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## **JULY 2013 -- CALENDAR INFORMATION**



Claire Buchgnani plays Annie

WHAT: ANNIE GET YOUR GUN  
PERFORMED BY: Woodminster Summer Musicals by Producers Associates, Inc.  
WHERE: Woodminster Amphitheater in Joaquin Miller Park, 3300 Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland  
WHEN: July 12-21, 2013  
PERFORMANCES: July 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21 - 8 p.m.  
TICKETS: 510-531-9597, or [www.woodminster.com](http://www.woodminster.com) , \$27-\$56 (\$2 discount for children/seniors) PREVIEW (Final Dress Rehearsal): July 11, 8 p.m., All tickets \$15 at the door. (Since it's a rehearsal, the show may be stopped to solve technical problems.) Music and lyrics by Irving Berlin, Book by Herbert Fields and Dorothy Fields. Produced by arrangement with R&H Theatricals.

## **PRESS RELEASE (For immediate release)**

Woodminster Musicals 2013 opens July 12 with Annie Get Your Gun  
Irving Berlin Classic to be Performed Outdoors By Large Cast and Live Orchestra

June 20, 2013, Oakland, CA -- Producers Associates, Inc. announces that the Irving Berlin classic, Annie Get Your Gun, will open the 2013 summer season of Woodminster Summer Musicals. This "wild west" musical will run July 12-21 at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park, located at 3300 Joaquin Miller Road in the Oakland hills.

Tickets are available by phone, at 510-531-9597, online at [www.woodminster.com](http://www.woodminster.com), or in person at Woodminster Amphitheater 11-4 daily or at the box office before any performance. Performances are July 12 (opening), July 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 22, all at 8 p.m.

Tickets for summer musicals at Woodminster Amphitheater range from \$27 to \$56 with a \$2 discount for children and seniors. Season tickets provide about a 15% discount over the single ticket prices. Also, groups of 25 and more can purchase blocks of seats for half price, providing an affordable outing or fundraiser for a church or service group, neighborhood

association, or any other group. For information about tickets, check [www.woodminster.com](http://www.woodminster.com) or call 510-531-9597.

Woodminster continues its popular Kids Come Free program, where children and teens 16 or younger who are attending with paying adults can get free tickets on performance nights. The organization gives away about 3,000 free tickets to children and teens each summer. Producers Associates is seeking sponsors for this longstanding program, which helps families introduce their kids to live theater in a relaxed and affordable environment.

The final dress rehearsal of *Annie Get Your Gun* on July 11 will be open to the public as a "preview performance." It will start at 8 p.m., all tickets are \$15 at the door, and seating is open, first-come, first-choice. No group rates, "Kids Come Free," or other further discounts apply for preview performances.

*Annie Get Your Gun* is loosely based on the life of Annie Oakley, a sharpshooter with Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, and her romance with fellow sharpshooter Frank Butler. The 1946 musical, appropriate for all ages, is most famous for its music and lyrics by Irving Berlin, with many familiar songs including "Doin' What Comes Naturally," "I Got the Sun In The Morning," "Moonshine Lullaby," "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better" and "There's No Business Like Show Business." The script by Herbert and Dorothy Fields was updated by Peter Stone for a recent Broadway revival.

Says Joel Schlader, Director, "It's a real treat to work on this show because it has so many of the greatest songs in the history of American Musical Theater." Composer Irving Berlin, who would have been 125 years old this year, is widely acknowledged to be one of the greatest songwriters of all time. His life is also one of America's great success stories; he immigrated to New York from Russia as a child, worked menial jobs to help support his family, taught himself to play the piano, and became one of the top songwriters of his time, winning awards ranging from the Tony to the Congressional Gold Medal. His contributions to American music include some of our most iconic songs, including "God Bless America" and "White Christmas."

The production will be directed by Joel Schlader, with choreography by Linda Dorsey and music direction by Greg Mason. Woodminster shows are performed with live orchestras, and musicians are members of Musicians Local No. 6.

The role of Annie Oakley will be played by New York-based musical theater actress Claire Buchgnani. Her love interest, Frank Butler, is played by another newcomer to Woodminster, Danny Rothman. The larger-than-life Buffalo Bill is played by Calvin Smith, familiar to Woodminster audiences from having played Miles Gloriosus ("Forum") and Old Deuteronomy (Cats) in the 2012 season. The rest of the approximately 40 actors in the cast are a combination of professional Equity actors and actors from the community.

Woodminster Summer Musicals are performed under the stars at Woodminster Amphitheater, an open-air performance facility in Joaquin Miller Park high in the Oakland Hills. The park's spectacular views and serene woodsy environment made it the perfect setting for the amphitheater, cascades, reflecting pool, and paths that were originally built as a WPA project in

1939-40. For many East Bay families, it is a long-standing summer tradition to enjoy a picnic in the park and then see a musical at Woodminster.

Producers Associates, Inc. was founded in 1967 by the late James Schlader and his wife Harriet to provide affordable live summer family entertainment in the East Bay, and to foster a love of live theatre. For more than four decades, the organization, in partnership with the Oakland Parks and Rec Department, has been producing summer musicals at Woodminster Amphitheater, attracting more than 20,000 ticket holders each season to Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland. For more information about the 2013 season or history of the organization, visit [www.woodminster.com](http://www.woodminster.com).

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