The Fantasticks

Presented by Metropolitan Community Theatre Project

Directed by Paul Angelo
Music Directed by Valery Saul
Choreographed by Shannon Jung

August 10-20, 2017

The Sanctuary at Sandy Plaza (in conjunction with Triangle Productions)
1785 NE Sandy Boulevard, Portland

Book and Lyrics by Tom Jones
Music by Harvey Schmidt
The Fantasticks is probably the single most influential show in my artistic life. I first saw it at 15 years old and it blew my mind. I had spent 2 years in my high school theatre program but it wasn't until I saw this show that I began to understand that theatre could be a profoundly powerful art form. I was obsessed: the style, the message, the MUSIC! I finished High School all the while not really understanding that I was destined to be a director (even though I constantly fantasized about how I would stage The Fantasticks, seriously). I went on to undergraduate school where there was a student run theatre company as part of the department. This program allowed for one student a year to direct a fully realized production (with a BUDGET!) as part of the mainstage season. The process was intense: a proposal had to be submitted to the student run council and they voted what proposal to accept. I spent the entirety of my sophomore year preparing the proposal, despite being told that “musicals don’t count as theatre”, by my peers. Well you might have guessed, my proposal WAS accepted and The Fantasticks became the first musical ever produced by the student organization and consequently the very first show I ever directed, I was 20 years old.

The Fantasticks is the first musical to have ever been translated into every known language on our planet. Les Misérables has since accomplished this feat but The Fantasticks did it first. It ran off-Broadway for 57 years and yet I am constantly amazed at how many people have “never heard of it”. We speak often in the theatre about “universal” but I think that discussion could last us a lifetime so we won’t try to touch it here but we will try to show you what universality means tonight. You know this story, you’ve been there…you remember…all that’s left to do is follow.

PAUL ANGELO, August 2017

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**The Place:** On a simple platform stage

**The Period:** Then

**Act 1:** Takes place in the moonlight

**Act 2:** Takes place in the sun

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**Scenes and Settings**

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<th>Musical Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACT 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Overture</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Try to Remember”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Much More”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Metaphor”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Never Say No”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“It Depends On What You Pay”</td>
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<td>“Soon it’s Gonna Rain”</td>
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<td>“Abduction Ballet”</td>
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<td>“Happy Ending”</td>
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— There will be a 15-minute intermission between Act One and Act Two —

**ACT 2**

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<tr>
<td>“This Plum is Too Ripe”</td>
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<td>“I Can See It”</td>
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<td>“An Episode”</td>
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<td>“Plant a Radish”</td>
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<td>“Much More” (reprise)</td>
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<td>“Round and Round”</td>
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<td>“Beyond That Road”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“They Were You”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Metaphor” (reprise)</td>
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**About the Authors**

Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt wrote THE FANTASTICKS for a summer theatre at Barnard College. After its Off-Broadway opening in May 1960, it went on to become the longest-running production in the history of the American stage and one of the most frequently produced musicals in the world. It is currently running in a successful revival in New York. Their first Broadway show, 110 IN THE SHADE, was successfully revived a few years ago by the New York City Opera and is scheduled for a new Broadway production this April, produced by the Roundabout Theatre, starring Audra McDonald. I DO! I DO!, their two character musical starring Mary Martin and Robert Preston, was a success on Broadway and is frequently done around the country and the world. (One production, in Minneapolis, played for twenty-two continuous years with the same two actors in the leading roles.) For several years, Jones and Schmidt worked privately at their theatre workshop, concentrating on small-scale musicals in new and often untried forms. The most notable of these efforts were CELEBRATION, which moved to Broadway, and PHILEMON, which won an Outer Critics Circle Award. They contributed incidental music and lyrics to the Off-Broadway play COLETTE. In 1998, THE SHOW GOES ON, a musical revue featuring their theatre songs and starring Jones and Schmidt, was presented at the York Theatre, and MIRETTE, their musical based on the award-winning children’s book, was premiered at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut. In addition to an Obie Award and the 1992 Special Tony Award for THE FANTASTICKS, in 1999, their “stars” were added to the Off-Broadway Walk of Fame outside the Lucille Lortel Theatre.

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David’s Liberace show website is www.SaffertinSequins.com. Granted rights and promotion from the Liberace Foundation in Las Arts Camp. Currently, David is a Liberace tribute artist who is being chamber music, and modern music, and her inspiration comes from Institute. Her main areas of interest are operatic performance, grant from Texas Commission on the Arts. Kate has attended the in harp performance. She has performed at Mukogawa University. Houston’s High School for the Performing Arts, she continued her work with Guthrie Theater, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, James Sewell Ballet, and the Interlochen Arts Camp. Currently, David is a Liberase tribute artist who is being granted rights and promotion from the Liberace Foundation in Las Vegas. Once finalized, David will be the only licensed Liberace tribute artist in the world. His company, In Sequins Productions, includes Jillian Snow and Bo Ayars, Liberase’s own Music Director of 13 years. David’s Liberase show website is www.SaffertinSequins.com.

Meet Our Cast

**“LUISA” — Jessica Caldwell**

Is a soprano at CAPArts Conservatory in Manhattan, NY. She has recently played Mrs. Potiphar in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat with Young People’s Theatre Project and Lady of the Lake in Spamalot at Sunset High School. This is her first production with Metropolitan Community Theatre Project and she is very excited to take on the role of Luisa.

**“MATT” — Isaiah Rosales**

Is an emerging talent on the Broadway scene. His most recent credits include Princeton in Avenue Q (Triangle), Angela in Boys From Syracuse (WWU), and Frankie Epps in Parade (Staged). He would like to thank his incredible friends, parents, friends, and Tabasco.

**“EL GALLO” — Pip Kennedy**

A NY native. Has worked onstage since he was the age of four. Mostly spending his time on Theatre & Vocal Music, he studied acting, directing and musical theatre at Concordia University, Portland State University, and NYU. He’s traveled the country utilizing his talents with numerous companies. Most notably with Disney (years 2007-2013). Some of his favorite roles have been Val Slotisky in Laughter On the 23rd Floor, Mr. Mushnik in Little Shop of Horrors, Emcee in Cabaret, and Pseudolus in A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum. He previously taught acting at Metro, and enjoyed his time there. He worked with stageworksNW in Longview, as an actor, director, singer, and on-production staff. You can also see him hosting Portland’s nightlife.

**“BELLOMY” — Doug Zimmerman**

Is thrilled to be back at Metropolitan Performing Arts playing Bellomy in The Fantasticks. In addition to his previous credit at MPA, he was the role of the Tenderizer in Les Misérables. Doug is also known for his local and regional roles as Linus in You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown, Corny Collins in Hairspray, Carmen Ghia in The Producers and Jerry Blain in Soul Harmony. Other credits include 9 to 5 the Musical, Dracula-A Musical Nightmare, Into the Woods, Grease, Secret Garden, Little Shop of Horrors, Damn Yankees, and many others. Doug has performed with companies including the Oregon Symphony Leyden Singers, Live on Stage, Broadway Rose, Mocks Crest Theater, Staged; Lakewood Theatre, Tony Starlight’s, Will’s Cabinet and Western Stage, California and many others. A 3-time PAMTA nominee, Doug thanks the amazing dream team of Barbara, Paul and Valery for their “Fantastick” support and encouragement.

**“HUCKLEBEE” — Sean Kelly**

Is a tenor with the Portland Opera District in Vancouver area for 8 years, working in the Evergreen and Camas school districts. He attended Southern Oregon University as a BFA student with an emphasis in Performance. He served as a guest lecturer for the Drama in the Western Culture class at SUO for two years, and performed at the Oregon Cabaret Theater. Playing Shakespeare was before coming north to the Portland/Vancouver area where he performed and directed in several venues. Mr. Kelly most recently performed with Portland Opera District in performances of Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing. Mr. Kelly received his Masters in Teaching at Concordia University, and has been the director of the drama department at Camas High school since 2012. In that time, the CHS Drama department has received state-wide recognition at the 5th Avenue Awards in Seattle, earning 4 nominations and honorable mentions for scene design, lighting, directing, performance, and choreography, including 3 nominations for Outstanding Overall Production, and wins for Outstanding Direction for 2015’s Into the Woods, and Outstanding Overall Production for 2015’s Cabaret. Two CHS Drama students have won Outstanding Leading Actor/Actress awards, and have been sent to the National High School Musical Theatre Awards in New York. This year’s CHS Drama productions included William Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night and Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella.

**“HENRY” — John Mathews**

Is doing his first show with the Metropolitan Community Theatre Project and is happy to be on stage with The Fantasticks. He has been a part-time student of acting for almost a decade and his favorite role to date is Brabantio in Shakespeare’s Othello. John is grateful for help from Denise, Devon, his family and the high school arts program in Spirit Lake, ID.

**“MORTIMER” — Tristan James Stewart**

Is a Portland native with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in musical theater from The American Musical and Dramatic Academy. His past credits include Shrek in Shrek the Musical, Baloo in Jungle Book and Brian in Avenue Q.

**“THE MUTE” — Natalie Stromberg**

Is a soprano at Vancouver School of Arts and Academics. She has also been a student with Metropolitan Performing Arts since 2007. Paul would love to be a part of The Fantasticks company. Having performed in several productions with MPA and in high school, Paul is excited to take on roles such as Belle in Beauty in the Beast, Princess Fiona in Shrek the Musical and Ursula in The Little Mermaid. The Fantasticks is her second Metropolitan Community Theatre Project production, and she would like to thank all involved with the show for giving her this opportunity and incredible experience!
VALERY SAUL (Music Director) is known as an avid music collaborator in Portland, Oregon. She made her conducting debut in 2007 when she was awarded a Kennedy Center award for her musical direction and composition of a new score, Vinegar Tom. Last season, Valery was the musical director and conductor for Chicago which garnered her a Drammy nomination for “best pit ensemble.” She recently had the great pleasure of conducting Anything Goes at MVHS. She is currently on the music faculty at the University of Portland and is very passionate about mentoring young musicians and creative types. She couldn’t be more thrilled about her involvement with The Fantasticks and would like to thank the entire team for making this a truly memorable experience. Upcoming projects include Phantom with Stumptown Stages and Loves Labor Lost at Wilson High School.

SHANNON JUNG (Choreographer) is currently pursuing her BA in Theater (Acting and Musical Theater emphasis) and Dance (Performance and Education emphasis) at Western Washington University. She has worked with MPA since 2012 as a choreographer and camp counselor and it continues to be a highlight of her year! Her most recent choreography on the MPA stage was seen in Aladdin Jr (2017) and Elf Jr. (2016). She is an active performer and choreographer in the Bellingham, WA community, with her most recent acting credits being Shakespeare's Julius Caesar (Portia), Flu Season (Nurse), and August: Osage County (Johnna). In addition, many of her choreography pieces have been featured on the WWU stage and she had the honor of touring with WWU Theater Ambassadors to England this past March. Performing arts education has always been a passion of Shannon’s, and she hopes to continue nurturing her students to be proud of who they are and to follow their dreams.

JOE ROGERS (Stage Manager) is thrilled to join MPA for The Fantasticks! Joe is recently new to the theater world but has loved every minute of learning what happens behind the scenes. Recent credits include Stage Manager, Sense and Sensibility and The Amish Project at Portland Actors Conservatory and Assistant Stage Managing Romeo & Juliet Project at Enso Theatre. Joe would like to thank his wife Paige for her support, encouragement and love.

GORDON ROMEI (Sound Designer) returns to MPA after designing the recent production of The Hobbit, and is happy to have crew member Chani back on board. He is an Artist-In-Residence with Wilson High School in Portland, and continues his educational focus with Staged! and Oregon Children’s Theater. A thirty-year veteran of theatrical sound design, his works have been enjoyed from Seattle to San Diego, and he’s proud to keep his literal and proverbial feet planted in the west coast. Recent work has included projects with Post, Defunkt, Lincoln and Wilson Highs, OCT, Staged, and Triangle Productions. Feel free to visit Gordon’s site (repsound.com) for examples of original designs and music.

ALYSSA RANDS (Costume Designer) graduated with a BA in Theatre Design/Tech from George Fox University where she is now employed as the costume shop manager for the theatre department. Alyssa also works as a freelance apparel designer and costume designer in the Portland metro area. Her most recent costume designs include The Balkan Women (2016) and These Shining Lives (2015) with GFU Theatre and Dogfight (2015) with Staged! Musical Theatre Company.

IAN ANDERSON-PRIDDY (Lighting Designer) first designed lights for MPA with Thoroughly Modern Millie in 2016 and went on to design both Chicago and Shrek Jr in the Brunish Theatre. In 2016 Ian also designed lights for OCT’s Geronimo Stilton: Mouse in Space. He worked in Cannon Beach, Oregon as the Resident Lighting Designer at the Coaster Theatre on 15 productions between 2010-2015. He was a Lighting Supervisor and Designer for PICA’s TBA festival in 2014 and 2013. He designed lights at Coho for Sean McNerth’s Sketch Comedy Bath Night in 2015 and most recently he was the Video Designer for Triangle Production’s American Idiot in June 2016. Other clients include Westside Dance Academy, BDC Dance, Central Catholic High School, The Portland Drammy Awards, and Oregon Ballet Theatre.
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY THEATRE PROJECT PRESENTS

THE Spitfire Grill

music and book by James Valcq
lyrics and book by Fred Alley
based on the 1996 film of the same name by Lee David Zlotoff

AUDITIONS IN SEPTEMBER & PERFORMANCES IN NOVEMBER

directed by Livia Genise

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