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presents

Schmidt & Jones's

The Fantasticks



Directed by
Amy Kullenberg

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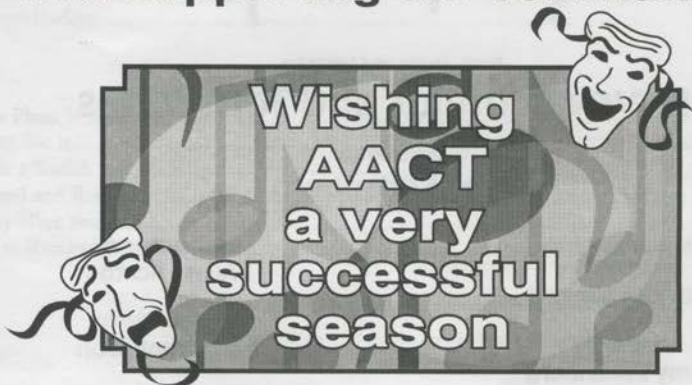
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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

Opening night March 2, 2000 at the Playhouse

The Fantasticks

Book, Music and Lyrics by

Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones

Directed by

Amy Kullenberg

Assistant Director
Stage Manager

Melissa Stewart

Produced by

**Amy Kullenberg
Melissa Stewart**

Set Design & Construction

**Jim Neal
Rob Sulewski**

Based on Drawings by

Harvey Schmidt

Lighting Design

Amy Kullenberg

Light Board Operator

Amanda Diaz

Musical Director

Adam Aceto

Rehearsal Pianist

Patrick Johnson

Costume Design & Construction

**Bridgit Rutz
Kathy Genik**

Drape Design & Construction

**Tod Barker
Angela Hurlbut**

Mask Design & Construction

**Neil Clennan
Eryn Lauckern**

Vocal Coaching

Ian Eisendrath

Properties

The Company

Running Crew

Angela Hurlbut, Susie Graham, Jason Benjamin, Dan Wall

Lighting Crew

**Eric Bassey, Mitch Warren, Doug Boes, Jeff Noune, Howard Morris,
Melissa Stewart, Neil Clennan, Chuck Griffin, Glen Massey, Jim Neal**

Special Thanks to

Patricia Garcia and the Ann Arbor Observer

Musical Numbers

Act I—In the Moonlight

Overture	The Company
Try to Remember	The Narrator
Much More	The Girl
Metaphor	The Boy and The Girl
Never Say No	The Fathers
It Depends On What You Pay	The Narrator and The Fathers
Soon It's Gonna Rain	The Boy and The Girl
Abduction Ballet	The Company
Happy Ending	The Company

Act II—In the Sunlight

This Plum Is Too Ripe	The Boy, The Girl, The Fathers
I Can See It	The Boy and The Narrator
Plant a Radish	The Fathers
Round and Round	The Narrator, The Girl, and Company
They Were You	The Boy and The Girl
Try to Remember (Reprise)	The Narrator

*There will be a 15- minute intermission between acts
Refreshments will be sold in the lobby during intermission*

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Cast

- Tod Barker as The Narrator (El Gallo)
Doug Boes as The Boy (Matt)
Elizabeth Filios as The Girl (Luisa)
Doreen Scott Fryling as The Boy's Mother
(Hucklebee)
Mike Mosallam as The Girl's Father
(Bellomy)
Kevin Lee Branshaw as The Old Actor
(Henry)
James Iannuzzi as The Man Who Dies
(Mortimer)
Neil Clennan as The Mute
Eryn Lauckern as The Mute
Adam Aceto at The Piano
Patrick Johnson at The Piano
Erica Everett at The Harp

Director's Notes

Simplicity.

"Son you should go inside and write 'simplicity' 200 times. It might improve your style."

In a world cluttered up with bits and bytes, and -isms and schisms, simplicity becomes the desirable, yet elusive, antidote. Which is, perhaps, why *The Fantasticks* is still going strong 40+ years after its inception. A simple story, simply told, with warmth, passion, humor, and grace. A boy. A girl. First love. Challenge. Hubris. Hurt. Growth. Reconciliation. Love survives. Love endures.

Theatre can get cluttered up, as well. How *shall* we do *Hamlet* this year? Let me count the ways. A "concept" here, a "concept" there. And what remains of dear, dear Hamlet?

Again, Jones and Schmidt have the antidote. And so, there's no tinkering in this production. No twisting or bending, no overlaying of fancy directorial concepts. Yes, you'll see *two* Mutes, and yes, Hucklebee will not be male, but the *story*, the flavor, and the essence are purely Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt. A simple—and yet highly sophisticated—story, told simply, gently, warmly. Because simplicity lasts. And lasts. And lasts.

Enjoy. —AK

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About the Cast and Crew

Adam Aceto (Music Director) Adam is currently a sophomore at U-M studying bassoon, piano, and organ. He is also the organist at Memorial Christian Church, here in Ann Arbor. Around town, Adam plays in the University Symphony Orchestra and U-M Symphony Band in addition to playing in pits for musicals and substituting in community orchestras such as the Adrian and Plymouth Symphonies. Adam also enjoys travel and languages. He has been to Europe several times as well as Australia, and speaks German, French, and Italian. In addition to music, Adam also enjoys running and collecting HO gauge trains.

Tod Barker (El Gallo) Having spent the better part of the past five years directing, designing and acting in local theaters including AACT, PTD Productions in Ypsilanti and Washtenaw Community College, Tod bids farewell to the area with this production. This spring he will move back to the New York City area. He would like to dedicate this performance to every wonderful person he has had the fortune to work with in the area. Best of luck to all!

Jason Benjamin (Running Crew) Jason has recently moved to Ann Arbor from Lansing, and he recently had a supporting role in *Carmen* with Comic Opera Guild.

Doug Boes (Matt) Doug is a sophomore Musical Theater major at U-M. This is his first show at AACT. Some favorite previous roles include Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* and Joe Hardy in *Damn Yankees*. He sends special thanks to ALL of his teachers (past and present), his parents and his friends.

Kevin Lee Branshaw (Henry) Kevin's previous AACT credits include: his AACT award-win-

ning performance as Michael in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Starbuck in *The Rainmaker*, Ken in *Rumors*, Tackaberry in *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma!* Other recent roles include Tommy in *Brigadoon* at First Theatre Guild in Birmingham and Fagin in *Oliver!* at Village Players in Birmingham.

Neil Clennan (Mute) Neil has been acting in amateur theater ever since he took a drama class in high school to overcome his shyness. He has played roles in 25 shows, including the role of Matt in the Clare Civic Players' 1985 production of *The Fantasticks*. Neil works as a Computer Technologist at U-M.

Amanda Diaz (Light Board Operator) Amanda started doing technical theater work for *Brigadoon* and *The Crucible* in high school. Since then, Amanda has done lighting for several New Voice Risings at Washtenaw Community College. At AACT, Amanda recently was light board operator for *Angels in America*. Amanda's goal is to light professionally for Stratford or Broadway.

Erica Everett (Harpist) Erica Everett is from Plinckney and is a sophomore at U-M, majoring in Harp Performance. She enjoys singing and playing with her church choir, and helping out at home with her nine younger brothers and sisters.

Elizabeth Filios (Luisa) Elizabeth is a junior at Plymouth-Canton H.S. Her previous appearances at AACT include *A Little Night Music*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Enchanted*, and *Annie*. She would like to thank her teachers, friends, family and especially fellow cast and crew members for their constant support and encouragement.

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Doreen Scott Fryling (Hucklebee) Doreen's past shows have included *The Sound of Music*, *Annie* and *The Wizard of Oz*. She has also appeared as a guest soloist with the U-M Arts Chorale, Susquehanna Valley Chorale and the Ann Arbor Art Song Festival. Currently, Doreen is a music teacher in the Ann Arbor Public Schools and is working on her Master in Music Education degree at U-M.

Kathy Genik (Costume Construction) Kathy is a long-time participant in AACT, and both AACT and Saline audiences are well acquainted with her wonderful work as a costume designer and seamstress. When not working with theater groups in Ann Arbor and Saline, Kathy works in Engineering Administration at Ford.

Susi Graham (Properties and Running Crew) Susi has stage managed for four different theatre groups in Cincinnati, Ohio. Of the 15+ shows that she has worked on, Susi counts among her favorites *Pippin*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Brigadoon* and *The Crucible*.

Angela Hurlbut (Properties and Running Crew) Angela has been involved with the theater for several years, playing an extremely active role at her high school in Fulton, Illinois. She is exceptionally pleased to continue her theater work in Ann Arbor. Angela is currently employed with the U-M Graduate School. She would like to thank you for coming to this "Fantastick" production!

James Iannuzzi (Mortimer) I am currently a student at Fr. Gabriel Richard H.S. where I am a member of the drama club. I have previously played such roles as Nathan Detroit in *Guy & Dolls*, Dr. Sanders in *Harvey*, and Lt. Cable in *South Pacific*. This is my first performance with AACT. When I am not at school or doing theater I love to snowboard. I would like to thank God, my parents for their love and support, and Doug Boes, who got me into this.

Patrick Johnson (Rehearsal Pianist) Patrick is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance at U-M, studying under Louis Nagel and Katherine Collier. He also studies organ with James Kibbie. Pat has enjoyed playing trumpet in pit orchestras in the past, and this will be his first show playing piano for Civic. He was born and raised in Lansing. In his free time he enjoys reading, attending concerts, and keeping up to date with *The X-Files*.

Amy Kullenberg (Director) Having previously directed *The Baltimore Waltz* and *Brave New World Revisited*, *Revisited* at Civic, Amy is pleased to return to direct *The Fantasticks*. Amy enjoys acting, as well, and was recently seen in AACT's production of *Angels in America* wearing several different costumes. Amy has also directed at Actors and Playwrights' Initiative, The Hangar Theatre, and Performance Network. In April, Amy will direct a new musical entitled *All I Want* at the U-M Media Union. When not working in theater, Amy relaxes by crooning Patsy Cline tunes to barnyard animals.

Eryn Lauckern (Mute) Good evening to all. Thanks for coming to our show. I am honored to be working at Civic with all these brilliant people. I would like to thank my parents, sis and little bro for all the love and craziness, my crazily creative friends Janelle, Kate and Bill for ignoring my whining and loving me anyway. Well, I think that I've said quite enough for being a quiet one. Enjoy!

Mike Mosallam (Bellamy) Mike is a third-year student in U-M's Musical Theater Department. He has played a range of roles from Nicely-Nicely (*Guy and Dolls*) to Riff (*West Side Story*). He has also played the role of producer, director, and playwright for projects of his own. He would like to thank God, his family and his supportive friends. This performance is dedicated to his tata—his favorite person in the entire world.

Jim Neal (Set Design and Construction) Jim is an Ann Arbor area builder and cabinet-maker. Jim made his first contribution to the AACT by designing and building the set for Allan Dreyfuss' play *813: American Fiction*.

Bridgit Rutz (Costume Design) While this is Bridgit's first AACT production, she has enjoyed working with many other theatre groups. Her favorite roles include Ophelia in the Ann Arbor Young Actors Guild's *Hamlet*, the title role in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Cinderella in *Into the Woods* with Dexter High School. During the last school year, Bridgit traveled with National Evangelization Team Ministries and she now studies Vocal Music Education at EMU.

Melissa Stewart (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) This is Melissa's second show at Civic. She was in *Brave New World Revisited*, *Revisited* in September.

Rob Sulewski (Set Design and Construction)

Rob has performed most recently in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* at Performance Network, and in last summer's Brass Tacks Ensembles' production of *King Lear*. Rob has also designed for AACT's *Brave New World Revisited*, *Revisited* and Performance Network's *No Exit*. For his Ph.D. dissertation in Comparative Literature at U-M, Rob translated and directed *the History of the Glorious Resurrection of the Lord*, a 16th-century Polish play of the Resurrection. Rob wishes to thank Beatrice for her patience, and for her grace.

Dan Wall (Running Crew) Dan comes to AACT with several years' experience in acting, set design and set building at his former high school. When not involved in theater, Dan's spare time is occupied with graduate work in Chemistry at U-M.

Thanks from Amy

Kathy Genik, Glen Massey, Cheryl Berteel, Chuck Griffin, Eric Bassey, Jeff Nouné, Tom Kappler, Fantasee Lighting, Howard Morris, Mitch Warren, Patty Mazolla, David Fryling, Deb Mahoney, Kevin Branshaw, Angela Hurlbut, Tiff Crutchfield, Chris Grace, Timm Gillette, CB, Jack Stewart

Jim Neal—For hooks and pipes and spaghetti and everything else between the Sun and the Moon

Tod Barker—For drapes and swords and sunlight and moonlight. Thanks for saying "yes." Ann Arbor's loss is definitely NYC's gain.

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