

76-77



 THEATRE 3

Production underwriting granted by The Mobil Foundation.



## Notes From The Director

I like a lot of things about "The Fantasticks" — this cast, for example, which is a joy in itself. But as to the play, I like its faith in audiences' imagination, its faith in audiences' common sympathies and its insistent and consistent simplicity. "Less is more", that paradoxical saying, is law in this show. So is "Too clever is dumb", a favorite Ogden Nash saying of mine. But being simple requires much of actors, directors, authors and composers ... that is to say, being simple yet effective. There

is a difference of scale that is important, I'll grant you, but even Puccini never managed so significantly to so perfectly match a musical idea to a dramatic idea to a dramatic concept with such effective simplicity as Jones and Schmidt have done in "The Fantasticks".

So if you like this show — or love it, as many do — you aren't simply an easy mark for its sentiment; not to me at any rate. It's a sign you share that

sense of joy when things are really "in tune" on a stage that gives a unique thrill.

I think it's splendid of The Mobil Foundation to help us extend "The Fantasticks" to people who might otherwise not get to see it. They've been officially thanked, of course, but I'd like to add my own gratitude and salute their imaginative help.

**JAC ALDER**  
JAC ALDER, Producer



Arriving at Theatre Three next ...  
LARRY O'DWYER in Moliere's most perfect farce, "Tartuffe"

# THEATRE 3

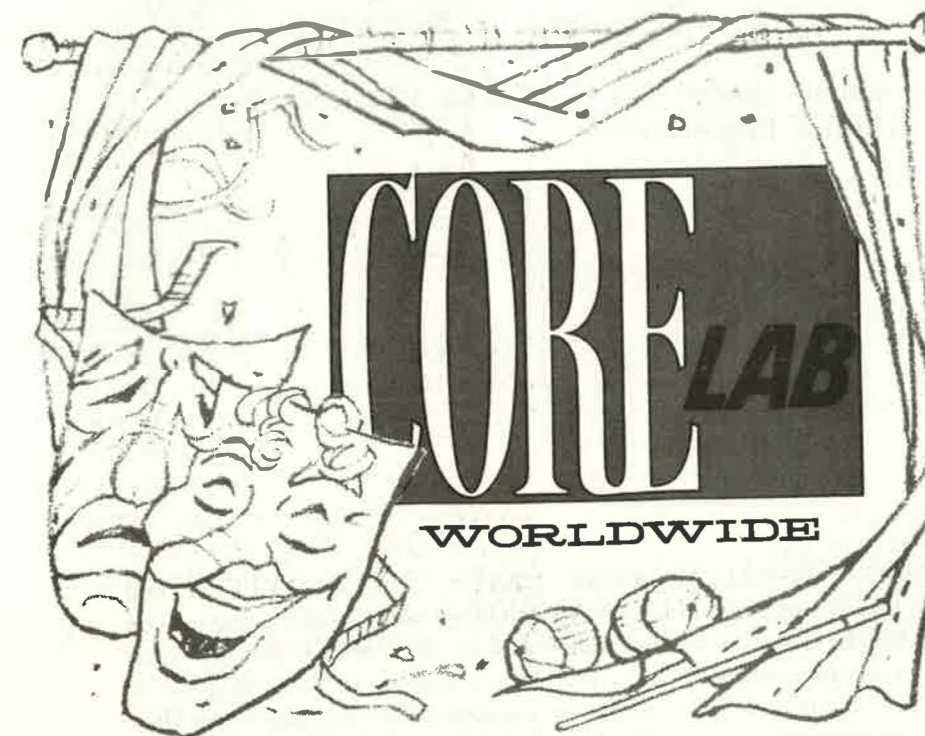
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# The Fantasticks

*Book and Lyrics by*  
**TOM JONES**

*Music by*  
**HARVEY SCHMIDT**

Suggested by a play  
**LES ROMANESQUES**  
by Edmund Rostand

## THE ENSEMBLE

The Mute .....	TOMMY CANTU
Bellomy .....	JIMMY BELL
Hucklebee .....	BRYAN FOSTER
El Gallo .....	JON VANDERTHOLEN
Luisa .....	PENNY ATWOOD
Matt .....	TOM MITCHELL
Henry .....	GORDON FOX
Mortimer .....	REED CHAMBERS
The Pianist .....	TERRY HAWKINS
The Harpist .....	CAROLYN HARRIS

There will be one ten minute intermission. The show is produced by arrangement with Music Theatre, International

## PRODUCTION STAFF

**DIRECTOR**  
**SET AND LIGHTING DESIGNER**  
**COSTUMER**  
**STAGE MANAGER**  
**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

Jac Alder  
Charles Howard  
Patty Greer  
Paul Carson  
Julie McClane

Theatre Three Thanks to BRENDAN McNALLY, ANNE HEALY, DAVID PEFFER and MIGUEL TREVOR for assistance to the designers and to LYNN MORRIS for her extensive assistance on lighting. Thanks also to SAM SMITH for promotional assistance and to JOY WYSE for providing rehearsal space for a crucial day when every feasible space with a piano was otherwise booked. As usual we

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE

OVERTURE	The Company
TRY TO REMEMBER	El Gallo
MUCH MORE	Luisa
METAPHOR	Matt and Luisa
NEVER SAY "NO"	Hucklebee and Bellomy
IT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU PAY	El Gallo, Bellomy and Hucklebee
Hicklebee	
SONN IT'S GONNA RAIN	Matt and Luisa
THE RAPE BALLET	The Company
HAPPY ENDING	Matt, Luisa, Hucklebee and Bellomy

### ACT TWO

THIS PLUM IS TOO RIPE	Matt, Luisa, Hucklebee and Bellomy
I CAN SEE IT	El Gallo and Matt
PLANT A RADISH	Hucklebee and Bellomy
ROUND & ROUND	El Gallo, Luisa and Company
THEY WERE YOU TRY TO REMEMBER (REPRISE)	Matt and Luisa El Gallo

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- \*The Fire Marshall prohibits smoking in the auditorium.
- \*The House Manager prohibits refreshments in the auditorium.
- \*The State Manager prohibits photographing or recording the performance.
- \*However, the actors have been known to encourage laughter and applause.
- \*Playgoers leaving their seats during the performance must be re-seated in available seating specified by the House Manager.



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## About the Actors

\* PENNY ATWOOD (Luisa) makes her Theatre Three debut in this role having previously performed it to the delight of audiences at Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana and at the Zachary Scott Theatre in Austin. Originally from California, she now makes her home in Texas. Last summer she was featured in the highly successful production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" at Casa Manana in Fort Worth and has also appeared professionally in "Godspell". With ten years of vocal training in her background, she has sung professionally for numerous commercials, appeared in industrial musicals and been a featured member of ensembles in pre-show groups for dinner theatres. As an actress she stays busy doing "voice overs" as well as film work. Her next film to be released is "Drive In".

JIMMY BELL (Bellemey) makes his musical comedy debut in "The Fantasticks" as Luisa's father. He is, however, no stranger to the lyric stage after six years of assignments with The Dallas Civic Opera working with such outstanding directors as Franco Zeffereilli and Alexi Menotis and appearing with such notables as Maria Callas and Joan Sutherland. In all he has appeared in over twenty operas, a career that grew out of workshops in opera held at SMU doing such works as Menotti's "Saint of Bleeker Street". A native Texan, he makes his home in Dallas.

TOMMY CANTU (The Mute) does speak . . . in fact he speaks very well and sings, too! Mr. Cantu has studied at The Dallas Theater Center and his theatrical assignments include leading roles in "Jack Ruby, All American Boy", "Archie and Mahitabel", "La Turista" and "Krapp's Last Tape". He has been a company member of the Dallas Theater Center's Mime Troupe, the Austin-Healy Mime and Puppet Company, worked with Sid and Marty Krofft as a puppeteer and with the "1520 AD" Medieval Theater as a jester. This show is his Theatre Three

debut. He has toured with The Janus Players and the company of "Up With People".

REED CHAMBERS (Mortimer) is making his third appearance in "The Fantasticks" having previously played the roles of the Mute and Bellemey for other theatres. And he's directed two productions of this show (which should make clear he is one of its staunchest admirers). A performer since a film debut at age three, his first play was performed at age six. He trained at The Theatre Department of North Texas State University, used the summers to take roles in summer stock theatres and has worked in all phases (including technical, directing and producing) for dinner theatres. He debuted at Theatre Three in "The Road to Rome" as The Corporal. He'll be seen on screen soon in "The Seniors".

GORDON FOX (Henry) is a new resident of Texas. Born in Bremen, Georgia, he grew up in Mississippi and Louisiana and graduated from Louisiana College with a BFA in commercial art. Three years later he earned his MFA degree in Graphic Design from Ohio University. This was followed by "eight years of bliss" being content to pursue his career in commercial art. A sudden and overwhelming desire to be a rich (and famous) actor infected this happiness, and for three years he pursued new bliss doing summer stock, dinner theatre, regional and children's theatre. In his career as an actor he has played in such shows as "Kiss Me, Kate", "Teahouse of the August Moon", "Hamlet" and appeared as Henry in Mill Mountain Playhouse's production of "The Fantasticks".

\* TOM MITCHELL (Matt) is also making his Theatre Three debut in this production. He most recently played on a Dallas stage with Pat Paulson in Neil Simon's comedy, "God's Favorite" and also performed a season as a resident actor at Casa Manana appearing in "Music Man", "Rene", "Hello,

Dolly" and "Clear Day" in featured roles. Summer stock work includes a range of material from the classics (Shakespeare as well as Gilbert and Sullivan) to the modern musical demands of such shows as "Mame". His undergraduate degree is from Northwestern University and he has done graduate work in the Music School at North Texas State University. Mr. Mitchell is married and the proud father of two daughters.

\* JON VANDERTHOLEN (El Gallo) is returning to Theatre Three's stage after a five year absence. A versatile and talented actor, he's been seen in such demanding roles as "Cyrano de Bergerac" and as King Arthur and Don Quixote. He played Perchik, the young rebel, in "Fiddler on the Roof" for The Country Dinner Playhouse in Dallas, Austin and Columbus and created the role of Gerald O'Hara in the production of "Gone with the Wind" at the Starlight Theatre in Kansas City. He appeared in the ensemble of The Dallas Summer Musicals last summer playing Tom Keeny opposite Carol Lawrence in "Funny Girl". In "Oliver" he played opposite Vincent Price. His BA in Theatre is from North Texas State University where he earned numerous awards including "Best Actor" for his work in "Flowers for Algernon".

\* BRYAN FOSTER — last performed for Theatre Three in last season's smash hit "S Wonderful". His credits include work at other professional theatres plus assignments at Theatre Three in "That Championship Season", his first non-singing role at Theatre Three, "Ruddigore", "Company", "Whispers on the Wind", "Twice Over Lightly", "Canterbury Tales" and "The Venetian Twins". Mr. Foster appears annually in the Dallas Press Club show where he has been awarded the "Best Singer" award for the past three years.

\* indicates member of AEA, Actors Equity Association

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