



CITY OF TOPEKA

PARKS & RECREATION OF TOPEKA

620 SE Madison, 1st Floor
Topeka, KS 66607
Tel: (785) 368-3838



Helen Hocker Center
For The Performing Arts
Email: jhuseman@topeka.org
Phone: (785) 368-0191
www.topeka.org

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For more information, contact
Kim Jones, 368-0191

2011 SEASON ANNOUNCED

Helen Hocker Center for the Performing Arts is pleased to announce our 2011 season...

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ-THE SONGS OF LEIBER AND STOLLER

In an idealized '50's setting, the classic themes of love won, lost and imagined blend with hilarious set pieces and slice-of-life emotions in the first adult musical of 2011. Featuring nearly 40 of the greatest songs ever written, including "Hound Dog", "Kansas City", "Stand By Me", and many others, Lieber & Stoller's songs provide the basis for an electrifying entertainment that illuminates a golden age of American culture. Auditions will be January 11 & 12 at 7pm and are open to males and females age 16 & up. Show dates will be Feb. 25, 26, Mar. 4, 5, 11 & 12 at 8pm and Feb. 27, Mar. 6 & 13 at 2:30pm. Tickets go on sale Feb. 7.

CINDERELLA

This new musical take on the traditional tale has a bookish and nearsighted heroine who finds and captures the heart of a studious prince. Romantically-challenged Prince Freddy has returned to his home and is being pressured by his father, the King, to quickly choose a bride at the upcoming royal ball. Domineering Brunhilda and her greedy daughters are excited to go the ball, but the smart stepdaughter, Cinderella, would rather stay home and read. Stubborn Cinderella, prodded by Gwendolyn, finally agrees to go...provided she doesn't have to wear any stupid glass slippers! At the ball, she and Freddy dance and fall in love, but when the clock strikes Midnight, Cinderella loses...her red sneaker! Freddy and his trusty friend, Gaston, tour the countryside to find the rightful owner. Auditions will be January 16, from 2-5pm, and are open to males and females age 10-13. Show dates will be Apr. 8, 9, 15 & 16 at 7pm and Apr. 10 & 17 at 2:30pm. Tickets go on sale Mar. 21.

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'

The second adult musical of the year, the outrageously prodigious comic and musical soul of 1930's Harlem, lives on in this rollicking, swinging, finger-snapping revue that is still considered one of Broadway's best. "Ain't Misbehavin'" evokes the delightful humor and infectious energy as the cast struts, strums and sings the songs that Thomas "Fats" Waller made famous, such as, "Honeysuckle Rose", "I've Got A Feeling I'm Falling", "The Joint Is Jumpin'", and of course, "Ain't Misbehavin'." Auditions will be Mar. 22 & 23 at 7pm and are open to males and females age 16 & up. Show dates will be May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 & 21 at 8pm, and May 8, 15 & 22 at 2:30pm. Tickets go on sale Apr. 18.

PIPPIN

Once upon a time, the young prince, Pippin longed to discover the secret of true happiness and fulfillment. He sought it in the glories of the battlefield, the temptations of the flesh and the intrigues of political power. In the end, he found it in the simple pleasures of home and family. This hip, tongue-in-cheek fairy tale, performed by The Bath House Players, continues to appeal to the young at heart everywhere, with music and lyrics by three-time Oscar-winning composer Stephen Schwartz. Auditions will be June 2 from 9-4pm, for anyone age 14-18, with parts available for males and females. Show dates will be Jun. 24, 25, 30, Jul. 1, 8 & 9 at 8pm, and Jun. 26 & Jul. 10 at 2:30pm Tickets go on sale June 6.

THE SECRET GARDEN, SPRING VERSION

The second summer Bath House Player musical tells the story of Mary Lennox, orphaned in India who returns to Yorkshire to live with an embittered, reclusive uncle and his invalid son. On the estate, she discovers a locked garden filled with magic, a boy who talks to birds and a cousin she brings back to health by putting him to work in the garden. Adapted by Marsha Norman from her Tony-award winning book. Auditions will be Jun. 3, from 9-4pm and are open to anyone age 14-18, with parts available for males, females and a chorus. Show dates will be Jul. 22 & 29 at 1:30 & 7pm, Jul. 23 & 30 at 7pm & Jul. 24 & 31 at 2:30pm. Tickets go on sale Jul. 5.

THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB

Five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge their relationships. Free from husbands, kids and jobs, they meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each other's lives. "The Dixie Swim Club" focuses on four of those weekends and spans a period of 33 years. As their lives unfold and the years pass, these women increasingly rely on one another, through advice and raucous repartee, to get through the challenges (men, sex, marriage, parenting, divorce, aging), that life flings at them. And when fate throws a wrench into one of their lives, these friends rally 'round their own with strength and love. Auditions are Aug. 4 at 7pm. Parts are available for 5 women age 16 & up. Show dates will be Sept. 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 8pm and Sept. 11 & 18 at 2:30pm. Tickets go on sale Aug. 22.

CRAZY FOR YOU

The last adult show of the season is the story of Bobby Child, a well-to-do 1930's playboy, whose dream in life is to dance. And despite the serious efforts of his mother and soon-to-be ex-fiancé, Bobby achieves his dream! This high energy comedy includes mistaken identity, plot twists, fabulous dance numbers and classic Gershwin music, such as "I Got Rhythm", "They Can't Take That Away From Me", "Someone To Watch Over Me", and "Embraceable You." Auditions will be Sept. 13 & 14 at 7pm and are open to anyone age 16 & up. Parts will be available for males and females. Show dates are Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19 at 8pm and Nov. 6, 13 & 20 at 2:30pm. Tickets go on sale Oct. 17.

HARRIET AND WALT

Pre-teen Harriet always gets stuck with her little brother Walt tagging along everywhere she goes. The last thing she wants is an accident prone little brother interfering with her and her friends' preparations for the winter carnival. When Walt almost gets hurt, Harriet realizes how much he means to her and stands up to her friend George, who criticized her kid brother. Based on the classic children's book by Nancy Carlson, this Topeka Youth Players' production teaches an important lesson about sibling rivalry. Auditions will be Sept. 11, from 2-5pm and are open to anyone age 10-13. There will be parts available for males and females. Show dates are Dec. 2, 3, 9 & 10 at 7pm, and Dec. 4 & 11 at 2:30pm. Tickets go on sale Nov. 14.

Note: Shows, dates and times are subject to change without notice. To stay up-to-date with the theater schedule, please consider subscribing to our emails by calling 368-0191 or by going to www.topeka.org and clicking on Helen Hocker notices, or go to our webpage at www.topeka.org/parksrec/hocker.shtml. (We do not sell or give out email addresses.)

This and other press releases are available by accessing the City of Topeka website at www.Topeka.org.

The Helen Hocker Center for the Performing Arts is an organization dedicated to enriching the cultural growth of our community. Quality family entertainment, positive learning experiences in a friendly atmosphere, an outlet for artistic expression for youth and adults, all are found in the Theater's year-round programming. Family and youth musical dramas and comedies are offered, along with music and dance events, performing arts classes and workshops. The primary goals of the Theater are to provide exciting and enjoyable challenges for our participants and quality in all our endeavors for our patrons. Volunteer opportunities are available. Please call the Theater box office for more information.