

Johnson County Park and Recreation District  
presents

# OKLAHOMA!

Music by Richard Rodgers

Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein 2nd

**July 29, 30, 31, August 5, 6, 7, 1988**

Directed by Barbara Nichols

Based on Lynn Riggs' play "Green Grow the Lilacs"

## CAST

Curly . . . . . Kenn Woodward  
Laurey . . . . . SueZanne Thibodeau  
Will Parker . . . . . Gregory Cunneen  
Ado Annie . . . . . Amy Payne  
Jud Fry . . . . . Ron Simonian  
Aunt Eller . . . . . Alma Johnson  
Ali Hakim . . . . . Kent Davis

Mr. Carnes . . . . . Forrest White  
Gertie Cummings . . . . . Jenny Loudenback  
Dream Curly . . . . . Craig Ellingson  
Dream Laurey . . . . . Kay Massman  
Cord Elam . . . . . Don Lowery  
Ike Skidmore . . . . . Lee Day  
Slim . . . . . Aaron Biggs

**Singing Chorus:** Connie Adkins, Tim Bolton, Jody Brown, Anita Cyrier, Charles Golladay, Marsha Golladay, Cathy Hosty, Jana Husted, Pat Mahoney, Sun Dee Mills, Matt Percifield, Pete Rademacher, Janice Walker, John Walker, Yvonne Walker, Dalene Zimmerman

**Dancing Chorus:** Corey Baker, Aaron Biggs, Jennifer Collins, Sarah Crawford, Emily Cunningham, Lee Day, Craig Ellingson, David Hastings, Michael Kenney, Kay Massman, Nikki Moralez, John Salazar, Penny Simpson, Jennifer Sutherland, Rene Yazel

**Children's Chorus:** Johnny Anderson, Shannon Anderson, Erika Johnson, Laura Pilcher, Paula Pilcher, Tommy Reid, Marc Scrivo

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

Time: Just after the turn of the century  
Place: Indian Territory (now Oklahoma)

### ACT ONE

*Scene 1: The Front of Laurey's Farmhouse*

Oh, What A Beautiful Mornin' . . . . . Curly  
The Surrey with the Fringe on Top . . . . . Curly,  
Laurey, Aunt Eller  
Kansas City . . . . . Will, Aunt Eller and the Boys  
I Cain't Say No . . . . . Ado Annie  
Many A New Day . . . . . Laurey and the Girls  
People Will Say We're in Love . . . . . Curly and Laurey

*Scene 2: The Smoke House*

Pore Jud . . . . . Curly and Jud  
Lonely Room . . . . . Jud

*Scene 3: A Grove on Laurey's Farm*

Out of My Dreams . . . . . Laurey and the Girls

### ACT TWO

*Scene 1: The Skidmore Ranch*

The Farmer and the Cowman . . . . . Carnes, Aunt Eller,  
Curly, Will, Ado Annie, Slim, Ike and Ensemble  
All er Nuthin' . . . . . Ado Annie and Will  
Reprise:  
People Will Say We're In Love . . . . . Curly and Laurey

*Scene 2: The Back of Laurey's Farmhouse*

Oklahoma . . . . . Curly, Laurey, Aunt Eller and Ensemble  
Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin' . . . . . Laurey, Curley  
and Ensemble  
Finale . . . . . Entire Company

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"It is a radiant summer morning several years ago, the kind of morning which, enveloping the shapes of earthmen, cattle in a meadow, blades of the young corn, streams—makes them seem to exist now for the first time, their images giving off a golden emanation that is partly true and partly a trick of the imagination, focusing us to keep alive a loveliness that may pass away."

This passage, taken from the opening of "Oklahoma!" sets the tone for the entire show. Just as the characters and settings

are existing for the first time, "Oklahoma!" set many firsts when it opened on March 31, 1943. It was the first show to have songs help define characters; it used a ballet to advance the plot; and it was the first time that songs became the servant of the script, each one serving a definite purpose.

"Oklahoma!" set the standards for American musicals. It is a show of new beginnings, strength and optimism. More importantly, it holds a special place in the hearts of theatregoers everywhere and will continue to do so for generations to come.

Presented through special arrangement with Rodgers and Hammerstein Theatre Library.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director . . . . . Barbara Nichols  
 Conductor . . . . . Steven Smith  
 Choreographer . . . . . Tim Bair  
 Vocal Director . . . . . Brad Zimmerman  
 Assistant Director . . . . . Lynn Reddick  
 Stage Manager . . . . . Ile Haggins  
 Lighting Technician . . . . . Kim True  
 Sound Technicians . . . . . Steve and Ron Morrison  
 Accompanist . . . . . Janis Pilcher  
 Prop Mistress . . . . . Judy Hiebert  
 Assistant Prop Mistress . . . . . Keitha Zeller

Dance Captain . . . . . John Salazar  
 Costumer . . . . . Andrea Sasso  
 Scenic Designer/Tech Director . . . . . Jeff Aeling  
 Master Carpenter . . . . . Bill Case  
 Set Construction Crew . . . . . Charlie Kenworthy,  
 Jack Kidwell, Connie Burk  
 Lighting Interns . . . . . Christine Juliano, Jason Atkins  
 Secretary to the Producer . . . . . Bev Thompson  
 Assistant Producer . . . . . Philip Kinen  
 Producer . . . . . Demmaree Carns

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Joantiques, Westport Flea Market, Keith Larson's Drum City, Funk's Music Center, Deborah Craig-Claar, Lauren Hagen, Loren Troutman Insurance, Chris Nichols, Janet Byrnes, Matthew Bichelmeyer, Beaucoup Balloons, Frank Fendorf, Kansas City Middle School of the Arts, Olathe Community Orchestra, Jack E. Smith, Mid Central States Equipment Co., Shawnee Mission Developmental Center, Dan Smith Agency

## ORCHESTRA

Violin: Cordelia Brown, Concertmaster Joyce Jordan Bill Hunnacutt Denise Shannon Charlotte Christiansen Nancy McNeil Nick McFarland Rick Page Kay Parke Al Dimmitt Mary Ann Langworthy Sonja Smith	Viola: Kristee Harkless Christina Pedersen Randy Griffin Cello: Gail Rowland Missy Munroe Dorothy May Dana Self Bass: Judy Baker David Hughes	Flute & Piccolo: Emily Smith Oboe: Donna McDaniel Paul VanHorn Clarinet: Jere Kimmel Belinda Johnson Bass Clarinet: Jere Kimmel	Bassoon: Jodie Lin Horn: Molly Klein Janele Phillips Trumpet: Kevin Milbourn Bill Crawford Trombone: Russell Davis	Percussion: Darrell McDaniel Banjo: Jerry Uppman Piano: Janis Pilcher
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Pre-show music: Three dance episodes from the ballet *Rodeo* by Aaron Copland:  
 "Saturday Night Waltz," "Corral Nocturne," and "Hoedown."

## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

**BARBARA NICHOLS** (Director) "Oklahoma!" marks Barbara's directing debut at the Park, but her third season of involvement. She has performed in "How to Succeed . . ." "Broadway, the Ultimate," and "South Pacific." She has directed "The Fourposter" at Marymount College and assistant directed and performed in "Lou Ann Hampton" at the Olathe Community Theater.

**STEVEN SMITH** (Conductor) With "Oklahoma!" Steven is conducting his sixth production at Theatre in the Park, having previously led the orchestras for "1776," "Annie," "South Pacific," "Anything Goes," and "Man of La Mancha." Steven holds a master's degree in conducting from Northwestern University, and he teaches strings at the Kansas City Middle School of the Arts. Steven is the conductor of the Olathe Community Orchestra and the Overland Park Chamber Orchestra. He recently founded the K.C. Salon Orchestra.

**TIM BAIR** (Choreographer) "Oklahoma!" marks Tim's fifth season at Shawnee Mission Theatre in the Park. Tim appeared as Paul in last year's award-winning Park production of "A Chorus Line." He previously appeared in Park productions of "Applause" and "A Funny Thing Happened . . ." and was nominated for a Kansas City Theater award for Best Choreography for his work on "Seven Brides . . ." He is currently appearing at Worlds of Fun in the Tivoli Music Hall production of "Shine."

**BRAD ZIMMERMAN** (Vocal Director) "Oklahoma!" marks Brad's seventh season with Theatre in the Park. He was seen onstage in

"Camelot," "The Music Man," "Hello, Dolly!" and "Li'l Abner." He served as Vocal Director for "Seven Brides . . ." and "South Pacific." Brad teaches vocal music in the Olathe School District and is a tenor soloist for the Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral.

**LYNN REDDICK** (Assistant Director) This is Lynn's sixth season at the Park. He has appeared onstage in "Hello, Dolly!," "Li'l Abner," and "1776." He was the Assistant Director for "Seven Brides . . ." and was the Stage Manager last summer for "South Pacific." When not at the Park, Lynn is a Programmer Analyst for United Telecom.

**ILE HAGGINS** (Stage Manager) Ile is making her Park debut, but she is no stranger to the theatrical world, having stage managed as well as directed many productions in her home state of Ohio. Ile is the coordinator of the Images Program, which is designed to help prevent drug abuse by involving high-risk children in the Arts. Ms. Haggins certainly exemplifies the kind of attitude and background for which Theatre in the Park is continuously striving.

**JANIS PILCHER** (Rehearsal Pianist) This is Janis's third season at the Park, previously accompanying for "How to Succeed . . .," "Anything Goes," and playing the accordion for "Seven Brides . . ." She played for the Park's first four seasons at Antioch Park. She has her BME from Emporia State University, and currently has a keyboard studio in Shawnee.

**JEFF AELING** (Scenic Designer/Tech Director) Designing sets is nothing new for Jeff. He has worked in this field for many years for Kenmark Studios. He is a graduate of the Art Institute and does freelance illustrating and painting for The Kansas City Star/Times. He has also just completed the scenic design and construction for a national television commercial. Jeff lives in Kansas City with his wife, Anne, and their dog, Timmy.

**PHILIP KINEN** (Assistant Producer) This is Philip's third year as Assistant Producer at Theatre in the Park. During the School year he is the Speech and Drama instructor for Pioneer Trail Junior High in Olathe.

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

**CONNIE ADKINS** (Chorus) This is Connie's first performance with Theatre in the Park. Connie recently traveled with the International music group Up With People, and is currently a Director of Nursing at a nursing home.

**JOHNNY ANDERSON** (Children's Chorus) "Oklahoma!" is Johnny's second Theatre in the Park production, having appeared earlier this summer in "Joseph . . ." Other credits include the Missouri Repertory Theatre's production of "All My Sons."

**SHANNON ANDERSON** (Children's Chorus) "Oklahoma!" marks Shannon's Theatre in the Park debut. Shannon is a member of the KC Tap and Jazz Troupe at the Dixie Bell Dance Center. She just returned from the Showstopper National Talent Finals where she won first place in her age division.

**COREY BAKER** (Dancer) This is Corey's first year at the Park. He is a member of Repertory Theatre at Shawnee Mission South, and he has participated in the productions of "Miracle on 34th Street" and "Our Town."

**AARON BIGGS** (Dancer) Aaron has been in several high school productions including "Dial M for Murder," "Damn Yankees" and the lead role in "Guys and Dolls." This is his first production at Theatre in the Park.

**TIM BOLTON** (Chorus) Tim has been in productions of "Our Town," "Annie Get Your Gun," and "Man of La Mancha." He has performed at the Gaslight Theatre in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. He is currently singing with the Heartland Men's Chorus.

**JODY BROWN** (Chorus) This is Jody's first show for Theatre in the Park and she has found it to be a learning experience. She is a medical technologist by trade, but is hoping to prove that even scientists can have greasepaint in their blood.

**JENNIFER COLLINS** (Dancer) Jennifer is currently studying tap, jazz, ballet and voice at Monica's School of Dance, where she is a member of the High Voltage Dance Troupe. She attends Blue Valley North High School. "Oklahoma!" marks Jennifer's first production at the Park.

**SARAH CRAWFORD** (Dancer) Sarah Crawford is a member of the Full Circle Acting Company. She has been singing and dancing in theatrical productions since the age of three. This is Sarah's first production with Theatre in the Park.

**GREGORY CUNNEEN** (Will Parker) This fall Greg will be attending KU for his senior year. He has appeared in KU productions of "Carousel," "Hamlet," "Antigone," and "Best Little Whorehouse . . ." among others. Greg has appeared on stage at the Park in "How To Succeed . . ." This summer Greg is appearing at Worlds of Fun in the Tivoli Music Hall show.

**EMILY CUNNINGHAM** (Dancer) Emily will be a senior at Shawnee Mission East where she has participated in productions of "Midsummer's Night Dream," "The Music Man," and "Once Upon A Mattress." She aspires to travel to Europe, meet David Bowie and fall blissfully in love.

**ANITA CYRIER** (Chorus) This is Anita's third year at the Park. She served as Vocal Director for "Fiddler on the Roof" and "West Side Story." Anita is a vocal teacher in the Shawnee Mission schools and Johnson County Community College.

**KENT DAVIS** (Ali Hakim) Kent is appearing in his second park show after last year's "South Pacific." A jaded veteran of high school theatre, he will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall and major in East Asian studies.

**LEE DAY** (Ike Skidmore) Lee has been interested in theatre since he was seven. In high school he has appeared in "Carnival" and "Oklahoma!" Last year he performed in "South Pacific" at the Park. At Shawnee Mission Northwest, Lee is involved with the Barbershop Quartet, A Capella, Chamber Choir and Forensics.

He also directs for several other theater companies in Kansas City and appeared in the Park's production of "A Funny Thing Happened . . ." in 1985.

**DEMMAREE CARNS** (Producer) Demmaree is the Cultural Arts Supervisor for Johnson County Park and Recreation District and serves as Producer for all Theatre in the Park productions. She has been with the District for 15 years. Demmaree is especially proud of the Best of Theatre '87 award which Theatre in the Park received for its production of "A Chorus Line."

**CRAIG ELLINGSON** (Dancer) Craig is a Junior at the University of Nebraska and is majoring in Advertising. He is currently working at Worlds of Fun in the Tivoli Music Hall production of "Shine." This is his first performance here at the Park.

**CHARLES GOLLADAY** (Chorus) This is Charles' second year with Theatre in the Park. He appeared last year in "South Pacific" where he met his wife, Marsha. He recently performed in the Olathe Community Theatre's production of "Lou Ann Hampton Lavery Oberlander." Charles teaches in Olathe.

**MARSHA GOLLADAY** (Chorus) Marsha is a veteran of six years at Theatre in the Park. She started with the production of "Hello, Dolly!" and has been a member of both the cast and the production staff throughout the years. Marsha is employed by Hallmark Cards.

**DAVID HASTINGS** (Dancer) David is new to the Park's stage. He will be a senior at Shawnee Mission North High School where he has been in several productions including "Peter Pan" and "Man of La Mancha." He has also appeared on the cable television show "Kaliedopeid."

**CATHY HOSTY** (Chorus) Cathy has performed in "Fiddler on the Roof" and Agnes Basement Production's "Moving West." This is her first performance at Theatre in the Park.

**JANA HUSTED** (Chorus) Jana appeared in several of her high school's productions. New to Kansas City, she is employed by WDAF where she is the Producer of the Six O'Clock News. This is her first production at Theatre in the Park.

**ALMA JOHNSON** (Aunt Eller) Alma is new to Kansas City, having moved here last year from Ohio where she had been active in community theatre for many years. She appeared last fall as the General in the Barn Players production of "Guys and Dolls." Alma is employed by the Shawnee Mission Electric Company.

**ERIKA JOHNSON** (Children's Chorus) Erika is 11 years old and attends Santa Fe Trail school. She takes piano and gymnastic lessons. This is her first production at Theatre in the Park.

**MICHAEL KENNEY** (Chorus) Michael appeared as the Pharaoh earlier this year in "Joseph . . ." and performed in "South Pacific" last year here at the park. He has performed in many other shows.

**JENNY LOUDENBACK** (Gertie) Jenny has been in her college's productions of "Fools" and "Little Murders" and appeared in Theater Under the Stars' production of "Oliver" last year. She is currently attending UMKC and is working towards her teaching certificate.

**DON LOWERY** (Cord Elam) Don has appeared in over 40 productions, including performances at the Lyric Opera, Missouri Repertory Theatre and the Barn Players. This is his fourth appearance at Theatre in the Park, last seen in "How to Succeed . . ." Don has done numerous national and regional TV commercials.

**PAT MAHONEY** (Chorus) Pat is a Letter Carrier for the United States Postal Service. He has performed in Agnes Basement Productions' "Hum A Few Bars and We'll Fake It" and "Moving West." This is his first show at Theatre in the Park.

**KAY MASSMAN** (Dancer) Kay has been an aspiring dancer for eight years. She is a member of the American Youth Ballet and a former member of the Full Circle Theatre Company. A junior at St. Teresa's Academy, Kay appeared there as Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz." In the future, Kay hopes to continue her education in theatre and the arts.

## **MORE CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

**SUN DEE MILLS (Chorus)** Sun Dee is a senior at Bonner Springs High School, where she has been in productions of "Godspell" and "The Curious Savage." She was in "Joseph . . ." earlier this summer. She works at Worlds of Fun's Stax of Wax show as a dresser.

**NIKKI MORALES (Dancer)** Nikki is 16 and has been studying dance at Miller Marley School of Dance for seven years. This is Nikki's third year performing at the Park. She also performed in the Starlight Theatre production of "The Wizard of Oz."

**AMY PAYNE (Ado Annie)** This is Amy's first production at the Park. She earned a B.A. degree in Theatre and Media Arts from the University of Kansas, where she toured with KU Theatre for Young People's production of "The Code Breaker." She hopes to pursue a career in the film industry.

**MATT PERCIFIELD (Chorus)** Matt retired at the ripe old age of 24 from the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department. This is his first production at Theatre in the Park.

**LAURA PILCHER (Children's Chorus)** Laura is a fourth grader at St. Joseph's. She has taken piano and dance lessons since the age of three, and is currently studying at the Dixie Bell Dance Center.

**PAULA PILCHER (Children's Chorus)** Paula is a fourth grader at St. Joseph's. She has taken dance lessons since age four, and is now dancing at Dixie Bell Dance Center. She won first place in her dance category this year at Worlds of Fun.

**PETE RADEMACHER (Chorus)** Pete is the Data Processing Supervisor for the Johnson County Park and Recreation District. This is his first year at Theatre in the Park, although he had several lead roles in his high school days.

**TOMMY REID (Children's Chorus)** Tommy is six years old and will be a first grader at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School. He loves to sing and has enjoyed participating in "Oklahoma!" his first theatre production.

**JOHN SALAZAR (Dancer)** "Oklahoma!" marks John's fifth performance at Theatre in the Park. He has also been a featured dancer in the Miss Kansas City and the Miss Missouri pageants. John is a Display Designer for Dillard's Department Stores.

**MARC SCRIVO (Children's Chorus)** Marc, who is 11 years old, is making his fourth appearance at Theatre in the Park. His previous shows include "Guys and Dolls," "Seven Brides . . ." and "South Pacific." He has also performed at the Folly Theatre, Shawnee Mission West High School and Theatre Under The Stars.

**RON SIMONIAN (Jud Fry)** This is Ron's first production at the Park. He has been in productions of "Twelfth Night," "Don Quixote" and "Carousel!" at the University of Kansas, where he is in his final year. He is majoring in theatre at KU.

**PENNY SIMPSON (Dancer)** Penny has appeared in several ballets with the State Ballet of Missouri, where she was a student for three years. She has appeared in "Babes in Arms," "Mame," "The Buck Stops Here" and as Lady Larkin in "Once Upon A Mattress." This is her Park debut.

**JENNIFER SUTHERLAND (Dancer)** Jennifer has been seen in several community theatre productions such as "Bye, Bye Birdie," "Guys and Dolls" and "Sing for Your Supper." She is a former member of the Full Circle Company, and currently dances with the American Youth Ballet.

**SUEZANNE THIBODEAU (Laurey)** SueZanne is a relatively new face to Kansas City theatre. A native of Lawrence, Kansas, she played roles such as Nancy in "Oliver!" and Alais in "The Lion in Winter" at the Lawrence Community Theatre. In Kansas City, she has been seen in "Girl Crazy" and "LElisir d'Amore" at UMKC, and "Joseph . . ." here at the Park.

**JANIS WALKER (Chorus)** Janis teaches first grade at Leawood Elementary in the Blue Valley School District. She has appeared in "Brigadoon" and "Kismet," and performs with various choral groups. Janice also dances with the Lithuanian Folk Dance Ensemble of Kansas City.

**JOHN WALKER (Chorus)** John works as an engineering technician at Bendix/King Radio in Olathe. He and his wife, Janice, are currently dancers with the Kansas City "AIDAS" Lithuanian Folk dancers. He has also danced with the Strawberry Hill Croatian Folk ensemble. This is his first show at the Park.

**YVONNE WALKER (Chorus)** Yvonne is a choral director in the Hickman Mills School District, where she is also the founder and director of the Hickman Mills District Faculty Chorale. She has sung with the Kansas City Civic Chorus for four years, and teaches private voice lessons at the Academy of Performing Arts in Grandview, Missouri.

**FORREST WHITE (Mr. Carnes)** Forrest (better known as Frosty) is appearing in his seventh production at Theatre in the Park. He appeared earlier this summer as Potiphar in "Joseph . . ." Frosty also played the Professor in "South Pacific," Charlemagne in "Pippin," and Rudolph in "Hello, Dolly!"

**KENN WOODWARD (Curly)** Kenn is a Shawnee Mission West and JCCC graduate. He earned both a BME and MM from Emporia State University. Kenn recently appeared in the University of Kansas production of "Carousel." Next year, Kenn will be an apprentice with the Tulsa Opera Company.

**RENE YAZEL (Dancer)** Rene is a familiar face to Kansas City audiences, having appeared in several Starlight Theatre productions. She has also been seen in the Park's production of "Anything Goes." Rene has appeared in numerous national and local TV commercials.

**DALENE ZIMMERMAN (Chorus)** Dalene is appearing in her second park show; last year she was seen in "South Pacific." She will be a junior at Shawnee Mission South where she is involved in theatre, music, track and the drill team.