



April 28, 2011

Rogers Little Theater
116 S. Second St.
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www.rogerslittletheater.org
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Contact: For questions contact RLT President/CEO Richard Dean Prudenti at 479.381.6750 or president@rogerslittletheater.org; Producers Chair Ed McClure at 903-6546 or enm@mcrmt.com; or Board Joe March, at (479) 236-7988 or joe@new-creature.com.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROGERS LITTLE THEATER ANNOUNCES SEASON 26
Hairspray and *Chicago* to Highlight Season

ROGERS, Ark. — Season 26 for the Rogers Little Theater will feature the musicals *Hairspray* and *Chicago* as part of its MainStage season; a new Youth Enrichment Series (YES!); excellent titles in its 2ndStage Diversity Unites series; and other special events, according to RLT President/CEO Richard Dean Prudenti.

RLT provides live theater experiences for audiences, performers and students, enhancing the Rogers Historic District and creating a regional destination, Prudenti explained. Our Season 26 line-up not only enhances our mission, but it underscores the RLT motto, “Places...*Everyone!*” because our Season 26 truly creates a place for everyone onstage, backstage or in the audience.

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MainStage

Season 26 MainStage begins with *Inherit the Wind* by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, with auditions on Aug. 1-2, 2011 at 7 p.m. and performances Sept. 16-18, 22-25, 2011 presented by Matthews, Campbell, Rhoads, McClure, Thompson & Fryauf, P.A.

This is the play that has as its genesis the events of the famous Scopes trial. One of the most outstanding dramas of our time, the NY Times said, “The portrait it draws of an explosive episode in American culture, vigorously written by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, remains as fresh as it ever was. One of the most stirring plays in recent years retains its folk flavor and spiritual awareness in an Arena Stage production. Bursting with vitality... Literature of the stage!”

A Bad Year for Tomatoes by John Patrick follows with auditions Sept. 19-20, 2011 at 7 p.m. and performances Nov. 4-6, 10-13, 2011. The production is a hilarious success dealing with the very funny misfortunes of a famous television actress who seeks to “get away from it all” in a small New England town.

Hairspray with book by [Mark O'Donnell](#) and [Thomas Meehan](#), music and lyrics by [Marc Shaiman](#), and lyrics by [Scott Wittman](#) has auditions on Jan. 2-3, 2011 at 7 p.m. and performances Feb. 10-12, 16-19, 23-26, 2011.

Prudenti said he was excited RLT would be the first community theater in Arkansas to present *Hairspray*, which has delighted audiences by sweeping them away to 1960's Baltimore, where the 50's are out—and change is in the air. Loveable plus-size heroine, Tracy Turnblad, has a passion for dancing, and wins a spot on the local TV dance program, “The Corny Collins Show.” Overnight she finds herself transformed from outsider to teen celebrity.

No Sex Please, We're British by Alistair Foot and Anthony Marriot is the next MainStage production with auditions Feb. 13, 2011 and Feb. 15, 2011 and performances April 13-15, 19-22, 2011.

The grandfather of all hilarious, British farces, *No Sex Please, We're British* has continued to play since premiering in London in 1971. A young bride who lives above a bank with her husband, who is the assistant manager, innocently sends a mail order off for some Scandinavian glassware. What comes is Scandinavian pornography. The plot revolves around what is to be done with the veritable floods of pornography, photographs, books, films and eventually girls that threaten to engulf this happy couple. The matter is considerably complicated by the man's mother, his boss, a visiting bank inspector, a police superintendent and a muddled friend who does everything wrong in his reluctant efforts to set everything right, all of which works up to a hilarious ending of closed or slamming doors.

*God of Carnage** by Yasmina Reza; translated by Christopher Hampton is next with auditions on April 16-17, 2012 at 7 p.m. and performances June 1-3, 7-10, 2012.

The 2009 Tony Award winner for Best Play is an explosive comedic drama exploring the dynamics of two couples who meet over drinks to discuss an episode of bullying perpetrated by the child of one set of beleaguered parents, *God of Carnage* examines the explosive underbelly of a seemingly 'civilized' strata of modern society—or, as some have said, “when liberals go bad.”

**Pending final publisher approval.*

Chicago with book by Bob Fosse and Fred Ebb, music by John Kander, and lyrics by Fred Ebb will finish Season 26 with auditions June 4-5, 2012 and performances July 27-29, Aug. 2-5, 9-12, 2012 presented by Arvest Bank.

The show premiered in 1975 and was the hit of the 1997 Broadway season in a production that originated at City Center's Encore! Series. *Chicago* won six Tony Awards including Best Revival and later the Academy Award as Best Picture of the Year.

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Youth Enrichment Series

The Youth Enrichment Series (YES!) will present educational and performance opportunities for area youth serious about theater and having fun, Prudenti said.

Broadway Blast 2011 is the two-week session summer camp to be held Monday through Friday, July 5-8, 11-15, 2011 from 8:30-3 p.m. The camp synthesizes vocal skills, choreography and acting into two lively theatrical performances based on songs from Broadway, and adds the exciting new genre of puppetry direct from Broadway. Students will create the storyline and develop their characters with the help of qualified teaching artists. Space is limited. The camp performances will Friday and Saturday, July 15 and 16, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Classes to be announced will be during the fall and spring to coincide with a traditional school calendar and a full scale ***Children's Musical***, also to be announced, will be presented May 10-12, 2012 at 7 p.m., May 12 at 2 p.m., and as part of a special Mother's Day Brunch on May 13, 2012 at 2 p.m.

2ndStage Diversity Unites

The 2ndStage Diversity Unites series will take the adventurous theatergoer further with a wide range of productions, fresh and modernly presented, all touching upon current social issues with a collective theme of how being diverse can be unifying, Prudenti said.

Love, Loss and What I Wore* written by Nora and Delia Ephron and based on the book by Ilene Beckerman, is a scrapbook of stories about unfortunate prom dresses, the traumatic lighting in fitting rooms, high heels, short skirts and the existential state of having nothing to wear. Accessorizing these tales—which are mostly comic but often sad or sentimental too—are the mothers who disapprove, the men who disappear, the sisters who've got your back. Performances are Aug. 26-28, 2011. **Pending final publisher approval.*

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Wit by Margaret Edson will be presented Jan. 6-8, 2012. Vivian Bearing is a professor with terminal ovarian cancer whose life revolves around learning and teaching. Throughout her eight rough cycles of chemotherapy treatment, she accepts her illness on an intellectual level, but never an emotional one until she is in extreme physical pain, about to die. She views her situation a learning experience and often hides behind her wit, giving the play its name.

April 27-29, 2012 are the dates for *Why Torture is Wrong and the People Who Love Them* by Christopher Durang. Political humor gets turned upside down with this raucous and provocative satire about America's growing homeland 'insecurity.' This show tells the story of a young woman suddenly in crisis: Is her new husband, whom she married when drunk, a terrorist? Or just crazy? Or both? Is her father's hobby of butterfly collecting really a cover for his involvement in a shadow government? Why does her mother enjoy going to the theater so much? Does she seek mental escape, or is she insane? Honing in on our private terrors both at home and abroad, Durang oddly relieves our fears in this black comedy for an era of yellow, orange, and red alerts.

The Rant by Andrew Case performs June 15-17, 2012. An African-American teenager is fatally shot on his front porch in a crime-ridden neighborhood of New York City. Hysterical and wrought with grief, the boy's mother accuses the police of murdering her son. A woman of Persian ancestry, whose job it is to investigate police misconduct, begins to find contradictions in the stories presented by both the mother and various eye-witnesses, including an African-American policeman on the scene. The "men in blue" close ranks around their beleaguered colleague. Accusations of racism and sexism poison the investigation and the audience is led down a Rashomon-like journey in which the truth appears to be less and less accessible, while the world hurries to form opinions based on uninformed assumptions.

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Special Events

Other special events coming in Season 26 include:

- The Gridiron Show presented by Northwest Arkansas Society of Professional Journalists, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 2011;
- *A Christmas Story* auditions, Sept. 26-27, 2011 at 7 p.m., performances Dec. 2-4, 8-11, 2011, presented by Daisy Outdoor Products in honor of Daisy's 125th Anniversary;
- Holiday Celebration, Dec. 6, 2011 7-9 p.m.;
- New Year's Eve Extravaganza, Dec. 31, 2011;
- Valentine's Spectacular, Feb. 14, 2012; and
- Miss Lakes of the Northwest and Miss Frisco Springs Scholarship Pageants, March 2-3, 2012

For more information, contact the Rogers Little Theater at (479) 631-8988 or go to

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