

BLT Buzz

The Producers opens Friday, May 1 at 8:00 pm. Shows continue May 2, 8, 9, 15 & 16 at 8:00 pm and May 3, 10 and 17 at 2:30 pm

A Newsletter published by the Baytown Little Theater

April 2009

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... made audiences laugh, cry and even wince a little ...

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The Producers Coming to the BLT!

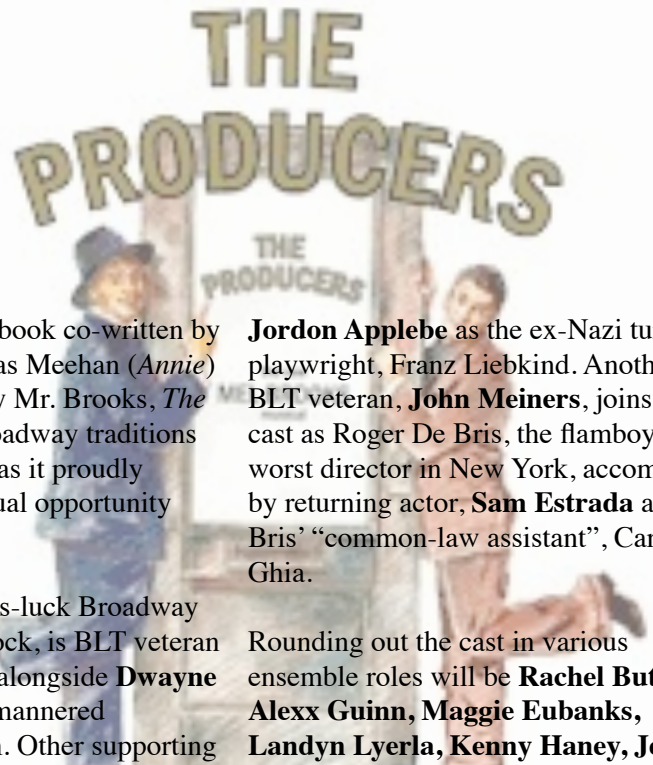
Director, **Jason Howard**, has cast the next Baytown Little Theater production for the 2008-2009 Season. *The Producers*, book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan, music and lyrics by Mel Brooks will open May 1 at 8:00 p.m. with additional shows May 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, at 8:00 pm and Sunday matinees, May 3, 10 and 17 at 2:30 p.m. Make reservations by logging on to <http://baytown.littletheater.org/buytickets.php> to place your online reservation for *The Producers*. All tickets are priced at \$15.00. There are no discounts for this adult-themed musical production.

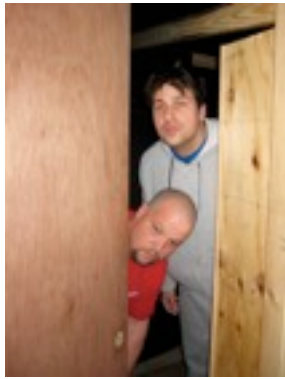
With a truly hysterical book co-written by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan (*Annie*) and music and lyrics by Mr. Brooks, *The Producers* skewers Broadway traditions and takes no prisoners as it proudly proclaims itself an "equal opportunity offender!"

Cast as the down-on-his-luck Broadway producer, Max Bialystock, is BLT veteran actor, **Jim Waszinski**, alongside **Dwayne Bailey** as Max's mild-mannered accountant, Leo Bloom. Other supporting characters include newcomer, **Hayley Shaw** as Ulla, their Swedish bombshell secretary and returning BLT actor,

Jordon Applebe as the ex-Nazi turned playwright, Franz Liebkind. Another BLT veteran, **John Meiners**, joins the cast as Roger De Bris, the flamboyant and worst director in New York, accompanied by returning actor, **Sam Estrada** as De Bris' "common-law assistant", Carmen Ghia.

Rounding out the cast in various ensemble roles will be **Rachel Butler**, **Alexx Guinn**, **Maggie Eubanks**, **Landyn Lyerla**, **Kenny Haney**, **Jenny Johnson**, **Trenity Craig**, **Josh Hines**, **Michael Davis**, and **Brandon Freeman**.





One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest was Insanely Superb

Director, Maggie Eubanks and Assistant Director, Emily Daily, along with an excellent cast and crew made audiences laugh, cry and even wince a little with their production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. John Eubanks' portrayal of McMurphy left the audience wishing the ending had turned out differently. Dawn Daily may have to move to another county after her outstanding portrayal of the self absorbed, sadistic Nurse Ratched. Ryan Martin pulled on audience members' heartstrings as he delivered a torturous scene of pleading. Jamie Applebe gave a sobering performance as the big silent Indian. A round of applause goes out to all cast and crewmembers that worked hard to put this production on the BLT stage. Special kudos goes to technical director, Randy Daily and all who worked construction for an outstanding set.

Auditions for *Beauty and the Beast* are On-Deck

The Baytown Little Theater in cooperation with Lee College, proudly announces auditions for the upcoming summer musical, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice and book by Linda Wollverton.

Director **Jim Wadzinski** will hold auditions May 31 (2:00pm and 7:00pm), June 1 & 2 (7:00 pm) at the Lee College Performing Arts Center. Production dates for this family musical are July 31, August 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 2009 and will be performed at the Lee College Performing Arts Center, Baytown, TX.

Make Plans to Attend the BLT Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Baytown Little Theater members will be held Sunday, April 26, at 2:00 p.m. at the theater. All members and interested persons are invited to the meeting. In accordance with BLT Board policy all paid memberships are allowed one vote on proposed addenda to the theater by-laws and other matters concerning theater business. Announcements of the new slate of plays for the 2009-2010 season and information regarding our new permanent location will be presented at that time. A special presentation of the TNT Festival play entry "The Pattern is Broken" will be performed prior to the Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on the Baytown Little Theater stage.

Since "The Producers" will be in their final week of rehearsal, we need to forgo our usual potluck gathering following the meeting. We'll plan on gathering at El Toro or a similar 'watering hole' for meet-and-greet, instead.

Current Addresses Needed

On occasion people tell us they have are not receiving our BLT publication, *The Buzz* and other theater notices. It could have to do with our database and addresses that are no longer current. If you have an address change or know someone changed addresses, please let the theater know so you don't miss any important notices of plays or the latest theater news. As much as we want to stay up do date, we are volunteers and sometimes get bogged down in our daily jobs, families and activities. We can use your help to keep your information up to date. You can inform us by leaving a message on the theater phone at 281-424-7617, email change to info@baytown.littletheater.org or by mailing a notification to Baytown Little Theater, Box 2022, Baytown, TX, 77522.

Baytown Little Theater
PO Box 2022
Baytown, TX 77522
Phone: 281-424-7617
E-mail: info@baytown.littletheater.org

Web: baytown.littletheater.org

BLT LOCATION:
4328 Hugh Echols Blvd.
Baytown, TX 77521

BOX OFFICE
281-424-7617

Hours:
5:00—8:00 PM
on days of evening performances
1:00—2:30 PM
on days of matinee performances

From the President

March 2009

Dear BLT Friend,

Thank you for your input, guidance and patience over the past (almost) two years, as we have worked to decide our future permanent location. Private conversations, discussions and suggestions from our general meetings, and the work of the Property Committee have presented the Board of Directors with few options that did not include significant capital dollars for land acquisition, in addition to construction costs.

With the present economic situation and the reality of significant monthly lease expenses, our Board believes it is time to make our decision.

The City of Baytown has offered the BLT a plot of land on the corner of Texas and North Main. The property includes almost the full block, bordered by N Main, East Defee, N First, and Texas Ave. The actual acreage is 8% larger than the land we currently own. The City of Baytown is offering this property in equal exchange for our Lakewood property.

In effect, our choices are to stay and build on the Lakewood property or accept the exchange and move to the Texas Ave area.

After much consideration and discussion, the Board has decided to accept the City's offer. We are not making this decision lightly. We represent almost 200 years' cumulative involvement in the BLT. We have wrangled, argued, and at times rather dramatically (after all, we are theatrical) presented our concerns and opinions regarding our options.

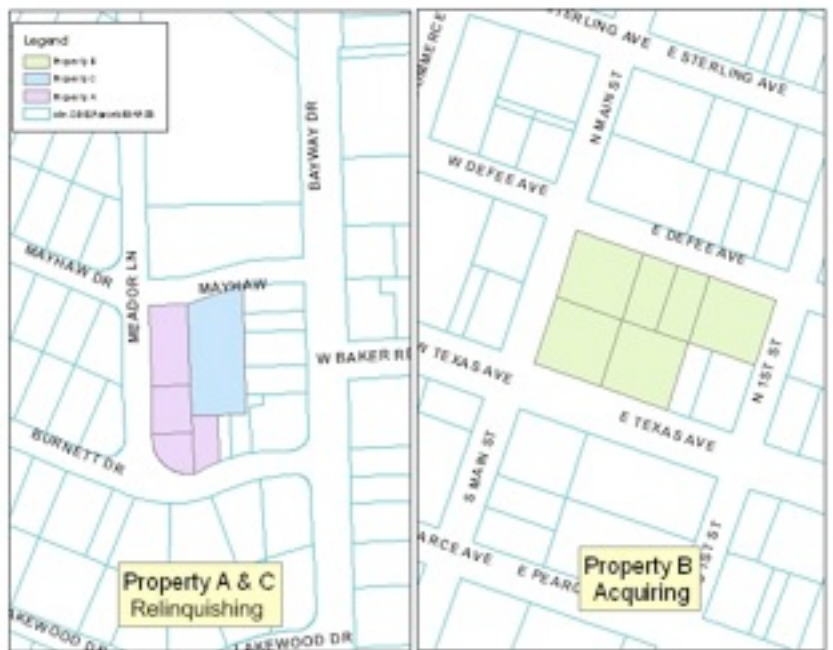
We believe that the membership and the community will unite in creating a new destination for the Arts in Baytown.

We will have more information and details as soon as we can. Please be sure to join us for the annual meeting, scheduled for April 26, as we further discuss our future.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me or any of our Board members with any questions or comments.

Again, we appreciate your input, your trust and, most of all, your support and participation in the Baytown Little Theater.

For the Board of Directors
Wally Whitley, President



What's Up with the BLTeens ...

Summer Youth and Teen Workshops

Veteran actor and director, **Kim Martin**, will conduct three different workshops this summer at the BLT. The Summer Youth and Teen Workshops are open to students completing first through twelfth grades during the 2008-09 school year. Martin, a Deer Park High School theater arts teacher, will lead theater games, improvisation, pantomime, music and dancing with attendees. The Youth Workshop will meet mornings and afternoons. The Teen Workshop will meet through lunch; attendees should bring a lunch each day. The teens will conclude their session with a short production. To register for the Summer Workshops, call 281-424-7617; leave a message with your name, phone number and grade your student is completing in school. **Michelle Cressy** will return your phone call at her earliest convenience. Reserve places now!

TNT Teen Conference in Brenham, TX

For the past several years in June, Baytown Little Theater teens have traveled to the Texas Non-Profit Theater's Teen Conference. This year the event will be held June 10-14, in Brenham, TX. Director **John Morales** and his teen cast are rehearsing *Godspell Junior*, a One-Act version of the full-length musical, *Godspell*. Morales along with sponsors, **Kim Martin**, **Michelle Cressy** and **Nancy Hall**, will perform the production before the workshop of teens and sponsors from other Texas community theaters. Conference participants will also receive instruction in acting, stage movement, props, costumes and other aspects related to the art of theater while attending the conference. Fun, games, laughter and meeting new friends will be the icing on the cake for the teens attending the Teen Conference.

Class dates, times and fees are as follows:

Date	Class	Time	Member Fee	Nonmember fee
June 15-19	1 st , 2 nd grades	9:00-11:30 a.m.	\$50.00	\$60.00
June 15-19	3 rd —5 th grade	1:00-4:00 p.m.	\$60.00	\$70.00
July 13-17	6 th —12 th grade	10:00-4:00 p.m.	\$90.00	\$100.00

The Buzz Newsletter To Go Digital

For several months the BLT official publication, *The Buzz*, has been available to our readers online via our website at <http://baytown.littletheater.org/> Our diligent team of volunteers work many hours gathering information, composing articles and formatting the newsletter which is published quarterly. Postal preparation for the 200-plus pieces needed to receive the Post Office bulk rate for mailing requires several man-hours to complete the task. Therefore, to aide our volunteers we are inviting our membership to read *The Buzz* online and wave the hard copy mailed to their address. Sign up lists for members wishing to continue receiving hard copies of the newsletters will be posted at the Annual Meeting and the upcoming production of *The Producers*. An email request to receive *The Buzz* by mail can also be sent to newsletters@baytown.littletheater.org No action is required of individuals reading the online newsletter. The June publication will be mailed only to our friends who have requested it by signing one of the lists or by email notification.

BLT Actors Present Play at the Texas Non-Profit Theaters (TNT)

Kim Martin directed the one-act play, *The Pattern is Broken*, a One Act Drama by Ian Stansel, based on the original play by Rand Higbee, at the TNT Festival on March 20, 2009, in Fort Worth, Texas. The cast members in the production were **Ryan Martin** and **Amy Miller-Martin** as Cooper and Flan, **Maggie and John Eubanks** as Brian and Bonnie, and **Dwayne Bailey** as the waiter.

Crewmembers were **Mary Lou Martin**, **Michelle Cressy**, **Erin Cressy**, and **John Morales**. With very little rehearsal time, the talents of the cast shone in this production that allowed Baytown Little Theater to be represented at the conference. They are all to be congratulated and commended on a job well done.

Baytown Little Theater also was able to advertise the upcoming summer musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, with a lobby display and ads on the back covers of the TNT Conference program and workshop schedule. BLT was also recognized for providing coffee service to all conference participants during the daily workshops.

The TNT Steadfast Support Award for 2009 was presented to the Baytown Little Theater and accepted by **Kim Martin**. **Dwayne Bailey** was elected to the TNT Board of Directors where he will serve a four-year term. Completing his

term of office, **Kim Martin** was recognized for his service on the TNT Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.



Maggie and John Embanks in the BLT production of *The Pattern is Broken* at TNT.

BLT This 'N That

Congratulations to:

Maggie Eubanks who has been nominated for one of Baytown's Unsung Heroes. Maggie is a History teacher at Sterling High School and sponsors several student organizations. Maggie has also been nominated for Teacher of the Year!

Jessica Cotter on earning her Theater teaching certification.

Jeff Butler on the big 6-0!! Happy Birthday, Jeff!

Stephanie Whitley for being named to the Honorable Mention All-Star Cast during the recent UIL One-Act Play competition for District 21.

Whitney Hall, a sophomore at Baytown Christian Academy, being cast in the lead role of Jo for their upcoming musical, "Little Women". The show opens on Apr. 30th and runs nightly through May 4th at 8:00 p.m.

Our Sympathies Extended to:

Maggie Eubanks on the passing of her grandmother, Genevieve Mangan, on January 12, 2009, at the age of 90.

Carla Start on the passing of her sister, Jeanell (Jean) Shaver, February 6, 2009.

Jack Henry on the passing of his brother, Dave Henry, on February 7, 2009.

Anne Huysman on the passing of her mother, Betty Whitbeck, February 18, 2009.

John Eubanks on the passing of his grandmother, Mary Eubanks, on February 21, 2009, at the age of 89.

Michelle Cressy, Jeff and Marie Butler on the passing of a dear friend, Lisa Guy.

Neal Gage on the passing of his brother. Sergeant Adam S. Gage, 28, passed away on March 18, 2009, while on active duty with the United States Army in Georgia.

BLT Charter Member Passes Away

Anna Haley, 92, former BLT charter member, life member and box office chairman, passed away in Belton, Texas. Much loved longtime box office worker, was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Dr. Melvin Haley, in 2005. Both Anna and Melvin were often seen working in the BLT Box Office at the old Baytown Little Theater in Lakewood.



Looking Ahead ...

April 26 — TNT play *The Pattern is Broken*, drama, Kim Martin, director 1:30 pm

April 26 — BLT Members' Annual Meeting, 2:00 pm

May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17 — *The Producers*, musical comedy, Jason Howard, director

May 11 — BLT Board monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m.

May 31, (2:00 pm and 7:00 pm) June 1 & 2 (7:00 pm) — Auditions, *Beauty and the Beast*, Lee College Performing Arts Center, Jim Wadzinski, director

June 8 — BLT Board monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m.

June 10-14 — TNTeen Conference, Brenham, TX

June 15-19 — BLT Summer Youth Workshop, leaving 1st-5th grades

July 13-17 — BLT Summer Teen Workshop, leaving 6th-12th grades



Baytown Little Theater

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Jason Howard

Kim Martin

John Meiners

Mackey Skinner

David Start

Jim Wadzinski

Wally Whitley