

AUGUST 7-31 2014

NORMA YOUNG ARENA STAGE

# *Candy Barr's Last Dance*



# THE 53rd SEASON: EXTRAORDINARY

## PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# THEATRE 3

NORMA YOUNG ARENA STAGE 2014-2015

### CANDY BARR'S LAST DANCE

Aug. 7 - 31

a world premiere comedy by Ronnie Claire Edwards

### HANDS ON A HARDBODY

Sept. 25 - Oct. 19

a musical by Doug Wright, Amanda Green, & Trey Anastasio

### A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS

Nov. 20 - Dec. 14

a festive musical by Paula Vogel

### TRU

Jan. 8 - Feb. 8

a play by Jay Presson Allen

### HOT MIKADO

Mar. 12 - Apr. 5

a musical adapted from Gilbert & Sullivan by David H. Bell and Rob Bowman

### THE LIAR

May 7 - 31

a classic comedy adapted by David Ives

### TBA

Jun. 25 - Jul. 1

a scintillating addition to the season will be announced at a later date.

THEATRE TOO 2014-2015

### SHEAR MADNESS

now playing through September 21  
a comedy whodunit by Paul Portner

### I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE

Jan. 8 - Feb 15

a musical by Joe DiPietro & Jimmy Roberts

Tix: 214-871-3300 or [www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com)

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AUG 6 -24 *The Phantom of the Opera*

### CIRCLE THEATRE

AUG 21 - SEPT 20 *Stella & Lou*

### DALLAS THEATER CENTER

JUN 13 - AUG 17 *Les Misérables*

### POCKET SANDWICH THEATRE

JUL 3 - AUG 30 *Herbbits, Wizards, and Bork...Oh My!*

### STAGE WEST

JUL 10 - AUG 10 *Heroes*

### UPTOWN PLAYERS

JUL 25 - AUG 10 *The Boy from Oz*

### WATERTOWER THEATRE

JUL 25 - AUG 17 *Dogfight*

For the theatre's 50th Anniversary (2011) Theatre Three's main stage has been named the NORMA YOUNG ARENA STAGE in honor of the theatre's founding artistic director. Ms. Young, a Dallas native, served the theatre as director, leading actress and administrator from the theatre's founding in 1961 until her death in 1998.

Theatre Three thrives on her legacy of artistic and intellectual vigor, her wisdom and her continuous quest for the perfect synthesis of authors, actors and audiences.

This playbill is a publication of Theatre Three, Inc., 2800 Routh Street, Suite 168, Dallas, Texas 75201, 214-871-3300, [www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com) in support of *Candy Barr's Last Dance* (the first show of Theatre Three's 2014 - 2015 Season on the Norma Young Arena Stage).

PLAYBILL EDITORS: Jac Alder & Kimberly Richard  
PROOFREADER: Adele Acree ILLUSTRATIONS: Joe Howard  
PHOTOGRAPHY: Jeffrey Schmidt & Bruce R. Coleman  
DESIGN: David W. Radabaugh



Both Theatre Three and Theatre Too have Hearing Assistants devices which may be checked out (without charge) from the box office. These discrete devices enhance the performance experience for audience members with any degree of hearing limitation. The box office personnel can provide you with the devices either before the show or at intermission. Theatre Three's staff and board are most grateful to donors Carolyn Wickwire and Dennis West, who provided the grant that allows us to offer this enhancement to our patrons.





# Candy Barr's

A WORLD PREMIERE COMEDY BY RONNIE CLAIRE EDWARDS  
Produced by special arrangement with the playwright

THE  
NORMA  
YOUNG  
ARENA  
STAGE

## ARTISTIC STAFF

DIRECTOR  
**René Moreno**  
SET DESIGN  
**Jac Alder**  
COSTUME DESIGN  
**Ronnie Claire Edwards**  
LIGHTING DESIGN  
**Kenneth Farnsworth**  
SOUND DESIGN  
**Graeme Bice**  
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**Sara J Romersberger**

## PRODUCTION STAFF

AEA STAGE MANAGER  
**\*Stew Awalt**  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
**Dane Tuttle**  
ASSOCIATE SET DESIGNER  
**David Walsh**  
ASSOCIATE COSTUME DESIGNER  
**Bruce Richard Coleman**  
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT  
**Madeleine Morris**  
PRODUCTION CREW  
**Sam Bell, Alex Benningfield,  
Garrett Williams, Jerry Berger,  
Julie Sivostill and Kenzie Osborne.**

## CAST

TRICKSY DEAN  
**Cindy Beall**  
CORKY LATRELLE  
**Mary Lang**  
DANCER  
**\*Lydia Mackay**  
FLUTTER  
**\*Marty Van Kleeck**

## SCENE SYNOPSIS

TIME  
January 2006, all action takes place in one day

## PLACE

A house outside a small Texas town

## ECDYASIAST

1. To shed.
2. A striptease artist.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Lydia Mackay, Cindy Beall, Marty Van Kleeck and Mary Lang

To learn more about the artistic staff and cast, see more photos and watch videos about the show, visit the *Candy Barr's Last Dance* page on Theatre Three's web site at [www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com).

Please silence your cell phones and all electronic devices. No photography or videography is allowed without the consent of the theater.

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

\* indicates members working under Actors' Equity Association contracts in this production.  
\*\* indicates a performer enrolled in the AEA membership candidate program.

# Dance

## Exotic Dancing with Ronnie Claire Edwards & Candy Barr

Like most of Ronnie Claire Edwards' characters, the women in *Candy Barr's Last Dance* have colorful lives, have seen their share of troubles, and exist at the edges of "polite society." They pique our interest because we don't often hear directly from characters like these—they're more often the supporting characters who add theatrical flair to stories about their more conventional sisters. However, Edwards' gift is that she does not allow us to come to her plays simply to 'gawk at the exotic'; time spent with them leaves us as aware of their humanity as their eccentricities.

Although the trio we actually meet in the play are fictional, Candy Barr herself was a real person. Born Juanita Dale Slusher, she left her small Texas town, Edna, to escape abuse and wound up in Dallas, where she eventually became one of the most famous burlesque and striptease dancers in the city. She started out as a cigarette girl at Barney Weinstein's Theatre Lounge at the age of 17, gave exotic dancing a try on amateur night, and was soon a headliner at both of Weinstein's clubs under her new name: Candy Barr. A true Texan, Candy Barr's costume was cowboy boots, two pearl-handled six-shooters in a holster around her hips... and not much else.

Candy Barr's scandalous life included posing for many of the famous pin-up magazines of the era (including *Playboy*); shooting one of her four husbands (when he broke down her apartment door); being arrested twice and spending time in prison near Huntsville, Texas on charges

of marijuana possession; becoming a "gangster's moll" when she began dating the infamous Mickey Cohen (and then having to testify against him in court); and the friendship with Jack Ruby that got her interviewed by the FBI after Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald.

This is where Ronnie Claire Edwards found her inspiration. Due to her penchant for the denizens of the demi-monde, what attracted her notice amongst all the material produced in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination last year was the tidbit about the strippers in Jack Ruby's life who were rounded up and interrogated in the aftermath of the tragedy. She kept wondering what that experience was like for them; *Candy Barr's Last Dance* is the result of her musings.

If you'd like to know more about Ronnie Claire Edwards' plays, please visit the Theatre Three website ([www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com)) for a more in-depth article on her work.

Candy Barr retired quietly back to Edna in the 1990s, and she died in 2005. She left behind a daughter, a granddaughter, and a book of poems she'd written in prison. There are YouTube videos on the internet of her dancing, and I will confess to having watched them (in the name of research, mind you!). In the interest of propriety, I doubt my bosses at Theatre Three will sanction my providing the links for you, so in this case, you're just going to have to do your own...ahem...dirty work.

In the meantime, please enjoy the world premiere of *Candy Barr's Last Dance*.

Brandi Andrade, Ph.D.,  
dramaturg

## BRIEFLY...

### CAST BIOGRAPHIES

**Cindy Beall** TRICKSY DEAN  
Ms. Beall makes her second appearance on the Theatre Three stage, having debuted in 2006 in the role on Mrs. Wire in *Vieux Carré*. She is a graduate of the University of Houston with a BA in theatre, and of Antioch University with an MA in psychology.

**Mary Lang** CORKY LATRELLE  
Ms. Lang is making her debut with Theatre Three in this production, however, she has theatrical credits with Amphibian Stage Productions in *Julia Pastrana*; One-Thirty Productions in *Equally Divided* and *The Last Romance*; Shakespeare Dallas in *Richard III* and *Comedy of Errors*; and Undermain Theatre in the award winning *The Birthday Party*.

**Lydia Mackay** DANCER  
Ms. Mackay received her training at both SMU and TWU, debuted with us in 2009 as Dona Ana in *Trysts in Toledo*, and is in her eighth show on our stage. Prior shows include *Other Desert Cities*, *Present Laughter*, and *33 Variations*. However, Lydia has appeared in many Metroplex venues including: Amphibian Stage Productions, Dallas Theater Center, Echo Theatre, Second Thought Theatre, Shakespeare Dallas – all in Dallas; Stage West and Trinity Shakespeare Festival in Fort Worth, and WaterTower Theatre, Addison.

**Marty Van Kleeck** FLUTTER  
Ms. Van Kleeck is the new Managing Director of Theatre Three and is making her debut on the Norma Young Arena Stage. Most recently, Marty directed the hit production *Shear Madness* in the Theatre Too space.

Read full biographies on Theatre Three's website, [www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com).

## THIS WORLD PREMIERE COMEDY IS MADE POSSIBLE BY...

Theatre Three is supported by its Board of Directors, by subscribers, by funds from the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, The Texas Commission on the Arts, and The National Endowment for the Arts. Supporters also include TACA. Special in-kind support for Theatre Three's web site is provided by QuickSilver Interactive. Dr. Delphinium is Theatre Three's florist. A major contribution from the estate of Marlene Webb, a longtime subscriber, has established the Theatre Three Endowment Fund in support of the building and its equipment.



## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



### Ronnie Claire Edwards

#### PLAYWRIGHT

Ronnie Claire Edwards is an accomplished actress, author and playwright. She is perhaps best known for her portrayal of the unforgettable Corabeth Godsey on *The Waltons* which ran for ten years on television. She was also a regular on a number of television series and she had a recurring role on *Designing Women*, as well as guest appearances on major television series. Her film credits include *All the Way Home*, *Nobody's Fool*, *The 34th Star*, *Perfect*, *The Dead*

*Pool*, *When Every Day Was the Fourth of July*, *UFO Cafe*, and *8 Seconds*.

An Oklahoma native, Miss Edwards began her career at the Margo Jones Theatre where she won a Protégée Award. She has distinguished herself on stage in appearances at the Cleveland Playhouse, Washington, D.C.'s Arena Stage, San Diego Old Globe, Pasadena Playhouse, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park, Los Angeles Theater Center, Los Angeles' Mark Taper Forum, Williamstown Theater, and the Berkshire Summer Festival. Metroplex residents will recall her stellar performances at Dallas' Theatre Three. She is the recipient of three Los Angeles Dramalogue Awards for excellence in acting.

Her playwriting credits include her one woman show *The Knife Thrower's Assistant*, for which she won the Best of Fringe Award at the Edinburgh Fringe (Scotland) and which also played at Theatre Three. She

is co-author of the musical *Cowboy* based on the life of Western painter, Charles Russell; *Idols of the King*, based on the life of Elvis Presley, and *The Last of the Honky Tonk Angels*, and is author of a cookbook, *Sugar and Grease (paint)*. Most recently Ronnie Claire Edwards is a co-author of the play *Wedding Belles*, with Alan Bailey (author of *Smoke On the Mountain*). *Wedding Belles* was nominated for an American Theatre Critics Forum Award for 2008 as best new play produced outside New York City. She also authored and performed in the one woman show *The True Story of the Incarceration of Little Egypt* which premiered at Theatre Three. Her new play *The Mystery of Miz Arnette* recently premiered at the Bath House Cultural Center and is now available through Samuel French, Inc.

To learn more about the artistic staff and cast, see more photos, and watch videos about the show, visit the *Candy Barr's Last Dance* page on Theatre Three's web site, [www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com).

## FLOWERS and GIFTS THAT STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT



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You can make an online donation to Theatre Three on North Texas Giving Day between 6am and midnight on Sept. 18. Visit [www.NorthTexasGivingDay.org](http://www.NorthTexasGivingDay.org) to search for Theatre Three's profile.

By donating a little to Theatre Three on North Texas Giving Day, you can help us a lot!



"IT'S A MERRY BIT OF MAYHEM!" - Theater Jones.com

## Shear Madness

by Paul Portner

EXTENDED THRU SEPTEMBER 21 IN THEATRE TOO

Tickets:

[www.theatre3dallas.com/214-871-3300](http://www.theatre3dallas.com/214-871-3300)





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Read more about the season on the inside front cover of this playbill.