

When Happenings

Local Areas 'Legitimate-Theater' Has Large Number Of Highly Entertaining Shows For This Holiday Season



Walden Happenings

By Doc Fennessy

Well, I am back from the near dead after month of massive heart surgery and multiple complications. It will be slow but steady from this writer's desk for a while but I am still on top of most of the interesting events going on at this time. Usually, I write a comprehensive column on the up-coming Legitimate-theater on stage shows three weeks ahead of time so the readers and potential audience have time to adjust their social schedules to include the shows. Unfortunately, for me, at this time in the autumn when all of the leading theatrical groups are beginning their seasons and especially their holiday shows so close together, I just can't do a full column on each because of the overlapping and close time factors. So what I usually do is do one inclusive column and cover them all.

At this time you have the Christian Youth Theater's Broadway musical "THE MUSIC MAN" playing in it's second week at the Nancy Bock Center in The Woodlands on Saturday, November 13th at both 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. with a closing 2:00 p.m. Matinee on Sunday, November 14th. Folks, this is a classic and these 100 multi-talented kids always put on an awesome show for the audience. This show is an affectionate throwback pean to Smalltown, U.S.A. of a bygone era. Meredith Willson's "THE MUSIC MAN" follows fast-

moving footsteps of Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize - this despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian the librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by curtain's fall.

Christian Youth Theater (CYT) is an after-school theater arts training program for students ages 4-18. Since its founding in 1981 in San Diego California, CYT has grown to be the largest youth theater in the nation. There are affiliates across the country

training thousands of students a year. CYT is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization funded primarily through its tuition, ticket sales and outside contributions. For more information please go to: www.cythouston.org.

The incomparable Country-Pop crossover entertainer legend "JUICE NEWTON" opens at the historical Crighton Theatre in Conroe on Saturday evening, November 20th at 7:30 p.m. as presented by the Montgomery County Performing Arts Society.

Folks, you are really going to enjoy this show, as it is great to watch Juice in action on stage. She is a born entertainer and is totally at ease on the stage. She has a casual style of entertaining and simply showcases her musical abilities without any fluff. She stands front and center onstage with her guitar and gives it her all. Juice is not one for showy stage effects; she lets her abilities speak for herself. Her band has been a road family for a few years; and they are very comfortable with each other and their abilities, and they all just have a good time. She has the ability to sing just about any type of music and do it very well. She has all the old favorites and a few new songs that are sure to become new favorites. From the beginning song of "Your Heart is Show- ing" to the final note of "It's Late," - Juice is all entertainer! Tickets are now on sale at the theatre box-office by calling daily between 3:00 & 6:00p.m. (936) 441-7469.

Directors Steve & Carolyn Wong of the resident theatrical troupe of the Crighton Theatre in Conroe, Stage Right of Texas write that "Traditions that focus on family are a great way to put meaning back into the holidays. If you find your traditions have lost meaning, find ways to revitalize them. Which family traditions do you love the most, and figure out how you can put more emphasis on them. If you love the traditional lighting of the Menorah, get together as a group and make your candles. If you enjoy the family trip to pick out the Christmas tree, make it an all day event and head to the tree farm to choose your own. We hope coming to a Christmas show can become part of your family tradition. Many of our actors and staff

would rather opt out of a holiday show as it is a hectic time of the year for everyone; however, they know how much our patrons need to laugh. They tell us again and again how much a 'simple show' changes their outlook on life and the holiday season." Folks, there are several excellent fun and highly entertaining family holiday season shows in Conroe at very reasonable family prices so the entire family can come and enjoy the spirit of Christmas together. The following I have listed for the legitimate theater stage shows are always excellent.

The Crighton Players present their annual Christmas show as their version of "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" based on the story by Charles Dickens and directed by Michael Hayes. This is the classic Charles Dickens' Christmas tale of redemption and the meaning of the holiday season - a perfect treat for the entire family. When the Crighton Players do a Christmas show it is usually has the musical carolers both on the stage and in the aisles with the audience, and most certainly is a memorable experience for your family's children to experience as the true meaning of Christmas. The show opens on Friday evening, November 26th, and runs every Friday and Saturday until Saturday, December 18th with 2:00 p.m. Sunday Matinees on December 5th and 12th. For tickets call the theatre box-office daily between 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. at (936) 539-4090.

Now those fun theatrical people Amy Sowers, Steve and Carolyn Wong and their multi-talented troupe at STAGE TIGHT OF TEXAS, are coming back again this year with the third episode in the "CHRISTMAS BELLES" trilogy that opens at the historic Crighton Theatre in Conroe, Friday, December 3rd and runs Friday & Saturday until Sunday, December 19th, with 2:00 p.m. Sunday Matinees on December 12th & the 19th.

I have seen the first two episodes of the "CHRISTMAS BELLES" over the past two Christmas Seasons and let me tell you folks; this is delightful laugh-out loud comedy by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten. This is one of the few Christmas plays that



Dr. Aline Arnold is the Executive Director of the Conroe Symphony Orchestra and the most effective organizer, fundraiser and public promoter. Through Dr. Arnold's efforts the Orchestra has continued to grow in quality, stature and reputation as one of the most important cultural gems in Montgomery County's performing arts arena.

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