**COMING EVENTS**

**2013-2014 Season Tickets on Sale Now!**

**Les Miserables**
September 5 - October 13
A musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg
Based on a novel by Victor Hugo
Music by Claude-Michel Schonberg
Lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer

One of the world’s best-loved musicals, this stunning spectacle of passion and power in early 19th-century France is the story of ex-convict Jean Valjean (Daniel Link). Now on the run across the French countryside after breaking his parole, Valjean is hunted relentlessly by the ruthless policeman Javert (John P.A. Sherman), whose sworn mission is to find Valjean and bring him to justice. Aided by a kind bishop (Gary Rigby), Valjean leaves his past behind and begins life anew under an assumed name in a quiet village. Several years later, Valjean encounters the doomed Fantine (Joanna Bauernfeind), forced by poverty into a life of prostitution. He vows to raise her child, little Cosette (Kelly Sawyer and Ciara Kelley, alternating performances), left in the care of an innkeeper and his wife: the villainous yet comical Thenardiers (Chip Morris and Marcy Butler). Narrowly escaping Javert, Valjean rescues Cosette and flees to Paris.

Years go by and a growing storm of revolution is in the air. Now a young woman, Cosette (Bailey Diehl) meets and falls in love with Marius (Steven “Shane” Bass), part of a secret society of rebels. Led by Enjolras (Calder Dougherty), the ABC Society (Gregg Bleam, Nathan Casebolt, Shannon DeVaughn, Daniel DiCola, Taylor Lartigue, Justin Simon, Max Trammell, Cory Watson, and William Winter) plots a revolt to fight for freedom. The Thenardiers’ daughter, Eponine (Heather Simsay), also in love with Marius, joins the rebels, as does plucky street urchin Gavroche (Jonathan Leppert and John Penzel, alternating performances). As the revolution begins and Javert draws ever closer, Valjean must fight for his life to protect those he loves.


The thrilling, unforgettable score includes songs like “I Dreamed A Dream,” “Castle On a Cloud,” “Master of the House,” “One Day More,” “Do You Hear the People Sing,” “On My Own,” and “Bring Him Home.” Based on Victor Hugo’s sweeping masterpiece, this is an epic tale of broken dreams and undying devotion, sacrifice and redemption… a timeless testament to the human spirit.

Les Miserables is directed by James Sohre. Music director is Ryan Pagels. Choreography is by Melanie Tarter. Stage manager is Vinson Craft. Sound design is by Timothy J. Dygert. Lighting design is by Robert P. Robins. Costume design is by Maureen S. Demers. Set design is by award-winning scenic designer James Morgan.

Les Miserables runs September 5 through October 13. Please note: Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m., and matinees are at 2:00 p.m. For a detailed performance schedule, go to www.ocalacivictheatre.com or check the calendar on the back of this newsletter.

Tickets are on sale now at $28 for adults and $10 for full-time students (student ID required for college students). For reservations or more information, call (352) 236-2274 or stop by the box office. You also may buy tickets online with a service charge at www.ocalacivictheatre.com.

**EVENING CURTAIN TIME**

7:30 P.M.

Please note that the curtain time for evening performances of Les Miserables is 7:30 p.m. Matinees are at 2:00 p.m.
Season Tickets
2013-2014 season tickets are on sale now! A subscription saves you 20% or more off single ticket prices. For more information, call (352) 236-2274 or stop by the box office.

LES MISERABLES
Musical - Sept. 5 - Oct. 13

ALMOST, MAINE
Comedy - Oct. 17 - Oct. 27

THE 39 STEPS
Mystery/Comedy - Nov. 7 - Dec. 1

I DO! I DO! I DO! I DO! I DO! I DO!
Musical - Jan. 9 - Jan. 19

DO BLACK PATENT LEATHER SHOES REALLY REFLECT UP?
Musical Comedy - Feb. 6 - Mar. 2

THE ODD COUPLE
Comedy - Mar. 20 - Apr. 13

SPREADING IT AROUND
Comedy - Apr. 3 - APR. 11

CAMELOT
Musical - May 15 - June 8

Auditions For Macabaret 11: Night Of The Singing Dead
September 16-17

Auditions for Macabaret, the popular Halloween-themed youth production, will be held Monday, September 16 and Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. each night at Ocala Civic Theatre. It is only necessary to attend one night of auditions. Students should prepare a song and monologue. The class is limited to 15 students in grades 8-12. Tuition is $165, which includes a T-shirt to be worn for the show.

For this spooky coffeehouse cabaret, the actors are also waiters, serving desserts and beverages before the show and during intermission. Proceeds go to the youth scholarship fund. The actors will pool their tips and split them evenly after the last performance.

Class will rehearse Monday through Friday, September 23 to October 17, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Performances are:
• Friday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m.
• Saturday, October 19 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
• Sunday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m.
• Friday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m.
• Saturday, October 26 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Open Auditions For Our Fall In-School Tour
Saturday, September 21

Auditions for our Fall In-School Tour of Shannon DiNigro Enders’ Thank You, Mrs. Patterson will be held on Saturday, September 21 at 10 a.m. We will be casting two men and two women to play a variety of parts. Versatility is key for all actors in the show. This is a daytime commitment. A stage manager is also needed for rehearsals and the tour. Rehearsals are scheduled Monday through Friday, September 30 through October 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Performances will be Tuesday, October 15 through Tuesday, November 26 at schools throughout Marion and Levy County. The actors and stage manager are paid positions. Auditions will consist of readings from the script, available at the OCT Box Office in advance or on the day of auditions. If you have any questions, please contact Kirstin Kennedy at educationdirector@ocalacivictheatre.com or (352) 236-2274, ext 107.

The Golden Troupers are a terrific group of age 55+ performers who travel around Marion County entertaining local audiences with comedy skits and songs, all done readers-theatre-style, and serving as community ambassadors for the Theatre. They perform at no charge for non-profit organizations, but donations are gratefully accepted and go to youth scholarships for the Theatre’s Education Department. If you’re interested in booking the Troupers to entertain your club or organization, call the Ocala Civic Theatre box office at (352) 236-2274. If you’d like to join the Troupers, they rehearse on Mondays at 1 p.m. from September through May at the Theatre. It’s a golden opportunity!
Cheers! Change Is Coming To The Concession Stand

Beginning with Les Miserables, Ocala Civic Theatre's concession stand will be under the management of “The Frugal Wine Snob.” It will have a new look and new products for sale, including beer, wine, and chilled coffee beverages. Snacks, soft drinks, and bottled water will continue to be offered.

The Theatre is also announcing a new policy: Beverages (but no food) will be allowed into the theatre for enjoyment during the show.

House wines will be priced at $5 per 5-ounce pour, and house beers will be $3 per 12-ounce serving. Premium wines and craft beers also will be available and priced accordingly. Accepting debit and credit cards for all concession stand purchases.

The concession stand will open one hour pre-show, close temporarily at show time, and open again during intermission. Besides wine by the glass, the concession stand will offer bottle sales after each show. (No by-the-glass consumption of alcohol will be allowed after the show.)

“The Frugal Wine Snob” is the brainchild of Carolyn Blakeslee, award-winning wine blogger and frequent keyboardist in Ocala Civic Theatre orchestras. At TheFrugalWineSnob.com, her specialty is “wines that taste like a million bucks but cost less than $20.”

Restaurant Discounts For Theatre Patrons

How about dinner and a show? Several local restaurants offer discounts or coupons to our patrons throughout the theatre season.

- Braised Onion: 10% off dinner before or after the show. Must show ticket stub.
- Chelsea Coffee Company: See your Theatre program for a $1 off coupon for any beverage.
- The Ivy House Restaurant: 15% off any entrée before or after the show. Must show ticket stub.
- La Cuisine French Restaurant: 10% off dinner any night. Must show ticket stub.

A round of applause to these restaurants for their great support – and great food!

Auditions September 23-24
Adapted by Patrick Barlow
From the novel by John Buchan

When a woman is found murdered in Richard Hannay’s London apartment, the innocent man goes on the run, with a mysterious organization called “The 39 Steps” hot on his trail across England and Scotland. Based on the 1935 Hitchcock film, this tale of intrigue is played for laughs, at a whirlwind pace. Through lightning-fast costume changes and wildly inventive staging full of illusions, a versatile quartet of actors plays more than 150 characters in what seems like a cast of thousands – and it all adds up to one absurdly brilliant comedy. There’s plenty of murder, mayhem, mystery, and marvelous fun in this farcical, fast-paced whodunit!

The 39 Steps is directed by Carole Ries.

Rehearsals begin Monday, September 30 at 7:00 p.m. and are generally held Monday through Friday from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at the Theatre. Please bring to auditions a list of potential conflicts with rehearsals. There will be 19 public performances of The 39 Steps from November 7 through December 1, 2013.

Copies of the script are available at the Theatre and may be checked out with a $10 refundable deposit during regular business hours. For more information, call the box office at (352) 236-2274 or go to www.ocalacivictheatre.com. Stay tuned for more details in the next Cue Sheet!

LIVE ON STAGE... YOU! AUDITION NOW!

October 17 – October 27
By John Caiani

On a cold, clear night in the star-crossed small town of Almost, Maine, ordinary people experience the extraordinary. Love is lost and found in frosty fables of first kisses and fond farewells on snowy park benches and ice-skating under the stars in a magical midwinter night’s dream. In nine sweetly surreal vignettes, stoic yet endearing New Englanders experience love by the luminous glow of the northern lights. Wistful and warm-hearted, Almost, Maine sparkles with humor. Expect the unexpected in this quirky romantic comedy!

Almost, Maine is directed by Christine Perry. There will be nine public performances of Almost, Maine from October 17 to October 27, 2013. Tickets go on sale September 16 at $22 for adults and $10 for full-time students (ID required for college students). For more information, call the box office at (352) 236-2274.

Box Office Hours:
Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
On days with a Saturday performance:
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
The box office opens 60 minutes before each performance.

Tickets On Sale Now:
- 2013-2014 season tickets
- Les Miserables

Tickets Go On Sale:

- September 16: Almost, Maine and Macabaret 11: Night of the Singing Dead
- October 7: The 39 Steps
- November 11: Marion Ballet Theatre’s The Nutcracker

General Information:
Get information and buy full-price tickets online 24 hours a day at www.ocalacivictheatre.com
(A service charge applies to online purchases.)

Box Office (352) 236-2274
Admin. Offices (352) 236-2851

Follow us on Facebook! “Like” our pages at Ocala Civic Theatre and Ocala Civic Theatre - Education Dept.
Our September VIPs are a well-known pair, much like some memorable characters from *Les Miserables*. But there are several key differences. This couple has been together much longer than Marius and Cosette. They work well together as a team and aren’t bitter adversaries like Valjean and Javert. And they aren’t villainous like the Thenardiers. Who are they? The dynamic duo Vinson and Susie Craft.

Vinson has taken on the commendable task of stage-managing *Les Miserables*, a huge show with a cast of 41 actors, a large crew, a massive set, and an impressive number of light, sound, and fly cues. His other half, Susie, will be by his side as usual, running the light board. Though their work is behind the scenes, a show like *Les Miserables* could never happen without the hours put in by unseen volunteers like these.

To many people, a show like *Les Miserables* would be daunting. To Vinson and Susie, it’s a challenge and a joy. As a pair, they’ve been involved with the Theatre for more than 30 years and have worked in just about every technical aspect: lighting, sound, rigging, crew, stage management, set construction, and more. They’ve seen it all and done it all. And so maybe the best way to describe their volunteer saga is in their own words. Victor Hugo would be proud, and we are too.

Susie: “Holy cow! Where to begin? Shortly after we moved here in 1962, my parents got involved with OCT, so naturally they had to bring my sister and me to the theatre with them on many occasions. I was in the ‘children’s theatre’ and have never stopped since, only slowed down. With our granddaughter being onstage here in Marion Ballet Theatre’s *The Nutcracker*, this makes the FOURTH generation of our family to be active at Ocala Civic Theatre!” The proud mom adds that their daughter, Heather, was the first-ever recipient of the Outstanding Young Volunteer Award. Some of Susie’s favorite shows over the years include *Evita* and, in the old building, The King and I and the first production of *Man of La Mancha*.

Vinson: “Vinson Craft, a.k.a. 36901, is serving a 25-to-life stretch here at OCT. My crime? A can of lighter fluid left on stage as the stage crew spun the castle set for *The Lion In Winter*, so long ago. I ruined the ‘magic,’ so my punishment continues. The penalty for this crime? Look down, look down, you’ll always be a slave…” (A slave to the Theatre, but a willing one!) “My one stint onstage was to fill in for an MIA actor. (Thankfully I was covered up in a sheet, so no one knew who it was.) As I started down the stairs for my entrance, I slipped on the sheet. I managed to stay upright, so it wasn’t a total disaster.”

Some of Vinson’s more memorable shows during his “sentence” include *Chicago*, *Cats*, *Noises Off*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and “two tours with *Peter Pan* (1996 and 2010) as Master Fly Tech.” He’s worked on so many shows for so long, he says, “I remember the names but forget the years.”

We remember both: the names Vinson and Susie Craft, and all their years of dedicated volunteer service. Is there a chance we might parole them early for good behavior? Not on your life. These two really excel at their Craft and are way too valuable to set free!

Merci beaucoup for all you do, Mr. and Mrs. 36901!
Notes from the Executive Director

Hello! We are down to our last few performances of Les Misérables and have the next three shows ready to go – Almost, Maine; Macabaret 11: Night of the Singing Dead; and The 39 Steps. In other words, our 64th season is now in full swing with a wide assortment of shows to entertain you. Season tickets are still on sale. You get a great discount when buying the whole season now. We offer both a 5-show package and 8-show package. Just call the box office for details.

Our fall in-school tour to local elementary schools will be offering a 45-minute play titled Thank You, Mrs. Patterson, which is a series of monologues and scenes on the topic of bullying by Shannon DiNigro Enders. Ms. Enders has penned our last two in-school plays with great success. Last fall, we visited 24 schools in Marion and Levy county and served 6,830 students and their teachers. After viewing the performance, many teachers gave the students writing assignments to send their stories to the playwright. Five of the seven monologues in this year’s play are drawn from those letters. We are looking forward to visiting as many as 30 schools this year if possible. Ocala Civic Theatre is committed to arts education and, to insure that we can visit as many schools as possible, is raising funds to cover all the expenses for the tour so that we can offer this program for free to the schools. We have received significant grants from Marion Cultural Alliance, the Richard B. Salsbury Foundation, and the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission to help fund the tour and have other requests pending. Last year, several individuals also stepped forward to donate to help make the program available for the schools. We will be visiting the schools between October 15 and November 22. If you are interested in learning more about the program or know a business or individual that might like to donate, please contact me or Kirstin Kennedy, our Director of Education. It's a wonderful program!

Ever wonder where Ocala Civic Theatre ranks among Florida’s arts organizations? This may not be the most scientific evaluation, but most non-profit arts organizations apply to the State of Florida’s Division of Cultural Affairs for grants for general operating support. Our applications are reviewed by a panel of arts professionals and assigned a numerical score. The applications are then ranked by their score (regardless of the organization’s budget size) and wait to see how much money the State Legislature budgets for the arts. This year, the Division posted the rankings. Of the 279 organizations that were eligible to receive a grant, Ocala Civic Theatre ranked number 37. The organizations that scored higher than us included groups such as Miami City Ballet, Florida Studio Theatre, Asolo Theatre, the Sarasota Film Festival, and the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Only one community theatre scored higher at number 29 – Venice Little Theatre, which has a budget of roughly twice our size. The State allocated $5 million for this line item to fund the 279 applicants. Our grant award for 2013-2014 is $22,187. This will be less than 2% twice our size. The State allocated $5 million for this line item to fund the 279 applicants. Our grant award for 2013-2014 is $22,187. This will be less than 2% of the 279 organizations that were eligible to receive a grant, Ocala Civic Theatre ranked number 37. The organizations that scored higher than us included groups such as Miami City Ballet, Florida Studio Theatre, Asolo Theatre, the Sarasota Film Festival, and the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Only one community theatre scored higher at number 29 – Venice Little Theatre, which has a budget of roughly twice our size. The State allocated $5 million for this line item to fund the 279 applicants. Our grant award for 2013-2014 is $22,187. 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see you at the Theatre!

Mary Britt
Executive Director
The Curtain Raiser is the official newsletter of The Marion Players, Inc. dba Ocala Civic Theatre. The Theatre is located at 4337 E. Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, Florida 34470. The Curtain Raiser is published monthly and is available free of charge to anyone who is interested in our activities. For more information about the organization or to be added to the mailing list, call (352)236-2274.

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