

directing *Love Letters* for B&B as well as *The Mystery of Irma Vep* later this season, having directed *Educating Rita* for them last season. During the day Spike is Director of Client Services for Ticket Turtle, an Oregon based company providing a patron management and ticketing software system to performing arts groups around the US and Canada, including some groups here in Hawaii.

Spike wishes to thank Monica for the opportunity to work with her again on this production. It's been a long time, and it's been as fun as ever.

#### **A.R. Gurney—Author**

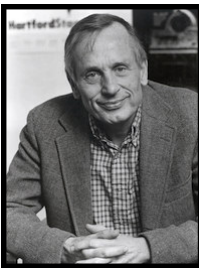
A.R. Gurney, less formally known as "Pete," is one of the most prolific and produced playwrights in America. His work focuses primarily on the issues and realities of middle-class American life and has been produced on international theatre stages for more than 30 years.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College in 1952, Gurney joined the United States Navy during the Korean War, writing shows to entertain the military personnel. Following his discharge in 1955, he enrolled in the Yale School of Drama where he received his Master's degree in playwriting. Later he joined the faculty at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge where he taught until 1987.

His breakthrough success came in 1982 with *The Dining Room*. Other award-winning plays include *The Middle Ages*, *Richard Cory*, *The Golden Age*, *What I Did Last Summer*, *The Wayside Motor Inn*, *Sweet Sue*, *The Perfect Party*, *Another Antigone*, *The Cocktail Hour*, *The Old Boy*, *The Fourth Wall*, *Later Life*, *A Cheever Evening*, *Sylvia*, *Overtime*, *Let's Do It* (a Cole Porter musical), *Labor Day*, *Far East*, *Darlene And The Guest Lecturer*, and *Ancestral Voices*.

*Love Letters*, written in 1989, has enjoyed tremendous success for many years with its two-character cast who read the play side by side at a desk. The characters are a man and a woman who exchange letters in a warm and complicated friendship lasting 50 years. The play's co-stars have included Richard Thomas and Swoosie Kurtz, Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick, and Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward among others.

Gurney is the recipient of many awards, notably a Drama Desk Award in 1971, a Rockefeller Award in 1977 and two Lucille Lortel Awards in 1989 and 1994. He has also received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the New England Theatre Conference. He and his wife, Molly, have four children and six grandchildren.



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Love Letters is presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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#### **Bring Love Letters to you!**

This production of *Love Letters* is available for bookings for special events, private parties, resort entertainment and more. If you are interested, please contact Monica Abrahamsen at [mjgovednik@yahoo.com](mailto:mjgovednik@yahoo.com).

A promotional graphic for the production of 'Love Letters'. The background is a collage of vintage-style envelopes and pink roses. In the top left, there is a black and white portrait of Monica Abrahamsen. In the bottom right, there is a black and white portrait of John Blossom. The title 'Love Letters' is written in a large, black, cursive font across the center. Above the title, it says 'A Govednik Girl Production Starring Monica Abrahamsen &amp; John Blossom in'. Below the title, it says 'by A.R. Gurney'.

**Govednik Girl Productions presents:**

## ***Love Letters***

By A.R. Gurney

**Starring:** Monica Abrahamsen as Melissa Gardner  
John Blossom as Andrew M. Ladd III

**Director:** Patrick Spike

The play spans approximately fifty years, beginning in 1937.  
There will be one intermission

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### **Director's note**

Love Letters seems to be a recurring part of my life, and I welcome it. This is the second production I've directed, and I go from directing this production immediately to another production back in Oregon. The gorgeous and incredibly dense writing weaves a story of lives to which we all can relate. It continues to affect me with every reading, and I feel these two people are like old friends I enjoy spending time with again and again.

Gurney originally wrote these letters to appear in novel form. It was a visionary director in New York that convinced him to let them present it on stage. We have him to thank. Since then it has been read by famous stars of stage and screen, and by countless talented actors world wide. It is a testament to the power of the written word, the immediacy of live performance, and the skill of a pair of actors who bring the words to life.

My wish to you is that you might have a relationship as intimate and powerful as the one embedded in these letters. Perhaps you can enrich a relationship in your life by picking up a pen, and sharing your thoughts and feelings in this ancient and personal manner... write a love letter today.

### **Monica Abrahamsen—Melissa Gardner**

The first time Monica remembers performing, she was four years old, and singing in front of 400 people, which didn't seem to phase her! Seems once she opened her mouth she never stopped, and continued to perform professionally in music with Youth of America and The Young Californian's, performing with Bob Hope, and touring all the military bases in the West; recording, and performing in radio and television specials.



Her fascination with music led to theatre at an early age, where she and her sisters used to make up shows and perform them for each other and for their parents. She seemed to always play the man, being the only tomboy of the trio.

Monica went on to performing in numerous theatre productions, portraying such characters as Norma Hubler in Plaza Suite, Gloria, the Science Officer in Return to the Forbidden Planet, and Miss Hannigan in Annie,

just to name a few, and even a very very very tiny piece of Escape in Time, an Independent Film (don't blink!!).

She is continuing her passion for theatre by producing this production of Love Letters.

Monica is married to husband, Tom, and has two children, her daughter Jennifer who lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland, and her son David who resides down the street from her other home in VERY Northern California.

### **John Blossom—Andrew M Ladd III**

John remembers as a child watching his mother act in a community "follies" group and couldn't quite figure out what the big whoop was about all the feathers and the kickline, even though it was interesting to see his mom obviously enjoying herself so much. At about the same time he got his first acting part as the witch in Hansel and Gretel – for the simple reason that he was the only one in his kindergarten class at the time who could deliver a credible cackle!



Since those early days John has had the opportunity to be Victor Frankenstein on stage and has played lead and supporting roles in Macbeth, The Prisoner of Zenda, The Idiot, Oh What a Lovely War, The Homecoming, Anyone Can Whistle, and most recently, The Actor's Nightmare.

Artistic pursuits are important in John's immediate and extended family. Those from the Ohio area will likely have visited the magnificent Blossom Music Center to hear a concert. Those in New York may be familiar with Bill Blossom who plays the cello in the New York Philharmonic. Roberts Blossom, John's uncle, who many think could pass as his father, had a memorable career as a character actor in New York and in Hollywood winning several Obie awards and playing opposite Macaulay Culkin as the scary old man in Home Alone.

John himself is an accomplished potter and writer, teaching both in independent schools for most of his career. Presently when not helping clients find houses to buy on the Big Island, John plays fiddle in a local bluegrass band and raises lettuce and tomatoes in Waimea. He is married to Kate Mulligan, Head of Hualalai Academy in Kona. Their daughter, Lydian Blossom, is an actress in New York finishing her senior year at Sarah Lawrence College and playing Macbeth in this spring's all female cast production.

### **Patrick Spike—Director**

Spike has been a theatre artist and administrator for over twenty five years. Beginning as an actor, then a director and stage manager, he also has lead marketing and fundraising efforts for arts organizations, served on numerous boards and consulted many groups. Currently he is the director of audience development for Bag&Baggage Productions in Oregon, where he also performs and directs. He will be

