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MADogram **July, 2009**

ANNIE Auditions!

Auditions for MAD's 2009 Fall Musical, ANNIE, will be held in the Building 3 auditorium at 6:30 pm on the evenings of July 21-23 (Tuesday through Thursday). Callbacks, if needed, will be held on Monday, July 27, at the same time and place. The Production Staff includes: John Degnan, Director; Jen Retterer, Assistant Director; Gerry Daelemans, Producer; Chris Wells, Music Director; and Betsy Edwards, Choreographer.

ANNIE offers plenty of opportunities for performers of all ages – from children to seniors – and all skill levels – from novices to veterans. A brief description of the lead and feature characters follows. Auditioners for lead or feature roles will be asked to sing a solo excerpt from the song title in parentheses below:

Annie – female orphan and star of the show , ~12 yrs old (“Tomorrow”)
Oliver Warbucks – Billionaire financier who wants to adopt Annie (“Something was Missing”)
Grace – Warbucks’ female personal secretary (You’re Gonna Like It Here”)
Hannigan – Woman who reluctantly runs the orphanage (“Little Girls”)
Drake – Warbucks’ senior manservant (“You’re Gonna Like It Here”)
Molly – youngest and smallest orphan , ~6 yrs old (“Tomorrow”)
Pepper – Toughest orphan , ~12 yrs old (“Tomorrow”)
Kate – next youngest orphan , ~7 yrs old (“Tomorrow”)
July – quietest orphan , ~13 yrs old (“Tomorrow”)
Tessie – the “cry-baby” orphan , ~10 yrs old (“Tomorrow”)
Duffy – largest orphan , ~13 yrs old (“Tomorrow”)
Rooster – Hannigan’s con artist brother (“Easy Street”)
Lily – Rooster’s girl friend (“Easy Street”)
Mrs. Greer, Mrs. Pugh, Cecille, and Annette – featured servants in the Warbucks mansion (“You’re Gonna Like It Here”)
Lt. Ward – a police officer (Chorus)
FDR – President of the United States (“Tomorrow”)
Bert Healy – a radio personality (“You’re Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile”)
Boylan Sisters – Radio singing trio (“You’re Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile”)

In addition to the 23 lead and feature roles listed above, there are an additional 25 named bit parts (both male and female) that have lines and/or small solo or group singing roles in 1 or 2 scenes. These include members of FDR’s cabinet and the residents of NYC and Hooverville. Bit parts will be assigned to chorus members. Chorus candidates will be asked to sing “We’d Like to Thank You, Herbert Hoover” in a group. All auditioners will also be taught a simple dance routine, also in group. For more details, audition scenes, and music excerpts, please visit the Members Only section of the MAD web site at <http://www.madtheater.org/>.

Full rehearsals will be held Monday through Thursday between 6:30 and 9:30 pm following a readthrough at the Goddard Recreation Center on Saturday, August 15. Production dates are Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from October 23 through November 21. Friday and Saturday performances begin at 8 pm except for the matinee on Halloween. The Halloween and Sunday matinees are scheduled for 2:30 pm. Actors' call is one hour before each performance.

Parents are forewarned that the character Annie appears in 12 of the 14 scenes and has major acting, singing, and dancing rehearsal commitments. The other six orphans typically appear in 4 scenes (Molly has 5) but they also have two song and dance routines of their own – i.e. “It’s a Hard Knock Life” and “You’re Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile” – and also appear in the final chorus number. Every effort will be made to release children and chorus members as early as possible, except when we begin full runs of the acts and shows in the final weeks of rehearsal. Parents whose children are cast in the show are strongly encouraged to participate in the production in some fashion, either onstage or off, and/or to participate with other parents in monitoring the children during rehearsals and performances.

2010 Winter Show – Call for Director

It's that time of year again to start getting ready for the next Winter show. MAD is looking for a director and show package for the 2010 Winter show. A drama, comedy or small cast musical may be submitted. New directors are always welcome! Directors may submit one or more shows for consideration. A copy of the script for any submitted show should be submitted with the application. Please send all applications to Courtney Ritz at Courtney.L.Ritz@nasa.gov or call 301-286-7946 by August 31, 2009. For more information, please contact Courtney at the above contact information.

MAD About Town

Jen Retterer is associate producer and cellist for this year's Wildwood Summer Theater production, “The Pajama Game.” Show dates are July 17th, 18th, 24th, 25th, 31st and August 1st at 7:30 and July 26th at 1:30, with shows being held at Bethesda–Chevy Chase High School. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for students/seniors. For more information, visit www.wst.org.

PGLT is holding auditions for its' October 2009 production, “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,” by Tennessee Williams, directed by **Erica Drezek**. The play takes place in a plantation house, a family celebrates the sixty-fifth birthday of Big Daddy. The mood is somber, despite the festivities, because a number of evils poison the gaiety: greed, sins of the past and desperate, clawing hopes for the future. Cast: 8 men, 5 women, 4 children: 17 total, Auditions: August 3rd and 4th, 2009, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at: New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton, MD. Performances: October 16–24, 2009 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday). Performances at the Bowie Playhouse, White Marsh Park, 6314 Crain Hwy., Bowie, MD 20715,. Audition information: For more information call the director, Erica Drezek, at 301-758-2780, or email erica.drezek@nasa.gov.

Anne Staunton Adams and her home in Maryland will be featured in an upcoming episode of Home & Garden Television's new show – “Real Estate Intervention.” The episode -- titled “A Peachy Move” -- deals with Anne's move to Atlanta and the challenges in selling a house in our current real estate market. Information on the show and the air dates can be found at HGTV.com at <http://www.hgtv.com/real-estate-intervention/a-peachy-move/index.html>.

Jerry Khatcheresian is in 2nd Star Productions' next show, Neil Simon's "The Dinner Party." It will be performed weekends September 4 through September 19, 2009. A serious comedy from the master of American comedy, six people (three men and three women) are individually invited to dinner in a fancy French restaurant by a mutual friend. They do not know who the other guests will be, or even why they have been invited. Turns out that each of the three couples is divorced (one couple twice), and the person who invited them (never appears) thinks they should have a chance at reconciliation.

Tim MacMillan, son of **Celeste MacMillan** and brother of **Dan MacMillan**, has written two plays that have been chosen by the New York International Fringe Festival for this year's festival. Those who participated in MAD's 1997 Spring Drama Show, may remember that Tim ran lights for that show. The New York International Fringe Festival (FringeNYC) is the largest multi-arts festival in the United States and will run August 14 - 30. For more information about the festival, the venues, the ticket prices and reservations, you can go to the website at www.fringenyc.org. Out of over 3,600 plays that are submitted annually, only 200 plays are chosen. Tim has the unique distinction of being the only playwright to have two of his plays performed in the same FringeNYC festival. His two plays are titled "Photosynthesis" and "Breathe". If by chance you should be in New York at that time please go see his plays. Below you will find a schedule for both shows:

"Breathe," Produced by: Aim High Productions; Location: The New School for Drama Theater, 151 Bank Street, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10014; Friday, August 14, 7:30 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.; Sunday, August 16, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.; Saturday, August 22, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, August 23, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday, August 26, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

"Photosynthesis," Produced by: never assume productions; Location: The Cherry Pit, 155 Bank Street, New York, NY, 10014; Saturday, August 15, 9:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.; Wednesday, August 19, 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, August 22, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Tuesday, August 25, 5:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.; Wednesday, August 26, 9:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

MAD Update

Kathy Nieman's mother, Jean K. Woodhouse, died on June 25 after a brief illness at Prince Georges Hospital. She had lived at Rexford Place for the last three months after living in her own house for 23 years. She was 81 years old and a great supporter of MAD shows (especially if Kathy and Ron were in them). She most recently attended the spring show in June. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in College Park on June 29.