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THE MIDDLE



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I Think It's Going to Rain Today
Simon Smith
Yellow Man
Davy the Fat Boy
Political Science
Lonely at the Top
Lover's Prayer
Old Kentucky Home
Tickle Me
Maybe I'm Doing It Wrong

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They Just Got Married
Short People
Song for the Dead
Baltimore
I'm Different
It's Money that I Love
Sigmund Freud's Impersonation

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Sail Away
You Can Leave Your Hat On
Old Man

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Marie
Rednecks
Mr. President

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Louisiana 1927

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Roll with the Punches

Used with permission of Twice As Nice Music and Randy Newman
 from his new Warner Brothers album, "Land of Dreams."

NOTES ON MINSTREL SHOWS

The 19th-century minstrel show was a musical variety show based on the folk songs and dances of the American southern Negro. The performers appeared in blackface, wore white gloves, and imitated a stereotypical concept of Negro dialect and behavior.

The traditional American minstrel show was divided into three sections. During "the first part" the minstrels sat in a semi-circle of straight black chairs facing the audience. Comic patter routines between the interlocutor and the endmen alternated with songs performed by members of the company. The second section, called "the olio," was a series of song, dance, and specialty routines performed in front of a rolled painted backdrop called an "olio." The third part, called "the burlesque," was a comic sketch which included songs and dances. It was usually set in a barnyard on some mythical plantation.

THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE uses minstrel show conventions; but it is not a "blackface" revue. Rather, the minstrel elements echo through the evening, paralleling social and political struggles which continue to haunt America today.

THEATRE THREE

NORMA YOUNG
Founding/Artistic Director

JAC ALDER
Executive Producer-Director

with The Midnight Limited Partnership

Present

THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

A Theatrical Fantasy

Based on Songs by **RANDY NEWMAN** *Conceived and Written by* **TRACY FRIEDMAN**

Featuring (in alphabetical order)

KEITH D. ALLGEIER **PEGGY BILLO**
GROVER COULSON, JR. **DENNIS M. MAHER**
TERRENCE CHARLES RODGERS

Musical Director **TERRY DOBSON**
Associate Producer & Set Design by **CHARLES HOWARD**
Costume Design by **CHRISTOPHER KOVARIK**
Lighting Design by **KEN HUDSON**
Production Stage Manager **TERRY TITTLE HOLMAN**
Production Manager **CHERYL DENSON**

Directed and Choreographed by
TRACY FRIEDMAN

First Preview: Saturday, 25 February 1989

Opening: Wednesday, 1 March 1989

THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE was originally produced
 at the Wisdom Bridge Theatre, Chicago, Illinois.

the cast

(in order of appearance)

Joe GROVER COULSON, JR.*

G.I. TERRENCE CHARLES RODGERS*

Salesman DENNIS M. MAHER*

Girl PEGGY BILLO*

Redneck KEITH D. ALLGEIER*

The action takes place in a bus depot somewhere
on the back roads of Louisiana in 1969.

THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE
WILL BE PERFORMED WITHOUT INTERMISSION.

* Member Actors' Equity Association

Musicians: Terry Dobson (musical director/keyboards);
Mark Miller (keyboards); Kirby Tassos (woodwinds).

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Musical Numbers.....

(in order of presentation)

THE PROLOGUE

I Think It's Going to Rain Today Joe

THE FIRST PART

Sail Away Joe & Company
Yellow Man G.I. & Redneck
Sigmund Freud's Impersonation of Albert Einstein in America Salesman & Company
Political Science Company

THE FIRST OLIO - Songs About Love

Lover's Prayer G.I., Salesman, & Redneck
Tickle Me Girl
Maybe I'm Doing It Wrong Salesman
You Can Leave Your Hat On G.I.
They Just Got Married Girl, G.I., & Salesman
Marie Redneck

THE SECOND OLIO - The Misfits

I'm Different Redneck, Joe, & G.I.
Simon Smith and His Amazing Dancing Bear Girl
Davey the Fat Boy Redneck
Short People Salesman, G.I., & Redneck
Old Man Girl
Song for the Dead G.I.

THE THIRD OLIO - A Subject Very Near and Very Dear

Mr. President (Have Pity on the Working Man)
..... Company
Lonely at the Top Joe
Roll with the Punches Salesman
It's Money That I Love G.I.
Baltimore Girl & Company

THE BURLESQUE

Old Kentucky Home Joe & Company
Rednecks Redneck & Company
Louisiana Joe & Company

THE EPILOGUE

I Think It's Going to Rain Today (Reprise)
..... Joe & Company

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profiles

KEITH D. ALLGEIER (*Redneck*) last performed at Theatre Three in the 1986 hit production of *LIES AND LEGENDS: THE MUSICAL STORIES OF HARRY CHAPIN*. Before that he was seen in Theatre Three productions of *WORKING*, *DESIGN FOR LIVING*, *THE GONDOLIERS*, *BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR*, and *SPLENDID REBELS*. Keith apprenticed at Theatre Three during the 1981-82 season and has been seen in several productions of Theatre Three's Grimm Magician Players. His other Dallas credits include Long John Silver in *TREASURE ISLAND* at the Dallas Children's Theatre, Inspector Clouseau in *THE PINK PANTHER STRIKES AGAIN* at the Garland Civic Theatre, V.V. Frankenstein in *FRANKENSTEIN...THE MUSICAL* at the Greenville Avenue Pocket Sandwich Shop Theatre, and Melvin Wilder in *THE DIVINERS* Stage #1. Keith's film appearances include *TRUE STORIES*.

PEGGY BILLO (*Gli*) performed an amazing array of characters in Theatre Three's 1988 hit musical *PERSONALS*. Her other performances at Theatre Three include Mrs. Nordstrom in *A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC*, Virtue in *ANYTHING GOES*, and the Gravedigger's Wife in *SWEENEY TODD*. She has toured nationally with productions of *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*, *STUDENT PRINCE*, and *THE DESERT SONG*. Her area cabaret credits include performances with the 40's jazz group Central Expressway, Parodize, and in Stage West's Cabaret on the Square production of *SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM*. Her most recent performance was with Stagedoor Musicals in *SING ME A HAPPY SONG* which was recently presented in the new Theatre Three...Downstairs series.

TERRENCE CHARLES RODGERS (*G.I.*) is a native Dallasite and graduate of South Oak Cliff High School. After a brief stint in the military, he attended the University of Tennessee in Nashville as a commercial art major; El Centro College as an apparel design/dance major; and SMU on an audit scholarship as a dance major; and is currently a musical theatre major at The Performing Artist Musical Theatre Conservatory at Mountain View College. He is a former dancer with the Dallas Black Dance Theatre Company, where he performed in such productions as *PORGY AND BESS*, *CARMEN JONES*, and *DEEP ELLUM BLUES*. Terry was most recently seen on stage in *JOPLIN/A RAGTIME MUSICAL* at the South Dallas Cultural Center and also in *DEATH AND THE KING'S HORSEMAN*, a joint collaboration between the Addison Centre Theatre and the Afro-American Artists Alliance. Terry performed as a featured dancer in the Theatre Three and Dallas Black Dance Theatre production of *HOUSE OF FLOWERS*.

GROVER COULSON, JR. (*Jee*) is a Fort Worth resident and native Texan who has acted in the Dallas/Fort Worth area for more than twenty years. His most recent appearance was as Captain Davenport in *A SOLDIER'S PLAY* at Jubilee Players Theatre in Fort Worth. His favorite roles have included Kong in *KING KONG* and Sam Spade in *THE MALTESE FALCON*, both at the Hip Pocket Theatre where he has been seen in more than fifteen productions. Grover also appeared in the title role in the Hip Pocket Theatre's *ELY GREEN AND THE ROYAL FLYING CORPS O' COWTOWN*, which was performed in Scotland at the Edinburgh Theatre Festival (named critic's choice for one of the ten best shows in The Fringe) and in London at the Queen Elizabeth Festival Hall. His area credits also include shows such as *NEGROES IN SPACE* and *GOOD PERSON OF SCHECHUAN* at Caravan of Dreams, *YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN* and *HUCKLEBERRY FINN* at Casa Manana, and productions at Jubilee Players, Fort Worth Theatre, and Sojourner Truth. Grover appeared as Mr. Newland on the December 10, 1988, episode of *DALLAS*.

DENNIS M. MAHER (*Salesman*) is a native St. Louisan who made his debut at the age of fifteen, playing the Girl's Father in *THE FANTASTICKS*; 23 years and more than a hundred character roles later, both Dennis and *THE FANTASTICKS* are still running. He received his Bachelor's degree from St. Louis University, his Master's from Memphis State, and his doctorate from The University of Wisconsin. He served as a company member, and later as interim Artistic Director, of the Oklahoma Theatre Centre in Oklahoma City before accepting a teaching position with The Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville. For the past seven years, he has been Professor of Theatre at the University of Texas at Arlington, and following *THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE* he will return to UTA to direct *GODSPELL*. His favorite roles include The Player in *ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD*, George Schneider in Neil Simon's *CHAPTER TWO*, Robert in David Mamet's *A LIFE IN THE THEATRE*, and Benedick in *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*. His one-person show, *THE TROUBLE BEGINS AT EIGHT*, has been seen on PBS stations throughout the country. Dennis lives in Arlington and is single - but looking for "Ms. Right". His only requirement is that she must be a Randy Newman fan.

profiles

TRACY FRIEDMAN (*Concept, Direction, Choreography*) has worn a number of hats during her two decades of work in the theater, including acting, directing, writing, and choreography. Her choreography credits include the national tours of *ONE MO' TIME* and *GETTING MY ACT TOGETHER*. In Chicago she won a Joseph Jefferson award for the North Light Repertory production of *THE CLUB* and choreographed the original production of *DO BLACK PATENT LEATHER SHOES REALLY REFLECT UP?* which ran for three and a half years. Tracy created the staging for the Chicago, New York, Toronto, and Los Angeles productions of *LIES AND LEGENDS: THE MUSICAL STORIES OF HARRY CHAPIN* (which was a hit at Theatre Three in 1986). When not in rehearsal Tracy is usually at her word processor. She is the author of two children's books and two musicals. *THE BLACK TULIP*, with music by Brian Lasser, was presented as a reading at the American Place Theater in New York. *THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE* received its original production at the Wisdom Bridge Theater in Chicago, under Tracy's direction. *THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE* went on to receive a critically acclaimed production in New York at the Astor Place Theater.

RANDY NEWMAN (*Songs*) has emerged over the past decade as one of the most witty and iconoclastic songwriters in America today. He has cut nine albums to date: *RANDY NEWMAN CREATES SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN* (1968), *12 SONGS* (1970), *RANDY NEWMAN LIVE* (1971), *SAIL AWAY* (1972), *GOOD OLD BOYS* (1974), *LITTLE CRIMINALS* (1977), *BORN AGAIN* (1979), *TROUBLE IN PARADISE* (1983), and *LAND OF DREAMS* (1988). He has written the scores for several movies, including *RAGTIME*, *THE NATURAL*, and *PERFORMANCE*. Newman is probably best known, not to mention misunderstood and reviled, for his hit "Short People." His songs have been recorded by such artists as Barbra Streisand, Bing Crosby, Linda Ronstadt, Aw Garfunkel, Bonnie Raitt, Ringo Starr, and Three Dog Night.

CHRISTOPHER KOVARIK (*Costume Design*) has designed numerous productions at Theatre Three, including *PERSONALS*, *THE COLORED MUSEUM* (with Charles Howard), *TAKING STEPS*, *A QUARREL OF SPARROWS*, *THE FANTASTICKS*, and *CLAPTRAP*. Chris' credits include *A MOON FOR THE MISBEHOTTEN* at Garland Civic Theatre and *COME BACK TO THE FIVE AND DIME*, *JIMMIE DEAN*, *JIMMIE DEAN* at Dallas Alliance Theatre. An active S.T.A.G.E. member, Chris has participated in both Exposure '87 and '88. Chris says "Hello" to all his friends.

TERRY DOBSON (*Musical Director*) has served as Theatre Three's staff musical director since May, 1980. During the past nine seasons he has been responsible for the musical direction of such hits as *CLAP YO' HANDS*, *A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC*, *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*, *A...MY NAME IS ALICE*, *LIES AND LEGENDS: THE MUSICAL STORIES OF HARRY CHAPIN*, and *SWEENEY TODD*. As an actor, Terry has appeared in Theatre Three's productions of *THE WAKE OF JAMEY FOSTER*, *ANYTHING GOES*, *A DAY IN HOLLYWOOD/A NIGHT IN THE UKRAINE*, and, most recently, *THE FANTASTICKS*. Terry recently returned from a tour of the Bahama Islands, where he played with a jazz band on board the T.S.S. Carnivale. In January of this year, Terry created Stagedoor Musicals, Inc., which will create and devise musical revues for conventions, clubs, cruises, and theatres. Stagedoor Musicals, Inc. recently produced the successful *SING ME A HAPPY SONG* in Theatre Three's basement rehearsal hall.

KEN HUDSON (*Lighting Design*) designed lights this season for Theatre Three's *THE FANTASTICKS*, *A QUARREL OF SPARROWS* and *HUNTING COCKROACHES*. A lighting designer for five years, Ken's credits include *FOXFIRE*, *QUARTERMAINE'S TERMS*, *PAINTING CHURCHES*, and others, all at Theatre Three. He has also executed designs for Dallas Theater Center, Garland Civic Theatre, Deep Ellum Theatre Garage, and the Van Cliburn Foundation. In addition, Ken serves as Resident Lighting Designer for both Livie Oak Theatre in Austin, Texas, and New Stage Theatre in Jackson, Mississippi.

CHERYL DENSON (*Production Manager*) made her Theatre Three directing debut with the holiday hit production of *TIE FANTASTICKS*. She has designed Theatre Three sets for *A QUARREL OF SPARROWS*, *TAKING STEPS* (with Jac Aider), *CLAP YO' HANDS*, *LIGHT UP THE SKY*, *SAFETY*, *ANIMAL FARM*, *THE SHOW-OFF*, *LIES AND LEGENDS*, *MA RAINY'S BLACK BOTTOM*, *FOXFIRE*, *A...MY NAME IS ALICE*, and the recent *CLAPTRAP*. Her costume designs were seen in *A LUV MUSICAL*, *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*, *ANYTHING GOES*, and *OUTSIDE WACO*. Ms. Denson is active stage work, radio, and television. Her most recent Theatre Three appearances include hit productions of *SAFETY* and *TOP GIRLS*.

profiles

JAC ALDER (*Executive Producer-Director*) has served Theatre Three as an administrator, actor, designer, musician, director, and writer since he (with Norma Young, Robert Dracup, and Ester Ragland) co-founded the organization. Born and educated in Oklahoma, Alder earned his degree in Architecture. During the '70s, Alder was Director of Drama at the University of Texas at Arlington. He serves as an advisor to DISD's Arts Magnet High School and as a member of DISD's PACE organization (Partnership of Arts, Culture, and Education). Alder has chaired the Theater Panel of the Texas Commission on the Arts on which he has served two terms. He was on the founding Boards of the Dallas Arts Combine and the Dallas Arts Coalition. He has served as a grants evaluator for the Western Arts Foundation of Santa Fe and (the last two years) as a panelist for the Cultural Arts Council of Houston. He serves as host/narrator for Dallas Symphony Orchestra performances for its youth concerts and as Artistic Advisor to Dallas' Young Audience organization, a group that tours professional artists into the schools. For his extensive service to the theatre in Dallas, Mr. Alder was recently given a special award by The Dallas Theater Critics Forum. In private life he is the husband of Norma Young. He, with Ms. Young, received the Dallas Historical Society Award for Excellence in Creative Arts this past December.

CHARLES HOWARD (*Associate Producer & Set Design*) serves Theatre Three both as a top administrator and a senior member of the artistic staff. During more than twelve years at Theatre Three he has directed or designed eighty plus shows. His directing credits also include *HUNTING COCKROACHES*, *THE ELEPHANT MAN*, *OTHERWISE ENGAGED*, *MORNING'S AT SEVEN*, *FOX FIRE*, and *BLOOD KNOT*. He designed *CANDIDE*, *RISE AND SHINE*, *A LUV MUSICAL*, *BENEFACTORS*, and *THE COLORED MUSEUM*. He holds degrees from Hendrix College and the University of Virginia. He has taught at Mary Washington College, Memphis State University (where he headed the BFA performance program), and Bates College.

TERRY TITTLE HOLMAN (*Production Stage Manager*) joined Theatre Three last season with *A LUV MUSICAL*. She has been an Equity Stage Manager for over thirteen years and has worked for several companies, including Dallas Ballet, Theatre Memphis, Theatre Midland, and the Mansion Dinner Theatre. She also wrote the book on stage management for Texas Tech University, her alma mater. Terry is also a professional I.A.T.S.E. stagehand and since her marriage to another stagehand, Robert Holman, she has become a professional house renovator as well.

NORMA YOUNG (*Founding/Artistic Director*) was born in Dallas, reared in Oak Cliff, and educated at Sul Ross State University in Alpine (which gave her its Distinguished Ex-Student Award in 1982). Ms. Young's career took her to Houston and New York before she returned to Dallas to found Theatre Three in 1960. She has served as Theatre Three's Artistic Director continuously since then. In addition to her extensive directing credits, Ms. Young has played many leading roles for Theatre Three, most recently appearing as Rosanna Ainsworth Jackson in the world premiere of *A QUARREL OF SPARROWS*. Last season she was seen as Mme. St. Pe in *THE WALTZ OF THE TOREADORS*. Her guest appearances have taken her to San Antonio's Guadalupe Cultural Center in *LA CASA DE BERNARDA ALBA* and Houston's Alley Theatre in her one woman show *THE LIFE SHE LED*. Ms. Young named Theatre Three for playwrights, productions, and audiences: elements she values equally in her concept of theatre. *DALLAS TIMES HERALD* has named her "Dallas' First Lady of the Theatre" and a recent edition of *ULTRA Magazine* named her one of the five "grand dames" of Texas.

LAURENCE O'DWYER (*Associate Director*) directed the recent *CLAPTRAP* and the Grimm Magician Players' *THUMBELINA*. Earlier this season he appeared as August Ainsworth in the world premiere of James Duff's *A QUARREL OF SPARROWS*. Last season he played General St. Pe in *THE WALTZ OF THE TOREADORS* and directed *A LUV MUSICAL* and *LIGHT UP THE SKY* (which was named an outstanding production by the Dallas Theater Critics Forum). He has also directed such previous Theatre Three hits as *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*, *ANIMAL FARM*, *THE SHOWOFF*, and *MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM*.

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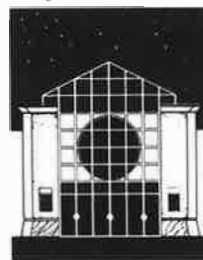
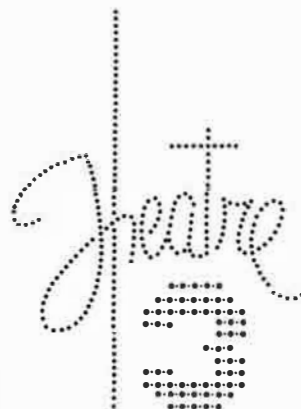
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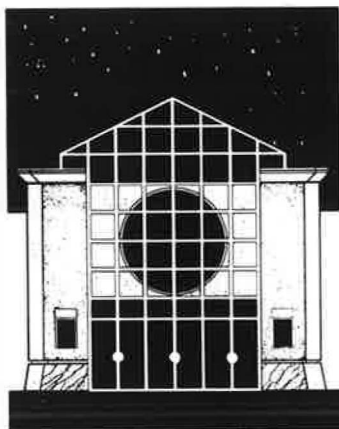
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Theatre Three
 IN THE QUADRANGLE
 2800 ROUTH STREET
 DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

THANKS!

THEATRE THREE is supported, in part, by funds from the Division of Cultural Affairs, Dallas Park and Recreation Department; the Texas Commission on the Arts; The 500, Inc.; The Junior League of Dallas; TACA; The Meadows Foundation, Inc.; Atlantic Richfield Foundation; Foley's; The Dallas Morning News; plus many other corporations, foundations, and individuals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The Quadrangle: City Warehouse Corporation; Manhattan Cleaners; Lee Data Mail; The Stoneleigh Hotel; The Dream Cafe; Douglas Picture Frames; PIP Printing; Chastain & Company; Collee & Tea Trading Company; Dallas Arts Combine; S.T.A.G.E.; Alpha Graphics; Lipton Tea; Massimo da Milano; J. Pepe's; American Printers; Texas Instruments (Ed Groben & Candy York); Frito-Lay; Susan Kandell Photography; Aurling and Associates; Yellow Rose Imports; Pete Dominguez Restaurants; AMC Theatres; Sunhealth Cafe; Accuile; The Dallas Morning News.

Theatre Three applauds all those whose support makes our work possible. Though space does not permit individual listing, we offer our sincere thanks to our thousands of Season Subscribers and BRAVO Campaign Contributors.

Performers and Stage Managers at THEATRE THREE work under contracts with Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in legitimate theatre.

214-871-2933 (Administration)
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NO SMOKING IN LOBBY OR STAGEHOUSE BY
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NO CAMERAS OR RECORDERS OR BEEPERS
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The photographing, video recording, or sound recording of any performance without the written permission of the Management is prohibited by law. Even bringing in such equipment makes the violator liable for money damages. The Box Office Staff will happily hold such equipment for safekeeping.

As a courtesy to prompt playgoers and for safety reasons, THEATRE THREE does not seat latecomers until intermission. For like reasons, playgoers leaving their seats during the performance will not be readmitted until act-end. Children under 5 years of age will not be admitted to THEATRE THREE's mainstage productions. We invite you to begin your child's playgoing experience with the excellent productions of our GRIMM MAGICIAN PLAYERS.

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