

MTS NEWS



Volume I No. 5

*Prioritizing the **Community** in Community Theatre*

November, 2018

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MTS 60th Anniversary Gala

Join with us in celebrating 60 years as part of Albuquerque's Theatre Community! Details on the celebration can be found on page 2.

Elf the Musical In December



The final MTS production of the 2018 Season, *Elf the Musical*, is set to open December 14 at AAPAC Center. More details appear on page 2

Beth Elliot Steps Down



MTS Board President Beth Elliot has decided to step down, citing health reasons. More about Beth and her accomplishments on page 3.

Dates to Remember:



- Nov 13 – Monthly Amigos Meeting
- Nov 14 – Elf Tickets go on sale
- Nov 17 - Postcard Mailing for Elf
- Nov 17 – Rt 66 Ushers Needed:
Grandes de Nuevo Mexico
- Nov 23 - 2019 Season Ticket Sales
Begin



HAIR Set to Open November 2

Musical Theatre Southwest is proud to present the 1968 Tribal Love-Rock Musical HAIR as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

With a book and lyrics by Gerome Ragni and James Rado and music by Galt MacDermot, the musical has provided us with such popular songs as "Aquarius," "Let the Sun Shine," "Good Morning, Starshine" and, of course, the title song, "HAIR."

The production is directed by Jonathan Dunski, with musical direction by Travis Rourk and choreography by Luz Gullen. Brianne Santos is the Stage Manager for this joyful celebration of the 1960's hippie counterculture.

The cast of HAIR includes Josh Jones as Berger, Elvides Nez as Woof, Dachary Vann as Hud, Tristan Kemm as Claude, Shaina Laughlin as Jeanie, Jasmine Bernard as Dionne, Angie Alley as Crissy, Rikki Carroll as Sheila, Ashley Lopez as Ronny, Bryana Estrada as Leata, Safwon Farmer as Paul, Spencer Scott as Walter, Robert Carbajal as Steve, Dawn Durkin as Suzannah, Madison Young as Diane, Alissa Hall as Marjorie, and Evan Tirado as Hiram.

Patrons are advised that this production will have mature content and is restricted to those over the age of 18.

Hair will run November 2 – 25 with show times on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. Doors will open 30 minutes before curtain.

Tickets are available at musicaltheatresw.com or by calling (505) 265-9119.

Elf to be Presented at AAPAC in December

MTS will present *Elf, the Musical* December 14-30 at the African American Performing Arts Center, 310 San Pedro Dr NE, Albuquerque.

Elf is based on the cherished 2003 Christmas film about Buddy, an elf who finds out that he is actually a human who was raised by Santa and his elves. Buddy goes to New York City in search of his biological dad, Walter Hobbs, who is a publisher of children's books and who has a family of his own. Buddy's dad is a man definitely lacking in Christmas Spirit, but Buddy helps Walter to find that spirit within himself. Along the way, Buddy even finds love in his co-worker, Jovie. The show promises to provide wonderful entertainment that the whole family can enjoy.

The cast for *Elf* includes Danny McBride as Buddy, Amy Carter as Jovie, Robert Landry as Walter Hobbs, Megan McCormick as Emily Hobbs, Allen Dominguez as Michael Hobbs, Angie Alley as Deb, Jerome Lovato as Manager, Angela Robinson as Ms. Greenway and Riley Robinson as Santa Claus. Rounding out the Ensemble are BrieAnn Gillespie, Ashley Lopez, Shirley Roach, RaeAnna Sanchez, Jordan Wadsworth, Devon Grist, Angela Johnson, Dakota Lopez, Tanner Sroufe, Lando Ruiz, Nicolas Olson, Seth Hanson and Daniel Wright.

Elf is directed by Zane Barker, with musical direction by Shelly Andes, choreography by Jackie Church and Thomas Porras and Stage Management by Laura Nuzum.

Tickets are \$25, \$23 for Students and Seniors and \$15 for Children age 10 and under. Groups of 12 or more can receive a special rate of \$20 per ticket. Tickets will go on sale on November 14 at musicaltheatresw.com or by calling (505) 265-9119.



MTS Celebrates 60 Years with Gala

Musical Theatre Southwest will begin our 60th Anniversary Season with a Gala to be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton at 1000 Woodward Pl, NE in Albuquerque.

Please join us in an evening of food, fun, entertainment and celebration of 60 years of enchanting New Mexico audiences. This will be a great chance for old casts and crews to reconnect and our audiences to meet the artists who have provided six decades of enjoyment.

Besides an evening of food and entertainment, there will be a raffle and silent auction to benefit the #SaveMTS Campaign. Items will include a one week stay in New Orleans, including airfare, jewelry, dining at local restaurants, Princess Pumps custom shoes, Artwork, Pampered Chef® items, massage packages, gift baskets and much, much more! Meal selections include Chicken Beurre Blanc, Braised Short Rib and Ratatouille. A cash bar will also be provided.

Discounted room rates at the Embassy Suites will also be available, please follow our website for more details.

Tickets for this formal event are \$60 and can be purchased at musicaltheatresw.com/Gala.

Raffle tickets are also available or may be purchased along with your ticket and/or at the Gala.

If you would like to purchase an entire table of 10 seats to be able to pick out your placement in the room, please email us at gala@musicaltheatresw.com.

If you have any difficulties purchasing your tickets or have any further questions please contact our office staff to help you out at (505) 265-9119.

Beth Elliot Steps Down as MTS Board President

MTS President Beth Elliot has stepped down as President and member of the Board of Directors, effective immediately.

Ms. Elliot has asked the board to share her letter to the MTS community:

October, 2018

Dear Musical Theatre Southwest Family,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of my official resignation as President of the Board of Directors. Health issues prevent me from being able to carry out the duties of this position. It is essential that I step back so that the organization can move forward productively.

I sincerely hope that I have had a positive impact on this community. While I regret not being able to see the term through to the end, I take great comfort in knowing that your current Board of Directors are more than capable of taking MTS courageously forward.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside such remarkable people. Thank you for the privilege of serving this community.

Sincerely yours,

Beth Elliot

The Board of Directors would like to extend our thanks to Beth for her years of service on the Board and her guidance as President over the past nine months. Under her leadership, we have established a more community-based mechanism for selection of musicals for the upcoming season, provided open forums for the MTS community to discuss financial issues with the Board, enacted policies to promote personal safety in the theater and set up our #SaveMTS campaign to help us maintain financial sustainability. Her dedication has helped us to keep *community* in our community theater, and we are most grateful to her for her hard work.

The role of Board President will be filled for the remainder of Beth's term by former Vice-President, Elizabeth Ponc. The new Vice-President is Aaron Howe.



How the Board Works to Serve MTS

It has come to our attention that not everyone knows what it really means to be a board member of MTS, so we wanted to take a moment to answer this question as best we can on a fairly broad sense.

Members of the Board of Directors are unpaid volunteers who contribute their time and efforts to helping MTS at an administrative level to produce musicals with the high quality that Albuquerque audiences have come to expect in our local theater community. Unlike many professional companies, the MTS Board functions as a working body that engages in all of the activities that a Managing Director and full-time paid staff would normally perform.

This administrative function requires approximately 24 to 40 hours a week per board member to ensure MTS is able to operate on a daily basis. As such, MTS' infrastructure is divided into a number of permanent standing committees on which the board serves with other members of the MTS community. Often board members will be a part of multiple committees.

The committees are as follows:

- Development and Outreach
- Educational
- Facility and Office
- Finance
- History and Archive
- Marketing and Media
- MTS Amigos
- Nominations
- Policy and Bylaws
- Production and Artistic Quality
- Show and Director Selection

Each committee meets regularly to operate MTS with the assurance that our theater company provides a safe, comfortable working environment for actors and crew, abides by 501c3 non-profit laws, promotes the theatrical productions in the media, raises funds to maintain the operations of the theater including rent, utilities, legal costs, maintenance, and promotes the educational aspects for theater in Albuquerque to name just a few tasks.

The Board meets on the third Saturday every month to discuss and decide on things affecting the theatre in varying ways as presented by the various committees. (*Continued on p. 4*)

Board Duties (continued from p. 3)

Board members also regularly participate in activities with the Amigos and work on all of the productions in various capacities from acting to crew to directing to front of house duties.

If you would like to contact the board or you would like to speak before the board at one of their meetings, please feel free to drop us a message at bod@musicaltheatresw.com or leave a message at (505)265-9119.

Other Events Coming to the MTS/Center for Theatre



Mother Road Theatre

Company will hold its Secret Room Series at the Center for Theatre December 14-30, 2018.

This year's Secret Room Series is written by Vic Browder and is an *invitation only* event.

If you would like an invitation, please send an email to Inviteme@motherroad.org.

Auditions for *Bring It On-The Musical* Nov. 17



Devon Frieder Productions will hold auditions for *Bring It On-The Musical* at the MTS Black Box on November 17 from 12-5 PM. If you are interested in auditioning, please send an email to devonfriederproductions@gmail.com with your name, age, and your availability on Nov. 17 to reserve a slot.

Video submissions will be accepted before the audition date if you can't make that day or if you would like to show us some of your work before meeting us. Walk-ins are welcome, though appointments are preferred; you will be emailed back with an exact time slot for your audition.

Please come dressed to move. Each group will begin by learning a dance combination, after which music cuts and sides from the show will be assigned and taught. To receive a copy of the song cuts beforehand, please contact the email above. Please bring any conflicts, as well as a headshot/resume if you have one.

They are seeking performers of all ethnicities with **STRONG** movement ability, as almost all roles dance. Tumbling is a plus.

Devon Frieder will be the Director-Choreographer, with Madi Frost as Musical Director, Cheer Captain will be Veronica Baca. The Production Staff will include Julian Griego as Stage Manager, and Tanner Sroufe & Pema Menice as Assistant Stage Managers. John Howell will be the Production Coordinator for Devon Frieder Productions.

The show will run on the following dates and times in the MTS Black Box Theatre:

January 11 at 7:30pm
January 12 at 7:30pm
January 13 at 3pm & 7:30pm
January 17th - Pickup Rehearsal
January 18 at 7:30pm
January 19th at 3pm & 7:30pm
January 20th at 4pm