

Amarillo Little Theatre
 2019 Civic Circle
 Amarillo, TX 79109

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CURTAIN CALL

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November, 2010

Amarillo Little Theatre
 proudly presents



A "new" comedy by **Mark Twain**
 Adapted by David Ives

An elaborate, madcap comedy that registers high on the mirth meter and reaches especially giddy comic heights ---Variety

Amarillo Little Theatre presents the outrageous new comedy *Is He Dead?* by Mark Twain. Twain wrote the comedy in 1898, but it was never produced in his lifetime. *Is He Dead?* was discovered in his papers and adapted by playwright David Ives in 2003, and enjoyed a very successful run on Broadway in 2007.

This show is a sheer delight; a comic confection of mistaken identities, mixed signals, and hilarious misunderstandings topped off with a happy ending. In 19th century Paris, the painter Jean-Francois Millet had not yet been recognized as a genius. In debt and desperate, Millet, having realized that the only successful painters are the dead ones, fakes his own death and passes himself off as his sister, the Widow

Tillou. Millet's scheme makes him rich and famous. Now he just has to figure out how to stop pretending to be a woman, come back to life as a man, and win the girl he loves.

ALT has assembled a terrific cast of actors for this production. They include **Jonathan Mobley** starring as Jean-Francois Millet/Widow Tillou. He is joined by **John Bernard, Amber Burton, Devin Dennis, Decker Dyess, Travis Johnson, Kara Leimer, Justin Loe, Shannon Mashburn, Melanie Sanders, Jace Sluder, Shawn Walsh** and **Don Washburn**. Artistic Director is **Jeff Jarnagin**. **Ramona Weaver** is Assistant to the Director.

Is He Dead? promises to be one of the major hits of the season!! Make your reservations today.

Production Funding by
Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors
Anne and Pat Northcutt
J.V. Vinyard
Al and Patricia Smith
Steve and Barbara Russell
Xcel Energy

Sponsored by
Phyllis Curtis
Jerry and Margaret Hodge
Thomas and Susan Johnson
Don and Cathy Moss/Moss Body Shop
Margaret Willis

FACTS AT A GLANCE		
Performance Dates	Times	Location – ALT Mainstage 2019 Civic Circle
December 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11	8:00 pm	Box Office Phone – 806-355-9991
December 12	2:30 pm	
Box Office Opens to Members – Monday, November 15	10:00 am	Rated – PG
Box Office Opens to Public – Monday, November 22	10:00 am	Order Online by e-mail – jeff@amarillolittletheatre.org

CHECK OUT ALT'S WEB SITE AT WWW.AMARILLOLITTLETHEATRE.ORG

Director's Notes



Allen Shankles

This Curtain Call newsletter announces the opening of ALT's *Is He Dead?* We are really looking forward to sharing this great new show with Amarillo audiences. ALT's play selection committee, staff and I all fell in love with this show as soon as we read it. It is exciting to be producing a new show on our stage that we are so confident will be successful. I believe our audiences are going to love it as much as we do!

Here's the story on the play. Celebrated Mark Twain scholar Shelley Fisher Fishkin discovered *Is He Dead?* in a file cabinet drawer while doing research at UC Berkeley. She found herself laughing out loud right there in the archives of the Bancroft Library as she pored over the manuscript Twain had written in 1898. "The London Times reported that the high-spirited romp of a play would be produced simultaneously in London and New York of that year," Fishkin writes in the foreword to the newly published edition. "But a combination of bad timing, bad luck, and, perhaps, the irreverence of putting one of France's greatest painters [real-life Millet] at the center of a

zany, cross-dressing farce conspired to foil Twain's plans. The play was never produced."

Fishkin was determined to bring Twain's *Is He Dead?* to the stage. A mutual friend urged her to contact veteran producer Bob Boyett, who led her to David Ives. "Over a hundred years later, Twain found the ideal collaborator in David Ives," she continues. "In Ives' brilliant adaptation, Twain's words are still there - as are his trademark satirical wit, his unforgettable characters, and his ingenious plot."

Is He Dead? opened on Broadway at the Lyceum Theatre on December 9, 2007, where it played for three months to rave reviews. We are certain it will have equal success at ALT.

As we move into 2011, our next two productions will demonstrate the great diversity available at ALT. In January, we open the wonderfully touching *On Golden Pond* at the ALT Mainstage, followed almost immediately by the musical *Kiss of the Spider Woman* at the ALT Adventure Space. Each show is a highly regarded theatrical work but they are very different. *On Golden Pond* is a warm and touching love story about an aging couple sharing perhaps their last summer together on Golden Pond. This beautiful show has enjoyed at least two runs on Broadway and was made into a major motion picture which won an Academy Award. I produced this show during my very first season at ALT and it is still one of my fondest memories. *Kiss of the Spider Woman* is a searing and hard edged musical that won an amazing seven Tony Awards in 1993, including Best Musical. This also promises to be an incredible event for ALT Adventure Space audiences.

Finally, I want to thank the casts and crews of *South Pacific*, *Eurydice* and *Tom Sawyer* for providing us with such great productions during the past few months. Our work continues to stay at a very high level. I am so very proud to be the leader of this great organization.

I look forward to seeing you at the theatre(s).

ARE YOU GETTING THE "DIRECTOR'S BLOG?"

ALT's Managing/Artistic Director, Allen Shankles, now makes regular blog postings on the ALT website. Postings cover a wide array of topics ranging from updates on the current show's progress in rehearsal to breaking news at ALT. You can check out the blog anytime by going to http://www.amarillolittletheatre.org/alt_blog.html Better yet, you can subscribe to the blog while on the site and never miss another blog post. Give it a try.

Notes from the Guild

Greetings:

A big thank you to those Guild members who have procured restaurant gift certificates and who have helped sell tickets for our *Wining and Dining: Tour of Amarillo* fund-raiser. There are plenty of tickets left and you may purchase them either at the Box Office or during shows. We are planning our Christmas party for December 14 and will follow up with details as to time and place. If you have not yet completed your membership form to join the ALT Guild, there is still time to download the form and mail it in with your dues. Next UP: *Is He Dead?* at the ALT Mainstage, so watch for your opportunity to assist with set construction, painting, poster delivery, ushering or concessions for this show.

ALT Guild

Academy Spotlight

The Holidays already? Seems like just yesterday we were registering for the Fall semester! The semester is flying by and things are not slowing down for the Academy.

I want to congratulate the cast and crew of **Tom Sawyer** for a great opening to our Academy season. The show was just what I envisioned and I think even Mark Twain would have been proud! One of the best compliments we received from the show was after performing to almost 2000 school children from around the Panhandle, we received calls on how some of those kids who watched the show could join the Academy and begin taking acting classes. It reminded me of the first time I saw a show and wanted to be on stage. How great that our Academy can do that for so many kids! I want to thank **Karen Walsh** for transforming **South Pacific's** sand dunes to the muddy Mississippi river bank with her great set, past Academy graduate **Camille Medina** who served as our Costume Coordinator and assisted with every detail of the show, the staff of ALT for their continued support, and to all the wonderful parent volunteers who helped backstage, tear tickets, find props, work the concession stand, and so much more! ALT Academy certainly could not have produced this show with such success without the help of these amazing individuals. Thank you!

With the spring semester right around the corner, our attention will quickly be turned to our next play, **The Little Match Girl**. This show is an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's tale of a poor little girl who is trying to sell matches on the coldest day of the year. Staged in early January at the Adventure Space, this show will be one of the most touching the Academy will have produced. I am very excited to be bringing **Ms. Lugene Cole** on board to choreograph two ballet sequences that are in the show. Look in this Curtain Call for more information on auditions!

Don't forget Spring Semester registration begins on December 13th and the semester begins on January 3rd. Check out our class schedule online and see some new classes that are being added this next semester. It is exciting to see not only our students grow, but also our teaching staff. The ALT Academy is very lucky to have so many great instructors and supportive resources!

Happy Holidays!

Jason Crespin
ALT Academy Director

ALT Academy announces Auditions for **THE LITTLE MARCH GIRL**

Production Dates

January 7th-9th, 2009

ALT Adventure Space

Directed by

Jason Crespin

Audition Date

Saturday , November 20th @ 1pm

ALT Adventure Space

Choreographed by

Lugene Cole

Roles are available for an 11 member ensemble to fill main roles.

A small ensemble will also be cast for smaller roles. All ages are encouraged to audition.

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.

Also, a short ballet dance combination will be taught during auditions.

Look for an Audition packet with character info and specific audition times for your age in your Academy Classes!

Those cast will need to be VERY available during the holiday season. We will be rehearsing evenings and during the day of the Winter Break. Please have all conflicts ready at auditions.

AUDITIONS!

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Amarillo Little Theatre is pleased to announce open auditions for its third Mainstage and Adventure Space productions of the season.

ON GOLDEN POND

by Ernest Thompson

Audition Dates

Monday and Tuesday, November 29 and 30, 2010
@ 7:30 pm

ALT Adventure Space

Production Dates

January 13-23, 2010

Directed by

Allen Shankles

Roles are available for

- 1 man** (age range 60-80),
- 1 woman** (age range 60-80),
- 2 men** (age range 30-50),
- 1 woman** (age range 30-50),
- 1 boy** (age range 10-15)

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH THE FLYING J WRANGLERS!!!

ALT is very pleased to welcome the **Flying J Wranglers** from Ruidoso, New Mexico for their fifth annual holiday performance! This great show features wonderful music and comedy and is a Holiday favorite for ALT audiences.

This one-night only performance is scheduled for **Thursday, December 16 @ 8:00 pm** in the **ALT Mainstage auditorium**.

Reservations for this popular event will begin for ALT season ticket holders on Monday, November 29 @ 10:00 am. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Monday, December 6 at 10:00 am.

Tickets are \$25.00. ALT season ticket holders get a 10% discount on all tickets.

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN

Book by Terrence McNally, Music by John Kander,
Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Audition Dates

Monday and Tuesday, December 6 and 7, 2010
@ 7:30 pm

ALT Mainstage Auditorium

Production Dates

February 3-13, 2010

Directed by

Allen Shankles

Music Direction by

James Gardner

Roles are available for

12-16 adult men (age 17 and up)

This will include a singing/dancing chorus of 4-6 men.

3 adult women

Of the women, one is a major singing/dancing role. The other two, including one woman age 40-60, are singing/acting roles only.

Auditions will consist of a prepared vocal selection not to exceed 60 seconds and cold readings from the script. Most will also learn a short dance combination to be taught by the choreographer.

Scripts and scores for both shows are available at the ALT offices with a \$10.00 refundable deposit. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the ALT offices at 355-9991 or info@amarillolittletheatre.org

ALT ACADEMY REGISTRATION

ALT Academy Registration begins Monday, December 13, 2010 for second semester classes which will start January 3, 2011. Schedules are available at the ALT Box Office or on our website www.amarillolittletheatre.org