J.E. Broyhill Civic Center Announces 2007-2008 Season, a True “Showcase of Stars!”

The stars will be out for the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center’s 14th season, which will offer a wide-range of entertainment sure to delight audiences of all ages. From Broadway, dance, and comedy to bluegrass, brass and magic, there’s something for every taste.

The J.E. Broyhill Civic Center will kick-off its “Showcase of Stars” with The Best of Broadway - The Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber on Friday, September 14, 2007. The show will feature some of the greatest hits of one of the most successful musical theatre composers of all time. Hear all of your favorite Andrew Lloyd Webber tunes: Memory, Music of the Night, I Don’t Know How to Love Him, Don’t Cry for Me Argentina and much more!

In October, the Civic Center will host the North Carolina Dance Theatre’s presentation of American Masterpieces with Artistic Director Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux. In American Masterpieces, the internationally lauded North Carolina Dance Theatre performs some of the best American choreography of the century. Included in the program are masterpieces by Alvin Ailey, George Balanchine and Twyla Tharp.

Also taking the stage in October will be well-known comedian, Jeff Dunham. Jeff Dunham’s one-of-a-kind comedy show features a cast of colorful characters that you probably already know and love from his numerous television appearances. Dunham gives voice to Peanut, the purple monkey, Walter, the beloved curmudgeon and Jose, the Jalapeno…On a Steeek, just to name a few. Dunham’s amazing talent as a ventriloquist will have you rolling in the aisles and gawking in disbelief as his “dummies” come to life for a rollicking good time!

If you love bluegrass, don't miss Rhonda Vincent & The Rage who will take the stage October 13. One of the most acclaimed and popular figures on today's bluegrass scene, Rhonda Vincent's show offers something for everyone. An award-winning vocalist, Vincent is also a resourceful multi-instrumentalist, heartfelt songwriter, esteemed bandleader and producer with the rare gift of creating music which balances the timeless drive and soul of bluegrass with a subtle contemporary elegance.

“Laughing with the Legends” - Music, Memories, and Merriment from the Fabulous 50s will round out a busy month at the Civic Center on a definite high note. “Laughing With The Legends” is a one of a kind production which brings to life many of the memorable ‘50s songs and personalities from all corners of the entertainment world! From the riveting presence of Elvis and the hilarious antics of Lucy, to the magnificent Marilyn and the electrifying Jerry Lee Lewis, “Laughing with the Legends” will take you back to the unforgettable, fast paced FIFTIES! Whether you lived them the first time or just wish you had, this show is for you!

In November, the Civic Center will offer another show for bluegrass lovers. Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, the award-winning bluegrass band, will once again grace the stage at the Broyhill Civic Center. The group’s signature style and 20 plus years of experience as performers are sure to make for an exciting evening of toe-tapping gospel and bluegrass!

Also returning to the Broyhill stage will be famed lecturer Elliot Engle with his presentation, “Leonardo de Vinci: Before the Code.” Elliot Engel is well-known throughout the world for his anecdotes and examinations of various people in history, as well as his entertaining and often humorous take on various topics. Join Dr. Engel as he explores the often controversial life and works of Leonardo de Vinci.
If your looking for something entertaining for kids (of all ages), look no further than the Broyhill Civic Center and “The Animal Band.” The Animal Band will take the stage on Saturday, December 1, 2007. This colorful, interactive, and wildly entertaining show will delight both the young and the young-at-heart. Bring the whole family for a night of music, dancing and animals, of course!

On Saturday, December 8, 2007, kick-off the holiday season with Carolina Brass. From the elegance and grace of beautiful classical music to the hard driving sound of a big band, Carolina Brass will sweep you off your feet and leave a smile on your face. Their winning combination of virtuosity and humor brings a fresh approach to great music of all types, engaging audiences in a vibrant and energetic musical experience. The concert will feature classical and traditional Christmas music.

On Sunday, December 16, 2007, the Nebraska Theatre Caravan will present Charles Dickens’ beloved holiday classic, A Christmas Carol. The cast of fascinating characters-- from the irascible Scrooge to the adored Tiny Tim-- continue to make this story a treasured theatrical event. With music, dance and drama, this Christmas Carol is a holiday gift like no other.

James Gregory - “The Funniest Man in America” will usher in the new year with a bang on Saturday, January 19, 2008. James Gregory, dubbed “The Funniest Man in America,” has been performing his home-spun comedy to sold-out crowds for over 20 years. Delivering common sense wisdom, old-fashioned values and politically incorrect humor, Gregory is known for inspiring fanatic devotion, whether it’s your first or fifth visit. The ridiculous, the common, and sometimes even the simplest events all become hilarious in the hands of this master storyteller and world-class comedian.

If you like magic, then you’ll want to catch Spencer’s Theatre of Illusion on Friday, January 31. For more than a decade, Kevin and Cindy Spencer have dazzled the world with their entertaining stage magic and breath-taking illusions. Audiences cross over a threshold of disbelief and are captivated when these performers reveal the wonders of the impossible. What the Spencers create is “theatre” in the truest sense of the word and a powerful theatrical experience that you will never forget!

The Grascals, which take the stage in February, are the reigning IBMA Entertainers of the Year. Although the group is relatively new to the Bluegrass scene, their history together as musicians and friends gives them the sound of seasoned professionals. With several award nominations and appearances on national television already under their belt, the group is already carving a place for itself in the world of music. Claiming the likes of Dolly Parton and Dierks Bentley as fans, The Grascals are sure to win you over, as well.

On Saturday, February 16, the Civic Center will present “Simply Sinatra with Steve Lippia.” Steve Lippia has become one of the most prominent, in-demand vocalists and has quickly established his place among the finest interpreters of “standards” and traditional pop music in the nation. Steve’s youthful, energetic talent and powerful show create a perfect blend of “classic” with “today.” If you love Sinatra and the classics from the Great American songbook, you will definitely want to catch Simply Sinatra!

One of the most popular shows at the Civic Center, the Caldwell Traditional Musicians Showcase will be held on Saturday, March 1. The Traditional Musicians Showcase will celebrate its 10th year in 2008 with a gathering of some of Caldwell County’s finest musicians. You won’t find this much local talent gathered under one roof anywhere else. Local favorites Strictly Clean and Decent will, once again, pull together some of the best acoustic musicians and singer/songwriters in our area.

Also in March, The Great China Circus Acrobat will bring a thrilling presentation of classic Chinese physical art, showcased with dramatic lighting, high-energy dance and spectacular costumes. Fast paced and fun for the whole family, this thoroughly modern production will keep you breathless on the edge of your seat as it pays tribute to the historical elements of the Chinese people and culture.

Country star Pam Tillis will grace the stage at our own J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in April. Pam Tillis is a name almost synonymous with good country music. For the daughter of country star Mel Tillis, good country music is a family tradition. A member of the Grand Ole Opry, a former CMA female vocalist of the year and a Grammy award-winner, the singer/songwriter has had a slew of hits and chart-topping albums over the years. Join us for a wonderful evening of country music as Pam presents all your favorites, as well as material from her new album, Rhinestoned.

John McCutcheon, another featured performer for this year’s season, has emerged as one of America’s most respected and loved folksingers. As an instrumentalist, he is a master of a dozen different traditional instruments, most notably the rare and beautiful hammered dulcimer. His twenty-
seven recordings have garnered every imaginable honor including an almost unprecedented five consecutive Grammy nominations. If you love traditional American music, don’t miss John McCutcheon on April 18.

Rounding out the 2007-2008 season is none other than Percy Sledge. If you mention the name Percy Sledge to just about any music fan in the world, you’ll invariably elicit a woebegone version of “When A Man Loves A Woman.” That song is Percy’s signature and a tune that defined the summer of 1966 and every one thereafter. Percy has also had a number of other significant chart hits including “Take Time To Know Her,” “Warm And Tender Love,” “Out Of Left Field,” “It Tears Me Up,” “I’ll Be Your Everything” and others; Come spend the evening with Percy on Thursday, May 15 and hear all these favorites and more.

“I think that we have achieved our mission in providing first-class entertainment opportunities for Caldwell County and the region. There is truly something for everyone this season.” says Chris Summers, JEBCC Director. “We are truly grateful to have the support of the CCC&Ti administration, our sponsors and the citizens of our region. Without this support, we would be unable to provide such high quality programming.”

Series Subscriptions are once again available for this year’s season. Patrons can choose from six different series: Bluegrass, Family, Classic, Comedy, and Performing Artist. In addition, the Civic Center is also offering a Pick Six Series that allows subscribers to create their own series of events. Subscription sales for all packages are available now by mail, phone, fax (726-2405) or by coming by the civic center. The deadline for renewing season subscriptions is July 13 in order to guarantee your seating preference. Single tickets for all shows will be available on-line and through the box office beginning August 13. Box office hour are Monday through Friday 10 am to 4 pm.

For more information on the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center 2007-2008 season, ticket information or sponsorship opportunities call 726-2407 or visit us on the web at www.broyhillcenter.com.

CCC&TI Religion Instructor Receives Teaching Excellence Award.

Keith Starnes, Instructor in Religion and Humanities at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, was recently named recipient of the Donald W. Lackey Teaching Excellence Award.

The award was established in 1988 to honor Dr. Don Lackey for his outstanding service on CCC&TI’s Board of Trustees and recognizes a faculty member who characterizes personal dedication, concern for student welfare and academic excellence. CCC&TI faculty and staff make nominations for the annual award with the final recipient being chosen by a committee of faculty, staff and students.

This year’s honoree, Keith Starnes, has been with the college since 1985 and teaches courses in Old and New Testament, World Religions, Mythology and Southern Culture as part of CCC&TI's curriculum programs. Starnes earned his Master of Divinity degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest in 1977. Starnes earned his undergraduate degree at Duke University in 1974.

Starnes served for seven years in pastoral ministry at a local church before being led to teaching full time. When asked why he was drawn to education, Starnes says it was his teaching experience as a pastor that helped him discover his love for education. “My favorite part of being a pastor was teaching,” says Starnes. “I enjoyed teaching people and decided I needed to be doing that full time.”

Starnes, a Caldwell County native, says that the interaction with students and the interesting discussions that are a part of his classes are his favorite aspects of teaching. “I always enjoy discussing various topics with my pupils,” he says.

Starnes says this award is special and has inspired him as an educator. “It’s always meaningful to be recognized professionally by one’s peers,” he said. “This award has also motivated me to be more dedicated to better understand student needs and to improve the quality of my instruction.” Starnes has a personal philosophy about his accomplishments as a teacher. “A former NFL coach once said ‘Success is never final.’ To me that means there is always room for improvement and this award has motivated me to improve my teaching.”

Starnes lives in Caldwell County with his wife, Tonya, also a Caldwell County native and a 1970 CCC&TI graduate. The couple has one son, Eric, 26, of Granite Falls.
Position: Instructor; Automotive Systems Technology
Job Summary: To instruct classes in automotive systems/race car performance; to coordinate assigned activities with other college programs, divisions, departments and outside agencies; and to provide highly responsible and complex administrative support to the Program Director, Department Chair, and Vice President of Technical Programs.
Experience: Five (5) years of field experience in either shop or teaching or a combination of both. Experience in teaching and/or counseling at a post-secondary level preferred.
Training: Associate degree in Automotive Technology required along with Master A.S.E. certification.
For more information call 726-2269 or visit www.ccti.edu.

Position: Instructor, Writing Center - Watauga Campus (contingent upon funding)
Job Summary: Directs the day-to-day management and coordination of the Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute - Watauga Campus writing center including the hiring, training, and scheduling of writing consultants, maintenance of administrative records and reports, and the facilitation of individual and group writing consultations. This position is a forty (40) hour per week administrative position with a teaching load of 5-10 contact hours each fall and spring.
Experience: Writing center experience required; experience teaching at a community college and online writing center experience preferred.
Training: Master's degree in English or related discipline from an accredited college or university with 18 graduate semester hours in English; additional coursework in composition and rhetoric preferred.
For more information call 726-2269 or visit www.ccti.edu.

CCC&TI's Truck Driver Training Program Meets National Certification Standards.

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute recently received certification from the Professional Truck Driver Institute (PTDI) for its truck driver training program that meets industry standards. More schools, like CCC&TI, as well as motor carriers, state associations, insurance companies and prospective students are recognizing and seeking the standards and credibility that PTDI course certification offers. CCC&TI is one of only four schools in NC with the designation and one of 64 in the US and Canada.

Founded in 1986 as a national, nonprofit organization, PTDI has long recognized the need to ensure that entry-level drivers are responsible, safe professionals who adhere to established industry standards. As a result, the organization, based in Alexandria, VA, facilitated the development of skill, curriculum and certification standards by bringing together representatives from various concerns of the trucking industry, including driver training schools and trucker safety interest groups. Together, these organizations established standards that incorporate the Federal Highway Administration’s “Minimum Standards for Training Tractor-Trailer Drivers” and ensure that students are adequately trained to safely handle the demands of the truck driving profession.

Schools applying for the PTDI course certification must undergo an on-site visit from an evaluation team that examines the school’s records and practices to verify compliance with the PTDI standards. A Certification Committee then reviews the results of the on-site visit and other supporting documents before certifying the course.

The PTDI standards program serves a variety of valuable interests and objectives, including enhanced safety for the motoring public, reduced risk exposure for insurance companies and motor carriers, minimal remedial driver training time, improved sense of driver professionalism and enhanced student driver opportunities. PTDI certification is attracting students as well as major trucking companies, who understand that PTDI-certified courses meet the latest industry and safety standards and produce better quality entry-level drivers. These are only a few examples of why promoting a national standard for training drivers makes sense.

With more trucking carriers having to hire drivers approved by their insurance companies, Rudy Fox, director, Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute, said receiving the PTDI certification is important for a school’s driver training program. Located about 65 miles west of Charlotte, N.C., Caldwell welcomes recruiters from most major national trucking companies. “Lots of companies I’ve talked to are really glad to know we’re PTDI certified now so they can hire from us,” Fox said. Even the small trucking companies have become aware of PTDI standards, he said, because their insurance companies are requiring they hire students from reputable, accredited schools.

CCC&TI’s next truck driver training class begins in August. For more information on CCC&TI’s PTDI certified Truck Driver Training Program, contact Director Rudy Fox at 726-2386.
CCC&TI Night at the Hickory Crawdads