

*Standing*  
**O V A T I O N**  
*CENTRAL IOWA ARTS PROGRAM*



PRESENTS

*The*  
**Fantasticks**

Book by Tom Jones  
Music by Harvey Schmidt  
Lyrics by Tom Jones

**February 3-19, 2017**

[www.standingovationiowa.com](http://www.standingovationiowa.com)

## Director's Notes

I have a love affair with *The Fantasticks*. I've had the good luck of seeing several different productions over the years and also the privilege to die on stage as Mortimer (but never again). Our story of two families is a timeless tale communicated with the audience in classic tragic-comedic storytelling and not at all about the glitzy and gilded world of Broadway that we've come to see as of late. A simple set, a piano, and the actors are the instruments needed to take us on this journey. Guided by a narrator, we join a girl, a boy, their parents, and the wall that separates them with a few surprises in between. A grand thank you to the Board and production committee for allowing me this opportunity. And, of course, thanks to the cast and crew for being ... Fantastic!

Thatcher Williams

## *The Fantasticks* Cast

### In Order of Appearance

Mute	Nicole Titus
Hucklebee	John Claes
Bellomy	Charissa Hamel
Luisa	Julia Polson
Matt	Nick Flynn
El Gallo	Nicholas Root
Henry	Al Price
Mortimer	Larry Mahlstedt

### Setting

Time: Present Day

Place: A Neighborhood Such as Yours

*The Fantasticks* is produced by special arrangement with  
Music Theatre International.

Video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means  
whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

## Musical Numbers

### Act 1

Overture	Company
Try to Remember	El Gallo
Much More	Luisa
Metaphor	Matt, Luisa
Never Say No	Bellomy, Hucklebee
It Depends On What You Pay	El Gallo, Bellomy, Hucklebee
It Depends On What You Pay (Reprise)	Bellomy, Hucklebee
Soon It's Gonna Rain	Matt, Luisa
Happy Ending	Company

### 15-minute intermission

### Act 2

Opening Act II	
This Plum Is Too Ripe	Matt, Luisa, Bellomy, Hucklebee
I Can See It	El Gallo, Matt
An Episode	Henry, Mortimer
Plant A Radish	Bellomy, Hucklebee
Much More (Reprise)	El Gallo, Luisa
Round and Round	El Gallo, Luisa, Company
Beyond That Road	El Gallo, Matt
They Were You	Matt, Luisa
Metaphor (Reprise)	Matt, Luisa
Try to Remember (Reprise)	El Gallo

## **Production Team**

Director	Thatcher Williams
Assistant Director	Adam Haselhuhn
Music Director	Brenda McConahay
Set Construction	Thomas Foster, Adam Haselhuhn, Thatcher Williams, Matt Tuttle and Cast
Set Painting	Nicole Titus
Light & Sound Operator	Matt Tuttle
Costumes	Cheryl Clark, Ali Kirwen
Props	Susan Casber, Cheryl Clark, Charissa Hamel, Adam Haselhuhn, Nicole Titus, Thatcher Williams
Program	Lynn Arterburn
Photographer	Don Wagner
Logo Design	Megan Parrott
Marketing	Joel Anderson, Doug Arterburn, Lynn Arterburn, Stacie Bendixen, Sharon Dallmann, Adam Haselhuhn, Nicole Titus, Rebecca Tuttle, Barb Wagner

### **Special Acknowledgements**

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Pioneer Communications, Inc. - programs  
Susan and Scott Casber - radio advertisements  
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## Cast Biographies



**John Claes** (Hucklebee) is appearing in his fourteenth ACT show - his last being this fall in *Done to Death*. He appeared at the Des Moines Playhouse in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* last winter. John is an instructor for ACT's Summer Drama Camps and has served on the ACT Board. He is the Director of Philanthropy and Corporate Relations at Lutheran Services in Iowa. John is very proud to share the stage for the first time with his niece, Julia Polson.



**Nick Flynn** (Matt) is making his first appearance on the ACT stage. He has appeared in numerous theatrical productions including *West Side Story* and *Les Miserables* at the Des Moines Playhouse, *The Strawberry Handkerchief* at Faith Baptist Bible College, and *Grease* and *Oklahoma* at Waukee High School. Nick enjoys music, sports, mission trips, and working with a youth group at Maranatha Baptist Church in Grimes. He is a paraprofessional with the Ankeny School District.



**Charissa Hamel** (Bellomy) had so much fun during her ACT debut in *The Very Merry Xmas Carol Holiday Adventure Show* that she just had to try out again! She has appeared at Urbandale Community Theatre (*Beauty and the Beast*), Knoxville Community Theatre (*Into the Woods*), Des Moines Playhouse (*Sister Act*), and Graceland University (*Doubt* and *Urinetown the Musical*). Charissa has a BA in Music and Vocal Performance and has worked coast to coast doing props, scenic painting, and theatrical makeup. She enjoys playing jazz on her piano. Charissa is a Commercial Associate Underwriter at Nationwide Insurance.



**Larry Mahlstedt** (Mortimer) is certainly no stranger to the stage. He has appeared at numerous venues in central Iowa. His favorites include: *Oklahoma* (Ali Hakim) and *Guys and Dolls* (Nicely-Nicely) at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater, *Hairspray* (Wilber) at the Des Moines Playhouse, *Les Miserables* (Thenardier) at Newton Community Theatre, and *It's a Wonderful Life* (Clarence) at ACT. Larry enjoys traveling and running. He is an insurance specialist for crop insurance.



**Julia Polson** (Luisa) was last seen on the ACT stage in *The Little Princess* in 2014. Prior to that, she appeared as Beth in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Julia has also appeared on stage at The Des Moines Playhouse (*Sideway Stories from Wayside School, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, and Charlotte's Web*), and at Performing the Classics (*Little Women and Pride and Prejudice*). She enjoys playing the piano and violin and reading. Julia is a senior and is home schooled. She is excited to be in this production with her uncle, John Claes.



**Al Price** (Henry) has been involved with ACT since its very early days. He enjoys being in musicals and played Harold in last season's musical, *Musical Chairs*. Al has been in many shows, directed, served on the board, and even did some murder mysteries. As a retiree, he enjoys reading and golf. Al's wife, Jan, his three children, and his five grandchildren have all appeared on the ACT stage. He would like to thank Jan for all her support.



**Nicholas Root** (El Gallo) made his ACT debut last year in *Musical Chairs* (Brad). He has appeared at Urbandale Community Theatre (*Beauty and the Beast - The Beast*), Newton Community Theatre (*The Producers - Roger DeBris*), and the Des Moines Playhouse (*The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood - Sheriff of Nottingham*). This fall Nick directed *Into the Woods* at Knoxville Area Community Theatre. Nick enjoys photography and video games. He is a Bankruptcy Auditor at National Bankruptcy Services.



**Nicole Titus** (The Mute) has appeared in *The Trouble with Cats, Musical Chairs* (and was also the assistant director), *The Regifters, Francine's Will, Adam's Eve, and Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas*. She appeared in Newton Community Theatre's *Ham Buns and Potato Salad*. Nicole enjoys painting, acting, and writing. She is the owner of Titus Designs. Her grandma and mom are her biggest fans!



**Thatcher Williams** (Director) is excited to be directing his first ACT show. His vast theater experience includes 711 Theatre Project Founder and Artistic Director (2007-2015), Theater for a Change Producing Artistic Director (2004-2010), Iowa Fringe Festival Production Manager (2005 & 2007), and Valley High School Technical Director (2009-2013). Thatcher is serving his fourth year as a board member for Class Act Productions in Altoona. He is the proud father of Chloe and Poppy Jo and has served as vice president and past president for the school PTA. Thatcher is employed by the Des Moines Public Schools.



**Adam Haselhuhn** (Assistant Director) was assistant director for ACT's *Some Sweet Day* and last appeared on stage in *Musical Chairs* (Boyfriend). He has also appeared in ACT's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Hero) and *Adam's Eve* (Adam). Adam is the President of the ACT Board of Directors and chair for the Marketing Committee. He works at Central College in Pella as Director of Development.



**Brenda McConahay** (Music Director) is directing her fourth ACT production which includes *Clue: The Musical*, *Godspell*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. She was the keyboardist at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater for ten years. Currently, she is the pianist for New Hope Methodist in Des Moines and the director of B&B Cabaret Trio. Brenda is a retired teacher from Lincoln High School in Des Moines and D.H.S. Social Worker. She has two children and two grandchildren. Brenda loves working at ACT!

**B R A V O**

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