

# It's Toby Time in Parsons



By Rhonda Mitchell

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Toby is only one of the cast that will make you laugh and have a fun-filled night under the big top tent next door to the Parsons Municipal Building. The Rivertime Players will be presenting Frankentoby this weekend and again on October 17, 18, 24 and 25th. Performances will begin at 7:30 each night. The tent opens at 6:30, so you might want to come early and have a little time for pre-show entertainment and "mingling".

Shane Bridges, writer, director and actor, says he couldn't be happier with this year's cast.

"The new talented actors that are new to the Toby Show are so very talented and the core group for whom this is their eighth show, always surprise me with something I didn't know they could do!" declares Bridges. "Rehearsals have been such fun. The whole cast has trouble staying in character and not bursting out laughing at each other."

Bridges says he really feels like this show is one of their best.

"I can't wait for people to see it!" states Bridges. "It's a Halloween themed show, but I don't think anyone would characterize it as scary. Small children may be frightened at first of the monster, just because of the makeup, but they should soon see that the character is far from scary. I expect to have a lot of repeat customers for this show. I don't

wanna give away too much, but the play has lots of twists and turns that I think will surprise people."

He even points out that some of the cast members may not be sure what exactly is going on!

Actor Victor Evans, 25, plays the part of Cradle Groper and he says he likes having fun and this "keeps him out of trouble".

"You will love it and it will knock your socks off," maintains Evans.

Jake Lyles, 10, plays the part of Dennis who is a bratty, smart aleck, aggravating boy. When asked why he was picked for this part, he replied, "Because I am a bratty boy!" Lyles says he is an awesome actor because he learns his lines and he listens.

"You can do embarrassing stuff and it embarrasses the character and not you," concludes Lyles.

His sister, Amber Lyles, 12, plays Veruca who is also a bratty girl that turns into a zombie who likes to dance.

"They needed a bratty sister for Dennis," noted Amber.

Amber says she is usually very shy, but this helps her not to be. "It is very funny and if you come to watch it, you will not be bored."

Thyme will be played by Hannah Mills, 17. Thyme is self-centered, dark and depressing. She is the epitome of Gothic. Throughout the show she is enthralled with bringing a dead frog back to life and winning Frank's heart and affection.

"Normally, I am cast as the country bumpkin,

goody-goody two-shoes and/or sweetheart," stated Mills. "This character broadens my acting strategies and heightens my role playing skills. This character allows me to experience a change and allows me to be someone I've never been before."

"This show will cause you to fall out of your seat from laughter!" contends Mills. "It combines modern day references along with hilarious jokes and instances. Not to mention, it's a family affair. We're one big family putting on live entertainment for our community families in hopes of cracking smiles and eliciting laughs."

Mills says the best part of it all is growing closer to all the cast members and forming one big, dysfunctional, hazardous family who brings pleasure and enjoyment to others.

Makayla Blackstock, 15, is a new cast member this year. She will play the part of Rosemary, a southern girly girl.

"I put my heart and soul into it," stated Blackstock. "I take it very seriously when I get a part. I make sure that I do everything that the director tells me to do. I always try to make my performances better than the last one. I love bringing characters to life. When I'm on stage or in front of a camera, I feel free. It's like I can do anything."

David Taylor, 52, is a veteran of the Toby Shows. He will be the character of Victor Bubbastein, a hateful and mean business like man. He says that Shane picked this part for him be-

cause, "he knows I can't pronounce big words!"

When asked how good he was at acting, Taylor says, "I am very experienced, therefore I am awesome! I just wing it and have fun. I love making people laugh and my mispronunciations are to die for!"

And if anyone wants to question his hair, he says, "Yes, my perm is all natural!"

Ivan Anderson Hobbs, 19, plays Milton, a smart, nerdy and nervous man. He says he enjoys entertaining people.

"If you want to know if I'm good or not, come to the show!" Hobbs says.

Charles Davver will be played by Jason Varnick, 39. He will portray a lonely widower in his late 70's who lets the ladies care and comfort him.

"The other good actors in the show make me look better than I am," admits Varnick. "I try to do my best and have fun with the part."

Another veteran of the Toby Show is Dotty Hill, 54. She will be Martha Late, a sweet older lady. She says they picked her for the part because she IS a sweet older lady! "Ha! Ha!" She says she is a good actor because she loves it and she believes you will love this year's performance too.

Pick a weekend and mark your calendar to watch "Frankentoby". You might want to go to one of the early performances, then you will have plenty of time to go back more times before the end of the performances.