

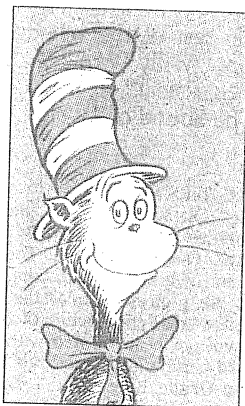
Park shows announced

By JOE HENDERSON
Special to The Olathe News

An all-time musical favorite, "The Sound of Music," featuring the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein, will open the 2011 season of Theatre in the Park.

The rest of the schedule includes "Willy Wonka," "Aida" and "Seussical."

"The Sound of Music," which



ON STAGE

The Cat in the Hat will be one of the colorful characters on tap for Theatre in the Park next summer.

runs June 10-12 and June 16-19, is the story of Maria, a novice, who leaves the convent to become governess for Baron Von Trapp's seven children as World War II approaches.

Many of the show's tunes have become standards, including the title song "The Sound of Music," "Edelweiss," "My Favorite Things," "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" and "Do-Re-Mi." The Broadway production opened in 1959 and was the final musical written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. Hammerstein died nine months after the Broadway premiere.

"Willy Wonka," June 24-26 and June 30-July 3, follows the adventures of young Charlie Bucket, who lived in poverty with his mother and grandparents as he attempts to unravel the mysteries of the reclusive Willy Wonka and his chocolate factory.

"Aida," July 8-10 and July 14-17, is a contemporary adaptation of Giuseppe Verdi's Italian language opera "Aida" with music by Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice. The musical originated

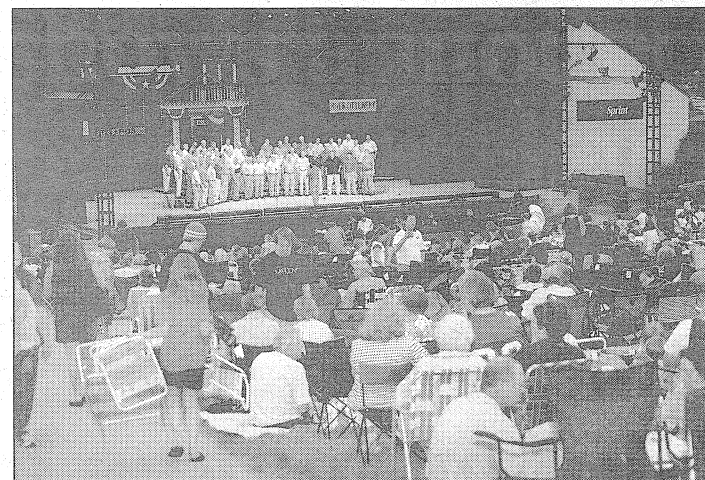
from a children's storybook version of Verdi's opera and premiered on Broadway in 2000.

"Seussical," a musical adaptation of the Dr. Seuss books featuring the mischievous Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Lazy Maysie and other Seuss characters, closes the season July 22 and July 28-31.

The Theatre in the Park is accepting applications from persons interested in directing one of the season's four shows. Applications may be submitted in person or by mail at Johnson County Parks and Recreation District, Attn. Human Resources, 7904 Renner Road, Shawnee, KS 66219 or online at www.jcprd.com.

Directors will be selected by Jill Geller, superintendent of recreation with the parks and recreation district, two members from The Theatre Council and Tim Bair. Earlier this month, Bair was selected as executive producer of The Theatre in the Park. Directors will be paid \$2,100.

Bair, former artistic director of the American Musical Theat-



FILE PHOTO

Theatre in the Park has been a longtime summer experience.

re of San Jose, Calif., succeeds Melissa Wyckoff, who resigned as executive producer in July. He will start Nov. 15.

Maria Tapia-Belsito, marketing and development coordinator, said director applications should include:

- * A letter of interest stating a desire to direct at the theater, including which shows the applicant is interested in and a basic concept for the shows.

- * Any possible schedule conflicts that may exist during pre-production, production and performance dates of the 2011 season.

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- * A current resume that includes all productions directed, including location and year. Other relevant theater experience may also be included.

- * A list of three references familiar with the applicant's past work. This list must be complete with the references' name, telephone numbers and e-mail address.

Interviews will be in late November and the four directors will be selected in December, Tapia-Belsito said.

Call 913-236-1216.