

PLAYBILL®

Town and Country Players
Doylestown, PA

Love Letters

BY A.R. GURNEY
AUGUST 11-20

Other Letters

BY BRYAN RENAUD
CARIN SILKAITIS
AUGUST 12

DIRECTED BY
ANNE SCHMIDT
PRODUCED BY
LYNNE ANNE DONCHEZ



Town and Country Players
PRESENTS

LOVE LETTERS

by
A.R. Gurney

LOVE LETTERS was presented at
The Long Wharf Theatre,
M. Edgar Rosenblum, Executive Director;
Arvin Brown, Artistic Director

Love Letters is presented through special arrangement
with Dramatists Play Service.

440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Phone: 212-683-8960 Fax: 212-213-1539
www.Dramatists.com

and

OTHER LETTERS

by
Bryan Renaud and Carin Silkaitis

OTHER LETTERS by Bryan Renaud and Carin Silkaitis
is produced by special arrangement with
CHICAGO DRAMAWORKS of Chicago, IL
www.ChicagoDramaworks.com

The Professional World Premiere of "Other Letters" was produced by
Other Theater, Chicago, Illinois

with

Jillian and Ken Ambs - 8/11/17
Rob Rosiello and Mark Cole - 8/12/17 (Other Letters)
Monica Carr and Joe Spadafora - 8/13/17
Carly Price and Jim Moore - 8/18/17
Valerie and David Sharper - 8/19/17
Jean and Bill Brenner - 8/20/17

Produced by
Lynne Anne Donchez and Walter Hauck

Directed by
Anne Schmitt

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I wanted to do this show because I love a good love story and “LOVE LETTERS” by A.R. Gurney is a great love story! In LOVE LETTERS, Gurney takes audiences through the universal aspects of love; selfless, friendship, pragmatic, obsessive, noncommitted, and romantic love. It is love’s exploration in Gurney’s play that made me consider an exclusive cast of our Town and Country couples. Because of the diversity at T&C, I welcomed all couples to audition, and that’s when we welcomed the opportunity to be the east coast premiere for “OTHER LETTERS” by Bryan Renaud and Carin Silkaitis.

As we began the LOVE LETTERS production process, we learned that A.R. Gurney and Dramatist Play Service did not have a plan in place to adapt LOVE LETTERS for future audiences. Through copyright laws and licensing agreements, the play is limited to a male and female couple with no changes to the script. Our lovers’ first letter is dated 1937 and between 1937 and 1988 we openly said words of discrimination against individuals, religions, and ethnicities. At some point LOVE LETTERS will be declared politically incorrect and obsolete, and that’s sad because all the beautiful expressions of love that are also in the play will be gone, too.

Which brings me to the exciting east coast premiere of OTHER LETTERS by Bryan Renaud and Carin Silkaitis. OTHER LETTERS was written in 2016 and our lovers’ first letter is dated 1979. Bryan Renaud and Carin Silkaitis have captured the contemporary love themes that are part of our everyday lives here in the present. The play originally written for same sex couples is adaptable; because, after all, love is universal.

One last thought, in the beginning of Richard Curtis’ film *Love Actually*, the Prime Minister character tells us, “... love is everywhere. Often, it's not particularly dignified or newsworthy, but it's always there - fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, husbands and wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, old friends. When the planes hit the Twin Towers, as far as I know, none of the phone calls from the people on board were messages of hate or revenge - they were all messages of love. If you look for it, I've got a sneaky feeling you'll find that love actually is all around.”

Both productions are done using the production concept of little preparation and the cast reading their notes, letters and cards to each other and the audience. I invite you to sit back and enjoy our little plays, LOVE LETTERS or OTHER LETTERS or both! We present both plays with lots of love to our supporters and our lovers!!

Anne Schmitt – Director

**NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT
LOVE LETTERS & OTHER LETTERS**

“Love is Love is Love is Love is Love.”

Tony Award Winner Lin Manuel Miranda certainly said it best with the aforementioned quote from the 2016 Tony Awards.

These two weekends of readings by real life couples from within the Town and Country Community is a celebration of just that— Love. The readings have also evolved into a celebration of the diversity that is Love as well as the endurance of it. We are presenting two different plays, both variations on the same theme presented in a similar style.

Other Letters is receiving its East Coast premiere at Town and Country Players, furthering the mission of our theater to present new works by up and coming playwrights. It is also just another illustration of the resilience that is this thing we call, “love.” There are many in this world that feel what two people have between them needs to be defined and confined. Love is such a powerful emotion and beautiful in its many forms, it is impossible to specifically define it or confine it— and in trying to do so is like trying to catch the wind in your hands—
Elusive—
Powerful—
Capable of so much beauty—
All around us—
Yet never meant to be held down or confined.

We hope you enjoy the stories we tell over these six performances—
Brought to you by six couple whose own stories have led them to this moment in time.

And in the words of quite possibly one of my favorite theatre quotes of all time—

“And remember, the truth that once was spoken,
To love another person is to see the face of God.”
(Les Miserables)

And regardless of who or what we believe God to be, know that the love of another person is greater than anything we can see or touch or wrap our arms around. Love is found in friendship and in laughter, through tears and heartbreak, in hope and the dreams of that which we hope to be.

Yes, Mr. Miranda, you were absolutely correct—

Love is Love is Love is Love is Love!

CAST

LOVE LETTERS

Melissa - 8/11/17 Jillian Ambs
Andy - 8/11/17 Ken Ambs
Melissa - 8/13/17 Monica Carr
Andy - 8/13/17 Joe Spadafora
Melissa - 8/18/17 Carly Price
Andy - 8/18/17 Jim Moore
Melissa - 8/19/17 Val Sharper
Andy - 8/19/17 David Sharper
Melissa - 8/20/17 Jean Brenner
Andy - 8/20/17 Bill Brenner

OTHER LETTERS - 8/12/17

Charlie Rob Rosiello
Tommy T. Mark Cole

INTERMISSION MUSIC SELECTIONS

Each of our couples was asked to provide a song of their choice for the intermission music.
Here are each couple's selections:

Ken and Jillian Ambs - It's Only Love by Linda Eder
Rob Rosiello and T. Mark Cole - (They Long to Be) Close to You by The Carpenters
Monica Carr and Joe Spadafora - My Heart Will Go On by Celine Dion
Carly Price and Jim Moore - To Make You Feel My Love by Adele
Val and David Sharper - When I Fall in Love by Natalie Cole
Bill and Jean Brenner - Nice "n" Easy by Frank Sinatra

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Anne Schmitt
Producer Lynne Anne Donchez
Producer/Lighting Designer Walter Hauck
Sound Designer Jim McIntosh
Lighting and Sound Technician Walter Hauck

OPENING NIGHT SILENT AUCTION

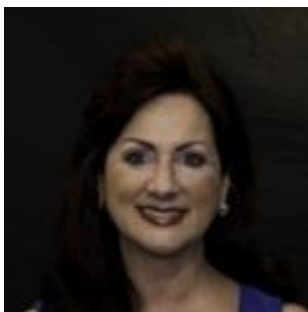
In 2013, as part of our Restroom Renovation project, Town and Country Players was fortunate to acquire artwork from various theatrical celebrities and other artists. As part of our 70th season festivities, T&C will be hosting a Silent Auction during the Opening Night performance and reception of each 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!

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!

WHO'S WHO



Jillian Ambs

as Melissa - 8/11/17

Jillian is thrilled to be sharing the stage with her husband for this wonderful production. Her resume spans more than 20 years and includes leads and secondary roles such as Queen Aggravain in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Carla/Alaura in *City of Angels*, Marie in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Diana & Maria in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Miss Macintosh in *Lie, Cheat & Genuflect* and Irene Roth in *Crazy for You*. Jillian serves as the VP of Fundraising & Benefits for T&C in addition to being one of our House Managers. This season, she also served as the Producer for *A Few Good Men* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and both Jillian and her husband, Ken, recently appeared as Mr. and Mrs. Bucket in T&C's production of *Willy Wonka*. Hugs and kisses to my angels - J, K, L, M! WAMH.



Ken Ambs

as Andy - 8/11/17

A performer since high school, Ken's resume reads like a who's who in theater. He was seen in *Willy Wonka* as Mr. Bucket and last year in T&C's production of *The Nutcracker*. Previous T&C performances include the 2015 T&C Holiday Show, *City of Angels*, *Once Upon a Mattress* & *Sweeney Todd*. Outside of T&C, Ken has appeared in productions of: *1776*, *42nd Street*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Peter Pan*, *Funny Girl*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Damn Yankees*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Oklahoma*, *My Fair Lady*, *Sherwood Knights*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Music Man*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Triumph of Love*, *T'was the Night Before Christmas*, *Annie*, *Oliver*, *Incorruptible*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Damn Yankees*, *Godspell*, *Diary of Ann Frank* & *Forever Plaid*. Ken wants to thank Anne for this opportunity to share the stage with his lovely wife Jillian.

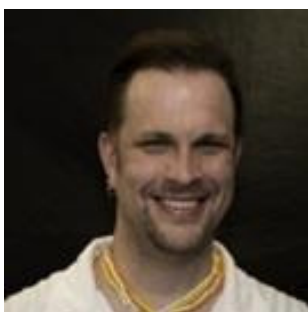
WHO'S WHO



T. Mark Cole

Tommy

T. Mark Cole (OTHER LETTERS) is thrilled to be returning to the stage, making a long awaited comeback since his star making turn as The Little Teapot in the Waldron Academy first grade Spring Recital. An art teacher and thriving artist for over 30 years, Mark's recent entree into the world of theatre began with the use of both his traditional landscape art pieces (under his name) and his abstract works (under his abstract nom de plume- Favi Dubo) in productions at Town and Country Players: GOOD PEOPLE (2015), BOEING, BOEING (2016) & RUMORS (2017). Mark was the set designer for SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER that Rob directed at Old Academy Players and will again be set designer for the world premiere of Rob's new play, A SONG I FORGOT TO SING in 2018. In between now and then, Mark and Rob will collaborate on another important production- their impending wedding in November 2017!



Rob Rosiello

Charlie

Rob Rosiello (OTHER LETTERS) last appeared as Lt. Jack Ross in A FEW GOOD MEN. Other stage credits: Little Charles - AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY, Alfred Lunt - TEN CHIMNEYS, Crumpet - SANTALAND DIARIES, Bobby - LOVE, VALOUR, COMPASSION and Louis-Barrymore Award Winning Ensemble ANGELS IN AMERICA PARTS I & II. Masters in Theatre - Villanova University. Rob is a playwright with a March 2018 World Premiere of A SONG I FORGOT TO SING at Old Academy Players in East Falls. He will direct LARAMIE PROJECT at T&C Fall 2017. Rob and Mark met in 2001 and shortly after their initial meeting, Mark surprised Rob by showing up at a reading of Rob's play, THE DANCE OF THE MIDNIGHT ANGEL. Their lives in the years that followed led them down separate paths, and it was in the Fall of 2009 that they finally reconnected. They began dating in 2011 and are thrilled to say they will be married in November of this year.



Monica Carr

as Melissa - 8/13/17

Monica first performed at T&C in 1998 in "Cabaret" and the rest is history. During this production she met her co-star and now fiancé, Joe Spadafora. She has appeared intermittently through the years in many productions including Guys and Dolls, Into the Woods and most recently in last season's production of The Nutcracker. She is truly thrilled to be sharing this wonderful story with Joe and, of course, you – our audience. How appropriate to be involved with "Love Letters" as our upcoming nuptials approach in October. Thank you for this opportunity and unique experience.

WHO'S WHO



Joe Spadafora

as Andy - 8/13/17

Joe is excited to perform in this rendition of Love Letters with his future wife to be, Monica Carr. A rich history of over 40 roles on stage at T&C since 1978 Joe has been an active past member and board member serving as President, Exec VP, and VP of Buildings and Grounds. Most recently, he was seen in last year's production of The Nutcracker. Monica and I met during Cabaret in 1998 and life has been "one" ever since.



Carly Price

as Melissa - 8/18/17

Carly is very excited to finally be playing opposite her boyfriend, Jim, on the T&C stage. They both performed in Company and the T&C Holiday Show in 2016, but were married to different people onstage. Theater has played a significant role in their relationship. They met at an audition for Brigadoon in October 2013. Carly did the show; Jim did not. However, the theater community is small and their paths crossed again at a karaoke night in January 2014 with mutual theater friends. They began dating in February 2014 and have continued to perform, stage manage, produce, direct, and share a genuine love of theater. Carly has been a member of T&C since 2013 and is currently the VP of Membership. She is grateful to Jim for always supporting her and for giving her the best present: their cat, Albus Dumbleroar. Thanks to Anne, Walter, Lynne Anne, and everyone at T&C for being her second family.



Jim Moore

as Andy - 8/18/17

Jim is thrilled to be a part of this one of a kind production. Carly, his co-star for this performance, has spent the past 3 and a half years making him look great in real life, and Jim is banking on these talents translating to the stage as they make their "stage couple" debut. Jim is currently the VP of Marketing here at T&C and owes his belonging to this wonderful community all to Carly. Thanks to: our families for their unyielding support, all of the couples involved in this production for inspiring not only our performances but our relationship, and our friends for all of the good times.

WHO'S WHO



Val Sharper

as Melissa - 8/19/17

This is the third show of the season for Val. She was last seen as Mrs. Gloop in the family musical, *Willy Wonka*, and as Cookie Cusack in the adult comedy, *Rumors*. 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. Much love to my co-star!!



David Sharper

as Andy - 8/19/17

David would like to thank Anne, Lynne Anne and Walter for casting him with the love of his life. He met Val at Town and Country 31 years ago, became great friends and later fell in love and got married. Some of his favorite roles: Mitch in "A Streetcar Named Desire", Brian in "Laughter on the 23rd Floor", Professor Plum in "Clue the Play", Krojack in "Don't Drink the Water" and George in "Don't Dress for Dinner" David designed and built the sets for this seasons "Rumors" and "Willy Wonka" and last seasons "Company", "Holes" and "The Nuctcracker". I love you Val.



Jean Brenner

as Melissa - 8/20/17

Jean wrote long love letters daily to Bill while he was in basic training prior to their June wedding in 1961. When Bill was hired as General Manager at Bucks County Playhouse in 1968, Jean joined him as Public Relations Director before beginning a 7 year teaching/directing stint at William Tennent HS, then running their own real estate company. Although they have performed together many times, Jean's current passion continues to be directing plays. In 2013, she directed "The Dining Room," also by A.R. Gurney, which won "Best Play" that year at Town & Country Players. Currently, she writes stories and critical reviews of local community and professional theatre for the Bucks County Herald. The Brennens have two children and four grandchildren whom they love dearly: Mark and Michelle Brenner and grandchildren Melissa and Greg of California, and Laura and Russ Scotti and grandchildren Olivia and Isabella, of Richboro.

WHO'S WHO



Bill Brenner

as Andy - 8/20/17

Bill never wrote long love letters to Jean during his Army basic training when they were separated for 6 months before their 1961 wedding. Between Army exercises, spit-shining his boots, unexpected inspections and very little sleep, time for writing short notes was all he had. They met in community theatre in Lancaster while Bill worked at Armstrong Cork Co as a chemical engineer, after which Bill earned his master's degree in theatre at the University of Delaware. A job offer brought them to Bucks County in 1967 where Bill was general manager of Bucks County Playhouse for 2 years. Thereafter, Bill was hired by BCCC to teach speech/theatre until he was elected to head the Media and Performing Arts Dept. In 1983, the couple started Brenner Realty in Richboro which they continued for 20 years before returning to theatre full time. Married 56 years, they currently are members of Newtown Presbyterian Church where Bill is a newly-elected member of the Session.

PRODUCTION TEAM WHO'S WHO



Anne Schmitt

Director

Anne started with T&C Players in 1998 working behind the scenes as a stage manager, lighting technician, set designer, costumer, program and publicity graphic artist for many T&C musicals and comedies. Anne is a T&C Director since 1999 and has directed children and adult shows, the last being Boeing, Boeing, the “little show that could”! Anne is very excited to be presenting Love Letters to the T&C Players’ members, families, friends, and other lovers! She sends her heartfelt thanks to her producers, Walter and Lynne Anne, “I couldn’t have done it without you!”, and a special shout out to her Hospitality Team Members!



Lynne Anne Donchez

Producer

It is my pleasure to be producing Love Letters along with Anne Schmitt and Walter Hauck. It is also a pleasure to work with the casts consisting of long time and new friends with such a commitment to the theater. Forty years of T&C has proven interesting with experiences both behind the scenes and on stage. Being part of the Board and VP of Hospitality continues to be a pleasure. We want to thank all of the family and friends who helped ensure that each couple had a special celebration for their “openings.” This undertaking has been interesting and positive!! Enjoy!!!



Walter Hauck

Producer/Lighting Designer

Walter began working 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 Town and Country since 1994 as lighting tech and now lighting designer and VP Technical Operations. He is very happy to be able to work with Anne and Lynne Anne on this production.

PRODUCTION TEAM WHO'S WHO

Jim McIntosh

Sound Designer

Jim has been involved in the entertainment industry for over 25 years. After earning a B.A. in Theater from Rutgers University, he has worked as a Performer, Stage Manager, Light and Sound Technician, and Scenic Carpenter. Since becoming a member of Town & Country Players in 2014, Jim has worked on a number of shows, both behind the scenes and on stage, and is currently the Treasurer of the theater.

SPECIAL THANKS

A very special "Thank You" to T&C Directors, Nancy Ridgeway and Rob Rosiello. Your contributions are deeply appreciated and have been invaluable. "Where would we be without you?"

Brian Neary for lending his talents for the flowers and roses at the end of each performance.

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SHOWTIMES
September 8, 9, 15, 16,
22, 23 at 8pm
September 10, 17 at 2pm

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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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T&C WANTS YOU TO KNOW...

Help Us With Our "70 for 70" Fundraising Campaign

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.

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- *Redesign our exterior ramp for easier access for the handicapped
- *Add a sidewalk from the back door to the parking lot

Of course, donations of ALL amounts are always welcome but donations above \$50.00 will receive a T&C car magnet which can be proudly displayed on your vehicle.

It is our hope that will you not overlook this excellent opportunity to support a premiere arts organization which continues to shape the cultural opportunities in the Doylestown area.

Town and Country Players
PO Box 323
Doylestown, PA 18901

Contributions can also be made through PayPal on our website at:
www.townandcountryplayers.org

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

T&C WANTS YOU TO KNOW...

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: Caitly Logan

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

Marion Kolman Award (Female Acting): Susan Fowler

T&C WANTS YOU TO KNOW...

Town and Country Players would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our donors. We greatly appreciate your financial support!

Producer's Circle (\$1,000 and up)

Sharon Holloway
Central Bucks Sertoma Club
Greg & Carol Landis

Director's Chair (\$500 - \$999)

Jim McIntosh (Merck Foundation)
Valerie and David Sharper

Leading Role (\$100 - \$499)

Ken and Jillian Ambs
Alan Hoberman
Ken and Suzanne Kaminsky
Ed Ritvo and Marie von Elten
Jack & Paula Young

Supporting Cast (up to \$99)

Mary Gemmill
Miriam & Reese Ewing
Jack & Linda Barr
Marian Disken
Roberta Keck
Bruce McMahon
JoAnn Formeller
Pat & Jim Stabilito
David H. Keller

Gifts in Kind

Lynne-Anne Donchez



2017

OUR 70th 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)