

# PLAYBILL®

Town and Country Players  
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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLAYERS PRESENTS



A COMEDY  
BY NEIL SIMON

**APRIL 21 - MAY 6**

DIRECTED BY JON KNAPP  
PRODUCED BY VICTORIA SCHULTHEIS

★ CONTAINS SOME ADULT LANGUAGE

**Town and Country Players**

PRESENTS

# **RUMORS**

by

**Neil Simon**

with

*Don Dillon*

*Lorraine Barrett*

*Terry Fenningham*

*Stephanie Smith*

*Paul Frank*

*Mary Saile*

*Joe Perignat*

*Valerie Sharper*

*Darlene Sacco*

*Jeff Dworkin*

Set Design  
Dave Sharper

Producer  
Victoria Schultheis

Stage Manager  
Jesse Roy

Scenic Design  
Barb Emch

Assistant Producer  
Helen Baxter

Lighting Design  
Anne Schmitt/Walter Hauck

Props  
Kim O'Byrne Rozman

Sound Design  
Scott Monsees

Costume Design  
Rob Rosiello

**Directed by  
Jon Knapp**

Rumors is presented through special arrangement with  
Samuel French, Inc. 45 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10011.

**Place**

Charlie and Myra's home on the evening of their tenth anniversary party, 1988

There will be a brief intermission between acts.  
This show utilizes loud noises and sound effects.

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## SPECIAL THANKS

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To Caity Logan for all your assistance.

To the Opening Night Hospitality Team

Lynne-Anne Donchez

Amy Fiscus

Brian Neary

Deb McKee

Anne Schmitt

Lisa Soren

### **BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS DONATION BIN**

Help Town and Country Players and Big Brothers/Big Sisters!

We have partnered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters to host a donation bin which is located at the front of our theatre in our courtyard. Please feel free to take a white bag from the basket in the Clubroom and fill it with your donated items. BBBS will accept clothing, shoes and household items that fit within the pulldown drop slot on the bin. When you drop your bag off at the bin, make sure to leave the tag with your information in the collection box in the Clubroom. At the end of our regular mainstage season, one tag will be chosen and the winner will receive the following:

Dinner for 2 at Chambers Restaurant  
Carriage ride with Frosty & Rudolph through Doylestown, PA  
2 Tickets to the T&C Holiday Show in December 2017

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# CAST

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Chris Gorman ..... Lorraine Barrett  
Ken Gorman ..... Terry Fenningham  
Claire Ganz ..... Stephanie Smith  
Lenny Ganz ..... Paul Frank  
Ernie Cusack ..... Joe Perignat  
Cookie Cusack ..... Val Sharper  
Glenn Cooper ..... Don Dillon  
Cassie Cooper ..... Mary Saile  
Officer Welch ..... Jeff Dworkin  
Officer Pudney ..... Darlene Sacco



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# PRODUCTION TEAM

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Director \_\_\_\_\_ Jon Knapp  
Producer \_\_\_\_\_ Victoria Schultheis  
Assistant Producer \_\_\_\_\_ Helen Baxter  
Stage Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Jesse Roy  
Set Design and Master Carpenter \_\_\_\_\_ David Sharper  
Scenic Design & Artist \_\_\_\_\_ Barb Emch  
Scenic Artist \_\_\_\_\_ T. Mark Cole  
Lighting Design \_\_\_\_\_ Walter Hauck  
Lighting Design \_\_\_\_\_ Anne Schmitt  
Lighting Technician \_\_\_\_\_ Anna Doyle  
Master of Properties \_\_\_\_\_ Kim O'Byrne-Rozman  
Sound Design \_\_\_\_\_ Scott Monsees  
Costume Design \_\_\_\_\_ Rob Rosiello  
Wig Design \_\_\_\_\_ Lynne-Anne Donchez  
Running Crew \_\_\_\_\_ Darlene Sacco  
Set Construction \_\_\_\_\_ Jon Knapp  
Terry Fenningham  
Paul Frank  
Joe Perignat

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# WHO'S WHO

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## Lorraine Barrett

*as Chris Gorman*

Lorraine was last seen at T&C as Margie Walsh in “Good People” and previously in “Fools and Side Man” at Players Club of Swarthmore; as Sonia in “Vanya, Sonia” at Steel River Playhouse; Delia, “Bedroom Farce”, Colonial Playhouse. Lorraine has 25 years in Professional Theatre in NYC and throughout the US, including Broadway cast of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. She is the vocalist for 22 Park Avenue Big Band.



## Don Dillon

*as Glenn Cooper*

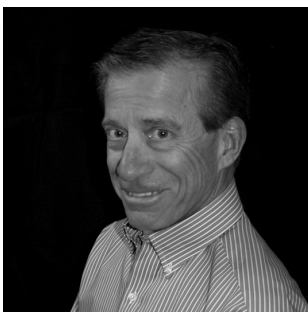
Don is very excited to be a part of this very funny play with a fantastic cast. He has appeared in past T&C productions; “Flaming Idiots”, “Pajama Game” and “The Drowsy Chaperone”. Don has also appeared as an extra in 2 locally produced films; “A Rose on Ninth Street” and “Remorse”. Don studied acting at the Walnut Street Theater but believes his talent is truly developed daily by acting like he likes his job. Don would like to thank his wife for all her support as their many years of bickering and general dislike for each other has made him exceptionally prepared for this role.



## Jeff Dworkin

*as Officer Welch*

This is Jeff's first trip across the boards at T&C as he has recently re-located from Central NJ. Before moving across the river, he was regularly cast as a police officer, security guard or cranky old man, and now as Officer Welch. It must be the mustache.



## Terry Fenningham

*as Ken Gorman*

Terry appeared on our stage last season in the family musical “You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown”, playing the ever-lovable Snoopy. In 2012, Terry also appeared in the role of Phil in the comedy “Flaming Idiots”. Terry, an attorney, has been performing on and off in area community and dinner theaters for over 30 years. He has played such varied roles as The Emcee in “Cabaret”, Billy Flynn in “Chicago”, Paul in “Company”, Matt in “The Fantasticks”, Don Baker in “Butterflies Are Free”, Linus in “You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown”, and many others too numerous to list here. Welcome back, Terry!

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# WHO'S WHO

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## Paul Frank

*as Lenny Ganz*

Paul is just happy to be here! He is back on the T&C stage and appreciates the opportunity to work with such a fine organization. He is especially thrilled to be a part of such a talented and funny cast. Paul has appeared at T&C before in "Lie, Cheat and Genuflect", "The Pajama Game" and "Flaming Idiots". Paul wants to thank all his friends for their support especially his wife, and children; Alyssa, Siena, Christopher and Michael and grandsons Leo and Rowan! Paul and his lovely wife, Lorri, live and work in Bucks County where he has been known to spread a few rumors of his own.



## Joe Perignat

*as Ernie Cusack*

Joseph is delighted to be in another Neil Simon comedy. His past performances have included Nick in "A Reunion of Sorts" which made its world premiere at T&C last year; Dad in "Caught in the Net"; Don Gonzalo and Otto in the One Act Play Festival; Pizza Face Petrillo in "Lie, Cheat and Genuflect"; Mr. Paravicini in "The Mousetrap"; various roles in "The Dining Room" which won the T&C Cup Award for Outstanding Production in 2013; Solomon in "Everybody Loves Opal"; Doc Evans in "On Borrowed Time"; Max in "Laughter on the 23rd Floor" (Prince Perry Award nominee); Ralph Cramden in "Chef of the Future, TV or not TV" and Dick Smothers, "The Fa-La-La Song". A big thank you to his wife Eileen without whose support none of this would be possible.



## Darlene Sacco

*as Officer Pudney*

Darlene is thrilled to be a first-time cast member at T&C. She recently moved to Glenside from the small town of Charlottesville, VA to pursue her dream of acting. In Virginia, she was involved in plays such as "The Memorandum", "Chance", "6 Players in Search of an Author", and "Once is Not Enough"; an Improv Show. She has also worked on films and has taught the art of acting. She would like to thank her inspiring cast, her dedicated crew and Jon Knapp for his wonderful passion and direction. To her family and friends, thank you so much for all your continuous love and support! You guys rock!



## Mary Saile

*as Cassie Cooper*

Mary is excited to be back having appeared last year in "Holes" as Stanley's Mother. She mainly works backstage helping out in last season's productions of "Company" and the Towny Cup Winner "August: Osage County. When not at the theater, Mary loves playing D & D with friends and going to Gfit. Much love to David for all his support and thanks to Vicky and Caity for being my partner in crime!

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## WHO'S WHO

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### **Val Sharper**

*as Cookie Cusack*

Val is so happy to be working on this outrageously funny show with such a stellar cast and crew! Favorite roles over the years include Joanne/Company, Drowsy Chaperone/The Drowsy Chaperone, Mrs. Potts/Beauty and the Beast, Sally/Follies, Kate Keller/All My Sons, Mrs. Lovett/Sweeney Todd, and Marilla Cuthbert/Anne of Green Gables. Val is a toxicologist by day and is also very active in the music program at St. John's UMC in Ivyland.



### **Stephanie Smith**

*as Claire Ganz*

Stephanie is grateful and humbled to be working with the talented Cast & Crew of Rumors. She was last seen at T&C as Gretchen in "Boeing, Boeing" for which she was honored by the Best Supporting Actress Award. Previous favorites include Lizzie in "The Rainmaker", Marquis de Merteuil in "Dangerous Liaisons" and being on stage with her 2 daughters in "It's a Wonderful Life" & "Once on This Island". Love to her three children, Ava, Stella and Declan and friends near and far for support and encouragement!

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# CREW WHO'S WHO

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## **Jon Knapp**

*Director*

In his 50-something years, Jonathan (Jon) has worked onstage and backstage both professionally and just for fun. He studied Communication and Theatre at West Chester University. Following his graduation, he held Arts Management positions at Long Wharf and McCarter Theatres. Jon once worked as an animal handler dealing with tigers, leopards and lions in a Vegas-style magic show. The greatest accomplishment for Jon and his wife, Lauren, is raising two wild animals to become fine men.

## **Victoria Schultheis**

*Producer*

Victoria is glad to be back and ready to start the season with this amazing comedy. Last year, Victoria produced Company and Holes. She also serves as the VP of Productions. Much love to Matt and Alexander. Thank you always to Caity, Mary, Scott, and Rob.

## **Helen Baxter**

*Assistant Producer*

Helen is new to T&C and is enjoying the role of Producing, having Vicky as a mentor. Pass on the 'Rumor' this is a great theatre with a wonderful cast and crew!

## **Jesse Roy**

*Stage Manager*

This is Jesse's fourth time stage managing for T&C. She would like to thank Jon, the cast, and crew for their support during the rehearsal process and run of this fun show.

## **David Sharper**

*Set Design and Master Carpenter*

David has been involved in over a hundred shows at T&C since 1984. He designed and built sets for Last season's "Company", "Holes" and "The Nutcracker". I love you Val!

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# CREW WHO'S WHO

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## **Barb Emch**

*Scenic Design & Artist*

Barb is looking forward to another exciting year as T&C celebrates turning 70 years old. "It's thrilling to be part of a theater that has given so much to our community. May the very talented cast and crew of Rumors break a collective leg!"

## **T. Mark Cole**

*Scenic Artist*

Mark's set design debut was last month at Old Academy Players with "Suddenly Last Summer". Mark teaches Art at The Chester Co Art Association & Arts Council of Princeton. Mark's abstract art alter ego, Favi Dubo, had pieces on the sets of "Boeing Boeing" & "Good People". Mark's next projects include working on the set for "Laramie Project" and set design for the world premiere of "A Song I Forgot to Sing" at OAP in 2018.

## **Walter Hauck**

*Lighting Design*

Walter began working with the technical side of theater at Paramus (NJ) High School and continued with Carnegie Mellon University's Scotch 'n Soda group. After college, he worked with Winnetka (IL) Community Theater, Appletree Theater Company (Highland Park, IL), and as Lighting Tech, Lighting Designer, Stage Manager, and Board member with Peninsula Musical Theater (Belmont, CA). Walter has been with T&C since 1994 as Lighting Tech and now Lighting Designer and VP Technical Operations.

## **Anne Schmitt**

*Lighting Design*

Anne has been behind the scenes in many T&C productions. She's directed children and adult shows, been the stage manager for musicals and comedies, and made sure everyone was well lit in the productions on the boards at T&C. She's very excited this year to broaden her experience with lighting design; she's happy to be working with the lighting pros at T&C and learning how to get the actors in the best light possible. Anne wishes the cast and crew of "Rumors" a good show!

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# CREW WHO'S WHO

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## **Anna Doyle**

*Lighting Technician*

Anna Doyle is a fresh face to T&C and is excited to be a part of this theater group. Later this year, she will be costuming the One Act Plays as well as performing on-stage for the production of Willy Wonka. Heartfelt thanks to everyone at T&C, and much love to her devoted husband, Sean.

## **Kim O'Byrne-Rozman**

*Master of Properties*

Kim has been a member of T&C since 2010. Most recently at T&C, Kim stage managed T&C's "Holiday Show". Previous T&C shows include "The Music Man" (Mrs. Paroo), "Lie, Cheat & Genuflect" (Producer), "Everybody Loves Opal" (Asst. Stage Manager), "Sweeney Todd" (Ensemble), "Our Town" (Dead Woman), "Bye Bye Birdie" (Doris McAfee) and "Carousel" (Ensemble). Kim also serves on T&C's Board of Directors. Enjoy the show!

## **Scott Monsees**

*Sound Design*

Scott is glad to be a part of this amazing show. Scott spent the last few years working on Forté Dramatic Productions with John Zimmerman, John Demeter, Stephanie Zimmerman, and Mike Skelly. Scott was last seen doing all the jobs for Company and Holes during last season. I would like to thank my Friends and Family for all their help and support." Congratulations to the cast and crew.

## **Rob Rosiello**

*Costume Design*

Rob is thrilled to take on the 1980s costuming "Rumors". Other T&C costume design credits- "August: Osage County" and "Holes". Rob was a Villanova Costume Shop Graduate Assistant and was Assistant Designer for "Angels in America Parts 1 & 2" and "Once on This Island". He's designed costumes for TCNJ, was Costume Advisor for Lower Merion High School Players and will direct "Laramie Project" this fall at T&C.



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## CREW WHO'S WHO

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### **Lynne-Anne Donchez**

*Wig Design*

Lynne is very excited to be doing design work for "Rumors" and especially happy to be working with Jon Knapp. Congratulations to T&C on their first 70 years!

### **Darlene Sacco**

*Running Crew*

Darlene's bio can be found in the Cast bios.

## **OPENING NIGHT SILENT AUCTION**

In 2013, as part of our Restroom Renovation project, Town and Country Players was fortunate to acquire artwork from various theatrical celebrities and other artists. As part of our 70th season festivities, T&C will be hosting a Silent Auction during the Opening Night performance and reception of each of our mainstage shows. During the Silent Auction, one select piece of artwork will be displayed in the Lobby of our theatre and Patrons will have the opportunity to bid on the artwork. Each piece will have a minimum bid and incremental bid levels and at the end of the night, the person with the highest bid will win the artwork.

Some of the pieces are quite outstanding and we think you will really enjoy this opportunity! The auction item chosen for Rumors is an original drawing by Alec Baldwin.

Some of the other pieces we will be auctioning off include a self-portrait by Dick Van Dyke, drawings by Adam West, Rita Moreno, Zach Galifianakis, Eva Marie Saint, Henry Winkler, Jay Leno and Carl Reiner and specialized pieces like the autographed script from Last Man Standing signed by Tim Allen and the CD signed by Chubby Checker.

If you have visited our Lobby, you will see many other artists featured on our autograph wall and we are so grateful for their support. Don't miss this chance to own your own piece of theatrical history!



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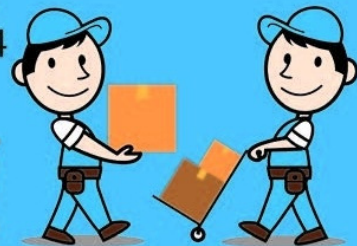


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## T&C WANTS YOU TO KNOW...

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### **T&C Raffle**

Our raffle helps to support the Building Fund.

We offer custom raffle options for each show.

Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or five tickets for \$20.00.

Each raffle ticket is also eligible for our end of year prizes which include a trip to a Broadway show of your choice as well as other prizes (see the list in the Clubroom). We appreciate your support. Thank you!

### **Volunteer to Earn a Free Ticket**

Members and Non-Members may volunteer to usher, direct parking or sell raffle tickets for our shows and will receive a FREE SEAT for any show in our 2017 season. If you are interested in volunteering, you may sign up on our website or fill out "Volunteer Form" in the Clubroom.

### **Become a T&C Member**

We would love to have you as Member of our T&C family! Members have the right to participate in all meetings, parties and events, and vote for the slate of plays for our 71st season in 2018, as well as vote for our Executive Board for the next year. Please feel free to pickup a Membership Application in our Clubroom.

Annual membership dues are:

\$30.00 (Individual)

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## **Become a Friend of Town and Country Players**

Town and Country Players is celebrating its 70th season in 2017. Our theatre is run by volunteers and we rely on your generous, tax deductible financial support to help defray the cost of our lovely, new modern facility. Please add your name to our "Circle of Friends" so that we can continue to provide you with high quality productions and theatre workshops for many years to come.

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# T&C WANTS YOU TO KNOW...

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Congratulations to our 2016 Season Award Winners!

***Best Actor in a Lead Role***

*Matt Thompson as Robert in Boeing, Boeing*

***Best Actress in a Lead Role***

*Elaine Wallace as Violet Weston in August: Osage County*

***Best Actor in a Supporting Role***

*Andy O'Neill as Beverly Weston in August: Osage County*

***Best Actress in a Supporting Role***

*Stephanie Smith as Gretchen in Boeing, Boeing*

***Future Star Award***

*Victoria Vouk in August: Osage County*

***Excellence in Design Award***

*Jon Knapp, Set Design/Construction for August: Osage County*

**Winner of the Town and Country Cup for the Best Production  
of the 2016 Season**

*August: Osage County - Directed by Nancy Ridgeway*

**2016 T&C Member Awards**

Service Award: Anne Schmitt

Lifetime Achievement Award: Walter Hauck

Rafters Award: Caity Logan

A.C. Daily Award (Male Acting): Tim Anderson

Marion Kolman Award (Female Acting): Susan Fowler

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### **Gifts in Kind**

Lynne-Anne Donchez

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Normally, Director's Notes talk about the play, the playwright, historical context, etc. Not much to say other than Neil Simon is an American theatrical gem. To date he's written over 30 plays, 20 films, won 4 Tonys and 2 Emmys. Interestingly while much of his work has been in comedy, Rumors is his only farce.

Having said that, let me make a confession. I'm a recovering theater snob. While still in high school, I was cast in a couple local productions for which I got paid. You can only imagine how that swelled the head of an already over-confident theater-crazed teenager! After high school, I set off to prove I was "God's Gift to Theater" (GGT) and spent the next four years performing from Massachusetts to Texas. During that time, I realized I wasn't "GGT" but merely a working actor trying to make a living. I always avoided community theater because it didn't pay and "they weren't theater professionals". This misguided belief continued through college and for a couple years after when I worked a series of arts administration jobs for regional theaters.

Boy, was I wrong. I finally wised up 14 years ago. I was itching to feed my creative side and decided to audition for a community theater production of Camelot. Even though I hadn't tread the boards in over a decade, I figured I'd be the "big fish in a little pond". Instead, what I found was a wonderful group of talented individuals both on and off-stage who entertained (and dare I say created ART) for the sheer fun of it. I realized that getting paid was not a measure of professionalism or success, rather the ability to come together, commit to a shared vision and see it through to closing night...that's success.

At its best, community theater brings people together from all walks of life. It allows us to explore ideas, share a laugh (or a tear) and expand our humanity. Considering the current political climate, I think we need this more than ever. I am humbled by this cast. Their backgrounds are varied but their talent and determination is singular and compelling. We've had a great time working together and I am a richer man because of it!

Please. Sit back and enjoy the show.

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

1948. World War II was still a fresh memory in everyone's minds. Life, as everyone knew it, made a valiant attempt to return to some kind of normalcy. In that effort, the arts continued to flourish and grow. In the suburbs of Philadelphia and around the country, small theatre companies began to emerge. Many still exist today and are celebrating milestone anniversaries.

Town and Country Players is thrilled to have reached a landmark 70<sup>th</sup> Season in 2017 that will kick off with *Rumors*, the Tony Award winning comedy by Neil Simon. It seems fitting that our current season kicks off with a comedy, the same way Town and Country introduced itself in 1948 with the comedy, *Goodbye Again*.

In those 70 years in between, Town and Country Players audiences have followed the small theater company to various performance spaces before finding a home in its current location, a renovated and converted barn in Buckingham. Comedies, classics, family shows and world premiere plays have come across the Town and Country Players stage over the decades, thrilling the community and challenging the artists presenting them to aim higher and further with their artistic endeavors.

Many of the shows being performed this season have never been seen on the Town and Country Players stage before, and we are equally pleased to offer several world premiere one act plays in May as part of the new Signature Series at Town and Country Players. It is a time for celebration, a time for reflection, and certainly an opportunity to show off our finest work to date with an eye on the future— both for our audiences and the talented members of the Town and Country Players Community. Please spread the word about the great work you see at Town and Country Players. And if by chance, you really like what you see and want to become part of the legacy that is Town and Country, please reach out to us and come on board for what promises to be a thrilling and exciting season!

Rob Rosiello



2017

# OUR 70<sup>th</sup> SEASON



## **Rumors, a Comedy**

By Neil Simon

April 21, 22, 23(M)28, 29, 30(M), May 5, 6

## **ONE ACTS**

### **One Acts, a Signature Series Presentation**

New Plays, Emerging Directors

May 19, 20, 21(M)



## **A Few Good Men, a Drama**

By Aaron Sorkin

June 9, 10, 11(M), 16, 17, 18(M), 23, 24



## **Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka**

A Family Musical

Music & Lyrics by Newley & Bricusse

July 14, 15(M/E), 16(M), 21, 22(M/E), 23(M), 28, 29 (M/E)

## **LOVE LETTERS**

### **Love Letters, a Performance Piece**

By A.R. Gurney

August 11, 12, 13(M), 18, 19



### **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, a Musical**

Music & Lyrics by William Finn

Sept.8, 9, 10(M), 15, 16, 17(M), 22, 23



### **The Laramie Project, a Drama**

By Moises Kaufman and The Members of the Tectonic Theater Project

Oct. 13, 14, 15(M), 20, 21, 22(M), 27, 28



### **The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe a Family Play by Joseph Robinette**

from story by C.S. Lewis

Nov. 17, 18(M/E), 19(M), 24, 25(M/E), 27(M)

## **TOWN and COUNTRY HOLIDAY SHOW**

### **T&C's Holiday Show at the Michener**

Dec. 15, 16 (M/E), 17 (M)