

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Theatre Company's *Peter Pan* opens July 17

Tickets now available for seven shows offered July 17-25, 2015

L.J. Williams Theater, 1001 W. Main, Visalia

Visalia – TCOE's Theatre Company is preparing to perform the beloved family musical *Peter Pan* this month. Tickets are now available for the seven performances offered July 17-25 at the L.J. Williams Theater in Visalia. *Peter Pan* is based on J.M. Barrie's classic tale and has been delighting audiences since its Broadway debut 61 years ago.

In the production, Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick Tinkerbell visit the home of the Darling children late one night to begin a magical journey across the stars that none of them will ever forget. In the adventure of a lifetime, the travelers come face-to-face with a crocodile, a fierce Indian tribe, a band of bungling pirates, and Captain Hook. The production features the iconic songs "I'm Flying," "I've Gotta Crow," and "I Won't Grow Up."

Fifteen years ago, the Theatre Company performed *Peter Pan*. This year the beloved musical returns to Tulare County, complete with elaborate sets and costumes and an audience favorite – flying actors. "While this is the first show we have ever repeated, we felt like our current

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students would benefit greatly from being around this classic material,” said Theatre Company Director Brian Roberts. “The biggest difference this time around is that we are creating our own sets from scratch instead of renting the pieces. Our shop folks have worked tirelessly to create the most intricate sets we have ever constructed.”

Another advantage for this production of *Peter Pan* is the quality of the performers. “Fifteen years ago, we were a new program. We now have the great pleasure of working with and training many of our students starting at a much younger age,” explained Mr. Roberts. “As a result, their skills are at a much higher level overall and their level of professionalism is startling! You don’t have to look any further than our two lead characters, who have been stars in many of our recent productions.”

In the role of Peter Pan is Theatre Company veteran Carly Caviglia, a senior at Golden West High School. To prepare for the role of the boy who never grows up, Carly reports that she began a regimen of pushups and abdominal crunches in January, before she was even cast in the lead. “The role takes so much stamina,” she said. “I’ve learned to do handstands and cartwheels, and roll around on the ground like boys do!”

In the role of the villainous Captain Hook is Redwood High School senior Jack O’Leary. “Captain Hook is by far my favorite villain,” he said. “I think it’s because he’s full of contrasts. Hook is a posh British aristocrat with the kind of etiquette pirates never have. At times, he can be bloodthirsty and egotistical, while at others, indecisive and childlike. It has

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been fun playing him, although learning to act with just one hand and a hook has taken some getting used to.”

Special Backstage Event

For this production, the Theatre Company has created a **special backstage event** for children who would like to meet the characters. Available **before each show, the “Neverland Experience”** welcomes special ticketholders to Neverland, where they will meet the Lost Boys, Tiger Lily, Peter Pan, Captain Hook and his sidekick, Smee. Tickets to the backstage event are an additional \$10 per child and include a special gift from Peter Pan.

Principal Characters

Peter	Carly Caviglia	Golden West High School
Capt. Hook	Jack O’Leary	Redwood High School
Wendy	Kaley McConnaughey	Redwood High School
John	Jack Ploegstra	Home School
Michael	Katie Peters	Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center
Tiger Lily	Jackie Lopez-Prado	Redwood High School

Ticket Information

The Theatre Company will perform *Peter Pan* seven times in July. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. on July 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25. Matinee performances begin at 2:00 p.m. on July 18 and 25. Tickets are now available at TCOE Visalia offices: 2637 West Burrel Avenue

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and 7000 Doe Avenue, Suite A. General admission tickets are \$15 per person. Reserved VIP seating is \$25 per person. Tickets may be purchased with **CASH OR CHECK ONLY**. Any remaining tickets will be available at the theater's box office 30 minutes before each performance. For more information, call the Theatre Company at (559) 651-1482.