

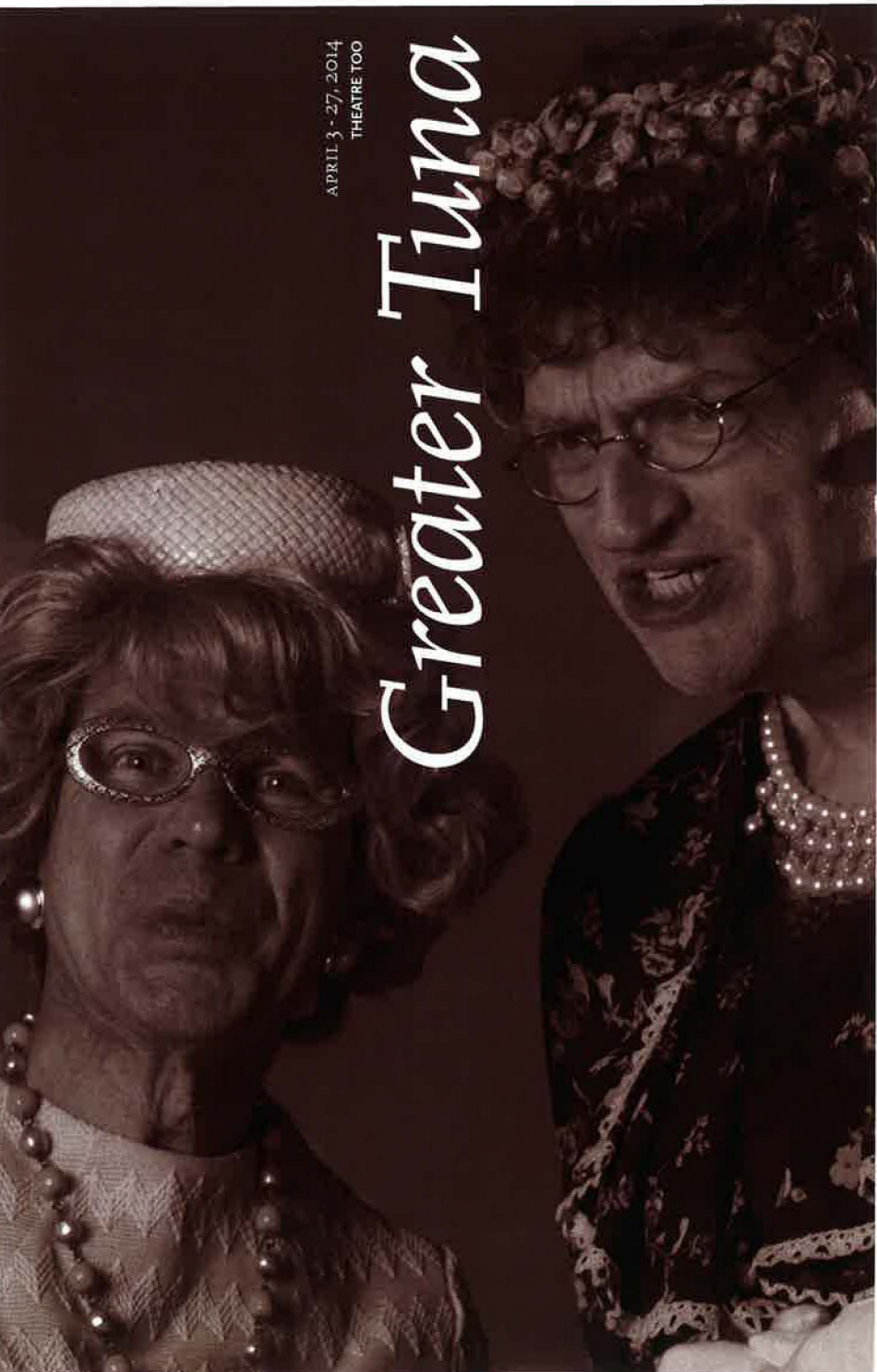


THEATRE 3
D A L L A S

2013-2014 SEASON

APRIL 3 - 27, 2014
THEATRE TOO

Greater Tuna





Greater Tuna

BY ED HOWARD, JASTON WILLIAMS, AND JOE SEARS

A collaborative production with One Thirty Productions, performance rights for Greater Tuna have been arranged through Samuel French.

THEATRE TOO

ARTISTIC STAFF

DIRECTOR

Gene Raye Price

SCENIC ARTIST

David Walsh

COSTUME DESIGN

Marty Van Kleeck

LIGHTING DESIGN

Kenneth Farnsworth

SOUND DESIGN

Ryan Mansfield

ADDITIONAL SOUND DESIGN

Marco Salinas

PRODUCTION STAFF

AEA STAGE MANAGER

***Gene Raye Price**

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Dane Tuttle

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Stewart Mikklelen

DRESSER

Erin Megrew Herndon

PRODUCTION CREW

Kat Edwards, Kaitlin Forsman, and Cat Tignor.

CAST

THURSTON WHEELIS, LEONARD CHILDRESS, BERTHA BUMILLER, HANK BUMILLER, ELMER WATKINS, PEARL BURRAS, R.L. SNAVELY, REVEREND SPIKES, SHERRIFF GIVINS

*Terry Dobson

ARLES STUVRIES, CHARLENE BUMILLER, STANLEY BUMILLER, JODY BUMILLER, VERA CARP, PETEY FISK, DIDI SNAVIE, CHAD HARTFORD, HAROLD DEAN, PHINES BLY

*Dwight Sandell

SCENE SYNOPSIS

PLACE

Tuna, Texas

THIS TEXAS-SIZED 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, The National Endowment for the Arts, and The Shubert Foundation. 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 Playwrights

Jaston Williams is co-author, co-star and producer of *Tuna Does Vegas* and is the co-author and co-star of the Tuna Trilogy. Mr. Williams has been creating the citizens of Tuna since 1982. The performances have played on and off Broadway at the Kennedy Center, the Edinburgh International Arts Festival, the Spoleto Festival U.S.A. and all over America. He has received Washington DC's Helen Hayes Award nominations for *A Tuna Christmas* and *Red, White and Tuna* as well as the San Francisco Bay Area Critics Award for *Greater Tuna*. Mr. Williams received the L.A. Dramalogue Award for both *Greater Tuna* and *A Tuna Christmas*. *A Tuna Christmas* was published in "Best Plays of 1995." For several years, Mr. Williams toured in Larry Shue's *The Foreigner*, for which he received a Helen Hayes Award nomination for Best Actor. He performed in *The Fantasticks* at Washington DC's Ford's Theatre and directed the musical *Bad Girls Upset By The Truth* at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre. Mr. Williams received the Texas Governors Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts by a Native Texan and has performed at the White House on three occasions. In his hometown of Austin, Texas, Mr. Williams has appeared at the State Theatre in Eugene Ionesco's *The Chairs* and at Zachary Scott Theatre in Jay Presson Allen's *Tru*, for which he received the Austin Critics Table Award for Best Actor in a drama. He most recently appeared at Zachary Scott Theatre in *The Laramie Project*. His play, *Romeo and Thorazine*, work-shopped at Zachary Scott Theatre in November 2001. He work-shopped his autobiographical one-man show, *I'm Not Lying*, to critical acclaim at Austin's State Theatre of Texas and returned it there for a full production in February of 2004, as well as a benefit performance at Washington DC's Kennedy Center. His latest autobiographical play, *Cowboy Noises*, premiered in Austin in February 2008 to critical acclaim.

Joe Sears is co-author and co-star of *Tuna Does Vegas*, as well as co-author and co-star of the wildly successful Tuna Trilogy. Mr. Sears has been touring extensively with the Tuna Trilogy productions since 1982. His sixth tour of *A Tuna Christmas* included his Broadway debut for which he received a 1995 Tony Award-nomination for Best Actor in a Play. The first record-breaking year included a command performance for President and Mrs. George Bush at the White House. Mr. Sears' Washington, DC engagement of *A Tuna Christmas* earned him his third nomination for the Helen Hayes Award for Best Actor. *A Tuna Christmas* was also nominated for Best Play. Mr. Sears also received nominations in 1984 and 1988 for the Helen Hayes Award for his performance in *Greater Tuna*. He originated these roles off-Broadway when *Greater Tuna* premiered in 1982, and has performed in the highly successful national tours and co-wrote and starred in the Embassy Television/ Norman Lear Special of *Greater Tuna*, which aired on HBO. Mr. Sears has been acting professionally for more than 30 years. His credits include a season with Theatre Works USA in New York, summer stock, outdoor drama, television and eight Shakespeare plays. Among his many roles are Bottom and Thisby in two separate

productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and the Doctor in *Three Sisters*. He appeared with Fannie Flagg (*Fried Green Tomatoes*) in *The Foreigner*. Later he would play Fannie's role and attributes his success to her. Mr. Sears has appeared on the David Letterman and Merv Griffin shows and received a Los Angeles Dramalogue Award for his writing and performance of *Greater Tuna*. Mr. Sears received the 1993 Los Angeles Dramalogue Award for Best Actor in *A Tuna Christmas*. He performed in the musical comedy, *The Fantasticks*, at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC and at Casa Mañana Theatre in Fort Worth. He made his movie debut with Tommy Lee Jones and Matt Damon in *The Good Old Boys*. Mr. Sears is the playwright for the Cherokee Nation's outdoor drama *Trail of Tears*, which runs during the summer months in Tahlequah, OK. Mr. Sears was awarded the Theatre LA Ovation Award for Best Actor 1999. He recently completed the Libretto (along with Mr. Williams) for the new Comic Opera *Ochelata's Wedding*, commissioned by the OK Mozart International Music Festival. He and Austin-Nashville songwriter Kimmie Rhodes are now working on a new musical entitled *Doin' God's Chores*, an Austin workshop production. Mr. Sears also owns and operates Cody Stage, a summer stock theatre company in Cody, WY.

Ed Howard is the co-author of the plays *Greater Tuna*, *A Tuna Christmas*, *Red, White and Tuna*, and *Tuna Does Vegas*, all published by Samuel French. He also co-authored *Splendor* based on the novel by Edward Swift, and book and lyrics of the musicals *The Body Snatchers* and *Boy Problems*. He is presently at work on the play *The Landsaper* about a conservative cul-de-sac neighborhood and a mysterious immigrant from Central America. Howard is also the author of *The Summer of Daisy Fay* and *The Glory Getter*, both based on *Daisy Fay* and *The Miracle Man*, the first novel by Fannie Flagg; *Hamlet, Texas*, a modern day retelling of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* set in West Texas on the ranch of an oil tycoon; and book and lyrics for *The Tempest Tossed*, a musical comedy spoof of the *The Tempest* featuring Shakespeare and the Muses. Over the last thirty-plus years, Howard has directed *Tuna* co-authors and stars Joe Sears and Jaston Williams and other stars, including Oscar nominee John Hawkes and Oscar, Emmy and Tony winner Michael Jeters, in national tours of the *Tuna* plays. Off-Broadway, he directed *Greater Tuna* and on Broadway, *A Tuna Christmas*. Off-off Broadway, he directed *Laughing Stock* by Romulus Lenny, starring Frances Sternhagan and Jane Connell, which was selected by TIME magazine as one of the top ten plays of 1984. The *Tuna* plays were awarded the Los Angeles Dramalogue award, the San Francisco Bay Area Critics Award, and received Helen Hayes Award nominations. After its critically acclaimed Broadway debut, *A Tuna Christmas* was published in *Best Plays of 1995* and garnered for Mr. Sears a Tony nomination.



LEFT TO RIGHT: **Dwight Sandell**, and **Terry Dobson**

To learn more about the artistic staff and cast, see more photos and watch videos about the show, visit the *Greater Tuna* page on Theatre Three's web site at www.theatredallas.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 fifteen minute intermission between the first and second acts.

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

□ T3 PEOPLE

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□ ON OTHER STAGES

CIRCLE THEATRE

APR 16 - 27 *Beauty and the Beast*

CIRCLE THEATRE

APR 27 - MAY 18 AT WATERTOWER THEATRE *Venus in
Fur*

EISEMANN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

APR 3 - 6 *They Call Me Mr. Fry*

APR 6 *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good,
Very Bad Day*

APR 25 *Debby Boone and the World Famous Glenn
Miller Orchestra*

DALLAS SUMMER MUSICALS

APR 15 - 27 *Evita*

DALLAS THEATER CENTER

APR 25 - MAY 25 *Sherlock Holmes: The Final
Adventure*

JUBILEE THEATRE

MAR 21 - APR 20 *Ain't Misbehavin'*

KITCHEN DOG THEATER

MAR 28 - APR 26 *Gideon's Knot*

POCKET SANDWICH THEATRE

APR 4 - MAY 17 *Journey to the Center of the Earth*

SECOND THOUGHT THEATRE

APR 2 - 26 *Nocturne*

STAGE WEST

APR 3 - MAY 4 *Orlando*

UNDERMAIN THEATRE

MAR 22 - APR 19 *We are Proud to Present a
Presentation*

UPTOWN PLAYERS

MAR 28 - APR 13 *Pageant*

WATERTOWER THEATRE

APR 11 - MAY 4 *Spunk*

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.

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.



This playbill is a publication of Theatre Three, Inc., 2800 Routh Street, Suite 168, Dallas, Texas 75201, 214-871-3300, www.theatre3dallas.com in support of *Greater Tuna* (the third show of the 2013-2014 Theatre Too Season).

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