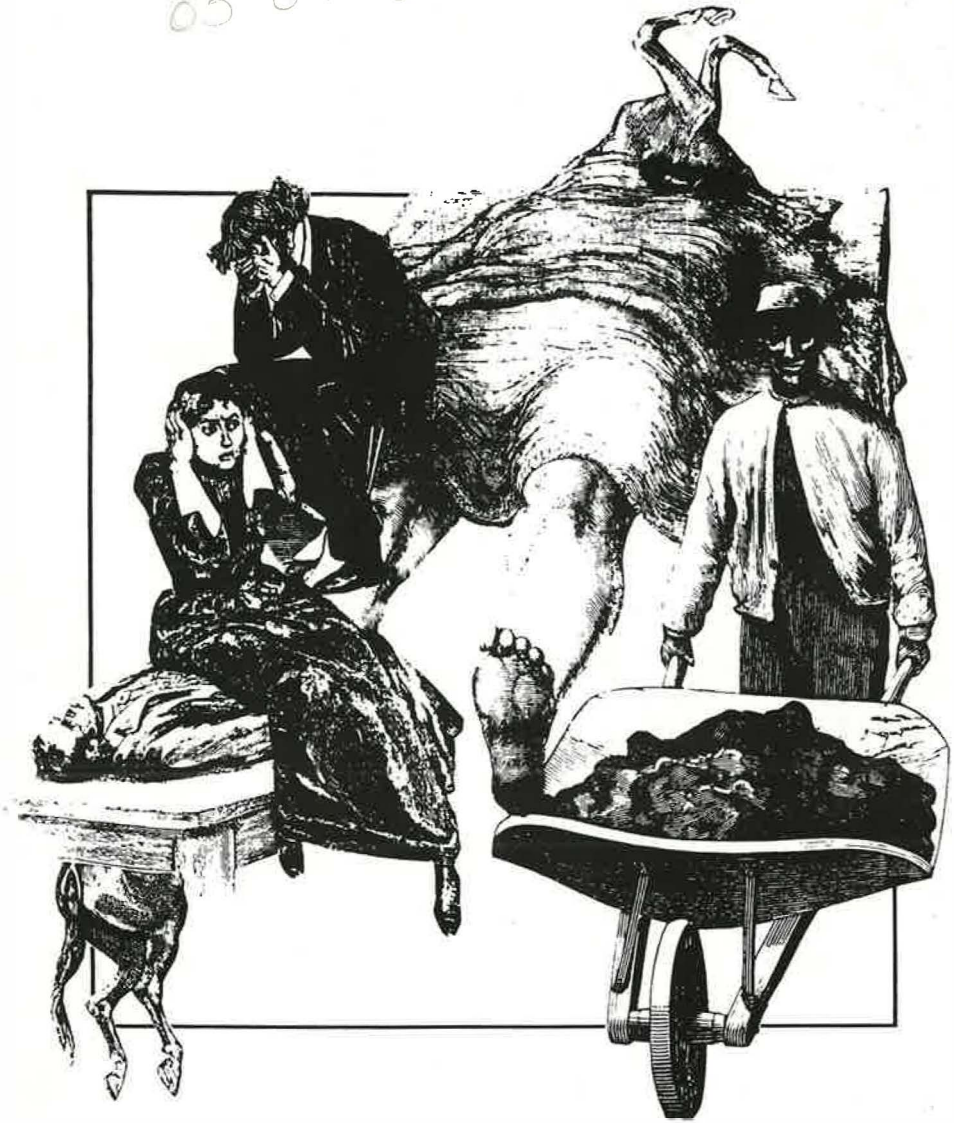


83-84 shows



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# Theatre Three

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## Director's Notes

It's an odd experience to direct the play of a friend I have known for years. Don't want to wax poetic, but I did drop my poinsettia plant when Jac Alder told me over the phone that Beth Henley had won the Pulitzer Prize.

Beth is fascinated with the misfit we see as just everyday normal in her plays. The way her characters confess horrible crimes easily as if they were saying, "Good Morning," I see all around me. The simple act of taking stockings off in the kitchen Beth describes in "Crimes of the Heart" as an obscene act. The way of looking at this act is totally original. When I first read that strange stage direction I literally stopped breathing, because I understood and was terrified by its meaning.

"The Wake" to me is her most mysterious work. Depth lies in her saying one line that is not in itself

unusual but haunts you way, way into the night. The nocturnal obscenities of simple acts, taking place in a house that breathes with her characters, horrify.

One laughs at the genetic horror of a family and feels the same fear we remember from childhood. Psychiatrists make a mint unraveling the unknowable harms that a family in all innocence inflicts on the child, who grows up to enter this world and merrily passes gothic horror on to future generations.

Ntozake Shange has a sentence in her novel "Sassafras, Cypress & Indigo" which describes Beth's depth. That sentence is, "Something's got hold to my child. I swear. She's got too much South in her."

Lordy! Lord! What a day that was when Jamie Foster died! Just another wake. And unless you have been in a box all your life, you'll know this night well.

## THEATRE THREE STAFF

**Production**  
Executive Producer-Director ..... Jac Alder  
Founder/Artistic Director ..... Norma Young  
Associate Producer ..... Charles Howard  
Associate Director and Director of Children's  
Theatre Conservatory ..... Laurence O'Dwyer  
Production Stage Manager ..... Jimmy Mullen  
Publicist ..... Shannon Williams  
Costume Manager ..... Cheryl Denson  
Costume Maintenance ..... Paula Unruh  
Sewstress ..... Susie Thennis  
Technical Director ..... Mark Smithisler  
Booth Operations and Crew Coordinator ..... Keith Baker  
Membership Candidates for Actor's Equity  
Association and Season Interns ..... Johna Sprizzo,  
Karen Meyer

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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.
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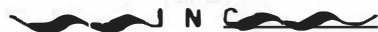


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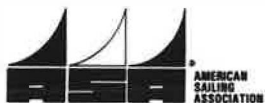
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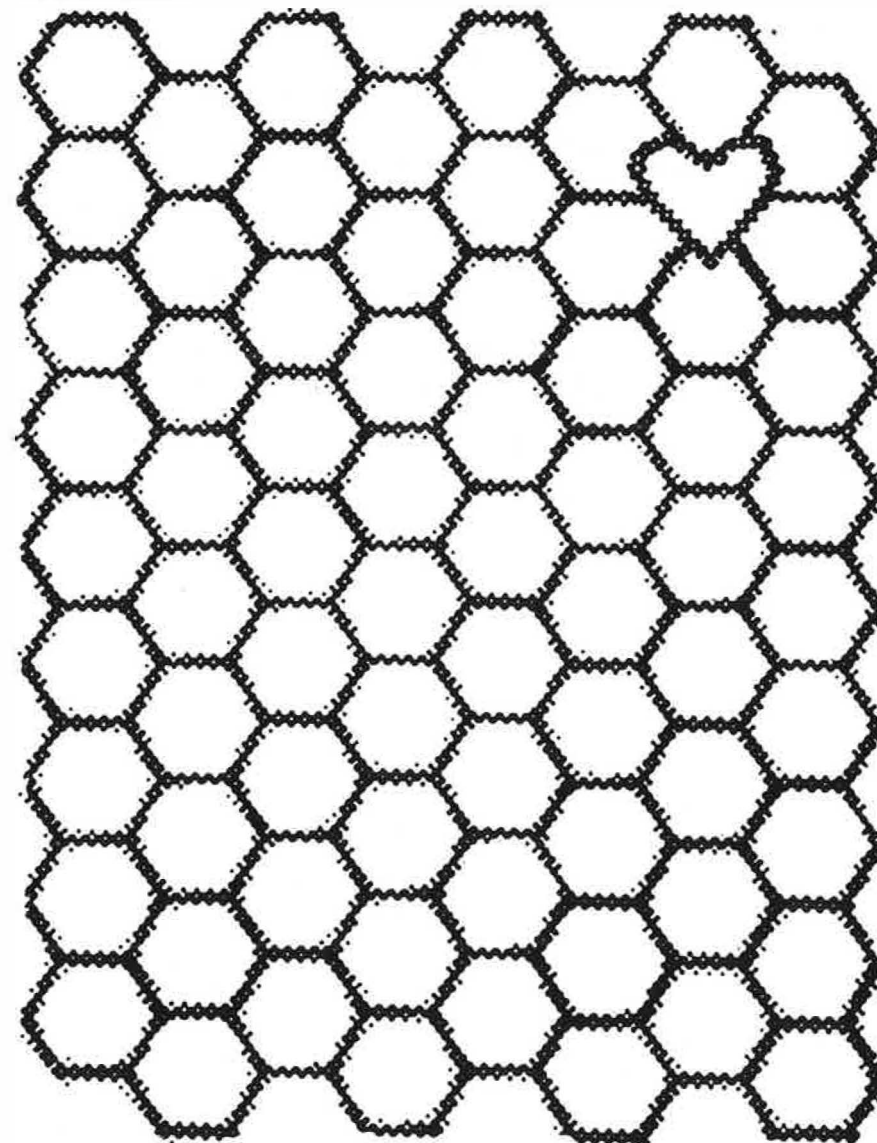
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## SETTING

The entire action of the play takes place throughout Marshael Foster's house and yard in Canton, Mississippi.

- Act I** — Scene 1 Morning  
 Scene 2 Supper Time  
**Act II** — Scene 1 Late that night  
 Scene 2 Throughout the night  
 Scene 3 The following morning

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

## BACKGROUNDS

### The Actors

**CECELIA ANTOINETTE** (Pixrose Wilson) was last seen as the Lady in Green in Theatre Three's 1983 production of *FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF*. Ms. Antoinette's first book of poetry, *JUST AS I AM*, was published in the summer of 1983. She has developed a choreopoem, "Brown Gal's Rising," that is scheduled for a reading this spring at Frank Silvera's Writer's Workshop in New York. She was selected to be in a feature film, *THE BIG BREAK*, which will use some of her writing material. Ms. Antoinette studied acting from her mother, Dallasite Naomi Bruton, and more recently from Henry Street Settlement in New York. She studied playwriting with J. E. Franklin, Alice Childress and Pulitzer Prize-winner Charles Fuller.

**SHARON BUNN** (Marshael Foster) has appeared at Theatre Three in many shows as a staff actress. Her favorite roles at Theatre Three include assignments in *MISS REARDON DRINKS A LITTLE, ANYTHING GOES, THE GINGERBREAD LADY* and *ELEPHANT MAN*. Last season at Theatre Three, Miss Bunn played Mrs. Lovett in *SWEENEY TODD*. She has appeared in television, film, nightclubs and recording. She can be seen in the upcoming film *SWING SHIFT*, which stars Goldie Hawn. She has happily returned to her home town, Dallas, after living and working in Los Angeles for several years.

**TERRY DOBSON** (Leon Darnell) is probably more familiar to Dallas theatregoers as the musical director/pianist for Theatre Three's recent string of hits, including *CHARLOTTE SWEET, TOMFOOLERY, SWEENEY TODD, THE GONDOLIERS* and *WORKING*. But audiences in Alabama and Georgia know him for his acting work in such shows as *ANYTHING GOES, PLAZA SUITE, OF MICE AND MEN, MAN OF LA MANCHA* and *A FLEA IN HER EAR*. He recently performed the role of Zoot Doubleman in two national tours of *THE 1940s RADIO HOUR*. In his spare time, Mr. Dobson directs the popular Dallas vocal group "Central Expressway," plays the piano for the Dallas Ballet Academy and "plays" the word processor in Theatre Three's administration offices.

**HUGH FEAGIN** (Brockler Slade) began his association with Theatre Three as the Reverend Shannon in the 1963 staging of *NIGHT OF THE IGUANA*. Since then, he has appeared in well over thirty 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* and Quentin in *AFTER THE FALL*. He holds the singular honor of having acted in three of Theatre Three's *SECOND STAGE FESTIVALS*. Mr. Feagin studied theatre at SMU, The University of Texas and the Goodman School of Drama. He began his acting career with the American Shakespeare Festival. He is father of three sons and his wife is wine writer and consultant Becky Murphy. Mr. Feagin was last seen as "The Player" in Theatre Three's *ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD*.

**THURMAN MOSS** (Wayne Foster) has appeared in several Theatre Three productions including last season's *TRUE WEST*. He has recently appeared in the Los Angeles productions of *MAN'S LAMENT* and *ONE ACT IN HELL*. Mr. Moss will appear later this year in the new plays *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*.

**STEPHANIE RASCOE** (Katty Foster) was last seen at Theatre Three in *MAN AND SUPERMAN* as Rhoda and in *SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER* as Pimple. Also at Theatre Three, Ms. Rascoe has performed in several Grimm Magician Players' productions and in the New Playwrights' Festival last season. She has also performed in *LOOSE ENDS* at Stage #1 and *THE PRIMARY ENGLISH CLASS* at the Circle Theatre. This summer, Ms. Rascoe will be directing *SALOME* by Oscar Wilde at Stage West in Fort Worth.

**SYNTHIA ROGERS** (Collard Darnell) makes her second appearance at Theatre Three. Her other appearance here was as Mazie in *THE BOYFRIEND*. Recently, she appeared in *QUILTERS* at Stage #1. Ms. Rogers has appeared in over thirty productions at the Dallas Theater Center. Her most recent role was Her Ladyship in *THE DRESSER*. She created the roles in four of Preston Jones' plays including Charlene in *A PLACE*

ON THE MAGNELENA FLATS, Jane in *REMEMBER* and Claudine in *TEXAS TRILOGY*. She played the part of Tish in *LADYBUG, LADYBUG, FLY AWAY HOME* at the Kennedy Center. Ms. Rogers has also worked as a nightclub entertainer and a film and television actress. Her next project is 1918, a film written by Horton Foote. Combining her love for theatre and children, Ms. Rogers is Director of the Teen/Children's Theater at the Dallas Theater Center.

### The Playwright

**BETH HENLEY** was born in Jackson, Mississippi. She became a Pulitzer Prize winner at the age of twenty-nine for her play *CRIMES OF THE HEART*. For the same play, Miss Henley also won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award and the 1979 Great American Playwrights Award. As an actress/playwright, Miss Henley is part of a growing group which includes actor/writers Tom Griffin, Sam Shepard and Christopher Durang. Miss Henley has written two plays other than *THE WAKE OF JAMEY FOSTER* and *CRIMES OF THE HEART*: *THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST*, produced by Theatre Three in 1980 as part of its *SECOND STAGE FESTIVAL* and proclaimed a winner by Theatre Three audiences only two short weeks before Miss Henley herself became the winner of one of the most coveted prizes in literature; and *AM I BLUE?*, which was produced by the Hartford Stage Company for the Lunchtime Theatre series and, most recently, by Stage #1. *AM I BLUE?* was originally written by Miss Henley for a playwriting course at SMU. *THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST* has recently completed a run at the studio Arena Theatre in Buffalo, New York. And *CRIMES OF THE HEART* has just ended an engagement at Dallas' Plaza Theatre. An original screenplay, *THE MOONWATCHERS*, has been optioned for motion picture production, as has *CRIMES OF THE HEART*. Of *THE WAKE OF JAMEY FOSTER*, Miss Henley has said, "People are so used to seeing things on TV, like *FATHER KNOWS BEST*, where everybody is the same, and they think that's how everybody behaves. But in real life, I think that's a lie." Miss Henley keeps her Pulitzer Prize in her home in Los Angeles. In a drawer.

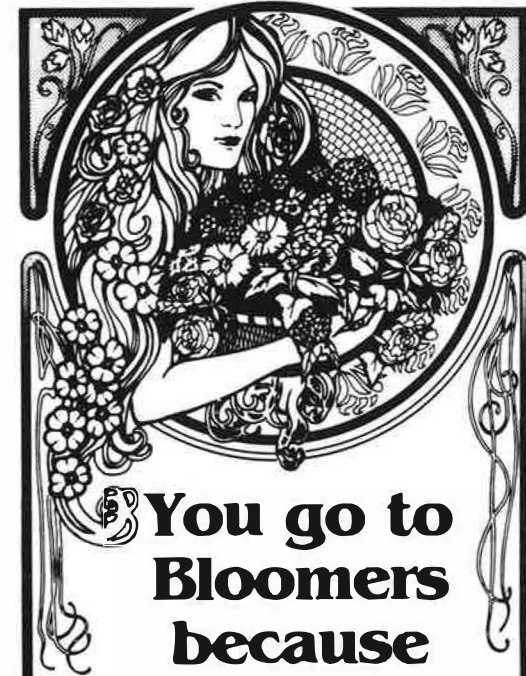
### The Director

**LAURENCE O'DWYER** lists among his directorial credits at Theatre Three Beth Henley's *THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST*, *HOUSE OF FLOWERS*, *BEDROOM FARCE*, *REJOICE, DANG IT, REJOICE!*, *TRUE WEST* and *TOMFOOLERY*, in addition to all of Theatre Three's children's productions performed by the Grimm Magician Players. His Theatre Three acting credits include *CLOSE OF PLAY*, *STRIDER*, *OTHERWISE ENGAGED*, *PRESENT LAUGHTER*, *SLEUTH*, *DRINKS BEFORE DINNER*, *THE PHYSICIAN IN SPIKE OF HIMSELF*, *MAN AND SUPERMAN* and, most recently, *SCHOOL FOR WIVES*. During a hiatus from Theatre Three in the mid '70s, Mr. O'Dwyer served as Chairman of the Drama Department at Bennington College. Mr. O'Dwyer is a theatre veteran with extensive credits in regional and repertory theatre. He is a graduate of The Goodman Memorial Theatre in Chicago.

### 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 classic offering *SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER* last season, played Cora in *MORNING'S AT SEVEN*, was seen in the role of the mother in *TRUE WEST* and Dona Ana in *DON JUAN IN HELL*. She most recently directed *ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD* and *SCHOOL FOR WIVES* for

*Continued on page 15*



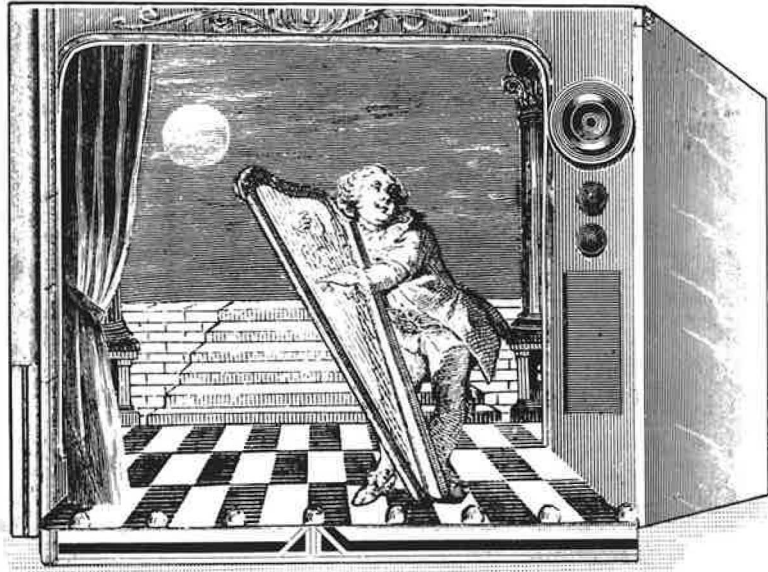
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Theatre Three. Miss Young serves as the Artistic Consultant to STAGE. She has recently appeared in several films and television assignments and will soon be seen in the mini-series CELEBRITY. She was most recently seen in the television movie LICENSE TO KILL.

## 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 president for the Dallas Arts Combine, as a member of DISD's Partnership of Arts and Culture in Education Committee and its Magnet Arts High School and member of the Theatre Panel of the Texas Commission for the Arts. Last season, he appeared as Thor in Theatre Three's acclaimed production of MORNING'S AT SEVEN, directed the companion pieces MAN AND SUPERMAN and DON JUAN IN HELL and appeared in the successful season finale TOMFOOLERY. Mr. Alder was most recently seen in SCHOOL FOR WIVES and has just completed the directorial assignment for CHARLOTTE SWEET.

## The Designers

CHARLES HOWARD (Scenic Designer) is the Associate Producer of Theatre Three. He has been with the theatre since 1976 and has functioned as resident director and scenic designer. In addition to his artistic duties, Mr. Howard develops and administers the theatre's apprentice and volunteer programs. He has also taught at Mary Washington College and Memphis State University, where he headed the undergraduate performance program.

KARLA J. JOHNSON (Costume Designer) was pleased to have the opportunity to design the costumes for another Beth Henley show in Dallas, the one act, AMI BLUE?, produced by Stage #1, where she started her professional career three years ago after graduating with a BFA in Theatre from SMU. Other Stage #1 costume design credits include: GETTING OUT, LOOSE ENDS, NUTS, THE DIVINERS, BENT, THE FOR-EIGNER and most recently, MASS APPEAL. Miss Johnson was the costume shop manager for The Shakespeare Festival of Dallas and Texas Shakespeare (touring show) in 1982. She designed the costumes for TEN LITTLE INDIANS at the New Arts Theatre and designed the wardrobe for a DCCCD telecommunications series, THE WRITE WAY, to be released as a public educational television series. She recently worked as an assistant to the wardrobe for the feature film, NOT FOR PUBLICATION. Karla is very excited about THE WAKE OF JAMEY FOSTER and hopes to be involved with future shows at Theatre Three.

MICHAEL MURRAY (Lighting Designer) graduated with an MFA from SMU in 1980. Since then he has worked as a freelance designer and scenic artist in the Dallas area. He has been a scenic artist for The Dallas Opera (TURANDOT, DAS RHEINGOLD and CARMEN) and The Fort Worth Opera (PIRATES OF PENZANCE, THE GONDOLIERS). Mr. Murray designed the lighting for THE DIVINERS at Stage #1 and scenery for A CHRISTMAS CAROL at Arkansas Repertory Theatre. He was a draftsman on the ABC film SILKWOOD, Robert Altman's film STREAMERS and THE TEXAS PICTURE, directed by Robert Benton. His work was last seen at Theatre Three in MAN AND SUPERMAN and, most recently, THE 1983 REVIVAL FESTIVAL.

## SECOND THRESHOLD

Vintage Comedy  
by Philip Barry

From the twenties to the forties, Philip Barry was the most successful writer of high comedy. Like THE PHILADELPHIA STORY he had written earlier, this play is set among the rich. The middle-aged hero finds little to savor in his successful life. When his bright daughter fears he may be contemplating doing away with himself she leads family and friends in renewing his zest for living with warm and dizzying results. The dialogue is wise, witty and rare in this, Barry's last, play.

March 27 thru April 29  
Previews March 23, 24 & 25

871-3300





# Dallas Observer

Advocate for excellence in arts and entertainment

Our father Adam  
sat under the Tree and  
scratched with a stick  
in the mould;

And the first rude sketch  
that the world had seen was  
joy to his mighty heart.

Till the Devil whispered  
behind the leaves, "It's pretty,  
but is it Art?"

—Rudyard Kipling

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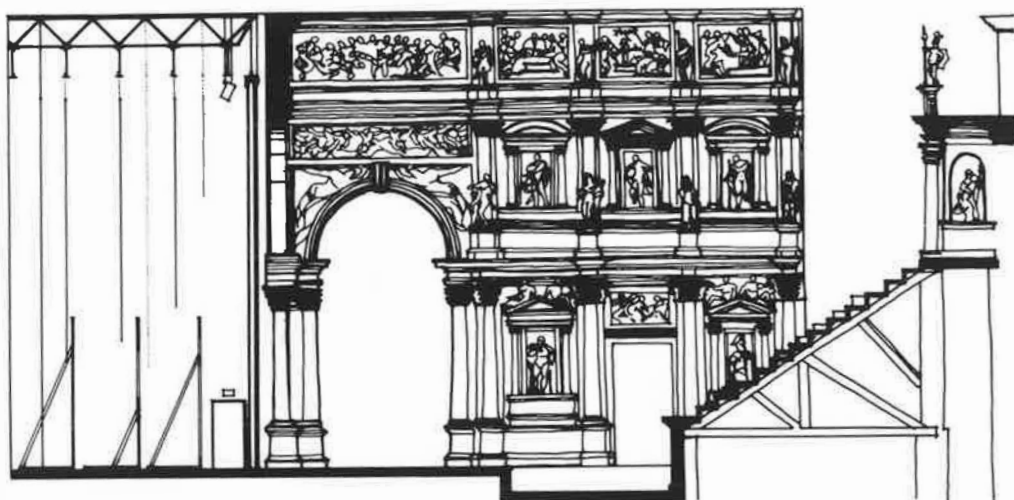
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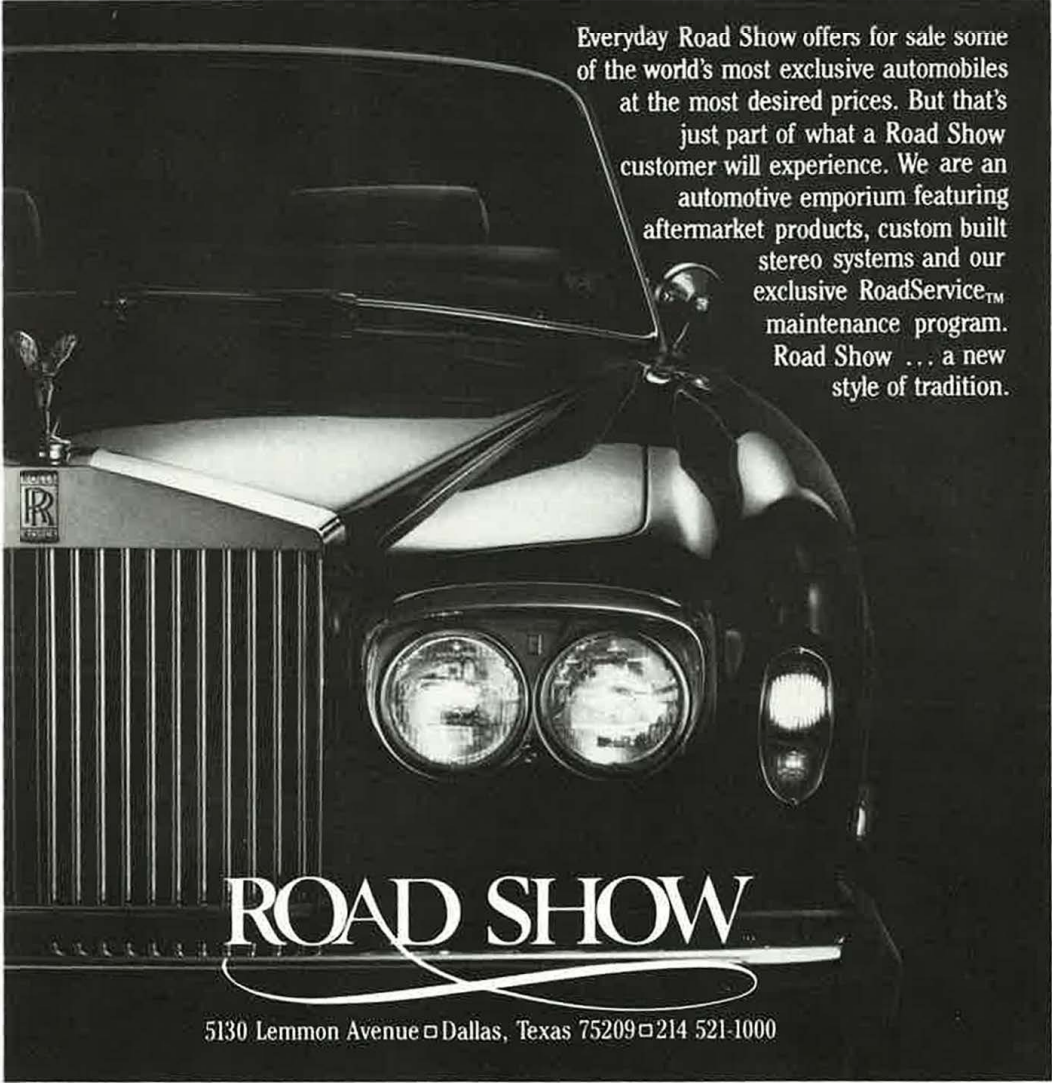
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