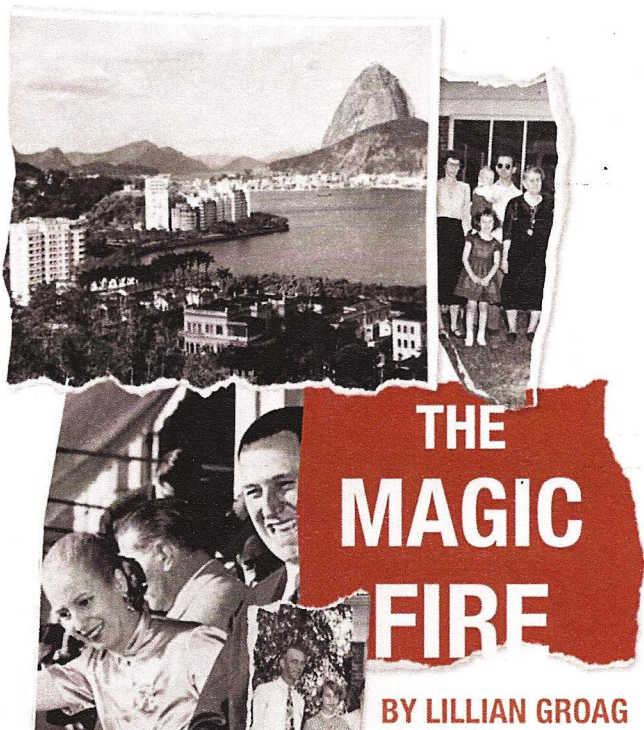


PLAYBILL

Red Dragon Players

399th Production

present



Directed by Billy Dragoo

October 6, 7, 8, 13, 15 at 7:00 PM

October 16 at 2:00 PM

AHS Preas Theatre

Audience Information

Photography – with or without flash – is not permitted during the performance. We also respectfully remind you that excessive noise is distracting to the performers and to the other patrons. **Please turn off cellular phones and ALL electronic devices.** Crying babies and uncooperative children should be escorted outside.

There will be one 15-minute intermission, during which concessions will be sold.

Restrooms are located in the main hallway of the Performing Arts Center.

Thank you for your cooperation in making this an enjoyable environment.

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Austin High Faculty & Staff

The Red Dragon Circle

Shannon Tipton

Annie Dragoo

Doug Elenz

Nora Mullarkey

Renee Fairchild

Isabella Bontorin

Margaret Ramirez

Maureen Schwartz

Director's Note

One of the (many) positive aspects of directing such a rich script is the opportunity it creates for learning things one didn't already know. I truly enjoyed increasing my knowledge by looking up all of the references in this play. I had no idea, for instance, that the title refers to *Die Walkure*, the second opera in Wagner's *Ring* cycle. In it, the Norse god Wotan sentences his errant daughter, Brunnhilde (leader of the Valkyries), to extended sleep on a mountaintop. But he softens the blow by surrounding her with a ring of magic fire penetrable only to a genuine hero, thus ensuring a worthy rescuer. Call me crazy, but learning that was exciting!

The play also appeals to me because it provides my students an opportunity to showcase their acting skills. (Ensemble plays with twelve excellent roles are, after all, difficult to come by!) It is important to me that the students have a chance not just to deliver clever or beautiful lines, but also to take a stab at creating memorable characters. And -- like the people who populate my own history -- what characters they are! No doubt the world's greatest comedy is the human family -- tragic yet poignant, perpetually offbeat, always out of sync, and littered with personalities of great extremes. That seems to be enough reason to mount this play. But I also just really enjoy the story and the questions it asks: Why do we create sanctuary in memories? Is memory reliable? Does memory believe before knowing remembers?

Thank you for your continued support of these young artists.

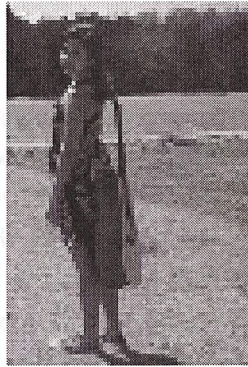
Billy Dragoo

Rena,

We are so proud of you and all of your hard work and dedication to school, theatre, dance, and music. You're our shining star!

Love,

Mom and the rest of your crazy family



Background Information

Soldier and politician Juan Peron was thrice elected as President of Argentina, serving from 1946 to 1955 and again from 1973 to 1974. He called his movement *justicialismo* ("the third way") and considered it to be a path between capitalism and communism, although many middle- and upper-class Argentines saw it as far too socialist.

He and his wife, Eva were – and still are – considered iconic figures by followers of the Peronist Party. He was a controversial figure; some applauded his efforts to eliminate poverty and empower the working class, while others derided him as a demagogue and dictator. He made many enemies internationally because of his willingness to harbor Nazis Josef Mengele and Adolf Eichmann following World War II.

At the time this play is set, Evita had become a powerful political figure in her own right, campaigning for women's suffrage and developing social programs for the working class, whom she labeled the *descamisados* ("shirtless ones").



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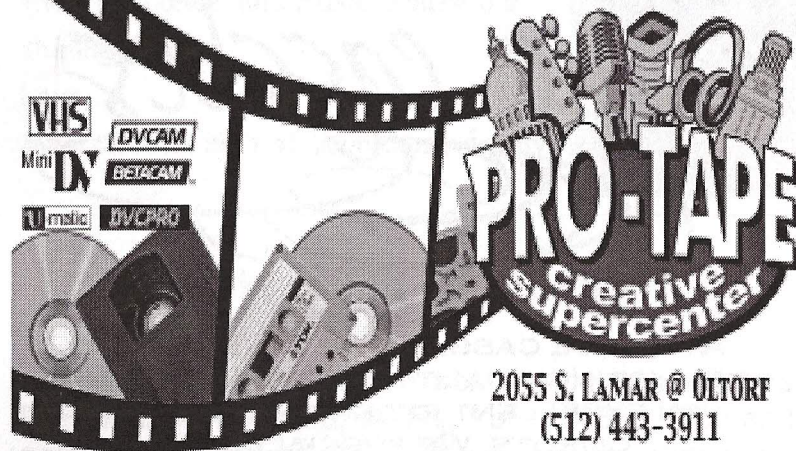
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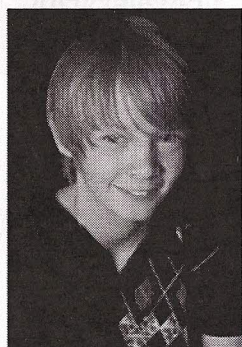
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The greatest dreams are always
unrealistic. -Will Smith

Keep dreaming, Josh &
Break a Leg!
Love, Papa Donny & Granny

Love you,
Min!



Red Dragon Circle Members

Members

Maria and Jose Arrellaga
Amy Becker
Craig Berlin
Steven and Julie Bush
Doug and Amber Elenz
Becky and Jim Nolan
Maureen Schwartz
John and Sharon Williams

Supporter's Circle

David and Marcellina Kampa
Michael Meigs
Lisa Radebaugh

Benefactor's Circle

Billy & Annie Dragoo
McGarrah / Jessee
Marcia Millikin
Ed & Nora Mullarkey

Producer's Circle

Lori Barr and Steven Dent

THE MAGIC FIRE Company

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Lise Berg | Katie Berlin |
| Lise Berg (young) | Kat Mateja |
| Otto Berg | Jackson Minton |
| Amalia Berg | Aubrey Elenz |
| Maddalena Guarneri | Ria Agarwal |
| Juan Guarneri | Felipe Ramirez |
| Paula Guarneri | Catherine Schwartz |
| Elena Guarneri | Maggie Miller |
| Henri Fontannes | Will Shaw |
| Alberto Barcos | Ian Erbe |
| Rosa | Rena Moreno |
| Clara | Jasmin Weber |
| Giovanni Guarneri | Hugo Díaz |
| Younger Maddalena | Andrea Arrellaga |
| Leila / Stage Manager | Riley Ryan-Wood |
| Light Board Op | Josh Wilson |
| Sound Op | Onno Rademaker |
| Costume Crew | June Ussery |
| | Josephine Reynes |
| | Matilda Westerman |

THE MAGIC FIRE Company

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Props/Lights | Erin Guerra |
| | Ethan Ross |
| | Cody Tran |
| Running Crew | Jack Corcoran |
| | William Hinojosa |
| | Andrew Newton |
| | Steven Salinas |
| House & Publicity | Jezelle Donnelly |
| | Jane Gottsman |
| | Mekiah Fox |
| | Maura Kampa |
| | Haley Wilson |

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Who's Who

Senior **RIA AGARWAL** (Maddalena Guarneri) has taken part in several shows here at Austin High. This part has come as a challenge, but she is excited to kick off her fourth and final year as a Red Dragon Player with *The Magic Fire*.

Junior **ANDREA ARRELLAGA** (Maddalena Guarneri in 1890) is an AGS student involved in her seventh production with the Red Dragon Players. She is so excited to be a part of this play and in a cast with all her friends.

Senior **KATIE BERLIN** (Lise) is taking part in her 8th production at Austin High and has also participated in various acting workshops at Zachary Scott and the State Theater. Her favorite show on this stage thus far is *Wonderland High*, and she also loves visiting New York for Broadway productions. She cannot wait for the upcoming performances this year, and looks forward to spending her last high school days as a full-time Red Dragon Player. She adores this play, and would like to thank her friends, family, and the Dragoos for all their support.

Senior **HUGO DÍAZ** (Giovanni Guarneri) is making his debut as a Red Dragon Player.

Senior **AUBREY ELENZ** (Amalia Berg) is performing in her 11th production at AHS. Some of her favorites productions include *Season's Greetings*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, and *Over the Tavern*. She has really enjoyed working on this play and is looking forward to the rest of this season.

Who's Who

Junior **IAN ERBE** (Alberto Barcos) is pumped to be in his third production at AHS. He is also an avid chef and has really enjoyed working on this production.

Senior **KAT MATEJA** (Young Lise) is super excited to make her Red Dragon debut. She was a technician last year at AHS, but has previously performed in six productions at Veritas Academy.

Junior **MAGGIE MILLER** (Elena Guarneri) is very happy to be performing in her 8th Red Dragon Players production. Past shows include *Wonderland High* and *Mad Forest*. She is also in AGS and is the Life and Arts Editor of *The Maroon* newspaper. Maggie would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support.

Junior **JACKSON MINTON** (Otto Berg) is excited to start off his year with his fourth production and second performing role. He feels that it will be a great show and a great year for the Red Dragon Players.

Senior **RENA MORENO** (Rosa Arrua) is excited to be a part of the Red Dragon Players in her first year at Austin High School. Previous performances as a member of the Bowie Starlight Theatre Company include *El Gato Sin Amigos* and *Oedipus Rex*. She has also been a proud student of dance for five years and has participated in three of the Bowie High School's dance performances.

Who's Who

Junior **FELIPE RAMIREZ** (Gianni "Juan" Guarneri) has been in five productions at AHS. His favorites have been *Over the Tavern* and *The Miss Firecracker Contest*. Felipe is President of the International Thespian Society. He is looking forward to the rest of the Red Dragon Player's season.

Senior **CATHERINE SCHWARTZ** (Paula Guarneri) is making her tenth appearance on the Red Dragon stage. She has been seen in past shows such as *Over the Tavern* and *Wonderland High*. Catherine is looking forward to the upcoming season and hopes you enjoy the show. She currently serves as Communications Officer for the International Thespian Society.

Junior **RILEY RYAN-WOOD** (Stage Manager/Leila) has been part of four productions at Austin High School. This is her first time Stage Managing and she is really looking forward to *The Magic Fire*.

Senior **JASMIN WEBER** (Clara Stepaneck) is making her seventh appearance with the Red Dragon Players. She was also seen in *Over the Tavern*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, and *Reckless*. Jasmin has enjoyed working with the cast and crew and is excited to be part of the Red Dragon Players.

Senior **WILL SHAW** (General Henri Fontannes) is appearing in his second Red Dragon Players production. He was also in *Six Degrees of Separation*. He is psyched to be in theatre again and to be back at AHS for his senior year.

Coming to the Austin High Theatre...

SPRING AWAKENING

School Edition

**a Music Theatre International Pilot production of the
2007 Tony Award-winning musical.**

This is a rock-musical adaptation of the controversial 1892 German, *SPRING AWAKENING* by Frank Wedekind. It features music by Duncan Sheik and a book and lyrics by Steven Sater. Set in late-19th century Germany, it concerns teenagers who are discovering the inner and outer tumult of becoming young adults. In the musical, alternative rock is employed as part of the folk-infused rock score. *Spring Awakening* received eleven 2007 Tony Award nominations, winning eight, including Tonys for best musical, direction, book, score and featured actor. The show also won four Drama Desk Awards, while its London production won four Olivier Awards.

DECEMBER 8 – 12, 30 - 31 2011
AHS Preas Theatre

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| Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13 | |