



PROLOGUE

May 2016

Laughs, Comedy, Joy, and Delight: AFD Theatre Presents

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike June 3–12

Arlington Friends of the Drama presents the hilarious comedy *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* June 3–12. Performances are Friday, June 3 and June 10 at 8 PM; Saturday, June 4 and June 11 at 8 PM; and Sunday, June 5 and June 12 at 4 PM. A talk-back with the cast and production crew will follow the June 5 matinee performance.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased online at the AFD Theatre's website at www.afdtheatre.org. The theatre is located at 22 Academy Street in Arlington and is wheelchair accessible. AFD Theatre's box office can be reached at 781-646-5922. All phone messages are checked and returned by volunteers.

Written by the critically-acclaimed Christopher Durang, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* won the Tony Award in 2013 for Best Play. This delightful comedy of ill manners portrays middle-aged Vanya and his adopted sister Sonia, who live a quiet, mundane life in the Pennsylvania farmhouse where they grew up, while their glamorous sister Masha travels the world as a movie star.

Vanya and Sonia's daily existence is enlivened by the aptly-named Cassandra, the cleaning lady who issues routine warnings about terrible events in their future. Just after Cassandra's latest predictions, Masha returns for an unannounced visit with her 20-something boyfriend Spike in tow. So begins an unforgettable weekend that builds to a fever pitch of rivalry, regret, and racket.

Mixing Chekhov sensibilities with cringe-worthy flair, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* is a delightfully off-kilter summer romp that critics have hailed as "a sublime state of hilarity" and "a zany joy."



Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike is being directed by Mary Fitzpatrick. The cast includes **Jon Nuquist** as Vanya, **Jenny Gutbezahl** as Sonia, **Nancy Finn** as Masha, and **Noah Tobin** as Spike. **Sophia Milas** plays the role of Cassandra and **Nicole Williams** is portraying next-door neighbor Nina.

The town of Arlington is well represented in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Director Mary Fitzpatrick and cast member Sophia Milas are Arlington residents. Production crew members from Arlington include Gareth Williams on set tech, Jeaneen Barletta on hair design, and Charlotte Kelley on props and set dressing.



AFD Theatre presents the hilarious comedy *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* June 3–12. Pictured from left to right are **Jenny Gutbezahl** as Sonia, **Jon Nuquist** as Vanya, **Nancy Finn** as Masha, and **Noah Tobin** as Spike. Photograph by John Fogle.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike in Rehearsal

Photos by Mary Babic



Join Us for *The Women of AFD* June 19

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 19, 7:30 PM at AFD Theatre

Mark your calendars for the last members meeting of the 2015–2016 season on **June 19** which include special entertainment.

Conceived and directed by Ellen Kazin, we'll visit *The Women of AFD*.

June 19 will mark the final business meeting for the 2015–2016 season and it promises to be chock-full of information.

In addition to final reports from current board members, attendees will be treated to entertainment from *The Women of AFD*. Ellen Kazin has conceived and written a show featuring long-time members and newer members, all of whom will be reprising their memorable moments from past productions, dating back to the 1970s. And we'll have a special Friend at the 88s.

You will recognize some of the women and be treated to some newer (for you) faces. Ellen will let us in on some of the backstage secrets and surprises from these shows. Come and see Bob, Sheila, Suzy, Ann, Darlene, Jen, Phyllis, and Amy strut their stuff!

AFD Play-Reading Committee Seeking Member Suggestions for Next Season

It's that time of year again! The Play-Reading Committee is gearing up to begin work on the 2017–2018 season. AFD Program Director Jim Grana is asking members to email him at actorne_2000@yahoo.com to suggest plays or musicals that they would like to have the PRC consider. Just send him an e-mail with the title and author of the show.

Our Play Reading Committee begins work June 11. Your response is kindly requested before this date.



The cast of AFD's *A Chorus Line*, which wowed audiences this season.

President's Corner: A Note from David Warnock



Spring has finally arrived! There is so much to do as the season draws to a close. First off, we want to welcome our new (and excellent) appointees to the Board of Directors:

- Vice President Claire Livak
- Recording Secretary Lis Adams
- Box Office Director Cynthia Marsden Williams
- Publicity Director Nancy Rogier
- Program Director Jim Grana

As you know, the board is considering a number of issues related to AFD's health and future, including the all-important question, "Who are we as an organization?" As we come to grips with the changing world of local community theater, we are challenged to consider whether we are a theatrical producing venue or a theatrical club. Members have communicated their thoughts, and I welcome other members to be heard as well. All of us share in the future of AFD.

Congratulations to the cast and production team of *The Boy From Oz*. A terrific production all around, and what a finale! *Vanya and Masha and Sonia and Spike* is in rehearsal for a June opening to top off our season. We thank Mary Fitzpatrick, who graciously stepped in to replace director John Fogle, who had to withdraw for personal reasons. Auditions for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* are coming up in June. I just re-read the script, and was reminded of what a hilarious and touching show it is.

Please do not miss the June Annual Meeting on June 19 at 7:30 PM featuring updates on AFD activities and news, and best of all, *The Women of AFD* directed by Ellen Kazin. Ellen knows how to stage a great meeting entertainment so don't miss this one, and of course, we look forward to seeing you at the end-of-year party.

In closing, I can't resist citing yet another great literary mind:

"Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana."

—Attributed to Groucho Marx

See you at the theater, that is, at *our* theater.

David Warnock, President

Friendly

AFD offers heartfelt condolences to Deidre Adams, whose husband Doug Adams passed away recently. "Didi" was Barbara Horrigan's niece and was involved at AFD a great deal. She and Doug have remained members for many years. Please send your friendly news to Dot Santos at dotsantos@comcast.net.

Not Your Average Joe's Offer

When you come to Arlington to see *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, enjoy a meal or a bite to eat at [Not Your Average Joe's](#) before or after the performance, and get 15% off your bill!

The restaurant is located at 645 Mass Avenue in Arlington Center. Parking is available in the lot behind the restaurant.

BOX OFFICE CORNER

Order your tickets for *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* online at www.afdtheatre.org or by mail using the form in this edition of the Prologue. All ticket exchanges must be made through the box office. The easiest way to contact the box office is by email at office@afdtheatre.org, or you may call 781-646-5922. All phone messages will be checked and returned by a volunteer.

Information on how to order your tickets online was emailed to all members and subscribers, including your password. Make sure to add Mary Babic (afd-members@comcast.net) to your list of safe senders in order to receive all AFD email.

“You and Me, We Wanted It All . . .” And This Season, We Got It!

Were you a part of the 2015-2016 season? Did you attend performances? Did you volunteer as an usher? Were you a member of a production team?

Then you know: AFD had a dazzling season with professional-grade productions that hit new heights in attendance, set design, and talent.

Here’s some of the acclaim our past three productions drew from audience members.

A Chorus Line

“This was one of the most fantastic performances I have seen in a while . . . and I have seen some great ones that AFD has done . . . These kid were perfection.”

“The cast was amazing—they really made their characters come alive. Fabulous dancing and singing and the whole theatre really got into the NYC 1970s vibe.”

Clybourne Park

“We were so impressed with the actors . . . the set change was like a bonus half time show!”

“Stellar, thought provoking, entertaining and not to be missed.”

The Boy from Oz

“A LOT of fun!!”

“A fabulous time.”

“What a fantastic show!”

“AMAZING show . . . incredible cast, story, energy.”



Thom Hardy and Caroline Keeler singing “You and Me” from *The Boy from Oz*. Photo by Leslie Maiocco.

“If you really want to help the American theater, don't be an actress, dahling. Be an audience.”

—Tallulah Bankhead

The Fine Print

The Prologue is a publication of Arlington Friends of the Drama, published four to five times a year. Submissions of articles, information, ideas, and feedback are welcome from members, and may be submitted to Nancy Rogier, Prologue Editor, at violethush@yahoo.com or by calling 781-863-1186. Annual membership/subscription to AFD is \$70. Membership includes a ticket to each show, opportunities to get involved in all aspects of the theater, The Prologue, and various social activities.

Prologue Staff

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for paying for the printing of tickets
for our 93rd season!

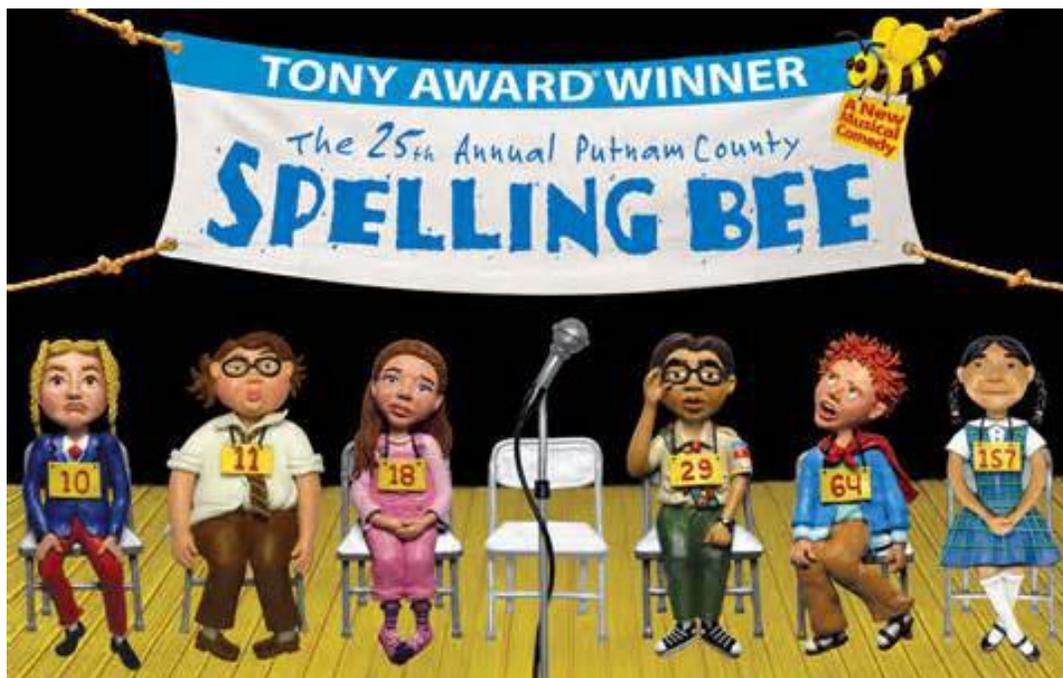
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Auditions June 20 and 25 for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*



Audition dates: Monday, June 20 at 7 PM and Saturday June 25 at 1 PM. **Callbacks:** Sunday, June 26 at 1 PM.

Actors and actresses of all age ranges, races, shapes and sizes are encouraged to audition. The directing team is open to casting roles in unconventional and unexpected ways.

Groups of actors will be scheduled in one-hour blocks.

Please bring two contrasting songs that show vocal and character range with an emphasis on character. They should be in the style of the show (a contemporary musical) but not from the show. There will be an accompanist. You will also be asked to read scenes from the show.

Please bring your resume and headshot and please fill out and bring the [Spelling Bee audition form](#).

You will be asked to read for the specific character you are being called back for, and sing through songs from the show (you'll know ahead of time which songs so you can prepare). There will also be a short movement piece.

Rehearsal dates: Rehearsals will begin the end of June, and throughout the summer will only be on

weekday evenings so you can have your summer weekends free!

Production dates: Sept 9–11, Sept 16–18, and Sept 23–25. Performance times are 8 PM on Fridays and Saturdays and 4 PM on Sundays.

Questions? Want to schedule a time slot? Contact Judy Weinberg, production manager, at judylynnweinberg@gmail.com, or leave a message on the theatre's voice mail, 781-646-5922, Ext. 1.

THE SPELLERS

LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUNENIERRE At ten years old, Logainne is the youngest and most politically aware speller, often making comments about current political figures. "SCHWARTZY" is driven by internal and external pressure, but above all by a desire to win to make her two fathers proud. She is somewhat of a neat freak, speaks with a lisp, and will be back next year.

RANGE: A3–F5

Requires a strong comedic character actress with strong vocal and harmonizing skills.

MARCY PARK A recent transfer from Virginia, Marcy placed ninth in last year's nationals. She speaks six languages, is a member of all-American hockey, a championship rugby player, plays Chopin and Mozart on multiple instruments, sleeps only three hours a night, hides in the bathroom cabinet, and is getting very tired of always winning. She is the poster child for overachievers, and attends a Catholic school called Our Lady of Intermittent Sorrows. She is also not allowed to cry.

RANGE: C4–E5

Requires a strong comedic character actress with strong vocal and harmonizing skills and strong movement skills.

OLIVE OSTROVSKY A newcomer to competitive spelling. Her mother is in an ashram in India and her father is working late, as usual, but he is trying to come sometime during the bee. Having found comfort in its words and vastness, Olive made friends with her dictionary at a very young age, helping her to make it to the competition. She starts enormously shy and shyly blossoms.

RANGE: B3–F5

Requires a strong comedic character actress with strong vocal and harmonizing skills.

CHIP TOLENTINO An athletic Boy Scout and champion of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, he returns to defend his title, but he finds puberty hitting at an inopportune moment. One of the oldest in the bunch, Chip is overconfident and a bit of a show-off.

RANGE: C4–B5

Requires a strong comedic character actor, with very strong vocal and harmonizing skills.

LEAF CONEYBEAR The second runner-up in his district, Leaf gets into the competition on a lark and finds everything about the bee incredibly amusing. He is home-schooled and comes from a large family of former hippies. He has severe Attention Deficit Disorder and spells words correctly while in a trance.

RANGE: A3–A5

Requires a very strong comedic character actor with strong vocal and harmonizing skills.

WILLIAM BARFEE A Putnam County Spelling Bee finalist last year, he was eliminated because of an allergic reaction to peanuts and is back for vindication. His famous “Magic Foot” method of spelling has boosted him to spelling glory, even though he only has one working nostril and a touchy, bullying, nerdy personality. He develops a crush on Olive despite his focus on the win.

RANGE: E4–B5

Requires a very strong comedic character actor with strong vocal and harmonizing skills. Some movement ability is a plus.

THE GROWN-UPS

RONA LISA PERETTI The number-one realtor in Putnam County, a former Putnam County Spelling Bee Champion herself, and the returning moderator. She is a sweet woman who loves children. Her interest in the competition is unflagging and drives it forward. She is polished and poised.

RANGE: B3–A

Requires a strong comedic character actress with great improv skills. Also very strong vocal and harmonizing skills.

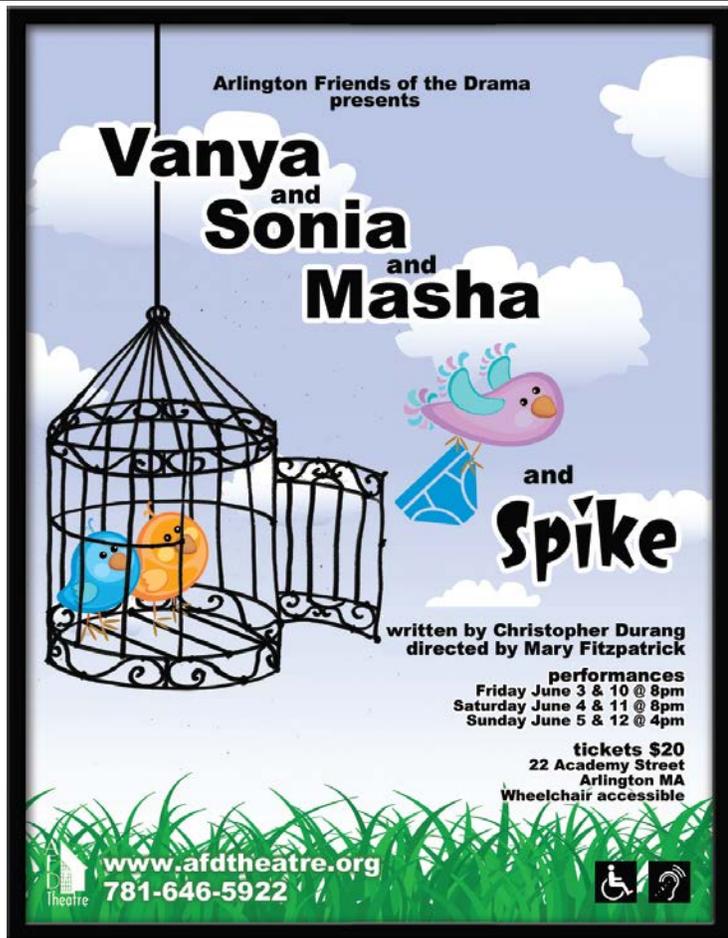
MITCH or MADGE MAHONEY The Official Comfort Counselor. An ex-convict, Mitch/Madge is performing community service with the Bee and hands out juice boxes to losing students. He/she has no idea how to offer comfort, but does find him/herself wishing he/she could find a way to make the kids feel better.

RANGE: E4–A5

Requires a strong comedic character actor/actress with very strong vocal and harmonizing skills.

DOUGLAS PANCH The Vice Principal of Putnam Middle School. Frustrated with his life, he finds the drive of the young spellers alien to him. After five years' absence from the Bee, Panch returns as judge. There was an “incident” at the Twentieth Annual Bee, but he claims to be in “a better place” now, thanks to a diet change.

Requires a strong comedic character actor, with great improv skills. Some singing required.



RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

by Christopher Durang
 Directed by Mary Fitzpatrick
 Production Manager Evelyn Corsini Alcorn

Stage Manager **Matthew Leiwant**
 Assistant Stage Manager **Clare Livak**
 Set Design **Bruce Greenwald**
 Set Tech **Gareth Williams**
 Lighting **Michael Patterson**
 Sound **Iain Bason**
 Costumes **Lindsay Hurley**
 Set Dressing and Props **Charlotte Kelly**
 Hair **Jeaneen Barletta**

Purchase tickets online at
www.afdtheatre.org

TO ORDER BY MAIL: Send this form, along with payment for guest tickets, to:
 Box Office, ARLINGTON FRIENDS OF THE DRAMA, 22 Academy Street, Arlington, MA 02476

AFD Exchange Policy: All ticket exchanges **MUST** be conducted through the AFD Box Office.
 Please call 781-646-5922 or email office@afdtheatre.org

----- CUT ALONG LINE -----

Name(s) _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Performance Date & Time _____

___ # of member tickets @ no cost = \$ 00
 ___ # of guest tickets @ \$20 each = \$ ___ Total Due
 ___ Total # of tickets

Announcing the 2016–2017 AFD Season

September 9–25, 2016

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Music, Lyrics, and Book by William Finn and Rachel Sheinkin

Stage Director and Choreographer, Justin McCoubry **Music Director, John D. Eldridge**

In hilarious, touching, and catchy songs, contestants reveal their hopes, struggles, and passions as they make their way through the spelling bee. This show even involves the A-U-D-I-E-N-C-E! About an hour before the show begins, audience members are given a chance to sign up and participate in the show as spelling-bee contestants. Drama Desk Winner for Best Book, Best Director, Best Ensemble, and Best Musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is a delight for young and old, and it's worthy of much applause.

November 11–20, 2016

An Inspector Calls

By J.B. Priestley

Director, Mary Fitzpatrick

One of the classics of 20th-century English theater, *An Inspector Calls* is a psychological drama about a prosperous family living in a comfortable home in the Midlands industrial region of England. The family is visited by a man calling himself Inspector Goole, who questions the family about the death of a young working-class woman. Everyone has a secret in this gripping mystery thriller.

March 3–19, 2017

Sunset Boulevard

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Lyrics and Book by Don Black and Christopher Hampton

Stage Director and Choreographer, Kevin Mark Kline **Music Director, Steven Bergman**

Sunset Boulevard weaves a magnificent tale of faded glory and unfulfilled ambition. Silent movie star Norma Desmond longs for a return to the big screen, having been discarded by Hollywood with the advent of "talkies." Her glamour has faded in all but her mind. Norma meets failed Hollywood screenwriter Joe Gillis in dramatic circumstances, and their subsequent relationship leads to an unforeseen and tragic conclusion. Andrew Lloyd Webber's score is one of his best. From the rich symphonic ambience of its lush overture, *Sunset Boulevard* captivates dramatically, musically, and visually.

May 12–May 21, 2017

The Graduate

A Play Adapted by Terry Johnson Based on the Novel by Charles Webb
and the Motion Picture Screenplay by Calder Willingham and Buck Henry

Director, Joe Stallone

This is the first play adaptation of the classic novel and cult film. Benjamin's got excellent grades, very proud parents and, since he helped Mrs. Robinson with her zipper, a fine future behind him. A bittersweet comedy that is rich, full, and funny, *The Graduate* gives off starlight. Playwright Terry Johnson has been described as "that rare creature: a moralist with wit."

A Company of Friends
22 Academy Street
Arlington MA 02476
Phone: 781-646-9337

Ticket line: 781-646-5922
Web Address: www.afdtheatre.org

