Local theaters serve up lively summer fare

Curtain up!
The local live theaters are heating up with a summertime menu of light-hearted selections designed to put patrons in a livin’ easy mood. In addition, both theaters—the Landis in Vineland and the Levoy in Millville—are conducting summer theater camps for the area’s youth.

The Landis Theater (830 Landis Ave.) gets things moving with a look back at the doo wop era of the fifties in a performance on July 13 at 8 p.m. by The Brooklyn Bridge, formed in 1968 from members of The Crests and The Del Saints.

The Brooklyn Bridge was a popular rock ‘n roll vocal group of the ‘60s and ‘70s. Some of their hits included “The Worst That Could Happen,” “Your Husband, My Wife,” “Welcome Me Love,” “Blessed is the Rain,” and “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” The group was featured in a PBS special fund raising event, “Doo Wop 50.” The group was inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2005.

In conjunction with the performance, Mori’s Restaurant next door to the theater will host a $15 buffet dinner in the banquet room. Light food and bar service also will be available during the show. Ticket prices are $45 and $35 for orchestra seats and $60 for the mezzanine.

The Levoy Theatre (126-130 No. High St.) recently announced a popular TV star will introduce its new comedy series. Tracy Morgan, a former cast member of “30 Rock” and “Saturday Night Live,” will appear in a stand-up show on Aug. 28 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $55, $45 and $35.

The Landis Theater continues its summer season with “Pegate a la Risa” on July 27 at 7:30 p.m., featuring comedic Puerto Rican actors. The Spanish language show is a mix of stand-up comedy, sketches and musical parodies. This show includes comedy of an adult nature appropriate for ages 16 and up, and persons under 18 should be accompanied by an adult, according to theater organizers.

Other summer productions at the Levoy are:

July 6: 8 p.m., $30 and $25- “Draw the Line,” described as “the endorsed Aerosmith Tribute show,” draws its inspiration from the original group’s hits of the seventies, eighties and nineties. One of the members, Neil Byrnes, who plays the part of Steven Tyler, has been praised by critics as looking and sounding like the one he portrays.

July 11: 8 p.m., $25-$28, $40 Wine & Show Package- “Ladies of Laughter,” first established in 1992 as a platform for professional and amateur comedienne to jump-start their careers. Past winners have appeared on Comedy Central, ABC-TV, FOX and others.

July 18: 8 p.m., ticket prices not yet set- “Maureen Hancock, Psychic in Suburbia” – Medium who specializes in talking to relatives who have died.

July 19: 8 p.m., $25-$30, military discounts available at box office- “The Hunts,” a family of nine whose performances cover

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Doo-Wop group, The Brooklyn Bridge, will appear at the Landis Theater on July 13, with a pre-show buffet dinner at Mori’s Restaurant next to the theater.

Theaters announce full summer schedule

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musical genres ranging from Celtic to country to rock. Fiddling is mixed with a percussive blend of step dancing, drums, acoustic and electric guitars, accompanied by piano melodies and vocal harmonies.

Aug. 2-11: 8 p.m., $14-$20, senior/student pricing, military discounts at box office - Off Broad Street Players’ “Fiddler on the Roof,” the hit musical that takes place in pre-revolutionary Russia and centers on maintaining tradition amid cultural change.

For tickets and information on Landis Theater events, visit landistheater.com or call (856) 691-1121. For the Levoy, visit levoy.net or call (856) 327-6400.

Summer drama camps offered locally

Giving area youth a taste of what it’s like to participate in live theater is the goal of summer drama camps being offered by the two local theaters.

“Drama Days” at the Landis Theater in Vineland (830 Landis Ave.) consists of “Spotlight Classes” from July 8 to 19, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and “Summer Stage,” a two-week session from Aug. 5-16, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Acting, musical theater improvisation and design will be covered. Registration is available online at appelfarm.org/Spotlight_classes and appelfarm.org/Summer.Stage, or by calling Wesley Bogan at (856) 358-2472.

At the Levoy Theatre in Millville (126 1/2 N. High St.) the community group Off Broad Street Players offers “Young Voices of the American Theatre: a Youth Theatre Immersion Experience,” from July 8 to 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for ages 7 to 18. The curriculum covers technical and artistic aspects of theater. More information is available at levoy.net/kids/summer-theatre-camp.

In Memoriam: Mark Melamed

The Cultural and Heritage Commission mourns the passing of this year’s Encore Award winner, Mark Melamed, on June 15 of pancreatic cancer at the age of 56.

Mr. Melamed, featured in last month’s Chronicle, was well known in the community for his dedication to theater arts as a teacher at Veterans Memorial School in Vineland and for his founding of the Gabriel Project, which provided medical treatment for children throughout the world.

Although unable to attend the awards presentation last month because of his illness, he expressed his gratitude to the Commission and reaffirmed his dedication to the arts.