

Ankeny Community Theatre



Funny Girl
2003

Written by Isobel Lennart

Music and Lyrics by Jule Styne and Bob Merrill

DIRECTED BY JO REID

PRODUCED BY GRACE LEVERENZ

April 25, 26 - 7:30 p.m.

May 2, 3 - 7:30 p.m. & May 4 - 2:00 p.m.

May 8, 10 - 7:30 p.m. & May 9 - 8:00 p.m.

ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE

1932 SW Third Street

Ankeny, Iowa 50021

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"Funny Girl" is a different type of show. Not only does it have 22 set changes (scenes), but it has music, dance, comedy and romance with a sensitive story line. The cast wants to make you laugh, cry and tap your toes--all at the same time.

Please set back, suspend all of your disbeliefs and let yourself be transported to the life and times of an American legend--Fanny Brice!

Jo

This show is produced by arrangement with:

TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY, INC.

560 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

Fanny Brice	Jenny Neighbour
John (Stage Manager)	Troy Desrigter
Emma	Barb Valline
Mrs. Brice	Jeanne Ginger
Mrs. Strakosh	Susan Furland
Mrs. Wecker	Karen Sandoval
Tom Keeney	Jerry Reid
Eddie Ryan	Paul Carstenson
Heckie/Waiter	John Cooper
Workman	Dick Wilson
Nick Arnstein	Brian DePrez

Keeney's Beauties/Follies Girls

Marlene Terpetra	Melody Beneke
Allison Purdy	Cary Douglas
Leslie Stratton	

Florenz Ziegfeld	Bud Pratt
Mr. Renaldi	John Lee
Henry Street Guest	Eric Sandoval

PIANO ACCOMPANISTS

Gwynne Johnson-Mishler
Michael Steimel

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

TIME: Shortly before and after World War I
(circa 1910 and 1920)

ACT ONE

- Scene 1: Fanny's Dressing Room
- Scene 2: Backstage - Keeney's Music Hall
- Scene 3: In front of Keeney's Music Hall
- Scene 4: Backyard - Fanny's Neighborhood
- Scene 5: On Stage - Keeney's Music Hall
- Scene 6: Backstage and Chorus Dressing Room
- Scene 7: Mrs. Brice's Kitchen
- Scene 8: Backstage - The New York Theatre
- Scene 9: On Stage - The New York Theatre
- Scene 10: In Front of Follies Curtain
- Scene 11: Henry Street
- Scene 12: Interior of Mrs Brice's Saloon
- Scene 13: A Private Dining Room - Baltimore
- Scene 14: Baltimore Railroad Terminal

ACT TWO

- Scene 1: The Arnstein Long Island Mansion
- Scene 2: Mrs. Brice's Saloon
- Scene 3: Backstage - New Amsterdam Theatre
- Scene 4: On Stage - New Amsterdam Theatre
- Scene 5: Fanny's Dressing Roim
- Scene 6: Study - The Arnstein House
- Scene 7: Backstage - New Amsterdam Theatre
- Scene 8: Fanny's Dressing Room and
New Amsterdam Theatre

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Poker Chant #1	Mrs. Brice & Strakosh
If a Girl Isn't Pretty	Mrs. Strakosh, Mrs. Brice and Mrs. Wecker, Eddie and Heckie
I'm the Greatest Star	Fanny
Reprise: Greatest Star	Fanny
Eddie's Fifth Encore	Eddie
Cornet Man	Fanny, Chorus, Dancers
Nicky Arnstein No. 1	Fanny
Who Taught Her Everything?	Eddie and Mrs. Brice
His Love Makes Me Beautiful	Fanny and chorus
I Want to be Seen With You	Nick and Fanny
Nicky Arnstein No. 2	Fanny
Henry Street	Chorus
People	Fanny
Poker Chant No. 2	Mrs. Brice and Mrs. Strakosh
You Are Woman, I Am Man	Nick and Fanny
Don't Rain On My Parade	Fanny

ACT TWO

Sadie, Sadie	Fanny and girls
Find Yourself a Man	Eddie, Mrs. Brice and Mrs. Strakosh
Rat-Tat-Tat-Tat	Fanny, Eddie and Chorus
Rat-Tat-Tat-Tat	Fanny, Eddie and Chorus
Who Are You Now?	Fanny
Don't Rain On My Parade	Fanny

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HOW TO FIND ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE:

Address: 1932 SW Third Street

Mailing: Box 122

Ankeny, Iowa 50021

Phone: 515 964 5007

Web: www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com

E-mail: act@ankenycommunitytheatre.com

Tickets: tickets@ankenycommunitytheatre.com

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JENNY NEIGHBOUR (Fanny Brice) - Jenny has been singing in her church choir, but she has never been in a stage show like "Funny Girl". As a newcomer she has done an excellent job turning herself into Fannie Brice. She has been an inspiration to other cast members. Jennie's ambition is to "do voices" for any kind of animated shows--just so she can continue singing. She had an offer to work on Sesame Street but opted to stay in Iowa with husband Mike. No regrets. They have two daughters - Abbi and Katie, 10 and 8 years old. She also works parttime at Creative Treasures and Ankeny YMCA as a fitness instructor. Both Jenny and Mike grew up in Ankeny, long before Kohls, Chilis, Target, etc.

PAUL CARSTENSON (Eddy Ryan) - Paul was a lucky find for "Funny Girl". He agreed to do a small role but was more than willing to take over a lead role. Madam Director is thrilled to have Paul in her cast. Apparently performing is second nature for Paul. He's been in "Oliver", "Music Man", "Annie Get Your Gun" and more..... His lifelong ambitions are to sing at Carnegie Hall and to be paid for his favorite pasttime--singing. He's the Almighty Mocheek (????) to his family. Paul is an optician for One Hour Optical. Need glasses, anyone??

MELODY BENEKE (Sweeney's beauty and Follies girl) - Melody has never been in a grownup theatrical show, but she has declared she will do it again. ACT appreciates her pleasant and helpful assistance. Wearing a Ziegfeld hat has inspired Melody to become a milliner to make Follies hats. Meanwhile, Melody works for Principal Finance as a paralegal. Her parents and siblings live in New Albin, Iowa.

LESLIE STRATTON (Sweeney's beauty and Follies girl) - Leslie is involved with cross country track, drama and speech at Ankeny High School and still finds time to do many helpful chores for "Funny Girl" A special thank you goes out to Leslie for learning dances and dialogue in case someone "breaks a leg". Her previous stage experience was playing a looney Christmas wiseman named Binky. In the future Leslie wants to travel and discover England, Ireland and Wales.

JOHN COOPER (Heckie and waiter)- John came to ACT via Bev Heldt, our in-house decorator. They are co-workers at Wellmark. John has had theatrical experience in high school and his church, and thoroughly enjoys being a spectator at many local theaters. Now he has a dual role in "Funny Girl", works behind stage and is having a great time. He thanks Bev for getting him involved. John also enjoys his son who is almost an aerospace engineer and his daughter who shines at the bowling alley. John adds happiness for his fellow actors.

JO REID (Director of "Funny Girl") - Jo has three favorite things: (1) Jerry, (2) grandkids (and kids), and (3) theater! She's small, but mighty and crosses all "tees" and dots all "eyes". She eats, sleeps and dreams theater and probably dances as she sleepwalks. After all, she's a choreographer and has a sheepskin to prove it. "Funny Girl" has been a tremendous challenge to stage and direct, but the cast and production crew have been marvelous to pitch in at all times. Jo thanks them for their cheerful cooperation. Before her old age, she hopes to play the lead in "Peter Pan".

TROY DESTIGTER (John, Stage Manager) - We should call Troy "Geyser" because he's 'old faithful'. He has been in numerous ACT shows, including another musical. He has declared himself a non-musician, but he directed some other mad scientists as they sang in "Li'l Abner". His baton was a glass swizzle stick. Troy's favorite shows have been "Rumors" and "You Can't Take It With You". Troy collects music records and CD's which he uses in his bachelor pad. Troy works at American Republic Insurance. [If you read this on May 8, tell Troy happy birthday.]

C.W. (Bud) PRATT (Florenz Ziegfeld) - Bud estimates that he's been in 20-25 shows since he took dance lessons as a youngster (back in Kansas). Most of that number has been at ACT where his booming voice always makes an impression. Some of his favorites are "Forty Carats", Little Shop of Horrors, and "Harvey". As a retiree from the clothing business, Bud spends his time playing golf, playing with his computer and traveling around the country with Hazel. He also sings with his church choir and the Ankeny Community Chorus.

JEANNE GINGER (Mrs. Brice) - Jeanne is doing show #19 for ACT. Singing, dancing and acting has been Jeanne's lifelong interest and she's always ready and willing to "do" another show. One of her favorite shows was "Boeing-Boeing" when she was a French maid and wore fishnet stockings and a very short skirt. Jeanne has worked over 23 years at the Ankeny school system and enjoys her 23 grandkids and 11 great-grandkids. Her family recently surprised Jeanne with a 75th birthday party, at which she did rock 'n roll!

SUSAN FURLAND (Mrs. Strakosh) - There's a song entitled "I Cain't Say No". That song is Susan, and ACT is glad of it. Her first show was "Li'l Abner", she sings with ACT II, serves on the ACT Board of Directors, and sings numerous places (or whenever she can). Susan also brought her daughter Allison to "Funny Girl". Susan works for the SE Polk school district, plays golf and enjoys her family.

ALLISON FURLAND PURDY (Sweeney's beauty and Follies girl) - It was hard for Allison to come to a strange place (ACT) with strange people (actors) without knowing what she was getting into. However, she's now relaxed and enjoying her assignments. We appreciate her willingness. Allison is married to Jeremy and they have two babies, cats that is. She's a graduate of ISU with a degree in apparel design. She was last employed at Younkers as an assistant buyer until the big layoff. She is presently job hunting. Her dream is to design clothing or becoming a photographer.

BRIAN DEPRez (Nick Arnstein) - Brian is not a newcomer to ACT, but "Funny Girl" is his first musical. To-date Brian has never been a singer, but Director Jo convinced him that she could make it work. His future is hanging on a vocal chord! Regardless, he has the speaking voice, looks and buns. Brian works at Wells Fargo. Brian is proud of his family which includes his wife beautiful Wendy, a delightful daughter Allison and a marvelous son Brandon.

KAREN BURKETT-SANDOVAL (Mrs. Meeker) - Back in 1998, Karen's husband suggested she find a hobby. She did, and her premiere performance was in "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940", in which she played a "skitzo" and fell out of a closet with only unmentionables. She also needed different language accents, which she already had, since she can speak German and Spanish. Every year she does a show for ACT and currently serves on the Board of Directors. Karen chooses to take everything with a bit of humor, and she can be seen tooling around town with a bumper sticker saying "Drama Queen". Her family consists of husband Alexander the Great (works at DMAAC), she is the Barbarian Librarian (she's head librarian in Bondurant); and son is Eric the Magnificent (in the talented and gifted program at school).

JOHN R. LEE (Mr. Renaldi) - John has been around for over a decade of theater at ACT, doing impressive dramatic roles and backstage work. Presently John is a construction assistant (personnel work) at Perry Home Builders, Inc. His description of his family is: "My wife will teach you math; my daughter will plan your wedding; my son has important theatrical contacts". John--in his misery of a broken ankle--has been a real asset to "Funny Girl".

JERRY LEE REID (Mr. Keeney, Stage Manager and Honey-Do) - Jerry is possibly the busiest person of the "Funny Girl" crew. He not only has a role to play, but he keeps a lot of backstage people busy with 21 set changes. Jerry does his job with "his" pace and lovingly, since he sleeps with the director. Jerry has been president of the Board of Directors and has served in almost every capacity. The Reids can be considered the backbone of ACT since its onset, and they continue to contribute wherever or however. Jerry's view of the future is to again be invited to escort his grandchildren to "show and tell" and to retirement!

ERIC SANDOVAL (Henry Street visitor) - Eric is almost eleven years old and been bitten by the theatrical bug, thanks to his mother who brought him to rehearsals, had him "run lines" with her, and just hanging out with the actors/actresses. He was in "Charlotte's Web" and loved it. He attends Northwest Elementary in Ankeny and is in the fourth grade. He is in the talented and gifted program and speaks Spanish and a little German. Some day Eric would like to be a journalist.

DICK WILSON (Workman and set builder) - Good 'ol Dick! He has made his living with his hands using his extensive know-how and is willing to share his talent with ACT. Each assignment was done to a "T" and Madam Director was so appreciative of his work that she gave him a small part in "Funny Girl". Thanks to Dick.

GWYNNE JOHNSON-MISHLER (Piano Accompanist) - Gwynne's first appearance at ACT was as Peppermint Patty in "Charlie Brown", and she has been in numerous other shows around the area. She is a music teacher at Sacred Heart in West Des Moines and in a mixed marriage (she's a Packer fan and he's a Bear rooter). They have a three-year-old daughter Maddie. Gwynne's dream is to get enough sleep someday.

MICHAEL STEIMEL (Piano Accompanist) - Michael came to the Des Moines area via Jesup, Iowa, and Loras College in Dubuque, where he earned his degree in music. Currently he is studying at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana, to complete his Masters Degree in Liturgy and Music. He is Director of Worship at Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines. ACT is appreciative of Michael's participation in "Funny Girl".

CORY DOUGLAS (Sweeney's beauty and Follies girl) - Cory is ACT's real-life cupie doll. She joined the cast rather late into rehearsals, but by the end of a week she knew the routines and did them well. Her perpetual smile helped everyone. She was discovered by Fanny and Jo in their church choir. Her only previous acting job was at the Playhouse in "Annie". Cory is married and has two children who keep her busy with their activities. Her son Kyle has been a helper in the light booth.

MARLENE TERPSTRA (Sweeney's beauty and Follies girl) - Marlene was enticed to join the "Funny Girl" cast by one of her clients: Madam Director. She is owner of Dutch Clean, a house-cleaning business. (Call 707-3699 for information.) She claims no previous experience on the stage, but might do more shows in the future. Marlene's ambitions include hiking the Appalachian Trail, traveling to Holland, and getting licenses to fly an airplane and to skydive. She is strongly family-oriented with parents in Missouri, brother in Ohio, sisters in Minnesota and Texas. Not to be forgotten is her boy friend in Minnesota.

BARBARA VALLINE (Emma) - Barb is playing the role of the personal aide to Fanny, but she is also a great aid to the production of "Funny Girl". Some people just know what to do, and do it! We certainly appreciate all the details that she has covered in this show. Barb has only been in one other show in high school--"The Sound of Music", but we hope she will continue at ACT. She is married, has three children and four grandchildren, one of whom is a Henry Street guest. Barb works parttime at Treasure House.

TARYNN DODD (Henry Street visitor) - Tarynn comes to ACT clear from Colo, Iowa, because she likes to sing. She has been in many shows during her eight years, mostly at school. Tarynn sparkles, just like her grandmother Barb!