

Academy Spotlight



Spring is such a wonderful season. It ushers in new beginnings, lots of new activities and even a new season announcement for us here at ALT! I'm so thrilled to bring our 98th season of live theatre to the Texas panhandle. What a thrilling lineup!

Since my last letter, lots has happened in the Academy. Our ALT Showstoppers performed at the National Performing Arts Festival in Orlando, Florida, earning an Excellent rating. We also took home Spotlight awards for **Kennedy Cardenas, Laken Derington** and **Jace Norris** for their performances in our ensemble show. Additionally, **Alessandro Dieguez** and **Ariel Claire** were honored for their performances in the solo/duet category, with Ariel earning one of the highest scores in the festival and getting to perform at the showcase in CityWalk Orlando at the end of our trip! It was an amazing experience and we could not be more grateful for everyone's support in getting us there. We all learned so much and had such a blast. If you want to catch our contest excerpt of **Rock of Ages: Teen Edition** in addition to a whole slate of other songs from this talented group of students, be sure to check out our showcase on **May 12th at 7:30 PM on the Allen Shankles Mainstage.**

Thank you to everyone who was part of our giant production of **Roald Dahl's James & the Giant Peach** in March. This show was a huge undertaking and I could not have been more proud of the cast, crew and production team. Thank you to Assistant Director, **Krystal Burns**, and Production Assistants **Tres Norris** and **Carla Fristoe** for their tireless dedication to making this show something truly remarkable. I'd like to thank Academy Instructors **Austen Jones** and **Beth Alexander**, who served as Music Director and Choreographer, respectively, for their commitment to these students and making them look and sound amazing every second they were on stage. Additional thanks are necessary to **Elizabeth Worsham**, Assistant Music Director, **Tiffany Laur**, costume coordinator, **Tana Roberson**, set designer, **Noah Lang**, Technical Director and Lightning Designer, and countless others who poured so much time and effort into this musical. As always, thank you to the **ALT Staff** and **Board of Directors** for helping foster such a magical environment for

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Curtain Call

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Academy Spotlight continued

our Academy students to shine and grow. I would be remiss if I didn't thank our co-producers, **AAA Electric**, for all of their consistent support of the Academy, in addition to all of our other wonderful sponsors who help make magic every single day.

Additionally, **Lugene Cole** and **Joy Fowler-McDonald** once again showcased our dance teams' talents at the Celebration Talent Competition. They received multiple High Gold, Platinum and Choreography awards while also taking home 1st Overall High Score for the Senior Competition Team. They continuously showcase our Academy beautifully and we are so proud of them!

The rest of the season holds our **Ghost Light Gala** where we reflect on the Academy and our senior class, Dance Recitals from May 29 - 31, and Summer Camps with fun options for all ages, including some brand new **Wicked Bootcamps** for those who can't get enough of all things Oz. Registration for the summer will begin **May 12th**. Mark your calendars as these camps are sure to fill up quickly! Additionally, audition information for our summer musical, **Something Rotten!** will be available soon, so keep an eye out!

Thank you all, as always, for supporting the arts in Amarillo. I try to never take for granted the dedication and generosity of every single one of our volunteers, patrons and supporters who help us bring entertainment to the Panhandle year round. I always encourage you to check out a dance recital or camp showcase or buy a ticket to an Academy show and see for yourself just how bright the future is at ALT. It is, and will always be, The Place to Be.

Harrison Stringer, Academy Director

alt...the place to be!

Amarillo Little Theatre
proudly presents

DREAMGIRLS

Book and Lyrics by **Tom Eyen**

Music by **Henry Krieger**

Rated: 10+

www.amarillolittletheatre.org

April, 2025



May 1st - 18th, 2025

"There's a story behind every dream."

The Amarillo Little Theatre is thrilled to offer a love letter to American R&B music and the artists that made such music great as we present **DREAMGIRLS** as the final show of our 97th season.

Stars rise and fall... but dreams live forever! This sensational Broadway musical tells the story of a 1960s Supremes-like girl group that catches its big break during an amateur competition. But will their friendship (and their music) survive the rapid rise from obscurity to pop super stardom? Full of onstage joy and backstage drama, **DREAMGIRLS** is a sweeping and inspirational journey with dazzling choreography, powerhouse vocal performances and an unforgettable score that blends R&B, soul, gospel and pop.

ALT has assembled a marvelous cast for this epic musical. The production stars **Nataziah Gipson** as Effie White, **Tia Hunt** as Deena Jones and **Jay Hayes** as Lorrell Robinson. Also joining the cast is **Devlon Jones** as Curtis Taylor, Jr., **Kyle Gipson** as James Thunder Early, **Toderick Hunt** as C.C. White and **Christopher Alford** as Marty. The talented ensemble includes **A'Dreonna Armstrong**, **Alex Barrera**, **Nels Bjork**, **Roman Brown**, **Ashton Colbert**, **Kayleigh Colbert**, **Michele Colbert**, **Sarai Dinkens-Agalaba**, **Savvy Emile**, **Hugh Fristoe**, **Brandon Graves**, **Vanessa Hill**, **Saturn Horton**, **Mitcheal Johnson Jr.**, **Nathan Jones**, **Frank Salazar**, **Ariana Sanchez**, **Nicholas Shaffer**, **Zachary Vidaurri**, **Brianna Ware**, **NaKisha Wood** and **Aspen Younker**.

Co-Artistic Directors for this production include **Jason Crespín** and **Kissey Cummings** with Music Direction by **Jennifer Akins** and Choreography by **Shawn Walsh**. **Ashley DeVoid** serves as Assistant to the Directors. This sensational musical runs May 1-18 at the Allen Shankles Mainstage. Tickets can be reserved through our ALT Box Office by calling 806-355-9991 or purchased online at amarillolittletheatre.org.

The show's compelling narrative and dynamic performances have earned it critical acclaim, including multiple Tony Awards, cementing its place as a seminal work in American musical theatre. With its captivating story of ambition, love and resilience, **DREAMGIRLS** continues to resonate with audiences, offering both entertainment and a reflection on the enduring power of music and dreams. You won't want to miss it! Make your reservations today.

Facts at a Glance

PERFORMANCE DATES:

May. 1, 8 and 157:30pm
May. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 178:00pm
May. 11 and 182:30pm

BOX OFFICE OPENS TO:

Members: Monday, April 14 10:00 am
Public: Monday, April 21 10:00 am

LOCATION:

ALT Allen Shankles Mainstage
2019 Civic Circle
Tickets: Box Office – 806-355-9991
Rated: 10+

Order online at amarillolittletheatre.org

Director’s Notes



Jason Crespin

The end of the season has arrived and what a brilliant season it has been. We started it off with a true story about brides being drowned in bathtubs and just finished exploring the world in a giant peach! This past season was truly remarkable and it isn't quite over yet! I hope you have made plans to see our production of **Dreamgirls**. This epic musical will be historic not only for ALT but also for our community. I can't wait for you to see it!

In this newsletter, you will 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. August will find us at the Adventure Space as we present the classic play **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**. This title was a popular one in our voting. In September, we will "let it go" as we present **Frozen**. We were granted early rights and we couldn't pass on bringing to life this full stage version of the popular animated movie. This will be a BIG show for ALT. October is the perfect month to have **Misery** run at the Adventure Space. Another popular show amongst our voters. We will then look closer at America's history as we produce the moving musical **Ragtime** in November at the Mainstage. The music of this musical is so impressive that our plan is to have a 29 piece orchestra on stage for this show! We will then be laughing in the aisles in January as we present the hilarious play **The Cottage**. Written by the same author as **CLUE**, we can guarantee you will have a blast at this show. The sounds of The Four Seasons will be blowing the roof off the Mainstage in February as we present **Jersey Boys**. This musical is about how 4 young guys from New Jersey came together to be one of the most legendary musical groups bringing to life the songs of a generation. In April, we not only travel to the Adventure Space but also explore the constellations as we present the play **Silent Sky**. If you loved **Defying Gravity** or were moved during **These Shining Lives**, you will absolutely love this brilliant play. We will then close our season by rocking out to the musical **School of Rock**. This was our most requested musical in our voting and we can't wait to see the talent that shows up for this show! As you can see, I am very excited for what will surely be an amazing 98th ALT season.

With a new season comes new season tickets! 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. Remember, season ticket holders have early reservation privileges, discounts on purchasing extra tickets, bonus tickets that can be used all season long, etc... If you plan on purchasing at least 4 tickets next season, then it should be a no brainer to purchase season tickets and save money!

As many of you know, I try and see theatre outside of Amarillo as much as I can. If I am out of town, I see if there are any shows that are running that I can catch. Seeing other theatre always recharges my creative battery. It also helps give me ideas on what we can possibly produce here at ALT as well as how we can make our organization even better. Earlier this year, I was able to travel to NYC to see some new shows on Broadway. One of those shows was a new original musical called **Redwood**. It is a beautiful musical about a woman dealing with the loss of her son and how a road trip that lands her amongst the Redwood National Forest helps her on her journey of healing. Since seeing that show, I have come to deeply appreciate the quiet strength of the redwood tree. Did you know that these towering giants can grow over 300 feet high, yet their roots reach just six feet deep. What keeps them standing tall? I have since learned that their roots spread outward, intertwining with the roots of their neighbors. The roots of the trees literally help hold each other up. It's a powerful reminder that when we come together — when we share our passion and energy for a greater purpose — **anything is possible**. My hope is that you see that ALT not only brings together the strength of the theatre community and its audiences, but also provides a welcoming environment for all who walk through our doors. ALT truly is the place to be.

In the spirit of these mighty trees, I hope you will continue to support ALT and help "hold us up" this next year by purchasing season tickets, joining the Producers' Circle, providing financial support as a Production Partner or Academy Sponsor, volunteering your time or even donating to help us bring that 29 piece orchestra to our stage for **Ragtime!** Your support is the "root" of the hope and help we need here at ALT each and every season. As you can tell, I am proud of the giant "Redwood" ALT is in our community and I am ready to help it thrive even more this next season. Won't you join me?

See you at **Dreamgirls**,

Jason Crespin
ALT Managing/Artistic Director

May 4th, 2025

2:30 pm

Amarillo Little Theatre
2019 Civic Circle

KAMICA
KING

\$10

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2025-2026
Season of Shows
Presented by alt

Frozen

Ragtime

The Cottage

Jersey Boys

School of Rock

alt
main
stage

ADalt
VENspace
TURE

One Flew Over the
Cuckoo's Nest

Misery

Silent Sky

All titles are subject to availability.

2025–26 SEASON TICKET PACKAGES & ORDER FORM

Same Great Savings! - Advance Reservations Privileges - Easy Exchanges - Other Discounts

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

Patron - \$1150.00 - 40 Admissions
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Sponsor - \$575.00 - 30 Admissions
(plus \$50 Tax Deductible Contribution)

Angel - \$395.00- 20 Admissions
(plus \$50 Tax Deductible Contribution)

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SEASON TICKET OPTIONS 2025-2026

Patron - \$1150.00 — 40 Admissions (plus \$400 Tax Deductible Contribution) \$ _____

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

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Ticket sales only cover a portion of producing live theatre at ALT.

Please consider making a tax deductible contribution!

Donors of \$50 or more will be recognized in ALT’s Playbill.

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GET FREE TICKETS!!!!

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