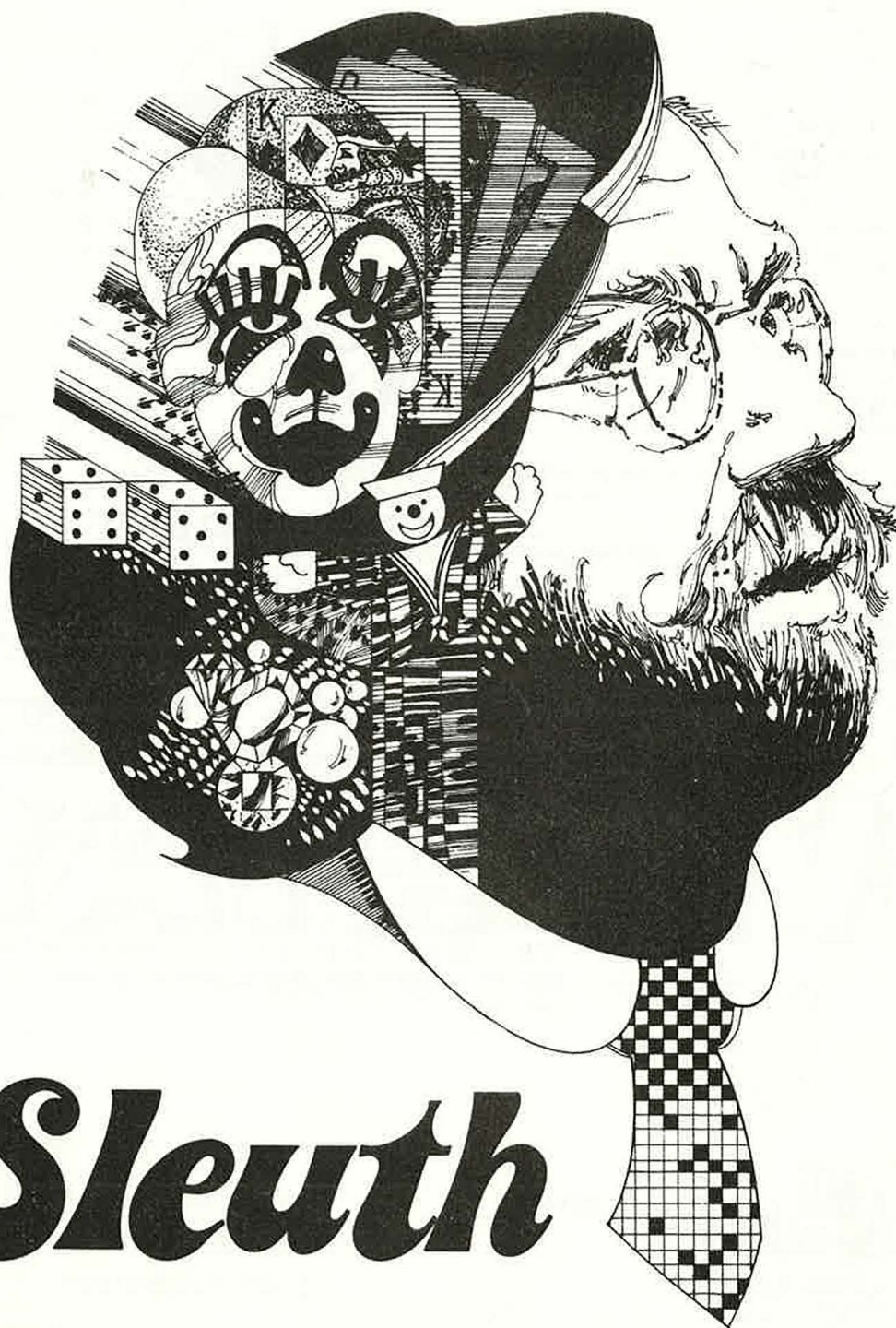


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TRY YOUR HAND AT "SLEUTHING"

It became a mystery classic in the century in which it was written and is having its Dallas stage premiere at Theatre Three. Need more clues? Its author is the twin brother of the "Equus" playwright. Getting warmer? That means he's a Shaffer, but is it Peter or Anthony?

Anthony won't take it personally, but if you thought it was Peter, I suggest you "Sleuth" on for more clues about the play.

February 12, 1970 ... a foggy night in London and the perfect setting for the opening of "Sleuth" at St. Martin's Theatre. It is the night a major new playwright will emerge from behind his brother's successful shadow. For Anthony Shaffer, the reviews of "Sleuth" were nothing short of dazzling:

The London Sunday Times wrote, "Anthony Shaffer's 'Sleuth' is an outstanding example of the thriller considered as a fine art ... It treats the conventional detective story with a Peacockian Gothic mockery, with a baroque juxtaposition of exotic phrases, an amused frenzy of alliteration, a cool mastery of Impermissible Insult: and simultaneously it is both exciting and endlessly surprising. 'Sleuth' is a play to see, to be astonished by, and to brood over."

Variety said, "... a smart, gripping and civilized murder yarn which also is a slick parody of the popular type of detective whodunit novel of the thirties."

"Sleuth" became an instant London hit, breaking all box office records at the 50-year-old St. Martin's Theatre. Fourteen foreign productions soon followed, and on November 12, 1970, the play premiered in New York at the Music Box Theatre. It was complete with the original stars, Anthony Quayle and Keith Baxter, repeating their widely acclaimed performances as, respectively, Andrew Wyke and Milo Tindle.

Now you know the history of "Sleuth", but what about the play itself? Sorry, but to give away the plot would ruin your fun. Two clues have leaked out, though — Larry O'Dwyer and David Cooper will head up the mysterious cast.

One last hint: the seemingly endless climaxes and finales may make it difficult for you to remember the outcome of the screen version of "Sleuth", starring Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine. But don't fret — the answer is onstage tonight at Theatre Three.

THEATRE THREE RECEIVES GENEROUS TACA DONATION

Theatre Three has joined the ranks of Dallas arts organizations which benefit from TACA donations each year. The theatre recently received a check for \$7,376.32 from the local organization, which has been soliciting funds for the arts in Dallas for 13 years. This marks the first time Theatre Three was included in the list of recipients. The amount received represented 2% of the \$368,815.61 raised by TACA this year.

The organization was originally formed solely to lend financial support to the Dallas Theater Center and was referred to as the Theater Center Auction. Later, the funds were dispersed to additional performing arts groups and the name was changed to TACA making it an acronym and easier to pronounce.

The TACA money is generated through a series of custom auctions and has provided the Dallas performing arts with \$1,831,945.40 in financial support over its history.

Other recipients of TACA funds are the Dallas Theater Center, Dallas Summer Musicals, Dallas Ballet, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and the Dallas Civic Opera. The reserve fund for the Performing Arts Center also received a special donation from TACA.

Contributions this year represent the largest in TACA's history. A spokesman for the organization said, "This is possibly the largest anywhere for this kind of community-involved grant."

Mrs. Frank Nick, long-time arts supporter, added, "We hope to be able to slice an even bigger pie next year — we're aiming for \$500,000."

Andrew Wyke's explanation of it doesn't ring true, somehow.



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WOMEN'S GUILD OFFERS HALF-PRICE MEMBERSHIPS

The Women's Guild of Theatre Three is currently offering half-price memberships for the remainder of the 1977-78 Season. Dues are \$7.50 for the rest of the season, which ends the first week in September, 1978.

Formed two years ago, The Women's Guild offers educational luncheon programs for women interested in Theatre Three and its operation. This year's programs have included a fashion show benefiting the Guild and the recent Christmas party at Mrs. Dan Krausse's home. The January meeting will feature speakers from the City of Dallas discussing the City's involvement with the arts.

Future plans for The Women's Guild include acting workshops for its membership conducted by Jac Alder and Larry O'Dwyer and the beginning of volunteer projects for Theatre Three. Program Chairman Patty Ginsburg noted she is open for suggestions on future programs and can be reached at 691-8685.

This year's Guild president is Mrs. David Crockett, Jr. (Lewise). For more information on obtaining a membership in The Women's Guild, she may be reached at 368-3382. Or you may send a check made payable to Theatre Three Women's Guild to Mrs. Edward Mahon at 4364 Potomac (75205). Remember, half-price memberships will only be offered through the end of February, so please act now to enjoy an interesting and informative year learning more about Theatre Three!

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THEATRE THREE HITS SEASON TICKET HIGH

The final count is in, and the big increase in season ticket subscribers to Theatre Three indicates a growing interest in the theatre's productions.

The number of 1977-78 subscribers, 2,395, more than doubled last year's total. Theatre Three Producer Jac Alder commented this also meant a 100% increase in the actual dollar intake for season subscription sales.

"The continuing increase in attendance encourages us greatly, and also makes it possible to work harder and go after even higher quality in the productions we present to our audiences," Alder commented. He added that increased audience recognition "helps tremendously in paving the way for additional financial assistance from various foundations and the government."

Theatre Three's season opener "Candide" broke all box office records, and the second show of the season, "The Learned Ladies", received enthusiastic press reviews and was also well-received by audiences.

Alder concluded, "We recognize our responsibility to the audiences and we want to be a valuable asset to the Dallas arts community. Our patrons have made this possible and I am looking forward to this being one of the best seasons ever for both the audiences and the theatre."

Theatre Three is chartered as a non-profit, cultural/educational organization. It is also one of only two LORT (League of Resident Theatres) houses in a five-state area.

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Left to right: Aaron Flores, Clark Stegall, Johnnie Pike, Perry Dee Bradley, Robert E. Lee and Ken Presswood.

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The Stage Manager prohibits photographing or recording the performance.

Playgoers leaving their seats during the performance must be re-seated in available seating specified by the House Manager.

The actors have been known to encourage laughter and applause.



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CAST

In Order of Appearance

Andrew Wyke Larry O'Dwyer*
Milo Tindle David Cooper*
Inspector Doppler Philip Farrar
Detective Sergeant Tarrant Richard Grossmith
Police Constable Higgs Jamie Loin
*Member, Actor's Equity Association

ACT ONE

Andrew Wyke's country home in Wiltshire — evening

ACT TWO

Two days later

(There will be a ten-minute intermission between acts.)

PRODUCTION STAFF

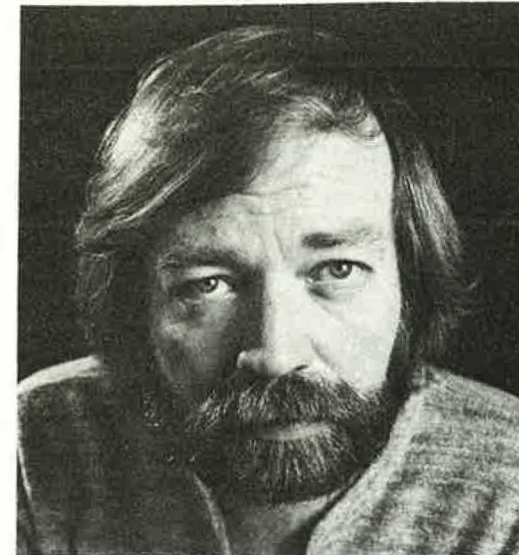
Director Jac Alder
Production Design Charles Howard
Costume Design Patty Greer McGarity
Stage Manager Sally Cole*
Lighting Design Curtis Dretsch
Sound Design Richard Gordon
Special Effects Charles Honce
Props and Wardrobe Mistress Wanda Dowell
Set and Light Crew Tommy Cantu, Wanda Dowell,
Curtis Dretsch, Charles
Howard, Shari Melde
Prop Crew Tommy Cantu, Wanda Dowell,
Charles Howard

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The Scenic Route Sign Co. (Barby Murrell) "Sleuth" Banner
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A simple case of burglary, a simple case of self-defense, a simple death...

ABOUT THE ACTORS



LARRY O'DWYER returns to the Theatre Three stage after a year's absence, during which he chaired the Drama Department at Bennington College in Bennington, Vermont. During the summer of 1977, Mr. O'Dwyer taught acting workshops for us, along with a contingent of his students from Bennington, who also conducted a summer children's theatre program called "The Grimm Magicians". In his last regular appearance here as "Tartuffe", Mr. O'Dwyer gave yet another brilliant comedy performance in a long line of memorable roles at Theatre Three. To list all his contributions to Theatre Three would be impossible, but a brief history of his work here is called for. Mr. O'Dwyer began his Theatre Three "career" in 1962 in "The Physician In Spite of Himself" by Moliere. Since then his performances have included "Emperor Jones", "Hedda Gabler" (which he also directed), "The Venetian Twins", and "The Philanthropist". As Andrew Wyke in "Sleuth", Mr. O'Dwyer shows us his versatility in a highly suspenseful role, and it is a pleasure to have him back.

With each show, we ask the performers to write a short biography for the program. But we found this letter so charming and insightful, we decided to run it verbatim in place of the standard "blo."

Dear D.J. —

I find I can't write this blo. My mind freezes shortly after "...is making his debut at Theatre Three..." So I thought I'd write you a newsy letter about who I am and where I come from, and let you shape the rough material.

First, I am a Dallas native. I attended Oklahoma University and graduated from Bradley University, with a short stint as a Berkley hippie in between.

My mother put me in dance classes and drama school when I was three. I tap-danced my way through many shows in veteran's hospitals, retirement homes, studio recitals and the like for the next eight years. And always, I was in the school plays!

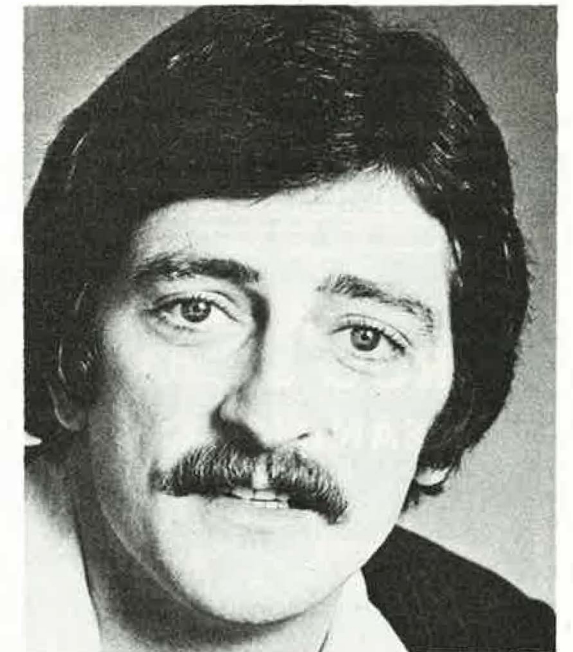
I began my professional career in 1972 with the Odessa Shakespeare Festival. Then I toured many one-night stands from a bus with the Averyman Players. I went to New York in 1973 and starved. I found work occasionally in dinner theatre tours and studied when I could afford it.

"Sleuth" will be my eleventh show in the Metroplex. I've worked for Casa Manana, all the dinner theatres and the Shakespeare Festival. I've also toured shows to Chicago, Las Vegas and other cities.

I've worked with a few stars including Mickey Rooney, Vivian Vance, Rose Marie, Pat Paulsen and Robert Horton. And I've made many TV spots, radio commercials, industrial films and one yet-to-be-released-and-probably-won't-be-released feature film, "The Seniors".

I am a newlywed, married nine months to Linda Harmon, a studio singer and acting student of Mr. O'Dwyer's. We have three cats and a new home we bought and remodeled. I currently study voice and dance, and I have aspirations to write and direct.

It's all yours—
David Cooper

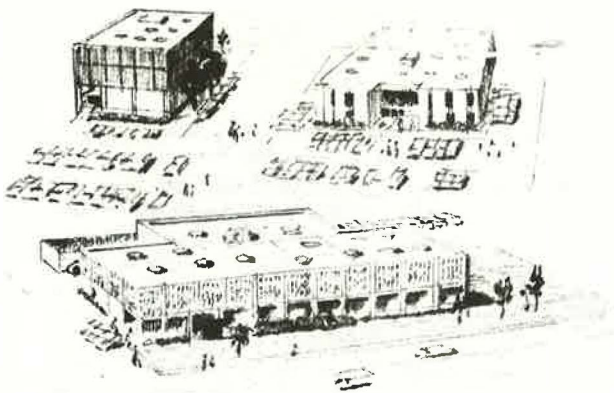


INSPECTOR DOPPLER, played by Philip Farrar, is making his Theatre Three debut. Active as a character actor in regional theatres including Stratford's Festival Theatre, the esteemed Alley Theatre in Houston, and the experimental Cricket Theatre in Minneapolis, Mr. Farrar played a supporting role in the recent ABC made-for-TV movie, "Sherlock, Come Home", the well-received comedy-mystery filmed in France and Gibraltar. A native of Illinois, his favorite role is that of the father in "And Miss Reardon Drinks A Little".

POLICE CONSTABLE HIGGS, performed by Jamie Loin, gives this young actor his first assignment at Theatre Three. A graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington (where Director Jac Alder discovered his talents), Mr. Loin created numerous comic roles during his undergraduate days including Emilio in "Fashion", the passionate husband in "27 Wagonloads of Cotton", and the bumbling fiancé in "You Can't Take It With You". Following his engagement in "Sleuth", he has been accepted for graduate work in theatre at UTA.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT TARRANT is being created by Richard Grossmith, a direct descendant of the famed George Grossmith who created so many roles for Gilbert and Sullivan. Like his famous ancestor, Mr. Grossmith is a talented singer and actor. "It makes for some conflicts," Mr. Grossmith has recently stated. "The challenges are so different." Both his acting and singing were praised when he appeared in St. Louis' famed Muni Opera last season as John Willington Wells in "The Sorcerer". His dramatic appearances include the master in Genet's "The Maids". He is a graduate of The Goodman School of Theatre in Chicago. "Sleuth" is his Theatre Three debut.

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But whose death?

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

I get my hopes up a lot. It's almost a professional disorder.

Operating a theatre requires a staff to be both optimistic and realistic. The February 23rd benefit at McFarlin Auditorium provides an opportunity, I think, to be both without being schizophrenic.

LES BALLETS TROCKADERO de MONTE CARLO, the all-male ballet company, is making its Dallas debut for the benefit of Theatre Three at McFarlin. My hopes are up for a complete sell-out.

No American dance company has consistently sold out all its performances like "The Trocks." Their generosity in dancing a benefit for Theatre Three matches the uniqueness of their performance.

Not only will this provide our supporters with an unforgettable mind-blowing evening of entertainment, the funds raised will substantially help the productions ahead.

Because of the heavy demand for tickets and the heavy load our Box Office bears doing its regular work, tickets for THE TROCKS are handled principally by mail. An order blank is on the facing page.

Join me for a fantastic evening. I personally expect to have my senses refreshingly reshaped with the wit, the style and the uniqueness of LES TROCKS.

JAC ALDER
JAC ALDER, Producer-Director

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at a ballet performance."—*Montreal Gazette*



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The Grimm Magicians...

The well known Dallas actor, Larry O'Dwyer, is back at Theatre Three after serving as chairman of the Drama Department at Bennington College in Vermont.

O'Dwyer will conduct a series of children's shows at the theatre beginning Feb. 26. He will be using new scripts of familiar children's tales based on concepts developed by child psychologist Bruno Bettelheim in his book "The Uses of Enchantment." Plays under consideration include adaptations of Biblical stories, Grimm Fairy Tales and a children's version of classical theatre.

The plays will be presented on Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., beginning with the Feb. 26 production. Admission is \$1.75 per ticket. For additional information on enrollment or group rates, contact Shari Melde at 748-5193.

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Yet the clues—the clues are everywhere: blood on the bannister, freshly turned earth in the garden.

THEATRE THREE EMBARKS ON 1978 FUND DRIVE

The beginning of a new year always marks the beginning of a new search for private and corporate funds to help Theatre Three meet its varied challenges. This year is basically no different, except that our challenges have changed somewhat. In past years we have needed the money to pay bills. This year we hope to be able to apply the majority of the proceeds from our 1978 Fund Drive to future projects such as improved equipment, artistic expansion and facilities growth.

We've come a long way from the "seat cover factory days" when everything that came in went out to keep the doors open. Today we offer the most complete bill of theatre fare in Dallas from our comfortable arena theatre in the Quadrangle. But the facts of life for arts organizations remain the same for us: all major arts groups in Dallas function on an annual deficit. While ours is relatively the smallest in town, and while we earn a higher percentage of our annual budget from ticket sales than any other arts organization in Dallas, we still face the "shoe-string syndrome" in some respects.

But 1978 will be the turning point for us, because we'll be able to wipe out our deficit once and for all. Having accomplished this, we can move on to the exciting challenges of facilities and artistic expansion. We'll need your help, but the financial future of Theatre Three has never looked brighter.

In a few weeks we'll be sending out a special mailing to a selected group of Dallasites in both the corporate and private areas, outlining our plans more fully and asking for your support. Our approach is a little different this year, in that we've adopted the famous "Untied Way" team approach to fund raising. We think this program will mean a more individualized approach to soliciting funds, and we're using the United Way track record to make our predictions for the most successful campaign ever.

When our mailer arrives, please take a few minutes to look over our story. If you've enjoyed your evening tonight, please consider helping our 1978 Fund Drive. In so doing, you'll be contributing toward even better productions and a more comfortable place in which to enjoy them!

THEATRE THREE RINGS IN ITS MOST EXCITING SEASON IN HISTORY

January is the time to look ahead to coming events in the new year, and we're very excited about the line-up of shows for 1978. But we wanted to take a moment to review the first two shows of the 1977-78 Season pictorially:



In "The Learned Ladies" by Mollere, (from left) Norma Young, Peggy Chilton, and Georgia Clinton engage in a lively parlor discussion while the imposter poet Trissotin (Larry Drake) looks on.



Tom Mitchell as Candide and Connie Colt as Cunegonde took a wild and wooly musical look at Voltaire's "best of all possible worlds" in the season opener, "Candide".

"Sleuth" is another in our host of Southwest premieres for the 1977-78 Season, and with it we're glad to welcome old friend Larry O'Dwyer back to our stage and introduce David Cooper, a newcomer to Theatre Three. "Sleuth" will run through February 11th.

Next on the horizon is Arthur Miller's moving drama, "After the Fall", which opens February 21st and runs through March 18th. This moving and sometimes shocking story revolves around the relationship between an intellectual lawyer and a superstar beauty. Miller, once married to Marilyn Monroe, gives us a daringly autobiographical drama which is sure to make you think.

The witty "Ladies at the Alamo" follows on March 28th. Paul Zindel's wicked humor strikes close to home in this comedy set in Texas. Three women do battle for control of "The Alamo", a prestigious theatre in the fictitious "Texas City". The battle will draw to a close on April 22nd.

Pending its availability, we'll present "The Robber Bridegroom" May 2nd through June 3rd. This early American folk tale set to Blue Grass music takes us to the mountains for down-home comedy and intrigue and promises an interesting change of pace for the early summer.

On tap for the midsummer slot (June 13th through July 15th) is the modern London hit, "Otherwise Engaged" (pending release). Dick Cavett starred on Broadway in this literate look at the pitfalls of modern living. You'll laugh, but the play's astounding revelations and many surprises are also thought-provoking.

Rounding out the '77-78 Season is another original musical devised by Jac Alder, creator of "Jeepers Creepers, Here's Harry!" and "'S Wonderful" from past seasons. This one's a musical look at the birth of the blues and jazz and will be presented in conjunction with the Dallas Minority Repertory Theatre July 15th through September 2nd.

So there you have the remainder of our 1977-78 fare! We sincerely hope you'll join us for each of these lively and unique productions. We think you'll enjoy the versatility of Theatre Three this year and want to come back for more in 1978-79!

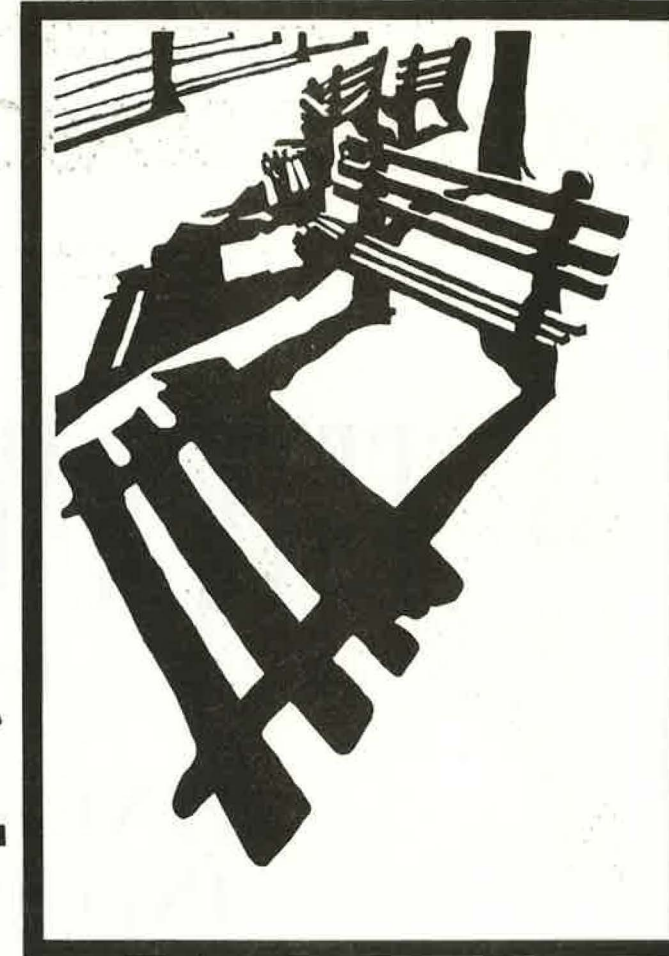
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