



Market House Theatre

February 2010 Off Stage Noises

We don't just entertain... We change lives!

Opening February 4th at Market House Theatre is Neil Simon's ever-popular comedy, **God's Favorite**. Called "awesomely funny" by *The New York Daily News*, it is the story of devout Long Island business tycoon Joe Benjamin, a modern-day Job with a high-maintenance wife, ungrateful children and wise-cracking household help. He is visited by a Messenger from God in the form of Sidney Lipton, a compulsive film buff from Queens who is on a mission: test Joe's faith and report back to "the Boss." When our modern Job will not renounce God, everything becomes a test of faith...including his family! Neil Simon spins this contemporary morality play with his signature good humor and wit. "His jokes have a kind of hilarious deadpan ecstasy and, even better, are taken from life."-*The New York Times*

Diane Byrd directs the cast of MHT veterans, with Valerie Pollard as assistant director. Reprising the roles of Joe Benjamin and Sydney Lipton from MHT's 1996 production are Tom Dolan and Al Knudsen. Last seen in *Southern Comforts* and *Tuesdays with Morrie*, Dolan works for the March of Dimes as Division Director for all of Western Kentucky. Knudsen, Program Director of the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program in Paducah, was last seen in *Tom, Dick and Harry* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

Playing the jewel- and fur-bedecked Rose Benjamin is Lisa Humphrey, owner of The Itty Bitty Knitty Shop. Humphrey directed MHT productions of *On Golden Pond* and *Murder at the Howard Johnson's*. Landon Baker and Allyson Tracy play twins Ben and Sarah



Joe (Tom Dolan, left) is confronted by Sidney (Al Knudsen) who claims to be a messenger of God.

February 4 - 7 & 11 - 14, 2010

Benjamin, who have an IQ of 160 (between them). Baker, a graphic designer at the Faith Center of Paducah, was in MHT's recent production of *Tom, Dick and Harry* and has been seen in *The Outsiders*. WKCTC student Tracy was seen most recently in *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aladdin, Jr.* Computer-Land's Joey Judd also returns in *God's Favorite*, this time as the drunken prodigal son David Benjamin. Once a member of the Story Theatre troupe, Judd was in *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Boys Next Door*.

Maid and butler Mady and Morris are played by Dvonne Miller and Steve Schwetman. Miller, who is doing the show in honor of her late son, Jon, has been seen in *Anything Goes* and *Doubt*. WKYQ radio personality Schwetman was most recently in

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Entire Main Stage Season
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Paducah Bank

Two Shows Audition February 15 and 16



Auditions for *Wedding Belles* will be February 15 and 16, 2010 at 7 p.m. in MHT's Studio Theatre. Written by Alan Bailey (*Smoke on the Mountain* series) and Ronnie Claire Edwards, *Wedding Belles* is about four middle aged Texas women who take a young orphan under their wings. Stranded at the local bus stop, the young girl is set to marry her fiance at the Justice of the Peace that afternoon. The garden club ladies jump in and plan an entire wedding for the girl--in one day. Needed are one teen and four women aged 30 and older to play the following characters: Bobrita Tolliver, a good old girl; Glendine Slocumb, a petite firecracker; Violet Montgomery, a roundish woman who thinks of herself as frail; Laura Lee McInerney, confident and in charge; and Ima Jean Tatum, a little waif in her late

teens. Michael Cochran will direct. Perusal scripts are available at the theatre for a deposit of \$10.

Performances of *Wedding Belles* will be April 15-18 and 22-25, 2010.



Auditions for the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Cinderella Enchanted* will be held February 15 and 16, 2010 at 7 p.m. on the Market House Main Stage. (Those auditioning for *Wedding Belles* may also audition for *Cinderella Enchanted*.) The classic story was updated in the 1997 movie version starring Whitney Houston and Brandy. With songs like "Impossible," "A Lovely Night," and "My Own Little Corner," this musical will delight audiences of all ages. Characters include:



- Cinderella
- Fairy Godmother
- Cinderella's wicked stepmother
- Grace - Cinderella's awkward stepsister
- Joy - Cinderella's sullen stepsister
- Christopher - a charming young prince
- Lionel - the prince's Royal Steward
- Queen Constantina - the prince's mother
- King Maximillian - the prince's father
- Charles - a cat who will become a Coachman
- 4 White Mice who will become horses
- A Dove who will become a Footman
- Villagers, merchants, maidens, and palace guests

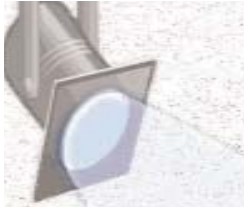
A large cast of primarily teens and adults are needed for the show. A few children's roles will also be cast. No advance preparation is needed for the audition; short selections from the music will be taught to all who audition. Bonnie Daniels, winner of the American Association of Community Theatre's 2009 National Distinguished Merit Award, will direct and choreograph the show. Cindy Miller will be the music director. Perusal scripts are available for checkout at the box office for a \$10 refundable deposit. **Performance dates of *Cinderella Enchanted* are June 3-6, 10-13 and 17-20, 2010.**



Left to right- Joey Judd, Landon Baker, Allyson Tracy

***God's Favorite* (continued from page 1)**
Anything Goes and *The Foreigner*.

The play runs February 4 - 7 and 11 - 14, 2010 with show times at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday evenings and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. There will be an additional 2:30 matinee on Sat., Feb. 13th. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$16 for seniors. **For *God's Favorite*, groups reserving 10 or more tickets for a single performance will receive a group rate of \$16 per ticket, with \$2 of each ticket being donated to Paducah Cooperative Ministry.**



Spotlight on... Curtain Call Committee

The curtain had hardly closed on last year's special, one-night-only performance of *The Wizard of Oz* when Valerie Pollard and her committee started planning for this year's Curtain Call Auction, MHT's unique and entertaining fundraising event to be held March 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the main theatre. MHT changed the date from March 27th to March 19th to avoid conflicting with the Dancing With Our Stars Fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

"The Curtain Call Auction is a fun-filled evening of entertainment, food, drink, and lively bidding," explains Valerie, owner of Market Square Coffee and former MHT board member. "We have fabulous packages of items up for bid, but the highlight of the evening is the auction of roles for Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella Enchanted*." Roles to be auctioned include the step-sisters, the Fairy Godmother, the King and Queen, villagers, mice, horses, and more. The winners get to perform their roles with the rest of the main cast in a special performance of the musical on June 19th. "We had such fun last year and were able to raise over \$16,000 for MHT. It was fun working with the committee, and the one-night-only performance of *The Wizard of Oz* was a wonderful show!"

City Commissioner Carol Gault, attorney Meridith Oliver, and former Wicked Witch Denise Bohle have joined Valerie to create unique and interesting packages for auction, as well as to solicit as many donations as possible. "I like the creative aspect of planning the items to be auctioned, linking them to the *Cinderella Enchanted* story," says Denise. "I am also looking forward to setting up and decorating the auction displays."

Among the many items collected so far are a Bill Ford original *Cinderella Enchanted* painting, ball-room dancing classes for couples, a Princess Tea Party with members of the cast and tickets to the play, a Prince Charming Fishing Party with weenie roast and bonfire, a Cinderella Dress-up Trunk, lots of wine, and a day at the lake on a private houseboat with food for 20. (Valerie asks that anyone interested in donating items to the auction to please contact her at valeriepollard@hotmail.com or 270.331.3897.)

MHT board members Renie Barger and Sarah Bynum Roman are putting together a sumptuous spread which will include signature items donated by several local restaurants. "My favorite part is coordinating the hors d'oeuvres," says Sarah. "By featuring so many different restaurants, attending this Curtain Call Auction is a way for our guests to sample the local fare."

Sandra Jernigan, Marketing Consultant for Focus Group, LLC will handle the publicity for the event, which promises to be entertaining for all. Songs from the show will be performed at the auction by members of the regular cast.

Heading up the business competition of the fundraiser are Bobby Kohler, Project Manager at i5Design, and MHT board member Melisa Mast. As of mid-January, Paducah Bank, Western Baptist Hospital, and Lourdes Hospital have agreed to compete against each other for one mouse role. The employees who raise the most money will win the role of for their representative in the special performance. "I especially like this fundraiser because of how it reaches out to the community," comments Melisa. "Individual employees who may have never heard of Market House Theatre have this opportunity to learn about us, and their contribution helps to get someone they know up on the stage! Last year, Lourdes Hospital employees won the chance to see their CEO Steve Grinnell as a member of the Lollipop Guild."

Tickets to the Curtain Call Auction are \$20, available at the box office by calling 444-6828 or at the door. Food, soft drinks, beer, wine, and entertainment are included in the ticket. The members of the committee hope everyone will come for the fun!



Front, from L: Meridith Oliver, Renie Barger, Denise Bohle
Back, from L: Melisa Mast, Sarah Roman, Carol Gault,
Valerie Pollard, Bobby Kohler



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**Special
promotion for
*God's Favorite***

Groups reserving 10 or more tickets to any one performance of *God's Favorite* will receive a price of \$16 per ticket, with **\$2 of each ticket going to Paducah Cooperative Ministry.**

Attention:

The Curtain Call Auction date has been changed to Friday, March 19th at 7:30 p.m.

The Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency, provides operational support funding for Market House Theatre with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

