



Theatre Three



by Alan Ayckbourn
December 10 — January 12

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Theatre Three

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Theatre Three

1985-86 Season

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The Dallas Morning News, for sponsorship of the Preview and Opening Night Series.

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1. Please, no smoking or refreshments in the auditorium.
2. Please, no photographing or recording of the performance.
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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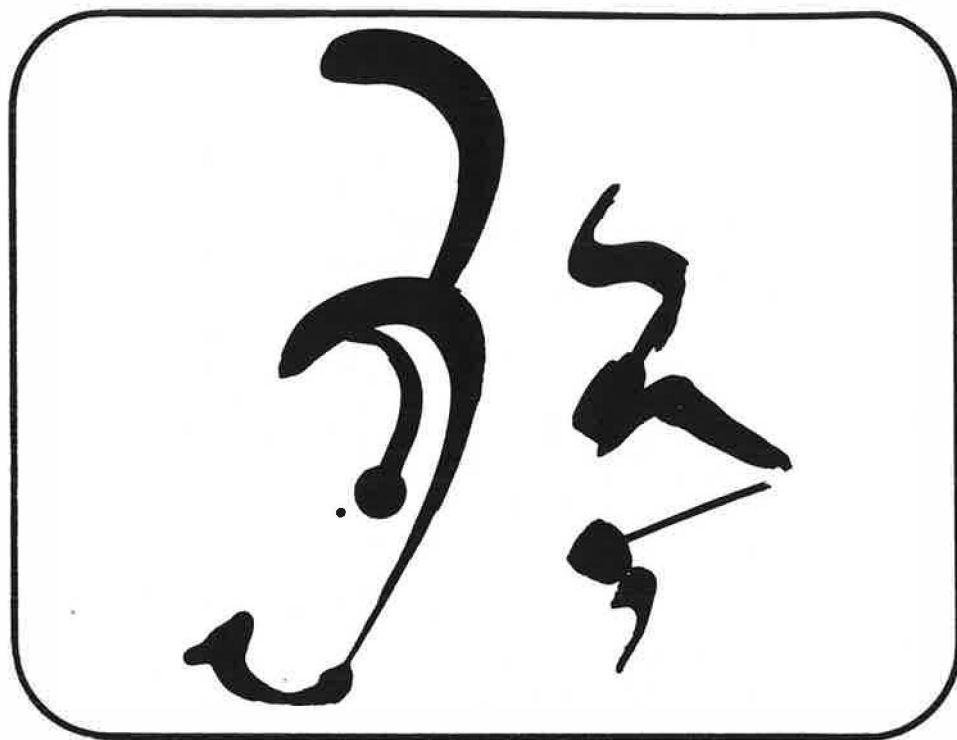
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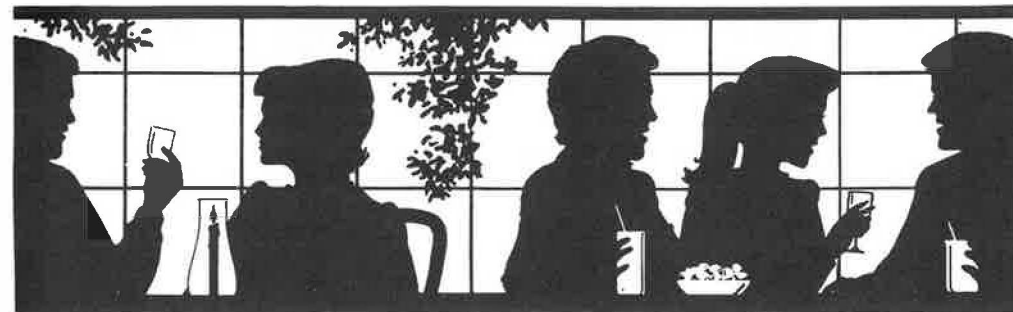
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NORMA YOUNG
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Executive Producer-Director

presents

SEASON'S GREETINGS

by Alan Ayckbourn

featuring

SHARON BUNN
HUGH FEAGIN
CONNIE NELSON

TRABER BURNS
RYLAND MERKEY
JOHN RAINONE

KERRY COLE
THURMAN MOSS
JUDITH TOWNSEND

Directed by
JOHN BRIGGS

Sets by
MICHAEL G. MOYNIHAN

Costumes by
BRUCE R. COLEMAN

Lighting by
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Stage Management by
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Production Manager: Cheryl DenSon
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Assistant Stage Manager: John Briggs
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Props Master: Rick Tankersley

THERE WILL BE ONE TEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION

Theatre Three would like to thank Dawn Filomena and Laura Bellamy for their work on the puppets and ZAK'S for the donation of the Christmas Tree.

THE CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

RYLAND MERKEY*	Harvey
HUGH FEAGIN*	Bernard
KERRY COLE**	Pattie
TRABER BURNS*	Neville
JOHN RAINONE*	Eddie
SHARON BUNN*	Phyllis
CONNIE NELSON*	Rachel
THURMAN MOSS*	Clive

Act I Scene 1: Christmas Eve, 7:30 p.m.
 Scene 2: Christmas Day, noon
 Scene 3: Christmas Day, midnight
 Act II Scene 1: Boxing Day, 3:30 p.m.
 Scene 2: December 27th, 5:15 a.m.

Time: The present

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BACKGROUNDS

The Actors

SHARON BUNN (Phyllis) has appeared at Theatre Three in many shows as a staff actress. Her favorite roles at Theatre Three include assignments in the first *Anything Goes* presented here, as well as *And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little*, *The Gingerbread Lady* and *The Elephant Man*. Miss Bunn played Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* three seasons ago, to great critical acclaim. Her most recent credits include Melanie Garth in *Quartermaine's Terms* at Theatre Three, *Seven Keys to Baldpate* at the Dallas Theater Center and *Angry Housewives* and *The Wake of Jamey Foster*. She has appeared in television, film, nightclubs and recording.

TRABER BURNS (Neville) was raised two blocks from "Ole Man River" in Louisiana. After college he migrated west, received his training at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco and spent two years with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, one of his favorite jobs. But after eight years in California and Oregon memories of ceiling fans and screen porches, jambalaya and gumbo, southern dialects and southern skies, finally brought him back south. Recent jobs have taken him to Dallas and Denver where he discovered the phenomenon of snow in September (that was Denver, not Dallas).

KERRY COLE (Pattie) holds an M.F.A. in Acting/Directing and is currently employed by Theatre Three as a Directing Intern. She has acted and directed in Theatre Three's children's series, *The Grimm Magicians*. *Season's Greetings* marks Ms. Cole's second appearance on the Theatre Three stage.

HUGH FEAGIN (Bernard) began his association with Theatre Three as the Reverend Shannon in the 1973 staging of *Night of the Iguana*. Since then he has appeared in over 30 plays with the theatre, including such diverse roles as Minsky in *The Play's the Thing*, R. P. McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Quentin in *After the Fall* and Hector Nations in *Foxfire*. Mr. Feagin studied theatre at SMU, the University of Texas and the Goodman School of Drama. He has been seen at Theatre Three as The Player in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, Bocker Slade in *The Wake of Jamey Foster* and as Bob in the recent production of *Home Front*. He appeared in *Seven Keys to Baldpate* at the Arts District Theatre and as George in Theatre Three's acclaimed production of *Outside Waco* by Patricia Griffith.

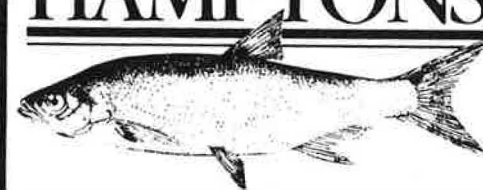
RYLAND MERKEY (Harvey Bunker) is making his Theatre Three debut in *Season's Greetings* and is familiar to Dallas audiences from his extensive work at the Dallas Theater Center. He appeared there in such productions as *On Golden Pond*, *The Tempest*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *Harvey*. Last season Mr. Merkey appeared in *Angels Fall* and *Valentine's Day* at Stage #1, *Eminent Domain* at New Arts Theatre and *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Shogun Macbeth* at the Shakespeare Festival of Dallas. Mr. Merkey has appeared in several off-Broadway productions and was on the teaching staff of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

THURMAN MOSS (Clive) has appeared in several Theatre Three productions including *True West*. He has appeared in the Los Angeles productions of *Man's Lament* and *One Act in Hell*. Mr. Moss appeared in *Women With Sticks* and *The Prince of Nothing*. He has also appeared in Theatre Three's productions of *The Miss Firecracker Contest* and *Eden Court*.

CONNIE NELSON (Rachel) 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 The Acting Company in the hit revue *Issue. . . I Don't Even Know You*, directed by Jack Heifner.

The actors and stage manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, The Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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The Actors (continued)

JOHN RAINONE (*Eddie*) This is John's third appearance at Theatre Three. He has been seen as Charlie Blossom in *Working* and as Carlo (the Chico Marx character) in *A Day in Hollywood*, *A Night in the Ukraine* on this same stage. This production also marks John's fourth collaboration with director John Briggs, the most recent being *Shogun Macbeth* for The Shakespeare Festival of Dallas this past summer. Mr. Rainone has also been directed by Mr. Briggs in a production of *True West* for New Stage Theatre in Jackson, Mississippi, and the "old West" version of *The Taming of the Shrew* on tour for The Texas Shakespeare Theatre. On that occasion Mr. Briggs and Mr. Rainone changed the course of history in Uvalde, Texas forever.

JUDITH TOWNSEND (*Belinda*) was last seen by Dallas audiences in The Shakespeare Festival of Dallas' *Much Ado About Nothing* and as the evil Yojo in *Shogun Macbeth*, a role she will re-create this spring in New York City with the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre. Other off-Broadway roles include Ellen in *Play Me a Country Song* and Bianca in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Regionally she created the role of Lena Brock in the world premiere of *Private Contentment*, winner of the 1985 Eudora Welty New Playwrights Series. Other credits include *The Dining Room*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Wake of Jamey Foster*. Film credits include *Prince of the City*, *The Robber Bridegroom* and *Face of Rage*. Judith lives in Dallas and this is her Theatre Three debut.

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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, along with Norma Young, was one of the theatre's original founders and remains the theatre's Executive Producer-Director. Trained as an architect (his degree is from Oklahoma University), he designed Theatre Three's unique space. Mr. Alder serves as an officer for the Dallas Arts Combine, as a member of DISD's Partnership of Arts and Culture in Education Committee, Chairman of the Theatre Panel of the Texas Commission on the Arts and consultant to Western Arts Foundation. Mr. Alder's recent directorial assignments include *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You* and its reprise, *Shaw's Arms and the Man* and *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (*The Secret Songs of Stephen Sondheim*). He most recently directed Theatre Three's season opener *Anything Goes*.



The Director

JOHN BRIGGS served as Artistic Director for New Stage Theatre in Jackson, Mississippi before he re-joined the staff of Theatre Three. Mr. Briggs directed numerous plays at New Stage including *Sleuth*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *A Christmas Carol* and *True West*. Prior to his tenure at New Stage, Mr. Briggs was the Associate Artistic Director for the Shakespeare Festival of Dallas where he directed the critically acclaimed "Old West" production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. Mr. Briggs also directed *Shogun Macbeth* for this past summer's Shakespeare Festival. *Shogun Macbeth* is to go to New York in May of 1986. Mr. Briggs has directed *Final Passages* and *The Life She Led* at Theatre Three.

The Designers

BRUCE R. COLEMAN (Costume Designer) has designed costumes for more than 24 shows on the university, community and regional level. Bruce has just received his B.F.A. in theatre after several

centuries of study at Midwestern State University, where he served as costume designer for four and a half years. He has won the Wichita State/USITT National Design Award two years in a row, for his designs of *The Misanthrope* and *The Apple Tree*. Among Bruce's acting credits he lists Austin in *True West*, Barnette in *Crimes of the Heart* and Fagin in *Oliver!* as his favorites. Bruce was last seen as a member of the court in *Infidelities* at Theatre Three. Recently Bruce worked for Dancers Unlimited costuming *It's Show Time* for New York choreographer Ronnie DeMarco and he designed the costumes for the Theatre Three production of *Home Front*. Bruce's future plans are to return to school and receive M.F.A.'s in both directing and design.

MICHAEL G. MOYNIHAN (Set Designer) recently received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Trinity University in Design and Technical Theatre. His experience includes scenic designs for *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow*, *The Little Prince*, *As You Like It*, *Two by Two*, *Macbeth*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Late George Appley* and *The Rainmaker*. His lighting designs include *The Life She Led*, *Arms*

and *the Man*, *The Wind in the Willows*, *Two by Two*, *The Georgia Bicentennial Pageant* and others. Mr. Moynihan is currently the Theatre Three Technical Director.

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* 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.

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. . . Ah, but that's a different Christmas tale altogether, isn't it? Its relevance is easily dismissed as being "outdated morality" or some other like quip. For we, the modern audience, such stuff is but canard and children's bedtime reading. And since that is the case, Mr. Ayckbourn's *Season's Greetings* is a Christmas romp that provides that stuff which reflects our holiday season as a time of great joy and love and care and givingness. I mean, it is, isn't it? The children home from school with nothing to do but wait anxiously for the "big day;" family and friends dropping by for drinks and good cheer; large meals to prepare; shopping, wrapping, hiding gifts; religious meetings of one sort or another: yes, that completely relaxed, no stress couple of weeks that we so look forward to every December. That time, as someone said, when we make whoopee and commit suicide.

... John Briggs



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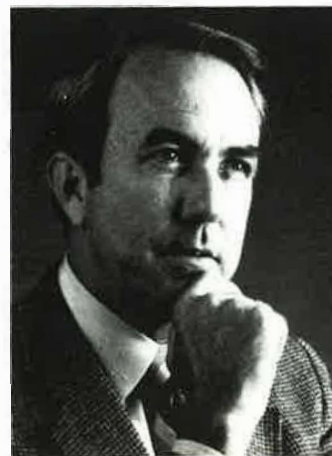
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