

Canterbury Tales





CRITICAL APPRECIATION FOR "CANTERBURY TALES"

N. Y. TIMES, Clive Barnes:

"A beguiling evening . . . boisterous, enchanting, merry."

N. Y. DAILY NEWS, John Chapman:

"Absolutely enchanting! Off-Broadway people should see it and learn how to regard the primal urge with a twinkle instead of a leer. A masterpiece!"

SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS, Norman Nadel:

"It is musically more enjoyable and inventive than anything this season."

THE RECORD, Emory Lewis:

"Gay, bawdy and delightful . . . the whole show scintillates with wit and grace."

MORNING TELEGRAPH, Whitney Bolton:

"Fresh and impudent intentions carried out. Spirited and rowdy."

NEWSDAY, George Oppenheimer:

"Literate, witty and lilting. One of the most original and stylish musicals in many a day."

Altogether enchanting entertainment."

NEWSWEEK:

"The language is ever so much richer than usually found in a Broadway musical, and the music cleverly modulates from a mediaeval quality into a spirited rock beat."

NEWARK NEWS, Edward Sothorn Hipp:

"A theatrical achievement to cheer. An unforgettable blend of gusto and grace, of raunchy attitudes and pious reverence. I hope the spirit of Chaucer was in the wings to hear the bravos."

LONG ISLAND PRESS, William Raidy:

"With its improbably blending of mediaeval folk harmonies and rock rhythms, this makes Chaucer not only required reading again but required show-going. Forsoothe, get thee to the box-office."

about

the

authors



MARTIN STARKIE (author of the play's book) studied under his co-author, Nevill Coghill at Oxford. Trained for a theatrical career after leaving Oxford, Starkie functioned as an actor, writer and director for the stage, radio and television. Prior to his work as author of CANTERBURY TALES he wrote TV dramatizations for BBC of works by Henry James and Ivan Turgenev and is now considered one of England's top writers.

NEVILL COGHILL admired Chaucer too much to leave him to the scholars. Thus, in 1951, he took on the task of "translating" all of Chaucer's CANTERBURY TALES into modern English. That translation was published to wide acclaim and provided him the means for a comfortable retirement.

But the active Coghill was unhappy in retirement and turned

to the theatre. He directed A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM for John Gielgud and Vaughn Williams' THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS. A former student of some fame, Richard Burton, asked him to collaborate on the famous film and stage version of DR. FAUSTUS. Joining with still another former student, Martin Starkie, he created the dramatic format for the CANTERBURY TALES musical and created the lyrics for the show.

RICHARD HILL and JOHN HAWKINS composed the music for CANTERBURY TALES following a busy career as musical directors and composers for a wide range of entertainers, for record albums and for various choirs and rock groups. Their score for CANTERBURY TALES has been repeatedly praised for its unique blend of modern musical ideas evoking the mediaeval flavor of Chaucer's time.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER, author of the original work on which the musical is based, lived from around 1340 to 1400. As every high school student learns, Chaucer is the father of English literature and creator of the world's most vivid vision of mediaeval life.

In CANTERBURY TALES Chaucer strung together tales in rhymed verse (nowadays almost unreadable because of the archaic language). Chaucer familiarized himself with a similar scheme of tales by Boccaccio, (DECAMERON), when an envoy of diplomatic mission to Italy. Like DECAMERON, CANTERBURY TALES are bawdy, very human and most entertaining. Here Chaucer was writing for the people rather than the court.

CANTERBURY TALES was never finished. His scheme called for many more than the twenty three tales he actually wrote before his death. But what he has completed is revered not only for its innovative use of "common" English for literature, but for his wit, compassion and insight.

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

CHAUCEUR	Marianne Hammock
HOST	Mike Harrell
MILLER	Stephen Tobolowsky
WIFE OF BATH	Sharon Bunn
COOK	Billie Marlon
MERCHANT	Dick Hooser
KNIGHT	Jim Prichard
STEWARD	Stephen Riley
INNKEEPER	Anne Galvan
NUN	Donna Adams
CLERK OF OXFORD	Randy Hurst
SQUIRE	Thurman Moss
FRIAR	Pat Glass
PILGRIMS	Pam Allan, Virginia Caddell, Sally Cole, Kathy Hurley, Mindy Murphy, John Steakley, Larry Whitcher, Carol Williams, Laura Yancey

The Miller's Tale

NICHOLAS	Larry Whitcher
ALISON	Kathy Hurley
CARPENTER	Jim Prichard
ABSALON	Mike Harrell
GERVASE	Dick Hooser
ROBIN	Thurman Moss
PARISHIONERS	Pam Allan, Billie Marlon

The Steward's Tale

MILLER	Steve Tobolowsky
MILLER'S WIFE	Virginia Caddell
MOLLY	Anne Galvan
ALAN	Randy Hurst
JOHN	Dick Hooser
HORSE	Mike Harrell

The Merchant's Tale

JANUARY	Stephen Tobolowsky
JUSTINIUS	Jim Prichard
PLACEBO	Pat Glass
MAY	Laura Yancey
DAMIAN	Randy Hurst
PLUTO	Larry Whitcher
PROSERPINA	Virginia Caddell
DUENNA	Pam Allan
WEDDING GUESTS	Sally Cole, Thurman Moss, Dick Hooser

The Wife of Bath's Tale

KING	Stephen Riley
QUEEN	Mindy Murphy
OLD WOMAN	Marianne Hammock
YOUNG KNIGHT	Mike Harrell
EXECUTIONER	Randy Hurst
COURT LADIES	Carol Williams, Billie Marlon, Anne Galvan Pam Allan, Kathy Hurley

DUNGEON GUARD

COURT SQUIRES

MUSICIANS:

First keyboard:

Second keyboard:

Guitar, flute:

Trumpets:

Percussion:

DAN DEASON

JAC ALDER

JAMES NEAL

DAVID CASON, PAT COLE

JOHN RICE

Musical Numbers and Synopsis of Scenes

PROLOGUE Chaucer

AT THE TABARD INN

SONG OF WELCOME Host
GOODNIGHT HYMN The Company

ON THE ROAD TO CANTERBURY

CANTERBURY DAY The Company

THE MILLER'S TALE

I HAVE A NOBLE COCK Nicholas
DARLING, LET ME TEACH YOU HOW TO KISS Absalon
NOAH'S FLOOD Nicholas and Alison
PATER NOSTER Carpenter, Nicholas and Alison
THERE'S THE MOON Nicholas and Alison

AN ORCHARD EN ROUTE

IT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU'RE AT Nun, Wife of Bath and Company
LOVE WILL CONQUER ALL Steward, Pilgrim and Company

THE STEWARD'S TALE

BEER IS BEST John, Alan, Miller, Wife Molly and the Horse

ON THE ROAD TO CANTERBURY

CANTERBURY DAY (Finale, Act I) The Company

Intermission

ON THE ROAD TO CANTERBURY

COME AND MARRY ME HONEY Wife of Bath and Company
WHERE ARE THE GIRLS OF YESTERDAY Steward and Company

THE MERCHANT'S TALE

HYMEN, HYMEN The Company
IF SHE HAS NEVER LOVED BEFORE January
I'LL GIVE MY LOVE A RING Damian and May
PEAR TREE QUINTET May, Proserpina, January, Damian, Pluto

ON THE ROAD TO CANTERBURY

I'M ALL ABLAZE Pluto and Company

THE WIFE OF BATH'S TALE

WHAT DO WOMEN WANT Young Knight

AT THE SQUARE IN CANTERBURY AND IN THE CATHEDRALE

LOVE WILL CONQUER ALL Steward, Pilgrim and Company

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL with special thanks for special service from Mr. Whitehead and Ms. Good

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR, LARRY O'DWYER

Tonight's experience is a combination of Geoffrey Chaucer and a sort of rock concept. Our premise has been story theatre: the telling of tales in a simple and human way.

We tell our tales through youth without the elaborate (but often) boring trappings of Broadway.

This is the Theatre of the poor. But it has riches. A Theatre of by-for people — people who want to know what is happening now; Theatre of the wealth of sex; Theatre of the beauty of Christ's life.

It was created not only by myself and my dear friend, Gary Brockett, but by the people I respect most in the world — actors. I bring them together in this holy place, the Theatre.

ABOUT THE ACTORS:

DONNA ADAMS in less than a year's association with Theatre Three has won applause and critical favor in THE PHILANTHROPIST, ORNIFLE and TWICE OVER LIGHTLY. Young playgoers will remember her as Daffy Dark, the hilarious witch in RAPUNZEL.

PAM ALLAN, a native of New Mexico, is pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Texas at Arlington. CANTERBURY TALES is her first Theatre Three appearance.

SHARON BUNN has performed roles for Theatre Three since its initial season in 1961. Working as a staff actress last season she appeared in COMPANY, AND MISS REARDON DRINKS A LITTLE, THE IRREGULAR HEART OF MONSIEUR ORNIFLE and TWICE OVER LIGHTLY as one of the company's most versatile performers. **VIRGINIA CADDELL** holds a degree in theatre from North Texas State University and comes to Theatre Three for her initial assignment after studies at Cherwell School at Oxford, England.

SALLY COLE debuts at Theatre Three in CANTERBURY TALES. In studying for a professional career she appeared in leading roles in DARK OF THE MOON and INHERIT THE WIND.

ANNE GALVAN brings a varied background of entertainment experience to her first appearance for Theatre Three. In addition to appearing in nightclubs as a singer, she has appeared in numerous theatre productions including HOTEL PARADISIO and SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER.

(about the actors, continued)

PAT GLASS can also date his first appearance for Theatre Three back to the first season of 1961. Mr. Pat, as he is affectionately known to his fellow actors, is one of the most enthusiastic and willing performers of the company and has appeared in dramas, comedies and musicals in each of Theatre Three's seasons.

MARIANNE HAMMOCK just concluded the season as the leading actress for Odessa's Globe Theatre where she played Juliet in ROMEO AND JULIET and Kate in THE TAMING OF THE SHREW. Her first appearance for Theatre Three was in the children's show, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK.

MIKE HARRELL, though native to Dallas, has worked, until now, in San Francisco since becoming a professional actor. In that city he worked with the prestigious American Conservatory Theatre and also the Firehouse Theatre. CANTERBURY TALES is his Theatre Three debut.

DICK HOOSER, a staff actor at Theatre Three, holds his degree in drama from Baylor. He debuted in the initial production of THE VENETIAN TWINS and has since proved his skills in such diverse productions as THE PHILANTHROPIST, RAINMAKER, SCHOOL FOR WIVES, TARTUFFE, COMPANY, THE EMPEROR JONES to name only a few.

KATHY HURLEY holds a masters degree in theatre from Illinois State University. A heavily experienced actress making her Theatre Three debut, Miss Hurley has been seen in such roles as Alma in SUMMER AND SMOKE and Lady Teazle in SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.

RANDY HURST first appeared for Theatre Three as Julio in THE ME NOBODY KNOWS. Interspersed with a night club singing career, his theatre work has included roles in children's shows at Theatre Three including RAPUNZEL and the most recent JACK AND THE BEANSTALK.

BILLIE MARLON toured with The New Mime Revue in Arizona and California and has worked in television in Arizona. CANTERBURY TALES is her Theatre Three debut.

THURMAN ROSS first appeared for Theatre Three in last season's AND MISS REARDON DRINKS A LITTLE. In

the just-concluded children's show, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK he played the giant, Fred.

MINDY MURPHY debuts for Theatre Three in this production. For other theatres she has appeared in SOUTH PACIFIC, BLOOD WEDDING and J. B.

JIM PRICHARD played the leading role in THE FRONT PAGE last season as well as serving as director of the children's show, THE CONTEST. His most recent appearance was in TWICE OVER LIGHTLY and, as an able administrator, he heads group sales and educational liaison for Theatre Three.

STEPHEN RILEY began his Theatre Three work as Florindo in THE VENETIAN TWINS. Appearances for Theatre Three last season include COMPANY and TWICE OVER LIGHTLY. He has appeared for other theatres in such shows as CACTUS FLOWER.

JOHN STEAKLEY has been working in Dallas films as an actor. CANTERBURY TALES marks his first stage appearance.

STEPHEN TOBOLOWSKY is a recent honors graduate of Southern Methodist University's school of theatre. He was featured at Theatre Three in last season's THE IRREGULAR HEART OF MONSIEUR ORNIFLE and also appeared in the children's show, YOUNG ABE LINCOLN.

LARRY WHITCHER is another veteran of Theatre Three's stage beginning with his first appearance as Hero in A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM. He has been starred in CELEBRATION, ANYTHING GOES and COMPANY and featured in Dallas' first rock musical played at Theatre Three, THE LAST SWEET DAYS OF ISAAC.

CAROL WILLIAMS holds her degree from North Texas State University. Her first Theatre Three production was the 1969 production of THE ROAR OF THE GREASEPAINT ... followed by CELEBRATION. Her most recent assignment was in JACK AND THE BEANSTALK.

LAURA YANCEY, a native of Louisiana, is a graduate student at Southern Methodist University in Theatre. Taking her first assignment in this production for Theatre Three, she has also been seen in Dallas productions of LENNY, WHAT THE BUTLER SAW and THE HOSTAGE.



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STAFF for CANTERBURY TALES

Director	LARRY O'DWYER
Musical Numbers staged by	LARRY O'DWYER assisted by GARY BROCKETT
Set Designer	JAC ALDER with the association of WOODY PYEATT
Costumer	PATTY GREER
Lighting Designer	JOAN ECKLES
Stage Manager	KIMBERLY WEBB
Rehearsal pianist	DAN DEASON
Light Console Operator	SHARI MELDE
Technical director	WOODY PYEATT

THEATRE THREE STAFF

NORMA YOUNG, Founding Director
JAC ALDER, Managing Director
LARRY O'DWYER, Associate Director
KIMBERLY WEBB, Production Stage Manager
WOODY PYEATT, Technical Director
MINDA LYNN, Box Office Manager
DONNA ADAMS, Assistant to the Directors
JIM PRICHARD, Group Sales and Educators' Liaison
DICK HOOSER, MARGARET WALDEN, Box Office Staff
RICH DUNLAP, Associate Administrator
JUDY FRANKLIN, Administrative Co-ordinator
SHARI MELDE, House Manager
LYNN MORRIS, Head Usher
LIZ PROBST, BRENDA PINTER, Senior Ushers
SHARON BUNN, Advertising Manager

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