The Community Theatre of Howell Announces Auditions for…

August 12 & August 13, 2011

August 10, 2011 Dance Workshop

Highly Recommended but Optional

See Detailed Audition Schedule Below

Book by David Ives and Paul Blake; Music by Irving Berlin

The Community Theatre of Howell is pleased to announce auditions for the fall musical,

Irving Berlin's, "*White Christmas*"

Based on the beloved film, this heartwarming adaptation of *White Christmas* features a brilliant stream of classic Irving Berlin songs. WWII vets, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, have a successful song-and-dance act after the war. They follow two attractive young ladies to a Vermont inn where the girls are going to perform their "Sisters" act. The innkeeper turns out to be Bob and Phil's former commanding general. The boys decide to rustle up some business for the snow-less ski lodge by bringing in their New York variety show. Complications ensue, but of course all ends well. Filled with interesting characters, lots of laughter, toe-tapping dance numbers, and a dazzling score with such standards as "Blue Skies," "Count Your Blessings," "I Love a Piano," and "White Christmas," this is a show your entire family will love – the perfect way to start your holiday season.

"WHITE CHRISTMAS has 'hit' stamped all over it…there just aren't enough superlatives for this irresistible show."

This musical offers various roles for all ages (see character descriptions on the following pages). Auditions will be held Friday evening and Saturday, **August 12th and 13th , 2011** at the Community Theatre of Howell which is located at the **Howell High School Freshman Campus, 1400 West Grand River Howell, Michigan**

Wednesday, August 10th, 2011
AUDITION DANCE WORKSHOP
(Highly recommended but optional)
Community Theatre of Howell, Howell Freshman Campus
6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. ~ Children's chorus and the role of Susan
7:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. ~ Dance Ensemble – Jazz/Modern
8:15 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Tap ~ All auditioning for tap production numbers

Friday, August 12th, 2011
CHILDREN'S AUDITION
Entering 1st grade through 8th grade in Fall 2011
6:00 p.m. - Registration and Instruction
6:30 p.m. ~ 7:00 p.m. – Vocal instruction, "White Christmas"
7:00 p.m. ~7:30 p.m. – Review Dance
7:30 p.m. ~ Dance & Vocal Auditions
All auditions for "Susan" will follow
(Susan auditions - Sing "Let me Sing and I'm Happy" and readings)
No auditionees will be accepted after 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 13th, 2011
ADULT AUDITIONS
Supporting Roles, Tap and Dance Ensemble and Vocal Chorus
Entering 9th grade in Fall 2011 through Adult
9:30 a.m. ~10:00 a.m. – Registration and Instruction
10:00 a.m. ~12:30 p.m. – Dance & Vocal Auditions
12:30 p.m. ~ 2:00 Lunch Break
2:00 p.m. ~ Readings
No auditionees will be accepted after 10:00 a.m.

ADDITIONAL AUDITION INFORMATION

Youth (Grades 1st through 8th) - Friday, August 12th, 2011

- Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.
- All children are asked to bring a recent school photo or they may be printed ahead of time on the audition form. (Photos cannot be returned.)
- Youth should come prepared to sing a portion of "White Christmas". You may also sing a song of your choice. A pianist will be available.
- Everyone will be asked to learn some simple dance steps.
- Please wear loose clothing and soft shoes (NO FLIP FLOPS)

Adults (Grades 9th through Adult) Saturday, August 13, 2011

- Doors will open at 9:00 a.m.
- Please provide a picture, and if you have a resume, please feel free to bring it as well.
- If you are interested in one of the principal characters (see character descriptions), you will be asked to sing portions of specific songs from the show. (Please see character descriptions)
- A pianist will be provided.
- Everyone will be asked to learn some simple dance steps. You will need tap shoes if you are auditioning for Tap Ensemble.
- For those interested in speaking roles, you will be asked to perform some readings from the script.
- Please wear loose clothing and soft shoes (NO FLIP FLOPS)

ITEMS OF NOTE:

- The audition form will be available on our website if you wish to complete it prior to arrival.

Scripts and vocal selections are available to check out for one week ($20.00) deposit by emailing Producer Linda Peasley at lpeasley@umich.edu or by calling her cell phone (517) 294-0738

Artistic questions may be addressed to the director Vera Cunningham at (517) 548-3605 or email vcunningham@comcast.net

Audition forms are available on our website: www.cththeatre.org

Sunday, August 14, 2011

Cast list posted by 6:00 p.m. on back door of the theatre and on our website (www.cththeatre.org)

REHEARSALS

August 15, 2011 through November 11, 2011
Usually beginning at 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. with some Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Parent volunteers are expected and necessary to assure a positive and safe experience for your children during rehearsals

ACTOR ROUNDUP

All actors required to attend
Monday, August 15, 2011 and Tuesday, August 16, 2011
6:30 p.m. both evenings
You will receive production and performance information
Fees due at this time
Read Act I and Act II

Character Descriptions for White Christmas

***White Christmas* – CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS**

General Henry Waverly (older) A retired U.S. Army General, adjusting to returning to civilian life in post World War II America. Once a powerful leader, he now struggles to run a struggling inn in Vermont. He remains a man of great principle and dignity. Beneath his curmudgeonly military exterior lies a warm, compassionate man in need of family and love.
*He sings a portion of one song, but this is a non-dancing role.
Song: *Count Your Blessings, White Christmas*

Martha Watson (variable age) Once a Broadway star, now the General's housekeeper and receptionist at the inn. Martha has a very dry, wry, wisecracking sense of humor. Bighearted but rather unsentimental, she runs the General's life in spite of his protestations. She is an irrepressible meddler, but always for what she believes to be the other guy's best interests.
*A winning, appealing character-comedienne with a clarion belt voice
Song: *Let Me Sing and I'm Happy*

Susan Waverly (9-15 years old, must play and appear as a 9-year-old) The General's granddaughter visiting from her home in California, Susan is a lovable and outgoing real kid. She is very smart, wise beyond her years, and cares deeply about her grandfather. She has been bitten hard by the showbiz bug and demonstrates everything that is winning but not self-conscious in the ultimate child performer.
*She must have an excellent belt voice, and be able to move well.
Song: *Let Me Sing and I'm Happy*
*(*Note – this role **may** be double-cast.)

Ralph Sheldrake (variable age) Army buddy of Bob and Phil's, now a major television executive with the Ed Sullivan Show. Fast-talking New York professional.
*Baritone (he will be singing and possibly dancing in some of the production numbers)
Song: *White Christmas*

Rita and Rhoda (variable age) Bob and Phil's two star chorus girls; they are brash, sexy and fun, although perhaps not the smartest.
*Sing passably well and must move well
Song: *White Christmas*

Ezekiel Foster (variable age) The ultimate taciturn New Englander who helps out at the inn and takes life at a very slow pace; definitely has a wry sense of humor; may be double-cast with the role of Snoring Man
*This is non-singing, non-dancing role, but if cast with a singer, might be in some chorus vocal numbers
Song: *White Christmas*

Mike (variable age) Bob and Phil's Stage Manager. Has a tendency to be over-dramatic and completely hysterical, but will get things done. Never seen without his whistle and clipboard which he uses to attempt to keep order.
*This is a non-singing, non-dancing role, but if cast with a singer, might be in some chorus vocal numbers
Song: *White Christmas*

Children's Chorus – (ages 6-13) Will be in two production numbers, *Snow* and the finale, *White Christmas/I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm.* Will be singing in the lobby prior to the show and at intermission.
*Must be good singers and able to move well
Song: *White Christmas*

Vocal Chorus – members that sing in the Train Scene, Inn scenes, finale, Clubgoers, patrons of the Regency Room, **basically non-dancing roles**, but a part of all the larger scenes. For the finale there will be movement for the Chorus but not the major dancing that the Tap and Dance Ensemble will do.
Song: *Blue Skies, White Christmas*

Ensemble – **Male and female Tap Ensemble and Dance Ensemble of dancers; (**need to be able to play the age of a chorus actor from 1954 – able to appear approximately 16 yrs old) There will be several styles of dance including jazz, tap and ballroom; also will be singing in the major production numbers. All men and women auditioning for the Tap Ensemble need to wear tap shoes for the audition, as well as clothes that allow you to move freely for the dance portions. Tap Ensemble will be in the two tap numbers, *I Love a Piano* and *Happy Holidays/Let Yourself Go.* Dance Ensemble will be in *Blue Skies* along WITH the Tap Ensemble.
Songs: *Blue Skies, White Christmas*

Ensemble/Chorus supporting roles:

- **Tessie** - Bob and Phil's extremely competent assistant
- **Jimmy –** the proprietor of Jimmy's Back Room, a none-too-classy nightclub
- **Cigarette Girl**
- **Snoring Man –** Song: *Snow* (has solo lines)
- **Mrs. Snoring Man** – Song: *Snow* (has solo lines)
- **Train Conductor**
- **Dance Captain**
- **Seamstress and Assistant Seamstress**
- **Ed Sullivan Announcer**
- **Regency Room Announcer**
- **Sheldrake's Secretary (offstage voice)**

Tap Ensemble, Dance Ensemble and Vocal Chorus will also play Jimmy's Back Room clubgoers, train passengers, Inn guests, chorus "kids", patrons of Regency Room, soldiers in the opening scene; there will no doubt be doubling among these various roles.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Director: Vera Cunningham
(vcunningham@comcast.net) 517-548-3605

Producer: Linda Peasley
(lpeasley@umich.edu) (517) 294-0738

Assistant Director: Dirk Brandt
Choreographer: Maria Usher
Vocal Director: Tim Meixner
Orchestra Conductor: Brian Pearson

COMMUNITY Theatre OF HOWELL

www.cththeatre.org

The Community Theatre of Howell
PO Box 533
Howell, MI 48844

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 121
Howell, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

YOUTH AUDITIONS - AUGUST 12, 2011

ADULT AUDITIONS -AUGUST 13, 2011