Gerald Schwarz
Dramaturg
Jim Turner
Producer

THE
ELIZABETH RIVER THEATRE COMPANY
FOUNDED IN 2000

Newsletter 6 / December 2001

CALENDAR: SCAPIN

May 10 (8 PM), May 12 (2 PM)

Contemporary Arts Center Virginia Beach
Part of the Waterfront WAVE;
co-produced with the North Street Playhouse, Onancock

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

If this is your first mailing from us...

...you must be one of the truly adventurous theatre lovers in Hampton Roads, or someone thinks you are. You may know us as the producers of the classic Johann STRAUSS operetta ***Die Fledermaus*** in a historic Olde Towne Portsmouth building in May 2000, or of the hard-hitting contemporary drama ***Slave Shack*** in a downtown Norfolk office building (September 2001) or as co-producers of Old Dominion University's wildly successful Edward ALBEE double-bill ***The Sandbox & The Zoo Story*** (**"Anyone who sees this production will have plenty to think about, and talk about, for months to come."** Virginian-Pilot, Oct. 4).

We are out to explore undiscovered countries of live theatre, mixing genres, crossing city lines (what a notion in what-is-now-called Hampton Roads!), bridging ethnic gaps - not ruled by a season subscription format or by the lease on one specific building.

In other words: Every time we put something on, we do it **because it excites us... and hopefully you, too**. If you have questions or ideas or would like to read our mission statement, **write or e-mail us**!

"Scapin"

... is a hilarious blend of baggy pants **vaudeville**, **commedia dell'arte**, and 1990s pop culture **parody**. Bill IRWIN (one of America's great pantomimes and Sesame Street's original "Mr. Noodle") and SNL writer Mark O'DONNELL have adapted MOLIERE's 1671 farce "Les fourberies de Scapin", about the escapades of a crafty servant. **Jim TURNER** directs - and you can have **Mother's Day fun** that every mom and gram is sure to remember... and bring the children (of all ages), too!

More about some other ERT projects overleaf

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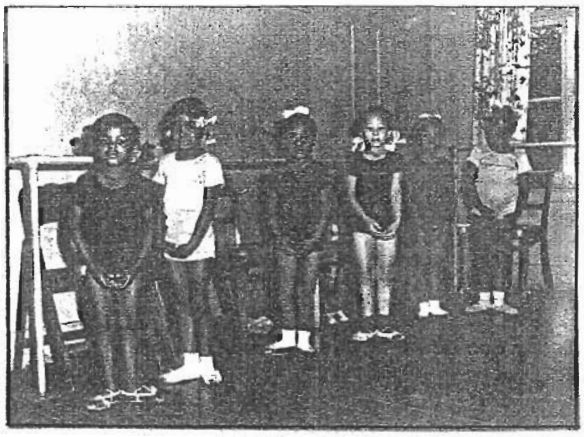
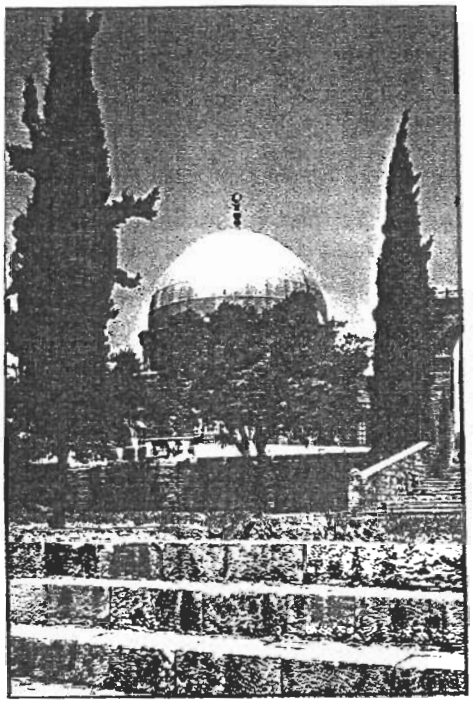


"Honey and Rue / I've seen the Day"

...is another project in our pipeline. The group of songs called ***Honey and Rue*** was written by Andre PREVIN (music) and Toni MORRISON (lyrics) for the great African-American soprano Kathleen BATTLE; ***I've seen the Day***, composed by Adolphus HAILSTORK, talks about similar themes and calls for the same type of voice. We believe we have this voice: **Anwei KILGORE** (who was Rosalinde in our inaugural ***Fledermaus***) will be the lead character when we turn the songs into a theatre piece, going into a workshop in January, with the perspective of performances later in 2002.

As for the musical aspect: **We are in very promising conversations with one of the true powerhouses in Hampton Roads!** Stay tuned!



"Nathan the Wise"

Jerusalem around 1180 and the **mortal strife between Christians, Jews, and Muslims**, seen through the lense of the age of Enlightenment, circa 1770.

When we started announcing this project, almost a year ago, who would have thought how timely it could become! Now director **Gerald SCHWARZ** has secured **Tim MORTON,** one of this area's outstanding actors, to play the title character, a wealthy and revered Jew with a dark secret, and we have our mind set on a Fall 2002 opening.

Other Shows we think about...

...include ***Medal of Honor Rag*** (a play by Tom COLE about a black Vietnam veteran torn between high decorations and severe trauma), Michael FRAYN's ***Copenhagen*** (What happened between two of the fathers of nuclear weapons in 1942?), as well as a special surprise at **Olde Towne Portsmouth's Courthouse Galleries** on **April 7,** and **much, much more,** to be revealed next time.

Thank-you's go to all our performers and backstage wizards in 2001, and to people who once in a while decided to write us **unsolicited checks**. Looks like we are going to celebrate the New Year with our recognition of **tax-exemption**; but if you think you have money for a little **donation** left even now - it will be highly **appreciated!**

JIM TURNER & GERALD SCHWARZ