

ACTORS GUILD

OF PARKERSBURG PRESENTS

Tuesdays with Morrie

Written by Jeffrey Hatcher and Mitch Albom



June 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 at 8:00 PM
June 10 at 2:30 PM



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**Tuesdays
with
Morrie**

By Jeffrey Hatcher and Mitch Albom
Based on the book by Mitch Albom

Original New York production produced by David S. Singer, Elizabeth Ireland McCann, Joey Parnes, Amy & Scott Nederlander, Harold Thau, Moira Wilson, Shadowcatcher Entertainment.

Originally presented by New York Stage and Film Company
and the Powerhouse Theater at Vassar College, 2002.

Tuesdays with Morrie was supported by a playwright's residency and public stage readings at the 2001 O'Neil Playwrights Conference of the Eugene O'Neil Theater Center, Waterford, CT.

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Synopsis

Mitch Albom's favorite college professor is Morrie Schwartz and he takes all of Morrie's offered classes while in college. Upon graduation, Mitch promises to keep in touch, but gets wrapped up in his own career and life. About sixteen years later, Mitch sees an interview of Morrie on Nightline and is inspired to seek out his old mentor who has been diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. Mitch begins visiting Morrie every Tuesday. During their time together they discuss family, finances, forgiveness, and everything in between. In this final class, Morrie offers Mitch some of the greatest lessons life can offer.

The Setting: Massachusetts, 1979 - 1995

Cast

Morrie.....JOHN LEE
Mitch..... JOSH MARTIN
Janine (Voiceover).....REINNIE LEAVITT

Crew

Director..... CHARLIE MATTHEWS
Assistant Directors..... DANNY DEPUGH, HEATHER HEPBURN
Technical Director..... JOHN GRADWOHL
Costumer..... BETTY DOTSON
Set Design..... JOHN GRADWOHL
Projection Design..... JOHN GRADWOHL
Piano Design and Performance.....DUANE FLESHER
Set Construction..... SUSAN COURTNEY, JOHN GRADWOHL,
JOHN NEWTON, CAST AND CREW
Props..... KELLY BOZEMAN, MARSHA MUELLER
Production Assistant.....DAVE ARGABRITE
Lighting Designer..... JOHN GRADWOHL
Sound Design..... JOHN GRADWOHL, JOSH MARTIN
Sound Board Operator.....CHRIS DEPUGH
Stage Manager.....SUE MURDOCK
Assistant Stage Manager.....SKOTTY FIELDS
Light Board Operator.....SABRINA DYE
Book Holder..... BETTY MATTHEWS
Projection Operator.....WESLY MCCUNE
Running Crew.....KELLY BOZEMAN, FAITH CHILDERS,
CAYTLEN MILLER, NATHAN WIX
Morrie's Dance Choreography..... LORI A. ULLMANN-WRIGHT
Advisor.....BARBARA FULL
Performance Photographer.....JEFF BAUGHAN

This play is performed without intermission.

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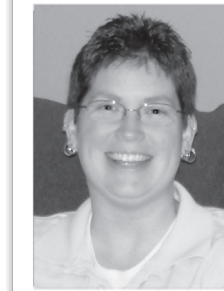
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A Letter from the President

MY FIRST REAL MENTOR was Tom Isenhart. He was a teacher at Parkersburg South High School and he introduced me to the world of high school debate when I was in ninth grade. I fell in love with debate (and I loved Mr. I) and spent countless hours working with him to improve my skills. During our “teaching sessions,” Mr. I took time to ask questions about **my** thoughts on various matters—always listening intently to my responses and guiding my thoughts with additional questions or short comments.

After I graduated from high school, I was blessed with another mentor, Dr. Bill Bowen. A philosophy professor at Ohio Valley University, Dr. Bowen saw something in me that I did not see—an ability to think deeply about matters, to dive beyond the surface facts and explore meaning and patterns. Dr. Bowen challenged me and I responded.

Since that time, I have been blessed with various mentors in my life. Some have remained for long periods of time; others have fulfilled their purpose with me and moved on to mentor others. Regardless of the time that we have spent together, the depth of the relationships with my mentors has been consistent—and the relationships still impact who I am today.

I don’t know who has mentored you, but I am confident it has occurred. I hope your mentors know how much you appreciate them. I hope mine do, too.

Rebekah D. Mathis-Stump

REBEKAH D. MATHIS-STUMP
President of the Board of Trustees



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Director's Note

WHEN I FIRST READ the play version of *Tuesdays with Morrie* I found it to be quite moving. The story was uplifting, humorous, sad and tragic all at the same time. I knew the play needed to be produced on the Actors Guild stage.

As I've worked on this show over the past year, I've also come to realize that this story is refreshingly void of the cynicism that seems to permeate our culture today. It avoids quaint sentimentality and delves deep into heart and soul matters in an honest and sometimes uncomfortable way. Ironically, though this play deals with death and sickness, it's really about living life to the fullest.

What stands out most, however, is the depth and intimacy of the relationship between these two men...Mitch Albom and Morrie Schwartz. Albom's story celebrates the importance of healthy, intimate and meaningful relationships, which is a very good thing indeed.

This play proves once again that theatre has this amazing ability to probe even the deepest areas of our heart, soul and mind in a manner that enlightens, challenges, and entertains. There's nothing quite like live theatre. I trust you will enjoy today's performance. Be moved! Be engaged! Be encouraged! Be inspired!

CHARLIE MATTHEWS

Director, *Tuesdays with Morrie*

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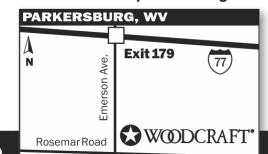
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The Bayley Award

The “Bayley” was established by the Actors Guild with a two-fold purpose: first, to honor one of our “founding mothers” and most influential members – Suzanne Bayley. The other function of the Bayley Award is for our membership to express an annual, public “thank you” to an individual, group or business in the community for services to the Guild above and beyond the call of neighborly duty. Our most recent Bayley Award was granted to the Khalil Family.

The Khalil Awards

For many years Dr. Ghassan Khalil and his family have made an annual contribution to ensure the continuation of live theater in our community and have championed the importance of the arts in our lives. The Khalil Awards were established to honor the Outstanding Production and the Outstanding Performance of each season. An anonymous panel consisting of persons who have seen every show of the previous season selects the recipients of these awards.

The Actors Guild of Parkersburg would like to congratulate director Barbara Full, music director Greg Strauss and the entire cast and crew of *RENT* as the Best Show for the 2010-2011 season. Receiving the honor for Best Performance was Dave Prather, for his roles in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *The Boys Next Door*.

The Grace-Marie Merrill Award

Melody Carson is the most recent recipient of the Grace-Marie Merrill Award for exceptional volunteerism to the Actors Guild of Parkersburg. The award is named for a former drama teacher at Parkersburg High School who was an early member of the Guild, where she acted in and directed plays.

Who's Who in the Cast and Crew



DAVE ARGABRITE (Production Assistant) has served as PA for numerous productions including *The Dixie Swim Club*; *Into the Woods*; *Leading Ladies*; *A Year with Frog and Toad*; *Noises Off*; *The Civil War*; *The Wizard of Oz* and *Big, The Musical* and has worked on the light rail and backstage. He appeared onstage in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Dave is a former member of the Actors Guild Board of Trustees. He is married to Jane, grandfather to Louise and is employed by E.I DuPont.



DANNY DEPUGH (Assistant Director) appeared as the Manservant/Sancho Panza in *Man of La Mancha*. He has also appeared in *Rumors* and *Leading Ladies*. He won a Merit in Acting award for his performance in *Big, The Musical* at the regional OCTAFEST. Other credits include *The Reel Thing*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Honk!*, *Annie*, *Oliver!*, *1776*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *My Fair Lady*. Behind the scenes, he has worked as stage manager lighting and sound operator, set builder, and musical director. This is his first directorial experience. He is a lab technician with Orion Engineered Carbons.



JOHN GRADWOHL (Technical Director) in addition to designing and technical directing at the Actors Guild, performs as Professor Phineas T. Bubblemaker in *Professor Bubblemaker's Marvelous Medicine Show* and *Professor Bubblemaker's Beautiful Bubble Ballet*, as well as performing for festivals, parties and schools in the area.



HEATHER HEPBURN (Assistant Director) won Excellence in Acting at the regional OCTA competition portraying Elizabeth Keckley in MOVP's *Look Away* and Outstanding in Acting at the state level for her turn as Mrs. Muller in the Actors Guild production of *Doubt*. At the Guild she was Assistant Director for *On Borrowed Time* and appeared in *Hairspray*, *RENT*, *Rumors*, *South Pacific*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Legends* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. At MOVP Heather appeared in *Royal Gambit* and was Assistant Director for *Are You Being Served?* At WVU-P she appeared in *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Song for Coretta*, and *H.M.S. Pinafore*.



JOHN LEE (Morrie) made his acting return to the Guild stage in *Witness for the Prosecution* and has also appeared in *The Rocky Horror Show*. John has also returned to directing at the Guild with *The Story of My Life* and *Man of La Mancha* after a twenty-seven year hiatus. A former member of Actors Equity, he worked on stage in New York City and acted/directed in summer stock and dinner theaters. He was the drama teacher at Parkersburg High School for seventeen years. John served two years as the Guild's president and directed or acted in twenty-seven productions during his original seventeen years working at the Guild. A member of the National Society of Arts and Letters, he believes that theater keeps him young and vital



JOSH MARTIN (Mitch) recently served as music director for *Hairspray* and *The Rocky Horror Show* and director for *The Boys Next Door*. He has been seen on the Guild stage in *Leading Ladies*; *The Story of My Life* (OCTA & AACT Award Winning); *RENT*; *Man of La Mancha*; *The Reel Thing*; *Big, The Musical*; *The Civil War*; *Seussical*, and *Monky Business*. Other Credits: *The King and I*; *Rumors*; music director for *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (PSHS); and *Little Shop of Horrors* (PHS). Josh has appeared in productions at The Greenbrier and in TV commercials for CAS Cable.



CHARLIE MATTHEWS (Director) has been active in the Guild for thirty-five years. Charlie served on the Board of Trustees in numerous positions and participated in over one hundred productions as actor/director or crew. Memorable director experiences: *Big River*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Civil War*, *Into the Woods*, *Cabaret*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *The Elephant Man*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Noises Off*. Memorable acting performances: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial*, *A Few Good Men*, *1776*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *A Walk in The Woods*.

Video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



Dr. Ghassan Khalil

1934–2011

*We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Ghassan Khalil, one of the dearest friends of the Actors Guild of Parkersburg, who passed away on July 12, 2011 at the age of seventy-seven. Dr. Khalil and his wife Genevieve have been long-time season ticket holders, and are the namesake behind the Khalil Awards, given each season for outstanding performances on our stage. Our actors have always looked forward to hearing his boisterous "bravo!" emanating from the audience and his presence in our theatre will not soon be forgotten. To you, Dr. Khalil, we dedicate our 2011-2012 Season and extend our own sincerest **bravo!***

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GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

*In loving memory of the
following individuals,
generous donations
have been made on their
behalf.*

*The Actors Guild wishes
to honor their lives and
expresses its gratitude
for their contribution to
the arts.*

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Onstage Next at the Guild

All Shook Up

ALL SHOOK UP mixes a little bit of Shakespeare with a whole lot of The King, and guarantees that your entire family will be jumpin' out of their blue suede shoes!

The book by Joe DiPietro (*I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*) sets the action in Smalltown, USA circa 1955. It tells a sweet and comical story of what happens when "a rolling roustabout with a song in his soul and an eye for the ladies" rambles into town on his motorcycle, guitar slung over the leather jacket on his back.

All Shook Up is not a show about Elvis, but definitely is a tribute to his legend and his music, and uses the songs he made famous to give insight into the madness of falling in love. The show features 24 classic Presley hits including "Heartbreak Hotel," "Burning Love," "Jailhouse Rock," "Blue Suede Shoes," "It's Now or Never," "Can't Help Falling in Love," and "Don't Be Cruel."



Performances: Jul. 27, 28, Aug. 3, 4, 10, 11 at 8:00 PM and Aug. 5 at 2:30 PM.

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