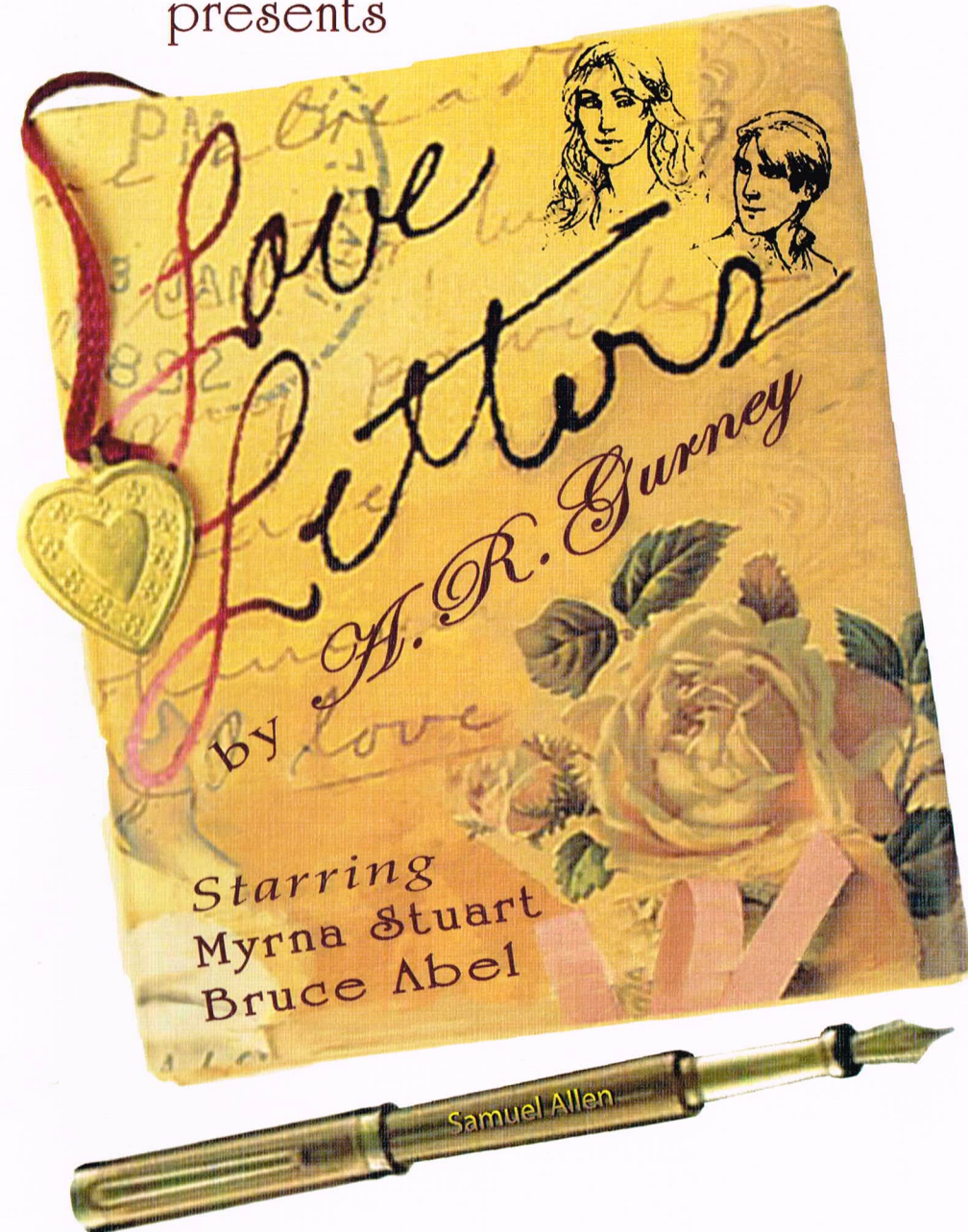


Lyceum Dramatic Club
presents



Produced & Directed by
Joe D'amato

Love Letters

by *A. R. Gurney*

In our fast pace world of communication, letter writing has become a lost art. As you journey through the life of Melissa and Andy, you will share their feelings of love through their letters.

Performance Dates

March 30th, 31st, April 1st

Lyceum Dramatic Club

Presents

Love Letters By *A.R. Gurney*

Produced and Directed by Joe D'amato

Produced through arrangements with Dramatics Play Service

Lighting Design _____ Steve Geary

Publicity _____ Ron Jones

Set Design _____ Linda D'amato

Program Design _____ Sam Allen

Lobby Display Photography _____ Gary Stuart

Sound Design _____ Glenna Knapp

Programs by _____ Blue Ash/ Millennium Printing, L.L.C.

WHO'S IN THE CAST

Myrna Stuart _____ *Milissa Gardner*



"I first saw "Love Letters" performed 15 years ago and was touched by these two very human, very vulnerable people who expose their hearts and souls on paper. In our fast paced world of communication, letter writing is indeed a lost art. As you journey through life with Melissa and Andy and listen to them share their lies, you will understand how that form of communication was important to them.

This is the first non-comedic role for me since coming to the Lyceum stage in 1998. I was definitely a good-time gal in "Funny Money"; a little crazy in "The Second Time Around"; completely hysterical in "Plaza Suite" and sweetly manipulative in "Life With Father". Gary and I raised our four children in North Canton, Ohio where I performed in "Run For Your Wife" and "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" and chaired the funding campaign and building of a new theatre for the North Canton Playhouse. We are happily living in our renovated home on Forest Avenue with our pseudo-children with tails. We are proud to say that our Grandchildren now number five with the birth of Jonathan Oliver Stuart on February 10. I am already calling him my little "Virginia ham"! Could he have inherited some of my dramatic genes? Thank you to Bruce and Joe for taking this touching journey through "Love Letters" with me."

Bruce Abel _____ *Andrew Makepeace Ladd III*



Bruce Abel has been a Glendale resident since 1970. Like Andy Ladd in tonight's "Love Story," he graduated from the same all-male eastern school and the same law school. Acting-wise he comes out of the John Martin Summer Theater of Dayton; sang in the Oakwood High School Boys' Ensemble under Glenn Ubl and then Fenno Heath's Yale Freshman Glee Club. He has starred in various Glendale Lyceum Productions: (Shellhammer in) "Here's Love;" "Best Laid Plans;" "The Right Kind of House;" as well as various skits including "Who's On First;" In May, 2005 he was in the backstage chorus and performed (sang and spoke) in the scene "Saddle Up," in Glendale's sesquicentennial performance "The Rebels Are Coming."

Joe D'amato _____ *Director*

Love Letter's is Joe's third directing assignment. His first was Life with Father. He also directed Ray Cooney's "Funny Money".

Joe has appeared on the Lyceum stage in "Second Time Around", "Plaza Suite", Christmas with Anton (A play which he wrote and is also being considered for production at other theaters) Acting credits also include the sergeant in The Rebels Are Coming and Herr Schlegal in the musical version of "Carnival".

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

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Letter-writing, love topics of Glendale pl

By Andrea Reeves

Community Press Staff Writer

GLENDALÉ – They started writing letters to each other in the second grade, and continued to write letters the rest of their lives.

Andrew Ladd and Melissa Gardner, characters in the play “Love Letters,” were in love.

They were separated by distance, but connected through words on paper.

This two-act play from Broadway by A.R. Gurney is coming to the Glendale Lyceum as performed by the Glendale Lyceum Dramatic Club March 31 and April 1.

Just two people, Glendale residents Myrna Stuart and Bruce Abel, and words from written letters star in this bittersweet love story about two people who fall in love through letters.

“It explores the relationship of two people who have an emotional connection even though their

lives go in separate directions,” Stuart said.

“It’s extremely human and touching. Their vulnerabilities show.”

But what Stuart says makes the play poignant is the letters themselves. “It touches on the lost art of letter-writing,” she said.

“The value of writing letters with your hand, a pen and paper,” added Abel.

The letters are read on stage in the present tense as if the characters are sitting down and opening an old file, Abel said.

While most of the play involves the actors to sit and read, expressions are acted out in the way they read as if they were in the place of the writer – even letters written from a second-graders point of view.

But what makes this play unique to the two Glendalians starring in the play are the connec-

tions they have with the characters.

Like his character in the play, Abel attended Yale University and is a lawyer. “I can identify with all the places and references and to some extent the characters,” he said.

“I went to Yale when it was all men. It makes weekends a lot more meaningful, if you’re lucky enough to get dates on the weekend.”

Likewise, Stuart identifies with a reference in the story to Perugia, Italy, where her father was born.

She also enjoys the character study of Melissa. “I learn a lot about people from the characters I play,” she said.

“I like anything creative, and the creative aspect of bringing a character to life.” Creativity is something she and her character, who is an artist, have in common.

Stuart has been in theater since

ay

she was 13. She has had roles in several Lyceum productions, including "Funny Money," "Plaza Suite," and "Last of the Red Hot Lovers."

Abel also has a long history with theater – and singing. He attended the John Martin Summer Theater of Dayton and was in the Yale Freshman Glee Club.

He's starred in Lyceum plays such as "Here's Love and "Best Laid Plans," and performed in Glendale's sesquicentennial performance "The Rebels are Coming" last year.

The play's director, Joe D'ama-to, has been on stage for five plays and has directed four plays at the Lyceum, one of which he wrote, called "Christmas with Anton."

The play will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1, at the Glendale Lyceum Theatre, 863 Congress Ave.



ANDREA REEVES/COMMUNITY PRESS STAFF

Glendale residents Bruce Abel and Myrna Stuart practice their lines at the Glendale Lyceum for "Love Letters," a two-act play starring just Abel and Stuart.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and are available at the Lyceum, Bluebird Bakery, Fifth-Third Bank in the Glendale Village

Square, Gehring Rx and Century House.

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