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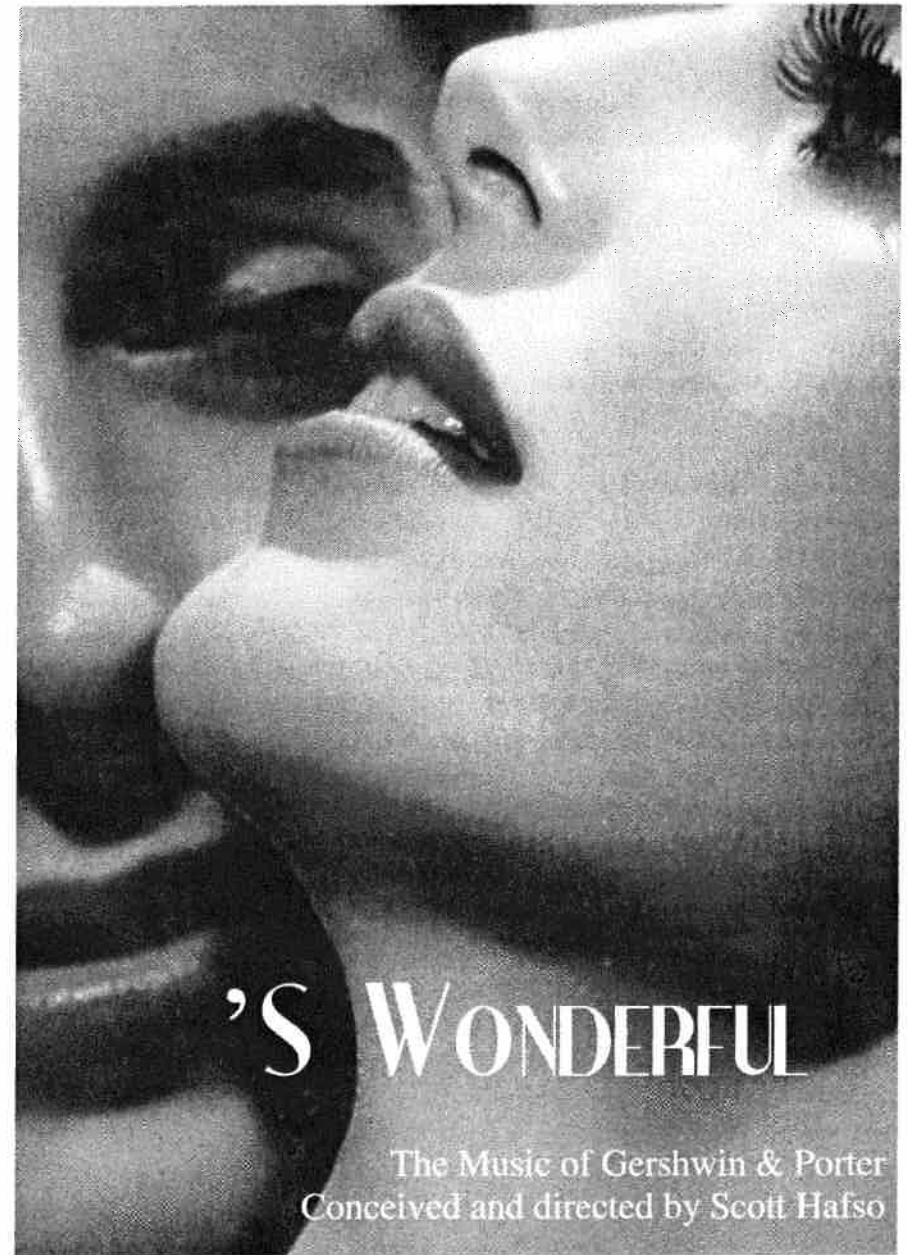
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The Penthouse Theatre
Feb. 13 – Feb. 27, 2005
65th Season
434th Production

'S WONDERFUL

Conceived by Scott Hafso

from the music of George and Ira Gershwin and Cole Porter

Director Scott Hafso

Set Design Will Davis

Lighting Design Erika Stoll

Choreographer Stephanie Farhood

Vocal Arrangements Scott Hafso

Stage Manager Danielle Franich

Technical Director Jerry Collum

Rehearsal Accompanist Jose Gonzales

Costume Stylist Christine Tschirgi

Hair and Makeup Jason Bishop

Electrics Crew Dave Hult, Sean Meyer, Czerton
Lim, Josh Haggerty, and the
Drama 212 Students

Set Construction Crew Joshua Garner

Running Crew Bethany Clough, Angel
Saucedo, Taylor Jacobsen, Kim-
berly Miller, Mikaela Hicks,
Sharon Smith, Ben Johnson,
Ashley Nelson, Esprit Sager,
Jessica Martin, Christopher
Jewell, Justin Kim

The music of 'S Wonderful is used through special arrangement with the Cole Porter Trusts, The Estates of George and Ira Gershwin and Warner Chappel Music

From the Director

*What is this thing called love? This funny thing called love?
Just who can solve its mystery?*

Cole Porter's lyric from his 1929 musical *Wake Up and Dream* is at the heart of this work, which once again places the songs of the extraordinary Cole Porter and George and Ira Gershwin in a living, breathing, active context. The composer's life-long connections to the theater are clearly evident (the Gershwin's first Broadway success was 1924's *Lady, Be Good!*; some of Porter's earliest works were written for the Yale Dramatic Association). Although perhaps best known as standards in the canon of popular American music, these were originally songs for actors. What a privilege it has been to spend these weeks immersed where character, discovery, action and melody meet.

And if you'll permit a personal note: I would like to dedicate my efforts on this project in memory of my mother, whose courtship with my father began on a night many years ago when she stood alongside the piano he was playing, and began to sing.

Scott Hafso

At the School of Drama

Scapin

by Molière

adapted by Bill Irwin and Mark O'Donnell

directed by R. Hamilton Wright

February 27 – March 13, 2005

Haroun and the Sea of Stories

from the novel by Salman Rushdie; adapted by Tim Supple &

David Tushingham; directed by Aaron Posner

April 10 - 24, 2005

Execution of Justice

by Emily Mann; directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton

April 24 – May 8, 2005

10 Minute Play Festival

by various playwrights

May 22 – June 5, 2005

Production Notes

About the Composers

George Gershwin was born in Brooklyn, New York, on September 26, 1898. He began his musical education at age thirteen, leaving high school at fifteen to work as a Tin Pan Alley “song plugger.” His first real fame came in 1919, when his song “Swanee” was popularized by Al Jolson. Teaming with his older brother, lyricist Ira (1896-1983), “The Gershwins” enjoyed numerous Broadway successes, including *Oh, Kay!* (1926), *Funny Face* (1927), *Strike Up the Band* (1927 & 1930), *Girl Crazy* (1930) and *Of Thee I Sing* (1931), in addition to songs for Hollywood films such as *Shall We Dance* (1937) and *An American in Paris* (1951). At the height of his career, Gershwin died of a brain tumor on July 11, 1937. He was not quite 39 years old.

Ira Gershwin, the first lyricist to win the Pulitzer prize, was born in New York City on December 6th, 1896. After years of writing music under the pen name Arthur Francis, Ira began the successful and lifelong collaboration with his brother George. For his achievements in film scores Ira Gershwin was nominated three times for an Academy Awards for the songs “They Can’t Take that Away From Me,” “Long Ago (and Far Away)” and “The Man That Got Away.” In 1966 he received a Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Maryland. Ira Gershwin died in his Beverly Hills home in 1983 at the age of 86.

Cole Porter was born in Peru, Indiana on June 9, 1891, receiving his formal education at Worcester Academy, Yale College, Harvard Law and Music Schools, and the Schola Cantorum in Paris. Theatrical successes at Yale led Porter to Broadway, where his first musical, the comic opera *See America First* (1916) was a failure. Enlisting in the French Foreign Legion in 1917, he spent much of the coming decade in Paris. With encouragement from Irving Berlin, Porter’s music was featured in the show *Paris* (1928). One song, “Let’s Do It,” propelled Porter to future successes, including *Wake Up and Dream* (1929), *Fifty Million Frenchmen* (1929), *The New Yorkers* (1930), *Gay Divorce* (1932), *Anything Goes* (1934), *Jubilee* (1935), *Red, Hot and Blue* (1936) and *DuBarry was a Lady* (1939). Porter died on October 15, 1964.

Recommended Reading

Cole Porter: A Biography by William McBrien (Knopf, 1998)
The Songs of George and Ira Gershwin: A Centennial Celebration, edited by Tony Esposito (Warner Bros. Publications, 1998)



The Cast

Celeste	April Wolfe*
Clark	Chance Mullen*
Elsie	Lada Vishtak*
Grant	Chris McKeon*
Lana	Georgia Southern*
Lyle	Brian Gillespie*
Rose	Lenne Klingaman*
Victoria	Angela DiFiore
Vivian	Macah Coates*
Walter	Marc Jablon*
Piano Player	Jose Gonzales

* Denotes member of the Professional Actor Training Program (PATP)

The play will be performed without intermission.

Special thanks to the UW School of Music

A song list will be available after the show, upon request.

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