



MARKETING CONTACT

Derek Dunham

717.991.3268

marketing@HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com

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HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2009 SEASON

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania—October 4, 2008 – At its annual Volunteer Appreciation Day, Hershey Area Playhouse announced the productions that will make up the 2009 season. Directors for each production were on hand to discuss their vision for each show as well as audition dates.

Specific details for each production are as follows:

Love Letters

Love Letters is an intimate portrait of a relationship between an attorney and an artist that transcended decades through their ongoing letters. While the romance never blossomed, the friendship grew as they shared their lives with each other through their correspondence. *Love Letters* is a poignant and comedic exploration of a life-long friendship, an examination of the differences between men and women, and a testament to how relationships change and love evolves.

- Directed by Stuart Landon
- Audition dates: November 16 – 17, 2008
- Production dates: February 12 – 15, 19 – 22, 2009
- \$15 for teens/adults; \$13 for kids 12 and under (service charges apply)

The Boys Next Door

Audiences will visit the bittersweet world of mentally challenged men living together in a group home served by a social worker whose own life is unfolding in unpredictable ways. Each resident has his own eccentricities, yet contributes to the benefit of the others who live with him. *The Boys Next Door* is a journey of the heart – it will help one and all understand the nature of change.

- Directed by Skip Becker
- Audition dates: March 1 – 2, 2009
- Production dates: April 23 – 26, 30 – May 3, 2009
- \$15 for teens/adults; \$13 for kids 12 and under (service charges apply)

The King and I

Anna Leonowens, a Victorian widow from Wales, travels with her young son across the oceans to become the English teacher for the royal children of the King of Siam. To her surprise, she finds more than she bargained for in her relationship with a powerful King and a country in the midst of great change. This beloved musical recreates the beauty and grandeur of the time with endearing songs and a haunting story.

- Directed by Cory Wilkerson
- Audition dates: May 8 – 9, 2009
- Production dates: July 9 – 12, 16 – 19, 2009
- \$17 for teens/adults; \$15 for kids 12 and under (service charges apply)

Wait Until Dark

This classic thriller is about Susy, a blind woman, who is stalked by criminals after her husband accepts a doll from a stranger. Unbeknownst to Susy or her absent husband, the doll is stuffed with heroin, and the thugs will stop at nothing to get the doll back. *Wait Until Dark* holds audiences in its grip till the final hair-raising moments when Susy turns her greatest weakness, her blindness, into her greatest strength in outwitting the ruthless thugs.

- Directed by Diane Shaffer
- Audition dates: August 16 – 17, 2009
- Production dates: October 22 – 25, 29 – November 1, 2009
- \$15 for teens/adults; \$13 for kids 12 and under (service charges apply)

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Hark! The herald angel sings: even the notorious Herdman kids can be redeemed through participating in a classic church Christmas pageant. Feel the meaning of the season and remember your childhood through this magical holiday tale.

- Directed by Beth Dunham
- Audition dates: September 27 – 28, 2009
- Production dates: December 3 – 6, 10 – 13, 2009
- \$15 for teens/adults; \$13 for kids 12 and under (service charges apply)

All productions perform Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 pm with Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm.

Discounted season subscriptions are available for \$60 for adults/teens and \$50 for children 12 and under. This is a discount of \$17 per subscription – it's like getting one show free! Season subscribers can exchange their tickets for another performance during the same production if their schedules change in the meantime.

Reserved seats available at HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com or at the Box Office, which is open every Tuesday from noon to 4:00 pm and 90 minutes before each performance.

Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows is located on Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive in Hershey, PA.

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Hershey Area Playhouse (HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing residents of the community with an opportunity to participate in the creation and production of a theatrical experience. Since its inception in 1999, Hershey Area Playhouse has staged 31 productions at numerous venues around the Hershey area. In April 2007, the Playhouse opened its new permanent home, Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows.