

AUGUST 2 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2012
THEATRE THREE

Present Laughter



ONE DAY,

ONE OF THESE KIDS
MAY GRACE THE STAGE
AT THEATRE THREE.

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OTHER DALLAS ARTISTS IN
ENTERTAINING, EDUCATING AND
ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY.

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ON OTHER STAGES

AT&T PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

AUG 14 - 26 *Chicago*

CIRCLE THEATRE

AUG - SEPT. 9 *See How They Run*

DALLAS THEATER CENTER

JUNE 22 - AUG 12 *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

ICT MAINSTAGE

AUG 3 - 18 *Urinetown: The Musical*

JUBILEE THEATRE

JULY 13 - AUG 12 *Company*

POCKET SANDWICH THEATRE

JULY 12 - AUG 25 *Sinbad: The Melodrama*

STAGE WEST

JULY 5 - AUG 5 *What the Butler Saw*

AUG 23 - SEPT 30 *Around the World in 80 Days*

UPTOWN PLAYERS

AUG 24 - SEPT 15 *The Producers*

WATERTOWER THEATRE

JULY 20 - AUG 12 *Smokey Joe's Cafe*

T3 PEOPLE

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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 the-
atre's founding in 1961 until
her death in 1998.

Theatre Three thrives on her legacy of artistic and intel-
lectual 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
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www.theatre3dallas.com in support of *Present Laughter* (the first
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Arena Stage).

PLAYBILL EDITORS: Jac Alder & Kimberly Richard

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Present Laughter

BY Noel Coward

Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

THEATRE TOO

ARTISTIC STAFF

DIRECTOR & COSTUME DESIGN

Bruce R. Coleman

SET DESIGN

David Walsh

LIGHTING DESIGN

Carl Munoz

SOUND DESIGN

Rich Frohlich

CAST

HUGO LYPPIATT

****Linus Craig**

MRS. ERIKSON/LADY SALT BURN

****Sherry Etzel**

MORRIS DIXON

****Ian Ferguson**

JOANNA LYPPIATT

***Lisa-Gabrielle Greene**

GARRY ESSENDINE

***Gregory Lush**

LIZ ESSENDINE

***Lydia Mackay**

MONICA REED

****Arianna Movassagh**

FRED

****Brandon J. Murphy**

DAPHNE STILLINGTON

****Jad Saxton**

ROLAND MAULE

****Sam Swanson**

SCENE SYNOPSIS

TIME: 1938

PLACE: GARRY ESSENDINE'S STUDIO IN LONDON

ACT I:

Morning

ACT II:

Scene 1: Evening. Three days later.

Scene 2: The next morning.

ACT III:

Evening. A week later.

PRODUCTION STAFF

AEA STAGE MANAGER

***Katie Marchant**

COSTUME ASSISTANT

Wolf Ozarow

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Daniel Pucul

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Ryan Flores

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Bonnie Hanvey

PRODUCTION CREW

Katherine Marchant, Allison

Allbee, Nina Dramer, William

Harris, Bonnie Hanvey, Leah

Naxon, Roxana Paniagua, Kate

Rose, Gillian Salerno-Rebic, Zoe

Settle, Charles Wallace & Courtney

White



Theatre Three's production of *Present Laughter* is dedicated in memory of **Harland Wright**, Theatre Three's Director of Design, 1934 - 2012. The photo on the cover of this playbill is of Harland's set for Theatre Three's production of *Seven Keys to Baldpate*.

Special thanks to again&again for the special furniture on this set.

There will be two 15 minute intermissions between Acts I & II and Acts II & III.

Noel Coward

PLAYWRIGHT

The English playwright, actor, and composer, Noel Coward, was known for his likable sophistication and sharp sense of humor. Although he wrote some of the most popular plays of his time, he was also known for his entertaining personality and his abilities as a witty storyteller.

Noel Coward was born on December 16, 1899, in Teddington, Middlesex, a suburb of London, England. He studied at the Royal Chapel School in London. He came from a musical family, with parents who sang in a choir. A restless and outgoing youth, Coward soon found his way to the stage. At age twelve, he made his first appearance on stage in a children's play. A year later he won praise for his portrayal of "Slightly," a character in *Peter Pan*.

Coward's first effort as a playwright, *Rat Trap*, was a realistic study of its characters' emotions. It was written in 1917 but was not published until 1926. In 1918 he played the leading role in his next play, *The Last Track*. The first drama to receive critical attention was *The Vortex* (1924), a serious play about drug addiction. During this period he was regarded as the spokesman for the younger generation, although his works were often criticized for being immoral.

In 1929 Coward starred in a Broadway production of his play *Bitter Sweet*, a romantic musical that was popular in both Great Britain and the United States. This play's popular song, "I'll See You Again," is regarded as Coward's best-known effort as a composer. His other songs include the witty "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" and "I'll Follow My Secret Heart."

Coward's important plays throughout the next ten years included *Private Lives* (1930), a sophisticated comedy about

a married couple; *Cavalcade* (1931), a patriotic depiction of British tradition; *Design for Living* (1937), a stylish comedy; and *Blithe Spirit* (1941), a fantasy concerning spiritualism.

During World War II, Coward performed for troops on the major battlefronts. He later wrote about his experiences in *Middle East Diary* (1945). In 1942 he wrote, acted, and co-directed with David Lean in the movie *In Which We Serve*, which showed life aboard a British destroyer. He continued to work with Lean on the film version of *Blithe Spirit* (1945) and on the script for *Brief Encounter* (1946), one of movie screen's most tender love stories.

Coward's dramas in following years—including *Peace in Our Time* (1947), *Quadrille* (1952), *Nude with Violin* (1956), and *Sail Away* (1961)—were not as fresh as his earlier works. However, he made up for his declining writing ability by starting a new career as an entertainer and raconteur. In 1960 he gave his finest acting performance as a spy in the film *Our Man in Havana*, directed by Carol Reed and written by the English novelist and screen-writer Graham Greene (1904–1991). Coward also wrote two volumes of autobiographical recollections, titled *Present Indicative* (1937) and *Future Indefinite* (1954). His other fictional works include two collections of short stories, *To Step Aside* (1939) and *Star Quality* (1951), and a novel, *Pomp and Circumstance* (1960), which portrayed British life on a South Seas island.

Coward was honored in recognition of his talents and service to his country when he was made a knight by England's Queen Elizabeth in 1970. He died on March 26, 1973, in Kingston, Jamaica.

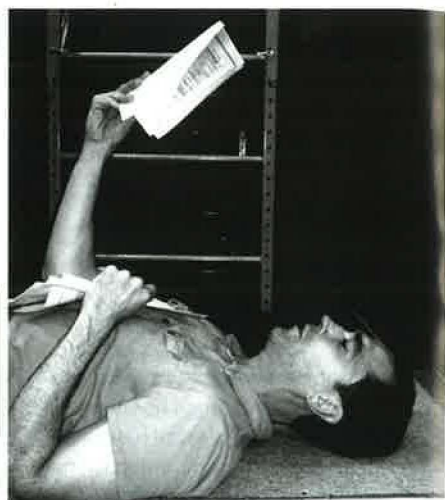
ARTISTIC STAFF

Bruce R. Coleman DIRECTOR » Mr.

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

* indicates members working under Actors' Equity Association contracts in this production.

** indicates a performer enrolled in the AEA membership candidate program.



LEFT (TOP to BOTTOM): Lydia Mackay, Ian Ferguson
TOP RIGHT: Gregory Lush



RIGHT (TOP to BOTTOM): Jad Saxton, Sam Swanson
TOP LEFT: Arianna Movassagh



Coleman is a Resident Artist at Theatre Three. His most recent directorial projects for T3 have been the hit Emo/ Punk/ Rock musical *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (which he also designed and choreographed) and the critically acclaimed *Superior Donuts*. Past favorites include *Wild Oats*, *Pippin*, *Why Torture is Wrong...*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *House and Garden*. For Uptown Players, Bruce has had the pleasure of helming *The Temperamentals*, *Equus*, *The History Boys* and *Asher Texas '82*, which he also wrote. In his spare time (!) Bruce created, wrote and directed *The Scorched Earth*, an original Science Fiction Radio Web series for The I-35 Radio Rep Company (You can hear all 9 episodes on the I-35 Radio Rep Facebook Page!) An eleven time recipient of the Leon Rabin Award, Bruce has also been recognized by the Dallas/ Ft. Worth Theater Critics Forum Awards, The Dallas Observer BEST OF...issue, and the Column Awards for his contribution to local theatre. For Harland, who taught me so much.

David Walsh SET DESIGN
» Mr. Walsh joined our staff in 2007 as Technical Director and is a man of many talents. David's set designs have been seen in *A Catered Affair*, *La Bête*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *House & Garden*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Pygmalion* and *A Dog's Life* on the Norma Young Arena Stage, and in *Superior Donuts*, *Songs of the Red-head: The Music of Danny Kaye*, *Snake in the Grass*, *Look What's Happened to Pixie DeCosta*, *Blind Date*, *Season's Greetings*, *The LaVidas' Landlord*, and *Mid-Life*, the *Crisis Musical* in Theatre Too. Prior to this, he lived in Amarillo, TX, where he was the Assistant Technical Director and Scenic Designer/Artist for Amarillo Little Theatre (ALT). David was on the design team responsible for the design and execution of more than 80 productions in his eight years with ALT. David lives in Dallas.

Bruce R. Coleman COSTUME DESIGN
» Mr. Coleman is a Resident Artist at Theatre Three. Past costume designs include designs for *Bloody Bloody*

Andrew Jackson, *Wild Oats*, *Pippin*, *Travesties*, *The Women*, *June Moon*, *The Miser*, and *Trysts in Toledo* for Theatre Three, *Richard the Third*, *The Vibrator Play*, and *Reckless* for Kitchen Dog, and *The Secret Garden*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, and *Dracula* for ICT MainStage. For the past six summers, Bruce has designed the costumes for the Junior Players of Dallas' Summer Shakespeare program. An eleven time recipient of the Leon Rabin Award, Bruce has been recognized by the Dallas/Ft. Worth Theater Critics Forum Awards, The Dallas Observer BEST OF... issue, and The Column Awards for his contribution to local theatre.

Carl Munoz LIGHTING DESIGN
» Carl returns to theatre Three for the first time since 2005. He has spent the last seven years lighting shows on cruise ships, in Las Vegas and California. For the last three years, he has served as the tech director for the City of Beaumont, Texas. He is currently the lead lighting tech for PSAV and recently designed the lights for the premiere of the new *Dallas*

television show. He makes his home in Lewisville with his wife Kelly.

Rich Frohlich SOUND DESIGN
» Mr. Frohlich's association with Theatre Three as our sound designer began in 2006, and he has completed 22 assignments with us during this time. Rich's assignments include 33 *Variations*, *Amy's View*, *The Royal Family*, *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Defiance*, *House and Garden*, *Whodunnit*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Pygmalion*, *Popcorn*, and *The Full Monty* (2006 Column Award). His credits also include various Metroplex venues: Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, Echo, and Uptown Players in Dallas; Irving Community Theater Mainstage, and Texas Radio Theatre Company. Rich is also a producer and director for vocational and educational videos. His awards include a 2002 Ogle (Horror/Fantasy Audio Production), and a 2004 Mark Time (Science Fiction Audio Production). Rich lives in Arlington with his wife Shannan and his children Dillon, Emily and

James.
Katie Marchant AEA STAGE MANAGER
» Ms. Marchant is making her Theatre Three Stage Management debut. A Fort Worth native, Ms. Marchant discovered her love of stage management while working with the Kids Who Care Inc. resident company during high school. Katie graduated from Austin College in May of 2010 with a BA in Communication Studies, emphasis in technical theatre, and began her year-long tenure as an Apprentice for Theatre Three that June. During her second year at Theatre Three, Katie took on the role of supervising the apprentices and summer interns. *Present Laughter* marks her first foray into Equity stage management, and she couldn't have wished to work with a better cast and crew.

CAST

Linus Craig HUGO LYPPIATT
» Mr. Craig, a veteran actor who debuted with Theatre Three in our 1998 Season in *Amphitryon*, returns to our stage; he was last seen here in *Gross*

Indecency, *The Trials of Oscar Wilde* and *Bedroom Farce*. Linus' acting credits include work with Dallas Children's Theater, and Stage West, Jubilee Theatre, and Ft. Worth Shakespeare in Ft. Worth. Regional work includes *As You Like It*, for Austin Shakespeare; *Amadeus* for Capitol City Playhouse, and *Damn Yankees* for the Zach Scott Theatre, Austin, TX. Linus received his MFA from the University of Houston where he studied with Edward Albee and Lanford Wilson. Film and TV credits include *Office Space*, *Dazed and Confused*, and the first TV series of *Dallas*. Linus makes his home in Dallas.

Sherry Etzel MRS. ERIKSON/ LADY SALTBRN
» Ms. Etzel returns to our stage, having been previously seen in *Woody Guthrie's American Song*. Other Metroplex venues include Stage West, Ft. Worth; ICT Mainstage, Irving; Kathy Burks Theatre of Puppetry Arts, and Pocket Sandwich Theatre, all in Dallas. Memorable roles include Betty in *The Great Trailer Park Musical*, Patsy in *Always...Patsy Cline*,

PRESENT LAUGHTER BIOGRAPHIES (continued)



LEFT TO RIGHT: Lisa-Gabrielle Greene, Brandon J. Murphy, Sherry Etzel and Linus Craig

Little Becky in *Urinetown* and The Emcee in *Cabaret*. Sherry, a recipient of Best Featured Actress Column Awards for her work in *Urinetown* and *Nunsense*, has received multiple nominations over the years. She enjoys writing, singing and playing guitar, and is the founder of the female comedy duo Girls Gone Weird, as well as a member of 4 Out Of 5 Doctors, and the newly formed Frisco Improv Players. Sherry is also the owner of an advertising/graphic design firm...creativity is obviously a big part of her life!

Ian Ferguson MORRIS DIXON » Mr. Ferguson, a graduate of the theatre program at West Texas A&M University, debuted with us this season in *The Farnsworth Invention*. Additional acting credits include work with WaterTower Theatre, Shakespeare Dallas, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, and Stolen Shakespeare Guild, Ft. Worth. His film credits include *Dots*, produced by Opticom Films NYC, and he is also a musician. Ian and his wife Aubrey (recently in *Bloody Andrew Jackson*) live in Addison, TX. o

Lisa-Gabrielle Greene JOANNA LYPPIATT » Ms. Green, a veteran actress

with Theatre Three, returns to our stage and will be remembered for her appearances in *Beehive*, *The Sixties Musical*, *The Goodbye Girl* (where she appeared opposite her real life daughter Ruby Westfall), *Triumph of Love*, *Dreams From a Summer House*, *Blythe Spirit*, and *A Grand Night For Singing*. Lisa-Gabrielle is a recipient of a Dallas-Ft. Worth Theater Critics Forum Award for best ensemble in *A Grand Night For Singing*, and Leon Rabin nominations for Best Actress in *Tommy* and for Best Supporting Actress in *Hair* (both at Uptown Players). Her most personally beloved Theatre Three performance was as Luisa, in *The Fantastics* with Chris Westfall, who later became her husband and father of two daughters, Ruby and Noli.

Gregory Lush GARRY ESSENDINE » A Theatre Three veteran, Mr. Lush most recently appeared as Henry Clay in *Bloody Andrew Jackson*, and will be remembered for his work in *Sherlock Holmes in The Crucifer of Blood*, *Blankety-Blank*, *Pygmalion*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *A Dog's Life*, *Wild Oats*, *The Children of Eden*, and *Trysts in Toledo*. Metroplex credits include *The Temperamentals* for

Uptown Players, *The Birthday Party* for Undermain Theatre, as well as productions with Dallas Children's Theater, Dallas Theater Center, Kitchen Dog Theatre, Second Thought Theatre, all in Dallas; and Stage West, Ft. Worth. Regional credits include *Victory Gardens* in Chicago, IL. Film credits include *I Become Gilgamesh* and *Arbor Day*, and numerous commercials and industrials. He dedicates this show to his father-in-law, the late Obaidullah Baig (Pakistan), who will never be forgotten.

Lydia Mackay LIZ ESSENDINE » Ms. Mackay, returning to our stage, last performed in *The Farnsworth Invention*. Since then she has made her burlesque debut with her girlie troupe, The Little Deaths. Her acting credits include Mistress Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Nerissa in *The Merchant of Venice*, for the Trinity Shakespeare Festival, as well as appearances on stages all around DFW. Lydia has a BFA from Texas Wesleyan University and an MFA from SMU, and currently teaches acting, auditioning, and stage combat for Texas Christian University. Film work includes commercials and industrials, and a small

film here and there (one of which recently premiered at the NYC Tribeca Film Festival). She does a great deal of voice-over work for FUNimation Entertainment, but also a wide range of characters for several Anime TV series. A proud member of AEA, she is represented by the Mary Collins Agency, and is newly engaged to a Theatre Three veteran actor-director-designer, Jeffrey Schmidt.

Arianna Movassagh MONICA REED » Ms. Movassagh, another veteran actress with Theater Three, was most recently seen as Rachel in *Bloody Andrew Jackson*. Other Theatre Three credits include *Pippin*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Blankety-Blank* and *Woody Guthrie's American Song*. Additionally, Arianna has enjoyed performing with WaterTower Theatre, Bootstraps Comedy Theatre, Dallas Theater Center TCT, Dallas Children's Theater, and Uptown Players, all in Dallas; and Casa Mañana and Lyric Stage in Ft. Worth. Favorite roles include Adele/A Man of No Importance, Rosa Bud/The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Anita/West Side Story, the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* (2002 Dallas Theatre League Award and Column

Award recipient) and June in *Musical of Musicals, the Musical* (2006 Dallas-Ft. Worth Theatre Critic's Forum Award recipient). She is a member of I-35 Radio Rep Company.

Brandon J. Murphy FRED » Mr. Murphy makes his debut on our stage but his Metroplex stage credits include Dr. John Faustus in *Wittenburg*, Amphibian Stage Productions, Ft. Worth; and Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Shakespeare Dallas. His New York credits include *Townville* and *The Play About My Dad* for Collaboration Town, *The Book of Liz* for Piper Theater, *As You Like It* for Wingspan Arts at Roy Arias Studios Off-Broadway Theatre, *A Lesson In Art* and *30 Ideas*, *3 of Them Good* for Artful Conspirators, *Changing Stasis* and *Urban Ruality* for Cycles Antonymistic at Roundabout, and *Crossing Over: The Vietnam Stories* for 881 Productions. Brandon received his BFA at Boston University - London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He is a member of SAG-AFTRA.

Jad Saxton DAPHNE STILLINGTON » Ms. Saxton debuted with Theatre Three in 2001 in *Blood Brothers*, but her acting credits include Theatre Britain, Level Ground Arts/KD Studio Theater, Pocket Sandwich Theatre and Rover Dramawerks, in Dallas; and Greater Lewisville Community Theatre. Regional and national theatre work and acting credits include Dick Whittington in *Dick Whittington*, Little Sally in *Urinetown: The Musical*, Pixrose Wilson in *The Wake of Jamey Foster*, Pickles in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, and Lotus Blossom in *Sherlock Holmes vs. Godzilla*. Another artistic interest is Anime voice actress for FUNimation Entertainment. Jad lives in Dallas with husband Nick and Granger the cat.

Sam Swanson ROLAND MAULE » Mr. Swanson, a graduate of the University of Arkansas, is debuting with us but his Metroplex stage credits include Noveau 47 Theatre and Undermain Theatre, Dallas; and Stage West, Ft. Worth. His regional and national theatre work include Valentine Coverly in *Arcadia* and Frankie Epps in *Parade*, both at the University of Arkansas. Film work includes Bar DJ in *Quitting*. Sam is also a punk bassist, and lives in Ft. Worth with his family.

Dear Playgoer,

You are, in this letter, going to be asked to help the 2012-2013 Annual Fund Drive at Theatre Three. The campaign goes on all season, but in this playbill I really want to urge your immediate action.

You're holding this playbill in your hands to read it. So, there's something I know about you. The basic thing I know is that you attend plays. (I like you already.)

Just as the playbill is in the hands of friends like you, the theatre itself is in the hands of friends. Yes, it takes actors, directors, authors (especially authors), designers and administrators to create theatre: but FRIENDS like you -- for over fifty years now -- have built Theatre Three's capacities, enlarged Theatre Three's range of services, and enhanced the theatre's contributions to building a community of imagination, empathy and insight.

Every reservation you make helps us grow. Every subscription you purchase empowers the art. The response you feel (and show) enriches every performance. Every friend you send or bring with you gains us ground. Our audience is our power source.

Let me be personal. I've been doing my job here for fifty years, and I am super proud of Dallas patrons and their eagerness to support the Arts. The achievements of citizen-artists have never been more impressive and certainly the creation of Arts facilities here is unmatched.

Since I'm being personal here, I'll tell you I take a certain pride in my personal participation in cultivating the improved "arts ecology" Dallas currently enjoys. But I never think I did anything on my own. It took friends' investment of time, talent and treasure.

Just as there's no limit on how large a gift we could use, there's also no limit on how small a gift we would appreciate to meet the goals of the 2012-2013 Annual Fund. So, figure out something that's in your middle range to contribute and give us the honor of listing you in subsequent playbills as one of our valued friends.

Share in the achievement here. It's a wonderful act of friendship.

Sincerely,

JAC ALDER

Jac Alder
PRODUCER-DIRECTOR

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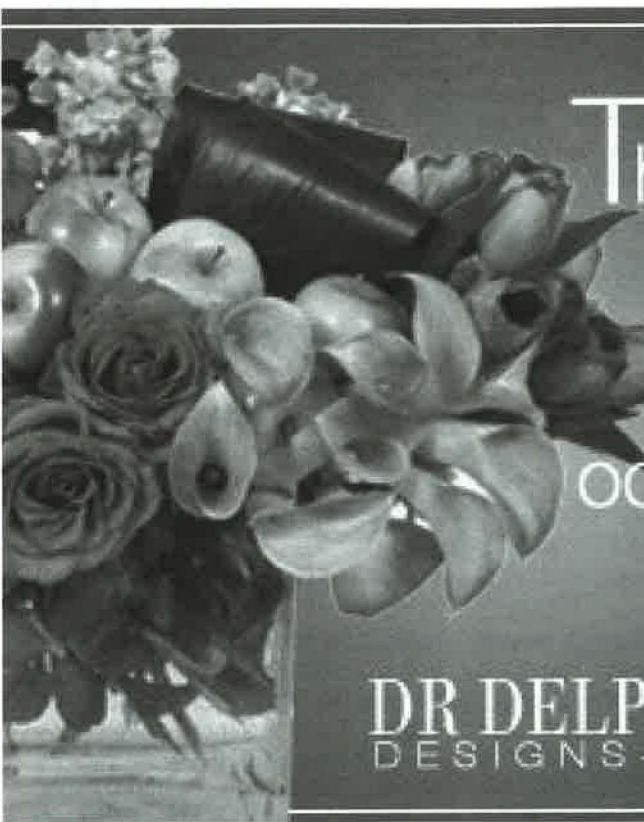
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