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**Tacoma Little Theatre  
presents**

## **Of Thee I Sing**

**Book by George S. Kaufman,  
Morrie Ryskind  
Music by George Gershwin  
Lyrics by Ira Gershwin**

**Produced by:  
Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.  
November 8 - December 7, 1996**

**Primary Sponsor: Washington Natural Gas**

### **Cast**

**(In order of appearance)**

- Louis Lippman ..... Jason Cole
- Frances Gilhooley ..... Erin Murphy
- Matthew Fulton ..... Mark Banton
- Senator Roberta Lyons ..... Annie Banton
- Alexander Throttlebottom ..... Jack E. Hall
- John P. Wintergreen ..... William Timnick
- Sam Jenkins ..... Michael O'Hara
- Diana Devereaux ..... Melanie Sugg
- Mary Turner ..... Brandy Bradford
- Miss Benson ..... Patti Sprague
- Chief Justice/Senate Clerk/Guide ..... William Michael Paul
- French Ambassador ..... C.Jay Iseli
- Ensemble ..... September Luketz, Myron, Hase, Allison Bergh,  
Tim Fobes, Sarah Stancikas, Dawn Barton,  
Rebecca Jones & Deborah Hughes

**Of  
Thee  
I  
Sing**



# Synopsis

## ACT I

- Scene 1:** Street -A Campaign Parade  
*Wintergreen for President* - Ensemble
- Scene 2:** A Hotel Bedroom
- Scene 3:** Atlantic City Boardwalk-Contest Finalists  
*Who is the Lucky Girl to Be?* - Diana, Contestants  
*Because, Because* - Diana, Contestants & Photographers
- Scene 4:** Atlantic City Hotel Lobby  
*Finaletto* - Ensemble
- Scene 5:** Outside Madison Square Garden  
*Love is Sweeping the Country* - Miss Benson & Jenkins
- Scene 6:** Inside Madison Square Garden  
*Of Thee I Sing* - Wintergreen & Ensemble
- Scene 7:** Election Results
- Scene 8:** The Steps of the U.S. on Inauguration Day  
*Finale* - Supreme Court Justice, Mary & Wintergreen

## 20- MINUTE INTERMISSION

## ACT II

- Scene 1:** The Oval Office  
*Who Cares ?* - Wintergreen, Mary & Ensemble
- Scene 2:** A Corridor in the Senate Chamber
- Scene 3:** The U.S. Seante Chamber  
*The Senator from Minnesota* - Throttlebottom & Senators  
*The Senate* - Ensemble  
*Posterity is Just Around the Comer* - Wintergreen, Mary
- Scene 4:** A Corridor in the White House
- Scene 5:** The Ballroom of the White House  
*Trumpeter Blow Your Golden Horn* - Ensemble  
*Finale Ultimo* - Ensemble

## Director's Notes

It's said that laughter is the best medicine and, as recently witnessed, politics provides some of the best jokes. *Of Thee I Sing* is politics at its funniest and as fresh as it was in 1933. It's Gershwin on his way to *Porgy and Bess* and Kaufman and Ryskind on their way to the Marx Brothers. So sit back, laugh a lot and enjoy our volunteer troupe

**William Michael Paul**, *Chief Justice/Senate Clerk/White House Guide* Using the gifts God has given me, I have dedicated my life to the audiences of radio, stage and screen.

**Deborah Hughes**, *Chambermaid/Ensemble* I love TLT—they keep casting me (4 musicals) and I live three blocks away!!

**Chris Gildner**, *Stage Manager* A.K.A. "Chris-She" has enjoyed working with "Chris-He". She's kicked around the South Sound Theater Community for a number of years—both onstage and backstage. She feels very much at home at TLT.

**Peter Blau**, *Music Director* Peter is a recent graduate of the University of Puget Sound and now teaches instrumental music for the Tacoma School District.

**September Luketz**, *Ensemble* Hi! September, 15, is a TLT veteran. After performing in the *Wizard of Oz* as Dorothy, she has made appearances on t.v. and commercials.

**Myron Hase**, *Ensemble* When acting for a year and a half, he has done seven shows. This is his first time with TLT and he loves it!

**Allison Bergh**, *Ensemble* TLT debut! Allison's done bunches o' community theater. To create a little mystery: love to you-know-who-you-are.

**Tim Fobes**, *Ensemble* Tim is in his first performance at TLT, but is not a stranger to the performing arts. He participated in a six-week tour of communist countries in Europe with the "Sounds of America Choir". He dedicates this to his mother and father.

**Sarah Stancikas**, *Ensemble* Sarah, 14, is a newcomer to TLT. In her last role, she played a goat, so becoming a human is a big adjustment.

**Dawn Barton**, *Ensemble* She is an occupational therapist and a native Californian. She has been dancing for over 10 years. She has toured with Joy Company's 1990 and 1991 seasons.

**Rebecca Jones**, *Ensemble* Because this is her first performance, Rebecca is overjoyed to be in this cast! She spends most of the time pondering life and would like to be Indiana Jones' wife. Thanks to all!



## Biographies

**William Timnick, John P. Wintergreen** William Timnick was last seen in TLT's production of *Lend Me a Tenor*. He was also recently seen as Groucho Marx in the Tacoma Musical Playhouse's production of *A Day in Hollywood, A Night in the Ukraine*.

**Brandy Bradford, Mary Turner** She has a BFA in acting from Stephens College. She was last seen in *Much Ado About Nothing* with Washington Shakespeare Festival. She acknowledges her Grandma and John. As always, This is for Mom.

**Melanie Sugg, Diana Devereaux** This is Melanie's first performance at TLT. She has tap danced since the age of seven and has enjoyed vamping her way through *Of Thee I Sing* as Diana. Many thanks to Chris, Peter and her family!

**Jack E. Hall, Alexander Throttlebottom** Jack has played many roles: Mr. Snow in *Carousel* and others for Tacoma Opera's productions—*La Paricol, Di Fledermaus, The Magic Flute, The Merry Widow, The Barber of Seville,* and *Carmen*.

**Erin Murphy, Frances Gilhooley** Erin just finished playing brassy Dolly Tate in *Annie Get Your Gun*. Now she's working in the White House! This one's for you, Ma!

**Jason Cole, Senator Louis Lippman** Jason was first seen at TLT in *Kiss Me Kate* and is glad to be back on stage again. More than that, though, he is glad to have such a wonderful wife!

**Annie Banton, Senator Roberta Lyons** Annie is a veteran of many productions, appearing as a singer, dancer, choreographer, producer, and director.

**Mark Banton, Matthew Arnold Fulton** Mark was recently seen as Daddy Warbucks in Puget Sound Musical Theater's *Annie*. He sends his love to his wife, Annie, for her support.

**Michael O'Hara, Sam Jenkins** A song and dance role—how perfect! This is Michael's first role with TLT. Thanks to his lovely wife, Sharry, and puppies, Carvy and Patty.

**Patti Sprague, Miss Benson/Dance Captain** Patti is a first-timer with TLT, hailing from Wisconsin where she received her BFA in dance. She now resides in Puyallup with her husband, Luke.

**C. Jay Iseli, French Ambassador** C. Jay has been involved in community theater for the last 15 years. He was last seen at TLT as Dr. Carrasco in *Man of La Mancha*.

## Production Staff

Director .....	Chris Nardine
Stage Manager .....	Chris Gildner
Choreographer .....	Chris Nardine
Musical Director .....	Peter Blau
Dance Captain .....	Patti Sprague
Scenic Design .....	JD Cullen
Costume Designer .....	Sandra Kaufman of the Musical Theatre Co., Portland, OR
Additional Costumes .....	JD Cullen & Lynne Rossman
Lighting Designer .....	Brian Rink
Stage Crew .....	Chantel Luketz, Amanda Webster-Martin & Erin Taylor
Light Operator .....	David Duley
Spot Operator .....	Erin Taylor
Sound Operator .....	David Duley
Master Carpenter .....	Stephen D. Kramer
Orchestra .....	Peter Blau, (piano), Christine Laney (bass), Erik Kramer (bass), Brad Blackburn (drums)
Scenic Construction .....	Dean Lapin, Robbie Lapin, Jerry Libeck, Warren Crain & David Duley
Painting .....	Cindy Taylor, Robbie Lapin, Tracy Barryman
Properties .....	Cindy Taylor
Costume Construction .....	Betty Boyd, Lynne Rossman, Tracy Barryman, Cindy Taylor & Marian Hawkins
Dresser .....	Chantel Luketz
Light Hanging & Focusing .....	Jay Adams, Audry Hamel, Josh Noble & The Brothers Rink
Special Thanks .....	Alex Lewington, Jerry Collum, Tacoma Actors Guild, The Musical Theatre Co. in Portland, OR, American Music, Hadijah O'Bar, Michelle Clary-Gallagher, Sandra Kaufman & in memory of Daniel J. Kramer

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### Director's Bio

#### *Chris Nardine*

Born at an early age, this Connecticut Yankee came West 20 years ago to escape the trappings of theater and nightclub life...and failed. He has remained a contributing director, choreographer, performer, and dance teacher in the Northwest. This is his first TLT production experience...a most enjoyable one.