

Lex-Ham Community Theater



TALLEY AND SON

BY LANFORD WILSON

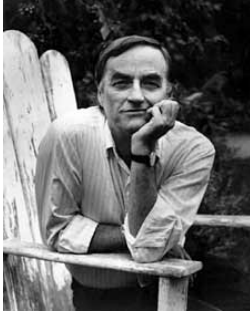
7:30 p.m. March 12, 13, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27, 2004

2:30 p.m. March 21, 2004

St. Paul Central High School
275 N. Lexington Parkway, St. Paul

About the Author

Born on April 13, 1937, in Lebanon, Missouri, Lanford Wilson began writing at the University of Chicago in 1959 after enrolling in a playwriting class. Upon graduation, he moved to New York City where he soon became involved with a group of theatrical artists at the Café Cino, one of many tiny coffeehouses Off-Off-Broadway that presented edgy, avant-garde works. Wilson served not only as playwright, but also as director, actor and designer. His first play, *So Long at the Fair*, was produced at the Café Cino in 1963.



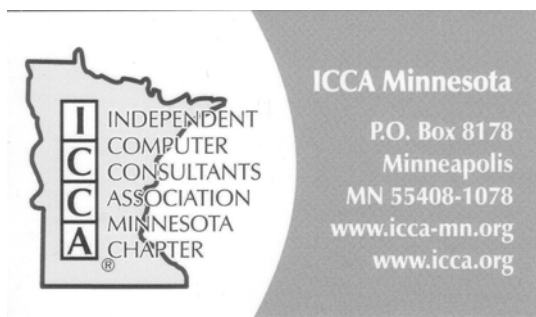
Another of Wilson's scripts to be produced at the café was a one-act entitled *Home Free* (1964) which revolved around the relationship of two incestuous siblings. During the run of *Home Free*, Wilson met another member of the Café Cino group, a young director named Marshall W. Mason. Although the two started off on the wrong foot when Mason criticized Wilson's rewrite of *Home Free*, the young playwright soon gave Mason a copy of his latest play, *Balm in Giliad* (1965), a massive, 56 character piece that incorporated simultaneous scenes and overlapping dialogue. Several months later, *Balm in Giliad* opened under the direction of Mason at the Café LaMama. Not only was the play a great critical success, but it marked the beginning of a long and profitable collaboration between the two young artists.

In 1969, Wilson co-founded Circle Repertory Company with a group of friends that included Mason. The company's first major success was Wilson's *Hot L Baltimore* (1973), the story of a group of drifters, prostitutes, and aging residents in an old, run-down hotel. *Hot L Baltimore*, directed by Mason, ran for 1,100 performances and eventually transferred to Broadway. Other Wilson/Mason collaborations include *The Mound Builders* (1975) in which an archeological dig sets the stage for a fascinating meditation on a university scientist's past and present, *Serenading Louie* (1970) which focuses on two young suburban couples facing the unhappiness at the heart of their marriages, *Angels Fall* (1982) in which a group of strangers come together in a small mission church in a remote part of New Mexico to face their own mortality in the wake of a possible nuclear accident, and *Talley's Folly* (1979), for which Wilson won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award.

"I know the whole family is ignorant and distrustful, but I will not believe they're unfeeling."
—Olive

Wilson wrote three plays about the Talley family. Besides *Talley's Folly*, the other two include the *Fifth of July* (1978), and *Talley and Son* (Originally titled *A Tale Told*, 1981), which takes place simultaneously as *Talley's Folly*.

Source: <http://www.imagi-nation.com/moonstruck/clsc65.html>



Please
remember to
turn off
all cell phones
or pagers
during
the performance.

The cast and
other audience
members will
appreciate it!



Talley and Son

Characters

Timmy Talley Tim Hagedorn
Eldon Talley Frank Blomgren
Lottie Talley Natalie Westreich
Sally Talley Debby Edlund
Olive Talley Trish Fike
Viola Platt Debora Drower
Netta Talley Rose Johnson
Buddy Talley Garrick Dietze
Emmet Young Cory Klein
Harley Campbell Paul McGlynn
Calvin Stuart Talley George Farr
Avalaine Platt Kathleen Lomax

Time

Independence Day, 1944

Place

The front parlor of the Talley Place; a farm near Lebanon, Missouri

There will be a 10-minute intermission between Acts I and II

“Read what you sign, I told him.
Use your eyes. Know the worth of
a thing”
—Mr. Talley

Production Staff

Director - Brad Donaldson
Stage Manager - Kristen Bargmeyer
Technical Director/Lighting - Forest Godfrey
Lighting - Andi Billig
Costumes - Judy Larsen
Sound Design - Tim Kuehl
Set Construction - Jonas Bakken, Jennifer Burkhart, Joy Donaldson, Peter Mortenson
Musical Entertainment - Jack Rose
Props - Jack Rose, Greg Schultz
Tech Crew - Robin Wilcox, Eric Anderson
Photography - Lila Taft, Leo Tushaus

*“Produced by special arrangement with
Dramatist Play Service”*

Please consider becoming a Friend of the Lex-Ham Theater

With support from the foundations and government arts agencies to arts organizations such as the Lex-Ham Community Theater down because of tight budgets, your financial support is needed more than ever.

Support the activities of the Lex-Ham Community: quality theatrical productions which also build community, acting classes from beginning thru advanced for children and adults, free informal Shakespeare Reading Series events. Donations of any amount will be accepted and are tax-deductible. Everyone who chooses to join our membership program at one of the suggested levels will receive mention in our programs.

A donation at the **Pal level** (\$25) will give you \$1 discount on up to four tickets for each Lex-Ham production. For contributing at the **Good Buddy Level** (\$50), you will also receive a pair of complimentary tickets for the Lex-Ham production of your choice.

The Battle of Saipan

In early 1944, the allied forces were beginning to tighten a ring around Japan. It was assumed, however, that Japan would not surrender easily and that attacks directly on Japan would be necessary. The “leap-frog” strategy of circumventing enemy strongholds, harrying them with bombing attacks and landing far behind them that could provide airfields and ports had been successful in reconquering thousands of square miles of the Pacific.

The B-29 bombers were appearing on the scene with their normal range of 2,850 miles. The Mariana Islands became crucial to the Allied strategy. The islands, especially the islands of Saipan and Tinian, were at the perfect distance from Japan to launch air attacks and prepare for a possible invasion. The Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet was Chester Nimitz.



On June 14, 1944, one Army and two Marine divisions with 535 ships invaded Saipan. For two days, battleships and destroyers shelled the island to prepare for the manned invasion. The island is hilly with many caves which provided shelter for the inhabitants and the Japanese army.

The main invasion was along a four-mile beach at Chalan Kanoa. The resistance was strong and allied casualties were heavy. Over 3,000 American soldiers died on Saipan with another 13,000 wounded or missing in action. It was not until July 9, 1944 that the island was under American control.

A high cliff on the northern part of the island is known as Suicide Cliff where hundreds of families jumped to their deaths as the battle drew to its end.

Source: The American Heritage Picture History of World War II by C.L. Sulzberger

“I just counted myself lucky to be in out of the rain”
— Buddy



General Mark Clark
leader of the U.S.’ Fifth Army in Italy

Tinker to Evers to Chance

In 1910, New York newspaper columnist Franklin Pierce Adams immortalized the Cubs double play team Joe Tinker (SS), Johnny Evers (2B), and Frank Chance (1B) in verse, cementing their legend and helping them gain election to the Hall of Fame as a trio 36 years later.

These are the saddest of possible words:
"Tinker to Evers to Chance."
Trio of bear cubs, and fleeter than birds,
Tinker and Evers and Chance.
Ruthlessly pricking our gonfalon bubble,*
Making a Giant hit into a double--
Words that are heavy with nothing but trouble:
"Tinker to Evers to Chance."

*The term "gonfalon" refers to a flag or pennant, and Adams uses the phrase "pricking our gonfalon bubble" to describe the repeated success of the Chicago Cubs and their celebrated infield against their National League rivals, his beloved New York Giants.



Joe Tinker



Johnny Evers

Cast and Crew

Kristen Bargmeyer (Stage Manager) Kristen is thrilled to be joining *Talley and Son*. This is her first venture into stage managing. It's been a great experience getting to know the talented cast and great tech crew. Special thanks to Chris.

Frank Blomgren (Eldon) This is Frank's 2nd show with Lex-Ham: the first being *Under the Gaslight* directed by the incomparable Tom Johnson. Frank is enjoying the five minute commute to the theater compared to the drive to Lakeshore in White Bear Lake, where he performed in *Much Ado About Nothing* and *How the Other Half Loves*, and the drive to Minneapolis where he played Vladimir in *Godot* and Matt in *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* for Corcoran Park Players.

Garrick Dietze (Buddy) Garrick is thrilled to be making his debut on the Lex-Ham stage. He has been seen previously in the area as Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Rapunzel's Prince in Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*. After working on this show, he would especially like to thank his family for their support and love.

Brad Donaldson (Director) Brad is proud to make his directing debut with the Lex-Ham Community Theater. He has previously directed *Into the Woods*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Company*, and *The Foreigner* among others for the Chameleon Theatre Circle. A big thank you to Joy and my parents for their support. Also, a special thanks to Kristen. I couldn't have done this without you. You are the best! To the cast and crew, I will always have a warm place in my heart for this show and this group. Thank you very much. Now go get 'em guys. Zip, zap, zop!

Debora Drower (Viola) Debora is appearing in her first Lex-Ham show. She has been in community theater for many years playing such roles as Pandora Sugarland in *Lucky Dollar and the Case of the Persian Pearl* and Duchess Glorianna in *The Mouse that Roared*. She is both a graphic designer and photographer. She likes to photograph old neon signs, which her father affectionately calls "junk." She'd like to thank both James and Patrick for their support.

Debby Edlund (Sally) In Debby's second production through Lex-Ham, she has a "cameo" appearance as Sally, whom is deemed as the "hope" of the play. Her previous acting experience includes portraying Aunt Sponge in Lex-Ham's *James and the Giant Peach*, *Lysistrata*, and other short plays at Gustavus Adolphus College. In addition, Debby received an award through Southwest High School for her work acting, directing, and writing numerous short plays and monologues. She feels privileged to be working with such a talented cast.

George Farr (Talley) George is a veteran of the Twin Cities theater scene, previously appearing as Tom Garrison in Lex-Ham Community Theater's *I Never Sang For My Father*. In the more than fifty productions in which he has appeared, his favorite roles include Noah in *Two by Two*; Weller Martin in *The Gin Game*; Norman in *On Golden Pond*, Scrooge in the musical version of *A Christmas Carol*. At the very top of his list are *Walter Mitty Sings*, a one-man show and two *Great Scott and Grumpy George* shows sharing the stage with his magician/comedian son. In addition to theater, George has had parts in several movies—some even making it past the cutting room floor.

Forest Godfrey (Technical Director) Forest is a 1999 graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and has been doing theater in the Twin Cities ever since. Most recently, Forest sound designed Into the Woods with Chameleon Theatre Circle. When not doing theater, Forest designs software for supercomputers at Cray, Inc. This is Forest's first show with Lex-Ham Community Theater

Tim Hagedorn (Timmy) Tim is appearing in his first Lex-Ham Community theater production. Tim has had a long hiatus from performing on stage, prior to which he played Charlie in the Brandon Thomas farce *Charlie's Aunt* at the Lakewood Community College Theater in 1987.

Tim Kuehl
(Sound Design)
This is Tim's first time working with Lex-Ham. He has

“She’s already put so much spice in that pie, the devil himself couldn’t eat it.”
—Netta

worked with The Chameleon Theatre Circle as an actor, director, writer, and sound designer. He sound designed their productions of *Sexual Perversity In Chicago*, *Death And The Maiden*, and the upcoming production of *Glengarry Glenn Ross*. Thanks to Brad and Lex-Ham for this opportunity, Andi for his additional help with the visuals, and Serenity. Love to family and friends for their support. All my love to my beautiful, patient wife and to my daughter who should be arriving into the world any second now.

Rose Johnson (Netta) Rose last worked with Lex-Ham Community Theater in the MACT festival of 2001 in *Is That The Bus To Pittsburgh?* Besides doing theater, to pay the mortgage and keep Katy Dog in kibble, Rose nannies an Eden Prairie family and, during summer, fall, and holiday time, works at Murphy’s Landing near Shakopee. When she’s not putting miles on her Saturn, Rose loves to read or just veg out with TV.

Cory Klein (Emmet) This is Cory's first show with Lex/Ham Community Theatre. Cory has performed in many, many wonderful community theatres and many, many scholastic performances. After a many, many year hiatus from theatre, (6 years) this is his third show in 6 months. He hopes to perform in many, many more performances.

Kathleen Lomax (Avalaine) Kathleen is appearing in her first Lex-Ham show. She appeared in several productions at her alma mater of Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, IA, before graduating in 2001. Her roles included Murderer in Shakespeare's *Richard III* and Olive in Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* (female version). I would like to thank my family and friends for encouraging me to get back onstage, and for supporting me in all of my adventures.

Paul McGlynn (Harley) This is Paul’s first production with the Lex-Ham Theater. He’s acted with Lakeshore Players, the Guthrie Lab, Heart of the Beast, Theatre in the Round, and the Famous One Abbey Theater.

Trish Fike (Olive) Trish is thriving on being the resident nag of the show, a talent that comes quite naturally and transfers well from her day job as zoo keeper... or office manager (really, what's the difference?!?) Although this is her first venture with Lex-Ham, she has worked with The Chameleon Theatre Circle and Lakeshore Players. Many thanks and much appreciation to the cast and crew for making our playtime fun.

Jack Rose (Musical Entertainment) Jack was awakened by his grandmother one morning with the news that the Japanese had surrendered. “Go back to sleep, Grandma”, he exclaimed, “It’s 1987.” Since then, Jack has been playing bad piano to unappreciative audiences in venues as far-flung as Burnsville, Fridley, and Maple Grove. He has spent the majority of his adult life out of jail. Jack was recently seen as the mayor in *The Music Man*, the captain in *Anything Goes*, and the bartender in *Bye, Bye Birdie*, all with Heritage Theater Company in Maplewood.

Natalie Westreich (Lottie) Natalie has been seen on various community theater stages in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area including Minnesota Singer's Theater, Park Players, Morris Park Players, Center Stage, First Covenant Community Theater, and the RCTC Theater Company. She is delighted to make her debut with Lex-Ham and to join this very talented cast and work with this capable staff. Natalie greatly appreciates the support and cooperation of her husband, Gil.

“I done what was necessary, but it ain’t necessary no more”
—Avalaine

Thanks to all the supporters of the Lex-Ham Community Theater. These include the following contributors to the 2003 fund drive:

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(\$100 or more)**

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Jack and Judy Schlukebier
Urban Landreman

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(\$50 to \$99)**

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Alexis Reller
Shirley Retter
Pam Scott
Jessica Smith
Minerva Takis
Jane Zilch

“You think a jerkwater
outfit like us could get a
war contract?”
—Harley

Special thanks go to

- Central High School
- Concordia University - St Paul
- Pam Weiss &
the St. Paul Community Education staff
- Kowalski's Markets
- McTeer Systems, Inc.
- Mall of St. Paul
- Bradley Schaefer



**Lex-Ham Community
Theater**

**Shakespeare
Reading Series**

Join neighbors and friends for an
informal reading of:

Twelfth Night

Friday, April 30, 2004
1184 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul

6:30 p.m. – potluck supper
7:00 p.m. – sit down and read the play

Parts are reassigned at the start of each scene,
so everyone gets lots of opportunities to read.

Bring your own copy of the play,
some food to share, and
a love of Shakespeare

Lex-Ham Community Theater

Since its start in 1995, the Lex-Ham Community Theater has striven to achieve its mission of producing quality theatrical experiences by and for the residents of the Lexington-Hamline and surrounding neighborhoods in St. Paul. The company has enhanced the local theatrical scene by

- Selecting lesser-known works by noted playwrights, such as *Soul Gone Home* by Langston Hughes and *The Vegetable* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Giving the regional and world premieres of works by local authors, such as *Bullets and Beauties* by Urban Landreman
- Reviving wonderful classics such as *The Philadelphia Story* by Philip Barry and *Under the Gaslight* by Augustin Daly.

All of its shows have provided people with little previous experience an opportunity to be on-stage or work off-stage side by side with those who have more experience.

Finally, the company strives to help build community by involving people across generations and walks of life with each of its productions.

The theater is further involved with the community by offering acting classes through St. Paul Community Education and holding free informal Shakespeare Reading Series events. Call (651) 644-3366 to get involved.

Check out the theater's website at:

www.LexHamArts.org/theater

2004 Season Upcoming Shows



JULY 9-25

The Solid Gold Cadillac

by Howard Teichmann & George Kaufman

Auditions in May

NOVEMBER

Working

based on the book of Studs Turkle

Acting Classes

The Lex-Ham Community Theater offers acting classes year round through St. Paul Community Education. The next session will start in April 2004 with the following classes and instructors:

- **Intro to Acting for Students aged 10 to 12,**
Lisa LeGrand
- **Advanced Acting for Students aged 10 to 14,**
Lisa LeGrand
- **Beginning Acting for Adults,**
John Townsend
- **Contemporary British Scene Study,**
John Townsend
- **Shakespeare,**
John Townsend
- **Audition Skills,**
Kurt Hunsicker

To register for children's classes, call 651-325-2672

To register for adult classes, call 651-293-8811