

The original documents are located in Box 8, folder “12/17/76 - White House Staff Christmas Party” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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The White House

*Christmas
1976*

*The President and Mrs. Ford
request the pleasure of your company
at a Christmas Party
for the White House Staff
on Friday, December 17, 1976
from 5:00 to 7:00 o'clock*

*Please present this
invitation with your pass
W.H., E.O.B. or Military*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



December 16, 1976

FOR: MRS. FORD

FROM: MARIA DOWNS *μ*

SUBJECT: Christmas Party for the White House Staff
-- Friday, December 17, 1976 - 5:00 p.m.

Attached for your review and approval is the proposed scenario with attachment for the Christmas Party for the White House Staff.

Thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT FORD:

Event: Christmas Party for the White House Staff

Date/Time: Friday, December 17, 1976 5:00 p. m. - 7:00 p. m.

Place: State Floor

Number of
Attendees: Approximately 1200 guests

Schedule of
Events:

5:00 p. m.

¹
Your guests will arrive through the Ground Floor Hall and will be escorted to the State Floor.

They will be given the opportunity to view the Christmas decorations in all of the rooms.

5:10 p. m.

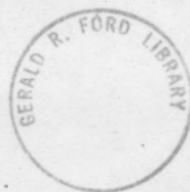
The U. S. Army Blues will commence with their program of dance music and songs in the East Room.

5:30 p. m.

You and Mrs. Ford will be escorted to the State Floor and will proceed via the Usher's Office to the north door of the East Room ... pause for announcement. You and Mrs. Ford will then enter the East Room by immediately walking up onto the platform where a microphone will be positioned and welcome your guests and then introduce and thank the Army Blues Orchestra.

After remarks, you and Mrs. Ford will join the staff and watch the U. S. Army Blues perform one number -- Walter Skies will be their featured vocalist. Immediately following their song, there will be two 10 minute performances with a 5 minute musical interlude by a group from Ford's Theatre's show, "The All Night Strut!".

After their performances, you and Mrs. Ford will thank the Ford's Theatre group, and then join your staff for refreshments and mingle informally.



NOTE: Buffet, punch and eggnog will be served to your guests in the State Dining Room and in the East Room.

You and Mrs. Ford will bid farewell to your guests and return to the Family Quarters.

NOTES:

- The Marine Brass Choir will be playing in the Ground Floor Hall area as your guests arrive.
- Military Social Aides will be present.
- A White House photographer will be present.
- There will be no press coverage.
- Background information about the Ford's Theatre show, "The All Night Strut!", is attached. (Tab A)



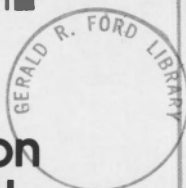
Maria Downs

FORD'S THEATRE

presents



The ALL NIGHT STRUT!



**Swing, sway and strut on
a dazzling musical trip!**

Jukebox Saturday Night . . . Let's Fly Away
. . . After You've Gone . . . Beat Me Daddy,
Eight to the Bar . . . Broadway Rhythm . . .
Stormy Weather . . . Brother Can You Spare
a Dime . . . A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley
Square . . . Rosy the Riveter . . . Comin' in
on a Wing and a Prayer . . . South Rampart
Street Parade . . . and more, more, more!

**Begins November 20
Limited Engagement**

TicketCharge 347-4833

Group Sales 638-2368

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511 Tenth St., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20004

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Washington, D. C.
Permit No. 43758

**Don't miss
this exciting
musical event!**

**Great Family
entertainment.**



a BlackbottomBoogieWoogieScoobeedoobieStrut



The ALL NIGHT STRUT!



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: ALMA VIATOR
(O) 638-2380
(H) 652-4716

"THE ALL NIGHT STRUT" MAKES WORLD PREMIERE AT FORD'S THEATRE NOVEMBER 20!
FORD'S THEATRE "STRUTS" IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON ON DAZZLING MUSICAL TRIP!

On Saturday, November 20, the fabulous strains of Gershwin, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway and other of America's best loved composers will be brought to life in a new musical revue produced by Frankie Hewitt for a holiday engagement at Ford's Theatre.

Ms. Hewitt has assembled a host of super-talents for the show, a contemporary look at the thirties and forties, reflected in period music and dance. It sports tunes evocative of Harlem's Cotton Club -- "Beat Me Daddy, Eight To The Bar" "Stormy Weather" "Jukebox Saturday Night" -- of the hardluck years -- "Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?" -- of the posh Manhattan clubs, "21," the Copa and the Stork Club -- "Blue Champagne" "Let's Fly Away" "Begin the Beguine" -- of World War II, with its "Rosie the Riveter" and its heartbreaking love songs like "I'll Be Seeing You" and finally, of the big band, vaudeville era.

Noted Broadway composer, lyricist, orchestrator and arranger, Luther Henderson, has done the musical arrangements for THE ALL NIGHT STRUT.

(more)

FORD'S THEATRE

511 Tenth Street, Northwest,
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"THE ALL NIGHT STRUT" MAKES WORLD PREMIERE
add one

Henderson has been associated with some of Broadway's best known musical productions including: FLOWER DRUM SONG, FUNNY GIRL, HALLELUJAH BABY! and PURLIE. He has also worked as musical arranger and composer on more than 30 nightclub acts including those of: Dinah Shore, Goldie Hawn, Liza Minelli, Robert Goulet and Carol Lawrence, and has more than 12 albums to his credit, six of them performed by his own orchestra.

Direction is by talented newcomer, Fran Charnas, who last year created a concert version of THE ALL NIGHT STRUT at Cleveland's Playhouse Square. It was this cabaret show which producer Frankie Hewitt discovered and made the nucleus for Ford's full-fledged theatre piece. For 3 years artistic director of the East Cleveland Music Theatre, Charnas has also directed regional productions of INNER CITY and PURLIE at Cleveland's Karamu Theatre and a production of Jean Anouilh's ARDELE at Emerson College.

Featuring a cast of 14 singers and dancers, THE ALL NIGHT STRUT will star performers: Jonelle Allen, Tony award winner nominee for her performance in Broadway's TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. Miss Allen also had a featured role in the film COTTON COMES TO HARLEM and roles in the plays HAIR and FIVE ON THE BLACKHAND SIDE; Barbara Heuman, who made her Broadway debut as Nanette in NO NO NANNETTE and starred as Hope in the Broadway production of SOMETHING'S AFOOT with Tessie O'Shea; Irving Lee, star of Broadway's PIPPIN and known to Washington audiences for his roles as Judas and Jesus in the Ford's production of GODSPELL; and Michael Davis, who starred opposite Katherine Hepburn in COCO, and has appeared in some thirteen Broadway productions including THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN and BELLS ARE RINGING.

Choreography, spanning the lindy, tap and ragtime frenzies, the coolly elegant tango and the nerve-shattering jitterbug craze, is by Arthur Faria,

(more)

"THE ALL NIGHT STRUT" MAKES WORLD PREMIERE
add two

veteran of MISS MOFFAT, ROGERS AND HART, "Undulations" from Lynn Redgrave's THE HAPPY HOOKER, and last season's Tony awards. Costuming is by Carol Oditz who won acclaim here last year for her work on MEDAL OF HONOR RAG at the Folger Theatre.

While the show moves between posh Manhattan clubs with their romantic crooners and hot Latin influences, into sultry Harlem of blues, jazz and gospel, and on up to glittering Broadway, the set for THE ALL NIGHT STRUT remains an art-deco nightclub ballroom, a place of refuge from the times, where people could forget the era's crushing dance marathons, stark breadlines and finally, the war.

Set design is by Richard Ferrer, designer of the Ford's production of DONT BOTHER ME, I CANT COPE. Lighting is by Barry Arnold (BUBBLING BROWN SUGAR, and the current touring production of WEST SIDE STORY starring Leslie Uggams.)

Funding for the project is made possible by the Ford's Theatre Productions Fund and grantors: Rockwell International, the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, the Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation and the Glenmede Trust.

"THE ALL NIGHT STRUT" MAKES WORLD PREMIERE
add three

Tickets for THE ALL NIGHT STRUT are available on the new TICKETCHARGE system, 347-4833, which accepts AMERICAN EXPRESS, BANK AMERICARD, MASTER CHARGE, and CENTRAL CHARGE. Tickets may also be purchased through mail orders or at the Ford's box office and other convenient ticket outlets. Groups may continue to make reservations on 638-2368. No reservations will be accepted nor any ticket sales confirmed on Ford's box office number, 347-6260. This is an information number only.

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The ALL NIGHT STRUT!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Alma Viator
(O) 638-2380
(H) 652-4716

One of the most exciting new musicals in recent years, THE ALL NIGHT STRUT, will have its world premiere at Ford's Theatre with a sparkling holiday run, November 20 through January 2. A dazzling contemporary look at the 30s and 40s through period music and dance, the show has already created great enthusiasm. Still more than two weeks away from the official press opening night of November 29, advance sales for THE ALL NIGHT STRUT have already outdistanced the theatre's previous all-time record of GIVE 'EM HELL, HARRY! in 1975. Within the scheduled six week run, nine performances are already sold out and the interest shown by benefits and groups is at an all-time high.

In addition, several exciting special events are planned around THE ALL NIGHT STRUT. The gala premiere on the 23rd in a blacktie kickoff of "The Strutting Season," with Woodward and Lothrop hosting what promises to be a glittering evening.

As you probably know, opening nights at Ford's are always special events, usually built around a theme -- it was Ford's which had a "Bike-in" for the opening of MOTHER EARTH, a hoe-down for the opening of DIAMOND STUDS, and a diplomatic party hosted by the French, Russian and British Ambassadors for the opening of French, Russian and British trilogy of classical works.

Thus, Woodie's role in the STRUT gala -- including a candlelight supper and dancing on Woodie's main floor after the performance -- is particularly

-----more-----

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THE ALL NIGHT STRUT

add one

appropriate since THE ALL NIGHT STRUT is an evocation of a very special time in our heritage when living was glamorous and living it up was done in style and always in the highest fashion.

Woodies involvement, however, will not stop there. The gala premiere performance and the party at Woodies will focus attention on Ford's new outreach program, "Operation Discovery," which this season will bring 10,000 culturally unaware metro area young people into a living theatre -- some for the first time in their lives. The evening will especially honor those local businesspeople and other individuals who, through their generosity, have helped to launch this important program. (Both a list and a more detailed explanation of "Operation Discovery" are enclosed.)

Further, Woodward and Lothrop will be incorporating "The Strutting Season" into its advertising and promotion for its exciting holiday fashions, with superstar Marisa Berenson making a series of personal appearances to publicize the theme, including the December 1 performance of STRUT and a champagne reception in the Lincoln Museum afterwards.

This marks the first time Ford's and another local, inner city institution have joined in an effort, not only to promote the downtown, but to let the greater metro area know that this is really where the excitement and creativity lie in our great city.

Finally, keeping the downtown motif already established by Woodies, the November 29th press opening will be followed by a cast party at the National Press Club.

OPERATION DISCOVERY Steering Committee

Mr. Sam Bialek

Mr. Vincent C. Burke, Jr.

Mr. Donald S. Bittinger

Mr. Beau Bogan

Mrs. William N. Cafritz

Mr. Joseph B. Danzansky

Mr. Edwin K. Hoffman

Mr. Steven A. Martindale

Mrs. Dale Miller

Mr. Jerome Powell

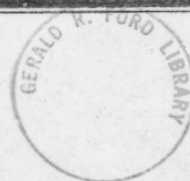
Mr. Joe Riley

Mr. Alex Sheftell

Mr. Morton H. Wilner



The ALL NIGHT STRUT!



FACT SHEET

JONELLE ALLEN

Jonelle Allen starred in the Broadway production of TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA ("Tony" Award nominee, Best Actress in a Musical; New York Drama Critics, Best Actress in a Musical; "Most Promising Newcomer," 28th Annual Theatre World Awards), and GEORGE M on Broadway. She appeared in the original production of HAIR, off-Broadway, and has had featured roles in a number of motion picture and television productions including: FOSTER AND LAURIE, CAGE WITHOUT A KEY, COME BACK CHARLESTON BLUE and the acclaimed COTTON COMES TO HARLEM. Ms. Allen appeared in the critically acclaimed "American Women: Profiles in Courage," an ABC television special in which she played Rosa Parks. Other television credits include: "Sammy and Company," "Police Woman," "Police Story" and the Dinah Shore, Dick Cavett, David Frost and Merv Griffin shows. She has most been recently seen in the movie THE RIVER NIGER. Ms. Allen is a native New Yorker.

MICHAEL DAVIS

Michael Davis received a nomination for Chicago's Jefferson Award when he starred in COMPANY. Previously he won critical acclaim as Edward Rutledge in the National Company of 1776. Among his thirteen Broadway shows, he was featured in COCO, opposite Katherine Hepburn, SWEET CHARITY, DEAR WORLD, and APPLE TREE. Off-Broadway's Cult Musical, PROMENADE. Mr. Davis was also in the Movie "The Producers" and would be recognized as the Nazi who sang "Springtime for Hitler". TV shows, commercials, a night club act, directing and choreography and "too many years of stock to mention," round out his career. Mr. Davis is originally from Little Rock, Arkansas.

BARBARA HEUMAN

Barbara Heuman made her Broadway debut as Nanette in NO, NO, NANETTE after standing by for 1776 at The Majestic Theater. A native of Santa Barbara, California, she has appeared with the L.A. Civic Light Opera productions of ROSALINDA, MY FAIR LADY and Meredith Wilson's 1491. She has played the female lead in PROMISES, PROMISES, appeared in ANYTHING GOES with Anne Miller, and played Sara in GUYS AND DOLLS opposite George Chakiris. Barbara most recently played Hope in the Broadway production of SOMETHING'S AFOOT with Tessie O'Shea. She can also be seen in many television commercials.

IRVING LEE

Irving Lee returns to Ford's Theatre from his native New York where his professional credits include the starring role in both the Broadway and touring

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companies of PIPPIN, the part of the Player King in Gower Champion's ROCKABYE HAMLET, the New York production of RIDE THE WINDS, Purlie in PURLIE VICTORIOUS and most recently the role of Gary Bates in Ruth Gordon's new comedy HO HO HO. He is familiar to Washington audiences for his highly acclaimed performances of both Judas and Jesus in the long-running Ford's production of GODSPELL. In addition to directing shows at the Manhattan Theatre Club; for Boston's National Center of Afro-American Artists and D.C.'s own Arts Commission, he's been seen selling an assortment of items from tobacco to cookware on various television commercials. When asked about returning to Washington, he replies, "I never could get enough of a good thing."

MELANIE ADAM

Melanie Adam appeared with Angela Lansbury in the 1976 production of MAME, and has also had roles in recent productions of THE PAJAMA GAME and BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE. A native of Los Angeles, she performed in the film, THE HARRAD EXPERIMENT, and has studied at the American School of Dance under Eugene Loring and at the David Lichine School of Ballet.

NEDRA DIXON

Nedra Dixon comes to THE ALL NIGHT STRUT from a Broadway role in the hit BUBBLING BROWN SUGAR, featured roles in national and regional tours of GODSPELL and HAIR, and a featured off-Broadway role in WHO AM I?. Ms. Dixon has also appeared in GODSPELL at the Papermill Playhouse in New Jersey, and in OUR TOWN, ROMEO AND JULIET, WEST SIDE STORY, and THE FANTASTICKS in summer stock and regional productions. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Ms. Dixon has a B.A. in Speech and Theatre from Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas.

LESLIE DOCKERY

Leslie Dockery has performed in the off-Broadway production of HOLY MOSES and in the San Francisco, Boston and Australian companies of DONT BOTHER ME, I CANT COPE. She was choreographer of the Miss Black Teenage America Pageant for two years and Choreographer of the popular singing group, the Manhattans, Miss Dockery, a Brooklyn, New York, native, has appeared recently with the Van Macoy Dancers.

BRENDA HOLMES

Brenda Holmes appeared in FUNNY GIRL with Carol Lawrence and understudied the lead role in the original Broadway company of LORELEI, in which she also performed as a singer/dancer. She has danced in the James Jamieson Academy of the Dance production of THE NUTCRACKER and appeared with Jerry Lewis in a recent Muscular Dystrophy telethon. Miss Holmes has also danced with the Harkness Ballet Company. She is a native of Jamestown, New York.

BOBBY LONGBOTTOM

Bobby Longbottom has been performing since childhood when he first appeared at the Brunswick Music Theatre in his native state of Maine playing Winthrop in THE MUSIC MAN at age nine. Followed by many other seasons in Maine, he made his off-Broadway debut in PANAMA HATTIE at the Equity Library Theatre. More recently he appeared in dinner theatre productions of DAMES AT SEA, HELLO DOLLY and ANYTHING GOES."

JACK MAGRADEY

Jack Magradey has appeared in the Broadway production of SO LONG 174TH STREET, and in stock productions of KISS ME KATE, PAL JOEY, CABARET and FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. His dinner theatre credits include: JACQUES BREL IS ALIVE AND WELL, DAMES AT SEA, and A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM. He spent three years with Jean Sabatine's Jazz Dance Theatre Company. A native of Trevoise, Pennsylvania, Jack has a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Penn State.

LIZ MORRIS

Liz Morris is a native of San Francisco who began her career dancing with the Bay Area Repertory Theatre (the University of California) under the direction of David Wood. She has studied at New York's acclaimed Alvin Ailey School and performed with the Ailey Repertory Company in a TV special for children, CALL IT MACARONI. Miss Morris has also performed with the Authentic American Jazz Company and with Joyce Trisler's Danscompany in RITE OF SPRING and LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD. She was seen recently in a summer stock production of A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM.

CHARLES NEAL

Charles Neal has danced in the Broadway and National companies of HELLO DOLLY and PURLIE and in the Music Fair Companies of HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS and PROMISES, PROMISES. He appeared in the first German production of HALF-A-SIXPENCE, in WEST SIDE STORY in Oslo, Norway and in Maurice Bejart's BALLET OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

ERIC RILEY

Eric Riley, a native of Battle Creek, Michigan, appeared in THE KING AND I with Yul Brynner and has also performed in a number of regional and stock productions including: the role of Judas in the stock premiere of JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, HAIR, SEESAW, SUYS AND DOLLS and THE SUNSHINE BOYS.

CHRISTINA SAFFRAN

Christina Saffran has had featured roles in the St. Louis Municipal Opera productions of ANNIE GET YOUR GUN, SHOW BOAT, OLIVER and CAROUSEL. She has performed with the National Academy of Ballet - England, Scotland and Wales - and has also appeared with the St. Louis Dance Theatre and Missouri Concert Ballet (GISELLE, COPPELIA). Miss Saffran studied under dancemasters Alexandra Zaharias and David Blair. She is a native of St. Louis.

JEFF SPIELMAN

Jeff Spielman has appeared in the Broadway productions of ROCKABYE HAMLET and GOOD NEWS, performed with Liz Torres in the HELEN REDDY SHOW at Lake Tahoe's Sahara Hotel, and was with the National Tour of DISNEY ON PRUDE. He has also appeared on the Dick Cavett Show, with Liza Minnelli, and has performed in numerous regional productions including: MUSIC MAN, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF and DAMN YANKEES. Mr. Spielman was born in Shakopee, Minnesota.

MICHELLE STUBBS

Michelle Stubbs has danced in regional productions of GREASE, KISS ME KATE, CELEBRATION and WEST SIDE STORY. This year, she toured with the production of ILLUSION AND REALITY starring magician Doug Henning. She has also appeared in numerous concert performances including AMERICAN DANCE MACHINE at the American Dance Festival, Newport, R.I. Miss Stubbs was the pre-production assistant to Gower Champion and Tony Stevens on the production ROCKABYE HAMLET, in which she also performed as a dancer/singer. Miss Stubbs is originally from Tucson, Arizona.



The ALL NIGHT STRUT!

FRANKIE HEWITT (Executive Producer)

Frankie Hewitt is best known for her guiding role as Executive Producer of the nation's most historic playhouse, Ford's Theatre. It was Ms. Hewitt who, nine years ago, convinced government leaders that Ford's should be an exciting national showcase theatre. As a former Special Assistant to UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson (by appointment of President Kennedy), former staff head of a U.S. Senate Investigating Committee, and respected Washington political advisor, she knew how to cope with the myriad of problems presented by combining a government-owned national historic site with an independent theatrical entity.

After eight winning seasons which included the world premieres of such shows as DON'T BOTHER ME, I CAN'T COPE, GIVE 'EM HELL HARRY! and WILL ROGERS' U.S.A., in 1975 Ms. Hewitt created the Ford's Theatre Productions Fund and began a new era in the life of the historic theatre.

With major grants from the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Rockwell International, the Glenmede Trust, and the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, the theatre has produced or co-produced five original productions, the latest being the new musical, THE ALL NIGHT STRUT. The other Ford's productions are: YOUR ARMS TOO SHORT TO BOX WITH GOD, which broke records at Ford's for five sellout months in 1975, returned to do the same in an encore engagement in September of this year, and is now scheduled for a December Broadway opening. I HAVE A DREAM, which, with Billy Dee Williams, had a hit 8-week run at Ford's, enjoyed a multi-city national tour and has played on Broadway since September 20. Noted actor, Moses Gunn has now taken over the role of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ELEANOR, a dramatic portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt by Academy Award winner Eileen Heckart which played Ford's Chicago's Studebaker Theatre, and the L.A. Music Center's Ahmanson Theatre. And VANITIES, an off-Broadway comedy hit, which recently concluded a four week run at Ford's, launching the show's national tour, and is now at the Marines Memorial ACT Theatre in San Francisco.

FORD'S THEATRE

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FRAN CHARNAS (Director)

Fran Charnas originated the idea for THE ALL NIGHT STRUT in a cabaret piece performed in Cleveland's Pickle Bill's in the Flats Theatre and later the Playhouse Square Theatre. For three years, artistic director of the East Cleveland Music Theatre, Ms. Charnas has also directed regional productions of INNER CITY and PURLIE at Cleveland's Karamu Theatre and a production of ARDELE at Emerson College. She has also directed productions of THE GLASS MENAGERIE, THE INDIAN WANTS THE BRONX, GODSPELL and WEST SIDE STORY, to name a few.

ARTHUR FARIA (Choreographer)

After appearing in numerous Broadway shows, TV spectaculars and Las Vegas revues, Mr. Faria began his choreography career in regional and stock theatres with such standards as PAJAMA GAME, BRIGADOON, OKLAHOMA, KISMET and CAROUSEL. He directed AN EVENING WITH COLE PORTER for Bobby Short and Julie Wilson and this past season staged A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM for "Laugh-In's" Arte Johnson. Mr. Faria worked closely with Donald Saadler in creating the dances and musical staging for GOOD NEWS with Alic Faye, MISS MOFFAT with Bette Davis, Lynn Redgrave's UNDULATIONS in the film THE HAPPY HOOKER, ROGERS AND HART, as well as last season's Tony Awards. In nightclub circles, Mr. Faria is known for his highly acclaimed staging for the vocal group, Twentieth Century.

LUTHER HENDERSON (Musical Orchestration & Dance Arrangements)

Luther Henderson is one of the entertainment world's foremost orchestrators and arrangers, credited with more than fifty individual productions including: FUNNY GIRL, NO, NO, NANETTE, FLOWER DRUM SONG, and PURLIE, on Broadway; and "The Ann-Margaret Special," "The Carol Burnett Show,"; the Bob Hope, Andy Williams, Ed Sullivan, Red Skelton and Dean Martin Shows, on television. Mr. Henderson has some 12 albums to his name, including six made with the Luther Henderson Orchestra, and his original compositions number more than fifteen, many of which were recorded by greats Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Teresa Brewer and Nancy Wilson. He also serves as orchestrator and arranger for some of the most popular nightclub acts including those of: Liza Minnelli, Dinah Shore, Eartha Kitt, Goldie Hawn, Nancy Wilson, Robert Goulet and Carol Lawrence.

WILLIAM ROY (Musical Director & Vocal Arrangements)

William Roy, at the age of three, sang on a children's program in his native Detroit, launching a career that was to include regular appearances on THE LONE RANGER and THE GREEN HORNET and featured roles in over seventeen films, including THE CORN IS GREEN with Bette Davis, PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE with Humphrey Bogart, IT HAPPENED IN BROOKLYN with Frank Sinatra, and THE CROSS OF LORRAINE with Gene Kelly and Jean Pierre Aumont. Later he wrote music and lyrics for the Broadway show, MAGGIE and book, music and lyrics for THE PENNY-FRIEND. Mr. Roy was the Musical Director for Julius Monk, when the famous musician was appearing at the Upstairs and the Plaza-9.

BARRY ARNOLD (Lighting Designer)

Barry Arnold designed the lighting for BUBBLING BROWN SUGAR, Alan Schneider's production of WAITING FOR GODOT, WEST SIDE STORY (both the revival with Leslie Uggams and the Mexico City production), Lorraine Hansberry's TO BE YOUNG GIFTED AND BLACK, GODSPELL and the "multi-gravitational experiment group" in Paris. Some of his other credits include IN CIRCLES, TREASURE ISLAND, SMILE, SMILE, SMILE and SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY. For film he designed Red Grooms' HIPPODROME HARDWARE and he has designed lighting for concerts for Pearl Bailey, James Cotton Band and Vivien Reed among others. He is currently involved in the planning stages of Rado & Ragni's new musical YMCA.

RICHARD FERRER (Scenic Designer)

A native of New Orleans, Mr. Ferrer is both a scenic designer and a licensed architect. Concurrently with his architectural work, he designed many theatrical productions, ballet, television and industrial shows. He designed the set for DONT BOTHER ME, I CANT COPE at Ford's Theatre, on Broadway and on national tour. He has also designed for TWELFTH NIGHT, R.J., RAINBOW ROADSHOW, ROTUNDA and THE NUTCRACKER productions in Washington theatres. His current projects include: THE HYMIE FINKELSTEIN USED LUMBER COMPANY and a touring production of WEST SIDE STORY.

CAROL ODITZ (Costumer Designer)

Carol Oditz is known to Washington audiences for her work on the Folger Theatre production of MEDAL OF HONOR RAG last season. She also designed numerous productions for Herbert Berghof, including his PROMETHEUS BOUND starring Uta Hagen and Fritz Weaver. Her work has been seen in COMMANCHE CAFE and DOMINO COURTS, THE MYTHS OF AMERICA SMITH, JOHNNY MANHATTAN, Al Carmine's WHY I LOVE NEW YORK, Austin Pendleton's ORPHEUS DESCENDING and numerous other plays and musicals.

JILIAN CHILDERS (Associate Producer)

Childers' credits include work as the Stage Manager on YOUR ARMS TOO SHORT TO BOX WITH GOD, DONT BOTHER ME, I CANT COPE, ME AND BESSIE, THE PORTABLE PIONEER AND PRAIRIE SHOW, LIGHT UP THE SKY, DIAMOND STUDS, ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN. Her background also includes work in public relations and as a stage technician. Ms. Childers is a native of New York City.



The ALL NIGHT STRUT!

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Frankie Hewitt is best known for her guiding role as Executive Producer of the nation's most historic playhouse, Ford's Theatre. It was Ms. Hewitt who, nine years ago, convinced government leaders that Ford's should be an exciting national showcase theatre. As a former Special Assistant to UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson (by appointment of President Kennedy), former staff head of a U.S. Senate Investigating Committee, and respected Washington political advisor, she knew how to cope with the myriad of problems presented by combining a government-owned national historic site with an independent theatrical entity.

After eight winning seasons which included the world premieres of such shows as DON'T BOTHER ME, I CAN'T COPE, GIVE 'EM HELL HARRY! and WILL ROGERS' U.S.A., in 1975 Ms. Hewitt created the Ford's Theatre Productions Fund and began a new era in the life of the historic theatre.

With major grants from the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Rockwell International, the Glenmede Trust, and the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, the theatre has produced or co-produced five original productions, the latest being the new musical, THE ALL NIGHT STRUT. The other Ford's productions are: YOUR ARMS TOO SHORT TO BOX WITH GOD, which broke records at Ford's for five sellout months in 1975, returned to do the same in an encore engagement in September of this year, and is now scheduled for a December Broadway opening. I HAVE A DREAM, which, with Billy Dee Williams, had a hit 8-week run at Ford's, enjoyed a multi-city national tour and has played on Broadway since September 20. Noted actor, Moses Gunn has now taken over the role of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ELEANOR, a dramatic portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt by Academy Award winner Eileen Heckart which played Ford's Chicago's Studebaker Theatre, and the L.A. Music Center's Ahmanson Theatre. And VANITIES, an off-Broadway comedy hit, which recently concluded a four week run at Ford's, launching the show's national tour, and is now at the Marines Memorial ACT Theatre in San Francisco.

FORD'S THEATRE

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KANKAKEE, ILL.