

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

July 5, 2005

For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
559/733-6606
cell: 559/901-3445

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Theatre Company's Summer Production, "Beauty and the Beast," at L.J. Williams Theater July 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 at 7:30 p.m.; July 23 and 30 matinee at 2:00 p.m. *Special Opening Night Reception and Children's Teas Also Offered*

Tulare County Office of Education's Theatre Company is proud to present seven public performances of the smash Broadway Musical *Beauty and the Beast* at the L.J. Williams Theater in Visalia. The summer musical production – the eighth since the formation of the Theatre Company – is a classic Disney story of a selfish, unfeeling Prince turned into a hideous Beast by an enchantress. To break the spell, the prince must love and have love returned to him before the last petal of the enchanted rose falls, or face remaining the Beast forever. This year, the production features beautiful sets constructed by students in the new Theatre Company's Stagecraft class – a semester-long class run by the Tulare County Office of Education at Tulare County Organization for Vocational Education (TCOVE).

For the first time in the Theatre Company's history, the production will open with a Premiere Party on the lawn of the L.J. Williams Theatre. Tickets are available for just \$40 per person and include

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an hors d'oeuvre and dessert reception, an exclusive backstage tour prior to the show and VIP seats. Tickets for the 6:15 pm Premiere Party may be reserved by calling 733-6172.

Parents and children can also enjoy one of two tea parties prior to the Saturday matinee performances. The Children's Teas will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Dobson Room of the L.J. Williams Theatre, prior to the 2:00 p.m. matinee performances. Guest will be treated to an assortment of elegant tea sandwiches, desserts and refreshments sure to please both parents and children. *Beauty and the Beast* characters "Mrs. Potts" and "Chip" will make a special appearance, posing for and autographing pictures with children. Tickets, which are \$25 per person, also include VIP seating at the matinee performance. Reservations may be made by calling 733-6172.

"We're delighted to offer these special events in conjunction with our summer musical," says Tulare County Superintendent of School Jim Vidak. "For the public that has yet to experience one of our extraordinary productions, these events provide even more incentive to come. And for our regular patrons, it's an opportunity to see more of the characters – and at our Premiere – to get a behind-the-scenes tour of the incredible set."

Beauty and the Beast performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. on July 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30. Matinee performances will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 23 and July 30. Tickets are available for

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\$8 for general admission seating and \$20 for VIP seating by contacting Tulare County Office of Education at 733-6300 or 651-1482. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

For information about the Tulare County Office of Education, please call the Public Information Office at (559) 733-6606 or visit our website at www.tcoe.org. For additional information about Theatre Company and the summer musical production, *Beauty and the Beast*, call 651-1482.

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