

StageNOTES

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

"The American Dream is like a Donut"

The American Dream – A huge question in it's statement; what is it, how do we attain it, and does it differ from person to person in our country; one wouldn't think these questions would be answered in an early 2000's donut shop in Chicago with comedy, levity, and fun...and yet here is Tracy Letts' wonderfully honest and hopeful comedy *Superior Donuts*.

In this play we follow the slowly intertwining stories of Arthur and Franco as two men from different races, backgrounds, ages, and walks of life find ways to support and inspire in the most unsuspecting ways. When you first read the play, it doesn't read like a comedy, though I would argue most true comedies don't. It's very easy for a play to make us laugh, feel entertained, and walk away happy...it's a much more beautiful act of theatre to inspire these feelings with layers of truth that can make us find honesty and truth in these lovable characters. When you start working on a play, you have to prepare the dough of the show, the text and words and base... the ingredients that were given to you by the playwright. This text is rich with humor, honesty, human connection, and stories that make us take pause and look lives and livelihoods we may not normally see or think about when walking down the streets of

our own home. From the rich story given to us, a talented team or artisans comes together to anoint each individually tasty piece of this story with decoration, humor, color, and vibrances to create a story that makes us think with a warm smile across our face.

Superior Donuts got it's premier on Broadway in September of 2009 after being premiered at the Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago. After it's Broadway run, it saw a surge in Regional Theatre performances across the country through 2012. It's ability to capture a specific spirit in this donut shop, with the feeling of a familiar big city just outside the door, paints a vivid and relatable scene that makes us feel taken care of and home no matter where this story is based. While set in Chicago, you can't help but transpose this quaint storefront to the streets of Virginia Beach town center, or the Oceanfront, making this story so much more familiar to our area as it has for many other locations. Following it's run, the show was adapted into a comedic sitcom in 2016 on CBS, which captured the happy spirit and hopefulness that the show built and led us to back in 2009. When you see this show, the sitcom-esque comedy makes you easily see how this show could transition to the screen so well; and personifies the use of wholesome humor to teach us about the human condition.

We as people love to laugh, we love to feel happy and seek pieces of art and entertainment that help inspire those feelings in us. But those feelings stem from a journey, challenges that we overcome and connections we have made so we can look back and see how far we've come. This production follows Arthur's path, and Franco's beginning to this long and challenging journey; while there is humor and happiness there is also the dark contrast to the low hole that our protagonists must climb out of in order to succeed.

The truth is, it is different for each one of us...consider the donut, the method of creating a donut remains the same but the glaze, icing, and other elements change based on the flavor or preference of the consumers. This warm-spirited, comfort food, dessert cake of a show is a perfect play to enjoy following the holiday season. It brings a familiar joy that only holidays can bring out, the laughter of your favorite comfort comedies running on repeat on tv, and a loving journey of two characters that make us feel less alone in the world. This talented group of actors and artisans have truly crafted the Superior Donut... and we can't wait for you to take a bite out of it with us.

Connor Norton, Director



SEASON 72 • ISSUE 3 • JANUARY 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

DIRECTORS NOTE

AUDITIONS

ART OF

VOLUNTEERING

STILL TO COME...

SPOTLIGHT SERIES

COMMUNITY

PRODUCTIONS

\$13 Opening Weekend All Seats

\$13

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Play Reading

JEFF SENECA

Programs

CHRIS KRAUS

Props

DONNA LAWHEED

Publicity

MELISSA MANIGLIA

Set Coordinator

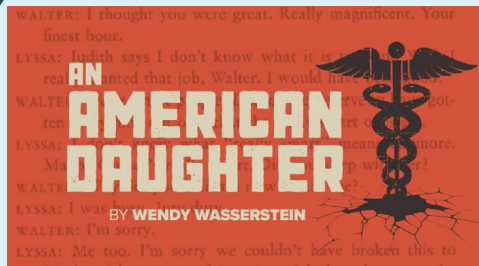
GEORGE HORVATH

Technical Coordinator

ROBIN MARTINEAU

Volunteers

SANDY FORTE- NICKENIG



Auditions!

January 20th and 21st at 7:00pm

at Little Theatre of Virginia Beach

550 Barberton, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

VISIT WWW.LTVB.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

Become an LTVB INSIDER....

and VOLUNTEER!

It takes three easy steps:

1. Go to LTVB Website

2. Click Support LTVB

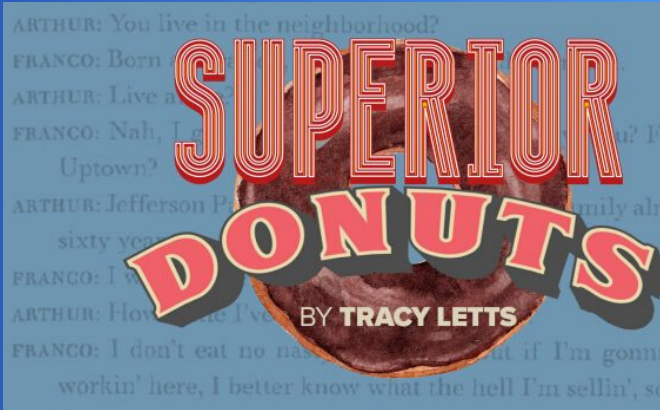
3. Click volunteers

There's something for Everyone.

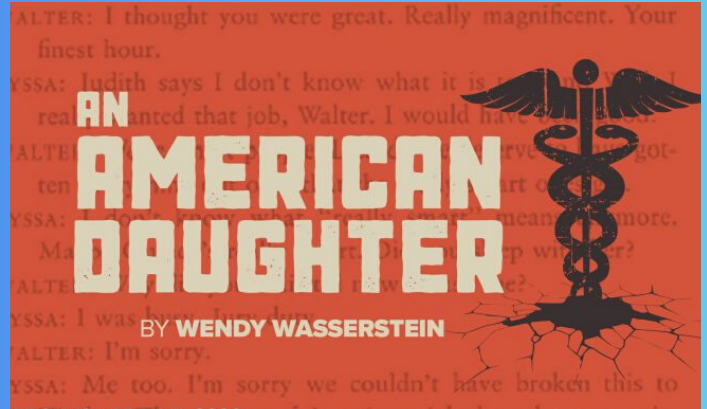
Just fill out the questionnaire and join us today!!!



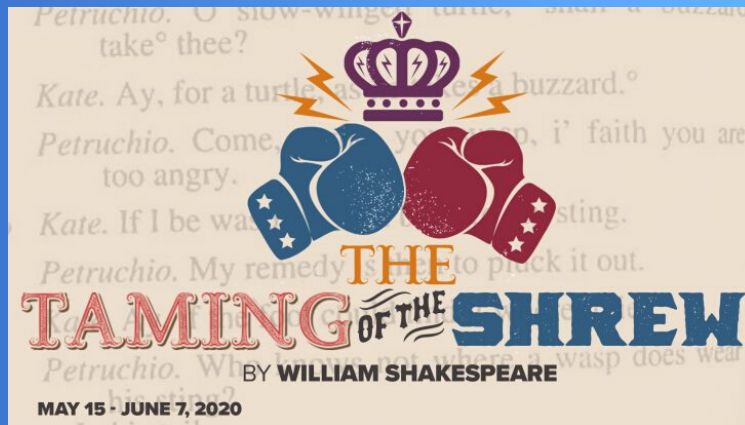
STILL TO COME THIS SEASON!



January 17, 2020 - February 9, 2020



March 13, 2020 - April 5, 2020



May 15, 2020 - June 7, 2020

Have questions? We are here to help.

Contact us at membership@ltvb.com or call our box office voicemail 757-428-9233

Save the
Date!



Pamela Stanley
February 21 & 22

Little Theatre of VIRGINIA BEACH

The Beach's Playhouse since 1948

P.O. Box 1053, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Virginia Beach, VA
Permit No. 336



We are getting closer to re-paving our parking lot, BUT we are not there yet! We are still trying to raise money to accomplish this large project. If you can help, donate now!

The Little Theatre of Norfolk

Peter and the Starcatcher

Jan. 10 - Feb. 2, 2020

A Piece of My Heart

March 6 - March 29, 2020

***A Gentleman's Guide to
Love and Murder***

May 15 - June 7, 2020



VIRGINIA
STAGE
COMPANY
AT THE
WELLS THEATRE

Sense and Sensibility

Jan. 22 - Feb. 9, 2020

***The Legend of Georgia
McBride***

March 4 - March 22, 2020

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

April 8 - April 26, 2020

The Hobbit

May 20 - June 7, 2020

Peninsula Community Theatre

Rock of Ages

Feb. 28 - March 15, 2020

Indoor / Outdoor

May 1 - May 17, 2020