

Fallen's FOLLY

a no-holds-barred romantic story
by Lanford Wilson



photo: Margaret Hart

Friday, February 11 8 PM *Starring Erica Schultz & David Policar*

Saturday, February 12 8 PM

Thursday, February 17 8 PM

Friday, February 18 8 PM

Saturday, February 19 3 PM & 8 PM

Opens Valentine's Day Weekend



First Congregational
Church of Somerville
89 College Avenue
(4 blocks from Davis Square)

Director's Note

Talley's Folly, as Matt will tell you, is a valentine. A dusty, old-fashioned, heart-shaped valentine with lace and bows, found in the bottom of a trunk in an attic, bearing witness to a long-ago love. It was written as a prequel to another Lanford Wilson's play, *The Fifth of July*, in which Sally is the slightly dotty aunt, and *Talley's Folly* has that feeling of a fond story about familiar characters.

Directing plays is a lot like listening to the radio when you're heartbroken — suddenly all the songs are about you. Each time I pick up a new script I find myself startled by how much relevance I find. *Talley's Folly* is a World War II era tale, told in the post-Vietnam War era, and yet as we meet Matt and Sally today, their story is still modern. It's about individuals with pointy bits and jagged edges who want to be understood, to be valued and loved, but who fear that exposing their secret selves will lead only to getting stabbed in the soft underbelly. So, really, it's about each of us.

I want to give a special thanks to my incredible cast and to all the people who've made their way through the snow to help us throw this show together so quickly. And, as always, to our wonderful audience who give us a reason to keep doing what we love.

— Elizabeth Hunter

Setting

The Talleys' Boathouse, Lebanon, Missouri
July 4th, 1944

There will be no intermission.

Cast

Matt FriedmanDavid Policar
Sally Talley.....Erica Schultz

NOTICE: Smoking is not permitted inside the building. Flash photography is not allowed during the performance. Please silence your cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices. Thank you.

Staff

Producer.....	Beckie Hunter
Director.....	Elizabeth Hunter
Technical Director.....	Jo Guthrie
Assistant Technical Director.....	Jason Merrill
House Manager.....	Chris DeKalb
Lighting Designer.....	J. Michael Spencer
Sound Design, Webmaster.....	Neil Marsh
Costume Designer.....	Elizabeth Ryan
Prop Manager.....	Debbie Steiner
Makeup Manager.....	Melody Moening
Set Designer.....	Drea Brandford
Lightboard Operator.....	Ted Beatie
Ad Sales Manager.....	Jude Shabry
Promotional Design.....	Gilly Rosenthol
Photographer.....	Margaret Hart
Rehearsal Assistant.....	Paulo Ruffino

Theatre@First Executive Board

President.....	Beckie Hunter
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Jason Merrill	Jo Guthrie
John Olson	Jude Shabry
Matt Kimmel	Molly Baskette
Neil Marsh	Peter Gilbert
Sarah Bradford	J. Michael Spencer

Special Thanks

Theatre@First thanks the following:

Rev. Molly Baskette and all the members of FCS.

Our dedicated and tenacious team of volunteers, including various members of the cast and crew. Thank you for building our set, working the box office, selling our products, and generally making these shows happen.

Ushers, Box Office & Concessions

Kim Ardolino	Molly Baskette	Peter Baskette
Leah Bateman	Sarah Bradford	Sarah Campbell
Liz Danner	Becky Dowgiert	Erica Edwards
Bonnie Engelbart	Eve Foldan	Sara Folta
Mare Freed	Dibbie Gilmore	Barbara Huber
Marc Lefebvre	Alissa Lerman	Vin Magazini
Rachel Mello	Jason Merrill	John "Beezy" Myers
Rob Noyes	John Olson	Lorie Reilly
Erika Reinfeldt	Adalberto Rivera-Vega	Gilly Rosenthal
Paulo Ruffino	Jude Shabry	Melissa St. John
Nicholas Schectman	Sarah Train	Jenny Utech

Work Days and Other Ways:

Michael Babish	Michael Bergman	John Bowker
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Peter Gilbert	Michelle Goldberg	Charles M. Hannum
Hobbit	Jeff Keller	Maitland Lederer
John Olson	Peter Olszowka	Jim Paradis
Jacques Piquion	Jim Powers	Janet Riley
Melissa St. John	Ian Tosh	Tom Wethern
Michelle Wexelblat		

We also thank our friends, family, and all the members of our audience. Without your support of the arts, we wouldn't be here.

Cast

DAVID POLICAR (Matt Friedman) *Talley's Folly* is Dave's second treading of the boards... that is, platforms... well, stage... in as many seasons: he instantiated the Second Knight in last fall's *Murder in the Cathedral*. This is his first role of any significant size or depth, and he is alternately (and on occasion simultaneously) thrilled and terrified to essay it. He can be found wandering around after performances, insecurely fishing for compliments.

He would like to reassure audience members who know him that yes, he is delivering — well, approximating — Wilson's actual script, rather than unilaterally inflicting improvisational theatre on you all... popular belief to the contrary. Also, he resents the implication that his own speaking style is as easily distracted and oddly voluble as Matt's. Oh look, a bird! Funny, you don't normally see birds this far north this deep into winter. I wonder if it's lost. Or maybe too tired to fly further south. I don't blame it.

Right, this was supposed to be a bio. Okeydoke. Dave hones his acting skills during the day by pretending to work as a software architect, thereby feeding his delightfully insouciant German Shepherd puppy and always-supportive Brazilian-American partner. He supplements his usual assortment of time-consuming activities by working with T@F whenever Elizabeth successfully talks him into it.

ERICA SCHULTZ (Sally Talley) makes her T@F debut with this production. She actually is a native Midwesterner and has been to Missouri at least once. Like Sally, she is unmarried at 32, reads a lot, and digs geeky Jewish men. Unlike Sally, she is herself Jewish, fled to one of those "isolated neighborhoods in Boston" at the age of 16, and rather enjoys ice skating.

She did lots of music and theater growing up in Valparaiso, Indiana, graduated from Brandeis in 1993 having done none whatsoever, and finally got back into it thanks to the MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players in 1999. She has appeared in 9 MITG&SP shows (singing Leila in *Iolanthe*, Psyche in *Princess Ida*, and Counsel in *Trial by Jury*), but nary a straight play until the summer of 2004, when she was handed the role of Eleanor of Aquitaine in *The Lion in Winter*. After that, a 97-minute dialogue doesn't faze her a bit.

Offstage, Erica does book production for The MIT Press, is active at Temple Beth Shalom of Cambridge (www.tremontstreetshul.org), sings with local Jewish *cappella* group Honorable Menschen, keeps an online journal, and generally runs around like a crazy person. She lives in Central Square, Cambridge.

She thanks all her friends for coming, Elizabeth for giving her this opportunity (and finally recruiting her into T@F), Dave for having to learn four times as much text as she did, Mags for the awesome photographs, Pup and Joelll for moral and logistical support, and Justin for singing her Muppet songs.

Staff

TED BEATIE (Lightboard Operator) was finally bitten by the acting bug with T@F's fall production of *Murder in the Cathedral*, where he tried every night to tempt the Archbishop to betray the King. Despite failing that goal, he was nevertheless welcomed into the dark underworld of community theatre, where he now hopes to shed a little light.

DREA BRANDFORD (Set Designer) has been involved in college, community, and professional theatre since 1984, when she allowed herself to be talked into stage managing *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum*... without ever having worked backstage before. Her first production with T@F marks the return from a long hiatus, having worked as a set designer, props designer, lighting designer, stage manager, house manager, and more run crews than she can count.

CHRIS DEKALB (House Manager) During the day Chris is an Outsource Manager for Books24x7.com, but in his free time he enjoys working with the T@F people in various crew positions. For some bizarre reason they've allowed him to come back for *Talley's Folly*, his fourth outing with the group. He is also the editor for the Cambridge Movie News (www.cambridgemovies.com).

JO GUTHRIE (Technical Director) was a little known computer technologist when Elizabeth Hunter saw an emerging talent as a Technical Director for Jo in the first T@F production *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. Since then she has worked on *All in the Timing*, *Murder in the Cathedral* and now this, except for a small interruption which left her depending wholly on the heroic nature of Jason Merrill who leapt to her aid and helped to make the set come to life when she just couldn't be there.

MARGARET HART (Photographer) Margaret's daytime career as innocent high school physics teacher belies her secret existence as photographer of the stars. You can see her work scattered throughout the short history of Theatre at First on our website, in our lobby where you see our previous productions, and currently here on the cover of your playbill. Or catch more of her work on her website at www.margarethart.com/gallery.

BECKIE HUNTER (Producer) is a founder of T@F and a member of First Church. She started acting like an old lady in *Arsenic & Old Lace* in high school, and has grown into the role in real life. She produced *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern* and *Murder in the Cathedral* for T@F last year. Huge thanks to all the ushers, box office and concessions workers who make things run in front of the curtain!



ELIZABETH HUNTER (Director) is the Artistic Director of T@F and directed our very first show, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. A veteran of several guerilla theatre companies, her previous directorial efforts include *Murder in the Cathedral* (T@F), *No Exit*, *The Zoo Story*, *Kennedy's Children*, *'Night, Mother*, and *A Little Night Music*.

NEIL MARSH (Sound Design, Webmaster) majored in Broadcasting at Ball State University in Muncie, IN and was a recipient of that school's David Letterman Scholarship. He has an unhealthy fascination with modern radio drama and is currently developing fantasy, horror & sci-fi projects for audio with some of the T@F regulars. Despite persistent rumors to the contrary, Neil was nowhere near NYC on October 30th, 1938. If you have any complaints, take them up with Orson.

JASON MERRILL (Asst. Technical Director) shows off a different set of theatrical skills this time out, taking charge of the work crew when the TD wasn't allowed to lift more than a finger. Usually on the other side of the curtain, he has been seen in T@F's productions of *Murder in the Cathedral* (Thomas), *All in the Timing* (Don in Universal Language), and *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* (The Player).

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN
CHARLIE BROWN
the musical

Fri April 8	8pm
Sat April 9	2pm & 8pm
Fri April 15	8pm
Sat April 16	2pm & 8pm



Theatre @ First
Community Theatre
a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization

MELODY MOENING (Makeup Manager) Trading in her previous uniform of spangled bodysuits for something more appropriate, Melody gave up her career as a dancer and circus performer to move from Florida to Massachusetts. She now is a makeup artist for Benefit Cosmetics and is forced to suppress her natural urge to use glitter and fake lashes on a daily basis. Melody loves her job, and freelances throughout Boston, but sometimes misses the elephants terribly.

GILLY ROSENTHOL (Promotional Design) is glad to have a way to participate in this show that does not involve learning ten thousand lines of depressing poetry or wearing a mustache. She will, however, be back to playing a boy for her appearance (sans mustache) as Pig-Pen in the upcoming T@F production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

PAULO RUFFINO (Rehearsal Assistant) has just found out how much fun theater can be — having previously only been part of the audience — when introduced to the cool folks that make Theater@First shine. In his other life he is a computer geek.

ELIZABETH RYAN (Costume Designer) has been sewing since she earned her Girl Scout badge when she was about 11 or so. After college she assisted her roommate costuming various shows at Yale and science fiction convention masquerades. She is a lapsed member of the Sick Pups, the New York/New Jersey costumers guild, Connecticut Auxiliary Branch. She owns more thread and fabric than she can count.

JUDE SHABRY (Ad Sales Manager) overcame a lifelong aversion to sales in order to solicit advertising for T@F. In addition to ad space, she currently has several choice bridges and tunnels available. Motivated sellers. Very well maintained. Won't last!

J. MICHAEL SPENCER (Lighting Designer) is working on his third T@F production. His lighting design has been seen previously in *Murder in the Cathedral*, which he also acted in. He appeared onstage in *All In The Timing* and will be appearing as the title character in the upcoming *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He would like to thank Elizabeth and Jo for the constant support during this process, and everyone at T@F for their friendship and love.

DEBBIE STEINER (Prop Manager) is giving props procurement for T@F a second shot, but keeps sneaking into other jobs like stage-dressing and box-distressing, where they tell her she shows great promise.

About Theatre@First

Theatre@First is Somerville's newest community theatre project, sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Somerville. We fill an important niche in the vibrant Davis Square arts scene, drawing upon the talents and contributions of individuals and organizations throughout the community to provide a venue for thought-provoking and entertaining performing arts for all those who love to be on either side of the curtain.

T@F welcomes your support. As a new community theatre program, our growth depends largely on the patronage of our audience members. Become a T@F member today and your donation will help ensure future productions. Support the arts in your local community! Be one of the "First."

T@F is a non-profit organization sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Somerville. All donations are tax-deductible and held in a fund dedicated to Theatre@First. All contributors receive a membership card and will have their name listed in our programs unless they prefer to remain anonymous. These are the five levels of membership T@F offers:

MEMBER (\$25): 1 free ticket to every production for 1 year, 1 free item at the snack bar when you present your membership card

FRIEND (\$50): 2 free tickets to each production for 1 year, 2 free items at the snack bar when you present your membership card

PATRON (\$100): 4 free tickets to each production for 1 year, premium seating, 4 free items at the snack bar when you present your membership card

ANGEL (\$500): 10 free tickets to each production in 2004, premium seating center stage in the first 2 rows, 10 free items at the snack bar when you present your membership card, program autographed by the leads

SPONSOR (over \$500): All the benefits of being an Angel, plus free ad space in the program (please make special arrangements with the Producer)

If you wish to pay by check, please make it out to First Congregational Church of Somerville, and mail it to:

Beckie Hunter
Theatre@First
170 Gore St. #504
Cambridge, MA 02141

Please include your email address (if you have one) and phone number.

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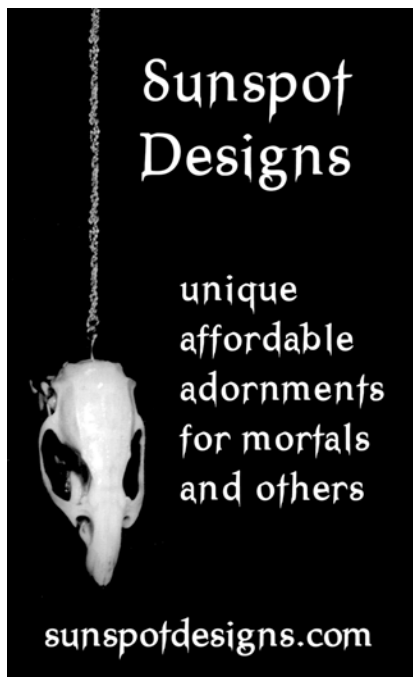
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