



177 State Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Tickets: 866-811-4111 or www.playhouseonthegreen.org • Info: 203-333-3666

Contact: Matt Schicker
203-696-0033 matt@playhouseonthegreen.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: August 2009

**PLAYHOUSE ON THE GREEN LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM
FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, *THE PARK CITY PLAYERS*,
WITH PRODUCTION OF CLASSIC HOLIDAY MUSICAL
IRVING BERLIN'S *WHITE CHRISTMAS*
DECEMBER 10-13, 2009.**

**Educators Nancy Lessard of Shelton and Scott Sisbarro of Ansonia
bring 30+ years of teen musical theater experience to Bridgeport.**

BRIDGEPORT, CT - **Playhouse on the Green**, a not-for-profit theater company performing in the heart of downtown Bridgeport, **launches a new Musical Theater program for high school students in December 2009 with a production of the classic holiday musical Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*.** This first production by the newly-christened "**The Park City Players**", will feature high school students from Fairfield County and beyond, and run for 5 performances **December 10-13, 2009**, at Playhouse on the Green, 177 State Street, in Bridgeport.

Matt Schicker, Producing Artistic Director of Playhouse on the Green, is producer for *White Christmas*. Nancy Lessard directs; Scott Sisbarro is choreographer. Craig Baldino of Shelton and Matt Iacozza of Stratford, both seniors at St. Joseph's High School in Trumbull, are stage managers for the production.

Nancy Lessard and Scott Sisbarro have a long history of producing shows together in a number of venues. They encourage each student to do everything they can to achieve their personal best with each performance. Lessard and Sisbarro emphasize professionalism and perseverance in addition to acting, dancing, and singing skills, which they believe are key factors in the success of their long list of sold out runs year after year. Among their popular high school productions have been contemporary shows such as *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Tony and Tina's Wedding*, and *Back to the 80s*, as well as classics such as *West Side Story*, *Peter Pan* (including magical stage flight by Flying By

MORE

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Foy of Las Vegas), *Footloose*, *Grease*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Nancy and Scott strive to include the families of students in the productions as well. Scott Sisbarro says that “The parents are always there to help. Many even come back after their children have graduated from high school.” Nancy Lessard adds: “We have more than a cast and crew. We have their families...which melds into one big family.” Nancy and Scott are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with students from school throughout the Greater Bridgeport area in what may be the first of many teen productions at the Playhouse.

Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Matt Schicker says: “We are so pleased to join forces with Nancy and Scott for the Park City Players high school musical program. They bring a wealth of experience working with teens to Bridgeport, and their incredible skill and enthusiasm will make the holidays very special this year at the Playhouse.”

Based on the beloved, timeless film, *White Christmas* is a heartwarming musical featuring 17 Irving Berlin songs and a book by David Ives and Paul Blake. Veterans Bob Wallace and Phil Davis have a successful song-and-dance act after World War II. With romance in mind, the two follow a duo of beautiful singing sisters en route to their Christmas show at a Vermont lodge, which just happens to be owned by Bob and Phil's former army commander. The dazzling score features well known standards including “Blue Skies”, “I Love A Piano”, “How Deep Is the Ocean”, and “White Christmas”.

Open auditions for High School students will be held on Saturday, September 26 and Sunday September 27. Visit www.playhouseonthegreen.org for details on these auditions.

Adult single tickets to Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* are \$25. Senior Citizens tickets (65 and older) and student tickets \$20. **Tickets can be purchased 24/7 on-line at www.playhouseonthegreen.org or by calling TheaterMania at (866) 811-4111 (phone hours 9-9 weekdays, 10-6 weekends).**

About Playhouse on the Green

Playhouse on the Green is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit theater company in residence at a beautiful 228-seat jewel-box theater in the heart of downtown Bridgeport, Connecticut. Playhouse on the Green's mission is to enrich Bridgeport's cultural life by providing an eclectic variety of live stage entertainment and arts education programs at an affordable cost, as well as providing opportunities for area artists. Among these programs are its mainstage season of plays and musicals; “Playhouse Greenhouse” and “Project Broadway”, its arts education programs for kids, teens, and adults; a music and comedy series; and the “Page to Stage New Play Reading Series”, which brings the new work of Connecticut playwrights to the stage. Playhouse on the Green is generously funded by Fairfield County Community Foundation, People's United Community Foundation, Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District, City of Bridgeport Community Development Block Grant, and CT Arts Endowment Fund Grant, as well as sponsorships and donations from businesses and individuals in the Greater Bridgeport area and beyond. More information can be found at www.playhouseonthegreen.org.

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Nancy Lessard

Nancy (Lampugnale) Lessard is a locally renowned director of both high school and youth theater programs in Fairfield County, including Trumbull Pee Wee Theatre, of which she is the co-founder. For over 10 years, this program provided area youths grades 3-8 the opportunity to perform in full-scale musical productions. She is currently in her 9th season as writer and director of original scripts performed at CT Dance Summer Theatre Camps in Monroe. Her credits also include directing nearly 25 high school productions. Born in Trumbull, Nancy is a graduate of St. Joseph High School and Marymount College. Through multiple terms on the Trumbull Town Council, careers in the financial industry, elementary education, and her current position as a high school educator, the common thread that has woven each stitch together has been theater. Nancy currently resides in Huntington with her husband Brian and their two children Emily (17) and Alec (15).

Scott Sisbarro

Scott Sisbarro has been teaching dance for 19 years and currently is Director of Saint Savior's School of Dance in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, where more than 250 students are enrolled. His competition group has won many high score and special awards with his choreography. Scott is a graduate of Southern CT State University with a degree in Communication and a graduate of Dance Masters of America Teachers Training School. He is past president of the Dance Teachers Club of CT Chapter # 18 of Dance Masters of America. In addition to teaching at St. Saviour's, Scott has choreographed for the past few years at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull. He has choreographed and hosted for the "Mr. Student Body" contest at St. Joes for the senior boys that compete. Scott travels every weekend, January through May, all over the United States for American Dance Awards to Judge and Host their Dance Competition. He has served as an adjudicator for numerous regional and national competitions, including New England, Michigan, and Louisiana DMA Chapters, Indiana state dance championships, Canada's Dance Force Productions and Rhythm Dance, International Dance Challenge.

**Playhouse on the Green presents The Park City Players in
Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*
Music and lyrics by Irving Berlin
Book by David Ives and Paul Blake**

Performance Schedule (Subject to change)

Thursday, December 10 at 7PM

Friday, December 11 at 7PM

Saturday, December 12 at 1PM and 7PM

Sunday, December 13 at 1PM

CHECK WWW.PLAYHOUSEONTHEGREEN.ORG FOR COMPLETE UPDATED INFORMATION.

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