



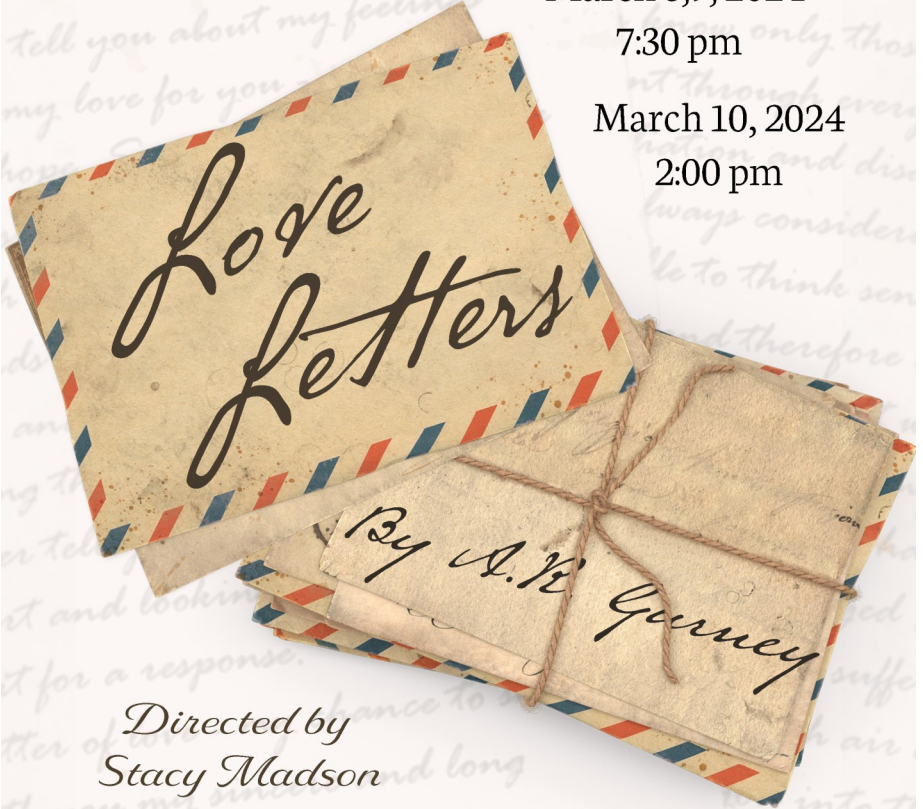
WEST ALLIS PLAYERS PRESENTS

March 8,9, 2024

7:30 pm

March 10, 2024

2:00 pm



Directed by
Stacy Madson

Liberace Auditorium
5048 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Milwaukee



Director's Notes

When I was 6 years old, I fell in love for the first time. Mrs Nathan kept me inside for recess at the *Fine Arts School* in Racine along with five other children and after everyone had left, she announced that we had been chosen for roles in a school play. Having never even seen a live play before, I was thrilled to play Piglet and we rehearsed.

Each time I began to act the whole world slipped away, my personal story ceased to exist and *All Was Right* with the world. The scene ended, I resurfaced to the remember that I was in my classroom and the magic washed over me that appears when one discovers their passion. I knew I had stumbled upon something that was a part of my very Being; I had just started an activity that I had no choice but to continue for the rest of my life, an unstoppable addiction almost. I became an Actor.

That love affair continued to burn passionately for years but it looked like we were going to have to break up (or at least "take a pause") as I chose to have and homeschool five children.

But then I locked eyes with the West Allis Players and the magic appeared again.

Community theater, and the West Allis Players specifically, provided me with the chance to simultaneously hold both identities of Parent and Actor. They allowed me to slip into other roles than the relentless caregiving one I played throughout the day. They gave me the chance to escape through fantastical romance, laugh with others at slapstick ridiculousness, and make believe at heart-break that allowed me to learn without having to suffer in real life.

They validated my continued identity as an Artist.

Without community theater, the average person would have little chance to play pretend with the other adults. They might accidentally believe that they're "only" a line worker or "only" an educator or "only" a spouse. But each of us is so much more than any one identity and the grand tradition of live human storytelling allows us the chance to collectively explore all the lives we'll never get to live to remind ourselves that any and every story could have been our own.

This play is my love letter to Acting, to the Community Theater collective, and to The West Allis Players specifically; Regardless of the undulating relationship we've had in the past and the unknown future we have before us, please know that I will always love you.

~stacymadson, Director

Cast



Younger Melissa

Maria Bunczak Schmidt

Middle Melissa

Valentina Fox Sales

Older Melissa

Antoinette Stikl

Younger Andy

Benjamin Binversie

Middle Andy

Lance Odom

Older Andy

Paul Weir

Show Overview



Act I follows Andy and Melissa from childhood through young adulthood.

15 Minute Intermission

Act II picks up where we left off and continues their story through the years.

This production is presented by arrangement with:

Dramatists Play Service

www.dramatists.com

Production Team



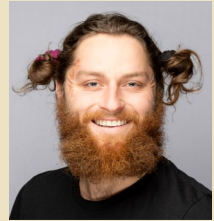
| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Director | stacymadson |
| Stage Manager | Sarah Moglia |
| Scenic Designer | Scott Fudali/stacymadson |
| Master Carpenter | Scott Fudali |
| Lighting Designer | Scott Fudali |
| Sound Designer | Scott Fudali |
| Props Designer | stacymadson |
| Costumes | Cast |
| Lighting Technician | Katherine Beeson |
| Sound Technician | Katherine Beeson |

Meet the Cast



Maria Bunczak Schmidt (*Young Melissa*) is thrilled to be reentering theatre after a long hiatus. Maria was very active in theatre in Wausau since the age of 4 and was in a play at Marquette University before becoming a COVID-19 nurse. Now, she is excited to return to the stage. She would like to thank her husband of 3 months, Eric, for holding down the home with their cat, Cinderella.

Benjamin Binversie (*Young Andy*) is a goofy monkey masquerading as a human, so acting is a breeze! When not in this play, you can find this creature submerged in water, dancing, starting fires, foraging for wonders of all sorts, performing on stages and in grocery store aisles, writing, and pickle balling. If you see this creature in the wild, please do feed them. Follow the chaos @benbinversie4 on Instagram.



Valentina Fox Sales (*Mid Melissa*) is beyond excited to be back on stage after a 12-year break. When she moved to the area after college, she took a step back from performing in theatre to focus on her dancing; teaching and competing regionally in ballroom and Latin. She then went on to teach and direct for a local children's arts academy. She now resides in West Allis with her fiancé and three children.

Lance Odom (*Mid Andy*) is returning to the stage with boundless enthusiasm, Lance ignites the spotlight once again after a hiatus since 2020. Grateful for the unwavering support of his cherished family and friends, he eagerly anticipates sharing this moment with fellow talented artists. With a heart fueled by passion, Lance embodies the mantra 'Live, Love, and Perform,' infusing every moment on stage with authenticity and artistry.

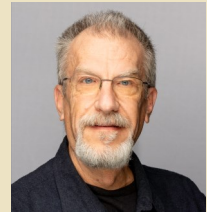




Antoinette Stikl (*Older Melissa*) is no stranger to the arts loving a drama, comedy or musical. Her past shows with West Allis Players include Clelia (The Nerd), Lucille (The Cemetery Club), Madame Beauvuers (A Shot In The Dark). Favorite roles include Joanne (Company), Abby Brewster (Arsenic & Old Lace), Mother Superior

(Nunsense), M'Lynn (Steel Magnolias), Miss Hannigan (Annie), Mrs. Gibbs (Our Town). Antoinette has proudly served in the WI Air National Guard, and thanks her family and friends for love and support.

Paul Weir (*Older Andy*) returns to the West Allis Players for the first time since playing Stephen Hopkins in '1776' in the summer of 2022. He's performed throughout the region, most recently as Ebenezer Scrooge in 'A Christmas Carol' and as Ray in 'Geezers'. Both with Lake Country Playhouse in Hartland. Many thanks to his wife, Terry, and good friend Antoinette. Enjoy the show!



Meet the Crew



stacymadson (Director) could not be more thrilled for the opportunity to spend an entire month steeped in love and all it has to offer! Passionately romantic, she gives each relationship she's in her full effort and right now she's courting relationships in many circles; Stoic Philosopher, Homeschooling Single Parent, Social Scientist,

Madam in Burlesque, Sailor, Public Intellectual, and Irrepressible Dancer. Stacy dedicates this entire show to the five greatest loves of her life; Alexis, Leo, Vivian, Blue & Gwen. They are her muses, teachers, and her best friends. Deep and heartfelt thanks goes to each of them for their support in making the wonderful things in possible.

Sarah Moglia (Stage Manager) has returned to Wisconsin and the theater after 15 years away from both. When she isn't wrangling cast members or collecting props, Sarah enjoys playing volleyball, reading and writing, spinning yarn, and experiencing the full spectrum of human emotions caused by listening to *The Mountain Goats*. She thanks her family as well as her two cats (Gandalf and Doug) and rabbit (Alejandro) for their support. You can find her on Instagram as [@Phaesphoria](#).



Special Thanks

Waukesha Civic Theatre

Carroll University
Reservation and Events



WWW.FUDALIPHOTOS.COM

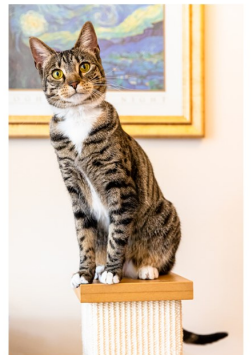
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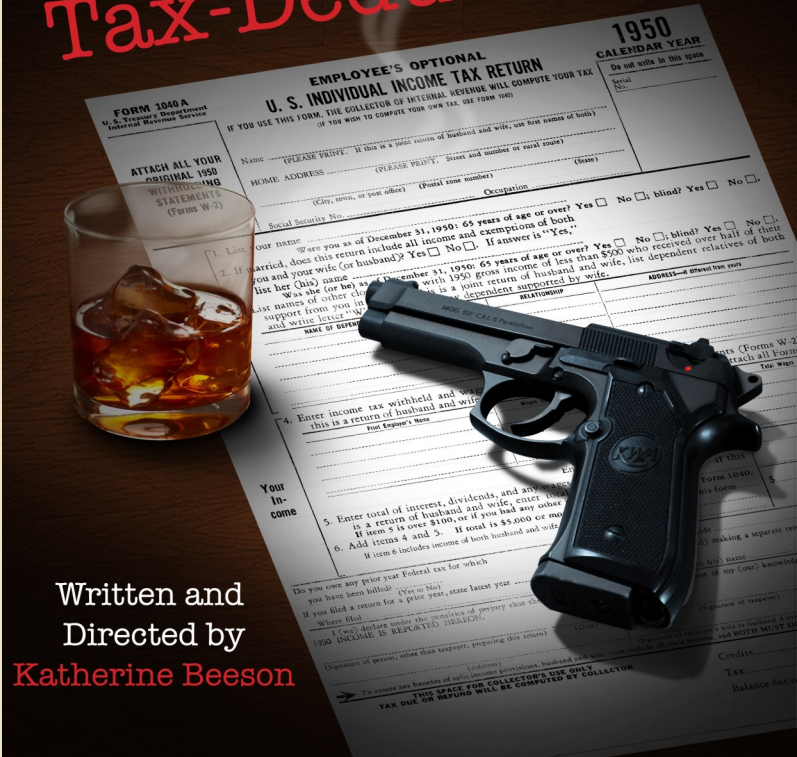
The West Allis Players



| | |
|-------------|--|
| Website | www.westallisplayers.org |
| Information | info@westallisplayers.org |
| Address | 2450 South 68th Street West Allis, WI 53219 |
| Phone | 414.604.4900 |

Next Up for The West Allis Players

Is Murder Tax-Deductible?



Written and
Directed by
Katherine Beeson

Check our website for audition information,
show location, and all the details
www.westallisplayers.org

July 12-14 and 19-21 2024

Other Local Theater



If you love theater, why not show your support by checking out one of these other upcoming local community theater mainstage shows?

The Bridges of Madison County

Waukesha Civic Theatre

March 8 thru March 24

www.waukeshacivictheatre.org

The Savannah Sipping Society

Sunset Playhouse

February 29 thru March 17

www.sunsetplayhouse.com

The Clockmaker's Daughter

Lake Country Playhouse

April 5 thru April 21

www.lakecountryplayhousewi.org

Four Old Broads

The Haylofters Community Theatre

May 10 thru May 19

www.thehaylofters.com

Steel Magnolias

SummerStage of Delafield

June 6 thru June 22

www.summerstageofdelafield.org

*This Page?
Yup...
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*Well, except
for this text of course.*

*Use it to collect actors
signatures in the lobby
after the show maybe?*

*Or do a doodle during
intermission.*