

A Man for All Seasons by Robert Bolt

Directed by Shirley Hurd

November 14–December 7, 2008

Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00 pm; Sundays, 3:00 pm



The King's Good Servant, but God's First.

The true drama behind *A Man for All Seasons*

By Marty Baker

A Man for All Seasons takes place in London from 1526 through 1535, during the reign of King Henry VIII. First staged in 1960, Robert Bolt's Tony Award-winning play illuminates the tumultuous battle between church and state, faith and politics, and one man's struggle to maintain his principles when he is pressured to abandon them.

King Henry VIII was crowned in 1509 at the age of 18 and married Catherine of Aragon. As Catherine was the widow of his elder brother Arthur, a Papal dispensation was granted for the marriage, as a strict reading of the Bible would have made such a union incestuous.

The marriage failed to produce a son and male heir to the throne. The King saw this as God's punishment for breaking Christian law, and sought to divorce his wife to wed Anne Boleyn. Like the origi-



nal marriage, this divorce required a special dispensation. Pope Clement VII would not grant a dispensation due to enormous pressure from King Charles V of Spain, Catherine's nephew.

Frustrated, Henry sought to increase the pressure on Rome; unsuccessful, he then named himself head of the Church of England. Cowed by Henry's abuse of power, the English clergy submitted to Henry's authority.

This is the crucible into which Sir Thomas More, lawyer, scholar, and friend of Henry, is reluctantly thrust. More is known as a man of principle, and his approval becomes more and more necessary to Henry achieving his aims. *A Man for All Seasons* chronicles an honest man's attempts to follow his conscience and stay out of the machinations of his determined King.

Top Right: Hans Holbein's portrait of Sir Thomas More.

Left: Actor Mike Hoover as More.

Musings from our Director... by Shirley Hurd, Vice President—Business

I have always found directing a challenge—that's why I do it—however, directing *A Man For All Seasons*, by Robert Bolt, has probably been my greatest challenge. LTVB had a huge turn-out of actors for auditions with more than fifty people vying for fourteen roles. While it is wonderful to have such a large turnout, it is also inevitable that a director must face one of the most unenviable tasks of the job: that of turning away the many hopeful and talented actors who were not awarded a role.

As a director there are many factors to consider when casting a play, particularly for community theatre. Besides finding actors who are proficient, there are questions of size, height, age, and coloring to be considered. For instance, actor A is perfect for a role but then you need the right actor B to play the wife or the son. One finds the right actors for those roles too, but one is too young (or too old) to pair with actor A, and so on. It is particularly difficult with a large cast. As a director, I must also look for actors with certain "qualities." The actors ask, "What do you mean by that?" The nearest I can come to giving a reasonable answer is to say that it is an innate aspect of the actor's personality; something the director recognizes when he sees it, but cannot put into words and that the actor does not even realize he possesses.

But apart from these challenges there is also a responsibility as a community theater to consider new people. (continued on page 2)

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- ★ **LTVB Ticket Prices** ★
- ★ **General Admission \$15** ★
- ★ **Seniors, Students, Military \$12** ★
- ★ **Sunday Matinees \$12** ★
- ★ **Children under 12 \$5** ★
- ★ **Group pricing available for** ★
- ★ **groups of 20 or more.** ★
- ★ **Reservations: 428-9233** ★
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Musings from Our Director (continued from Page 1)

We believe keeping an "open door" is part of our Mission at LTVB. We offer our community not only the opportunity to perform, but to be welcomed as part of a big family and to be helped and trained to perform to their best ability. The cast of *A Man For All Seasons* includes actors who have been associated with our theatre

for many years, some who are relative new-comers, some who are completely new to us, and at least two members who have never before been on stage. We at LTVB welcome them all. We believe we have another great show for your entertainment and we welcome all of you too!

For More on this Production of *A Man for All Seasons*...

Meet Marty Baker, Writer/Advisor, who is blogging the rehearsal journey of LTVB's *A Man for All Seasons* at <http://bakermuse.squarespace.com/butseriously>, available on-line on November 14.

Behind the Scenes at LTVB: Volunteer News

Socials Committee

By Rita Gordon, Socials Chair

A heartfelt "Thank You" to Vicki Hudson and Lori Aleshire for the remarkable job they did on the closing night party for *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Due to their efforts our party was a great success! I look forward to working with them again and again! If there is anyone else who is interested in working with the socials committee, please contact LTVB.

Looking for a few good Auditors Member help needed!

LTVB is forming an audit committee to inspect our accounting and bank records. We are seeking members with some bookkeeping or accounting background who would be interested in this once a year review. The volunteer time commitment is minimal. Please leave a message for Board President Robin Martineau at 428-9233 or contact@ltvb.com if you are interested.

Many Thanks!

...to Bob Sauls for the loan of several props for *A Man For All Seasons*.

...to Virginia Bloom for numerous efforts on behalf of LTVB.

...to Fran Lackore for two red velvet chairs and ornate wall sconce.

...to Sandy Forte for numerous costume, furniture and prop treasure donations.

...to Kathy Hinson for a pair of decorative oriental fans.

...to Mr. and Mrs. Roger Priore for donation of a new stove to our Socials Committee (our parties have never been yum-mier!)

Donations are always welcome!

Announcements and More Announcements

Live from LTVB, www.ltvb.com!

After many months of anticipation, www.ltvb.com has debuted as our new, premiere Web site, replacing the old site on Homestead (www.homestead.com/ltvbonline).

Please remember to update your Favorites! The Board would like to thank Jason Martens for volunteering many hours to the design work and fine tuning. Please stop by the new site and let us know what you think!

Welcome Nick Savides!

We are also pleased to announce that we have selected Nick Savides of Nick Savides Productions to provide the publicity and historical photographs for the 2008-2009 season. You'll be seeing his work beginning with the lobby photos for *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. The Board would also like to thank Jacqueline Poutasse of TJphotoarts, who has provided our photos for the past two years.

Season Ticket Reminders

Your 2008-2009 LTVB Season Tickets are good for any performance from now thru June 2009. Just call the box office and follow the voice mail direction to make a reservation for the date of your choice. You can use one ticket per show, or use all five LTVB tickets at once. Your bonus tickets for the Little Theatres of Norfolk and Portsmouth are only good at those theatres. We welcome our new and returning subscribers to the 2008-2009 season, and hope you will be with us for years to come!

Planning Next Season

The Playreading Committee is hard at work determining what plays will be part of next season's slate. If you have any suggestions that you would like the committee to consider, send an e-mail to contact@ltvb.com.

Support LTVB when you Search!

What if LTVB earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made on-line went to support the theatre? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

You can link from the GoodSearch Web site to GoodShop.com, a new on-line shopping mall which will donate up to 37 percent of each purchase to your designated non-profit organization!

To get started, just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter "Little Theatre of Virginia Beach" as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

To contact LTVB, please e-mail us at contact@ltvb.com, or leave a message on our voice mail at 428-9233. We will get back with you as soon as possible!

Next at LTVB:
Crimes of the Heart

by Beth Henley, directed by Nancy Bloom
Performances: January 16–February 8, 2009

Auditions: Monday and Tuesday, November 17 and 18, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Little Theatre of Virginia Beach, 550 Barberton Drive
For more information, contact@ltvb.com
Casting Requirements: four women and two men, ages 25-50

Meet the Magrath sisters of Hazelhurst, Mississippi: painfully shy oldest sister Lenny who by default has become the family caretaker; brash, promiscuous middle sister Meg; and youngest sister Babe, who is stuck in a repressive marriage and yearns to be loved.

And boy, are they having a one bad day. Lenny, believing that no one has remembered her birthday, quietly celebrates while contemplating spinsterhood. Meg, summoned from Los Angeles because of family emergencies, is forced to face the failure of her choices and achievement of her dreams. Babe has just been bailed out of jail after shooting her politician husband "cuz I didn't like his looks."

This Pulitzer Prize-winning, character-driven play is an irreverent, warm-hearted portrayal of three very different sisters struggling to make sense of their lives. The trio's reunion in their hometown triggers a hilarious mix of conflicts, crises and revelations. As the three share their insanities, jealousies and dalliances, we learn more about their individual weaknesses and the strength of the ties that hold them together.

This story of a family's troubles is true to life in that levity and tragedy live side-by-side. In the end, these three women learn to greet the tragic, absurd twists of fate with courage, love and the ultimate saving grace of laughter.



Amadeus, LTVB 1988

Tis the Season

Give the gift of live theater this holiday season with a LTVB gift certificate. The certificates are \$15 and can be used for any performance (with reservation) and have no expiration date. Available at the box office on performance nights, or call or e-mail us.

To Curse or Not To Curse: That is the #@^&!! question!

by Robin Chapman, Programs Chair

A few of our patrons have expressed dismay at the use of profanity in our season opener, Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. This was not unexpected. LTVB has traditionally shied away from producing plays that contained the "F" word. This has eliminated some brilliant works by talented playwrights that we feel most of our audiences would enjoy and that would offer challenging opportunities to our actors and directors. Recently, more and more works have fallen into this category, and we have rejected an increasing number of works of high artistic and entertainment value solely on this basis. Since our licensing contracts expressly forbid changing any of the playwrights' words, we cannot "clean up" the dialog.

With *Laughter*, we decided to break with that tradition because the writing is brilliant, the play is funny, and we felt it was time to expand our universe of works to produce. We

warned our audiences, in advance publicity and in the lobby, that the show contained "adult language," so that those likely to be offended may choose to avoid it. We honored requests to refund tickets prior to the show to some who saw the notice in the lobby. (Season subscribers who choose not to attend one production can use their tickets to bring a friend to another.) But we also know from attendance figures and the enthusiastic reception of our audiences that this play was a popular choice.

Be assured that the rest of this season is F-word safe. We will continue to weigh the artistic merit of a script against its foul language quotient. We will not make the choice lightly, but we will not reject a script out of hand because of it. We believe that this will improve the variety of quality entertainment that we bring to our community.

Local Theatre News

Little Theatre of Norfolk, 627-8551: *Night Mother*, November 7-23
Little Theatre of Portsmouth, 488-7866: *The Taffetas*, February 7-22
Hurrah Players, 627-5437: *Holidays In Virginia*, December 12-14 (Roper Center)

- LTVB 2008-2009
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visit our Web site, or write to
stagenotes@ltvb.com.

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2008-2009

Season at LTVB

A Man for All Seasons

November 14—December 7, 2008

Crimes of the Heart

January 16—February 8, 2009

Zombie Prom

March 20—April 12, 2009

Blithe Spirit

May 15—June 7, 2009

2008 – 2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your season ticket purchase includes membership in the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach. As a non-profit community theatre, we depend on members and volunteers to run every aspect of the theatre. Members serve on the Board of Directors and chair committees that manage props, sets, costumes, publicity, and more. For more information, contact the theatre.

I would like to be a member!

Name:	Producer (ten season tickets) \$500+ \$ _____ * Director (eight season tickets) \$400-\$499 \$ _____ * Stage Manager (six season tickets) \$300-\$399 \$ _____ * Actor (four season tickets) \$200-\$299 \$ _____ * Cameo (two season tickets) \$100-\$199 \$ _____ * Adult (one season ticket) _____ x \$60 = \$ _____ Senior/Student/Military (one season ticket) _____ x \$40 = \$ _____ Membership Only (no tickets) _____ x \$10 = \$ _____	
Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Phone:		
E-mail:		
() Yes! I would like to volunteer, please contact me!		Donation \$ _____
Mail this application with your check payable to LTVB to: Little Theatre of Virginia Beach P. O. Box 1053 Virginia Beach, VA 23451	TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____	*These levels of support will be acknowledged in remaining season programs if received two weeks before opening.

Stage Notes welcomes your comments, news, and articles. Please send e-mail to stagenotes@ltvb.com., or to the theatre address.