# THEATRE THREE THE theatre-in-the-round at the Quadrangle

JAC ALDER, Executive Producer-Director, presents



# A Comedy with Song and Sauce by Claudia Shear

SHOW SIX / 2003-2004 SEASON / March 11 - April 17, 2004

1961: The Reluctant Debutante, The Lady's Not for Burning, Home of the Brave, Liliom, Born Yesterday, Sabrina Fait, Waiting for Goldor, 1961-52: Six Characters in Search of an Author, The Moon :rofflae, The Tavern, Look Back in Anger, Mrs. McThing, The Little Foxes, Waiting for Goldor, The Member of the Weblag, Prizricain an Spite of Himmell, Don Juan in Hell; 1962-53: To Getrysburg, And Somedary IV Die, Rock-a-bye Charles, Hurie Victori-oux, The Iven Drunkard, All Ine Way Home, The Home of Your Life, Night of the Iguans, Coard Dracula (Or a Matsical Manai from Transylvani). Champange Complex, The Coard Core Astron. J. Charles, The Jine Coard Dracula (Or a Matsical Manai from Transylvani). Champange Complex, The Coard Coll Cald Cald. In Wint America, The Class Menagerie, Write Me a Nuder, Thieve's Carning-Deira Dah Aloon, Visit to a Small Planet, The Devil's Date (De Carl Sey, Song Me World Want to Gord (J), 1966 (T), 1966 (T), 1966 (T), 1968 (G) (C) and Sing Trans, The Fantasticks, 1969-Tb: Sand, The Sand, The Angele, The Innocents, Stop the World Wint to Get Off. The Getra Sehastinas, A Punne-Daig Highpened on the Way to the Form, 1967 (1986). Galiovit Shunon, The Care Devellers, The Roar of the Gragesgant the Small of the Crow. The Jone 1998 (G) (C) and The Shung The Mathematica Core Back Lills Sheba, Nobod-Loneya, Albatross, Anything Goes; 1971-927. The Venet David Konson, Indians, The Fantasticks, 1967-197. Sing Highpened on the Way to The Form, 1967, 1986. Galiovit, The Webrell, The Forn 1962, School New York, The Shahada Core Lighth, Company, The Hagened on the Way to The Hore 1987. The Shahada Core 1997 (T): The Hask David C) and the Port of Park Core 1997 (T): The Hask David C) and the Shahada Core 1997 (T): The Hask David D) and the Port of Park Core 1997 (T): The Park David D) and the Port of Park Core 1997 (T): The Park David D) and Park David D and the Port of Park David D) and Park David D and The Park D and Potential; Beguiled Again; Copenhagen; Paris-Dallas Project; Batboy, the Musical

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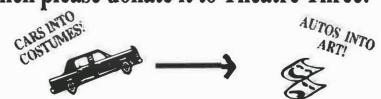
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**CONTRIBUTORS to the Threshold Campaign** whose bricks have not yet been installed include Paul and Barbara Bierbrier, Dr. William E. Tanner, and a brick in memory of Lynn Mathis. Theatre Three looks forward to adding their names to the threshold bricks at the entry to the theatre, and extends sincere thanks to these generous individuals.

#### Regarding Theatre Three ...

Theatre Three is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit cultural institution founded in 1961 by Norma Young, It serves to celebrate and honor the three essentials of theatre for which she named it: gifted playwrights, talented theatre artists, and adventurous audiences.

#### Regarding this performance ...

- There will be one fifteen minute intermission. Concessions are available in the lobby.
- Cameras or recording devices of any kind are prohibited.
- Please turn off (or silence) all cell phones and pagers.
- Please remember that talking during performances disturbs fellow theatre-goers.
- No late-comers will be seated once the performance commences.
- Please finish refreshments in the lobby.

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- Please feel free to call upon our staff for assistance.
- Wheelchair locations are available at stage level.
- Half of the seats may be reached by handrails.
- A wheelchair-accessible restroom is next to the box office.
- Handicapped parking is next to the Dream Café and the new East Wind Restaurant.

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All parking is free. Surface parking surrounds The Quadrangle. Garage (tower) parking is accessible just off Routh on Laclede Street.

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#### Dear Playgoer,

Theatre Three needs help. That's nothing new. Ever since it began in 1961, Theatre Three has needed help. The lesson I've learned (having been here all this time) is that when you need help <u>ask</u> for it! The remarkable truth is that in theatre, as in life, when you ask for help you generally get it.

By now thousands of actors, designers, and directors have for *decades* helped Theatre Three with creativity far beyond the value of any salary they've been paid. Subscribers have helped with their loyalty. Foundations have helped (especially with our self-owned housing) and the City of Dallas has helped.

#### But it is the individual contributions of The Phoenix Fund on which we most rely.

This fundraising drive, an appeal to individuals, is the single most reliable source of donated funds. *Its total now surpasses any single amount given by corporate or government support.* **Won't you be a part of this most important campaign?** 

As you know the bad economy has wounded arts organizations. Theatre Three among them. With your support we can staunch the wound the economy has inflicted on Theatre Three.

Please look over the pledge form (at the right) and see where you'd most like to see your help used. We'd love to list your name in our support and have you share in the achievement.

Yours truly,

ALCE

JAC ALDER, Executive Producer-Director

#### P.S.

Please let us know if your company has a matching gift program that with match your generosity to Theatre Three!

YES, list my name in support of Theatre Three's PHOENIX FUND DRIVE for this year. In these extraordinary times, I'd like to help as follows:

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# THEATRE THREE presents the sixth show of the 2003-2004 season...

By special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. 45 West 25th Street, New York, New York 10010-2751

#### **Artistic Staff**

Director Jac Alder Set Desian Lighting Design Costume Design Wigs and Make-Up Ryan Matthieu Smith

## Harland Wright Carl Munoz Patty Korbelic Williams

### Cast

- \*Terry Dobson Charlie, Young Charlie, Judae, Kid Moreno & Vegas Muscleman
  - Jo. Mae West \*Julie Johnson
- Harry, Timony, Edward **Ricky Pope** Elsner, Ed Hearn, W.C. Fields
- Armando, Joe Frisco, Frank Wallace. Lt. Greg. Duchess. Vegas Muscleman

\*Robert Prentiss

\*Jack Degelia



## A Comedy with Song and Sauce by **Claudia Shear**

## **Original Music and Lyrics by Bob Stillman**

Dirty Blonde was originally produced on Broadway by The Shubert Organization, Chase Mishkin, Ostar Enterprises and ABC, Inc. in association with New York Theatre Workshop.

#### Scene Synposis and Musical Numbers

Place & Time	Present day in various loca-
	tions of Jo and Charlie's lives;
	memories of Mae West's life

Act One: Cuddle Up And Clina to Me Mae West Words by Stanley Murphy, Music by Henry I. Marshall

I Love It Frank, Mae Words by Stanley Murphy, Music by Harry Von Tilzer

Oh My. How We Posé Words by Edward Harrigan, Music by Dave Braham

Act Two A Guy What Takes His Time From the motion picture, She Done Him Wrong, Words and Music by Ralph Ranger

Words and Music by Bob Stillman

Ed. The Duchess, Mae

Mae West

Dirty Blonde Mae West

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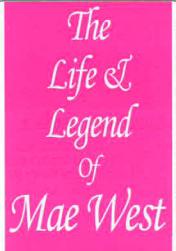
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Prop Master Master Electrician Electricians Production Assistant Light Board/Sound Operator Melanie Lang

\*Sally Soldo Linda Harrison Jeffrev Schmidt Harland Wright, Erik Archilla, Jonas Houston, Jack Degelia, Melanie Lang Linda Harrison Jonas Houston Carl Munoz, Carolyn Lloyd \*\*Robert Silva









Modern society loves to make icons out of entertainment stars. Agents, publicists, and the stars themselves are devoted to creating the mystery, and the glamour that surrounds the idea of a legend. But first, there was Mae West — a woman who called Marilyn Monroe a cheap imitation of herself.

Born to a heavy weight boxer and a corset model in Brooklyn, New York in August of 1893, Mae West knew she was special. Her somewhat refined mother, unhappy with her marriage to a crude man, doted on Mae and instilled in her a remarkable amount of confidence and ambition. Mae left school after third grade, and began performing in vauteville as a child star. She quickly learned about staging techniques, comedic timing, and audience preferences. This unorthodox form of education gave Mae an opportunity to develop her iconic personality. She knew how to use her strengths to cover her weaknesses. The 1920's were the era of the flapper, but Mae West's figure did not look its best in that era's clothing. Instead, she preferred to showcase her voluptuous figure by wearing corsets and 1890's style of clothing. Her wardrobe was glamorous, carefully chosen, expensive, and very much part of the distinctive image she wanted to create.

Discovering how she wanted to look, move, and speak was only the beginning of her self-creation. Mae West decided to start writing her own scripts. In her autobiography, Goodness Had Nothing To Do With It, she describes her development as a writer, "Yes, I first had to create myself, and to create the fully mature image I had to write ... I had a proper understanding which grew stronger; that behind the symbol I was becoming, there was much good material for drama, satire, and some kind of ironic comment on the wars of the sexes and the eternal engagement and grappling between men and women in a battle that never ends." Her writing career began with her rewriting lines she was assigned and soon she was developing plays. Mae West was never afraid of controversy and she only wrote about things she knew intimately. It was really no surprise that this original blonde bombshell would write a Broadway play called Sex. Her boldness caused a great outcry and soon, she was facing obscenity charges. That did not stop her from writing The Drag, a play she explained "treated seriously the problems of a homosexual, and showed how his abnormal tendencies brought disaster to his family, his friends, and himself. It stated that an intelligent understanding of the problems of all homosexuals by society could avert such social tragedies." The show was so controversial that it never opened in New York. Meanwhile the outcome of the Sex trial had been very clear: Mae West was fined and sent to jail for ten days. The warden gave her one day off for good behavior. She had accomplished her goal of writing plays about modern social problems.

The controversy of those shows established Mae West's reputation as a sex goddess. However, she never revealed very much of her private life. She would admit to having many lovers, but she never gave many details, explaining that she preferred to create an allusion of mystery, glamour, and romance. She never admitted that she married Frank Wallace until she was forced to divorce him. She wanted her audience to believe that she was married to her career.

When Mae West arrived in Hollywood in 1932, she was a wise and mature star. She immediately began writing and producing movies such as *Night After Night, She Done Him Wrong, I'm No Angel,* and *Catherine Was Great.* The films established her as an international star with audiences cooing her famous line, "Come up and see me sometime." The Hays Office was actively censoring her material, and while she became an expert at doubte entendres, by the mid-1940's, she had a much harder time working in Hollywood. She returned to the stage, appearing as her most famous character in *Diamond Lil.* In the 1970's, she made two films: *Myra Breckinridge* and *Sextette.* She insisted that she play the sex goddess roles, even though she was no longer the sexy vamp of the 1920's. She had a formulaic image that she could never abandon. Mae West died in 1980 after a series of strokes and was remembered as the Hollywood icon she spent her entire life creating.

# The Artistic Staff

Jac Alder (Director) I'd like to extend my thanks to the creative support of the Equity rehearsal stage manager, Sally Soldo, in the preparation of Dirty Blonde as well as the designers and performers who, like I did, became increasingly smitten with the iconic Mae West's influence and the playwright's ingenious script. To me, it most charmingly illuminates Mae's contemporary influences - certainly on avatars like Jo and Charlie in the play. And by extension, on any of us who have ever contemplated Mae's influences on humor, sexuality, entertainment, or even fashion (especially for drag queens). I bet I'm like most playgoers who mostly remember what I refer to as the "taxidermed" Mae West. Mae West made her fame as a writer and performer on the Broadway stage a decade before her first film and thus arrived on her first Hollywood sound stage in rather full blown womanhood — not old, but certainly not young. Yes, she spread her vamp-tramp-glam-scam personae across way too many Mae years to remain credible. That playwright Claudia Shear figures out the achievements of Mae's final follies as well as her entertaining origins heartens me. I hope, as I enter my taxidermed year, I can invent a few follies that may be as much fun and instructive. And oh --- please turn off your cell phones.

Harland Wright (Set Design) Harland has worked at Theatre Three as the Director of Design for nearly 35 years. Beginning with *Thieves' Carnival* in 1967, his recent productions include *God's Man in Texas, The Unexpected Guest, Sideshow, and Blood Brothers.* He was also the set designer for Theatre Too's *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!* and several shows of 2002-2003's season. Mr. Wright's designs have been seen on national TV ads, film, and locally at Dallas Repertory Theatre, Lyric Stage, Ft. Worth Opera, Dallas Children's Theatre and Dallas Theatre Center Children's Theatre.

**Carl Munoz** (Lighting Design) Carl is happy to be designing lights for Theatre Three. Coming off great success with his first professional designs, *Sly Fox* (for which he won a Column Award), *Mrs. Warren's Profession, Arsenic and Old Lace,* and *The Wild Party,* he is looking forward to bringing a better understanding of light design to this show. Look forward to possibly seeing a 2004 season from Boaz Unlocked.

**Patty Korbelic Williams** (Costume Design) Patty has designed costumes for Theatre Three since the 2000-2001 season, debuting her talents for *The Happy Time*. She has been making and designing costumes for over 20 years in both educational and professional theatres. Patty has dabbled in acting, props, and set construction. Other Theatre Three's productions include *The Unexpected Guest*, *Side Show, Bat Boy: The Musical, Comic Potential,* and *The Hollow.* In 2001, she won a Column Award for Best Costumes in a Musical (*Saturday Night*) and she has been awarded various UIL and ACTF awards. This season, she won a Column Award for her design of *Sly Fox.* She is a mother of a five-year-old aspiring diva who loves fossil and mineral collecting, and yes, she can identify most of them.

**Ryan Matthieu Smith** (Hair and Make-Up Design) Ryan is thrilled to be part of the T3 family, acting as wardrobe, make-up, and hair master since the 2000-2001 season. Ryan returned to Dallas from New York City where he trained at L.I.B.S. and worked for the Face Forward Agency. He has also costumed shows for Ground Zero Theatre Company, The Bathhouse Cultural Center, and WaterTower Theatre. Ryan would like to thank Patty for being a goddess and T3 for all of the wonderful opportunities.

## Terry Dobson (Charlie, Judge, Kid Moreno, Vegas Muscleman)



Terry will celebrate his 24th anniversary as part of Theatre Three's artistic staff in May of this year. He currently serves as Company Manager and Staff Musical Director. During the current 2003/2004 season, he directed Myths and Hymns, Don Juan in Hell, and First Lady Suite; appeared onstage as the evil Jonathon Brewster in Arsenic and Old Lace and accompanied the recent performances of The Wild Partv on the piano. Other favorite acting assignments for Theatre Three include God's Man in Texas, Sylvia, Beyond Therapy, Death Defying Acts, Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music, and June Moon. He is a Leon Rabin Award winner for Outstanding Musical Direction and has received six Column Awards for Stage and Musical Direction. As a music arranger, his work has been performed and recorded by The Turtle Creek Chorale and many other choruses around the country. Last year, the L.A. Gay Men's Chorus sang one of his vocal arrangements in an episode of HBO's Six Feet Under.

# Julie Johnson (Jo, Mae West)



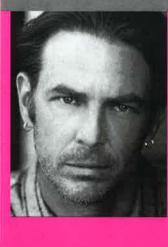
Broadway: Hal Prince's Candide; Off-Broadway: Roadside, Das Barbecü, The Rink. Regional: Opal, Lyric Stage; Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, Fiddler On The Roof, Bass Hall, Paper Moon, Goodspeed House, Heartbeats, Goodspeed Opera; Blood Brothers, Theatre Three; Chess, T. U. T. S., Casa Mañana; Nunsense, Casa Mañana; Baby, Crimes of the Heart, Blithe Spirit, Hayfever, Dallas Repertory Theatre. Film: The Apostle, Pure Country. Television: Barney & Friends, As the World Turns. A graduate of Austin College, Julie made her Carnegie Hall debut with The New York Pops in May 2003. She continues her concert work in Texas and on the East Coast promoting her two CDs, "All Grown Up So Far" and "More Than Halfway". Visit Julie's website, www. juliejohnsonmusic.com . Special thanks to Trey, John, and Joanna.

# Ricky Pope (Harry, Timony, Edward Elsner, Ed Hearn, W.C. Fields)



Ricky played the piano for an entire year for Theatre Three's production of *I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change!*, and most recently debuted on Theatre Three's stage as Goldberg in *The Wild Party*. He has also appeared as Etches in *Titanic* at Lyric Stage, Beadle in *Sweeney Todd* at WaterTower Theater, Boris in *Can-Can* at Garland Civic Theater, Sav in *The Metaphor* at Moving Target, and Drake in *Annie* at Dallas Repertory Theater. He received a Leon Rabin Best Supporting Actor nomination for *Titanic* and is on the drama faculty of Brookhaven College.

# Robert Prentiss (Armando, Joe Frisco, Frank Wallace, Lt. Greg, Duchess, Vegas Muscleman)



Robert most recently appeared on Theatre Three's stage in *Spinning into Butter* and *The Unexpected Guest*. He has also appeared as Slim in *Of Mice and Men* at The Dallas Theater Center, *Book of Days* at WaterTower Theater and *The Hothouse* at Lean Theater. He's played lead and co-starring roles in 26 feature films and has been a guest star in 8 television episodes. He also has a co-starring role in the new film, *The Alamo*, which opens everywhere on April 9! SAG, AEA, A.O.G.

## What's Going on at Theatre Three!

# The Best is Yet to Come: The 2004-2005 Season

Theatre Three's 2004-2005 season will include the seven show mainstage season, and 2 three show seasons in Theatre Too! To subscribe, please call Theatre Three's box office at 214-871-3300, option #1 Coming up at Theatre Three...



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## THEATRE THREE'S 2003-2004 SEASON



SHOW ONE: JULY 10 - AUG 16, 2003



#### A Mystery By Agatha Christie

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Who's gonna get it? A cheating doctor, a sex pot bitchy mistress, an eccentric old man, an offensive lady-of-the-house would each make an excellent murder victim. Who done it? It will take a clever inspector Io discover the truth.

#### SHOW TWO: AUG 28 - OCT 4, 2003



#### A Comedy By Larry Gelbart

Foxwell J. Sly is sinfully rich, but he wants morel Larry Gelbart, best known for M\*4\*5\*H and A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, resets Ben Johnson's Volgone in the gold rush days of San Francisco

SHOW THREE: OCT 16 - NOV 22, 2003 SHOW FOUR: DEC 4, 2003 - JAN 10, 2004 SHOW FIVE: JAN 22 - FEB 28, 2004



#### A Comedy By George Bernard Shaw

When first produced in 1902, this play incited a turnult of protest in the London Press that inspired Shaw's wry comment "Truly my play must be more needed than I knew." Even today, the 1894 version still carries the power to move us to a fresh view of sexual politics.

#### SHOW SIX: MAR 11 - APRIL 17, 2004



By Joseph Kesselring

The charming elderly Brewster sisters will do anything to help out old, lonely men - even add an extra special ingredient to their elderberry wine and offer eternal accommodations in a privale cellar. This fast-paced comedy is an American classic and a hilarious family favorite for Ihe holiday season!

SHOW SEVEN: APR 29 - JUNE 5, 2004



#### By Marie Jones

(pending release)

A pair of movie enthusiasts get their big break - a chance to be an extra in a Hollywood movie! This extraordinary adventure, a hit in London and New York, is a tour-de-force of hilarious storytelling

Appetizer Attraction #1: Aug. 10 - 20, 2003

Myths and Hymns A song cycle by Adam Guettel

Adam Guettel, Richard Rodgers' grandson composed this remarkable song cycle on humanity's urge to transcend earthly bounds and connect with something greater in our search for enlightenment. Performed in loving memory of Dr. Lloyd Kitchens. Sponsored by Central Market. Appetizer Attraction #2: Oct. 26 - Nov. 5, 2003

#### Don Juan In Hell by George Bernard Shaw

Shaw imagines a soiree in hell attended by the legendary Don Juan, one of his conquests, Dona Ana, Dona Ana's vengeful father, and the Devil himself. Presented as concert reading, this supremely witty play put Shaw's unique view of love and war on equal footing. Sponsored by Arcodoro Pomodoro.

# X

#### A musical by Michael

John LaChiusa & George C. Wolfe

Inspired by Joseph Moncure March's poem, LaChiusa and Wolfe turn this tale of dizzying debauchery into a smart adult fable, reminding us that high fliers in any decade usually land with a sobering and instructive crash.



Appetizer Attraction #3: Feb. 8 - 18, 2004

#### **Elest Lady Suite**

A concert by Michael John LaChiusa

An irreverent and startlingly surrealistic score by Michael John LaChiusa examining the legends of our nation's first ladies including Jackie, Lady Bird, Mamie, those close to them and to their husbands, the presidents



Playwright and performer Claudia Shear constructed a multi-layered study of stardom, as experienced by one of its avatars and two adoring fans of one of the greatest stars of all.



