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16 child actors show great promise for performances;

***School House Rock Live Jr.* slated to be in Chiefland two weekends -- July 19-21 and 26-28**



Performers provide a group shot opportunity on Thursday night on stage. Here, the set shows the huge TV that is a part of the play, as well as other aspects of the stage setting.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © July 12, 2019 at 9:29 a.m.

CHIEFLAND – Sixteen children have been rehearsing three times a week for three to four months this summer, Director Rebecca Locklear said Thursday night (July 11), as they worked on performing *School House Rock Live Jr.*



Some of the actors rehearsing as the singer of the song *Just A Bill* begins her solo are seen here.

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Providing a closer-knit photo opportunity than the across the stage shot, the actors -- Landon Fullwood (Tom); Aidan Van Bourgonndien (George); Cameron Cannon (Dori); Alexis Lipscomb (Shulie); Trace Klemencic (Joe); Aubri Alford (Dina); Alexander Tapia (Young Elvis); Jackson Asbell (Old Elvis); Jordan Frye (Interplanet and Janet); Sara Aman (Statue of Liberty); and members of the Ensemble – Carson Asbell, Dalton Frye, Hayden Tumlin, Laeleigh Barber, Raya Ng and Tommy Davis.-- are seen here.

Locklear, who said she has been an assistant director in “billions” of plays performed by the Suwannee Valley Players Troupe, heralds her first full directorship with this production. Her stage direction and guidance on Thursday night was strong.

How does she feel about all of the young performers?

"I am proud of them every night," Locklear said.

Sandra Wilcox and Angie Acevedo are assistant directors for *School House Rock Live Jr.*, where the children have rehearsed and will perform at The Chief Theater, 25 E. Park Av., in Chiefland (across the street from the Chiefland Police Department).

Jeremy Locklear, Rebecca’s younger brother, is in charge of sound for the play. William Tumlin is handling lighting.

David Wilcox, Sandra’s husband, helped build the set, which includes a giant television as a very significant backdrop (and potential portal) and huge book backs that show various academic areas of study, like science and social studies on those big binders.

As noted on the Music Theatre International website, this play is based on the popular award-winning 1970s cartoon series *School House Rock* that helped teach children certain aspects of English language arts, science, social studies, history,

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mathematics and other academics.

Some characters have been added to this live performance in comparison with the cartoon, including Elvis, Janet and Ensemble.

This onstage version is a fast-paced musical that teaches lessons with clever, catchy tunes. The children performing at The Chief Theater are excellent in their parts.

Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr. is bound to please patrons of the performing arts as these youngsters provide audiences with a musical play upon which they worked a lot this summer.

The SVP traditionally has included a summer play by child actors, and this year's work under Director Rebecca Locklear, Assistant Director Sandra Wilcox and Angie Acevedo shows those adult leaders in community theater succeeded in bringing forth the best effort from the children who participated.

As noted on the Music Theatre International website, this energetic musical follows Tom, a young schoolteacher, who is nervous about his first day of teaching.

"He tries to relax by watching TV," MTI notes, "when various characters representing facets of his personality emerge from the set and show him how to win his students over with imagination and music."

Memorable songs, such as *Just a Bill, Lolly, Lolly, Lolly* (get your adverbs here) and *Conjunction Junction* bring his lesson plans vividly to life.

The young performers and the parts they are portraying in the play follow: Landon Fullwood (Tom); Aidan Van Bourgonndien (George); Cameron Cannon (Dori); Alexis Lipscomb (Shulie); Trace Klemencic (Joe); Aubri Alford (Dina); Alexander Tapia (Young Elvis); Jackson Asbell (Old Elvis); Jordan Frye (Interplanet and Janet); Sara Aman (Statue of Liberty); and members of the Ensemble – Carson Asbell, Dalton Frye, Hayden Tumlin, Laeleigh Barber, Raya Ng and Tommy Davis.

Call 352-493-2787 or 352-443-9096 to reserve a seat! Show dates are July 19-21 and 26-28. The play begins at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children.