



# Theatre Three's 2007-2008 Season

Theatre Three's  
Mainstage:  
*Mack & Mabel*  
July 19 - August 19

Theatre Too:  
*Blind Date*  
August 17 - September 2

## THEATRE THREE'S 2007-2008 MAINSTAGE SEASON

### *Mack & Mabel*

a Broadway and London musical hit by composer JERRY HERMAN, book by MICHAEL STEWART  
July 19 – August 19

In the days of silent movies, director Mack Sennett's comic two-reelers made his discovery, Mabel Normand, America's most adored comedienne. Composer Jerry Herman (*Hello, Dolly!*; *Mame*; *La Cage aux Folles*) celebrates this pioneer film duo in his rollicking and romantic show with his trademark musical panache and show business dazzle.

### *Popcorn*

a Dallas premiere of the taboo-shattering comedy-thriller by BEN ELTON  
September 6 – October 7

PLACE: Hollywood. TIME: Academy Award Night. CHARACTERS: A vain auteur of vogueishly violent films, his ex, his sardonic daughter, his on-the-make date, murderers inspired by his movie, and a voyeuristic TV crew. Elton's award-winning comedy has vulgar vigor and smart-mouthed one-liners, but surprisingly has the moral purpose of a Jacobean revenge drama. (Rated VERY Adult)

### *Pygmalion*

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW's most illustrious and illuminating comedy  
October 25 – November 25

Here's a 1913 classic stage play that became a classic movie, which in turn became both the classic stage musical and movie musical, *My Fair Lady*. Now the great play returns to Theatre Three's stage in Shaw's original form. Few plays in the English language contain such intellectual and comic inventions – all so Shaw could argue for nothing less than the perfection of civilization.

### *The Goodbye Girl*

book by NEIL SIMON, music by MARVIN HAMLISCH, lyrics by DAVID ZIPPEL  
December 13 – January 20

First, Simon wrote the movie as a Valentine gift to his actress wife. Then Hamlisch and Zipfel worked with him to turn his film script into a smash Broadway hit musical. This gifted trio of contemporary theatre giants created a RARE thing these days, a delightfully funny and romantic musical theatre piece! The single mom, a thirty-something dancer, struggles through New York disappointments, user boyfriends, and then clashes with an upstart intruder who may be just another bad actor – or is he?

### *Crimes of the Heart*

the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy by former Theatre Three actress, BETH HENLEY  
February 14 – March 16

In Hazlehurst, Mississippi, the three Magrath sisters face troubles both grave and hilarious but in the end manage to escape the past to seize the future. "Such is Miss Henley's prodigious talent that she can serve us pain as though it were a piece of cake." – *NY TIMES*; "It has heart, wit and a surprisingly zany passion that carries it all before it." – *NY Post*.

### *Whodunnit*

a comedy-thriller by the author of *Sleuth*, ANTHONY SHAFFER  
April 3 – May 4

Only one author wrote screenplays for both Alfred Hitchcock (*Frenzy*) and for novelist Dame Agatha Christie (*Death on the Nile*, *Evil Under the Sun*, and *Murder on the Orient Express*). "So whodunnit?" you ask. It was the brilliantly inventive Anthony Shaffer! In *Whodunnit*, he gleefully took all he learned from those masters and fashioned his own closed-circle-English-country-house-murder-mystery. And what characters...from horrifying to hilarious.

### *A Dog's Life*

A howlingly funny new musical by SEAN GRENNAN & LEAH OKIMOTO  
May 22 – June 22

Charlie Chaplin made a film with this same title in the silent film days. Ever since then, Hollywood has paraded talented canines like Rin Tin Tin, Lassie, Asta, and Benji whose exploits have entertained us in every decade. This refreshing new musical, *A Dog's Life*, romps through the same beloved territory and manages to be goofily hilarious and sweetly moving. This piece tells the story of a rescued pooch, the young man who adopts him, and a complicated pack of four footed pals, all puzzled by the strange ways of the humans around them.

**Tickets and Information:** 214-871-3300

[www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com)

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Musical Director:

Terry Dobson

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Bruce Coleman

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Technical Director:

David Walsh

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This playbill is a publication of Theatre Three, Inc. 2800 Routh Street, Suite #168, Dallas, Texas 75201, 214-871-3300, [www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com). This playbill is published for: **Mack & Mabel** by Jerry Herman & Michael Stewart, the first show of the 2007-2008 Mainstage Season.

**Blind Date** by Mario Diamant, the second show of the 2007-2008 Theatre Too Season  
Artwork by Harland Wright & Unigraphics. Playbill Editors: Jac Alder & Kimberly Richard.



Jac Alder, Executive Producer-Director of Theatre Three presents...

Music & Lyrics by  
**Jerry Herman**

Book by  
**Michael Stewart**

Revised by  
**Francine Pascal**

### Artistic Staff

Director **Bruce Coleman**

Musical director **Terry Dobson**

Set design **Jac Alder**

Costume design **Michael Robinson & Bruce Coleman**

Lighting design **Michael Campbell**

Choreography **Kelly McCain**

### Cast

Mack Sennett \***J. Brent Alford**

Mabel Normand \***Arianna Movassagh**

Frank Capra \*\***Chad Peterson**

Lottie Ames \*\***Courtney Franklin**

Fatty Arbuckle \*\***Mark C. Guerra**

Kessel \***Michael Issac**

Bauman **Mark Hawkins**

Andy \*\***Sergio Antonio Garcia**

Ella **Delynda Moravec**

Desmond Taylor \*\***Philip Bentham**

Ensemble **Walter Lee Cunningham, Jack Perl, \*\*Glenn**

**Franklin, Vernicia Vernon, \*\*Angela Raile**

### Production Staff

AEA stage manager **Sally Soldo**

Production manager & propmaster **Linda Harrison**

Technical director **David Walsh**

Production assistant **Stacie Cleland**

Master carpenter **Jeffrey Schmidt**

Production crew **Mark C. Guerra, Maryam Baig, Ryan Gohsman, Julianne Le Vieux Elliott, Sarah Schniepp, Richard Tregilgas, Anna Wright**

### Musicians

Conductor/Keyboards **Terry Dobson**

Woodwinds **Ellen Kaner & Michael Dill**

Violin **Christina Harpine**

Bass **Peggy Honea**

Drums/Percussion **Jon Lee**

### Musical Numbers

#### Act I

"When Movies Were Movies"

MACK

"Look What Happened to Mabel"

MABEL & COMPANY

"Big Time"

LOTTIE & COMPANY

"I Won't Send Roses"

MACK

"Mabel's Roses"

MABEL

"I Wanna Make the World Laugh"

MACK

"Also Called Mack and Mabel"

MACK & MABEL

"Laugh Reprise"

COMPANY

"Wherever He Ain't"

MABEL

"Hundreds of Girls"

MACK & COMPANY

#### Act II

"When Mabel Comes in the Room"

FRANK & COMPANY

"Mabel Tag"

MACK

"Hit 'em on the Head"

MACK, BAUMAN, KESSEL

"Time Heals Everything"

MABEL

"Tap Your Troubles Away"

LOTTIE & COMPANY

"Happy Ending"

MACK

Original New York production directed and choreographed by Gower Champion.

\*indicates members working under Actor's Equity Association contracts in this production.

\*\*indicates a performer enrolled in the AEA membership candidate program.



# The Artistic Staff

**Bruce R. Coleman** (Director & costume design for Mabel's costumes) Bruce has been associated with Theatre Three since 1985. Among his many directing credits for the theatre he lists *Lies and Legends*, *The Musical Stories of Harry Chapin*, *The Boyfriend*, *Once on This Island*, *It's a Grand Night for Singing*, *Nice People Dancing To Good Country Music*, *Wholly Moliere* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* as some of his favorites. Mr. Coleman has also costumed many plays and musicals here, including *Into the Woods*, *The Miser*, *Major Barbara*, and *The Women*. Other favorite directing projects in this theatrical community include *The Secret Garden* and *Into the Woods* for ICT Mainstage, *Tick, Tick, Boom!*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Thrill Me*, and *The Life* for Uptown Players, and *Close Ties* for the Contemporary Theatre of Dallas. A ten-time winner of the Leon Rabin Award, Mr. Coleman has also been recognized by the Dallas Critics Forum Awards, The Dallas Observer 'Best Of...' issue, and The Column Awards for his contribution to local theatre. A life-long devotee to the study of film history, Bruce is thrilled to spend a little time with Mr. Sennett and especially Miss Normand.

**Terry Dobson** (Musical Director) A member of Theatre Three's Artistic Staff since May 1980, Terry currently serves as Theatre Three's Musical Director and Company Manager. Terry directed (and accompanied) the longest running stage production in Dallas theater history: Theatre Three's production of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. He directed and accompanied many of the critically acclaimed Theatre Too productions: *Myths & Hymns*, *First Lady Suite*, *Grateful: The Songs of John Bucchino*, *Elegies: A Song Cycle*, *Only Heaven*, and *The Big Bang*. Terry won a Leon Rabin Award (Outstanding Musical Direction) and is the recipient of numerous "Column Awards". His autobiographical play, *My Own Private Diva*, recently won a DFW Theatre Critics Forum Awards for Best New Play.

**Jac Alder** (Set design) Some of Jac's recent favorite Theatre Three assignments include being the set designer for *The Odd Couple* and *Talking Pictures*, and serving as designer and director of the Theatre Three season finale, *Caroline, or Change* and the season opener, *All About Bette: An Evening with Bette Davis*. Alder serves on the board of the Arts Magnet High School and on the board of Texas Non Profit Theatres. His many awards include the Dallas Historical Society's Award of Excellence which, since he co-founded and has been working for Theatre Three since 1961, makes him unquestionably, some sort of historical figure (as well as an occasional hysterical figure.)

**Kelly McCain** (Choreographer) Kelly is excited to work on *Mack and Mabel* (Thanks Bruce and Jac!). She has recently appeared in Garland Summer Musical's *Hello Dolly* and in *Hair* at Uptown Players. Other area credits include *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Contemporary Theatre of Dallas); *Shades of Light and Dark* (Ewert & Company); *The Who's Tommy* (Uptown Players); and choreography for *Once Upon a Mattress* (ICT Mainstage). Upcoming projects include choreographing *Fame* for Imagination Players and performing in *Carousel* for Lyric Stage. Love to Jay.

**Michael Robinson** (Costume design) Michael's previous assignments at Theatre Three include *Metamorphoses*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *I'll Leave It to You*, *Children of Eden*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)*, *The Full Monty*, *Vieux Carre*, *Glorious!*, *Democracy*, *Talking Pictures*, and *The Odd Couple*. He has designed many shows for WaterTower Theatre, Uptown Players, CrossRoads Theatre, Plano Repertory Theatre, Garland Civic Theatre, Garland Summer Musicals, Lyric Stage, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, Kauffman Civic Theatre, and Coppell Community Theatre. He has also designed for many of our local colleges and universities: University of North Texas Opera Theatre, Texas Christian University Opera Studio, University of Texas at Dallas, Brookhaven College, and Richland College. His awards include "Best Costume Shop" (Dallas Observer 2000), "Best Costumes" for *Old Settler* (Dallas-Fort Worth Critics Forum Award 2003), the Leon Rabin Award for Best Costumes for *42nd Street* (2003), and the Column Awards for Best Costume in a Play or Musical (2001, 2002, and 2005 for Theatre Three's *Metamorphoses*).

**Michael Campbell** (Lighting design) Michael is a product of the University of Texas Theater Program. After two years as repertory designer for Austin Shakespeare Festival (ASF) and One World Theater, he has worked with ICT Mainstage, Uptown Players, and now Theater Three. Show credits include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Winters Tale*, *Julius Caesar* (all ASF), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Austin Theater Co-Op), *A Christmas Carol* (Austin Playhouse), *Weight* (UT Theater Department), *Die, Mommy, Die* (Uptown), and others. He also designed lights for Branford Marcellus, Jerry Jeff Walker, Chicago Ballet, Ballet Austin, John Mayall, Point of Grace, The Matt Wheeler Band, and others. He has been a part of many award winning production teams in Austin and Dallas. All the praise and glory belongs to God; and he gives lots of thanks to his parents (for everything).

**Sally Soldo** (Equity stage manager) In the past 24 years, Sally has served Theatre Three in many capacities including as a performer (27 productions), stage manager (11 productions), choreographer (4 productions), publicity director, receptionist and even as a seamstress in the costume shop. She has received a Rabin Award, the Column Award, the *Dallas Times Herald* Theatre Critics Best Actress Award, and has been a 10-year Dallas Diva for Lyric Stage. She has performed and/or choreographed at the Dallas Summer Musicals, Casa Manana, Lyric Stage, WaterTower, Garland Summer Musicals, Dallas Repertory, Burt Reynolds Jupiter Theater, Chanhasen Theaters, Country Dinner Playhouse and Windmill Dinner Theater circuits. Her proudest contribution to Theater Three has been as the "voice in Terry Dobson's head" in *My Own Private Diva*, which will reprise this year in Theatre Too in October. Many thanks to Jac and Terry for the past 24 years!



# The Cast



## J. Brent Alford (Mack Sennett)

Brent is making his third appearance with Theatre Three, having previously appeared as Rudy Sebastian in *The Great Sebastians*, and as Dr. John Christow in *The Hollow*. He began his career 30 years ago at Houston's Theatre Under the Stars and spent six years as a company member of the Tony Award winning Alley Theatre, playing a variety of roles in classical and contemporary works. Since moving to the Metroplex in 1995, Brent has worked with the Dallas Theater Center, WaterTower Theatre, Stage West, Ft. Worth Shakespeare in the Park, and over 30 productions with Casa Mañana. His acting credits include: John Adams in *1776*, Zach in *A Chorus Line*, and Melvin P. Thorpe in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* for Casa Mañana at Bass Hall; Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Orsino in *Twelfth Night* with Ft. Worth Shakespeare in the Park; and Lloyd Dallas in *Noises Off* at WaterTower Theatre. His work here has garnered the DFW Theatre Critics Forum for Best Actor, The Fort Worth Weekly for Best Actor, and The Column Awards for Best Supporting Actor. A former resident of NYC, Brent has worked Off-Broadway and at regional theatres across the country including Atlanta's Alliance Theatre, Pittsburgh CLO, and the Barter Theatre of Virginia. Brent has had the opportunity to work with the likes of Hal Linden, Juliette Prowse, Georgio Tozzi, Ruta Lee, Cathy Rigby, Jane Powell, and Gavin McCleod, to name a few. His is a proud member of Actor's Equity since 1980, and lives in Ft. Worth with his wife Michele and son Joshua. He currently heads the award winning theatre program at Tarrant County College, Northwest Campus, Ft. Worth.



## Philip Bentham (Desmond Taylor)

Philip makes his debut with Theatre Three. He received his BS in music education at Texas Tech. His acting credits in Metroplex theaters include: Rocky in *Rocky Horror Show*, Contemporary Theater of Dallas; Peter/Bretton Baret in *A Man of No Importance*, Uptown Players; Max/Hermann in *Cabaret*, WaterTower Theater; Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, Eismann Theatre; and Wayne Frake in *State Fair*, It's About Time Productions. Philip has performed in other local theatres such as: ICT Mainstage, Flower Mound Performing Arts Theatre, UNT, and Unity Church. His television and film experience include national and regional commercials and the upcoming feature film: *No Country for Old Men*. Philip received a Column Award in 2004 for Best Male Supporting Actor in an Equity Musical. "Thank you to my parents for their constant love and support."



## Walter Lee Cunningham, Jr. (Ensemble)

Walter makes his second appearance this year with Theatre Three; he played the role of the "handsome boy - Navy man" in *Caroline, or Change*, ending the 2006-2007 season. He studied at the American Musical & Dramatic Academy, New York, and Dance Discovery Studios. Previous theatre experience includes Jim Conley in *Parade* at the WaterTower Theatre, Coalhouse Walker, Jr. in *Ragtime* at the Paramount Theatre, and Scarecrow in *The Wiz*; Tom, Phyllis & Leslie in *Sylvia*; and leading player in *Pippin* - all at McMurry University, Abilene, TX. He won an Abbie Award for Best Actor in a Musical for *Ragtime* and *The Wiz*. In addition, Walter played a role in the television series *Prison Break*.

## Courtney Franklin (Lottie Ames)

Courtney's performance will be her debut at Theatre Three. Her theatrical experience includes roles as Susan in *Tick, Tick Boom!*, Sally Simpson in *The Who's Tommy*, April in *The Life*, and Ellie in *The Wild Party*, all with Uptown Players. In addition, she had the role of Ruby Rae in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* at Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, and Judy Turner in *A Chorus Line* at Plano Repertory Theatre. She received a Column Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical. "This performance is dedicated to the memory of my Uncle Tony, who worked at this same theater many years ago."



## Glenn Franklin (Ensemble)

Glenn is debuting with Theatre Three. He graduated from Texas Wesleyan University, Ft. Worth, TX, with a BFA. His theatrical experience includes roles as a man in *Traum Novela*, *The Musical* at the Hub St. Theatre, Curly in *Oklahoma!* at the Melodrama Musical Theatre, Bob Cratchitt in *A Christmas Carol* with the National Tour Troupe America, Rocky in the *Rocky Horror Show* at Plano Repertory Theatre, Adam Pontipee in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* with Galveston Island Outdoor Musicals and Steward in *Cinderella* at Casa Mañana. His television & film experience include *Walker, Texas Ranger*, a commercial for San Joaquin Valley College, and *Semi-Psychotic*, a short film. Glenn received a Column Award for Best Supporting Actor.



## Sergio Antonio Garcia (Andy)

Sergio returns to Theatre Three having previously appeared as the drug addict in *Only Heaven*, Icarus in *Myths & Hymns*, Oscar D'Armano in *The Wild Party*, Patrick Chibas in *Spinning into Butter*, and the sailor in *The World Goes 'Round*. He has performed with other local theaters - *Into the Woods* and *Once Upon a Mattress* at ICT Mainstage, and *West Side Story* at Garland Summer Musicals. Sergio holds a BFA degree from UNT in music education/voice, and studied at the American Musical & Dramatic Academy, New York. "Thanks to all my family and friends."



## Mark C. Guerra (Fatty Arbuckle)

Mark is very excited to be performing at Theatre Three again. He was seen last season as Tony Giordano/Ensemble in *The Full Monty* and as a walk-on extra in Theatre Too's premiere production of *All About Bette: An Evening with Bette Davis*. Mark's other work in Dallas includes Costume Design for *Only Heaven*, *Frozen*, *A Christmas Memory/A Christmas To Forget*, and *The Big Bang* at Theatre Too; *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*, and *Fuddy Meers* at Richardson Theatre Centre and *The Blue Room* for Risk Theater Initiative at the 2007 Festival of Independent Theaters. He can also be seen this fall in Risk Theater Initiative's season opener, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. Mark earned his B.A. in Theatre Performance/Design from the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, TX and is the Intern Supervisor at Theatre Three. "A special thanks to Daddy, Mommy, and Lisa, for their total support in following my passion, and to Danielle and Andrew who will forever own a special place in my heart."





# The Cast



## Mark Hawkins (Bauman)

Mark is making his debut at Theatre Three with this production. He is a graduate of Oklahoma City University with a BA in theater arts. Some of his theatrical roles have been Egeus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Shakespeare Dallas, Dean Webber in *Baby!* at Contemporary Theater of Dallas, and Conductor Flannigan in *On The 20th Century* at Lyric Stage. He was the producer of the award-winning StageDallas TV. He sang with the Turtle Creek Chorale for many years. Mark dedicates this performance to his mother, who passed away recently.



## Michael Issac (Kessel)

Michael is a member of Actor's Equity and this role will be his debut with Theatre Three. He attended the Guildford School of Acting in Guildford, Surrey, England. He also trained at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. His theatrical experience includes the roles of Ugly in *Honk!* at Flower Mound Performing Arts Theatre; Bishop in *Jekyll & Hyde* and Dave in *The Full Monty* at the Arvada Center; Hassinger in *South Pacific* at Country Dinner Playhouse; and Jeb in *Show Boat* at Casa Mañana - Bass Hall. Michael wishes to thank his loving family and friends for all their support.



## Delynda Johnson Moravec (Ella)

Delynda is making her first appearance at Theatre Three but is no stranger to the Dallas scene. Her roles include various characters in *Honk!* and an ensemble member in *Chess* at the Flower Mound Performing Arts Theatre; Katisha in *The Mikado* and Joanne in *Godspell* for the Garland Civic Theatre; Dora Baily/ Miss Dinsmore in *Singing in the Rain* at the Garland Summer Musicals; Della in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* at Echo Theatre; and the farmer's wife in *The Three Sillies* for Dallas Children's Theatre (National Touring Company). "Thanks to Bruce, Jac and Terry for this opportunity, and to Wendy Welch for changing my life; and my love to my parents and Kip for their unending support of my passion."



## Arianna Movassaagh (Mabel Normand)

Arianna returns to the Mainstage and has a long history with Theatre Three. Patrons have seen her as Polly in *The Coconuts*, Susan in *Company*, Sally Brown in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Marianne in *The Imaginary Invalid*, June in *Musical of Musicals*, *The Musical*, and Woman #1 in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Other theatrical roles include Elizabeth Donderstock in *Book of Liz* at Bootstraps Comedy Theatre, Rosa Bud in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, WaterTower Theatre, Adele Rice in *A Man of No Importance* at Uptown Players, Diana Morales in *A Chorus Line* at Plano Repertory Theatre, Anita in *West Side Story* at ICT Mainstage, and Queenie/Maureen in *Honk!* at Dallas Children's Theatre. Television and film experiences include Sandra Jo in *Karma Police* (feature), Miss Muffet in *Barney, Sing That Song*, and Paula in *The Real Queen of Hearts Ain't Even Pretty*; as well as various local and national commercials and industrials. She has garnered numerous awards: 2002 Dallas Theatre League - Best Actress in a Musical, 2005 Stoney Award - Best Supporting Actress in a Musical, and in 2006, the Dallas-Ft. Worth Theatre Critic's Forum Award, as well as the Leon Rabin Nominee for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical. She has been a nominee and recipient for multiple Column Awards.



## Jack Perl (Ensemble)

Jack is making his debut at Theatre Three. He is currently studying at KD Studio Actors Conservatory, Dallas, but has had musical theatre and voice training under Theatre Three's Wendy Welch, and choral and jazz & tap dancing at Richland College. He has performed on stages in the Metroplex area: Jack in *Into the Woods* and Horton in *Suessical* at Richland College, young fool in *Big River* at Garland Civic Theatre; Ambrose in *Hello, Dolly*, for Garland Summer Musicals; and various roles in *365 Plays in 365 Days* for WaterTower Theatre. "Thanks to my parents, Justin, Lacey - all my friends and family - for their love and support; and to Jac, Terry & Bruce for this opportunity."



## Chad Peterson (Frank Capra)

Chad's performance is a return to Theatre Three; he held the role of Christopher Wren in *The Mousetrap*. Additional theatrical experience includes: Lance in *Die, Mommie, Die!*, Woof in *Hair*, and Andrew in *Southern Baptist Sissies*, all for Uptown Players; Mr. McQueen in *Urinetown* at WaterTower Theatre, Win in *Everyday Heroes* at Dallas Children's Theatre, and Prince Dauntless in *Once Upon A Mattress* for ICT Mainstage. Chad has garnered a 2005 Column Award for Best Featured Actor in a Play, and a 2006 Award for Best Actor in a Musical. "Thanks to Jac, Bruce, and Terry for this opportunity."



## Angela Raile (Ensemble)

Angela's appearance is her debut with Theatre Three. Her educational credits are from Indiana University with a double major in vocal performance and business, and she is an account executive for *The Dallas Morning News*. Her theatrical experience includes these roles: Mary Jane in *Big River* at Garland Civic Theatre, Ursula in *Sweet Charity* at Indiana University, and Edith in *The Pirates of Penzance* and Celia in *Iolanthe* at Prairie Fire Theatre, Normal, IL. "Cheers to Chad, Polo, and my family for their endless love and encouragement to pursue my love for the stage."



## Vernicia Vernon (Ensemble)

Vernicia is from Dallas, Texas, and is pleased to be part of a Theatre Three production for the second time. Her first show was *Caroline, or Change*, ending Theatre Three's 2006-2007 season. Her other roles include Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha*, Lorrell in *Dreamgirls*, and recent roles in Casa Mañana's *The King and I*, starring Lou Diamond Phillips; and in the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra's *South Pacific*, starring Ron Raines; and *Show Boat*. Other credits include commercials for Univision, actor with the Dallas Opera, and National Anthem singer for the Dallas Mavericks. "Love and thanks to the Theatre Three family!"



# Meet the Playwrights

## **Jerry Herman** (Music & lyrics)

The only composer/lyricist in history to have three Broadway musicals run more than 1500 performances: *Hello, Dolly!*, *Mame*, and *La Cage aux Folles*. Jerry first burst upon the Broadway scene with *Milk and Honey* in 1961, then came *Hello, Dolly!* (1964), *Mame* (1966), *Dear World* (1969), *Mack and Mabel* (1974), *The Grand Tour* (1979), and *La Cage aux Folles* (1983). He contributed songs to *A Day in Hollywood*, *A Night in the Ukraine* (1980) and a revue of his life's work, *Jerry's Girls*, played on Broadway and in every major American city. In 1996, he wrote the music and lyrics for the CBS television special *Mrs. Santa Claus* and is currently anticipating the opening of his newest musical, this one written for Las Vegas, called *Miss Spectacular*. Mr. Herman is the recipient of numerous awards including Tony Awards, Grammy Awards, Drama Desk, Variety and Theatre Hall of Fame Award, and he has been elected to the Songwriters Hall of Fame. He is most proud of having written songs that can have lives of their own outside of their shows.

## **Michael Stewart** (Book)

Born in 1929 in New York, Michael Stewart won four Tony Awards: two in 1961 for *Bye, Bye Birdie* as Best Author (Musical) and for the book as part of the Best Musical winner; and in 1964 for *Hello, Dolly!*, as Best Author (Musical) and for the book as part of the Best Musical winner. He was also nominated on eight other occasions: in 1962, with Helen Deutsch, as Best Author (Musical) and for the book as part of a Best Musical nomination for *Carnival*; in 1975, as Best Book (Musical) for *Mack and Mabel*; in 1977, as Best Book (Musical) and Best Score (lyrics) with Cy Coleman's music for *I Love My Wife*; in 1980, as Best Score (lyrics) with Cy Coleman's music, for *Barnum*; in 1981, as Best Book (Musical) with Mark Bramble for a revival of *42nd Street*; and in 1985, as Best Book (Musical) for *Harrigan 'n' Hart*. He died in 1987. His sister, Francine Pascal, is the founder and artistic director of The Michael Stewart Foundation.

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continually entertain us.

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**WFAA**



THE SPIRIT OF TEXAS

**The Dallas Morning News**

DallasNews.com

Jac Alder, Executive Producer-Director of Theatre Three presents...

Written by  
**Mario Diamant**

**Production Staff**

Production manager & propmaster **Linda Harrison**  
Technical director **David Walsh**  
Production assistant **Maryam Baig**  
Master carpenter **Jeffrey Schmidt**  
Production crew **Mark C. Guerra, Maryam Baig, Stacie Cleland, Ryan Gohsman, Anna Wright**

**Scene Synopsis**

Scene 1: A bench in the Plaza San Martin Park, Buenos Aires in the very recent past.

Scene 2: The same, after a brief time lapse.

Scene 3: The Psychologist's office

Scene 4: The Psychologist's office immediately following the client's exit.

Scene 5: The bench in the Plaza San Martin Park, some days over a month later.



**Artistic Staff**

Director **Jac Alder**  
Set design & Sound design **David Walsh**  
Costume design **Mark C. Guerra**  
Lighting design **David Oppen**

**Cast**

The Woman \***Connie Coit**  
The Psychologist **Amber Devlin**  
The Blind Man \***Hugh Feagin**  
The Man **Kevin Grammer**  
The Young Woman \*\***Molly Meagher**



# Meet the Playwright

## Mario Diamant (Playwright)

Mario Diamant was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A journalist and writer, he is the author of several award-winning plays that have been produced in the U.S., Latin America, Europe and the Middle East. He is a three-time winner of the Argentores Award, presented annually by Argentina's Society of Authors. He won the 2002 Carbonell Award for *Smithereens* and was a 2000 Carbonell nominee for *The Book of Ruth*. His play *Houseguest* received the Los Angeles Weekly Award. *Blind Date* premiered in 2004 at the New Theater in Coral Gables, Florida, directed by Rafael de Acha. It won the Curtain Up Award and was nominated for the Carbonell award. Upon its opening in Argentina, the show was awarded the country's most important theatrical prize, the Maria Guerrero award. *Blind Date* is currently playing in Hungary, Peru and Colombia. It is scheduled to open in September in Caracas and Washington DC. Mr. Diamant lives in Miami, where he teaches journalism at Florida International University and writes a weekly column for the Argentine daily *La Nación*.

## A Note from the Director, Jac Alder

I am grateful to the playwright for writing this piece and to his representative, Jeff Haller, who brought it to my attention. Its structure -- all two character scenes -- its deliberately outrageous concoctions of co-incidence, and at its core, the notion of parallel truths makes it unique in its storytelling and especially suited to Theatre Too programming.

I wasn't motivated to select it for the politically correct notion of presenting a play of particular interest to Hispanic communities in Dallas: what most strikes me about the urban creatures who inhabit the piece is that they could truly be in the majority of major cities anywhere. The wild success of the play recently in Budapest is more evidence of the commonality of modern city-dwellers not only in the Americas but certainly in Europe as well. I also picked the play as a great excuse to pry one of the finest actors anywhere, Hugh Feagin, out of his semi-retirement. Ever since he played Shannon in *The Night of the Iguana* for Theatre Three in 1963, Hugh has been willing to spend his talents in service to this theatre and this city: that's something else for which to be grateful. All the cast -- especially the overwhelmingly busy Connie Coit -- has cheerfully joined the task of bringing Mr. Diamant's diamond of a play to full sparkle. I'm grateful for their dedication to the tasks of the play and their dedication to the special importance of live theatre for Dallas and its visitors. Thanks to all.

## Theatre Three's 2007-2008 Season Sponsors

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## In Memoriam

Contributions have been made in memory of, or from the estates of... Sam & Shirley Catter, Margaret Hatcher Coit, Bill Dallas, Williams T. Dobson, Scott Everheart, Javad Fiuzat M.D., Paula Goodlet, Oliver Hailley, Lloyd W. Kitchens, Jr. M.D., Anne Weeks Jackson, Jim Jackson, Lynn Mathis, Masha Porte, Carolyn Ryburn, Frank Rey, Mary Blanche Scales, Charlotte E. Schumacher, Lynn Townsley, May Tweed, Audrey B. Waite, Evelyn Wilke, Martha Roselyn Wright, and Norma Young.

## Theatre Three's Phoenix Campaign

Theatre Three's 2006-2007 Phoenix Campaign has come to a conclusion. Thank you so much to all of you who have helped us raise more than \$109,000! Listed below are the generous donations of those who contributed after the publication of last season's final playbill.

| Producer's<br>Council<br>(gifts of \$1000<br>or more)  | Director's<br>Council<br>(gifts of \$500<br>-- \$999)<br>no gifts during<br>this period | Actor's<br>Benefactors<br>(gifts of \$250<br>-- \$499)<br>Lynn Frank | Author's<br>Benefactors<br>(gifts of \$125<br>-- \$249)<br>Louis & Betty<br>Moore, Robert<br>Olson, Mr.<br>Jerry Ragan,<br>J. Val & Sylvia<br>Smith | Backstage<br>Benefactors<br>(gifts of \$50<br>-- \$124)<br>Mrs. Dorothy<br>G. Elliott,<br>Kathleen<br>Gaddy, Martha<br>Heimberg, Jeff<br>Longring &<br>Margie Lang-<br>mead, Robert<br>S. Williams |
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## THEATRE THREE'S 2007-2008

### THEATRE TOO SEASON

#### *All About Bette: An Evening with Bette Davis*

the critically hailed play by CAMILLA CARR

July 6 – July 29

Theatre Three has brought back this new piece from its extended hit run last season. Morgana Shaw will recreate the performance that won her "Best Actress in an Equity Play" Column Award.

#### *Blind Date*

an exciting new intimate drama by South American playwright MARIO DIAMENT

August 17 – September 2

An anxious adulterer alights in a confessional mood on the blind man's favorite Buenos Aires park bench. From that chance meeting the blind man, a distinguished poet, sees deeply not only into the life of others, but deeply into his own life and its still-astonishing possibilities.

#### *My Own Private Diva*

a "confessional cabaret" by TERRY DOBSON

October 5 -- 21

"Best New Play" award-winning cabaret (from both Column Awards and Dallas-Ft. Worth Critics' Forum Awards) performed by the author and his personal diva, Sally Soldo. "... a fabulous evening in the theatre" – *The Dallas Morning News*.

#### *Season's Greetings*

the hilarious family comedy by ALAN AYCKBOURN

November 23 – December 9

A Christmas gathering replete with family recriminations, a chaotically incompetent puppet show, over-consumed Christmas spirits, and a hilariously bungled midnight tryst, make this superbly crafted comedy a must-see holiday show.

#### *The LaVidas' Landlord*

a clash of cultures in a new comedy-drama by LAWRENCE WEINSTEIN

March 14 -- 30

An idealistic high school teacher rents out an apartment to a political refugee from Central America. It turns out there are more than minor philosophical differences between the two, which cannot be solved by the teacher's anxious attempts to be understanding.

#### *Mid-Life, the Crisis Musical*

a revue of middle-aged gains and losses by BOB and JIM WALTON

May 2 -- 18

This polished, fall-out-of-your-seat-funny show is woven out of a series of vignettes dealing with classic midlife phenomena – all unpleasant, and virtually all hilarious. Brash, refreshing, and inventively silly, it has an honesty that makes it okay to laugh at ourselves.

#### *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*

the most favorite show ever at Theatre Three by JOE Di PIETRO & JIMMY ROBERTS

January 17 – February 17

It had a huge run in 2000 on the Mainstage, it moved into Theatre Too that fall and played there for an amazing three years! Since then this record-breaking musical revue has returned annually for an encore run and manages to find new enthusiasts who pack the place to laugh and cheer.

Tickets and Information: 214-871-3300

[www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com)



