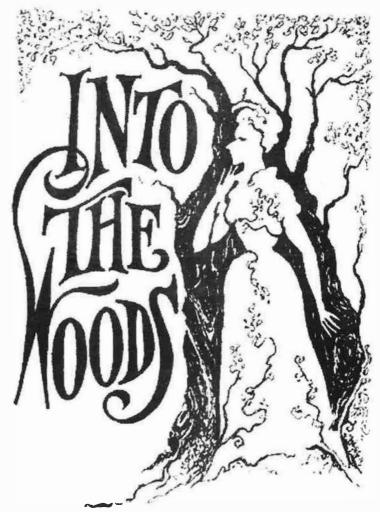


THEATRE THREE

996-1997 35th anniversary seasoi

<u>the</u> theatre-in-the-round in the Quadrangle

JAC ALDER, Executive Producer-Director presents



Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim Book by James Lapine

August 24 thru September 29, 1996 - SHOW ONE of SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

Theatre Three's Playbill is a Publication of



In The Quadrangle Courtyard 2800 Routh Street Dallas, Texas 75201

Executive Editor
Jac Alder

Cover Illustration by Harland Wright

BOX OFFICE 214-871-3300

ADMINISTRATION 214-871-2933 Fax: 214-871-3139

MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS Rosie Hughes, 214-350-7157 Fax: 214-644-6180

Theatre Three publishes seven Subscription Series playbills; the Season also includes Premium Attractions, Bonus Attractions, and a Holiday show, *The Fantusticks*.

Advertisers are welcome.

214-871-2933.

Home Page on the WEB: http://vline.net/theatre3.com E-MAIL: theatre3@airmail.net

First Subscription Show '96-'97 SEASON 36th Season, No.3 August/September 1996

Theatre Three Staff

NORMA YOUNG

Founding Artistic Director

JAC ALDER

Executive Producer-Director

Terry Dobson, Musical Director, Assistant to Mr. Alder Laurence O'Dwyer, Associate Director

PRODUCTION

214-871-2933 Wright, Director of

Harland Wright, Director of Design Bruce Coleman, Costume Shop Manager Jon Beller, Tiffany Hopkins, Karen Foster, Production Assistants

ADMINISTRATION 214-871-2933

Thurman Moss, Chief of Operations
Mark Hadley, Comptroller
Rosie Hughes, Media/Publicity
Pat Perna, Bookkeeper
Ginny Davis, Director of Education
Nick Rushing, Computer Systems Manager

BOX OFFICE **214-871-3300**

Guy Hoyle, Manager Karen Foster, House Manager Reservationists: Darius Warren, Adair Ahrens, Jeanne Jeffries, Mark Shum, Chapman Locke, and Jung Eun Lee

TELEMARKETING 214-871-2355

Carol Crosby, Director Staff: David Curtis, John Robinson, Roger Wilson and Tracy McCaror

Theatre Three Board of Directors

Officers of the Board of Directors

Gregg Ballew, Chairman of the Board
Claire Cunningham, Vice Chairman of the Board
Scott Dille, Vice Chairman of the Board
Jac Alder, President
Barbara Yount, Vice President and Treasurer
Jill Nelson, Treasurer

Members at Large

Mike Brennan, M.D., Craig Cathey, Dale Cunningham, Nancy Duncan (TACA Liaison), Judy Fong-West, Roz Fitch, David & Cherry Haymes, Jack Lewis (Cultural Affairs Liaison), David G. Luther, Jr., Malcolm Mace, Elizabeth Rivera, May Tweed, Don & Sally Weatherford (The 500, Inc. Liaisons), Norma Young



The following Theatre Three Board Members have contributed additional funds to support Theatre Three's All American Season. Those names marked with an asterisk (*) are Theatre Three Guarantors.

Gregg Ballew*
Mike Brennan, M.D.
Craig Cathey* &
Barbara Yount*
Dale & Claire
Cunningham*
Judy Fong-West*
David & Cherry Haymes*

Lloyd W. Kitchens, Jr., M.D.* David G. Luther, Jr.* Malcolm Mace* Elizabeth Rivera May Tweed

Chairmen Emeriti: Ed & Rosie Hughes Lloyd W. Kitchens, Jr., M.D.*

THEATRE THREE

NORMA YOUNG

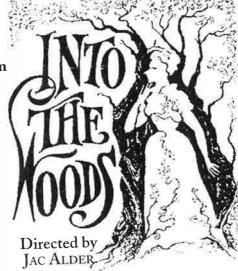
Founding Artistic Director

JAC ALDER

Executive Producer-Director

present

Music & book by Stephen Sondheim



James Lapine

Book by

Featuring
TERRY VANDIVORT, CONNIE COIT, SALLY SOLDO, CONNIE NELSON,
LIZ PIAZZA KELLEY, MICHAEL JUSTIS, TABITHA WOODS,
GREG DULCIE, JASON CHAMBERS, LORI EVANSON, CRAIG LOWRY
EMILE A MATZNER, PAT MCAFEE, EMILY PARSONS, SUSAN READ
LEILA SCHEIMMAN, GEORGE SPELVIN, GENE YAWS

Harland Wright, Director of Design/Scenic Scheme
Terry Dobson, Musical Director
Bruce Coleman, Costume & Mask Designer
Linda Blase, Lighting Designer
Thurman Moss, AEA Stage Manager
Mark Bate, Assistant to the Director
Jeanne Jeffries and Jane Deeken, Costume Assistants

Special underwriting provided by



season sponsors

The Pallas Morning News



MUSICAL NUMBERS

Music and book by Stephen Sondheim Book by James Lapine

ACTI

Opening, Act I	
	Cinderella, Cinderella's Mother
I Guess This Is Goodbye	Jack
Maybe They're Magic	Baker's Wife
	Little Red Riding Hood
First Midnight	
Giants in the Sky	Jack
Agony	Cinderella's Prince/Rapunzel's Prince
<u> </u>	Baker, Baker's Wife
Second Midnight	
Stay With Me	Witch, Rapunzel
On The Steps of the Palace	
1 5	Narrator, Company

INTERMISSION

ACT II

0	Princes
Opening, Att II	Princes
Agony Reprise	Princes Witch
Witch's Lament	Cinderella's Prince Raker's Wife
Moments in the woods	Witch
Last Midnight	Baker/ Mysterious Man
No One Is Alone	Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood,
100 One 13 2110 ne	Jack, Baker
Finale	
1 timet	

The Cast for "INTO THE WOODS"

(in order of appearance)

Narrator/Mysterious Man Cinderella	Terry Vandings 1*
Jack	Iabitha Woods
Jack Jack's Mother	Jason Chambers
Cinderella's Stepmother	·····Michael Justis*
(and Cinderella's Mother/Granny)	
(and Cinderella's Mother/Granny)	Connie Coit*
	T · D
1100a	L .1 P
5 = 11166/ 1401/	
1	
Steward	Gene raws
Steward Giant	Pat McAfee
Giant *Member, AEA	George Spelvin
Understudy for the role of Jack - Craig Lowry	
Understudy for the role of Little Red Riding Hood - Le	eila Scheinman

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.



There will be one 15 minute intermission



Musicians

Terry Dobson, *Piano/Conductor*Mark Miller, *Synthesizer*Mike McNicholas, *Percussion*

CAST PROFILES



Terry Vandivort (Narrator/Mysterious Man) Previous roles for Mr. Vandivort at Theatre Three include Jimmy in The Gingerbread Lady, Hysterium in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Estragon in Waiting For Godot, Polonius in Fortinbras and Tristram in Taking Steps. He has also appeared in other productions for The Lean Theater, the Dallas Shakespeare Festival, the Dallas Theater Center, Addison Centre Theater, Encompass Theatre (New York, and Trinity Theatre (New York). He is a recipient of the Dallas

Theater Critics Forum Award and has twice received Theatre Three's Patron Favorite Award. This performance is dedicated to the memory of Mark Hardwicke.



Connie Coit (Cinderella's Stepmother/Cinderella's Mother/Granny) returned in July from her fifth European tour as Carlotta in the Kopit/Yeston Phantom. She made her Theatre Three debut 26 years ago in the Sondheim production of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Other Sondheim productions include Company (T3); Side by Side by Sondheim (Herberger Theater/Phoenix, AZ). Favorite T3 appearances include The Gingerbread Lady, Weill Women, Safety, Candide, Tartuffe, and

Little Mary Sunshine. Ms. Coit has also appeared on the stages of the Dallas Summer Musicals, The Dallas Opera, The Lyric Opera of Dallas, DRT, Lyric Stage, and Casa Mañana as well as many other regional theaters across the county and at sea. Her extensive New York credits include productions on Broadway, at Town Hall, Off Broadway and the New York City Opera. She also performs a series of one-woman shows with her husband and accompanist, Lloyd Kitchens. They are often joined by their 9 year old son, Ben.



Sally Soldo (Jack's Mother) will be remembered by Theatre Three audiences for her performances in A...My Name is Alice; You're Gonna Love Tomorrow (Dallas Times Herald, Best Actress in a Musical); Angry Housewives; A Little Night Music; Assassins; Heartbeats; Lucky Stiff; and, Pump Boys and Dinettes. Other Dallas appearances include leading roles in A Chorus Line; I Do, I Do; The Sound of Music; The Unsinkable Molly Brown; Annie Get Your Gun; Guys and

Dolls; Is There Life After High School?; and, Man of LaMancha. Regional credits include Off-Broadway in Up Eden with Blythe Danner; the national touring company of George M!; Play It Again, Sam (with Robert Morse); Baby (with Carol Lawrence and Larry Kert); The Odd Couple (with Tom Poston). An R.N./Medical Technologist with Parkland Hospital's Community Oriented Primary Care, she lives in Dallas with husband, Jon Veon, and son, Jonathan.



Connie Nelson (Baker's Wife) A major force on Dallas/Ft. Worth stages, Ms. Nelson cut her teeth at Theatre Three playing the role of Sister Rita in The Runner Stumbles, followed by the hit review Side by Side by Sondheim. She is a two-time recipient of Theatre Three's Patron Favorite award and was recognized by The Dallas Critics Forum for her role as Scal in Stringbean (Best Actress). She has also

CAST PROFILES (continued)

been awarded Best Local Actress by The Dallas Observer. T3 audiences may remember Ms. Nelson's portrayal of Evy in last season's production of *The Gingerbread Lady*. She most recently appeared with the Dallas Shakespeare Festival as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and as Emilia in *Othello*. In New York, Ms. Nelson performed in The Ensemble Studio's One Act Play Marathon and Off-Broadway in *Kennedy's Children*. While in New York, she also appeared with John Houseman's prestigious Acting Company. Regional theater audiences have seen her work at American Repertory Theatre, Arena Stage, and The Guthrie Theatre. Ms. Nelson has worked in film and television, most recently starring in the feature film *Late Bloomers*, which was selected for dramatic competition at Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival in late January of this year. She was recently named Texas Film Actress of the Year by the Dallas/Fort Worth Film Critics Association. Ms. Nelson dedicates this performance to Theatre Three and to David, her Baker in real life.



Liz Piazza Kelley (Witch) appeared at T3 as Emma Goldman in Assassins. Other T3 credits include Winnie Ruth Judd in Tiger Lady for which she won a Dallas Critics Forum Award for Outstanding Performance by an Actress, and Dominique in Lucky Stiff. She was last seen as Hermia in A Midsummer Night's Dream and as Desdemona in Othello for the Shakespeare Festival of Dallas. At the Dallas Theater Center she has appeared in Big D Festival productions of the musical Little Mahagonny and Len Jenkins' Like

I Say, as well as A Christmas Carol ('94 and '95). Liz was recognized as one of the Best Female Performers of 1995 as Donna in the dreamer examines his pillow for the 11th Street Theatre. She has worked with Stage West, Moonstruck Theatre, Lyric Stage, and Pocket Sandwich Theatre. Her favorite role is Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors, directed by the late Rod Wilson. After Into The Woods, Liz will reprise her role as the Narrator and Belle in A Christmas Carol, and then play the role of Madeleine in Indiscretions, both for The Dallas Theater Center. She is a graduate of the Performing Artists Musical Theater Conservatory.



Michael Justis (The Baker) appeared at Theatre Three in Sondheim's The Frogs as Shakespeare; Lucky Stiff as Harry; Pump Boys and Dinettes; Ball Games!; and, Heartbeats. He comes to Into The Woods after eleven months as Jinx, the nosebleed-prone tenor, in the long-running Forever Plaid at Casa Mañana, where he also appeared in City of Angels (Jimmy Powers), Hello Dolly, and Guys and Dolls, and at Dallas Repertory Theater in Pirates of Penzance (Frederic), Baby (Danny), and Tintypes (the Immigrant). Other

productions include *Chess* and *Damn Yankees* at North Shore Music Theater in Massachusetts; *Evita* at Theater Under The Stars in Houston; *The Desert Song* at Dallas Summer Musicals; and, *Back To Bacharach and David* at Lyric Stage in Irving. A graduate of the SMU Theater Training Program, Michael was a founding member of the award-winning cabaret quartet RSVP. In memory of his mother, Anne Weeks Jackson - "truly, no one is alone."

CAST PROFILES (continued)



Greg Dulcie (Cinderella's Prince/Wolf) made his Theatre Three debut as El Gallo in The Fantasticks. Other Sondheim shows at Theatre Three include Assassins (Booth) and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Miles Gloriosus). Stock tours include Paint Your Wagon, Chess, Oklahoma!, and Man of LaMancha (international tour). Other productions include Joseph ... (Pharoah), Zorba, Camelot, South Pacific, Damn Yankees, Jesus Christ Superstar, and Best Little Whorehouse... "To the maiden who ran away, I shall always love you."



Tabitha Woods (Cinderella) has appeared as Ophelia in Fortinbras and as Anabel in Lucky Stiff for Theatre Three. Other favorite roles include Portia in Julius Caesar, Maria in Twelfth Night; Florina in Mad Forest; and, Antonietta in Tear Jerker. She has appeared on the stages of the Undermain Theater, the Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival, the Pocket Sandwich Theatre, Improv Comedy Club, and Stage West.



Patrick D. McAfee (Steward) is making his Sondheim debut at Theatre Three. Previous credits at T3 include DROOD! and The Cocoanuts. Favorite roles include Robert Sideway in Our Country's Good; Nicely-Nicely in Guys and Dolls; and, Paul in Hair. He has also performed in industrial shows for Sally Beauty Supply, Mary Kay Cosmetics, and the DCCCD. Recently, Patrick has discovered the true meaning of the song, Piano Man.



Jason Chambers (Jack) is performing at Theatre Three for the first time. He is a junior at Booker T. Washington High School of the Arts. Theater credits include young Jesus in Cotton Patch Gospel; Prince Dauntless in Once Upon A Mattress; young fool in Big River (all at Garland Civic). Commercial credits include Wet N' Wild and Heineken Beer (both as principal). He is very excited about Into The Woods!



Emily Parsons (Little Red Riding Hood) as a 13 year old actress, singer and songwriter is making her debut as Theatre Three. Theater credits include Annie in Annie Warbucks at Casa Mañana and Tina in Ruthless at Casa On The Square. Credits at Fort Worth Theatre include The Miracle Worker, The Secret Garden, and Annie, where she earned a Willie Award for her role as Annie. Emily has recently released her first gospel CD, Turn To God.



Emilea Matzner (Rapunzel) is thrilled to be making her Theatre Three debut in the role of Rapunzel. She is a 1996 graduate of the Performing Artist Musical Theatre Conservatory at Mountain View College. Some of her favorite roles include Rosalie in West Side Story, and Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz. Emilea would like to thank her family for their continuous love and support.

CAST PROFILES (continued)



Gene Yaws (Rapunzel's Prince) is making his Thetare Three debut in Into The Woods. A Six Flags performer for the past two years, Gene created the role of Gabriel in the world premiere of David T. Clysdale's musical The Majesty of Christmas for Word Music, Inc. Theater credits include A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Miles Gloriosus) and Charlotte's Web (Templeton) for Dallas Children's Theater.



Susan Read (Florinda) makes her first appearance at Theatre Three. Favorite roles include Barbara Ann and Veronica in Six Women With Brain Death; Liliane Lafleur in Nine; the Opera Diva in Phantom; Solange LaFitte in Follies; Susan in Side By Side By Sondheim; and, Jenny in Quilters. She has appeared on the stages of Circle Theatre, Lyric Stage, Metro Players, Theatre Arlington, Irving Community Theatre, Dallas Repertory Theatre and Mountainview Conservatory. Susan is a graduate of UTD and currently studies voice with Nancy Elledge.



Lori Evanson (Lucinda) is delighted to be debuting with Theatre Three and is especially glad to be going back Into The Woods. She appeared in the show as Rapunzel in 1993 for Maine State Music Theatre. Among her favorite roles are Anne in A Little Night Music; Anna Held in Tintypes; and, Rose in The Secret Garden. Lori has worked with Lyric Stage, Casa Mañana, Pocket Sandwich Theater, Theatre West (Nebraska) and Opera of the Ozarks. She received her training at Oklahoma City University and the University of

Mississippi, and currently studies voice with Nancy Elledge.



Craig Lowry (*Understudy for the role of Jack*) ispleased to be apeparing in T3's production of Into The Woods. Past show credits include Joseph and the ... (Dodger Productions), and Peter Pan and Grease (both for St. Louis Muny), as well as some community productions in the D/FW area.



Leila Scheinman (Understudy for the role of Little Red Riding Hood) is twelve and attends 7th grade at Lamar Middle School. She has been in numerous plays and ballets, and her most memorable roles have been Annie in Annie and the Scarecrow in The Wizard of Oz. She is very excited to have her first opportunity to perform with Theatre Three.

THEATRE THREE 1996 GUILD MEMBERS

Al and Jill Anderson Wanda Hill Elizabeth Rivera Brett Ardoin Liz Schindler Jim-Ya & Melissa Huang Ruth Bernard Rosie & Ed Hughes Rudy & Jean Seward Dennis & Chris Bosch Mary Catherine Sweet Robert E. Illes Ruth L. Boschert William G. Smith Dave W. Jenks Paul & Beth Braziller Phil & Sue Paschall John Sally Soldo Julie Brition Joe & Brenda Johnson Ion E. Veon Elisa Burch Milton & Ruth Thomas Dr. Sidney K. Kay John Canterbury Norma & Happy Kramer Peggy Townsley Paul Marcus Mike Krase May Tweed Billie & Chester Cook Ann Luckenbach David M. Vandivort Tom & Pat Croxell Rob Lyle Doug Watkins Carol L. Croy Ilse Boyd Mark Whitworth Claire & Dale Cunningham Carol McClymonds Amy Williams Michael A. David Mary H. McFarland Iim Woods L. M. Edwards Karen McNear Barbara J. Yount & Judy Fong West Craig Cathey Maryanne Meltzer Paul Gemmill Lucille & Joe Montag Laura Pallos Bill & Elya Naxon Old Town Dental Jill Nelson Pauline & Len Gravier, M.D. Dr. Richard & Karen Norgaard Cherry & David Haymes, M.D. Karol Omlor Jane Haymes Michael Pickel Don Henderson Sue Prather

Would you like to participate in special events, parties, receptions, meet new people, learn more about theatre, acting and Theatre Three? IT'S REAL EASY.

JOIN THE THEATRE THREE GUILD

Routh Street, Dallas, "X 7520" single or couple. Please make yo	owing. You can mail this to Theatre Three Guild, 2800 OR turn this in to our Box Office. Dues are 525 a year, our check payable to Theatre Three Guild.
Address	
Business Phone	Home Phone
Check enclosed	Will pay at first meeting
Charge to my credit card # Signature	Visa Mastercard Amex Exp. date

ARTISTIC STAFF

Terry Dobson, *Musical Director*, has been associated with T3 since 1980 as Musical Director and Assistant to the Producer. He has provided accompaniment and direction for other companies throughout the country. A respected conductor and arranger, he worked with Jac Alder in devising the popular Theatre Three musical revue, *Ball Games!*, and is the director/conductor of ENCORE!, the small group ensemble from the renowned Turtle Creek Chorale with whom he performed when they debuted at Carnegie Hall. Well-known for his accompanying skills on the piano, he has performed in concert with Denise LeBrun and Carole Cook, among others. Last season he was featured in T3 productions of *Our Town, The Fantasticks*, and *Tobacco Road*. Favorite T3 musical assignments include *Lucky Stiff, Always...Patsy Cline, Little Shop of Horrors* and absolutely all of the musicals by Stephen Sondheim.

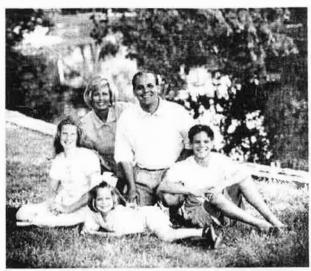
Harland Wright, Director of Design/Scenic Scheme. Associated with Theatre Three since 1964, Mr. Wright has designed many productions beginning with The Boy Friend, A Funny Thing . . . Forum (3 times), The Sea Gull, Assassins, Weill Women, Lucky Stiff, and, most recently, Tobacco Road and Disgraceful One Acts. Mr. Wright has received the Dallas Theater Critics Forum Award twice, for The Road To Mecca for Theatre Three and Island of the Skog for the Dallas Children's Theatre. Other designs have been seen at the Fort Worth Opera for The Old Maid and The Thief and The Telephone; Carnival for Irving Lyric Stage; Cinco de Mayo and Las Posadas for the Anita Martinez Ballet Folklorico; and, Sherlock Holmes' Last Case for the now defunct Dallas Repertory Theatre. Along the way Mr. Wright served 10 years as the production designer for Mulberry Square Productions for all the films, tv specials and pr appearances of the canine movie superstar, Benji. A Stephen Sondheim fan, Mr. Wright is especially excited to be designing Into The Woods for Theatre Three.

Bruce R. Coleman, Costumer & Mask Designer, is in his fourth season at T3. Favorite costuming efforts include Animal Farm, The Frogs, The Cocoanuts, The Ugly Duckling, The Gingerbread Lady, and Wholly Moliere, which he also directed. He has received a Dallas Critics Forum Award for Set Design, been nominated for a Leon Rabin Award, and will be directing this season's Once On This Island for Theatre Three.

Linda Blase, Lighting Designer. 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. Her latest addition to Theatre Three's holiday presentations is the creation of O Tannenbaum, a show designed with children in mind.

IN MEMORIUM

Theatre Three wishes to recognize contributions made in memory of:
Paula Goodlet, Supporter and Subscriber, Oliver Hailey, Playwright,
Anne Weeks Jackson, Vocalist and Teacher, Carolyn Ryburn, Playwright,
Mary Blanche Scales, Supporter and Subscriber,
Masha Porte, Supporter and Subscriber,
Mrs. Edmund J. (Louise) Kahn, Supporter,
Sam Catter, Supporter and Subscriber,
Scott Everheart, Actor.



DALLAS NEW YORK PALM BEACH

John Haynsworth

PHOTOGRAPHY

86 High:and Park Village, Dallas, Texas 75205 (214) 559-3700 FAX (214) 528-0134 1-800/728-9272

Baldwin Family Music

12217 Coit Road, Dallas, Texas 75251

1st building north of Olla Podrida

386-8061



Notestation - Music you want in the KEY you need!

Theatre Three...Celebrating 36 Years!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Theatre Three is supported, in part, by funds from the City of Dallas (Office of Cultural Affairs as recommended by the City's Cultural Affairs Commission and approved by the Dallas City Council); the Texas Commission on the Arts; The 500, Inc.; TACA; The Dallas Morning News; WFAA/Channel 8; People Newspapers; The Turtle Creek News; and 570 KLIF Radio. Theatre Three is a repository for memorial funds as well as carrying forward its capital campaign. Please contact the Administrative Office (214-871-2933) for further information.

Thursday Night Benefactor: PARK CITIES PEOPLE
VORTHSIDE PEOPLE

Friday Night Benefactor:

The Turtle Creek News

Radio Sponsor: 570/KLIF

THANKS

The Quadrangle; The Hampstead Group; Lee Data Mail; John Haynsworth Photography; Zebra Print; for *Into The Woods*: Steve Jones for volunter help on props; Pady Blackwood for loaning his expertise in puppet construction; Craig Lowry for invaluable assistance in prop and set construction; Karen, John, Mark and Scott for set/prop construction; and, Sharon Fowler for assistance with the playbill. On a very personal note - much luck and love to Mark Hadley and his wife Lanell Peña!

HAVE YOURENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A NEW SUBSCRIBER?

CALL CARCLE AT 871-2355 TODAY!

Notes from the director, JAC ALDER

Once upon a time...

(it now seems a very long time ago) I didn't know who Stephen Sondheim was.

In the mid-'60s, Theatre Three was staging Brecht's *A Man's a Man*, a difficult and daring piece that was, as I remember, in continuous rehearsal — even after opening — to try to "get" its unusual didactic style and make its disturbing message comprehensible. At the same time, we were also holding rehearsals for what I thought would be more "standard" fare, a Broadway musical — new at the time — called *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

It turned out that ... Forum wasn't standard at all. With Larry O'Dwyer playing Pseudolous and the late Hank Roberts as Hysterium, it was wildly funny. And with a 17 year old Morgan Fairchild (then Patsy McClenny) as a courtesan, it had plenty of female charm. But the music and lyrics, I noted, set it apart from the Broadway shows I'd known before. As I wrapped my fingers around Sondheim's chords (I was playing keyboards for the show as well as directing) and counted out the tricky rhythms of its melodies (and prayed that the cast would accurately perform the intricate lyrics and convey their razor sharp wit) I realized that Stephen Sondheim was a most superior theatrical being.

Since that time so long ago, many of my favorite assignments for Theatre Three have been connected with Sondheim: *Sweeney Todd, Company, Side by Side by Sondheim, You're Gonna Love Tomorrow, Assassins, A Little Night Music, The Frogs,* two revivals of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and now *Into the Woods.* Mr. Sondheim even graciously contributed a song to the revue we originated three years ago called *Ball Games*.

One of the best times I've ever had was when Sondheim, on the occasion of his investiture with The Meadows Award at Southern Methodist University, came to Theatre Three and sat down with many of the artists you're seeing tonight to answer their questions about his works. It was a stunningly funny, intellectually stimulating, unforgettable evening. His talent has deepened as has our appreciation of his steadfast devotion to theatre, music, the art of performing and love of challenge.

For this production, as in so much good that happens at the theatre, I owe special thanks to Terry Dobson, its musical director who is, at 6' 5", even a bigger Sondheim fan than I am.

Sere proud to play a leading role in the arts.



The Pallas Morning News