

the columbia gorge orchestra association presents



# The Fantasticks

Book and Lyrics by  
TOM JONES

Music by  
HARVEY SCHMIDT

Directed by CORIN PARKER

columbia gorge



[gorgeorchestra.org](http://gorgeorchestra.org)

# SONG LIST

## ACT I

Overture  
Try to Remember  
Much More  
Metaphor  
Never Say No  
It Depends On What You Pay  
It Depends On What You Pay - Reprise  
Soon It's Gonna Rain  
Abduction Ballet  
Happy Ending

## ACT II

This Plum Is Too Ripe  
I Can See It  
An Episode  
Plant a Radish  
Much More - Reprise  
Round and Round  
Beyond That Road  
They Were You  
Try to Remember - Reprise

# CAST LIST

El Gallo - Reuben Betts  
Luisa - Lexi Irving  
Matt - Aiden Tappert  
Mute - Abby Rankin  
Bellomy - David Dye  
Huckaby - Emily Vawter  
Henry - Tom Burns  
Mortimer - Kathleen Morrow

## PRODUCTION CREW

Director - Corin Parker

Lighting Design - Mark Dane

Sound/Lights Operator - Joe Garoutte

Spotlight Operators - Michele Matthews Firsching and Lesley Saunders

Costumes - Kathy Peldyak

Operations - Michele Matthews Firsching

Film Crew - John Hardham and Michael Friend

Choreographer - Susan Sorensen

Set Design/Building - Doug Hawksworth

Producer - Mark Steighner

## PLOT SUMMARY/SYNOPSIS

Whimsical, poignant, and romantic, *The Fantasticks* is an allegorical story that focuses on two young lovers, their meddling parents, and the journey we all must take through adolescent thrills, the growing pains of hurt and betrayal, the highs of passion, the challenges of distance, and the agonies of heartbreak to discover how to truly love. In a theatrical and inventive fashion, our gallant and enigmatic narrator, El Gallo, introduces us to a pair of young lovers, Matt and Luisa, who experience the magical, moonlit phase of falling in love. For a time, romance seems perpetually exciting, and heroics seem always to save the day. However, El Gallo leads our young protagonists from the romantic moonlight into the harsh sunshine, where the weaknesses in their relationship are exposed and the reality of the struggles and heartache love brings is revealed. With the understanding that “without a hurt the heart is hollow,” Matt and Luisa manage to find their own identities, and in turn, to discover their strengths as a couple in times of both darkness and light.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

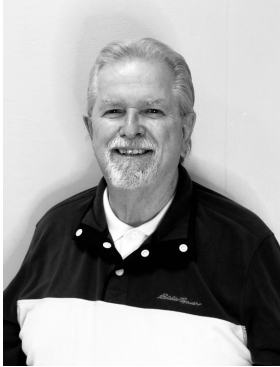
After being asked to direct this show, I was incredibly thrilled and scared all at the same time. This show has always held a huge part in my heart, having played the role of Luisa in high school, but also having seen the off-Broadway production several times when living in New York. The simplicity and the depth of the spoken poetry in this show is beautiful, and it reminds us all about what love used to be....or what it is currently, depending on where you are along your own life/love path. Are you still in the romantic moonlight? Or has your love started to sag under the sun? Have you endured hardships and struggles and have truly found out that your heart is not hollow? Can your love endure the dark and light times of life? Ah.....Amore....





After my heart calmed down from the prospect of directing this show, I began the frantic wondering of how this was going to work during a pandemic? Rehearsals over Zoom? Sure....I'll take that on! Shortened rehearsal schedule? I'll take that too! What I couldn't imagine was that I would find the most amazing cast and team members that were willing to share this journey with me. From the production team willing to support me with the behind the scenes work to the cast members willing to put themselves in front of the camera.....they have been there the whole time and have risen to the challenge.

Our rehearsals began on Zoom while we blocked the entire show using a white board, a Google Doc, and a PDF visual for the set. Our in-person rehearsals found us walking through the already finished blocking, and putting the final touches on the songs that we just could not block over Zoom. The cast was wonderful, figuring out ways to symbolize the more tender ways to represent dancing, kissing, or any sort of touching without downplaying the tenderness that was originally in the script. As the costumes started to roll in and the dance moves were taught....we all started to believe that we could do this together.

So I invite you, the audience, to sit back, relax, enjoy the comfort of your own home, and take a magical journey with us. Come experience the magical and moonlit time of falling in love. Try to remember when you learned that your heart had to experience hurt before you could truly learn about love....and come resolve yourself that the love of your life is closer than you think.....perhaps just across the proverbial Wall.

## CAST BIOS

	<p><b>Tom Burns</b> (Henry) has appeared in <i>West Side Story</i>, <i>Leading Ladies</i>, <i>Death of a Salesman</i>, <i>Chicago</i>, <i>Calendar Girls</i>, <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>, <i>Macbeth</i>, <i>Glengarry Glen Ross</i>, and <i>Of Mice and Men</i>. Tom has directed many productions including <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>, <i>You Can't Take it With You</i>, <i>Waiting for Godot</i>, <i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i>, <i>In the Next Room</i>, 'ART', <i>The Clean House</i>, <i>Circle Mirror Transformation</i>, and <i>Private Eyes</i>.</p>
	<p><b>Reuben Betts</b> (El Gallo) has been performing and singing since he was a young whipper snapper. Some of his adult roles include Sam Carmichael in <i>Mamma Mia</i>, Princeton in <i>Avenue Q</i>, Malcolm MacGregor in <i>The Full Monty</i>, Officer Lockstock in <i>Urinetown</i>, and Charlie Baker in <i>The Foreigner</i>. All of these roles have helped him become "SuperDad" to his three beautiful children, Evelyn, Travis and Lucia. Just ask them about the bedtime songs and stories he performs. He would like to say thank you to his amazing wife who has supported him every step of the way.</p>
	<p><b>David Dye</b> (Bellomy) has been a local theater enthusiast since 2011, when he appeared in <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>. He's been in many shows over these past ten years, with some of his favorite roles being Amos in <i>Chicago</i>, Charlie in <i>The Foreigner</i>, Biff in <i>Death of a Salesman</i>, and Vanya in <i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i>. In addition, he and his fellow castmates, Tom Burns and Kathleen Morrow, started their own production company (Ambiguous Theatre) and produced the popularly creepy show <i>The Turn of the Screw</i> in November of '19. He's been very excited to be a part of this challenging production of musical theatre during a time of pandemic, and hopes you enjoy every minute of it.</p>

	<p><b>Lexi Irving</b> (Luisa) is 15 years old and attends The Dalles High School. She's been doing theatre for 2 years and hopes to become an actress one day.</p>
	<p><b>Kathleen Morrow</b> (Mortimer) is happy to be part of another CGOA Production and working once again with so many dear friends! Favorite roles in the Gorge include <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>, <i>Vanya &amp; Sonia &amp; Masha &amp; Spike</i>, <i>Good People</i>, <i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</i>, <i>The Odd Couple</i> (twice), <i>The Foreigner</i> (also twice) and <i>Driving Miss Daisy</i>. She also plays percussion in Whiskey Flats Brass Band, with her wonderfully supportive husband, Mark McCormick.</p>
	<p><b>Abby Rankin</b> (Mute) is a junior at HRVHS and has been involved in the theatre world since she was 9 years old. She is actively involved in her high school program and the community productions as well. This is Abby's third appearance with CGOA, and she is delighted to be reunited with her cast members even under these circumstances. <i>The Fantasticks</i> has been a very fun experience for her and she hopes you enjoy the show.</p>
	<p><b>Aidan Tappert</b> (Matt) Recently returned to Oregon, Aidan is currently training as an actor at the University of Utah. He has been acting, writing, and playing music since 4th grade. In 2018, he was lucky enough to originate the role of Lloyd in <i>John Hughes High: The 1980 Teen Musical</i> through STAGED! In Portland, Oregon. Aidan is incredibly excited to be a part of <i>The Fantasticks</i> after a long hiatus during quarantine.</p>



**Emily Vawter** (Huckaby) has been doing theatre since the fifth grade. She has been an active part of the theatre community since moving to the Gorge and has been in many productions. Some of her favorites were Rosie in *Mamma Mia*, Diana Goodman in *Next to Normal*, and Helen in *Fun Home*. She was last seen as the Narrator in *Murder Ballad* which seems like a million years ago now and is thrilled to be back on a stage. She is President of the Performing Arts Initiative and a Music Therapist.

## CREW MEMBERS

**Joe Garoutte** (Lights and Sound) has been involved in theatre since childhood. While most of the time he has been on stage, he has also utilized his theatre degree to direct, design lights and sound, and build sets. For this production Joe will not only run lights and sound, but is also the video editor. He is grateful to April and his family, for their constant support.

**E. Michael Friend** (Film Crew) keeps an eye on the world from his home in Hood River. He has been writing and making movies since 1968 with a break in the '70s in the Air Force as a Chinese Linguist. He has since written, produced and directed industrial films, music videos, commercials and feature films. He has degrees in journalism and education, and has been a teacher, newspaper editor, reporter and movie guy.

**Corin Parker** (Director) began piano at the age of 6 and continued studying through college. She had many accolades as well as performing on three different continents. However....her passion is musicals. She started acting in musicals at the age of 5 as a munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz* and continued to act through college...the last one being Benjamin Brittons' opera, *Little Sweep*. However in high school she began to play in pit orchestras, and by the age of 18 was promoted to be the musical director of *Guys and Dolls*. Soon after, she began directing the shows as well. To date, she has either directed, acted, or played for over 60 musicals. You have most likely seen her in the pit playing the piano in the last several CGOA productions of *Mamma Mia*, *Fun Home*,

*Avenue Q*, and *Spamalot*. She is currently an elementary music specialist in The Dalles, and strongly believes in music education and fine and performing arts programs in the schools and community. She hopes that you enjoy watching the show!

**Susan Sorensen** (Choreographer) teaches jazz and hip hop at Columbia Gorge Dance Academy and also works as a freelance choreographer for local theatre groups. Choreography credits include *Carousel*, *How to Succeed in Business*, *100 Degrees in the Shade*, *On the Verge*, *Private Eyes*, *Zombie Prom*, *West Side Story*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Avalon*, *Legally Blond*, *Chicago*, *Mama Mia* and *Grease*.

**Kathy Peldyak** (Costumer) is so happy to be costuming this CGOA production and doing something semi-normal with theater people!! Kathy has costumed several productions for CGOA and Big Britches such as *Spamalot*, *Chicago*, *Fun Home*, *Leading Ladies*, etc... Kathy also has a big heart for costuming high school thespians and has costumed numerous productions at Hood River Valley High School. This is the first time that I have made masks for a production!

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Big Britches Productions  
CCA and Leith Gaines  
Jim Yue  
Nancy Merz  
The Tappert Family  
Nathan Parker  
Erica Roulier