



TRED AVON PLAYERS ARE ON “TAP” IN THE TOWN OF OXFORD, MARYLAND



Who would ever guess that these talented thespians are amateurs?

Oxford, MD – Nestled on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the historic Town of Oxford is tiny – but like a multi-faceted jewel, it sparkles from many angles. One of the more brilliant: its cultural sophistication and community spirit. Just one example (but a beloved one) is the renowned theatrical troupe Tred Avon Players, affectionately known as “TAP”.

Although a number of its players have professional experience, TAP is an all-volunteer community theater organization. Making Oxford its home since 1982, TAP was established to motivate and train local thespians in the theatrical arts and present the best possible productions of a wide variety of shows, from musicals to comedies to mysteries – as many as five a year!

Summer 2011 brings two comedies to the stage. The first is the play “Social Security”, written by Andrew Bergman and directed by Patrick Fee and assistant director Zack Schlag. Full of delightfully clever adult humor, it’s a wry take on the life of two Manhattan art gallery owners whose privileged existence is abruptly upended by aging parents, rebellious college kids, and baby boomers facing mid-life crises. Among other plot highlights: penny pinching and free spending collide amidst family dynamics and jealousies; elder care and family responsibilities cross paths with matters of the heart. The curtain will rise at 8:00 p.m. on April 29 and 30 and May 6, 20, and 21; at 4:00 p.m. on May 1, 8, and 22; at 7:00 p.m. on May 19 (“Thrifty Thursday”); and at 2:00 p.m. on May 7 (no evening show).

The second summer production by TAP is a musical comedy, “The Big Bang”, written by Jed Feurer and Boyd Graham and directed by Tim Weigand. In a bit of *tromp d’oeil*, two would-be producers preview their new musical for theatrical backers in a posh Park Avenue apartment. A history of the world, the production showcases the producers-cum-performers singing and dancing their way from the Garden of Eden to the present, portraying Adam and Eve, Caesar and Cleopatra, and even a few animals – and looting the apartment for costumes and props as they go. The production runs from August 12 to 28.

TAP offers several ways to turn an already memorable experience into a grand occasion, whether theatergoers favor an early bedtime or a night on the town. Early birds really do get the “worm” on Thrifty

Thursdays, when TAP offers a 7:00 p.m. curtain time and two-for-one adult tickets; students are free! The Saturday and Sunday matinees are popular as well. In addition, opening night features complimentary champagne at 7:00 p.m. to lighten things up before the 8:00 p.m. curtain, making for a lively evening of bubbly, snacks, and merriment for only \$15. And there are always complimentary refreshments at intermission, reflecting the town's ever-generous and welcoming personality.

A non-profit Maryland corporation, TAP makes its home in the historic Oxford Community Center, an historic building designed by renowned Maryland architect Henry Powell Hopkins and saved from the wrecking ball by a group of public-spirited citizens. The Oxford Community Center hosts a variety of social, cultural, and recreational events in addition to TAP's productions, including a Memorial Day weekend Fine Arts Fair, summer youth camp, holiday events, and seasonal Farmer's Market.

While the Oxford Community Center is undergoing substantial and very welcome renovations, all TAP performances are taking place at the Historical Society Auditorium of Talbot County, 25 South Washington Street, in Easton. Additional information about TAP, its productions, and schedules and reservation options may be obtained by calling 410-226-0061 or visiting www.tredavonplayers.org.

The Town of Oxford, Maryland: docks, daydreams, discoveries, and so much more

About Oxford, Maryland:

The historic town of Oxford, Maryland, founded in 1683, is located in Talbot County on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Until the American Revolution, Oxford was an international shipping center, surrounded by tobacco plantations and home to a number of prominent national figures. Later it thrived on oyster harvesting and packing and other watermen's trades, even as tourism and leisure activities increased. It guards its peaceful personality, architectural integrity, and small-town virtues to this day, while warmly welcoming visitors from right next door and around the world. The Oxford Business Association welcomes inquiries by telephone (1-410-745-9023) and at its website (www.portofoxford.com); and the Talbot County Office of Tourism offers comprehensive information and trip planning services at its Easton office (1-410-770-8000) and on its website (www.tourtalbot.org).

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