

# THEATRE THREE

1996-1997's season of theatrical mystery, enchantment and fantasy

*the theatre-in-the-round in the Quadrangle*

JAC ALDER, Executive Producer-Director presents



**BOOK AND LYRICS BY LYNN AHRENS**

**MUSIC BY STEPHEN FLAHERTY**

Jan. 11 thru Feb. 15, 1997 -- FOURTH SHOW of the SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

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the theatre-in-the-round at the Quadrangle  
2800 Routh Street  
Dallas, Tx 75201

**Executive Editor, JAC ALDER**

*Cover illustration by Harland Wright.*

Theatre Three publishes six Subscription Series playbills. The season series of playbills also includes two Premium Attractions publications and special production playbills for holiday shows.

This playbill published for **ONCE ON THIS ISLAND**, the fourth of the Subscription Series of the '96-97 Season playing January 11 thru February 15, 1997.

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# THEATRE THREE

*the theatre in the round at the Quadrangle*  
JAC ALDER, Executive Producer-Director

## ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

a new musical  
BOOK AND LYRICS BY LYNN AHHRENS

MUSIC BY STEPHAN FLAHERTY

Based upon the novel "My Love, My Love" by Rosa Guy

Originally directed and choreographed on Broadway by Graciela Daniele  
Playwrights Horizons Inc. produced ONCE ON THIS ISLAND off Broadway in 1990  
Originally produced on Broadway by The Shubert Organization, Capital Cities/ABC Inc.  
Sunfory International Corporation and James Walsh in association with Playwrights Horizons.  
ONCE ON THIS ISLAND is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York.

For the Dallas production at Theatre Three...

Direction and Costumes by **Bruce Coleman** • Musical Direction by **Terry Dobson** • Set Design by **Harland Wright** • Lighting Design by **Bonny Henley**

### THE CAST

ASAKA • Liz Mikels\*  
TI MOUNE • Yolonda Williams\*  
ERZULIE • Natalie King\*  
ANDREA • Renee McChesney\*  
AGWE • Patrick Amos\*  
PAPA GE • Frank Lawson, Jr.  
JULIAN • Marcus Mauldin  
ARMAND • Keith Canady  
DANIEL • Khary Payton\*

LITTLE TI MOUNE • Brie Witherspoon

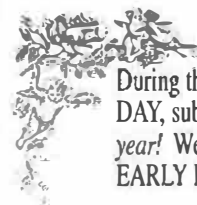
\*Members of Actors Equity Association, the professional union of actors and stage managers.

### MUSICAL NUMBERS

Prologue / We Dance ... Company  
One Small Girl ... Company  
Waiting for Life ... Ti Moune and Company  
And the Gods Heard Her Prayer ... Asaka, Agwe, Ersulie, Papa Ge  
Rain ... Agwe and Company  
Pray ... Company  
Forever Yours ... Ti Moune and Daniel  
Sad Tale of the Beauhommes ... Company  
Ti Moune ... Mama Ersulie, Ton Ton Julian and Ti Moune  
Mama Will Provide ... Asaka and Company  
Intermission -- 15 minutes  
Mama Will Provide (Reprise) ... Asaka and Company  
Some Say ... Company  
The Human Heart ... Ersulie and Company  
Pray (reprise) ... Company  
Some Girls ... Daniel  
Promises / Forever Yours ... Papa Ge and Company  
A Part of Us ... Company  
Why We Tell the Story ... Company

### THE MUSICIANS

TERRY DOBSON, Piano and Conductor • MARK MILLER, Electric Keyboards • MIKE McNICHOLAS / JON LEE, Percussion • PAUL DUTKA, Woodwinds • SCOTT MEADOR, Bass Guitar



*A reminder to our beloved subscribers*

During the EARLY RENEWAL PERIOD, which lasts from NEW YEARS to VALENTINES DAY, subscriptions are renewed for current season ticket holders at the lowest rate of the year! We love having you in our subscriber family, so take advantage of the low rates of the EARLY RENEWAL by re-subscribing by FEBRUARY 14!

Jac Alder, Executive Producer-Director

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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For loan of palmtree props, Garland Civic Theatre  
Assistant to the Costumer, Barbara Young

## next at THEATRE THREE

...a dazzling new mystery named by  
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as one of the  
year's top  
10 plays



**What really happened?**  
This is the question contemporary residents of a country estate ponder about mysterious events on the estate more than a century ago. The playwright flips time back and forth between then and now exploring the nature of truth and the disruptive influence of sex in all centuries. A must-see theatrical event on stage from February 15 through March 16.

by Tom Stoppard



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THE YEAR-ROUND THEATRE-IN-THE-ROUND BY CONTRIBUTING TO....

## The Phoenix Campaign

THEATRE THREE'S ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

From now through the end of the season, Theatre Three is conducting its annual fund drive (The Phoenix Campaign) raising support from individuals. This year the goal for the campaign can only be reached if all of its long-established friends and new friends now unknown to the theatre contribute generously. The goal is \$72,000; an amount which represents \$2,000 a year for every year of Theatre Three's thirty-six year history.

A major reason for the challenging goal is the loss of Texas Commission on the Arts funding at previous levels. **The Texas Commission on the Arts has only 20% of the funds it had last year to distribute.** (And last year Texas was 53rd in the states and territories in its per capita support of the arts!) What the TCA was doing had importance in identifying and supporting quality programming and helping institutions provide wide access for all Texans to their performances and exhibitions. That mission is now substantially vitiated. Certainly funds Theatre Three could usually count on are now gone.

So far corporate support is barely holding even with last year's donations. Our board is made up of loyal and personally generous individuals. They're very eager to maintain their stewardship of the last three years **during which there has been no cash deficit created.** That achievement has had as much to do with cost-cutting as to money-raising. It also helps that this year Theatre Three has earned more from single tickets (so far in the season) and from season ticket sales than in any of the past three years! Nevertheless, Theatre Three must count on its friends to join the annual campaign with generous tax-deductible contributions.

If you, dear playgoer, would like to share in the achievement of this Arts institution, the annual campaign provides the perfect opportunity to support that contingent of the theatre in which you are particularly interested. This year gifts are being solicited in five categories:

• **PRODUCER COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP** (for gifts in increments of \$1000);

These gifts directly support THEATRE THREE's production costs for sets, lights, costumes and designers for '96-'97.

• **DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP** (for gifts in increments of \$500);

These gifts directly support THEATRE THREE's administration, audience development and community outreach for '96-'97.

• **ACTORS' BENEFACTORS** (for gifts in increments of \$250);

These gifts directly support salaries and benefits of THEATRE THREE's resident acting company.

• **AUTHOR BENEFACTORS** (for gifts in increments of \$125);

These gifts support (through payment of royalties) composers and playwrights of THEATRE THREE's '96-'97 season.

• **BACKSTAGE BENEFACTORS** (for gifts in increments of \$35);

These gifts directly support stipends for THEATRE THREE's '96-'97 intern staff.

Please consider contributing to this year's campaign by using the form on the back of this insert. We'd be proud and grateful to list you in support of the season. Thank you!

JAC ALDER, Executive Producer-Director, Theatre Three



Yes, I'll help Dallas be well-rounded!

List my name in support of Dallas' unique theatre-in-the-round's **36th ANNIVERSARY SEASON** by accepting my contribution for this year's PHOENIX CAMPAIGN, the annual fund drive of THEATRE THREE. ★★★★★ Supporting the belief that Dallas needs a financially healthy professional theatre company serving the city and its visitors year-round featuring the theatre artists of our own area in more than 300 performances, and recognizing the need for contributions from individuals, I wish to help as follows:

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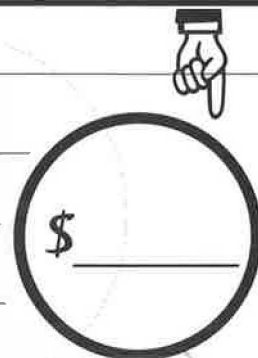
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**(as of 12/31/96)**

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## WHO'S WHO in the *ONCE ON THIS ISLAND* CAST



**YOLONDA WILLIAMS** (*Ti Moune*) made her professional debut at the age of 18 in Theatre Three's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. She was seen last summer in Theatre Three's *Disgraceful Acts* and most recently in the Lyric Stage production of *Sweet Charity*. She has performed at Chicago's Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre (*Dreamgirls*), Arkansas Repertory Theatre (*Once on This Island*), and at Missouri Rep (*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*). Ms. Williams travels frequently throughout the U. S. performing as "Tina Turner" with Incredible Productions. She's been seen in commercials for Pearle Vision, McDonalds and Quaker Rice Cakes. TV and film credits include *Robocop* and the upcoming docudrama *Can't You Hear the Wind Howl / The Robert Johnson Story* in which she serves as the film's associate producer. Ms. Williams would like to dedicate her performance to her parents and the Williams and Brown families..

**DENISE LEE** (*Mama Euralie*) is making her Theatre Three debut in this production. Her most recent performances have been as Dianne in Deep Ellum Opera Theatre's production of *Hair* and as Bloody Mary in *Garland Summer Musical's* production of *South Pacific*. Ms. Lee is represented by the Campbell Agency. "Thanks to all who supported me during this! And most of all, my thanks to my beautiful daughters Traci and Janelle and to my best friend, my husband, Robert."



**RENEE MI' CHAEL** (*Andrea*) is also making her Theatre Three debut in this production. She has performed with the Dallas Actors' Theatre in *Giants Have Us In Their Books*; with New Theatre Company in *Don Juan...Wages of Sin*; with Dallas Children's Theatre in *The Christmas Witch*, and with Fort Worth's Jubilee Theatre in *...Colored Girls...*, *Black Orpheus* and *Lysistrata, Please!* Renee also devotes her time to her company ROOTS FOR YOUTH where she provides artistic and educational activities to children of the community and also works with Young Audiences of Greater Dallas. This spring she will launch a teen program, TIC-TAC (Teaching Inner-City Theatre Awareness in the Community).

**LIZ MIKEL** (*Asaka*) happily returns to Theatre Three where she portrayed Sister Bessie in last season's *Tobacco Road*. She was most recently seen by Dallas audiences in her fifth production of *A Christmas Carol* at the Dallas Theater Center. Favorite roles include Julia (in *Avenue X*), Ella Patterson (in *Annie Warbucks*), Bessie Smith (in *Bessie Smith, Empress of the Blues*), Eunice (in *A Streetcar Named Desire*), Lady from the Road (in *Blues in the Night*) and Viloa Johnson in the film *It's in the Water*. Liz is a member of the Vivid Theatre Ensemble and a founding member of Universal Connections. She is represented by the Kim Dawson Agency.



**NATALIE KING** (*Erzulie*) is pleased to be back on stage at Theatre Three. During and following her internship here, she played in *Tumbleweed Theatricals*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Voices Unsilenced* and *Drood!* She has performed at area theatres in *Back to Bacharach*, *The Grass Harp*, *Tamborines to Glory*, *Hair*, *The Gift of the Magi*, *For Colored Girls...* and *Share the World*. She is founder and Managing Director of UNIVERSAL CONNECTIONS, a touring Storytelling Troupe. Natalie would like to thank her Mother and Father for patiently and lovingly taking care of her heart, Sakile, to whom her performance in this show is dedicated.



**FRANK LAWSON, JR.** (*Papa Ge*) is a graduate of the Southern Methodist University Theatre Program. His most recent acting credits include *The John Doe Variations* and *Fear Itself* at Jubilee Theatre and *Reveal — an African Dream Tale*, written and directed by Akin Babatunde. He also appeared in Casa Manana's production of *The Who's Tommy* as Hawker and *Miracle on 34th Street* as Dr. Pierce.

**MARCUS M. MAULDIN** (*Ton-Ton Julian*) was last seen at Stage West in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. Marcus is making his debut at Theatre Three with this production. He has worked extensively in the area at Jubilee Theater, Casa Manana, Shakespeare Festival of Fort Worth, Pegasus Theater, Undermain Theater, Addison Center Theatre, The Bob Hope Theatre at SMU and the Dallas Drama Company. Marcus has done commercial voiceover spots for the Boy Scouts of America and Mountain Dew. TV credits include the ABC miniseries *Heaven and Hell*. Marcus is represented by the Kim Dawson Agency.



**KEITH CANADY** (*Armand*) is a Dallas native and is making his Theatre Three debut with this production. Mr. Canady has been seen in performances at Dallas Children's Theatre (*Peter and the Wolf*), at Dallas Drama Company (*Shoes and Memories*) and has performed with several dance companies in Dallas and Austin.

**KHARY PAYTON** (*Daniel*) was trained in SMU's Theatre Studies program and has been working in the Dallas theatre community for the past two years. In that time he has played many roles including Orpheus (in *Black Orpheus* at Fort Worth's Jubilee Theatre), Tico Brown (in *Ohio Tip-Off* at the Dallas Theater Center), and Horatio (in *Hamlet* at Kitchen Dog Theatre. *Once on This Island* is his Theatre Three debut.



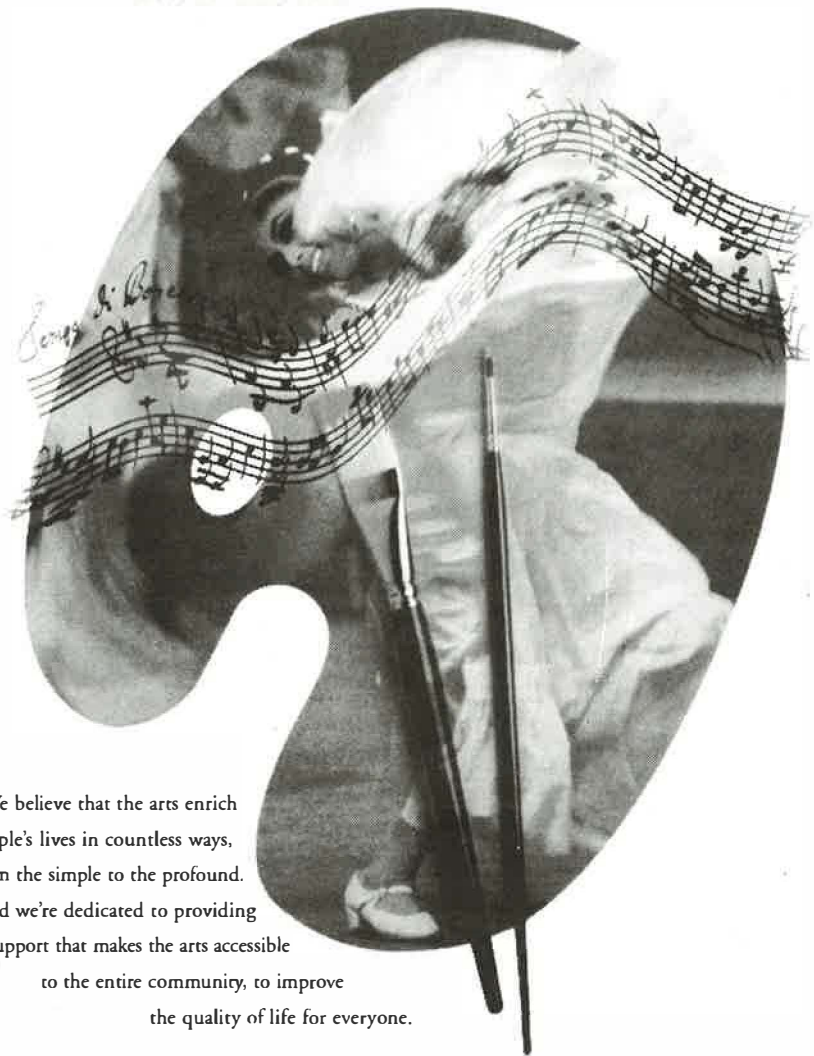
**PATRICK AMOS** (*Agwe*) is very excited to be a part of this ensemble. Selected theatrical credits include Happy (in *Death of a Salesman*), Lymon (in *Piano Lesson*), Lamonte (in *Toast*), Man (in *Blues in the Night*) and Hud (in *Hair*). Mr. Amos also has extensive commercial and film credits. He dedicates this performance to Mom, Dad, Darron and Mudear (Sarah) for all their love and support.

**BRIE BEDFORD WITHERSPOON** (*Little Ti Moune*) is a ten year old Dallas native making her second professional appearance. In 1995 she appeared in *The Lion and the Jewel* at Addison Center Theater. Brie is a fourth grader in the T.A.G. Magnet at K. B. Polk Elementary School and is a member of the Angel Choir at St. Luke Community United Methodist Church. Her hobbies are sewing and rocketry.

**BRUCE COLEMAN** (*Director and Costume Designer*) started as a Directing Intern in 1985 at Theatre Three. Some of other directing credits for Theatre Three include *Wholly Moliere*, *Drood!* and *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. His Theatre Three costume design credits include *Into the Woods*, *The Frogs* and *The Cocoanuts*. Mr. Coleman has won a Theatre Critics Forum Award and a Leon Rabin Award, both for Scenic Design. Much thanks to Jim, Marco and Jane. AVANTI!

**LYNN AHRENS** and **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**, authors *Once on This Island* first collaborated on a show that became 1995's biggest hit at Theatre Three, *Lucky Stiff*. Ms. Ahrens and Mr. Flaherty are currently in Toronto with a production of their musical adaptation of E. L. Doctorow's novel *Ragtime*. Enthusiastic early reviews suggest it will be a major New York attraction in late spring.

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to the entire community, to improve  
the quality of life for everyone.

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