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SEPTEMBER 2013 -- CALENDAR INFORMATION



WHAT: LEGALLY BLONDE: THE MUSICAL
PERFORMED BY: Woodminster Summer Musicals by Producers Associates, Inc.
WHERE: Woodminster Amphitheater in Joaquin Miller Park, 3300 Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland
WHEN: September 6-15, 2013
PERFORMANCES: September 6, 7, 13, 14 - 8 p.m. and September 8, 12, 15 - 7 p.m. (Thursdays and Sundays 7 pm, Fridays and Saturdays 8 pm.)
TICKETS: 510-531-9597, or www.woodminster.com, \$27-\$56 (\$2 discount for children/seniors)
PREVIEW PERFORMANCE: September 5, 8 p.m., All tickets \$15 at the door.
Book by Heather Hach, Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin, Based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture. Produced by arrangement with Music Theatre International.
Photo Caption: Claire Buchignani as Elle Woods

PRESS RELEASE (For immediate release)

Woodminster Musicals 2013 Presents Legally Blonde: The Musical September 6-15
Peppy Stage Adaptation of the Hit Movie Ends the Musicals' Season on a Lighthearted Note

August 18, 2013, Oakland, CA -- Producers Associates, Inc. will close Woodminster Summer Musicals' 2013 season with Legally Blonde: The Musical, a tuneful stage adaptation of the hit Reese Witherspoon movie. This musical about a perky optimist succeeding at Harvard Law School will run September 6-15 at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park, located at 3300 Joaquin Miller Road in the Oakland hills.

Legally Blonde is the story of famously perky Elle Woods, whose perfect life is turned upside down when her boyfriend dumps her so he can attend Harvard Law School and pursue a career in politics. She follows him to Harvard, and while struggling to fit in and do well in law school, Elle learns something about herself and her potential to make a positive difference in people's lives. This energetic musical comedy includes songs like "Serious," "What You Want," and "Whipped Into Shape."

Says choreographer Jody Jaron, "This is a show about how we are all given a label in life by family, teachers, friends, all the people around us. Maybe it's Dumb Blonde, Smart Girl, Athletic Type -- but whatever it is, a label can't express a whole person. What Elle shows us is that sometimes we have to peel away that stereotype, that label, to find the best in ourselves."

The role of Elle Woods is played by Claire Buchignani, who earlier this summer got rave reviews for her portrayal of Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun*. The production is directed by Joel Schlader, with choreography by Jody Jaron and music direction by Michael Horsley. Woodminster shows are performed with live orchestras, and musicians are members of Musicians Local No. 6. The cast of about 40 humans and 2 dogs is a combination of professional Actors' Equity Association actors and actors from the community.

Performances of *Legally Blonde* are September 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, Thursday and Sundays (Sep 8, 12, 15) at 7 pm, and Fridays and Saturdays (Sep 6, 7, 13, 14) at 8 pm. Tickets are available by phone, at 510-531-9597, online at www.woodminster.com, or in person at Woodminster Amphitheater 11-4 daily or at the box office before any performance. Tickets range from \$27 to \$56 with a \$2 discount for children and seniors. Groups of 25 and more can purchase blocks of seats for half price for designated performances (not Saturdays), 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 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 thousands of free tickets to children and teens each summer. This longstanding program helps families introduce their kids to live theater in a relaxed and affordable environment. This season, funding for this program has come from sponsors including The Clorox Company, Matson, Mechanics Bank, Reach A Star Foundation, and Strategy & Communications Consultants.

The final dress rehearsal of *Legally Blonde* on September 5 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.

Legally Blonde is a musical with music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin and book by Heather Hach. The story is based on the novel *Legally Blonde* by Amanda Brown and the 2001 film of the same name. The show opened in pre-Broadway tryouts here in San Francisco, and then moved to Broadway in April 2007, where it was nominated for a number of Tony and Drama Desk Awards. It ran for about 600 performances, and has had two successful national tours and many regional productions since then.

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.

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