

SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE

a mysterious melodramatic farce by George M. Cohan July 8 - August 14, 2004

THEATRE THREE

THE theatre-in-the-round at the Quadrangle
2004-2005 SEASON

JAC ALDER, Executive Producer-Director, presents

2800 Routh Street, #168
 Dallas, Texas 75201
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Regarding Theatre Three...

Theatre Three is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit cultural institution founded in 1961 by Norma Young. It serves to celebrate and honor the three essentials of theatre for which she named it: gifted playwrights, talented theatre artists, and adventurous audiences.

Regarding this performance...

- Concessions are available in the lobby.
- Cameras or recording devices of any kind are prohibited.
- Please turn off (or silence) all cell phones and pagers.
- Please remember that talking during performances disturbs fellow theatre-goers.
- No late-comers will be seated once the performance commences.
- Please finish refreshments in the lobby.

For theatre goers with disabilities...

- Please feel free to call upon our staff for assistance.
- Wheelchair locations are available.
- Half of the seats may be reached by aisles with handrails.
- A wheelchair-accessible restroom is next to the box office.
- Handicapped parking is next to the Dream Café and the new East Wind Restaurant.

Regarding parking...

All parking is free. Surface parking surrounds The Quadrangle.

Garage (tower) parking is accessible just off Routh on Laclede Street.

George M. Cohan: The Great American Entertainer

"A stage, after all, is a place of love." George M. Cohan's mother's response reveals a love for the stage that she instilled in her son. Jerry and Nellie, dedicated, spirited, kind-hearted Irish-Americans, spent their lives performing all over the country. When their children, Josie and George, were old enough to appear onstage, they joined the act and the family became known as "The Four Cohans", a prominent fixture of the B.F. Keith circuit. The youngest Cohan had almost no formal education, but he quickly learned the business of theatre: everything from staging techniques and audience pleasing tricks to the management skills so crucial to his career. In many ways, he was an all-American kid. He even claimed an all-American birthday: July 4, 1878. A baptismal record found later records his birthday as July 3, but his parents always maintained that the document was wrong. At the age of 14, when he tried to run away to New York, his father stopped him and informed him that the close-knit family would run away together.

At age seventeen, George M. Cohan began managing his family's act. He began producing and writing shows specifically for his family. His shows consisted of clever melodramatic comedies with crowd pleasing songs. After producing *The Governor's Son* and winning some mild approval, Cohan met and became partners with Sam Harris, boxing promoter and shrewd business man. In 1904, the new partners produced *Little Johnny Jones*, a hit show with popular songs, "Yankee Doodle Boy" and "Give My Regards to Broadway". The show and the partnership were both deemed great successes. The next few years would be prosperous years. He was writing, producing and starring in *Fort-Five Minutes from Broadway*, *George Washington, Jr.*, *The Yankee Prince*, and *The Man Who Owns Broadway*. He was considered the most popular songwriters of the era with patriotic songs like "You're a Grand Old Flag", inspired by a Civil War veteran. When America entered World War I, he gathered his family to hear his new song. As he started singing, "Over there, over there! Send the word, send the word over there! That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming! The drums rum-tumming everywhere...", his daughter, Mary started crying, afraid that her father was going to war. The song became a rallying cry for the United States and one of Cohan's greatest legacies. Cohan was also known for taking a bad script and turning it into an entertaining joy. One example of his transforming abilities, commonly known as "Cohanizing", is the work he did on an awful script called *Cherry Blossoms*. He admitted later that he "twisted the story upside-down, poked fun at the whole idea, turned the operetta in to a jazzy musical," and then he changed its title to *The Royal Vagabond*. It was wonderful hit, but also the beginning of the most difficult period of his career.

Actors had long complained about the treatment they received at the hands of producers and managers. Long rehearsal, inconsistent pay (or no salary), and firing without notice were constant frustrations of every actor's life. As a producer, George M. Cohan was extremely considerate of all actors. In fact, he was admired by everyone in the business for his versatility and amazing management skills. When actors joined together to create the Actors Equity Association, Cohan was outraged. He hated unionism and believed actors should be loyal to the art. Equity called for a strike in 1919 and Cohan, as a manager, was vilified. Half of the shows on Broadway closed instantly and soon, *The Royal Vagabond* was forced to close. Cohan defiantly became the president of the Actor's Fidelity League, an organization clearly loyal to producers and managers. Despite all efforts, Broadway producers gave in to Equity's demands. Cohan's career, friendships, and reputation had suffered greatly. It also contributed to the destruction of his partnership with Sam Harris. Harris was more pragmatic about the creation of Equity and the two men went their separate ways. Cohan refused to join Equity and Equity never required him to sign a contract. The Equity dispute was the one regret of his life.

After the Equity strike, Cohan retreated from Broadway a little. He was still "Cohanizing" scripts and one his most memorable transformations was *The Tavern*, a melodrama that one critic described as "strangely and specifically American: a confident, resilient, tall-story innocence come face to face with a world gone melodramatically mad." It was Cohan's favorite play and one that probably mirrored how he felt about Broadway. During the 1930's, theatrical tastes changed and Cohan felt marginalized. He announced his retirement several times, only to be drawn back by a new project. He was still greatly admired. He received a Congressional Medal of Honor for writing *Over There* in 1940, but when he was approached about a movie about his life, he was hiding his ill health. He did see *Yankee Doodle Dandy* in 1942, but died shortly after on November 5. In his own words, "No complaints, kid. No complaints."

a mysterious melodramatic farce by George M. Cohan July 8 - August 14, 2004

SEVEN KEYS TO BALOPATTE

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The Theatre Three playbill is a publication of Theatre Three, Inc. 2800 Routh Street., #168 Dallas, Texas 75201.

*This playbill is published for Seven Keys to Baldpate by George M. Cohan,
the first show of the Mainstage Series of the 2004-2005 season,
"PUTTING IT TOGETHER."*

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Dear Playgoer,

In '58 I saw my first Broadway show, *The Music Man*, as a young Army officer en route to my duty station in Europe. I still have the playbill. My late wife, Norma, was also a playbill collector whose collection started earlier than mine and began with Gertrude Lawrence's performance in *The King and I*. Playbills have always seemed an important talisman to hang on to.

Playbills here at Theatre Three are great fun to look back through as well. Like high school yearbooks, they become precious (and often amusing) repositories of names, faces, and events — indeed historical documents. One of the uses I personally treasure is the opportunity to list supporters of Theatre Three alongside actors of the productions. It's totally fitting: financial donors to the theatre **SHOULD** be recognized as being important as to the achievements of the theatre as its artists.

Donors who add a contribution to their subscription purchase are called BRAVO donors and this first playbill of the season is used, in part, to recognize their support. The playbill also recognizes generous individuals who donated to the annual operations campaign (called THE PHOENIX FUND) after we published the last playbill of that season. Additionally, in the IN MEMORIAM listings, we recognize legacies from estates.

I'm personally grateful to all and thank each person who remembers to support the theatre. The staff and the Board of Directors of the theatre join me in the pride of listing our supporters and offer our sincere gratitude.

Sincerely,

JAC ALDER

JAC ALDER
Executive Producer-Director

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Donations are as of June 21, 2004.

THEATRE THREE presents the first show of the Mainstage Series of the 2004-2005 season...

By special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Artistic Staff

Director	Michael Serrecchia
Set Design	Harland Wright
Lighting Design	Carl Munoz
Costume Design	Ric Leal

Cast

Elijah Quimby	Peter Ray
Mrs. Quimby	*Sally Cole
William H. Magee	*Paul Taylor
John Bland	Kirk Extrell
Mary Norton	Shauna McLean
Mrs. Rhodes	Jane Willingham
Peters	*Robert Prentiss
Myra Thornhill	*Jessica D. Turner
Lou Max	David Dixon
Jim Cargan	David Ellis
Thomas Hayden	Dan Nolen, Jr.
Jiggs Kennedy	Michael Craig Rains
The Owner of Baldpate	Bob Wasinger

Production Staff

AEA Production Stage Manager	*Jack Degelia
Production Manager	Linda Harrison
Master Carpenter	Jeffrey Schmidt
Carpenters and Painters	Harland Wright, Erik Archilla, Jackie Elliott, Jonas Houston
Prop Master	Linda Harrison
Electricians	Jonas Houston, Joel McDonald
Production Assistant	Jackie Elliott
Light Board Operator	Jonas Houston



Scene Synopsis

Place & Time	Winter; The scene is laid at Baldpate Inn; 1913.
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There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

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Company Manager	Terry Dobson
Director of Business Affairs	Joan Sleight
Computer Services Manager	Nick Rushing
Director of Publications & Communications	Kimberly Richard
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Production

Director of Design	Harland Wright
Musical Director	Terry Dobson
Production Coordinator	Jack Degelia
Production Manager	Linda Harrison
Master Carpenter	Jeffrey Schmidt
Intern Staff	Erik Archilla, Jackie Elliott, Erika Rankin

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Michael Serrecchia (Director)

Michael Serrecchia will be remembered by Theatre Three audiences for his Direction of the award winning production of *A Class Act* ("...better than Broadway", *The Dallas Morning News*) and as Michael in *Beguiled Again*.

Broadway credits include the Original Broadway Casts of: *The Rothschilds*, *The Selling of the President*, *Heathen!*, *Lady Audley's Secret*, *Seesaw*, *Sing Happy* and the Original Cast of *A Chorus Line* for which he received a Special Tony Award, Drama Desk Award and the Theatre Critics Circle Award.

Michael Serrecchia went around the world three times in four and a half years as Chita Rivera's dance partner in *Chita Plus Two* a world concert tour.

Dallas area credits include, Director and Choreographer for: Plano Rep; *Some Enchanted Evening*, for Crossroads Theatre; *Steel Magnolias*, *Genderella* and *Pageant* which won Column Awards for Best Musical and Best Director of a Musical, for WaterTower Theatre the role of The Reverend Mr. Septimus Chrisparkle in *Drood*.

As adjunct professor of Musical Theatre at UNT Michael Serrecchia directed and choreographed *A Little Night Music* for the first co-production of the Dance, Theatre and Opera Departments.

Harland Wright (Set Design)

Harland has worked at Theatre Three as the Director of Design for nearly 35 years. Beginning with *Thieves' Carnival* in 1967, his recent productions include *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Dirty Blonde*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *God's Man in Texas*, *The Unexpected Guest*, *Sideshow*, and *Blood Brothers*. He was also the set designer for Theatre Too's *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!* and several shows of 2002-2003's season. Mr. Wright's designs have been seen on national TV ads, film, and locally at Dallas Repertory Theatre, Lyric Stage, Ft. Worth Opera, Dallas Children's Theatre and Dallas Theatre Center Children's Theatre.

Carl Munoz (Lighting Design)

Carl is happy to be designing lights for Theatre Three. Coming off great success with his first professional designs, *Sly Fox* (for which he won a Column Award), *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *The Wild Party*, and *Dirty Blonde*, he is looking forward to bringing a better understanding of light design to this show.

Ric Leal (Costume Design)

Ric Leal makes his Theatre Three debut as costume designer for *Seven Keys to Baldpate*. Design credits include local and regional theaters such as Plano Repertory Theatre, The Grand Crystal Palace, and The Gas Light Playhouse. Ric also served as the resident costume designer for Casa Manana Theater in Fort Worth. National credits include over fifty industrial shows and eight seasons of costume design work for the worlds largest theme park organization.

Sally Cole (Mrs. Quimby)

Sally is always happy to be performing on the Theatre Three stage. Her favorite past roles at Theatre Three include Lady Angetell in *The Hollow*. She enjoyed playing Martha Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Sally was very honored to have been asked to perform in WaterTower Theater's "Out of the Loop Festival" where she played Rosetta Brooks in the stage reading of Terry Martin's *A Country Life*. Sally is thrilled to have been directed by Michael Serrecchia and to be working with this lovely cast and crew. Sally is represented by the Ivett Stone Agency. As always, Sally gives a great big thanks to her husband Michael and her son Nicholas for their love and support. "THANKS GUYS!"

David M. Dixon (Lou Max)

David is making his Theatre Three debut. Previous theatre roles include Peter in *The Zoo Story* at Risk Theatre Initiative, Wally in *Morphic Resonance* at Rover Dramawerks, Trenchard Voysey in *The Voysey Inheritance* at Drama Centre London (where he received his B.A.), Bob Cratchit in *Ebenzer Scrooge* at Pocket Sandwich, Shamrayev in *The Seagull* at DCL, and Monsieur Boniface in *Hotel Paradiso* at DCL "Thank you to my loving wife Stefanie for her constant support and encouragement."

David Ellis (Jim Cargan)

David is making his Theatre Three debut. At Theatre Arlington, he appeared as Arnold Burns in *A Thousand Clowns*, and Frank Church in *Yes, Virginia There is a Santa Clause*. He has played Branch Rickey in *Mr. Rickey Calls A Meeting* at Jubilee Theatre, Oscar Madison in *Odd Couple* at Fort Worth Theatre, and Mr. Sesseman in *Heidi* at Dallas Children's Theatre. His commercial appearances include Whataburger and First Care Health Services. David played Malcomb Kilduff in the BBC/History Channel production of *Days That Shook The World: JFK Assassination*. "This performance is dedicated to my muse and my love, Linda, whose inspiration, kindness, and love have given my art new purpose, and me the courage to continue."

Kirk Extrell (John Bland)

Some of Kirk's favorite theatre roles include William Reach in *Down the Road* at WaterTower Theater, Tyro Cortez in *Stand-up Tragedy* at The Kennedy Center Rich in *As Is* at Quad C Theatre, "Lash" Larue in *Gunfighter* at Weitzenhoffer Theatre, and D'Artagnon in *The Three Musketeers* at John Anthony Theatre. He appeared on *America's Most Wanted* as Jesus Cansada. This University of Oklahoma graduate is very excited about returning to Dallas after three years in Washington D.C. He would like to thank his parents for their support.

Shauna McLean (Mary Norton)

Shauna received her BFA from Texas Christian University and is making her Theatre Three debut. Her theatre roles include Iris in *Down the Road* at Four Players Production, Hunyak in *Chicago* at Plano Repertory, the Player Queen in *Hamlet* at Dallas Shakespeare Festival, and Agnes in *Dancing at Lughnasa* at Texas Christian University. She has also appeared in commercials, industrials, and independent films with Alucard Pictures and Burly Bear Network. She would like to thank Michael for this opportunity. She would also like to thank her family, friends, and Matthew for their support and love.

Dan Nolen, Jr. (Thomas Hayden)

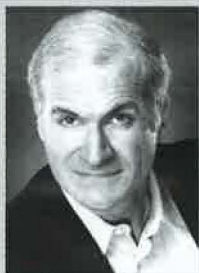
Dan, who retired from IBM at the end of the last millennium, played Norman Thayer, Jr. in *On Golden Pond* at OnStage in Bedford, Daddy Warbucks in *Annie* at Grapevine's Runway Theatre, Grandpa Vanderhof in *You Can't Take It With You* at Artisan Center Theater, and Governor in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* at Mainstreet Theatre. He won "Best Actor" in 2003 for his role in *On Golden Pond* and "Best Male Dancer" for *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. On film, he appeared in *Serving Sara* and *Eye-for-an-Eye*. Dan is a certified personal trainer and aerobics instructor and he'll be celebrating 38 years of wedded bliss during the run of this show!

Robert Prentiss (Peters)

Robert last appeared on Theatre Three's stage in *Dirty Blonde* and has also appeared in Theatre Three's productions of *Spinning Into Butter* and *The Unexpected Guest*. He has appeared in Dallas Theatre Center's *Of Mice and Men* and WaterTower Theater's *Book of Days*. He has played lead and co-star roles in twenty-eight feature films, guest starred in eight television episodics, and he begins shooting *Baghdad, Texas* at the end of the summer. He has produced four independent films and directed two short films. S.A.G., A.E.A., A.O.G.

Michael Craig Rains (Jiggs Kennedy)

This is Michael's debut performance at Theatre Three. His favorite theatre roles include Scrooge in *Scrooge & Marley A Christmas Carol* (Fort Worth Star-Telegram's Reader's Poll Award) at Mansfield Main St. Theatre and Bedford's On-stage, Floyd in *Ghost of a Chance* at Artisan Center Theatre, Charlie Martin in *On Golden Pond* at OnStage (The Column Award), and Major Dome in *Dangerous Liaisons* at Theatre Arlington. He appeared in an Albertson's commercial with Patricia Heaton, and in the Hollywood feature *The Ringer* with Johnny Knoxville. Michael graciously thanks Theatre Three for this thrilling experience opportunity to be a part of this wonderful company.

Peter Ray (Elijah Quimby)

Peter last appeared on Theatre Three's stage as Grandpère in *The Happy Time*, and was directed by Norma Young in *The Miser*. For the Shakespeare Festival of Dallas, played Baptista/Curtis in *Taming of the Shrew*, and Bardolph in *Henry IV, parts I & II*. At Plano Repertory, he played Pumblechook and Wemmick in *Great Expectations* and Bejart in *La Bête*. He has also appeared at Circle Theatre in *Battle of Shallowford*, at GCT in *God's Favorite*, and at Theatre Arlington in *No Sex Please - We're British*. "Thanks to my wife, Sherry, who considers my behavior something of a 'comic mystery' at times."

Paul Taylor (William H. Magee)

For Theatre Three, Paul played Dr. Parker in *Bal Boy: the Musical*, Dionysus in *The Frogs*, Jasper in *Drood*, and appeared in *Ball Games* and *Heartbeats*. Theatre credits include Billy Flynn in *Chicago* at Plano Repertory theatre, Siegfried in *Das Barbecü* at WaterTower Theater, Tony in *Shear Madness* at The Kennedy Center, Louie Nanni in *Aunt Chooch's Birthday* (Off-Broadway), the Ambassador in *The Last Empress* at The Lincoln Center, and Frank N. Furter in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* with NewArts/Paramount. He won an OOB Award for *Tango Masculino* and a Leon Rabin Award for Best Lead Actor in a Musical for *Carnival* at Lyric Stage. He thanks Michael Serrecchia, Jac Alder and Theatre Three's staff and dedicates this performance to Lynn Mathis.

Jessica D. Turner (Myra Thornhill)

Jessica earned BFA at Southern Methodist University and her MFA at American Conservatory Theater. Off Broadway, she played Elena/Marge in *H Just Catches at Cherry Lane Theater*. Her regional credits *The Beard of Avon* and *Blithe Spirit* at American Conservatory, *Pericles* at Santa Fe Shakespeare, the world premiere of *No For An Answer* at ACT at Zeum, *A Christmas Carol* at Dallas Theater Center, and *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* at Dallas Children's Theater. She would like to thank her husband, Jeff and her pug, Molly for their love and support.

Bob Wasinger (The Owner of Baldpate)

Bob Wasinger is delighted to be making his Theatre Three debut. He has appeared in more than sixty productions was most recently seen as Mr. Needham in Theatre Britain's critically acclaimed production of *No Sex, Please - We're British*. Some of his favorite roles include: Sheridan Whiteside in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Simon in *Hay Fever*, Eddie Ryan in *Funny Girl*, Arnolphe in *The School for Wives*, Frank in *Mack and Mabel*, Mr. Fitzpatrick in *The Skin of our Teeth*, Bobby in *The Boy Friend*, and Brindsley in *Black Comedy*. Bob is also an accomplished director and choreographer of such shows as: *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Evita*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Some Enchanted Evening*, *Baby* (Southwest Premiere); *Two by Five* and *Sing for Your Supper*.

Jane Willingham (Mrs. Rhodes)

Jane is excited to be making her Theatre Three debut. At Merry Go Round Playhouse (NY), she played Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie* and Ethel in *Footloose*. She has also appeared in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at Plano Repertory Theater, *Book of Days* at WaterTower Theater, *One Flew Spare* at School Night Productions (Austin), *The Tempest* at Kitchen Dog Theater, *The Grass Harp* at Lyric Stage, *Jake's Women* at Circle Theater, *One Flew...Cuckoo's Nest* at Dallas Alliance Theater, *Suddenly Last Summer* at 11th Street Theatre Company, and *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Pocket Sandwich Theater. She would like to thank her family for supporting her in all her dreams.

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Beginning with the 1996-1997 season, all memorial gifts, unless otherwise designated, are placed in the theatre's new permanent building endowment fund.

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The 2004-2005 Mainstage Series

Seven Keys to Baldpate, a mysterious melodramatic farce by George M. Cohan

July 8 - August 14, 2004

America's master showman's masterpiece of fun fills the stage with mysterious and wildly eccentric suspects isolated in an oddly managed inn on a dark and stormy night.

Tale of the Allergist's Wife, a new Broadway comedy by Charles Busch

August 26 - October 2, 2004

Linda Lavin was hilarious in the hit Broadway run of this contemporary comedy playing a doctor's wife who has everything but not all of it good.

Rounding Third, a new comedy from Chicago by Richard Dresser

October 14 - November 20, 2004

Two little league coaches, one crusty and demanding, the other playful and idealistic form a wary but meaningful friendship as they compete to shape their team according to their individual beliefs.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, a musical by Charles Gesner

December 2, 2004 - January 15, 2005

The 1999 Broadway version of the beloved show (based on the '60s off Broadway hit) that won two Tony awards with its two new songs and 23 new vignettes by the comic strip genius, Charles Schultz.

Going to St. Ives, a thrilling drama by master playwright, Lee Blessing

January 27 - March 5, 2005

A British woman (an eminent surgeon) is asked to treat an African woman, the mother of a vicious dictator. Secrets both hold lead to a passionate clash and force negotiations of life and death, motherhood and politics, gender and nationality.

Medicine, Man, a fresh new comedy by Jeffrey Stanley

March 17 - April 23, 2005

Responsibility doesn't sit easily on our hero, a NASCAR fan fond of his beer, country music, and a somewhat tawdry girlfriend. But he's in charge when mom is stricken unconscious and must wrestle the opinions of his social climbing twin sister, the uncertainty of the doctor, a preacher man of dubious ethics, and a mysterious stranger in ancient Indian regalia.

Putting It Together, by Stephen Sondheim

May 5 - June 11, 2005

Both Carol Burnett and Julie Andrews headed costs of this ingenious revue, a magical compilation of maestro Sondheim's incomparable theatre songs put in fresh context for a performance of thrilling musicianship and fresh power.

The 2004-2005 Appetizer Attraction Series

A Woman of Independent Means, by Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey

September 12 - September 21, 2004

From the pen of a Dallas native, a fascinating narrative based on a member of her own family.

A Christmas Memory, by Truman Capote

December 19 - December 29, 2004

From the pen of America's great novelists, a recollection of a Southern childhood.

Merrily We Roll Along, by Stephen Sondheim

April 3 - April 13, 2005

An investigation of long-term friendship of talented, energetic people filled with Sondheim's most emotional score.

The 2004-2005 Spotlight Series

Grateful: the songs of John Bucchino, a musical revue devised by Terry Dobson

October 21 - October 31, 2004

This will be a world premiere cabaret production.

Dear Liar, by Jerome Kilty

February 3 - 13, 2005

A dramatization of extraordinary letters between George Bernard Shaw and actress Mrs. Patrick Campbell. To star Terry Vandivort.

Old Wicked Songs, by Jon Marans

May 12-22, 2005

A revival of the 1999 hit comedy-drama that starred Joe Alder and Ashley Wood in audience-and-actor-favorite roles.