

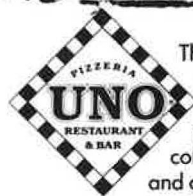
# **GROUCHO**

## **A LIFE IN REVUE**

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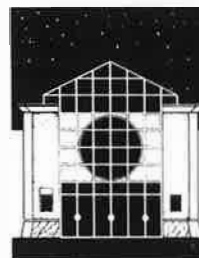
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Present

**FRANK FERRANTE**

**LES MARSDEN**

**ANASTASIA BARZEE**

in

## **GROUCHO** **A LIFE IN REVUE**

written by **ARTHUR MARX** and **ROBERT FISHER**

with **ROBERT TEKAMPE**

Directed by **ARTHUR MARX**

*Musical Director* **TERRY DOBSON**

*Set Design by* **JAC ALDER**

*Lighting Design by* **KEN HUDSON**

*Costume Coordination by* **CHRISTOPHER KOVARIK**

*Original Sound Design by* **TONY MEOLA**

*Wig Design by* **JACQUELINE M. MILLER**

*Production Stage Manager* **TERRY TITTLE HOLMAN**

*Production Manager* **CHERYL DENSON**

First Preview: Friday, 2 June 1989

Opening: Wednesday, 7 June 1989

# GROUCHO

## A LIFE IN REVUE

### Cast

Groucho.....Frank Ferrante\*  
 Chico/Harpo.....Les Marsden\*  
 Girl.....Anastasia Barzee\*  
 Citizen of Freedonia.....Robert Tekampe\*

\*Member Actors' Equity Association.

### Act I

Groucho's Memories.....The Early Years

### Act II

Groucho's Memories.....The Later Years

There will be one intermission.

Musicians: **Terry Dobson** (*piano*); **Mark Miller** (*keyboards*);  
**Robert Bridge** or **Bob Pike** (*percussion*).

Originally produced at the Lucille Lortel Theatre in New York City  
 by Louis Blau, Dennis Hennessy, Stockton Briggie, Richard Carrothers  
 and Jon Wilner.

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### Performers

**FRANK FERRANTE** (*Groucho Marx*) earned a 1987 Laurence Olivier Award nomination in London for 'Comedy Performance of the Year' with his West End portrayal of Groucho Marx from age fifteen to eighty-five in *GROUCHO: A LIFE IN REVUE*. Mr. Ferrante originated the role Off-Broadway in New York where he won a 1987 Theatre World Award and an Outer Critics Circle nomination for 'Most Striking Debut of the Season'. Last year, Mr. Ferrante played the Groucho role, Captain Spaulding, in the revival of *ANIMAL CRACKERS* at Boston's Huntington Theatre and Atlanta's Alliance. A 1985 graduate of the University of Southern California's Drama department, Mr. Ferrante first gained national attention while attending USC where he performed his one-man show *AN EVENING WITH GROUCHO*. The portrayal resulted in accolades from friends, relatives and business associates of the Marx Brothers including Groucho's son Arthur Marx, Groucho's daughter Miriam Allen and Morrie Ryskind, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author who collaborated on the Marx hits *ANIMAL CRACKERS*, *THE COCOANUTS*, and *A NIGHT AT THE OPERA*. Mr. Ryskind described Mr. Ferrante as "...the only actor aside from Groucho who delivered my lines as they were intended to be." Subsequently, Mr. Ferrante was hired by playwright Arthur Marx. Mr. Ferrante has performed a variety of roles including Harold Hill in *THE MUSIC MAN*, Nathan Detroit in *GUYS AND DOLLS*, John Adams in *1776*, Dr. Framingham in Christopher Durang's *BEYOND THERAPY* and lead roles in several productions of Cole Porter's *ANYTHING GOES* - one of which he produced in association with the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. Mr. Ferrante has been featured extensively in print, on radio and television including a spot on the *TODAY SHOW*. Mr. Ferrante appears as Groucho in a soon to be released documentary on the life of Groucho Marx. Mr. Ferrante would like to dedicate his performance to his grandparents.

**LES MARSDEN** (*Chico Marx, Harpo Marx*) earned a 1987 Laurence Olivier Award nomination (for comedy performance of the year) as well as a 1987 London Critics' Award nomination for Best Actor for his West End performance in the dual role of Chico and Harpo Marx in *GROUCHO: A LIFE IN REVUE*. This unique role was created specifically for Mr. Marsden by Arthur Marx (Groucho's son) and Robert Fisher, and he has performed it over 600 times across North America, culminating in the widely celebrated New York production of 1986-87. Mr. Marsden's association with the Marx Brothers began at the age of twenty-one, when he wrote, directed, produced and starred in his award-winning one-man show *A NIGHT AT HARPO'S*, which he created with the full support of Harpo's widow and children. He has performed his show in venues as diverse as U.C. Berkeley, California, to Burt Reynolds' Jupiter Theatre, to Scotland's Edinburgh Festival and Las Vegas. His performance as Groucho in the Los Angeles production of Marx and Fisher's *MINNIE'S BOYS* was critically acclaimed and led to Mr. Marsden being asked by Universal Studios to develop the character of Groucho Marx as an entertainment attraction, and he could be seen in that capacity for three years at the Studio. Last year he starred

in a touring revival of *ANIMAL CRACKERS* in Harpo's role, The Professor. Mr. Marsden was personally selected by the late James Kirkwood to create the lead role of Peter Poll in the Pulitzer Prize-winning author's final play, *STAGE STUCK*, which premiered this spring at The Burt Reynolds Jupiter Theatre. His traditional stage credits include leading roles in *MACBETH*, *THE CHERRY ORCHARD*, *WHAT THE BUTLER SAW*, *THE MERCHANT OF VENICE*, *THE FRONT PAGE*, *SOUTH PACIFIC*, *SEE MY LAWYER*, *THE HOMECOMING*, *TINY ALICE*, *THE LITTLE FOXES*, and many others. Feature film appearances include *E. NICK: A LEGEND IN HIS OWN MIND*, *MACBETH*, and *KEROUAC LOOKING BACK* as poet Allen Ginsberg. Television credits include *NEWHART* and *MATT HOUSTON* and many more. He is much in demand for commercials and once appeared as a Japanese-dubbed Groucho. A prolific composer, his latest musical *THE TELETHON FOOL* opened to high acclaim recently in California. Mr. Marsden lives just outside Manhattan with four cats, a skunk, a family of raccoons, a chinchilla, a 'possum, two flying squirrels, and his wife.

**ANASTASIA BARZEE** (*Rosie; Schoolgirl; Minnie Marx's Voice; Show Girl; Hotel Guest; Margaret Dumont; Marjorie, first newspaper reporter; Catherine Dubois, YBYL contestant; Groucho's Wife; Gloria, reporter from PLAYBOY*) was most recently seen as Marybeth in the world premiere of the late James Kirkwood's final play, *STAGE STUCK*, directed by Charles Nelson Reilly at The Burt Reynolds Jupiter Theatre. After graduating from the University of Miami, Anastasia began her apprenticeship at The Burt Reynolds Jupiter Theatre, where she studied with such distinguished teachers as Charles Nelson Reilly, Lorna Luft, and Burt Reynolds. While at the theatre she performed in *ANYTHING GOES, IS THERE LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL*, the world premiere of Tom Eyen's new musical, *DANGEROUS MUSIC*, as well as Luisa in *THE FANTASTICKS*. Anastasia has appeared on *MIAMI VICE* and *B.L. STRYKER*. Aside from her theatrical credits, Anastasia has done numerous commercials and jingles.

**ROBERT TEKAMPE** (*Citizen of Freedonia*) Originally from Milwaukee, Bob has recently moved to Dallas from New York City. He is glad to make his Metroplex debut in *GROUCHO: A LIFE IN REVUE* since it is probably the closest he will come to his dream of appearing in a Marx Brothers movie. His Off-Broadway credits include W.B. Yeats in *THE DARK SCHOOL* at Roundabout Playlab, *PRACTICALLY TWO* at Westside Arts Theatre, and *ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, THE WINTER'S TALE*, and *HAMLET* with Riverside Shakespeare Company. Film and television appearances include *THE EQUALIZER*, *ONE LIFE TO LIVE*, *MARRIED TO THE MOB*, and *THE PICK-UP ARTIST*.



**ARTHUR MARX** (*Director/Co-Author*) Since getting out of the service after World War II in 1945, Arthur Marx has enjoyed a prolific writing career, both as an individual, and as a collaborator. With Robert Fisher he has co-authored *THE IMPOSSIBLE YEARS*, which starred Alan King and ran for 645 performances on Broadway; *MINNIE'S BOYS*, the story of the young Marx Brothers, starring Shelley Winters; *MY DAUGHTER'S RATED X*, a comedy that won the Straw Hat Award in 1970 for The Best Play of the Summer Season; and the Off-Broadway hit *GROUCHO: A LIFE IN REVUE*, which opened in New York in October 1986 to unanimous rave reviews. Mr. Marx's direction of *GROUCHO* was also cited by the critics for its excellence. By himself Arthur Marx has written eight successful books: *THE ORDEAL OF WILLIE BROWN* (a novel); *LIFE WITH GROUCHO* (a biography of his father); *NOT AS A CROCODILE* (a collection of short stories); *SON OF GROUCHO* (an autobiography); *EVERYBODY LOVES SOMEBODY SOMETIME - ESPECIALLY HIMSELF* (the story of Martin & Lewis); *GOLDWYN* (a biography of the film mogul); *RED SKELTON* (a biography of the comedian); and *THE NINE LIVES OF MICKEY ROONEY*, (published by Stein & Day). In addition, Mr. Marx has been a contributor to many major magazines, including *THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE*, *LOS ANGELES*, *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED*, and *PARADE*.

**ROBERT FISHER** (*Co-Author*) has enjoyed a prolific writing career for the past 40 years, having authored or co-authored nearly 400 radio comedies and just over 1000 television shows. With his partner of 22 years, Arthur Marx, he co-authored the Broadway hits *THE IMPOSSIBLE YEARS* and *MINNIE'S BOYS* and *MY DAUGHTER'S RATED X*, which won 3 of the 7 Straw Hat Awards. He also co-authored with Mr. Marx four screen plays for Bob Hope films. The Marx-Fisher team's newest musical is *THE GHOST AND MRS. MUIR*. The Marx tie goes back several decades, since it was Groucho Marx who gave Mr. Fisher his first job on Groucho's *PABST BLUE RIBBON* radio show, when Mr. Fisher was only 19 years old. With Robert Sacchi, Mr. Fisher co-authored *BOGART*, which he also directed. His latest screenplay is *THE COWBOY AND THE ANGEL*. Mr. Fisher has been awarded the Emmy (for *MAKE ROOM FOR DADDY*); the Humanitas Award (for *GOOD TIMES*); and the Sylvania and St. Christopher Awards for television comedy. Mr. Fisher's latest book is *THE KNIGHT IN RUSTY ARMOR*.

# Thanks

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## Staff

TERRY DOBSON (*Musical Director*) has, during the past nine seasons, been responsible for the musical direction of such hits as *THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE*, *CLAP YO' HANDS*, *A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC*, *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*, *A...MY NAME IS ALICE*, *LIES AND LEGENDS: THE MUSICAL STORIES OF HARRY CHAPIN*, and *SWEENEY TODD*. As an actor, Terry has appeared in Theatre Three productions of *THE WAKE OF JAMEY FOSTER*, *ANYTHING GOES*, *A DAY IN HOLLYWOOD/A NIGHT IN THE UKRAINE*, and, most recently, *THE FANTASTICKS*. Terry's Stagedoor Musicals, Inc., recently produced the successful *SING ME A HAPPY SONG* in Theatre Three's basement rehearsal hall.

CHRISTOPHER KOVARIK (*Costume Coordination*) has designed numerous productions at Theatre Three, including *THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE*, *PERSONALS*, *THE COLORED MUSEUM* (with Charles Howard), *TAKING STEPS*, *A QUARREL OF SPARROWS*, *THE FANTASTICKS*, and *CLAPTRAP*. Chris' credits include *A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN* at Garland Civic Theatre and *COME BACK TO THE FIVE AND DIME*, *JIMMIE DEAN*, *JIMMIE DEAN* at Dallas Alliance Theatre. An active S.T.A.G.E. member, Chris participated in both Exposures '87 and '88.

KEN HUDSON (*Lighting Design*) designed Theatre Three's productions of *THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE*, *THE FANTASTICKS*, *A QUARREL OF SPARROWS*, *HUNTING COCKROACHES*, *FOXFIRE*, *QUARTERMAINE'S TERMS*, and *PAINTING CHURCHES*. He has also executed designs for Dallas Theater Center, Garland Civic Theatre, Deep Ellum Theatre Garage, and the Van Cliburn Foundation. Ken also serves as Resident Lighting Designer for both Live Oak Theatre in Austin, Texas, and New Stage Theatre in Jackson, Mississippi.

TERRY TITTLE HOLMAN (*Production Stage Manager*) joined Theatre Three with *A LUV MUSICAL*. She has been an AEA Stage Manager for over thirteen years and has worked for several companies, including Dallas Ballet, Theatre Memphis, Theatre Midland, and the Mansion Dinner Theatre. She also wrote the book on stage management for Texas Tech University, her alma mater. Terry is also a professional I.A.T.S.E. stagehand and since her marriage to another stagehand, Robert Holman, she has become a professional house renovator as well.

TRISTAN WILSON (*Technical Director*) joined Theatre Three as Sound Designer for *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* and is now beginning his fourth season as Technical Director. Tristan has been a resident sound designer with Missouri Repertory Theatre in Kansas City. In addition to his sound designs for many Theatre Three productions, Tristan designed the set for *TOP GIRLS* at both Greenville Avenue Theatre and Theatre Three and designed the set for Theatre Three's *BLOOD KNOT*. Tristan was also Production Manager for the recent *SIX WOMEN WITH BRAIN DEATH...OR EXPIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW*, which featured his wife, Dallas actress Peggy Pharr Wilson.

## Staff

**LAURENCE O'DWYER** (*Associate Director*) recently directed *TUMBLEWEED THEATRICALS*, Theatre Three's innovative children's theater. Before that he directed Ken Friedman's *CLAPTRAP* and the Grimm Magician Players' *THUMBELINA*. During the past season, he appeared as August Ainsworth in the world premiere of James Duff's *A QUARREL OF SPARROWS*. Before that, he played General St. Pe in Anouilh's *THE WALTZ OF THE TOREADORS*. He has directed such previous Theatre Three hits as *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*, *ANIMAL FARM*, *THE SHOW-OFF*, *MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM*, *A LUV MUSICAL*, and *LIGHT UP THE SKY* (which was named an outstanding production by the Dallas Theater Critics Forum).

**CHERYL DENSON** (*Production Manager*) made her Theatre Three directing debut with the holiday hit production of *THE FANTASTICKS* and recently directed *BROADWAY BOUND*, a hit at Dallas Repertory Theatre. She has designed Theatre Three sets for *CLAPTRAP*, *A QUARREL OF SPARROWS*, *TAKING STEPS* (with Jac Alder), *CLAP YO' HANDS*, *LIGHT UP THE SKY*, *SAFETY*, *ANIMAL FARM*, *THE SHOW-OFF*, *LIES AND LEGENDS*, *MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM*, *FOXFIRE*, and *A...MY NAME IS ALICE*. Her costume designs were seen in *A LUV MUSICAL*, *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*, *ANYTHING GOES*, and *OUTSIDE WACO*. Her most recent Theatre Three acting appearances include hit productions of *SAFETY* and *TOP GIRLS*.

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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 our excellent productions for children.

## Staff

**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 1961. 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 Rosanna Ainsworth Jackson in the world premiere of James Duff's *A QUARREL OF SPARROWS* and before that as Mme. St. Pe in *THE WALTZ OF THE TOREADORS*. Her guest appearances have taken her to San Antonio's Guadalupe Cultural Center in *LA CASA DE BERNARDA ALBA* and Houston's Alley Theatre in her one woman show *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" and *Ultra Magazine* named her one of the five "grande dames" of Texas. Last December, with Jac Alder, she received the Dallas Historical Society Award for Excellence in Creative Arts.

**JAC ALDER** (*Executive Producer-Director & Scenic Design*) has served Theatre Three as an administrator, 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 advisor to DISD's Arts Magnet High School and as a member of DISD's PACE organization (Partnership of Arts, Culture, and Education). Alder has chaired the Theater Panel of the Texas Commission on the Arts on which he has served two terms. He was on the founding Boards of the Dallas Arts Combine and the Dallas Arts Coalition. He has served as a grants evaluator for the Western Arts Foundation of Santa Fe and as a panelist for the Cultural Arts Council of Houston and the Arkansas Arts Council. Recently he was elected to the Board of Texas Non-Profit Theatres. He is host/narrator for Dallas Symphony Orchestra performances for its youth concerts and as Artistic Advisor to Dallas' Young Audience organization, a group that tours professional artists into the schools. For his extensive service to the theatre in Dallas, Mr. Alder was cited with a special award by the Dallas Theater Critics Forum. Last December, 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.

**CHARLES HOWARD** (*General Manager*) moves into a new role as General Manager with the beginning of the new season at Theatre Three. Since joining the theatre thirteen years ago, Charles has served as both a top administrator and a senior member of the artistic staff, directing or designing more than 80 shows. He designed the bus station "theatrical fantasy" set for *THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE*, as well as sets for *THE COLORED MUSEUM*, *A LUV MUSICAL*, *BENEFACTORS*, *CANDIDE*, and *RISE AND SHINE*. His directing credits include *THE ELEPHANT MAN*, *OTHERWISE ENGAGED*, *MORNING'S AT SEVEN*, *FOXFIRE*, *BLOOD KNOT*, and *HUNTING COCKROACHES*. Charles holds degrees from Hendrix College and the University of Virginia. He has taught at Mary Washington College, Memphis State University (where he headed the BFA performance program), and Bates College.



**Executive Staff**

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