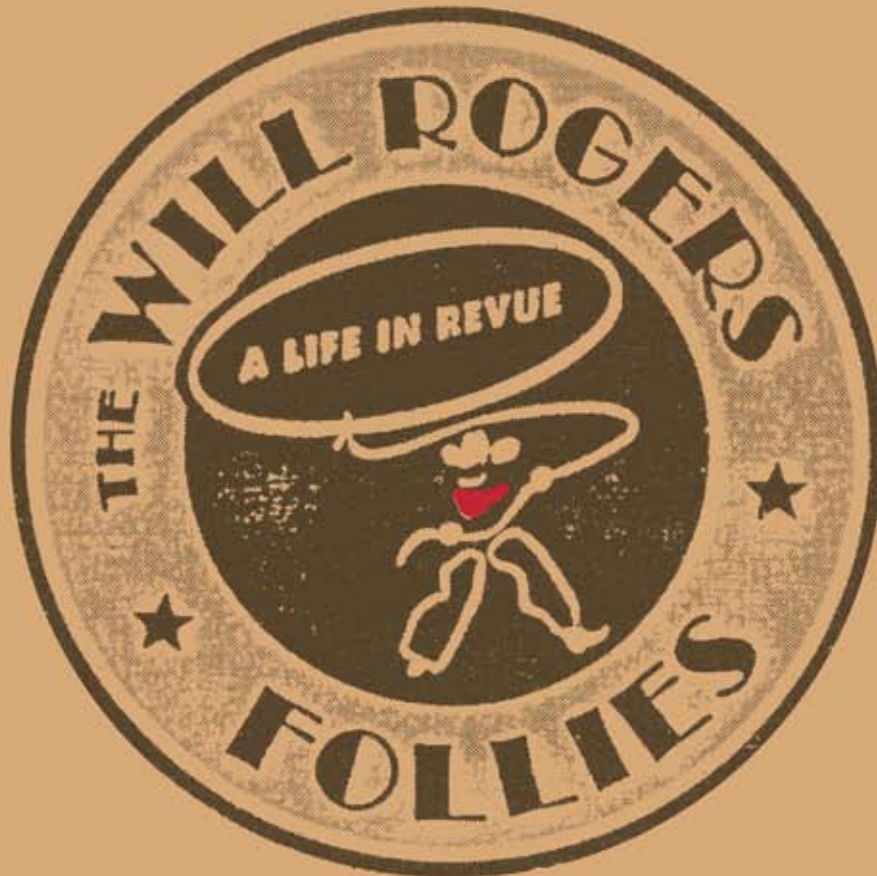




## The 43rd Annual Zilker Summer Musical

Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater



*Book by*  
**Peter Stone**

*Music Composed  
and Arranged by*  
**Cy Coleman**

*Lyrics by*  
**Betty Comden &  
Adolph Green**

This production is funded in part by the City of Austin (under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission),  
The Junior League of Austin, as well as many other friends



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The 43rd Annual Zilker Summer Musical  
**The Will Roger's Follies**  
**A Life in Revue**

Book by  
**Peter Stone**

Music Composed  
and Arranged by  
**Cy Coleman**

Lyrics by  
**Betty Comden &  
Adolph Green**

*featuring*

**Tim Blackwood**  
as Will Rogers

**Catherine Rose**

**Christopher E. Blessitt**  
**Dave Holden**

**Diana Eve Wheeler**

*Directed by*  
**Michael Harlan**

*Choreography*  
**Terri Lynn Raridon**

*Music Direction*  
**Dennis Whitehead**

*Scenic Design*  
**Stephen A. Laban**  
**Kevin M. Richie**

*Costume Design*  
**Eric Reyez-Abbott**

*Lighting Design*  
**Phil G. Gilbert, Jr.**

*Property Design*  
**Theresa L. Leckbee**

*Sound Design*  
**William L. Mester**

*Hair / Make-up Design*  
**Brianna L. Jones**

*Produced for Zilker Theatre Productions by*  
**Stephen A. Laban**

This production is funded in part by the City of Austin (under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission), the Junior League of Austin, as well as many other friends.



THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES – A LIFE IN REVUE  
is produced by arrangement with, and the music and dialog material furnished by  
Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc., 560 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022-



# ZILKER THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

P.O. Box 92766  
Austin, TX. 78709-2766  
(512) 479-9491  
www.zilker.org

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Welcome to theater under the stars - Austin style and the 43rd Zilker Summer Musical, *The Will Rogers Follies - A Life in Revue!* This year's production is made possible through the generous support of the Junior League of Austin, the City of Austin Cultural Arts Commission, HEB, Philip Morris and the people of the Austin metropolitan area who have contributed thousands of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours.

The Zilker Summer Musical is like an extended family of the Board, dedicated performers and musicians, artistic staff, theater mavens and volunteers who simply enjoy the creative process of participating in the longest continually running free outdoor musical production in the country. Zilker Theater Productions relies heavily on city and corporate funding to continue to provide quality family entertainment without charge to the public. The current downturn in the economy has made it extremely challenging to receive the financial support necessary to cover costs.

Without everyone pulling together to meet our fundraising goals, ZTP would no longer be able to support the Zilker Summer Musical. The entire community would lose this precious gift of theater and music. The Zilker Summer Musical is your musical.... An Austin tradition that needs your support to insure its place for future generations. You can help in many ways through your personal or corporate contribution tonight during intermission (Checks made payable to Zilker Theatre Productions), by completing a BLUE CARD in this program to volunteer to work on next year's production and by your patronage of the businesses who support the summer musical. ZTP thanks you for your support!

So sit back, relax and get prepared to meet a man who never met an audience he didn't like. It's time to enjoy *The Will Rogers Follies - A Life in Revue*.

Lila Oshatz, *President*

## 43 Years of Zilker Summer Musical Tradition

1959	Seventeen	1974	Paint Your Wagon	1988	Camelot
1960	Girl Crazy	1975	1776	1989	Carnival
1961	Anything Goes	1976	L'il Abner	1990	Annie
1962	Wildcat	1977	Fiddler on The Roof	1991	Into The Woods
1963	Finian's Rainbow	1978	Pippin	1992	Westside Story
1964	Brigadoon	1979	Man of La Mancha	1993	Oklahoma!
1965	Oklahoma!	1980	Jesus Christ Superstar	1994	Little Me
1966	The King and I	1981	Fiorello!	1995	Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
1967	Once Upon A Mattress	1982	Most Happy Fella	1996	Once Upon A Mattress
1968	A Funny Thing Happened on The Way to The Forum	1983	How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying	1997	Guys & Dolls
1969	The Music Man	1984	Good News	1998	South Pacific
1970	Oliver	1985	Guys & Dolls	1999	Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
1971	Peter Pan	1986	Miss Liberty	2000	West Side Story
1972	Hello Dolly	1987	The Unsinkable Molly Brown		
1973	You're A Good man Charlie Brown				



## 2001 Deacon Crain Award

The Deacon Crain Award is given by Zilker Theatre Productions to individuals who have given longstanding service and support for the summer musical. Receiving the Deacon Crain Award is truly an accomplishment. Deacon Crain performed in the summer musical during its early years and then served on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Summer Musical (now ZTP) from 1987 until his death in 1998. The summer musical in Zilker Park at the Beverly S. Sheffield Hillside Theatre is an Austin tradition. *The Will Rogers Follies – A Life in Revue* is the 43rd annual presentation of a Broadway musical, offered with free admission to the public. This is a record unmatched anywhere else in the United States. The tradition continues because of dedicated people like the former and present recipients of the Deacon Crain Award. It is the pleasure of Zilker Theatre Productions to announce Lloyd D. Storm and his late wife Arlene Storm as the 2001 recipients of the Deacon Crain Award in recognition of their years of dedicated service and support for the summer musical.

Over the past decade there has been no crisis for the musical that the Storms did not help to resolve. The Storms have not only provided financial support to the summer musical, but also gifts of their time, their energies, their expertise, and their hospitality. Arlene served a term on the Zilker Board of Directors as Secretary. They have organized many Rehearsathons and arranged for the prizes for the intermission drawings on the Hillside. The Storms were also familiar faces on the Hillside. No job was ever too big or too small that the Storms were not willing to perform. Lloyd and Arlene could be found during almost every performance in or around the concession stand, selling T-shirts, passing out programs, collecting donations, or wherever else their help was needed.

ZTP is grateful to the Storms for the countless volunteer hours they have dedicated to the Zilker Summer Musical over the years. Though the years, they have personified the attitude that the "the show must go on," and so it has. Our thanks to Arlene and Lloyd Storm! We note with particular sadness that Arlene Storm passed away in April of this year. She will be genuinely missed by this community.

- KRIN BROOKS PERRY

Zilker Theatre Productions wishes to dedicate the 2001 production  
of *The Will Rogers Follies – A Life in Revue* to the memory of

**Arlene Neumann Storm,**

1932 — 2001

we also remember other former cast members and friends  
who are no longer with us. As a tribute to their memory, a tree was planted  
in the grove near the Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater that posterity  
may know and appreciate those who have truly given their all to see that this  
art form continues.

Phil Allen • Jim Barnes • John Bustin • Arturo Castillo •  
Dr. W.H. "Deacon" Crain • Bettie Dahlberg • Daniel Moncivias • Tucker Parmlee •  
Joe Ryan • Beverly S. Sheffield • Sean Somoskey • Philip Stansbury





## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*The Will Rogers Follies - A Life in Revue* has been a thrilling experience for the company of actors, designers, the production team, and supporting staff. Having a musical based on an individual who gave so much of himself to the world has been quite humbling. When I first received the directorial assignment, I immediately read Will Rogers' biography, which I found most helpful and inspirational. The first time I read the script, the ending brought tears to my eyes. During rehearsals, the final moments always find me "weepy" as it does so many times in the show.

*The Will Rogers Follies - A Life in Revue*, a 1991 Tony award winning show weaves a narrative around Ziegfeld Follies-like production numbers. The story is set in the present at the Palace Theatre in New York City, and told in flashbacks. Will Rogers worked at the Palace Theatre during the Ziegfeld Follies years. The play accounts his life, from birth until death. You will meet his father, Clem, his wife, Betty, his four children, his friend Wiley Post, and Florence Ziegfeld, his boss at the Palace Theatre. To help narrate the story, there is a chorus of Cowboys and Ziegfeld Showgirls. This includes Mr. Ziegfeld's Favorite, who acts as a Mistress of Ceremonies. There is also a Wild West Show, with animals, and several numbers are staged, as they were by Ziegfeld himself at the Palace Theatre. All of the events that occur in the play are historically accurate, so you will leave the hillside with a mini-history lesson.

The company of the production team and artists has been a great group to work with. We feel that Will Rogers would have been proud that we reached out to our community with love. Hopefully, you the audience on the hillside will know that we have expressed love for our craft and that we so appreciate you. We hope everyone will walk away from the hillside this summer a richer person for the experience of *The Will Rogers - A Life in Revue*. We hope you will enjoy the experience of *The Will Rogers Follies* as much as we have enjoyed putting it all together!

## SYNOPSIS

### ~ Act One ~

#### ~ Prelude: "Let's Go Flying" ~

##### Scene 1: The "Follies"

*Will-a-Mania* ..... Ziegfeld's Favorite & Company  
*Give a Man Enough Rope* ..... Will and the Wranglers

##### Scene 2: The Ranch

*It's a Boy* ..... Clem and Will's Sisters  
*So Long Pa* ..... Will

##### Scene 3: The Moon

*My Unknown Someone* ..... Betty

##### Scene 4: The "Follies"

##### Scene 5: The St. Louis Exposition

*We're Heading for a Wedding* ..... Will and Betty

##### Scene 6: Vaudeville

*The Big Time* ..... Will, Betty, & the Children  
*My Big Mistake* ..... Betty

##### Scene 7: The "Follies"

*The Powder Puff Ballet* ..... The New Ziegfeld Girls  
*Marry Me Now/I Got You* ..... Will & Betty

Wedding Finale

### ~ Act Two ~

#### Entr'Acte

##### Scene 1: The "Follies"

*Give a Man Enough Rope* ..... Will & the Wranglers  
(reprise)  
*Look Around* ..... Will

##### Scene 2: The Convention

*Favorite Son* ..... Will & Chorus

##### Scene 3: The Hollywood Ranch

*No Man Left for Me* ..... Betty  
*Presents for Mrs. Rogers* ..... Will & the Wranglers  
The New Ziegfeld Girls

##### Scene 4: The Bare Stage

*Will-a-Mania (Reprise)* ..... Will & Clem  
*Without You (Reprise of "I Got You")* ..... Betty

##### Scene 5: The Finale

*Never Met a Man I Didn't Like* ..... Will & Company



# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**Tim Blackwood**  
*Will Rogers*

*The Will Rogers Follies* marks Tim's fourth appearance on the hillside. His other Zilker productions include *Into The Woods*, *Joseph and The Amazing*

*Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Little Me*. His other local credits include *Oklahoma!*, *Sweeney Todd*, *She Loves Me*, *Pirates Of Penzance*, and *A Christmas Carol with the State Theatre Company*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *Bremen Town Musicians*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *Tin Soldier*, and *My Neighbor with Second Youth Productions*, *A Christmas Carol with Zachary Scott Theatre*, *Ordinary People* with Austin Theatre for Youth, *Angel's Balconey* with Naughty Austin Productions, and *Dracula: A Musical Nightmare* with Capitol City Playhouse. Some of Tim's other credits include *The Fantastiks*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Coastal Disturbances*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Oliver*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*.



**Catherine Rose**  
*Betty Blake*

Catherine is making her Zilker Summer Musical debut with *The Will Rogers Follies*. She has sung with the Round Rock Community Choir for nine years,

performing solos and group numbers for *Saturday Night: Dead or Alive* and *Swanee*, and sings in the formal concerts. She also sings with the group, AKA, which she founded a year ago. She has appeared in an UT student film and has done commercials. She would like to thank her parents for all their love and support, and a special gratitude to her two daughters who gave her the courage to go after her dream.



**Christopher E. Blessitt**  
*Clem Rogers, Hastings, Pianist (alt.)*

Chris is making his first appearance with Zilker Theatre Productions. He is currently a senior at UT completing his BA degree in Theatre and Dance. He has appeared

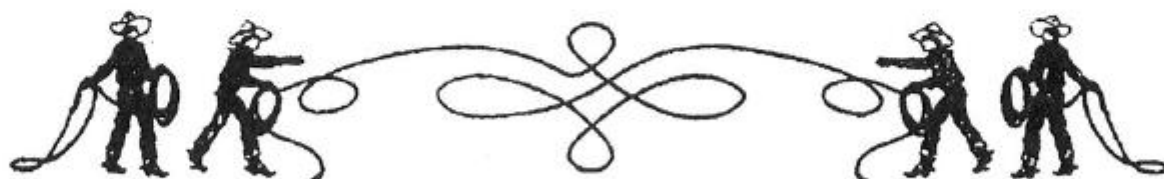
in many shows at UT, including *Time Again in Oz*, *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, *Vieux Carre*, and *Greetings*. Chris has also spent two summers with the Houston Shakespeare Festival and one summer with the University of Houston Children's Theatre Festival as both an actor and a technician. Other productions include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Music Man*, and *My Fair Lady*. Chris is also a senior electrician for the UT theatre department.



**Dave Holden**  
*Clem Rogers, Hastings, Pianist (alt.)*

*The Will Rogers Follies* is Dave's Zilker Theater debut performance. He has recently returned to the Austin music and stage scene. He has performed in productions of *HMS Pinafore*, and the operas *Il Ritorno de Ulysses*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Le Nozze de Figaro*. Dave has

spent the last four years performing with the Round Rock Community Choir in their annual productions of *Saturday Night: Dead or Alive* and *Swanee*, and as a featured soloist in annual classical concerts such as *Handel's Messiah*. He also currently performs with AKA, doing shows at various venues in the Austin area. He credits his love for music and singing to his voice teachers in college, which is where he found his voice. He wants to thank Cathy and Dennis for their friendship, and most especially his wife Davida for her love and support.



**Diana Eve Wheeler***Ziegfeld's Favorite, Betty Blake Understudy, Dance Captain*

With *The Will Rogers Follies* 2001 (Ziegfeld's favorite) and *Company* Dance Captain, Diana marks her 3rd

appearance with the Zilker Summer Musical. Previous theatre performances include *La Cage Aux Folles* (Derma), *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Ginger), *West Side Story* (Anita), and *Oklahoma!*. For playing Anita in '92, Diana was awarded The Critics Table Award; the Austin Circle of Theatre's First Choice Award and the prestigious B. Iden Payne Award for Best Lead Actress. Diana has enjoyed several TV and Film appearances in *Walker, Texas Ranger*, HBO's *White Mile*, and *In The Name of Love*, A Texas Tragedy for FOX feature films. Diana has performed in New York City with her *All That Jazz* dance routine solo. Diane wishes to thank her Incredible parents, family and friends for their love and support. She wishes to dedicate this to her best friend, hero, brother, and guardian angel, Robby. This one's for you Rob! I love you.

**Kirk Addison***Ensemble, Will Rogers Understudy*

Kirk is pleased to join the hillside again after performing in 5 previous productions: *Into The Woods* (The Baker), *West Side Story* (Riff), *Oklahoma!* (Wil

Parker), *Little Me* (George), and *Guys & Dolls* (Benny). He has performed in over 70 local productions and been rewarded with 4 Austin Circle of Theatre Awards for Best Actor/Best Supporting Actor including *Little Shop Of Horrors* (The Dentist), *Oklahoma!* (Curly) *Pippin* (Pippin), and *Into The Woods* (The Baker). Kirk has performed nationally as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral, and Buckingham Palace and before Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. He continued his acting by studying and performing at Circle in the Square Theatre (NYU School of the Arts) under the tutelage of such notables at Colleen Dewhurst, Dustin Hoffman, Raul Julia, and Kevin Klein. He especially thanks his friends and family who support him in all aspects of his life.

**Lariena Armstrong***Ensemble, Ziegfeld's Favorite Understudy*

Lariena is thrilled to be on the hillside again this year. You may recognize her as a Shark from last year's production of *West*

*Side Story*. Since last summer, Lariena has been seen in *Dracula: A Musical Nightmare*, *Hayfever* and several film projects. Keep an eye out for her in and around Austin on stage, on the screen and in the dance halls. Lariena wishes to thank ZTP for the exciting opportunity to return to the hillside, her family for their love and unending support and God.

**Esperanza Biehle***Ensemble*

This is Esperanza's fourth production with Zilker Theater after previously being in *Guys & Dolls*, *South Pacific*, and *Big River*. Other productions include *Grease* (Rizzo) DCC

Community Theater, *Gypsy* (Hollywood Blonde), *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Music Man* all with Austin Musical Theater, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* (Rag Doll), *Snoopy* (Peppermint Patty), both with Second Youth Company, and with Zachary Scott Theater. Esperanza was also a finalist in the National Search for the Disney World Dancers.

**Wesley Bronez***Freddie Rogers*

No, Wesley does not like singing and acting. He LOVES and lives it! He has performed in four Kids Acting productions, and kept his chin up through countless

auditions, including several which weren't even looking for kids. His passion for singing and acting has netted him a local TV spot, a commercial jingle, a print job, various film roles, and now a part in *The Will Rogers Follies*. Wesley loves this show, and hopes you do too!





**Karin Chekirda**  
Ensemble

Karin comes straight to us from New York City where she graduated from AMDA/NSSR (American Musical and Dramatic Academy/New School for Social Research) and did some theatre, film, television, dance, modeling, and music. She deeply appreciates the shared wisdom and continuing enthusiasm of her teachers and friends. She also secretly thanks everyone everywhere that honestly try their best to do good work, and regardless of obstacles, Live in the light of truth.



**Christian Feazell**  
Ensemble

What good would Christian be without the people who support the arts? All he can do is sing. Besides loving his family, gardening, writing songs, and occasionally painting, singing is to all intents the only thing he does. Since hitchhiking into Austin last summer, he has sung on KUT, managed a giant PigBeast in *Black Bog Beast Bait*, let a criminal go with *O Henry's Short Stories*, had a hand in *Hydan's Creation*, and rapped to Snoop Doggy Dogg in an elevator. He also wrote a couple of songs for Another One Horn Production called *Rage in the Cage*. Christian thanks you for being here.



**Meg E. Geer**  
Ensemble

Zilker Theatre welcomes Meg to *The Will Rogers Follies* in her Austin debut. Meg is a musical theatre major at Southwest Texas State University beginning her junior year. She has appeared in *Hair*, *Godspell*, and *The Rose*, as well as numerous vocal and dance performances and competitions. Look for Meg as both a sleek popular teen and a "goth chic" in the soon-to-be-released film *The New Guy* in September.



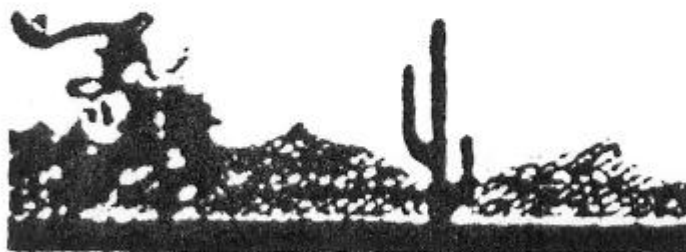
**Demond Lemarcus Green**  
Ensemble

Demond is making his Zilker debut with *The Will Rogers Follies*. He has appeared in several Southwest Texas State University productions including *Hair* (Hud), *Backyard Story* (Arson Garson), *Twelfth Night* (Priest), *Tartuife* (Dorine), and the world premiere of Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt's new musical, *Roadside* (Black Ike). He would like to thank his friends and family for such strong and vital relationships, the cast and crew for their dedication, and most importantly, God for taking care of him and giving him opportunities to challenge himself.



**Desiree L. Hall**  
Ensemble

Desiree is pleased to be a part of *The Will Rogers Follies*. She was very active in the theatre and musical productions during high school and college. She performed with the Lakeview Company Productions *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Camelot*, at The Lakes of the Festivals in Toronto, Canada and was awarded first place honors for her vocal performance of *Think of Me*. She performed with international dance companies in Bermuda, Acapulco, Mexico, and Atlantic City, New Jersey. She recently was a featured extra in the final episode of *Walker Texas Ranger* and performed in *Drums in the Night*. She has also appeared in a Time Warner Cable commercial, runway modeling for Clue Clothing Company, *Shades of Life*, and as an extra in the film, *The New Guy*.





**Meg L. Hubbarth**  
Ensemble

Meg, a student at Bowie High School, is ecstatic to be making her first appearance with Zilker. Meg has performed in shows, such as Austin

Musical Theatre's *Gypsy*, *Music Man*, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. She is also a member of Austin Musical Theatre's Junior Company. She would like to thank her parents for their love and support, and all of her friends: Mugz, Kelley, Kara, Steph, Bexters, KK, and Craig. I don't know what I would do if I didn't have friends like you!



**Heather D. Huggins**  
Ensemble

Heather attended a previous Zilker Hillside Production *Camelot*, in which she became hypnotized by the arts. She is thrilled to be part of this talent-

ed cast. Heather began performing and managing Waco Musical Theatre, Inc. Her recent productions include *Odyssey*, *Medea*, *West Side Story* and *Steps*. She would like to extend a special thank you to all of her supporters — her family, friends, and everyone at VWPP.



**Melissa K. Joiner**  
*James Rogers (alt.), Understudy*

*The Will Rogers Follies* marks Melissa's second opportunity to perform in a Zilker Summer Musical having last been seen in 1999's *Big River*. Previous Austin

theater credits include *Evita* (young Eva Peron), *Princess Time Again in Oz* (Ozma), *Annie*, *Gypsy*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *A Christmas Carol*. Melissa is a 13-year-old soon-to-be eighth grade honor student at Lake Travis Middle School with numerous TV, film and commercial credits. She has performed at Pecan Street Festival, Aqua Fest and many other community and church events.



**Jennifer L. Matthews**  
Ensemble

Jennifer is making her debut appearance with Zilker Theatre Productions. Some of her most recent roles are *The Pirates of Penzance* (Isabel), *Gianni Schicchi*

(Penny Linda), and *A Room With a View* (Mrs. Honeychurch). While attending Southwest Texas State, Jennifer toured the country with the University Chorale, performed with the Southwest Texas Orchestra as a winner of the aria competition, and received second place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition. Jennifer is currently teaching elementary music in Austin and plans on pursuing her career as a teacher and performer. She would like to thank all of her family and friends for their love and support.



**Grant C. McCollor**  
Ensemble

This is Grant's second appearance at the Hillside Theater having previously rafted the Mississippi as Ben Rogers in 1999's *Big River*. He attended Webster University's

Theatre Conservatory in St. Louis, MO. where roles included *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Narrator), *Oliver* (Mr. Sowerberry), and *Oklahoma!* (Joe). Other productions include *Dracula*, *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Nile*, and an extra in the recent film *The New Guy*.



**Jeff McCrary**  
*Wiley Post, Ensemble, Understudy*

Jeff is making his debut with Zilker Theatre Productions. Currently a senior at Westlake High School, he is active in Theatre and the International Thespian Society, serving

as secretary. He performed in *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Once Upon A Time*, and *You Can't Take It With You*, the UIL One Act Play Contest Show which advanced to area competition.



**Taylor McPhail**  
Mary Rogers

Taylor is thrilled to be in her first Zilker Summer Musical. While at Doss Elementary School, she enjoyed singing in the Choir, acting in *The Ballad of Howdy Texas* (Miss Smirch), and performing in the AISD All-City Elementary Honors Choir. Taylor also has enjoyed her second year performing with the Austin Musical Theatre's Junior Company. She has previously appeared in AMT's *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Music Man*, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Taylor would like to thank all her voice, dance, and musical theatre teachers as well as her family and friends for sharing her excitement of the theatre.



**John Minnich**  
Will Rogers, Jr.

John is thrilled to be back at Zilker where he made his first stage debut in *Big River*. Other credits include Austin Musical Theatre Productions of *Oliver*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Music Man*, and *Fiddler on the Roof* at McCallum High School. He just finished 7th grade at Kealing Junior High.



**Mario L. Patrenella**  
Ensemble

Mario is ecstatic to return to the Hillside after a 5-year hiatus. He was last seen in *Once Upon A Mattress* in 1995. He recently graduated from St. Edward's University, with a BA in Theatre. There his roles included *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Ira Stone), *The Goodwoman Of Setzuan* (Brother), and *Jekyll & Hyde* (Henry Jekyll/Edward Hyde). He wants to dedicate this show to his father who died of Cancer. "Thanks for everything Dad, I owe my love and existence in theatre to you."



**Gretchen Lenore Riedel**  
Ensemble

Gretchen is excited about returning for her second Zilker Summer Musical after appearing in last year's *West Side Story*. She is a junior at Southwest Texas studying music and theatre. She would like to thank her family for their love and support and God for allowing her to perform.



**Brie Scolaro**  
Ensemble

Brie is excited to be making her debut with the Zilker Summer Musical and has gained a new respect for Chorus girls everywhere. She was most recently seen in *Love, Sex and the IRS* at the Gaslight Theater and in *Six Women with Brain Death* with Buzz Productions at the Dougherty Arts Center. She would like to thank her husband for his love and support and dedicate the performance in memory of Stormie.



**Haley Michelle Smith**  
Ensemble

This is Haley's third appearance at the Hillside as she was previously in *South Pacific* and *Big River*. Other performance credits include *Guys & Dolls*, *Pippin*, *Ah, Wilderness!* *Not About Nightingales*, *The Foreigner*, *The Crucible: A Musical Extravaganza*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. She is a sophomore at UT's Theater and Dance department. She is thrilled to be performing with this talented cast at the hillside and wishes everyone shmana love.

**George Spelvin**  
Voice of Florence Ziegfeld



**Jennifer Rachel Sublett**  
Ensemble

Jennifer is making her Zilker Summer Musical debut with *The Will Rogers Follies*. She has previously performed in *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, *Ghetto*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Equus*, *The Whole Darn Shooting Match*, *Dearly Departed*, and *Our Country's Good*. She is currently majoring in Social Work at UT but hopes to pursue acting and theatre upon graduation.



**Zach Thompson**  
Ensemble

Zach makes his Zilker debut in this year's production. His performances include *Odd Couple*, *Female Version* (Manolo Costezuela), *Oklahoma!* (Curly), *Our Town* (George), and *Barefoot in the Park* (Paul). When not on stage, Zach sings with the Austin Chord Rangers and works as an engineer for 3M Company.



**Emily Vanover**  
*James Rogers (alt.)*

Emily is thrilled to be appearing in her first Zilker Summer Musical. She is a member of Austin Musical Theater's Jr. Company and has been seen in their productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Music Man*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Oliver*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*. She performed in the U.T. Department of Theater's production of *Time Again in Oz* (Ozma) and in Second Youth's world premiere of *Oh, Henry Musical Short Stories* (Daisy) at the Scottish Rite Theater. Emily is a 7th grade honor student at Bailey Middle school where she is a member of the Star Strutter's Dance Team and plays the oboe in the Wind Ensemble. She would like to thank her mother, Scott, Richard, Ginger and Kevin for all their support and encouragement and the staff of ZTP for giving her this opportunity.



**Chicken Dog**

It is I, Chicken Dog, part Dalmatian, claimed best party entertainer in Austin, according to the reputable Austin Chronicle Reader's Poll. Trained by my marvelous master,

Darren Peterson, I am a veteran of Austin Musical Theater's production of *Oliver!*, and Zachary Scott's *Evita!*. I have won Frisbee Dog competitions, been on the David Letterman and Donny & Marie Shows, commercials, movies, and print ads too numerous to enumerate. Also be mystified at my marvelously magnificent majestic mastery over my supposed master. Pry a privy peek as I, a proudly peripatetic professor of profundity, persuade my profoundly peculiar, perpetually problematic pile of piggishly impertinent person to fall prey to my playful pranks and pratfalls; a pretty parrot also performs a pirate play.

**Jumpin' Jack**



**Lauren McCaw**





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\* Alternating

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 Director  
 Choreographer  
 Music Director  
 Scenic Designer  
 Costume Designer  
 Lighting Designer  
 Sound Designer  
 Property Mistress  
 Hair, Wigs, Make-up Designer  
 Assistant to the Producer  
 Director's Production Assistant  
 Production Stage Manager  
 Stage Manager  
 Assist. Stage Manager  
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**Michael Harlan**  
**Terri Lynn Raridon**  
**Dennis Whitehead**  
**Stephen A. Laban, Kevin M. Richie**  
**Eric Reyez-Abbott**  
**Phil G. Gilbert, Jr.**  
**William L. Mester**  
**Theresa L. Leckbee**  
**Brianna L. Jones**  
**Melinda Parr**  
**Jeff McCrary**  
**John Steven Rodriguez**  
**Theresa L. Leckbee**  
**Olga Lappas**  
**Annelies Lottman\***  
**Chad Salvata**  
**Bill Wise**  
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 \* Indicates a volunteer

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## STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



### Stephen A. Laban

Producer, Scenic Designer

Stephen hails from New York City where he was active in both the management and creative sides of off-Broadway and industrial theater. He led his own corporate communications firm in Japan for almost 17 years, specializing in corporate presentations and events, before settling in Austin. A past vice-president, past treasurer, and past PR head, Stephen remains on the Board of Directors of Zilker Theatre and is currently the Executive Director of Centex StageWorks.

### Michael Harlan

Director

Michael Harlan was last involved with Zilker Theatre Productions playing seven roles "Second Banana" in *Little Me*. He is thrilled and humbled to be directing *The Will Rogers Follies*. His directing and acting performances at St. Edward's University include *Black Comedy*, *Life With Father*, *The Diviners*, *Go Back for Murder*, *Whodunnit*, and *The Time of Your Life*. His credits at The University of Tennessee Chattanooga include *Master Harold and The Boys* and *A Lie of the Mind*. As Resident and Associate Artistic Director at Capitol City Playhouse for five years, Mr. Harlan directed *Curse of the Starving Class*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Cloud 9*, *Gypsy*, *The Seagull*, *Broadway Bound*, *Hay Fever*, *Something's Afoot*, *Wild Honey*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *The Boyfriend*. He received ACOT Best Director awards for *Biloxi Blues*, *Cloud 9*, and *Something's Afoot*. Mr. Harlan received his MFA from UT Austin's Department of Theatre, and is currently Director of Theatre at Westlake High School. He says, "What better way to get to know more people than working in theatre and education?" Michael would like to thank the entire production team for their countless hours of rehearsal and dedication to *The Will Rogers Follies*.

### Terri Lynn Raridon

Choreographer

This is Terri Lynn's first stint as choreographer for the Zilker Theatre Productions Summer Musical. She is excited to be working again with longtime collaborator Michael Harlan. Ms Raridon has choreographed and performed in everything from music videos *Jason and the Scorchers*, onstage with live bands, Dan Del Santo and Sunny Okosun, to under water dances *Aquamirabilis* and movies *True Stories*. From 1983 to 1997, she was a student, performer and co-choreographer with local dance legend, Dee McCandless on productions as *Club Sandwich* and *Waterworks*. Local theatrical credits for choreography include *Hair*, *Carousel*, *The King and I*, *A Funny thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Gypsy*, *Dracula The Musical Nightmare*, *The Boyfriend*, *Something's Afoot*, as well as Director for *La Cage Aux Follies*. She received B. Iden Payne awards for her choreography for *The Boyfriend* and *Something's Afoot* and *La Cage Aux Follies* received a BIP for best musical. She has been an adjunct faculty member in the Kinesiology and Dance departments at Austin Community College since 1987. She wishes to thank the staff, cast and crew for being so great to work with and her partner Richard, for his patience, love and support.

### Dennis Whitehead

Music Director

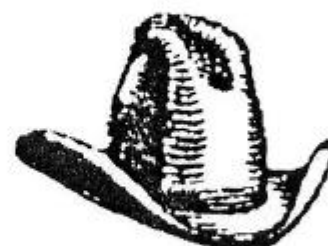
Dennis returns to Zilker Theater for his second year after making his debut as Tony in last year's *West Side Story*. He has served as musical director/vocal director/conductor for numerous productions including *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *West Side Story*, *Children of Eden*, *Annie*,

*Assassins*, *Six Women with Brain Death*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Nunsense* and the world premiere of the new musical *Roadside*. His directing credits include *Children of Eden*, *Insides Out*, *Godspell*, *Assassins*, *Into the Woods*, *The Chairs*, *A Few Good Men*, and *Deathtrap*. Dennis' performing credits include *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Andre), *Fantasticks* (Matt), *Man of La Mancha* (Padre), *Dreamgirls* (M.C.), *Six Degree of Separation* (Paul), *A Map of the World* (M'Bengue), as well as Austin's own *Esther's Follies*, and *Comedy Sportz*. In the fall, Dennis will be joining the faculty of Southwest Texas State University as the Director of the Opera program.

### Kevin M. Richie

Scenic Designer

Having just recently become a part of the Austin community, Kevin is excited to join the Zilker summer musical tradition. He has spent almost his entire life in theatre, from Houston to Boston. Credits include Leslie Nielson as Clarence Darrow (a one man show) and the world premiere of Tennessee Williams' *Not About Nightingales*. Kevin has worked as lighting designer for Austin's One World Theatre, and most recently for Roy Lazano's Ballet Folklorico. Kevin is thrilled to be living in Austin and would like to thank the theatre community for welcoming him so generously.



**Eric Reyes-Abbott**  
*Costume Designer*

This is Eric's first show with Zilker and he has enjoyed the work and looks forward to future work at the hillside. He is currently a costumer at St Edwards University where he has designed such shows as *Equus*, *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, *The Conference of the Birds* and *Death of a Salesman*. He holds an MFA in Costume and Make-up Design and Technologies from The University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Eric has worked at various theaters around the country as well as working with film and television. He would like to thank all his family and friends for their love and support, as well as the wonderful cast, crew and production team at the Zilker Summer Musical.

**Phil G. Gilbert, Jr.**  
*Lighting Designer*

Phil Gilbert, Jr. has been active in theater for seven years. His credits include *Hello Dolly*, *Wizard Of Oz*, opening gala at *The Ranch Film Studio*, and dance shows all over Austin. Phil was the director of *Intelligent Lighting* at West Lake High School's annual *Zenith* dance show this year, and has been part of that performance for six years. He is currently enrolled in the theater department at the University of Texas.

**William L. Mester**  
*Sound Designer*

This is Bill's fifth season with Zilker Theatre Productions. Bill studied audio and recording technology at Houston Community College with a scholarship for academic achievement. He has worked several years in the corporate audio-visual field and has toured with local blues legend, Doyle Bramhall. Bill currently works at the University of Texas Performing Arts Center where you will find him providing audio support for Ballet Austin, the Austin

Symphony Orchestra, touring productions and University events. His design credits include Austin Lyric Opera's *Salome*, *Tosca*, *Don Giovanni*, *Candide* and *Aida*. When the Summer Musical is not in production, Bill rents out the ZTP audio equipment, using the proceeds to maintain and upgrade the system.

**Theresa L. Leckbee**  
*Property Mistress, Stage Manager*

Theresa Leckbee is a second year veteran here on the Zilker Hillside and is thrilled to be back! Last year she was the Production Stage Manager for *West Side Story*. Stage managing credits include *Children of Eden*, *Anne of Green Gables*, and *Extremities*. She has enjoyed directing and acting in many other productions. Her directing and acting credits include *Laundry and Bourbon*, "A" *My Name is Alice*, *Liv: The Dragon King*, *Comanche Cafe* and *Domino Courts*, *Cabaret*, *Life With Father*, *Traveler in the Dark*, and *Waiting for Godot*. Theresa also directed Buzz Productions first show *6 Women With Brain Death*. Theresa would like to thank all her family and friends. She hopes to be making movies of her own someday and running a successful production company with all the wonderful people she loves.

**Brianna L. Jones**  
*Hair, Wigs, Make-up Designer*

Brianna Jones, a soon to be graduate from St. Edward's University, is designing the makeup for these beautiful people. During the past school year, her most recent pieces have been *Death of a Salesman*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Light Up the Sky*, *Sorry*, *Wrong Number* and *E.R.* She has truly enjoyed working with everyone and looking forward to establishing herself in the theatre community. Many thanks go to Eric Abbot, Stephen Laban, my wonderful family and God.

**John Steven Rodriguez**  
*Production Stage Manager*

This is John's first time as Production Stage Manager with Zilker Theatre Productions. Previous Zilker Hillside performances include *Guys & Dolls*, *South Pacific* and Austin Circle of Theatre's choice for Best Musical of 1999, *Big River*. This Vortex repertory company member recently completed stage manager duties for *Sex Farce* and *Roses and Thistles*. John has also directed Vortex Productions *Dirty Money* and was assistant director of *Bridge Burner*, *Norm L.* and *Tale of Two Cities*. John extends his thanks to Vortex Artistic Director, Bonnie Cullum and Ethos Artistic Director, Chad Salvata for their inspiration, conviction and motivation in expecting nothing less than best.

**Olga Lappas**  
*Assistant Stage Manager*

Olga has been involved in the Austin theatre scene for six years and has worked as a house manager, dresser, and crew person on many Zachary Scott Productions. Olga has worked on *Evita*, *Last Night at Ballyhoo*, *Beehive*, *The America Play*, *Schoolhouse Rock the Piano Lesson*, *Dreamgirls*, *Gospel at Colonus*, and *Das Barbecu*. Olga currently serves as a Board Member, Chairperson of Regional Auditions, and Member at Large at the Austin Circle of Theatres and is a member of the B. Iden Payne nominating committee.



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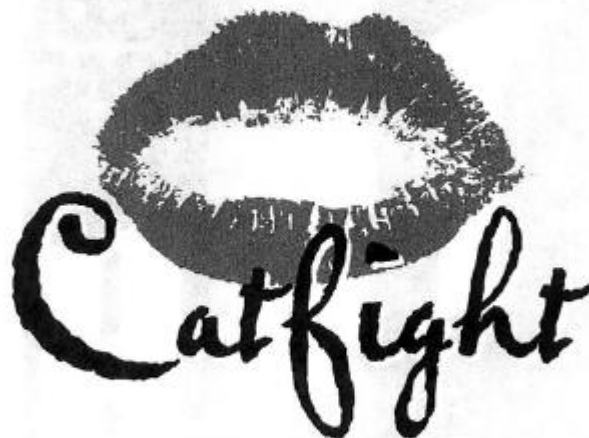
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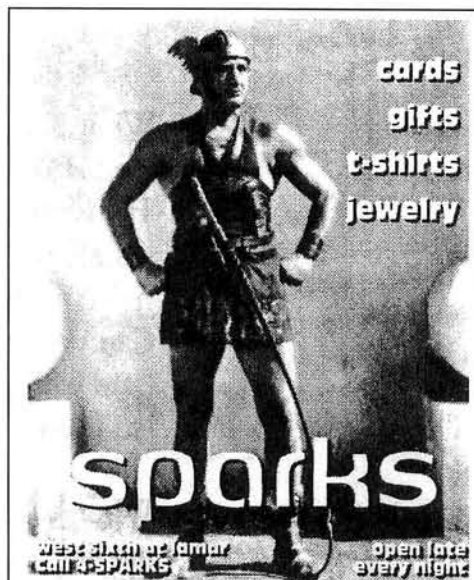


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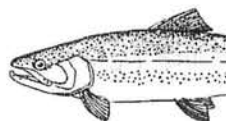
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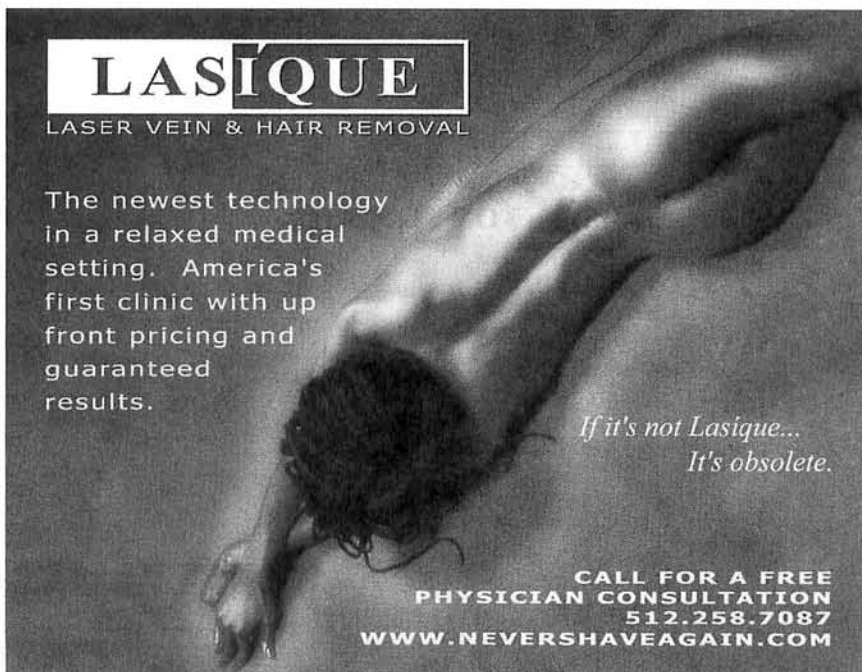
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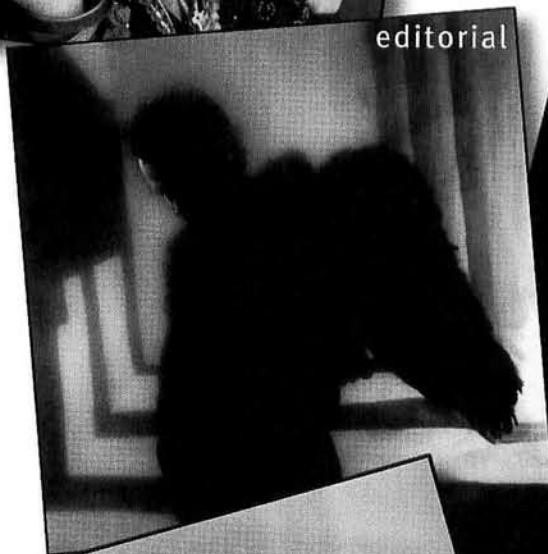


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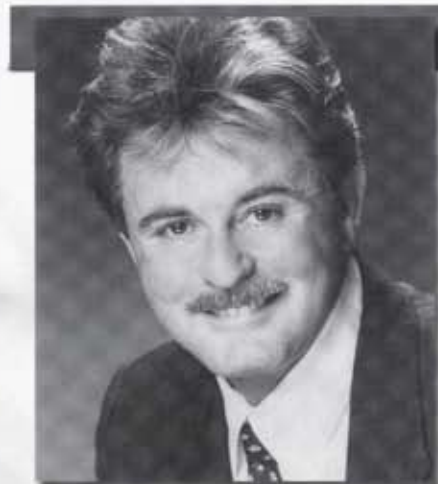


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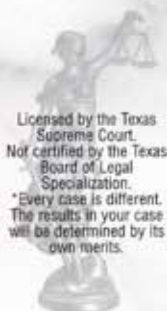
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Dressers: Junior League of Austin Volunteers  
Photographer/Web Site: Dana Campbell

### CAST:

Ziegfeld's Favorite: Cathie Sheridan

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