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presents

Larry  
Shue's  
rollicking comedy

# The Nerd

Directed by  
Andy Ballnik

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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre  
Opening night April 6, 2006  
Towsley Auditorium

# THE NERD

by Larry Shue

Directed by  
**Andy Ballnik**

Co-Assistant Director Caitlin Frankel	Producer Rachel Francisco	Co-Assistant Director January Provenzola
Lighting Designer Nathaniel Madura	Stage Manager Caitlin Frankel	Sound Designer Bob Skon
Co-Costumer Caitlin Frankel	Properties Master Torey Berneis	Co-Costumer January Provenzola
Co-Set Designer Melissa Lindholm	Co-Set Designer Rachel Francisco	Co-Set Designer Torey Berneis
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Co-House Manager Amy Wright-Olsen	Set Construction Crew Dave Rowe Caitlin Frankel	Co-House Manager Torey Berneis
Set Construction Crew Thom Ryan Wendy Ryan Dave Lindholm Melissa Lindholm	Brandon Cave Torey Berneis Erik Wright-Olsen Jeff Steinhauer	Set Construction Crew Andy Ballnik Nathaniel Madura Cassie Mann Ed Reynolds

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## From the Director

I was first introduced to *The Nerd* when I was attending school in NYC. At the time, I didn't think much of the show. Truthfully, I was forced to perform the show as it was for a grade. But as I read the script through and started to work on the show, I couldn't believe how funny it was. To this day, it is the only script that has made me laugh out loud when reading it and even after the many times I have read it so far, it still makes me laugh. And it will continue to make laugh.

It has been a dream of mine to one day direct this show. I had the privilege of directing a shorter, smaller version for my high school alumnus, Divine Child High School in Dearborn, for a comedy festival a couple years ago. The experience only instilled in me the dream to direct the full version of the show, which is the dream that you're seeing tonight.

I have often asked myself, what makes this show so funny? I don't think I will ever be able to answer that question for certain, but I do have some thoughts. There is nothing funnier in life than the plain simple truth. Tonight, you will see each character try and cope with the outrageous situations that they're put in, in the most truthful way possible and with the most honest reactions. There will be one moment in the show where you will say, "yeah, I've been through that." And I think everyone can relate to the central character Willum, who is stuck in a rut. His life is too normal, too average. And with the introduction of his old army buddy, Rick Steadman, Willum realizes that life is not life without a little chaos.

But most importantly, this show is pure entertainment at its best. So sit back, relax and be prepared to laugh. I guarantee you will!

-Andy Ballnik

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## The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Willum Cubbert.....	Nathaniel Fremuth
Tansy McGinnis.....	Joy Martin
Axel Hammond .....	Erik Wright-Olsen
Warnock "Ticky" Waldgrave .....	Edmond Reynolds
Clelia Waldgrave.....	Amy Bogetto
Thor Waldgrave .....	Oren Steiner
Rick Steadman .....	Dann Smallwood

## The Program

*The action takes place in Terre Haute, Indiana  
in the apartment of Willum Cubbert.*

### Act One

November 4th, 1984

*There will be a fifteen-minute intermission between acts.*

### Act Two

Scene 1

Six days later.

Scene 2

The following day.

## The Cast

**Amy Bogetto-Weinraub** (Clelia) Although a veteran of A2CT (past credits include *Steppin' Out* with Civic II, *West Side Story*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Tommy*, and *Evita*), Amy is thrilled to be in her first straight play, *The Nerd*. She's had a hard time keeping a straight face through rehearsals, and would like to thank the cast for giving her much needed comic relief from her busy lifestyle. When not at rehearsal, Amy works as a music therapist in behavioral services at St Joseph Mercy Hospital. She is also a full time mother to her beautiful daughter, Ava. Amy would like to thank Andy, Caitlin and January for giving her this fantastic.

**Nathaniel Fremuth** (Willum) This is Nathaniel's first show since his 10th grade year in high school and his first show in which he stays on stage for more than a few minutes. He is currently attending Washtenaw Community College and hopes to continue acting in some capacity in the future. He would like to thank the entire cast and staff of *The Nerd* for allowing him to participate in the wonderful experience that this show has been.

**Joy Martin** (Tansy) is pleased to perform in her third show at A2CT, where she was last seen as a man-crazed anthropologist in *On the Town*. A student at EMU, Joy spends her time teaching her class of tenacious toddlers, engaging in general

mischief, and attempting to decide on a major. She'd like to thank her family for always cheering her on, Dann for finally coming around (Love you), and Sarah for being her ever-supporting partner in crime (or shopping, as the case may be).

**Edmond Reynolds** (Warnock "Ticky" Waldgrave) is thrilled to be in his third A2CT production having appeared last year as Doc Gibbs in *Our Town* and most recently as Big Jule in *Guys & Dolls*. He recently directed *Little Shop of Horrors* in Saline, and is currently in production for directing his first A2CT show: *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, which premieres June 8, 2006. Favorite roles include: Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*, Miles Gloriosus in *...Forum*, FDR in *Annie* and Oliver Hix (quartet) in *Music Man*. Now remember, call me Ticky!

**Dann Smallwood** (Rick) This is Dann's ninth show with AACT, having been in *West Side Story*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* to name a few. However, this is the first non-musical he has done since high school. Offstage, Dann is a rather dashing postal clerk, and enjoys running, gaming, making fun of bad rap music and making horrific puns. He would like to thank the staff and cast of the show, especially Joy. He would also like to thank his family and his friends... both of them. He thinks this will be a memorable performance for everyone.



Oren Steiner (Thor Waldgrave) is really excited about being in his third A2CT show. In previous A2CT shows he played Wally Webb in *Our Town* and a flying monkey in *Dorothy Meets Alice*. He has also been in the Young Peoples Theater production of *Beauty and the Beast* as a townspeople, spoon and crony. He is a fourth grader at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor. His hobbies include acting, singing and playing with friends. Oren would like to thank his parents for letting him audition, and his sister for getting him into show business.

Erik Wright-Olsen (Axel Hammond) After an eight-year hiatus, Erik returned to the stage this year as Nicely-Nicely Johnson in A2CT's *Guys and Dolls*. His work in the prior century includes the drag King Herod in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Young Fool in *Big River*, and Ed the xylophone-obsessed printer in *You Can't Take it With You*. This is his second go-round with *The Nerd*, having been the sound operator for A2CT's 1993 production. Erik can also be heard in your home as the voice of the Michigan Channel, and he secretly hopes his spot in the *Weakest Link* contestant pool pans out into something, even though that show's been cancelled for years.

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## The Production Staff

**Andy Ballnik** (Director) is proud to be making his directorial debut with A2CT with *The Nerd*. He has been previously seen onstage this season with *West Side Story* and will be again onstage later this season with *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Other shows with A2CT have been *On The Town*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Cabaret*. Other performances have been *Bye Bye Birdie* (Albert), *The Who's Tommy* (Capt. Walker), *Ragtime* (Tateh), *BIG* (Josh), *The Nerd* (Rick Steadman), *Miss Firecracker Contest* (Delmount). Andy has also attended Wayne State University, where he majored in theatre and then moved to the American Musical and Dramatics Academy in New York City where he graduated in Musical Theatre Performance. He is currently attending Eastern Michigan University in the education program and hopes to teach and direct theatre at both the high school and college levels. He wishes to congratulate his cast for doing a fantastic job making a dream come true and the production staff for all their hard work and input into this show. Also thanks goes out to his family, friends and Kohl's family for all their love and support.

**Torey Berneis** (Properties Master) This is Torey's 25th show with A2CT! She has been a member since 1996, and has loved every minute of it. Her most recent (non) appearances have been as light board operator for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *West Side Story* and *All My Sons*, which she also designed the lights for! This season Torey has taken on the job of A2CT's newest Volunteer Coordinator. She would like to thank Suzi and Cassie for all their help, and encouragement with all her wacky ideas, Andy for being a great roomie, and Brandon for always being there. (when he isn't at the theatre).

**Rachel Francisco** (Producer) has been involved in numerous productions, both onstage and backstage with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre for over 8 years. Congrats to the cast and crew of *The Nerd* for a hysterical production.

**Caitlin Frankel** (Co-Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Co-Costumer) is most often seen on stage with A2CT, having recently completed a dream-fulfilling stint as Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*. Other favorite roles include Hildy in *On the Town*, Carla in *Prom Queens Unchained*, and Columbia in *The Rocky Horror Show*. Caitlin will again be behind-the-scenes in June of 2007 when she directs and choreographs *Hair* for A2CT. Much love as always to co-star Dave and supporting feline, Mia.

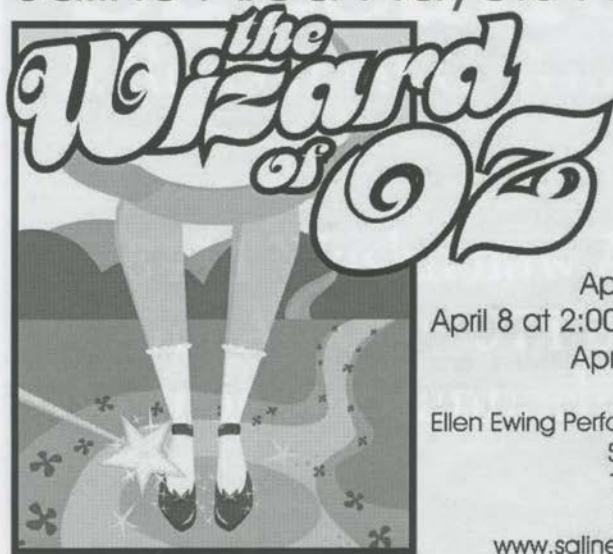
**Nathaniel Madura** (Lighting Designer) This is Nathaniel's third season with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, in his time with A2CT he has designed lights for six shows. He has also been very active with A2CT's junior theatre program, and has designed lights for their last five shows. Nathaniel will be designing for one more show this season *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, and he hopes you will be able to attend that production as well. During the day Nathaniel is an Engineer in Research with the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, and has a Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech.

**January Provenzola** (Co-Assistant Director, Choreographer, Co-

Costumer) This is January's first time behind the scenes for A2CT after several years of being on stage. Congratulations to the cast and Andy for a job well done. Love to Anthony, Nicolas, and baby to be.

**Bob Skon** (Sound Designer) has been involved with A2CT for now his 5th season. He's been behind the scenes designing and running sound for *Tommy*, *Pajama Game*, *Smile*, *Chicago*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Our Town*, *Cabaret* and *West Side Story*. He has been on stage as an ensemble member in *Evita* and *On the Town*, and had the role of John Utterson in *Jekyll and Hyde*. Bob is also a singer/songwriter whose CD "2nd Time Around" was released on September 20th at the Firefly Club. [www.bobskon.com](http://www.bobskon.com).

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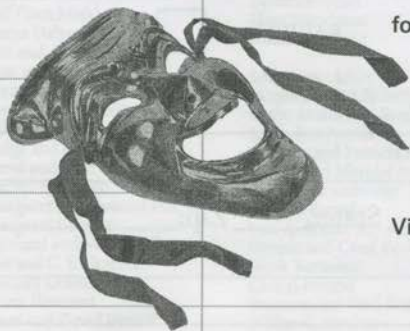
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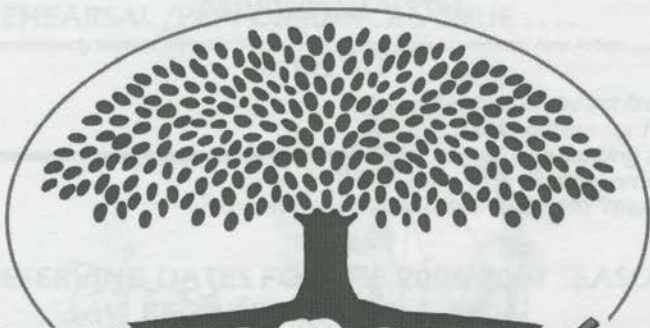
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*Infamous rake Tom Jones romances and swashbuckles his way through Eighteenth-century England in this bawdy, boisterous comedy.*

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directed by edmond reynolds

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*Charity Hope Valentine, a dance hall hostess, dreams of love and marriage but can't seem to find the right candidate in this frothy musical comedy by Neil Simon.*

## the tempest

directed by david andrews

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## cactus flower

directed by cassie mann

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fooling around with...UNMARRIED MEN

*A confirmed bachelor dentist invents a wife and family to keep from committing to his girlfriend in this zany homage to free love and go-go boots.*

## hair

directed by caitlin frankel

**jun 7-10, 2007**

lydia mendelssohn theatre

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