A Chorus Line Struts its Stuff

Winner of 9 Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize, this landmark musical has electrified audiences around the world. In an empty theatre, on a bare stage, casting for a new Broadway musical is almost complete. For seventeen dancers, this audition is the chance of a lifetime. It’s what they’ve worked for with every drop of sweat and every hour of training. These Broadway gypsies put their lives on the line for the opportunity to do what they’ve always dreamed of doing: to dance. The incomparable score by Marvin Hamlisch and Edward Kleban includes “What I Did for Love”, “One”, “Nothing”, “Dance Ten, Looks Three”. You won’t want to miss this singular sensation!

A Chorus Line is being directed by Morrie Enders (Avenue Q, Ragtime, 42nd Street), with musical direction by Cynthia Hunter (Ragtime) and choreography by Elizabeth Hughey (Cats, Ragtime).

The talented cast includes Sarah Adams (Guys and Dolls, Gypsy, Damn Yankees, Oklahoma) as Cassie, Kris Allemang (The Wizard of Oz, 42nd Street) as Diana, Lucas Beachler (Little Women, the Musical, Ragtime) as Mark, Kelly Dominique (Ragtime, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, 42nd Street) as Val, Anthony J. Hamilton (Ragtime, 42nd Street) as Butch, Jen Hebben (A Woman Called Truth, A Raisin in the Sun, Once on This Island, Crowns) as Judy, Ken Holda (Little Shop of Horrors, Oklahoma!, Cats) as Al, Mary McNinch (42nd Street, Anything Goes, The Music Man) as Bebe, Marie Kutz-Marks (Cats, The King and I, Footloose, Peter Pan) as Kristine, Nicholas Mumma (The Wizard of Oz, Damn Yankees, Shakespeare in Hollywood) as Tom, Ashley Elizabeth Rafferty (Shakespeare in Hollywood) as Lois, Marcus Ringvelski (Cameolet, The Music Man, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum) as Zach, Ashleigh Aaron Tillman (Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, Anything Goes) as Bobby, Dwight Trice, Jr. (Ragtime) as Richie and Thomas Wright (Little Women, the Musical) as Roy. Making their Civic debuts in A Chorus Line are Jillian Gambino, Justin Garascia, Tamsen “Tamz” Glaser, Hannah Homnick and Lonnie Poupard, Jr. Roger W. Burleigh is serving as Stage Manager with Bridin Clements and Linda Diller acting as Assistant Stage Managers.

Tickets are selling fast so order your seats today by calling the Box Office at 343-1313 or visit us at www.kazoocivic.com. As always we offer special rates for groups, seniors and students.
Celebrate 80 Years of Civic Pride

Welcome to our 80th season! Since 1929, the Civic has been a symbol of theatrical excellence and a center for culture, enrichment, education, and entertainment. While looking with pride on our recent accomplishments, many of which have received local and national acclaim, we can’t help but reflect on our rich history with an equal sense of pride. From the beginning we have helped to set the standards enjoyed by community theatres across the country. Each generation that has passed through the limestone and marble doors of this institution have left their mark, and helped to shape the cultural cornerstone we are today.

It is easy to look at theatre, especially community theatre and ask – what value does it afford the community? Watching the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics, I was reminded of the ways in which we as humans share our pride, culture, social awareness, and emotional fortitude with one other. Using song, dance and theatrical interpretation, the Chinese people offered the world a glimpse into their customs, their complex history and their commitment to their people. These beautifully rendered art forms expressed who they are as a people much more vividly than any speech, slide show or other means of communication could do. Here at the Civic, through the use of similar artistic disciplines, we create opportunities for the sharing of human emotion, compelling thoughts and life altering experiences. We have been providing these opportunities for 80 years.

We are very excited about our upcoming 80th season. Diverse in nature and rich in texture it is comprised of offerings that will delight, intrigue and stretch you as an individual and as a community. If you’ve not yet seen our season brochure or purchased your season subscription, I invite you to investigate all of the wonderful productions we will be presenting this season. I also invite you to think about your friends and neighbors who have not yet had the opportunity to experience theatre at the Civic. Why not bring them with you the next time you see a show?

Every season, in addition to great theatre, we make a little history here at the Civic. I hope you’ll join us this season, and make a little history of your own. Come celebrate 80 years of civic pride!

Kristen Chesak
Managing Director
ORDER FORM

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The price of each subscription includes a $5.00 building preservation fee.

The Civic Theatre’s donors make it possible for us to provide quality theatre to southwestern Michigan. Won’t you include a tax-deductible (as defined by IRS guidelines) contribution? By doing so, not only will you have the satisfaction of being a valued supporter of the arts, but you’ll also receive special recognition in all 2008-2009 programs (excluding those used for Youth Productions).

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

*If you work for, or are retired from, a company that matches donations, please include the necessary forms.

YOU MAY ORDER YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BY
phone: 269-343-1313 mail: Kalamazoo Civic Theatre
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For tickets visit www.kazooicivic.com or call the box office at 269-343-1313.
Eleanor R. Baum, who directed several generations of young actors in Kalamazoo, died July 5, 2008, in Lima, Ohio. “Miss Baum,” as she was known to her students, had been the director of what was then the Junior Civic Theater, from its formation in 1955 to the 1970’s. She was 93.

A proud graduate of Ohio State University, Ms. Baum lived in Paris after World War II, then came to Kalamazoo in 1947 to take a faculty position at Kalamazoo College, where she was Assistant Professor of Speech and Advisor to the Theater Department. In 1952, Ms. Baum came to work at the Civic.

Ms. Baum had been tapped by Norman Carver, Sr., to help create the Junior Civic Theater, which was designed as a collaboration between the Kalamazoo Civic Players and the Kalamazoo Public Schools. Junior Civic was, in effect, a theater company of approximately 100 students in grades 5 through 9. Students were required to audition for a slot in the company, and the prospect of auditioning in front of Ms. Baum was both exciting and terrifying. Once admitted to the company, members of Junior Civic attended weekly theater classes after school, learning from Ms. Baum both basic and advanced acting techniques. Ms. Baum directed two Junior Civic productions each school year in the Civic Auditorium, and students filled both the stage roles and crew assignments.

Ms. Baum was tireless and demanding, but her focus was helping her students achieve excellence and confidence in themselves. The extraordinary impact Ms. Baum had on her students compelled many to remain in contact with her throughout the years. Judy Stewart Rodes, now of Ambler, Pennsylvania, recalls, “Our weekly classes were something I always looked forward to, and trying out for the productions was very exciting. Initially we were all somewhat fearful of her, but by 9th grade I had come to realize what a great mentor and director Eleanor was.”

Rodes, who appeared as the dragon in “The Land of the Dragon,” and as Snow White in “Snow White,” said, “Eleanor’s enthusiasm for the theater stayed with me and inspired me years later when I became involved in my own community theater.”

Alexander Lipsey, now a Kalamazoo Circuit Court Judge, remembered Ms. Baum for providing more than just lessons in acting. “There was an aspect of our weekly classes that amounted to an entry into the world of civility, of elegant ways of living one’s life, that there were things to aspire to which were unknown to many of my fellow students who were not part of Junior Civic Theater. On a personal level, I am appreciative that Eleanor was willing to take a young student, not from the right side of town, and, by demanding excellence from all of us, showed me I could succeed, and succeed at a high level. This had a profound effect upon me, and made me feel welcome within the world of the traditional achievers.”

Kim Petrucci, of Vicksburg, who appeared in “Daniel Boone,” and as the Wicked Witch in “Snow White,” said, “Eleanor was a tough-willed taskmaster, but she was also the embodiment of compassion; she was always there for us. She taught us about getting it done, and getting it done right. But more than anything, Eleanor was ‘Lights! Camera! Action!’ in every bold move she made in life.”

— James M. Marquardt, Board President, The Kalamazoo Civic Theater
Fall 2008 Classes
Ghouls, Goblins, and Ghost Stories
A Trick-or-Treat goodie bag filled with fun classes revolving around the Halloween season.
Deadline for Fall Class Registration is September 19th

Mondays, September 29-October 27
4:00pm-6:00pm

- Instant Acting
  Youngsters who like to play and have fun while exploring their creativity will put their improv techniques to work as they take part in an adventurous tale of their own creation. Games and exercises will be tailored to enhance the abilities of those participating.
  Maximum enrollment: 26

Wednesdays, October 1-October 29
4:00pm-6:00pm

- Get Into the Act
  Using classic folk tales as source material, this introductory level class will provide students with an opportunity to develop self-confidence as they explore all aspects of theatre.
  Maximum enrollment: 26

Mondays, September 29-October 27
4:00pm-6:00pm

- Fantasy Make-up
  Imagination will run wild as students are introduced to the fundamentals of make-up design. Just in time for Halloween, students will learn how to transform themselves, almost magically, into fantastic fantasy creatures, fairies and animals.
  Maximum enrollment: 14

Wednesdays, October 1-October 29
4:00pm-6:00pm

- FUNdamentals of Improv
  Participants will sharpen their improv skills through a series of exercises and improv games. Fast, fun and challenging, this dynamic class will culminate in the creation of an original Halloween story.
  Maximum enrollment: 26

Mondays, September 29-October 27
1:00pm-3:00pm

- Horror Make-up
  Latex and stage blood are just a couple of the cool things that participants in this class will use as they’re introduced to the art of make-up design. Students will learn how make-up is used to define a character and enhance a play. And best of all, they’ll be ready to create the perfect make-up for Halloween.
  Maximum enrollment: 26

Wednesdays, October 1-October 29
1:00pm-3:00pm

- Creature Make-up
  With what they learn in this make-up class, students will be the scariest ghouls, witches, and pirates at any Halloween party. It’s sure to be a lot of fun and a great way for participants to expand their creative horizons.
  Maximum enrollment: 26

Saturdays, September 27–October 25
10:00am-Noon

- Acting and Improv
  Do you want to be a better actor? If so, you won’t want to miss this class. Participants work on character development and the study of subtext through scene work and monologue interpretation. All actors from beginning to experienced are encouraged to join this class.
  Maximum enrollment: 14

Saturdays, September 27–October 25
1:00pm-3:00pm

- Ghouls, Goblins, and Ghost Stories
  A Trick-or-Treat goodie bag filled with fun classes revolving around the Halloween season.
  Deadline for Fall Class Registration is September 19th

SAVE $20 OR MORE...

We want to make taking classes at the Civic a family affair. For each full price class tuition ($60) we are offering you a second tuition for just $40, which can be used for the same student or another member of the family.

FOR EXAMPLE:
- A student can take a class for $60 and another class for $40
- A student can take a class for $60 and another member of the family can take a class for just $40

If you are enrolling more than one student, please use a separate form for each student, but tabulate all charges on one form.

Deadline for Scholarships is 5pm September 12th, 2008

Scholarship application forms and additional registration forms available at www.kazoocivic.com
Return to: Civic Youth Theatre Classes, 329 South Park, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Or FAX 343-0532.
Cyrano! His wit is as sharp as his sword, the enormity of his talent, intellect, and passion are matched only by the enormity of his, well, nose. When he falls for the beautiful, strong-willed Roxane, he is too ashamed of his large nose to share his feelings. Instead, when he learns that she loves the handsome but not-so-bright Christian, he writes poetry and love letters to Roxane on Christian’s behalf. Complete with exciting swordplay and cavalier costumes, this fresh adaptation of the classic love story is cleverly told entirely in rhyme.

Directed by Kevin Dodd, who is making his Civic directorial debut, the impressive cast features Michael Andres, Keith Clark, Jeff Khaled, Atis Kleinbergs, Tallis Kleinbergs, Michael P. Martin, Lesley Kaye Maston, Matthew Morris McCormick, David Noyes, Sarah Roddis, Michele Sobota and Alashar Waltz. Making their Civic debuts are Marshall Burns, Tyler Hamlet, Shannon Hill, Andrew Jager and Blair Makinney.

“...swashbuckling and subtle, breathtaking and heartbreaking”

— The New Yorker