

South Valley Civic Theatre Presents

*The
Fantasticks*



*by Tom Jones
and
Harvey Schmidt*

October 14, 15, 21 and 22
Flying Lady Restaurant in Morgan Hill

October 28 and 29
Hollister Elks Lodge

1988

Produced by arrangement with Music Theater International

ABOUT THE PLAY . . .

"The Fantasticks" opened off-Broadway at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in Greenwich Village, New York on May 3, 1960. It has since become America's longest running play, with over 1000 productions in all fifty states, six national touring companies in this country, an extended tour of Army bases in the Pacific and Europe, has been performed in thirty-five foreign countries and was awarded the Vernon Rice Award for "Outstanding Contribution to the Off-Broadway Theatre."

How to explain this remarkable success and longevity? Librettist-lyricist Tom Jones has several theories. One is that it is the theme of the play, emphasizing the seasonal nature of our lives, the necessity of winter to insure the rebirth of spring, which appeals to audiences. "I'm also convinced," Jones further maintains, "that the simpler you do something the better off it's going to be. Too many recent shows rely on elaborate, dazzling spectacle. The proper words and music can evoke a spectacle in the mind that's so much more satisfying."

And of course, there's the music. "Try to Remember" sets the romantic mood of the play. Then the characters sing their own tunes, some wistful, some humorous, some startling. The melodies are memorable, and the off-Broadway original cast album is the best-selling ever made.

However the success is analyzed, the play is simply to be enjoyed. Most of all "The Fantasticks" is a boy, a girl, and an audience's memory. Just sit back and "Try to remember the kind of September when life was slow and oh, so mellow . . ."

A WORD ABOUT WORDS . . . from the director

The semanticists say that "words don't have meaning, only people do." Proof of that idea takes shape in "The Fantasticks" with the word "rape." In the dark and dangerous 1980's the word rape has a most sinister connotation. In the context of "The Fantasticks," however, (written in 1960) rape is referred to humorously and is meant in the classical sense -- literally a "carrying away" followed by a rescue. "All quite standard," as El Gallo says in the play.

The South Valley Symphony

Kathleen Ash Barraclough, Music Director & Conductor



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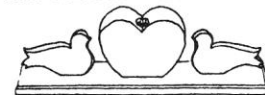
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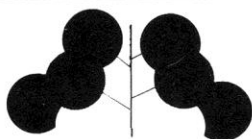
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THE ARTISTIC STAFF

JIM ALLEN, Director Brought up on the peninsula south of San Francisco, Jim started his theatre career acting with numerous "little theatre" productions. Next came six years in the "big apple" New York City, where after graduating from the Senior Dramatic Workshop and studying with acting coaches like Madaline Sherwood and Iver Francis, Jim appeared in several off-off Broadway productions as well as acting in a Shakespearean traveling company.

An A.B. degree in speech and a teaching credential earned at San Francisco State brought Jim to Hollister, where he began, then ran the high school drama program for fifteen years. Productions mounted included "Paint Your Wagon," "South Pacific," and "Up the Down Staircase." Participation in competitive one-act tournaments earned San Benito High School over thirty outstanding acting trophies and numerous excellence awards for the productions..

During this time Jim, along with his wife Elaine, was also active in several Gilroy Community theatre productions, including "The Odd Couple," "Star Spangled Girl," and "Play It Again, Sam." Jim made his SVCT directorial debut with act four in "California Suite."

ALETTE PRICHETT, Music Director Alette's experience with music and theatre is varied. She was a voice major at Hartt college of Music, vocal public music teacher (Kodaly Method) in Newbury, Massachusetts. She has produced and directed Children's Theatre and is an Equity player from Massachusetts. Alette's last appearance for SVCT was on keyboards for "Jesus Christ Superstar." She is a professional singer and musician along with being a private music teacher in voice, keyboards, flute and guitar.

WHITNEY PINTELLO, Choreographer Although this is Whitney's debut as choreographer, she is not new to community theatre. She has performed in other SVCT shows including "South Pacific," "Hello Dolly," "Annie," "Music Man," "Bye Bye, Birdie," "Li'l Abner" and "California Suite." Whitney also finds the behind-the-scenes work just as satisfying. Her dance experience includes high school dance team, dance captain and assistant choreographer for various shows. Whitney is a sophomore at Gavilan College and plans to transfer to a 4-year university.



Standing: Music Director Alette Prichett, Stage Manager Bill Corneth, Rehearsal Assistant Jim Grace, Choreographer Whitney Pintello. Seated: Director Jim Allen, Mascot Danielle Nielsen.

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Producers Rod and Marion Pintello
Director Jim Allen
Music Director Alette Prichett
Choreographer Whitney Pintello
Rehearsal Assistant Jim Grace
Rehearsal Pianist Luana Pedota
Stage Manager Bill Corneth
Properties Sandy Lorber
Lighting The Hepner Men
Set Construction Rod and Marion Pintello, Bruce Ingraham,
Lou Lorber, Tom Harris, Jim Allen,
David and Patt White, Jim Grace
Properties & Costume Assistance Cheryl Nielsen, Susie Muszala,
Grace Brawn, Whitney Pintello
House Manager Grace Brawn
Box Office Manager Rosalind Farotte
Publicity Russ Brawn
Promotion Brenda Warfield
Photographs Eugene's Salon of Photography
Wooden Swords Michael & Rita Paratore
Poster Design Greg Harsh
Auditions Sandy Lorber and Robin Stocks
T-shirts Gayle Montalvo

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kathleen Sheridan, San Benito County Arts Commission
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MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

Overture	The Company
Try To Remember	El Gallo
Much More	Luisa
Metaphor	Matt and Luisa
Never Say No	Hucklebee and Bellamy
It Depends on What You Pay	El Gallo, Hucklebee, Bellamy
Soon It's Gonna Rain	Matt and Luisa
Rape Ballet	The Company
Happy Ending	The Company

ACT TWO

This Plum Is Too Ripe	Matt, Luisa, Hucklebee and Bellamy
I Can See It	Matt and El Gallo
Plant a Radish	Hucklebee and Bellamy
Round and Round	El Gallo, Luisa and Company
Beyond That Road	Matt and El Gallo
They Were You	Matt and Luisa
Try to Remember	El Gallo

CAST OF CHARACTERS

The Mute	.....	Cheryl Nielsen
El Gallo	.....	David White
Luisa	.....	Krystyna Smith
Matt	.....	Greg Harsh
Hucklebee	.....	Norm Howery
Bellamy	.....	Bruce McDonald
Henry	.....	E. John Mondo
Mortimer	.....	Chris Souza

THE ORCHESTRA

Piano	.....Luana Pedota	Percussion	.....Manuel Altamirano
Synthesizer	.....	Alette Prichett	

THE COMPANY

CHERYL NIELSEN, The Mute Cheryl recently starred as Guenevere in the SVCT production of "Camelot." She has performed in productions of "Li'l Abner," "Music Man," and "Man of La Mancha." Additionally she has appeared in "Oklahoma" and "The Sound of Music" with the San Jose Civic Light Opera. She also performed with the New York-based Caribiner Productions in a three-week engagement in Miami for a national show for the IBM Corporation.

DAVID WHITE, El Gallo Often David is asked about the silver and turquoise jewelry he wears by people who are curious to know where and how he developed such an appreciation. Usually he responds by saying, "It is in my blood, I was born in Tucson, Arizona." After attending schools in San Jose, where he moved as a child, he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in music from San Jose State University. David plays the violin, viola and piano, but after graduation re-evaluated his goal to become a teacher of music. When an opportunity in outside sales with a printing paper distributor was presented, he accepted and now represents the Unisource Corporation in the San Jose area. He resides in San Martin with his wife Patt and son David. He is a member of the South Valley Symphoney and has been in several orchestras during SVCT productions. "The Fantasticks" is David's second acting appearance after debuting last August at Center Stage in Gilroy.

KRISTYNA SMITH, Luisa This is Krystyna's first performing part with SVCT, though she worked backstage as a dresser in "Camelot" this past summer. Her first lead role was as Calamity Jane in "Deadwood Dick" in ninth grade; other credits include Eileen in "My Sister Eileen" and Audrey in "Little Shop of Horrors," both at Live Oak High where she is a senior. Krystyna is a member of the International Thespian Society and holds office in the Live Oak Drama Guild. Although she plans to study Business Administration, she looks forward to more work with community theatre. At present she is rehearsing for the role of Lady Capulet in Live Oak's "Romeo and Juliet." She would like me to thank the cast for their support during this show, and Simon and Matt for getting her to audition in the first place. And she sends smiles, eyes and pats to all.

GREG HARSH, Matt Greg performed earlier this year in SVCT's "The Boyfriend" and "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever." He is planning to attend Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, majoring in Graphic Arts and Music. He would like to thank Stephanie Walker for pushing him into singing, and Sherry Drake for all of her support.

NORM HOWERY, Hucklebee Norm has been singing since high school but didn't start acting until last year when he played in "Relatively Speaking" at Center Stage, followed closely by the role of Judge Omar Gaffney in "Harvey." He has been with IBM for 31 years, is married with three sons, and has lived in Morgan Hill for 20 years.

BRUCE MCDONALD, Bellamy "The Fantasticks" is Bruce's first exposure to the theatre. Although a first-time thespian, his stage experience includes a stint as lead guitarist for the rhythm and blues group, The Ray Cobb Band. Bruce is a computer programmer with IBM here in the South Bay, and a resident of Newark, where he lives with his wife and daughter.

E. JOHN MONDO, Henry John is no stranger to South County, having been born and raised in Salinas 51 years ago. He has been active in a number of theatre groups over the years, appearing as Rochester in "Jane Eyre," the title role in Moliere's "A Doctor in Spite of Himself," Rev. Chasuble in Moliere's "The Importance of Being Earnest," St. Peter in Leech's "Resurrection," and King Gasper in Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors." His only previous appearance for SVCT was as Sheriff Cord Elam in the 1982 production of "Oklahoma."

CHRIS SOUZA, Mortimer This is Chris' ninth production with SVCT since his first appearance in 1984's "South Pacific." He has also done shows with Center Stage, City Lights and the Oriana Chorale. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of SVCT, and is a member of St. Catherine's Adult Choir in Morgan Hill. Chris is single ("available, but not desperate") and a Loan Processor by profession while acting as an avocation.

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