

MUSICAL THEATRE WEST NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER FOR PATRONS OF MUSICAL THEATRE WEST

FALL 2003 EDITION

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

CRAZY FOR YOU ENDS 50th SEASON

Critics and audiences alike laud the production

The 50th season of Musical Theatre West ended in a flourish with the Gershwin extravaganza **CRAZY FOR YOU**. Capacity crowds filled the



Carpenter Center for almost every performance during July and audiences left the theatre humming the Gershwin tunes. Opening night, Elaine and Howard Davis of Universal Care (Honorary Producers of the show) joined the MTW Footlighters in hosting the pre-show dinner behind the theatre in the Dance Courtyard. After the sold out performance, 300 guests returned to the same location for the cast party hosted by the First Nighters. Two special performances of **CRAZY FOR YOU** were held on Thursday mornings for area elementary schools with over 2000 youngsters attending.



Christine Toy Johnson with students at the YCEP performance of **CRAZY FOR YOU**

"CRAZY" IN LOVE WITH THE 1930s

This handsome, colorful show with its corny jokes and soaring Gershwin songs, is one vast, beloved valentine to the classic Broadway musical of the vintage era." Eric Marchese
- **The Orange County Register**

"Some people would have us believe that good theatre can only be found outside our city limits. O contraire. ...one has only to head over to our eastside Carpenter Center to discover what the capacity crowd at Musical Theatre West's opening of **CRAZY FOR YOU** did. Long Beach has an 'E' ticket in this exuberant 1992 Tony Award winner for Best



Musical. Who could ask for anything more?" Priscilla Munson
- **Grunion Gazette**

"The production is blessed to have gifted stars David Engel and Tami Tappan Damiano on hand... Engel makes this role his own, singing and dancing with unbridled glee, never failing to



project an infectious Donald O'Connor-style charm. This **FOREVER PLAID** vet has emerged as a comic leading man extraordinaire, and we wish someone would write a new musical especially tailored to his talents. He shares an enchanting chemistry with another musical theatre trouper, Damiano, whose heart-rending deliveries of Gershwin classics such as 'Someone to Watch Over Me' are showstoppers."

Les Spindle - **BackStage West** ■

Billy Beadle, Tami Tappan Damiano and David Engal sign autographs for the students attending the YCEP performance of **CRAZY FOR YOU**



SAVE THE DATE

- November 1 - 16 . . . LA CAGE AUX FOLLES
- November 23 - 24 . . . Holiday Boutique
- December 13thA HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
2:00 PM and 7:30 PM
- Feb. 21-Mar 7HOT MIKADO
- Apr. 24-May 9ALWAYS...PATSY CLINE
- July 10-25KISS ME, KATE

BROADWAY IN THE PARK 2003

Over 600 guests joined MTW for Broadway in the Park 2003 which was held on August 9th.

The evening raised \$115,000 for the Youth Cultural Enrichment Program and New Home Improvement Campaign.

Four homes in Park Estates hosted the evening. The VIP party was held at the home of Gary and Dawna DeLong where 300 guests mingled around the pool. Selections from **KISS ME, KATE** were shared at the home of Sandi and Larry Lewis, while Jon



Les Cagelles a la water ballet!



KISS ME KATE performs for the patrons at Broadway in the Park



and Amanda Hall hosted **HOT MIKADO**. Perhaps the highlight was the fabulous "Les Cagelles" who ended their routine from **LA CAGE** with synchronized swimming at the home of Cathy and Doug Richie.



The cast of the Summer Youth Conservatory perform for Broadway in the Park

The cul-de-sac was turned into a festive Central Park with twinkle lit trees surrounding the tables and gazebo. Hors d'oeuvres were provided by Legends with The Grand catering the dinner and the Blue Pacific Swing Orchestra providing the music. Over 200 silent auction items were displayed on tables lining the streets.



The live auction featured 10 items including vacation packages to Puerto Vallarta, Cancun, Hawaii and New York as well as

fabulous dinner parties and holiday cruises. A vintage 1959 Silver Cloud Rolls Royce donated by Ann and Doug Richie was on display. Bidding began that evening and will continue through the **LA CAGE AUX FOLLES** performances in

November.

The cast of the Summer Youth Conservatory production of **LES MISERABLES** were the stars of the evening serving as waiters for the crowd and



Long Beach mayor Beverly O'Neill welcomes the crowd

A special thank you to the following Broadway Belles/Music Men whose table sponsorships helped underwrite the

performing numbers from the show throughout the evening. In all, over 150 volunteers were on hand to ensure the success of the event.



Charlotte Roush and David Engel



The cast performing **HOT MIKADO** at Broadway in the Park

evening: Walter & Sharon Beedle, Mary Betzner, Don & Judy Black, Les & Marsha Braunstein, Cecil & Beverly Cook, Howard & Elaine Davis, Stephanie Davis, Jack & Nicole Fisher, Anthony Gagliardi, Dr Robert & Susan Green, Patricia Grisham, Sandy Hall, Jon & Amanda Hall, Sara Kaplan & Frances Grover, Howard & Linda Knhol, Jim & Nancy Koblenky, Marnos & Alexander Lelesi, Len Lovett & the Downtown Lions, Patrick Mahoney, Joe & Edna Moore, Larry & Shari Nemirow, Ken & Dottie Reiner, Larry & Sande Rice,



Lenhert & Jackie Riegel, Harry & Maria Saltzger,



Stephen & Stephanie Salyer, James Silknitter & Paul Diego, Don & Marlene Temple, Madalyne Ursano, William Van Nuys, David & Myra Weiss



5TH ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH CONSERVATORY LES MISÉRABLES A HUGE SUCCESS

This summer over 50 students from schools in Long Beach and throughout the area participated in our 5th Annual Summer Youth Conservatory production of **LES MISÉRABLES – SCHOOL EDITION**. Starting rehearsals in mid July, the students



dance/movement by veteran Broadway artists. Rehearsals were held at the MTW rehearsal hall where the young performers tried on costumes, worked with props and set pieces and rehearsed long and hard. The finished

production was our best endeavor yet and audiences and critics alike had a great evening in Recreation Park under the stars.

Thanks to all the kids, their parents (who gave long, diligent hours of transporting them back and forth to the rehearsals and performances), the staff and crew of MTW and all of the audience members who will long remember the performance in late August of **LES MISÉRABLES – SCHOOL EDITION**.

A very special THANK YOU to the sponsors of this annual Summer Conservatory – Public Corporation for the Arts, Edison International, the Bess J. Hodges Foundation, James H. Ackerman/Evalyn Bauer Foundation and the Musical Theatre West Guild. Without their funding, the Summer Youth Conservatory would not be able to continue.

Keep your ears open to the upcoming production for the 6th Annual Summer Youth Conservatory which will be announced in early March, 2004. ■

FOOTLIGHTERS SALUTE JERRY HERMAN!

The MTW Footlighters hosted their first Music in the Morning, Saturday October 25 at the Old Ranch Country Club in Seal Beach. Over 200 Footlighters and guests turned out for "An Afternoon with Jerry Herman". The luncheon began with the "Cagelles" doing the opening number from **LA CAGE AUX FOLLES** followed by David Engel as ZaZa with "A Little More Mascara". After lunch Norman Large (Georges) sang "Song on the Sand" followed by David Engel and Kathryn Skatula leading the crowd in "The Best of Times".



Our very own Mame from last season, Carol Lawrence, was on hand to lead the crowd in a standing ovation tribute to the legendary composer. Mr. Herman praised Musical Theatre West

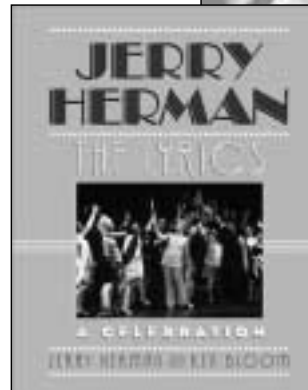


for the quality of their productions and thanked the



company and its patrons for helping keep our American legacy, musical theatre, alive and

thriving. He then autographed copies of his new book Jerry Herman: The Lyrics for those who purchased them.



Almost \$6000 was raised for MTW's Outreach to the schools "The History of Musical Theatre in 42 Minutes and 28 Seconds". This program will be presented by members of Musical Theatre Guild next spring in local elementary and middle schools. ■

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NEW YORK THEATRE TOUR

September 18-25 marked the 5th Musical Theatre West Travel Club excursion. For 110 theater enthusiasts, outstanding musicals, fine cuisine, and first-class accommodations on Times Square left nothing to be desired. It was indeed a fast-moving feast for body, soul, eyes, and ears. New friends, old friends, all enjoyed the richness of our American culture. **HAIRSPRAY, NINE, MOVIN OUT**, and two other hilarious off Broadway productions plus tours: Behind the Scenes at Radio City Music Hall, Starlight Harbor Cruise, Brooklyn's Greenwood Cemetery and Museum, the USS Intrepid Aircraft Carrier, and a walk in Greenwich Village were the highlights in New York City. "Upstate: we visited Mohonk Mountain House, and the Culinary Institute of America. What more could be packed into seven days and six nights for \$2,250 (including airfare

and a tax-deductible contribution to MTW).

For an unforgettable experience you'll long remember and enjoy, join MTW on one of our theater tours! ■ -Lorraine Ward



ROLLS ROYCE OPPORTUNITY

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 1959 Rolls-Royce, with the proceeds benefiting our Youth Cultural Enrichment Program and our New Home Improvement Campaign.



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, and that the second owner was the sister of Efraim Zimbalist, Jr. The car was used as a show car by the donors in the operation of their hotel in Palm Springs from 1977 through 1994. It provided transportation for many bridal parties. It was also used in one of the first Grey Poupon mustard commercials.

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. The car will be on display in front of the theatre during *LA CAGE* and on Ebay through November 16, 2003. The car is appraised at \$30,000. ■

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE Coming In November

Musical Theatre West will soon host the Annual Holiday Boutique. A fabulous assortment of decorative items as well as Christmas and Hanukkah gifts will get you in the mood for the holidays. Last years event was a huge success with most of the merchandise gone within the first few hours.

This year's Boutique will take place in our

new building at 4350 E. 7th Street (cross street is Ximeno), Saturday and Sunday, November 22 and 23 from Noon to 4pm and features a large selection for your holiday shopping. The event is a fundraiser for the Musical Theatre West Guild and Footlighters with proceeds going to the Youth Cultural Enrichment Program. Call the Musical

HOLIDAY SHOW

Musical Theatre West's annual holiday concert is always an audience favorite and a great way to begin your season celebration. This year we will continue with an additional performance due to sold-out crowds the last several years. A *Holiday Celebration* will be held on Saturday December 13th at 2:00 and 7:30 PM at the Carpenter Center. The show will feature favorite MTW performers, a singing and dancing ensemble and even a visit from

Santa himself! Call the Box Office today at 562 856-1999 ex 4 to order your seats, or you may order them at the table in the lobby. It's a holiday present the entire family will enjoy, and a perfect opportunity for a company party! ■

Children love the tradition of coming up on stage during the holiday show.



GIFT CERTIFICATES ON SALE IN THE LOBBY



The Perfect Gift: MTW Tix-for-Two Certificates

No matter what the occasion, a Tix-for-Two Gift Certificate is a great idea for anyone who loves musical theatre. It's also a thoughtful and creative way to say thank you to friends, clients and family. Just \$75, (\$80 wrapped in a festive box), a Tix-for-Two Certificate is good for two tickets to any of our 2003-2004 season shows, or redeemable forever for its face value at any MTW event. Best of all, recipients can select the date and time of the show they want to see. Purchase your certificates in the lobby, or call the Musical Theatre West office at 562 856-1999 ex 4.



STRAIGHT TALK WITH ART LEVINE

WEEKS OF NOVEMBER 3rd and 10th

NORMAN LARGE & KATHRYN SKATULA

From MTW's current production
of *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES*

Join host Art Levine for an interview with two of the cast of Musical Theatre West's production of this hit musical.

Watch Straight Talk INFORMING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR OVER A DECADE

Now seen Sundays at 6:30pm

Broadcast Schedule

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

Lakewood
Thursday
1, 5, 7 & 9pm
Channel 43

Los Alamitos
Thursday
8pm
Channel 3

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

Theatre West office at 562 856-1999 ex 4 for more information. ■