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Theater Beat: Ed Rendell, show backer; Shirley and Oscar; Nottage wattage



COURTESY OF BUCKS COUNTY PLAYHOUSE

Shirley Jones with son Patrick Cassidy. He'll be performing -- and also accepting an award on behalf of his mom -- at the "Hammerstein in Hollywood" gala on Saturday, April 22, at the Bucks County Playhouse.

By John Timpane

### **Oscar, Shirley, and the Cassidy Bunch**

This weekend, the Bucks County Playhouse celebrates its third Oscar Hammerstein Festival, with a Saturday gala celebrating the theater's ties with famed lyricist (and Doylestown resident) Oscar Hammerstein III.

Western Pennsylvania's Shirley Jones, who rose to fame in film versions of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* and *Carousel*, was to receive an award, but she was injured in a fall. She'll send an emissary. Actor/singer Patrick Cassidy, her son with first husband Jack Cassidy, will accept the award and perform.

Patrick - half-brother of former teen idol David Cassidy, brother of other former teen idol Shaun Cassidy, and father of Jack Cassidy of *The Voice* fame - says his mom used to visit the playhouse when dad was performing there. "She also recalls staying at Oscar Hammerstein's home," he says. At the Saturday gala, Patrick will sing "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin' " from *Oklahoma!* and, from Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*, "Till There Was You."

"*The Music Man* was the movie during which my mom discovered she was pregnant with me," he says.