A FEW GOOD MEN





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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Opening night May 1, 2008 Arthur Miller Theatre

A Few Good Men

by Aaron Sorkin

Directed by Andy Ballnik

Assistant Director Sara Rydzewski

Sound Designer Kathy Peterson

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> Lighting Designers Melissa Elliott Tiff Crutchfield

Set Designers Andy Ballnik Brad Peters The Cast

> Set Builders The Cast

Military Advisor Anthony Barker

Costume Designer Nancy Rydzewski

Graphic Designer Patrick Ballnik

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Produced through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. 45 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10010 www.samuelfrench.com

From the Director

I'm sure the first thing everyone thinks about when they hear about *A Few Good Men* is of course the Tom Cruise/Jack Nicholson movie. However, going into this production, I was adamant that I didn't just replicate the movie. Where's the fun in that? Don't get me wrong, the movie is incredible. I love the movie. I wasn't even aware that the screenplay originated from a theatrical script. It wasn't until I was researching scripts while in New York City that I discovered the script.

For an acting class, we had to bring our own selections to class and *A Few Good Men* was one of them. We had to direct ourselves in several scenes from the show for grades. *A Few Good Men* was received so well that the performances expanded to almost the entire production. It was then I realized I wanted to direct the entire script, not just random scenes. Not only did it have more scenes, but the script offered more depth to the characters; Kaffee's insecurities about being a trial lawyer, Jessep's moral ambiguity, Jo's hot-headedness just to name a few.

But I also fell in love with the writing. For those of you who enjoy the TV drama, *The West Wing*, you are already familiar with Aaron Sorkin's unique brand of writing. He provides the audience with massive amounts of information, which could be a little daunting. But through extremely witty, fast paced dialogue, Sorkin manages to keep the audience on their toes. You may notice that even some of the scenes overlap each other, in order to keep the driving nature of show alive.

But overall, I wanted to offer the audience something different to see. A Few Good Men is rarely produced (most likely because of the obvious movie comparison) and the challenge was something I wanted to tackle. This script ranges from huge laughs to striking drama to intense anger. It never lets up for a moment. And what's best about the show is it leaves you still wondering; were these marines given the right verdict? Did they do the right thing? Hopefully you are thinking far past the final curtain. Enjoy the show!

Sincerely-Andy Ballnik, Director

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The Cast

REYNALDO ARCENO (Pfc. William T. Santiago) Reynaldo asks you not to call it a comeback; he's been here for years. He delights in performing in his fourth show with A2CT. His previous roles include Bernardo in *West Side Story*, Men's Chorus in *Lysistrata*, and the title role in *Joseph* and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. He also takes pride in originating the role of T-Bone in *The Glob* with The Blackbird Theatre. When not performing, Rey plays the role of stockbroker with Scottrade in Ann Arbor. Ooo-Rah!

WENDY ASCIONE (Lt. Cmdr. Joanne Galloway) This is Wendy's first Civic production, and she's excited to represent the only female perspective in the show. Previous performances include *The Seven Year Itch* (Chelsea Area Players), *Vagina Monologues* (V-Day Tucson), and *Rehearsal for Murder* (Canton Spotlight Players). Currently, she works in development at University of Michigan's Rackham Graduate School.

MARK F. BATELL (Cmdr. Walter Stone) This is Mark's fourth supporting role with the A2CT. David Andrews cast his daughter Brittany in *The Tempest*, and Matt Steward suggested he try out for a part in something. The rest is history. The truth is, if Mark can do it, so can you! Can you handle the truth?

DAVID BEAULIEU (Thomas, Dave, Orderly, Tom, MP) is pleased to be back onstage with A2CT in A Few Good Men. David most recently was seen on A2CT's stage in the chorus of The Music Man. Last year, David played Ernest Dumkopf in The Grand Duke with the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society. David has appeared in several shows at A2CT, such as Hair, Guys and Dolls, West Side Story, The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and My One and Only. David also appeared in Little Shop of Horrors with Destination Theater. David would like to thank Andy, Sara, and the rest of the cast for a great show, as well as his family for their continued support. Go Tigers!!

JAMES BROWN (Lt. j.g. Sam Weinberg) is thrilled to be in his first A2CT performance, but he is no stranger to the stage. He has performed in over 50 shows in three states the past 15 years, and is always happiest when he is a part of a cast. His favorite past credits include Eugene in Broadway Bound, Jack in Into the Woods, Soapy Smith in EMU's Gifts of the Magi and Joseph in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. For the past few years, James has taken his extensive theater experience and applied it to dueling pianos, performing at various Rum Runners locations (including Lansing, MI) and for the 176 Keys Dueling Pianos Show all over the country. He would like to thank the talented cast and staff for welcoming him into the A2CT family; it has been a fun and rewarding experience. Lastly, he would like to thank Claire for her love and support.

BRANDON CAVE (Lance Cpl. Harold Dawson) has been acting in and around Ann Arbor for the past ten years. In addition to working with Saline Area Players, Washtenaw Community College, and The Mosh Pit Theatre at Performance Network, he has been seen in many shows with A2CT including *On the Town, West Side Story*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which he also produced. He would like to thank all the good men...and women involved in putting on such a great production.

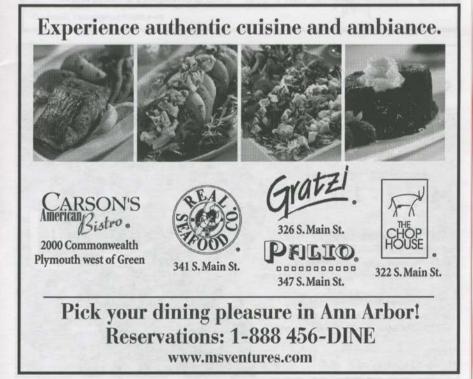
THEODORE B. EMPSON (Ensemble) is honored to be in his first A2CT production. Although he has not been active in theatre for a number of years, he was inspired to audition for *A Few Good Men* as he is a trial attorney himself and a big fan of the movie. He is astounded at the talent and dedication of his fellow cast members which has made his return to the stage a very fun and rewarding experience.

BRAD PETERS (Lt. Jonathan James Kendrick) After a ten year hiatus, Brad is thrilled to be onstage again, especially with such a great cast! Previous A2CT credits include set building for *Cactus Flower*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Moon Over Buffalo* and other shows. Other onstage credits include *Pinocchio*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Fiddler on the Roof* with other organizations. Much thanks to his friends for all of their encouragement and to Andy for the part!

DAVID RENKEN (Lt. Jack Ross) After a long hiatus from A2CT, David returned to the stage earlier this season in A2CT's *Music Man*. He is very excited to appear on stage again so soon. It is a nice addition to his usual night work in the St. Joe's Emergency Department. Thanks to Jamie and kids for supporting his habit!

EDMOND REYNOLDS (Capt. Julius Alexander Randolph) divides his time with A2CT between directing: Sweet Charity (Ann Arbor News Best Amateur Production 2007), The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas (A2CT Awards Best Musical and Director 2006) and acting: Our Town (Doc Gibbs), Bat Boy, The Musical (Bud), Guys & Dolls (Big Jule) and *The Nerd* (Ticky). Past credits include: *Urinetown* (Caldwell B. Cladwell), *The Full Monty* (Harold Nichols) and *Sweeney Todd* (Judge Turpin) with other organizations. Ed is scheduled to direct *Kiss Me, Kate* next season for A2CT and personally invites you all to audition. Enjoy!

ROBERT ROY (Capt. Isaac Whitaker) is the Director of Drama at Pinckney Community High School. He holds advanced performance degrees from Wayne State University in Detroit and Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Rob has worked professionally on stage and screen in New York City, Baltimore, Washington DC, Detroit, Dallas, and locally at the Purple Rose, Michigan Classical Repertory, and Ann Arbor Civic Theatre (in fact, he recently appeared as Paul in their production of *Moon Over Buffalo*). Rob wishes to thank his wife and kids for enabling his performance habit.



CHRIS SHEWCHENKO (Cpl. Jeffrey Owen Howard) debuted with A2CT as an afro-puffed hippie in *Hair*, and is thrilled to be a charming Corporal in *A Few Good Men*: "It's an exciting diversion from singing Tenor with the Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, and previously with Measure for Measure and the U-M Men's Glee Club. Without a note to sing this time around, I'm grateful for the chance to work with and learn from so many inspiring and talented actors for my first stage play. Thanks to everyone who has supported me throughout the years in my performance endeavors, and I look forward to working with Civic again in the future!"

JEFF STEINHAUER (Capt. Matthew A. Markinson) thanks Andy and Sara for casting him in his first non-musical production. Jeff's on- and off-stage involvement with A2CT, Destination Theater, Dexter Community Players and UM-GASS have included such shows as *Ruddigore*, *Canton Follies*, *My One and Only*, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Guys & Dolls (Benny), Sweeney Todd, Best Little Whorehouse in Texas (Mayor Poindexter), Oklahoma, Sweet Charity, The Full Monty (Harold), West Side Story, Urinetown the Musical (Old Man Strong/ Hot Blades Harry) and Bat Boy the Musical (Asst. Director, Stage Manager). As someone who has never served in the military, Jeff keeps a few more good men in mind during these performances: my dad, John L. Steinhauer (WWII, Navy), and my grandfather, John O. Steinhauer (WWI, Army Infantry).

SAM ZWETCHKENBAUM (Lt. Col. Nathan Jessep) Sam grew up in Rhode Island and now directs the Hospital Dentistry program at U of M Medical Center. He has enjoyed very much his involvement with A2CT productions over the last 8 years and is grateful to Andy and the fantastic staff and cast for this great opportunity to put on a uniform, say four - letter words, and act. Sam thanks his sister for coming all the way from Boston and for all the practice she has given in developing a southern accent.

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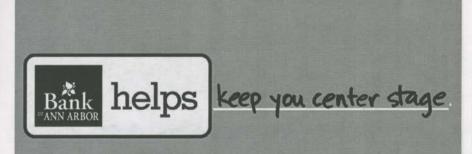
married, for Heidi's parents were strongly opposed. The story is told almost wholly in letters between the two lovers (translated from German by Wilfred). In reading it, one is inevitably drawn into the life of the historic times, when Hitler was threatening the world.

Also Available:

"The 1960 Casals Master Classes in Berkeley" by Ida Roettinger Ph.D. Edited by her husband Wilfred Kaplan

In April 1960, Pablo Casals conducted master classes in cello at the University of California in Berkeley. Ida Roettinger Kaplan, nicknamed "Heidi," traveled from Ann Arbor, along with her cello teacher, Harry Dunscombe, to attend the classes as auditor. Harry was one of the students in the master class. Heidi wrote letters to her family, describing all her experiences. The present pamphlet reproduces those letters in edited form. They convey the spirit of the remarkable occasion and supplement the comments made in the appendix to Heidi's book <u>Head, Hand, and Heart</u> [published under her maiden name Ida Roettinger in 1970, distributed by Shar Music Co. in Ann Arbor]. The 1960 Casals Master Classes in Berkeley is an Episode in the Lives of "Heidi and Bill".

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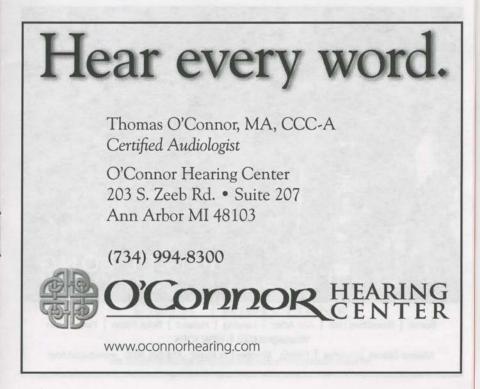
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		ppearance)

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Pfc. LOUDEN DOWNEY	Sha James Beamon
Lt. j.g. SAM WEINBERG	James Brown
Lt. j.g. DANIEL A. KAFFEE	Carl Ellison
Lt. Cmdr. JOANNE GALLOWAY	
Capt. ISAAC WHITAKER	
Capt. MATTHEW A. MARKINSON	Jeff Steinhauer
Pfc. WILLIAM T. SANTIAGO	
Lt. Col. NATHAN JESSEP	
Lt. JONATHAN JAMES KENDRICK	Brad Peters
Lt. JACK ROSS	
Cpl. JEFFREY OWEN HOWARD	
Capt. JULIUS ALEXANDER RANDOLPH	Edmond Reynolds
Cmdr. WALTER STONE	Mark Batell
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The Production Staff

ANDY BALLNIK (Director) is happy to be once again directing for A2CT. Mostly performing, Andy was recently seen onstage as Bat Bay in Bat Boy earlier this season. Other A2CT performances include The Full Monty (Malcolm), Hair, Music Man, Cabaret, West Side Story, On The Town, and Joseph ... among others. Other performing credits have included Bye Bye Birdie, Tommy, Ragtime, Little Shop of Horrors, A Chorus Line and The Nerd. Andy also previously directed The Nerd for A2CT. He also just finished directing Little Shop of Horrors for Walled Lake Northern High School and will direct Grease this summer for Destination Theatre. Andy is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatics Academy and is currently attending EMU in hopes of teaching/directing theatre in the near future. Thanks to Sara and Caitlin and the rest of the prod. staff for making this show such a great experience and the cast for being putting all their time and energy into their performances. Andy also wants to thank all his friends and family for their love and support!!

MARK F. BATELL (Properties Master) One of the great things about the A2CT is that people are encouraged to try new roles. This is Mark's first time doing props. Without Brenda Casher, it would have been much more difficult. Thanks to Caitlin for thinking of him.

TIFF CRUTCHFIELD (Co-Lighting Designer) appears occasionally on the stage, most recently in A2CT's Sweet Charity and The Full Monty last season, On the Town in 2004 and Victor/ Victoria at Washtenaw Community College in 2003. He's more active behind the scenes, where he served as lighting designer for several Civic shows, including West Side Story, Fiddler on the Roof and Sweet Charity and producer for The Importance of Being Earnest. He congratulates the whole cast and crew for their dedication, talent, energy and fun.

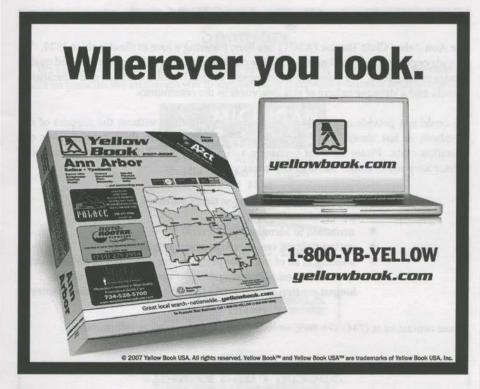
MELISSA ELLIOTT (Co-Lighting Designer) is happy to be working on her 15th A2CT show since A2CT's Enter Laughing in 2002, Melissa is also currently attending her second year of college in the Ann Arbor area and would like to thank her parents and sister for putting up with all of the lighting things around the house and Alex for putting up with all of the lighting stuff otherwise.

KATHY PETERSON (Sound Designer) A Few Good Men is Kathy's first show with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, however she hopes it'll be the first of many. Before getting involved with A2CT, Kathy ran the lights for the NewCastle Repertory Theater in NewCastle Australia during Don Joan and When We Are Married.

CAITLIN FRANKEL ROWE (Producer) is thrilled to be involved with this tremendous production. Frequently seen on stage in shows including *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Guys and Dolls* (Adelaide) and *On the Town* (Hildy) (Do you see a theme here?), Caitlin has recently been behind the scenes directing A2CT's *Hair* and *Peter and the Wolf*, the junior theatre collaboration with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. She is most proud of her 11-monthold production, Ellie; and sends much love to her and her daddy. Special thanks to Mia for handling the demotion so graciously.

NANCY RYDZEWSKI (Costume Designer) Nancy has worked on several productions for Ann Arbor Civic Theatre as well as other area theatre groups . Nancy's recent work includes: A Chorus Line, Little Shop of Horrors, The Canton Follies and Music Man. Nancy has had a blast and looks forward to doing many more shows in the near future. Love to my family, my loving husband Larry and girls Sara, Katie and Bethany.

SARA RYDZEWSKI (Assistant Director) is excited as always to be working with A2CT, and to be working behind the scenes for second time this year with this production, and with Andy. She most recently was the choreographer for *Little Shop of Horrors* at Walled Lake Northern High School. Not a stranger to being onstage she was most recently seen in Civics' productions of *The Music Man* and *Hair*. Other favorite roles include TiMoune in *Once on this Island*, Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Diana Morales in *A Chorus Line*. Thanks to this incredibly talented cast, Break-a-Leg! Love and thanks to my family, The March Sisters, Craig, and Andy.



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following for providing us with incredible gifts...time, support, items and more. We can't express our appreciation strongly enough!

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And to anyone whom we may not have listed, or whom printing deadlines prevented us from listing, we apologize and... thank you!

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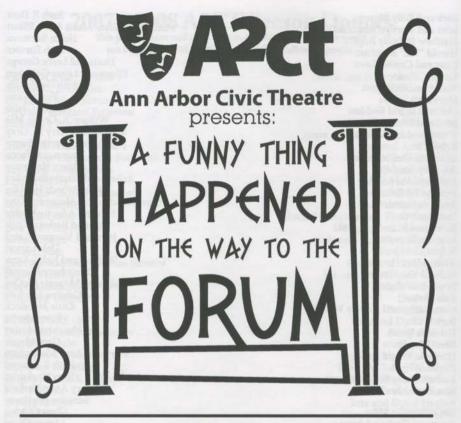
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by Ron Carlson

directed by Cassie Mann May 16th - 17th 8:00 p.m. May 18th 2:00 p.m. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Studio 322 W. Ann St. Tickets: \$15 reserved, \$10 general admission 734.971.2228 a2ct.org



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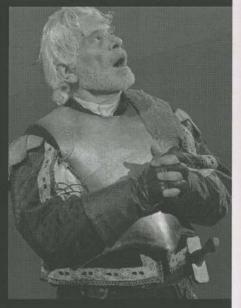
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by Athol Fugard April 24 - June 1, 2008

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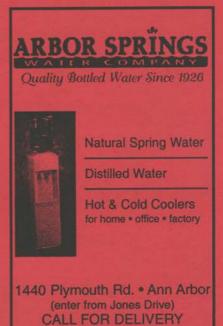
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