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NORMA YOUNG
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Executive Producer-Director

— presents —

The World Premiere
of



Devised and Directed by Jac Alder
Musical Direction by Terry Dobson

Starring
Juan Fernandez, Sonny Franks, Doug Jackson,
Michael Justis and Paul Taylor

J. Hall - Choreography
Vern McKinney - Technical Director
Linda Blase - Lighting Design
Tin Quan Yen - Set Design
Deidre Moser - Costume Design

July 24, 1993 - August 22, 1993

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notes from the director...

Lots of people helped to make BALL GAMES possible. I want to thank some of them.

All the contributors to A...MY NAME IS ALICE get a really respectful salute. That revue, about modern women, sizzled with zeitgeist. Several years ago it was a huge audience hit here. It'd be dishonest and ungracious not to cite their inspiration.

Terry Dobson and I wondered during ALICE if its invention didn't make another assemblage inevitable; an investigation in revue style of the modern American male. We kept thinking we should somehow create a B...MY NAME IS BOB. Using that as a working title, we solicited the help of dozens of writers (playwrights and songwriters) we know. Using the help of Michael Kerker of ASCAP (American Society of Composers and Publishers in New York) we solicited the help of a wider range of creators. Thanks, Michael.

As I write this I don't know how much our friends with The 500, Inc. will contribute to this project, but I'd bet money that on August 1st I'll be pleased with their announcement of support we've requested for this project.

Frank Young (producer of Theatre Under the Stars in Houston) has been a particular friend to this project. The staff, much of it physically exhausted from the FESTIVAL OF THE UNFAMILIAR, had its work doubled on this original creation. Thanks, gallant allies!

The cast, Terry Dobson (musical director/administrator/ band leader/arranger/all-around-good and able fellow) and J. Hall (Oak Cliff's only Broadway choreographer) as well as Tin Quan Yen (set designer), Vern McKinney (technical director), Larry O'Dwyer (stage manager and theatrical philosopher) have each been terrific. Two distaff designers unflinchingly joined us in this: (Deidre Moser, costumes and Linda Blaze, lights) and certainly deserve my thanks.

Cuts have been made (for length, continuity and to match the right performer to the right material) of some good material. That's been painful but essential. Here's my apology to those creators, all of whom are talented people. Hey, guys -- maybe we should do this again!

CAST PROFILES

JUAN B. FERNANDEZ * A recent arrival to Dallas, Mr. Fernandez hails from back east where he has appeared as Sam in *Master Harold...And The Boys* for Corson Productions in Greensboro, N.C.; Andre in *Ain't Misbehavin'* at Music Theatre North in Potsdam, NY; Che in *Evita* at the Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville, NC; Honey Camden in *The Member Of The Wedding*; and, Man #2 in *The All Night Strut* at the Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, VA. *Ball Games* marks Juan's first (and hopefully not last) appearance on a Metroplex stage. Mr. Fernandez is also a substitute member of the faculty of the KD Studio and enjoys directing plays and singing with bands as well as acting. He is very pleased to be here at Theatre Three.

SONNY FRANKS* is a native Texan, born and raised in Mesquite. He studied opera at Southwest Texas State University with Leonora Sergi. Having toured the globe with *The New Christy Minstrels*, he is thrilled to be back in Texas with his wife, Connie, and his 10 month old daughter, Hailey. Theater goers may have seen Mr. Franks this summer at Casa On The Square in *Cotton Patch Gospel*. Other production experiences include *West Side Story*, *The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas*, and *A Little Night Music*. He is thrilled to have an original composition featured in *Ball Games*.

CAST PROFILES

DOUG JACKSON* comes to *Ball Games* directly from *Cotton Patch Gospel* at Casa Manana On The Square. Prior to that he played Reverend Crisparkle in Theatre Three's production of *DROOD!* Other recent credits include Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol* for the Dallas Theater Center, and Pa Carnes in *Oklahoma* for the Addison Center Theater. Television credits include the ABC-TV movie *Murder In The Heartland* as the court clerk. Mr. Jackson is proud to be the director and musical director of *The Last Cowboy*, currently playing in Dallas. He spends his free time (about 10 minutes a day) with his wife, actress Amy Mills, and their two beautiful daughters, Emily and Abigail.

MICHAEL JUSTIS* made his Theatre Three debut in Amanda McBroom's *Heartbeats*. He was seen most recently as Jimmy Powers in *City of Angels* at Casa Manana and the North Shore Music Theater in Beverly, MA, where he also appeared in *Chess* and *Damn Yankees*. He has performed in *Evita* at Houston's Theater Under The Stars; *The Desert Song* at the Dallas Summer Musicals; and *Promenade* at the Greenville Avenue Theater. He has appeared in Dallas Repertory Theater productions of *Pirates of Penzance* as Frederic, as Danny in *Baby*, the Immigrant in *Tintypes*, Joseph in *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Matt in *The Fantasticks*. Mr. Justis was also a founding member of the popular quartet **RSVP** which was named outstanding vocal group by the Manhattan Association of Cabarets in 1988-89. Michael would like to dedicate his performance in *Ball Games* to the memory of his mother, voice teacher Anne Weeks Jackson.

PAUL TAYLOR* appeared at Theatre Three in *Heartbeats* and as John Jasper/Mr. Clive Paget in *DROOD!* His credits include three roles in Casa On The Square's *Shear Madness* (which, at eleven months, is the longest running show in Ft. Worth theater history!), New Arts' *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Baby With The Bathwater*; Plaza's *Forbidden Broadway*; Moonstruck's *Jerker*; Stage West's *Biloxi Blues* and *The Boys Next Door*; and, Casa Manana's *La Cage Aux Folles* (with Lee Roy Reams).

Theatre Three operates under an agreement with the Actor's Equity Association (AEA), the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

*Member, AEA

Bradley J. Campbell, Understudy; Membership Candidate, AEA

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This Publication

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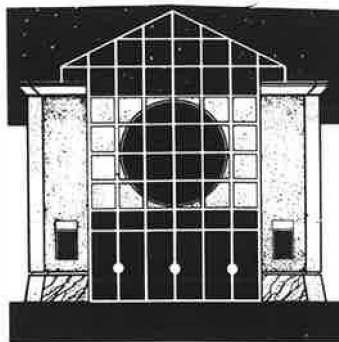
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JAC ALDER (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER-DIRECTOR) Administrator, actor, designer, musician, director and writer, he is co-founder of Theatre Three (along with Norma Young, Robert Dracup and Esther Ragland). Born in Oklahoma City, Mr. Alder earned a degree in Architecture from Oklahoma University, and is the designer of Theatre Three's performing space.

During the past thirty years, Mr. Alder has served as Director of Drama at the University of Texas at Arlington, advisor to DISD's Arts Magnet High School, and as a member of DISD's PACE organization (Partnership of Arts, Culture and Education). He has served as chairman of the Texas Commission on the Arts Theatre Panel and is a current member. He is a founding member of the Dallas Arts Combine and the Dallas Arts Coalition. In 1988 he received the Dallas Theatre Critics Forum Award for outstanding service to Dallas theater. Also, in 1988, with Norma Young, he received the Dallas Historical Society Award for Excellence in Creative Arts. In private life he is the husband of Norma Young.

His directing credits include the world premieres of *Safety* and *A Quarrel of Sparrows* and such classics as *Othello*, *School for Wives*, *Arms and the Man* and *The Venetian Twins*. Mr. Alder's musical credits include *A Little Night Music*, *Anything Goes*, *Side by Side* by *Sondheim*, *The Fantasticks*, *Weill Women* and *Ball Games*.

TERRY DOBSON (MUSICAL DIRECTOR) has been Theatre Three's Musical Director since 1980, providing direction and accompaniment for over 35 musical productions, including last year's *DROOD!* and *Assassins*. He has also directed the music for Dallas Theater Center's *A Christmas Carol*. As the American musical director of the internationally-cast *Peace Child*, Mr. Dobson made his second trip to Russia just before the dramatic political changes in 1991. In addition to serving as the Assistant to the Producer in the Executive Offices of Theatre Three, he is well-known in the area for his accompanying skills. Last year he performed in concert with Denise LeBrun, Carole Cook and Dr. Timothy Seelig. In his spare time(!), Mr. Dobson is the Director/Conductor of *ENCORE!*, the small group ensemble from the renowned Turtle Creek Chorale and last May performed with them in their Carnegie Hall debut. As an actor, Mr. Dobson was seen this past year as Luigi in The Lean Theatre production of *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!* and as the Reverend Crisparkle (for three days) in Theatre Three's season finale, *DROOD!*

J. HALL (CHOREOGRAPHER) *Ball Games* follows Mr. Hall's Theatre Three work on *DROOD!* and *Assassins*. In his 13th year as the Director of Dance at Mountainview College, Mr. Hall is a founding faculty member of the Performing Artists' Musical Theatre Conservatory. Other recent works include director of *Closer Than Ever*, *Ino The Woods*, *The Wizard of Oz* and choreography of *The Wilsonart Show*. Additionally, Mr. Hall is owner/director of Freestyle Productions - a Dallas-based production group which specializes in beauty industrials.

ARTISTIC STAFF

VERN McKINNEY (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR) is in his third season at Theatre Three. A graduate of Angelo State University and a budding director and designer, Mr. McKinney most recently designed *H.M.S. Pinafore* for Richardson High School and *Vital Signs* for Pegasus Theatre. With the help of Mark Hadley and Rebeque Danforth, Mr. McKinney founded The New Artists Theatre Company and directed the inaugural production, David Mamet's *The Woods*.

LINDA BLASE (LIGHTING DESIGNER) is Dallas' busiest lighting designer. As a staff member at Dallas Theater Center, she lit scores of that theater's productions. Her association with Theatre Three began with *Woman In Mind*. Subsequent designs at Theatre Three include musicals, dramas, and comedies in every season since that initial assignment. In addition to her skills as a lighting designer, Ms. Blase is an accomplished photographer and documents many of Dallas' dramatic productions.

DEIDRE MOSER (COSTUME DESIGNER) is starting her second season with Theatre Three. Ms. Moser's costume designs have been featured in Deep Ellum Opera Theatre's *The Mikado* and in the Shakespeare Festival of Dallas' *Target Town*. Theatre Three productions include *DROOD!*, *Assassins*, *A Small Family Business*, *Born Yesterday* and *The Piano Lesson*. Deidre would like to dedicate her *Ball Games* costumes to the man in her life, her husband of two years, David.

PHOTOGRAPHY



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