

May 2021

Arlington Friends of the Drama  
**Prologue**



## **There's So Much News to Share . . . And We're Back in the Theater ( We Hope!) This Fall!**

### **President's Letter**

With rehearsals now underway for Dynamic Duos, AFD's May streaming offering in our Live at AFD! series, you can just see how excited and relieved people are to be back in the theater. Rifling through props, wading through the sea of clothes in the costume room, positioning furniture on the stage, and practicing lines, it's just plain old fun to be back and doing this again.

AFD is extremely fortunate that we own our fabulous building, and we've been happy this past year to share it with other theater, music, and arts groups in need of a stage. It's been heartening to see how the arts community has come together and supported each other during the pandemic.

As you'll note when you read through this Prologue, the Board of Directors and various committees have been hard at work this past year. Presenting our streaming series, scheduling our upcoming season for live audiences (I hope!), maintaining the building, and planning for our upcoming 100th anniversary are just a few of the projects keeping us busy.

Please reach out to us anytime if you have any questions or suggestions. You can reach me at [info@afdtheatre.org](mailto:info@afdtheatre.org).

Thanks for reading, and we can't wait to all be together again at the theater!

**Judy Weinberg, AFD President**

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# DYNAMIC DUOS | MAY 20, 2021



## UP NEXT Live from AFD! Dynamic Duos May 20 at 7 PM

Live from AFD! Dynamic Duos is part of a series of live performances on our stage that are streamed live and also recorded for later viewing.

Dynamic Duos is an evening of scenes with two characters from well-known plays. Each scene runs approximately 10 minutes or less.

### FOR THE LINK TO VIEW LIVE ON MAY 20, 2021 AT 7PM:

Join our E-mail list (contact [info@afdtheatre.org](mailto:info@afdtheatre.org) and ask to be added) or become an AFD member.

**Parallel Lives** directed by Chelsea Zabel  
Stanis Ames (Being One)  
Jyoti Daniere (Being Two)

**The Odd Couple** directed by Cathy Alexander  
Mark Branson (Oscar)  
Judson Pierce (Felix)

**The Taming of the Shrew** directed by Jessica Going  
Michael Jay (Petruccio)  
Danielle Wehner (Katherine)

**Doubt** directed by Nick Neyeloff  
Sheila Kelleher (Sr. Aloysius)  
Imani Powell (Mrs. Muller)

**Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** directed by Joe Stallone  
Brett Lovins (George)  
Lorna Noguiera (Martha)

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# Announcing Our 2021-2022 Season

## **The All Night Strut!**

Conceived and Originally Directed and Choreographed by Fran Charnas  
Musical Arrangements by Tom Fitt, Gil Lieb, and Dick Schermesser  
Additional Orchestrations by Corey Allen

**October 7-17, 2021**

Stage Director/Choreographer: Susan Chebookjian  
Music Director: Dan Rodriguez  
Production Manager: Judy Weinberg

A sassy celebration of the 1930s and '40s, this jukebox musical offers a bonanza of the way things were during the Depression, World War II, and the post-war boom. From the funky jive of Harlem to the sophisticated elegance of El Morocco and the romance of the Stage Door Canteen, this is an evening filled with jazz, blues, bebop and classic songs.

## **Angel Street**

by Patrick Hamilton

**December 3-19, 2021**

Director: Paul Dixon  
Production Managers: Evelyn Corsini Alcorn, Mary Hummon, and Ginger Webb

A Broadway hit first produced on the West End under the title "Gaslight," this mystery thriller tells the story of the Mannings, who live on Angel Street in 19th-century London. Familiar with the term "gaslighting"? It comes from this classic work of drama in which the tension builds into some of the most suspenseful sequences in modern theatre. The famous movie version of "Gaslight" featured Joseph Cotton and Ingrid Bergman.

## **Pippin**

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz  
Book by Roger O. Hirson  
Originally Produced on the Broadway Stage by Stuart Ostrow  
Directed on the Broadway Stage by Bob Fosse  
2013 Broadway Revival Directed by Diane Paulus  
Orchestrations for 2013 Revival by Larry Hochman

**February 25-March 13, 2022**

Stage Director: Ryan Began  
Music Director: James Haupt  
Choreographer: Daisy Giunta  
Production Managers: Sandy Armstrong and Susan Harrington

With an infectiously unforgettable score from four-time Grammy winner, three-time Oscar winner and musical theatre giant, Stephen Schwartz, "Pippin" is the story of one young man's journey to be extraordinary. Winner of four 2013 Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival, this updated circus-inspired version continues to captivate and appeal to the young-at-heart throughout the world.

## **Boeing, Boeing**

By Marc Camoletti  
Translated by Beverly Cross and Francis Evans

**May 6-22, 2022**

Director: Danny Bolton  
Production Manager: Ginger Webb

A hit comedy similar in vein to Shakespeare's comedies of merry misadventures and mistaken identities, "Boeing Boeing" relates the exploits of French bachelor Bernard as he juggles three lady loves. Three flight attendants, to be exact, from three different countries.

Bernard's life hits some turbulence when complications such as a new, speedier Boeing jet disrupt his careful stratagems to keep all three girlfriends in the dark about each other.

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## Membership Update

The Board thanks our members and subscribers for their continued support despite not having a regular slate and in-person shows this past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, we held our own with 2020-2021 membership as follows:

Subscribers 244, Members 128, Honorary 17, and Comps 26 for a total of 415 for the 2020-2021 season. Last season totaled 436.

This past season we charged \$20, instead of \$70. For the 2021-2022 season, the cost will return to \$70. The membership renewal mailing will go out mid-June. Volunteers are welcome to join a mailing party at the theater on June 5 at 3 PM. Email [info@afdtheatre.org](mailto:info@afdtheatre.org) if you'd like to help.

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### Friendly News

We send our own **Jimmy Grana** all the very best wishes our hearts can hold as he recovers at home from recent surgery. Keep up the good work, Jimmy! We look forward to seeing you at the theatre soon!



We are sad to report that two long-time AFD members have passed away: **Dot Lansil** and **Sally Rogers**. Many of us cherish memories of Dot and Sally over the years at AFD. Our deepest condolences go out to their families.

Congratulations to longtime member and volunteer **Lindsey Joy Hurley** and her husband Kevin, on the birth of their baby boy.

**Judy Weinberg** is your Friendly contact. Send her news you want to share via the Prologue. Email Judy at [judylynnweinberg@gmail.com](mailto:judylynnweinberg@gmail.com).

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## The Lexington Players and the Power of Community Theater

Community theater is all about collaboration and cooperation, not just within a single group but between different groups as well. Bonds strengthen as new productions are created, and that's just what's been happening between the Lexington Players and AFD Theatre.

The Lexington Players' award-winning production of "Who Will Sing for Lena?" by Janice Liddell has been performed live in New York City, on the stage of the Hovey Theatre, streamed by Needham Community Theater, performed at the Mosesian Center for the Arts, and presented at numerous theater festivals. Produced and directed by Sal Jones and starring [Jes Washington](#), this captivating one-woman show won best production at the New England Theatre Conference festival and AACTFest 2019.

In 2020, "Who Will Sing for Lena?" won best play at the Atlanta Black Theatre Festival,

which took place online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That performance was taped on the AFD stage.

The Lexington Players followed "Who Will Sing for Lena?" with "The Mountaintop," written by Katori Hall. This powerfully moving drama is a fictional depiction of Martin Luther King Jr.'s last night in Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. On the eve of his assassination, Dr. King cools down in a lonely Memphis hotel room after delivering the speech of a lifetime—when an unexpected visit from a young hotel maid leads King into a confrontation with his doubts, fears, and haunting premonitions. Directed by Sal Jones, the play features Dominic Carter as Martin Luther King, Jr., and Jes Washington as the maid Camae.

**This year, [ACCTFest 2021](#) will be a virtual festival with 12 productions streamed live June 14-20. "The Mountaintop" will be one of those productions.** Once again its production was taped on the AFD stage.

On May 9, the excitement began in earnest when Colvin Theatricals, a professional video production crew, arrived at AFD Theatre to record the Lexington Players' production of "The Mountaintop" to be presented during Virtual AACTFest 2021. [Tickets for "The Mountaintop" and all 2021 virtual AACTFest productions are available on the AACT website.](#)





Meanwhile, the Lexington Players' production of "Who Will Sing for Lena?" was accepted at the [2021 Mondial du Théâtre](#), the world's leading festival celebrating amateur and community theater. Held every four years, the festival takes place in Monaco as an official event of the International Amateur Theatre Association organized under the patronage of the Prince of Monaco. [The Lexington Players' production has been selected to represent the United States, competing against productions from 14 other countries.](#) Congratulations to the Lexington Players for this exceptional honor! Festival dates are August 17-22.

**We're excited to share that the Lexington Players will travel to Monaco in August with playwright Janice Liddell where they will perform "Who Will Sing for Lena" in a live performance.** EMACT is helping the Lexington Players raise funds for their travel and expenses and will match dollar-for-dollar all donations up to \$5,000. Please consider supporting this effort, which raises the visibility of community theater and of creators of color in the United States. [To make a contribution in support of this exceptional honor, donate online here.](#)

We're sure you will recognize many of these members of the Lexington Players production team for "Who Will Sing for Lena?" and "The Mountaintop." They have contributed to community theater in the Boston area for many years and many decades.

#### **Who Will Sing for Lena?**

Producer and Director: Sal Jones

Co-Producer: Susan Harrington

Set Designer : Doug Cooper

Sound Designer and Lighting Designer: Michael McTeague

#### **The Mountaintop**

Director: Sal Jones

Co-Producers: Sal Jones and Susan Harrington

Set Designer: Doug Cooper

Lighting and Sound Designer: Michael McTeague

Costumes: Michelle Aguillon

Wigs: Marc Capizzi

Stage Manager: Nadine Sa

Props: Susan Harrington, Doug Cooper, Amy Newberg, Charlotte Kelly, Bret Bahe

"The Mountaintop" photos courtesy of The Lexington Players

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**In Case You Missed It:  
April Membership Meeting**

Our April Membership Meeting took place over Zoom on April 25 with about 35 participants. Member business included announcing and voting on the 2021-2022 Board of Director nominations and director reports.

## Membership Meeting Highlights

**Susan Harrington** is chairing the AFD 100th Anniversary Celebration committee. Under the theme of 100 Years of Excellence, anniversary plans include turning the lobby into an exhibit space that highlights AFD history and individuals who have contributed to the success of the theater.

Here are the Officers and Directors elected for the 2021-2022 season.

PRESIDENT Judy Weinberg (3rd year)  
VICE-PRESIDENT Ginger Webb (2nd year)  
TREASURER Shelley Brown (2nd year)  
RECORDING SECRETARY Shayna Loeffler (2nd year)  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Jocelyn Hesse (1st year)  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR Sandy Armstrong (1st year)  
PUBLICITY DIRECTOR Greg Mancusi-Ungaro (1st year)  
HOUSE DIRECTOR Charlie Carr (1st year)  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Iain Bason (1st year)  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR Abby Seidel (3rd year)  
BOX OFFICE DIRECTOR Clare Livak (2nd year)

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE Rich Trevino (re-elect for new 3-year term)  
(Continuing: Stu Kazin, 2nd year; Joe Stallone, 3rd year\*)  
(\*Joe replaced Brian Rehrig in mid-term)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE Marie Gertje, Teri Muller, David Warnock

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