

▶ DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS.... 1  
SUMMER SHOW & NEXT SEASON

▶ TICKET PRICES .....2  
BUILDING THE ILLUSION  
AUDITIONS!  
BEHIND THE SCENES

▶ VOLUNTEER KUDOS .....3  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GIRL SCOUTS HELP THEATRE  
IN REMEMBRANCE

▶ CALENDAR .....4

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# Stage Notes

LITTLE THEATRE OF VIRGINIA BEACH  
MARCH 2008

World Class Entertainment at the Beach



Emotion and turmoil surround the performances of Bob Burchette and Kathy Hinson, who star as the father Ephraim Cabot and his new wife, Abbie Putnam.

#### Did you know?

When **Desire Under the Elms** came to Broadway in 1925, it created scandal surrounding the relationships among the father, his new wife and his sons. The performance provoked outrage from some critics. In response, author O'Neill, in his own words with thoughts of **Desire Under the Elms** being born in deep anguish, said "the poetical vision illuminating even the most sordid and mean blind alleys of life."

## DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS

Show Dates: March 14 – April 6, 2008

Friday and Sundays 8 p.m.

Sundays 3 p.m.

By Shirley Hurd, Director

"It is an honor to direct a play by Eugene O'Neill, one of America's finest dramatists. He earned three Pulitzer Prizes for his playwriting as well as the Nobel Peace Prize for literature. **Desire Under the Elms** is considered one of his major plays along with **The Hairy Ape**, **Anna Christie**, **Strange Interlude**, **Mourning Becomes Electra**, **The Iceman Cometh**, and **A Moon for the Misbegotten**. Two of his masterpieces, **A Long Days Journey Into Night** and **A Touch of the Poet** were not produced until after his death. **Desire Under the Elms** reveals the darker side of human nature. It draws back the veil on his characters' innermost thoughts and feelings. Ephraim Cabot, the father, leaves his three sons and takes off for places unknown. When he returns with a young woman many years his junior, he little knows the mayhem that is to follow. This is a play that will mesmerize as it reaches its final moments."

Summer Show  
New season  
Coming in the may stage notes

## Building the Illusion

### Set Construction

The biggest challenge of set construction for the current production, *Desire Under the Elms* are the 2 bedrooms, kitchen, parlor, front porch, and a barn and pasture that need to be created; and all on the same stage. The set is built entirely by volunteers. Set Designer, Jim Mitchell, says his work on sets began when he "was returning a favor." He says "It is a great feeling when the stage is finished by the time the show goes on." Jim says "another challenge set designers face, is when two levels are needed for a production because of the limited height of our stage area." Following the last Sunday of a production, there is a set strike, meaning the entire set is taken down so that the next production's set can be built. The first week of February, the all-volunteer stage crew attempted to

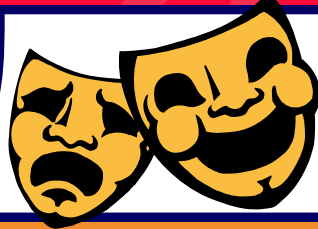
build the set over a 5 day period, rather than the traditional every Monday, so that the actors of the upcoming production can have more use of the stage use during practice.



(Above) Bill Vaughn nails the top of the foundation as Bob Denny helps, later (below left) Bill Vaughn saws a part of the foundation, while (below right) Paul Berryman measures the frame of the foundation.



## TICKET PRICES



**\$15**  
**General Admission**

**\$12**  
**Seniors, Students,  
Active Duty Military**

**\$12 Sunday Matinee**

**\$5 Children under 12**

**Group Pricing  
available for groups of  
20 or more**

**COMING  
SOON!**

## MINDGAME

*Directed by Ricky D'Alonzo*

"When Mark Styler, a writer of glossy "true crime" paperbacks, tries to get an interview with Easterman, a notorious serial killer, he has no idea what he's walking into. First he has to get past Dr. Farquhar, the quixotic head of Fairfields - the asylum where Easterman is kept. But soon he discovers that very little is quite what it seems. Worse still, even the things that are what they seem, are slowly changing. Who is the mysterious Borson? Where did he get the meat in the fridge? And why isn't the skeleton in the closet?"

"Mindgame is a puzzle box of a play....a very dark comedy...reading the text is the only way to uncover all the clues."

**Auditions: March 17 & 18, 2008**

**Performance: May 16 – June 8, 2008**

Additional information: [auditionline.com](http://auditionline.com)

## Behind the Scenes

**Food Lion Shop & Share Program** – Little Theatre of Virginia Beach welcomes your donation by using your Food Lion MVP card. Just send your name, address, phone number with your MVP number (include small number before and after main number) to [contact@ltvb.com](mailto:contact@ltvb.com) – attention Nancy Bloom, and we will do the rest, OR there is a sign up sheet in the theatre lobby.

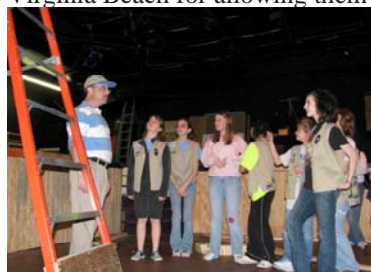
**Props & Costume Department** is always accepting donations of clothing, furniture, pictures and cash donations. Receipts are provided. Contact Donna Lawheed at [contact@ltvb.com](mailto:contact@ltvb.com) if you have questions or a donation.

**Upcoming Board Position Elections:** Interested in serving on the board of the *Little Theatre of Virginia Beach*? Elections will be in June. Please send a resume to the theatre if you are interested in serving on the board.

## Girl Scouts Bring Extra Hands To The Theatre



On February 7<sup>th</sup>, the stage construction crew had help from Virginia Beach Girl Scout Cadette Troop 473. The 8-9<sup>th</sup> grade girls were excited to offer community service to the theatre. Later in the evening, Mr. DeSanto, gave a wood saw cutting demo in the wood room. The girls worked with Paul Berryman, Gordon Wall and Vincent DeSanto to build part of the main platform for the current production. While at the theatre they had the opportunity to meet several of the actors in *Desire Under the Elms*. The girls hope to return during the production of *Desire Under the Elms* and offer community service as ushers and to run the refreshment stand during intermission. Cadette Troop 473 would like to thank the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach for allowing them to volunteer at the Theatre.



Board member Vincent DeSanto, Membership Chairman, discusses the inner workings of the theatre during a tour of the theatre. After the tour girls began drilling and nailing parts of the platform that will be center stage for the current production, *Desire Under the Elms*.

## “Volunteers are the Heart of Our Theatre”

- Danke **Kim Breeding** for her poster & print donation.
- Merci **Don Hess** for the Coach bag.
- Special thanks to **Paul Berryman, Gordon Wall, and Vincent DeSanto** for working side by side with the Girl Scouts while they were helping to build a part of the *Desire Under the Elms* set.
- Gracias **Nancy King** for jumping in at the last minute helping with costumes during *Send Me No Flowers!*
- Kudos **Rita Gordon** for all your multi-tasking, as an usher, stage hand, stage manager and just jumping in to help where ever we needed help during the last three productions.

### In Remembrance



On February 16, 2008, the Hampton Roads theater community lost one of our own with the passing of Michael Mellion. For all those who knew Michael, he was the epitome of an English gentleman who will be greatly missed not only for his immense talent, but also his wit and compassion. Elisabeth Martingayle, who portrayed his “daughter” Catherine in *The Winslow Boy* shares her experience of how generous Michael was in mentoring his fellow actors:

“It has been a long time since I had done a play and my transition was made so much easier because of Michael. As a native of England, he was instrumental in helping the cast with the accents and pronunciation. He even took the time to record the lines of another character so that the actor could hear the words in a true English accent. Every now and again he would politely hand me a piece of paper with a word on it and then with the same word phonetically spelled. He also explained why certain lines were humorous because of their political satire and provided a deeper understanding of the script, sharing his knowledge and books of the people involved in the incident that the play was based on. At every intermission, he would provide everyone with a slice of apple to cleanse our palates.

People like Mike, who are supportive and selfless, do not die. They live in our hearts and minds forever. I would personally like to thank his wife and daughter for sharing this wonderful man with us.”

### 2007-2008 Board of Directors

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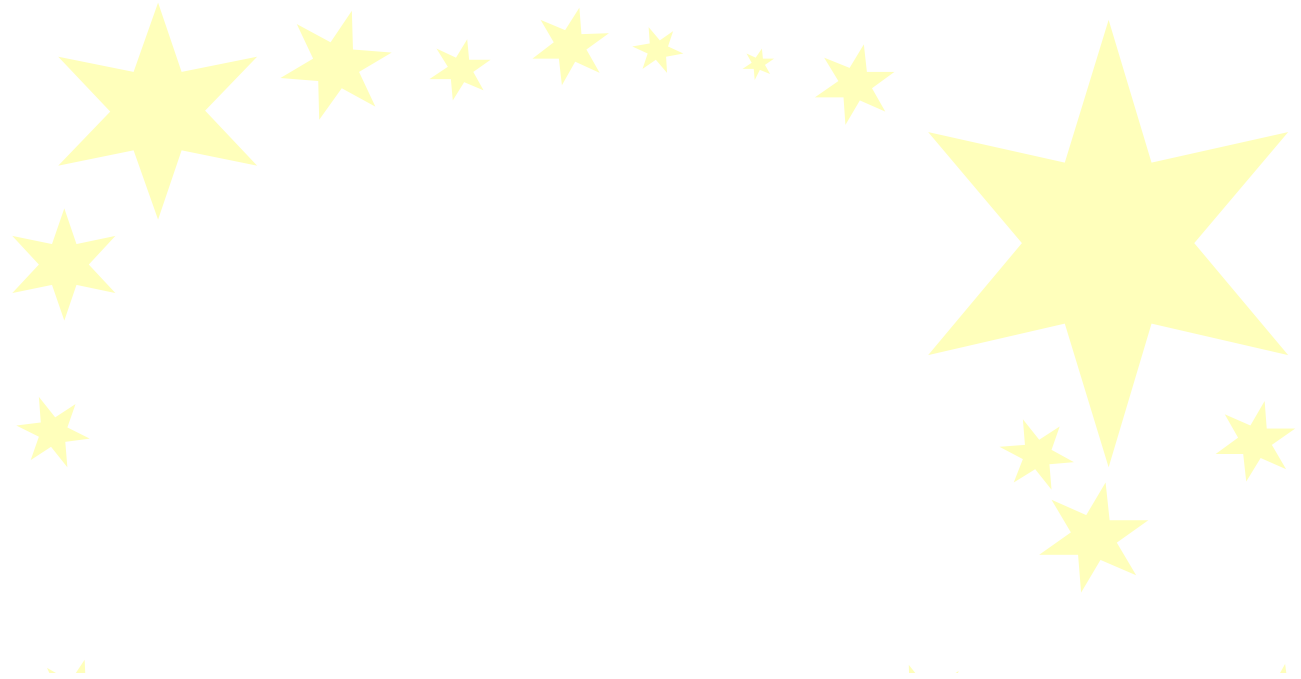
Stage Notes welcomes comments, news, and articles. Please send email with subject “Stage Notes” to [shootcraps@aol.com](mailto:shootcraps@aol.com). Content and editing is at the discretion of the editor.

Deadline for May Newsletter

**April 25**

Editor: Therese DeSanto

**Little Theatre of Virginia Beach  
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**Calendar of Events**

**Little Theatre of Virginia Beach**  
**March 14-April 16: Desire Under the Elms**  
**March 17-18 Auditions for Mindgame**  
**May 16-June 8: Mindgame**  
**June TBA General Membership Meeting**

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**Little Theatre of Norfolk**  
**March 7-23: Miracle Worker (Reservations: 627-8551)**

**Little Theatre of Portsmouth**  
**For Reservations and Information contact 488-7866**