

# The Tallgrass Times

## Season Starts September 30! Includes *Lonely Planet*, Playwrights Workshop and Tallgrass' First-Ever Repertory Production

### FALL 2011

*Lonely Planet* by Steven Dietz  
September 30 – October 15, 2011  
Directed by Ron Gilbert

This compassionate play reveals friendship and fear in the age of AIDS. Not one for the outside world, Jody (John Claes) stays in his map store all the time. His friend, Carl (Jeffrey Campbell) begins bringing chairs into the store and leaving them there. Pretty soon, the store is littered with chairs, and it is revealed that every chair was owned by someone they knew in their community who had died from the epidemic. Through Jody and Carl's interaction, the two realize how grateful they are to have such a strong lasting friendship.



### WINTER 2011-2012

6th Annual Iowa Playwrights Workshop  
January 20 – February 4, 2012  
Workshop Directed by Erica Spiller  
Show Directed by Jerry Eisenhour

A fresh new work by an Iowa playwright! Script to be announced on October 1, 2011. Watch [www.tallgrasstheatre.org](http://www.tallgrasstheatre.org) for the announcement and audition information!

### SPRING 2012

“The Sylvia Rep”—Tallgrass' first-ever repertory production:

*Sylvia* by A.R. Gurney (Directed by Mark Littlejohn) and

*The Goat or Who is Sylvia?* by Edward Albee (Directed by Ron Gilbert)

April 27 – May 12, 2012

*Sylvia*: Greg and Kate have just moved to Manhattan after 22 years of child-raising in the suburbs. One day, Greg brings home a dog he finds in the park bearing only the name Sylvia on her name tag. A street-smart mixture of Lab and Poodle, Sylvia becomes a major bone of contention between husband and wife—will a compromise be found, or will Sylvia take over?

*The Goat or Who is Sylvia*: (Winner of the 2001 Tony Award) On his 50th birthday, Martin, a famous architect, prepares for a TV interview by an old friend, but in the course of the conversation a secret emerges that threatens to turn celebration to tragedy. *The Goat* is a hugely enjoyable parable that plumbs the deepest questions of social constraints on the individual expression of love.



## VIP Season Pass

\$61 Value Available For Just \$48

### Includes:

- Admission to each of TTC's four regular-season shows
- One complimentary concession item at each show
- Preferred seating: Arrive when house opens, and you get first pick of seats!

Pick one up at *Lonely Planet* or download the order form at [www.tallgrasstheatre.org/tickets](http://www.tallgrasstheatre.org/tickets).

## We Want You! Tallgrass Seeks Volunteers

Tallgrass is always on the lookout for volunteer help. Here are just a few of the ways in which volunteers can help:

- Building and painting sets
- Sewing costumes
- Hanging lights
- Writing grants
- Graphic design
- Hanging posters or sending e-mails to promote upcoming Tallgrass events
- Selling concessions, taking tickets or handing out programs at performances
- Running light/sound controls for performances
- Assisting actors with hair and makeup for performances
- Helping on-stage with set and costume changes during performances

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact [info@tallgrasstheatre.org](mailto:info@tallgrasstheatre.org).



Visit us on Facebook and Twitter to receive Tallgrass news updates, win prizes, view photos and more!!



[www.twitter.com/tallgrassTC](http://www.twitter.com/tallgrassTC)

# TTC's Playwrights Workshop

## Now In Its Sixth Year

Tallgrass has been busy reviewing the selection of amazing scripts submitted by Iowa writers for the sixth annual Iowa Playwrights Workshop. The winning script will be announced October 1.

The workshop process will be led by Erica Spiller and will include various sessions designed to further develop the script including scene and character exercises. There will be a staged reading of the winning script in November, which is free and open to the public. All are welcome to attend and provide feedback to the playwright, which will help him/her to improve the script. The show will ultimately be mounted as a production, which runs January 20 - February 4, 2012. Don't miss the unique opportunity to see the first-ever production of a script by a local writer!



## Donors Make All The Difference

Thank you to all our patrons for a fantastic 2010 - 2011 season! Without the support of our donors, audience members and volunteers, Tallgrass wouldn't be able to continue to expand, artistically and technically, all while keeping ticket prices among the lowest in Des Moines. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2011-2012!

### Donors (July 1, 2010 - July 31, 2011)

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## Tallgrass 2011-2012 Donor Form

Consider making a tax-deductible donation to Tallgrass Theatre Company! You'll receive a donation receipt, recognition in Tallgrass' programs and newsletters for one year, and invitations to exclusive VIP events during the season.

Return this form with a check made out to Tallgrass Theatre Company. Donations can be dropped off at any performance or mailed to: **P.O. Box 65932**

**West Des Moines, IA 50265**

Donations can also be made online at [www.tallgrasstheatre.org/donate](http://www.tallgrasstheatre.org/donate).

### DONATION LEVELS:

**Patron (\$250+)** **Enthusiast (\$100-\$249)** **Sponsor (\$50-\$99)** **Friend (\$20-\$49)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Email (if you'd like to be added to our list) \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to receive (circle all that apply):

**Audition Info**   **Show Announcements**   **Volunteer Opportunities**

## TTC Tidbits

- The Rex Mathes building received a facelift this summer—audiences will enjoy the new carpeting in the auditorium and tile flooring in the lobby!
- Tallgrass sponsored a hole in the Greater Des Moines Partnership's Skywalk Golf event on February 5—and won "Best Company Theme."
- The Board of Directors welcomed new member Caitrin Wheeler at their annual meeting in July.
- Tallgrass is now a member of the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce.

## Past Productions

### 2010-2011 Season



*Three Changes*, Fall 2010

Photo: Heather Littlejohn, Your Life Portraits



*Again and Again, and Eventually*, Winter 2010

Photo: Nick Wilson, Frame Shot Media



*The Shadow Box*, Spring 2011

Photo: David Byrd, Dreamstate Photography