

MUSICAL THEATRE WEST NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER FOR PATRONS OF MUSICAL THEATRE WEST

SUMMER 2003 EDITION

4350 E. 7th STREET, LONG BEACH, CA 90804-5546

A SEASON OF GOLDEN MEMORIES 50th ANNIVERSARY SEASON - A HIGHLIGHT IN MUSICAL THEATRE WEST HISTORY



Our 50th Anniversary Season was one triumph after another beginning with our 50th Anniversary Celebration on October 6th. Over 1000 guests

attended the star studded show and reception at the Carpenter Center. The event raised over \$50,000

for the New Home Campaign.

November brought legendary Jerry Herman's **MAME**. Mr Herman was in



attendance opening night to congratulate the stellar cast head-

ed by Carol Lawrence, Ruth Williamson and Sally Struthers. Critics lauded the production which became the second highest grossing show in Musical Theatre West history! December brought our annual holiday extravaganza starring Dale Kristien and delighted audiences young and old. The year ended with the opening of escrow on our new building - the former Kitano's Nursery at 7th Street and Ximeno. Thank to the gen-



erosity of our donors who had contributed over \$250,000 to the New Home Campaign over the previous 14 months.

The New Year began with the Footlighter Fashion Show-**HOLLYWOOD FASHION REVISITED**

held at the Long Beach Petroleum Club with a sold out audience of 270. The membership drive during the afternoon added 45 new members bringing the total Footlighter membership to 235 members.

Almost \$6000 was raised for the New Home Campaign and the guests had a wonderful time. February brought our second show of the season, the delightful English comedy, **ME AND MY GIRL** which received glowing reviews from the critics and was thoroughly enjoyed by our audiences. On April 6th we honored longtime Musical Theatre West Board Member Linda Knohl with our 5th Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award in an elegant afternoon at the Anaheim White House. Over 200 guests were present to congratulate Linda and the afternoon netted over \$20,000.

The 3rd show of the season **THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND** opened at the end of April and featured a special preview performance for



Volunteers of America. 600 guests enjoyed "I Remember Mama", a salute to the many activities women volunteer



for in Long Beach. The guests, mostly seniors, enjoyed a pre-show luncheon and then the performance with Musical Theatre West underwriting the majority of the expenses.

WORLD closed on Mother's Day bringing the tribute to mothers full circle.



Mid May, 50 Musical Theatre West supporters traveled with Paul Garman for a theatre tour to London. The trip was a smashing success and everyone had a great time. On May 15th we received the exciting news that the City of Long Beach Planning Commission had unani-

mously approved our request for a parking variance at our new building clearing the way for us to close escrow and begin moving in.



The next four weeks had us frantically getting the building ready with painting and plumbing repairs in order for the Box Office to open and **CRAZY FOR YOU** to begin rehearsals on June 16th. Much remains to be done but we're in and happy to have our new home thanks to the



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**"A SEASON OF GOLDEN MEMORIES"
continued...**



generosity of so many of our donors.

May and June also featured our first Festival of New Musicals with staged readings of 3 shows: **AESOP** (May 5), **BEN HUR-THE MUSICAL** (May 30) and **ROBIN HOOD - THE UNTOLD STORY** (June 14). Over 1000 people attended the



festival and the authors were delighted by the enthusiastic response from Musical Theatre West audiences. June 14th was also the day we recognized our wonderful Musical Theatre West Guild which has grown to over 400 members and 3 outstanding Guild members were honored – Antonette Ferguson, Carole Brennan and Larry Kramer.



As our season draws to its close we still have 3 great events to look forward to: our final show of the season **CRAZY FOR YOU** (July 12 – 27), our

5th Summer Youth Conservatory in which 50 talented youngsters age 12 – 19 will present **LES MISERABLES** in outdoor performances at Recreation park, August 22 – 24 and of course our



annual fundraiser **Broadway in the Park**, August 9th which is sure to be a sellout!

Our musical family keeps growing and we continue to add

approximately 100 new subscribers each month throughout the year and will end our 50th



Anniversary Season with the largest subscription base in the last 10 years. As mentioned earlier our two support groups, the Musical Theatre West Footlighters and Guild have a record number of members and are constantly adding new members. The Classic Dining Club, which hosts monthly dinners at restaurants throughout the area, is almost at its capacity of 100 members and our Travel Club sold out the September New York Theatre Tour seven months in advance!



We couldn't end the summary of our 50th Anniversary Season without a special "Thank

You" to those dedicated individuals who serve on our Board of Directors and Board of Trustees. The countless hours they donate to Musical Theatre West are the backbone of Musical Theatre West's success and growth. We also recognize the tremendous contributions of our full time staff who do a Herculean job of keeping the organization going forward.



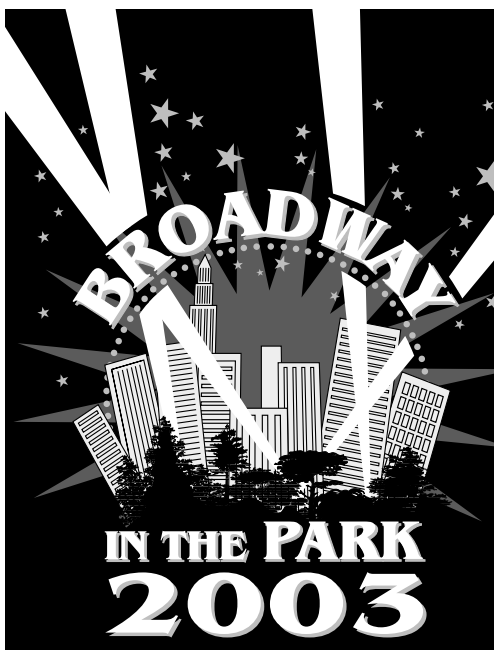
Although small (4 full time and 1 part time) they accomplish as much, if not more, than many arts organizations with

twice the staff and Musical Theatre West is indebted to these dedicated employees.

And finally where would Musical Theatre West be without you –



our loyal subscribers and patrons who support our efforts by your attendance at the theatre and various fundraisers. It is because of you our 50th Anniversary Season was truly the best ever and we look forward to the next 50 years of entertaining you and your families. ■



is just around the corner. Saturday, August 9th is the big day for an elegant evening under the stars in Park Estates Long Beach. Over 350 seats have

already been sold for what has become one of Long Beach's most popular fundraisers. Guests will be treated to a scrumptious barbecue dinner catered by Gallery Catering at eth Grand and dance to the sounds of the Blue Pacific Swing Band. Each of four fabulous homes will feature previews from the 2003 –2004 Musical Theatre West Season: **LA CAGE AUX FOLLES**, **HOT MIKADO**, **ALWAYS...PATSY CLINE** and **KISS ME, KATE**. A special treat will be the Summer Youth Conservatory's presentation of excerpts from **LES MISERABLES**.

The silent auction hosts over 250 items and the live auction will feature vacation packages to Cancun, Puerto Vallarta, Hawaii and New York as well as fabulous celebrity dinners and a walk on part in **LA CAGE AUX FOLLES**.

Broadway in the Park is the cumulative effort of over 100 volunteers and the last two years has raised over \$200,000 for the youth Cultural Enrichment Program and other programs of Musical Theatre West. Tickets are \$100 or \$125 for VIP and may be purchased in the lobby or by calling the Musical Theatre West office at 562-856-1999. The opportunity drawing features 3 prizes: 1st prize: 2 tickets on American Airlines to anywhere in the US, 2nd prize: 2 season tickets for

the 2003 –2004 season and 3rd prize: 10 tickets for a single show during the 2003 –2004 season. Opportunity tickets are \$10 each or 4 for \$25 and may be purchased at the table in the lobby or from an usher.

Join us for an unforgettable evening you won't want to miss – seating is limited to 600 guests so don't delay. ■

**BROADWAY IN THE PARK
OPPORTUNITY TICKETS
ON SALE IN THE LOBBY.
\$10 each or 4 for \$25**

SAVE THE DATE

- August 9th Broadway in the Park
Park Estates, Long Beach
- August 22 – 24 LES MISERABLES
- September 18 – 24 New York Theatre Tour
- November 1 – 16 LA CAGE AUX FOLLES
- November 23 – 24 Holiday Botique
- December 13th A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
2:00 PM and 7:30 PM

INTRODUCING OUR AUDIENCES OF TOMORROW

Our Youth Cultural Enrichment Program has been very active this season reaching over 10,000 kids. We've had 6 special morning performances for schools and our outreach co-ordinator and performers have visited 20 schools with lessons on musical theatre. All together 40 schools have par-



icipated in the program including the following Long Beach schools: Powell, Buffum, Longfellow, Tucker, Keller, Tincher, Monroe, Edison, Prisk, Grant, Webster, Madison, Cleveland, Lee, Cobberly, Gant, Harte and Cerritos Elementary. Middle schools include Jefferson, Stephens and Rogers as well as Poly, Millikan and Lakewood High Schools. Schools outside of the Long Beach school district attending were Fedde, Orangegrove, Sycamore and Eastmont Middle schools, Stanford Elementary as well as Montebello and Junipero Serra High Schools. Private schools included Mother of Sorrows, Keystone Academy, Brighten, St Raymond and St Hedwig. In preparation for attending the theatre study guides are sent out for the teachers to integrate the show into their curriculum. Musical Theatre West was especially pleased to participate in a special magnet program with Keller and Tucker Elementary Schools culmi-

nating in 500 students attending the theatre. A special presentation of **THE HISTORY OF MUSICAL THEATRE IN 42 MINUTES AND 28 SECONDS** was presented in 9 assemblies during April and May to 5 schools which the students thoroughly enjoyed. Our goal is to expand this presentation by the Musical Theatre Guild to additional schools in the fall.

Youngsters in our Summer Youth



Conservatory are busy rehearsing **LES MISERABLES** for the August 22 - 24 production at Recreation Park. You won't want to miss seeing these talented kids perform. ■

Additional funding for our Youth Cultural Enrichment Program has recently been received from the following: James Ackerman, Evalyn M. Bauer Foundation \$10,000, Bess H. Hodges Foundation \$5,000, Southern California Edison \$5,000 and California Arts Council \$4,000. We are most grateful to these donors for their generosity enabling us to reach more youngster with the joy and magic of musical theatre.

JOLLY OLD LONDON TOUR

50 Musical Theatre West supporters joined Paul Garman on a London theatre tour May 13 - 20. The eventful week included 5 West End shows, historic houses and castles, luscious gardens and delicious meals. But most of all great camaraderie with fellow theatergoers and a wonderful group of people. Next Travel Club excursion is the September 18 - 24 New York trip (which is already sold out). To receive info about 2004 trips call the Musical Theatre West office. ■



FREMONT INVESTMENT AND LOAN



For the second year in a row Fremont Investment and Loan has presented Musical Theatre West with a year end contribution of \$1500 from their Deposit Incentive Donation Program. Any Musical Theatre West supporter may designate MTW to receive this year end donation which represents a percentage of all funds in their bank associated with Musical Theatre West as of Dec 31 of that year.

We encourage you to let Fremont know of your involvement with MTW which enables them to increase their annual donation.

Pictured above: Fremont Branch Manager, Bill Ashcraft presents a check to Larry Rice, MTW Treasurer and Judy McNulty Black, MTW President. ■

HONORARY PRODUCER: UNIVERSAL CARE



For the third year in a row Universal Care has sponsored one of our shows. Pictured above are Universal Care Founder and President, Howard Davis and his lovely wife, Elaine along with theatre namesake Richard Carpenter and his wife Mary. Next year these dedicated corporate sponsors have selected ALWAYS...PATSY CLINE as their show to underwrite. Thank you, Howard. ■

VISIT OUR GUILD GIFT BOOTH IN THE LOBBY

Gift Certificates Now Available



YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO OWN A SILVER CLOUD



In one of the most generous donations in Musical Theatre West's history, Anne & Doug Richie of Long Beach have allowed MTW to auction their vintage 1959 Rolls-Royce, with the proceeds benefiting our Youth Cultural Enrichment Program and our New Home Improvement Campaign.



The 1959 Silver Cloud I will be available for bidding on EBay starting in August. Bids will also be taken at Broadway in the Park on August 9 and through the Musical Theatre West office up until the close of **LA CAGE AUX FOLLES** on November 16.

This classic motor car is the last of the six-cylinder Silver Cloud I series. It was acquired by the donors in 1977. They were told that it had been originally purchased for the German consulate in Los Angeles. The car was used as a show car by the

donors in the operation of their hotel in Palm Springs. It provided transportation for many bridal parties, and was also used in one of the first Grey Poupon mustard ads.

The car has been fully restored with new leather upholstery, headliner, all woodwork refinished, engine re-built and a complete paint job. Because of its age the car is being donated in an "as is" condition with no guarantees.

Classic car appraisal guides have placed the value of a



model in this condition at well over \$100,000. The opening bid on the vehicle will be \$50,000. ■



WEEKS OF JULY 9 and JULY 16

DAVID ENGEL & CHRISTINE TOY JOHNSON

From MTW's current production of **CRAZY FOR YOU**

Join host Art Levine for an interview with two of the cast of this all singing, all dancing musical extravaganza featuring the songs of George and Ira Gershwin.



Also Appearing on the Show:

PAUL GORMAN

Executive Director/Producer, MTW

Paul discusses the 50th Anniversary Season and MTW's recent move to their new home.

Broadcast Schedule

Long Beach
Wed. Thur. & Sun.
6:30pm
Channel 3

Lakewood
Thursday
12, 4, 7 & 10pm
Channel 43

Los Alamitos
Thursday
8pm
Channel 3

Paramount, Downey,
La Mirada & Bellflower
Thursday
6:30pm
Channel 35

You're Invited To

"Command Performance Series"

at
The Carpenter Performing Arts Center
Long Beach

Seven Great Shows!

Don Ho Show - Featuring Hoku and Hawaiian cast

It's Magic! - Top international magicians in a show for the entire family. LA Times calls it "a must see!"

Pat Boone Christmas Show - Starring Pat Boone and surprise guests

Champagne Musical Family - Myron Floren, Jo Ann Castle and many others

Swinging With The Big Band (Benny Goodman Tribute) - Four Freshmen, Ink Spots, and Goodman Alumni

Salute to Glenn Miller Air Force Band - Tony Martin, Nanette Fabray, Tex Beneke Orchestra

By Popular Demand - John Davidson and special guest, plus Big Band All Stars



FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION PICK-UP THE "COMMAND PERFORMANCE" SHOW SHEET IN THE LOBBY

The Carpenter Performing Arts Center Box Office
6200 Atherton Street, Long Beach, CA 90815 · (562) 985-7000