

**ORLANDO
GAY CHORUS**
presents

Gissies & **STARS**

Terry Thomas, Artistic Director

March 22 and 23, 2003 at 7:35 PM

John and Rita Lowndes Shakespeare Center

For the *Díva* in each of us



Rainbow City

Orlando's Gay Pride Megastore

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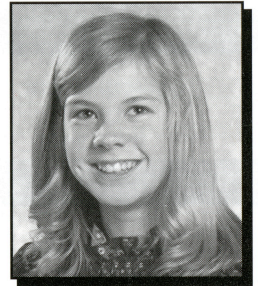
407-898-6096

rainbowcityfla@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Friends!

We are delighted that you are joining us for this very special show. For the first time the Chorus brings a message for children of all ages. A very special message too! It is none to soon to take a moment to share this musical experience of a young boy, Oliver Button. A boy different from other children. Is he gay? You decide?



This past year Chapter 57 was big news. It was the hot topic of gay adoption, the hope that a traditional family can be defined by love instead of the parenting components being a man and a woman, and honest dialogue about differences. These discussions have compelled us to share this story with you. We hope you'll be an ambassador of its powerful message.

Oliver Button Is a Sissy could be about anyone. It could be about the little girl or boy being raised by two moms or two dads. It could be about a child with one parent, or a child from a different country. Pick a scenario. The important thing is we recognize the effects of our words and actions on those around us.

The talent that Peg O'Keef brings to the stage telling the story in her own special way...The folks from the Philharmonic to fill the room with spirit and special magic...Joe Erwin, a man with so much warmth and heart...I'm left speechless.

I'm glad you're here. On behalf of the OGC family, may you be blessed with a song in your heart for all seasons.

Enjoy the show!

Kimberly A. Bowles

President



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Guest Starring



PEG O'KEEF

Peg O'Keef, a native Floridian, earned her BA at Rollins College and her MA at Ohio State University. Over the last 20 years she has produced, directed, or acted in virtually every theatre in Central Florida. Among her accomplishments in Orlando is the founding of Theatre Downtown where she continues to contribute as an artist.

Performance credits include Hannah Pitt et al in *Angels in America*, Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, B in *Three Tall Women*, Sarah in *The Sisters Rosensweig*, Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*, Maggie Mundy in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and Ouisa Kitteredge in *Six Degrees of Separation*. As director, Peg has staged countless productions, including *Grapes of Wrath*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Road to Nirvana*, *Indians, Le Bete*, *Orpheus Descending*, *American Buffalo*, and *Camino Real*. At Rollins, Peg directed recent productions of *The Bacchae*, *The Children's Hour*, and *Blithe Spirit* at Rollins College. Her next Rollins project is portraying Jean

Brodie in the Annie Russell Theatre production of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* in April 2003.

In addition to her theatre credits, Peg has an extensive background in film. She managed the soundstage at Chapman/Leonard's East Coast facility; served as General Manager of Enzian Theatre; and as Managing Director/Director of Special Projects of the Florida Film Festival in 1994, 1995, 1997, and 1998. Peg was the Executive Director of Enzian Theatre and the Florida Film Festival in 1999 and Co-Director of the Florida Film Festival in 2001 and 2002. Her on-screen work includes several projects with experimental filmmaker Tag Purvis (including *Red Dirt and Sweet and Sour*) and specialized work with Haxan Films (*Blair Witch Project* and *Blair Witch* television special for the Sci-Fi Channel). Peg's voice can be heard narrating the Tiffany Chapel video tour at Morse Museum of Art and the video tour of the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens.

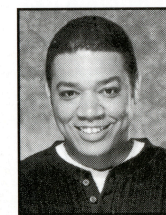
She has been recognized in *The Orlando Sentinel* as "A Person to Watch" in the annual Arts Supplement as well as profiled in "A Few Minutes With..." in Florida Magazine. Orlando Weekly's 1996 and 2001 Readers Polls of "Best of Orlando" selected her as Orlando's Best Actor.

Academically, Peg specializes in script analysis and theatre history/literature/criticism as well as a multitude of acting and directing techniques. Additionally, she has performed as coach (and diagnostician) for countless student, amateur, and professional performers. At Rollins, Peg teaches Introduction to Acting for the Nonmajor, Acting I, Acting II, Rollins Conference Course, and Script Analysis. She is a Visiting Associate Professor at Rollins College.



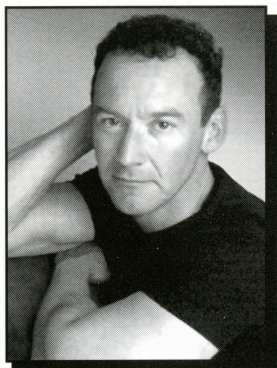
JOHN PAUL TIER

At the age of six, John Paul approached his parents about an interest he had in taking dance lessons. His father, who is a Southern Baptist minister, quickly suggested he choose a different extracurricular activity to study. Piano lessons seemed to be the next best thing and gave him the foundation needed to survive within the musical theatre industry. As a performer in productions with touring companies, theme parks, cruise ships and regional theatres throughout the country, John Paul is proud to call Orlando home. Always eager to actively participate within the community, he is honored to again be a part of an Orlando Gay Chorus concert. He dedicates this performance to Mary Ann Knight, his college piano teacher, who at the age of seventy remains an inspiration, as she is still a full-time teacher and concert pianist.



TONY TOOLEY

Tony Tooley was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana and was bitten by the acting bug at the age of 17. He has performed in various musicals ranging from *Oklahoma* to *Kismet* to operas such as *Il Trovatore* to *Aida*. He is currently appearing in the Festival of the Lion King show at Disney's Animal Kingdom in the role of "Kiame". Tony dedicates these performances to aspiring musical theatre artists everywhere.



TERRY THOMAS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Terry was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, but grew up in Terre Haute, Indiana. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Instrumental Music Education at Indiana State University. He then taught high school band in Indiana for three years. Terry worked and lived in Kuwait for three years as the Performing Arts Coordinator for the American School. He later returned to Indiana State where he earned his Master's Degree (vocal) and worked as a graduate assistant in Music Theory. After graduation Terry moved to Northern Ohio where he worked as a musician at Cedar Point Amusement Park. Terry's musical talent gave him the

opportunity to once again leave the country, but this time with the Department of Defense in an entertainment tour to Germany for six weeks. After these worldly experiences, Terry made his way to Orlando to work at Disney in their finance area. The acting bug bit Terry, and in 1991 he moved to Rockford, Illinois to pursue his other passion — theatre. After his eight-month theatre gig was over, he returned to Orlando and once again Disney's Finance Department. Terry is currently a cast member at the Animal Kingdom as a performance coach.

Mr. Thomas was the founding pianist of OGC in 1990. He rejoined the Chorus on the road and played piano for a Key West concert in 1994. In 1995, Terry co-directed OGC's pride concert. We are pleased and excited that Mr. Thomas has returned to the Orlando Gay Chorus as Artistic Director.



GENOA MINGA ACCOMPANIST

Genoa is a native of the Smokey and Appalachian Mountains region of Northeast Tennessee. She earned her Bachelor's Degree of Music Education from Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music in Winchester, Virginia. Her passion for choral music lead her from piano performance to choral conducting and arranging during her graduate studies.

In 1981, she completed her Master's Degree at Shenandoah Conservatory in Choral Conducting under the tutelage of Dr. David Stutzenberger. During her graduate studies, Genoa was assistant conductor and accompanist for the Shenandoah Concert Choir. She was graduate assistant in Music Theory and the Summer Theatre Program.

In 1981, Genoa had the honor of conducting the premier performance of the choral work "War Requiem" by the composer Donald Erb. Also in 1981, she travelled to Europe on a month long concert tour as a singer and assistant conductor with the Cantus Singers of Shenandoah.

She returned to Northeast Tennessee in 1982 where she taught in the public school system for 18 years. She was awarded Teacher of the Year as a choral director in 1995. Genoa has worked as an accompanist with noted adjudicators such as Don Nuen, Michael Nuss and Doreen Rao.

Genoa moved to Orlando in 2000 and has remained active in the music education field. We are fortunate that she found the Orlando Gay Chorus. She is in her third concert season as our accompanist.



OUR PERFORMERS

TENOR 1

Manny Agon
Jan Aikens
Douglas Dunn
Crystal Edwards
Janice Emmons
Denise Encinosa
Trina Gregory
Paula LaPlace
Russell Macomber
Shone Maddox
Greg Moore ✱
Pattie Noah
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Pam Sehnert
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TENOR 2

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Chris Martin
Bill Neighbors
Mike Rentzel
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Angel Santiago
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Chris Friend
Craig Friend
Jay Green
Bob Kingston
Chuck McDonald
Lee Moody

Bill Moore ✱

Gary Paskal
John Tillis
Randy Wallace
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Paul Rutherford

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Gary Hall
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Ridge Holdridge ✱
Dan O'Donnell
Wilbur Parrott
Dennis Pierce
Steve Queen
Steve Rheume
Rick Rogers
David Schuler
Michelle Shackelford
Jay Shields

DIRECTOR

Terry Thomas

ACCOMPANIST

Genoa Minga

✱ Section Leader



Act One

Everything's Coming Up Roses Herman

No One Is Alone Sondheim

Until Sting

Tony Tooley, guest soloist

Pattie Noah, guitar

Finlandia Sibelius

Wanna Sing a Show Tune Jessel

John Paul Tier, guest soloist

One Voice Manilow

Craig Friend, soloist

Family Nieger / Eyn

We Start Today Maltby / Shire

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

A Message from Our President

Oliver Button is a Sissy dePaola / Shorter

Peg O'Keef, narrator

Joe Erwin, soloist

I. Overture

II. Introduction of Storyteller

III. "Up in the Attic"

IV. "I Always Drop the Ball"

V. Oliver Starts Dance Lessons

VI. "Oliver Button Was All Excited"

VII. Oliver's Dance

VIII. Monday Morning

IX. Oliver Button is a Star!

Somewhere Over the Rainbow Arlen

Everything is Possible Small

Isn't it Lovely Wonder



Production support for the Orlando Gay Chorus is provided by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 631.

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 Audio Engineer: Ray Christianna
 Stage Hand Rick Trux
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Special thanks to Fourth Phase-Orlando, Steinway Piano Galleries, Allied Costumes, PJ Albert of the Shakespeare Festival, Show Support from the Disney Animal Kingdom, David Schillhammer and our friends at the Orlando Philharmonic, the City of Orlando Commissioners, Phil Diamond, Betty Wyman, Vicki Vargo, Patty Sheehan, Daisy Lynum, Ernest Page, Kenworthy Elementary (Seminole County), Osceola County Schools, and the Classroom Teachers Association, Joy MCC and First Unitarian Church-Orlando.

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PATRICIA CLIFTON ASL INTERPRETER

Patricia Clifton became interested in American Sign Language 10 years ago, studying with Ella Mae Lentz, Author of "Signing Naturally", in Berkeley, CA. She has been a volunteer ASL Interpreter for Joy Metropolitan Community Church for three years and for the Orlando Gay Chorus for four Seasons. In 2001 she received the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf, Inc. (RID), President's Choice Award for starting the Greater Orlando Florida RID Chapter. Interpreting songs and conveying the music to the Deaf, brings her the greatest joy.



PAUL RUTHERFORD ASL INTERPRETER


Paul Rutherford began learning Sign Language in college and has been interpreting in a volunteer or professional capacity almost ever since. He currently is a volunteer interpreter at Joy MCC and this is his second concert series with the Orlando Gay Chorus.



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The Orlando Gay Chorus is proud to be a recipient of a grant from the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, Florida Arts.

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We 2 Have Parental Rights, is a foundation focused on bringing to light the ongoing efforts for legal fairness when dealing with the gay and lesbian family.



We 2 Have Parental Rights

Equal Access To Our Children

Although gay and lesbian issues have never been more at the forefront in the judicial and legislative arenas, many jurisdictions and states still refuse to treat a family involving a same-sex couple with the same standards as heterosexual couples. In this new century, it is a goal for lawmakers and people in power to recognize that the innate face of the family is changing, and that the delicate bonds that hold people together must be dealt with using understanding, fairness, and with an eye to the well being of our most innocent, the children.

We 2 Have Parental Rights now has a website and attempts to bring together the resources, individuals, and focus needed to help fight for Parental Rights for everyone, and protect the important relationship between the child and the parent first.

If you would like to help or share your support with us, please go to our site:

www.we2haveparentalrights.com

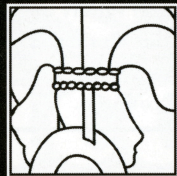
You can also either email or phone Lisa Coons-Anderson, Founder of the Foundation and Moderator of the website:

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