


VANYA
and
SONIA 
and

MASHA
and

Spike

DIRECTED BY
Frank Kohel

April 8-April 24, 2016
Fridays & Saturdays 7:30pm
Sundays 2:00pm

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Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 7:30pm

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Directed by Ellen Peters

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VANYA DRINK SPECIALS \$6.00

Cherry Orchard

Cherry Coke mixed with Rum over ice. Garnished with a cherry. Chekhov's favorite drink.



—OR—

Masha's Russians

Coffee liqueur and Vodka over ice. Add cream for a White, or leave it Black. Masha likes them both!



PRE-ORDER YOUR DRINK
FOR INTERMISSION!

VANYA MASHA SONIA and Spike



By Christopher Durang
Directed by Frank Kohel

Originally produced on Broadway by:

Joey Parnes, Larry Hirschhorn, Joan Raffae/Jhett Tolentino, Martin Platt & David Elliot, Pat Flicker Addiss, Catherine Adler, John O'Boyle, Joshua Goodman, Jamie deRoy/Richard Winkler, Cricket Hooper, Jiranek/Michael Palitz, Mark S. Golub & David S. Golub, Radio Mouse Entertainment, Shawdowncatcher Entertainment, Mary Cossette/Barbara Manocherian, Megan Savage/Meredith Lynsey Schade, Hugh Hysell/Richard Jordan, Cheryl Wiesenfeld/Ron Simons, S.D. Wagner, John Johnson in association with McCarter Theatre Center and Lincoln Center Theater

Originally commissioned and produced by McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton, N.J.

Emily Mann, Artistic Director; Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director;

Mara Isaacs, Producing Director;

and produced by Lincoln Center Theater, New York City
under the direction of André Bishop and Bernard Gersten in 2012.

VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE is produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

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Office ManagerKaren Christensen
Technical Director.....Blake R. York
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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Early last summer I was sitting with some friends having dinner and the conversation turned to the new 2015/2016 season announced for Tacoma Little Theatre. When asked if I would be interested in directing any of the shows, I thought *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* would be my choice. Later when I returned home, there was a message from Chris Serface, TLT Artistic Director, asking me if I would be interested in directing the very show we had been talking about at dinner. How lucky am I? And every day since working on this show has been a pleasant surprise.

First let me thank my amazing cast. They are talented, hard-working, and willing to throw themselves into this crazy world. You're going to love them! My talented creative team. Each one was great to work with and was the very definition of the word creative. And finally, I have to thank the real power behind this production, Jennifer Niehaus-Rivers. Whether laughing at our jokes, helping set up the folding chairs that made up our rehearsal set, telling me when what I tried really wasn't working, or one million other things that she has done to make this show happen. My gratitude for all you do, thank you.

Enjoy,
Frank

SPECIAL THANKS

Dukesbay Productions

Grant Center for the Expressive Arts

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ARTISTIC STAFF

Director Frank Kohel
Stage Manager.....Jennifer Niehaus-Rivers
Assistant Stage Manager.....Nastassia Reynolds
Resident Costume Designer.....Michele Graves
Set Design/Master Carpenter.....Blake R. York
Assistant Carpenter..... Ron Bauer
Resident Lighting Designer..... Niclas R. Olson
Sound Design..... Chris Serface
Resident Properties Manager/Hair Consultant.....Jeffery Weaver
Scenic Artist.....Jen York
Photography..... Dennis K Photography
Graphic Design Maria Kadile Konop
Paint Crew..... Erin Chanfrau, Ginger Chanfrau
& Brittany Griffins



**Please remember to silence your
cell phone and mobile devices.
No texting during the performance. —Thank you**

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Frank Kohel (Director)

Frank is very happy to return to Tacoma Little Theatre. In 2010 he directed *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* at TLT's Second Stage which won him a nomination as a 2010 BroadwayWorld Seattle Theatre Awards Best Director. At TLT he has directed *A Flea In Her Ear* (2011), *California Suite* (2012), and the remounting of *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* in 2013. Active in theatre for over 40 years, his varied career has included a national tour, singing in clubs in both Los Angeles & New York City, dancing at Disneyland, choreographing a USO Tour of the Orient, and directing plays and musicals in California, Washington & Idaho. Locally, Frank's directing & choreographic work has been seen at Burien Little Theatre, Capitol Playhouse '24, ArtsWest, Performance Circle, Lakewood Players, and Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre. Favorite shows he has directed include *Long Days Journey Into Night*, *Cotton Patch Gospel*, *She Loves Me*, and *Isn't It Romantic*. "I don't think I could have asked for a more talented cast and it has been a pleasure to work with each one. Kudos to a great production team! Thanks Chris for the invitation!"

Jennifer Niehaus-Rivers (Stage Manager)

Jennifer is thrilled to help bring this delightful show to life at TLT. She previously co-directed *To Kill A Mockingbird* at TLT in 2014, and was the stage manager for *Sylvia*, *California Suite*, *A Flea In Her Ear*, and *Six Dance Lessons In Six Weeks*. Last summer, Jennifer directed *The Music Man, Jr.*, her 5th Summer Camp @ TLT Musical. Currently, she is excited to lead the new ClubTLT for Teens who love the theatre arts. Jennifer is especially happy to work on her 4th show with the incomparable Frank Kohel, her friend and mentor. Special thanks to Frank and Chris for their leadership, the designers for creating our home, Stassi for her energy and love, and the talented cast for their joyful dedication and teamwork. "All my love to Michael & Dylan."

Nastassia Reynolds (Assistant Stage Manager)

Nastassia is nineteen years old and has been in the theatrical world for over a decade. Stassi is excited to be a part of another wonderful production at TLT. Though she is mostly seen on stage in Tacoma and Lakewood, she likes to work behind the scenes as well, and has chosen the theatre arts for her career. Recent productions include: *I Only Have \$12*, *My Favorite Things*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Rent* (School Edition), and *Grease* (School Edition). She thanks Frank and the cast for being so kind and always making her day, and to Jen Rivers for being an amazing theatre mentor and mom. Enjoy the show!

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Blake R. York (Technical Director/Set Design/Master Carpenter)

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 12 years. This year Blake became TLT's full time Technical Director after serving as a part time Technical Director last year. Favorite designs in the area include: *Sleuth*, *Sylvia*, *Scrooge! The Musical*, *A Christmas Story*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Cabaret* (TLT), *Oliver!*, *A Funny Thing....*, *The Lion in Winter* (Lakewood Playhouse), *Seussical*, *Pippi Longstocking* (Tacoma Musical Playhouse), and *The Tempest* (Olympia Little Theatre). He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, and his friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him.

Michele Graves (Resident Costume Designer)

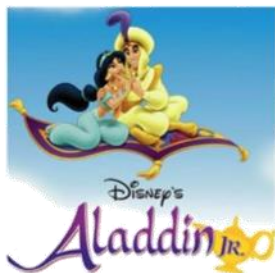
Michele has been the Resident Costume Designer for the past three seasons. The quality of the shows, casts, and crews make it a pleasure to be a part of this theatre. Whether doing a period production or a contemporary piece, she enjoys costuming the many actors and getting to know the characters they portray. "This has been my favorite season yet! The shows, production teams, casts, and costuming opportunities have been fabulous."

Niclas Olson (Resident Lighting Designer)

Niclas is pleased to return to TLT as Resident Lighting Designer. Past designs for TLT include *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, *The Joy Luck Club*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Cabaret*. Other local design credits include: *Oliver!*, *The Woman in Black*, *The Rainmaker* (LPH), *Tea* (Dukesbay), and *Doctor Faustus* (New Muses). He is the managing artistic director of New Muses Theatre Company. www.NiclasOlson.com

Jeffery Weaver (Resident Properties Manager/Hair Consultant)

Jeffery is happy to be the Resident Props Master/Hair Consultant extraordinaire. He enjoys working with the amazing staff here at Tacoma Little Theatre. Jeffery says that, "You know you have done a great job as a prop and set dresser when they blend and the actors are the focal point as they should be." He would like to thank his wonderful husband, Bruce, and his children who continue to support his work both on and off stage. He would like to send a special nod to his BFF and Wifey #1 Ms. Jen, who believes in him and the gifts he has to share. Unconditional love and acceptance is a true gift to never be taken for granted. "I give my life to the Theatre, because in it I'm building something for myself. And what I build, I am". Much love to all



Session 1

June 20-July 17

Open to students entering
Grades 1-12

Rehearsals*

Monday-Friday
9:00am-4:00pm

*No rehearsal Monday, July 4th

Performances

July 15th & 16th at 7:30pm
July 17th at 2:00pm

When the street urchin, Aladdin, vies for the attention of the beautiful princess, Jasmine, he uses a genie's magic power to become a prince in order to marry her. Iago, Jafar, the Genie, and more are here in Disney's Aladdin Jr., a musical adventure filled with magic, mayhem, and the power of love. All of your favorite songs are here including: *A Whole New World*, *Friend Like Me*, and *One Jump!*



Session 2

July 18-August 14

Open to students entering
Grades 1-12

Rehearsals

Monday-Friday
9:00am-4:00pm

Performances

August 12th & 13th at 7:30pm
August 14th at 2:00pm

It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes find their cliques, recount their vacations, and look forward to the new year. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. They cause an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical, led by Ms. Darbus. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

Tuition

\$450.00 Early Bird
until May 31
\$500.00 after May 31

Students must bring their
own lunches and snacks.

All rehearsals/performances
are held at
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Students in districts that do not
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Vanya..... Martin Larson

Sonia..... Dayna Childs

Cassandra LaNita Hudson

Masha..... Stephanie Leeper

Spike..... Freddy Tse

Nina..... Leena Lambert

SETTING

Act 1: 1:10—15 minute intermission—Act 2: 1:10

Time

The Present

Place

A lovely farmhouse in Bucks County

“Here Comes the Sun”

Written by George Harrison

Published by Harrisongs, Ltd. (ASCAP)

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- Easier to use
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- Show Archives
- Current Information
- Upcoming Specials

www.tacomalittletheatre.com

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Dayna Childs (Sonia)

Dayna is very excited to be returning to TLT where she last appeared as Kate in *Sylvia*. South Sound appearances include Lakewood Playhouse, Rosebud Community Theatre, Spotlight Players and Olympia Little Theatre. Thanks to Frank, Jennifer, Stassi, our designers, and this amazing cast for a truly fabulous experience. And thank you to our audiences for supporting local, live theatre. For my brave sister Daphne: Always hope.



LaNita Hudson (Cassandra)

LaNita is so excited to be back home here at TLT. You might have seen her last summer on this very stage in *Cabaret*. She has been performing for 30+ years! LaNita would like to thank her theatre family, and a great big thank you to her Director, Frank and Stage Manager/good friend, Jennifer. She would also like to thank her four children; Nia, Malik, Tiahni and Saafir, and her parents for being so supportive of "mommie's passion". And to everyone that came to the show "Thank-you and laugh big, and loud!"



Martin Larson (Vanya)

Martin returns to the TLT stage after a 26 year absence. He has acted in or directed over 40 productions in the area. Favorite roles: Nathan Detroit (*Guy's & Dolls*), M. Sunshine (*Chicago*), Sir Benjamin Backbite (*A School For Scandal*), and Hysterium (*A Funny Thing Happened....*) here at TLT. Favorite directing jobs: *Scrooge*, *Cabaret*, *Applause*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Martin holds a BFA in Theatre, Culinary and Pastry Degrees, was a corporate chef for Boeing, and Chef/Catering Manager at a Mt. Rainier B&B. Now semi-retired, he looks forward to more theatre. Martin would like to thank Frank and Jen and this scathingly brilliant cast for the great time during his comeback to theatre.



Leena Lambert (Nina)

At 18, Leena was accepted into The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Hollywood. Eventually she became a SAG/AFTRA member and has been featured on TV shows such as: *90210*, *Parks and Recreation*, *Desperate Housewives*, *NCIS:LA*, *Disney's Ant Farm*, *Nickelodeon's Epic Adventures of Bucket and Skinner*, *Pretty Little Liars*, and much more! In Washington she signed with SAG/AFTRA agency 6th Avenue Talent, and auditions as much as possible! Leena is an old soul, and relishes in the traditions and rewards of live theater, and hopes to give a memorable experience for all!!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Stephanie Leeper (Masha)

Stephanie is thrilled to be part of such an amazing and talented cast! She was last seen at Dukesbay Theatre as Maxine *The Night of the Igwana*. Her last TLT role was Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*. She has a BFA in Musical Theatre, has been performing for over 20 years, and has enjoyed working at the 5th Avenue Theatre, Tacoma Little Theatre, Civic Light Opera, Auburn Avenue Theater, and Renton Civic Theatre. Favorite roles: Maria Elena (*The Buddy Holly Story*), Maggie (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*), Angel (*Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*), Winnifred (*Once Upon A Mattress*), Anita (*West Side Story*), and Miss Hannigan in *Annie*. Directing credits: *Baby*, *Grease*, and *Rock Around the Block*. She is blessed beyond measure and gives gratitude to her husband Ryan and children, Rachel and Jack, for their constant support. "Love you to the moon and back!"



Freddy Tse (Spike)

Freddy excitedly makes his TLT debut in this show. Freddy is a graduate of WWU's Drama program with emphases in Acting and Directing. Since WWU, Freddy has continued working on stage, focusing on physical theatre and movement. Aside from acting, Freddy has become an established Fight Director and Stunt Coordinator in Seattle for both film and stage, with recent projects such as, Bellevue College's *Macbeth*, feature film "Nevermind the Knife," and local action webseries "Divine Shadow." Special thanks to family, friends, and all the mentors/influences who continue to support, encourage, and challenge me along this journey.

Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 3:00pm

Join Gerry Bradley "Mr. Chit Chat" as he presents an afternoon of anecdotes and stories from his book **Birds from the Thicket**.

This story is to reach out with a hand of hope to the 2.3 million people suffering from Bi-Polar/Manic Depression and those close to them. It is an autobiographical account that takes the reader through the joys and sorrows of the authors life. Gerry Bradley found his way back from the highs and lows to the "light at the end of the tunnel". He now lives a rewarding and fulfilling life and you can too. The afternoon spans the range of human emotion; at times it's a labor of love, by others, a labor of despair. Yet with honesty, courage, and grace the author has set the story to words. It is at once an accounting of the author's personal history as well, as an accounting of American history--the journey of an Oklahoma boy who found his way back home by examining his heart--it's a hero's journey.

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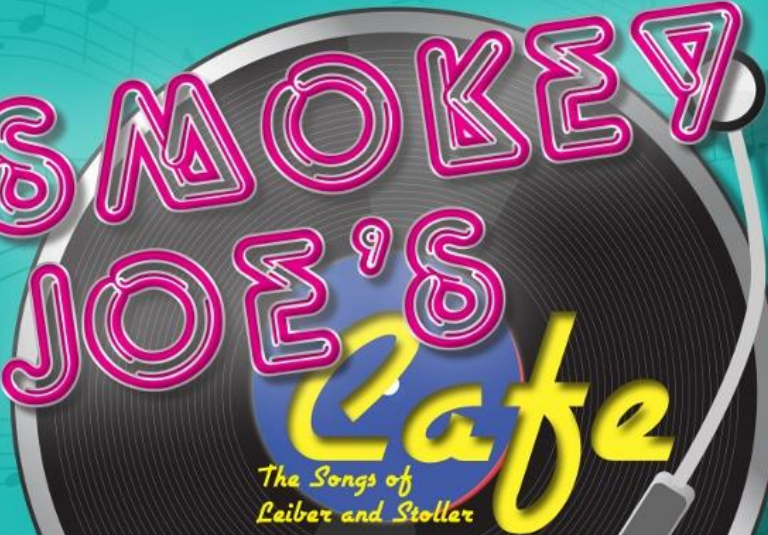
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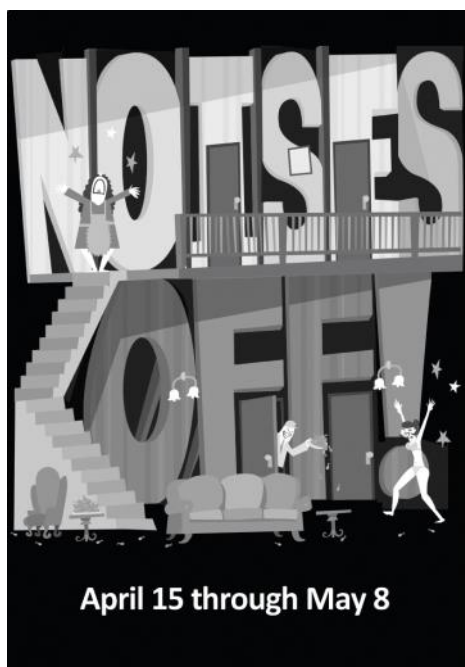
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April 8 – May 1, 2016

Fridays & Saturdays – 8pm / Sundays – 2pm
Saturdays, April 23 & April 30, 2pm

TICKET PRICING

- Adults – \$31
- Military / Students / Seniors – \$29
- Children (12 and under) – \$22
- Groups of 10 or more – \$27

CREDITS:

Book and Lyrics by Nan Knighton / Music by Frank Wildhorn
Based on The Novel "The Scarlet Pimpernel" by Baroness Orczy

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Tacoma Little Theatre is a 501(c)(3) organization and survives through the continued support of our community. If you would like to donate, please fill out a form in our lobby or speak with any of our staff. This list is current as of April 5, 2016.

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