

Lex-Ham Community Theater

presents

The Fantasticks

Book and lyrics by Tom Jones, Music by Harvey Schmidt

Try To Remember when a musical made you feel so good!

St. Paul Arlington High School

1495 Rice Street

(between Larpenteur & Maryland, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of I-35E)

July 7-22, 2006

Starring:

Sam Ahern
Brent Berheim
George M. Calger
Shana Eisenberg
Bruce Heskett
Laurent Kuehnl
Nathan Metcalf
Jack Rose

Sunday		Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			7:30 p.m., July 7	7:30 p.m., July 8
			7:30 p.m., July 14	7:30 p.m., July 15
2:00 p.m., July 16 Pay What You Can		7:30 p.m., July 20	7:30 p.m., July 21	7:30 p.m., July 22

Tickets: \$18/\$12 children, students, seniors aged 65 and older

Pay what you can for the Sunday, July 16 performance

www.LexHamArts.org/theater ● 651-644-3366

Christopher Teipner, Director
B. Joseph Burch, Music Director

This production is through special arrangement with Music Theatre International

Directors Notes

Welcome to Lex-Ham Community Theater's production of *The Fantasticks*! This show embodies many things that appeal to both of us so it's been a thrill working on it.

As a director, it was the story that first appealed to me. A young boy and girl magically and very idealistically fall in love with the idea of being in love. Then they realize who the other person really is. (Everything looks different in the sunlight. Doesn't it?) But, everything can be alright. You can still love a person when you really know who they are. Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt understood many things that now, as I have become older, I understand as well.

Musically, the show is brilliantly written. Not only are there numerous "hum-able" tunes, but you'll find the underscoring perfectly creates the mood that Jones intended for the scenes. The intimacy of this space is perfect for the size of our "orchestra" consisting of only piano and harp.

The chance to direct in a black box space again and create a very intimate feeling has been both exciting and rejuvenating for me as a director. There are moments when it feels oh-so-private; like you're spying into someone's life. Then there are the grand adventures that you also experience with the characters. The fact that you are so close to them makes it feel as if you really are there in their world. The theatrical style of the staging gives you the chance to use your imagination and create your own virtual reality. It was this kind of experience that first drew me into theatre.

With all these elements in place, you have a very magical experience. One we both are glad to bring to life for you today.

We would like to thank Urban Landreman, the Board of Lex-Ham Community Theater, Arlington High School and the public schools of Saint Paul, Skuta, a very hard working production staff, and this very creative and talented cast. Most importantly, thank YOU--the audience--for supporting live theater.

Christopher Teipner and B. Joseph Burch

"Try to see it under light!
I assure you – It's dazzling!"

- Henry

Please
remember to
turn off all cell
phones or pagers
during the
performance.



The Fantasticks

Book and lyrics by Tom Jones, Music by Harvey Schmidt

Musical Numbers

Act 1

Overture
Try To Remember
Much More
Metaphor
Never Say No
It Depends On What You Pay
Soon It's Gonna Rain
Abduction Ballet
Happy Ending

Act 2

This Plum Is Too Ripe
I Can See It
Plant A Radish
Round And Round
They Were You
Try To Remember - (Reprise)

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.

Cast

El Gallo Brent Berheim
The Girl, Luisa Shana Eisenberg
The Boy, Matt Laurent Kuehnl
The Boy's Father, Hucklebee Jack Rose
The Girl's Father, Bellomy George M. Calger
The Actor, Henry Bruce Heskett
The Man Who Dies, Mortimer Nathan Metcalf
The Mute Sam Ahern

Production Team

Director Christopher Teipner
Music Director/Pianist B. Joseph Burch
Stage Manager Sue Kuta
Set Designer and construction Dutton Foster
Costume Design Judy Larsen
..... Jennifer Snyder
Lighting Design Dave Reynolds
Lighting Crew Tara Nielson
..... Madeleine Smith
Props and set Kathy Super
Photography Lila Taft
Harpist Nikki Christopher
Audition Pianist Suz Adamson
Producer Urban Landreman

Cast and Production Team Members

Samuel Ahern (Mute) Sam is happy to be participating in his third show with Lex-Ham, first in about 4 years. He's really excited about working with so many talented people. He just hopes he can actually succeed in remaining silent for once in his role as the Mute. He also recently starred in the world premiere of the new rock opera, *My Green Eyes*, with Jeremy Productions, has performed with various other community theatres, and had a line in the award-winning local film, *Two Harbors*. He'd like to thank his wife, Kara, for her support, and everyone else who comes to this show.

Brent Berheim (El Gallo) Brent is excited to be making his Lex-Ham Community Theater debut with *The Fantasticks*. He has been seen around town with Heritage Theatre Company, Morris Park Players, Woodbury Community Theatre, and Ashland Productions, as well as The Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, WI. Some of his favorite roles he has played are: A Monkey in *Seussical*, Che in *Evita*, Kodaly in *She Loves Me*, and the Narrator in *Into the Woods*. Brent is excited to be working with such a talented group of actors for this production, and for the opportunity to once again be working with Christopher and Joseph and Skuta. Thanks for supporting live theater in the Twin Cities!

B. Joseph Burch (Musical Director) made his Twin Cities debut music directing Sondheim's *Assassins* in 1999 to Regional and National acclaim. Although this is only his 6th show with the brilliantly talented director, Mr. Teipner, Joseph has been performing, directing, conducting and teaching music for more than 20 years. ("...but he looks so young!" We know.) By day, he's marketing the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. He's also a freelance web designer, arts consultant and student of French and operates the Minnesota arts website ARTSNATION.com. (Yes, his doctor already told him he needs to relax more.) Favorite shows he's directed include *Godspell*, *Seussical*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Into the Woods*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Pirates of Penzance*. Joseph is very much looking forward to music directing the Twin Cities FIRST non-equity production of *Urinetown: The Musical* next spring! He wants to thank this talented cast for all their hard work and Lex-Ham Community Theater for a great 1st experience. Special thanks to CT for holding me together. U RAWK!

George Calger (Bellomy) In 1986, George played Mortimer in a college production of *The Fantasticks*. He is very excited to do the show again as Bellomy, because the songs and poetry have been running through his head and out his mouth periodically over the last twenty years. His recent stage roles (all for IHM-St. Luke's School Community Theater in Saint Paul) include Cogsworth in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; tenor chorus "Papa" and bottle dancer in *Fiddler on the Roof*; and the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*. Before moving to Minnesota from Bloomington, Indiana in 1995, he had done the Sergeant of Police in *The Pirates of Penzance* and Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A nine-year absence from the stage was far too long; he won't let anything like that happen again!

Shana Eisenberg (Luisa) Shana Eisenberg is very excited to make her debut with Lex-Ham Theater in such an incredible production. Shana received her BA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Acting in 1999. During her education, Shana participated in a number of shows. Favorites include *Falsettos* (Cordelia), *Moon Over Buffalo* (Roz), and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Suzanne). Since returning to the stage in the Twin Cities, she has been honored with a number of roles, including Lois in *Kiss Me, Kate*, Marty in *Grease*, Young Phyllis in *Follies*, Gloria in *Damn Yankees*, and Mrs. Nordstrom in *A Little Night Music*. Thanks to CT, Joseph, and Skuta for their support and for giving me a chance to be young again. Many thanks and much love to my family and friends for putting up with my crazy antics.

Dutton Foster (Set Designer) As a child of twelve or so, Dutton Foster built an elaborate puppet theater complete with footlights and a fancy act curtain, intended for puppet shows he never actually produced. After a sporadic acting career that began by playing Lady Macbeth in grade nine (all-male school) and ended after graduate school, Dutton has directed, designed, and built high-school and middle school shows since 1961. In recent years he has retired from directing and teaching high-school English, but continues to design and build for St. Paul Academy and Summit School, his former employer. Dutton is also a published playwright; his most successful opus has been a one-act melodrama, *The Wild Flowering of Chastity*, or *Chaste Across the Stage*, published in about 1970. Since the turn of the century Dutton's set work has included (among others) *The Laramie Project*, *A Midsum-*

mer Night's Dream, The Miracle Worker, Peer Gynt, Into the Woods, The Wizard of Oz, The Sound of Music, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, City of Angels, and Pippin. Dutton recently designed the sets for Lex-Ham's productions of *The Women* and *All My Sons*.

Bruce Heskett (Henry) is pleased to be making his second appearance with Lex-Ham, having previously appeared in their production of *The Solid Gold Cadillac*. A recent transplant from the Chicago area, Bruce has appeared in and around the Twin Cities in productions of *Lend Me a Tenor* and *The Crucible* (Gremlin Theatre); *Dear Ruth* and *1940s Radio Hour* (Theatre in the Round); *The Andersonville Trial* (Dakota Fine Arts Consortium) and *The Boys Next Door* (Chameleon Theatre Circle). Other favorite roles have included Big Daddy (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*); Joe Keller (*All My Sons*); Selsdon (*Noises Off*); Orgon (*Tartuffe*) and Marvin (*Bleacher Bums*). In his other life, Bruce is employed by Thomson West and lives in Rosemount. Bruce is most grateful to his Arizona Angel for her support and encouragement.

Laurent Kuehnl (Matt) Laurent Kuehnl is thrilled to be performing in his first Lex-Ham production. Laurent has most recently appeared as Phantom in Mounds Park Academy's production of Maury Yeston's *Phantom*. Laurent has performed in Mounds Park Academy musicals and plays for over four year, and has also appeared in community theatre productions. Laurent is currently enrolled at the University of Minnesota pursuing a degree in vocal performance.

Sue Kuta (Stage Manager) This is Skuta's first show for Lex-Ham. She has assistant directed, stage managed, etc, many other shows in the area, mostly with HTC and WCT. Her next shows are *Pippin*, *Seven Brides* and *Urinetown* – all at Heritage. Skuta hasn't minded (too much) giving up the lovely early summer evenings for the chance to work with Christopher and Joseph again, and this great cast. Thanks to her friends and family for accepting her craziness the last few weeks. "Enjoy the show!"

Nathan Metcalf (Mortimer) does not like onions.

Dave Reynolds (Lighting Designer) This is Dave's third lighting design for Lex-Ham Community Theater, having lit *Quilters* and *James and the Giant Peach*. Through his production company SONBURST Productions, Dave has provided lighting for Actors for Christ's production of *The Crucifixion* and *Scrooge in the Hood*, live sound and set design for Homeward Bound Theatre Company, and video production for various clients.

Jack Rose (Hucklebee) is happy to be reunited with Christopher, Sue, and Joseph for *The Fantasticks*, the foremost theatrical event of 2006. Jack has acted, sung, and attempted to dance in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Anything Goes*, and *The Music Man* at Heritage Theatre Co. in Maplewood; played Hucklebee at Guild Hall in East Hampton, NY; and has served as lighting assistant, sound technician, ticket taker, music director, producer, board member, and stage manager for numerous shows at Lex-Ham. Formerly an all-night deejay in Providence, RI and Scranton, PA, Jack left broadcasting to seek an honest living, a noble goal as yet unmet with success. He has spent the majority of his adult life out of jail. Jack wishes to thank the makers of Leinenkugel's Creamy Dark for his physique.

Christopher Teipner (Director) is delighted to be directing for Lex-Ham, especially with his Lex-Ham debut such a challenging and exciting show. His directing work has been seen in the Twin Cities for such companies as Starting Gate Productions, Gremlin Theatre, Morris Park Players, and next spring, he and Joseph (music director) are teaming up again to bring the Twin Cities local premiere of *Urinetown, the Musical*, at Heritage Theatre. When not directing, Christopher works for Lands' End. "Thank you for attending live theatre and, as always-Love to JP!!!"



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A Brief History of *The Fantasticks*

The Fantasticks is based upon a short play called *Les Romanesques*, written by Edmond Rostand in 1892 when he was twenty-four years old. It was performed with modest success by the Comédie-Française and in 1900, an English woman writing under the pseudonym of George Fleming, did a verse translation, calling it *The Fantasticks*. In that version, it was her “conceit” to have the bandit, Straforel, discuss the possible types of abductions as “rapes”, and, indeed, he has a long elaborate speech playing with the word, much in the style of *The Rape of the Lock*”

This 1900 version was done in London that some year with Mrs. Patrick Campbell playing the boy’s role as a “breeches part,” and in 1907, Mr. B. Iden Payne revided the piece when he was head of the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester. Nearly fifty years later, when Mr. Payne was teaching at the University of Texas, he used the “Rape Speech” scene as a project for his Period Play Production class, and that is how I first came to know of the Rostrand play.

Tom Jones



“Please, God, please –
Don’t let me be normal.”

- Luisa

The Rape in Literature

A key event in *The Fantasticks* is the rape or abduction of Luisa. Several people in the show, including Luisa, bring up the topic of rape, usually in the context of famous rapes from literature. Some of these include the following:

The Rape of the Lock is a mock-heroic poem written by Alexander Pope, first published in 1712 in two cantos, and then reissued in 1714 in a much-expanded five-canto version.

The poem was based on an incident recounted by Pope’s friend, John Caryll. Arabella Fermor and her suitor, Lord Petre were both from aristocratic Catholic families at a period, in England, when Catholicism was legally proscribed. Petre, lusting after Arabella, had cut off a lock of her hair without permission, and the consequent argument had created a breach between the two families. Pope wrote the poem at the request of friends in an attempt to “comically merge the two”. Pope utilises the character Belinda to represent Arabella and introduces an entire system of “sylphs,” or guardian spirits of virgins, a parodic version of the gods and goddesses of conventional epic. Pope satirizes a petty squabble by comparing it to the epic world of the gods.

Pope used epic battle imagery to describe a small pair of ladies’ scissors, hence satirizing the ridiculous nature of the whole situation. The useless and transient nature of the sylphs is seen here. One, cut in half by the “fatal engine”, is unharmed.

Wikipedia.org

The Rape of the Sabine Women by Nicolas Poussin (1594-1665) illustrates the story from Plutarch’s *Lives* about an event from the 8th century B.C. The Roman government was concerned about a shortage of women to maintain and increase the population. The neighboring peoples refused to allow inter-marriage with the Romans.

To solve the problem, Romulus publicized widely a lavish celebration of *Consualia*, the solemn games in honour of the equestrian Neptune. Many people came from the Sabines, in central Italy. At a given signal the Romans carried off the women.

Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York

Lex-Ham Community Theater

Shakespeare Reading Series

Join neighbors and friends for an informal reading of:

Richard III

Friday, July 28, 2006
1184 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul

6:30 p.m. – potluck supper
7:00 p.m. – sit down and read the play

Parts are reassigned at the start of each scene, so everyone gets lots of opportunities to read.
(Please bring your own copy of the play)

Special thanks go to

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Macalester-Plymouth United Church
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Please consider giving a financial donation to the Lex-Ham Community Theater. Because we try to keep ticket prices low, income from ticket sales do not cover the total cost of putting on a show.

In this era when government support for the Arts is being reduced, donations of any amount are most welcome.

You can send a tax-deductible donation to:
Lex-Ham Community Arts
1184 Portland Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

Special thanks goes to our 2005 donors

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Jane Kerr
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Holly Windle

“I’ll drink and gamble!
I’ll grow a mustache.”

- Matt

Lex-Ham Community Theater

Since its start in 1995, the Lex-Ham Community Theater has striven to achieve its mission of producing quality theatrical experiences by and for the residents of the Lexington-Hamline and surrounding neighborhoods in St. Paul. The company has enhanced the local theatrical scene by

- Selecting lesser-known works by noted playwrights, such as *Soul Gone Home* by Langston Hughes and *The Vegetable* by F. Scott Fitzgerald;
- Giving the regional and world premieres of works by local authors, such as *Bullets and Beauties* by Urban Landreman; and
- Reviving wonderful classics such as *The Philadelphia Story* by Philip Barry, *Under the Gaslight* by Augustin Daly, and *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller.
- Winning awards for Outstanding Performance by an Actor (Shad Cooper) and Sound Design (David Lind) at the 2003 and 2005 Minnesota Association of Community Theatres Play Festivals

All of its shows have provided people with little previous experience an opportunity to be on-stage or work off-stage side by side with those who have more experience.

Finally, the company strives to help build community by involving people across generations and walks of life with each of its productions.

The theater is further involved with the community by offering acting classes through St. Paul Community Education and holding free informal Shakespeare Reading Series events. Call (651) 644-3366 to get involved.

Upcoming Events

August 13- *The Paddy Peddler* by M.J. Molloy as part of the Irish Fair on Harriet Island

Brad Donaldson - director

November - *Tom Sawyer*

John Townsend - director

See www.LexHamArts.org/theater for more info

Buy Lex-Ham Theater shirts, caps and other merchandise at www.cafepress.com/LexHamTheater

Acting Classes

The Lex-Ham Community Theater offers acting classes for both children and adults in conjunction with both St. Paul Community Education and St. Paul Parks and Rec. Classes have included:

Beginning Acting
Advanced Beginning Acting
Shakespeare for Beginners
Acting for History Buffs
Acting Comedy
Improvisation

The next sessions will start in September, 2006. To register for children's classes, call 651-325-2672

To register for adult classes, call 651-293-8811 or see www.commed.spps.org.