

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Theatre Company to Perform *Les Misérables* at L.J. Williams Theater Next Month Seven Shows Offered July 18-19 and 24-26, 2008

Visalia – The Tulare County Office of Education’s Theatre Company will present seven performances of the much-loved musical *Les Misérables* beginning July 18. The popular Broadway musical is based on Victor Hugo’s classic novel about Jean Valjean’s struggle against adversity in 19th century France. *Les Misérables* stars Central Valley Christian senior Anthony Vander Schaaf as Jean Valjean and Mt. Whitney High School graduate Ethan DeJongh as Valjean’s nemesis, Javert. The production of *Les Misérables* is the Theatre Company’s 11th annual summer production.

Cast members, selected in March, are currently rehearsing each afternoon at the Theatre Company’s facility at 7000 Doe Avenue in Visalia. “From day one, the students impressed us with their thorough preparation, their love for the material and their drive to make this a spectacular production,” says Theatre Company Director Brian Roberts. Prior to rehearsals, many students also assist in constructing and painting the sets. At the shop operated by the Tulare County

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Organization for Vocational Education (TCOVE), teams work to build the many set pieces for the elaborate musical. This year, the set will feature a central turntable, affording cast and crew a new ease in changing pieces between scenes. “The sophistication of these productions continues to grow,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Whether students work behind the scenes or perform on stage, the skills they build through this program will benefit them their entire adult lives.”

Seven performances of *Les Misérables* will be held at the L.J. Williams Theater in Visalia. The theater is located at 1001 Main St., Visalia on the Redwood High School campus. Matinee performances will be performed at 2:00 p.m. on July 19 and 26. Evening performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. on July 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26. General admission tickets are \$8 per person and VIP seating is \$20 per person. Tickets are available at either of the Tulare County Office of Education’s Visalia facilities: 2637 W. Burrel Avenue (near the Tulare County Courthouse), or 7000 Doe Avenue, Suite A, (north of Goshen Avenue on Shirk to Doe Avenue), Monday – Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

For information about the Theatre Company and the summer musical production, *Les Misérables*, call (559) 651-1482.

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