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presents



Tom Jones

A Play in Three Acts
by DAVID ROGERS
Based upon the Novel
by Henry Fielding
Directed by
Jimmy Dee Arnold

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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
Opening night November 9, 2006
Towsley Auditorium

TOM JONES

A Play in Three Acts by
David Rogers

Based Upon the Novel by
Henry Fielding

Directed by
Jimmy Dee Arnold

Assistant Director
Jean Leverich

Producer
Curt Waugh

Stage Manager
Chuck Griffin

Sound/Lighting Technician
Scott Wessenberg

Set Designer
Dick Vail

Lighting Designer
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Costume Designer
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Edmund Senkowski

Set Construction
Dick Vail

Dialect Coach
Robin Barlow

Swordfight Instructor
David Melcher

Music Designer
Jean Leverich

From the Director

My love affair with community theatre began in the early 1980's. When I had the pleasure of playing Partridge in a 1982 production of *Tom Jones*, I was hooked for life. I could be a part of this show forever and never tire of it. After many weeks of watching the players rehearsing the play, I'm still entertained every night.

There is a magic that happens with each and every show. You assemble a diverse group of people who share a spirit of "the show must go on." Even when you have two weeks left before opening night, the set isn't built, the lead has twisted his ankle nobody can remember their lines, somehow the show does go on.

In this particular production I have had the privilege of being able to select from a very deep talent pool. And, as is the case in many an A2CT show, we've assembled a group which includes seasoned veterans as well as newcomers. I hope you enjoy the play as much as I have enjoyed working with this incredibly fun group.

- Jimmy Dee Arnold, Director

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following for providing us with incredible gifts...time, support, items and more. We can't express our appreciation strongly enough!

Susie Berneis, Alix Berneis, Kat Bayless, and the cast for all their help with props

Brenda Oelbaum for the old fashioned key

O'Bryan Worley and Wendy Wright for the pewter mugs

Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre for wigs, costumes and props

Dollar Bill Printing & Copying for poster and flyer printing

Christopher Luebbe for helping with music

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And to anyone whom we may not have listed, or whom printing deadlines prevented us from listing, we apologize and...thank you!

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The Cast

LINDA LEE AUSTIN (Servant) is happy to be part of a cast that includes so many veterans of A2CT productions, as well as new comers who bring life to each show. She was in *Girls of the Garden Club* (Ginger), and *Guys and Dolls* (Martha). She worked on props for *Scarlet Pimpernel* and *Lysistrata* and did the set dressing for *On the Town*. Aside from helping out in the office, Linda Lee hopes to keep being a part of productions on or off stage. Rick and the cats understand.

ROBIN BARLOW (Squire Allworthy/Dialect Coach) most recently appeared for A2CT in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, another Jimmy Dee Arnold production. His first appearance with A2CT, 25 years ago, was in *A Flea in Her Ear*. He was President of the A2CT Board in 1988-89. Other Ann Arbor groups with which he has performed include the St. Andrew's Players, the Comic Opera Guild, and the Friends of the Michigan League Dinner Theatre. He and his wife Betsy are both retired from jobs at the University of Michigan, and have eight grandchildren.

GORDON BARNETT (Thwackum) joins A2CT for the first time in the role of Thwackum, a "heavy-set sanctimonious" gentleman. "Type-cast again!" A lawyer by day and an omnivorous reader and moviegoer, Gordon has been a member of the group formerly known as UMGASS for 20 years and is currently in rehearsal for *HMS Pinafore*. He wants to thank his wife, Carol, his daughter, Jennifer, and his grandson, Gavin, for keeping the whimsy in his life.

ALEXANDRA BERNEIS (Harriet Fitzpatrick) is thrilled to be in her umpteenth show with A2CT. Alix has worked with A2CT for some time, having taken time to attend Denison University, where she earned her BFA in Theatre Performance. She has most recently been seen onstage in A2CT's *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and MCRT's *Playboy of the Western World*. Backstage, she has designed costumes for various area productions including *Tartuffe*, *Chicago* and *Pippin*. As always, she sends her love to the friends and family who relinquish her to the theatre, especially Andrew.

MARK BERNSTEIN (Mr. Western) is celebrating the start of his second decade working with A2CT. He was last seen in June of this year as Edsel Mackey in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Other recent roles include E.J. Hornbeck in *Inherit the Wind* and Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. He sends his love to his granddaughter Kayleigh in the audience, who's attending her first theatrical production.

P. BRUCE BERTRAM (Doctor/Constable) makes his first A2CT stage appearance since 1994's *Cuckoo's Nest* in which he appeared as Scanlon, the bomber. He has been active in local theater in a variety of functions since 1976. He has been an assistant director, cast member, stage manager, and all manner of tech-types at the old Performance Network. Away from A2CT he is a part-time stage hand and is looking forward to stage work for joy and fame rather than pay. He would like to thank Jimmy and Jean, as well as the cast for the opportunity to be back in the footlights.

DAVID BURFOOT (Partridge) An Ann Arbor newcomer, David makes his A2CT (and U.S.) debut in this production, though he is a veteran of several overseas theatre groups, including most recently, the Anglo-American Theatre Group of The Hague (Netherlands), where his roles varied from Lucky Eric in *Bouncers*, Horse in *Europe* and Thomas Putnam in *The Crucible*, to frequent appearances in the uniquely English phenomenon known as the Christmas pantomime (definitely NOT silent!), mostly in drag and culminating with the role of the Hairy Godmother in the 2004 production of *Cinders* and directing the "panto," *Santa in Space*, the following year. He has also been active for many years in the annual European Festival of English-Speaking Amateur Theatre Societies (FEATS). Community theatre has been a way of life for David since he "accidentally" got involved in productions of the Kuwait Little Theatre and Kuwait Players in the late 1980s, and then went on to join the British-American Theatrical Society in Antwerp, Belgium. His ambition is to direct Robert Bolt's *A Man for all Seasons*, in which he has played The Common Man in Kuwait, and the Duke of Norfolk in Antwerp. David would like to thank Jimmy Dee for taking a chance on him, and the cast and other members of A2CT for making him feel welcome.

ALAN P. BURK (Square) This is Alan's second show with A2CT after appearing as Melvin P. Thorpe in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Alan attended Eastern Michigan University, where he majored in Theatre Arts and was a Literature minor (and happened to have read the original novel this play is based on!) Some favorite roles include, Autolycus in *The Winter's Tale*, Petulant in *The Way of the World*, Ernest in *Design for Living*, Monsieur Loyal in *Tartuffe*, Michael James Flaherty in *The Playboy of the Western World* all with the Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre, as well as Fagin in *Oliver!*, Roger Sherman in 1776, Benny Southstreet in *Guys & Dolls*, Herr Schultz in *Cabaret*, The Fool in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, Crabtree/Careless in *The School for Scandal*, The Sergeant in *The Devil's Disciple*, and many more. All in all, Alan has had the opportunity to play many different types of people and is pleased to work with this incredibly fun group in bringing you another one! Alan will next be seen in A2CT's production of *Sweet Charity*. He wishes to thank everyone who has ever supported him with his theatrical passion and to everyone who will support him in the future too!

JON ELLIOTT (Dowling) enjoys still another comedic pairing with Jimmy Dee, and lauds his cast mates and the crew for a most enjoyable production. Thanks go to his supportive family- wife Alexis, daughter Jennifer and Techie daughter Melissa (Yeah, lights!). His previous productions are too numerous and varied to bore you with here.

CARL HANNA (Mr. Blifil) is thrilled to be involved with *Tom Jones*. He's working for the first time with Jimmy Dee Arnold as director, onstage with Jon Elliott for the first time (though this is their fourth production together), and performing with the esteemed Robin Barlow for the first time in twenty-five years. This is Carl's eighth A2CT play, with his favorite roles being Eugene Gant in *Look Homeward, Angel*, Hildy Johnson in *The Front Page*, and Roger Finestein in *Enter Laughing*. He would like to thank his lovely wife Mary and his awesome son Luke for all their support and encouragement. Enjoy the show!

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ANDREW HOAG (Fitzpatrick) is making his more or less annual appearance onstage at A2CT, after an unrelieved spate of stage managing. Earlier this year he (yep) stage managed *A Thousand Clowns*. More historically (he does hold a PhD in the subject from U of M), Andrew has directed, performed, designed, produced, etc. for a variety of local groups, chiefly A2CT and the Saline Area Players. If your memory is long enough, you may remember him as Wykowski (the @sshole) in 1993's *Biloxi Blues*, or Noah Curry (the @sshole) in 1999's *The Rainmaker*. Tonight, he essays Fitzpatrick (the @sshole). Hmm..... As ever, love to Alix.

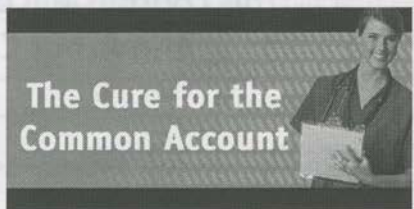
EMMA KENNEDY (Honour) is a senior at Pioneer High School. In addition to *Tom Jones*, she performed in A2CT's *Inherit the Wind*, Civic Junior Theatre's *Just Like Us*, *The Odyssey*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Dorothy Meets Alice*, and assistant directed the Junior Theatre production of *The Reluctant Dragon*. She is also part of Pioneer Theatre Guild, both performing and working backstage, and sings in the Bel Canto Choir and Sha-Bop Shoppe at Pioneer. Emma would like to thank all the cast and production staff for doing an amazing job.

KENT KLAUSNER (Tom Jones) has been an active participant in A2CT for over 6 years and has performed in 10 productions. Some of his credits include: *A Thousand Clowns* (Albert Amundson), *All My Sons* (Frank Lubey), *Cabaret* (Max), and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (HRH The Prince of Wales). He currently attends Eastern Michigan University, studying for a degree in Secondary Education. Kent would like to thank the talented cast and crew of *Tom Jones*, his parents for their continued love and support, his good friend Jeff for his amusing presence throughout the rehearsal process, and last (but certainly not least) "Pants," who has been a constant source of inspiration and love. Kent would also like to dedicate his performance to his grandparents, Jindriska and Solomon Klausner, who both passed away this year.

ALAINA LOVERA (Sophia Western) is thrilled to be making her acting debut with such a hilarious, talented cast/crew— thanks

to all for sharing your (singing) knowledge and experience with the new girl. A recent U of M grad and an assistant account executive at an advertising agency, in her spare time she loves hanging out with her little sisters, watching college football, concerts, dancing, and visiting her roommates. Finally, she would like to thank her amazing parents for putting up with her and for their constant love and support. Also, a big thank you and a high-five to LH, DK and her co-workers (aka "The Mean Girls") for providing her with 9 hours of constant entertainment daily — "I like your style".

ANN MARIE MANN (Mrs. Whitefield) has so enjoyed this fun show with a great cast and crew in her seventh performance with A2CT. Her favorite role was Veta Louise Simmons in *Harvey* with Saline Area Players. Favorite offstage role is that of proud mom to her two sons who both recently passed the Bar exam to practice law. When not tending guests at the Inn at Upton, Ann works as nurse at UMH. Thank you to Dick, family, and friends for their continued support.



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The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Partridge	David Burfoot
Bridget Allworthy	Jean Leverich
Squire Allworthy	Robin Barlow
Deborah	Olive Thursby
Jenny Jones	Catherine Zudak
Captain Blifil	Jimmy Dee Arnold
Blifil	Carl Hanna
Tom Jones	Kent Klausner
Thwackum	Gordon Barnett
Square	Alan Burk
Mr. Western	Mark Bernstein
Sophia Western	Alaina Lovera
Miss Western	Brenda Oelbaum
Honour	Emma Kennedy
Butler	Raymond Thursby
Servant	Linda Lee Austin
Justice Dowling	Jon Elliott
Doctor	P. Bruce Bertram
Mrs. Waters	Catherine Zudak
Highwayman	David Melcher
Harriett Fitzpatrick	Alexandra Berneis
Fitzpatrick	Andrew Hoag
Mrs. Whitefield	Ann Marie Mann
Susan	Maria Vermeulen
Lady Bellaston	Mary Ann Stevenson
Nancy	Maria Vermeulen
Constable	P. Bruce Bertram

The Program

England about 1750

Act One: Somersetshire

Act Two: The Journey

Act Three: London

DAVID MELCHER (Highwayman/Swordfight Instructor) When David isn't performing or teaching theatrical combat, bullwhip stunts, high falls, or fire stunts, he leads a boring and uneventful life as a computer programmer. *Tom Jones* is his fourth A2CT production, and he is a 5-year member of the Ring of Steel stunt troupe. His other experience includes a swordfight role in Michigan Opera Theater's *Don Giovanni*, a lightsaber duel for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and fight choreography and performance for several independent films.

BRENDA OELBAUM (Miss Western) This is Brenda's first production with A2CT. She has spent most of her time in the theater behind the scenes painting and building sets for the Burns Park Players. When Brenda is not fantasizing about acting, she is a visual artist and independent curator. She has two loving boys, two bad dogs and a husband who is none too excited about her making a fool of herself on stage. Too Bad! So Sad!

OLIVE THURSBY (Deborah) is delighted to be part of this show, her first with A2CT. Previously she did two plays in 2002 with St. Joseph's Twin City Players. She and her husband Ray live in Saline, have four sons, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Olive would like to thank them for all their support.

RAYMOND THURSBY (Butler) Ray is enjoying being part of this show. It is his first venture onstage. Ray came to the U.S. from England in 1957 with his wife Olive and resides in Saline. Ray has worked in the Public Health field in the UK, and USA and traveled extensively throughout Europe and Asia for the Ann Arbor - based NSF International before retiring. He enjoys reading and golf with friends and family, which includes seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

MARY ANN STEVENSON (Lady Belaston) was stage-struck in 2nd grade as the littlest "Billy Goat Gruff" (she really wanted to be the Troll). College allowed her to experience more classical endeavors--Shakespeare, Chekhov, and after-show parties. Still later, A2CT allowed her

to continue to "smell the grease paint" (or was it "the crowd")? *Hasty Heart* was her first A2CT show, badly received by critics. She won a Best Supporting Actress award for both *Bus Stop* and *The Crucible*--obviously more perceptive critics. She was cast in A2CT's first original musical, *Jerry Bilik's Brass and Grass*. She couldn't sing on key, but was sleeping with the Producer at the time (and still is). Other productions with A2CT provided her with on-stage and off-stage theatrical experiences. Mary Ann became a nationally known "Raconteuse" when UM still had a TV production studio (admittedly most of her fan mail was from 10-year-olds). As for this production of *Tom Jones*, she is happy--at last--to play a Troll!

MARIA VERMEULEN (Susan/Nancy) is thrilled for her first A2CT performance. She is a junior Film and Video Studies and Psychology major at the University of Michigan. Some past acting credits include *Euripides: The Bacchae*, *Butterflies are Free*, *Stuck*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cheaper by the Dozen* and *Once Upon a Mattress*. Maria spent this summer studying acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York City and appeared as an extra in *As The World Turns* and *Spider Man: 3*. In general, Maria has an unbridled imagination and loves to make use of it by acting, writing and filmmaking. She wants to thank her Mom, Dad and Sister (Teresa, Bill and Alyssa Vermeulen) for having as much faith in her dreams as she does and cannot acknowledge them without giving a big woof woof arrrooooooof to her yellow-lab puppy, Piper Vermeulen. Maria looks forward to this A2CT production and others to come!

CATHERINE ZUDAK (Jenny Jones/Mrs. Waters) is pleased to make another appearance in front of the curtain under Jimmy Dee's excellent direction. Usually, Ms. Zudak works behind the scenes. She directed *Lysistrata* and produced *On the Town* for A2CT's 2004-2005 season, and she's producing *Playing Around: Readings in New Works* in July 2007. She thanks the best husband in the world, Rob, for always giving her everything her heart desires.



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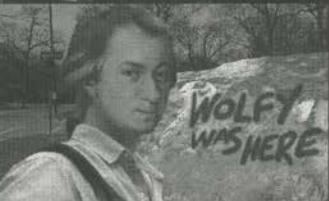
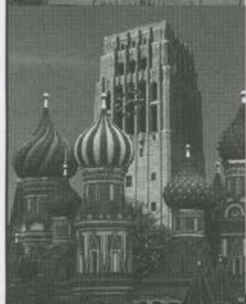
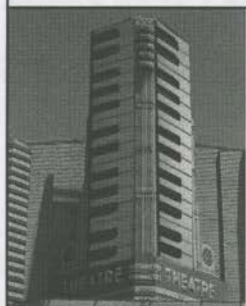
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The Production Staff

JIMMY DEE ARNOLD (Director/Captain Blifil) is overwhelmed by and deeply enamored with this enthusiastically talented cast and crew assembled. *Tom Jones* marks Jimmy's 88th production in which has acted/sang/danced (or acted like he could dance and sing)/stage managed/worked backstage, etc. He is currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors. His directorial credits include *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (2003) and *Extremities* (1995) for A2CT, *Arsenic & Old Lace* (1993) for Dexter Players and *The Wizard of Oz* (1997), *The Runaways* (1984), *Up the Down Staircase* (1983) & *All the World's a Stage* (1981) Port Huron Little Theatre. He was most recently seen on stage as Murray in last season's *A Thousand Clowns*. Other favorite A2CT roles: Fagin in *Oliver!*, Carlton in *Light up the Sky*, Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, & Ruckly in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. He sends his love to his wonderful family: the ever understanding and patient wife Linda, 21 month-old-son, James, soon-to-be-EMU-grad-son, Jimbo and Becca who will be his favorite daughter-in-law early next year.

KAT BAYLESS (Properties) This is Kat's first production with A2CT and she is extremely excited to be working with the cast and crew of *Tom Jones*. Kat loves the theater, but only if she's backstage! It's been 4 years since Kat participated in a production, the last show being *Yes, Mother* which she directed and produced for Seaholm High School in Birmingham. She is very proud of the hard work she's seen everyone put into this wonderful show since day one. She would like to congratulate "Monkey" on being the best.

SUSIE BERNEIS (Costumer) It's great to be back in the 18th century with Jimmy Dee and old friends and new! Susie satisfied her need for onstage time

as Jeanette in A2CT's recent successful production of *The Full Monty* and now after dealing with unclothed men, it's time to clothe everybody in really fancy stuff! Since we last visited the 18th century in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, there's been little chance to dip into the frills and furbelows (not to mention swords!) that won her Best Costumes from A2CT. Another shot at the title? Break a leg to all!

CHUCK GRIFFIN (Stage Manager) wears many different hats when it comes to the theatre, and has been a familiar face at A2CT since 1995 when he built the set for *Private Lives*. His credits are many, and include such shows as *Jeffrey*, *On Golden Pond*, *Ma Raney's Black Bottom*, *The Secret Garden*, and *Blithe Spirit*. While his main interest is in set design and scenery painting/building, other interests are lighting, props, stage managing, stage crew, and on occasion he's been seen in the costume shop lending a hand when needed. After a bit of a break from the theatre, we are starting to see Chuck once again, always behind the scenes climbing around the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre in places where no others dare to go. His recent shows with A2CT include *Cabaret* (stage manager), *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, and *The Full Monty* (lighting crew). His future plans with A2CT will be as Stage Manger for *The Tempest* in March of 2007, and there is talk that he'll not be able to resist volunteering to help out with the production of *Hair* as well.

THOM JOHNSON (Lighting Designer) TJ has been designing lights for a couple of decades now for dance, fashion shows and theater including designs for the award winning A2CT productions of *Steel Pier* and *The Front Page*. He is also an actor and director (last season's *A Thousand Clowns*), serves on the A2CT Board of Directors and relishes his new role of Gramps (thanks, Henry).

JEAN LEVERICH (Assistant Director/Music Designer/Bridget Allworthy) Other than messing with dimmerboards in high school and "Sandy-fying" and "Murray-fying" the set for A2CT's *A Thousand Clowns*, *Tom Jones* represents Jean's first backstage role. Jean first read Fielding's 850-page novel as a young adolescent, when, bedridden with mono, she instructed her mother to procure "very long novels" from the library. Onstage, Jean has recently appeared in A2CT's *Guys & Dolls*, *Our Town* and *On The Town*, in PTD Productions' *The Laramie Project* and Dexter Community Players' *Sweeney Todd*. She also sings Alto I with the UMS Choral Union and counsels undergrads at UM.

EDMUND SENKOWSKI (Hair and Makeup Designer) is delighted to be working on another A2CT production. Past credits include *Lysistrata*, *Our Town*,

and *All My Sons* with A2CT and *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The King and I*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, with other organizations. Edmund is a Training Manager at Jimmy Johns during the day. He would like to thank Brad for his support.

DICK VAIL (Set Builder) started building sets 18 years ago for the Thurston Players. Most recently he designed and built the set for Saline Area Players, *Esanaba in da Moonlight*. His most challenging piece was the guillotine for A2CT's *The Scarlet Pimpernel* that "chopped off" many heads including the director's, Jimmy Dee Arnold. When not working on a show, Dick spends his time repairing homes as a self employed residential builder. He wants to thank Ann (Mrs. Whitefield) for all the time he got to spend on the show and not on the house addition.



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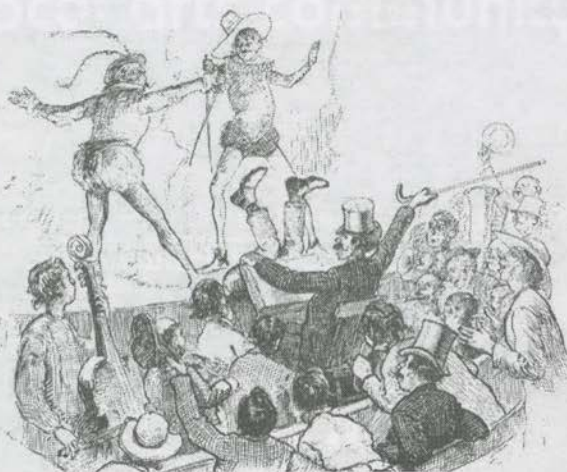
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06-07 season
'fooling around'

the full monty

directed by wendy sielaff

sep 14-17, 2006

lydia mendelssohn theatre

fooling around with...STRIPPERS

A group of down-and-out steelworkers stages a very revealing show to raise cash in this raucous musical comedy based on the smash-hit British movie.

tom jones

directed by jimmy dee arnold

nov 9-12, 2006

towsley auditorium

fooling around with...WOMEN

Infamous rake Tom Jones romances and swashbuckles his way through Eighteenth-century England in this bawdy, boisterous comedy.

sweet charity

directed by edmond reynolds

jan 11-14, 2007

lydia mendelssohn theatre

fooling around with...THE WRONG GUYS

Charity Hope Valentine, a dance hall hostess, dreams of love and marriage but can't seem to find the right candidate in this frothy musical comedy by Neil Simon.

the tempest

directed by david andrews

mar 15-18, 2007

towsley auditorium

fooling around with...MAGIC

An enchanted island, a magical ex-duke, and a pair of star-crossed lovers—Shakespeare is at his best in this delightful, romantic comedy.

cactus flower

directed by cassie mann

apr 19-22, 2007

towsley auditorium

fooling around with...UNMARRIED MEN

A confirmed bachelor dentist invents a wife and family to keep from committing to his girlfriend in this zany homage to free love and go-go boots.

hair

directed by caitlin frankel

jun 7-10, 2007

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fooling around with...
SEX, DRUGS and ROCK 'N' ROLL

It is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, where long-haired hippie-types clash with the establishment in this pro-love, anti-war musical of the late sixties.

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