

Kids Take Over Town Hall Theater!

By Lee Borrowman

On Saturday, June 9th at 2:00PM, the Town Hall Theatre will open its doors to kids and families for the Town Hall Kids' Open House & Ice Cream Social. If you've never enjoyed an ice cream sundae in a nearly 100-year old building or stood center stage before, this is your chance. Win door prizes, enter a raffle for a brand new bike from Hank & Frank, tour the theater and listen to stories from its long and colorful history; don't forget to ask about the monkey!

This event is free for all kids and families, including past and current actors in the Town Hall Kids program, as well as families who are interested in finding out more about their theatre arts classes. Visitors will have a chance to meet the teachers, most of who are professional actors themselves, and hear about the Summer 2007 classes and shows. This year at summer camp, kids 7-12 can perform for friends and family in Snow White or Pinocchio (di-

rected by Jessica Magers-Rankin) or The Wizard of Oz (directed by Emily Garcia). There are also summer programs for younger children and a special Teen Cabaret class for students 12 and up.

Town Hall Theatre's Education Director Janice Peacock has enlarged and enhanced the kids' program since taking the reins last year. "It's a big change for us to have an emphasis on programs for older kids (in middle school and high school), but it's working and the kids love it," she says. "In all of our classes, we focus on the process and not just the performance, so the kids learn a lot about themselves, about overcoming obstacles and fears, and about working as a team towards a common goal."

"Every child in the program gets their moment in the spotlight, their chance to shine," continues Peacock. "We really concentrate on building their self-esteem. It's so wonderful to see the kids come off stage say-



Cast of Once Upon a Mattress, Spring 2007

ing, 'We were awesome! They loved us!'"

The Town Hall Theatre is a non-profit organization and is located at 3535 School Street (corner of Moraga Rd) in Lafayette. Town Hall Kids Summer registration is open, and there is still space available especially in the morning sessions. For more information go to www.townhallkids.com, call 925-262-1159 or e-mail townhallkids@yahoo.com.



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