

# Stage Notes

Little Theatre of  
**VIRGINIA BEACH**  
*The Beach's Playhouse since 1948*

Now playing at LTVB...

## Getting Away with Murder

By Stephen Sondheim and George Furth  
 Directed by Mary Lou Mahlman

Performances: January 13 - February 5, 2012

Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.

Sundays at 2:30 p.m.



Is it possible to get away with murder?...

By Mary Lou Mahlman

Think of the name “Stephen Sondheim.” what comes to mind? For me, it’s “Musicals!” Sondheim is one of the foremost names in musical theatre, having written music and lyrics for such ground-breaking shows as *Sweeney Todd*, *Company*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *A Little Night Music*, *Into the Woods*, *Pacific Overtures*, and *Assassins*. You may not know (I didn’t) that he wrote the lyrics for the songs of *West Side Story* (music by Leonard Bernstein) and *Gypsy* (music by Jule Styne)! He has won an Academy Award (for the song “Sooner or Later” from *Dick Tracy*), eight Tony Awards (more than any other composer), multiple Grammy awards, a Pulitzer Prize (for *Sunday in the Park with George*) and the Lawrence Olivier Award.

And who is George Furth? If you are familiar with Sondheim shows, you know that Furth wrote the book for Sondheim musicals *Company* and *Merrily We Roll Along*. Furth also authored the plays *Twigs*, *The Supporting Cast*, and *Precious Sons*. Also an actor, Furth had extensive credits in both films and television.

Another perhaps little known fact about Stephen Sondheim is that he loves games, scavenger hunts, and puzzles of all kinds. It is rumoured that the main character in Anthony Shaffer’s hit play *Sleuth* (played by Laurence Olivier in the 1972 film) was based on Sondheim. He and long-time friend Anthony Perkins (of *Psycho* fame) co-wrote the screenplay for the 1973 film, *The Last of Sheila*.

In the early 1990s, Sondheim and Furth put their heads together and created *Getting Away With Murder*, which enjoyed a short run on Broadway in 1995. Our LTVB Play Reading Committee loved the twists and turns, the wonderful eccentric characters, and the classic Sondheim wit in the script. You will meet seven diverse members of a therapy group, who arrive at their eminent psychiatrist’s office for their group session and ultimately discover that their doctor has been murdered. This assorted lot brilliantly decide that they must find the killer themselves, as he/she is almost certainly one of them. Each character is prominent in their own way, and each has a tragic secret in their past that they don’t want exposed to the public. So each has a motive to get this murder solved quickly, with minimum publicity. The seven group members span the spectrum from an angry police officer to a lusty restaurant hostess; from a gluttonous, slovenly art dealer to a haughty society matron; from a conniving real estate developer to a discontented college professor. And the newcomer to the group is a political consultant with his eye on city political office.

As the first act unfolds, you will meet the group and a few other characters that are connected to them. By the end of Act I, the audience will have a good idea of “who done it.” But is he/she really the killer? If so, will the others figure it out? And will the killer “Get Away With Murder?” You’ll have to come back after intermission to find out!

We think you’ll enjoy this show...we remind you now to select the date you want to see it and call the box office voice mail to make your reservation. Be sure you state the correct date, with both the day of the week and date (i.e., “Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>”), your name, phone number, and number of seats to reserve. So you are prepared, there are gunshots and flashing lights in the show (it will be a dark and stormy night)!

The Volunteer Appreciation Party in October was a great success. We thank everyone involved for their hard work and dedication. Community theater would not be the same without you! Here is a glimpse of the fun times...

Photos by Donna Lawheed



LTVB Ticket Prices: General Admission \$17. Seniors, Students, & Active Duty Military \$14.  
Children 12 and under \$5. Sunday Matinees: all seats \$14. Group pricing available for groups of 20 or more.  
Reservations: 428-9233

Coming up next...

## August: Osage County

By Tracy Letts  
Directed by Kay Burcher

A vanished father. A pill-popping mother. Three sisters harboring shady little secrets. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoman family homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling secrets. Mix in Violet, the drugged-up, scathingly acidic matriarch, and you've got a major new play that unflinchingly — and uproariously — exposes the dark side of the Midwestern American family. Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award, Best Play. (This show contains adult language and situations).

**Performances: March 16 - April 7, 2012**

**Auditions: January 16 & 17, 2012**

For more information about auditions, please visit [www.ltvb.com](http://www.ltvb.com)

Our final show of the 2011— 2012 season:

**A Bad Year for Tomatoes**

By John Patrick  
Directed by Robin Chapman

Performances: May 18 - June 10, 2012

Auditions: March 19 & 20, 2012

### LTVB 2011-2012 Board of Directors

President, Robin Chapman  
VP/Production, Mary Lou Mahlman  
VP/Business, Nancy Bloom  
Treasurer, Jim Russell  
Recording Secy, Shirley Hurd  
Corresponding Secy, Lisa Bolen  
Box Office, Shawna Lawhorn  
Building & Grounds, Paul Berryman  
Costumes, Kay Burcher  
Membership, Robin Martineau  
Play Reading, Tom Coffey  
Programs, Beth Fotheringham  
Props, Donna Lawheed  
Publicity & Web Site, James Bryan  
Set Coordinator, Dennis Lawheed  
Socials, Rita Gordon  
Technical Coordinator, Jeff Brangan  
Volunteers, Brandon Monahan

LTVB's Summer Show  
(not included in the 2011- 2012 season):



Music by Jule Styne  
Lyrics by Steven Sondheim  
Directed by Brandon Monahan  
Performances: July 13 - Aug 5, 2012  
Auditions: May 21 & 22, 2012



### Special Thanks!

— to Joan Patterson for donating a  
brass telescope

### Local Theatre Events

Little Theatre of Norfolk, 627-8551: *A Flea in Her Ear*, Jan 27 - Feb 19, 2012

Generic Theater, 441-2160: *Mr. Marmalade*, Feb 10 - Mar 4, 2012

Hurrah Players, 627-5437: *Once on This Island Jr.* (at The Perry Family Theater), Feb 17 - Feb 19, 2012

# Little Theatre of VIRGINIA BEACH

The Beach's Playhouse since 1948

Post Office Box 1053  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Phone: 757-428-9233

Fax: 757-428-8145

Email: Contact@LTVB.com

www.ltvb.com



## 2011-12 Membership Application

Your season ticket includes: membership in the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach; one ticket to each of the five regular season shows (season tickets cannot be used for summer shows); one bonus ticket to the Little Theatre of Norfolk and one bonus ticket to The Generic Theater; and our bi-monthly newsletter, *Stage Notes*.

### Membership Levels

\*\*Memberships at this level will be acknowledged in our programs

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone                      Email

Send my Stage Notes via ( ) email ( ) USPS mail

Mail this application, with your check made payable to LTVB to:

Little Theatre of Virginia Beach  
P.O. Box 1053  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Producer (10 season tickets)	\$525+ \$ _____ **
Director (8 season tickets)	\$425-524 \$ _____ **
Stage Manager (6 season tickets)	\$325-424 \$ _____ **
Actor (4 season tickets)	\$225-324 \$ _____ **
Cameo (2 season tickets)	\$125-224 \$ _____ **
Adult (1 season ticket)	___ x \$65 \$ _____
Senior/Student/Active Duty Military (1 season ticket)	___ x \$45 \$ _____

### Membership only (no ticket)

Member (voting, 18+ years)	___ x \$10 \$ _____
Apprentice (non-voting, 14-17 years)	___ x \$5 \$ _____
Junior (non-voting, under 14)	___ x \$3 \$ _____

The Little Theatre of Virginia Beach is funded, in part, by grants from the Virginia Beach Arts & Humanities Commission and the Carol Chittum Foundation

DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Stage Notes* welcomes your comments, news, and articles. Please send email to [stagenotes@ltvb.com](mailto:stagenotes@ltvb.com) or to the theatre address.