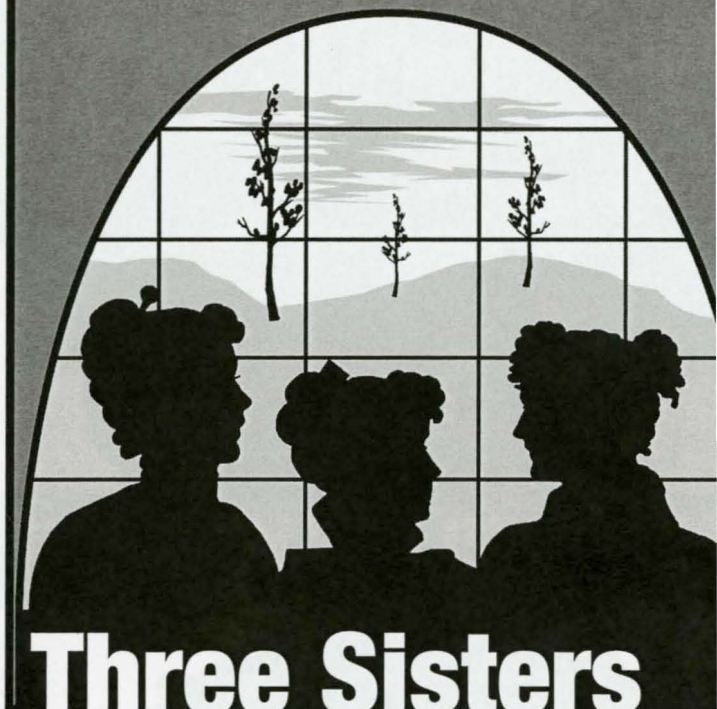


STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY  
College of Fine Arts & School of Theatre



# Three Sisters

by Anton Chekhov

**February 28-March 3, 2012**

7:30 p.m.

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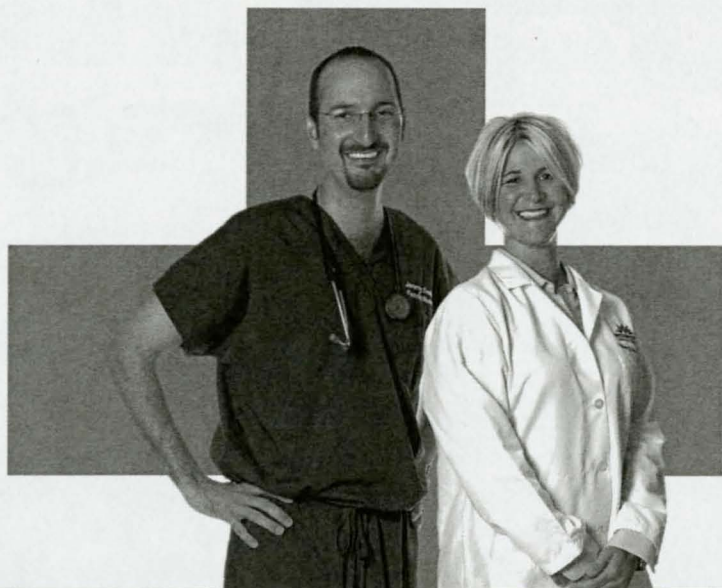
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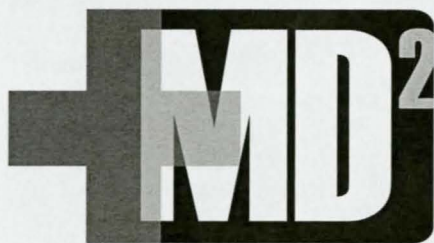
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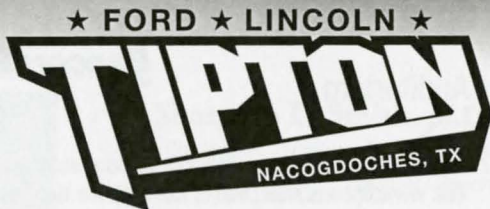
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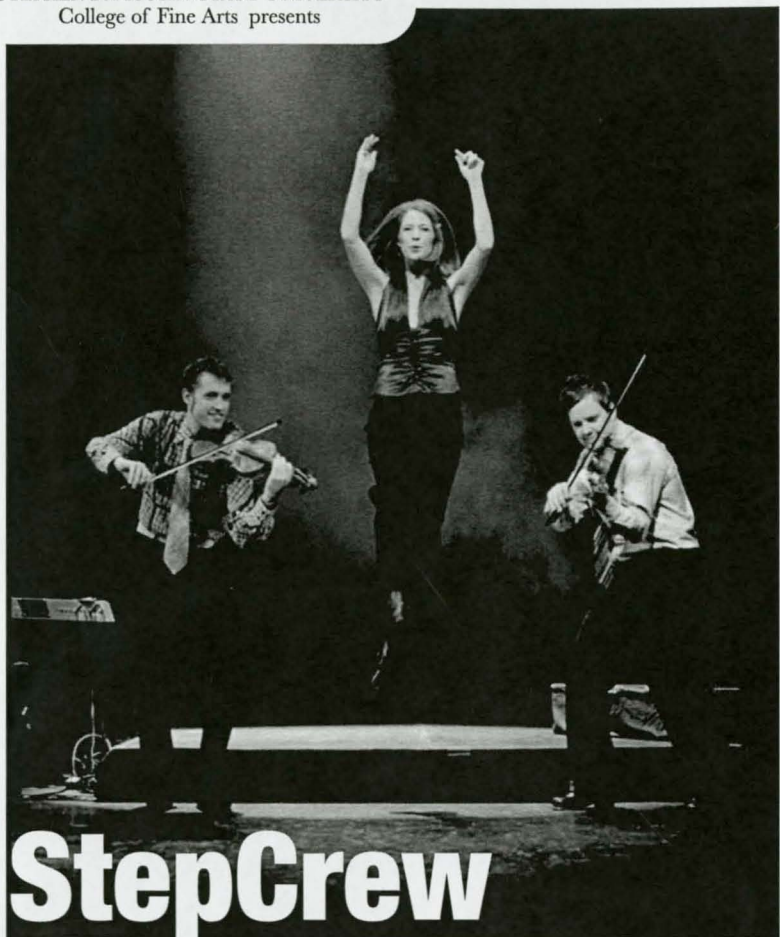


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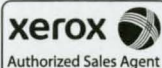


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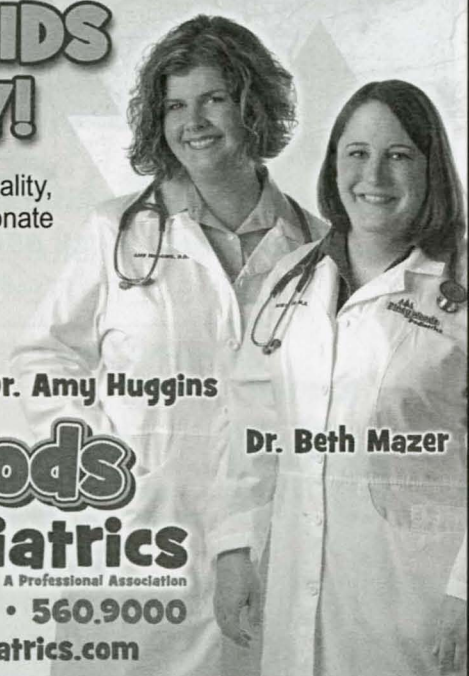
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The Daily Sentinel

# Three Sisters

By Anton Chekhov

Translation by Rhonda Blair

Directed by Rick Jones

Scenic Designer	Dana Gloege
Costume Designer	Angela Bacarisse
Lighting Designer	Caitlin Dean*
Sound Designer	CC Conn
Stage Manager	Grace Hartke*
Assistant Director	Kat Edwards*
Assistant Stage Manager	April Gore
	Melissa Santana
Dramaturg	Jennifer Suter*
Original music by	Mason Lieberman

**Uniforms by Norcostco Texas Costume, Dallas, Texas.**

**The playscript for this production of *Three Sisters* was translated from Russian by Rhonda Blair, professor of theatre at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.**

**The action takes place in a provincial town several hundred miles from Moscow, in the last decade of the 19th century.**

**There will be one 10-minute intermission.**

*Fedotik's guitar music adapted by Jason Davids Scott,  
from the Russian folk song "Toom Balalaika."*

*Special thanks to ArtsView Children's Theatre, Longview;  
Kurt Bilanoski; Juanita Finkenburg; Patricia Kelley; and Toni Smith.*



# Cast

Olga Sergeevna Prozorov	<b>Valarie McLeckie</b>
Irina Sergeevna Prozorov	<b>Katy Rutherford</b>
Masha Sergeevna Kuligin	<b>Sloan Frierson</b>
Ivan Romanich Chebutykin	<b>David Studwell</b>
Nikolai Lvovich Tuzenbach	<b>Luke Norton</b>
Vasily Vasilyich Soliony	<b>James Bowling</b>
Anfisa	<b>Sarah Chavez</b>
Ferapont	<b>Terrell Barnes</b>
Maid	<b>Ashe Vernon</b>
Aleksandr Ignatyevich Vershinin	<b>Daniel Miller</b>
Andrei Sergeevich Prozorov	<b>Allen Titel</b>
Fyodor Ilyich Kuligin	<b>Kory Pullam*</b>
Natalya Ivanovna	<b>Jennifer Ann Bush</b>
Aleksei Petrovich Fedotik	<b>Jason Davids Scott</b>
Vladimir Karlovich Rode	<b>Nicholas Negron</b>

*Credits marked with an asterisk (\*) indicate that the student is a member of the Beta Phi cast of Alpha Psi Omega, the national theater honor society.*

## Dramaturg's Note

Born in 1860 to a family of impoverished means, Anton Chekhov is without question one of Russia's most prominent dramatists. He earned his degree as a doctor of medicine in 1884. In a letter to A.S. Suvorin, Chekhov proclaimed: "Medicine is my lawful wife and literature my mistress; when I get tired of one, I spend the night with the other."

His earlier works consisted of several farces and vaudevilles, including *The Boor*. In addition to *Three Sisters*, he wrote many other well-known plays, including *The Seagull*, *Uncle Vanya* and *The Cherry Orchard*, all of which were written in the Crimea during his unyielding decline in health. He passed away in 1904, the same year his final work, *The Cherry Orchard*, premiered.

Originally produced in 1901 at the Moscow Art Theatre, *Three Sisters*, more than any other Chekhov play, needs to be seen in performance rather than simply read in order to fully appreciate the work. Each production has the potential to be entirely unique as the text allows for such variables of interpretation and understanding.

The play highlights the extent of the oppression experienced by all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Whereas each character asserts a sincere desire for progress, human nature is such that they seem to settle for contentment rather than real happiness.

### A NOTE ABOUT RUSSIAN NAMES:

In Russia, it is common for people to address each other by using both their first and middle names. The middle name is almost always the name of the person's father, followed by the suffix -ich or -vich for men and -ova or -ovna for women. Thus, in *Three Sisters*, "Andrei Sergeyevich" indicates that Andrei's father was named "Sergei," while "Natalya Ivanovna" means that Natalya's father was named "Ivan."

Similarly, Russians who are on more intimate terms use suffixes like -sha, -shka or -chik to address each other affectionately or to express status, the way we might call a child "Bobby" or "Katie" instead of "Bob" or "Kate." "Natalya" is often referred to by other characters as "Natasha"; "Olga" is sometimes called "Olya" or "Olechka"; "Masha"'s given name is actually "Marya."

## About the Cast

**TERRELL BARNES** (Ferapont) is a freshman theatre major who graduated from Elsie High School in Houston. This is his first appearance in an SFA production.

**JAMES BOWLING** (Solyony) graduated from McNeil High School in Austin and is a freshman theatre major. Last semester he was seen in multiple roles in the Downstage production of *The Saga of Cuchulain*. This is his debut on the SFA Mainstage.

**JENNIFER ANN BUSH** (Natasha) is a sophomore theatre major who graduated from Edgewood High School. She is currently a member of The (New) Original Cast and last year was seen in the student-directed production of *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mama's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad*. Her high school credits include roles in *Crimes of the Heart*, *Love is a Hot Fudge Sundae* and *The Girl in the Mirror*.

**SARAH CHAVEZ** (Anfisa) is a freshman theatre major who graduated from Chireno High School. In addition to appearing in scenes from *Uncommon Women and Others* and *August: Osage County* at SFA, her high school credits include *The Marvelous Playbill*, *The Dancers*, *To See the Stars* and *Still Life with Iris*. This is her SFA acting debut.

**SLOAN FRIERSON** (Masha) graduated from Center Point High School and is a freshman theatre major at SFA. Last semester she was seen as Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; previous credits include *Dearly Departed*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Steel Magnolias* and *You Can't Take It With You*.

**VALARIE McLECKIE** (Olga) graduated from Longview High School and is a sophomore theatre major at SFA. While this is her debut at SFA as a performer, she previously served on the wardrobe crew for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and designed costumes for The (New) Original Cast's *A Real Hometown Family Christmas Spectacle*. She previously appeared in the ArtsView Children's Theatre production of *Mulan*.

**DANIEL MILLER** (Vershinin) is a freshman theatre major who is a graduate of Kempner High School in Sugar Land. He made his SFA debut last semester as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Previous credits include roles in *The Apple Tree*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *Baby Talk* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Credits marked with an asterisk (\*) indicate that the student is a member of the Beta Phi cast of Alpha Psi Omega, the national theater honor society.



## About the Cast

**NICHOLAS NEGRON** (Rode) graduated from Kingwood High School and is a senior theatre major at SFA. His previous SFA credits include the Mainstage productions of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *She Stoops to Conquer*; the Summer Repertory productions *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* and *The Uninvited*; and the student-directed productions of *Stop Kiss* and *Red God*.

**LUKE NORTON** (Tuzenbach) is a junior theatre major who graduated from Blue Ridge High School and also attended Grayson County College. Last semester he played Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. His previous roles include the GCC productions *Said and Meant* (for which he also served as student director), *Our Town*, *The Jungle Book* and *All Shook Up*.

**KORY PULLAM\*** (Kuligin) is a senior at SFA from Corpus Christi. Kory has appeared at SFA in the Mainstage productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, "Master Harold"...and the boys, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Breasts of Tiresias* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He also directed *Red God* and appeared in the student-directed *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mama's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad* and *Wine in the Wilderness*. This marks Kory's third year as a member of The (New) Original Cast. He also served as assistant director of this fall's production of *Rabbit Hole* and will direct the upcoming production of *Art*.

**KATY RUTHERFORD** (Irina) is a freshman theatre education major from Foster High School in Richmond, who earned her first role at SFA playing the lead in the radio play adaptation of *The Gift of the Magi* last semester. Her previous credits include roles in *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Mariner*, *Equus* and *Cinderella*.

**JASON DAVIDS SCOTT** (Fedotik) is an assistant professor of theatre at SFA. While earning his M.A. and Ph.D. at the UC Santa Barbara, he directed several new plays, created and produced a weekly variety show and appeared in productions of *A View from the Bridge*, *Twelfth Night* and the original play *Fork*. He also performed with Shakespeare Santa Barbara in productions of *A Comedy of Errors* and *Much Ado about Nothing*, as well as the web series *The Director* and numerous short films. He is currently the director of The (New) Original Cast and president of the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association.

## About the Cast

**DAVID STUDWELL** (Chebutykin) is a visiting assistant professor of acting at SFA, who starred as Oberon in last semester's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has also taught at Cornell University, the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts and SUNY Fredonia. In addition to his experience teaching, David has worked professionally as an actor since 1984. His credits include the Off-Broadway production of *Applause* with Tony award-winning director Kathleen Marshall and starring Tony award-winning actress Christine Ebersole. Regional theatre credits include *Falsettos* at The Alliance Theatre, Atlanta; *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Pal Joey* at The Goodman Theatre, Chicago; *Chess* and *South Pacific* at The Marriott's Lincolnshire Theatre, Chicago; *Sweeney Todd*, *Copenhagen*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *My Fair Lady* at PCPA Theatrefest, Santa Maria, Calif. He is the recipient of four Joseph Jefferson nominations (Chicago); two Indy Awards (Santa Barbara) and the Irene Ryan Award (national winner).

**ALLEN TITEL** (Andrei) graduated from Fort Bend Austin High School in Sugar Land and is a senior theatre major at SFA. His previous credits include the Mainstage productions *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Woyzeck* and the student-directed productions *The Weir* and *Coffee and John*.

**ASHE VERNON** (Maid) is a freshman theatre major from the Woodlands College Park High School. This is her first appearance as an actor at SFA; she served as assistant makeup designer in last semester's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Her high school credits include *Eurydice*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Dearly Departed* and *Starmites*.

## About the Production Crew

**ANGELA BACARISSE** (Costume Designer) is an associate professor of theatre at SFA and has designed over 200 productions in academic and professional theatres across the country. Her recent costume designs at SFA include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Breasts of Tiresias*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Big River*, *The Elephant Man*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Almost, Maine*.

**RHONDA BLAIR** (Translation) is a professor of theatre at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She has directed and performed in over 70 productions and has been doing original solo and collaborative performance work since the 1980s. Her main areas of interest include acting theory, performance studies, theatre and politics, feminism and theatre, alternative performance and Anton Chekhov. Her book, *The Actor, Image, and Action: Acting and Cognitive Neuroscience*, is being used by acting teachers in both the United States and England. She is president of the American Society for Theatre Research.



## About the Production Crew

**CC CONN** (Sound Designer) holds an M.F.A. from Indiana University. Her most recent credits as lighting and/or sound designer at SFA include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Rabbit Hole*, *The Breasts of Tiresias*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Twelfth Night*, *Woyzeck*, "Master Harold"... and the boys, *Picnic*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Too*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *The Elephant Man* and *Almost, Maine*.

**WHITNEY DANIEL** (Assistant Sound Designer) is a junior theatre major at SFA who is studying sound design. A graduate of Heritage Christian Academy in Rockwall, she served as the sound board operator for the Mainstage production of *Woyzeck* and as sound designer for the student-directed *The Other Son*, *Women and Wallace* and *The Love Talker*.

**CAITLIN DEAN\*** (Lighting Designer) is a senior theatre major at SFA who graduated from Gorman High School in Tyler. Her Mainstage technical credits include serving as assistant lighting designer for *Almost, Maine* and sound designer for *Rabbit Hole*. Her student production credits include serving as lighting designer for *Tone Clusters* and *One for the Road*; set designer for *The Love Talker*; and sound designer for *Bad Boy Nietzsche* and *Tongues/Savage Love*.

**KAT EDWARDS\*** (Assistant Director), who graduated from MacArthur High School in Irving, is a senior theatre major earning her B.F.A. with an emphasis in directing at SFA. Her previous work at SFA includes serving as assistant director on the student productions *The Saga of Cuchulain* and *Tom and Jerry*; directing *The Goblins Plot to Murder God* in the Upstage Theatre; and acting in several student productions, such as *Contribution* and *A Young Lady of Property*.

**DANA GLOEGE** (Scenic Designer) holds a B.F.A. from Texas Tech and an M.F.A. from Brandeis University. His SFA designs include *Rabbit Hole*, *The Breasts of Tiresias*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Twelfth Night* and *Almost, Maine*. He was also the charge artist for *Woyzeck*.

**APRIL GORE** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman theatre major who graduated from Cinco Ranch High School in Katy. Her credits this year include working on wardrobe crew for *Rabbit Hole* and stage managing the student production *The Concorde Fallacy*.



## About the Production Crew

**GRACE HARTKE\*** (Stage Manager) graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts in Dallas and is a senior at SFA majoring in stage management. Her production credits at SFA include serving as stage manager for the Mainstage productions *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* and *She Stoops to Conquer* and for the student-directed *The Other Son*, *Tone Clusters*, *The Wedding Story* and *A Life with No Joy in It*. She was the assistant stage manager for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Woyzeck*; sound designer for *The Saga of Cuchulain*; and assistant director for *Stop Kiss*.

**RICK JONES** (Director) teaches numerous courses in the SFA School of Theatre and was the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award for the College of Fine Arts in 2007. He has worked as an actor, director, dialect coach, dramaturg and translator in seven states and two foreign countries. His most recent SFA directing credits include *The Uninvited*, *The Breasts of Tiresias*, *Woyzeck*, *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System*, "Master Harold"...and the boys and *As You Like It*. Last semester he appeared onstage as Egeus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and previously played the narrator in the School of Music's production of *La Périchole*.

**DELIA OWENS** (Assistant Costume Designer) is a junior theatre major at SFA who graduated from Western Hills High School in Benbrook. Her previous credits at SFA include serving as assistant stage manager for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; performing in *The Breasts of Tiresias*; working run crew for *Almost, Maine*; and designing the costumes for The (New) Original Cast production *A Real Hometown Family Christmas Spectacle*. Later this semester, she will design costumes for the student directed *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls* and makeup for *Art*.

**MELISSA SANTANA** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior theatre major at SFA who graduated from Plano East High School and also attended Collin College. At SFA, she was the stage manager for the student directed *The Love Talker*. She was also stage manager at Collin College for *El Baile de la Llovía* and *U.S. Drag* and the Pocket Sandwich Theatre production of *Half and Half*, and assistant stage manager for Collin College's *of Little Women: The Musical*.

**JESSICA SMITH** (Properties Master) is a senior theatre major at SFA who graduated from Hallsville High School and also attended Kilgore College. In addition to being the "prop cave manager" for the School of Theatre since Spring 2011, she also worked run crew for the student-directed *Stop Kiss*. Her credits at Kilgore College include working as wardrobe master on *Gloria* and *Wait Until Dark* and stage manager on *A Few Good Men*, *Steel Magnolias* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She also stage managed *Mulan Jr.*, *The Big Bad Musical*, *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* and "ARF!" for ArtsView Children's Theatre.

## About the Production Crew

**JENNIFER SUTER\*** (Dramaturg) is a senior theatre major at SFA who graduated from Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas. Her previous onstage credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *The Saga of Cuchulain*, *The Catechism of Patty Reed* and *The Hardy Boys and the Mystery of Where Babies Come From*. Jennifer is also a member of The (New) Original Cast.

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Charge tickets conveniently by phone. Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover are accepted. The Box Office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and reopens one hour prior to performance start times. The Box Office is located in Room 211B in the Griffith Fine Arts Building. Programs on the University Series are not recommended for children under five years of age. Each member of the audience must have a ticket regardless of age.

### Late seating

In fairness to those already seated, patrons who have the misfortune to arrive late will be seated near the rear of the auditorium during an appropriate break in the performance.

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Parking in front of the Griffith Fine Arts Building is available to those patrons who join the University Series Supporters at the Member Level. Parking in other campus areas is available. We recommend Vista Dr.; the parking garage off Griffith Blvd., south of the University Center; the parking garage at the corner of East College and Raguet Streets; and the lot on the corner of North St. and Wettermark. Please allow ample time for your arrival.

### Persons with disabilities

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### Rest Rooms

Rest rooms and drinking fountains are located in the lobby adjacent to the auditorium on the main level and in the hallway outside the balcony.

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A public telephone is located in the East Tower, main level, next to the elevator.

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Please do not take food or drinks into the auditorium. The use of tobacco products is not permitted in the Griffith Fine Arts Building.

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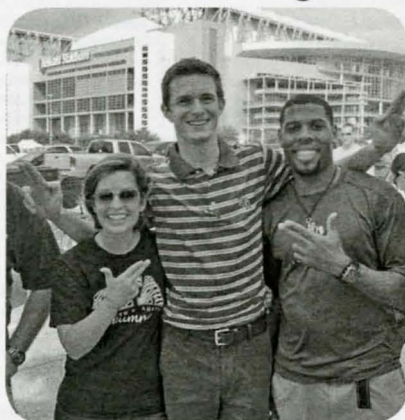
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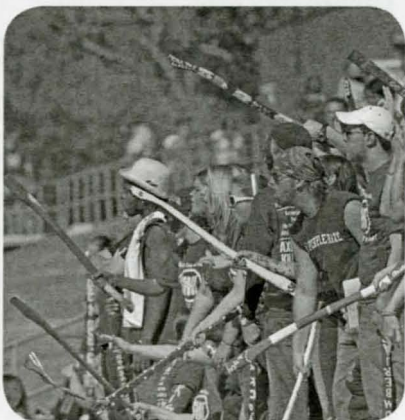
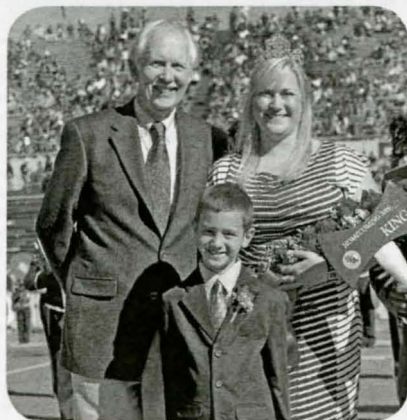
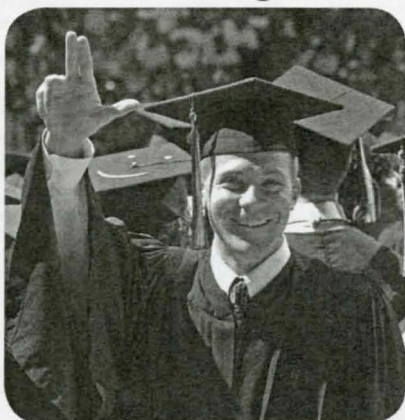
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