

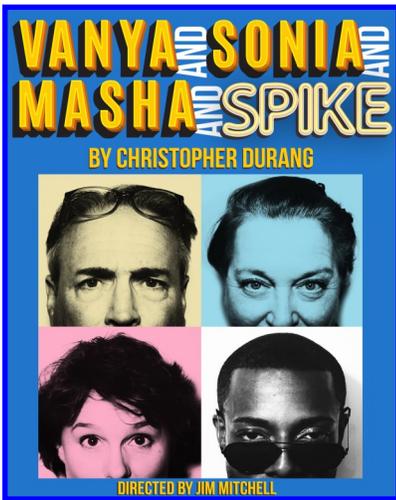


Little Theatre of
VIRGINIA BEACH
The Beach's Playhouse since 1948

StageNOTES

SEASON 70 • ISSUE 1 • August 2017

Our 70th Season opens with the Hampton Roads Premier of **VANYA and SONIA and MASHA and SPIKE**



Author Christopher Durang tells us in the notes appended to his play “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” of his lifelong admiration for Anton Chekhov. Chekhov is among those authors at the turn of the last century who gave birth to modern realism in theatre. His plays required realistic sounding conversation from the actors,

which seems normal to us now, but which was revolutionary at the time. The style is suited to directly show the audience to themselves; letting humans see humanity with all of its foibles. Warts and all as the saying goes. Well here in the play, we have Mr. Durang's exploration of Chekhov bent through his own modern comedic prism.

Can sibling relationships, cemented at a time we were forming our own identities, really be changed over time? In middle age, can we afford regrets and ignore that there is still time to live? As modern life speeds up, does that mean there is less time for understanding?

These are pretty big ideas that in the theatre might be more easily examined as drama or

melodrama. But in “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” the very real characters that Mr. Durang gives us sparkle in a comedy. Their angst is played out through the absurd. Their wit is sharpened on each other and we are given a chance to see ourselves on the stage and laugh.

I've been lucky to see this play rehearsed many times preparing for performance. The depth of each character has unfolded to us slowly as we put the show together. I won't be Cassandra and pronounce the doom or triumph of this production (you wouldn't listen to me anyway), but it is my sincere hope that you enjoy our effort.

-Jim Mitchell, Director

Be the first to experience this masterful take on sibling rivalry!
 Join us opening weekend (September 15-17) to receive an exclusive pricing discount!
\$13 FOR ALL TICKETS

Little Theatre of Virginia Beach Still as comfortable as home after 70 years



On April 2, 1948, articles circulated in the Virginia Beach News buzzed with excitement about the formation of a new theatre in Virginia Beach. With nearly 200 people in attendance, Carol Simpson held auditions for the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach's first official production, *My Sister Eileen*. Those in attendance came to audition, volunteer or simply watch the newly formed theatre's auspicious beginnings. By October of 1963, the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach (LTVB) had found a new home at the Courtyard Playhouse on 17th street, but the space proved problematic as the actors could only access the stage by going through the men's restroom. LTVB kept growing and thriving despite having no "permanent" location. They performed in various high schools, the Bay Harbour Club and the Lake Wright Dinner Theatre. Finally, in 1972 LTVB moved into their present location at 24th and Barberton. Ian Goodwin, the last surviving board member who signed the original loan for the current building, was asked what initially drew him to the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach: "when we came to Virginia Beach in the fifties the Little Theatre was the only place where anything was happening. I liked the people and we met and made some good friends." Ian left America to return to England in 1956 as he was serving in the Royal Navy. When he finally immigrated to the US in 1962 he returned to Virginia Beach and his "theatre family at the Little Theatre". Ian said, "The Little Theatre is a triumph of what can be accomplished by enthusiastic and unpaid amateur actors." And we still continue that tradition today, providing quality productions, utilizing local talent and creating a space that is welcoming and feels like home to all who enter our doors.



As LTVB embarks on our 70th season, we are asking our membership (YOU) to be a collaborator in developing our future!

Help us "fill the gap" by sharing your ideas that can improve our theatre and by recommending individuals, businesses or organizations that could make our combined vision a reality!

Email your ideas to vpbusiness@ltvb



AUDITIONS: Side by Side by Sondheim

September 18 and 19 at 7:00 pm

Go to WWW.LTVB.COM for more information

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WIN FREE TICKETS

Remember the time your brother stood up to the neighborhood bully for you? Or when your sister switched out your toothpaste for diaper cream? Share your best story of sibling rivalry (or your best sibling bonding moment), and you could score FREE TICKETS to Vanya



and Sonia and Masha and Spike. It's easy! Just share your story on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag **#LTVBSIBLINGRIVALRY** by Midnight on September 9th and you could be selected to win TWO FREE tickets to Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike at LTVB.

70th Season



September 15
thru
October 8, 2017



November 17
thru
December 10, 2017



January 19
thru
February 11, 2018



March 16
thru
April 8, 2018



May 18
thru
June 10, 2018

For more information about our upcoming season, including show descriptions and audition dates, please visit: WWW.LTVB.COM

For comments, questions or suggestions for Stage Notes email stagenotes@ltvb.com

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The Beach's Playhouse since 1948

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We are always looking for volunteers for stage crew, set build, ushers, and committee members! If interested, please send an email to contact@ltvb.com

UPCOMING LOCAL PRODUCTIONS:

The Little
Theatre of Norfolk



**Peninsula Community
Theatre**

Jesus Christ Superstar

Sept. 8 - Oct. 1, 2017

Arsenic and Old Lace

Nov. 3 - 26, 2017

Rapture, Blister, Burn

Jan. 12 - Feb. 4, 2018

Death of a Salesman

March 9 - April 1, 2018

A Little Night Music

May 18 - June 10, 2018

Assassins

Aug. 25 - Sept. 17, 2017

User's Guide to Hell Featuring

Bernard Madoff

Oct. 13 - Nov. 5, 2017

Jack Goes Boating

Jan. 12 - Feb. 4, 2018

Hand to God

June 22 - July 15, 2018

Ragtime

July 28 - Aug. 19, 2017

The Mystery of Irma Vep

Oct. 6 - 22, 2017

*It's a Wonderful Life: A Live
Radio Play*

Dec. 1 - 17, 2017

Once on This Island

Feb. 23 - March 11, 2018

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