



PROLOGUE

May 2017

Hat's Off to The Graduate May 12–21

Arlington Friends of the Drama is presenting *The Graduate* May 12 through 21 in a production that includes a grand total of 14 Arlington residents, including director **Joe Stallone**.

"It's a delightful surprise to have so many people from our town in one show," Joe said at a recent rehearsal. "It rarely happens, and for a small cast, it's a welcome miracle."

Of the cast of just nine actors, five are current residents and one grew up here.

Another nine Arlington residents have offstage roles from directing to building the set to managing the box office.

The Graduate on stage at AFD Theatre is based in part on the iconic 1967 movie directed by Mike Nichols and starring Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft. The movie is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

AFD Theatre, however, is celebrating the fact that so many Arlington residents are involved in the show.

Tickets for the production are \$20 and are available at www.afdtheatre.org/up-next.

PERFORMANCE DATES

Friday, May 12 at 8 PM

Saturday, May 13 at 8 PM

Thursday, May 18 at 7:30 PM

Friday, May 19 at 8 PM

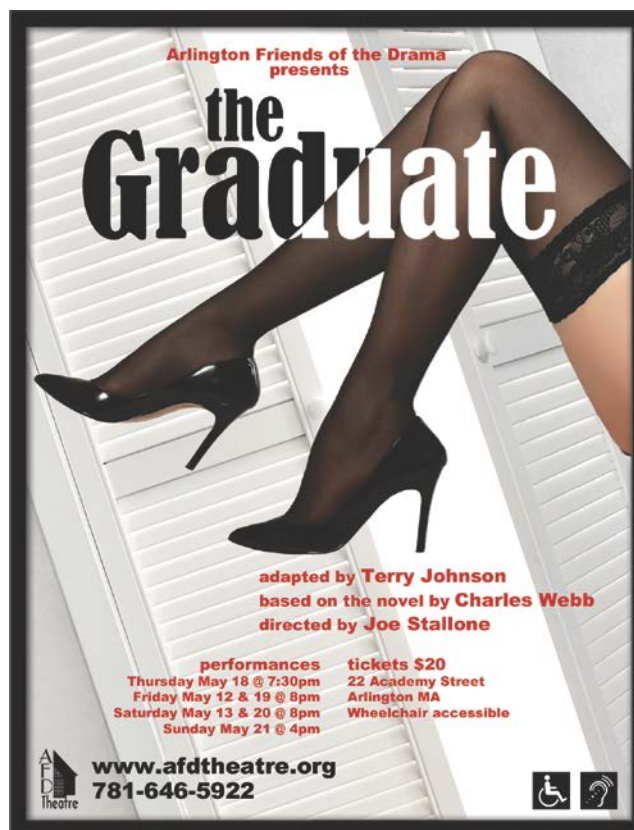
Saturday, May 20 at 8 PM

Sunday, May 21 at 4 PM

No show Sunday, May 14 due to Mother's Day.

The Graduate tells the story of college graduate Benjamin Braddock, uncertain about his future, disconnected from his purpose, and increasingly alienated from the 1960s conventional, "plastic" world of his parents.

Benjamin's life gets even more confusing after a fateful encounter with Mrs. Robinson, the wife of his father's business partner.



Two-for-One Ticket Offer for 2017 Graduates!

Opening Night Only, May 12 If you're graduating—from high school or college or graduate school—you and a guest get in for just \$20!

Show your student ID, or name the high school you're graduating from this year.

This offer can only be purchased the night of the show at the Box Office.

The role of Benjamin is played by Arlington newcomer **Dominic Berger**. Ten-year-resident **Karen Fanale** is playing the part of Mrs. Robinson.

Other Arlington residents acting in the show are **Tom Formicola**, **Mark Jefferys**, and **Sara Maria**. Cast member **Miranda Reilly** grew up in Arlington and recently moved.

Arlington residents on the production team include set techs **Charlie Carr** and **Clare Livak**, costume designer **Linda Burt**, props designer **Lis Adams**, hair and makeup designers **Richard Sullivan** and **Jean Ellen Pendergrass**, box office manager **Gareth Williams**, and house director **Mark Bastoni**.

Leading actors Dominic Berger and Karen Fanale were drawn to the production for similar reasons.

Dominic moved to Arlington from Connecticut in 2016 and immediately started to seek opportunities in community theater. After auditioning for *An Inspector Calls* earlier in the season, he “instantly fell in love with the theatre.”

“The space was incredibly intimate, and the staff was open and personable,” Dominic said. “*The Graduate* is such an iconic movie, and I was eager for the chance to be a part of the stage performance. I feel blessed to be cast in a show with an amazing stage company so close to home.”



Dominic Berger as Benjamin in rehearsal for *The Graduate*

A graduate of the University of Connecticut, Dominic has acted with Theatre@First in Somerville, Playhouse on Park Theatre in West Hartford, CT, and the Connecticut Repertory Theatre.



Karen Fanale will play Mrs. Robinson in *The Graduate*

The iconic role of Mrs. Robinson and the hometown location was a strong pull for Karen Fanale as well.

“Since AFD is so close and does such good work, I’ve wanted to be involved in a show here for years,” Karen said. “I worked with director Joe Stallone in *A Little Night Music* here a few years ago and wanted to work here again. Mrs. Robinson is a dream role. AFD has a great, supportive production staff, too!”

Karen’s extensive theater credits include roles in *Blithe Spirit*, *Carousel*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Lend Me a Tenor*.

“It’s a delightful surprise to have so many people from our town in one show. It rarely happens, and for a small cast, it’s a welcome miracle.”
Director Joe Stallone

Miranda Reilly is playing the role of Elaine Robinson, daughter of Mrs. Robinson. Miranda grew up in Arlington and now lives in West Roxbury. She has trained at the American Conservatory Theater, Emerson College, and Sarah Lawrence College. Making her debut at AFD Theatre, she has performed with The Footlight Club in Jamaica Plain, Boston Rock Opera, Vokes Theatre, Wheelock Family Theater, Boston Actors Theatre, and in several Emerson College productions. She is a 2016 graduate of Sarah Lawrence College with a BA in acting.



Miranda Reilly is playing the role of Elaine in *The Graduate*

In the play, Benjamin has parents who are well-meaning but increasingly bewildered by their son's behavior. His father is Mr. Braddock, played by Arlington resident **Tom Formicola** who is returning to the stage after a two-decade absence.

"When I realized that I hadn't stepped on a stage in 20 years, I made it my New Year's resolution to go to an audition," Tom said. "With a terrific theater company on my doorstep, I didn't have to think too hard about where to go. And just my luck—I found an audition notice for *The Graduate*, and here I am in the spotlight again. It's a total thrill."

Rehearsal photos by Mary Babic

But wait, there's more!

Arlingtonian cast members also include **Mark Jefferys** as Mr. Robinson and **Sara Maria** in multiple roles.

Mark made his AFD debut in *Dancing at Lughnasa* and also starred in AFD's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Inherit the Wind*. Mark has performed at many venues in the Boston area, including starring in an annual one-man performance of *A Christmas Carol* in Shirley.

Also making her AFD debut is Arlington resident Sara Maria. Her extensive dance and acting credits include such productions as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Crucible*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Richard III*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Rounding out the cast are **Jyoti Daniere** of Cambridge, as Mrs. Braddock, **Lou Fuoco** of Cambridge, playing multiple roles, and **Steve Robins** of Watertown, also playing multiple roles.



Miranda Reilly and Dominic Berger



Tom Formicola, Dominic Berger, Jyoti Daniere, and Steve Robins

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AFD Theatre is located at 22 Academy Street, Arlington Center, MA

[Tickets \\$20 On Sale Now](#)

The Cast of The Graduate

Benjamin Braddock: Dominic Berger

Mrs. Robinson: Karen Fanale

Mr. Robinson: Mark Jefferys

Elaine Robinson: Miranda Reilly

Mr. Braddock: Tom Formicola

Mrs. Braddock: Jyoti Danieri

Hotel Clerk/Priest/Man in Bar: Lou Fuoco

Psychiatrist/Barman: Steve Robins

Stripper/Receptionist: Sara Maria

Production Team

Director: Joe Stallone

Production Managers: Barbara Moss and
David Warnock

Stage Manager: Margaret Umbsen

Assistant Stage Manager: Sarah O'Neill

Set Designers: Charlie Carr and Joe Stallone

Lighting Designer: Greg Mancusi-Ungaro

Assistant Lighting Designer: Eleanor Mancusi-Ungaro

Costume Designer: Linda Burt

Sound Designer: Grant Furguele

Properties and Set Dressing: Lis Adams

Hair and Makeup Design: Jean Ellen Pendergrass
and Richard Sullivan

Set Tech: Charlie Carr and Clare Livak

Box Office: Gareth Williams

Publicity: Mark Bastoni, Nancy Rogier

Show Photographer: Leslie Maiocco

Refreshments: Lis Adams, Evelyn Corsini Alcorn

Program Art: David Foucher

Program: Nancy Rogier

AFD Social Media Manager: Kevin Mark Kline

AFD Webmaster: Mary Babic

Meet Next Season's Directors and Choreographers

We're thrilled to announce the directors, music directors, and choreographers for our 2017–2018 season! Next season brings an outstanding level of experience and talent to AFD. You can meet everyone at the closing meeting on June 4 at 7:30 at the theater. Until then, here's a profile of our creative team!

The Light in the Piazza

The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays

9 to 5: The Musical

Unnecessary Farce

Ryan Began, Stage Director, *The Light in the Piazza*

Ryan earned a BA in Theatre from Suffolk University. His professional career includes Artistic Intern and Producing Fellow at SpeakEasy Stage Company and Instructor at Boston Children's Theatre. Highlights of his extensive show credits include Director of *Lost in Yonkers* (Theatre Company of Saugus), Assistant Director of *Show Boat* (Fiddlehead Theatre Company), Assistant to the Director for *Come Back, Little Sheba* (Huntington Theatre Company), Assistant Director for *Closer Than Ever* (New Repertory Theater), and Assistant Director for *Carrie: The Musical*, *In the Heights*, *Clybourne Park*, and *Bloody Andrew Jackson* (SpeakEasy Stage Company).

John Eldridge, Music Director, *The Light in the Piazza*

John is a pianist, conductor, music director, voice coach, arranger, and composer. He was Music Director of this season's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and has extensive experience with community theater groups, professional companies, colleges, and schools. His professional theater credits include Associate Music Director for *Songs for a New World* (Gloucester Stage) and Assistant Music Director for *Thoroughly Modern Mille*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Me and My Girl* (Reagle Music Theatre). His community theater credits include Music Director, Conductor, and Keyboard Programmer for *In the Heights* (The Beantown Players), Music Director and Conductor for *Jekyll & Hyde* and *Hello, Dolly!* and Music Director and Piano/Conductor for *Chicago* (Pentucket Players).

J. Deschene, Director, *The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays*

J. Deschene is an actress, singer, and director. Her directing credits include *Murder is a Private Affair* (Post Meridian Radio Players), *Future Girl Visits Barbie's Mom* (SLAM Boston, world premiere), *The Trojan Women*, *The Case of the Careless Victim*, and *Lysistrata* (Theatre@First), and *Hansel and Gretel* (MassTheatrica). Her acting credits include *The Fear Project* (Open Theatre Project), *Amadeus* (Moonbox Productions), *1776* and *The Gondoliers* (MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Theatre@First), and *Pygmalion* (Flat Earth Theatre).

Allison Mosier Sheff, Director, *9 to 5: The Musical*

Allison is a member of SAG-AFTRA and Actor's Equity. Director and choreography credits include *Altar Boyz* and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Papermill Theatre, NH) and *Alexander and The . . . Bad Day* and *Goin' Buggy* (Ogunquit Playhouse, ME). On Broadway, she was Children's Artistic Liaison for *Matilda*, *A Little Night Music*, *Billy Elliot*, *White Christmas*, *The Lion King*, and *Beauty and the Beast*.

Anthony P. Sacco, Music Director, *9 to 5: The Musical*

Anthony has extensive experience as a music director, pianist, and conductor. He was Music Director, Pianist, and Conductor for *Heathers: The Musical* and *Urinetown* (Theatre Company of Saugus), *Motel Rasdell: A New Musical* (Lowell Memorial Auditorium), Musical Director/Rehearsal Pianist for *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Princeton University Players), and Musical Director/Pianist I/Conductor for *Godspell Jr.* (Sprague Performing Arts Collaborative.)

Bradford L. Robinson, Choreographer, *9 to 5: The Musical*

Bradford is an actor, singer, dancer, musical director, and choreographer. He earned a BA in Music from Salem State University. His credits include Choreographer for *Bye Bye Birdie* and *The Music Man* (Galvin Middle Theatre), Tango Choreographer/Dance Captain for *The Comedy of Errors* (Salem State Theatre), Collaborative Choreographer and the role of Cosmo Brown in *Singin' in the Rain* (Wakefield High School), and Assistant Choreographer for *Disney's My Son, Pinocchio* and *The Prince and The Pauper* (Wakefield Rep Youth).

Stephen Rourke, Director, *Unnecessary Farce*

Stephen is an actor, director, dramaturg, writer, and voice talent. As a drama teacher at Waltham High School, he directed *Romeo and Juliet*, *Little Mary Sunshine*, *Dandelion Wine*, *The Bear*, and *Carousel*. His acting credits include *1776*, *The Music Man*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *42nd Street*, and *The Sound of Music* (Reagle Music Theatre). Stephen also is a corporate video writer-producer/director, editor, live event producer and stage manager, scenic lighting designer, scenic artist, and keyboard musician.

President's Corner: A Note from David Warnock



In August 2016, as we entered our 94th season, I listed some AFD people and events to cheer for. Here is a look back at an eventful season with some observations and some additions.

- *New board members: Vice President Clare Livak, Recording Secretary Lis Adams, Publicity Director Nancy Rogier, and Box Office Director Cynthia Marsden Williams.* We now welcome five new board members: Steve Atwater, Charlie Carr, Lindsay Hurley, Colleen Locke, and Judy Weinberg. Our appreciation goes to the exiting Lis Adams, Mark Bastoni, Mary Fitzpatrick, Jim Grana, and Joe Stallone.

- *The producers, directors, artists, musicians, crews, actors, and audiences that, together, will bring to life our 2016-2017 season: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, An Inspector Calls, Sunset Boulevard, and The Graduate.* How brilliantly they delivered! Now, watching "The Graduate" cast and production team in action, I'm struck by the depth of talent and commitment our volunteers are devoting to every aspect of this show.
- *Our enhanced social media presence.* Our media team continues to grow AFD's online presence.
- *Town Day in September.* Beautiful weather, lots of exposure for AFD, with members of the "Spelling Bee" cast and team on hand promoting their show and play spelling games with the crowd.
- *The Daniel J. Rabone Memorial Fund benefit concert in October.* A memorable tribute to our friend, and a successful fundraiser for the theater education program established in his name.
- *The Indie Film Festival in December.* A first-time event that brought new people into our theater for these funny, touching films.
- *Neil McGarry's one-man performance of A Christmas Carol in December.* A first-time collaboration with Bay Colony Shakespeare Company, a family-oriented audience, a food drive, and a holiday party.
- *Sunset Boulevard movie event at the Regent Theater in January.* A first-time Hollywood style promotion that introduced new people to AFD.
- *The Wellesley Players closed their final production for the foreseeable future in April.* We are grateful for our building and assets, which we must continue to manage wisely into our second century.

Coming next in 2017 and beyond:

- "The Graduate" opens on May 12.
- New Board members assume their roles on June 4.
- ArlingTEN Short Play Festival returns on June 9 and 10.
- AFD returns to the Arlington Alive Summer Arts Block Party on June 24.
- We welcome the new and returning producers, directors, artists, musicians, crews, actors, and audiences that, together, will bring to life our 2017–2018 season.

Finally, the constant source of strength through the years, our members and volunteers, without whom none of this is possible.

David Warnock, President

Friendly

Please send your friendly news to Dot Santos at dotsantos@comcast.net.

BOX OFFICE CORNER

Order your tickets for *The Graduate* online at <http://www.ticketstage.com/T/AFD>. 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.

Save the Date

ArlingtonTEN Short Play Festival

Last year's ArlingTEN Short Play Festival was so much fun, we just had to do it again!

It's an evening stacked with a variety of 10-minute plays by area playwrights.

June 9 and 10 at 8 PM

Tickets Just \$10!



Shop at Amazon and Donate to AFD

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, it's the same thing as shopping on Amazon with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to AFD Theatre. On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, select Arlington Friends of the Drama Inc before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at will result in a donation to AFD Theatre.

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 nancyrogier95@gmail.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

Nancy Rogier, Editor

Tom Lawrence, Phyllis Uloth, Proofreaders

Thank You ONCE AGAIN to
SHATTUCK ACE HARDWARE STORE



for paying for the printing of tickets
for our 94th season!

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Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/36812824184/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/AFDTheatre/>

Applications Open Until May 15

Denis M. Fitzpatrick Scholarship

In memory of long-time member and Belmont High School teacher, Arlington Friends of the Drama awards the annual Denis M. Fitzpatrick Scholarship to a deserving area student.

The application process for 2017 is NOW OPEN.

Applications are due by May 15, 2017. The 2017 scholarship will be awarded at the AFD business meeting on June 4, 2017.

The scholarship is open to any graduating high school senior going on to higher education, who:

- Has worked, either as cast or crew, in school or community theater
- Plans to pursue higher education in theater arts or participate in school or community theater while pursuing higher education

Priority is given to students who have been active at AFD.

[Download the Application.](#) Or use the one below. Please fill out and return by May 15, 2017. Either hard copy mailed to the theatre, or email.

DENIS M. FITZPATRICK SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2017

Name: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of High School: _____

I am a senior/high school graduate applying for the Denis M. Fitzpatrick college scholarship at Arlington Friends of the Drama. Below is the name of the educational institution I will attend, or hope to attend, and my intended major/minor.

School: _____

Major/Minor: _____

Write below, or attach separately, your theater resume, noting roles/positions that were the most meaningful to you.

Show	Role/Crew Position	Location	Year
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How has theater enriched your life?

How do you plan to keep theater a part of your life in the future?

Signature

Date

Return completed application by 5/15/2017 to AFD Theatre: Attn: Scholarship Committee, 22 Academy Street, Arlington, MA 02476, or email as a PDF to afdscholarship@gmail.com.

We Are Thrilled to Announce Our 2017–2018 AFD Season

The Light in the Piazza

October 13–29, 2017

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

Book by Craig Lucas, Music & Lyrics by Adam Guettel

Stage Director, Ryan Began

Musical Director, John Eldridge

Based on a novella by Elizabeth Spencer, the story is set in the 1950s and revolves around a wealthy Southern woman and her daughter, Clara, who spend a summer together in Italy. When Clara falls in love with a young Italian man, Margaret is forced to reconsider not only Clara's future, but her own deep seated hopes and regrets as well. Winner of five Tony Awards.

The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays

December 8–17, 2017

By Ken Ludwig

Stage Director, J. Deschene

It's December 1936, and Broadway star William Gillette, admired the world over for his role as Sherlock Holmes, has invited his fellow cast-members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. The danger and hilarity are nonstop in this glittering whodunit set during the Christmas holidays.

9 to 5: The Musical

March 9–26, 2018

Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton

Book by Patricia Resnick

Stage Director, Allison Mosier Sheff

Musical Director, Anthony Sacco

Choreographer, Bradford Robinson

A hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era. Three unlikely friends conspire to take control of their company and learn that there's nothing they can't do—even in a "man's world." Outrageous, thought-provoking, and even a little romantic.

Unnecessary Farce

May 11–20, 2018

By Paul Slade Smith

Director, Stephen Rourke

In a cheap motel room, an embezzling mayor is supposed to meet with his female accountant—while in the room next door two undercover cops wait to catch the meeting on videotape. But there's some confusion as to who's in which room, who's being videotaped, who's taken the money, who's hired a hit man, and why the accountant keeps taking off her clothes. Dazzlingly funny!

A Company of Friends
22 Academy Street
Arlington MA 02476
Phone: 781-646-9337
Ticket line: 781-646-5922
Web Address: www.afdtheatre.org



The Graduate
May 12-21
Tickets on Sale Now

AFD Closing Meeting
June 4

ArlingTEN Short Play Festival
June 9-10