

CURTAIN CALL

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September, 2007

Amarillo Little Theatre
presents

Into The Woods

Music and Lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**

Book by **James Lapine**

“Exciting, thrilling story-telling...outstanding music.”

Amarillo Little Theatre proudly opens its 80th Anniversary Mainstage season with one of the most critically acclaimed musicals of all time - **Into the Woods**. This outstanding musical written by **Stephen Sondheim** and **James Lapine** won Tony Awards for Best Book, Best Score and Best Actress in 1988 and Best Revival of a Musical in 2002!

The story is a seamless fusion of fairy-tales that strike at the child's heart within us all. A baker and his wife journey into the woods in search of a cow, a red cape, a pair of golden slippers and some magic beans - all necessary to lift the curse that has kept them childless. They meet up with a beguiling cast of characters including Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and Jack (of beanstalk fame) that will leave you laughing out loud, fighting back tears and, ultimately, transformed by the whole experience. With great songs such as *“Children Will Listen”* and *“No One is Alone,”* **Into the Woods** is a music lover's delight from start to finish.

ALT has assembled a truly magnificent group of talented and experienced performers for this production. They include **Amber Burton, Jason Crespin, Shelley Cunningham, Amber Dewey, Janice Perkins Easterday, Jeff Jarnagin, Annika Johansson, Robert Kratochvil, Alexa Leija, Justin Loe, Shannon Mashburn, Jonathan Mobley, Rachel Pierce, Jeni S. Roller, Scott Royster, Don Shipman, Leigh Anne Stewart, Heidi Stricker and Lindsey Williams.**

ALT is very pleased and honored to welcome **James Gardner** to the ALT production team for this production. Jim will be Music Director and Conductor for the production. **Allen Shankles** will be Artistic Director with **Art DeMar** functioning as Assistant to the Directors. **Gregg Dunlap** is Technical Director and **Tana Roberson** is Scenic Designer and Scenic Artist for the production.

ALT has never produced this outstanding musical before and we are certain that it will be a great, new experience for ALT audiences. Make your reservations today!

Production Funding by
Wolflin Mortgage
Mr. and Mrs. T.M. Caldwell
Krause Landscape Contractors
ALT Guild

Orchestra funding by
The Josephine Anderson Charitable Trust

Sponsored by
Danny & Trish Bryant
Richard & Jo Jackson
Dr. & Mrs. John Kaczmarek
Jerry & Sue Norman
Alfred & Patricia Smith

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Performance Dates	Times	Location – ALT Mainstage	2019 Civic Circle
September 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29	8:00 pm	Box Office Phone – 806-355-9991	
September 23, 30	2:30 pm	Rated – PG	
Box Office opens to Members – Tuesday, Sept. 4	10:00 am	Order Online by Email – jeff@amarillolittletheatre.org	
Box Office opens to Public – Monday, Sept. 10	10:00 am		

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF MEMORABLE PERFORMANCES

Director's Notes



**Allen
Shankles**

And.....we're off and running! Another season has begun at ALT. The 2007-08 season is a momentous one because ALT is celebrating 80 years of continuous operation. This continues to rank us among the oldest, continuously operating community theatres in the country.

Last year, at about this same time, I predicted that the 06-07 season would be our most successful in history. I was right! ALT posted a record for attendance with almost 25,000 people attending our nine season productions. Our average attendance was 90% for the season - a number that few theatres anywhere can boast. This doesn't include the additional 8,000 plus students we hosted for Academy productions throughout the season or any of the attendance for our numerous special events like the **Flying J Wranglers** and **Brian Stokes Mitchell**.

ALT's Mainstage facility has never been in better shape. We have a completely refurbished auditorium with new lighting and sound equipment, acoustic wall panels, new carpet and paint. The only thing not new in our auditorium is our seating. The current seats have been in use for over 30 years. That is the next major project I foresee for ALT. In fact, I will be presenting our patrons with an opportunity to help with that project later in the season. My goal is to replace our seating next summer.

In short, things are good at ALT. We have a tremendous corps of dedicated volunteers, a hardworking staff and board and hundreds of patrons who truly love the theatre and our work. However, you must know that I am concerned about ALT's future. Let me tell you why. ALT is currently a lean, mean money making machine. The large majority of our gross revenue (over 70%) is "earned." In other words, we make this money by selling tickets, season memberships and through our Academy tuition. We also "earn" a good chunk of change through advertising sales for our Playbill programs. As such, less than 30% of our income is derived through contributions or "unearned" income. Most arts organizations function at a ratio of 60% earned to 40% unearned or even 50% - 50%. The problem with ALT's ratio is that we are very dependent on the success of every show. If we don't sell tickets at our projected level, our income is directly affected. It creates a tremendous amount of pressure for this organization to succeed. This can ultimately affect the artistry of the organization as it becomes more interested in box office success than artistic integrity. A balance is necessary.

As we look toward the future, I hope to increase ALT's "unearned" revenue levels. This means we need to find more "Production Partners," and additional grant and funding sources. We need to grow our endowment fund so that its earnings can be a reliable source of income for ALT. I am asking you, our dedicated patrons, to help me in this endeavor. Could you possibly be a "Production Partner?" Would you consider making ALT a beneficiary in your estate planning? Do you know someone who might become a donor? This year is the **20th Anniversary** of the creation of the **Daniel J. Schwartz Endowment Fund**. The fund has grown very little since its inception. We are going to make an effort this year to increase this fund substantially. I hope you will respond when we make that appeal. My goal is to someday leave ALT in solid financial shape and with its future secure. God willing, we have some time, but now is certainly the time to start.

I predict a record-breaking 80th season for ALT. My dream is to predict 80 more record breaking seasons for ALT. With our great patrons, staff and volunteers, how can we fail?

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

**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS.....
ALT NEEDS YOU!!!!**

ALT's most valuable resource has always been its hardworking and dedicated volunteers. Volunteers, under the guidance of ALT's professional staff, perform in shows, build and paint sets, construct costumes, run lights and sound, usher, sell concessions and much, much more.

We want you to come join the fun and camaraderie as an ALT volunteer. No matter what your skill level, we can find something fun and gratifying for you to do. Not only will you possibly acquire some new skills, you will meet a lot of fun people.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact the ALT offices and/or ALT's Volunteer Coordinator, **Tana Roberson**. Call 355-9991 or email Tana at tana@amarillolittletheatre.org.

What are you waiting for? Do it today.

Academy Spotlight

Summer is over and not only is it time to go back to school, but back to classes at the ALT Academy. I am very excited to welcome many new students and get things going for the 80th season of ALT. And what better way to start off our fall semester than with auditions!

First up, the Academy's autumn production of the classic, heart-warming play, **A Little Princess**. Heidi Sticker is taking the director's chair for this production and has many exciting ideas to highlight our talented students. Parts are available for 4 boys and 12 girls ages 8 and up plus a possible chorus of orphans. Auditions will be held **Saturday, September 8th at 1:00 pm** in the Academy Classroom and will consist of cold readings from the play. Call backs will be held **Sunday, September 9th at 2:00 pm**. Auditions are open to any ALT Academy student and copies of the script are available at the ALT box office and the Academy classroom with a \$10.00 refundable deposit.

Auditions for ALT's Mainstage production of **A Christmas Carol** are also coming up! Last year, this show highlighted many of not only our current Academy students, but also past graduates of our program! Auditions will be held **Monday, October 8th and Tuesday, October 9th**. This show will require 6 boys ages 6-15, 4 girls ages 7-15 and approximately 60 children ages 5-15 who will comprise a children's chorus. Auditions for the children's chorus will be at a later time and will only be open to our Academy students. Further audition information for the children's chorus will be distributed in classes.

With a busy fall and even more to come in the spring, I am very confident in knowing that our Academy kids will be able to be challenged and grow as performers. ALT's Academy is truly training tomorrow's talent today!

Jason Crespin
Academy Director

WANTED!!!!

The ALT Academy is trying to put together our very own **Theatre Media Library** for our Academy students. If you have or know of anyone that would like to **donate** any plays or musical theatre type DVD's or VHS's, please bring them by the ALT box office or the ALT Academy classroom!

DON'T MISS OUT!!!!!!

This is your last chance to take advantage of the great savings and flexibility of an

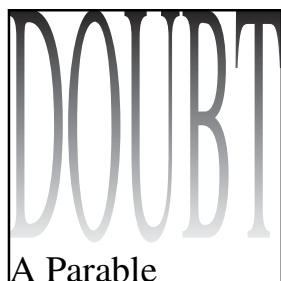
ALT SEASON TICKET PACKAGE.

Season tickets may be purchased through the run of *Into the Woods*, which ends September 30, and then the opportunity is gone.

Call or e-mail the ALT Box Office today to renew or purchase your season tickets for
“a year of great entertainment.”

AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS!

Amarillo Little Theatre is pleased to announce open auditions for its second Adventure Space and Mainstage shows of the 2007-08 season.



by John Patrick Shanley

Production Dates:

October 18-28, 2007
ALT Adventure Space

Directed by
Allen Shankles

Audition Date:

Monday, September 10 @ 7:30 pm
(one night only)
ALT Adventure Space

Roles are available for 1 man, (age range 30-45),
1 woman (age range 40-60),
1 woman (age range 20-30), and
1 African American woman (age range 30-45)

Auditions will consist of
cold readings from the script.

Have you registered
for the fall semester?

The ALT Academy
has a new
experience to offer!

A Christmas Carol

Production Dates:

November 29-December 16, 2007
ALT Mainstage

Directed by Allen Shankles
Music Direction by James Gardner
Choreography by Catherine Grimes

Audition Dates:

Monday and Tuesday, October 8 and 9 @ 7:30 pm
ALT Mainstage

The role of Scrooge will be
played by Don Shipman.

Roles will be available for approximately
30-40 men and women (age range 16 and up)
Roles are also available for 6 boys (age 6-15)
and 4 girls (age 7-15)

An additional children's chorus of ALT Academy
students (age 5-15) will be cast by Jason Crespin.
Audition time TBA.

Auditions will consist of a prepared vocal selection
not to exceed 60 seconds. An accompanist and
CD/tape player will be provided. Some auditionees
will be asked to do cold readings from the script.
Everyone will be required to do a short dance
sequence with the choreographer.

Perusal scripts are available for both
shows at the ALT Box Office. Each requires
a refundable deposit. If you have questions or
need additional information, please contact
the ALT office at 355-9991 or e-mail
info@amarillolittletheatre.org