

BACKSTAGE PASS

THE OFFICIAL RIVERSIDE THEATRE NEWSLETTER



FEB | MAR | APR 2014

ALSO INSIDE:
Closer Than Ever
Premiere Benefit
2014-15 SEASON
Godspell Jr.

FEATURING BEHIND THE SCENES

SOUTH PACIFIC



40th

ANNIVERSARY

A Word from the Producing Artistic Director

Nothing touches the heart, educates the mind, and lifts the spirit like a live performance.

For 40 years, Riverside has been fulfilling those goals. In return, patrons, like yourself, have supported and encouraged the theatre to continue to present Broadway caliber productions.

As we continue our celebratory season, I am pleased to present two unique and distinctive musicals: *South Pacific* on the Stark Stage and *Closer Than Ever* on the Waxlax Stage.

Considered one of the greatest shows in theatre history, *South Pacific* is not only filled with popular musical classics, but was also groundbreaking in its storytelling. Its message of racial acceptance didn't sit well with many in the late 40's and Rodgers and Hammerstein were encouraged to "tone-down" certain aspects of the show. They adamantly refused. Today, their message of cultural diversity and the richness that results still rings true. *South Pacific* is romantic, timeless, and empowering.

Closer Than Ever is a contemporary musical revue featuring the music and lyrics of David Shire and Richard Maltby Jr. Their collaborative work has been successful on Broadway and stages the world over, however, their individual accomplishments are probably better known. Shire has gained recognition writing film scores like "All the President's Men" and Maltby working on shows like *Miss Saigon*. *Closer Than Ever* is filled with twenty-four funny, wise, and witty songs about relational experiences we all share.

A year's worth of planning has gone into the productions highlighted in this issue of the Back Stage Pass. I hope you are as excited as we are to see them come to life on our stage.

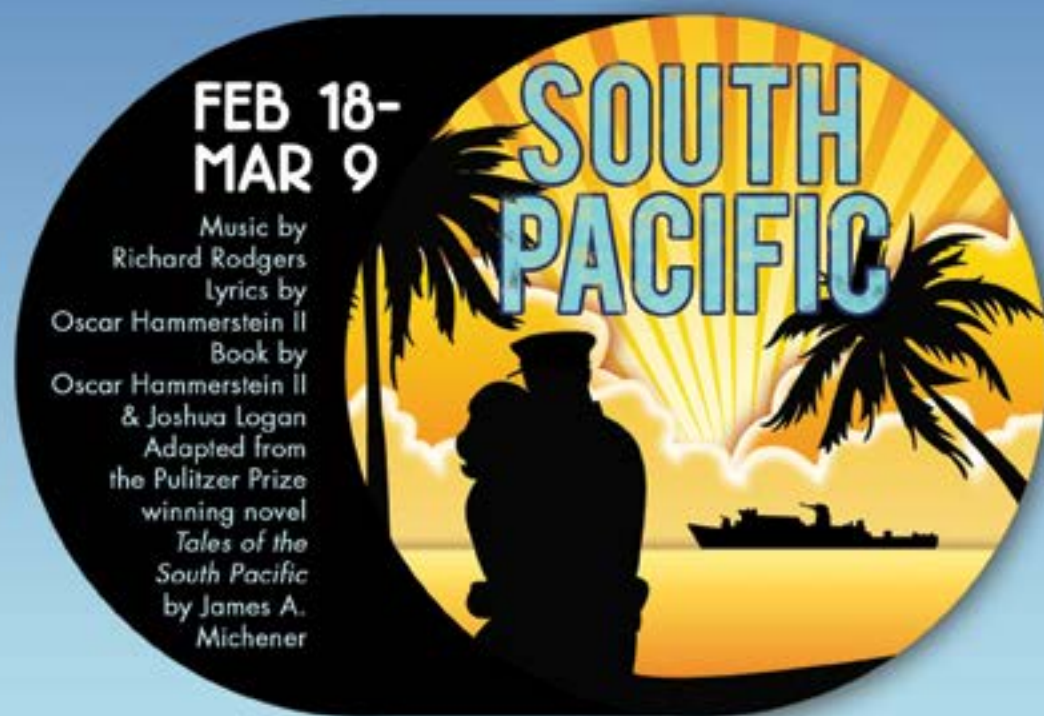
Enjoy!

Allen D. Cornell

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BEHIND THE SCENES OF



Directed by Allen D. Cornell

Considered one of the greatest musicals of all time, this award-winning classic is filled with some of Broadway's most beloved songs: "Bali Ha'i," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair," "Younger Than Springtime," "Some Enchanted Evening," and "I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy." Set on a tropical island and based on James Michener's *Tales of the South Pacific*, the musical tells the sweeping romantic story of two couples as they search for happiness through trying times and differing backgrounds. Winner of 10 Tony Awards, *South Pacific* is a Broadway classic.



2013-2014 SEASON SPONSORS



WORLD RENOWNED OPERA SINGER



DAVID PITTSINGER

as Emile de Becque

American bass-baritone David Pittsinger is renowned as a stage performer of the greatest distinction. He garnered critical praise for playing the role of Emile de Becque in the Lincoln Center revival of *South Pacific* in 2008. Having appeared on the world's leading opera and concert stages in Vienna, Salzburg, Brussels, Paris, Tanglewood, Pesaro, New York, Santa Fe, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, he is equally at home in baroque through contemporary operas, as well as musical theater. His vocal range and color are exceptionally wide-ranging, enabling him to perform a variety of repertoire and styles.

Performing in four live HD broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera, Mr. Pittsinger appeared as Comte des Grieux in *Manon* with Anna Netrebko, Le Spectre in *Hamlet*, Angelotti in *Tosca* and The Speaker in the Julie Taymor production of *The Magic Flute*, as well as the roles of Colline, Truelove and Achilla.

Recent role debuts include Roy Disney in Philip Glass' world premiere of *The Perfect American* at Madrid's Teatro Real. Upcoming debuts include Jochanaan in *Salome* by Strauss at Portland Opera and Marquis in *Les Dialogues des Carmélites* by Poulenc at the Metropolitan Opera.

Signature roles include the title role in Boito's *Meistersinger*, Mephistopheles in Gounod's *Faust*, The Villains in *Les Contes D'Hoffmann*, the title role in Massenet's *Don Quichotte*, the title role in *Don Giovanni*, the roles of Figaro and Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Nick Shadow in *The Rake's Progress*, Scarpia in *Tosca*, and Escamillo in *Carmen*.

Recent career highlights include creating the role of Eugene O'Neill in the world premiere of *Jeanne Tessori* and Tony Kushner's *A Blizzard On Marblehead Neck* at Glimmerglass Festival; making history by performing in The Met's *Hamlet* and on Broadway in Lincoln Center Theater's production of *South Pacific* in the same day; receiving the Helen Hayes nomination for "Best Leading Actor" as Emile de Becque in *South Pacific* (LCT National Tour | Kennedy Center); and appearing before the Supreme Court in a musicale for the Supreme Court Justices.

A Connecticut native and graduate of UCONN and the Yale School of Music, Mr. Pittsinger received the University of Connecticut School of Fine Arts Alumni Award in 2006. He resides on the Connecticut shoreline with his wife, soprano Patricia Schuman, and his twin children Maria and Richard.

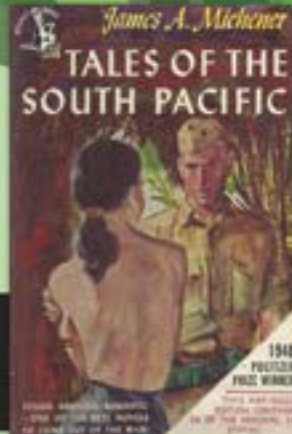


as Nellie Forbush

A graduate from Oklahoma City University with an MM in Music Theatre, Heather has had starring roles in various productions including: *Miss Saigon*, *Grease*, *Tarzan*, *Into The Woods*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Rapunzell Rapunzell*, *Call me Madam*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She has studied voice with Florence Birdwell, Jan McDaniel, and Joyce Guyer; acting with Jen Waldman, Mark Price, and Karen Miller; and is proficient in all forms of musical theatre dance.

MEET

JAMES MICHENER

Author of *TALES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC*

James Michener is best known for writing over 40 books, mostly sweeping multi-generational family sagas set around the world. He is noted for his meticulously researched historical facts, and cultural and geographical details. His novels, many of which were over 1,000 pages, include *Tales of the South Pacific*, *Hawaii*, *Chesapeake*, *Caribbean*, *Alaska*, *Texas*, *Poland*, *Caravans*, *The Drifter* and *The Source*.

He was born in 1907 and raised as a Quaker in Doylestown, Pennsylvania by his adoptive mother, Mabel Michener. He wrote that he had no knowledge of his biological parents or exactly when he was born. He attended Swarthmore College, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude. He pursued a master's degree in education from Colorado State Teachers College, and taught there for several years after graduation. In 1940, he taught at Harvard for one year prior to joining Macmillan Publishers as a social studies editor.

In 1942, he was called into the Navy and served as a Lieutenant Commander in the South Pacific. He received assignments as a naval historian because his base commanders mistakenly thought he was the son of Admiral Mitscher. It was this work that led to his first novel, *Tales of the South Pacific*, published in 1947, and winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1948. In 1949, the novel was adapted as the musical *South Pacific* by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Tales of the South Pacific was a series of sequential short stories, based on Michener's experiences serving in World War II. He served as a naval Lieutenant Commander on the island of Vanuatu, then known as Espiritu Santo Island in New Hebrides. Michener worked as a naval historian, so he was able to observe the big picture throughout his war service.

The stories brilliantly portrayed life in wartime: the waiting, selfless heroism, endless toil, vast and meticulous planning and logistics of a campaign, and the suddenness of death, loss and love. The story of Uta and U. Cable was based on Michener's encounter with a young marine from Alabama. The marine had married and had a child with a local Tonkinese woman, and was terrified to face the reaction of his bigoted family in America. He begged to stay and fight the Japanese fleet instead of going home.

Michener's novels sold over 75 million copies worldwide. He was extremely generous with his earnings, donating \$100,000,000. Among the beneficiaries were the University of Texas, the Iowa Writers Workshop, and Swarthmore College. With the royalties of the novel *Journey* he established the Canadian Journey Prize, \$10,000 awarded annually for the best short story by an emerging author.

Michener was married three times. His third marriage, to Mari Yoniko Sabusawa, lasted for 39 years until her death in 1994. He died in 1997 at the age of 90 after years of kidney disease. He is buried next to Mari in Austin, Texas.

Paratroopers
landing on
Dropzone (right)
Wings of
Glory Line
(below)



ORIGINAL CAST

History of South Pacific

Mary Martin
as Nellie



Ezio Pinza
as Emile



Composed by Richard Rodgers, with lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II and book by Hammerstein and Joshua Logan, *South Pacific* premiered on Broadway in 1949 and was an immediate hit, running for over 4.5 years and 1,925 performances. When *South Pacific* closed in 1954, it was the second longest running musical in Broadway history. The only show to have run longer at this point was Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!*

The musical, based on James A. Michener's 1947 book *Tales of the South Pacific*, primarily combines elements of two of the stories. Rodgers and Hammerstein believed that they could write a musical that would be financially successful and, at the same time, would send a strong message on racism.

Rodgers and Hammerstein set the musical in the Solomon Islands and combined the storylines of "Fo Dollah", about Bloody Mary, Liat, and Lieutenant Cable; and "Our Heroine," which was the story of Emile de Becque and Nellie Forbush. When the stories were adapted for the musical, the characters and details were merged and simplified for the stage. The stories were also modified in deference to mid twentieth century mores. As an example, in the book, Emile fathered eight mixed-race children from four different women, none of whom he married. In the musical, Emile had two mixed-race children from one wife who died.

The plot centers on an American nurse, Nellie Forbush, stationed on a South Pacific island during World War II who falls in love with a middle-aged French plantation owner, Emile de Becque, but struggles to accept his mixed-race children. The romance between a U.S. officer, Lieutenant Cable, and a young Tonkinese woman, Liat, also explores the difficulties of cultural differences as Lieutenant Cable fears the social consequences should he marry his Asian sweetheart. The issue of racial prejudice is candidly explored throughout the musical, but most poignantly expressed in the song, "You've Got to Be Carefully Taught."

The original Broadway production, starring Mary Martin as Nellie and Ezio Pinza as Emile, enjoyed immense critical and box-office success earning over \$1,000,000 in ticket sales days after the show opened. After they signed Pinza and Martin as the leads, Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote several of the songs with the particular talents of their stars in mind.

Winner of the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *South Pacific* had an equally successful five-year tour throughout the United States, but provoked controversy in the South because of its racial theme, for which its authors were unapologetic.

The Broadway production won 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score and Best Libretto, and is the only musical to win Tony Awards in all four acting categories. The original cast album was the best-selling record of the 1940s. The show has enjoyed many successful revivals and tours, spawning a 1958 film starring Rossano Brazzi and Mitzi Gaynor, and various television adaptations. The 2008 Broadway revival was a commercial and critical success winning seven Tonys, including Best Musical Revival.



Emile with Children
(Pinza)



Ezio Pinza, Barbara Luna,
Noel De Leon, Mary Martin,
in the final scene of the original
production of *South Pacific*



The "Thanksgiving Follies,"
from the original production.



Rodgers (left) and
Hammerstein (right),
with Irving Berlin (middle)
and Helen Tamiris,
watching auditions for
South Pacific at the
St. James Theatre in 1948.



BEHIND THE SCENES OF

Closer Than Ever

Directed by DJ Salisbury

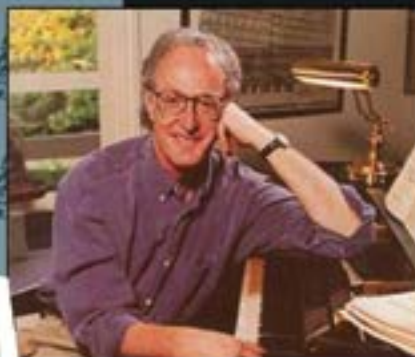
Music by David Shire

Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr.

MAR 11 - 23

As fresh today as when it was written, *Closer Than Ever* is a delightful, intimate, insightful musical about love and happiness and the holding on to both when the world pulls you in a hundred different directions. Featuring some of the most sophisticated and inventive songs ever written about people and relationships, this enchanting revue will make you laugh, cry, and bring you closer to the ones you love.

**OUTER
CRITICS'**
Circle Award for
BEST
OFF-BROADWAY
MUSICAL



David Shire

The Journey of the Musical

Closer Than Ever's delightful songs deal with love, happiness, aging, and life's challenges. Many of the songs are based on real life experiences and stories told through the music and lyrics of David Shire and Richard Maltby, Jr. The songs came from a portfolio compiled by Richard Maltby beginning in 1984, called the *Urban File*. *Urban File* contained songs cut from other musicals, musical ideas, philosophical observations, and biographical details.

Closer Than Ever originated as a cabaret act, *Next Time Now*, which had a successful run at the Greenwich Village nightclub, *Eighty-Eights*. The work was a critical success with both the public and critics, and Maltby and Shire decided to expand this product into a full evening-length show.

The full-scale version of the show went through a trial run at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts during the summer of 1989. Marcia Milgram Dodge, who has directed a few productions at *Riverside*, was hired to choreograph the expanded show. Well received by audiences, the show headed for New York City. *Closer Than Ever* opened at the Off-Broadway Cherry Lane Theatre in 1989, and ran for 312 performances. It won the Outer Critics Circle Award for the Best Off-Broadway musical as well as garnering Drama Desk nominations for Maltby and Shire.

The show has played at theaters across the country and had its London premier at the Bridewell Theatre in 2006. A recent Off-Broadway revival was well received by *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*.

Richard Maltby, Jr. was born in Ripon, Wisconsin in 1937, son of Virginia and Richard Maltby, Sr., a well known band leader. He is a director, producer, screenwriter, and constructor of cryptic crossword puzzles. He conceived and directed the only two musical revues to win Tony awards: *Ain't Misbehavin'* in 1978 and *Fosse* in 1999. He was co-lyricist for *Miss Saigon*.

David Shire was born in Buffalo, New York in 1937. He was the son of a well known society band leader. He attended Yale University where he met Richard, and to two have collaborated on theatrical projects ever since.

Shire scored many feature films including *All the President's Men*, *The Hindenburg*, *The Taking of Pelham One Two Three*, and *Zodiac*. He composed the original music for *Saturday Night Fever*. Shire and Norman Gimbel received an Academy Award for "It Goes Like It Goes," the theme song for *Norma Rae*. His songs have been recorded by Barbra Streisand, Pearl Bailey, and Johnny Mathis.



Richard Maltby, Jr. 9



PREMIERE BENEFIT

Feb. 17, 2014
SOLD OUT EVENT

SPONSORS

Broadway Circle
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Lincoln Circle
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Sonia and Ray McGowan
Marlynn and Bill Scully
Carol and Pat Welsh

Kennedy Circle
Barbara and David Baldwin
Mary Ann and Bill Becker
Nancy and Mel Goodes
Dave and Jayne Horner

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Rock City Gardens

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Wheatie Gibb, Judy Schneebeck,
Linda Teetz, Janet Tily

For additional information on this event, please contact
Michael Kohler, Event Coordinator at michaelk@riversidetheatre.com

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Perspective on National
and Global Affairs*



DR. ROBERT SCALES

February 24, 2014

Retired Army Major General

Retired General (Dr.) Robert Scales is one of America's best known and most respected authorities on land warfare. Immediately after retirement from the Army, he was appointed President and CEO of Walden University. He is currently President of Colgen, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in issues relating to landpower, wargaming and strategic leadership.



Prior to joining the private sector, Dr. Scales served over 30 years in the Army, retiring as a Major General. He commanded two units in Vietnam, winning the Silver Star for action during the battles around Dong Ap Bia (Hamburger Hill) during the summer of 1969. Subsequently, he served in command and staff positions in the United States, Germany, and Korea and ended his military career as Commandant of the United States Army War College. In 1995, he created the Army After Next program which was the Army's first attempt to build a strategic game and operational concept for future land warfare. He has written and lectured on warfare to academic, government, military, and business groups in the United States and around the world.

UPCOMING LECTURERS



March 17, 2014
Leon Panetta
Secretary of
Defense



March 31, 2014
Robert D. Kaplan
Geopolitical Analyst

Photo by Maryna Wanstam

Call the Box Office at 772-231-6990 to check on ticket availability.

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Tuesday, April 15, 2014

MOTION:

**China poses the greatest threat
to the United States in the 21st century.**

So much to do...

Some WEEKEND Suggestions for You!

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY FEB 15

10:00a

Antiques and Collectibles Show at Garden Club

10:00a

Thunder on the Beach Powwow at Fair Grounds

1:30p



SATURDAY FEB 22

11:00a

Kidz ArtShop at Vero Beach Museum of Art

12:00p

Intro. to Wood Burning with Joe Miller at McKee Gardens

1:00p

Thinking Outside the Vase with Lynn Fleming at Vero Beach Museum of Art

1:30p



7:30p & 9:30p
The Comedy Zone



2:00 & 8:00p



SUNDAY FEB 16

10:00a

Antiques and Collectibles Show at Garden Club

10:00a

Art in the Park at Humiston Park

12:00p

Intro. to Wood Burning with Joe Miller at McKee Gardens

1:30p



SUNDAY FEB 23

10:00a

Art in the Park at Humiston Park

1:30p



2:00p



SATURDAY MAR 8

10:00a

63rd Annual the Oaks Show at Riverside Park

10:30a

Edible Landscapes and Sustainable Maintenance Workshop at McKee Gardens

11:00a

Turtle Tours at Vero Beach Museum of Art

2:00p & 8:00p



SUNDAY MAR 9

10:00a

63rd Annual the Oaks Show at Riverside Park

2:00p



MARCH

SATURDAY MAR 22

2:00p

Health Benefits of Dark Chocolate by Gina Battle at McKee Gardens

2:00p & 8:00p



SUNDAY MAR 23

10:00a

Art in the Park at Humiston Park

2:00p



SATURDAY MAR 15

8:30a & 10:30a

Princess Breakfast at RCT

10:30a

Botanical-Inspired Beaded Jewelry at McKee Gardens

2:00p & 8:00p



5:30p
Sunset Saturday Night at Humiston Park

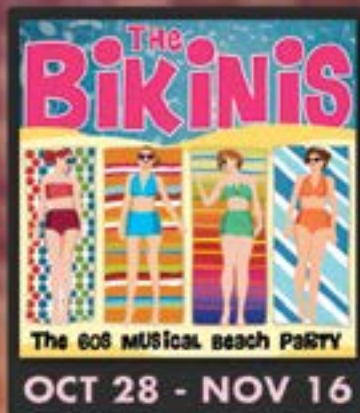
The Orchid Lobby

SEE PAGE 21 for our ORCHID LOBBY EVENTS

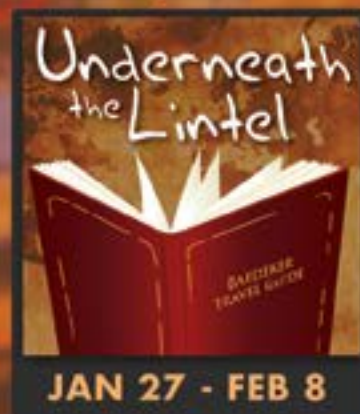
Wine & Chocolate Tastings

FREE Live Music

ON THE STARK STAGE



ON THE WAXLAX STAGE



2014-2015 SEASON TICKETS

▶ RENEWALS: JAN 14 to MAR 16

To renew your same Seats and Performance Days / Times ("seats"), just call or visit the Box Office! Your Tickets will be issued immediately.

*NOTE: Even if you plan to change your seats, renew prior to **March 17** so that you will have your current seats, should an acceptable change not be available.*

*If you do not renew your seats prior to **March 17**, they will be RELEASED to the public.*

▶ ALL CHANGES: MAR 17 to 31

This special two-week period has been added for your convenience. To change your Seats and/or Performance Days / Times, call or visit the Box Office. Requests will be accommodated upon receipt (first come, first served). Your tickets will be issued immediately.

*Again, we encourage you to renew your current seats prior to **March 17** to guarantee that you retain your current seats, should an acceptable change not be available.*

▶ NEW SEASON TICKETS: APR 1

New Season Ticket purchasers can select Seats and Performance Days / Times based on availability. Tickets will be issued immediately.

▶ SINGLE TICKETS: Beginning JUL 7

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- ▶ Better Seating Selection!
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SEASON SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS

We are offering you a priority opportunity to RENEW your Season Tickets at current prices!



THE CAST

FEB 7 - 23, 2014 DIRECTED BY KEVIN QUILLINAN



Skyler Granito as Jesus & Alex Martino as John the Baptist/Judas

We are very excited to be presenting a classic show in a new student based format with *Godspell JR!* Originally performed on Broadway in 1971, *Godspell* is a perennial favorite for schools and theatres. As the first professional show of composer Stephen Schwartz, it contains many classic songs like "Day by Day" and "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord." Based on the Gospel according to Matthew, this is a fun and inventive approach to the stories and parables of Jesus.

This JR adaptation contains song keys that suit younger voices and runs for only an hour, which is friendlier to younger attention spans! Whereas the original show was performed by only nine actors, *Godspell JR* has been adapted to include many more performers, which is important for our program, since RCT strives to introduce the joys of performing to as many students as we can.

With a big cast and wide age range, from 8 through 18, RCT strives to present shows as polished as possible. We are first and foremost a learning institution and our process is always education based. Our shows are a great way for our students to work together and build off the talents of both new and seasoned performers. Some of our talented cast members are choreographing a few songs. I am most excited for our cast to expand their talents and leadership skills, and learn different angles in putting together a show.

Godspell JR is also our selection for the 2014 Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta. We have participated in this festival since 2009, which is always an incredible, unique experience. Our students perform fifteen minutes of the show and get constructive feedback from theatre professionals. We are proud to offer our students this unique learning experience year after year!

The kids have embraced this great show and love its music. We look forward to sharing this fun, classic show with audiences of all ages this February!

- Kevin Quillinan



princess Breakfast

MAR 15, 2014 at 8:30a & 10:30a

A new event, little ones are treated to an enchanting morning of breakfast, entertainment, and a chance to meet RCT royalty. Costumes, tiaras and ball gowns are welcome!

Sponsored by Once Upon a Tea Party

RCT ON THE GO



Sponsored in part by Quail Valley Charities



Acting Interns Caroline Davis, Allen Niles, & Camille Jenkins

Taking live theatre to local schools has been a part of the mission at Riverside Children's Theatre for over 30 years. That effort has greatly expanded through RCT on the Go, now in its second year. This new theatre troupe is made up of three performers/educators who share their knowledge of the theatrical arts with local school children through performances and workshops relevant to classroom curriculum. Directed by Jeff Horger, an instructor/director at RCT, RCT on the Go members Caroline Davis, Camille Jenkins, and Allen Niles have been busy this fall presenting their repertoire of four shows and are on track to exceed last year's number of 10,000 total students served. The RCT on the GO troupe has also been selected to perform this coming March at the South Eastern Theatre Conference, the largest theatre conference in the United States.



The COMEDY ZONE

FEB 21, 22 • APR 4, 5

FREE LIVE MUSIC
begins at 6:30p & 8:30p

UPCOMING ARTISTS

FEB 21 Wiley Nash Band
FEB 22 Sweet Chariots
APR 4 Kilt the Messenger
APR 5 Blue Cypress Bluegrass



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Join us and taste featured selections of the season.
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FEB 20, 27, & MAR 6 | 6 - 6:45p



FREE LIVE MUSIC
before the show
FEB 21, 28, & MAR 7 at 6:30p

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Riverside Theatre adds to the appeal of living in Indian River County and contributes to the economic vitality of the community.

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\$50

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Ticket purchases do not cover our operating costs. Memberships ensure that programs continue without cutbacks, and help sustain the educational programs and performance excellence you expect.

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Watch on: RiversideTheatre.com

- Show Rehearsals
- Director's Commentary
- Production Scenes
- And More



Cost of Love a Piano

VIDEOS

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- Performance Info/Dates

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Board Certified Vascular Surgeon
Recognized as a "Top Vascular Surgeon"
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Virginia Fegert, M.D.
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VeinTherapies is a full service laser facility offering varicose, spider and facial vein treatment, nail fungus treatment, dark spot correction, scar reduction, wrinkle reduction, collagen production and hair removal.

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