



SPOTLIGHT

February 2017

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS INSTALLED



Front row from left: Terry Moore, Dick Thompson, Al Edick.
2nd row: Steve Rose, Annette Hobbs, Sandra Whitmore, Pat Durako.
Top row: Bonnie Whitmire, Sally Burnett, Sandi Thompson.
Not shown: Carolyn Winchester

The Annual Meeting of Brevard Little Theatre was held on January 22nd. The following officers were installed: President Dick Thompson, Vice President Al Edick, Secretary Sandra Whitmore and Treasurer Terry Moore. There are three new board members: Sally Burnett, Pat Durako and Steve Rose.

Those leaving the Board of Directors are Marianne Plunkert, Nita Porter and Kevan Smith. Departing President Al Edick thanked them for their service. Those staying on the Board are Al Edick, Annette Hobbs, Terry Moore, Dick Thompson, Sandi Thompson, Bonnie Whitmire, Sandra Whitmore and Carolyn Winchester.

Spotlight on Steve Rose



Steve comes to us from New York City via Florida. His retail career sent him around the world twice a year for almost 15 years, until he settled down working as the Sales Manager for a Portuguese textile company. An avid gardener, his volunteer work started out in a local Community Garden in NYC, where he later became president. One year later, it was voted the “Best Community Garden” in NYC. In 2012, family matters drew him to Florida, where he again volunteered, this time for The Brevard Botanical Garden. He quickly became a Master Gardener, a board member and its secretary and treasurer. As a hiker and waterfall lover, he traveled often to Transylvania County to enjoy the mountains, and in 2016 made the move to Brevard and started volunteering at BLT.

Although Steve’s experience is in nonprofits rather than theatre, he has always been a theatergoer: He has seen *Les Miserable* 28 times and *Phantom of the Opera* 26 times on Broadway, among many others. Steve brings along his nonprofit experience to us and is also a self-proclaimed “geek.” His first project for us was creating our new website, and his graphic expertise can also be seen in our Playbills, forms, signage, posters, etc. Steve has also taken on the responsibilities of managing our hall rentals, working on sets, expanding our online presence and taking photographs of our shows.

Almost, Maine Opens February 17th

Almost, Maine is a comedy comprised of nine vignettes with four common elements: the location (Almost, Maine), the time (9 o’clock on the same Friday night in the winter), a romantic theme (of one sort or another), and characters (some characters in one tale are friends of characters in another tale). In each of the vignettes, residents of the mythical town of Almost, Maine, fall in and/or out of love in unexpected ways.

To see a promotional video online, click [here](#).

Written by John Cariani

Co-directed by Annette Hobbs & Brandon Gash

Produced by Maureen Edick

Assistant Producer Jackie Harness

CAST

Pete, Phil.....	Bob Pompeo
Ginette, Sandrine, Deena.....	Shawna Shook
Glory, Shelly, Waitress, Rhonda.....	Jennifer Memolo
East, Randy, Dave	Jeb Buffinton
Jimmy, Lendall, Chad	Christopher Fox
Marvalyn, Marci, Suzette.....	Beth Norris
Steve.....	Blake Smith
Gayle, Hope.....	Sandra Whitmore
Man	Jim Keeley



New Website Launched



We have launched a new website, TheBrevardLittleTheatre.org. It is easy to navigate, frequently updated, and will keep visitors informed about happenings at the theater. It offers the following features:

- **Online ticket purchases.** FlexPass season tickets offering discounted prices are available, as are tickets for specific shows. Tickets purchased and printed at home will be accepted directly by the usher at the theater, so there is no need to stop at the Box Office.
- **A comprehensive calendar of performance, audition, and rehearsal dates.** Special events like the theatre's annual fundraiser, *Dancing with Our Stars*, are also highlighted. Our 2017 Performance Schedule is also available to download, via a link near the bottom of the homepage.
- **Rental information for our 3,500-sq. ft. hall,** including rental requirements, pricing, and photos of the space. Weddings, graduations, parties, and corporate events have all been held in our hall.
- **Contact information.** This includes our new email address, TheBrevardLittleTheatre@gmail.com. Through it, patrons can continue to communicate directly with the theater and webmaster, even after hours, and share their ideas. We have also retained our Facebook page to keep our community updated about shows and events.
- **Online forms** to volunteer, join an educational class, become a BLT member, or take a survey about the theater and its upcoming events.
- **Direct, online donations via all major credit cards** to support the theater's continued operations. "Ticket sales simply cannot cover the cost of running our theatre," said Dick Thompson, BLT's president. "We depend on tax-deductible donations from our patrons and local businesses to keep this community gem afloat."
- **A complete library of BLT newsletters,** both the *Spotlight* and its predecessor, *The Barn Door*, covering more than a decade.
- **Archives of BLT productions and awards** from inception in 1935 to the present, with associated photos, articles and reviews originally researched and collected by Joe Carvajal, Nedra Carvajal, and BJ Winchester; many Playbills are also available. Productions are organized by decade, and also—via the "All Shows" option in the Archives menu—year and name.
- "We're excited about this website and we're excited about the 2017 season," said BLT president Thompson. "We're looking forward to interacting with theatre lovers in western North Carolina."

Comedy Acting Course

We are excited that our very own Al Edick will be teaching Comedy Acting! Al is an actor/producer/director with decades of experience in a multitude of community theaters, and his course is designed to entertain as well as educate.

When auditioning for comedy roles, you must show you have good comedic timing. During the course, participants will read and perform short comedic skits and be critiqued by the instructor and other participants. At its conclusion, participants should be confident of their ability to successfully audition and win comedic roles, perform well in comedic productions, and appreciate the skills required for good comedic theater.



Coming this spring!

Time: One day a week, 2 hours each day, for 8 weeks

To enroll, contact Annette Hobbs at (240) 463-5542 or send an email to anette.hobbs48@gmail.com. Please include "Comedy Acting Class" in the subject line. Cost for this class is \$120.00

Behind The Scenes: *How a Show is Made*



Have you ever wondered what happens "behind the scenes" as a stage production is prepared and presented? Or perhaps thought it might be fun to be part of one, as long as it wasn't on stage?

Well, we are considering offering a class on the backstage and offstage aspects of putting on a show. This would be a one-day, 2-3-hour survey class

introducing you to what's involved in the various tasks that create what the audience sees.

We'll discuss:

- **Designing the visual appearance:** Sets, costumes, and lighting
- **The practical jobs of putting everything together:** Building, painting and decorating the set; gathering and building props and costumes; hanging and focusing lights; creating and assembling music cues and sound effects
- **The live-action jobs that keep the show running:** Managing the stage, operating the lights and sound, helping with costume changes, resetting props during performances, working ticketing and box office, ushering, and running concessions

Our primary goal would be to enhance your experience as an audience member and/or actor. In addition, although not required, we would hope you could find an area that especially appeals to you, so you might consider learning more and then joining us in your chosen area(s) backstage or offstage.

If you are interested, please let us know by filling out [this short online questionnaire](#).

New Membership Program

BLT is introducing a new membership program. Your \$10 donation will enroll you as an official member of BLT. As a member you will:

- * Receive notices of all BLT activities
- * Receive our *Spotlight* newsletters
- * Be listed by name in our Playbills for the entire year
- * Be able to vote at our annual elections held in January
- * Help keep BLT vibrant and alive, as we have been since our inception in 1935

To become a member, just fill out [this online form](#) and make your payment online, or mail us your check to P.O. Box 426, Brevard, NC 28712 and state that your check is for membership.

Box Office Volunteers and Ushers Desperately Needed

BLT's box office volunteers take reservation calls and sell show tickets over the counter to theater patrons. Shifts begin at 6 PM and end around 7:45-8:00 PM for evening performances, with corresponding work hours for matinees. Volunteers are invited to stay for the show the day they staff the box office. Those interested in volunteering, please call our Box Office Manager, Maureen Edick, at (828) 890-1495. Individual training on box office procedures will be provided.



Those interested in ushering should contact Carla Hill at Carla.h9700@gmail.com

A New Awards Program for BLT



BLT's Board of Directors has agreed to establish an exciting awards program beginning with this 2017 season. There are more than a dozen awards available for sponsoring by individuals as well as local businesses. For example, "The Ruth and William Jones Award for Best Actress" or "The Brevard Gallery Award for Best Supporting Actor." Sponsors or their representatives will attend the annual awards event to read the names of the nominees in their category and make the presentation to the winner. Each sponsor will reimburse the theater for the cost of the award. Those interested can obtain more information by emailing either Al Edick (aedick87@gmail.com) or Jeb Buffinton (Jeb@Buffinton.FR).

Beer & Wine To Be Sold

Beginning with our first production of the season, *Almost, Maine*, the American Legion post will be selling beer and wine in our lobby before the shows and during intermission. Our regular concession items will continue to be available as well.

Dancing With Our Stars – March 18!

Our extremely popular annual *Dancing With Our Stars* fundraiser is happening Saturday, March 18 this year. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Local celebs will perform short routines and YOU pick the winner by voting with \$\$\$! There is also audience dancing throughout the night. Admission is \$10 per person and tables can be purchased by contacting Sandi Thompson at (828) 553-1182.



Newly Improved Lobby

Many BLT members and patrons have commented on the noticeable changes and updates in our theater lobby. These include painting, as well as adding furniture, framed show posters and cast photos, large framed art pieces and even a chandelier. Despite the fact that a budget for the project was approved by the board, all these items were donated, including the paint that Harris Ace Hardware generously provided, leaving those funds in the treasury for other urgent theatre needs.

Those who diligently worked on the project under the leadership of Julie Vorus and assistant Sandi Thompson were Al and Maureen Edick and Pat Durako. Taylor Rouse and Julius Buggs (volunteers from the Job Corps) lent their wonderful painting expertise over several days. The work is ongoing, as several small projects still remain to be completed in the near future.

Original planning committee members were Julie Vorus, Rick Laws, Jim & Patrice Robinson, and Phillip Thomason.

A Message from the President



President Dick Thompson

BLT had a successful year in 2016 by providing quality “live” theatrical entertainment to our community. We had six productions featuring drama, comedy and a rousing musical. In addition, we had our annual *Dancing With Our Stars* fundraiser. We also provided training and a fun experience for our youth actors. All of these endeavors were led by our loyal volunteers. For 83 years, volunteers have been the lifeblood of BLT. Our number one goal is to continue to provide quality, live theater entertainment in our community for folks of all ages and backgrounds. Here is just a partial list of endeavors at BLT in 2016 and underway in 2017:

- Six productions and a fundraiser provided 50 days/nights of quality entertainment by volunteers
- Almost 400 practice times (days or evenings) where these volunteers prepared/rehearsed for these productions.
- In addition to our patrons, an estimated 300 local folks are active participants in BLT’s activities each year, putting forth well over 4,000 hours of effort to help BLT provide a meaningful service and to make our small spot in the community, state, and world a better place.
- Assisting our friends and landlords, American Legion Post 88, to continue serving our community by renting a major portion of their building.

BLT is working on new ideas and initiatives. We want to continue thriving so BLT will be able to serve our community for many years ahead.

We thank our volunteers and the attendees at our events. Our board members and I would welcome hearing from, or meeting with, you. Join BLT. It’s a fun place.

Dick Thompson President 2017

2017 PRODUCTIONS

Almost, Maine

February 17 – March 5

Agnes of God

April 21 – May 7

Urinetown

June 22 – July 2

The Rainmaker

August 11 – 27

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

October 13 – 29

In the Workshop

December 7-10

Brevard Little Theatre is the Official Community Theatre of Transylvania County

P.O. Box 426

55 E. Jordan St.

Brevard NC 28712

TheBrevardLittleTheatre@gmail.com

To buy tickets, call us or buy online

(828) 884-BLTR

TheBrevardLittleTheatre.org

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