

Upcoming Events

Just So Stories January 31— February 2, 2002
A play for children of all ages
Written by Rudyard Kipling
Adapted for the stage by Dudley Sanders

Independence April 5—7, 12—14, 2002
A family drama by Lee Blessing

theatreworks 2002 April 27—28, 2002
An evening of one-act plays showcasing
student artistry and creativity

Information and Reservations:
404-471-6248
Group Sales:
404-471-6250



A member organization of the

Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts

The Blackfriars of Agnes Scott College

proudly supporting our colleagues
in the Atlanta arts community

The Blackfriars of Agnes Scott College
The Department of Theatre and Dance
The Department of Music and
The Millennium Events Committee
present



October 26-27 & November 2-3, 2001
at 8:00 pm
October 28 & November 4, 2001
at 2:00 pm

Winter Theatre
Dana Fine Arts Building

The Fantasticks

Book and Lyrics by
Tom Jones

Music by
Harvey Schmidt

Suggested by "Les Romanesques" by Edmond Rostand

Directed by
David S. Thompson

Scenery, Lighting and Costumes
Designed by
Dudley Sanders

Music Directed by
Lyn Schenbeck

The Fantasticks is presented through special arrangement with
and all authorized performance materials are supplied by
Music Theatre International
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019
Tel: 212-541-4864 Fax: 212-397-4684 www.MTIShows.com



Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™ XXXIV

Presented and Produced by

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

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The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund

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The National Committee for the Performing Arts

Dr. and Mrs. Gerald McNichols

The HRH Foundation

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KC/ACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2002.

Last year more than 1,200 productions and 198,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.



The Blackfriars of Agnes Scott College

Established in 1915, the Blackfriars of Agnes Scott College remains the oldest active theatre company in Atlanta. With a full season of two major productions, a children's show and an evening of student work, the Blackfriars strive for excellence in theatrical artistry while emphasizing the voices of women onstage and off.

Executive Board 2001—2002

President.....Christina Dresser
Vice President.....Julie Jacobs
Secretary.....
Treasurer.....Amber Gugino
Historian.....Linda Morales
Publicity.....Kecia Jones, Ann Willard

Faculty Advisors

Dudley Sanders David S. Thompson

Blackfriars Awards

Betty Lou Houck Smith Scholarship: awarded each year to a student based upon her passion for and contribution to the theatre.

2001 Recipient: Amber Gugino, Class of 2003

Jack T. Brooking Award: made possible through the generosity of Elizabeth Steele Forman, Class of 1981, awarded to the student who has shown excellence in all aspects of theatre.

2001 Recipient: Alice Flagg, Class of 2001

Blackfriars Acting Award: awarded to the most outstanding student actor for performances in a season.

2001 Recipient: Lauren Conway, Class of 2001

2001-2002 Acting Award Judges:

Jody Pollage, Actor Tracy Lee Holden, Actor

Cast

The Narrator (El Gallo).....Michael Strelecki
The Boy (Matt).....Joshua Morgan
The Girl (Luisa).....Kecia Jones
The Boy's Father (Hucklebee).....Kristen McElveen
The Girl's Father (Bellomy).....Nicole Kennedy
The Actor (Henry).....Christina Dresser
The Man Who Dies (Mortimer).....Meghan Hammiller
The Mute.....Ann Willard

Musical Numbers

Act One

Overture.....The Company
Try To Remember.....The Narrator
Much More.....The Girl
Metaphor.....The Boy and The Girl
Never Say No.....The Fathers
Abductions—And So Forth.....The Narrator and The Fathers
Soon It's Gonna Rain.....The Boy and The Girl
Abduction Ballet.....The Company
Happy Ending.....The Company

Act Two

This Plum Is Too Ripe.....The Boy, The Girl and The Fathers
I Can See It.....The Boy and The Narrator
Plant A Radish.....The Fathers
Round and Round.....The Narrator, The Girl and The Company
They Were You.....The Boy and The Girl

Production Staff

Technical Director.....Dudley Sanders
Production Manager.....Julie Jacobs
Assistant Director/Stage Manager.....Amber Gugino
Assistant Stage Manager.....Selena Jackson
Costume Crew Head.....Kate Bidwell
Costume Crew.....Leslie Overman, Rebecca Sloan
Props Crew Heads.....Anna Holloway, Anna Schanche
Props Crew.....Carrie Cooper, Jewels DeBlasio,
Natalie Marshall, Allison Rodean
Set Crew.....Kate Bidwell, Alex Capell,
Lisa Fahrenkrug, Greta Gohn,
Amber Gugino, Meghan Hammiller,
Selena Jackson, Julie Jacobs,
Shannon Jones, Anna Schanche
Lighting Technician.....Briana Ransom
Props Run/Stagehand.....Melanie Luschen
Wardrobe.....Kenneth Barnes

Special Thanks

Christine Cozzens
Demetrice Parks
Rebecca Sanders
Nell Ruby
Sam & Peggy Thompson
Sara Thompson

Director's Note

On May 3, 1960, Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt saw their production of *The Fantasticks* open Off-Broadway at the Sullivan Street Theatre. The two men had nurtured versions of the play for years since forming a writing partnership as students at The University of Texas. Reviews were mixed, but energetic promotion and enthusiastic word of mouth saved the day, making it a hit. Nearly 42 years and over 17,000 performances later, the production is still running, making it the world's longest running musical (*Cats* ran a mere 18 years) and second only to *The Mousetrap* in London (which opened in 1952) as the longevity champion. After withstanding generational changes and several national crises, the New York production will close on January 13, 2002. Its closure is not related to recent tragedies, but to the realities of the marketplace. There are no regrets, only celebrations; seasons change, but it's nice to remember. We are pleased to present our production during the run of the original. While hundreds of actors have come and gone—Jerry Orbach, the original El Gallo, has found fame on Broadway, on television's *Law and Order* and in Disney animation—the spirit remains. That same spirit is one that we hope you will find here, spirit found in both the story onstage and the production history. *The Fantasticks* uses a variety of theatrical techniques to present timeless themes. Love, adventure, longing, growth, memory, loss and perseverance all find homes here. Yes, it is unabashedly sentimental. Yet the sentiment draws from a common humanity rather than cynical manipulation. Many will gravitate to the love story. For some, the notion of perseverance resonates, inspiring us on many of life's journeys and conveying, perhaps, a message for all time and particularly for these times. Try to remember . . . and follow.

Masters at GSU in '98 under Cary Louis. Besides teaching and playing at ASC, Todd is the Music Director at St Patrick's Episcopal Church. He also accompanies for the Atlanta Symphony Chorus and Harmony International Youth Choir.

Michael Strelecki (The Narrator) marks his return to the stage from a three-year absence. He comes to us from Augusta, Georgia, where he received acclaim in such roles as Matt in *The Fantasticks*, Pippin in *Pippin*, and Cascada in *The Merry Widow*. Michael studied at the University of Mississippi. He enjoyed much success as Rapunzell's prince in *Into the Woods*, Knicker in *Grease* and Bobby in *Good News* at Ole Miss.

David S. Thompson (Director) is an Associate Professor of Theatre at ASC. BA, Speech & Theatre; MFA, Playwriting—University of Tennessee; PhD, Theatre History/Criticism/Theory/Text—University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Thompson has worked as a director, producer, actor, and playwright for both professional and academic companies. His articles and commentaries have been syndicated by national and international wire services and have appeared in theatrical publications, online services and major newspapers. His noteworthy projects include an ongoing series of articles concerning his annual “Tony Tour,” a marathon week of attending 10 or more Broadway productions.

Ann Willard (The Mute) is a sophomore classics major/theatre minor who is the Blackfriars publicity officer. She has previously appeared onstage in *The Tempest* and *Alabama Rain* along with working backstage on “The Luscious Rubella” and *theatreworks 2001*. Thanks to Mom, Dad, Joe and Scott for your love and support!

Please Note

There will be one ten-minute intermission.

Smoking, eating & drinking are prohibited in the theatre. For the enjoyment of all patrons, please turn off all cell phones, pagers, alarm watches, video games, laptop computers, shavers, hair dryers, leaf blowers and other electronic, gas-powered, coal-fired or steam-driven devices and allow yourself to fall under the spell of the performance unfolding before you.

Who's Who

Kate Bidwell (Costume Crew Head) is a sophomore theatre major at Agnes Scott. She worked on all of last season's productions and served as sound designer for the fabulous *Alabama Rain*. She is very excited about *The Fantasticks*.

Jewels DeBlasio (Props Crew) is a first-year here at Agnes Scott. She brings prop crew experience with her to her first Blackfriars assignment. She looks forward to being involved in ASC's theatre for the remainder of her time here.

Christina Dresser (The Actor) is a junior theatre major who has appeared in *Antigone*, “The Emperor's New Clothes,” *Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue*, *si'l vous plaît!*, *The Tempest*, and “The Luscious Rubella.” She is the 2001-2002 President of Blackfriars. Thanks to David, Dudley, Amber, Selena, and the cast!

Amber Gugino (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) is a junior theatre major. She is the treasurer of Blackfriars and the recipient of the Betty Lou Houck Smith Scholarship. Her past acting credits include *Antigone*, “The Emperor's New Clothes,” “The Most Massive Woman Wins,” *The Tempest*, “The Luscious Rubella,” and *Alabama Rain*. She has worked crew on *theatreworks 2001*, and *Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue*, *si'l vous plaît!*. She is excited to assist direct *The Fantasticks* and wishes the rest of the cast and crew a great show!

Meghan Hammiller (The Man Who Dies) is a theatre and international relations major. She worked tech for all shows last year and is a Blackfriar. This is her first time cast in a Blackfriars production—she is very happy about this and hopes that you all enjoy the show.

Anna Holloway (Props Crew Head) is a sophomore political science major. This is her second year as a Blackfriar. She was the wardrobe assistant for “The Luscious Rubella,” and played Monty in *Alabama Rain*. Anna has enjoyed working on this show, especially buying and assembling confetti and more confetti and more confetti.

Kecia Jones (The Girl) is a senior self-designed Musical Theatre major. Over the past years she has been a part of shows such as *Top Girls*, *Antigone*, *The Tempest*, “Free Your Mind,” and *Fortunes of the Moor*. She has been recently working off campus as director of theater at Bethesda Cathedral. Her hopes for the future are to work in theatre professionally. She gives honor and thanks to God, her awesome professors, and to her incredibly supportive family and friends. “Mere words can’t express how blessed and grateful I am. Thank you!”

Nicole Kennedy (The Girl’s Father) a Year-Five student, is happy to be joining her cast members in ASC’s first musical in years. As a music major, she is able to take away much experience from this show. She sends thanks out to her hubbie, recently enlarged family, and ‘Sten for their support throughout the whole process.

Melanie Luschen (Props Run) is an enthusiastic stagehand who has learned to love and cherish confetti. Break a leg all!

Kristen McElveen (The Boy’s Father) returns to the ASC stage after her performance in last year’s *theatreworks* production of “The Actor’s Nightmare.” After this senior year she plans to go to naturopathic medical school on the west coast. She would like to thank her Moo, Mom and Mimi for their support!

Megan Milford (Box Office) is a senior majoring in Classics and American History. This is her second year of participation in Blackfriars. Past Blackfriars activities include *The Tempest* (cast) and *Alabama Rain* (crew).

Joshua Morgan (The Boy) is from Cincinnati, Ohio where he

attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music as a dance major. He has portrayed many roles including Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady* and Mr. Applegate in *Damn Yankees*. Joshua is very excited to be a part of this production and about this being his debut in the Atlanta area since moving to this great city!

Leslie Overman (Costume Crew) is a junior at Agnes Scott, majoring in English with a minor in Theatre.

Briana Ransom (Lighting Technician) is a junior biology major/environmental studies minor from Bishop, GA. She has done crew work for *The Tempest*, “The Luscious Rubella,” *theatreworks 2001* and *Alabama Rain*.

Dudley Sanders (Scenic, Lighting & Costume Designer; Technical Director) is an Associate Professor of Theatre and Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. B.A., English and Drama—Kenyon College; M.F.A., Stage Design—Northwestern University. He joined the ASC faculty in 1979 and teaches courses in design and dramatic writing. Prof. Sanders serves as the resident designer and technical director for the Blackfriars.

Lyn Schenbeck (Musical Director; The Percussionist) holds the BS degree in Music Education, MS degree in Music Education and Voice Performance from SUNY-Potsdam, Crane School of Music, and doctorate in Choral and Instrumental conducting from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Throughout her 33-year career, Dr. Schenbeck has taught music at every level from kindergarten through college and adults. She is an elected member of the Board of Governors of the Atlanta chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (the Grammy people, NARAS®) and the author of several articles appearing in the *Choral Journal*, among other publications. She has performed extensively as a singer and conductor and also writes CD liner notes for several record labels. As the Director of Choral and Orchestral Activities at ASC, she conducts the Community Orchestra (50 pieces), Collegiate Chorale (55 voices), *Sotto voce* (12-voice chamber choir), teaches voice, and directs opera/musical theatre.

Todd Skrabanek (The Pianist) is a graduate of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia under Susan Starr. He earned his