A nakedly silly and relentlessly convoluted murder-mystery plot, with twists and turns piled on twists till you have to give way and start laughing……it’s hugely enjoyable.

Amarillo Little Theatre is pleased to present The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 as the third production of the 2017-18 Mainstage season. This hilarious play is guaranteed to be an audience favorite!!!

IT’S NOT A MUSICAL!  Despite what the title leads one to believe, this is a very funny play that is part suspense, part who dun it, and part slapstick comedy. Featuring a collection of ten over the top characters and a very funny script, this play is a must see for ALT audiences.

The creative team responsible for a recent Broadway flop (in which three chorus girls were murdered by the mysterious “Stage Door Slasher”) assemble for a backer’s audition of their new show at the Westchester estate of a wealthy “angel.” The house is replete with sliding panels, secret passageways and a German maid who is apparently four different people—all of which figure diabolically in the comic mayhem which follows when the infamous “Slasher” makes his reappearance and strikes again—and again. As the composer, lyricist, actors and director prepare their performance, and a blizzard cuts off any possible retreat, bodies start to drop in plain sight, knives spring out of nowhere, masked figures drag their victims behind swiveling bookcases, and accusing fingers point in all directions. However, and with no thanks to the bumbling police inspector who snowshoes in to investigate, the mystery is solved in the nick of time and the “Slasher” unmasked—but not before the audience has been treated to a sidesplitting good time.

ALT has assembled a stunning ensemble of actors for this show. It includes Brooks Boyett, Tony Brazell, Cheyenne Haynes, Marley Hoggatt, Dennis Humphrey, Zeke Lewis, Kristen Loyd, Michael Newman, Ryan Sustaita, Brandon Khampoumy and Liz Wilson. Artistic Director is Allen Shankles with Kim Shreffler as Assistant to the Director.

This great show will be a light hearted and fun evening at the theatre. Make reservations today!!

Order online at amarillolittletheatre.org
As I write this article for “Curtain Call,” I am reflecting on many things. The first half of the 2017-18 season has gotten off to a spectacular start! Our season ticket sales are up almost 20%. We have experienced an increase for the first time in over 5 years. We don’t know exactly why we have had this increase, but we are certainly happy for it. We have staged some extraordinary theatre productions including Mary Poppins, Constellations, Outside Mullingar and Plaid Tidings. I am so proud of each of these productions and I want to thank all of the talented people who worked on these shows.

It has been three and a half years since I shared in these Director’s Notes that I had been diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease. It has been an “adventure” to say the least and it is going to become more “adventurous” as time goes on. The disease continues its forward march on my body. I am holding up pretty well, but some days are simply difficult. It is hard to describe how frustrating it can be to have difficulty with simple things that we often take for granted. Some mornings it takes me twice as long to get ready to face the day. My body just won’t move quickly and combing my hair or brushing my teeth can be difficult tasks. It’s just part of the deal. I have wonderful support from my family, staff and friends and I am grateful to have a job that I can still be productive in and that inspires me to get out of bed each morning.

I can’t tell you how grateful I am to the many ALT patrons who check in on me every time they attend a production. Your words of encouragement and concern are very much appreciated. One thing I will promise is that I will continue to work to make ALT the best it can be as long as I am physically able. When the time comes, we will have a transition plan that will keep the theatre moving forward at peak efficiency.

The second half of the ALT season is going to be thrilling! We have some of our best shows of the season upcoming. I am particularly excited about Sister Act and I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change, but every show on the schedule promises to be a great event here at ALT.

I hope all of you are having a spectacular holiday season.

I look forward to seeing you at the theatre(s).
Allen Shankles, Managing/Artistic Director

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS as of 2017

LouAnn Baumhardt
Patrick & Trish Bennet, Satana, LP
Marilyn Brown
Art & Rosie Carroll
Mike & Kathy Connor
Marge Dean
Rick & Mitzi Dillman
Debora Dougan
Melvin & Kathy Edes
Robert & Courtney Frazier
in honor of Aidan Frazier

Tony & Diane Freeman
in memory of Jay Kirk
Ann Hicks
Jane Juett
in honor of Allen Shankles
Dee Miller
Dr. & Mrs. Shane & Nicole Moore
John & Mary Petty
Jeffrey & Bonnie Pickens
Joseph & Arlene Pool

Elaine Reese
in honor of Travis Johnson
Chris Rhynehart
Carson & Helen Smith
Robert & Sue Stiles
Minnie Venable
Ralph & Louise Wissian
Academy Spotlight

The end of the year is always a great time to look back on memories from the past 12 months and get excited for what is coming up in the new year. The Academy certainly has had some wonderful memories from this past year and we are excited for what's coming up in the Spring Semester.

We are currently in rehearsals for our next Academy production of *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. This play with music is based on the 1938 classic by Richard and Florence Atwater and will be performed in the ALT Adventure Space January 5th-7th. You won't want to miss this “toe tapping tale!”

Just a reminder that registration is currently in progress for the Spring semester. Classes begin the week of January 16th. Make sure to check out the list of Spring classes as there are some great classes for all ages, including adults! Sign up soon though as I know many classes are filling up fast!

Looking toward the Spring semester, the Academy will be busy with auditions for the classic musical *Annie*. Based on the popular comic strip by Harold Gray, *Annie* has become a worldwide phenomenon and was the winner of seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. We are excited to bring this classic musical to our stage. It features some of the greatest musical theatre hits ever written, including “Tomorrow.” Auditions will take place beginning January 13th! Look for audition information and audition packet on our Academy website soon!

2017 was a certainly good year for the Academy. We produced the heart warming play *Little Women*, broke box office records with *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and brought the world of Dr. Seuss to life with *Seussical the Musical*. The Academy also won 26 National Awards from the National Youth Arts Awards and turned 25 years old this year! We certainly had a blessed year and could not have done it without our amazing instructors, the support of the ALT staff and Board of Directors, and our talented students and their amazing families! Here's hoping that 2018 is filled with just as many wonderful moments if not more!

Happy New Year!
Jason Crespin, Academy Director

Audition packet with all audition information will be online at the ALT Academy Home page ([amarillolittletheatre.com/alt-academy](https://amarillolittletheatre.com/alt-academy)) in early January. If you have any questions, please contact Jason Crespin at 352-0731 or via email at [jason@amarillolittletheatre.org](mailto:jason@amarillolittletheatre.org)

ALT Academy announces auditions for:

*Annie*

2017 was a certainly good year for the Academy. We produced the heart warming play *Little Women*, broke box office records with *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and brought the world of Dr. Seuss to life with *Seussical the Musical*. The Academy also won 26 National Awards from the National Youth Arts Awards and turned 25 years old this year! We certainly had a blessed year and could not have done it without our amazing instructors, the support of the ALT staff and Board of Directors, and our talented students and their amazing families! Here’s hoping that 2018 is filled with just as many wonderful moments if not more!

Happy New Year!

Jason Crespin, Academy Director

GUILD NOTES

The ALT Guild had a festive Christmas party, with just a little bit of business thrown in, and hopes that everyone is enjoying a wonderful holiday season. Our next meeting will be February 13 at the Theatre. Finally, the next thing on our agenda will be the 2018 Gatsby Gala, April 28. Plans for this are beginning, and will continue in earnest in the spring. Stay tuned! As always, if you have any questions about the Guild, feel free to contact me at tsjonson@am.net, or 806-622-2656.

Susan Johnson, President
ALT Guild
Amarillo Little Theatre is pleased to announce open auditions for its fourth Adventure space and Mainstage productions of the 2017-18 season!

AUDITIONS!

**The Savannah Sipping Society**

by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.

**AUDITION DATES**
Monday and Tuesday, January 15 and 16 at 7:30 pm
ALT Mainstage

**PRODUCTION DATES**
March 1-11, 2018
ALT Mainstage

**DIRECTED BY**
TBA

Roles are available for:
4 mature women (age range 45-65)

**Auditions!**

**AUDITION DATES**
Monday and Tuesday, February 12 and 13
ALT Adventure Space

**PRODUCTION DATES**
April 5-15, 2018
ALT Adventure Space

**DIRECTED BY**
Stephen Crandall

Roles are available for:
2 adult men (age range 50-70)
2 adult men (age range 25-45)

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.

Perusal scripts for both shows are available at the ALT Box Office for a $10.00 refundable deposit.