



On Stage

— With summer right around the corner, now is the time to start marking your calendar for upcoming activities and events. The staff at the Robson Performing Arts Center is planning a summer full of family entertainment as they announce the center's first summer season.

"Three musicals make up the summer faire starting with Meredith Willson's 'Music Man' on June 8-9 at 8 p.m.," said Ruby Quinn, Robson PAC executive director. "Some people may remember the hit 1962 movie with Robert Preston and Shirley Jones. The stage version is full of the same great songs and toe-tapping numbers."

The "Music Man" follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band that he vows to organize — 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. Featuring such memorable songs as "76 Trombones"; "Marian the Librarian"; "Ya Got Trouble"; "The Wells Fargo Wagon"; and "Gary, Indiana," the show is a must see for people of all ages. It will be performed by the Light Opera of Oklahoma.

Spend time with another childhood icon as "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" takes the stage July 20-22 with matinees at 2 p.m. and an evening performance at 8:00. The classic musical based on Charles M. Schulz's "Peanuts" comic strip is taken directly from Schulz's funny pages. Delightful musical numbers comment on Charlie Brown's situations, allowing charismatic performers to bring cartoon characters to three-dimensional life.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" was re-imagined by its creative team and helped make a star of Oklahoma's own Kristin Chenoweth when it was revised on Broadway in 1999. The Broadway director Michael Mayer visited with Charles M. Schulz to get his blessing on the revision. Mr. Schulz gave Mayer access to his cartoons and the result was thorough.

Playing the same extended weekend as "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" is the musical comedy, "Smoke On The Mountain," July 19 and 21 at 8 p.m. This smash hit for nine seasons has been a dazzling jewel of Branson and has quickly become one of the most popular musical comedies in the country.

What happens when you mix an overly-eager pastor, a musical family called the Sanctified Sanders Singers, and a couple of pesky June bugs? You get an evening of chaotic comedy, a soul-lifting story, and some of the best bluegrass gospel music ever in "Smoke on the Mountain."

"We're very excited to be offering our first summer season," Quinn said.

Season tickets are on sale now at the Center's box office.

"A season ticket not only saves the patrons money as the tickets are discounted," said Box Office Manager Pamela Neuok, "it also gives them the opportunity to have first choice of seating, and it also prevents them from making multiple trips to the box office."

Volunteer ushers, publicity and box office help, and technicians are always welcome at the Robson PAC.

"I have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people in Claremore," Quinn said, "as they not only attend shows here at the center, but also as they donate their time in helping out the center. We've had a wonderful year full of great shows from our young people of Claremore; it's been a true pleasure. As we continue to welcome sponsors, I look forward to bringing in many musical and theatrical favorites to the center."

Copyright © 1999-2006 cnhi, inc.

Photos

