



StageNOTES

SEASON 68 ● ISSUE 5 ● MAY 2016



Bullying and gossip are major themes within this classic play.

THE POWER OF WORDS AND THEIR EFFECT

***The Children's Hour* opens May 13**

Lillian Hellman was an American dramatist and screenwriter known for her success as a playwright on Broadway, as well as her screenplays. Her life, while not devoid from scandal and pain, was full of political activism, adventure and passion.

The idea for *The Children's Hour*, was first suggested to her by her longtime lover, Dashiell Hammett. Searching for inspiration for his own writing, Hammett came across William Roughead's *Bad Companions*, a book on infamous British court cases. One chapter in particular, "Closed Doors, or The Great Drumsheugh Case," seemed excellent fodder for a play. Hammett passed the material to Hellman, and her work on *The Children's Hour* began.

The "Great Drumsheugh Case" involved a scandal in 1810 Edinburgh, Scotland. A young girl accused the two headmistresses of her girls' boarding school of having "an inordinate affection" for one another. The girl's grandmother, believing the women to be an affront to decency, removed her granddaughter from the school. Within two days, every student had been withdrawn from the school, without reason. When the headmistresses finally learned that they'd been accused of being lovers, they sued the grandmother for libel, and spent the rest of their lives trying to restore their names and recover financially.

While there are clear similarities between *The Children's Hour* and the real case, Hellman chose not to focus on the salacious details of the lesbian affair, preferring to maximize the catastrophic effects of the lie. In directing this production, we strove to remain true to Hellman's original intentions.

While many in today's society may not find an accusation of a homosexual relationship as destructive as the two teachers in the play, there is no denying the power that words have on all of our lives. Current advancements in social media, the internet and our emerging global economy have made many aspects of our once private lives very public. The anonymity that the internet provides can be the perfect catalyst for bad behavior, hate speech and bullying.

Our hope is that *The Children's Hour* will start a dialogue emphasizing how words can be used to promote true understanding and mutual respect and not propagate segregation, discrimination, stereotyping, destructive criticism, false accusations, biased wrong assumptions, and prejudice.

-Kathy Hinson and Kelly Gilliam

ANNOUNCING OUR 2016-2017 SEASON!

THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940

BY JOHN BISHOP
SEPTEMBER 16 - OCTOBER 9, 2017

DONKEYS' YEARS

BY MICHAEL FRAYN
NOVEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 4, 2016

OLYMPUS ON MY MIND

MUSIC BY GRANT STURIALE
LYRICS BY BARRY HARMAN
BOOK BY BARRY HARMAN
JANUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 5, 2017

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

BY ARTHUR MILLER
MARCH 17 - APRIL 9, 2017

calendar girls

BY TIM FIRTH
MAY 12 - JUNE 4, 2017

SIDE SHOW

MUSIC BY Henry Krieger
LYRICS BY Bill Russell
BOOK BY Bill Russell
JULY 14 - AUGUST 6, 2017

DON'T FORGET: *SIDE SHOW* IS NOT PART OF OUR SEASON PASS PACKAGE!



For those patrons who require handicap seating, there are a limited number of wheelchair tickets available for purchase in the online ticketing systems. The options for tickets are "regular" and "wheelchair." Please select one or the other (but not both) option per ticket. Please note that if the handicap seat is part of a larger party, we cannot guarantee that the entire party can sit together in the handicap section if there are other patrons attending which require access to those seats.

2016-2017 SEASON PASSES GO ON SALE MAY 13!

LTVB Season Passes are a great (and economical!) way to enjoy a great variety of theatre experiences! The LTVB season includes five productions from September 2016 through June 2017. Each LTVB Season Pass includes:

- **Five passes** for LTVB shows that may be used throughout the season for any show of your choice. You may redeem them for tickets to see each of the five LTVB season shows. Or, if you miss one, bring a friend next time!
- **One bonus pass** each to the Little Theatre of Norfolk, and Generic Theater (under Chrysler Hall in NorfolkA.
- **Membership to LTVB**, including an invitation to the Members Only LTVB Annual Meeting, held each June.

Note that Season Passes are tracked electronically in the LTVB secure database. Patrons will no longer receive paper passes for LTVB shows. Your Season Pass packet will include instructions on how to redeem your Season Passes for tickets at LTVB, along with information on obtaining tickets at our sister theaters.

Prices and Info for Current Season Pass Holders

For the 2016-17 season, prices for Season Passes are: \$70 for adults and \$50 for seniors (60+), active duty military, and full time students. All current season pass holders will receive a season brochure via postal mail. You can use the form in the brochure if you prefer to send a check for your Season Pass, or bring it with you to the theater during *The Children's Hour*, and save yourself a stamp!

Buying Season Passes Online

Season Passes may also be purchased through our website at ltvb.com with a credit card. If you are a current season pass holder, or have purchased tickets for the 2015-16 season, simply visit ltvb.com, and click on "Purchase Season Passes." When prompted, log in to your patron account using your email address and the password you created. (If it is your first time logging in to the LTVB ticketing system, you will need to "Create a Patron Account" using your email and creating a password.) If you have any questions about the online system, please call our box office voicemail at 757-428-9233.

Flexibility and Redeeming your Passes

We believe that LTVB Season Passes provide great flexibility—you choose the performance you wish to attend for each show, and as always our theater will offer general admission (open) seating. Seating at any performance is not guaranteed without a ticket for that particular performance—redeem your passes early to assure getting tickets for the dates you desire! You may redeem your Season Passes online, or by calling our box office voicemail (757-428-9233) and leaving a message. Once you have redeemed a pass for a particular date, your show ticket can be exchanged for another date of the same show (subject to availability), provided that you notify the box office at least one hour before curtain time of the show you were scheduled to attend.

Tip for Small Groups of Theater-Goers

If you attend LTVB with other Season Pass holders, one person can obtain tickets for the group by providing all pass holder names to the box office. Some patrons have found it convenient to register all of the group's Season Passes under one person's name. That makes redeeming passes simpler, as one person can then order six tickets under one name.

We look forward to seeing you at our 69th Season!

2015 - 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Little Theatre of
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LTVB.COM

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Addressee or Current Resident

UPCOMING LOCAL PERFORMANCES:

The Little
Theatre of Norfolk

THE ADDAMS FAMILY
MAY 20 - JUNE 12, 2016



HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL
JUNE 24 - JULY 17, 2016



**DONATIONS
THANK YOU!**

Mary Lee Hardcastle - for vintage women's hats
Katie Grant - for vintage robe and women's clothing
Nancy Lekberg - for vintage beaver coat



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to serve on the Marketing/Publicity Committee, the Endowment Committee and the Outreach Committee. If interested, please send an email to contact@ltvb.com.

Have an idea for an article? Is there a question you'd like to ask? Let us know! Email comments, questions, suggestions, etc. to Stagenotes@ltvb.com.

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