

# CURTAIN CALL

2019 CIVIC CIRCLE  
AMARILLO, TEXAS 79109  
355-9991

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August, 2008

**Amarillo Little Theatre  
and  
Joseph H. and Arlene Pool**

present



*words and music by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller*

**Get ready to rock and roll** as ALT presents the longest running music revue in the history of Broadway, **Smokey Joe's Café**. Featuring nearly 40 of the greatest songs ever recorded, **Smokey Joe's Café** transforms classic pop music into a compelling evening of musical theatre that will have ALT audiences dancing in the aisles. Hit songs include, "Hound Dog," "On Broadway," "Love Potion #9," "Poison Ivy," "Jailhouse Rock," "Kansas City," "Spanish Harlem," "Stand By Me," "I'm a Woman" and over two dozen more!

ALT originally produced **Smokey Joe's Café** in May of 2003 and it remains as one the biggest hits in our history. We are reprising the production because it continues to be one of the most requested shows we have ever produced. It is undoubtedly one of the most exciting and fun shows you will ever see. A great show to open the 2008-09 Mainstage season.

ALT has assembled an extraordinary ensemble of performers for this great production. They include **Chuck Alexander, Brandon Bellar, Deanna Hurt, Devlon D. Jones, Cara Kee, Kenneth "Boola" Patterson, Jeni Roller, Scott Royster, Chana Smith and Lindsey Williams**. Performing in the "smokin' hot" dance ensemble are **Josh Bates, Jason Crespin, Annika Johansson, Katie Rowan, Chelsea Sissom, and Tara Teetor**. **Allen Shankles** is

Artistic Director, **Jim Gardner** is the Music Director and will lead a seven piece band with **Shawn Walsh** in charge of choreography for the production. **Art DeMar** is Assistant to the Directors. **Gregg Dunlap** is Technical Director and **Tana Roberson** is Set Designer and Scenic Artist.

**Don't miss Smokey Joe's Café**. Make your reservations today.

*Production funding by*

**ALT Guild**

**Wolflin Mortgage**

**Maureen and Daryl Roberts**

**Xcel Energy**

*Orchestra funding by*

**The Josephine Anderson Charitable Trust**

*Sponsored by*

**Dr. and Mrs. Robert Ball**

**Melvin and Kathy Edes**

**Stephen and Marilyn Gaines**

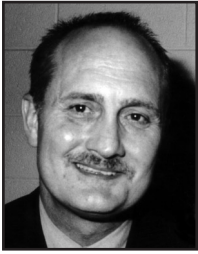
**Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Russell**

**Margaret Willis**

## FACTS AT A GLANCE

<b>Performance Dates</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Location</b> – ALT Mainstage	2019 Civic Circle
September 11, 12,13,18,19, 20, 25, 26, 27	8:00 pm	<b>Box Office Phone</b> – 806-355-9991	
September 21, 28	2:30 pm	<b>Rated</b> – This show is rated PG.	
<b>Box Office Opens to Members</b> – Monday, August 25	10:00 am	<b>Order Online by e-mail</b> – jeff@amarillolittletheatre.org	
<b>Box Office Opens to Public</b> – Tuesday, Sept. 2	10:00 am		

## Director's Notes



**Allen  
Shankles**

As you read this issue of *Curtain Call*, **Blackbird** will be completing its run as the first production of the 2008-09 season. I want to thank Don Washburn and Melodie Weis for their great work. This was a very difficult show, but they made it work beautifully. I am very proud of the production. We also had an insightful and lively discussion during the first installment of our **Hastings Ovation Series** talk-back session after the performance on August 17. I look forward to this series throughout the Adventure Space season.

This newsletter announces the opening of **Smokey Joe's Cafe**. I am thrilled to be producing this wonderful show again. We had terrific success with this show when we first produced it almost seven years ago. In fact, it is still one of the highest grossing shows in our history. We are pleased that we have five cast members from the original production reprising their roles in this production. They are **Chana Smith, Devlon Jones, Chuck Alexander, "Boola" Patterson** and **Jason Crespin**, who is in the dance ensemble. It will be

hard for us to produce a show as good as the first one, but we are certainly going to give it our best shot...I think we can do it.

Our seat replacement project is complete. (Truly, at the time of this writing, there are still five seats missing due to a back-order problem. However, we do expect those to be installed within the next week or so.) This has been an extraordinary accomplishment for ALT, one in which we can all take great pride. We just started raising funds for this project in December of 2008 and only nine months later the project is complete! The Meadows Foundation, which granted ALT the final \$25,000 to complete the project, seemed very impressed that we had raised over 75% of the funding from our patrons and supporters. Even more impressive, the bulk of the funding came in increments of \$250 to \$500. I want to thank everyone who helped to support this project. It's hard to believe, but we began our remodel of the Mainstage auditorium just three years ago with new paint, carpet and acoustic panels on the walls. The following summer, we were able to completely renovate the stage lighting and sound as well as replace all of our stage curtains and rigging – a \$400,000 project. Last summer, we had the stage floor refinished and this summer the project was completed with the installation of new seats. All in all, we have invested over a half million dollars in the refurbishment of our beautiful facility. And get this, we didn't need any help from the city. These improvements should have ALT in great shape for a number of years.

We have accomplished some terrific things at ALT and I believe our productions continue to be among the finest in the country. I promise you that few community theatres can match our quality. I am committed to making this new season our very best yet. With the cost of everything in our lives going up, we need to make sure that our patrons know that there is great value in their ticket purchase. Our goal is for you to get much more than your money's worth every time you attend an ALT event. If you ever feel otherwise, I hope you will let me know.

I am looking forward to a spectacular season and I look forward to seeing you at the theatre(s).

# HAVE YOU PURCHASED YOUR SEASON TICKETS?

ADMIT ONE

## IT'S EASY...

**Just call the ALT office at 355-9991 and purchase over the phone or... go to the ALT website at**

**[www.amarillolittletheatre.org](http://www.amarillolittletheatre.org)**

**At the website you may download the season ticket order form and mail or fax it to us.**

## DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!

The place to be...

# 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 81st season of ALT. And what better way to start off our Fall semester than with auditions!

Our first Academy production will bring to life the classic, heart-warming play, **The Velveteen Rabbit**. Jayme McBride will serve as our director and has many wonderful ideas of how to capture the beauty of this familiar story. Parts are available for 30 Academy students 6th grade and under and one male role for a 7th-12th grade student. Also cast will be one female 7th-12th grade student who will be a featured vocalist in the show. Auditions will be held Sunday, September 14th at 2:00 pm in the Academy Classroom and will consist of cold readings from the play. Auditions are open to any ALT Academy student (theatre AND dance) and copies of the script are available at the ALT box office and the Academy classroom with a \$10.00 refundable deposit. The show will run October 9th-11th with rehearsals beginning on September 16th. Questions? Feel free to call me at 352-0731.

Also to start off our semester, we will be having two ALT Academy parent information meetings. At these meetings, we will distribute calendar dates, important information about the upcoming Academy productions of **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** and **The Music Man**, ALT Academy Council information, and much more. These meetings are scheduled for Monday, Sept. 15th at 7 pm and Saturday, Sept. 20th at 1 pm. Mark your calendars now! All Academy parents should plan on attending either meeting!

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



**ARE YOU ENROLLED?**  
**Make sure to sign-up for the Academy's Fall Semester!**  
**Registration form and class schedule online at**  
**[www.amarillolittletheatre.org](http://www.amarillolittletheatre.org)**  
**Classes start Sept. 8th**

## *Notes from the Guild*

Greetings,

This year has started off with awesome momentum! Jim Kemp and Whitney Kelly generously hosted the Guild Membership Drive on August 5th at their beautiful home, and it was an amazing evening. I would like to thank Jim and Whitney for opening up their home and providing such lovely food and drink. Shirley Fancher and Cindi Bulla each committed to become Life Members of the Guild. I want to thank them for this wonderful gift. Also, Cindy Singleton and Shelley Sloger have graciously volunteered to host an upcoming Guild meeting at their homes. I would especially like to thank Chana Smith and Jim Gardner for providing us with an exciting peek at **Smokey Joe's Café**. Another thank you goes to Allen Shankles for his support, despite having two shows in rehearsal that evening. Finally, this event would not have been possible without the work of Cindi Bulla, Amy Spears, Melanie Sanders, and Chriselda Reyes. These members put their heads together and made it happen. This evening was such a blessing for me. I enjoy being in the company of people committed to the betterment of Amarillo Little Theatre. When you see these dedicated folks at the theatre, be sure to thank them.

The membership drive is in full swing, so it is not too late to renew your membership or to join us as a new member. Membership forms are available on the Guild page at [www.amarillolittletheatre.org](http://www.amarillolittletheatre.org), and at the theatre. Have your membership form returned to the Box Office by August 31 to be included in the ALT Guild Directory (although you may still join the Guild after this deadline). Amy Spears, our Membership Chair, is compiling our Membership Directory for this season. The directory will include information about Guild Committees, and will list volunteers under the committee they serve on. I would like to encourage everyone who is a Life Member, to please update their information with us so that we can honor you with that recognition. You are a vital asset to the Guild. Stay tuned to our Guild page at [www.amarillolittletheatre.org](http://www.amarillolittletheatre.org) for pictures from the party and other news. See you at the theatre.

Justin Loe  
ALT Guild President

## AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS!

ALT is pleased to announce auditions for its second Mainstage and Adventure Space productions of the 2008-09 season.

# Dracula

by Hamilton Deane & John L. Balderston

### AUDITION DATES

Monday, September 15 and Tuesday, September 16, 2008  
ALT Mainstage @ 7:30 pm

Directed by  
Allen Shankles

Roles are available for **6 men (age range 16-65)** and **2 women (age range 18-50)**

Auditions will be by cold reading from the script.

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# Ruthless!

THE MUSICAL

Book and Lyrics by Joal Paley

### AUDITION DATES

Monday, September 29 and  
Tuesday, September 30, 2008  
ALT Adventure Space @ 7:30 pm

Directed by  
Cara Kee  
Music Direction by  
Jim Gardner

Roles are available for **5 women** (all ages) and **2 girls** (age range 7-15)

Auditions will consist of a prepared vocal selection not to exceed 60 seconds and cold readings from the script.

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Perusal scripts for both shows are available at the ALT Offices for a \$10.00 refundable deposit. For more information regarding these auditions, please contact the ALT Offices at 355-9991 or go to our website at [www.amarillolittletheatre.org](http://www.amarillolittletheatre.org)