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HARVEY

BY MARY CHASE

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7:30 P.M.

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February 22 - 26 .................. Harvey
                               SFA Theatre Production, W. M. Turner Auditorium

March 4 .......................... Chanticleer
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March 31 - April 2 ................ Die Fledermaus
                               W. M. Turner Auditorium

April 4 ............................ Two Gentlemen of Verona
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present

HARVEY
BY MARY CHASE

Directed by Alan Nielsen

Scenic Design by Tomy Matthys
Costume Design by Val Winkelman
Lighting Design by Steven H. Shirey
Makeup Design by
Veronica Blanco and Ruth Ramsey
Sound Design by Roni Lias
Stage Manager: Whitney L. Smith-Nelson
Assistant Directors:
Jeremy Barrow and Victoria Thompson
Dramaturg: Ruth Ramsey

FEBRUARY 22-26, 2005
7:30 p.m.
W. M. TURNER AUDITORIUM
About the Cast

**Ryan W. Angell** (Wilson) transferred to SFA from Trinity Valley Community College, where he appeared in such productions as *Pvt. Wars*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *The Scandalous Adventures of Sir Toby Trollope*.

**Justin Foster Cole** (Dr. Sanderson), a junior BFA performance major from Nacogdoches, has acted in *Hair*, *Lucky*, *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and with the Original Cast. His scene designs include *The Waste Disposal Unit* and the upcoming *Three Days of Rain*.

**Anna Forbes** (Veta), an American Theatre Arts student from Exeter, UK, was seen last semester in SFA’s *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. Anna has received two gold medals from The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.

**Micah Goodding** (Elwood) is a transfer student from Kilgore College. At SFA his credits include *Hair*, *The Waste Disposal Unit*, and *Self Torture and Strenuous Exercise*. Micah has acted with the Texas Shakespeare Festival and is a certified master puppeteer.

**Joshua Hemingway** (Judge Gaffney), an ATA student from Huddersfield, UK, appeared last semester in *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. At Rose Bruford College, his credits include *Reunion, The Crucible*, and *All Powers Necessary and Convenient*.

**Chris Kennedy** (Dr. Chumley), a junior BFA performance major from San Antonio, has appeared in such SFA productions as *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *Women in Flames*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and *The Seagull*. Chris is also in the Original Cast.

**Natalie Frances Melcher** (Miss Tewksbury/Miss Johnson) has acted in several SFA productions, including *Hair*, *A Fallen Man*, *The Gulf*, *Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse*, *Bacchae*, and *Follies*. Natalie, a junior from Houston, is also a second-year member of the Original Cast.

**Boni Newberry** (Mrs. Chauvenet) is a sophomore theatre major from Keller. At SFA, her previous acting credits include *Hair*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Self Torture and Strenuous Exercise*, and *What We Do With It*.

**Erin Elizabeth Orr** (Mrs. Chumley) is making her final appearance on SFA’s Mainstage, as she will be going on an acting internship in the fall. Erin, a senior from Henderson, has appeared in such SFA productions as *Hair*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *The Land of the Dragon*, *Bacchae*, *Copper Camp*, and *The Medicine Show*. 
About the Cast (continued)

Savannah Seilheimer (Nurse Kelly) is a freshman from Garland High School, where she was seen in The Crucible, And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson, and The Insanity of Mary Girard. Savannah is making her début on SFA’s Mainstage.

Cara Smith (Myrtle Mae), an ATA student from Suffolk, England, has appeared at SFA in The Role of Della and in the Original Cast. In the UK, she has worked in both ballet and theatre, including performances at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and at Rose Bruford.

James Patrick Wetuski (E. J. Lofgren) has been in such SFA productions as Lucky, The Increased Difficulty of Concentration, A Winnie the Pooh Birthday Tale, Copper Camp, and Hamlet. He will appear in SFA’s student film production, American Goldfish.

About the Artistic Staff

Russ Arnett (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman theatre major from San Antonio. At SFA, Russ has served as Fly Rail Operator for Six Characters in Search of an Author, and as the Soundboard Operator for Hair and Quake.

Jeremy Barrow (Assistant Director), a senior theatre major from High Island, appeared in the SFA productions of Les Liaisons Dangereuses and Romeo and Juliet. His acting credits at Lamar University include roles in Buried Child, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Tartuffe.

Justin Urias Bauer (Assistant Stage Manager), a sophomore from Austin, has appeared in such SFA productions as Six Characters in Search of an Author, The Vise, The Fifth Sun, and The Devil’s Karma. This semester, Jub will be assistant directing Shooting Simone.

Barbara Blackwell (Costume Shop Supervisor) became Costume Shop Supervisor in 2000. She was Costume Illustrator for The Land of the Dragon, and has worked on many other shows: most recently, Six Characters in Search of an Author, Hair, Sideways Stories from Wayside School, The Two Maples, and the 2004 New Plays Festival.

Veronica Blanco (Hair and Makeup Designer) has appeared in Hair, Lucky, The Increased Difficulty of Concentration, and Bacchae. Next year, Veronica will be leaving for an internship in London and Barcelona. She is also on the President’s List.
About the Artistic Staff (continued)

Sonia Elizabeth Lerner (Assistant Costume Designer) is a junior theatre major from Houston. At SFA, she has appeared in Hair, the Original Cast, and The Nutcracker Remix. She was the Lighting Designer for Self Torture and Strenuous Exercise and is an art minor.

Roni Lias (Sound Designer) designed sound for Macbeth, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Henry V, among others, in six years with the Texas Shakespeare Festival. She is also webmaster for SFA’s College of Fine Arts and for the Music and Theatre Departments.

Tom Matthyss (Scenic Designer) has taught for over 30 years at SFA, where he has designed over 200 productions. His most recent scenic designs include Six Characters in Search of an Author, Hair, Sideways Stories from Wayside School, The Two Maples, The Increased Difficulty of Concentration, Bacchae and Follies.

Alan Nielsen (Director), a Professor of Theatre at SFA, also directs and writes for the Original Cast. He is a published author, playwright, and composer/lyricist. He received the Teaching Excellence Award for the Fine Arts in 1999 and 2003. Recent SFA directing credits include Pericles, You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown, and Follies.

Ruth Ramsey (Dramaturg & Makeup Designer) was Dramaturg for Six Characters in Search of an Author and Hair/Makeup Designer for Self Torture and Strenuous Exercise. Her Mainstage acting credits include The Increased Difficulty of Concentration and Bacchae.

Steven H. Shirey (Lighting Designer/Technical Director) earned a BFA from SFA and an MFA in Lighting Design from USC. He has been Technical Director at SFA since 2001. His lighting design credits at SFA include Six Characters in Search of an Author, Hair, and the operas Street Scene, The Consul, and The Magic Flute.

Whitney L. Smith-Nelson (Stage Manager) assistant directed Six Characters in Search of an Author, stage managed The Man Who Came to Dinner, directed The Vise, and was Company Manager for Summer Rep ‘04. This semester she will direct Shooting Simone.

Victoria Thompson (Assistant Director) has performed in Hair, Pericles, The Land of the Dragon, and Bacchae. She directed The Man Who Couldn’t Dance and designed makeup for The Vise and Quake. Tori can be seen next in The Member of the Wedding.

Val Winkelman (Costume Designer) is Associate Professor of Theatre at Auburn University Montgomery in Alabama. She has designed costumes for the Texas Shakespeare Festival in Kilgore for 16 years; in all her credits total over 70 productions in five states.
Mary Chase actualized Harvey in 1944 during the heated years of World War II in an attempt to cheer up a dear friend who had recently lost her son in the war. Elements of Chase’s Irish heritage can be seen throughout the play. The title character is an invisible “pooka”—a mischievous creature from Irish folklore that would appear at unexpected moments to people of its choice. Chase had heard stories of creatures like the pooka from her Irish relatives as a child. Some early Irish pookas were believed to wreak havoc on crops and cattle. However, over the past few centuries, the idea of the pooka has become much gentler. Pookas are often found next to fence posts and enjoy having long conversations with initially troubled individuals and rumpots. During these conversations, the pooka usually imparts interesting, fantastic stories that may or may not get the listener into trouble.

Perhaps part of the reason Harvey is such good friends with Elwood, the leading character of the show, is that Elwood is by no means perfect. He no longer needs a career, but instead spends most of his time frequenting local bars and playing pinochle with society’s outcasts. However, there is something about Elwood’s sincere, accepting, nature and his optimistic outlook that makes him a man everyone wishes to be a little more like. After meeting Harvey, Elwood now believes it is more important to be pleasant than so-called “smart.” Like many people, after a series of tragedies, he needed a friend to help him realize the joy that was still left in life—he needed Harvey.

And in times like these, with the war going on and the economy down, who doesn’t need a special friend to help us realize the reasons we go on? Maybe we all could use a great, big, invisible rabbit of our own to remind us what really matters in life—acceptance, compassion, love, and most importantly... being pleasant.

--Ruth Ramsey
The Cast

(In order of appearance)

Myrtle Mae Simmons .......................................... Cara Smith
Veta Louise Simmons ........................................ Anna Forbes
Elwood P. Dowd ............................................... Micah Goodding
Miss Johnson/Miss Tewksbury .... Natalie Frances Melcher *
Mrs. Ethel Chauveten ....................................... Boni Newberry *
Ruth Kelly, R.N. ............................................. Savannah Seilheimer
Duane Wilson ............................................... Ryan W. Angell
Lyman Sanderson, M.D. ................................. Justin Foster Cole *
William R. Chumley, M.D. ......................... Chris Kennedy *
Mrs. Betty Chumley ....................................... Erin Elizabeth Orr *
Judge Omar Gaffney ...................................... Joshua Hemingway
E.J. Lofgren ................................................ James Patrick Wetuski

The Setting

The action of the play takes place in a small city in the Heartland, in the library of the old Dowd family mansion and the reception room of Chumley’s Rest.

Act I:
Scene 1: The library, late afternoon.
Scene 2: Chumley’s Rest, an hour later.

Intermission

Act II:
Scene 1: The library, an hour later.
Scene 2: Chumley’s Rest, four hours later.

Act III:
Chumley’s Rest, a few minutes later.

* Designates a member of the Beta Phi cast of Alpha Psi Omega, the national honorary dramatics fraternity.
**Director’s Note**

It is recorded that Mary Chase, a former newspaper writer, wrote her fantasy-comedy *Harvey* in 1944 in an effort to cheer up an acquaintance who had lost a loved one in World War II. But most wartime plays and movies in America celebrated cohesiveness and conformity—everyone coming together, with one mind, to do their bit for the cause. How remarkable, then, that in the midst of such a national effort to stamp out individualism, Mrs. Chase chose to cheer us up with a gentle farce about a tipsy nonconformist.

Not only is Elwood “different,” but somehow we wind up rooting for his right to be different. “In this world,” Elwood tells us, “you must be oh so smart or oh so pleasant. For years I was smart. I recommend pleasant.” Sixty years later, the desire to follow Elwood and break away from the “normal” world of black-and-white absolutes and empty routine still has its charms. We grow tired of trying to be “smart.” And so we still happily root for Elwood to be waiting for us at Charlie’s Place, as always. With Harvey by his side.

**About the Playwright**

Mary Coyle Chase (1907-81) was born in Denver, Colorado, and had a long career as a writer for the Rocky Mountain News before turning to playwriting in the 1930s. Her first two plays were undistinguished. But her third, *Harvey*, not only won a Pulitzer Prize but has become one of the most beloved and often revived of American comedies. Later plays include *Mrs. McThing* (1952), *Bernadine* (1952), and *Midgie Purvis* (1961, her last produced work).

*Harvey* opened on Broadway in 1944 and ran for 1,775 performances. It was filmed in 1950.
The Technical Staff

Technical Director ......................................................... Steven H. Shirey
Costume Shop Supervisor ............................................. Barbara Blackwell
Assistant Stage Managers .............................................. Russ Arnett,
                                                               Justin Urias Bauer
Properties Mistress ..................................................... Jacquelyn Green*
Assistant Costume Designer ......................................... Sonia Elizabeth Lerner*
Master Electrician ...................................................... Paul Reynolds*
Lightboard Operator .................................................... David Nedde
Sound Technician ....................................................... Zachary Whitaker
Soundboard Operator ................................................... Jeff Loehmann
Scenery Construction .................................................. Theatre 150 and 350
Properties Crew ........................................................... Lucy Davies, Jessee Foudray,
                                                              Brandie Holliday, Brooke Lightfoot,
                                                              Kate Marsden, Annika Randis,
                                                              Justin Sawyers, Nicole Terna
Grips ........................................................................... Thomas Brazile, Jessica Harkness,
                                                              Alex Jeffrey, Amanda Jurek,
                                                              Jesse Sellers
Fly Rail Operator ............................................................ Jeremy Newcomer, Joshua Spence
Light Hang Crew ........................................................... Lacey Carnley, Justin Elbert,
                                                              Clint Hanna Jason Harris*,
                                                              Amanda Jurek, Heather Light*,
                                                              Maria Michaels, Amber Talley*
Wardrobe Master ........................................................... Kristi Agee
Costume Construction ................................................... Theatre 150 and 350
Wardrobe Crew ............................................................. Sy Gunter, Stephanie Rhoades,
                                                              Randi Rose
Hair & Makeup Crew ..................................................... Jean McCarthy,
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*Dean, College of Fine Arts*

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*Professor and Department Chair*

Ms. Angela Bacarisie  
*Assistant Professor*

Dr. Richard Jones  
*Assistant Professor*

Mr. Tomy Matthys  
*Associate Professor*

Dr. Alan Nielsen  
*Professor*

Mr. Allen Oster  
*Professor*

Mr. Luis Ramirez  
*Associate Professor*

Mr. Jack Heifner  
*Playwright-in-Residence*

Ms. Shari Watterston  
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All performances at 7:30 p.m.

Hair
Book & Lyrics by Gerome Ragni & James Rado;
Music by Galt McDermot

Six Characters in Search of an Author
by Luigi Pirandello

Harvey
by Mary Chase

The Member of the Wedding
by Carson McCullers

Spring 2005 Downstage Season
Student-Directed Productions
7:30 p.m. Friday; 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday

The Whole Shebang
by Rich Orloff

Three Days of Rain
by Richard Greenberg

Shooting Simone
by Lynne Kaufman

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