The American Century Theater presents Albee's ONSTAGE

About The American Century Theater

The American Century Theater was founded in 1994. We are a professional nonprofit theater company dedicated to presenting great, important, and worthy American plays of the twentieth century—what Henry Luce called "the American Century."

The company's mission is one of rediscovery, enlightenment, and perspective, not nostalgia or preservation. Americans must not lose the extraordinary vision and wisdom of past playwrights, nor can we afford to surrender the moorings to our shared cultural heritage.

Our mission is also driven by a conviction that communities need theater, and theater needs audiences. To those ends, this company is committed to producing plays that challenge and move all Americans, of all ages, origins, and points of view. In particular, we strive to create theatrical experiences that entire families can watch, enjoy, and discuss long afterward.

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The American Century Theater presents



July 30-August 22, 2009

Gunston Theatre II 2700 South Lang Street Arlington, Virginia

Producer

Director		
Steven Scott Mazzola		

Karen Currie **Lighting Design**

Stage Manager Zachary W. Ford

Set Design HannaH J. Crowell

Andrew F. Griffin

Costume Design Melanie Clark

Sound DesignMatt Otto

Properties Design Suzanne Maloney

Technical Director Norman Lee, IV

Setting

Midday on a dune on the Northeastern Shore of Long Island

Seascape will be presented with one 15-minute intermission.

Edward Albee's *Seascape* is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Please—Silence cell phones and other sound producing devices. The use of recording equipment and/or the taking of photographs during the performance are strictly prohibited.

Cast, in order of appearance

Nancy	Annie Houston
-	
Charlie	Craig Miller
Leslie	Brian Crane
Sarah	Mundy Spears

Production staff

Director	Steven Scott Mazzola
Stage Manager	Zachary W. Ford
Set Design	HannaH J. Crowell
Lighting Design	Andrew F. Griffin
Sound Design	
Costume Design	Melanie Clark
Properties Design	Suzanne Maloney
Makeup	Lynn Sharp-Spears
Technical Director	Norman Lee, IV
Scenic Artist	Meaghan Toohey
Board Operators	Michael Clark, Christine Millette
Electrics	Michael Clark
Set Construction	Norman Lee, IV
Costume Construction	. Jennifer Tardiff, Kingsley Gbadegesin
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Program Design and Cover Art	Michael Sherman
Production Photography	Micah Hutz
Display and Design Intern	Lana Hasou

Special thanks

Jeffrey S. Akman Jessica Karasia Sarah LaRue and Signature Theatre Elise Bernadoni and the National Zoo Patrick Lord Cam Magee Vanessa Bradchulis Jared Davis Nancy McCabe Mike DeBlois Katherine Mielke Anar Garibov and the Roxann Morgan Center for Digital Imaging Arts Lorraine Osinski George Mason University **Bob Rogerson** Arts Management Program Shakespeare Theatre Company

Michael Kahn Jonathan Stricks

and all others whose names were not available as this program went to press.

AD's Notes

Edward Albee's Seascape (1974)

Seascape marks a critical point in the career of Edward Albee—the point at which most successful playwrights choose a path dictated by finances and creative realities. Albee chose a different one.

The American Century Theater focuses most of its attention on the very best American playwrights, yet even these suffer from a fate that seems grafted to the commercial creative career: they can't escape their own successes. Once a playwright has had a well-received play, there are overwhelming pressures to stay close to the themes and style that have brought fame, riches, and favor. Tennessee Williams found himself returning repeatedly to the travails of lonely Southern spinsters. Arthur Miller explored similar moral dilemmas in different settings. Many playwrights staged brief rebellions: Philip Barry, hailed for his comedies, tried periodically to sneak a drama past the critics, who would have none of it. Both Miller and Williams attempted light-hearted fare that had audiences telling them to go back to what they did best. Usually, that's what the great writers end up doing. It's safer, and it's easier on both their bank accounts and their reputations.

Still, they make this compromise at a price. Researchers on the mysteries of the human brain have learned that human creativity comes from forging new neural pathways. When an artist uses the same neural pathway over and over, it becomes exhausted, like a mine's vein of a precious metal that gets depleted. After that, nothing really new or interesting comes out. A few artists have both the courage and the depth of talent to abandon the old pathways that have been successful before they reach this point, go searching for new ones, and find them. The Beatles. Steve Martin. Philip Roth. Among playwrights, it is a very short list, almost beginning and ending with Eugene O'Neill. But Edward Albee also belongs on this list—and has the scars to prove it.

Seascape is called the second of Albee's Pulitzer Prize—winning plays, but it was really the third. Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, by acclamation his masterpiece, was selected by the Pulitzer Prize drama panel for the 1963

prize, but the stodgy Pulitzer Committee vetoed the choice on the grounds that the play did not represent "a wholesome view of American life." They awarded no drama prize that year, and half of the drama jurors resigned in protest. Albee had to wait until 1967 for his first officially sanctioned Pulitzer—for *A Delicate Balance*. Between these two domestic, emotional-disembowelment plays, Albee had been trying out new neural pathways like mad: the book for a musical comedy, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*; a dense intellectual allegory, *Tiny Alice*; experimental one-acts. The musical closed before it got to Broadway, the allegory was roundly hated by critics, and the experimental one-acts were, well, experimental one-acts, the kind of thing that established playwrights are supposed to leave behind with their one-room garrets and their pile of rejection slips. So with another Broadway hit and a second celebrated play from the original mother lode, what did Edward Albee do?

He went back to looking for a new vein. Seven years later, after several more failed digs, he found himself back at the original mine in a previously unexplored shaft that still had riches: Seascape—another set of unsettled couples, but with a bold twist. Albee was again on top. Most playwrights—indeed, every other one—would have accepted the apparent message. Not Edward Albee. He closed up the old mine, strapped on his gear, grabbed his pickaxe, and went looking again. A Pirandello-style drama, The Lady from Dubuque. No. Another musical, Lolita. Failure. The Man with Three Arms, in which a man who has been celebrated for a unique deformity harangued the audience for not caring about him once his extra arm fell off. By this point, critics had concluded that Albee simply had lost his talent, if not his mind. Finally, seven flops and sixteen vears after Seascape, Edward Albee found his new vein with Three Tall Women, a Broadway smash in 1990 and his fourth Pulitzer Prize. Seascape had not been the beginning of the end for Albee, as every critic was saying in the '80s, but the end of the beginning.

—Jack Marshall, Artistic Director





Brian Crane (Leslie) last appeared at The American Century Theater as Reverend Lloyd in *Life with Father*. Other TACT appearances have included Woodly in *Happy Birthday, Wanda June*, the Producer in *Hellzapoppin*', the Egg of Head in *MacBird!*, Harris in *Tea and Sympathy*, and Felix/Williams in *Paradise Lost*. Roles at Washington Shakespeare Company include Steve in *Small Craft Warnings*, War in *Peace*, Le Grue in *Red Noses*, Lepidus in *Caligula*, Lodowick in *Edward III*, and De Nizza and Manco in *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*. Brian has also appeared as Clotaldo in *Life Is a Dream* with Journeymen Theater. Brian has been an understudy for several Studio Theatre productions: Man (u/s) in *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, Teddy Lloyd/Gordon Lowther (u/s) in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, and Ralph (u/s) in *Frozen* for Studio Theatre Secondstage.

Annie Houston (Nancy) has appeared at The American Century Theater in *The Autumn Garden*, *A Flag Is Born*, and *Machinal*; at Folger Theatre in *Clandestine Marriage*, *Private Lives*, *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; at Washington Shakespeare Company in *The Children's Hour*, *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore*, *In the Summer House*, *The Night of the Iguana*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Henry V*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Pericles*; at Olney Theatre Center in *Present Laughter*; at Rep Stage in *The Seagull*; at Theater Alliance in *You Are Here*; at Fountainhead Theatre in *A Delicate Balance*; at Open Theatre in *The Ghost Sonata* and *A Dream Play*; and in the Fringe Festival in *Thicker than Water*. Nancy has been an understudy at Shakespeare Theatre in *Mary Stuart* (u/s) and *A Woman of No Importance* (u/s). She received her theatre training at Shakespeare Theatre Company and Living Stage.

Craig Miller (Charlie) has performed throughout the Metro area for the last twenty-five years. Prior to that, he spent ten years performing and directing in Europe. He received his formal theatre training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. Craig resides in Silver Spring with his wife Joyce and their "pack" of rescued dogs.

Mundy Spears (Sarah) is delighted to be in her first production with The American Century Theater. Her favorite and most recent roles include: Violet in *Small Craft Warnings* and Helen in *All's Well that Ends Well*, both with Washington Shakespeare Company; Bette in *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* with Spooky Action Theater; and Roberta in *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* at Studio Theatre. Mundy is also a singer and choreographer in the area. You can see her next in *Vampire* at the Kennedy Center Page-to-Stage Festival and as Blue in *Go, Dog, Go!* with Adventure Theatre.

Production Staff

Steven Scott Mazzola (Director) The American Century Theater: The Eccentricities of a Nightingale, Drama under the Influence: Celebrating Women Playwrights of the Prohibition Era, The Autumn Garden, Tea and Sympathy, A Flag Is Born, The Second Man, Picnic, Hotel Universe, and *Thicker than Water* (at Capital Fringe Festival 2008). Round House Theatre: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Adventure Theatre: The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stoopid Tales and The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Little Theatre of Alexandria: The Philadelphia Story. Gay Men's Chorus of Washington: The Wizard of Oz. Imagination Stage: The Village Fable. Madcap Players: Readers committee and director of LA 8 AM and Right Is the Hand. The National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts: Director, Twelfth Night, Our Lady of Sandwich, North Shore Fish, and *Tantalus*. Shakespeare Theatre Company: Assistant Director. *Love's* Labor's Lost at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, England. STC ReDiscovery Series: Director, *Escape*. South East Project: Director, Untitled. Washington Shakespeare Company: Director, The Royal Hunt of the Sun, In the Summer House; Assistant Director, Strange Interlude, The Winter's Tale, Marat/Sade. Cherry Red Productions: Director, I Hate Anton Dudley, Allergic Erection. Keegan Theatre: Director, A Streetcar Named Desire (USA and Ireland productions); Assistant Director, Translations. Teaching: The University of Maryland–University College, Northern Virginia Community College, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, and the Shakespeare Theatre Company.

HannaH J. Crowell (Set Design) Local scene design credits include Ain't Misbehavin' (Olney Theatre Center), The Receptionist (Studio Theatre Secondstage), Holes and If You Give a Mouse a Cookie (Adventure Theatre), All's Well that Ends Well, House of Yes, and Kafka's Dick (Washington Shakespeare Company), Dream Sailors (Rorschach Theatre). Associate scene design work includes Pavilion (Hub Theatre), Second Line (Tribute Productions), A Murder, a Mystery, and a Marriage (Two River Theater Company), The Night Is a Child (Milwaukee Repertory Theater), A Feminine Ending (South Coast Repertory and Portland Center Stage), and Sometimes a Great Notion (Portland Center Stage). Upcoming projects include A Piece of My Heart (The American Century Theater) and Can't Pay? Won't Pay! (Hub Theatre).

Melanie Clark (Costume Design) Costume design work includes: Stones in His Pockets, Mrs. Farnsworth, Thom Pain, Trumbo: Red, White, and Blacklisted, and Intelligence (Rep Stage), Tobias and the Angel and Don Giovanni (Opera Vivente), The Tragedy of Carmen (Alba Music Festival),

Seussical the Musical and The Araboolies of Liberty Street (Imagination Stage), After Ashley, The Faculty Room, and She Stoops to Comedy (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company), Sleeping Arrangements (Theater J), The Night of the Iguana, Titus Andronicus, The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore, Medea, Hapgood, The Children's Hour, and All's Well that Ends Well (Washington Shakespeare Company), Caucasian Chalk Circle and Low Level Panic (Open Circle Theatre), No Exit, Thersites, and The Lonesome West (Scena Theatre), and Remembering U (Dance Institute of Washington).

Andrew F. Griffin (Lighting Design) returns to The American Century Theater, where he designed this season's *Native Son*. A freelance lighting designer based in Washington, DC, Andrew has created the designs for many companies including: Olney Theatre Center, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Toledo Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus, Synetic Theater, Studio Theatre, Forum Theatre, the Delaware Shakespeare Festival, Washington Shakespeare Company, and Adventure Theatre, where he is also a resident artist. Andrew is also the resident Assistant Lighting Designer for Michigan Opera Theatre in Detroit, MI where he has assisted on their last 12 productions and remounted productions in Lansing, MI and Chicago, IL.

Matt Otto (Sound Design) has most recently designed for *Five Flights* and *Woman Who Amuses Herself* (Theater Alliance), *Strega Nona*, *Holes*, and *Frosty the Snowman* (Adventure Theatre). *Benidictus* (Theater J), *K of D* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company), *Cinderella and Her Three Sisters* and *Godspell* (Olney Theatre Company), and *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale* and *Ah*, *Wilderness!* (The American Century Theater). Matt received his degree in Sound Design from Boston University.

Suzanne Maloney (Properties Design) has loved theater since she helped dress Guinevere in *Camelot* in 1966 for her director/dad Norman Chaudet. Recent projects include props design for Source Festival One Acts and dramaturgy for several of the First Light readings at Theater of the First Amendment. Past productions with The American Century Theater include *Machinal*, *Time of Our Lives*, *Emperor Jones*, and *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale*. She looks forward to what is next on the horizon: designing props for *Dirty Blonde* at Signature Theatre and *Lie with Me* at Charter Theatre.

Karen Currie (Producer) The American Century Theater: Dr. Cook's Garden (producer), Thicker than Water (PSM), The Eccentricities of a Nightingale (producer), Cops (props), Drama under the Influence (SM), The Autumn Garden (SM). Signature Theatre: Les Miserables (Young Performer Supervisor), The Happy Time (ASM). Theater J: The Rise and Fall of Annie Hall (PSM), Honey Brown Eyes (PSM), 25 Questions for a Jewish Mother (ASM), Speed the Plow (PSM), Either Or (ASM).

Washington Shakespeare Company: Two-Headed (SM), The Royal Hunt of the Sun (SM), The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore (production consultant), Titus Andronicus (SM). DC Dollies & Rocket Bitch Revue: Nutshell (SM). Open Circle Theatre: You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (SM), Low Level Panic (SM). The Myth Project (co-founder/producer): The Myth Project: Greek. National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts: Twelfth Night (SM), The Real Inspector Hound (SM), Fen (SM), Our Lady of Sandwich (SM). Spellbound Theatreworks (co-founder/managing director/producer): Twelfth Night, HAiR, The Last Session, A Woman of No Importance, Hear My Song. M.A. in Arts Management, American University. Member, Actors' Equity Association.

Zachary W. Ford (Stage Manager) most recently was stage manager for *Small Craft Warnings* at Washington Shakespeare Company, where he also stage managed *Private Lives, Equus*, and *The Children's Hour*. He is an artistic associate with Journeymen Theater, where he has stage managed *Neglect, After Darwin*, and *Spinning into Butter*. Zachary was assistant stage manager for *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* at Signature Theatre and *Made in China* (Solas Nua), *Antigone* (Forum Theatre), *Fool for Love* (Spooky Action Theater), and *God of Hell* (Didactic Theatre). He has worked with both the Source Festival and the Capital Fringe Festival.

Norman Lee, IV (Technical Director) is working with The American Century Theater for the second time in his short, but storied, theater career, having worked as a carpenter on *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale*. Currently, Norman fills his days working as the Master Carpenter for Arena Stage. In the past, he has also served as Master Carpenter for Signature Theatre and worked as a Staff Carpenter for the University of Maryland, College Park.

Christine Millette (Sound Board Operator) last worked with The American Century Theater as sound board operator for *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale*. Since then she has worked around DC, including the world premieres of Theodore Bikel's *Sholom Aleichem: Laughter through Tears* and Leigh Anna Fry's *Dear Mr. President*. Christine just finished her Master of Justice Administration at Norwich University and is looking forward to a great theater season in the city.

Michael Clark (Light Board Operator) recently served as Technical Director for *Shakespeare in Hollywood*, designed and ran the sound board for *Noises Off!*, and stage managed *Rehearsal for Murder*; *Pippin*, and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. His most recent experiences in front of the curtain were playing multiple roles in *Captain John Smith: HiStory of McLean and Great Falls* with Celebrate Virginia and playing Tom in *The Time of Your Life*.

In memoriam

Ashley Shane Wallis 1975–2008

The American Century
Theater and the theater
community lost a valued
artist and dear friend last
December. Shane Wallis
lived a life few could keep
up with and no one will
forget. The company of
Seascape and the staff
and Board of Directors
of The American Century
Theater are proud to
dedicate this production
in his honor.



—Steven Scott Mazzola

Shane Wallis appeared in The American Century Theater productions of Cops, A Flag Is Born, Moby Dick Rehearsed, Mr. Roberts, and Machinal, as well as the staged reading of Porgy. He directed Spoon River Anthology, was Master Carpenter for Time of Your Life, and staged the fight choreography for Mr. Roberts and Moby Dick Rehearsed.

"Northern Virginia's premier choral ensemble" - The Washington Post



Sounds of the Baroque: A Christmas Concert

Musicians from the McLean Symphony join Voce for a concert of Baroque period holiday music, featuring selections from Handel's *Judas Maccabaeus*, Zielenski's *Magnificat à 12*, and works by Michael Haydn and Johann Kuhnau.

Sat. Dec. 12, 2009 at 7:30 pm, St John Neumann Church in Reston, VA Sun. Dec. 13, 2009 at 3 pm, St Timothy's Church in Herndon, VA

A FUNNY VALENTINE: An Evening of Song, Poetry, and Good Company

Join Voce for a cabaret-style concert about love songs, love's many splendors, and the good company in which one finds love. Enjoy favorites by Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, Johnny Mercer, Cole Porter and Jerome Kern.

Sat. Mar. 20, 2010 at 7:30 pm, St John Neumann Auditorium in Reston, VA Sun. Mar. 21, 2010 at 3 pm, St Timothy's Parish Hall in Herndon, VA

TWO AMERICAN GIANTS: BARBER AND SCHUMAN

The year 2010 is the 100th anniversary year of the births of Samuel Barber and William Schuman. Voce will celebrate these great American composers by performing Barber's *Reincarnations*, *Op. 16* and *Hermit Songs*, as well as Schuman's cantata, *Casey at the Bat*.

Sat. May 15, 2010 at 7:30 pm, St John Neumann Church in Reston, VA Sun. May 16, 2010 at 3 pm, St Timothy's Church in Herndon, VA

Season Subscription: \$40 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$20 for students.

Single Concert advance purchase: \$18 for adults, \$13 for seniors and \$8 for students.

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The American Century Theater 2009—2010 Season

Shirley Lauro's A Piece of My Heart (1991) Directed by Jason Beagle September 11—October 10

George Axelrod's *Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter*? (1955) Directed by Ellen Dempsey January 15—February 6

Donald Bevan and Edmund Trzcinski's Stalag 17 (1951) Directed by William Aitken March 26—April 17

World Premiere:
Allyson Currin's *The Amazing Sophie [Treadwell]*May 27—June 19

Rescue Series: Rodgers and Hart's *Babes in Arms* (1937) June 24–27

Lanford Wilson's Serenading Louie (1976) Directed by Steven Scott Mazzola July 23—August 21

More information on the plays and on becoming a subscriber at www.AmericanCentury.org

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and the Arlington Commission for the Arts.



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