Summer Musical Theatre Festival returns in 2015

After a two-year hiatus, Clarion University Department of Visual and Performing Arts is bringing back the Summer Musical Theatre Festival, with presentations of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” and “The Wedding Singer” slated for July and early August at Clarion University and at Cook Forest’s Sawmill Theatre.

Robert Levy, chair of the department, said summer theatre, which began in 1961, was halted while the department reorganized internally, developing a plan to financially sustain the popular summer productions. Its return represents a joint effort among the visual and performing arts department, the dean of the College of Arts, Education and Sciences, the provost’s office and president’s office.

“We worked to bring it back, because it has educational worth as well as popular appeal,” Levy said. “The Summer Musical Theatre Festival approximates a summer stock theatre company. Students are engaged in rehearsing one production while performing another; a situation that actors and technicians are consistently dealing with in the professional world.”

The Sawmill Theatre performances give students the opportunity of a touring experience, but it’s also a way of serving two communities for whom the family-friendly summer theatre has become a favorite seasonal event.

Performances are at 8 p.m. the following dates:

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**
July 2-4, Marwick-Boyd Little Theatre, Clarion University
July 9-11 and 15-18, Verna Leith Sawmill Theatre, Cook Forest

**The Wedding Singer**
July 23-25, Marwick-Boyd Little Theatre
July 30-31, Aug. 1, 5-8, Verna Leith Sawmill Theatre

For Clarion tickets visit www.clarion.edu/tickets.
For Sawmill Theatre tickets visit www.sawmill.org.
Clarion University offers an array of artistic, cultural and musical events each semester. From plays and visiting poets to musicians and variety acts, the university provides events that are entertaining or thought provoking. The following events are scheduled for 2015 at the Clarion campus and at Venango campus in Oil City.

**A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant and a Prayer**  
7 p.m. Feb. 20; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Feb. 21  
Hart Chapel  
“A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant and a Prayer” discusses abuse against not only women, but men as well. The show features writings that include the viewpoints of individuals of different races, sexual orientations, genders and others. All proceeds go to SAFE and PASSAGES. Tickets are $5 for students and $8 for adults.

Remaining five Little Sisters of Hoboken can raise the funds to bury the other 52, there they sit in the convent’s freezer. And so, this is the fundraiser to come up with the cash, presented by the nuns at the Mount Saint Helen’s school.

**The Conduit: Gong to the World**  
7:30 p.m. Feb. 26  
Robert W. Rhoades Center  
Venango Campus, Oil City  
Formed in 2008, this group of sound-meditation performance artists have honed their craft using large, planetary gongs, Himalayan and crystal singing bowls and a variety of other instruments. Traveling extensively all over the northeastern United States, The Conduit promotes the benefits of gong meditation, empowering individuals to have a greater understanding of self, stress management and the ability to find the benefits of automatic meditation. When we expand our attention to include personal balance and a holistic world view, our world has the chance to become a better place.

**Week of Lasermania**  
Shows daily, Feb. 26 to March 4  
Peacock Planetarium  
Grunewald Center for Science and Technology  
Clarion University Department of Physics will present multiple laser-based programs on topics such as black history, space and American pride, and celebrating the music of the Beatles, U2, and Pink Floyd. Call 814-393-2085 for schedule and ticket information.

**Second Series**  
March 27 and 28, Hart Chapel  
**Taikoza**  
7:30 p.m. April 3  
Robert W. Rhoades Center  
Venango Campus, Oil City  
Taikoza uses the powerful rhythms of the Taiko drums to create an electrifying energy that carries audiences in a new dimension of excitement. The Taiko is a large, barrel-like drum that can fill the air with the sound of rolling thunder. This group draws from Japan’s rich tradition of music and performance to create a highly visual performance. Taikoza also incorporates the shakuhachi, the flute (both bamboo flutes) and the Koto (a 13-string instrument). Taikoza’s new CD has been nominated as best Asian Ethnic Album for the Just Plain Folks Music Award. The group has appeared in Macy’s Thanksgiving parade, on the History Channel’s “History vs. Hollywood” and ESPN’s “U.M.O.: The Battle of the Giants.” Taikoza is featured in the movie, “The Commute.”

**Elizabeth Smart**  
7:30 p.m. April 7  
Robert W. Rhoades Center  
Venango Campus, Oil City  
The abduction of Elizabeth Smart was one of the most followed child abduction cases of our time. Smart was abducted June 5, 2002, and her captors controlled her by threatening to kill her and her family if she tried to escape. Fortunately, the police safely returned Smart to her family March 12, 2003. Through this traumatic experience, Smart has become an advocate for change related to child abduction, recovery programs and national legislation. She triumphantly testified before her captor about the very private nightmare she suffered during her abduction, leading to the conviction of her captors. Founder of the Elizabeth Smart Foundation, she has also helped promote The National AMBER Alert, the Adam Walsh Child Protection & Safety Act and other safety legislation to help prevent abductions. Smart’s abduction and recovery motivates parents, law enforcement and leaders worldwide to focus on children’s safety. She emphasizes vigilance by everyday people and the belief that hope always exists to find every missing child.

**Wind Orchestra Concert**  
7 p.m. April 9, Marwick-Boyds auditorium

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**High School Art Exhibition**  
Feb. 21 to April 4  
University Gallery, Carlson Library, Level A  
High school art exhibition (Clarion area, Pittsburgh and surrounding areas). For gallery hours, call 814-393-2291.

**Nunsense**  
8 p.m. Feb. 25-28; 2 p.m. March 1  
Marwick-Boyds Little Theatre  
In this, the second longest running musical in off-Broadway history, Sister Julia, child of God, has inadvertently poisoned much of the convent with her cooking of some bad vichyssoise, and until the...
Hard work pays off for incoming students

In addition to giving Clarion University students a unique advantage in a competitive job market, incoming freshmen who pursue a dual certification in education can also secure one of 50 merit-based scholarships worth up to $2,000 per year, which are renewable for a minimum of four years.

Students with a cumulative 3.25 PA and a 1050 SAT (combined math and verbal) or a 23 ACT score are eligible for the $1,000 Clarion Academic Scholarship.

Funded through private donations from generous donors, combined with university funds, the Clarion Academic Scholarship is renewable for up to four years (five years for some dual-certification education programs) as long as:

- The student maintains a 3.0 GPA at Clarion.
- The student continues progress toward the degree on a full-time basis (minimum accrual of 24 credits per academic year; although 30 is strongly recommended);
- The student's family annually completes the FAFSA.

Additional renewable scholarships are available for students enrolled in specific majors or in a dual certification education program.

- An additional $1,000 is available to students who meet the Clarion Academic Scholarship criteria and who enroll in the following academic programs at Clarion: accounting, finance, international business, marketing, bachelor’s-to-MBA, biology, chemistry, mathematics, geosciences, physics, computer science, information systems, management, rehabilitative sciences and human resources management.
- An additional $1,000 is also available to 50 students with a high school GPA of 3.25 and an SAT score of 1100 (combined verbal and math) or a 24 ACT score who enroll in a dual certification education program. Clarion has designed more than 20 specific opportunities for dual or multiple teacher certifications, and continues to explore other unique opportunities.

The awards will increase the amount of scholarship money going to Clarion students. Last year, $1.8 million in scholarships were awarded to Clarion students.

Eligibility will be determined through the admissions process. To confirm eligibility, call admissions at 800-672-7171 (ext. 1).

Although these scholarship programs are designed for students graduating high school this academic year, Clarion has other scholarships available for transfer and adult learner students.

To learn more about additional scholarship opportunities, visit www.clarion.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid/financial-aid/scholarships.
Clarion University’s Shovel Brigade is making winter less worrisome for Clarion Borough residents who are unable to clear sidewalks of snow and ice.

The brigade is a list university students willing to reach out to and assist area residents who cannot comply, in a timely fashion, with borough snow removal ordinances. It is organized each year by the university’s Advisory Board for Leadership and Engagement, a student-run organization that forms and develops programs for students and the campus community.

“(The students must be) willing to go out on cold and blustery days and help those who cannot do it themselves … during what is supposed to be a very snowy winter,” said Lydia Whisler, vice president of service for ABLE.

Currently, several students help the brigade when needed. Junior Lamont Robinson signed up this year after he saw an email asking for volunteers. He said his greatest joy comes from the gratitude of those he is helping.

“I think being a part of the Shovel Brigade helps people in more ways than we think,” he said. “Obviously, the walkways and parking lots are clear and hazard free, but ultimately it allows people to get to their loved ones over the holiday seasons, and that is all that counts!”

The brigade formed after former Clarion Borough zoning officer Bob Ragon, who passed away in 2014, expressed interest in developing a system in which university students and the borough could work together to help residents who were unable to clear the snow from their sidewalk, and faced fines as a result. Together, Clarion University volunteers and Ragon developed the Shovel Brigade.

“(Ragon’s) dedication to elderly residents was admirable, and I greatly appreciate the work that he did in getting the Shovel Brigade off the ground,” said Kelly Ryan, assistant director of the Center for Leadership and Involvement.

Current housing and zoning officer Scott Sharrar is continuing the assistance program. Area residents in need of help can make initial calls to the borough office asking for assistance, and Sharrar will call Ryan. Ryan will reach out to the students nearest the residents who need help, or she will visit the people herself to assist them. Everything is free of charge.

Community members who wish to help in the brigade are also welcome. Call Kelly Ryan at 814-393-1688. Questions or concerns may be directed to ABLE at able@clarion.edu.