

EXIT...STAGE LEFT

THE LAKE BRADDOCK THEATRE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume XX

Monday, November 9, 2009

Number Three

LBT Places Again at VTA (20 Years Later)

On Friday, October 30, 2009, LBT traveled to the Reston Hyatt Regency and the Virginia Theatre Association secondary school festival 2009. The production was Christopher Durang's spoofs of Tennessee Williams' most famous plays collectively titled *Durang on Tennessee*. The two short plays lampoon three of the greatest dramas in American Literature – *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls* (a send up of *The Glass Menagerie*) and *Desire, Desire, Desire* (loosely based on *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*). The shows featured tight challenging ensemble performances by two small casts (a total of twelve actors) which must have resonated with the judges as LBT advanced to the Final Four of the festival for the first time since 1989. 20 years ago, the production entitled *Fools and Lovers* carried LBT into the top two of the festival, coming up short to E. C. Glass High School. In 2009, the cast and crew of *Durang on Tennessee's* performance was so strong, it was declared the top production of the day in Theatre A, beating out eight other schools for the honor. The cast and crew found out of their extra performance opportunity while most attended a Halloween party on Saturday Night. Two hours of phone tag later and the word was out that everyone was to gather back at Braddock at 7 am the next morning. Parents caravanned the students out to Reston to perform at 9:30 am for the entire festival audience. Though the end result was no more than their Final Four finish, the experience of playing in front of a large audience will help for future competitions.

Get Your *Macbeth* Tickets

Tickets go on sale next week for the first show of the 37th season of Lake Braddock Theatre – *Macbeth*. The best way to get your ticket for the presale price is to do it the old fashioned way – coming into the school and picking them up during the following times:

Monday, November 16 – Lunch Shifts*

Tuesday, November 17 – Lunch Shifts*

Wednesday, November 18 – Lunch Shifts*

Thursday, November 19 – Lunch Shifts*

Friday, November 20 – Lunch Shifts*

* LUNCH SHIFTS ARE 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM DAILY. TICKETS ARE SOLD IN THE CAFETERIA

Tickets for the presale price of \$9 can only be obtained until 12:30 pm Friday, November 14 (except at the ticket window on Thursday evening). After that, tickets can be bought for \$10. But the best way to insure you receive the tickets you want is to pick them up in person. Cash or checks are accepted. Below are the performance dates and times:

Thursday, November 19, 2009 7:30 pm

Friday, November 20, 2009 8:00 pm

Saturday, November 21, 2009 2:30 & 7:30 pm

THE LAKE BRADDOCK THEATRE 2009 – 2010 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Erikka Robinson
Noelle Viñas
Hannah Dubrow
Alexander Kaplan
R. L. Mirabal



Scenic Director
Business Manager
Master Electrician
Technical Director
Artistic Director

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LBT Governor's School Nominees

The Virginia Governor's School for the Arts is a summer program that provides intensive study and development in the fields of music, art, dance, and drama. Every year the best juniors from across the state compete for invitation. Every Fairfax County school selects two nominees in each field. A committee comprised of the theatre director, English chair, and counselors considers talent and academic skill in selecting nominees. This year's nominees are **Jimmy Day** and **Nicole May**. Nicole joined us late her freshman year coming to Braddock for the first time from home schooling. After her first audition, Nicole was immediately cast as one of the London pub dwellers in *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. In the fall of her sophomore year, Nicole cast ast as a fairy in *Midsummer*, but nailed down the coveted role of Puck's understudy. Her voice was clearly heard for many roles as one of the ensemble of vocal talent in *Fully Committed*. Nicole closed out season 36 cast as the lead in the Shakespeare Theatre Text Alive scene from *Twelfth Night*. Nicole began season 37 playing the role of Blanche Dubois in the VTA Final Four production of *Desire, Desire, Desire*. The role was a spoof of the lead in *Streetcar* that, ironically, Nicole had originally been cast as the understudy in the 2009 LBT production. Jimmy has collected many roles in his short time here including The Knave in *Alice*, Charles in *Moreau*, and Coach Johnson in *Lunch*. The next year, Jimmy played Duke Theseus in *Midsummer*, The Chef in *Fully Committed* and the Doctor in *Streetcar*. Jimmy has had many professional film and community theatre credits outside LBT including the title in *The Winslow Boy* for Little Theatre of Alexandria. Last week, Jimmy stage managed the Final Four VTA production of *Durang on Tennessee*. Next week you can see Nicole as rightful heir to the throne of Scotland, Malcolm and Jimmy as the ill-fated Banquo in *Macbeth*.

A in Theatre Honor Roll

THEATRE ARTS I

Stephanie Apruzese, Brianna Aragon, Alexis Bruhn, Natalie Butler, Gilliam Cannon, Margaret Carson, Brenda Cobb, Mallory Gerndt, Raquel Greeley, Sydney Green, Katie Gruber, Erica Hill, Carolyn Jouben, Woojae Kim, Taylor Livick, John McCullough, Micaela McGaw, Emily Murphy, Zachary Newby, Leslie Owusu, Timmy Provance, **Kyra Rodi**, Megan Seibel

THEATRE ARTS II

Kimberly Betsill, Sarah Fick, **Maerna Kauffman**, Ryan Ledwith, Daryl Mason, Sara Silversmith, Haley Von Cannon

THEATRE ARTS III

Alisa Akers, Christopher Barnard, Jimmy Day, **Hannah Dubrow**, Neome Gangi, Jacob Gruber, Nicole May, Ilana Naidamast, Doa'a Salah, C. J. Tragakis,

THEATRE ARTS IV

Alex Kaplan, Carolyn Metcalf, Rachel Newby, Erikka Robinson, Noelle Viñas

TECHNICAL THEATRE I

Courtney Bradshaw

Bold – Highest grade in the class

THE FIRST 20 SEASONS REMEMBERED

In October 1999, a series of articles appeared in *Exit...Stage Left* to recap the first ten years of R. L. Mirabal's tenure as Artistic Director of the LBT. By June of 2000, each season was chronicled in the monthly newsletter and collected in a special *All Mirabal List 1990 – 2000* retrospective. 5 years later, the next five years was recapped. This year marks the twentieth season at LBT. Second article is Season 34:

ACT 4: THE HISTORY OF LBT 1990 - 2010 PART SEVENTEEN: GHOSTS IN THE MACHINE

The new year began with an almost deadly misstep. Not five minutes into the official beginning (the unveiling of the new Executive Board at the LBT Awards), the new Master Electrician fell out of the stage right loft onto platforms some 20 feet below, breaking her tail bone and severely lacerating the base of her skull. She lived and recovered in time to go to Nebraska, but it was an unnerving start to say the least. Needless to say, permission to climb was *not* granted and the story became a cautionary tale for every freshman since. In October, LBT went down to Richmond for what would be our last roadtrip for the conference. The production of *The Dining Room* was the second cutting of the show attempted by LBT and it yielded a Best Actor nod for senior **Brandon Duncan**. But this trip will be remembered for the horrible activities that occurred at this conference as countless unsupervised high school students raised havoc at the Richmond Marriott each night of the conference. This would be the last time LBT would ever travel to VTA since the conference was unsuccessful in keeping order in the hotel. Back home, we returned on Sunday and went into first dress rehearsal on Monday for *Anatomy of Gray* – the quickest turn around after a VTA ever. The obscure dramedy was discovered by LBT students while attending the International Thespian festival in Nebraska that past summer. The production was a challenge for the brand new Executive Board, two seniors and two juniors that had never been on the board before. Stage Managed by Technical Director **Tami Grossman**, *Gray* featured VTA award winner Duncan in the title role of Dr. Galen Gray and senior **Jenny Grace Fornoff** as his romantic interest, Rebekah. Jenny's big moment in Season 34 was as the lead in *Nickel and Dimed*, our VHSL one act which advanced to Regionals with a 2nd place finish at districts. The Lab show was *Marvin's Room* which featured the talents of seniors **Rachel Cave** as the elderly Aunt Ruth and **Nathan Black** as her troubled teen grand-nephew Hank. At the Folger, *Kill Bill* joined *Pulp Fiction* and *Reservoir Dogs* as the films used as a template for the LBT adaption of Shakespearian murder scenes known as *In The Course of Justice* which garnered acting awards for long time comedic collaborators Cave and Duncan. The year ended with the cappie production of *Hamlet*. It featured Scenic Director and former Cappie Winner for 1984, **Matt Provance** as Horatio. Senior **Nick Oyler**, along with Fornoff, was nominated for special effects and props. However, one doesn't attempt the most difficult play in the history of the English Language without someone to play the title role. Senior **Cameron Doucette** first appeared in *Much Ado* two years earlier and was Cappie nominated for his performance as O'Brien in 1984. But his portrayal of the tragic Prince of Denmark earned LBT its third nomination for Best Actor in the then seven year history of Cappies. Cameron ended the year taking home the coveted award – the first ever Best Actor Cappie for LBT.