This program is supported in part by a grant from the



WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION DIRECTED BY NICLAS OLSON

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January 20-February 5, 2017 Fridays & Saturdays 7:30pm Sundays 2:00pm



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of mice and men

by John Steinbeck

Directed by Niclas Olson

OF MICE AND MEN is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

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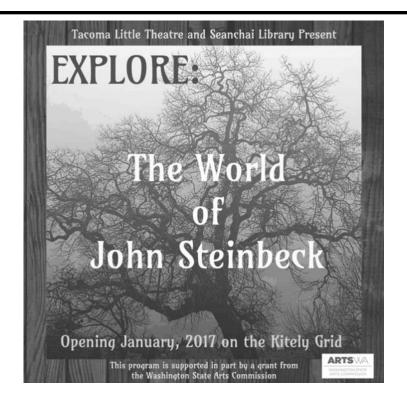
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director's note

This is a story about dreams. It is a story about men struggling to make ends meet against the face of impossible economic circumstances. And it is a story about unbreakable friendship, forged from the steel of the unending road.

CURLEY'S WIFE: I want to see somebody. Just see 'em an' talk to 'em. There ain't no women. I can't walk to town. And Curley don't take me to no dances now. I tell you I jus' want to talk to somebody. -Act II, Sc. 1

As rendered by Steinbeck, the characters on this stage wander lost in a sea of loneliness, but not despair. These are people full of hope. What is important to note is that George and Lennie's dream of living on their own off the fat of the land is not unique, it is the driving motivation that gets each and every one of these characters out of bed in the morning. Whether it's a pack of mules, a soft furry rabbit, or just someone to talk to, this is a story about the overwhelming needs that drive us forward.

SLIM: Ain't many guys travel around together. I don't know why. Maybe everybody in the whole damn world is scared of each other. -Act I, Sc. 2

CROOKS: A guy needs somebody... to be near him. A guy goes nuts if he ain't go nobody. Don't make no difference who it is as long as he's with you. - Act II, Sc. 2

Imagine looking out over an open river, the wind in your hair, and in the distance you can just make out everything you've always wanted. That is how badly each of these characters wants that little piece of land to call their own. The story lives and breathes in deep perspectives and wide-open spaces. Even in the trapped interior of a bunkhouse or barn, you can still feel the open vistas of California through the walls. It's enough to give you hope.

GEORGE: Guys like us got no families. They got a little stake and then they blow it in. They ain't got nobody in the world that gives a hoot in hell about 'em! But not us... Because I got you and...

LENNIE: And I got you. We got each other, that's what, that gives a hoot in hell about us. -Act III, Sc. 2

We have an incredible team here at TLT. It has been a pleasure to work together with Chris, Blake, Michele, Jeffrey, and Nena along with the cast and crew on this project. Please enjoy *Of Mice and Men*.

-Niclas Olson

artistic staff

Director	Niclas Olson
Stage Manager	Nena Curley
Assistant Stage Manager	Betzy Miller
Set Design/Master Carpenter	Blake R. York
Assistant Carpenter	Ron Bauer
Resident Costume Designer	Michele Graves
Resident Lighting Designer	Niclas Olson
Resident Properties Manager	Jeffery Weaver
Sound Design	Chris Serface
Weapons Master	Derek Mesford
Photography	Dennis K Photography
Graphic Design	Blake R. York
Build Crew	Dan Galagan
Paint CrewJen York, Sa	ariah Brumet, Ron Bauer Blake R. York



Please remember to silence your cell phone and mobile devices.

No texting during the performance. —Thank you

staff biographies

Niclas Olson (Director/Resident Lighting Designer)

Niclas is an actor, director, playwright, and designer based in Tacoma. He is pleased to be taking the helm for *Of Mice and Men*. He previously directed readings of *The Library* and *My Name is Rachel Corrie* for TLT's Off-the-Shelf Series. Regional directing credits include: *Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Doctor Faustus, Into the Woods, Miss Julie, Ghosts, A Doll's House, The Shape of Things, The Fever, The Importance of Being Earnest* (New Muses), *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches and Perestroika* (OLT), *Oleanna* (PLU) along with many readings of contemporary and classic playwrights including J.M. Synge, Hrotsvitha, David Mamet, Kenneth Lonergan, Neil LaBute, and Michael Frayne. Niclas is the founder and managing artistic director of New Muses Theatre Company and resident lighting designer at Tacoma Little Theatre. Upcoming: *Peer Gynt, A Servant of Two Masters,* and *Frankenstein* (New Muses). www.niclasolson.com

Nena Curley (Stage Manager)

Nena has been very busy already this year! She just appeared in *Miracle on* 34th Street and stage managed Dracula. Other shows at Tacoma Little Theatre include *A Christmas Story, The Last Night of Ballyhoo, and Steel Magnolias.* She's also Stage Managed *The Mystery of Edwin Drood, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,* and *Spamalot* at Lakewood Playhouse. Thank you Betzy for being wonderful help backstage, and Nic for a beautiful show to work on. Thank you to my parents and Dylan for their love and support.

Betzy Miller (Assistant Stage Manager)

Realizing that she could not depend on her looks forever, Betzy decided to learn some other jobs in the theatre she might be able to do, other than act. Most recently Betzy was the Stage Manager for *Miracle on 34th Street*, and was delighted to come on board to work with this great cast.

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

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 13 years. Blake serves as TLT's Technical Director, Set Designer, and this year as Graphic Designer for the season posters. 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.

staff biographies

Michele Graves (Resident Costume Designer)

Michele has been the Resident Costume Designer for the past four 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."

Jeffery Weaver (Resident Properties Manager)

Jeffery is delighted to be the resident props master/hair consultant extraordinaire for another stellar year. He enjoys working with the amazing staff here at Tacoma Little Theatre. He would like to thank his wonderful husband Bruce, and children who continue to support his work both on and off stage. He would like to send love to his BFF and Wifey #1 Ms. Jen. As the wise Tallulah once said, "If you really want to HELP the American Theater don't be an actor daaahling... BE an audience!!" Much love to all, "I give my life to the Theatre, because in it I'm building something for myself. And what I build, I am."



special thanks

New Muses Theatre Company Derek Mesford Blake R. York, Sr. Niclas Olson Cheryl & Pete Burgess Jake Swenson Jim Snell Richard & Virginia Yanoff





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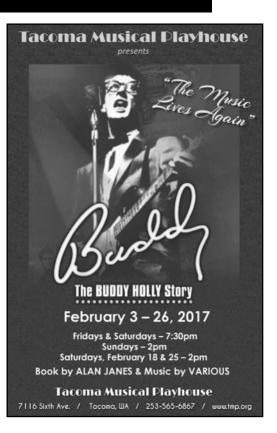
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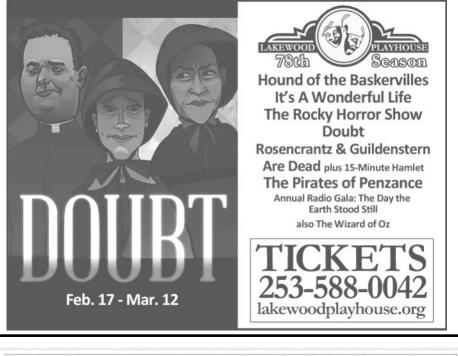
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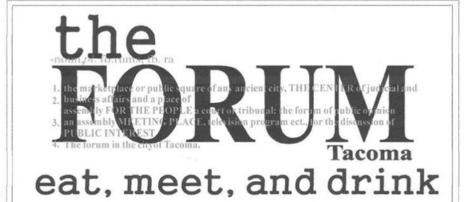
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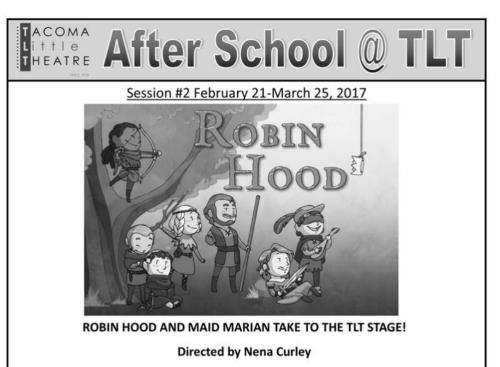




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All rehearsals/performances are held at Tacoma Little Theatre 210 N I Street Tacoma, WA253-272-2281

REHEARSALS

February 21-March 23 Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00pm-6:00pm

PERFORMANCE

Saturday March 25 at 2:00pm



TUITION

\$185.00

All students enrolled are cast in the production (Some Financial Aid is available)

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors is delighted to have you in our audience, and we hope that you are enriched by this live theatre experience. Our Board has several goals for the upcoming year; please let us know if you want to be a part of achieving them!

- Provide greater access, on stage and off, to our community. While we have been known to cast broadly, we've taken it a step further, and our casting notices specify that auditions are open to all racial and ethnic backgrounds unless otherwise specified. We encourage auditions from people of all backgrounds.
- Provide clearer opportunities for volunteerism. We've always relied on our wonderful volunteers for ushering, and ticket taking, and event planning along with other work. We are now strengthening our Board committees and looking for people who are interested in volunteering with us on event planning, fundraising, facilities, and governance. If you have any interest in serving with any of those committees, please let Chris Serface (chris@tacomalittletheatre.com) know.
- Prepare for our upcoming 100th anniversary and begin planning for continued upgrades to our facility.

Tacoma Little Theatre is fortunate to have strong leadership in Chris Serface, and we look forward to continued success with his leadership and our connection to you and the rest of our community.

Enjoy the show!

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Mason Quinn
Chris James
Roger Iverson
Eric Cuestas-Thompson
Derek Mesford
Margret Parobek
Jacob Tice
Alex Koerger
Alex Gust
Jack House
Crystal

synopsis of scenes

Act I

Scene 1:	A sandy bank of the Salinas River. Thursday night.
Scene 2:	The interior of a bunkhouse. Late Friday morning.
Scene 3:	The interior of a bunkhouse. 7:30 Friday evening.

Act II

Scene 1:	The room of the stable buck, a lean-to. 10:00 Saturday evening.
Scene 2:	One end of a great barn. Mid-afternoon, Sunday.
Scene 3:	A sandy bank of the Salinas River. Sunday night.

Act I: 75 minutes Act II: 50 minutes There will be a 15 minute intermission

Cast biographies



Eric Cuestas-Thompson (The Boss)

Eric is delighted to return to the TLT stage after appearing in *Miracle on 34th Street.* His favorite roles include Jacob (*Ghosts*), Howard (*Death of a Salesman*), and Harpagon (*The Miser*). Other productions include *Six Characters in Search of an Author, The Odd Couple*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace.* He thanks his hubby Michael, for his continual love and support.



Alex Gust (Whit)

Alex Gust is fairly new to the stage; *Of Mice and Men* is his second performance. His first was Mr. Gower in *It's a Wonderful Life* at Lakewood Playhouse. Alex is extremely grateful to Nic and TLT for this fantastic opportunity. He enjoys entertaining others through his YouTube skits under the name Alex Sparkles. He lives with his loving and supportive wife with five children between them in addition to five adorable grandchildren.



Jack House (Crooks)

This is Jack's first performance at TLT though he is no stranger to Tacoma. Previous performances include *Sunset Limited* (Working Class Theatre), *Java Tacoma eps 4 and 6* (Dukesbay), and *The Color Purple* with TMP. Other roles include shows in Lakewood, Olympia, and Centralia. As you can see, you have to put in miles to put in shows. Thanks for coming, please like all of the theatres on Facebook and visit them throughout the year.



Roger Iverson (Candy)

Roger's first TLT show was *Hay Fever* where he played a strapping young buck. That was 1983. Tonight he's typecast as a dried up old has-been. Other roles at TLT: French Solo (*Joseph and the Amazing...*); Juror 2 (*12 Angry Men*); Richard Henry Lee (*1776*); Adam (*Complete Works*); Willum (*The Nerd*). Other shows: *The Pirates of Penzance; As You Like It; My Fair Lady; Godspell*, as well as a dozen Tacoma Opera productions. For Kirsten.



Chris James (Lennie)

This is Chris' first show at TLT. He was born and raised in Britain and came to Seattle 11 years ago. He has had amateur experience in his youth and returned to his love of acting last year. *Of Mice and Men* marks his theatrical debut. It has been a dream come true to be a part of this great production. Thanks to the cast and crew for their support and friendship.

Cast biographies



Alex Koerger (Carlson)

Alex is pleased to return to TLT where he was on stage in *Scrooge!* (Jollygood). Other roles include: Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Act I), Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life* (Lakewood Playhouse), and Overseer in *Freedom Train,* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* as Taussaud/Jessup (TMP). He is grateful to the cast, crew and director for the chance to help bring this iconic tale to life and to his son, Kepler, for sacrificing so much time to rehearsals and shows.



Derek Mesford (Curley)

Derek is pleased to cap off his first year on the Tacoma theatre scene at TLT. Derek studied theatre at Lower Columbia College, Southern Oregon, and Greece, earning a degree in Communications and Theatre Arts. Roles: Prince/Wolf (Into the Woods), Father (Eurydice), Conquistador (Addams Family), and Benedick (Much Ado About Nothing). Thanks to Nic, the cast, as well as his friends, and family for their support through this process.



Margret Parobek (Curley's Wife)

This is Margret's first production with TLT. A recent attendee of Central Washington University, she currently teaches biology and horticulture at Rogers High School. She would like to thank her parents, friends, and students for their support. It has been an honor to be a part of this show; she has enjoyed learning from the expertise of her fellow cast members and director.



Mason Quinn (George)

Mason is ecstatic to be back on TLT's stage. His last appearances here were as another George in *The Great Gatsby*, and Hal (*Proof*). Other roles include Jimmy (*The Rainmaker*), Kendrick (*A Few Good Men*) and Septimus (*Areadia*) at Lakewood Playhouse. Mason would like to thank Ana for her support, and the cast and crew for being so amazing.



Jacob Tice (Slim)

Jacob Tice has been performing on South Sound stages since 2011, appearing most recently as Jonathan Harker in *Dracula* at Tacoma Little Theatre, and Sherlock Holmes, Cecily and others in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* at Lakewood Playhouse. He is honored to have a place in this timely and timeless work with such a talented cast and crew.



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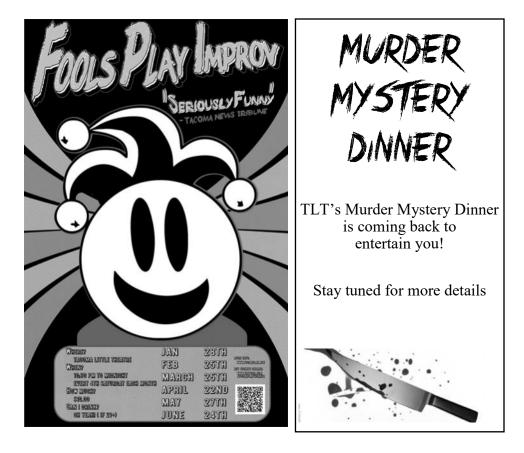
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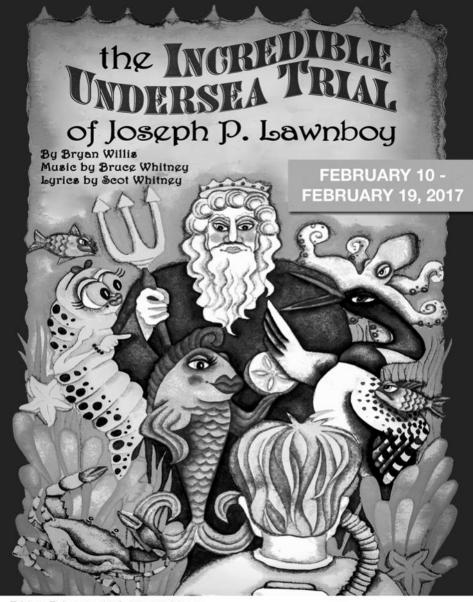
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