



LIGHT UP THE SKY

by Moss Hart

Directed by Sharon Andrews

SEPT 28-29 & OCT 4-6 AT 7:30 PM
SEPT 30 & OCT 7 AT 2:00 PM

THE TEDFORD MAINSTAGE



LIGHT UP THE SKY IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH
DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC. NYC.



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Light Up the Sky has often been referred to as Moss Hart's "love letter" to the theatre and I heartily agree. However, it is definitely not first blush honeymoon love. It is more of the seasoned love that comes from living, fighting and celebrating with family– warts and all. It's the "warts and all" that provide the comedy. Hart himself described the play as "a simple story about show people who love each other, get into trouble, detest each other and then find out that they need each other".

Famed playwright, actor and director, Hart was a total man of the theatre and no one was better suited to shine a loving and comedic light on the theatre world of his time. Many overt and covert references to Hart's own life and experiences can be found in *Light Up the Sky*. There is a monologue in the play about a young boy who sat in the balcony of a theatre every Saturday with his chin pressed hard against the rail and cried. When taking a look at Hart's biography (or reading his much celebrated early memoir, Act One), it is pretty clear that the young boy was Hart himself. In fact, Hart and many of his theatrical contemporaries show up or are referenced in the play, albeit sometimes with different names. Two characters in the play, the seasoned playwright Owen Turner and the idealistic young playwright Peter Sloan are likely a combination of Hart's own representation of himself. Sidney Black and his brassy wife Frances are thinly disguised versions of the producer Billy Rose and his swimming star wife, Eleanor Holm. Rose, to say the least, was not flattered by the portrayals and threatened to sue Hart. The "star" Irene Livingston was modeled on Gertrude Lawrence, who Hart unsuccessfully sought to play the role.

Light Up the Sky can be considered a light entertaining comedy and indeed its theatrical "family" is made up of some broad and delightful characters that the cast has had a delicious time creating. But it also carries a sincere message of personal and artistic integrity and desire to speak one's truth. In choosing to produce this play now, a time of tremendous political and social tension, perhaps an entertaining theatrical "love letter" is just what we need.

Wake Forest University Theatre presents

LIGHT UP THE SKY

by Moss Hart

September 28-30 & October 4-7, 2018

Director

Sharon Andrews

Scenic Designer

Mary Wayne-Thomas

Costume Designer

Alice Burton Barsony

Lighting Designer

Jyles Rodgers

Sound Designer

Anna Hibbert*

Dramaturg

Anne Peyton Brothers^s

Dialect/Vocal/Style Coach

Leah Elyce Roy

Assistant Director

Charles Cicchino*

Stage Manager

Lily Wieland*

CAST

MISS LOWELL.....	Cassidy Noble
CARLETON FITZGERALD.....	Avery McClure
FRANCES BLACK.....	Eliza Drake
OWEN TURNER.....	Cole McWilliams
STELLA LIVINGSTON.....	Kathryn Juliet Milian*
PETER SLOAN.....	Matt Crawford*
SIDNEY BLACK.....	Caleb Cabiness*
SVEN/MAX/PARROT/PLAIN-CLOTHES MAN.....	Charles Cicchino*
IRENE LIVINGSTON.....	Victoria Rose Hargett*
TYLER RAYBURN.....	Trey Sutton
WILLIAM H. GALLEGHER.....	Parker Cabiness

*Anthony Aston Players member

^sPresidential Scholar in Theatre

SETTING

The living room of Irene Livingston's Ritz-Carlton Hotel suite in Boston, Massachusetts
December 1948

Light Up the Sky is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.,
New York.

PERSONALITIES BEHIND THE SCRIPT



Moss Hart (1904-1961) was one of the most successful American playwrights of the 20th century. He wrote *Once in a Lifetime* in 1929, which he collaborated with George S. Kaufman. The duo later teamed up for *You Can't Take It with You* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. He also collaborated with Cole Porter and Irving Berlin. Later, Hart became famous as a director including the long-running *My Fair Lady*, which he won the Tony Award for Best Director.

Billy Rose (1899-1966) was a quintessential theatrical showman. He was a Broadway producer and theatre/nightclub owner. For years before and after World War II he was a major force in entertainment. He produced *Jumbo*, starring Jimmy Durante and constructed a huge elaborate dinner theatre that had the world's largest revolving stage and featured stripper Sally Rand. In 1937, he produced *Billy Rose's Aquacade*, a music, dance and swimming show which was the most successful production at the 1939-40 World's Fair. The show starred Olympian gold medalist Eleanor Holm and *Tarzan's* Johnny Weissmuller. Rose divorced comedienne and film star Fanny Brice and married Holm in 1939.



Gertrude Lawrence (1898-1952) was the inspiration for the character Irene Livingston, though she did not play the role. She was a British actress best known for her work in Noel Coward comedies as well as in musicals. The daughter of performers, she made her stage debut in 1908. She starred in Hart's *Lady in the Dark* in 1941. She performed frequently in America and the U.K. and remained one of the stage's most popular stars for a quarter of a century. She was performing in the 1951 run of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical *The King and I*, which earned her the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical, when she passed away.

As the inspiration of Stella Livingston, Mary Boland (1880-1965) had once been a star comedienne on the stage and later was a lively character actress known in the 1930s for playing maternal types. In addition to her stage work, she had a film career appearing in movies such as *The Women* and *Pride and Prejudice*.



IN MEMORIAM

Professor Emeritus James Henry Dodding died in March 2018 in his native England. Dodding first came to Wake Forest University to teach and direct in the University Theatre in the late 1970s. He directed more than 20 productions for the University Theatre. His productions of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, Shakespeare plays, and many others brought a legion of new students to the Department of Theatre and Dance. Many of these students went on to successful careers in the theatre. He adapted and directed *The Passion* at Wake Forest initially in 1981 and re-staged it as a promenade production utilizing much of the Reynolda campus. In 1984, he conceived, wrote and directed Wake Forest's *Sesquicentennial Sound and Light Show*, which took place on Hearn Plaza. In 2000, he directed a production of *Hamlet* in the newly-redesigned Ring Theatre as part of an International Symposium on Shakespeare and the works of British scholar Ronald Watkins. He continued coming to Wake Forest to teach and direct until 2008. His final production here was *The Gondoliers*.

The Department of Theatre and Dance is committed to establishing a scholarship that would honor Jim's memory and inspire generations of students for many years.

SPECIAL THANKS

Mallory Forsman
Andrew Hayes
Mark Pirolo
Lisa Weller
Thomas Williams
UNCSA Costume & Props Depts.

INFORMATION

In consideration of performers and other patrons, please turn off any laptops, cell phones, and electronic alarms. Please remember that any use of cameras and recording devices is strictly prohibited. Please refrain from eating or drinking in the theatre. Smoking is prohibited in the building. Any audience member disturbing other patrons or causing a disruption may be asked to leave without a refund or exchange of ticket.

The performance runs 2 hours and 20 minutes including a 10-minute intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....	Rob Eastman-Mullins
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Paige Edmonds, Cydney Meadows
Assistant Sound Designer.....	Tori Spong*
Properties Master.....	Cody Burke
Properties Assistant.....	Charles Cicchino*
Properties Fabricator.....	Mary Wayne-Thomas
Floral Design.....	Lynn Book
Master Electrician.....	Kevin Frazier
Assistant Master Electrician.....	Christian Ricci*
Electricians.....	Serenity Chen, Isabella Cornea [§]
Lead Carpenter.....	J.R. Roberson
Carpenters.....	Jyles Rodgers, Courtney Geiger, Isabella Cornea* [§] Hugo Hernandez Villagra*, Jake duPlooy, Monty King, Chris Cates Jonathan Chen, Serenity Chen, Christian Ricci, Lainey Drake [§]
Draper.....	Clare Parker
Stitchers.....	Emma Kennett, Ria Matheson*, Lily Wieland Payton Calvert, Riley Phillips*, Mollyhe Razi-Sharif
Dressers.....	Cat Mizzi* [§] , Yaser Salamah [§] , Chloe Williams [§] , Mackenzie Noe
Light Board Operator.....	Christopher Quiroz [§]
Sound Board Operator.....	Mackenzie Wood
Photographers.....	Bill Ray III, Ken Bennett, Cat Mizzi* [§]
House Managers.....	Jake Skillings ('14), Hope Peterson ('17), Jayson Pugh ('18)
Box Office Staff.....	Jen Carroll, Payton Calvert, Devin Collins, Ben Diehl Anna Hibbert*, Katy Milian*, Habby Olusesi, Casey Williams

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

FACULTY

Department Chair/Professor.....	Nina Maria Lucas
Director of Theatre/Associate Teaching Professor.....	J. E. R. Friedenberg
Director of Dance/Associate Professor.....	Christina Tsoules Soriano
Associate Chair/Associate Professor.....	Rob Eastman-Mullins
Professors.....	Sharon Andrews, Dr. Cindy Gendrich, Mary Wayne-Thomas
Associate Professors.....	Dr. J.K. Curry, Dr. Brook Davis
Assistant Professor.....	Kevin Frazier
Teaching Professor.....	Lynn Book
Associate Teaching Professor.....	Leah Roy
Associate Teaching Professors of the Practice.....	Chris Martin, Brantly Shapiro
Assistant Teaching Professor.....	Michael Kamtman
Research Assistant Professor.....	Jessie Laurita-Spanglet
Post-Graduate Teaching Fellows.....	Dahlia Al-Habieli, Janice Lancaster
Part-Time Instructors.....	Robert Simpson, Tina Yarborough Liggins

STAFF

Administrative Coordinator.....	Carol Lavis
Staff Assistant.....	Richard Williams
Instructional Technology Specialist.....	Ryan McCollum
Costume Shop Supervisor.....	Alice Burton Barsony
Costume Shop Assistant.....	Clare Parker
Audience Services Coordinator.....	Leslie Spencer
Accompanists.....	Ray Ebert, Kelly Hammond, Dan Knight, Hashim Saleh, Che Sharpe
Social Media Managers.....	Madeline Jones*, Katy Milian*, Cat Mizzi* [§]
Office Assistant.....	Lily Wieland

*Anthony Aston Players member

♦Presidential Scholar in Dance

§Presidential Scholar in Theatre

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

2018-2019 Season
September 21, 2018

BENEFACTORS

Barton & Brenda Baldwin[‡]
Estate of John Arthur Collins III
J.K. Curry & Dan Bradley
Caroline Sandlin Fullerton
Joel Leander
Sioban Nicole McNamara[‡]
Margaret Henry Moore
Harold & Josie Tedford
Dr. James & Patricia Toole[‡]
Edwin & Emily Wilson[‡]

John J. Casey
Claire & John Friedenberg[‡]
Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. Jordan II[‡]
Denise Koch[‡]
James & Angela McNamara
Allison McWilliams[‡]
Ben Sutton
Mary Wayne-Thomas
Don & Nancy Wolfe
Estate of Robert Parker Wilson

SUSTAINERS

Jill Carraway[‡] & Debora Horning
Dr. & Mrs. R. Byron Moore[‡]

Michele Gillespie & Kevin Pittard[‡]
Jane Bess Wooten[‡]

PATRONS

Anne Boyle
Anne Davenport
Ellen E. Kirkman
Bill[‡] & Marty[‡] Lamb
Nina Lucas
Sam Roy

Lynn Padgett-Brown & Douglas Brown
Brook Davis[‡] & Michael Huie[‡]
Elizabeth Rief[‡] & Shawn Hooper
Tom Lewis[‡]
Mary Lee Porterfield[‡]
Meyressa Schoonmaker[‡] & John Carroll

Lawrence & Sandra Webb

SPONSORS

Sally Barbour
Victoria Friendly

David & Kathryn Levy
Liz Shumate[‡]

William H. Turkett, Jr.

FRIENDS

Paul & Linda Edwards Early[‡]

Stephany Rayburn[‡]

[‡] Wake Forest alumni

THE WOLVES

by Sarah DeLappe

Directed by J.K. Curry

Oct. 25-27 at 7:30 PM

Oct. 31-Nov. 3 at 7:30 PM

Oct. 28 & Nov. 4 at 2:00 PM

Ring Theatre

Limited seating. No late admission.

Tickets: \$15 adults,
\$12 senior citizens,
\$7 students

336.758.5295

<http://college.wfu.edu/theatre>



FALL FACULTY & GUEST ARTIST CONCERT

Directed by Nina Lucas

November 15-17 at 7:30 PM

November 18 at 2:00 PM

Harold C. Tedford Stage

Tickets: \$15 adults,
\$12 senior citizens, \$7 students

336.758.5295

<http://college.wfu.edu/theatre>