



News  
from the  
Attic

SPRING  
2018

TELLING GREAT STORIES



## Message from the President...

*Community theatre is an amazing experience!! On either side of the curtain, those involved represent a diversity of age, culture, life experience and a strong appreciation of the importance of the arts. It has a positive impact on youth, seniors, area businesses, and most importantly on the community at large.*

*We have been on quite some journey these past 67 years producing season after season of excellent theatre. As we look toward our 68th season of sharing award-winning plays, meeting new challenges, and exploring new artistic possibilities, I wanted to reflect on some of the changes Attic Theatre has implemented.*

*The Attic Theatre Board was looking to change the experience when attending a production. After the critical success and audience reactions to our productions of **The Lion in Winter**, **Becky's New Car** and **Other Desert Cities** in the Lucia Baehman Theatre space, the Board decided to embrace the chamber theatre model. Chamber theatre refers to a theatre company that presents smaller shows in a black box performance space, making the production more theatrical and intimate. Chamber theatre forces the actors and audiences to focus on the story and performances rather than the spectacle. In most cases the seating can be almost in the playing space and audience members get a fly-on-the wall experience. So welcome to ACT! (Attic Chamber Theatre).*

*We offered adult beverages in the lobby pre-show and during intermission creating, we hope, an adult evening at the theatre. So, come early this year for a glass of wine or beer, visit the Alyward Gallery, and sit back and enjoy local musicians who will be performing prior to the shows.*

*We continue to search out plays that tell great stories. We pledge to look at classics and new works that challenge us and you our audience. If you don't recognize a title, look for information on our play reading club where you can read a copy of the new play we are presenting and then attend a discussion group to talk about it.*

*We have a long history of creating excellent theatre here in the Fox Valley and we have big plans for the future. We hope you are excited by the new direction we have undertaken.*

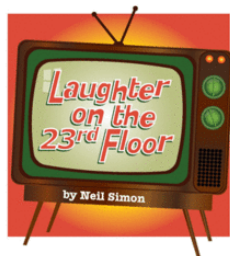
*We look forward to sharing our great stories. Get your tickets now and we will see you this summer.*

*- Berray Billington, President*

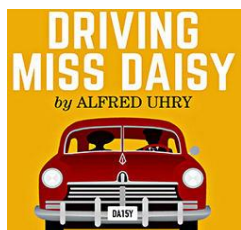
# Season Synopsis

By Berray Billington

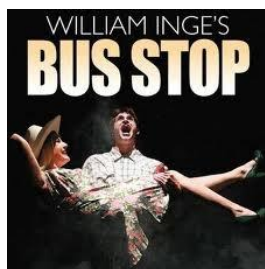
A need to tell and hear stories is essential to the human experience. Oral traditions of storytelling are found in several civilizations. They predate the printed and online press. Oral stories passed from one generation to the next and storytellers were regarded as healers, leaders, spiritual guides, teachers, cultural secret keepers and entertainers. Oral storytelling came in various forms including songs, poetry, chants and dance, which in turn became theatrical performances. Attic Chamber Theatre is all about telling great stories and creating excellent theatre through performance. We are proud to announce our 68<sup>th</sup> season\*.



We will open our season with Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor* running June 7 - 15<sup>th</sup>. Inspired by Simon's early career experience as a junior writer for *Your Show of Shows*, the play focuses on the Sid Caesar-like Max Prince, the star of a weekly comedy-variety show circa 1953. His staff, includes Simon's alter-ego Lucas Brickman, who maintains a running commentary on the writing, fighting, and wacky antics taking place in the writers' room. The play is notable not only for its insider's look at the personalities and processes of television comedy writing, but also for its reflection of the political and social undercurrents of its time. The play is laugh out loud funny.



For our second show, running June 21- 29<sup>th</sup>, we will take a gentler tone with the Pulitzer Prize Winning *Driving Miss Daisy* by Alfred Uhry. The time is 1948, just prior to the civil rights movement. Daisy Werthan, a rich, sharp-tongued Jewish widow of seventy-two, is informed by her son, Boolie, that henceforth she must rely on the services of a chauffeur. The person he hires for the job is a thoughtful, unemployed black man, Hoke, whom Miss Daisy immediately regards with disdain and who, in turn, is not impressed with his employer's patronizing tone and, he believes, her latent prejudice. Slowly and steadily the dignified, good-natured Hoke breaks down the stern defenses of the ornery old lady, and as the play ends Hoke has a final visit with Miss Daisy, now ninety-seven and confined to a nursing home. It is movingly clear that they have both come to realize they have more in common than they ever believed possible or that times and circumstances would ever allow them to publicly admit.



ACT will close the season July 12 - 20<sup>th</sup> with a classic from one of the masters of the American Theatre, William Inge's *Bus Stop*. In the middle of a howling snowstorm, a bus out of Kansas City pulls up at a cheerful roadside diner. All roads are blocked, and the weary travelers are going to have to hole up until morning. This brings about interesting life changes for all the stranded. The play was made into a movie starring Marilyn Monroe and ACT is excited to bring this period classic back to life.

All performances will be presented in the Lucia Baehman Theatre located in the CAC building at UW-Fox Valley. Evening performances begin at 7pm and matinee performances begin at 2pm. Talk backs will be featured after each matinee. Come early, relax in the beautiful lobby, and enjoy a glass of wine or beer while you listen to music performed by local musicians.

## Season ticket packages and Single tickets now on Sale!

\*All shows subject to change.

# Music in the Attic 2018

## Falling in Love with Rodgers and Hart

August 1 -4 @ 7 pm

Tickets \$30.00 available February 1



Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) and Lorenz Hart (1895-1943) wrote their first shows together when both were still students attending Columbia University. After writing a series of musical comedies for the University's Varsity Shows and other charities, they made their professional debut with the song "Any Old Place with You," featured in the 1919 Broadway musical comedy A LONELY ROMEO.



Their breakthrough came with the score for a 1925 charity show, THE GARRICK GAITIES, which introduced the classic valentine to their hometown, "Manhattan." From 1920 to 1930 Rodgers & Hart wrote an astonishing array of musical comedies for Broadway and London's West End. At their pinnacle the team was writing an average of four new shows a year. and among these were: DEAREST ENEMY, BETSY, PEGGY-ANN, THE GIRL FRIEND, CHEE-CHEE and A CONNECTICUT YANKEE.

In 1930 the team relocated to Hollywood, where they contributed songs and wrote the scores for several movie musicals, including the landmark LOVE ME TONIGHT starring Maurice Chevalier; THE PHANTOM PRESIDENT starring George M. Cohan; HALLELUJAH, I'M A BUM starring Al Jolson; and MISSISSIPPI starring Bing Crosby and W.C. Fields.

They were lured back to New York by legendary Broadway producer Billy Rose in 1935 to write the songs for his circus musical spectacular, JUMBO. Their score introduced "The Most Beautiful Girl in The World," "My Romance" and "Little Girl Blue," and Rodgers & Hart were back on Broadway.

From 1936 to 1943 Rodgers & Hart wrote a series of Broadway musical comedies, each of which seemed to top the one before in terms of innovation, box office success and collectively offered such classic songs as "There's A Small Hotel," "I Wish I Were In Love Again," "My Funny Valentine," "Where Or When," "The Lady Is A Tramp," "Spring Is Here," "Falling In Love With Love," "Sing For Your Supper," "This Can't Be Love," "I Didn't Know What Time It Was," "It Never Entered My Mind," "Bewitched," "I Could Write A Book," "Nobody's Heart," and "Wait Till You See Her."



# Get Tickets

*Don't miss a single moment of our  
68<sup>th</sup> Season*

Purchase a season package for \$48.00

- Same seats for all three shows
- Easy exchanges and Priority Seating

Single show tickets on sale February 1st \$18.00

Music in the Attic Tickets on sale February 1st \$30.00

- Call 920-734-7887
- [Attictheatreinc.com](http://Attictheatreinc.com)
- Attic Theatre Face Book page (click get tickets)
- Mail order form to PO Box 41, Appleton WI 54912



## Carolyn Ragusett receives Cloak Award for contributions to Attic Theatre.

by Judy Hebbe

Carolyn Ragusett, an invaluable source of support, expertise, knowledge and goodwill, was presented with the Zoe Cloak Award for contributions to Attic Theatre at the recent Music in the Attic fundraiser concert in October.

Ragusett was a member of the Attic Theatre Board of Directors for 12 years, serving on the budget, development and play selection committees and serving multiple terms as secretary and treasurer. A member of the Board in 2005, when fellow Board members voted to disband, she joined a group of former Board members and committed Attic volunteers to keep the organization intact and viable.

As an employee of Schenck, she forged a partnership between Attic and the company, which provided space for countless meetings and continued sponsorship of Attic's productions.

"Always the unsung player behind the scenes and the applause, she was always there with guidance and support, keeping Attic's success as her primary goal," said Carl Wenzel, secretary of Attic.





# Summer Season Auditions

## Open Auditions for the ACT summer acting company

- Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm
- Monday March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm
- All Saints Episcopal Church @ 100 N. Drew Street, Appleton

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the scripts.

Scripts are available at the Appleton, Neenah, Menasha, Kimberly, Kaukauna and Little Chute libraries from January 1 thru March 3.



## Casting Notes for our 2018 Season.

- Attic Chamber Theatre invites all to audition.
- We practice color-blind casting.
- For specific casting information go to [attictheatreinc.com](http://attictheatreinc.com)
- We are specifically looking for an African-American actor for our production of Driving Miss Daisy



Whether you like building and painting sets, sewing costumes, finding props, working in the box office, working on stage crew, ushering a performance, bartending before a show, or completing a specific Board task your help is always needed and appreciated!!! For information or to volunteer contact:

Ushering, house managing, box office: Judy Hebbe at 920-850-1952 or [hebbe5839@gmail.com](mailto:hebbe5839@gmail.com)

Bartending for Music in the Attic: Wendy Bauman at [wendyandlemmy@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyandlemmy@yahoo.com)

Backstage help: Robert Ernst at [rernt1252@new.rr.com](mailto:rernt1252@new.rr.com)

## Youth Programs



### TELLING TAILS

Bringing Animal Stories to Life

When: March 17, 2018

Time: 9 am to 12 noon

Where: All Saints Episcopal Church 100  
N. Drew Street, Appleton

Who: Grades 1st thru 8th

- Registration Open Now
- Space Limited, so register early
- \$25.00 per attendee
- Register by March 5th by going to our website and filling out the registration form or call 920.734.7887

Summer Day Camp: Theme to be determined.

Co-directors Joe Engels and Megan Lisowe will lead a magical week as students hone theatrical skills in performance, singing and dancing and learn to project their voices off the walls. June 11th through the 14th from 1-4pm, UW-Fox Valley Communication Arts Building, 1478 Midway Road, Menasha.

Registration: Please visit our website at [attictheatreinc.com](http://attictheatreinc.com) for more information, to download a registration form, or email us at [attictheatre@gmail.com](mailto:attictheatre@gmail.com), or call 920.734.7887.





Attic Chamber Theatre's 2018 Play Club is

William Inge's Classic play BUS STOP.

ACT in conjunction with the Menasha Public Library will be hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual play club reading (think book club). This year's selection is the American Classic BUS STOP. It's fun and easy to take part: just sign up at the Menasha library, check out the script, read the play, then on April 26th head to the library for a lively discussion beginning at 6:30 pm. The conversation will be led by Nancy Ernst, a member of the Communication Arts Faculty at UW-Fox Valley. Director Berray Billington will discuss his vision of the play and scenes from the play will be read aloud by ACT cast members. Refreshments will be served.

## YOUR SUPPORT PAVES THE WAY

*As we look toward our 68<sup>th</sup> season of sharing award-winning plays, meeting new challenges, and exploring new artistic possibilities, we need your financial support to keep our journey moving forward. Since ticket revenue covers only half of our annual expenses, your gift is essential. Please visit [attictheatreinc.com](http://attictheatreinc.com) for information on giving levels and benefits.*

***Attic Chamber Theatre welcomes our season sponsor***



We also thank the following foundations and companies for their support.





P.O. Box 41  
Appleton WI 54912

#### Attic Board Members

Wendy Bauman  
Berray Billington  
William Borkowicz  
Nancy Ernst  
Robert Ernst  
Patrick James  
Carol Jegen  
Tim Marsh  
Nile Spears  
Jared Stroik  
Carl Wenzel  
John Zhang

[www.attictheatreinc.com](http://www.attictheatreinc.com)  
[attictheatre@gmail.com](mailto:attictheatre@gmail.com)  
920-734-7887

### 2018 Calendar of Events

**March 4 & 5**  
Auditions for Summer season and  
MITA

**March 17**  
Children's Spring Workshop

**April 26**  
ACT Play Reading Club Event

**June 7-10, 12-15**  
*Laughter on the 23rd Floor*

**June 11-14**  
Children's Summer Day Camp

**June 21-24, 26-29**  
*Driving Miss Daisy*

**July 12-15, 17-20**  
*Bus Stop*

**August 1-4**  
*Music in the Attic: Falling in Love with  
Rodgers and Hart*

### Mission Statement

**To create excellent community theatre through  
performances, education and outreach.**

### Attic Chamber Theatre Late Seating Policy

**Late seating is subject to availability, at the discretion  
of the House Manager and is not guaranteed!**

All shows start at 2 p.m. for matinees and 7:00 p.m. for evening performances. Should a patron arrive late, the house manager will make every effort to seat them. If no convenient break in the action will accommodate seating, tickets may be exchanged for another night.