

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:

Tickets now available for Theatre Company production of *Bye Bye Birdie* with shows April 19-21

Four shows to be performed at El Diamante High School Theater, 5100 W. Whitendale, Visalia

The musical that kicked off the Theatre Company’s string of successful productions is returning to the stage this month. *Bye Bye Birdie*, the Broadway musical inspired by rock-and-roll idol Elvis Presley’s army draft in September 1957, is being brought back 20 years after the founding of the venerable young people’s theatre program. “It’s remarkable to look back at the success of the Theatre Company,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “What began with our first production of *Bye Bye Birdie* in 1998, grew to include 50 productions involving hundreds of students. The impact of this program on the confidence and performance abilities of Tulare County students has been immeasurable.

Bye Bye Birdie is the story of a rock-and-roll singer, Conrad Birdie, called to duty in the army and its effect on a group of teenagers in a small town in Ohio. Before Conrad deploys overseas, promoters have created a contest for him to deliver “one last kiss” to an adoring fan, Kim MacAfee of Sweet Apple, Ohio. Conrad is being played by Logan Lancaster of Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center, while Jessica Peters, a freshman at Redwood High School, plays Kim MacAfee.

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Performances

The Theatre Company will offer four performances of *Bye Bye Birdie* at the **El Diamante Theater** at 5100 W. Whitendale Ave. in Visalia. Evening performances will begin at **6:30 p.m. on April 19, 20 and 21**. A **2:00 p.m. matinee** will be held on **Saturday, April 21**. Tickets will be available April 3 at the Mooney Boulevard and Doe Avenue complexes for \$10 per person. For information, call the Theatre Company at (559) 651-1482.

Principal Characters

Conrad Birdie played by **Logan Lancaster**, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center, Visalia

Albert Peterson played by **John Piper**, El Diamante High School, Visalia

Kim MacAfee played by **Jessica Peters**, Redwood High School, Visalia

Doris MacAfee played by **Abbigail Cordeniz**, VTEC High School, Visalia

Randolph MacAfee played by **Zion Sears**, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center, Visalia

Harry MacAfee played by **Toby Shirk**, Homeschool

Rose Alvarez played by **Emilie Walker**, Redwood High School, Visalia

Hugo Peabody played by **Tyler Barnes**, George McCann Memorial, Visalia

Ursula Merkle played by **Anu Perry**, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center, Visalia

Mae Peterson played by **Paige Ragan**, Divisadero Middle School, Visalia

For information on the upcoming production of *Bye Bye Birdie*, call the Theatre Company at (559) 651-1482.

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