

Missoula Children's Theatre offers 'The Frog Prince' Oct. 2

Youngsters who may be groaning and gloomy about the beginning of school will be cheered to know that something really entertaining is about to come over the horizon. (You don't have to mention that it's a giant learning experience as well.)



PEGGI MILLER

Performing Arts Columnist

As it has done for a lot of years, THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY brings the MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE for a show in Conroe's Crighton Theatre Oct. 2.

The production is "The Frog Prince" by Michael McGill, with additional music from Rebecca McGill.

It's about a lonesome frog that retrieves a golden ball for a self-centered princess who promises the frog friendship and comfort for his reward. She reneges on her pledge but Frog receives wisdom from many Swampy Things, as well as from a well-read alligator, kindly queen, two benevolent princesses and a whole slew of whimsical beings. Venus Fly Traps engender maliciousness, but it all

culminates in a happy ending that emphasizes the value of friendship and self worth.

Two professionally trained and experienced young women will live in Conroe for a week; choose 60 kids for "The Frog Prince" in open auditions; provide all props, costumes and sets and put the show on for the public in the Crighton Theatre Oct. 2.

Auditions for age groups of kindergarten through 12th grade are Monday, Sept. 27, in the Crighton Theatre, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Children chosen for the cast pay a \$25 fee, with financial help available for those in need.

In addition, the whole production is homework friendly, with rehearsals from 4:30

to 6:30; for older cast members, it's 7 to 9 each evening during "Missoula Week."

But that's not all, CONROE'S INCREDIBLE PIZZA treats cast members to a "pizza party" backstage on Thursday evening, Sept. 30.

As she has done for seven years, MCPAS board member ANGELL WRIGHT oversees this project, but it requires a small army of volunteers to succeed.

CAROL JONES plans school workshops in Conroe, Montgomery and Willis districts; LYN HAWTHORNE (soon to be Mrs. Carl Howard) secures directors' housing, while MILLIE SCOTT plans dinners for the two Missoula visitors. PENNY SPAID is usher-getter; JAN GLENZ creates printed programs; BILL WRIGHT snaps candid photos; MEMORIES UNLIMITED supplies a DVD; and JOANNE ARNOLD, along with JILL POTTER, recruits volunteers.

The remarkable DAVE ENGLERT, with music credits from many places, will ac-

company the young stars.

More information is available at www.MCPAS.org or call (936) 760-2787.

Well, here's a clarification for you: The tribute to veterans performance of comedy "No Time for Sergeants" is totally a production of STAGE RIGHT OF TEXAS Sept. 12, in Conroe's Crighton Theatre.

The afternoon includes a complimentary performance at 2, as well as a barbecue dinner, also without charge to Honor Flight veterans. Dinner reservations deadline is Sept. 6 for the Honor Flight attendees.

This performance also is open to the public at regular admission prices, which are \$17 and less, depending on age and group discounts. Reservations are a must for every attendee because all seats in the Crighton are as-

signed.

SR set aside 200 seats on the Crighton first floor for veterans who might be unable to climb to the balcony Sept. 12; others will become available if needed.

Here are even more positives, according to Crighton Theatre manager JIM BINGHAM. All military veterans and spouses will be admitted without charge to any presentation of "No Time for Sergeants" during its run Sept. 10 through Sept. 26.

Stage Right is requesting that these veterans join other audience members in donating personal care items and nonperishable snacks that will be sent to service personnel overseas. Check www.us-troopsupport.org for a complete list of needs.

For additional information about this special show, or to make required reservations

for any performance, call the Crighton box office at (936) 441-SHOW

On the other hand, THE CRIGHTON PLAYERS are generating one-act comedy "Patio," on Sept. 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Owen Theatre. It's a CP fund raiser that costs \$40 each for doubles; \$45 per single, with proceeds set aside for CP's future productions and needs.

Directed by BECKY TEAGUE, the two-person comedy was written by Jack Heifner and relates a comic episode of sisters chitchatting on their veranda.

The evening includes a catered barbecue dinner and the comedy, followed with homemade desserts and coffee.

CP's "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" winds down and

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ART TALK

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the Energy Bunny.

It's also interesting to get inside of one's head and discover whether the cup is half empty or half full. In City Hall, Hang 10 + 5 will have four paintings which will be changed out monthly.

The Linda Watson Gallery owner is Joe Fleshner. Contact Joe at (832) 928-7150 or jfleshner@sbcglobal.net.

HARMON MONTGOMERY, WATERCOLOR IMPRESSIONIST

Artist Harmon Montgomery believes, "No man can truly reflect God's majestic creations!" Yet, with an explosion of striking colors, Montgomery - Conroe's contemporary watercolor impressionist - captures the

very core of life through his extraordinary paintings.

His expressive style interprets everyday scenes and objects with bold darks and light, and dramatic color rhythms, so that others may broaden their imagination and see the world as he sees it.

Though he has traveled extensively and painted scenes from most states in the Southeast, Montgomery said he was especially excited recently when he had the opportunity to visit "the grand old city of Galveston" for the first time. His paintings that evolved from his visits to the coast will be featured in his upcoming one-man exhibit at the Linda Watson Art Gallery in January.

Other recent watercolors to be unveiled in his exhibit in-

clude a 20 by 32 inch painting based on the bronze commemorative tribute sculptures of George and Cynthia Woods Mitchell in The Woodlands.

Several additional pieces featuring Galveston scenes and a painting of the world-famous, spectacular Jamaican golf course, White Witch, designed by Robert Von Hagge of The Woodlands, will be featured as well.

Also an avid musician, Montgomery has had a colorful career in the arts, ranging from playing saxophone with the Glenn Miller Army Band to his free-flowing creativity as a watercolor master.

Enjoy a sampling of Montgomery's work at www.harmonmontgomery.com and <http://harmon-montgomery.artistwebsites.com/>.

NO TIME FOR SERGEANTS

BY IRA LEVIN

STAGE RIGHT

presents

SEPT. 10-26, 2010

A southern comedy about a country bumpkin drafted into the Air Force, originally starring Andy Griffith.

936-441-SHOW

Tickets: \$12-\$17

www.crightontheatre.org

or www.stage-right.org

Bring items for the US TROOP SUPPORT FOUNDATION

Funded in part by the Conroe Commission on Arts & Culture
Presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

SEPT. 12 @ 2 PM

FREE FOR VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

MUST CALL FOR RESERVATIONS BY SEPT 6.

936-441-SHOW

At the historic Crighton Theatre in downtown Conroe, TX.