

FALL 2010

Sept Oct Nov Dec

SEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charles Hall, Editor



**COMING
ATTRACTIONS / EVENTS**

*Sept 11, Poncan Opry with
Les Gilliam*

*Sept 18, Season Opener
The Alley Cats*

*Sept 23-26, Evan's Academy
Disney's Jungle Book Kids*

*October 2, Poncan Opry
with Bill White*

*Oct 9, Franc D'Ambrosio,
Music from Broadway and
Phantom of the Opera*

*October 22, Dennis James
with Dr. Jeckyl/Mr. Hyde*

*Oct 28, S Kansas Symphony
"Halloween Concert"*

October 31, Rob Lake

November 4, Cinderella

*November 6, Poncan Opry
with Jimmy Fortune*

*November 13, The Folk
Collection*

*December 11, Poncan Opry
with The Park Family*

*The Poncan Theatre is funded in part by
grants from ...*



THE PONCAN NEWSREEL

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2010-2011 Season Announced

Sit back, relax and enjoy the historic Poncan Theatre's 2010-2011 season! We're excited about the lineup for this season because it has a variety of shows that will entertain both young and the not-so-young.

Ponca City will have the opportunity to see and hear entertainers that have had shows in major cities across our country and internationally, too. The folks at the Poncan work diligently to bring great entertainment to Ponca City. While it's expensive to bring in good performances, we've been working on grants to help offset the high costs and to keep ticket prices affordable. Because of our efforts, grants have been received from the **Oklahoma Arts Council and the Mid-American Arts Alliance** (both also receive funding from the National Endowment for the Arts). There are many requirements to get a grant and it dramatically increases the workload in the office. If specific grant requirements are not met both before and after a show, to include specific documentation, grant money can be delayed or withheld. See a great lineup of top entertainment on Pages 2 and 3 and support Grand Avenue and your historic theatre; please purchase a season membership this year!

Evans Performing Arts Season

The season opener for the Evans Children's Academy of Performing Arts will be Disney's "Jungle Book Kids" on September 23 through the 26th. We are excited that Kelli Graves will be directing this performance since she trained with Nick Sweet during the past season. Nick had to return to Texas to help care for his father, but said he has enjoyed working with the children of the area and looks forward to returning in the future. We are proud that Kelli is studying theatre at NOC and will bring her perspectives to this stage play. Lori May will

again be the choreographer and Vicki Graves will be the Vocal Director. Ponca City is fortunate to have the support of Pat Evans to give the area children an opportunity to explore their musical and acting talents. The community has been blessed with an incredible pool of talent and it is gratifying to see these kids improve show after show, season after season. Again, this has all been possible because of the generosity of Pat Evans. When you see Pat be sure and thank her for her support!

Employee Reunion

We received an email from Anchorage, Alaska, from a past employee of the theatre. Yes, our Newsreel made it North to Alaska! Don Cott contacted us when he received a copy of the Newsreel from his brother. Don worked for the theatre in the late 50s. Other surprises came from former employees Paul Gay and Woodie Sylvester, of Video Theatres. Paul and Woodie were good friends of Don Hall during their careers in the movie business. Paul lives in Lawrence, KS, and Woodie in Weatherford, OK. They were excited to hear about the positive things happening at the Poncan, since so many of the great "movie palaces" they worked in have disappeared.

Because of these contacts, we have decided to have a reunion of former employees next summer. We would like to complete a video or to at least capture stories from past employees, or anyone who has a connection to our historic Poncan Theatre. Because Geneva Alston is the most senior of our past employees, we want to honor her by calling this event the "Geneva Alston Employee Reunion".

Please pass your name along to us by sending email to newsreel@poncantheatre.org and please include "Former Employee" in the subject line. It would be great to hear from you. Please pass along a story or let us know about your ties to the Poncan and how to contact you in the future.

DATES TO REMEMBER ... PERFORMANCES YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

“Support your historic Poncan Theatre – go out to a show with friends and family”

Announcing the 2010-2011 Season

Season memberships are only \$120 or \$150 depending on seating arrangements

THE ALLEY CATS

September 18, Matinee performance at 2:00 PM, evening performance at 7:30 PM

By bringing their own contemporary style to tunes from the 1950s and 60s, The Alley Cats appeal to fans of all ages, breathing new life into everyone's favorite doo-wop classics. The four members of The Alley Cats are a perfect blend both vocally and personally.

Every Alley Cat performance is accompanied by the sounds of laughter and voices joining in to sing the melodies we all know and love. The Cats' engaging wit and humor have won over audiences nationally as they relate directly to the crowd with jokes, stories, and audience participation that appeal to young and old alike. Tight harmonies, universal humor, and unbelievable acappella energy have made The Alley Cats America's premier doo-wop group.

FRANC D'AMBROSIO October 9th Evening performance at 7:30 PM

The famous, longest running Phantom in “Phantom of the Opera” affectionately known as the iron man behind the mask! Listen to special selections from Broadway musicals to include “Phantom of the Opera”. Luciano Pavarotti and Barry Manilow both have asked D'Ambrosio to share the stage with them and he frequently collaborates with American Idol talent. It was Barry Manilow who personally selected him to create and star as the male lead "Tony" in the pre-Broadway, national tour of "Copacabana". Franc's performance earned him a nomination for the National Theatre Award for Best Male Performer in a Musical. The CD "Franc D'Ambrosio's Broadway" earned a Grammy Consideration for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album 2005.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR STUDENTS: This is your opportunity to perform with Franc D'Ambrosio on stage at the Poncan Theatre! Students, ages 15 - 25 are invited to submit recorded samples and an application which Mr. D'Ambrosio will evaluate to select participants for a FREE workshop and Master Class to be held the night before his performance. After the class he will announce the selection of 3 to 5 young people who will perform a group number with him at the historic Poncan Theatre on October 9th. Call the Poncan for more information.

THE FOLK COLLECTION

November 13, Matinee performance at 2:00 PM, evening performance at 7:30 PM

From "Blowin' in the Wind" and "This Land is Your Land" to "If I Had a Hammer" the show is nostalgic, entertaining and family friendly, blending music with jokes and humor. It's okay to sing along... most people do! This group reaches out to different generations! The group enjoys watching teenagers with their parents or grandparents, sometimes reluctantly entering, but leaving smiling and humming the songs they heard performed. So many young people enjoy the music of the 60s once they are exposed to a memorable performance such as this one. This group is reminiscent of such groups as The Kingston Trio, The Limelitters, The New Christy Minstrels, and the Brothers Four, but have their own unique blend and sound!

Families with children! There is a special matinee for children, families and elderly on Saturday at 2 PM

RICHTER UZUR DUO, with Native American Brad Richter (guitar)**March 26, 2011 Evening performance at 7:30 PM**

The Richter Uzur Duo combines classical, rock, folk music and themes into truly original new compositions in a very unique way. The fun and friendship Viktor Uzur and Brad Richter share in this partnership are obvious on stage and in their music. Brad, originally from Oklahoma, is the teacher for the Lead Guitar Foundation which established school guitar programs for Native American schools. Viktor and Brad are each classical musicians of the highest caliber with successful international solo careers and intensive training from two of the world's most lauded musical institutions: The Moscow Conservatory and The Royal College of Music respectively.

DENNIS JAMES (RETURNS!) for a Silent Film Festival**April 2, 2011 Matinee performance at 2:00 PM, evening performance at 7:30 PM**

If you have not attended a Dennis James performance in the past, don't miss this one! Dennis is a world-class organist with performances with the Chicago Symphony and in the Louvre. This season he will perform his newest program of music accompanying silent movies of Will Rogers, Oklahoma's favorite son! (And, did you know that Will Rogers performed on stage at our historic theatre on February 5, 1931?) For over forty years Dennis James has played a pivotal role in the international revival of silent films with live music. "Theatre organist Dennis James is one of the only living musicians who understands what is musically, historically, and cinematically appropriate for silent films. Dennis James' choice of music guides the listener into many moods, tension, bliss, excitement, despair, terror, and hilarity." Peter Mintun, New York pianist and cultural historian.

Special 2 PM matinee for the young and old alike, gather up the kids and the grandparents and see this very special 2:00 PM matinee performance. Dennis James presents his "Musica Curiosa" show. He has a collection of unusual musical instruments from the past that represent both failure and success during the last four centuries of musical instrument development. Examples range from the Medieval psaltery to Don Buchla's late 20th century inventions, the Lightning and Thunder. Also included are forgotten instruments now being subject to current international revival, such as Benjamin Franklin's 1761 Glass Armonica and the Theremin, the 1919 Soviet electronic instrument played by waving one's hands in the air.

EAST WIND DUO April 9, 2011 Evening performance at 7:30 PM

The East Wind Duo was formed in 1995 and has since charmed audiences throughout Europe, Israel, the Far East and the United States. Their unique collection of repertoire takes listeners on musical journeys through Europe, Israel, the Middle East, China, India, Japan, and the United States.

Yossi Arnheim, Principal Flutist and frequent soloist with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and other orchestras in Israel, performs as a soloist with the South-German Chamber Orchestra, Elbland Philharmonic Orchestra in Saxony, China National Symphony, City of London Sinfonia, Dohnanyi Symphony Orchestra in Budapest, Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra, Kiev Chamber Orchestra, Cappella Istropolitana.

Julia Rovinsky is Principal Harpist with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Born in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), Julia Rovinsky graduated from the Rimsky-Korsakov Academy of Music. In 1988 she won the national harp competition in Moscow. Over the past few years her concert activity included tours throughout the United States, South America, Ukraine, Thailand, and Singapore.

Movie to be Shot in Ponca City

An original film is to be part of the Evans Children's Academy of Performing Arts upcoming season at the Poncan Theatre. The screenplay is being written by Dave May who will also serve as Director of the film. According to Dave, the fiction film is to be titled "Autumn Roads" and will be set in Ponca City during the late 1930's. The film will offer roles for adults as well as children and will be shot in HD video thanks to a partnership with the Digital Media studios at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa. A casting call and audition dates have not yet been announced, but scouting locations has already begun.

Friends of the Poncan first movie Sept 30th 7:00 pm Alfred Hitchcock's "Rear Window"

The Poncan Theatre
104 E. Grand
Ponca City, OK 74601



TO:

The Poncan Opry— We've come a long way in a short time!



The Poncan Opry is the most exciting country music venue in the state of Oklahoma. Unlike traditional Opry shows, The Poncan Opry is professionally produced, staged, and choreographed much like those seen in Branson, Missouri. A special thanks to KPNC as a major sponsor of our Opry!



The season opry opener on **September 11th** features **Les Gilliam** who currently calls Ponca City his home. Les Gilliam is the official "Oklahoma Balladeer", so designated by the Oklahoma State Legislature. He is a native of Gene Autry, Oklahoma and is a singer, songwriter, and recording artist. He was recently included in a new book "Distinguished Oklahomans".

October 2nd Bill White returns to the Poncan Opry as a special guest star. Bill blew the audience away last May with his incredible voice. If you like classic country done right, you'll love Bill White.



On November 6th, Jimmy Fortune, who retired from the famous Statler Brothers, will join us at the Poncan Opry! This is a great opportunity for you to see and hear Jimmy Fortune up close and personal. After his retirement from the Statler Brothers, he has delved into a solo career, has released a number of albums and has written songs for many other artists. His touring and writing keep him busy. He appeared earlier this year at The Grand Ole Opry in Nashville for "The Statler Brothers" night, so be sure and join him at our Poncan Opry!

December 11th, the Park Family returns! The Park Family plays traditional and gospel bluegrass music and has been performing publicly since October 2003. The family band consists of the father, Andy on mandolin, mother, Rosemanne on dog house bass, Seth 16, on banjo, Cole 12, on guitar, Paige 9, on fiddle, Ava 8, on fiddle and Olivia 4, on vocals. They have performed at Silver Dollar City and at the Oklahoma Opry. They have released two CDs, "Will Play Bluegrass for Food" and most recently, "Tradition".



The Poncan Opry is always spotlighting new guest artists. Many are young performers who are well on their way to successful recording and performing careers. Several have CD's that are usually available during their appearances at the Opry. The Poncan Opry is always searching for fresh new talent in all age ranges from 6-65. Soloists, vocal groups, musicians, and comedians who perform country or country-gospel are encouraged to participate.