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The Fantasticks



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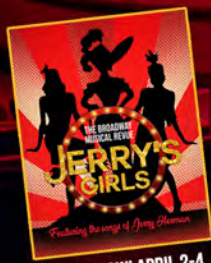
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Director's Notes...

“Try to remember the kind of September, when life was slow and oh mellow.” This is the opening line of *The Fantasticks* and I can’t think of a more perfect way to start a show during these strange times. This is one of my favorite shows. I love it’s music, I love the characters, I love it’s timeless message of needing to grow before truly appreciating what you have. In it’s 60 year history *The Fantasticks* has always been a testament to beauty in simplicity. This quaint, “little” show has stood the test of time when many, many big budget shows have come and gone. It is our job tonight to take you away from your everyday worries. To help you remember a time when things were more simple. To get you to laugh and to remind you that “without a hurt, the heart is hollow.” Enjoy the show!

Trevor Southworth
Director



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~ Meet The Cast ~



Christopher deJong (Henry) is thrilled to be back with his Athens family! *The Fantasticks* is very near and dear to Chris' heart as it is the one and only show where he shared the stage with his father many moons ago! Chris was last seen performing at Titusville Playhouse as Barrett in *Titanic* and has been in several productions at the Athens Theatre in Deland, including Rooster in *Annie*, and Sammy in *The Wedding Singer*. He also appeared in two virtual concerts: *Virtually Yours* and *Seasons of Love*. Other past Florida credits include Sparky in *Plaid Tidings* and Lonny in *Rock of Ages*. Some Favorite roles include Peter in *Bare: A Pop Opera* and Jerry in *The Full Monty*. Chris would like to thank the entire Athens Creative Team for giving him this opportunity to create art during this challenging time. Special thanks to the two loves of his life, Erica and Luna!



Nate Elliott (Mortimer) is so excited to be back at the beautiful Athens Theatre! After closing *Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged* a few weeks ago, he couldn't wait to get back on the stage! Despite the strange times that we're in and all of the intense safety measures, this show has been a blast to work on! Some of his favorite past roles include Eugene (*Brighton Beach Memoirs*), Don Lockwood (*Singin' in the Rain*), Spider (*Jekyll and Hyde*), and Ted Hanover (*Holiday Inn*). While he's been furloughed from his jobs in Entertainment at Walt Disney World, and at Universal Orlando Resort, he's been sleeping, designing face masks, and eating. He would like to thank his friends, his mother, his sister, the Professor and Mary Ann, and his girlfriend Julia for their continuous support! He'd also like to thank the creative and tech teams for this opportunity, and for all their hard work. And most of all, he'd like to thank God for His continuous blessings and mercies. Finally—God bless, may the Force be with you, enjoy the show, and have a magical day! Oh, and welcome back to The Athens Theatre!

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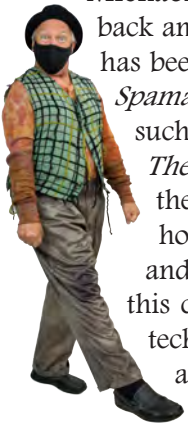
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~ Meet The Cast ~



Donald Fields (Bellamy) is thrilled to return to the Athens Theatre stage! A veteran of the Athens with over 18 productions under his belt, he is ecstatic to join this amazing cast for a truly wonderful production. By day, Donald teaches science, engineering, and leadership in Seminole County. By night, in addition to his work here at the Athens, he runs a D&D campaign with his educator friends and watches just enough reality TV to be considered a true-blue American. He would like to thank his dear friend Trevor for trusting him to take on this role. He would also like to thank the whole cast, crew, creative and technical teams of *The Fantasticks* for their hard work and dedication, particularly under these unique circumstances. Finally, Donald would like to thank his family, friends, and coworkers for supporting his return to the stage, especially his parents Don and Terry, who have truly “never said no.” I love you.



Michael Funaro (Hucklebee) is proud and delighted to be back amongst his friends at the Athens Theater. Michael has been seen recently on the Athens stage as Arthur in *Spamalot* along with several other Athens productions such as *Sweeney Todd*, *Les Misérables* and *Inherit The Wind*. Stepping back onto any stage during these uncertain times was not without some serious thought, however the arts must live on and my hope is to provide some joy and distraction from the world spinning madly around us. Enjoy this classic *Fantastick's* journey with an amazing cast, creative and technical teams and always “try to remember.....” Thanks Trevor and team for allowing me this cherished time with my Athens family.



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~ Meet The Cast ~



Zachary Mitchell (Matt) Zachary is so thrilled and grateful to be able to safely perform live again and to bring this amazing story to life! He was recently seen in Athens Theatre's *9 to 5* (Dick, Ensemble), Osceola Arts' *White Christmas* (Scooter, Ensemble) and in Theatre UCF's *Titanic* at the Dr. Phillips Center (George Widener, Henry Etches Understudy). He would like to thank his family and friends for all of their continuous love and support, it means the world to him!



Miranda Robinson (Luisa) is excited to be on the Athen's stage for the first time. She is a recent graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato where she received her BS in Theatre Arts. Since returning to Florida, she performed last season with Bay Street Players in *The Fantasticks*, *Agnes of God*, and *Breaking Legs*. Other credits include: *The Glass Menagerie*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Phantom*, *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, and many more. She thanks those in her life who have given their support and the opportunities to explore and enhance her art.



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~ Meet The Cast ~



Forrest Stringfellow (El Gallo) is ecstatic to be performing on the Athens stage once again after just finishing his run in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged*. An associates graduate of DSC, Forrest will be continuing his education at UCF for a BA in Theatre Studies. Other favorite roles include: Melchior in *Spring Awakening* and Claude in *Hair*.



Taylor Whiteman (The Mute) - is a Junior at the University of Central Florida pursuing two degrees in Theatre Studies and in Biology. She has appeared on Stage at the Athens Theatre most recently as a Boylan sister in *Annie*, and as an ensemble member in *The Producers*. In her free time she enjoys running, painting, and creating digital art. She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support, and coffee, for keeping her productive.





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~ Meet The Musicians ~



Chris Endsley (Piano) is a 30+-year professional Music Director having served as Music Director/Accompanist for Garden Theatre, UCF Conservatory Theatre, Rollins College, Athens Theatre, Orlando Repertory Theatre, Daytona State College, Granbury Opera House (Texas), and Seaside Music Theatre. Chris has music directed some of The Athens' biggest musicals, including *The Wedding Singer*, *Hairspray*, *Spamalot*, *Cabaret*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Sister Act*.

For seventeen years Chris was on faculty at Seabreeze High School, Daytona Beach, where he served as Chair of the Fine Arts Department, Choral Director and coordinator of the prestigious American Musical Theatre program. In 2004 he was awarded the school's coveted Teacher of the Year. In 2014 Chris joined the faculty of University High School, Orange City where he is Director of Choral Activities and teaches AP Music Theory.

Chris toured the country as a concert organist, conducted workshops in church music development, and has over 40 years of experience in church music. He is currently Organist/Director of Traditional worship at North Lake Presbyterian Church, Lady Lake. Chris holds a Bachelor of Music in Church Music/Organ from Baylor University, a Master of Music in Organ Performance from Florida State University and two additional years of graduate study in performance from Texas Christian University. Chris is a proud member of AFM Local 389. Much love to A.M.E.N.!

Craig Uppercue (Percussion) See Bio under Production Team.





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~ Cast of Characters ~

Forrest Stringfellow The Narrator (el Gallo)
 Miranda B. Robinson The Girl (Luisa)
 Zachary Mitchell The Boy (Matt)
 Michael Funaro The Boy's Father (Hucklebee)
 Donald Fields The Girl's Father (Bellomy)
 Christopher deJongh The Actor (Henry)
 Nate Elliott The Man Who Dies (Mortimer)
 Taylor Whiteman The Mute

~ Musicians ~

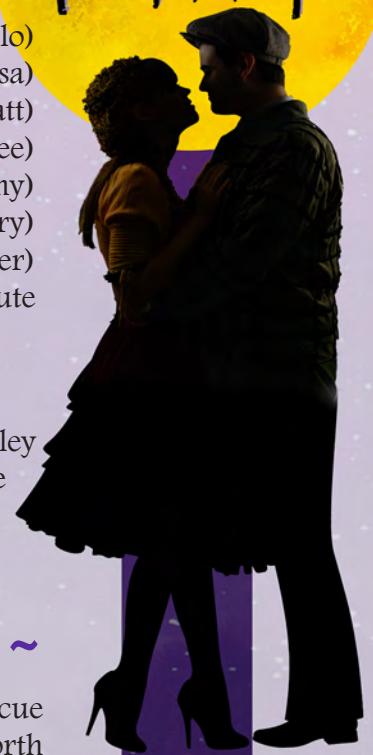
Piano *Chris Endsley
 Percussion *Craig Uppercue

** Signifies A member of American Federation of Musicians, local 389.*

~ Production Team & Technical Crew ~

Artistic Director Craig Uppercue
 Director Trevor Southworth
 Musical Director Bert Rodriguez
 Choreographer Mayme Paul
 Props Designer and Scenic Asst Painter Sarah Hargest
 Lighting Designer John Kiselica
 Costume Designer Tamara Marke-Lares
 Scenic Designer Tori Oakes
 Lighting & Sound Manager Tyler Omundsen
 Production Stage Manager Frank Ramirez
 Assistant Stage Manager / Deck Chief Grace Locklin
 Soundboard Operator Kevin Drips
 Costume & Prop Shop Manager Amy Uppercue

The Fantasticks



~ Act One ~

Try To Remember
 Luisa's Introduction
 Bird Magic
 Much More
 Matt's Introduction
 Metaphor
 Celebration
 Huck's Introduction
 The Wall
 I'll Marry
 Bell's Introduction
 Ladder
 Never Say No
 It Depends On
 What You Pay
 It Depends On What
 You Pay – Reprise
 Moonlight #1
 Moonlight #2
 In The Glen
 Soon It's Gonna Rain
 Abduction Ballet
 After The Ballet
 Happy Ending

~ Act Two ~

This Plum Is Too Ripe
 The Quarrel
 I Can See It
 An Episode
 Rebuilding The Wall Re-
 building The Wall #2
 Plant A Radish
 Much More – Reprise
 Round And Round
 Transition
 Distant Carousel
 Beyond That Road
 Paradox
 They Were You
 Metaphor – Reprise
 Try To Remember – Reprise
 Music For Bows



One midnight in April of 1960, the first preview of a new Off-Broadway musical played in a dingy basement theater in New York City's Greenwich Village. No one in the audience of friends and theater insiders, who found themselves beguiled that night by the show's balance of worldly wit and naive grace, could have known that they were witnessing the birth of the world's longest running musical. Not even the creative team or cast and crew might have guessed their quirky little parable about love and growing up would continue to charm audiences in that theater below Sullivan Street, and around the world, for the next forty-two years (with a record-shattering 17,162 performances in New York alone).

Basing their musical on *Les Romanesques*, a little known satirical homage to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* by the author of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Edmond Rostand, Tom Jones (lyricist and librettist) and Harvey Schmidt (composer) distilled Rostand's story down to its essence — a boy, a girl, two fathers, and a wall — fleshing out their dialogue and songs with images of the seasons; of plants and flowers; of the cycles of the sun, moon and planets; of natural things and their inherent, or imagined, meaning. With their original director, Word Baker, they used avant-garde (for the time) rehearsal techniques that opened the windows of the imagination through experimentation and improvisation. The creation of *The Fantasticks* became a celebration of theater artists' pure pleasure at finally being allowed to do and be all they had ever dreamed of doing and being.



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~ Meet The Production Team ~



Craig Uppercue (Artistic Director) A Stetson University alumni, Mr. Uppercue has been teaching for 16 years in the public school systems of Florida from the Elementary to Collegiate levels. Craig is the Music Director of the Off-Broadway National Tour - *The Rock & The Rabbi* and performs with the show when available. Other performing opportunities include Broadway and Off~ Broadway credits such as *The Witnesses Musical* (Original Cast member), *The Lion King*, *Songs for a New World*, and numerous national tours throughout the U.S. He is actively involved with many professional symphonies and maintains an active performing schedule with professional artists throughout the nation. Mr. Uppercue has been with the Athens Theatre since 2011, and he has directed many musicals and plays at the Athens as well, most recently *Seussical, Jr.* Craig and his wonderful wife Amy live locally, enjoying every moment watching their three daughters grow up!



Trevor Southworth (Director) *The Fantasticks* marks Trevor's 17th show at The Athens! Previous shows Trevor has directed here include *Annie*, *The Producers*, *A Christmas Story*, *Sister Act*, *Spamalot*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Footloose*. Trevor has also worked at Mad Cow Theatre, CFCArts and Thank You Five. He is co-director of theatre at Lake Mary High School. He is thrilled to be back making live theatre!





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~ Meet The Production Team ~



Bert Rodriguez (Music Director) is so happy to finally return to The Athens after music directing *Footloose*, *Gypsy*, and *A Christmas Carol* in years prior. Most recently he music directed *Marie and Rosetta* at FreeFall Theatre in St. Petersburg. He has musically helmed Mad Cow Theatre's *It Was A Very Good Year (and Yule)* cabarets for the past 2 years, and was fortunate to music direct the regional premiere of *Matilda* at Theatre South Playhouse last year. *The Fantasticks* was the first musical he ever saw live, and he is so humbled to play a small part in bringing this version to life.



Mayme Paul (Choreographer) is happy to be back at the Athens where she previously choreographed *Into the Woods*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Gypsy* and *Miracle on 34th Street*. As a Director and Choreographer, she has over one hundred credits on her resume' with productions in LA, Seattle, Vegas and Central Florida. As an actress, Mayme performed on Broadway in *A Chorus Line*, *Little Johnny Jones* and *The Tap Dance Kid* along with Off-Broadway productions, National Tours and lots of Regional Theatre. She also performed on the T.O.N.Y. Awards and danced with Michael Jackson. She currently teaches dance at UCF. Mayme would like to thank her husband Steve for his unending support!





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~ Meet The Production Team ~



Sarah Hargest (Props Designer/Scenic Painter) is from Hanover, PA and currently resides in Orlando, FL. She is a graduate of Stetson University's Theatre Arts and Studio Arts programs and is very proud to be back to The Athens. You may have seen her work in their previous productions of *9 to 5* and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged*. Outside of The Athens, she was a Props Intern at Orlando Repertory Theatre, Scenic Artist

at Jean's Playhouse, and Prop Artisan/Prop Master at McLeod Summer Playhouse.



John Kiselica (Lighting Designer) is the Assistant Technical Director and Instructor of Lighting & Sound at The University of South Carolina. A graduate of West Virginia University with a BFA degree in lighting and sound design. He has worked on a national tour, *Buddy: The*

Buddy Holly Story, as the master electrician after a contract with Royal Caribbean International as a stage technician. Commercial theatrical work includes installing Prodigy Hoists, an automated rigging system from Electronic Theatre Controls. Recent selected design work includes, *My Way*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Bluest Water*, *Whipping Man*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep* and *Waist Watchers: The Musical*.



The Athens Theatre Presents

Simply Streisand

AthensDoLand.com *November 14*

A promotional poster for the production 'Simply Streisand'. It features a woman with blonde hair, wearing a black and white dress, sitting in a gold patterned armchair. A large pink rose is positioned next to her. In the bottom right corner, there is a black and white photo of a man looking up. The background is dark with blue light effects.

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~ Meet The Production Team ~



Tamara Marke-Lares (Costume Designer) is a Sculptor, Painter, Printmaker, and Creature Marionette maker. She has been designing costumes freelance for 19 years. She has designed for Dance, Ballet, Opera and Cirque productions, as well as numerous collaborative and solo productions. Some costume credits include: *The Jungle Book*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, *Once on This Island*, *12th Night*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Gypsy*, *Spamalot*, *The Addams Family*, *Guys and Dolls*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Eurydice*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn*, *The Lion King, Jr.*, *Always Patsy Cline*, *Singin' In the Rain*, *The Producers*, *Into the Woods*, *Annie*, *Seussical, Jr.* and *9 to 5*. This is her fourth season with the Athens Theatre. She lives with her dreamy, musician husband and their two crazy talented children.



Tori Oakes (Scenic Designer) is happy to be back living in Central Florida. At the Athens Theatre she has designed the sets for *Into the Woods*, *The Producers*, *Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Oklahoma!*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Aladdin, Jr.*, *Sister Act*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Addams Family*, *Cabaret* and *White Christmas*. She has served in a variety of production management positions at Daytona State College, Potsdam Music Theatre, Northern Stage, SUNY Potsdam, Ibex Puppetry, and Seaside Music Theatre to name a few. Tori holds an MFA in theatre from the University of Central Florida



Tyler Ormundsen (Sound Designer and Resident Manager of Lighting & Sound) has worked in Florida regional theatre for the past 13 years. Having earned his BA in Theatre from Florida Gulf Coast University, along with his MFA in Lighting Design from the University of South Carolina. Tyler is happy to be the newest member of the Athens Theatre Family and is excited for you to see this *Fantastick* show!

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The graphic features the Phintec logo, which consists of a stylized 'P' made of two interlocking loops, one blue and one green. Below the logo, the word 'phintec' is written in a bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font. Underneath that, the tagline 'making technology simple' is written in a smaller, green, lowercase sans-serif font. The background of the graphic is a light purple and white, with a faint image of a computer keyboard and a green card with a lightbulb icon and the word 'Solution' on it. A hand is shown holding the green card. At the bottom left, the website 'www.phintec.com' is written in green. At the bottom right, the phone number '321-214-2500' is written in green.

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~ Meet The Production Team ~



Frank Ramirez (Resident Production Stage Manager) Frank is excited to be celebrating his third season with the Athens Theatre. Frank has served as Company Manager for Heather Henson's IBEX Puppetry, Assistant Company Manager/Resident Stage Manager for the Tony Award-Winning Broadway Producing/General Management company Martian Entertainment as well as Resident Production Stage Manager for Seaside Music Theatre, Community Performance Series, Crane Opera Ensemble and Potsdam Music Theatre. Broadway and Off-Broadway credits include *Puppet Palooza* (The New Victory Theatre), *Flight: on Earth, in Sky* (La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club), *Altar Boyz*, *The Musical of Musicals*, *Naked Boys Singing!* *Reveals Christine Jorgensen* (New World Stages). Some of his favorite regional and touring credits include Jim Henson's *Singalong with The Muppet Movie*, *Labyrinth Singalong*, *Les Miserable* (National Tour), *Shades of Rhythm* (Vern Riffe Center), *Les Miscellaneous* (Ahmanson Theatre) and the world premiere of *Million Dollar Quartet*.



Grace Locklin (ASM/Deck Chief) This is Grace's 13th show at the Athens Theatre. She is so excited to be back with a wonderful cast and crew. She hopes you enjoy the show!



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~ Meet The Production Team ~



Kevin Drips (Soundboard Operator) is an Audio Engineer from Miami, Florida. He holds a BA in Digital Arts and has worked as an electrical technician for The Orlando Ballet and Orlando Shakespeare Theatre. Kevin is also an Abstract Digital Media Artist who specializes in alternative video and audio recording. He is tremendously honored to be a part of the crew and hopes that you enjoy the performance.



Amy Uppercue (Costume and Prop Shop Manager) has been working behind the scenes at the Athens Theatre since 2011, and has loved being a part of all the magic that has been created on our stage. Favorite costume design credits include *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Legally Blonde: the Musical*, and *Footloose*. In addition to running the Athens Costume Shop, Amy is also a teaching artist for the Athens Theatre Youth Academy. Amy and her husband have three little girls and one little pup that continue to be their greatest joy. Enjoy the show, we hope to see ya'll back here again soon!



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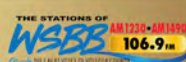
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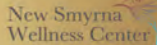
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We dedicate this production to Steve Blais, a member of the Athens Theatre family whose personal efforts helped make the reopening of our historic theatre possible and successful. His dedication to numerous local non-profits helped make DeLand the amazing place it is today. Join us as we raise a glass in his honor and memory.

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