

# Academy Spotlight



Harrison Stringer

There is nothing like Springtime at the Academy! This semester has been a whirlwind and there is still so much goodness to come! Since my last article, our Show Stoppers Show Choir performed in **Children of Eden** at Lincoln Center in New York City alongside Broadway and film stars. Thank you to everyone who supported this trip in February. It was truly the trip of a lifetime and I will be talking about that experience for the rest of my life, and I don't doubt those hard working students will be, too.

Thank you also to everyone who helped us make a big splash as we went "Under The Sea" with **Disney's The Little Mermaid**. I was fortunate enough to be supported by a top-notch production team who helped make this show possible. Thank you to my Assistant Director **Krystal Burns** for being by my side through it all. Music Director **Brandon Bellar** and Choreographer **Beth Alexander** brought beloved songs from the movie as well as many new songs to life on stage in a dazzling fashion. I'd also like to thank Production Assistant **Gracie Hurt**, Assistant Choreographer/Dance Captain **Macy Martin** and Costume Coordinator **Tiffany Laur** for all of their help as well. The innovative Set Design by **Tana Roberson** was elevated by beautiful projections designed by **Dennis Humphrey** and highlighted with Lightning Design by our Technical Director **Noah Lang**. Thanks always to our talented technical team, rounded out by **Brandon Khamphoumy** and **Michael Villarreal**, as well as the **ALT Staff** and **Board of Directors** for their consistent support of the Academy. Huge congratulations are in order for this cast and crew for providing premiere entertainment to sold out audiences over two weekends, not to mention the nearly 1,900 area students who were able to attend our school performances for free. Special thanks also to our Production Partner **AAA Electric** and a long list of other sponsors who helped make this production a huge success for ALT and the Academy!

*Continued below*

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*Academy Spotlight continued*

A few weeks ago, **Lugene Cole** and **Joy Fowler-McDonald** led our dance teams to great success at the **Celebration Talent Competition** where they brought in numerous accolades, most notably 2 Showstopper awards, an Overall High Score, and the distinguished "Life of the Party" award! Congratulations to all and thank you for consistently representing ALT in excellent fashion year after year!

Like I said, things are not slowing down here at the Academy as we gear up to celebrate our graduating senior class at the Ghostlight Gala, Dance Recitals May 30th – June 1st and loads of Summer Camp opportunities for kids of all ages. Registration for camps will begin May 13th. Additionally, audition information for our summer musical, **The Lightning Thief**, will be made available soon, so keep an eye out for that!

What an exhilarating first season I've had here at ALT. I can't believe it's almost over! This has been a year filled with big wins, hard losses and bittersweet new beginnings and I am so grateful to be here through it all. As we continue to celebrate the life and legacy of Allen Shankles, it is heartwarming to see the fruits of his labors live through these talented, dedicated students who are keeping the arts alive in Amarillo. I encourage you to support these students at a dance recital or theatre class showcase and see for yourself just how bright the future of our theatre is. I promise these students will leave you feeling inspired. I should know; they inspire me every day. Here's to another amazing season. I hope to see you at the theatre soon.

Harrison Stringer  
Academy Director

alt...the place to be!



**Amarillo Little Theatre**  
proudly presents

## SPAMALOT

Book and Lyrics by  
**Eric Idle**

Music by  
**John Du Prez and Eric Idle**

From the original screenplay by  
Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam,  
Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin

Rated – PG13

PRODUCTION FUNDING BY

- AAA Electric**
- CJ and Syble Fowlston Charitable Trust**
- Dr. Kent Roberts and Ilene Roberts-Balliett Foundation**
- Pattilou Dawkins/Wolflin Mortgage**
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- Chris and Melynda Sturdevant/ Adobe Walls Stoneworks**
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- James and Rebecca Young/ House Repairs and Much More**

# MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT™

**"Always look on the bright side of life..."**

The Amarillo Little Theatre is thrilled to search for the Holy Grail as we present the outrageously hilarious musical Monty Python's **SPAMALOT** as its final show of the 96th season.

Lovingly ripped from the film classic, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, **SPAMALOT** is a deliriously funny spectacle which tells the legendary tale of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table as they go on a quest in search of the Holy Grail. This musical has absolutely everything that makes a great "knight" at the theatre, from flying cows to killer rabbits, British royalty to French taunters, dancing girls, rubbery shrubbery and of course, the Lady of the Lake. **SPAMALOT** features well-known song titles such as "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life," "The Song That Goes Like This," "Find Your Grail," and more that have become beloved classics in the musical theatre canon.

ALT has assembled a marvelous cast for this production including **Gabe Scherman** as King Arthur, **Kristen Loyd** as The Lady of the Lake, **Brooks Boyett** as Patsy, **Dillon Kizarr** as Sir Robin, **Nels Bjork** as Sir Lancelot, **Kyle Gipson** as Sir Galahad, **Jason Boyett** as Sir Bedevere and **Jordan Smith** as Prince Herbert. The talented ensemble includes **Melea Baker**, **Ben Burke**, **Jax Ebert**, **Joey Ebert**, **Colin Fields**, **Hugh Fristoe**, **Chris Gandy**, **Nikki Harada**, **Hunter Lee**, **Jackie Llewellyn**, **Sean Pritchard**, **Kiara Tenille**, **Choc Thomason** and **Travis Tidmore**.

Artistic Director for this production is **Jason Crespin** with Music Direction by **Jennifer Akins** and Choreography by **Shawn Walsh**. **Sara Pennington-Booher** serves as Assistant to the Directors with **Ashley DeVoid** and **Kayleigh Colbert** as Production Assistants with **Kallie Huckabay** as Dance Captain and **Zachary Todd** as Assistant Music Director.

Audiences can join King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table May 2-19 at the Allen Shankles Mainstage. Tickets can be reserved through our ALT Box Office by calling 806-355-9991. You may continue your quest for tickets by purchasing online at amarillolittletheatre.org.

This May, put the "News Cycle" on "Rinse Cycle" and take a couple of hours to relax with the Lady of the Lake, King Arthur and the Knights Who Say Ni because "we're not dead yet"!

Facts at a Glance

**PERFORMANCE DATES:**

May 2, 9 and 16 .....7:30pm  
May 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18 .....8:00pm  
May 12 and 19 .....2:30pm

**BOX OFFICE OPENS TO:**

**Members:** Monday, April 15..... 10:00 am  
**Public:** Monday, April 22..... 10:00 am

**LOCATION:**

ALT Allen Shankles Mainstage  
2019 Civic Circle  
Tickets: Box Office – 806-355-9991  
Rated PG-13

Order online at [amarillolittletheatre.org](http://amarillolittletheatre.org)

## Director's Notes



Jason Crespin

There is a hole in the heart of our theatre. A hole that was once filled by our fearless leader Allen Shankles. It has just been a little over 2 weeks now and it is still a hard thing to process. I keep thinking I'll get an email from Allen wanting to talk about a great idea he has for the theatre or walk into the Adventure Space and see him talking to our tech team about the set they are building. The day after Allen passed, our theatre family was able to gather on the Mainstage to honor him with one final magic circle. If you are unfamiliar with the tradition of our magic circle, let me explain. It is where 15 minutes before we start a show, the cast, crew, orchestra and production team all gather in a circle holding hands (right over left) and get any last minute words of wisdom from the production team. The circle signifies that we are all needed to complete the circle just as like we are all needed to do our part for a show to be a success. Our circle was broken when we lost Allen. So, we gathered together to honor him and took the steps forward to complete the circle once again. Those "steps forward" will be hard but I know necessary for our theatre to continue to thrive.

Allen was not only our brilliant director, but was truly a force in our community. These past few weeks, we have been able to hear so many stories from community members about the influence Allen had on them. We all know the huge influence he had on those of us in the theatre. His legacy will certainly continue in the work we put in each and every day at the theatre. I can hear Allen now say, "Wrap it up Jason... Oh and remind them to purchase season tickets to next season!" So that is what I am going to do...

The end of the season has arrived and what a brilliant season it has been. We started it off listening to the voice of Judy Garland and traveled to a chocolate factory and now have just come from under the sea and ready to search for a holy grail. None of this would be possible without the generous support of our patrons and the time put in by our fantastic volunteers! Thank you all! Since our last newsletter, stunning work has been turned in by the casts, crews and production teams of **The Play That Goes Wrong**, **RENT**, **The Little Mermaid** and **Sense and Sensibility**. I am so proud of all we have produced and am excited to close out our season with the hilarious **Spamalot**. This show was slated before in a past season, but was sadly sidelined a few times due to other productions. Well, it is now time for this show to take center stage and I can't wait for you to see it!

In this newsletter, you will also see the announcement of shows for next season. We are thrilled about each title and feel that it will be another strong year of great work. The ALT staff and Play Selection Committee read numerous scripts in preparation for voting on our season ballot. I thank you for casting your vote and am excited to produce an amazing 97th ALT season.

Like I wrote, Allen would want me to remind you that now is the time to renew and/or purchase your season tickets! ALT provides the best entertainment value and the most diverse options in our area and we want you to be a part of it all. To take artistic inspiration from our first musical next season, I have to tell you we have a recipe I think you are going to love! First pour in the brand new title **Waitress** that ALT got early exclusive rights to, sprinkle in a leg lamp sized amount of the great family musical **A Christmas Story**, a dash of the much anticipated **Dreamgirls**, a careful amount of **Arsenic and Old Lace** and **Dial M for Murder**, and mix in the intimate productions of the Adventure Space and stir well. Once that is set, top off your recipe with with the great work of our Academy and you have just made a fantastic 97th season! This recipe that includes something for everyone certainly needs your help to bake though! Get your season tickets now and plan on getting a big slice of each of these fantastic productions! Top off your memberships by enjoying all the benefits that are included such as advance reservation privileges, discounts on purchasing extra tickets, bonus tickets, etc... It really is a no brainer why you should get your season tickets today!

As I wrap up my article, I want to remind you all of the motto Allen had. "Why not Amarillo?!" Allen believed excellent theatre didn't have to just be in NYC or Chicago or any other large city. Why couldn't it be right here in Amarillo? Why can't we have the cutting edge theatre with talent that blows the roof off our building? I am thankful he had that mindset and put our theatre on that path. Now I want to remind you... **Why not support ALT?** In order for us to continue the legacy of being the finest community theatre in the nation, we need your support. Our production funding is down. Why not support? Do you have your season tickets? Why not? It is the BEST value in town! Are you a Producer's Circle Member? Why not? The support alone from that group is huge for our theatre and helps us not only maintain our production value but allows us to keep exploring ways we can improve the quality of theatre we can give to you! Think about the massive sets, beautiful costumes, microphones on all actors, free parking, updated lighting, professional projections, the list goes on and on. So I challenge you to say to yourself, why not support ALT? I hope you will and I promise we will continue Allen's legacy and make you all proud of our little theatre.

See you at **Spamalot**,

Jason Crespin  
ALT Managing/Artistic Director

# 2024-2025 Season of Shows

Presented by alt

**Waitress**  
**Arsenic and Old Lace**  
**A Christmas Story:  
The Musical**  
**Dial M for Murder**  
**Dreamgirls**

alt  
main  
stage

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**The Drowning Girls**  
**First Date: The Musical**  
**33 Variations**

All titles are subject to availability.

## 2024-25 SEASON TICKET PACKAGES & ORDER FORM

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Donating members receive recognition in ALT Playbill, advance reservations & invitations to opening night receptions.

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**Sponsor - \$575.00** - 30 Admissions  
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**Angel - \$395.00** - 20 Admissions  
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**Patron - \$1150.00** — 40 Admissions (plus \$400 Tax Deductible Contribution) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor - \$575.00** — 30 Admissions (plus \$50 Tax Deductible Contribution) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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