



## *March 2012*

### ***SEASON OPENS WITH "STEEL MAGNOLIAS"***

Replacing *Marsupials in Action* which suffered casting problems, BLT will open its 2012 season with the much loved theater classic, *Steel Magnolias*. Since rehearsals of necessity started late, the dates of the show's run have changed. *Steel Magnolias* will open on Friday, March 16 and play for 3 successive weekends through Sunday, April 1. Please note that the production will not perform on Saturday, March 17, making room for the first presentation of *The Old Thyme* and *New Review* on the BLT stage. (more information below)

*Steel Magnolias* features a cast of some of the theater's most accomplished and best loved actresses. Terri Upton, remembered for her stunning performance in *Tea and Sympathy*, will play beauty salon maven, Truvy. Elly Leidner, a familiar face in many BLT productions and recently seen at Hendersonville Little Theatre as Margot in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, will play Annelle, the new girl in town. The role of Claree, former wife of the mayor, will be played by Nita Porter who wowed audiences as Crystal Hare in the BLT production of *Hallelujah Girls*. Those who saw *Anything Goes* and/or *Annie* at BLT will remember Candice Brown who plays the role of Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*. Lyn O'Hare, remembered for her lovely performance in *I Ought To Be In Pictures*, takes on the role of Shelby's mother, the pillar of the community, M'Lynn. And finally, the role of the persnickety and outspoken Ouiser will feature Carol Hamann, star of many C.A.T.S. productions and last seen at BLT in *Spitfire Grille*.

Al Edick who has been responsible for directing several of BLT's recent very successful musicals and comedies has come out of self-inflicted retirement to direct *Steel Magnolias*, assisted by his wife, Maureen, and Mary Lou Morrison as co-producers. Crew for this show includes Liz Malzone, Stage Manager; Catherine

Porter, Properties Mistress; Ron Turinske, Set Designer, painter and Builder; Mark Henry, co-set builder; Mary Lou Morrison, co-set painter; Sonia Arnold, Costumer; Mariano Raigo, Sound/Lighting Operator; Cameron Austin, Lighting Designer; Bob Stacy, Sound Designer and Sherry Hunter, Hair/wig consultant.

We are also indebted to Sherry's salon, Charm and Glamour for lending us salon furniture and equipment to render our set truly authentic!

### ***BLT BOX OFFICE STREAMLINES***

After several years of faithful service and a lot of hard work as Box Office Manager, Joe Narsavage has gone on to better things. Maureen Edick, who replaces Joe as Box Office Manager, has announced several changes involving show ticket sales. To save patrons from waiting in long lines prior to attending performances, the BLT Board has OK'd a reduction of \$2 for tickets reserved and paid for prior to the evening or afternoon of the performance the patron will attend. This can be done over the phone with a credit card or by dropping into the box office on Thursday or Friday mornings. The Box Office at the theater will now be open from **11am to 1pm** on Thursdays and Fridays, starting a week before opening night and continuing through the last week of the production run. So, prepaid tickets will now be \$14 and \$8 for adults and full time students, respectively. Tickets bought on the evening or afternoon of a performance will remain \$16 and \$10.

For those of you who are members of the **International Dining Club**, you may now buy 2 BLT show tickets for the price of one. To do this, an IDC coupon marked with the BLT logo must be presented at the Box Office in exchange for the two tickets.

### ***OPENING NIGHT PARTIES TO CONTINUE***

According to Opening Night Party Coordinator, Sonia Arnold, **The Quarry** restaurant and lounge will assist BLT by providing appetizers for the theater's 2012 Opening Night parties. We are delighted to have their help and look forward to a year of delicious gatherings. In addition, **The Quarry**, located across the street from the theater, will offer BLT patrons a 10% discount on meals the day of the performance to be attended. To get this break in price, a ticket or ticket stub must be presented to your server at the restaurant. The theater also wants to

extend a huge thank you to **Earthshine Mountain Lodge** for hosting these parties during the 2011 season. The food was great and the service was exceptional.

### ***OLD THYME AND NEW REVIEW COMES TO BLT***

One of Transylvania County's favorite music events is coming to BLT beginning Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9pm. *The Old Thyme and New Review* is a variety show featuring music, storytelling, skits, jazz, swing, folk and blue grass music. Co-sponsored by BLT and WSQL Radio and produced by Michael Collins, this is an event not to be missed. Three different bands will be playing for your entertainment along with three other acts between sets. The event will be broadcast live on WSQL. The entire family is welcome. Beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks will be available for sale. Admission is a suggested donation of \$5 at the door. Future dates are April 21<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>. This event will be a fundraiser to benefit the theater. So, we encourage all our patrons to come and enjoy the music, while contributing to the continuing excellence of BLT productions.

### ***NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

The BLT Annual Meeting was held on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Outgoing President, Mark Thompson, reviewed the highlights of BLT activities since our last meeting. These are covered in this newsletter.

The following new Board members were elected: Dick Thompson, Maureen Edick, Nita Porter, Amy Jo Riddick, Jim Robinson, Patrice Robinson, Whitney Smith, John Whitmore, Sandra Whitmore and Bob Stacy. They join the current Board members: June Stacy, Al Edick, Mark Henry and George Poor. The new Officers are: President, Mark Henry; Vice-President, Bob Stacy and Treasurer, Dick Thompson. They join current Secretary, June Stacy. Lyn O'Hare is the new Artistic Director. Thanks were extended to outgoing president, Mark Thompson and Vice-President, Sonia Arnold.

The evening ended with socializing with desserts and coffee. This year the Annual Meeting and Awards Event are scheduled on separate dates. The awards will be given out on Friday evening, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the theatre.

## ***DANCING WITH OUR STARS IS HUGE SUCCESS***



Dancing With Our Stars, held on February 11<sup>th</sup> was a huge success financially and socially. Packed to the rafters, everyone had a fabulous time cheering on their favorite dancers. Winners were Kristen Pangle and James Dodson.

## ***OLD NEWS***

Since it has been a year since the last issue of *The Spotlight* some news items may have slipped through the cracks.

**New Play Competition:** Since our patrons have shown a marked preference for better-known plays, the New Play Competition was canceled as of 2011.

**Legion Hall Windows:** A private donation covered the cost of covering the Legion windows with foamcore. This darkens the hall for daytime performances.

**Bingo:** Bingo was discontinued due to a lack of volunteers. The equipment was sold.

**Air Conditioning:** Starting last summer, thanks to the American Legion, the theater was blessed with the addition of a very efficient air conditioning system.

**Keir:** We stopped renting space at Keir warehouse which saves a great deal of money.

**Storage:** Without the Keir space, new storage had to be added to the Legion hall. A staircase was built leading to a costume room over the box office. An extension to the stage provides much needed additional storage.

**Power:** Additional power has been brought in from the street, allowing BLT to present shows with a much improved lighting system, devoid of flickering lights during performances.

**Heat:** A shout out to the Legion for adding heat in the theater's public rest rooms that makes them much cozier for our patrons.

**Seat cushions:** We now offer seat cushions to our patrons on request. Donations for same are always appreciated.

**Renovations:** A sink was installed in the basement that we can use to wash our paint brushes and rollers in, and not need to use the sink in the canteen. More pipes were installed to hang our surplus lighting instruments thus creating more space in the electrical equipment room. A new combination lock has been installed on the front door.

## ***RENT BLT'S THEATRE SPACE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT***

Did you know that BLT's theatre space at the historic American Legion Hall is available to rent when it is not being used by BLT? For further information or to book a date for your event, call Jerry Arnold at 828-883-2029.

**Reservations and  
Information Line:**

**828-884-2587**

**Brevard Little Theatre is the  
Official Community Theatre of  
Transylvania County**

[www.brevardlittletheatre.com](http://www.brevardlittletheatre.com)

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