

### THEATPE THREE

• 2800 Routh Street • Dallas, Texas 75201 • (214) 871-3300 •

NORMA YOUNG
Founding/Artistic Director

JAC ALDER

Executive Producer-Director present



## **CLAP YO' HANDS:**

Homage to George and Ira Gershwin

Devised by JAC ALDER

Musical Arrangements by

TERRY DOBSON and MR. ALDER

Featuring (in alphabetical order)

JAC ALDER

CONNIE COIT

TERRY DOBSON

DICK DUFOUR

RICHARD HOBSON

SHIRLEY McFATTER

CONNIE NELSON

Gowns by VICTOR COSTA
Set Design by CHERYL DENSON
Lighting Design by ROBERT McVAY
Production Stage Manager TERRY TITTLE HOLMAN

First Preview: Saturday, 2 April 1988 Opening: Wednesday, 6 April 1988

THEATRE THREE is supported, in part, by funds from the Division of Cultural Affairs,
Dallas Park and Recreation Department.

NORMA YOUNG (Founding/Artistic Director) was born in Dallas, reared in Oak Cliff, and educated at Sul Ross State University in Alpine (which gave her its Distinguished Ex-Student Award in 1982). Ms. Young's career took her to Houston and New York before she returned to Dallas to found Theatre Three in 1960. She has served as Theatre Three's Artistic Director continuously since then. In addition to her extensive directing credits, Ms. Young has played many leading roles for Theatre Three, most recently appearing as Mme. St. Pe. in THE WALTZ OF THE TOREADORS. Her recent guest appearances have taken her to San Antonio's Guadalupe Cultural Center in LA CASA DE BERNARDA ALBA and Houston's Alley Theatre in THE LIFE SHE LED. Ms. Young named Theatre Three for playwrights, productions, and audiences: elements she values equally in her concept of theatre. DALLAS TIMES HERALD has named her "Dallas' First Lady of the Theatre."

JAC ALDER (Executive Producer-Director) has served Theatre Three as an actor, designer, musician, director, and writer since he (with Norma Young, Robert Dracup, and Ester Ragland) co-founded the organization. Born and educated in Oklahoma, Alder earned his degree in Architecture. During the '70s, Alder was Director of Drama at the University of Texas at Arlington. He serves as an advisor to DISD's Arts Magnet High School and as a member of DISD's PACE organization (Partnership of Arts, Culture, and Education). Alder presently chairs the Theater Panel of the Texas Commission on the Arts. He was on the founding Boards of the Dallas Arts Combine and the Dallas Arts Coalition and this year served on the Cultural Arts Council of Houston. In private life he is the husband of Norma Young.

CHARLES HOWARD (Associate Producer) recently directed THE WALTZ OF THE TOREADORS and assisted Norma Young in the staging of BENEFACTORS. Last season he directed Athol Fugard's BLOOD KNOT. During his twelve plus years at Theatre Three he has directed more than sixty productions. Mr. Howard has also taught at Mary Washington College, Memphis State University, and Bates College.

LAURENCE O'DWYER (Associate Director) recently appeared as General St. Pe in THE WALTZ OF THE TOREADORS. He has directed many Theatre Three hits, including LIGHT UP THE SKY, A LUV MUSICAL, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, ANIMAL FARM, THE SHOW-OFF, and MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM. In addition to his many acting and directing credits at Theatre Three, Mr. O'Dwyer created Theatre Three's Grimm Magician Players and has written and directed most of their productions. A graduate of the Goodman Memorial Theatre in Chicago, Mr. O'Dwyer served as Chairman of the Drama Department at Bennington College.

TERRY TITTLE HOLMAN (Production Stage Manager) joined Theatre Three with A LUV MUSICAL. An AEA Stage Manager since 1975, Terry received a Master's Degree in Theatre from Texas Tech University, where she authored THE STAGE MANAGER'S HANDBOOK, used to train University Theatre stage managers. Terry has also worked as Technical Director at Theatre Midland and as Assistant Director and Property Master at Theatre Memphis. Since her arrival in Dallas in 1984, Terry has stage managed for Dallas Ballet and been employed as a professional IATSE stagehand. Terry and her husband, Robert, continue to renovate a 100 year old Victorian home in Royse City.

CONNIE COIT comes home to Theatre Three direct from the West End Cabaret, where she appeared in Lyric Opera of Dallas' COLE. She was seen last summer as Kitty in Theatre Three's critically acclaimed comedy, SAFETY. CANDIDE, TARTUFFE, LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE, and COMPANY are among her other Theatre Three favorites. She has appeared often with Dallas Summer Musicals, Dallas Opera, Dallas Repertory Theatre, and Casa Manana. Her extensive New York credits include productions on Broadway at Town Hall, Off Broadway, and with New York City Opera, as well as appearing on the daytime television series SEARCH FOR TOMORROW. She has been featured in regional theatres throughout the country. Ms. Coit was recently seen as Elizabeth on DALLAS and appears as Mrs. Diamond in the soon to be released feature film, DAKOTA, starring Lou Diamond Phillips. IN ACCORD, "a stylish songbook from Strauss to Sondheim," is her one woman show which she performs with her husband and accompanist, Lloyd Kitchens. The Kitchens are the proud parents of Ben, their 17 month old son.

TERRY DOBSON has been Theatre Three's Musical Director for the past nine seasons and is happy to be back at the piano after a brief leave of absence. During his time away, Terry starred as Charlie Brown in Dallas Theater Center's TCT production of YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN and performed with his vocal jazz group, Central Expressway, all over North Dallas, East Texas, West Nebraska, and South Florida. In May, Terry will leave for Athens (Greece, not Texas!) to tour as Musical Director of American Star Lines' premiere cruise ship, THE BETSY ROSS, cruising the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas until November. Terry wishes to give a big THANKS to Gary Mead for filling in admirably during his absence.

DICK DUFOUR is returning to the stage after a two year hiatus. He toured the nation with Carol Channing in HELLO, DOLLY, eventually assuming the role of Barnaby. Mr. Dufour has been seen locally in many Dallas Summer Musicals and industrial shows. He appeared last fall in CABARET at Stage West and as Alan in BABES IN TOYLAND at Casa Manana, both in Fort Worth. Mr. Dufour was last seen at Theatre Three in CHARLOTTE SWEET and he is most pleased to return to the Theatre Three stage.

RICHARD HOBSON, Baritone, is from Belzoni, Mississippi. Mr. Hobson has sung roles with the Prince Georges Opera Company in Maryland, Michigan Opera, Baltimore Opera, and Arkansas Opera. He toured Europe in 1982 in the role of Jake in Gershwin's PORGY AND BESS. Since coming to Texas in 1986, Mr. Hobson has peformed the role of the Jailer in Puccini's TOSCA with the Dallas Opera. He also sang Escamillo in Bizet's CARMEN with the Lyric Opera of Dallas. Mr. Hobson is baritone soloist at Highland Park Presbyterian Church and is also enrolled at North Texas State University, finishing his D.M.A. degree in vocal performance. In August 1988, Mr. Hobson will perform the title role in Lyric Opera of Dallas' THE MIKADO.

SHIRLEY TENNYSON-McFATTER is a jazz musician and vocalist who represents America's original classical music - Jazz Mrs. McFatter has been featured in all of the American composer tributes staged at Theatre Three, including the first tribute to George and Ira Gershwin. Two additional tributes, DUKE ELLINGTON: THE MAN AND HIS MUSIC and A TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT LADIES OF JAZZ, were presented as a part of Theatre Three's Black History Month Celebration. Most recently, the Dallas native won critical acclaim for her portrayal of Billie Holiday in West End Cabaret's LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR AND GRILL. A student of Lincoln High School's

Maurine Bailey, Mrs. McFatter has performed with the Onzy Matthews Orchestra, at Caravan of Dreams in Fort Worth, Benny Carter, Abbey Lincoln, David "Fathead" Newman. Buster Smith, the "Dallas Jazz All-Stars," Cedar Walton, and Dallas Jazz Quartet. Her crowning achievement to date, aside from the wonderful experience of teaching Jazz Vocal Improvisation at Dallas' Arts Magnet High School, has been making gumbo for the founding father of Be-bop, Dizzzy Gillespie.

CONNIE NELSON tast appeared at Theatre Three BENEFACTORS. Before that, she was seen in A LUV MUSICAL and THE SHOW-OFF and in a long run of the smash hit LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. Theatre Three audiences will remember her in A. MY NAME 19 ALICE. SEASON'S GREETINGS. WORKING. BEDROOM FARCE. THE PHYSICIAN IN SPITE OF HIMSELF, THE RUNNER STUMBLES, and SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM. Ms. Nelson appeared at Arena Stage in HAPPY END (which was filmed for PBS) and at the Guthrie Theatre in Liviu Ciulei's THREEPENNY OPERA. In New York she appeared in the Ensemble Studio's One Act Play Marathon and with the Acting Company in ISSUE...I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU directed by Jack Heifner. Ms. Nelson has worked extensively in improvisation and studied and coached along side David Shepherd, co-founder of Second City in Chicago. Last season Ms. Nelson played Scotty Delvin in Stage Number One's world premiere of ALL KIDDING ASIDE. Oh, and she went to Southern Methodist University, a long time

Performers and Stage Managers at THEATRE THREE work under contracts with Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in legitimate theatre.

#### There will be one intermission of fifteen minutes.

The sound of George and Ira Gershwin is the sound of the '20s and '30s. If a single motive were chosen to epitomize the America of those decades. it might well be the upward sweep, downward spiral, and reascent-by-stages of the clarinet at the opening of "Rhapsody in Blue." Fully as applicable are the brash, invigorating preludes, or the vital melodies and zestful thythms that characterize "S'Wonderful." "Fascinating and any number of other unforgettable works Gershwin wrote for the concert hall, the musical stage, and motion pictures. Gershwin's penchant for playing his own music, and improvising variations upon it, is well documented. He was often heard in the '20s and '30s in concert, on radio and records. He also jubilantly seized the opportunity to entertain any private gathering of friends, striding directly to the keyboard almost before he had greeted his host and hostess. Lucky intimates were regaled with the newest Gershwin compositions repeatedly before the general public heard them. Oscar- Levant described George Gershwin's keyboard technique (in A SMATTERING OF IGNORANCE): "I have never heard such fresh, brisk, unstudied, completely free and inventive playing." In his SONG BOOK, Gershwin advised of his preferences: "The rhythms of American popular music are more or less brittle; they should be made to snap, at times to crackle. The more sharply the music is played, the more effective it sounds." two-piano tradition was very much a part of Gershwin's thinking. Four of his Broadway shows employed the two-piano team of Phil Ohman and Victor Arden in the pit. Gershwin kept two pianos in his New York penthouse apartment and he sketched his large works for two pianos before scoring them. With Oscar Levant at the second keyboard, he often played these compositions in social evenings at home.

THEATRE THREE IS SUPPORTED, IN PART, by funds from the Division of Cultural Affairs, Dallas Park and Recreation Department; the Texas Commission on the Arts; The 500, Inc.; The Junior League of Dallas; TACA; Coopers & Lybrand; The Meadows Foundation, Inc.; Atlantic Richfield Foundation; The Dallas Morning News; Dallas Times Herald; Foley's; plus numerous other corporations, foundations, and individuals.

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Theatre Three applauds all those whose support makes our work possible.

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THEATRE THREE extends a very special THANKS! to KEN LONG for his generous loan of the mahogany player-grand-piano.

TO PURCHASE this magnificent instrument, please contact CHARLES HOWARD at Theatre Three, 2/4-871-2933.

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As a courtesy to prompt playgoers and for safety reasons, THEATRE THREE does not seat latecomers until intermission. For like reasons, playgoers leaving their seats during the performance will not be readmitted until act-end. Children under 5 years of age will not be admitted to THEATRE THREE's mainstage productions. We invite you to begin your child's playgoing experience with the excellent productions of our GRIMM MAGICIAN PLAYERS.

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