

STAGE NOTES

Little Theatre of Virginia Beach Newsletter

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

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January 17—February 9

Into the Breeches! is a play about a group of women who put on an all-female production of Shakespeare's *Henry IV* and *Henry V* during World War II. The play is set in 1942, when most men in town are fighting in the war. Maggie Dalton, the wife of the Oberon Play House's director, recruits the theater's diva, Celeste Fielding, and convinces the board president to let them produce the play. Maggie also convinces the board president to allow his wife, Winifred, to play a role in the production.

The women in the play face challenges such as rehearsals, artistic differences, and learning how to walk like a man. However, they find strength in each other and their shared goal, and eventually find the courage to "go boldly into the breeches!"

Into the Breeches is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. Rated PG

Director's Note

"Mothers are the anchors in life's stormiest seas, holding families together with love, resilience, and unwavering strength, even in the face of life's greatest challenges." As we dive into the world of *Into the Breeches!*, this sentiment is at the heart of our exploration of a group of women navigating their lives during World War II. Personally, I owe everything I am to my mother and the women in my life—powerful and indomitable spirits who have shown me the unimaginable ability to smile and create laughter in the darkest of times. Their strength has been a wellspring of inspiration, and this production is, in many ways, a tribute to them.

World War II was a transformative period for women around the globe. With men conscripted to fight on the frontlines, women were called to step into roles that were crucial for the war effort and for the survival of their families. This era saw women rivet planes, work in factories, and even serve in military positions—acts of courage that reshaped society's understanding of gender roles. But beyond the tangible contributions measured by their labor, it is the resilience and heart with which women held their families together that left an indelible mark on history. Generations of children who grew up to shape our modern world owe their existence to the mothers who kept the home fires burning, often under unimaginable strain.

Into the Breeches transports us to a theater in wartime America, where a group of women take up the mantle of performing Shakespeare in the absence of their male counterparts. While some women of the era found their way to factories or battlefields, these characters find their purpose on the stage. They show us another dimension of wartime resilience: the power of art to sustain hope and build community. Their journey is both a reflection of the broader societal shifts of the time and a deeply personal story of determination, creativity, and camaraderie.

As a young queer man raised by a single mother, the themes of this play resonate deeply with me. My mother's strength and humor were a constant light, guiding me through life's challenges. The women in *Into the Breeches* embody a similar spirit of unyielding determination and love. They remind us that even in moments of crisis, there is space for joy, for connection, and for creating something beautiful. Their story is not just about survival but about flourishing in the face of adversity.

Theater, at its core, is about storytelling and empathy. In *Into the Breeches*, we celebrate not only the resilience of these women but also the bonds that unite them. Their story serves as a reminder of the unbreakable human spirit and the importance of lifting one another up during difficult times. It also invites us to reflect on the stories of the women in our own lives—the mothers, sisters, friends, and mentors who have shaped us.

As you watch this production, I hope you are moved by the courage and humor of these characters. May their journey inspire you to recognize the extraordinary strength in ordinary lives and to honor the women who anchor us, no matter the storm. Thank you for joining us on this journey into their world.

Connor Norton, Director

PRIDE NIGHT AT LTVB

On February 6, 2025, LTVB will hold a special performance of the comedy, *Into the Breeches!*

This additional performance serves as fundraiser with a pre-show reception in the lobby. There will be a raffle, silent auction, prizes and a cash bar. Proceeds raised at this performance support Little Theatre of Virginia Beach, [Hampton Roads Pride](#), [Stonewall Sports](#) and [LGBT Life Center](#).

Because of the additional activities associated with this fundraiser, the show will start at 7:30pm with the lobby opening at 6:30pm.

FEBRUARY CABARET

On Saturday, February 22 and Sunday, February 23, LTVB will present the original cabaret, **SHOWSTOPPERS: THE BEST OF BROADWAY, FILM AND POPULAR MUSIC.**

Developed and directed by Robert Shirley, the cabaret will focus on favorite and iconic musical numbers in song and dance. There will be something for everyone presented by a diverse and talented company.

Be sure to get your tickets now before they sell out. Tickets are \$25. Showtimes are 8pm Saturday and 2:30pm Sunday.

HAVE FUN! SUPPORT LTVB & YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS

Purchase a \$20 ticket to **APEX** and join LTVB for a day of fun on **January 12** from 2pm -6pm. A portion of the proceeds go back to LTVB.



Each APEX ticket is good for:

- one game of laser tag
- one round of mini golf
- one ride of bumper cars
- a 30 minute arcades game

THEATER ETIQUETTE

- **Arrive early:** Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the show starts to ensure you have enough time to find a parking spot, get a drink and get to your seat
- **Turn off your devices:** Using your devices during a performance can be distracting to the audience and the performers
- **Be quiet:** Don't talk or sing during the show
- **Don't take pictures:** Taking pictures or recording a production is illegal. The bright flash from your camera can also ruin the action
- **Return on time from intermission:** Make sure to return to your seat on time after intermission
- **Stay seated:** Don't fidget or leave your seat during the show

LTVB 2024 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN RECAP

A big "Thank You" to all our patrons who contributed to our 2024 Capital Campaign. Thanks to you we exceeded our goal. We raised \$142,049.00 as of December 31, 2024. Your donations are tax deductible on your 2024 taxes. The money raised will be used to improve our theatre space including building a rotating stage to help with scene changes.

You can still donate to our campaign by going to our website, ltvb.com, or calling the box office.

If you are a business owner, your business can help us by sponsoring an individual play/musical or the entire season. This sponsorship money will go to the 2024 Capital Campaign. Contact LTVB thru our email, contact@ltvb.com, or call the box office and leave a message. A board member will call you back. Our number is 757-428-9233.

45 Seconds from Broadway AUDITIONS

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Auditions will occur at The Little Theatre of Virginia Beach on Monday, January 20 and Tuesday, January 21 at 7pm.

- Auditionees will be asked to read from the script. Extracts will be provided at the audition.
- Auditionees are asked to attend the audition with a spirit of good humour, spontaneity as well as strong focus.
- If required, callbacks will be scheduled for Wednesday, January 22nd at 7pm.
- This production welcomes auditionees who are 18 years or older at the time of audition.

SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS

- The commitment for this production requires performers to be available four times per week Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday.
- Rehearsals will occur from 7-10 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Saturday rehearsals will be from 10a-2p.
- A comprehensive rehearsal schedule will be made available at the first rehearsal.
- Whilst the schedule will be designed to ensure performers are only called when required, there is an expectation that performers can commit themselves fully to the process.

For a listing of characters and other information, go to ltvb.com. Actors of all identities and backgrounds are encouraged to audition.