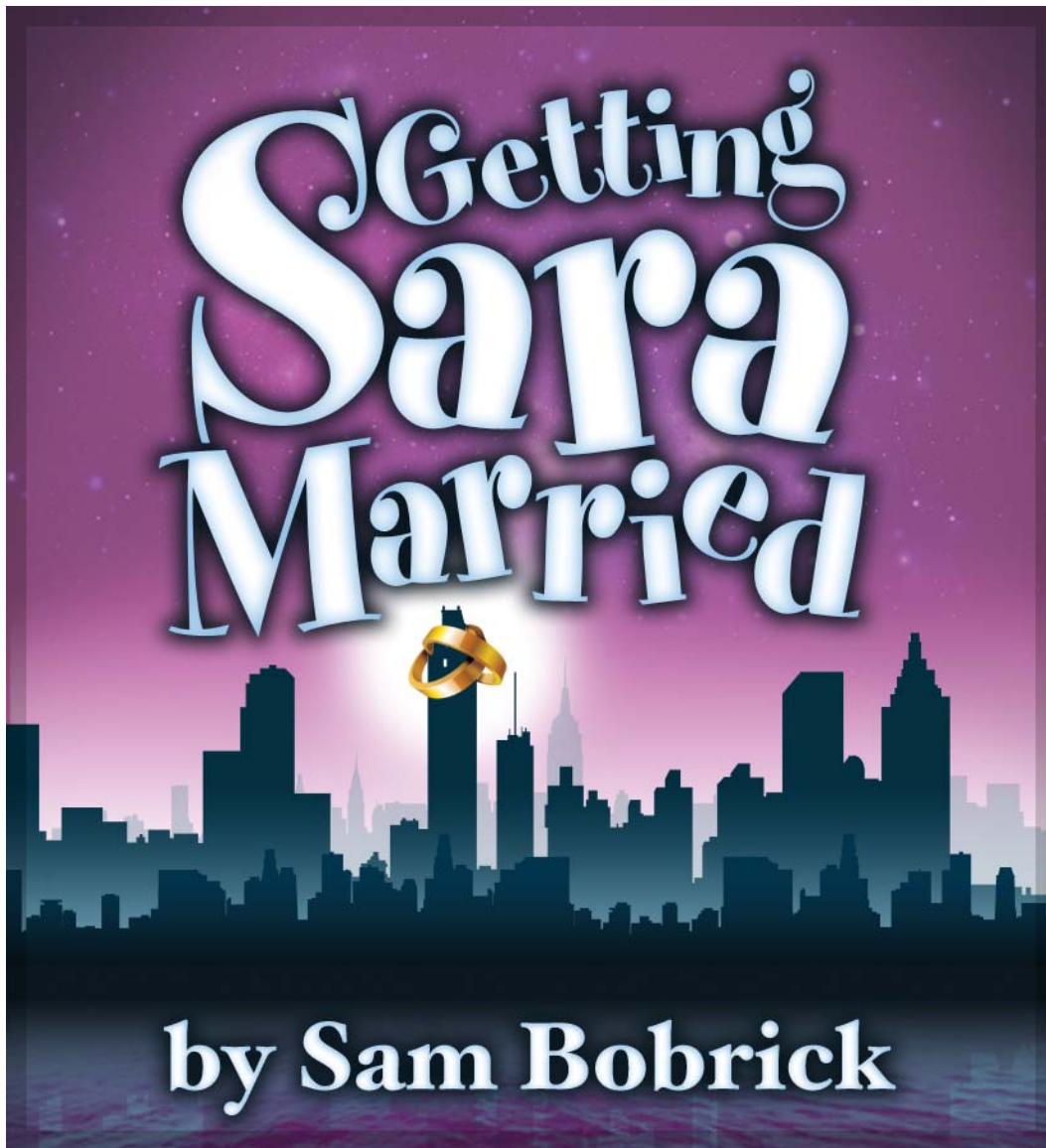


THEATRE JACKSONVILLE PRESENTS



**STUDY GUIDE 2009-2010**



Little Theatre. Big Voice.

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# ABOUT THEATRE JACKSONVILLE

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Since its inception in 1919, the Little Theatre (which became Theatre Jacksonville in 1972) has thrived in good times as well as through some of the 20th Century's worst – the Depression, a Second World War, political assassinations, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and most recently, the threat of terrorist activities. Today, Theatre Jacksonville has the distinction of being one of America's oldest continually producing community theatres and one of Jacksonville's most cherished cultural treasures.

At this writing, Theatre Jacksonville is celebrating its 90th season. The theatre still resides at 2032 San Marco Boulevard, a building that was named to The National Register of Historic Places in 1991. Maintaining the vision of the Theatre Jacksonville pioneers, the theatre produces a season of high quality plays and musicals as well as offerings like the annual Shakespeare production, a performing arts Training Center for youth and adults, and an annual Creative Arts Summer Camp for children. The theatre is also dedicated to providing opportunities for the Jacksonville community to become involved in the artistic process – whether onstage, behind the scenes, in workshops, in the classroom or in the audience. Since 1919, Theatre Jacksonville's volunteers, patrons and staff have been the backbone of the theatre's success.

Because of this vital community involvement, the theatre has forged a remarkable legacy that continues to make a long-lasting impact on the First Coast.

— Staci Cobb, Development Director

## A GUIDE TO THEATRE ETIQUETTE

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Theatre, unlike movies or television, is a LIVE performance. This means that the action unfolds right in front of an audience. The performance, though well rehearsed, is constantly evolving. The actors respond to the audience: laughter, clapping, gasps and general reactions. Therefore the audience is a critical part of the theatre experience. In fact, without the audience, the actors would still be in rehearsal!

As an audience member, it is important to observe certain etiquette so that you may enjoy the best theatre experience possible.

When the performance is about to begin, the lights will dim. This is a signal for the actors and the audience to put aside concerns and conversation and settle into the world of the play.

The performers expect the audience's full attention and focus. This is the time for the audience to think inwardly, not a time to express your thoughts aloud. Talking to neighbors (even whispering) carries easily to others in the audience and to the actors onstage.

There is no food allowed in the theatre: soda, candy, and other snacks are noisy and therefore, distracting. (Not to mention messy!)

Walking through the aisles during the performance is disruptive. Actors occasionally use the aisles and stairways as entrances and exits. The actors will notice any movement in the performance space.

Please use the restroom and take care of all other concerns before the show, or at intermission.

Cell phones, pagers, watch alarms and other electronic devices must be turned off before the performance begins. When noisy objects of this type go off it is very distracting for the actors and audience. Absolutely no text messaging.

Again, attending a live performance is a time to sit back and look inward, question what is being presented to you and be curious about worlds that are different than yours. As theatre artists we approach our audiences with respect and expect the same in return. Live theatre offers the opportunity to experience new ideas and discover people and lives previously unknown to you. Your open mind, curiosity, and respect will allow a whole other world to unfold right before your eyes!

# GETTING SARA MARRIED

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## THE PLAY

Sara Hastings is an unmarried New York lawyer of a certain age, much too busy to get involved in any romance. Her Aunt Martha has decided to take matters into her own hands and find her a husband. Unfortunately, Aunt Martha's method of doing it amounts to having the prospective groom bopped over the head and brought to Sara's apartment. Aunt Martha's choice is Brandon Cates, a young man who handles her finances. Although Brandon is already engaged to be married, this does not deter Aunt Martha. The journey to the altar has never been quite so entertaining.

## THE PLAYWRIGHT



**SAM BOBRICK** was born in Chicago in 1932 (just shortly after the big fire) and joined the Air Force after his first year of college when trying to learn accounting proved disastrous. It was in the service that he began his long and varied writing career by becoming the editor and sole contributor to "The Tribe Scribe", a bi-monthly politically incorrect and militarily offensive base newspaper which while very popular with the troops, was the lowest rated paper in the Armed Forces and on one occasion almost got him court-martialed. After three years, nine months, and twenty-three days in the Air Force he was honorably discharged and decided to return to college.

After graduating from the University of Illinois, Mr. Bobrick made his way to New York where after several years of living on hot dogs and jelly donuts he landed his first big job as a writer on *Captain Kangaroo*. His television credits also include *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Get Smart*, and *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*.

It was while doing the television show, *The Kraft Music Hall*, in New York that Mr. Bobrick got involved with theatre, co-writing his first play *Norman, Is That You?* He then went on to write and co-write over thirty plays, many of them performed throughout the world including; *Murder At The Howard Johnson's*, *Weekend Comedy*, *The Crazy Time*, *Getting Sara Married*, *Remember Me?* and *Hamlet II (Better Than The Original)*.

Mr. Bobrick is married to writer Julie Stein with whom he has written several plays including, *The Outrageous Adventures of Sheldon & Mrs. Levine* and *Lenny's Back*. He has three terrific grown children, Lori, Steffy and Joey, one wonderful son-in-law, Caleb, and two fantastic grandchildren, Ariel and Joshua.

Mr. Bobrick is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, as well as the Dramatists Guild and Writers Guild of America. He has directed many of his plays in regional theatres around the U.S. and Canada.

## THE CAST

Sara Hastings ..... SARAH BOONE  
Aunt Martha ..... GAYLE FEATHERINGILL  
Noogie Malloy ..... THOMAS TRAUGER

Brandon Cates..... JASON COLLINS  
Heather Boyd ..... TRACY OLIN  
Miss Prism..... SANDY SPURNEY

## THE DIRECTOR

**MICHELLE SVENSON SIMKULET** is thrilled to be back for this very special anniversary season at Theatre Jacksonville. Last year she had a ball directing *Kitchen Witches* and has many fond memories as a TJ volunteer for *Over the Tavern*, *Secrets Every Smart Traveler Should Know*, *All My Sons* and *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Professionally, Michelle is the Finance Director for *JCCI - Jacksonville Community Council Inc.*, which works every day with citizens to build a better community. Additionally, she enjoys volunteering with the *Tom Coughlin Jay Fund*, *Mental Health America* and *ERI's Journey into Womanhood* program. She is grateful for the support from her Home Team, James and King. And also from her TJ Team; Sarah, Jeff, Staci, Tracy, the entire cast, crew and all the volunteers that makes this place so special.

# NEW YORK CITY

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*"To Europe, she was America. To America, she was the gateway of the earth. But to tell the story of New York would be to write a social history of the world."* — H. G. Wells

## ABOUT THE CITY

New York is the most populous city in the United States containing more than 22 million people in the greater New York metropolitan area and is among the most populous urban areas in the world. A leading global city, New York exerts a powerful influence over worldwide commerce, finance, culture, fashion and entertainment.



Located on a large natural harbor on the Atlantic coast of the Northeastern United States half way between Washington DC and Boston, the city consists of five boroughs or administrative districts: Manhattan in the center, The Bronx to the north, Queens to the east, Brooklyn to the south, and Staten Island to the extreme southwest.

New York was founded as a commercial trading post by the Dutch in 1624. The settlement was called New Amsterdam until 1664 when the colony came under English control. Under British rule the city grew in importance as a trading port. New York served as the capital of the United States from 1785 until 1790 and has been the country's largest city since 1790. Originally located only on the island of Manhattan, the modern city took shape at the turn of the last century with the consolidation of Brooklyn, the Counties of New York, Richmond, and part of Queens. The opening of the New York Subway in 1904 helped cement the new city together.

NYC is the birthplace of many cultural movements, including the Harlem Renaissance in literature and visual art; abstract expressionism (also known as the New York School) in painting; hip hop, punk, salsa, disco and Tin Pan Alley in music; and is the home of Broadway theatre.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT NYC

- ❖ In the 1660s New York City's "skyline" was dominated by a two-story-high windmill.
- ❖ Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village was originally used as a graveyard for yellow fever victims and later as a site for public executions.
- ❖ New York Cabs are yellow because John Hertz, the company's founder, read a study that concluded yellow was the easiest color for the eye to spot.
- ❖ The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge is so long, 4,260 feet to be exact, that the towers on either end were built a few inches out of parallel to accommodate for the curvature of the earth.
- ❖ Manhattan's Chinatown is the largest Chinese enclave in the Western Hemisphere.
- ❖ Ceopatra's Needle, a 3,000-year-old Egyptian ruin, can actually be found in New York's Central Park. In 1879 it was given to the city as a gift by the Khedive of Egypt. The 220-ton, 66-foot-high monument took a decade to be fully transported.
- ❖ The Dutch traded New Amsterdam (a.k.a., New York City) to the British in the 1667 Treaty of Breda in exchange for Pulau Run, an obscure tiny Indonesian island once known for its nutmeg.
- ❖ For decades, the title of "tallest building in the world" switched hands almost ten times, all the while remaining in Manhattan, before settling on the Empire State Building, which retained the title until 1970 with the opening of One World Trade Center.

- ❖ More than 47 % of New York City's residents over the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home.
- ❖ New York's Central Park is larger than the principality of Monaco.
- ❖ The average sale price of an apartment in Manhattan is \$1.49 million.
- ❖ The Federal Reserve Bank on New York's Wall street contains vaults that are located 80 feet beneath the bank and hold about 25 % of the world's gold bullion.
- ❖ The average daily room rate in New York hotels is \$267.
- ❖ An average of 4.9 million people ride the New York City subway each weekday.

## TIMELINE

**1624** | Founding of "New Amsterdam" by the Dutch

**1664** | The British take control of "New York"

**1770** | Battle of Golden Hill, first conflict of the Revolution

**1785** | Becomes capital of the newly formed United States



**1808** | Ellis Island is purchased from the estate of Samuel Ellis by the State of New York and turned over to the Federal Government

**1844** | First uniformed police force established

**1856** | Central park is purchased

**1869** | The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History were founded



**1886** | Dedication of the Statue of Liberty

**1892** | Ellis Island opens

**1898** | Consolidation of New York City. Population of 3.4 million makes combined city the world's second largest, after London.

**1899** | Bronx Zoo, Brooklyn Children's Museum open | 30-story Park Row building is world's tallest.

**1901** | An estimated 70 percent of the city's population is living in tenements

**1902** | Macy's opens giant 34th Street store.

**1903** | Williamsburgh bridge opens.

**1904** | In city's worst disaster up to that time, 1,031 die when the steamship General Slocum burns en route to a Sunday school picnic | First subway opens: 26 minutes from City Hall to W. 145th St. | Longacre Square renamed Times Square

**1907** | Florenz Ziegfeld presents the first of his 21 Follies.

**1908** | Consolidation under water: first Brooklyn-Manhattan subway link | City College opens five-building campus.

**1909** | Queensboro, Manhattan Bridges open | National Negro Organization, forerunner of the N.A.A.C.P., founded in Harlem



## TIMELINE continued



- 1910** | Penn Station opens | Gimbels opens in Herald Square | Manhattan population peaks at 2.3 million.
- 1911** | Triangle Waist Factory fire: 146 girls and women die.
- 1912** | The Titanic fails to arrive.
- 1913** | At 60 stories, Woolworth Building tops Singer Building as world's tallest | First crossword puzzle, in The New York Sun.
- 1914** | First nickelodeon theater opens | Police form bomb squad in response to anarchist threats | New York Stock Exchange closes for 6 months by WWI



- 1915** | Lusitania departs on fatal voyage.
- 1916** | Margaret Sanger opens first birth-control clinic, on Amboy St. in Brooklyn | Nathan Handwerker sets up Coney Island hot-dog stand
- 1918** | Spanish flu kills more than 12,000.
- 1920** | Curse of the Bambino: Yankees buy Babe Ruth's contract from Boston Red Sox.
- 1921** | Port of New York Authority established | Sardi's opens
- 1922** | Reader's Digest is born in a Greenwich Village basement.
- 1923** | First issue of Time Magazine appears | Staten Island-Brooklyn subway begins (never finished)



- 1924** | First Macy's parade heralds Thanksgiving as start of Christmas shopping season.
- 1925** | Harold Ross founds The New Yorker.
- 1926** | Martha Graham opens her dance studio.
- 1927** | William Paley buys a network he later renames CBS | Holland Tunnel opens | Babe Ruth hits 60.
- 1928** | Goethals Bridge and Outerbridge Crossing link Staten Island to New Jersey | First animated electric sign in Times Square.



- 1929** | Black Tuesday follows Black Thursday as stock market crashes | Museum of Modern Art opens.
- 1930** | Brooklyn becomes the most populous borough.
- 1931** | The Empire State Building begins 42-year reign as world's tallest building.
- 1932** | Relief rolls stand at 820,000 - about 12 percent of the city. Hospitals report cases of starvation.



- 1933** | Rebellious against Tammany Hall, the city elects Fiorello La Guardia mayor.
- 1934** | Knickerbocker Village opens, first in a series of public housing projects.
- 1936** | Rikers Island opens for business, as does the Triborough Bridge nearby.
- 1937** | Lincoln Tunnel opens.
- 1938** | Orson Welles scares the nation with "War of the Worlds." | Chester F. Carlson invents xerox process in makeshift lab in Queens.
- 1939** | La Guardia Airport opens; World's Fair does, too | Enrico Fermi's team of physicists splits the atom in Columbia lab.

- 1942** | Wartime blackout rules dim lights on Broadway, and in all windows above the 10th floor.
- 1943** | Rodgers, meet Hammerstein. *Oklahoma!* is first of nine Broadway collaborations | Rent control adopted as temporary measure
- 1945** | V-E, V-J days
- 1946** | Last-minute gift of land by John D. Rockefeller saves the United Nations for New York
- 1947** | Actors Studio opened by Elia Kazan | First Tony awards | First fare increase for subways, from a nickel to a dime | Jackie Robinson becomes first African-American in major-league baseball.
- 1948** | Toast of the Town: newspaper columnist Ed Sullivan hosts first really big "shew." | Idlewild Airport (now Kennedy) opens | Birth of a mountain: Fresh Kills landfill in Staten Island opens; will be highest point on Eastern seaboard.
- 1951** | Rosenbergs convicted of passing atomic secrets to Soviet Union.
- 1952** | Franklin National Bank issues the first credit card.
- 1953** | Subway fare increases to 15 cents; token introduced.
- 1955** | Jackie Gleason brings *The Honeymooners* to TV as a weekly series | *Mad Magazine* is born | In a wave of mergers, Chase Manhattan Bank and First National City Bank (now Citibank) are formed.
- 1957** | *West Side Story* opens | Dodgers leave; so do Giants.
- 1959** | The Guggenheim opens in its Frank Lloyd Wright home.
- 1960** | *The Fantasticks* opens Off-Broadway and runs for 42 years.
- 1961** | City University of New York formed
- 1962** | Mets lose 120 games in rookie season | Philharmonic Hall, first in Lincoln Center, opens
- 1963** | Strike 1: no newspapers for 114 days
- 1964** | Verrazano-Narrows Bridge connects Staten Island to Brooklyn | Harlem riot touched off by police killing of a young African-American boy | World's Fair opens in Flushing, Queens | The Beatles invade
- 1965** | Blackout | Malcolm X assassinated | Penn Station demolished, spurring preservation movement | Largest industrial work force, nearly 1 million
- 1966** | Strike 2: subways shut for 12 days.
- 1967** | *Hair* opens at the Public Theater.
- 1968** | Student protests shut down Columbia.
- 1969** | Drag queens fight back when police raid the Stonewall bar in Greenwich Village; gay rights movement gains momentum
- 1970** | McSorley's Old Ale House forced to admit women | First New York City marathon, round and round, all in Central Park.
- 1971** | Archie Bunker becomes the face of Queens in *All in the Family* | Frank Serpico testifies before Knapp Commission on police corruption



- 1973** | World Trade Center, at 110 stories, begins one-year reign as the world's tallest.
- 1974** | Philippe Petit walks tightrope between World Trade Center towers | Saturday Night Live makes its premiere.
- 1975** | The Bronx burns: 13,000 fires in a 12-square-mile area | A Chorus Line opens.
- 1976** | Football Giants move to New Jersey, deflating spirits
- 1977** | Studio 54 opens | David Berkowitz arrested after killing five, terrorizing the city as "Son of Sam" | New York terrorizes itself during another blackout | George Willig climbs a World Trade Center Tower; he is fined a penny per story
- 1978** | "Pooper scooper" law takes effect | In nation's biggest heist, \$6 million is stolen from Lufthansa
- 1980** | The city mourns after John Lennon is gunned down by crazed fan, Mark Chapman
- 1982** | Morosco and Helen Hayes theaters are demolished | City opens barracks-style shelters for homeless
- 1984** | Post-modernism joins the skyline in Philip Johnson's A.T.&T. (now Sony) building
- 1985** | Cleaned-up Union Square reopens | After six-year decline, murders rise as crack cocaine spreads
- 1986** | Carnegie Hall reopens after renovation
- 1987** | Black Monday: stocks plunge 508 points, in biggest drop ever
- 1989** | David N. Dinkins elected as first African-American Mayor | Ellis Island reopens as museum of immigration
- 1990** | Murders peak at 2,245 | Census reports that whites have become a minority of city residents
- 1992** | Feds convict mob boss John Gotti after 3 acquittals | Mollen Commission formed to investigate charges of theft, brutality and "testilying" by police officers
- 1993** | First World Trade Center bombing; final death toll is six, over 1000 injured | Rudolph W. Giuliani becomes first Republican mayor in two decades; crucial support comes from Staten Island, which also votes to secede
- 1994** | Welfare rolls decline after reaching peak in 1993
- 1995** | Wiring of the city for cable TV completed after three decades
- 1997** | New Amsterdam Theater reopens as Times Square booms | Drop in crime continues; 767 murders are fewest since 1966 | On New Year's Eve, Mayor Giuliani takes oath of office for his second term, to become New York's first lame duck | Cats replaces A Chorus Line to become the longest running Broadway show
- 2000** | The first Subway Series in 44 years took place, between the New York Yankees and New York Mets | Hillary Clinton elected Senator of New York; the first First Lady to hold elected office
- 2001** | Terrorists fly two hijacked planes into the World Trade Center Towers killing over 2000 people
- 2006** | The Phantom of the Opera becomes the longest running Broadway show
- 2009** | Demolition of Yankee Stadium



— Excerpts from *The Decades*, [nyt.com](http://nyt.com)

# SOURCES AND FURTHER READING

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## SUGGESTED READING

The Age of Innocence.....	Edith Wharton
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn .....	Betty Smith
The Catcher in the Rye .....	J.D. Salinger
Breakfast at Tiffany's .....	Truman Capote
The Great Gatsby .....	F. Scott Fitzgerald
Time and Again.....	Jack Finney
Eloise at the Plaza .....	Kay Thompson
Marjorie Morningstar .....	Herman Wouk

## CLASSIC MOVIES ABOUT NEW YORK CITY

On the Town	Pride of the Yankees	North by Northwest
Westside Story	Miracle on 34th Street	Barefoot in the Park
My Sister Eileen	Guys and Dolls	The Odd Couple
Breakfast at Tiffany's	Sabrina	

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