



Market House Theatre

January 2011 Off Stage Noises

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



The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)

January 13-16 & 20-23

William Shakespeare is back after a 400 year nap! *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield, starts off 2011 with a hilarious and often irreverent tribute to the Bard. Join the cast for



a fast-paced (90 minute free-for-all) romp through all Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies in one wild evening. Be present to witness the 5-minute Hamlet, hip-hop Othello, and some of Shakespeare's tragedies as a cooking show. Warning: You may be at times breathless and helpless with laughter.

The Montreal Gazette called the play, "the funniest show you are likely to see in your lifetime." Even the *Today Show* said in its review of the play, "If you like Shakespeare, you will like this play. If you hate Shakespeare, you'll love this show."

Starring in this madcap theatrical version are returning veteran Market House performers. Sharing their talents in this production are: Kentucky Department of Revenue's **Chuck Wilkins** (*Forever Plaid*, *Wizard of Oz*), local radio station WKYQ's **Steve Schwetman** (*The Foreigner*, *Anything Goes*) and Director of the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program for McCracken and Hickman Counties **Al Knudsen** (*Smokey Joe's Café*, *God's Favorite*). Another important member of the cast is **you, the audience member**, through audience input during the various parts of the performance. Working backstage throughout the production is **Denise Bristol** as Assistant Director/Stage Manager.



Returning as guest director of this production is **Ross Daniels**, retired Director of U.S. Army Entertainment Programs at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Vicenza, Italy. He has produced, directed, and performed over 100 plays, musicals, and workshops, some of which have taken top awards at state, regional, and international theatre festivals. At MHT, Ross has directed award-winning productions of *Proof* and *The Guys*. In 2001, the U.S. Army presented Ross with the "James T. Martin Award for Distinguished Lifetime Achievement."

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students (21 and under). The play runs **Thursday through Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m.** January 13-16 and 20-23. **There will be one Saturday matinee on January 22, for which all tickets are \$15.** Tickets are available at the box office (444-6828) at 132 Market House Square from noon to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Fridays or online at www.mhtplay.com.



This show is recommended for ages 10 and up, as it contains physical slapstick comedy and intellectual comedy.

Market House Theatre
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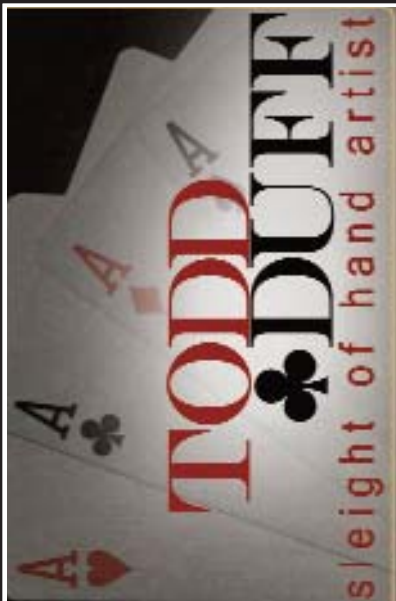
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**January 29th
7:30 p.m.**

Hurry to get tickets for **THE** most entertaining and unusual ticket in town on January 29, 2011 at the Market House Theatre! Local magician extraordinaire Todd Duff will thrill and amaze as he takes us on a journey through several eras of magic. What was popular in the 1800s, before elec-

tricity? What played big in the post-prohibition Chicago bar scene? What were some of the Vegas-style card tricks of the 1960s? Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. show are \$20. **Tickets are disappearing quickly**, so get yours today by stopping by the box office (132 Market House Sq), calling (270-444-6828), or going online to www.mhtplay.com!! Check out Todd in action at www.ToddDuff.com.



Open auditions for **The Dixie Swim Club** will be January 24 & 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Market House Studio Theatre classroom. No preparation is necessary for the audition, and newcomers are invited to attend. Perusal scripts are available in the MHT box office for a refundable deposit.

Written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten, *The Dixie Swim Club* is about five unforgettable southern women whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team. The play takes a look at their lives as they meet every August to recharge those relationships. A moving story of friendship and courage that will leave audiences inspired. **Needed are 5 women ages 30 and older.** Lisa Humphrey will direct. **Performance dates are April 21-24 and April 28-May 1, 2011.**

Characters include: Sheree Hollinger, a hyper-organized mom with boundless energy; Dinah Grayson, a wise-cracking cynic who excels at everything except romance; Lexie Richards, a man-magnet who keeps her cosmetic surgeon on speed dial; Jeri Neal McFeeley, a ditzy former nun who sees the positive side of everything; and Vernadette Simms, a hard luck case with gallows humor.



Open auditions for MHT's upcoming production of **The Hundred Dresses** will be held January 10 and 11 at 5 p.m. in Market House Theatre's Studio Theatre classroom, located at 120 Market House Square in downtown Paducah. This version of the well-loved 1945 Newbery Honor Book by Eleanor Estes is adapted for the stage by Mary Hall Surface.

The story: Wanda Petronski, the new girl in Room 13, wears the same faded blue dress to school every day -- yet she says she has one hundred beautiful dresses at home, "all lined up." The other girls don't believe it and when Peggy starts a daily game of teasing Wanda about the hundred dresses, everyone joins in. Maddie, Peggy's best friend, goes along with the game but she secretly wonders whether she can find the courage to speak up in Wanda's defense. It's not until Wanda fails to come to school one day that her classmates learn the truth about the hundred dresses and they learn the meaning of kindness and generosity.

Needed is a cast of 2 men, 2 women, 4 girls, 2 boys, plus extras. Roles are available for actors grade 4 and up. The youth (ages 10-13) roles include: Wanda Petronski - the shy child of a Polish immigrant; Peggy - most popular girl in school; Madeline - imaginative, playful and Peggy's best friend; Cecile - giggly, well-dressed friend of Peggy; Jack - fun, smart, dreams-big classmate; and Willie - a boaster, full of adventure and dares. There are also other additional classmates.

Teens or adults can play the following roles: Miss Mason - the kids' compassionate classroom teacher; Shelly Reeves - Madeline's kind and hard-working mom; Mr. Petronski - Wanda's Polish father who speaks broken English; Jacob Petronski - Wanda's tough older brother; and Mr. Svenson - an old hermit-type man.

Those auditioning need to be aware of what their schedule conflicts might be. **No previous performing experience is needed and newcomers are encouraged to attend.** No advance preparation is needed to audition. Rehearsals are generally held Mondays through Fridays at 5:00 at the theatre. Perusal scripts are available at the theatre's box office with a \$10 refundable deposit.

April Cochran will direct. **Performances will be held February 24-28 with 3 morning school matinees.** Taco Johns is the show's sponsor. For more information contact the theatre box office at 270-444-6828.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

PLAY SELECTION COMMITTEE

At first glance it seems quite easy to choose plays for Market House Theatre's 2011/2012 season. Executive Director Michael Cochran says, "All one has to do is find plays actors want to act in and people want to see." See how simple that is? If it were only that simple.

This year the Play Selection Committee includes thirteen people who gather to read plays, make comments, and ultimately decide which ones to recommend to the Board of Directors. The group includes individuals who have directed plays at MHT, acted on stage at MHT, worked behind the scenes, or just have an avid interest in finding the best to offer the local theatrical market. This year's members include Annette Poole-Malone, April Cochran, Cat Tilker, Diane Byrd, Lisa Humphrey, Michael Cochran, Phil Counts, Renie Barger, Bonnie Daniels, Susan Odum, Valerie Pollard, and Victoria Parrish. Denise Bristol is chair of the committee.

Not every play in print is able to be produced by MHT. Some are still touring professionally which means MHT can not get rights of production. Some plays require a set larger in size than our current theatre can accommodate. Due to content, some plays will not play well in Paducah. (Yes, the intended audience has to always be kept in mind.) Plays with little name recognition are harder to "sell" than those plays people tend to know. Some plays work better in a smaller format than on the main stage. The readers have to keep in mind a balanced season which allows for casting a wide range of ages and talents. A balanced season also includes a mix of various genres of theatrical presentations. The play readers even need to remember the budget when making suggestions. Will a chosen play provide funds to help offset production costs? (Production cost is another whole topic for a later date.) Traditionally a large musical has ended each season in June.



Meet the Parents from I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE Sept. 2010

Thank you!

MHT has the greatest supporters: we are almost 2/3 of the way to the \$61,000 goal budgeted for our 2010-2011 annual campaign! We are excited to have so many new and returning donors, and we look forward to hearing from our other long-time friends. Your generosity bridges the gap between our revenue and operating expenses. We greatly appreciate your support!

Typically, the committee begins its work in September just as the current season opens. Reading is completed over a period of months before work begins to obtain production rights. If rights are not attainable at the current time, the committee has already done its work and produced a ranked order of plays to be performed. When all is completed, the selections for the next season are announced. Only then does the committee have a few months to "relax" before starting all over again the following September. (Relax? Many spend off time attending plays, researching plays produced at other locations, and attending the plays selected for the current season.) If you would like to offer your volunteer skills as a part of this committee, please contact MHT.

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MARKET HOUSE THEATRE

132 Market House Square
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 444-6828 1-888-MHT-PLAY
www.mhtplay.com

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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.

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FOOTLIGHTS, Market House Theatre's youth acting troupes, is accepting registrations for its new trimester of classes, which **begins January 8 and meets every Saturday through March 26**. The Early Elementary troupe (grades 1-3) meets from 8-9 a.m., Upper Elementary (grades 4-5) from 9-10 a.m., and Middle school (grades 6-8) from 10-11 a.m. The High school troupe meets from 11 a.m.-noon. All classes meet in MHT's Studio Theatre classroom located at 120 S. 2nd Street.

The two Elementary school troupes will produce a play this trimester, with performances on March 26 & 27. The Middle school troupe will perform March 27. All members of the troupes are guaranteed a part in their show, which is generally a folk or fairy tale-based comedy for the elementary troupes, and a more challenging show, generally a comedy, for the middle school troupe. *Regular attendance is essential for this trimester since students will be in play rehearsal.* The High School troupe will continue work in comedy improvisation. Guest instructor Abby Bell will be a frequent leader of the high school troupe.

The emphasis in **FOOTLIGHTS** is **FUN**, with acting, teamwork and communication skills developed as well. **No previous classes or performing experience is needed.** The troupes are lead by April Cochran, MHT's Education Director.

The **FOOTLIGHTS** fee is \$50 per trimester. **FOOTLIGHTS membership is open to anyone, regardless of previous experience.** Financial need partial scholarships are available, with application forms available at the box office. **FOOTLIGHTS** programming and scholarships are sponsored through the generosity of Ray Black and Son General Contractors. To register, phone MHT at (270) 444-6828 or register in person on January 8 in the Studio Theatre.

