



welcome to

Center Stage

OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



WHO WE ARE!

First off, thank you for joining Oklahoma OnStage and for signing up for our monthly newsletter. We hope that you enjoy this little publication, and will encourage others to sign up for it as well.

If you are new, let us catch you up. Oklahoma OnStage is a grassroots organization created and designed to encourage, support and promote all things theatre in the great state of Oklahoma. With currently over 120 theatres in our network, we are sure that there is something for everyone, and that there is an overwhelming amount of talent within this artform within our state.

It is our hope to bring to our listeners and fans engaging content, supportive promotion of theaters and productions, and entertaining interviews with talented individuals from every corner of Oklahoma. If you like what we're doing, be sure and follow us on Facebook and Instagram, as well as review and rate our podcast. Thank you.

CARPENTER SQUARE THEATRE NOW SEEKING VISUAL ARTISTS FOR SEASON 42 EXHIBITIONS

By: **Chloe Rabinowitz** Jun. 20, 2025
for Broadway World Oklahoma

Carpenter Square Theatre invites local visual artists to apply for exhibition opportunities in the Glenna & Richard Tanenbaum Gallery during its upcoming Season 42. The gallery, located in CST's lobby space, features rotating exhibits that coincide with the run of each mainstage production. Each exhibit is on display for approximately three weeks during the 10-performance run of a play and is viewed by patrons before each show and during intermission. (Continued on page 2)



SPOTLIGHT:

CO.ARTS BRINGS A GHOSTLY TALE



Chip Keebaugh, a climate activist and theatre practitioner, untangles the mysterious collapse of the medieval Norse colony on Greenland in the world premiere of his play: *GRÖENLAND*. A wedding. A suicide. A witch-burning. These are the three extant records that give us insight into what might have happened in the final days on the harsh island. Directed by Lauren Linsey, a longtime collaborator of Chip and a fellow graduate from the University of Oklahoma School of Drama.

August 15 through 17. For tickets and showtimes go to <https://www.coarts.co/greenland#/productions-view>

EDITORIAL BY SHANNAN BILYEU, M.A.

Is it unreasonable to ask community theatre actors to change their appearance for a role? As we voluntarily share our time and talents to bring theatre to life, sometimes adjustments to appearances are needed to fit a character. Whether it is a show taking place in a specific time period or something intended for adults to portray children, production teams (by necessity) spend a lot of time and effort deciding how they want the show to look once it is staged. Including the appearance of their actors. Community theatres include volunteer actors who may or may not be willing to accommodate. Some may not be able to make extreme appearance changes, like haircuts or coloring, due to their occupational dress code or other obligations. I am an advocate for being up front with expectations at auditions. Any expectation of physical characteristics should be decided and made clear early in the staging process whether that includes actors wearing high heels, using wigs or prosthetics, changing hair styles, or shaving/adding facial hair. Talking to potential cast members about these issues prior to being cast makes sure there are no surprises later if someone accepts a role.

Actors are given the gift to bring characters on the page to life. Sometimes that will include playing an age, social class, or wearing a fashion style outside of their everyday life experience. In situations where an actor has been cast and is not willing to change their appearance as envisioned by the production team, deciding how to proceed can be difficult. Sometimes the script will specifically describe a character with lines spoken by another character onstage. Changing those lines are not always an option. (*Continued on page 3*)



Our Mid-Season Marathon



JANNIE ANIFOWOSE



SHANNAN OSBORN-BILYEU



STORYTELLERS OKC



PONCA PLAYHOUSE



THEATRE TULSA

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 2)

Other times, descriptions are only in the character breakdowns, which allows for more flexibility. With different expectations for each theatre/show/director, it is easy to get caught up not knowing what is wanted and where.

Production team members must consider the bigger picture in these situations. Will it distract the audience enough to pull them out of the experience if an actor with a full beard is supposed to be playing an elementary school child? Will audience members accept a Cyrano or Pinocchio without the expected long nose? Regardless of how great a performer is, sometimes audiences will not let small details go unnoticed. This can result in a disappointing theatre experience. Some things just cannot be changed, and most of us do the best we can with what we have. As theatres walk the line regarding the suspension of disbelief, where can we successfully stop? What could be the cost of those choices?

Carpenter Square Theatre Now Seeking Visual Artists For Season 42 Exhibitions *(continued from page 1)*

Artists are responsible for installing and removing their own work and may choose from two commission structures:

- 15% commission with a donated piece for CST's annual fundraiser, or
- 30% commission with no donation required.

There is no fee to exhibit, and selected artists receive two complimentary tickets to the associated production. Exhibitors will be featured in the program and acknowledged in the pre-show curtain speech. Carpenter Square Theatre does not censor artwork and encourages submissions from artists working in a variety of styles and media. The Glenna & Richard Tanenbaum Gallery debuted in June 2023 with an exhibit by Suzanne Mears. CST is committed to providing a platform for local creatives while enhancing the theatergoing experience for its patrons.

WANT TO BE A PART OF OUR TEAM?

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WORKING WITH US?

If you would like to join Oklahoma OnStage in its endeavor to encourage, support, and promote all things theatre in the state of Oklahoma, give us a shout and let's see where we can plug you in!

LET'S CHAT!

oklahomaonstage@gmail.com

WWW.OKLAHOMAONSTAGE.ORG

AUGUST PRODUCTIONS

RIVER CITY PLAYERS (TAHLEQUAH) - PLATINUM ROCK - AUG 1-2

RIVER CITY PLAYERS (TAHLEQUAH) - COUNTRY GOLD - AUG 1-2

SOONER THEATRE (NORMAN) - LEGALLY BLONDE - AUG 1-3

LYRIC THEATRE (OKC) - OKLAHOMA! - AUG 1-3

FOURTH ST THEATRE (TUTTLE) - ONCE UPON A MATTRESS - AUG 1-3

STORYTELLER THEATRE (OKC) - THE WNDRFL WIZARD OF OZ - AUG 1-3

ARTWORKS ACADEMY (NORMAN) - URINETOWN - AUG 1-3

KISMET ARTS (OKC) - BIG FISH, SCHOOL ED. - AUG 1-3

TULSA THEATRE WORKS - ONCE UPON A MATTRESS - AUG 1-3

MUSKOGEE LITTLE THEATRE - SHREK THE MUSICAL - AUG 1-10

JEWEL BOX THEATRE (OKC) - CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF - AUG 1-3

SOUTH TULSA CHILDRENS BALLET - ALICE IN WONDERLAND - AUG 2

OKC IMPROV - THE SWAMP - AUG 2

OKLAHOMA SHAKESPEARE (OKC) - LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST - AUG 7-17

TULSA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - RAGTIME - AUG 8-24

OKC IMPROV - SQUEAKY CLEAN FAMILY FRIENDLY COMEDY SHOW - AUG 9

PAINTED SKY OPERA (OKC) - THE MAGIC FLUTE - AUG 14-15

STORYTELLER THEATRE (OKC) - A LITTLE PRINCESS - AUG 15-24

BROKEN ARROW PAC - THE OLYMPIANS - AUG 15-24

THEATRE TULSA - THE CRUCIBLE - AUG 15-24

SOUTH TULSA CHILDRENS BALLET - LION KING - AUG 16

SAND SPRINGS COMMUNITY THEATRE - MURDER MYSTERY DINNER - AUG 16

GASLIGHT THEATRE (ENID) - TURPIN TUNES - AUG 21

OKC IMPROV - THE MAD IMPROV LAB SHOW - AUG 21

WHODUNIT DINNER THEATRE - SOUTHERN FRIED HOMICIDE - AUG 22-23,29