

Manatee Players and  
Producing Artistic Director Rick Kerby  
present



# THE FANTASTICKS

Book & Lyrics by

**Tom Jones**

Music by

**Harvey Schmidt**

"The musical is suggested by a play *Les Romanesques* by Edmond Rostand."

## THE FANTASTICKS

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials also supplied by MTI.

<https://www.mtishows.com>

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**Co-Produced by Laura and Elliot Raines**

Directed and Choreographed by

**Neal Addison**

Musical Direction by

**Paul Smith**

Set Design by

**Ralph Numela**

Costumes Designed by

**Caren Brady**

Lighting Designed by

**Michael Pasquini**

Stage Manager

**Neal Addison**

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September 19 - October 6, 2024

Kiwanis Theater at Manatee Performing Arts Center

# Theater Information

Each audience member must occupy a seat and have a ticket. Although there are no age restrictions, parents should use discretion regarding appropriateness of some offerings. Information on shows, including recommended ages, is available by calling our Box Office at (941) 748-5875.

## LATECOMERS

Tickets are valid only if presented for admission before the start of the date and time of the show listed. Patrons arriving late are not guaranteed admission, but may be seated on an “as available” basis at the sole discretion of management.

## SMOKING/VAPING

Smoking or use of e-cigarettes is strictly prohibited within the facility.

## ELECTRONIC & RECORDING DEVICES

Due to copyright restrictions, audio and video recording is strictly prohibited during performances. Please turn off all electronic devices.

## EMERGENCY EXITS

Please familiarize yourself with nearest exit sign.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Manatee Performing Arts Center strives to make its performances and facilities accessible to everyone and adheres to all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal opportunity to qualified individuals with disabilities.

## BOOSTER SEATS

Booster seats are available by request for those patrons who need them. Please see a team member at the information desk in the lobby.

## NOISE REDUCTION EAR PROTECTION

We have both adult and child-sized hearing protection for those with sound sensitivity. Stop by the information desk to secure a set to better enjoy the live entertainment.

## BOX OFFICE HOURS OF INFORMATION

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm and 60 minutes prior to any show. Tickets are available by phone 941-748-5875 or online at [ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com](http://ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com)

### STONE HALL



### BRADENTON KIWANIS THEATER



# Director Notes



*The Fantasticks* is the longest running musical in history, spanning 42 years and 17,162 performances, followed by a second 11-year run with an additional 4,390 performances. For comparison, the longest running Broadway musical is *The Phantom of the Opera*, which ran “only” 35 years and for 13,981 performances. *Phantom* is known for its lavish sets and costumes, its 29-piece orchestra, and the famous chandelier. *Fantasticks* has a piano and a cardboard moon.

How, then, did this modest show end up holding that record? Theater is littered with flash and spectacle, in both successful and less-than-successful productions. What *Fantasticks* offers, though, is something different. The story is timeless; boy meets girl, feuding families, love conquers all. Of course, we know life is rarely so simple. Often, we find that what we took for granted wasn’t what it seemed. That the things we thought we wanted turned out to be different than we expected. That to appreciate what we have, sometimes we need to experience struggles as well. This is what *The Fantasticks* provides, a heart that can only be embraced once you’ve stripped away the excess.

*The Fantasticks* invites us, as it has for over half a century, to “try to remember” the good times, even when today or tomorrow might be harder. It reminds us that nothing in life is easy and simple, and if it is, it’s probably not worth holding onto. And it reassures us that no matter what challenges we may be facing, September will return soon enough.

## Creative Team

### Neal Addison

(Director/Choreographer/Stage Manager) – Neal is excited to be working on *The Fantasticks* with this hard-working and talented group of people! He previously directed *Songs For A New World* and co-directed MPAC’s production of *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Most recently, Neal stage managed our productions of *Parade*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Songs For A New World*, co-stage managed our productions of *Kiss Me Kate* and *Something Rotten*, and appeared in *Oklahoma* (Ali Hakim). Neal was also seen both onstage and backstage as ASM for our productions of *Sunset Boulevard*, *Company*, *How to Succeed*, *Titanic*, and *Chaplin*. Other Stage Management credits include *Next To Normal*, *Rent*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Cinderella*, *Damn Yankees*, *Buddy–The Buddy Holly Story*, *Ain’t Misbehavin’*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Calendar Girls*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Nine*, *Anna in the Tropics*, *The Full Monty*, *Wit*, and *It’s A Wonderful Life*. Neal has also served as Co-Stage Manager for *Company*, *How to Succeed*, *Titanic*, *Pippin*, *I Do, I Do*, *Nunsense*, *Winter Wonderettes*, *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *West Side Story*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Barnum* and as ASM on *Newsies*, *The Producers*, *Sylvia*, and *Children of a Lesser God*. “Thanks to Rick for this opportunity, Kristin, Paul, A.J., and the entire cast and production team for all your hard work! Enjoy the show!”

# Creative Team

## **Paul Smith**

*(Musical Director)* – A recent transplant from the OTHER bay area, San Francisco, Paul Smith is splitting his time between both coasts. Although known primarily as a classical pianist, performing both solo recitals and concertos on the West Coast and Europe, and the founder and director of Contemporary Opera Marin, an opera company presenting chamber operas of the last one hundred years, as well as rediscovered gems of past centuries, he maintains an active schedule as musical director for musicals and operettas. After this, his fourth production with Manatee Players, he returns to California to direct *Willy Wonka* and *Winter Wonderettes*.

## **Ralph Numela**

*(Set Designer)* – Ralph previously retired after 30 plus years as a principal in the public school system. He is thrilled to have the opportunity to paint many sets for MPAC in Stone Hall, as well as to be set designer/scenic artist for the productions in the Bradenton Kiwanis Theatre! He recently served as Scenic Artist for the Stone Hall Productions of *Anything Goes*, *She Loves Me*, *Something Rotten*, and *Company*. Some of the recent sets that Ralph has designed in the studio theatre have been *Glass Menagerie*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Rocky Horror*, and *Songs For A New World*. Other scenic design credits in the Bradenton Kiwanis Theatre are *Go Ask Alice*, *Pets*, *Rent*, *Danny King of Basements*, *Doubt*, *Goat Song Revel*, *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Grey Gardens*, *Clybourne Park*, *Shirley Valentine*, *Oh Freedom*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Calendar Girls*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, *2.5 Minute Ride*, *Baby*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Flowers for Algernon*, *Anna in the Tropics*, *The Father*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Wit*, *13: The Musical*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *Sylvia*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Yank!*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Miracle Worker*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Agnes of God*, *Godspell*, *Mornings at Seven*, and *Greater Tuna!*

## **Michael Pasquini**

*(Lighting Designer)* – Michael is excited to be making his Bradenton Kiwanis Theatre debut! Recent designs for the Manatee Performing Arts Center include *Next to Normal*; *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; *Chaplin*; *Barnum* and *Pirates of Penzance*. Michael is the resident lighting designer for Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe where he recently designed *Soul Crooners: Solid Gold Edition* which performed as part of the International Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, NC; as well as last season's *Coconut Cake*, *Marvin Gaye: Prince of Soul*, *A Soldier's Play*, *Joyful! Joyfull!*, and *Once on This Island*. Other recent designs include *Tick, Tick... Boom!* and *Ruthless! The Musical* (The Sarasota Players); *Judith* (Urbanite Theatre); and *The Nutcracker* (Sarasota Ballet School). Michael is the Head Electrician and Assistant Lighting Designer for the Sarasota Opera and serves as Treasurer of the International Alliance of Theatre Stage Employees, Local 412 (Sarasota, Manatee). Michael would like to dedicate this show to the memory of Michael Newton-Brown as *The Fantasticks* at The Sarasota Players was the final show they collaborated on together.

# Creative Team

## **Caren Brady**

*(Costume Designer)* – Caren Brady is celebrating 36 years as a Fairy Godmother for all things costume. A graduate of Bluffton College, Caren started her career at Stagecraft Theatrical in Cincinnati Ohio and eventually opened her dream business, Cincinnati Costume Company. This shop costumed productions throughout Ohio and the nation. After losing Cincinnati Costume Company in a fire in 2007, Caren joined Cincinnati Landmark Productions as their Costume Shop Manager, Costume Designer, and Props Mistress and served there for over 12 years. Caren is pleased to be on staff here at Manatee Performing Arts Center. She is thrilled to be working with this cast and production team. Much love to family and friends far and near who always support the crazy costume lady!

## **Harvey Schmidt & Tom Jones**

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 MacDonal. *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. At their theatre workshop, they created *Celebration*, which moved to Broadway, and *Philemon*, which won an Outer Critics Circle Award. *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. In 2012, Jones & Schmidt were honored by being inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Tom Jones passed away on August 11, 2023.

# Songs

## Act One

Overture.....	Orchestra
Try To Remember.....	El Gallo, Luisa, Matt, Hucklebee, Bellomy
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.....	Luisa, Matt
Abduction Ballet.....	Henry, Mortimer, El Gallo, Luisa, Matt, The Mute
Happy Ending.....	Bellomy, Hucklebee, Luisa, Matt, El Gallo

## Act Two

The Plum is Too Ripe.....	Matt, Luisa, Bellomy, Hucklebee
I Can See It.....	Matt, El Gallo
Plant A Radish.....	Bellomy, Hucklebee
Round and Round.....	El Gallo, Luisa, Henry, Mortimer, Matt, Bellomy, Hucklebee
Beyond That Road.....	El Gallo, Matt
They Were You.....	Matt, Luisa
Metaphor (reprise).....	Matt, Luisa
Try To Remember .....	El Gallo, Luisa, Matt, Bellomy, Hucklebee

**There will be one 15 minute intermission**

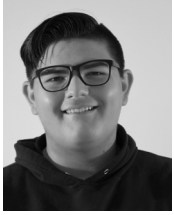
# Cast

Matt .....	Tyler Ashlock
Luisa.....	Sofia Scheck
El Gallo.....	Terry Spann
Bellomy.....	David Russell
Hucklebee.....	Dan Yonko
Henry Albertson.....	Randy Rentfro
Mortimer.....	Jay Poppe
The Mute.....	A.J. Trinci

# Crew

Production Manager.....	Kristin Ribble
Assistant Technical Director.....	Larry Crouse
Master Electrician.....	Thomas Anderson, Tom Sparks
Stage Manager/Light Board.....	Neal Addison
Follow Spots.....	Marilyn Andreini, Janet Poelsma, Kristin Ribble
Additional Choreography by.....	A.J. Trinci
Props.....	Neal Addison, Kristin Ribble
Rehearsal Stage Manager .....	A.J. Trinci
Scenic Artist.....	Ralph Nurmela
Set Construction.....	Thomas Anderson, Phil Croome, Mike Harris, Steve Leggett, Ralph Nurmela, Jim Uberti
Set Painting.....	Thomas Anderson, Alexa Barber, Mike Harris, Ralph Nurmela
Costume Construction.....	Mackenzie Bishop, Caren Brady, Barbara Duncan, Kristen Garruto, Gail Hargaden, Arda Letson, Ansley McDonald, Debbie McKee, Christine Olson, Vincenzo Russo, Lorrie Schultz, Cheryl Voltolina, Wayne Waletich

# Cast



## **Tyler Ashlock**

(*Matt, The Boy*) – This is Tyler’s 9th show at the Manatee Performing Arts Center, and is one he’ll never forget. Sharing the stage with his longtime friend Sofia Scheck is an honor and dream come true! Keep up with his theater journey by following him on Instagram @thetyler.ashlock.



## **Jay Poppe**

(*Mortimer, The Man Who Dies*) – In addition to acting since High School, Jay has been producing scenic projections and video wall graphics for the theater, the latest being *Oklahoma*. His most recent acting role was in MPAC’s *Music Man* (Mayor Shinn). He thanks his husband Ray for his support.



## **Randy Rentfro**

(*Henry, The Actor*) – Randy Rentfro would like to thank Neal for suggesting he audition for this role. It's been a blast. Randy has been seen on the MPAC main stage in *Sunset Blvd*, *Gypsy*, and *Chaplin*. "Thanks Ron for being the best husband ever!"



## **David Russell**

(*Bellomy, The Girl's Father*) – This is David’s fourth production at MPAC - from Harold in *The Full Monty* to Larry in Sondheim’s *Company*. He is delighted to be a part of this Fantastick company! Always thankful for the support of his husband, Neil.



## **Sofia Scheck**

(*Luisa, The Girl*) – Sofia is so excited and thankful to be in her first Manatee Performing Arts Center performance. She is in 10th grade at Manatee School for the Arts. Sofia would like to thank her parents for taking her to rehearsal and her family for supporting her love of the theater.



## **Terry Spann**

(*El Gallo, The Narrator*) – Terry was last at MPAC in *Parade* (Jim). Other credits include: *How To Succeed...* (Twimble); *Cinderella* (Pinkleton); *Miss Ever's Boys* (Willie); *A Soldier's Play* (Wilkie); *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner* (John); and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Judas). He's grateful for everyone's support!



# Cast



## A.J. Trinci

*(The Mute)* – AJ is proud to return to MPAC after their last appearance as Peter Pan! They've since attained a BFA in Musical Theater and appeared in various short films and professional theater productions. Many thanks to everyone in the local theater community who encouraged me to follow my dreams!



## Dan Yonko

*(Hucklebee, The Boy's Father)* – Dan is grateful to join the cast of this iconic show, performing in the Bradenton Kiwanis Theater for the first time. Director of Marketing & Communications at the Chamber by day, but blessed by my beautiful and supportive wife, Sarah, and daughters, Addie and Samantha 24/7. Joshua 24: 14-15



Denotes Manatee  
Players Debut

## Musicals, Concerts, and More!



Oct. 8, 2024 - 2 & 7 PM



Oct. 24 - Nov. 3, 2024



Nov. 7 - 17, 2024



Nov. 12, 2024 - 2 & 7 PM

# MANATEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

## Administration

Chief Cheerleader/CEO.....Janene Amick CAP, CFRE  
Producing Artistic Director..... Rick Kerby  
Comptroller ..... Jeff Evans  
Program Manager .....Jillian Price  
Fundraising Associate..... Isabella Onken  
House Manager..... John Illar  
Assistant to the Chief Cheerleader (volunteer)..... Mary Smith  
Development Associate (volunteer) ..... Cheryl Unruh  
Box Office Volunteers..... Randall Rentfro (Thursday)  
Gail Rhode (Wednesday)  
Noreen Roberts (Tuesday)  
Special Event Associate (volunteer).....Pam Smith  
DraMature Secretary (volunteer) ..... Jay A. Poppe  
Marketing Committee.....Jim Wolfe, Chair  
Sharon Barhorst, Robert Ritch, Anthony Vento  
Webmaster (volunteer) .....Randy Ford

## Production

Production Manager .....Kristin Ribble  
Resident Costume Designer.....Caren Brady  
Assistant Technical Director..... Larry Crouse  
Associate ..... Thomas Anderson  
Master Electrician .....Tom Sparks  
Tool Timers (volunteers)..... Phil Croome, Mike Harris,  
Steve Leggett, Ralph Nurmela, Jim Uberti  
Fabulous Fabricators .....Costume Shop Volunteers  
McKenzie Bishop, Barbara Duncan, Tina Fisher, Kristen Garruto, Gail Hargarden,  
Arda Letson, Ansley MCDonald, Debbie McKee, Christine Olson, Regina Piety,  
Vincenzo Russo, Lorrie Schultz, Millie Sica, Albert Sultana, Theresa Sultana,  
Cheryl Voltolina, Wayne Waletich  
Wig Master (volunteer)..... Fred Werling  
Lobby Pianist (volunteer) ..... Don Donahue  
Production Photographer (volunteer)..... Diane Broda

# VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are the heart of the Manatee Performing Arts Center. They supplement our work force and bring creative energy to the theatre. For more than 76 years, they have sewn costumes, sold tickets, operated lights and read lines. They have auditioned, performed, painted, ushered, served and made us who we are.

Actors, will-call, receptionists, hosts, ushers, technicians, costumers, carpenters, painters and stage crew members all play critical roles in raising the curtain on each performance. The quality of our productions is the direct result of our volunteer talent guided by on-staff theatre professionals. Volunteers also provide a link with the community that can open and extend Manatee Performing Arts Center to new audiences and play an important role in public education.



Volunteers are placed according to their interest, experience and availability (our flexible schedules and our accessible facility permits everyone and anyone the ability to volunteer).

For more info about volunteering, please contact us at (941) 749-1111 or submit a volunteer interest form on our website.

There's a wealth of opportunities at Manatee Performing Arts Center.

# LEAVE A LEGACY

The Florida Cultural Group, Inc. and its Manatee Performing Arts Center campus is fortunate to have loyal and generous audience members, volunteers, and staff that have grown with us over the past 70+ years. As we continue to grow into a cultural center that better serves our community in the future, we need to have consistent and reliable funding sources.

We see a simple solution to our future funding needs. With a much larger endowment fund, we can assure the future of the Florida Cultural Group, Inc.'s vital programs. You have treated us like a member of the family coming back every year and supporting us beyond the price of your tickets.

We would like for you to consider including the Florida Cultural Group, Inc. in your future financial plans through many options that provide tax and recognition benefits to you today.

Here are a few of the ways you can easily provide for and ensure the Florida Cultural Group, Inc.'s future through a Legacy Gift:

- Bequest in your will or living trust
- Life income gift (charitable gift annuity, pooled income fund, charitable remainder trust, or charitable lead trust)
- Retirement plan beneficiary designation
- Life insurance policy beneficiary designation
- Contact Janene Amick at (941) 749-1111 to schedule an appointment.

