

UPCOMING EVENTS - THEATRE@FIRST

SHAKESPEARE SLAM!

Sunday, August 7—2-5pm—The Burren

Come one, come all to an open-mic benefit for this summer's free, outdoor production of *As You Like It*! Now's your chance to get up and perform - or even read - a monologue, sonnet, scene, or personal story. Don't know what to do? Printouts will be available for extemporaneous readings! The afternoon will also feature spoken-word incendiary Michael Anderson, the cast of *As You Like It*, song-and-dance man Alex Nemiroski, and more! \$5 to perform; \$10 to sit back, have a beer, and watch.

AS YOU LIKE IT - FREE! in Seven Hills Park

Thursday, Friday and Saturday - Sept 8-10 - 8pm

Sunday Matinee - Sept 11 - 3pm

Mark your calendars now and get your picnic blankets ready for this spectacular adventure in Seven Hills Park, next to the Davis T. Our all-star cast features both familiar faces and exciting newcomers in a modern take on one of Shakespeare's and most beloved comedies.

UPCOMING EVENTS - SMALL THEATRE ALLIANCE

The Small Theatre Alliance of Boston fosters the growth of small theatre companies and artists by providing professional development, initiating collaborative conversation, sharing resources, and cultivating and engaging audiences. Visit smalltheatreallianceofboston.com to learn about membership and upcoming productions

BUG - Flat Earth Theatre, July 29—August 6 at The Factory Theatre - flatearththeatre.com

SUMMER PLAY FESTIVAL 2011 - Boston Actors Theatre, July 29—August 7 at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre - bostonactorstheater.com

THE T PLAYS III - Mill 6 Collective, August 10-20 - The Factory Theatre - mill6.org

BOULEVARD OF BROKEN DREAMS - Happy Medium Theatre, August 12-20 at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre - happymediumtheatre.com

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Betty Walker and Unity Church for sharing their space with us, our great team of house volunteers, and our friends, family and audience members—without your support of the arts, we wouldn't be here.

BARE STAGE
BARE SOULS
BARE WORKS
BARE WORDS
BARE BONES
STAGED READINGS AT THEATRE@FIRST

Two for the Seesaw

by William Gibson

presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

CAST

CHRIS LOCKHEARDT (JERRY) has previously been seen at T@F as Nicholas in *The Lady's Not for Burning* and as Skelly Mannor in *The Rimers of Eldritch*. He was also a featured playwright in *Festival@First 6: Tables Turned*. Staged readings neutralize Mr. Lockhardt's only two skills as an actor: memorizing lines and careening about the stage like Apollo Ohno with a inner-ear disorder. Wish him luck.

TIANNA TAGAMI (GITTEL) is grateful to be a part of her second T@F staged reading, after appearing as Marlene in *The Bakery*. Look for Tianna as Celia this fall in *As You Like It*. The scene study and smooching in Andrea's living room was groovy. Warm thanks to the audience for willingly suspending their disbelief. We promise to take good care of it; it will be waiting for you at the door. Long live T@F, Bare Bones, and the Oxford Comma!

STAFF

ANDREA HUMEZ (DIRECTOR): has previously directed *Arms and the Man*, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, and two 10-minute plays for T@F. Other directing credits include *Arcadia*, *Hapgood*, *The Lion in Winter* and *Spike Heels* with The Occasional Players. Andrea has been seen on stage with T@F as Oscar in *A Language of Their Own* (*Bare Bones* 2010) and as Margaret Fuller in *The Margaret Ghost*. She is still searching for the one true play with many good roles for women—recommendations welcome!

JO GUTHRIE (CHIEF TECHNICAL CONSULTANT & BOTTLEWASHER) knows where all the light switches are and is happy to use this superpower for good. Technical Director on too many T@F shows to count, Jo has also worn the hats of producer, set designer, and stage manager, as well as directing *'night, Mother* for *Bare Bones* in 2010.

BECKIE HUNTER (ASSISTANT PROGRAM DIRECTOR) is the founding President of T@F. She has produced eight shows, from our first production to last June's revival of *The Margaret Ghost*. In between plays, she helps improve teaching at Harvard's Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, and dotes on her niece Alice.

ELIZABETH HUNTER (PROGRAM DIRECTOR) is the founding Artistic Director of T@F. She has directed eight shows here and occasionally appeared on our stage—most recently as Dysart in *Equus*—in addition to working with collegiate and community groups throughout the area. She is currently adapting *Pride & Prejudice* for production at the Somerville Theatre in March 2012.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I saw *Two for the Seesaw* (at age 12 or so), I was drawn to the characters: their vivid personalities, personal quirks, desires and longings, and their struggles to overcome their own weaknesses and each other's in order to forge happiness for themselves. I decided to direct this play because I enjoy spending time with Jerry and Gittel—faults and all—and I hope that you will, too.

As I re-read the script as an adult, I couldn't help being conscious of all the reminders that it was written in the 1950s: from the price of cheap wine or a month's rent, to turns of phrase that sound odd to modern ears, to the assumptions the characters make about how men and women should relate to each other. Although the emotional storyline could plausibly take place in a variety of times and places, Jerry and Gittel inhabit 1950s New York City, and that context shapes not only the options available to them, but the way they view the world. Viewing this story from the context of 2011, it will make more sense if you multiply all the dollar numbers by 10, and remember that in this time and place, it is routine to call a 29-year-old woman with a job and an apartment a "girl".



Founded in 2003, Theatre@First is Somerville's largest community theatre and part of the Massachusetts Community Theatre Corporation, a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation.

Our mission is to work together to provide a fun, friendly, and creative theatre experience for cast, crew, and audience alike. We welcome volunteers at all levels of experience, without regard to race, color, religion, ethnicity, ancestry, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, national origin, body type, age or disability. We encourage a supportive environment in which to work, play, grow, and explore new areas of the theatre arts. We offer affordable and eclectic performances to the community, aiming to surprise, delight, entertain, and educate our audiences.

As an all-volunteer organization, we depend on our audience for support. Please take a moment today to consider becoming a subscriber to T@F and supporting our work as a contributor.

SUBSCRIBER — For just \$50 you'll get free admission to all T@F shows for a full year.

CONTRIBUTOR — Support T@F with a tax-deductible donation!

For information about benefits to contributors starting at just \$20 visit
www.theatreatfirst.org.

Please visit the box office to contribute today, or send a check by mail:

Beckie Hunter, Theatre@First
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Thank you for supporting Theatre@First and the arts in Somerville!