

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

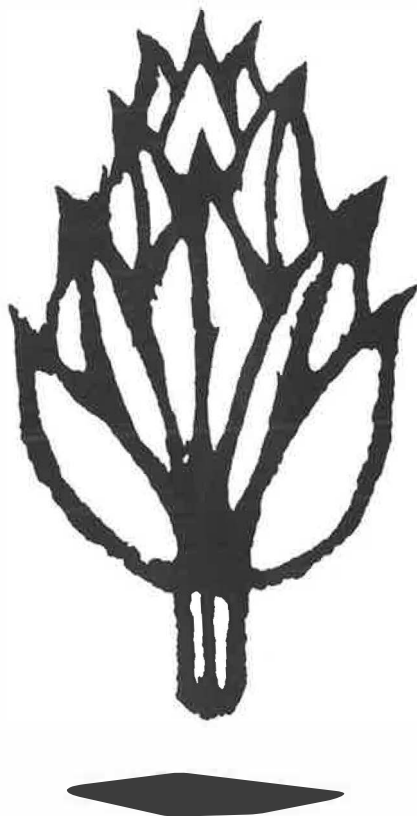


A new comedy by A. R. Gurney

October 5 thru November 3, 1996 -- SECOND SHOW of SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

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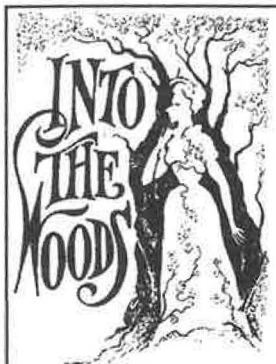
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THEATRE THREE

THE '96-'97 SEASON:

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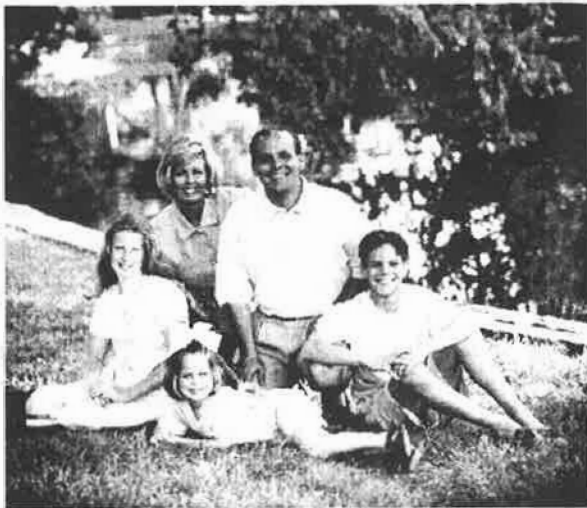
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Theatre Three's Playbill is a publication of



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, No. 4 in the '96-'97 Season Series, is for **SYLVIA**, the second of the Subscription Series of the '96-'97 Season playing October 5 thru November 3.

Theatre Three welcomes advertisers in its playbill. Interested businesses should call (214) 871-2933.

OTHER PHONE LINES (all in 214 Area Code):

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HOW UP TO DATE CAN WE GET?

HOME PAGE ON THE WEB: <http://www.vline.net/theatre3>

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Mobility impaired playgoers have a handicapped restroom available to them at ground level off the lobby (and beside the box office windows). Other patrons may use the restrooms in the basement area off the sub-lobby. Theatre Too, a second performing/rehearsal space, is also located in the basement reached from the staircase off the lobby. Hearing assistance devices are available for Theatre Three patrons. Please see the house manager.



THEATRE THREE STAFF

NORMA YOUNG, *Founding Artistic Director*

JAC ALDER, *Executive Producer-Director*

TERRY DOBSON, *Musical Director and Assistant to Mr. Alder*

LAURENCE O'DWYER, *Associate Director*

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HARLAND WRIGHT, *Director of Design*; **BRUCE COLEMAN**, *Costumer*; **BONNIE HENLEY**, *Technical Co-Ordinator*; **MARK BATE**, **SCOTT BEATY** and **KAREN FOSTER**, *Interns*

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IN MEMORIAM, Theatre Three wishes to recognize contributions made in memory of or from the estates of... **Sam Catter**, Board Member and Supporter; **Bill Dallas**, Scenic Designer; **Scott Everheart**, Actor; **Paula Goodlet**, Supporter and Subscriber; **Oliver Hailey**, Playwright; **Anne Weeks Jackson**, Vocalist and Teacher; **Masha Porfe**, Supporter and Subscriber; **Carolyn Ryburn**, Playwright; **Mary Blanche Scales**, Supporter and Subscriber.

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THEATRE THREE

the theatre-in-the-round at the Quadrangle

JAC ALDER, Executive Producer-Director

presents



by A. R. GURNEY

SYLVIA.....Lanell Pena*
GREG.....Terry Dobson*
KATE.....Mary Anna Austin*
TOM, PHYLLIS, LESLIE.....Ted Davey*

Directed by **Thurman Moss**
Setting by **Harland Wright**
Costumes by **Bruce Coleman**
Lighting Design by **Mark Hankla**
Production Stage Management by **Jac Alder***
Technical Co-ordination by **Bonnie Henley**

The play has one set serving variously as a Manhattan apartment, an airport, a park and the office of a therapist. The time is the present. There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

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



**HELP KEEP DALLAS WELL-ROUNDED! SUPPORT THEATRE THREE,
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 1996, 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:

- ☐ (for gifts in increments of \$1000) – **PRODUCER'S COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**
- ☐ (for gifts in increments of \$500) – **DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**
- ☐ (for gifts in increments of \$250) – **ACTORS' BENEFACTORS**
- ☐ (for gifts in increments of \$125) – **AUTHOR BENEFACTORS**
- ☐ (for gifts in increments of \$35) – **BACKSTAGE BENEFACTORS**

Please put the total of your contribution into this circle:

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Attached is my check OR, charge to my...

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☐ I wish my gift to be anonymous.

☐ I wish my gift to honor the memory of _____

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THEATRE THREE PHOENIX FUND / 2800 ROUTH / DALLAS TEXAS 75201

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Scott Dille, Vice Chairman of the Board

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Annie Biggs, Mike Brennan, M.D., Craig Cathey, Dale Cunningham, Nancy Duncan (TACA LIAISON), Judy Fong-West, Roz Fitch, David and Cherry Haymes, Keith Nix (Cultural Affairs Liaison), David G. Luther, Jr., Malcom Mace, Elizabeth Rivera, May Tweed, Don and Sally Weatherford (500 Inc. Liaisons), Norma Young.

The following Theatre Three Board Members have contributed additional funds to support Theatre Three's operations. Those names marked with an asterisk (*) are Theatre Three Guarantors: Gregg Ballew*, Mike Brennan, M.D., Craig Cathey* and Barbara Yount*, Dale and Claire Cunningham*, Judy Fong-West*, David and Cherry Haymes*, Lloyd W. Kitchens, Jr., M.D.*, David G. Luther, Jr.*, Malcom Mace*, Elizabeth Rivera, May Tweed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 1996-1997 Season at Theatre Three is supported, in part, by funds from the City of Dallas (Office of Cultural Affairs as recommended by the City's Cultural Affairs Commission and approved by the Dallas City Council); the Texas Commission on the Arts; The 500, Inc.; TACA as well as media sponsors including The Dallas Morning News, WFAA/Channel 8; People Newspapers; The Turtle Creek News; 570 KLIF Radio, and Key Magazine.

THANKS

The Irving Arts Center is administrated by Richard Huff who, along with his staff, hosted our set crew in the center's shop to prepare the set for **SYLVIA**.



CAST PROFILES

MARY ANNA AUSTIN (Kate) was last seen at Theatre Three in *Tiger Lady*. Before that she appeared in *A House with Two Doors is Difficult to Guard* at Stage West in Fort Worth. Other Theatre Three appearances include Joy Gresham in *Shadowlands*, Anita in *A Small Family Business*, and Susan in *The Heidi Chronicles*. Additional credits include *Six Women with Brain Death* for Dallas Repertory Theater, and *All My Sons* for The Dallas Theater Center. She also appeared in *Reckless* for The Open Stage, *Private Lives*, *Hot L Baltimore*, *The Wild Duck* and *A couple of White Chicks Sitting Around Talking* for New Arts Theatre and *Power Lines* at The Odyssey Theater in Los Angeles. After majoring in theatre at Trinity University, she was awarded a scholarship to the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. While studying there, she appeared in *The Cuban Thing*, directed by two-time Tony nominee Anna Devereaux Smith and with Tennessee Williams in *An Evening with Tennessee Williams*. Ms. Austin is the recipient of the 1991 Dallas Theatre Critics Forum Award for Outstanding Actress for her portrayal of Rachel in *Reckless* at The Open Stage.

TED DAVEY (Tom, Phyllis, Leslie) is pleased to make his Theatre Three debut with *Sylvia*. In the past ten months, Mr. Davey has been seen as Bottom the Weaver in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Roderigo in *Othello* for the Shakespeare Festival of Dallas; Billie in *The Little Mahagonny* and the Ghost of Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol* (both at The Dallas Theater Center); as Don Quixote and Lord Byron in *Camino Real* (both for Undermain Theater). In the coming months Ted will be Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* (DTC); directing *A Comedy of Errors* (Undermain) and Lavach in *Alls Well That Ends Well* (DTC). Some of his favorite roles have been in *21-A*, *Venus & Adonis*, *A Grand Night for Singing*, *She Loves Me*, *Goose and TomTom*, *Nightcoil*, *Room Service*, *As You Like It*, *The Three Cuckolds*, *Vinegar Tom*, *Love Trouble*, and *The Possibilities*. He has a Critics Forum Award for Outstanding Performance and has been nominated this year for a Leon Rabin Award. He is a seven year member of the Undermain Artistic Ensemble. "Love and thanks to Liz."

TERRY DOBSON (Greg) has served Theatre Three as an actor, musician and administrator since he migrated to Texas at the end of his university studies at Auburn. His musical career (as a choral director and accompanist) has seen him on the stage at Carnegie Hall with The Turtle Creek Chorale, in Russia with the international Peace Child company and most frequently performing as the musical director of Theatre Three's musicals including the just-closed hit production of *into the Woods*. Early in his acting assignments in Dallas he played in Beth Henley's play *The Wake* and the performance earned him a critic's award for Best Actor. He has appeared in classics (*The Imaginary Cuckhold*, *School for Husbands*); modern comedies (*Fortinbras*, *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*) as well as musicals (*The Fantasticks* as Mortimer and *Always*, *Patsy Cline*, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, and *Pump Boys and Dinettes* as the lead musician.) In addition to his many artistic duties, Mr. Dobson serves as the Assistant to the Producer co-ordinating theatre schedules, tracking union contracts and literary agent licenses as well as assisting Mr. Alder in fund-raising. After his heavy schedule at the theatre he shares time with his own dog, Annie.

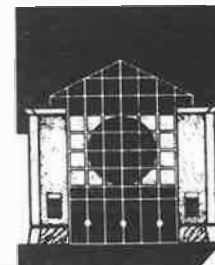
LANELL PENA (Sylvia) was last seen as Ellie May, the hair-lipped daughter in Theatre Three's *Tobacco Road*. Other Theatre Three roles include Emily in *Our Town*, the virtuous lawyer's wife in *Mandragola* and the tragic daughter in *A Small Family Business*. Ms. Pena has also worked at other Dallas theatres including the Undermain Theatre, Teatro Dallas, Actor's Stock Company as well as at Stage West in Fort Worth. Like many Dallas actors she does television work including industrial shows, series, commercial and mini-series work. She hopes her work in the P. B. S. series, *Wishbone* has helped her prepare for the role of Sylvia. Ms. Pena (along with her husband director-actor Mark Hadley) has a starring role in the independent film, *Vocesitas* which is currently being edited in hopes of being accepted into the Sundance Film Festival. This production of *Sylvia* is very special to her as it will be her last here in Dallas for a while. At the end of the run of *Sylvia* she will rejoin her husband and their four cats (all of whom she misses "a whole bunch") at their new home in Costa Mesa, California where Mark has joined the staff of the South Coast Repertory Theatre.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A. R. GURNEY enjoyed some of the best reviews of his longtime playwrighting career with *Sylvia*. The NEW YORK DAILY NEWS commented "I can only call it one of the most involving, beautiful, funny, touching and profound plays I have ever seen..." and the NEW YORK TIMES hailed it as "delicious and dizzy". His most popular play (with hundreds of performances still taking place across the country each season) is *Love Letters*. A show that theatre folks call a two-hander, *Love Letters* has been performed in Dallas by numerous celebrities including Charlton Heston and his wife. Other plays include *Sweet Sue* (which starred Mary Tyler Moore on Broadway), the more recent *Later Life* and the first big commercial success, *Dining Room*. A former academic (he taught theatre and writing) Mr. Gurney has become one of theatre's most prolific authors finding rich and fertile comic material in the family and societal mores of the upper middle class. His characters, like himself, are usually white anglo saxon protestants and usually live in the East. By writing specifically for those characters with insight, he seeks to reveal the universality of the human experience.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

THURMAN MOSS directed *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*, (half of the double bill *Disgraceful Acts*) earlier this season. In last year's ALL AMERICAN SEASON, Mr. Moss was prominently on stage as an actor in *The Price* and *Our Town* as well as serving as the director of *Tobacco Road*. He began his acting career with Theatre Three in the '70s and now serves the theatre as a full-time staffer as its Chief of Operations. His facility management responsibilities including booking over 40 outside organizations into the Theatre Too space in Theatre Three's basement. He is a founder of The Lean Theatre.



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And we're dedicated to providing
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