



Music Theatre of Madison presents *Arlington*, a new musical.  
Book and Lyrics by Victor Lodato  
Music by Polly Pen

Special free performance for veterans, active military, and their families:  
April 28, 2016 at 7:00pm. [Click here for to make a reservation.](#)

General public performances: April 29, April 30, May 5, May 6, and May 7  
at 7:00pm. [Click here to order tickets.](#)

Performances held at Lakeside Street Coffeehouse, 402 W. Lakeside St.

Tickets and additional information available at [www.mtmadison.com](http://www.mtmadison.com)

### **What is Arlington?**

*Arlington* is a musical theatre piece that has previously been presented in [San Francisco \(2013\)](#) and [New York City \(2014\)](#). Music Theatre of Madison is mounting their own production of the piece featuring Madison-based artists. This will be the first performance of the show in the Midwest. The San Francisco Examiner said the show was “**utterly captivating,**” and the Village Voice called it “**a tightly packed little firecracker.**”

### **What's it about?**

Sara Jane, the prim and proper wife of soldier Jerry, spends an afternoon ruminating on her life: her plastic surgery obsessed mother, army veteran father, and Jerry, whose texts and photos from Iraq have become increasingly disturbing lately. **Torn between her objections to the atrocities of war and her loyalty to her family's service to their country, Sara Jane allows herself to reflect, for the first time, on what it truly means to love a soldier.**

### **What themes are explored?**

*Arlington* does reference war related violence and trauma. **The show is mostly focused on the themes of relationships that are tested by extremely trying circumstances.** It also explores the advent of communication between soldiers and their families, and the roles of women both as soldiers and homemakers.

*"Oh, you know what I was thinking about? Arlington. When I was a kid, my parents took me there to see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier... My father cried, which was-I felt like I was on Mars... I was just so amazed by the whole ceremony of the place.... Twenty-four hours a day, there's a soldier who guards the tomb... did you know the guard's gloves are always wet, so he doesn't lose his grip on his rifle? And so imagine his hands in the winter, or when it snows. That kind of strength... it takes a special kind of man to be sure. To guard that place, to guard that tomb. You talk about Arlington and people say, death... But it's a very human place. I mean, you see war on television, and you read things, but then you think about a place like Arlington and you see it's not just chaos; it's history."*

-Sara Jane in *Arlington*

Continued on the next page.

### **Is this an anti-war piece?**

***Arlington* is neither pro nor anti-war, but asks us to consider the tough question of what war means for our country: past, present, and future.** We experience one story of war's effect on people through the lens of one marriage, which is in some ways typical and in some ways extraordinary. Good art does not comment or take sides, and we believe that *Arlington* presents a well-rounded look at many issues surrounding war.

### **Did you say it's a musical?**

*Arlington* is a great example of how contemporary musical theatre is expanding and finding moving ways to do more than just entertain. **This won't be a musical in the way you might traditionally think of one.** There are no flashy costumes, elaborate sets, or big production numbers. The show is simply one woman, a piano, and storytelling at its simplest and finest.

### **What will the experience be like?**

The show is being presented at Lakeside Street Coffeehouse, 402 W. Lakeside St., in their front room, which is set up like a living room. Audiences will sit on couches and in comfortable chairs, and can enjoy snacks and drinks throughout. Once the show is over, we will hold an informal discussion with our panelists: [Erin Cejello](#), author of the book *Learning to Stay*, [Bjorn Hanson](#), a UW-Madison psychologist who has counseled veterans and their families, and [Michael Telzrow](#), Executive Director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. We want this to be a thought-provoking yet relaxed environment that will promote questions and discussion about the issues raised.

### **How do I reserve tickets?**

**There is a special performance for veterans, active military, and their families on April 28<sup>th</sup>.** This performance is free for those individuals, but we do require reservations, which can be made [here](#).

Additional performances are **April 29 and 30 and May 5, 6, and 7 at 7:00 p.m.** Tickets can be purchased [here](#). Tickets for veterans and active military are \$15, and general admission is \$20. Veterans and active military should be prepared to show a form of ID.

### **What is Music Theatre of Madison?**

[Music Theatre of Madison \(MTM\)](#) is a small professional musical theatre company now in its tenth anniversary season. **The company focuses on the future of musical theatre through performing lesser-known works featuring thought provoking subject matter. We believe that musical theatre has something for everyone and can be a fully rounded experience that does more than simply entertain.** We have worked with numerous local organizations to create outreach programming, perform at a variety of unconventional venues, and produce free programs in addition to our shows throughout the year.

### **What if I have additional questions?**

Please feel free to contact MTM's Executive Director, Meghan Randolph, at [mrandolph@mtmadison.com](mailto:mrandolph@mtmadison.com).