



presents...

WordPlayers
Theatre
Company

The FANTASTICKS

Book and Lyrics by Tom Jones
Music by Harvey Schmidt

Directed by Leann Dickson
Music Direction by Sheryl Howard

THE FANTASTICKS is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. www.mtishows.com

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The Fantasticks

Book & Lyrics by Tom Jones and
Music by Harvey Schmidt

The musical is suggested by a play *Les Romanesques* by Edmond Rostand. Since its opening in May 1960 at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York, and its subsequent revival at the Jerry Orbach Theatre, *The Fantasticks* remains the longest-running production of any kind in the history of American theatre."

The *Fantasticks* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording
of this production is strictly prohibited

The Fantasticks

Musical Numbers Act One

Overture	Company
“Try to Remember”	Company
“Much More”	Luisa
“Metaphor”	Matt, Luisa
“Never Say No”	Hucklebee, Bellomy
“It Depends On What You Pay”	El Gallo, Hucklebee, Bellomy
“Soon It’s Gonna Rain”	Matt, Luisa
“Abduction Ballet”	Matt, Luisa, Henry, Mortimer, El Gallo
“Happy Ending”	Matt, Luisa, Hucklebee, Bellomy

THERE WILL BE ONE TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

Act Two

“This Plum Is Too Ripe”	Matt, Luisa, Hucklebee, Bellomy
“I Can See It”	Matt, Narrator
“Plant a Radish”	Bellomy, Hucklebee
“Round and Round”	El Gallo, Luisa, Matt, Henry, Mortimer
“They Were You”	Matt, Luisa
“Try to Remember” (reprise)....	Narrator, Matt, Luisa, Hucklebee, Bellomy

Cast

The Narrator - McKinley Sean Merritt
El Gallo - Coke Morgan
Matt (the Boy) - Ryan Smith
Luisa (the Girl) - Christina Ledbetter
Hucklebee (the Boy's father) - John Cherry
Bellomy (the Girl's father) - Tony Cedeno
Henry (the Old Actor) - Joe Jaynes
Mortimer (the man who dies) - Matthew Lloyd

Orchestra

Sheryl Lawrence Howard - Piano
Amy Carty - Harp
Rachel Schlafer-Parton - Flute/Piccolo/Bowed Psaltery
Dale Disney - Percussion
Larry Vance - Bass

Production Team

Director - Leann Dickson
Music Director - Sheryl Lawrence Howard
Stage Manager - Lucy Wright
Costume Design - Lynn Smith & Edina Bobrek
Scene Design - Steve Krempasky
Lighting Design - Jon Chemay
Sound Design - Colton Berg
Projections Design - Katie Stepanek
Props - Terry Weber
Backstage Crew: - David Ratliff, Tyler Glover



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The Artists



Tony Cedeño (Bellomy) is surprised and delighted to find himself onstage again in The WordPlayers' production of *The Fantasticks*, a personal favorite. He was most recently seen as a faculty guest artist in *Love and Information* at Pellissippi State, where he is in his tenth year as a member of the Pellissippi State Theatre faculty. Recent roles include Shamrayev in *The Seagull*, Sorn in *Stupid *&#%\$ Bird*, and Trinculo in *The Tempest*. Tony holds an MFA in Performance from UT, where he was previously an artist-in-residence and a member of the Clarence Brown Theatre Company. A big thank you to the The WordPlayers and this talented cast and crew for their tireless effort in bringing theatre back to Knoxville.



John Cherry (Hucklebee) is a local actor and director, a graduate of UT Theatre, and a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Air Force. He currently volunteers as the Artistic Director for the Primary Players Children's Theatre Group in Blount County and works as a VP for Leadership Knoxville. Among his favorite roles: Prof. Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, Sidney Bruhl in *Deathtrap*, and Tateh in *Ragtime*. He lives in Maryville with wife Melanie. Their daughter Alex works in L.A. for Disney Studios...proud papa.



Joe Jaynes (Henry) has appeared in 50+ stage, TV, and film productions. He performs regularly with The WordPlayers, Oak Ridge Playhouse, Theatre Knoxville Downtown, and other regional theaters. He is thrilled to be back on stage with *The Fantasticks* and to share in the hard work that it takes to make great theatre happen. Thanks Leann, Lucy, Sheryl, and fellow cast & crew for making this production so satisfying! And thank you, Kim for your love, understanding, and support during the long days that theatre demands.



Christina Ledbetter (Luisa) is so honored and thrilled to be a part of *The Fantasticks*! Some of her favorite past credits include: Beth in *Little Women*, Blanche Ingram in *Jane Eyre*, Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, Meg in *Little Women*, #25 in *The Wolves*, and Ensemble in *Bright Star*. She would like to thank her friends, family, and Leann and Sheryl for believing in her. She is grateful to be performing again alongside her very talented cast and crew, and she hopes you enjoy the show! Psalms 55:22



Matthew Lloyd (Moritmer) has been a frequent contributor with The WordPlayers over the last 20 years, both onstage and offstage, participating in over 50 productions. Favorite roles include Jesus in *Godspell*, Aslan in *The Magician's Nephew*, and multiple characters in *Cotton Patch Gospel*. When he isn't playing onstage, Matthew teaches math at Anderson County High School. He would like to thank Leann for thinking of him for this role, Terry Weber for the many opportunities over the years, and especially his family for putting up with his many nights away from home. Thank you Terri, Naomi, Cam, Fai, and Jack!



McKinley Sean Merritt (Narrator) a UT theatre alumni and Nashville native, is excited to be a part of *The Fantasticks*! This is her third show with The WordPlayers after *Big River* and *A Fly in November*. Her favorite roles include the ensembles of *The Threepenny Opera*; *Monty Python's Spamalot*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; and *Sweeney Todd*; as well as Logainne in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, a member of the Shakespeare medley, "Will Power!" and Bec in *4000 Miles* all at the Clarence Brown Theatre. You can often find McKinley interning at a cappella conventions, singing with her 90s cover band, Teen Spirit, and probably laughing too hard at something really silly. Stay healthy, be safe, enjoy life, and, most importantly, enjoy the show!



Coke Morgan (El Gallo) was based in NYC and LA for over 20 years and traveled the world as a professional singing actor. Local credits include *Peter Pan* as Captain Hook (Oak Ridge Playhouse), *Jane Eyre* as Edward Rochester (WordPlayers).



Ryan Smith (Matt) is honored to be returning to The WordPlayers for a third time. Previous credits with the group include *Bright Star* and *Big River*. Ryan lives in Nashville where he studies filmmaking and writing at Belmont University. Ryan owes his friends and family for continuing to support his interest in the arts, and The WordPlayers for this opportunity to finally share live theatre again.



Leann Dickson (Director) is a retired high school theatre teacher who currently fills her time hiking, biking, lunching, and taking care of her first dog – ever – Moby Dickson, a Shih Tzu puppy who will steal your heart. She has directed *Ragtime*, *Big River*, *The Secret Garden*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Bright Star* with The WordPlayers and is grateful for the opportunities they have given her over the years. Leann would like to thank her husband, Jim, for his ever-loving support.



Sheryl Lawrence Howard (Music Director) has been a music director in east Tennessee since 1987. She is pleased to be doing her seventh production with The WordPlayers. Mrs. Howard has been blessed to play amazing female characters for The WordPlayers such as Emma Goldman in *Ragtime*, Sally Brown in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Martha in *The Secret Garden* and Mrs. Fairfax in *Jane Eyre*. It is an honor to be Music Director of such a talented group of voices and instrumentalists as they realize this "Fantastick" and beautiful score. Mrs. Howard would like to give special thanks to Leann and Lucy for all their hard work and vision to tell this beautiful story. And of course, thanks to Mike and the beagles (Gatsby and ZuZu) for their constant unconditional love and support.

Lucy Wright (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be returning to The WordPlayers for the second time. Despite being raised here in Knoxville, she is currently studying to get a BA degree in Theatre Arts at Flagler College in Saint Augustine, FL and plans to graduate in the fall of 2022. She has stage managed numerous shows including *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, *Eurydice*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Edges*. She would like to thank her Aubrey's family, her family and friends, specifically Lisa Nelson, Leann Dickson, Kip Taisey and Paul Denayer, for being mentors to her. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Jon Chemay (Lighting Design) is excited to return to live theatre. This marks Jon's fourteenth project with The WordPlayers. Jon is in his fifteenth season as Technical Director at Roane State Community College in Harriman and has worked with many theatre and dance companies in East TN, including UT Opera Theatre, Tennessee Stage Company, Momentum Dance Labs, The Actors Co-op, Ballet Gloria, and Maryville College Department of Theatre.

Stephen F. Krempasky (Scene Design) is the Executive Director of the Farragut Business Alliance, promoting retailers, restaurants and service providers in the Town of Farragut. Additionally, he is President of MASSKUS Productions, a special events consulting agency. Steve has designed over 300 theatrical and corporate productions and just finished Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Bearden High School. He is delighted to design for The WordPlayers once again and is looking forward to fall projects with them and The Flying Anvil Theatre. Last year, Steve was inducted as a "Fellow" of the American Association of Community Theatre with over 30 years of service.

Natalee Louis McReynolds (Directing Shadow) holds her B.M. & M.M. in Vocal Performance. Professional performance credits include: *The Sound of Music* (Elsa), *Bernstein's Mass* (Street Chorus), *Company* (Jenny), *Sweeney Todd* (Johanna) and The WordPlayers' performances of *The Secret Garden* (Lily) and *Ragtime* (Evelyn Nesbit). Natalee teaches voice privately from her home. In addition to teaching and performing, she enjoys snuggling her 18-month-old son, Isaiah. Thank you to her husband, Isaac, for supporting her and to Leann Dickson for this opportunity to learn from the best!

Edina Bobrek and Lynn Smith (Costume Design) are thrilled to return to The WordPlayers for *The Fantasticks*! Lynn and Edina began costuming many years ago as parent volunteers for Erin Youth Players, West Valley Middle School, and Bearden High School. Favorite projects include *Willy Wonka*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Addams Family*, *Les Miserables*, and *Jane Eyre*. Special thanks to Rachel, Anna, Sophie and Ryan for their inspiration, and to "stage dads" John and Matt for their unending support and love.



Composer Harvey Schmidt and lyricist Tom Jones are the legendary writing team best known for shaping the American musical landscape with their 1960 hit, *The Fantasticks*. 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. Their first Broadway show, *110 in the Shade*, was revived on Broadway in a new production starring

Audra MacDonald. *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. 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* starring Zoe Caldwell, then later did a full-scale musical version under the title *Colette Collage*. *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*, Jones and Schmidt were inducted into the Broadway Hall of Fame at the Gershwin Theatre, and on May 3, 1999 their 'stars' were added to the Off-Broadway Walk of Fame outside the Lucille Lortel Theatre. Then in 2012, Jones & Schmidt were honored by being inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Special Thanks

Erin Presbyterian, Masskus Productions,
Oak Ridge HS Masquers, Trinity UMC, Katie Alley, Thad Cox, Jack Lloyd,
Grant Malone, Cheryl Masur, Joe McCamish, Natalee McReynolds,
Tammy Murphy, Ethan Norman, Lisa Stockton, Joel Weber

The WordPlayers



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(Gifts given between August 1, 2020 and July 5, 2021)

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Stan & Brenda Malone
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James & Sherburne Martin
Jerry & Joyce McClellan
Norman & Linda Judge
McRae
Bill & Deborah Morgan
Coke Morgan
Todd & Charlotte Olson
Mark & Windie Palmer/
Wilson
Cameron & Emily Puckett
Howard & Marcella Russell
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Jeanne Sharp
Lisa Silverman
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Coming up...

2021-2022 season

The logo for WordPlayers Theatre Company consists of three vertical bars of varying heights and a square to the right, all in black. The text 'WordPlayers Theatre Company' is positioned to the right of these shapes.

WordPlayers
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MainStage Wing

Big Mama's Kitchen, by Joe Frost

Select dates October 7-17

**The Lion the Witch, and the Wardrobe,
by Joseph Robinette**

December 10-14

Refugee King, by Ethan Norman

April, 7-10

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The Ends We Seek, by Ethan Norman

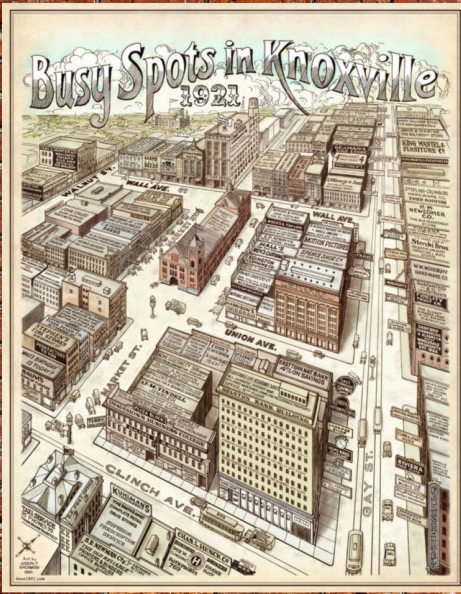
Available February 1-28

For more information regarding our season,
please visit our website: www.wordplayers.org.

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