

ACT II playhouse

World-class theatre • intimate venue

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**Act II Playhouse Presents *Burt & Me*,
Featuring the Music of Burt Bacharach and Hal David
On Stage July 6 – August 1, 2010**

AMBLER, PA – Local playwright Larry McKenna has turned his passion for the music of acclaimed songwriting team Burt Bacharach & Hal David into a new romantic musical comedy, *Burt & Me*, which is being presented at Act II Playhouse July 6 to Aug. 1 as a season-extra show.

Conceived and written by McKenna, *Burt & Me* weaves Bacharach's irresistible music into a story about young sweethearts who meet up again as adults. In high school, Joe Madson and Lacey Turner loved each other and the music of Burt Bacharach. In college, they went their separate ways. Years later, Joe meets up with Lacey and plots a way to win her back. Celebrate the magic of romance with the help of pop classics such as "What the World Needs Now," "Walk on By," "This Guy's in Love with You," "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head," "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," "Close to You," and many more.

Directed by Matt Silva, *Burt & Me* features Liz Filios, John Jarboe, Christine Petrini, Paul Weagraff, and Ted Wioncek III. Vince DiMura is musical director, and Sonny Leo is choreographer.

Tickets for Act II's production of *Burt & Me* are \$27 for weekday performances and \$33 for weekend shows (Friday through Sunday). Discounts are available for students (\$12 student rate) and groups of 10 or more, and are available at the Act II Box Office by calling (215) 654-0200; visiting 56 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, PA; or online at www.act2.org.

"Burt Bacharach was the reason that I wanted to play the piano," says McKenna, who resides in Wayne. "I bought every Dionne Warwick album ever made just so I could get my hands on his music. When I saw the original production of *Promises, Promises* [in 1968] featuring the music of Burt Bacharach and Hal David, I was hooked for life." Warwick had two hit singles from two songs from the show, "I'll Never Fall in Love Again" and "Promises, Promises."

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For *Burt & Me*, McKenna managed to acquire the rights to 20 Burt Bacharach/Hal David songs, a Herculean feat given that *Promises, Promises* is currently enjoying a successful Broadway revival. “I worked with Hal David's son, Jim David on acquiring the rights,” said McKenna. “It was a long arduous ordeal, but we were finally able to make it happen after Burt Bacharach and Hal David approved my manuscript.”

McKenna was asked by Act II Playhouse Artistic Director Bud Martin to look into writing a musical and thought the music of Burt Bacharach would be perfect. “I got so excited about the idea that I shut myself in a room and wrote for a week straight just mapping it out,” said McKenna. “After that, writing the actual show and dialogue became a labor of love.”

McKenna and Martin are longtime friends and both graduated from Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, Delaware County. They rekindled their friendship in 2007 after Martin saw a reading of the friendship musical *The Story of My Life* in New York, which Martin produced on Broadway and directed a run at Act II that sold out and extended a week.

What is it about Bacharach and David's music that makes their songs so popular, even today? “Great music and great lyrics are a tough combination to beat,” added McKenna. “When I invited close friends to the first reading of *Burt & Me*, it was a riot to see everyone singing along with all the songs. It was highly nostalgic, and I immediately felt that we were on to something special.”

Act II's production of *Burt & Me* features set and lighting design by Matt Rohner, costume design by Jennifer Lancaster, and projection design by Mark Costello.

Honorary Producers for *Burt & Me* are Merle Holman and Phil & Barb Albright. Act II welcomes Normandy Farm Hotel & Conference Center/Blue Bell Country Club as our Season Sponsor for the 2010-2011 season.

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FACT SHEET

BURT & ME at Act II Playhouse

<p>Performances:</p> <p>July 6 P Tue 8pm July 7 P Wed 8pm July 8 P Thu 8pm July 9 O Fri 8pm July 10 Sat 8pm July 11 Sun 2pm July 14 Wed 2pm July 14 Wed 8pm July 15 Thu 8pm July 16 Fri 8pm July 17 Sat 2pm July 18 Sun 8pm July 21 Wed 2pm July 21 Wed 2pm July 22 Thu 8pm July 23 Fri 8pm July 24 Sat 8pm July 25 Sun 2pm July 28 Wed 2pm July 28 Wed 8pm July 29 Thu 8pm July 30 Fri 8pm July 31 Sat 8pm Aug 1 Sun 2pm</p>	<p>Dates: July 6 – Aug. 1, 2010 Previews run July 6-8 Opening Night is Friday, July 9, 2010</p> <p>Location: Act II Playhouse 56 E. Butler Ave. Ambler, PA 19002</p> <p>Parking located in municipal lot off Cavalier Drive (meters are free after 6 pm)</p> <p>Tickets: Tues-Thurs: \$27 Fri-Sun: \$33 Students: \$12 Discounts starting at 10% for groups of 10 or more</p> <p><u>PUBLIC CONTACT INFORMATION</u> Online sales: www.act2.org Phone sales: 215-654-0200 (Tues.-Sat., 2-6 p.m.)</p> <p><u>PRODUCTION TEAM</u></p> <p>Book by Larry McKenna Featuring the music of Burt Bacharach & Hal David Directed by Matt Silva Musical Direction: Vince DiMura Choreography: Sonny Leo Set and lighting design: Matt Rohner Costumes: Jennifer Lancaster Projection Designer: Mark Costello Production Manager/Technical Director: Jacob Rothermel Stage Manager: Cherie Tay</p>
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* Opening Night