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www.amarillolittletheatre.org December, 2024



Amarillo Little Theatre

proudly presents

DIAL M FOR MURDER

by Frederick Knott

Adapted by **Jeffrey Hatcher**

Rated: 13+

Due to mature themes, violence, murder (it's right there in the title), romantic kiss, discussion of a past extramarital affair and edge-of-your seat suspense.

PRODUCTION FUNDING BY

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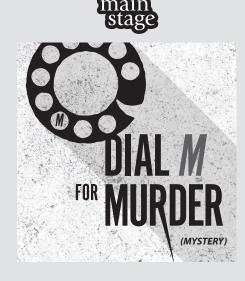
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Jan. 16th - 26th, 2025

"A cat-and-mouse waiting game, with enough twists and sudden hitches to keep the chills and thrills running." – The New York Times

A jealous husband. His wealthy wife. The perfect crime! Get ready to experience these and more as the Amarillo Little Theatre presents *Dial M for Murder* as the fourth Mainstage production of the season. This classic thriller has been brilliantly adapted by playwright Jeffrey Hatcher, who has created even more surprises and diabolic twists than the celebrated 1954 Hitchcock film!

Margot Wendice is happily married to Tony, and the couple share a charming life and a modest flat in 1950s London. But not all is as it seems. Margot has been involved with the famous American crime writer Maxine Hadley and is being blackmailed by a mysterious stranger who threatens to expose the affair to her husband. But Tony already knows and has just hatched a plot of deadly revenge. In his jealousy, Tony spins a web of suspicion and deception that will tighten around them and ensnare them both in danger, recrimination and murder. Will the killer get away, or will justice be served? You'll be kept guessing until the end and gripping the edge of your seat through the twists and turns of this stylish thriller of blackmail and revenge.

ALT has assembled a talented array of veteran actors for this production. Performers include **Jeri Tidmore** as Margot Wendice, **Marley Hoggatt** as Maxine Hadley, **Michael Newman** as Tony Wendice, **Brandon Graves** as Lesgate and **Jacob Miller** as Inspector Hubbard. Artistic Director for this production is **Terri Wilson** with **Travis Tidmore** serving as Assistant Director.

Passion runs high in this classic revenge thriller that runs January 16-26 on the ALT Allen Shankles Mainstage. This new adaptation of the iconic play is recommended for ages 13+ due to some mature themes, violence, murder (it's right there in the title), romantic kiss, discussion of a past extramarital affair and edge-of-your seat suspense.

Murder and malice take center stage in this fresh adaptation of an iconic thriller! Reserve your tickets today before this show sells out!

Facts at a Glance

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Jan. 16 and 23... .7:30pm Jan. 17, 18, 24 and 25... .8:00pm .2:30pm Jan. 26 ...

BOX OFFICE OPENS TO:

Members: Monday, Dec. 30...... ... 10:00 am Public: Monday, Jan. 6..... 10:00 am

Order online at *amarillolittletheatre.org*

LOCATION:

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

Director's Notes



Happy Holidays everyone!

I would like to first extend a big "thank you" to everyone who contributed to our Panhandle Gives campaign, participated in our telethon and donated an end of the year gift so far to ALT. This financial support is always needed and appreciated. Each donation, no matter the size, was inspiring and helped show us that you believe in the work we do at ALT.

At this time of year, I always like to look back and reflect on the wonderful theatre we were able to make this past year. Think about it. The shows we produced in 2024 included **The Play That Goes Wrong, RENT, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Sense and Sensibility, Spamalot, ALT's Leading Ladies, The Lightning Thief, The Drowning Girls, Waitress, Arsenic and Old Lace, Charlotte's Web and A**

Christmas Story. That is a lot in a year! Other theatres are creating just half of what ALT offers our patrons. We are so lucky to be able to produce this many shows with our hard working staff, generous volunteers, a dedicated board of directors and our fantastic patrons! Thank you for a wonderful year of phenomenal theatre.

Sometimes, the places we least expect to belong are the ones that shape our destinies. Imagine a high school sophomore, with a self-esteem that was not just low, but nearly nonexistent. Yet, in 1999, the Amarillo Little Theatre took a chance on me - that 15 year-old hopeful. Allen Shankles, Anne Lankford and Loren Strickland didn't just cast me in a role in **West Side Story**; they gave me a sense of belonging, a community of like minded individuals who believed in the transformative power of the arts. They believed in me. That decision changed my life. Looking back over my 25 years here at ALT, I can trace the roots of my confidence and sense of place in the world to that pivotal moment at the Mainstage. It was more than just getting cast in a show; it was a lifeline for me - a young person trying to find his place in this crazy world. How very lucky I was to find my name on that cast list and not only find my place, but also begin my long career here at ALT.

Today, as the Managing/Artistic Director, I am reaching out to you because I know you understand the value of what we do. You've experienced the magic of our theatre, the vibrancy of our community and the life-changing impact of the arts. You've been part of our story and I'm inviting you to join us in writing the next chapter. By making an end of the year donation today, you're providing a platform for the next generation of dreamers... maybe even the next 15 year-old kid who stumbles into our theatre and decides to audition for a show. You're supporting a space where anyone from any walk of life can dare to be different, to express themselves, and, most importantly, to find a place where they belong.

ALT is a unique arts entity for Amarillo. We are the only arts program that owns and maintains its performance space while maintaining the Adventure Space as well as our Academy program. We offer our patrons the chance to be assisted by staff members in our Box Office rather than only dealing with online sales. And while we don't pay our actors, the expenses to produce our season are monumental, especially to the degree of our standards. The rights to produce a show, building and painting our sets, costumes, wigs, makeup, specialty props, furniture and so many other expenses all add up in a year. When you factor in that we do 11 shows in a season plus a special event in the summer, you can see why the need for financial help is crucial for us to keep ALT operating.

Thank you for being a part of our journey and our history. I hope you can understand how your support can be the difference in someone's life. You can see what an impact it made on me 25 years ago! My hope is that you will consider an end of the year donation to ALT or perhaps attend our fundraiser, **NYE at ALT: The Fire and Ice Experience.** We need your support. I promise we will continue to make you proud of our theatre in the work we do and in the stories we tell.

May you all have a wonderful holiday season!

Jason Crespin ALT Managing/Artistic Director

CHECK YOUR SEASON TICKETS!

Do you have enough for the rest of the stellar season?

Purchase season tickets or add on packages to your account by December 31st!

Not sure? Call the ALT Box Office now to find out how many tickets you have in your account.

You won't want to miss out on the rest of our great season!

Academy Spotlight



Happy Holidays! I cannot believe we are already over halfway through our 97th season. 2024 has been quite a year for ALT and I am greatly looking forward to all that we will accomplish in 2025 as we round out this season and get set for our 98th.

It's been a busy time here at the theatre for our Academy students. From Christmas Caroling with our Show Choir to all of the end-of-semester showcases, on top of all of the other things these kids have going on, I am constantly amazed at how these young people maneuver it all. I want to give a special shout out to the 12 Academy students in the cast and a talented senior Academy student who served on the production team of **A Christmas Story** at the Mainstage. These young professionals shone on stage and off and I am so proud of every one of them. Our Academy is so lucky to have the opportunity to share

the Mainstage with our adults each season with these collaboration shows and this production was a massive hit!

Registration for the Spring Semester at the Academy is now open with our classes beginning January 13th! We've got a whole new slate of offerings this semester for all ages, so check out our schedule and see if there is something calling your name. From costuming and technical theatre, to playwriting and songwriting, there are numerous opportunities to learn something new this semester, whether you're 4 or 94.

Auditions for our big Spring musical, *James and the Giant Peach*, are right around the corner as well, beginning January 20th! Only currently enrolled Academy students will be allowed to audition. That audition packet is available now on the website - go check it out and help us tell this fantastical tale. With a score by Pasek and Paul, co-writers of the music for hits like *Dear Evan Hansen*, this season's *A Christmas Story* and *The Greatest Showman*, this fun, new musical is sure to be a hit for audiences of all ages in March.

The ALT Academy Show Stoppers, our show choir, has been hard at work over their Winter Break preparing for the National Musical Theatre Competition that will take place in Orlando, Florida in February. This group of students will be presenting 20 minutes of *Rock of Ages: Teen Edition* at the contest. This over-the-top, totally tubular show perfectly showcases their talents and I have no doubt that they will represent Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle very well at this national competition.

Thank you, as always, for all you do for our beloved theatre and for the arts in Amarillo. From painting sets, to sewing on buttons, to dropping off and picking up kids from rehearsal, to ushering and working the concession stand and countless other things along the way, you, our volunteers, are what make ALT the gem that it is. I cannot wait to see what we all accomplish together in the coming years as we approach our centennial season. Happy Holidays and we will see you at the theatre in 2025!

Harrison Stringer, Academy Director



Please join the Amarillo Little Theatre for our inaugural New Year's Eve Fundraising Event

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024 From 8:00PM - 1:00AM Formal Press Encouraged

ALT ADVENTURE SPACE 2751 CIVIC CIRCLE

\$100 PER PERSON, \$175 PER COUPLE
"HOT TO GO" DOUBLE DATE PACKAGE - \$350

Sponsorships Available

STARTING AT \$750

PURCHASE TICKETS THROUGH THE ALT BOX OFFICE AT 806.355.9991 or online at WWW.AMARILLOLITTLETHEATRE.ORG