



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Presentation By Tokay Players
MEETING DATE: April 1, 1998
PREPARED BY: City Clerk

RECOMMENDED ACTION: None required.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Tokay Players has requested to be placed on the agenda to make a presentation to the City Council. Cheryl Baker with Tokay Players will be at the meeting to make the presentation.

FUNDING: None required.

Alice M. Reimche
Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

APPROVED: _____
H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager

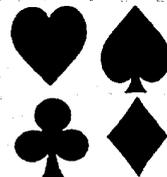
Tokay Players Presents
Afternoon Bridge and Dessert

A Fundraiser for our Sustaining Fund

April 14, 1998 12:30 - 4:30 PM



Woman's Club of Lodi
325 W. Pine St., Lodi
Admission: \$12



For Tickets call Jeanne Charles at
(209) 334-0909 or the theatre (209)368-2225



★ *1 Free Admission* ★

THIS COUPON ENTITLES BEARER TO
1 FREE ADMISSION TO ANY TOKAY PLAYERS
PRODUCTION FOR THE 1997-98 SEASON.

FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL (209) 368-2225



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Lodi's Own Community Theatre

Cheryl Baker, President
17 W. Lockeford St., P.O. Box 1014
Lodi, CA 95241

Theatre Numbers

Reservations 368-2225
Backstage 368-2285

Personal Numbers

Home (209) 836-5201
Pager 1(800) 55SPRINT, Pin #2570651

Tokay Players
Lodi's Own Community Theatre
17 W. Lockeford St. Lodi, CA 95241

Our mission:

- We are dedicated to educate, entertain and enlighten our audiences while encouraging participation and understanding among people of all ages, races and backgrounds.

Our vision for the future:

- own our building
- to build public awareness of our theatre
- to remain a necessary and vital part of Lodi cultural life.
- to create continuous ongoing support from the community - financial and otherwise.

Our goal:

- Goal is to raise \$400,000 to buy the building, renovate it and to sell our lot on the corner of Lockeford and School St.
- to raise the funds to bring our rent current.
- to continue to be Lodi's source of theatrical entertainment.

Here is what we request:

- buy our lot on the corner of School and Lockeford (valuable piece of property, but we cannot wait to develop it.
- assist us in applying for a block grant
- provide a building for us at little or no cost.
- grant us an emergency loan to pay the rent for the rest of our season.
- help us buy our building, with the down payment of our lot.
- help us to create other options to assure our future in Lodi.

By supporting this theatre Lodi will:

- assure the continuation of a valuable community asset.
- preserve cultural activities in Lodi.
- assure a future of excellent theatre at an affordable price.
- meet the goal of keep Lodi dollars in Lodi.
- attract new businesses and new families to Lodi.
- show support for the downtown businesses.
- enjoy the talents of a dedicated, outrageous group of people.
- be a part of community theatre at its finest.

Please contact Cheryl Baker, President at (209) 836-5201 H or (209) 368-2225 theatre answering machine.



Players Prompter

March/ April 1998

The show must go on!

President's Message

Hi, folks! Well, where to begin? Most of the time, I'm never at a loss for words. Our **Weekend Comedy** just closed. Great attendance, many sold out houses. Great cast, awesome director, *Dori Polson* with a very talented assistant director, *Val Acoba*. And of course, the set was incredible thanks to *Dick Chaffee* and *Ken Hadley*. And the opening night party was catered by Togo's as a donation! Wow! Thanks to everyone for your support and attendance!

Our next play is **Mama Drama**. It is a play about what it is all about being a Mom. Definitely a drama. In fact, be advised for adult content. From listening to rehearsals, they are very intense about this play. Our directors, *Ronnye Newell* and *Rae Ann Nelson* have been working hard with the cast on creating a wonderful show for you. *Rae Ann* was just seen on our stage in **Laundry and Bourbon**. The stellar cast will be worth watching in whatever role they are playing - with our own past president, *Ann Samuelson* and *Carisa Hosey* in it, as well as *Lynn Egelston*, *Rebecca Hatton*, *Christina Chavez Nelson*. I know this show will be one for the memory banks.

Our financial situation has a good side and a bad side. Whatever happens in the next two months, we will continue with our season. The place might just be different. Here it is folks. We are in the 11th hour, with not much hope in sight. We are behind in our rent, which is due March 31, to the tune of \$26,500. That doesn't even take us to the end of the season in November. Our fundraisers have brought a little in, but not on the scale that is needed to retire this debt. Our plays do not make a huge profit, due to our affordable ticket price and variable attendance. The Arts Commission has given us a grant, but it cannot be used for operating expenses, which is what we lack. The Board and I are doing whatever it takes for **Tokay Players** to survive, and we are working on a crisis management plan for this month and next.

A fundraiser to end all fundraisers is in the works. It will be a silent auction of items sent by celebrities, movie, TV and sports stars. Whichever stars we can get and whatever items we can get. Imagine, wearing a star's tee shirt or boxer shorts. Cool. A raffle for some outstanding door



prizes will happen concurrently. If you have an item that you would donate to the auction, please call and let us know. Another fundraiser planned it a massive garage sale. If you have things you would donate to us to sell, please call the theatre or me and leave your name, number and a description of the item or items. If needed, we can pick stuff up. Just let us know! Dates, location and times for these events will be forthcoming in

the mail. Most likely it will all happen at the end of February and into March. Other plans include a bridge and lunch party. So, start lining up your partners!

Here's what we need: **ANGELS!!** Become a member at the Benefactor level, buy a star, make a significant monetary donation. **NOW!** We need you now like never before. If you know someone who is financially capable to help us, talk to him or her. Eyeball to eyeball. Have them take action, before we are history. Or, call me and let me call them. We've sent letters to many people asking for help, and so far, we've been turned down. If you who are reading this letter are capable of making an incredible monetary gift, in the words of Jean Luc Picard,

"Make it so."

Great theatre may be seeing it's last season here in Lodi! Without your help, 37 years of theatre arts in Lodi will be history!

The show must go on! Help us keep our lights shining in Lodi for another 37 years. **Tokay Players** is an asset to our community - brings families and businesses to Lodi. Hutchins Street Square doesn't have a home for us. Help! Now!

Cheryl Baker

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1997-98 SEASON SCHEDULE				
of TOKAY PLAYERS				
DATE	PLAY	DIRECTOR/S	AUDITIONS	PERFORMANCE
MAR/APR 98	Mama Drama	Ronnye Newell and Rae Ann Tourville-Nelson	JAN 18,19,20	MAR 13,14,20,21,22 27,28,29 APR 3,4
MAY 98	Going to See the Elephant	Kay Smith	MAR 15,16,17	MAY 8,9,10,15,16,17, 22,23,29,30
SEPT/OCT 98	TBA	Ann Samuelson	JULY 19,20,21	SEP 18,19,25,26,27 OCT 2,3,4,9,10
NOV 98	Terra Nova	David Motroni	SEP 20,21,22	NOV 13,14,20,21,22, 27, 28 29 DEC 4,5

Call 368-2225 to reserve your Tickets

General Tickets

\$10.00

SAVE YOUR THEATRE !!

ATTENTION BRIDGE PLAYERS !!!

Look for Donation Cans in Lodi & Stockton Area Businesses.

AFTERNOON BRIDGE & DESSERT

Give a greenback to save the theatre!

When: Thursday, March 19th

Time : 12:30 to 5:00 PM

Place: TBA

Pitch In your change and be a part of history!

Admittance : \$ 12 per person

If everybody gave \$5
we'll be out of the woods and thriving again!!

Call Jeanne Charles at 334-0909 to reserve your tickets.

Remember! Donations to Tokay Players may be tax
deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
We have a 501 (3) C exemption.

SPECIAL THANKS FOR DONATIONS !!

Tom at *Buckeye Appliances* for the Refrigerator

Russ at *All Seasons* for the Fireplace Insert

Jim Smith for the Piano



THE 1997-98 BOARD OF DIRECTORS!!

Office	Name	Board of Directors
President	Cheryl Baker	Ann Samuelson
Vice-President	Dick Chaffee	Carmen Musch
Secretary	Carmela Brown	Jeanne Charles
Treasurer	John Fabing	Virginia Zapp
		Tanya Coleman
		Carisa Hosey
		Steve Nichols
		Patsy Lithco
		Michael Polson

Attention School PTAs and Service Clubs

A great fundraising idea for you and us is to buy a performance for one of our plays. You sell tickets to your supporters, charge what you wish over our group rate price and come see great theatre. Call the theatre and leave a message to reserve your performance night now! Help yourself by helping us. Discover the partnership you can create with the arts.

Fundraiser Announced***Saved by the Stars Silent Auction***

Come bid for personal, autographed items from the stars.

Items from sports, movie and TV stars.

Admittance: \$ 10

Hors 'd oeuvres

Date: April 18

Time and Place: TBA

Attention Clubs:

Looking for a speaker for your next luncheon?

Tokay Players would love to speak at your next function. Available any time during March or April. Call **Cheryl Baker** at (209) 836-5201.

Volunteer Needs**Ushers, House Managers, Box Office Managers:**

Call **Jeanne Charles** at (209) 334-0909 to sign up today for training and set a date to work! (all box office managers, ushers and house managers receive a complimentary ticket to be used for a seat for that show - any day of the run.)

Backstage Crew:

Call the theatre and leave your name and number.

Fund Raising Support:

Call **Cheryl Baker** at (209) 836-5201 or leave a message on the theatre answering machine to volunteer yourself or your organization.

Contributions needed

Used Charge card machine equipment
Hardware for set construction (screws, hinges, etc).
Carpeting, linoleum, rugs.
Light fixtures, lamps.

Hardware Wish List

180' 1 1/4" black pipe
6 90 degree elbows 1 1/4"
9 flanges 1 1/4"
3 tees 1 1/4"
8" and 10" crescent wrenches
25' tape measure
Hacksaw blades
10 pt. cross cut hand saw
2 hammers
3 7 1/4" circular saw blades

Lumber

20 2x4 10'
20 1x4 10'

Paint:

Gallons and gallons
Paint brushes
Paint rollers
8' straight edge

2 50' extension cords
8' ladder
Big crow bar
Philips screw drivers #1, #2
Miter Saw - electric
Windows, doors, old furniture of any kind.
Electrical materials of any kind.

Fake plants, flowers, etc.
Yards of material for costumes.
Costume jewelry (anything!)
Office supplies (paper, pens, rubber bands, envelopes, etc.)

OF COURSE \$\$\$\$\$ always welcome!! Call the theatre at **369-2225** if you can support us with any of the above contributions.

Reach for the Stars !!

You can become a Founding Member of the new home of the Tokay Players.

Yes, you can become a Star!!!

WHO WE ARE

Since its inception about 36 years ago, **Tokay Players** has served Lodi as a spirited community theatre. Each year **Tokay Players** produces five-seven plays - musicals, comedies, dramas and thrillers - and sells between 4,500 and 5,000 tickets.

Audiences comprise a wide cross-section of San Joaquin County's population, from senior citizens to youth. **Tokay Players** is one of Lodi's key resources in the arts.

A nonprofit organization, **Tokay Players, Inc.** is operated by volunteers, including an elected Board of Directors. It is supported by box office receipts, grants (including the City of Lodi's Arts Commission), underwriters, and donations from many patrons.

OUR MISSION

The organization is dedicated to the performance of live theatre to educate, entertain, and enlighten, while encouraging involvement and understanding among people of all ages and from all segments of our community. This is accomplished through theatrical productions, benefit performances, educational workshops, and participation in community events.

OUR GOAL

Our aim is to raise \$400,000 to pay for the upgrade of the present occupied building to a new 150-seat theatre. Please support us by becoming a member, upgrading your membership, becoming a season ticket holder, volunteering your time, labor, materials, supporting our plays and other events and donating generously.

"Reach for the Stars" is an integral part of **Tokay Players** campaign to build a new theatre. Help achieve that goal by being a star and buying one!

Your name, or any name designated, will be inscribed on a brass star, and permanently on display in the new lobby.

4 ¾"	Brass Star	\$ 250
7 "	Brass Star	\$ 500
8 "	Brass Star	\$1000
12 "	Brass Star	\$2500

I want to participate without a star. My donation of \$ _____ is enclosed.

(Easy payments may be made - call to set up a giving plan)

GIFTS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULL EXTENT ALLOWABLE BY LAW.

Catch the star of your choice by sending a check payable to:

TOKAY PLAYERS' BUILDING FUND
P.O. BOX 1014, LODI CA 95241

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Jim Smith

Piano Technician

480 Cowell Avenue

Manteca, CA 95336 - 5908

(209) 823-7962

Upcoming Plays /Auditions**Plays:** *Mama Drama***Directed by:** *Ronnye Newell*

Mar 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31 Feb 1, 6, 7, 8

Regular shows at 8 PM/ Matinees at 2:30 PM

Director's Note:

Tokay Players Takes a "Whimsical and Celebratory Look at Contemporary Motherhood" **Tokay Players** continues their 1997-98 season with *Mama Drama* by Leslie Ayvazian, Christine Farrell, Donna Daley and Rita Nachtman. Called "startling, funny, frank and absolutely true," *Mama Drama* tells the story of five friends through five profound years in their lives. This fast-paced comedy-drama introduces us to Megan, an Irish-Catholic divorced mother of three who fights poverty and tries to live up to the memory of her own mother; Danny, a spirited optimist, who faces infertility and health problems; Anna, a commanding and competent mother of two, who is haunted by the child she gave up for adoption; Leah, who uses her droll sense of humor to fend off her overbearing mother and her own anxieties about childbirth, and Liz, a single woman with an acerbic wit who chooses not to have children but ends up caring for her ailing mother. *Mama Drama* has something for every adult who has experienced childbirth either vicariously or up close and personal.

Mama Drama is directed by Ronnye J. Newell and Rae Ann Tourville-Nelson. These two ladies teamed up to direct *Private Lives* at Stockton Civic Theatre. Ronnye is a 1996 graduate of the theatre program at California State University Sacramento and has been seen in numerous local productions. Rae Ann has played roles in **Tokay Players** production of *Laundry and Bourbon* and at Delta College in *Cabaret*. She sings with Lucky Diaz and the High Rollers, a hot local band. The set is designed by Glenn Newell, whose work on *Lips Together, Teeth Apart* and *Private Lives* have made him one of the area's finest.

Mama Drama requires that the five actresses play multiple roles in addition to their main character.

Facing this challenge are five of the area's most accomplished actresses. Lynn Egelston (Leah) was last seen at SCT in *The 1940's Radio Hour* and **Tokay Players** in *Nunsense II*. Rebecca Hatton (Anna) returned to the stage in the hit comedy *Rumors* and has been seen at SCT in *The Dresser, Enter Laughing* and many more and at **Tokay Players** in *Alone Together*. Carisa S. Hosey (Liz) hasn't acted since her days at Monroe Arts Magnet but has been a mainstay for SCT and **Tokay Players** as a stage manager and light board operator. She won SCT's Willie Award for Outstanding Crew Member. Christina Chavez Nelson (Megan) is just finishing a successful run for Smiler's Comedy Playhouse in *Move Over, Mrs. Markham* and *It's a Scream* Ann Samuelson (Danny) was last seen at SCT in *Private Lives, Tokay Players* in *The Boys Next Door* and Circle Theatre Ensemble in *Dancing at Lughnasa, Eleemosynary* and *The Lady and the Clarinet*. *Mama Drama* opens March 13 and plays Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM through April 4 with two Sunday matinees at 2:30 PM on March 22 and 29. Tickets are \$10 and can be reserved by calling the box office at 368-2225. **Tokay Players** is located at 17 W. Lockeford Street in Lodi. **Tokay Players** is pleased to announce that our comfortable theatre seats are now in.

***Mama Drama* deals frankly with childbirth and pregnancy and may be inappropriate for some young viewers.**

Mama Drama is produced through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Audition AnnouncementPlay: *Going To See The Elephant*Directed by: **Kay Smith**

March 15, 16 7:00 PM at the theatre

Call **369-2225** to sign up for auditions

Roles needed are : 2 women in their 20's
 1 woman in her 30's
 1 woman in her 60's

Rehearsals will start on March 17th.

Performances are May 8th through May 30th

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Phone number for
Tokay Players is:
3.68-2225

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LODI, CA

Players Prompter
TOKAY PLAYERS, INC.
P.O. BOX 1014
LODI, CA 95241

With your donation at the following levels you will receive:

General Membership \$ 5 - \$ 19
Voting rights, program listing, receipt of *Players Prompter*

Friends of Tokay Players \$ 20 - \$ 49
Same as General, and a Special Gift

Special Membership \$ 50 - \$ 99
Same as General, and 1 Complimentary Ticket

Sponsor Membership \$100 - \$249
Same as General, and 2 Complimentary Tickets

Patron Membership \$250 - \$499
Same as General, and 1 *Season Ticket*

Endower Membership \$500 - \$999
Same as General, and 2 *Season Tickets*, 1 Complimentary
Ticket and a Special Gift

Benefactor Membership \$1000 and above
Same as General, and 4 *Season Tickets*, 2 Complimentary
Tickets and a Special Gift

Memorial Contribution -
No set amount and special person is listed in the program

If you have already paid and would like to upgrade to a
different level, just let us know. You may choose to pay in
instalments. Any questions, call the Theatre.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____

- General Membership** (\$5 - 19)
- Friends of Tokay Players** (\$20 - \$49)
- Special Membership** (\$50 - \$99)
- Sponsoring Membership** (\$100 - \$249)
- Patron Membership** (\$250 - 499)
- Endower Membership** (\$500 - \$999)
- Benefactor Membership** (\$1000 +)
- Memorials** (Any amount you wish)
- I am a member & I wish to upgrade my membership
- I pledge to pay \$ _____ monthly for a total of \$ _____

Cut along lines and return with your check payable to:

TOKAY PLAYERS, INC.
P.O. BOX 1014
LODI, CA 95241

(MEMBERSHIPS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

Your membership helps defray mailing costs, meet general
operating expenses, allows you to vote for board members
and shows your support for Community Theatre

PLEASE JOIN NOW!!!