

2007-2008 — Our 72nd Season
Vicksburg Theatre Guild presents...

Our Remaining 2007-2008 Season

Neil Simon's *God's Favorite*

directed by Garrett Wallace

Shows: Jan. 25-27 & Feb. 1-3, 2008

Transferring the setting of the Book of Job to the Long Island mansion of a businessman, his wife, a prodigal son, and a pair of kookie twins, Neil Simon has created a hugely funny play while maintaining the integrity of the lesson.

Southern Discomfort

directed by Jeff Hensley & Beth Martin

Auditions: Jan. 13 & 14, 2008

Shows: Mar. 7-9 & 14-16, 2008

Twelve short scenes and monologues create a vivid emotional tapestry, with scenes ranging from gentle comedy to intense drama. We see the entire human experience through the unique perspective of America's southern states.

Gold in the Hills 2008

an 1890's melodrama produced by Mike Calnan & Walter Johnston

Auditions: Jan. 27 & 20, 2008

Shows: Mar. 28, 29 & Apr. 4, 5, 11, 12; Jul. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, 2008

Gold in the Hills, the Guinness Book of World Records longest-running melodrama, has shown since 1936. It is set in the 1890s and features a relentless hero, a winsome heroine, a ruthless villain, and the wilder side of city life in the

The Importance of Being Earnest

directed by Jim Miller

Auditions: Feb. 16 & 17, 2008

Shows: May 9-11 & 16-18, 2008

To avoid social obligation, Jack Worthing invents the irresponsible Earnest, whom he pretends to be when he is out of town. Jack falls in love with a young lady who loves the name Earnest, and he must contend with his deception.

Fairy Tale Theatre 2008

Youth theatre produced by Jo Beth Britt & Richard Van Den Akker

Auditions: Apr. 12 & 13, 2008

Shows: Jun. 26-29, 2008

Fairy Tale Theatre is open to actors and actresses ages seven through eighteen. Children gain experience in theatre skills such as learning lines, costumes, set construction, and backstage tech.

The Canterville Ghost

a comedy
by Oscar Wilde

adapted for
the stage &
directed by
John Hesselberg



November 30, December 1-2 & 7-9, 2007

**Parkside Playhouse
Vicksburg, Mississippi**

Visit us on the web at

www.e-vtg.com  www.vicksburg.com/~gold

or call 601-636-0471

From the Director

Are you serious? Those were the words that I uttered as I was informed that my play was selected for production. Since then... There are no words that can satisfactorily express the gratitude that I have for all those who have helped in this production. Certainly at the top of the list is my family who put up with many nights of me not being there for them and letting my chores and errands fall aside unnoticed. Next the Vicksburg Theater Guild for selecting my play for production and all those generous people behind the scenes who volunteered their precious items, time, and experience to make it all happen. Thank you very much.

-John Hesselberg-

Season membership: a good value!

Our 2007-2008 season has started, but Membership still offers a savings over buying tickets to the four remaining main-stage plays and *Gold in the Hills*. Members also receive a discount for Fairy Tale Theatre registration.

VTG's entry in the 2008 Mississippi Theatre Festival:

The Girl's Room

a drama by Daniel S. Kehde, directed by Ian Tubman

Thursday-Sunday Jan. 10-13, 2008

at the Mississippi Theatre Festival in Hattiesburg

Four girls meet throughout the school year in the girls bathroom, in the mornings when it is off-limits to students. It's their secret refuge where they share stories, tease and argue with each other, but above all, support one another. This play deals with a difficult and provocative subject, date rape.

Cast

Joanie Rachel Williams
Alicia Haley Sellers
Cathy Kerri Williams
Elaine Jai Dobson
Understudy K.C. Bagley



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Thanks to *Ameristar*, our newest Corporate Member, for providing tickets to those who would otherwise not be able to attend our shows.

AMERISTAR CARES

Cast & Staff Biographies (continued)

Wes Johnson (*Dr. Lord Bolton*). This is Wes's first foray into community theatre. His only other experience with the world of drama was a one-act play performed at Mississippi State University, in which he was the lead. Despite his lack of experience with stage acting and makeup, he hopes to continue to be a part of the theatre for some time.

Beth Martin (*Prof. Alice Otis*) has over twenty years experience. She has appeared in such productions as *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Our Town*, *Oklahoma*, *Harvey*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Ten Little Indians*, and three different productions of *Godspell*. In real life, Beth is a mother, a teacher, and a Taurus. She does believe in fairies.

McKenzie Pollock (*Virginia Otis*). Fourteen-year-old McKenzie has wanted to be on stage since she was two when she watched Peter Pan at VTG. She has performed in twelve plays at VTG, New Stage, and school. One of her favorite roles was "Tallulah" in *Bugsy Malone*. McKenzie received a scholarship for New Stage Theatre's 2006 summer program. Her other activities include playing flute, swimming, dancing, and reading. She hopes to have a great career on stage!

Tessa Scandizzo (*Maggie Joyce*) is 15 and attends Saint Aloysius in the 11th grade. Tessa enjoys theatre, choir, horses, band, and school clubs as well as acting, singing, and riding horses. Tessa has appeared in *Hee Haw Hayride*, *High School Musical*, *Gold in the Hills*, *Thumbelina*, *Dragons of Spring*, and *Alice in Wonderland*, *Junior* at VTG and St. Al's. Tessa someday dreams of being on Broadway. She is from Ohio and loves her family, her pets, and Daily Nuggets.

Richard Van Den Akker (*Sir Simon*) has been involved with community theater since 2001 and has appeared in several plays. Active in the Red Cross and the Boy Scouts of America, he is also an amateur playwright.

Cast & Staff Biographies (continued)

Andrea Fairchild (*Lady Elenora, Mrs. Oliver*) has been with Vicksburg Theatre Guild for 10 years, from singing and dancing in *Gold in the Hills*, to such main stage productions as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Best of Friends*, *Bull in a China Shop*, and *Radio TBS*. When not on stage, Andrea enjoys teaching Honors Geography and AP Government at Warren Central High School. In addition, she plans to tryout for next season's edition of *The Amazing Race* with her best friend Heather Burns.

Theresa Frost (*Vyvian Otis*) is 12 and attends Vicksburg Intermediate in the 6th grade. Theresa's family consists of mom, Maria, dad, Johnny, and siblings Oscar, David, and Jay Jay. Theresa enjoys reading, Girl Scouts, riding, and acting. Theresa has appeared in *The Cow Who Couldn't Say Moo* at Vicksburg Intermediate and *Alice in Wonderland, Junior* at VTG.

John Hesselberg, Sr. (*Director, Lord Canterville*) has acted and directed onstage during his college years, portraying many quirky characters. He briefly studied with Uta Hagen before turning to more serious studies. He is a Professional Artist and Professional Historian and has consulted for the National Park Service, Southeast Louisiana University, and the History Channel.

Allie Johnson (*Stage Manager*) has been involved with Fairy Tales the past 12 years. Last year she directed the Fairy Tale play *Brothers Grimm: Out of Order*. She also played "Barbara Stanley" and a Can-Can Dancer in *Gold in the Hills*. Allie was in the Bowmar Baptist Church play *Don't Say Macbeth*.

Ashley Johnson (*Lights*) has been involved with VTG for 12 years. She has done several years of Fairy Tales and a lot of tech work for various main stage shows. In 2006, Ashley went to New York City and saw *Hairspray*.



SPECIAL MEMBERS

VTG Life, Special, and Business members make an extra financial contribution beyond the cost of basic membership. We are deeply grateful for their support, and for the confidence they have placed in us.

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The Canterville Ghost

a comedy by Oscar Wilde

adapted for the stage & directed by John Hesselberg, Sr.

DIRECTOR'S FORWARD

The Canterville Ghost was written by Oscar Wilde in 1888 and is by far his most popular short story. It was first produced for the stage in 1899 and has since gone through several adaptations and versions. This is only the latest adaptation and for the most part it follows the original version with a few modern updates. Sit back relax and enjoy.

SETTING

Location: the sitting room of Canterville Manor, England

Act One, Scene I: 1649, night, during a rain storm

Act One, Scene II: present day, late afternoon

Act One, Scene III: the next morning, 2 a.m.

Act Two, Scene I: breakfast

Act Two, Scene II: a couple of days later

INTERMISSION

Act Three, Scene I: after breakfast

Act Three, Scene II: morning

Epilog: in the garden, autumn

CAST

Sir Simon.....Richard Van Den Akker
Lady ElenoraAndrea Fairchild
Dr. Hiram Otis.....Jack Burns
Prof. Alice Otis.....Beth Martin
Virginia Otis.....McKenzie Pollock
Cyril OtisSteven Channell
Vyvian OtisTheresa Frost
Mrs. Umne.....Leah Ellis
Maggie Joyce.....Tessa Scandizzo
Lord CantervilleJohn Hesselberg, Sr.
Dr. Lord BoltonWes Johnson
Mrs. OliverAndrea Fairchild
Transitional Scenes: 1649 to present
1754.....Eric Hesselberg, Erin Jackson
1812.....Alicia Rodriguez, Kim Stokes
1890.....Stephany Hartwell, Stephen Hensley
1942.....Roy Bailey
1968.....Stephen Hensley, Eric Hesselberg,
Daniel Martin, Ryan Van Den Akker

PRODUCTION STAFF

DirectorJohn Hesselberg, Sr.
Stage ManagerAllie Johnson
LightsAshley Johnson, AJ Johnson, Nick Becker
SoundJodie Johnson
TechLeah Bryan, Oscar Frost,
Stephany Hartwell, Erin Jackson, Allie Johnson,
Daniel Martin, Kim Stokes, Ryan Van Den Akker
Propsthe Cast
Costumes.....Maria Cecilia Frost,
Linda Lancellotti, Christine Mikulski
Set Construction.....Jack Burns, John Hesselberg, Sr.,
Wes Johnson, Richard Van Den Akker
ConcessionsThe Cast of *The Girl's Room*
Opening-Night ReceptionJodie Johnson
Special thanksAmy Bednar, Avis Philips (props), Terry Welch

Cast & Staff Biographies (in alphabetical order)

Jack Burns (Dr. Hiram Otis). Jack's recent theatre involvement includes *Gold in the Hills* – various roles, *Best of Friends* – Stage Manager, and *A Heart Divided* – “Pete Pride.” As for the future? Well, there just ain't no tellin', is there?

Steven Channell (Cyril Otis) is 11 years old and attends Redwood Elementary School. Steven had done *Gold in the Hills* and *Beanie and the Bamboozling Book Machine* here at the theatre. In his free time Steven loves to act, sing, and goof around!! Steven also does church Christmas plays at Bovina Baptist Church. Steven really enjoys acting here at the theatre.

Leah Ellis (Mrs. Umne) is appearing in her first play at the Vicksburg Theatre Guild, actually her first play ever. She has been a teacher for seven years, five of which have been at Vicksburg Intermediate School. Leah is married and has a 21-month-old son who is the light of her life.

Special Thanks for loaning us props:

ART and SOUL

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