

alt...the place
to be!

Amarillo Little Theatre presents
The Best Man
by Gore Vidal



alt
main
stage

*Gore Vidal's "The Best Man" is
a winner! Extraordinarily fresh,
witty, sharp and relevant.*

PRODUCTION FUNDING BY

John and Sally Skaggs
Ed and Shirley Fancher
Cenveo

SPONSORED BY

Phyllis Curtis
Erich and Joann Drochner
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Edes
Lorene Lacer

Amarillo Little Theatre is very pleased to open its 90th Anniversary Mainstage season with the Broadway hit **The Best Man!** Never has a play been more timely. It will make you wish that he were writing the dialogue for the Presidential debates.

The time is 1960 and the story revolves around William Russell, a wit and scholar with high liberal principles. His adversary is Joe Cantwell, a ruthless and hard-driving young man, a dirty fighter who will let no scruples stand in the way of his ambitions. This provides the framework for some vivid and captivating scenes in which Mr. Vidal contrasts the minds, emotions and fighting spirits of the two candidates. This is a wonderful script written by one of the world's most respected authors. It is sure to be a popular play with ALT audiences.

ALT Artistic Director, **Allen Shankles**, has assembled a terrific cast of ALT veterans as well as some talented newcomers. The cast stars, **Justin Loe** as candidate Bill Russell and **Cy Scroggins** as Joe Cantwell. The cast also includes **Jacob Brumley, Patrick Burns, Holly Czuchna, Brandon Graves, Sara Hogan, Carrie Huckabay, Jonathan Mobley, Jenny Morgan, Don Shipman, Don Washburn, Monte Wells and Brent Womble**. **Shannon Mashburn** is Assistant to the Director.

This great show recently played on Broadway with an all-star cast, including John Larroquette, Angela Lansbury, Candice Bergen and James Earl Jones. Make your reservations today to see **The Best Man** at ALT.

Facts at a Glance

PERFORMANCE DATES:

September 15 & 22 7:30 PM
September 16, 17, 23, 24 8:00 PM
September 25 2:30 PM

BOX OFFICE OPENS TO:

Members - Monday, August 29 10:00 AM
Public - Tues, September 6 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

ALT Mainstage
2019 Civic Circle
Box Office - 806-355-9991
Rated - PG-13

Order online at amarillolittletheatre.org

Director's Notes

And so another season has begun. As you read this, we will be finishing up a great run of our first production of the season.....
The Full Monty. This fun show was a hit for us and had audiences screaming with delight.



Allen Shankles

Next up is **The Best Man** at the Mainstage opening September 15. This great play was written by Gore Vidal and it follows two very different Presidential candidates at the National Convention in Philadelphia. We think this piece is very timely in our world today and it should be a refreshing respite from the real campaign we are suffering through right now.

As most of you know, I have been at ALT for over 30 years. We have accomplished a lot during that time in our effort to make ALT the very best community theatre in the country. In the early days, I fantasized of a time when ALT would be flourishing and patrons would be standing in line to see our shows and to give us their donations.

Well, the theatre is flourishing, but it hasn't gotten much easier. In fact, the theatre business is tough. We have a broad base of support and many people support our work generously. Recently we learned that one of our most generous donors would be discontinuing their support of ALT. This is a significant loss. It highlights the importance of having a broad base of support. I have focused on building that base of support so that our organization would not be devastated if any individual donor curtailed their support. It's also why our ticket sales are so important.

Just as I was lamenting the loss of a significant donor, a new contribution came that got us back on solid footing for the season. Hooray!!! That's the magic of ALT.

Speaking of broad support, I would like to encourage many of you to consider joining our Producers' Circle group. There is great strength in numbers and your support of \$500 annually, combined with another 100 or more members creates a large pool of funding that helps ALT tremendously. This year, we are offering you the option to make monthly payments of \$41.67 per month. We can even have it drafted from your checking account each month. Just think how important your gift can be.

The season is rolling along and I am ready. I am feeling great and looking forward to directing four or five shows this season. I hope you will come along for the ride.

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

Allen Shankles
Managing/Artistic Director

Greetings from the Guild!

We are up and running this year and have already had great response to our first fundraiser! We made a quick \$600.00 with our **The Full Monty** Ladies Night raffle. Our own sweet Anne Lankford won! It couldn't have gone to a more deserving recipient! We are glad to send Anne and 9 of her closest friends out for a night on the town with a special Pink Limo Ride to Bar Z and then back to the Terk Lobby for the Ladies Night Party and then to the 11:00 performance of **The Full Monty**. Cindy Singleton donated a BEAUTIFUL dessert platter from **Taste Dessert Bar** to enjoy in the limo. Tickets for this show are getting hard to come by, so the 10 tickets are a GREAT coo.

We met in August for our first meeting of the year at the Academy Space. We got to see the beautiful new curtain and new chairs. The space looks great. We were there for headshots and a short tour of the space during **The Full Monty** rehearsals. Hopefully this year's meetings will be held in lots of different ALT locations so everyone gets a chance to see what terrific facilities we all enjoy.

Our membership meeting will be held on September 10th from 6:00 – 8:00 at the home of Michael Froschheiser and Jason Crespin. The address is 2115 Hughes and everyone is welcome. We will have

charcuteries and drinks – maybe even a dessert or two. Please make every effort to attend but if you miss it – please continue to sign up for your membership online at altguild.org. Cost for a one year membership is \$25.00 and goes to support live theatre in Amarillo.

We would like to thank **Amarillo Pediatric Dentistry** for sponsoring our water this year! It is a tremendous commitment! We are also using Caketopia for our cookies this year along with Market Street. The response to the "tushy" specialty cookies for **The Full Monty** has been fantastic as we are near selling out each night.

I hope each of you will find a way to support ALT this year – be it ushering, selling concessions, delivering posters, helping with crew, buying raffle tickets, buying season tickets or becoming a member of the Producer's Circle. Remember that each contribution of time or money benefits ALT and keeps live theatre in the panhandle for everyone. Creating ART is what it's all about! Thanks to each of you and I hope to see you in September at the Membership Party! I KNOW I will see you around the Theatre!!

Laura Jo Worsham
Guild President
676-9056

Academy Spotlight

Fall already? Where did the summer go? We certainly kept busy here at the Academy with our Summer camps and we are already gearing up for a busy season!



Jason Crespin

Registration for Fall classes began on August 15th and classes are beginning to fill up quickly! If you have not yet registered, what are you waiting for? Tons of classes are available for kids AND adults. Be sure to check out our class schedules on our Academy Website. All of our Fall Academy classes begin the week of **August 29th** so hurry up and sign up! You can even register online now! Registration will run through the first week of classes.

We are also very excited to announce the spectacular 2016-2017 Academy season! First up for the Fall will be Mark Twain's American classic, **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**. This classic play is the story of a boy's journey with a runaway slave as they make their way down the Mississippi river. Huck, a rebel at heart, is escaping from starched collars, civilization and the drunken rages of his Pap. Jim is seeking life as a free man in the Northern states. On their journey, Huck learns the true meaning of friendship and freedom. **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** will take place at the ALT Mainstage on October 14th-16th. Check out our Academy website and Academy Facebook page for audition information soon!

Louisa May Alcott's classic **Little Women** will be our second production of the year. This wonderful adaptation, a richly textured celebration of life, love and the family set against the background of the American Civil War, dramatizes the story of the March sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. Our Academy will stage this play in the Adventure Space January 6th-8th.

In the Spring, the Academy will invite you to "be our guest" as we present **Disney's Beauty and the Beast**. The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity. This "tale as old as time" will be a popular show for sure! **Disney's Beauty and the Beast** will delight audiences March 24th-April 2nd.

I would like to remind anyone who may be too old to audition for these Academy shows that they can still be a part of all the magic by becoming an Academy sponsor! Sponsorships for Academy productions start at \$100 and each level has great perks all while being tax deductible. Remember how magical Godsepl and Aladdin Jr. were last year? This was all made possible with the help of our great sponsors! With the big season we have planned, we certainly are looking for all the help we can get to bring that sense of professionalism to our stage! If you have any questions about sponsoring an Academy show, please let me know by emailing jason@amarillolittletheatre.org or calling 352-0731.

Well, as you can see the Academy is already jumping into the Fall semester! From classes to auditions, we certainly will be busy!

Hope to see you all in the classroom or at Huck Finn auditions soon!

Jason Crespin
Academy Director

Have you tried our new online system yet?

Now, you can buy your season tickets, book tickets or
enroll in Academy classes even in your underwear.....

Check it out at amarillolittletheatre.org

AUDITIONS!

ALT is pleased to announce open auditions for its second Adventure Space and Mainstage productions of the 2016-17 season.



AUDITION DATES

Monday and Tuesday, September 19 and 20, 2016 @ 7:30 pm.
ALT Terk Lobby

PRODUCTION DATES

November 3-13, 2016
ALT Adventure Space

DIRECTED BY

Kim Shreffler

Roles are available for:

2 woman (age range 20-40)

1 Man (age range 25-40)

1 Man (age range 40-70)

AUDITIONS WILL CONSIST OF COLD READINGS FROM THE SCRIPT

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

806-355-9991



Curtain Call

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AUDITIONS!



AUDITION DATES

Monday and Tuesday, October 10 and 11 @ 7:30 pm
Callbacks - October 12 @ 7:30 pm
ALT Adventure Space

PRODUCTION DATES

December 1-18, 2016
ALT Mainstage

DIRECTED BY

Allen Shankles

MUSIC DIRECTION BY

Jennifer Akins

CHOREOGRAPHY BY

Crystal Bertrand

Roles are available for:

12-15 men (age range 16 and up)

12-15 women (age range 16 and up)

Auditions will consist of a 60 second vocal selection and possible cold readings from the script. Everyone auditioning will be asked to learn and perform a short dance routine to be taught by the choreographer. Please note that we will NOT be providing an accompanist. We will provide a CD player and a smart phone connection..