

TBTA Membership

Membership is still only \$20.00 and is a great way to show support for the theatre. Join us today!

2013 Members

Robert Bassett, Don Bergeron, Rosemary Bergeron, Kerry Bulson, Michael Burnett, Mark Campbell, Brian Casella, Gail Cowser, David J. Hatcherson, Carol Hoose, Kristin Hoose, Margaret Teed Jones, Don Lombardo, Karlene Lombardo, Judy Mangan, Sara Mariano, Sue Murray, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Sammy Panzarino, Karen E. Steckler, Joy Tagliavento, David J. Yerkes

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Thank you to our 2013 Season Subscribers

Susan Amlung, Gloria Austin, Angela & Joseph Barna, Christina Betz, Jim & Margie Blansfield, Laurie Boxer, Frank Bulson, Anna & Roy Chan, John & Vivien Cheeseman, Anthony Chiodo, Gail Cowser, George & Joan Doutney, GERALYN FISCHER, Deborah Forte, Douglas Forte, Janine & Jonathan Gibney, Barbara Gillis, Steve Hoose, Denis & Judith Larkin, Donald & Karlene Lombardo, Judy Mangan, Meg & Kevin McLoone, Mikes Lawn Maintenance, Brenda & Lou Meola, Nicolette Molles, Kevin & Pat Morgan, Donald & Stephania Naiman, Susan & Michael O'Brien, Jane Ohayon, Margaret Reynolds, Judy Schewe, Marianne Seeber, William & Georgeann Shields, Adele & Richard Skarzenski, Barbara Smith, Joseph & Polly Sorrentino, Cathleen Sullivan, Carli Tako, Richard & Diane Toth, Annette Tryon-Crozier, Cliff & Marie Walker, Jina Williams, Steve Wright

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

TBTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Michael Burnett, President & Artistic Director Meg Jones, Vice-President
Carol Hoose, Treasurer Kristin Hoose, Secretary

TBTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Kerry Bulson, Brian Casella (Technical Director), Sara Mariano,
Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Karen E. Steckler



by **Mitch Albom & Jeffrey Hatcher**
based on the book by Mitch Albom

directed by **Tom Sheehan**

produced by **Kristin Hoose & Andrew Okell**

CAST

Ron Malyszka MORRIE SCHWARTZ

Gary Millar MITCH ALBOM

There will be no intermission.

Running time is approximately 1½ hours.

For the safety of the performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, taking photos of any kind is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off **ALL** phones, pagers, games and other electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems. **Patrons who are unwilling to turn off electronic devices are welcome to leave the theatre.**

FROM THE DIRECTOR

“Do the kind of things that come from the heart. When you do, you won’t be dissatisfied, you won’t be envious, you won’t be longing for somebody else’s things. On the contrary, you’ll be overwhelmed with what comes back”

— **Morrie Schwartz**

What an amazing goal to which we can aspire. It can be said that Morrie Schwartz, to borrow an expression from Jimmy Durante, had “...a million of ‘em”. But these aren’t just hap hazard phrases that the professor coined to somehow cement his own posterity or to make it easier for Mitch Albom to write a best seller. No. The beauty and inspiration of Morrie’s words is that he believed what he said and lived his life accordingly. Right to the end.

Morrie was the consummate teacher, educating everyone around him by the living of his own life. Mitch Albom was not only fortunate to have his Professor, Morrie Schwartz, in college, but he also had the chance to learn more from him later in life. In the book description on Amazon.com it reads, “...Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man’s life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final class: lessons in how to live...”

If Morrie’s passion was living and teaching, then his student Mitch’s is listening, learning and storytelling. The result is a beautiful marriage that elevates both teacher and student and has become a story for the ages.

In 1978, I graduated from Fairfield University and earned my BA in Political Science. I was fortunate to have the chance to be taught by some wonderful professors, one of whom taught me much more than “Politics and Government” and “Constitutional Law”. He taught me about life. Professor Carmen Donnarumma was wise, smart, funny, seasoned, savvy and above all, honest. This was a man who cared much more about listening than he did about hearing his own voice. For several years after Fairfield, we kept in touch. I was working in National Politics at the time and he was always available for a telephone call or better yet, a face to face over a nice glass of scotch. Then, life happened and we did not see one another for many years. Until I attended his wake last March. After 94 years, this giant of a man had earned his rest. And I didn’t get to thank him just one more time.

So, we are proud and honored to offer this story of love, passion, dedication and perseverance. We hope you enjoy your time with Morrie and Mitch and hope that they touch your hearts as they have touched ours.

And Carm...thank you.

EMERGENCY FIRE NOTICE

Please observe the **EXIT** sign nearest to the seat which you occupy. It is the shortest route to the exterior of the building. Should an emergency arise, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.



PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR Tom Sheehan

PRODUCERS Kristin Hoose & Andrew Okell

LIGHTING DESIGN Chris Gillotte

SOUND DESIGN Stephen Cihanek

SET DESIGN Andrew Okell

COSTUME DESIGN Meg Jones & Karen E. Steckler

STAGE MANAGER / PROPERTIES Carol Martino

SET CONSTRUCTION Bob Lane, Andrew Okell, Emma Okell, Lou Okell

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Nicola Gillotte

LIGHTING EXECUTION Rob Bassett

SOUND EXECUTION Bennett Cognato

BOX OFFICE Carol Hoose

SRO/CONCESSIONS Joy Tagliavento

OPENING NIGHT PARTY Kristin Hoose

SPECIAL THANKS

Marv Bronstein

Anna De Masi

Sara Mariano

Justin Morgan

BIOGRAPHIES

Rob Bassett (LIGHTING EXECUTION) is happy to be part of the crew in this wonderful production! Previous credits at TBTA include Mark in "Rent". Ryan Kendall in *8*, Jack in *Into The Woods* and Woof in *HAIR*. Rob sends much, love and gratitude to his parents, family, and friends!

Stephen Cihanek (SOUND DESIGN) After studying theater and engineering in college, his interest in theater returned while attending the First Baptist Church in Brewster, NY where he took on the role of technical director and lighting/sound designer (and sometimes actor) for many of their productions. Since then he has designed lights for TBTA and other local theaters. Shows include *Little Red and the Hoods*, *Master Class*, *Outward Bound*, *Putting It Together*, *As Bees in Honey Drown*, *Dinner with Friends*, *Diviners*, *Harvey*, *Spelling Bee*, *The Book of Liz*, *Into The Woods* and *Be A Good Little Widow* as well as sound design for *Thou Shalt Not Dance*. Steve is also TBTA's photographer and the 2012 Volunteer of the Year.

Bennett Cognato (SOUND EXECUTION) is happy to have found another reason to be at TBTA, volunteering his talents in the tech booth for this inspiring show. A dynamic performer, his TBTA stage credits include Roger Davis in *Rent*, David Boies in *8*, Berger in *Hair*, Emcee in *Cabaret*, and Van in *Dog Sees God*. Bennett would like to thank the talented cast, crew, and production team as well as his TBTA family for this opportunity.

Chris Gillotte (LIGHTING DESIGN) While Chris has worked with lights for many shows, this marks his debut as a designer. He worked as a Stage Manager at DHS for four years and has been a lighting technician for several TBTA shows including *The Laramie Project*, *Once On This Island*, and *Hair*. Chris also worked on the musical *Johnny Johnson* and the drama *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* as well as stage-managing the main stage show *Seven* at The Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven. Chris would like to thank Justin Morgan for his help and guidance. He also thanks Tom and the talented cast & crew for this wonderful opportunity to shed a little light on life.

BIOGRAPHIES

Nicola Gilotte (ASST. STAGE MANAGER) has been a part of many shows here at TBTA as well as at her old high school, DHS. She is attending WCSU as a technical theatre major. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Kristin Hoose (PRODUCER) currently resides in Danbury, CT and is a senior marketing manager for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's national office in White Plains, NY. TBTA producing credits: *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Joseph...*, *Love Letters*, *Harvey*, *Spoon River Anthology*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Beyond Therapy* and *The Food Chain*. Recent TBTA stage roles include *RENT*, *HAIR* (Crissy), *Sylvia* (Sylvia) and *Dog Sees God* (CB's Sister). Kristin would like to thank Tom, the cast, the crew and the production team for volunteering their time and talent. Much love to her family for their continued support.

Meg Jones (COSTUME DESIGN) is happy to be working with this wonderful cast and crew. Meg has been involved in many shows both on the stage and behind the scenes as producer and costumer. Behind the scenes credits include *Rent*, *Into The Woods*, *Hair*, *Be A Good Little Widow*, and *Cabaret*. On stage credits include *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Thou Shalt Not Dance*, *Sylvia*, *The Laramie Project*, *Peter Pan*, *Spoon River Anthology*, *Pippin* and *The Odd Couple*. Meg is also a member of TBTA's resident Improv Comedy Troupe "17 Debacles". She is the Vice President of TBTA and runs the costume department. By day, Meg teaches 3rd grade in New Milford. She would like to thank Catherine, Sheridan and John for supporting her choice to be so involved in local theatre.

Bob Lane (SET BUILDER) affectionately known as our own "Bob-the-Builder", Bob has been volunteering his construction skills at TBTA since 2009 and was the 2010 TBTA Volunteer of the Year. He thanks the Jackson family for getting him involved at the theater, especially his wife, Rita, for putting up with his commitment to TBTA.

Ron Malyszka (MORRIE) couldn't be more pleased to be working opposite Gary in this wonderful production at TBTA. Previous TBTA credits include: *Harvey*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Exit the Body* (Paddy Award-Best Actor), *Spider's Web*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Dial M for Murder*, and *Whodunnit*. Other regional shows include: *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Cash On Delivery*, *Whodunnit*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Noises Off*, *Rumors*, *Pygmalion*, *Mere Mortals*, *All In The Timing*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *As You Like It*, *A Mid Summer Night's Dream*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Philadelphia Story*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *The Laramie Project*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Company*, and *Stepping Out* to name a few. Ron thanks Tom for this great opportunity and another big thank you to this incredible production staff at TBTA.

Carol Martino (STAGE MANAGER) is happy to be a part of this special production. This is her tenth show stage managing for TBTA. Past

BIOGRAPHIES

shows include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Book of Liz*, *Cabaret*, *Moonlight & Magnolias*, *Hair*, *Be A Good Little Widow*, and *Rent*. She congratulates the cast and crew on a job well done, with special thanks to Nicola, who was crucial in making the magic happen. She sends special thanks to her husband, John, for his constant encouragement. "Without love we are birds with broken wings."

Gary Millar (MITCH) is thrilled to be on the TBTA stage once again and to be working with such an amazing cast and crew! His previous TBTA stage credits include *The Odd Couple*, *The Diviners*, *Outward Bound*, *Man of LaMancha*, *The Food Chain*, *Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and *Godspell*. Gary would like to thank Tom and Ron for sharing their incredible talents. Special thanks go to the four women in his life, his wife Diane, and his daughters Catherine, Lindsay, and Jennifer and to the newest additions to his family—grandsons Brayden and Marty! Their love, support and encouragement means everything to him!

Andy Okell (PRODUCER/SET DESIGNER) is on the Board of Directors and has produced several plays at TBTA including *The Book of Liz*, *Moonlight & Magnolias* and *Be A Good Little Widow*. He has also built sets with Bob for many TBTA shows since 2010. By day, he manages Arketype, a graphics and printing company in New Milford and is a previous TBTA Volunteer of the Year. Thank you to Tom for this opportunity, to co-producer Kristin, to building buddy Bob, and to the entire cast and crew for your talent and commitment. Special thanks to Lou and Emma for their patience.

Tom Sheehan (DIRECTOR) is very happy to be returning to TBTA to direct his third play here after previously directing *Moonlight & Magnolias* last year and *Love Letters* in 2010. His stage credits are numerous including roles in *8*, *Into The Woods*, *Cabaret*, *Love Letters*, *Master Class* and *Man of La Mancha* at TBTA. He has performed throughout the region in both musical and non-musical roles. He thanks the entire production team, Michael and everyone at TBTA for making this a very special experience. Thanks also to this amazing cast. "Ron and Gary, your talent, creativity and intelligence have truly been inspiring. Thanks as well to my friends and especially my family, children and grandchildren. My deepest gratitude to my wife, Lynn, without whose support none of this would be possible." ***Tha goal agam ort.***

Karen E. Steckler (COSTUMER) has lived in Brookfield for nine years and is a new member of TBTA's Board of Directors. An original New Yorker, she worked for ABC-TV, News, Entertainment and Sports for 44 years—the winner of 4 Emmys in the field of broadcasting. Karen has volunteered for every TBTA show this year either producing or costuming and is enjoying learning and lending her talents to this great group of dedicated volunteers.