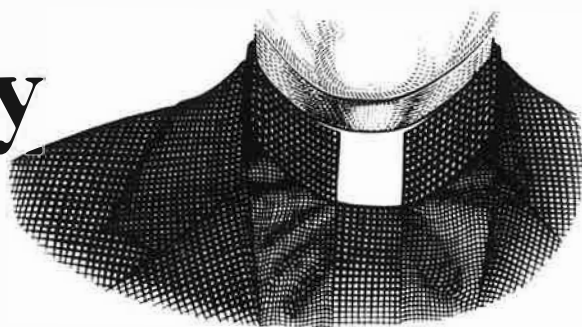


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3. Playgoers leaving their seats must be reseated in available seating specified by House Manager.
4. Latecomers will not be seated until intermission.
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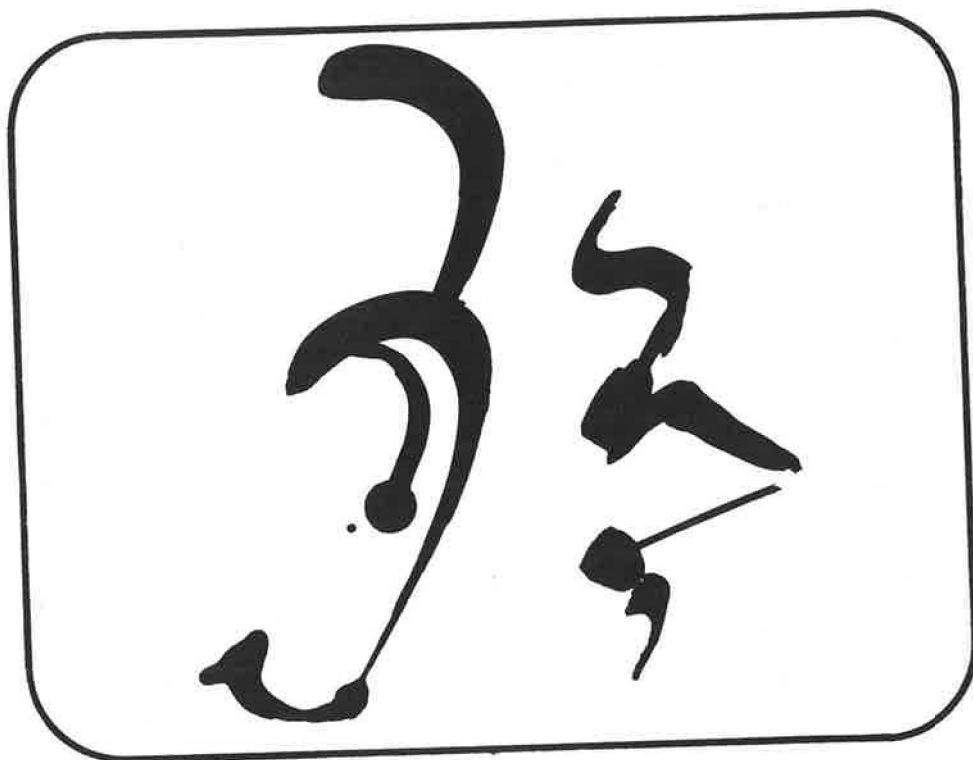
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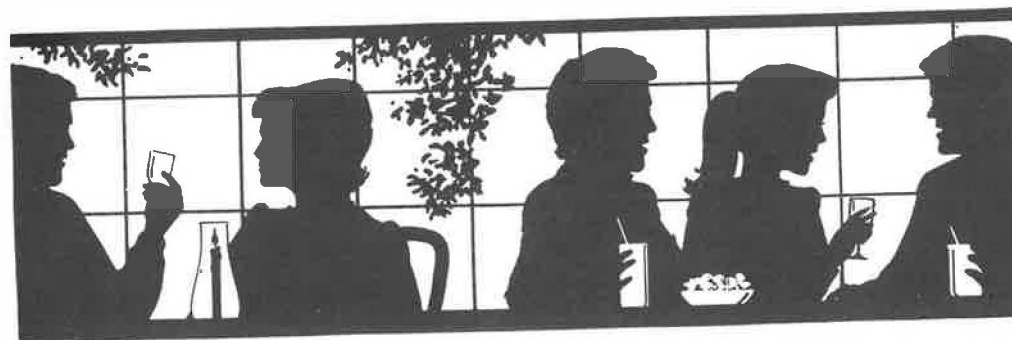
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presents

Little Shop of Horrors

Book and Lyrics by
Howard Ashman

Music by
Alan Menken

Based on the film by Roger Corman,
Screenplay by Charles Griffith

featuring

SA'MI CHESTER MELVIN O. DACUS DOUG JACKSON LYNN MATHIS
TAMI WARD CONNIE NELSON LEON NEWMAN
GABRIELLE SUZETTE WEST YOLONDA WILLIAMS

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Originally Produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director).

Originally Produced at the Orpheum Theatre, New York City, by the WPA Theatre, David Geffen, Cameron Mackintosh, and the Shubert Organization.

Little Shop of Horrors
was originally
Directed by Howard Ashman
with
Musical Staging by Edie Cowan

The Plants used in this production were built in the shops of the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis.

THE CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

YOLONDA WILLIAMS**	Chiffon
TAMI WARD**	Crystal
GABRIELLE SUZETTE WEST*	Ronnette
MELVIN O. DACUS*	Mushnik
CONNIE NELSON*	Audrey
DOUG JACKSON*	Seymour
LYNN MATHIS*	Orin
SA'MI CHESTER*(Voice)	
LEON NEWMAN (Manipulation)	Audrey II

*Member Actors' Equity Association

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MUSICIANS

TERRY DOBSON	Keyboard
GARY MEAD	Keyboard
RENA DeSHAY	Bass
LARRY FORD	Percussion
JOE REYNOLDS	Percussion

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Prologue (Little Shop of Horrors)	Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette
Skid Row (Downtown)	Company
Da-Doo	Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette
Grow for Me	Seymour
Don't It Go to Show Ya Never Know	Mushnik, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette, Seymour
Somewhere That's Green	Audrey
Closed for Renovations	Seymour, Audrey, Mushnik
Dentist!	Orin, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette
Mushnik and Son	Mushnik and Seymour
Feed Me (Git It)	Seymour and Audrey II
Now (It's Just the Gas)	Seymour and Orin

ACT II

Call Back in the Morning	Seymour and Audrey
Suddenly, Seymour	Seymour and Audrey
Supper time	Audrey II
The Meek Shall Inherit	Company
Finale (Don't Feed the Plants)	Company

BACKGROUNDS

THE ACTORS

SA'MI CHESTER (*The Voice of Audrey II*) has appeared in the Dallas Theatre Center productions of *You Can't Take It With You* and most recently in *The Skin of Our Teeth*. He was blessed with critical acclaim for his work in Eric Overmeyer's *Native Speech* in both Dallas' Stage #1 and Baltimore's Center Stage. Here at Theatre Three he has appeared in productions of *Working* and *The Quality of Mercy*. Mr. Chester has recently completed writing a one-act play *Walking on Nails* and will appear on CBS with Robert Mitchum in the feature film *The Last Run*. Thank U's 2: The Creator, Mom & Dad, Kari O and C.G. — see U in the Land of La . . . La . . .

MELVIN O. DACUS (*Mushnik*) made it two for two, winning the Willie Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of the older priest in *Mass Appeal*. Earlier he won for Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. In the aftermath of a theatrical management career as co-founder and producer of Casa Manana, Mel resumed an acting and singing career that keeps him busy on stages in the metroplex, quite frequently at Dallas Theater Center where he has appeared in *Seven Keys to Baldpate*, *The Three Sisters*, and *A Christmas Carol*. For New Arts Theatre he created the title role, *Hondo*, an original musical which premiered there. He has spent time "on the road" as Teyve in *Fiddler on the Roof* and as Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*. Represented by the Mike Beatty Agency, Mel has acquired a lengthy list of commercial and film credits. He also directs church music, teaches singing and is in demand as a soloist.

DOUG JACKSON (*Seymour*) has previously appeared at Theatre Three in *Anything Goes*, *Charlotte Sweet* (as the evil Barnaby Bugaboo) and *A Day in Hollywood, a Night in the Ukraine* (as Harpo Marx). Recently he played Riff Raff in the New Arts Theatre's production of *The Rocky Horror Show* and he is also remembered for his work at the fondly remembered Esquire Theatre in *Hair* and *The 1940's Radio Hour*. Mr. Jackson was recently seen in a national TV spot for Radio Shack. He and Amy Mills (they're married by the way) sing with the popular vocal quintet called *Central Expressway*. When not performing in theatre, clubs and TV commercials he is renovating their 1926 bungalow in Oak Cliff.

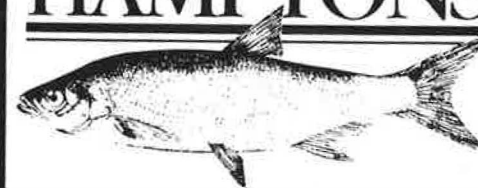
LYNN MATHIS (*Orin*) is a Dallas based Texas native who graduated from Texas Tech and completed graduate school at the Dallas Theater Center. He spent three full time seasons at DTC doing such roles as the captain in *Sly Fox*, Lenny in *Of Mice and Men* and Albert in *Pigeons on the Walk*. Mr. Mathis just returned from six months of work out of town. He performed in the title role in *Prometheus Bound* at Mark Medoff's American Southwest Theater Co. in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He just

completed his seventh consecutive summer of Summer Shakespeare with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival in Boulder, Colorado. His roles there included Falstaff in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* and Buckingham in *Richard III* directed by Jack Clay.

CONNIE NELSON (*Audrey*) returned to Theatre Three after a three-year absence to perform in this season's smash hit *A . . . My Name Is Alice*. Audiences may remember her in *Working*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Physician in Spite of Himself*, *The Runner Stumbles* and *Side by Side* by Sondheim. Since leaving Dallas, she has appeared at Arena Stage in Washington D.C. and the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. She has worked extensively in New York including last year's One Act Play Marathon at Ensemble Studio Theatre and most recently appeared with Acting Company in the hit revue *Issue . . . I Don't Even Know You*, directed by Jack Heifner. Ms. Nelson recently appeared as Rachel in Theatre Three's holiday production *Season's Greetings* by Alan Ayckbourn.

Cont. on page 18

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LEON NEWMAN (*The Manipulation of Audrey II*) is on staff at Theatre Three as Master Electrician. Leon has been seen on stage at Theatre Three as the New Wave Camera Man in *Angry Housewives* and heard as the off-stage voice in *Quartermaine's Terms*. Leon is a native of Dallas and attended Dallas Baptist College.

TAMI WARD (*Crystal*) is making her Theatre Three debut in *Little Shop of Horrors*. A native of Dallas she majored in Theatre Arts at North Texas State University. Among many musical performances her favorites are *Ain't Misbehavin'* at the Dallas Repertory Theatre, *Six Flags Over Texas' America!*, *Working*, and singing at Gran Crystal Palace, in addition to the science documentary *Trauma*, *Diabetic Coma*. Other shows include *They're Playing Our Song*, *Applause*, *Godspell*, *Tintypes* and *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf* as well as *Top Hat Revue!* Tami is also proud to have Dallas' only set of quadruplets as her brothers and sister.

GABRIELLE SUZETTE WEST (*Ronnette*) is a versatile artist who enjoys working both on and off stage. At present she is choreographing and producing several dance pieces for cable television, and has co-founded a women's film group. One of their

major projects for '86 is filming one of Gabriel's full-length screenplays. Other projects include her one-woman show, and several other video pieces involving music and dance. In her spare time, Gabriel is an avid songwriter and poet. Theatrical credits include *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Hair*.

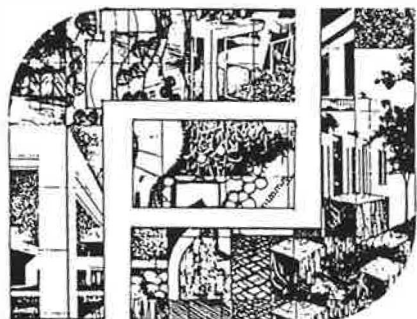
YOLONDA WILLIAMS (*Chiffon*) recently completed the fall semester as an undergraduate Musical Theatre major at the University of Texas at Arlington. As a 1982 graduate of the Arts Magnet High School she studied with such actresses as Beverly Renquist, Sheila Walker and jazz-vocalist Shirley McFatter. She has performed in such productions as *Runaways*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Home* and *The Dining Room* with Rod Wilson at Mountain View College. Ms. Williams recently studied with New York City casting director Joan D'Incecco of ABC's *All My Children* and with Margo Manning's Casting and Acting Studios in Dallas. Her television and industrial video credits include KERA-TV's *Here's to Your Health* and Apple Computers. Ms. Williams is recently represented by the Kim Dawson Agency and she hopes to attend New York University and receive her B.A. in Theatre within the next year. *Little Shop of Horrors* marks her first production with Theatre Three.

The Artistic Director

NORMA YOUNG founded Theatre Three in 1960, along with Jac Alder, Bob Dracup and Esther Ragland, and currently serves as Artistic Director. She directed Theatre Three's *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* and *School for Wives*. She has recently appeared in several films and television movies, including *License to Kill* and the mini-series *Celebrity*. Her most recent film credit is Robert Benton's *Places in the Heart*. The production of *Foxfire* marked Miss Young's return to the Theatre Three stage after a two-year absence. Ms. Young is married to Jac Alder, the theatre's Executive Producer-Director. She is celebrating her 40th year in the theatre.

The Executive Producer-Director

JAC ALDER is the Associate Director of this production, and co-founded the theatre in 1961. He is by training an architect, musician, dancer and typist; by luck and circumstance a theatre professional; by inclination and past experience a teacher; by habit an optimist (but by choice a worrier) and by default the longest-in-service-CEO of any Arts institution in Dallas. He is the past-president of The Texas Commission on the Arts Theatre Panel. In private life he is the husband of Norma Young, Theatre Three's Founding/Artistic Director.



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THE DIRECTORS

LAURENCE O'DWYER (Director) has just returned from California where he appeared in Pulitzer Prize-winning Beth Henley's latest production, *The Debutante Ball*, in a role written for him. Mr. O'Dwyer is a theatre veteran with extensive credits in regional and repertory theatre and is a graduate of the Goodman Memorial Theatre in Chicago. He lists among his directorial credits *Angry Housewives*, *The Wake of Jamey Foster*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Tomfoolery*, *A Day in Hollywood*, *A Night in the Ukraine* and Theatre Three's recent productions of *Infidelities* and *Home Front*. His Theatre Three acting credits include *Close of Play*, *Strider*, *Otherwise Engaged*, *Man and Superman* and most recently, the lead role in *Quartermaine's Terms*. Mr. O'Dwyer is Director of Theatre Three's Children's Conservatory and directs the productions of the Grimm Magician Players. During a hiatus from Theatre Three in the mid-70's he served as Chairman of the Drama Department at Bennington College.

JAC ALDER (Associate Director) listed above.

THE DESIGNERS

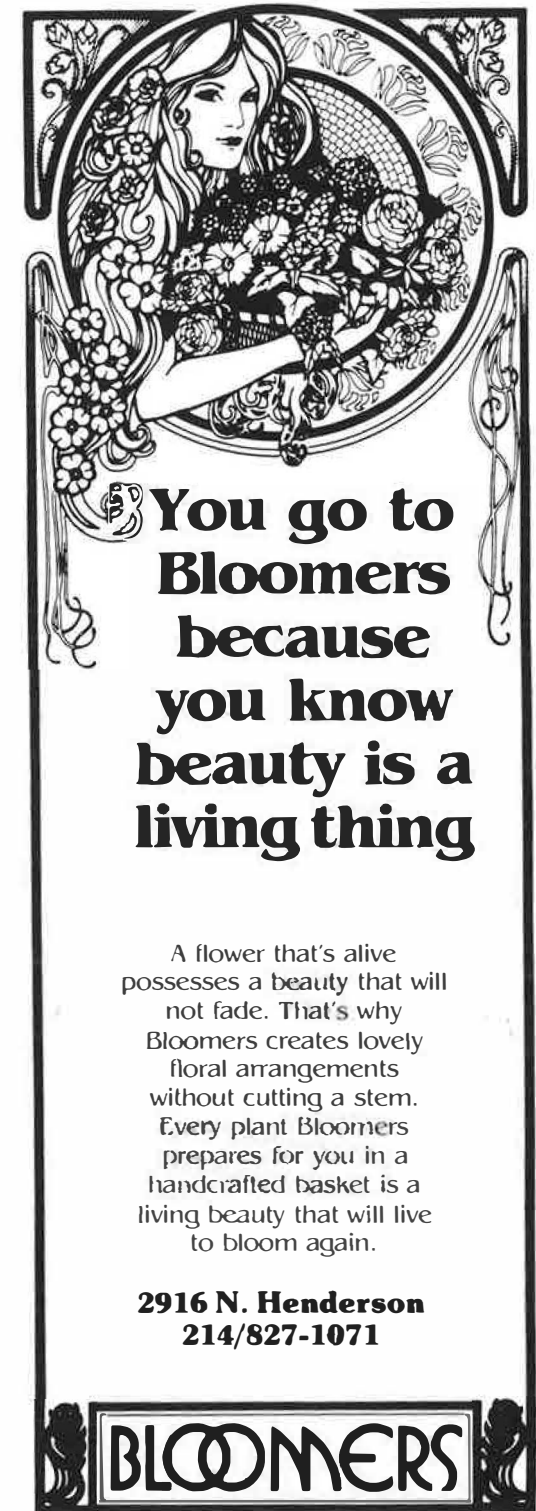
CHERYL DENSON (Costume Designer) has designed professionally for twelve years, creating sets or costume designs for more than thirty theatrical shows, including *A Man for All Seasons*, *Night of the Iguana*, *Cyrano*, *Black Coffee*, *Blood Money*, *Sherlock Holmes*, and *A Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, all for area theaters. She will be remembered by Theatre Three audiences for her designs for *Foxfire*, *Outside Waco*, *A Day in Hollywood*, *a Night in the Ukraine*, *Anything Goes* and *A . . . My Name Is Alice*. Miss Denson owns Grafica, A Total Design Co. with such prestigious clients as Ford, Dr. Pepper, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Braniff, InterFirst Banks, and Fox and Jacobs. As an actress, she is best known for her stage work and also serves as talent for radio, television and training films. Miss Denson has recently joined Theatre Three as Production Manager.

TERRY DOBSON (Musical Director). Aside from a multitude of musical credits, Terry is also an actor with several Theatre Three credits including Bishop Dobson in

Anything Goes, Madame Pauleuko in *A Day in Hollywood*, *a Night in the Ukraine*, and Leon Darnell in *The Wake of Jamey Foster*. As Staff Musical Director at Theatre Three for the past six years, he was recently seen on the piano in *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* and *A . . . My Name Is Alice*. In his spare time Terry plays for the Dallas Ballet and teaches several children's theatre classes at the Dallas Theater Center. Terry toured the country twice as Zoot Doubleman in *The 1940's Radio Hour* and returned to Dallas with the hopes of forming his own 1940's vocal jazz group. "Central Expressway" became a reality in 1983 with their first concert here at Theatre Three.

KEN HUDSON (Lighting Designer) made his Theatre Three debut with *Foxfire*. Mr. Hudson's previous designs in Dallas have included last season's productions of *Quartermaine's Terms* and *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* for Theatre Three, *On the Razzle* for New Arts Theatre, *A Murder Is Announced*, *Beowulf* and *A Christmas Carol* for the Dallas Theater Center, as well as opera and dance programs for area universities and community theatres. This season Mr. Hudson's lighting designs were seen in *Painting Churches* and *Season's Greetings* at Theatre Three. Other work included costume design for *Hansel and Gretel* in the Dallas Theater Center's Magic Turtle Series, technical direction and co-lighting design for *Cotton Patch Gospel* at the Biblical Arts Center, scenery construction for theatrical, industrial and video productions, as well as acting. Mr. Hudson received his B.A. from East Texas State University and his M.F.A. from Trinity University.

HARLAND WRIGHT (Set Designer) has been affiliated with Theatre Three since he designed *The Boyfriend* in 1965. He has ultimately designed many productions including *The Seagull*, *House of Flowers*, *Design for Living*, and *A Day in Hollywood*, *a Night in the Ukraine* and *Infidelities*. As a free-lance scenic and graphic designer he has provided sets for many local and national TV commercials, and was Production Designer for Mulberry Square Productions, *Benji* Movies, Television Specials and the ABC-TV series *Benji*, *Zax* and *the Alien Prince*.



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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

HOWARD ASHMAN (*Book, Lyrics*). Mr. Ashman's work as a librettist, lyricist, and playwright has been performed at Washington's Arena Stage, Houston Grand Opera, Pittsburgh Light Opera, Princeton's McCarter Theatre and Philadelphia's Annenberg Center. He has directed at Arena Stage, Manhattan Theatre Club, the O'Neill Center's Composer/Librettists Conference and WPA. He is the recent recipient of a Musical Theatre Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

ALAN MENKEN (*Music*) has written music and/or lyrics for numerous musicals and revues, including *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*; *Patch, Patch, Patch*; *Battle of Giants*; *Real Life Funnies*; *The Thorn*; and *The Dream on Royal Street*. As a member of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop he has showcased musicals such as *Midnight, Apartment House*, and *Dear Worthy Editor*. Mr. Menken has also written extensively for television (including *Sesame Street*, *Love of Life*, and *Search for Tomorrow*), films, and commercials.

ROGER CORMAN (*Director/Producer, The Little Shop of Horrors, 1960*) has produced more than two hundred feature films and has directed more than sixty of them. His films include: *Swamp Woman*; *The Day the World Ended*; *It Conquered the World*; *Attack of the Crab Monsters*; *Rock All Night*; *The Undead*; *Sorority Girl*; *Machine Gun Kelly*; *I, Mobster*; *Teenage Caveman*; *A Bucket of Blood*; *Wasp Woman*; *The House of Usher*; *Last Woman on Earth*; *The Pit and the Pendulum*; *The Premature Burial*; *Tales of Terror*; *Tower of London*; *The Raven*; *The Haunted Palace*; *The Masque of the Red Death*; *The Tomb of Ligeia*; *The Wild Angels*; *The St. Valentine's Day Massacre*; *The Trip*; *Bloody Mama*; *Von Richtofen and Brown*; and *Gas-s-s*.

NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER

"Dying is easy. Comedy is hard." Those were the final words of a wise English actor. We want you to have a good time: that's why we're here. "Let me entertain you," as another character in another musical gaily sings.

But *Little Shop*. . . (despite its antecedent as a really dreadful Roger Corman cheapie flick) has (from its *prior* antecedent as the classic *Dr. Faustus*) some juicy ethical problems for the actors to explore, wonderfully complex musical decisions to be reached and a *plethora* of technical and design solutions to evolve. (Never has the word *plethora* been better used!)

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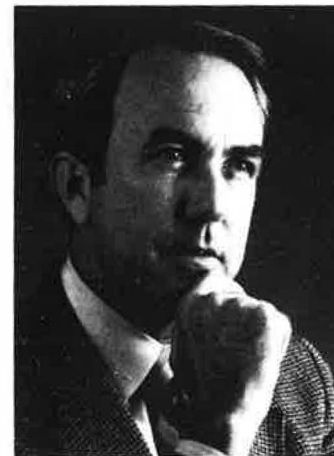
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