boys-only hip hop class. Other classes include musical theater for Pre-K and up, acting classes for older students, and a production class that stages small shows at the studio.

“We are very excited to welcome Amy Coenen, one of our former students, as a new staff member who will work with me in teaching the musical theater classes,” says co-director Shane Hannon. “Amy grew up with our program and is now back after graduating from Princeton and spending two years in New York.”

At Princeton, Coenen performed in 10 musicals and operas, and directed Jason Robert Brown's “The Last Five Years.” She also sang with the Princeton University Concert Choir, on several occasions as a featured soloist, and with The Katzenjammers, a co-ed a cappella group, with whom she toured nationally and internationally. After college, she worked for the Off-Broadway Barrow Street Theatre, and then in marketing for the American Symphony Orchestra.



New teachers (L-R) Emma Jenkins, Amy Coenen, Mallory Baxley

Two other new additions to the staff are dance teachers Mallory Baxley and Emma Jenkins. Baxley is a dance major at the University of Georgia and a member of the CORE Concert Dance Company, specializing in aerial and modern dance. She trained in all dance forms at the Susan Chambers School of Theatre Dance in Atlanta, where she was a member of the Susan Chambers

Dance Company. She plans to continue her dance career in performance training and choreography at UGA.

Jenkins, an Alabama native, has been dancing for 17 years, first with the Community Ballet School and then Jill's Studio of Dance, where she was a member of the studio's competition team. She is a full-time student in UGA's dance department and has performed and worked with many different choreographers including Wade Robson, Chantal Robson, Sabra Johnson, Brian Friedman, and Nick Florez.

Returning OYSP staff include dance teachers Greer Caldwell, Hillary Tidd and Genie Wiggins. Former Gym Dog Christy Morrell will again teach acrobatics. Margot Hancock, another former OYSP student who is now at UGA, will return to teach musical theater, and Rachel Townes continues to serve as musical director at the studio. Private instruction in voice and acting can be arranged.

In addition to registering for classes, new and returning students can be fitted for dance shoes and purchase other dance accessories through Center Stage Dancewear of Atlanta, which will have staff and merchandise at the studio during Open House.

Additional information, including registration forms and the 2009-2010 class schedule can be found on the OYSP web site (www.oyposp.com). Questions can be directed to office manager Lucy Haskill at 706-769-2677 or to directors Terra and Shane Hannon at oconeeyouth@gmail.com.

Oconee Youth School of Performance is located at 1050 Jamestown Blvd. in Watkinsville, near the Colony Square shopping plaza. Directions can be found on the web site.