

La Salle University

La Salle University Digital Commons

The Masque Programs

Student Publications

Spring 1998

The Fantasticks

La Salle University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/themasque>



Part of the [Theatre and Performance Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

La Salle University, "The Fantasticks" (1998). *The Masque Programs*. 21.
<https://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/themasque/21>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at La Salle University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Masque Programs by an authorized administrator of La Salle University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact duinkerken@lasalle.edu.

The Masque presents

The Fantasticks



Spring, 1998
Dan Rodden Theater
La Salle University

THE FANTASTICKS, the longest-running musical in the world, is now in its 37th year at The Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York City.

The Fantasticks

Directed and Musically Directed by
Br. Charles Echelmeier, F.S.C.

Assistant to the director
Hilarie Hastings-Mahon

Book and Lyrics by
Tom Jones

Music by
Harvey Schmidt

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Jason Adamo.....*El Gallo*

Pat Doran.....*Hucklebee*

Annemarie Gregory.....*Luisa*

John Kozempel.....*Bellomy*

Jim Lewis.....*Matt the Boy Wonder*

Chris Schimpf.....*Henry*

Chris Steinitz.....*Mortimer*

Brian Wiggins.....*The Mute*

CREW

Advisor: Marianne Dainton
Producer: Sara Chiappa
Producer-Elect: Maria Whitman
Personnel-Elect: Amy Reynolds
Business Affairs: Jenn Brewer
Business Affairs-Elect: Christine Grugan
Box Office Manager: Patrick Sheridan
House Manager: Jenn Brewer
Ushers/Box Office Personnel: Patrick Sheridan, Amy Van Vessem, Christine Grugan, Alex Groff, Steph Rozak, Chris Pieri, Patty Noe, Michelle Dillin, Jaime Longo, Mike Gallagher, Jenn Brewer, Jen DeBisschop

Technical Affairs: Amy Reynolds
Technical Affairs-Elect: Justin Tormey
Stage Manager: Regina Gauss
Assistant Stage Manager: Cynthia Hennessy
Prop Mistresses: Cindy Hennessy
Costume Masters: Christ Steinitz

Publicity: A. Raymond Bossert III
Publicity-Elect: Christina Sgroi
Promotional Art: Jason Adamo,
Magdelene Boufal,
Carolyn Reinhardt

Publicity Copywriters: Chris Lilienthal, Pat Doran, Patrick Sheridan, Jen Debisschop, Bonnie Clawson

Publicity Volunteers: Pat Doran, Natalie Karelis

Musicians

Pianist: Inna Yermosh

Harpist: Felicia Coppa

The Executive Board would like to thank any production volunteers whose names do not appear above.

Try to remember...

The history of *The Fantasticks* starts with an obscure French drama called *Les Romanesques*. Tom Jones was introduced to this Rostand play as a student at the University of Texas and later, after teaming up with Harvey Schmidt, would adapt the premise of *Les Romanesques* for a musical called *Joy Comes to Deadhorse*. The plot revolved around a Romeo and Juliet theme adapted to quarreling ranch families, one Anglo, one Spanish, and a Tybalt-like villain.

Joy Comes to Deadhorse died as soon as it hit the stage. It was convoluted and confused. Jones and Schmidt agreed that too many styles and ideas were being presented at once and the show needed to be simplified. Just when it seemed that the two men would give up on the project, Schmidt took a year to completely overhaul the plot and score of the play. Upon insistence from close friends, Jones and Schmidt presented a one-act format of what would become *The Fantasticks* on the stage of Barnard College in the summer of 1959. This one-act was a success.

The two playwrights were encouraged by supporters to extend their play to two acts and arrange for an Off Broadway performance. Money was raised for production and casting was done, with Tom Jones himself playing the original "Old Actor." The show opened at the little-known Sullivan Street Playhouse on May 3, 1960. After mixed initial reviews, the show was lauded as a success by the press and its popularity grew and expanded.

That was 1960. *The Fantasticks* still plays six days a week at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York City, an unprecedented thirty-eight years after its opening.

Synopsis

The show begins with an enthusiastic introduction to the characters gathering for their performance. The Narrator, El Gallo, presents the main characters, "a boy, a girl, two fathers, and a wall." This wall separates the homes of the boy, Matt, and the girl, Luisa, and it is soon clear that their fathers have been feuding for years.

As a result, the parents have not permitted their children to socialize. Resulting, of course, in bringing the boy and girl together by sparking a forbidden love between them.

The children exchange vows of love behind their fathers' backs, but in reality the fathers have been old friends for years, concocting their "feud" to lure their children together in marriage. Knowing that they would not accept a prearranged marriage, they wish to end their fake feud without revealing their secret. They decide to stage an abduction and hire El Gallo to direct it. With the help of two actors, El Gallo abducts the girl, allows the boy to save her, and produces a proper end to a feud.

The unexpected result of this little scheme is that in the second act we find that the fire of passion has dimmed between the lovers without the heat of excitement. The boy, now less than thrilled with his legal lover, leaves to travel the globe in search of "himself." The fathers are frazzled by this predicament and end up truly feuding. The girl is now being wooed by El Gallo. She, however, gets hurt when El Gallo leaves her dejected after promising her a life of excitement. Eventually the boy returns home disillusioned and disappointed after finding the world to be over-rated. Finally, the two lovers realize that everything they have been looking for, they already have in one another. The fathers end the feud, and the families live "happily" ever after, and so forth.

Musical Numbers

Act I

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

Act II

This Plum Is Too Ripe	Matt, Luisa, and Fathers
I Can See It	Matt, El Gallo
An Episode	Mortimer and Henry
Plant a Radish	The Flowers
Round and Round	El Gallo, Luisa, Company
Beyond That Road	Matt, El Gallo
They Were You	Luisa and Matt
Metaphor (reprise).....	Luisa and Matt
Try to Remember (reprise).....	El Gallo

The Cast

Jason Adamo (Narrator/El Gallo) A veteran masque performer, Jason returns to the stage for one last show with the Masque. This senior psychology major and sociology/communication minor has portrayed Tito Merelli in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls* (both Masque productions), and Lieutenant Buzz Adams in *South Pacific* (Princeton Opera Association). When he is not acting on stage, Jason can be found lending an artistic hand to the *Collegian* or directing a one act play for the Young Playwright's Night of One Acts. Jason would like to thank his family, Brother Chip, the Masque, and all friends everywhere.

Pat Doran (Hucklebee, Boy's Father) is a sophomore biology major with a dual minor in Spanish and history. He appeared in high school as King Charlemagne in *Pippin* and also as the Leading Player in last year's Masque production of *Pippin*. Pat also appeared as a missionary/gangster in the Masque's production of *Guys and Dolls*. Offstage, Pat has participated in Masque set construction, the Chile Service Project, and the Writing Fellows Program. Pat thanks: Mom, Dad, Irene, Ed Delaney, La, Chuck, Christina, Chris, and all of his St. Katharine's friends.

Annemarie Gregory (Luisa) Annemarie is a sophomore biology/psychology dual major. She appeared as Chara in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Bet in *Oliver*, and was a member of the company in the Masque's production of *Guys and Dolls*. Offstage, Annemarie is a member of the Honors Board and Resident Student Association, and she writes for the *Collegian*. Annemarie thanks: her family and friends for all of their support and Ray for getting her to audition.

John Kozempel (Bellomy, The Girl's Father) This sophomore English writing major is perhaps best known for his role as Albert Camus in *No Point, Simply an Observation* (La Salle Young Playwrights Acting Up) and a portrayal of the Misbegotten Minister in *Anything Goes* (CHA/SS Players). Mr. Kozempel's other activities include La Salle's radio station WEXP and newspaper *Collegian*. Thank You's: Jim, The Irishman, Jojo, Jumbo, The Lounge, Brian, Christine and Br. Chip.

James C. Lewis (Matt the Boy Wonder) James is a sophomore History and Secondary Education dual major. He appeared as the notoriously funny Benny Southstreet in the Masque's performance of *Guys and Dolls*, as well as Bodo in *No Point, Simply An Observation* during the Night of One Acts. He was also on stage in *Bye, Bye, Birdie* at Abington Senior High School. Offstage, James enjoys being the VP of Amnesty International, and being a hopeless romantic. James sends a thank you: "To all the girls I've loved before and shared a dance with."

Chris "Jumbo" Schimpf (Henry) A junior Nursing major, "Jumbo" once again brings his talent for portraying old men to the stage of the Dan Rodden Theater. He has participated in over twenty stage performances since 1993, including Merion Mercy Music Theater's production of *Bye, Bye, Birdie* and the world premiere of Edward Beacher-Clafin's *Scullers*. In addition to his theater exploits, "Jumbo" is also the legislative coordinator for the Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania. He would like to thank MR, AF, NB, JR, BC, SC, TC, DM, PC, SD, KM, JB, JS, KS, and all the rest.

Chris Steinitz (Mortimer) is a sophomore political science major. He appeared as Lt. Schrank in *West Side Story*, a farmer in *Pippin*, and an Old Man in the Masque's production of *Lysistrata*. Offstage, Chris is a member of the Student Political Association, writes for *La SPAM*, and is on staff at the *Collegian*. Chris thanks: Mom, Dad, Tim, Andy, Shadow, Lydia, the Elberwolf, PD, CS, all my other St. Katharine friends, Darth Vader and John Cleese.

The Crew

Regina Gauss (Stage Manager) Reggie is a sophomore history major with German minor. Regina appeared as the vote swaying Juror #8 in the Masque's production of *12 Angry Men*. She has also portrayed Berthe in the Masque's fall production of *Pippin* while also serving as the show's costume designer. Reggie also served double duty in the Masques production of *Lysistrata* playing old/young women and designing costumes. Regina would like to thank family, friends, God, cast and crew, staff of the Registrar's office and Brother Chip.

Hilarie Hastings-Mahon (Assistant to the Director) Hilarie is a sophomore economics/ international studies major. She has played Martha in *The Falcon's Laugh* (Young Playwrights) and Phoebe the Blue Fairy in *Sleeping Beauty* (Mastricola Middle School) as well as chorus roles in this year's productions of *Pippin* and *Lysistrata*. Hilarie enjoys piercing her body parts and playing the Kevin Bacon Game. She would like to thank her parents, friends, family, and the girls from 1st Jerome.

Cynthia Hennessy (Assistant Stage Manager) Cindy is a junior elementary and special education major. On Stage, Cynthia has appeared in the Masque's performance of *Pippin* and portrayed Kathy in *Heaven's in Here*, a one act play. Off stage, Cynthia was assistant stage manager for the Masque's recent presentation of *Lysistrata*. Cynthia would like to thank her family, BC, CB, Mr. B, the cast and crew and all her friends for their support.

Amy Reynolds (Technical Director) Amy is a junior Communications major, with a minor in Marketing. She worked behind the scenes as the technical director for *Lysistrata* and *Pippin*, and directing the one act *Falcon's Laugh*, during La Salle Young Playwright's Night of One Acts. In her spare time, Amy likes to drive the Batmobile at Great Adventure's *Batman Stunt Show*, and train for next year's job of VP Personnel. Amy thanks: Mom, Dad, Beth, Kathleen, Marianne, & Masque members who put so much into making this year such a success.

Justin Tormey (Assistant Technical Director) Justin is a freshman Communications major. Related to the Masque, Justin has built the set for *Lysistrata* (with the help of Amy). This May he will be attending the Cannes Film Festival in France, and he enjoys a static position as the Production Manager for the Philadelphia Classical Symphony. Justin thanks: Mommy, Daddy, Shannon, Jason, Mittens, and all his enduring fans worldwide.

The Director

Brother Charles Echelmeier, F.S.C. (Vocal Director) Brother Chip is the director of Campus Ministry. He has also worked with the Masque as choral director for *Guys & Dolls* and *Godspell*, and most recently for the fall production of *Pippin*. In his spare time, Brother Chip enjoys crossword puzzles, mystery novels, and traveling.

There's Only One...

CUNNINGHAM PIANO CO.

AND FACTORY – Since 1891



"NATIONALLY KNOWN & RECOMMENDED"
WITH ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST
RESPECTED RESTORATION FACILITIES IN THE USA



“Demand Our Expertise...

...Expect Our Excellence”

Call 215 438 3200

The piano for this production of *The Fantasticks* has been rented from Cunningham Piano Co.

**Carpe Diem,
Annemarie!**

JACK GREGORY, PH.D.

INDIVIDUAL, COUPLE, AND FAMILY COUNSELING
CLINICAL MEMBER, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

REGENCY PARK TOWERS
MANOR HOUSE #2
1001 EASTON RD. (RT. 611)
WILLOW GROVE, PA 19090

(215) 657-4324
(215) 657-2584

***“Break a leg,
Masque!”***

from the folks at the
The Explorer,
La Salle's Yearbook

From the Top...

(announcements from the Executive Board)

**Introducing
the 1998-1999 Masque Executive Officers!**

Maria Whitman (Producer)
Christine Grugan (Business Affairs)
Justin Tormey (Technical Affairs)
Christina Sgroi (Publicity)
and
Amy Reynolds (Personnel)

Congratulations, and GOOD LUCK!

Finally, thank you's to the Masque, the students, faculty, administration, workers, audience, and everyone who ever helped this year's productions... and special thanks to Marianne (we would still be trying to pick out this year's shows if it weren't for you)!

From

The 1997-1998 Executive Board

Sara Chiappa

Amy Reynolds

Jenn Brewer

A. Raymond Bossert III

*The Student Life Office would like
to offer its*

*Congratulations to
The Masque of La Salle*



On their success

Now That's Entertainment





flyer art: Carolyn Reinhardt