



ACT President Steve Smith with the ACT Quilt at ACT's Summer Fundraising Reception at Tryst, Restaurant August 7th.

## ACT's Summer Fundraising Reception a Success!

Thanks to the support and participation of numerous families and friends in the ACT community, our summer fundraising reception at Tryst on August 7th was a terrific success.



The evening began with drinks and

fabulous appetizers created and served by the staff at Tryst, in a room decorated with ACT memorabilia: posters, photographs, slideshows, and the ACT quilt (above) created by Terry Grimm, featuring shows over the last five years. Fundraising Chair Jackie Daley welcomed the eager crowd and Colleen Rua was officially introduced as ACT's new Artistic Director. The winners of the evening's raffle were Pierre Villeneuve and Amy Taber, parents of Eliza Pederson, last seen as Alligator in last spring's *Really Rosie*. The event raised over \$3000 for ACT. A huge thank you to all involved—the Board Fundraising Committee, the folks at Tryst, and, most of all, to the entire ACT community for your generous support!

## GET YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR UPCOMING ACT SHOWS!

### *The Twits*

by Roald Dahl  
 directed by Kate Wisnioski



7 PM Friday, November 17  
 2 PM Saturday, November 18  
 Arlington Center for the Arts

Tickets: \$8 General Admission  
 available at

<http://act.arlington.ma.us/shows/>  
 and at the door.

For more information

Contact Kathy Perkins at

[Twits\\_Tickets@act.arlington.ma.us](mailto:Twits_Tickets@act.arlington.ma.us)  
 or 781-396-2558



### *Jeanne d'Arc*

by Emily and Miles Allen

Winners of the  
 2005 ACT Playwriting Competition

7 PM Friday, December 1  
 2 PM Saturday, December 2  
 Arlington Center for the Arts

Tickets: \$8 General Admission  
 available at

<http://act.arlington.ma.us/shows/#JD>  
 and at the door.

For more information,

Contact Norton Allen at

[JdArc\\_Tickets@act.arlington.ma.us](mailto:JdArc_Tickets@act.arlington.ma.us)  
 or 781-643-3748

## ACT's Next Production:



### Performances:

March 16th-18th at  
 Regent Theatre

Registration open October 30th through  
 November 6th for two casts, 7-11 and  
 12+, with Rehearsals on M&TH eves, Sat  
 AM. Register at [act.arlington.ma.us](http://act.arlington.ma.us) or  
 by calling 781-874-9841

# ACT's Winter Workshops

Registration for ACT's Winter workshops will open soon. Most workshops will run January through March or April at various days and times.

Acting!

Dance!

Improv!

Magic Carpet Riding!

Singing!

Creative Movement!

Discovery Theatre!

**And More!**

Check [act.arlington.ma.us](http://act.arlington.ma.us) for updates!

## **Registration Opens Soon for ACT's February and April Vacation Week Drama Camps!**

This February, ACT will hold its fifth annual **February Vacation Week Drama Camp**. This year's play, an exciting and funny mystery created by nine ACT students in Steve Smith's Playwriting Workshop, will be performed on Friday night, February 23rd at the Masonic Temple in Arlington. Approximately 25 six to ten year olds will attempt to learn their lines, create the costumes and the sets, and everything else associated with the play during February Vacation Week, February 19th to the 23rd. The play will be directed by ACTors Emily Hamilton and Sarah Govoni.

**April's Vacation Week Drama Camp** will be directed by theatre professional Samantha Busfield. Sam plans to create an original play with the kids who attend April's camp, also at the Masonic Temple, during April Vacation Week, April 16th-20th.

For both of these fun weeks, ACT is accepting applications from children 11 and up to work as interns during the week.

For more information, keep an eye on the workshops page or call 781-874-9841.

## **ACT's Spring Shakespeare Announced:**



For ACTors 12 and up  
Directed by Colleen Rua  
Spring, 2007  
at  
the Masonic Temple  
in Arlington

Registration opening in March

*Claudio, a well-respected nobleman, and the lovely Hero are in love and plan to marry until the sinister Don John, Prince Don Pedro's illegitimate brother, invents a plot that leaves Hero stranded at the altar. Meanwhile, all the characters rally around the equally clever Beatrice and Benedick. While the two are constantly at each other's throats, everyone else is sure they're the perfect match.*

*Find out if love does conquer all in this Shakesperian comedy classic.*

# Voices of ACT

*Voices of ACT is open to any member of the ACT community who'd like to share his or her thoughts and experiences. Submissions can be made by email to: ACTVoices@act.arlington.ma.us.*

## Tom Sawyer Trouble

By Zoey Anne Michaels

"T'was brillig, and the slithy toves, did gyre and gimble in the wabe. All mimsy were the borogoves, and the mome raths outgrabe," I said, with a bit of a spooky tone in my voice.

I was reciting the poem "Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll during an audition for a play called "Tom Sawyer" with the Arlington Children's Theater. I was definitely going to be in it because everyone who auditions for an ACT play automatically gets a part. So, there was just the matter of who I was going to be. I didn't know the story very well, so I didn't even know who I wanted to play! I also had never worked with ACT so I didn't know very many people there. I only knew girls: Sarah Smith, Emily Hamilton, and the director Colleen.

Colleen has long dark brown hair. She is a lot of fun because she acts like a kid. Colleen always teaches the cast tongue twisters during rehearsals to practice enunciation. Colleen is now one of my best grown-up friends.

After I finished "Jabberwocky", we were taught a song from the play and a dance that went with it. I was pretty sure that I did well on the song, and that I did okay on the dance. I'm not the best dancer in the world.

About a week later, the phone rang. Rrrrring! My Mom picked it up and said, "Hello? Oh! Hello. Yes. Really. Oh, that's great! Okay, I'll tell her. Thanks. Bye!" She put down the phone and went to find me. I was sitting in the family room watching Sponge Bob. "Zoey," she said. "You got the part of Joe Harper, one of Tom's friends!"

"Oh my gosh!" I yelled as I realized that I had just got my first speaking part in my nine short years of life!

A couple of weeks later, rehearsals began. Thump! Thump! My heart was beating fast. I knew I'd do great, but no matter how many plays you've been in you always feel nervous at the first rehearsal. Once everyone settled down, the producer, Sarah Smith's father, jumped out with overalls, bare feet, a straw hat and a fishing pole. "Howdy, y'all!" he yelled with a southern accent. It was absolutely hilarious!

"Hmm," joked Sarah Smith, "he looks familiar!" He then explained what we would be doing over the next few rehearsals and at the shows. After that, we did a read-through of the play. Emily Hamilton got to play Huck Finn.

Rehearsals were a lot of fun. As the days and weeks passed, the cast and crew perfected each and every little part; from the first scene when Tom and his friends pretend to be in the Sherwood Forest, to the last scene when Tom brings the gold to Aunt Polly.

About two months later, the show was ready to start. I was behind the curtain with all the other people who played Tom's friends. I was mostly excited, but I was a little nervous, too. Suddenly, the opening music started. A girl named Audrey bounded on to the stage and sang her line. Then, I leaped out from behind the velvety curtain. I sang my line perfectly!

The rest of the show went perfect too, until the scene when Tom tricks his friends into whitewashing the fence for him. I was supposed to bring my wooden sword on stage to give to Tom because I want to whitewash the fence. The next three words are words I will probably hear in the many years to come in almost all of my many plays. *I forgot it!* BUMP! BUMP! BUMP! My heart was pounding like crazy! So many questions were going through my head! What do I do? What do I say? Will I get in trouble? I suppose I was over reacting a bit. Then it hit me. I knew what to do. My real line was "I got my sword, but you can't have that!" Do you want to know what I said? I said, "I got my sword at *home*, but you can't have that!" It worked out wonderfully. As we finished the rest of the dance, I squinted out at the audience. I saw the director smiling at me.

Other mistakes happened during the show. Somebody dropped a rubber dagger off the stage, and, someone else fell off the stage! They all bounced back, especially the rubber dagger, and so did I. I learned that if you make a mistake, you can always bounce back. Even if you don't, it's not the end of the world.

*Zoey Anne Michaels is now 11 years old. She is in the 6th grade at the Stoneham Middle school and has been involved with ACT for a little over 2 years. Besides "Tom Sawyer," other favorite productions were "Bye Bye Birdie" and "Damn Yankees." She plans to continue participating in ACT programs and plays.*

## A Love Letter to ACT

By Lisa Morse, ACT Choreography Queen

A little more than a year ago, a man approached me at a bookclub meeting: "Lisa, you're in the arts: I run this theatre for kids and we need a choreographer for our summer musical. Do you know any choreographers?" he asked.

"Well, I kind of am," was my response.

The man was Steve Smith. The theatre was ACT. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Many ACTors don't know this, but my primary gig is as an actress: I was a professional actress in NYC for 12 years before coming to Boston, and then proceeded to act in the Boston scene as well. I choreographed in college, mostly modern dance compositions, and I got my teaching certification at that time as well. But it was Steve's query and ACT's explosively supportive, generous and talented community that brought these many different loves in my life together in such a positive way.

From the very beginning of auditions for *Bye Bye Birdie*, I knew I was dealing with a special community. At the dance audition, kids of all ages were laughing and helping each other with the combination, boys and girls each giving it their all.

Choreographing *Bye Bye Birdie* was like jumping into the deep end of a pool for me and I had a blast (did anyone ever have so much fun with a fez before?). At the end of the summer, Steve approached me with another question: "Lisa, do you think you could teach a class for us?". And thus was born the Dance for Musical Theatre Class where 20 kids joined me in exploring different styles of choreography and laughing our way through (*continued on next page*)



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every class. We learned so much and had such a good time together.

In *Really Rosie*, I got the true picture of ACT: after sending an e-mail around saying that I'd like to incorporate bowls into each month's dance/costume in a different way, and everyone thought I was talking about real, heavy, porcelain bowls (instead of the paper chinettes ones I really had in mind), no one batted an eye; they just got to work on how to make it happen. Talk about supporting creativity!

Everything that ACT has taught me over the last year came together in this past summer's *Damn Yankees*. Numbers like "Brains/Talent", with those fabulous gals sporting those fabulous plumes and "Whatever Lola Wants" with the undulating hip scarves (think about the people behind the scenes who listened to what I wanted to do with those dances and made it happen!); big cast extravaganzas like "Shoeless Joe", "Heart", "The Game" and "Six Months"; and the topper, "Two Lost Souls", where two pairs of kids got to seriously strut their stuff. I am so in love with everyone involved in *Damn Yankees* that I feel like my heart is going to burst out of my chest just thinking about it.

I love the people ACT attracts. I love the kids and how well they treat each other, I love the families, I love the way the kids take care of each other, and the openness they feel in expressing their enjoyment of each other, of me, and of the work. It is just a big lovefest and I was so happy to be all mixed up in it.

ACT inspires creativity. You inspire it in your kids and you inspire it in me. When I think back over the work I've created for you, it has been inspired by the support and the sense of "we can" that envelops the organization. I am inspired to take risks, to make things harder, more intricate and more exciting, because I sense that if we fail, people will be more interested in the fun we had along the way than in the end result. And, as a result, we don't fail: we dance better than any of us ever thought we could.

By the end of the summer, I was back in NYC and involved in my own show. On opening night, I had a moment where I thought so strongly of ACT and what working with you all has taught me: just before curtain, everyone was a-buzz with nerves and, as we were heading to places, actors were wishing each other "break a leg". I wished everyone, "Have fun". Each actor paused over that, repeated it with a question mark, and then again with, "Right! Have fun! Thanks!". And I thought, ACT taught me that: that having fun is every bit as important as anything else, and often leads to everything else. So, thank you ACT!

Love, Lisa

*Lisa Morse worked as a choreographer and dance instructor for ACT for two years. She has performed extensively both in NYC and regionally, and has written and performed her own one-woman shows, **The Clown Bride** and **Five Times** in Boston, in NYC and elsewhere. When she was in Boston, Lisa worked with Lyrical Edge Productions, Suga Theatre, Zeitgeist Stage, and the Stoneham Theatre.*

**ACT's Summer and  
Fall 2007 shows  
to be announced soon!**

## **ACT Begins After School Programs in Arlington and Medford Elementary Schools**

For the first time, ACT has expanded its offerings to include after-school workshops and plays at three area schools.

The first program, initiated at Thompson Elementary School in Arlington, began when ACT and Thompson parent Georgia Gersh approached ACT President Steve Smith for advice about producing a play at the school. There had been no drama program at Thompson, yet a parent group began meeting in 2005-06 with the idea of putting on a play. ACT was invited in to support their program and, this fall, ACT Instructor Medina Mahfuz began teaching workshops on Monday and Friday afternoons to introduce students to concepts in theater in preparation for the spring play.

At Brackett Elementary on the other side of town, ACT has developed a program with a different kind of focus, thanks to the efforts of ACT Board Member and Brackett parent Howard Straubing. In December, Brackett after school students will get a chance to take an introduction to theater with Medina, then participate in one of two one-act plays over ten weeks starting in January.

Plans are in the works for a similar program at Roberts Elementary School in Medford, in an eight week after-school setting.

"This is an exciting addition to ACT's program," says Steve Smith. "At Thompson, not a single kid in Medina's first 3-week workshop had ever been in a play or seen an ACT production. The number of kids and families we're touching through this program is just wonderful."

For information about how you can bring ACT to your school, call us at 781-874-9841.



ACT Instructor Medina Mahfuz teaching 3rd through 5th grade students at Thompson Elementary School in Arlington.



*"ACT is such a great community of kids and parent volunteers. I feel privileged to work with them . . ."*



## Membership

We invite you to join the Arlington Children's Theater! Keep current on our programs and support an important cultural resource! Our members include families and friends from Arlington and throughout Greater Boston.

## Benefits

Membership benefits include:

- \* Tuition discounts on ACT workshops
- \* Invitations to all special programs and events
- \* Free subscription to the ACT newsletter
- \* Discounts on select events
- \* Discounts at ACT plays
- \* Discounts on select ACT sales items (T-shirts, bags, water bottles, etc.)

## Membership Options

Friend of ACT:	\$25
Sponsor:	\$40
Sustaining Member:	\$100
Patron:	\$250
Benefactor	\$500
Angel:	\$1,000 and up

### Each membership level also includes:

<b>Friend</b>	\$2 off 2 tickets to any performance
<b>Sponsor</b>	\$2 off 4 tickets to any performance, 1 free ticket to the summer show
<b>Sustaining</b>	\$2 off 4 tickets to any performance, 4 free tickets to the summer show
<b>Patron</b>	\$2 off 4 tickets to any performance, 4 free tickets to the summer show, free t-shirt from the show of your choice
<b>Benefactor</b>	Patron member benefits plus VIP seating for 4 (early admission) to the summer show
<b>Angel</b>	\$2 off 4 tickets to any performance, 8 free tickets to the summer show, VIP seating for 8 to summer show, free t-shirt from the show of your choice.

## ACT Membership application

First Name	Last Name	Phone
Street Address	Town	State Zip
Email Address		
Type of membership desired(circle one):		
Friend	Sponsor	Sustaining
Benefactor	Angel	Patron
Payment enclosed: _____ (Please make checks payable to <b>Arlington Children's Theater</b> )		
Does your company offer matching funds for charitable donations? Yes/No		

# ACT Goes to the Theater

Following the success of last year's ACT Goes to the Theater Program, where ACTors and their families enjoyed shows such as *Wicked*, *Joseph*, *Hairspray*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Lord of the Flies* at Boston-area theaters, ACT will again be offering a full range of shows at discount prices. This fall, ACT has arranged to see two shows, both in November: *Altar Boyz* at the Colonial and *Holes* at Wheelock Family Theatre.

Tickets are first-paid, first-served and are offered to the ACT community. Contact Kathy Perkins, eak.perkins@comcast.net or 781-396-2558 if you want to purchase tickets or would like more information.

## Altar Boyz

Sunday, November 5, 7:30pm

\$32 per ticket

Colonial Theater

Winner of the 2005 Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical, ALTAR BOYZ is the smash hit musical-comedy spoof about a heavenly guy-group on the rise to stardom. Join the A-Boyz on the last leg of their national tour, with an extraordinary mix of hilarious music, sinfully sensational dancing, uncontrollable laughs and lighthearted fun. This award-winning and totally original new musical is 90 minutes of pure delight that's suitable for all ages.

## Holes

Friday, November 10, 7:30pm

\$17 per ticket

Wheelock Family Theater

Stanley Yelnats. Underdog. Cursed by the deeds of his great-great-grandfather. Sung a lullaby of discontent all his life and sent away for a crime he doesn't commit. Stanley endures a sentence of digging holes, endless holes, in the hot desert sun. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there is more than rehabilitation going on at Camp Green Lake. Louis Sachar has adapted his award-winning novel for the stage and Wheelock Family Theater Presents the New England premiere of this compelling story about fate... and friendship.



P.O.Box 1076  
Arlington, MA 02474

### Inside:

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and *Jeanne D'Arc*

*Into the Woods, Jr.*  
registration to  
start Oct. 30th

A Love Letter  
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Information on  
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## ACT's Third Annual Halloween Costume Bash!



Come in costume and bring your friends for an evening of games, improv, dancing and costume contests. All net proceeds to benefit the ACT Scholarship Fund. Parents are welcome if they come in costume!!

### When:

Saturday October 28th, 2005 7-10 p.m.

### Where:

Arlington Masonic Temple, 19 Academy Street

### Cost:

\$7.00 at the door

Admission is limited: Please [RSVP by e-mail to Halloween\\_Party@act.arlington.ma.us](mailto:Halloween_Party@act.arlington.ma.us) today with your name and the number of people in your party. Also be sure to download, the [flier](#) and [permission slip](#), and print and fill out the permission slip and bring it with you.

**No one will be admitted without a signed form.**

**We need your help! Become a Member of ACT today!**