

THEATREThe month starts off with our annual musical. This year the bold, multi award winning **Cabaret** will play in our theatre June 25 through July 25. The proven team of director *Tracey Williams-Sutton*, *Len Klaif* and *Margo Haas* producers, *Jimmy Calire* musical director, *Edmund Andreas* costumer, and *Neva Williams* set designer, team together with Jeff Wallach choreographer, and talented actors to bring this powerful play to our stage. Set in 1931 Berlin as the Nazis are rising to power, it focuses on nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around English cabaret performer Sally Bowles (*Holly Ferguson*) and her relationship with American writer Cliff Bradshaw (*Zach Farber*). A subplot involves a doomed romance between German boarding house owner Fraulein Schneider and her elderly suitor Herr Schultz, a Jewish fruit vendor. Overseeing the action is the Master of Ceremonies of the Kit Kat Klub (*Cecil Sutton*). With the backdrop of growing Nazi terror, the Kit Kat Klub invites you to “come hear the music play.” Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call 640-8797 or log on to OjaiACT.org.

Up next is **Other People’s Money**, directed by Steve Grumette, Aug. 13 to Sept. 11.

Thanks to *Gai Jones* and her throng of kids (and their parents) for *Charlie & The Chocolate Factory* in May. A great time was had by all, onstage and off.

Barely recovered, Gai returns for the **Summer Youth Theatre Workshop, Charlie Brown and Friends, Part II**. This twelve week on-going sequential Theatre Acting for Youth workshop meets 8:45 to 11:15a.m. Monday through Thursday, July 12 to July 29, ending in a showcase of **Charley Brown and Friend, Part II** on the evening of July 29 at 7 p.m. Pre-registration required. No registration after July 7. Contact Gai at gai.jones@sbcglobal.net for more info.

ART.....The summer starts to sizzle with the annual art exhibit, **Hot Summer Days, Hot Summer Nights**. This juried, open show invites artists to submit works around the theme using any medium. Take in date is Saturday July 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All work must be for sale and securely wired for hanging. No wet paint or previously shown art work will be accepted. The entry fees are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

Shelby Harbison and *Mary Ogle* will exhibit in the showcases. Reception for all artists is Sunday, July 11, 1- 3 p.m.

The Ojai Open Studio is up and running and everybody is invited to come draw, paint, sculpt – create with others. Wednesdays, 9:30 to 12:30, Raymund Room.

LITERARY.....On Monday, July 12 at 7 p.m., the Literary Branch will present a staged reading of **Eclipse**, a one-act play by Joyce Carol Oates. **Eclipse** is a compelling story of a mother and daughter caught in a conflict between the daughter’s career and the mother’s need for care. *Catherine Dain* and *Lynn Van Emmerick* will be reading the mother and daughter, with *Laura Schreiner* as a social worker. *Bob Blough*, who is a thirty year veteran of Covenant Players and one of the four directors of Ojai ACT’s most recent production of *Love Letters*, is directing. After the reading the actors will talk with the audience about their experience of the play. Refreshments will be provided. Suggested donation- \$5.

On Friday, July 30, we will present a special evening “**Over the Rainbow**” with *Gale McNeeley* and *Betty Fass*. Broadway actor, singer, dancer, *McNeeley* will pay tribute to *Yip Harburg*, “the most famous lyricist you may not know.” He will be accompanied by *Bettie Faas* on piano singing familiar Harburg songs from the *Wizard of Oz*, *Fininan’s Rainbow* and popular hits like *April in Paris*, *It’s Only a Paper Moon*, *Buddy Can You Spare a Dime* and *Lydia the Tattooed Lady*. 7 p.m., \$10. Fun for all ages.

We’re in the planning stages for our annual benefit. This year we are excited to bring **Sam Harris** to Ojai. Sam Harris is an American pop and musical theater recording artist as well as as a television, stage and film actor. He was the first grand champion of the premiere season of *Star Search*. He has toured extensively in concert and has played to sold out audiences at major venues including Carnegie Hall, Los Angeles Universal Ampitheater and London’s West End. He’s played in *Grease*, *The Producers*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Cabaret*, *Hair* and *Pippin*. The date is September 18. Mark your calendars and wait for more info.