Woodminster Tunes up for 40th Season

By Michael Chung

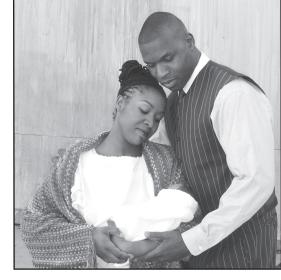
As the temperature continues to escalate, so to does the preparation for the 40th annual season of the Woodminster Summer Musicals.

The season kicks off with "Ragtime" in July, followed by "The King and I" in August and "Beauty and the Beast" in September. The musicals are performed under the stars at the amphitheater, an open-air performance facility at Joaquin Miller Park in the Oakland Hills.

"This is a big season; the shows are very challenging to mount in 21 rehearsals." said Harriet Schlader, cofounder of Producers Associates, Inc., which has produced the musicals at the amphitheater since 1967.

The musicals are chosen each season through ballots by season ticket- holders. Many seasons are composed of "old favorites" that have been performed in previous seasons at the amphitheater. However, this year is different, as "Ragtime" and "Beauty and the Beast" will premiere at the amphitheater, while "The King and I" will be performed at the amphitheater for the first time since 1969.

"It is not always possible to produce shows the audience selects in a given year because of revivals in New York and possible national tours out of New York," Schlader said. "While colleges and high schools are given rights, we are not. 'Les Miserables' has been



Family Affair: Angela Dean-Bahan (Sara) of Oakland and Lawrence Beamen (Coalhouse) of Walnut Creek perform in "Ragtime," as part of Woodminsters 40th season.

Photo / Courtesy

produced by several high schools in a cut-down, 90-minute version, but one of the requisites is that no one in the cast (may be) over 18."

To celebrate the 40th anniversary, Schlader said one member of the advisory board suggested that the audience members who have attended since or prior to 1967 be acknowledged prior to each show.

"I think that is a good idea," Schlader said. "We will leave the 'bash' for

our 50th (anniversary). In retrospect, we have our hands full with the shows we are producing this season.

Schlader said that, although the stage manager of 20 years has moved on to other things, Cal State East Bay graduate Bong Dizon has been wonderful helping to organize the scene-shift crew.

"(Dizon) is a delight to work with and a real asset on stage as well," Schlader said. "He choreographed movements for the dance auditions this year, which were excellent and fun for the people auditioning." Megan Nicole Gal-

lup, who starred as Laurie in Woodminster's production of "Oklahoma!" last summer, can hardly believe that Woodminster will turn 40.

"Congrats to them for getting the audience support to stay open that long," Gallup said.

Gallup, who graduated from San Jose State University in May, will move to New York City in September to pursue a career on Broadway.

Producers Associates, Inc. was founded in 1967 by James and Harriet Schlader to provide affordable live

summer family entertainment in the East Bay while fostering a love of live

"Ragtime" will be shown from July 7 to July 16, "The King and I" will play from Aug. 4 to Aug. 13 and the season will conclude with "Beauty and the Beast" from Sept. 1 to Sept. 10. The amphitheater is located at 3300 Joaquin Miller Road in Oakland.





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Aniston, Vaughn 'Break-Up'

By Tara Ellicott

■he Break-Up" is a romantic comedy that fails to be romantic or particularly funny but succeeds in realistically portraying the complications that result from ending a long-term relationship.

Rating:

Gary (Vince Vaughn), who loves sports and video games, is a talented tour guide who draws crowds for the company that he runs along with his two brothers. Brooke (Jennifer Aniston), who prefers the ballet and dinner parties, works as an art dealer at the gallery of the eccentric Marilyn Dean (Judy Davis).

At the start of the film, the unlikely couple had been together for a few years and lived together in a Chicago condo that they owned together.

When Gary opts to play a video game instead of helping Brooke clean the dishes after a dinner party, Brooke decides they need to break up. The breakup is supposed to make Gary realize that he doesn't appreciate Brooke, but it doesn't quite have the

When neither one will move out of the condo, they resort to childish revenge tactics. Gary decides to redecorate their dining area with the pool table he's always wanted, while Brooke invites dates into the house so Gary will be aware of their presence.

Comic relief is provided by a number of peripheral characters, including Brooke's best friend, Maddie (Joey Lauren Adams), Gary's good friend, Johnny O (Jon Favreau), and their mutual friend/realtor, Riggleman (Jason Bateman).

Aniston and Vaughn, who are rumored to be dating off the screen, are likeable and believable as an on-screen couple. Though their characters only have a few things in common, they are both good people and viewers want them to work things out.

The plot isn't very intricate, and unfortunately we don't get a real feel for what the other people in Brooke and Gary's world are like. Despite the life-changing event of the breakup, not much really happens in this movie. It is not overly dramatic or funny, but it is a compelling depiction of the way that two people who have built a life and home together negotiate the awkwardness and sadness of a breakup.

"The Break-Up" is funny at times and painful to watch at others while providing a refreshing twist to the tired genre of the romantic comedy.

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6:45, 7:30, 8:10, 8:50, 9:35, 10:20 ♣ The Omen (R)

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7:45, 9:00, 10:15

* The Break Up (PG-13) 11:30, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30,

7:10, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30 * X-Men: The Last Stand (PG-13) 12:25, 2:55, 4:25, 5:25, 6:50, 7:50, 9:15, 10:25

❖ Over The Hedge (PG) 10:20, 11:20, 12:10, 1:25, 2:20, 3:30,

5:35, 7:40, 9:45 * The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) 11:05, 12:40, 2:15, 3:50, 5:25, 7:00,

❖ Mission: Impossible III (PG-13) 10:55, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50

❖ Poseidon (PG-13) 4:05, 6:55, 9:20

See No Evil (R)

8:35, 10:10

11:25, 1:45

RV (PG)

11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:05

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❖ A Prairie Home Companion (PG-13)

11:45, 2:30, 4:55, 7:35, 10:05

♣ The Omen (R) 10:25, 11:25, 12:15, 1:05, 2:00, 2:50,

3:35, 4:35, 5:25, 6:15, 7:15, 7:55, 8:45, 9:45, 10:35, 11:30, 12:15

♣ The Break Up (PG-13)

10:40, 11:20, 12:00, 12:35, 1:15, 1:55, 2:30, 3:05, 3:50, 4:25, 5:00, 5:45, 6:25, 6:55, 7:40, 8:15, 9:00, 9:35, 10:10, 11:00, 11:35, 12:05

* X-Men: The Last Stand (PG-13) 11:40, 12:10, 2:15, 2:40, 4:45, 5:15,

6:20, 7:10, 7:45, 8:20, 8:55, 9:40, 10:15, 10:45, 11:25, 12:10

♣ Over The Hedge (PG)

11:05, 12:05, 1:10, 2:25, 3:25, 4:30, 5:30, 6:40, 7:50, 9:10, 9:55, 11:20 * The Da Vinci Code (PG-13)

11:15, 12:30, 2:35, 3:45, 5:50, 7:05,

9:05, 10:25 ♣ Mission: Impossible III (PG-13)

♣ Poseidon (PG-13) 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 10:00

12:40, 3:30, 7:20, 10:40

11:10, 1:35, 4:00

RV (PG)

❖ See No Evil (R)

11:35, 1:45, 3:55, 6:00, 8:10, 10:30

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