



real · live · theatre

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **RLT ANNOUNCES 25TH SEASON LINEUP**

### **Upcoming Productions 'Best Of Best' Based On Audience Surveys**

ROGERS, Ark. — "Real Live Theater. Real Lives Transformed." This is the message of RLT, a nonprofit organization known to many as Rogers Little Theater, which will be celebrating its 25th year during the 2010-11 show season starting in September.

RLT in downtown Rogers announced an impressive slate of six Main Stage productions that will define the anniversary season as "The Best of the Best" because each show selected has been performed by the theater at one time or another during its previous 24 years, said Richard Dean Prudenti, RLT executive director.

"Everyone who purchases a membership will be glad they did. Without a doubt, the selection of shows makes for a very enjoyable season, and I know the quality of our performances will be a thrill for everyone involved" Prudenti said.

Here's the lineup:

- *Nunsense*
- *The Odd Couple*
- *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
- *Arsenic and Old Lace*
- *Driving Miss Daisy*
- *The Sound of Music*

RLT surveyed audience members to get an idea what its members and guests wanted to see on the RLT Victory Theater stage at 116 S. Second St.

"We've honored our history and our members and guests. Yes, these productions are being brought back by popular demand," Prudenti said.

Surveys took place during the productions of *The Music Man* and *Art of Murder*, Main Stage and Second Stage productions, respectively, noted Ed McClure, a member of the RLT Board of Directors and chair of the producers committee.

"We had a good cross-section of people who love theater that filled out the surveys. We had many families with young children as well as a lot of older retired folks from Bella Vista, and the demographics of the Second Stage show were younger adults, generally the more urban group," McClure said.

"I think it's fair to say that people will love this season," McClure added.

Membership sales begin June 1, and more information about the season is on the RLT website, [www.rogerslittletheater.org](http://www.rogerslittletheater.org). Or, for additional information, call the RLT office at 631-8988 or visit the theater, 116 S. Second St., in historic downtown Rogers.

RLT is primarily a volunteer-based organization focused on community theater, and it was organized by a group of like-minded citizens in 1986. Soon after it became a nonprofit corporation that put on plays in borrowed spaces until it purchased and renovated the old Victory Theater and moved in November 2001. In 2008, the City of Rogers purchased the building, enabling the theater to continue produce plays and musicals in downtown Rogers and serving the region.

"Twenty-five years speaks to the power of the community of Northwest Arkansas that willingly supported the performing arts to make it available to future generations, McClure said. "RLT continues to be a volunteer-driven organization, and that speaks to the generosity and the community's forward-thinking."

Prudenti sees RLT raising its profile in the community in the next few years, with the goal of expanding patronage and volunteer base. Each year more than 500 volunteers support RLT's efforts, including a base of approximately 100 actors who do not get paid to do the plays and musicals.

"We often say RLT stands for 'Real Lives Transformed' because that's what indeed has happened to people, young and old, who have found a home and a purpose for their life here for 25 years. We do comedy and drama. We act. We sing. We dance. We create, enrich and inspire," Prudenti said

"I can say with first-hand knowledge that the reward for our donation of time is the thrill of performing on stage before an audience ... and the opportunity is providing audience members a similar thrill of theater," Prudenti added.

RLT continues to expand programming to meet the artistic and entertainment needs of a diverse audience, which is Northwest Arkansas. Many other productions and events take place at the theater besides Main Stage shows. Rogers Little Theater also will continue to offer KidWorks classes and shows, Second Stage productions, guest artists and special presentations and events.

"Community theater is just that -- it's community, and that means involvement. You can be a part of the arts, even if you can't sing or dance or act. You can support the arts, and that can be by visiting our intimate theater to enjoy what we have to offer," Prudenti said.

Remaining in the 24th season are performances of *It Runs in the Family* (June 4-6; 10-13) and *South Pacific* (July 30-Aug. 1, Aug. 5-8, Aug. 12-15), both Main Stage productions, and a Second Stage performance of *Vanities* (Aug. 20-22).

"We can't thank the community enough for contributing all these years," Prudenti. "In the same way we be able to continue providing performing arts programs that reflect 'Real Live Theater' ... Touching the creative spirit and putting childhood dreams to use in meaningful ways."

For more information, contact the RLT Box Office at 479.631.8988 or visit the RLT website at [www.rogerslittletheater.org](http://www.rogerslittletheater.org).

### **Ticket Sales and Membership Package**

RLT will be selling season memberships starting June 1, and will offer dinner theater members and balcony members 6 shows for the price of 5 for Main Stage productions.

**- Dinner Theater Seats** (first floor only)

\$210 a year per person. Breaks down to \$35 per seat. Preferred seating for the first five rows (This seating area is reserved until tickets go on sale for the general public).

**- Balcony Seats:**

\$75 a year per person. Breaks down to \$12.50 per seat. \$25 upgrade from a balcony seat to a dinner theater seat.

Main Stage prices for the general public are as follows

Dinner Theater seat: \$42

Balcony adult: \$15; Balcony children/student: \$9.50

Please contact the RLT Box Office at 479.631.8988 or visit the RLT website at [www.rogerslittletheater.org](http://www.rogerslittletheater.org) in the upcoming weeks for more information on memberships, member reservations, preferred seating and ticket schedules.

**ROGERS LITTLE THEATER**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Main Stage Season**

***Nunsense***

Book, Music & Lyrics by Dan Goggin

Directed by Ed McClure; Musical Director/Conductor Lisa Welty-Auten; Choreographers Martina Peacock and Dru Peacock-Wiser; and Technical Director Mike Manning

Auditions: August 2-3, 2010 at 7 pm

Performances: September 17-19, 23-26, 30-October 3, 2010

Winner of four Outer Critics Circle Awards including Best Off Broadway Musical in its original New York production, this show is a fund raiser put on by the Little Sisters of Hoboken to raise money to bury sisters accidentally poisoned by the convent cook, Sister Julia (Child of God).

***The Odd Couple***

By Neil Simon

Directed by Kaye Cotton

Auditions: September 20-21, 2010 at 7 pm

Performances: November 5-7, 11-14, 2010

This classic comedy opens as a group of the guys assembled for cards in the apartment of divorced Oscar Madison. And if the mess is any indication, it's no wonder that his wife left him. Late to arrive is Felix Unger who has just been separated from his wife. Since he is very fastidious and none too tense, they fear he might commit suicide and go about locking all the windows. As the action unfolds, the clean-freak and the slob ultimately decide to room together with hilarious results as *The Odd Couple* is born.

***Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat***

Lyrics by Tim Rice, Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Directed by Ed McClure; Musical Director/Conductor Lisa Welty-Auten; Choreographers Martina Peacock and Dru Peacock-Wiser; and Technical Director Mike Manning

Auditions: January 3-4, 2011 at 7 pm

Performances: February 11, 13, 17-20, 24-27, 2011

VALENTINE'S SPECTACULAR: Feb. 12, 2011

Joseph is a British musical theatre show with a family-friendly story line based on the Biblical story of Joseph (found in the Book of Genesis). With hardly any spoken dialogue, it has catchy music and universal themes that certainly have made it one of the most profitable titles in musical theatre. The narrator tells the story of the "dreamer" Joseph who fulfills his destiny for greatness, rising slavery in Egypt to becoming the country's most powerful man, second only to Pharaoh.

***Arsenic and Old Lace***

By Joseph Kesselring

Directed by Charlie Riedmueller

Auditions: February 15-16, 2011 at 7 pm

Performances: April 8-10, 14-17, 2011

We meet the charming and innocent ladies who populate their cellar with the remains of socially and religiously "acceptable" roomers; the antics of their brother who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt; and the activities of the other brother—these require no further description or amplification here.

### ***Driving Miss Daisy***

By Alfred Uhry

Directed by Brenda Nemec

The place is the Deep South, the time 1948, just prior to the civil rights movement. Having recently demolished another car, Daisy Wertham, a rich, sharp-tongued Jewish widow of seventy-two, is informed by her son, Boolie, that henceforth she must rely on the services of a chauffeur. The person he hires for the job is a thoughtful, unemployed black man, Hoke, whom Miss Daisy immediately regards with disdain and who, in turn, is not impressed with his employer's patronizing tone and, he believes, her latent prejudice. But, in a series of absorbing scenes spanning twenty-five years, the two, despite their mutual differences, grow ever closer to, and more dependent on, each other, until, eventually, they become almost a couple.

Directed by Brenda Nemec

Auditions: April 11-12, 2011 at 7 pm

Performances: June 3-5, 9-12, 2011

### ***The Sound of Music***

Music by [Richard Rodgers](#)

Lyrics by [Oscar Hammerstein II](#)

Book by [Howard Lindsay](#), [Russel Crouse](#)

Directed by Ed McClure; Musical Director/Conductor Lisa Welty-Auten; Choreographers Martina Peacock and Dru Peacock-Wiser; and Technical Director Mike Manning

Auditions: June 6-7, 2011 at 7 pm

Performances: July 29-31, August 4-7, 11-14, 2011

The final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein was destined to become the world's most beloved musical. When a postulant proves too high-spirited for the religious life, she is dispatched to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain. Her growing rapport with the youngsters, coupled with her generosity of spirit, gradually captures the heart of the stern Captain, and they marry. Upon returning from their honeymoon they discover that Austria has been invaded by the Nazis, who demand the Captain's immediate service in their navy. The family's narrow escape over the mountains to Switzerland on the eve of World War II provides one of the most thrilling and inspirational finales ever presented in the theatre. The motion picture version remains the most popular movie musical of all time.

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