



## From the Directors

Like the original 1977 production, this version of *Midwestside Story* was created by a lot of people working very hard for free. We don't have room to thank everybody for everything they did, but we do want to acknowledge that several cast members did a lot of work beyond what you see on stage: administration, props, costumes, and publicity. Unlike the original version, which drew almost exclusively from the core group of Minn-Stf, our cast and crew also includes hall costumers, Trekkers, Masqueraders, Gaylaxians, Morris Dancers, Renaissance Festival folks, and at least one person who admitted, "some of my friends just come to drink beer." Like the original cast, they pun and joke like mad, they are fascinated by science fiction and fantasy, they are dedicated to creating art, fandom, and community. They have been eager to understand the history behind the play, eager to know the origins of Minicon and SF fandom. And they've worked their butts off.

Minicon started out like a village of like-minded souls and is now more like a large city with many different neighborhoods. As five months of work draw to a close, we would like to say it has been our honor, and our pleasure, to work intimately with the talented people who live in these many fannish neighborhoods.

Barbara Jensen  
David Emerson

Midwest Side Story was originally presented at Minicon 12 in 1977.

**fanac** Fannish activity. Some say anything two or more fans do together is fanac.

**fanfic** Fan fiction. Generally looked down upon in 1976, the rationale being that if fiction is published in a fanzine, it must not be good enough to sell professionally.

**fannish** All-purpose adjective describing activities and attitudes of fans.

**faunch** To desire, covet or envy; e.g., "I faunch for a LoC from Bob Tucker."

**fen** Plural of fan.

**fhan** Ultra-fannish (also "Faaan"); the opposite of sercon.

**filk** Usually, a well-known song whose lyrics have been replaced by those referring to science fiction and/or fandom. Every song in this play is a filk song.

**gafia, gafiate** Get Away From It All. Gafia is a condition of being out of touch with fandom. To gafiate is to leave fandom.

**genzine** General-circulation fanzine. As opposed to apazine, which is limited-circulation.

**Gernsback** Hugo Gernsback, who started the first science fiction magazine, which was in turn responsible for starting fandom. Guess who the Hugo award is named for?

**Ghu** A fannish deity.

**Great Spider** Another fannish deity.

**grok** Didn't you ever read *Stranger in a Strange Land*?

**Jerry Pournelle** On windows, see *Inferno* by Niven and Pournelle.

**Jim Beam** See "SMOOOOTH".

**lime jello** In fannish videos produced for the 1976 Worldcon, a bathtub of lime jello (created for the erotic wishes of Joe Haldeman) gained life, sentience, and malevolence.

**LoC** 1. *n.* a Letter of Comment to a fanzine. 2. *v.* to write such a letter.

**Minn-Stf** The Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc., the sponsoring body of Minicon.

**Miskatonic U** Academic center of dusty arcane knowledge and dusty arcane professors (see H. P. Lovecraft).

**mundane** All-purpose adjective describing that 99.9999+ percent of the known physical universe which does not happen to be fannish.

**neo** Neofan. Rookie. Fresh blood.

**oneshot** A fanzine intended to be produced once and once only. As it tends to be produced on the spur of the moment at parties, most recipients tend to find once sufficient.

**perzine** Personal fanzine. Entirely written by one person.

**RUNE** The Minn-Stf club fanzine. Next issue out Real Soon Now.

**SCA** Society for Creative Anachronism. A group dedicated to recreating the Middle Ages as they should have been.

**sci-fi** A term much beloved by The Media and much despised by most fans.

**Seldon Plan** Didn't you ever read Asimov's *Foundation*?



## SECRET DECODER RING PAGE FOR CRYPTIC REFERENCES

**Acronym Fund** The fictional equivalent of TAFF (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund), DUFF (Down Under Fan Fund), etc. — a fannish exchange program sending fans selected by voting contributors to conventions in other countries.

**actifan** An active fan, i.e. one who produces fanzines, runs conventions, organizes clubs, etc.

**annish** Anniversary issue of a fanzine. Archaic term left over from an era when general-circulation fanzines were produced monthly.

**Anti-Fan** In Australian fannish lore, an incredibly Eviol and Narsty-type villain bent on destroying all fandom in as violent a manner as possible, as long as it's funny.

**apa** Amateur Press Association. A group of fans producing fanzines (generally small and personalized) for distribution primarily or solely within the group.

**apazine** A fanzine produced for an apa.

**blog** What was being consumed in large quantities in the con suite last night. It has been known to cause Being Silly.

**Bob Tucker** See "Jim Beam".

**Bowers** Bill Bowers, who in the 1970's published the fanzine *Outworlds*, each issue of which had a completely different format.

**Brad Parks** An enthusiastic and prolific but (at least at the time) woefully bad cartoonist.

**Buck Coulson** Editor/publisher of the fanzine *Yandro*. His fanzine reviews were not kind to the substandard.

**Bushyager** Linda Bushyager, editor/publisher of *Granfalloon*. In the late 60's and early 70's she was one of the few women producing fanzines.

**Claude Degler** A notorious fan of bygone days, noted for his unsavory grooming habits, light fingers, mooching ability, and preposterous ideas and plans. The only person who ever *really* believed that fans are slans.

**colophon** In a fanzine, the little paragraph that lists the editor's name and address, the issue number, the ways in which the fanzine can be obtained, what the editor had for breakfast, what the editor's cats' names are, etc., etc.

**comment hooks** Comment-inspiring lines within fanzines.

**duper** Duplicator, e.g. mimeograph, ditto machine, etc.

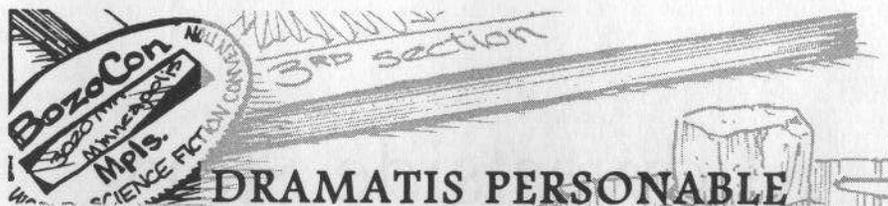
**egoscan** To scan a fanzine in search of one's own name in print.

# Midwestside Story

A Fannish Musical  
for  
MINICON 33

Radisson South Hotel  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
April 10-12, 1998

Written by Members of the  
Minnesota Science Fiction Society  
And the Usual Gang of Idiots



## DRAMATIS PERSONABLE

### Fanzine Fans

Maria  
Anita  
Utility Bill  
Colophon  
Umpkin  
Egoscan  
Backspace

Amber Tatge  
Melinda Melin  
Richard Tatge  
Ren Miraglio  
Thorin Tatge  
John Sanderson  
Karen Smudski

### Convention Fans

Tony  
Riff  
Comeback  
Filk  
Faunch  
Charlie  
Mickey

Andrew Bertke  
Jeff Mancl  
Donna Cunningham  
Anne Johnson  
Katja Amyx  
Patti Keiper  
Alieria Brust

### Others at the Convention

Ben Bova  
Anti-Fan  
Peter Pretentious  
Alien

Joe Agee  
Chris Vigliaturo  
John Sanderson  
Will Crolley

### Framing Sequence Voices

Ms. Rodriguez  
Orderly 1  
Orderly 2

Melinda Peterson  
Phil Proctor  
David Ossman

### Musical Accompaniment

Keyboards  
Violin, mandolin  
Bass  
Drums

David Emerson  
Andy Anda  
Ed McGlaughlin  
Jeff Schalles

**Barbara Jensen** (*director, producer, art director*) encountered fandom while doing child care for Minicon back when certain cast members were tiny tots (experience she has found useful in directing this play). She has performed music at several recent Minicons — in Dark Star, in a Main Stage concert with Sneaking Suspicion, and in music circles at parties. She did publications for ReinCONation 2, programming for ReinCONations 3, 4, and 5 and created the ReinCONation Cabaret.

**David Emerson** (*music director, keyboards*) read his first fanzine in 1969, and attended his first Minicon in 1974. He edited two issues of the Minn-Stf clubzine RUNE in the late 70's, and wrote prolifically for fanzines. He ran programming for Minicon 14, and was chair of ReinCONations 5 and 6 and was an inventor of Not-A-ReinCONation. He provided all the musical accompaniment for the original production of Midwest Side Story in 1977.

**Ken Fletcher** (*backdrop and playbill art*) is one of the Floundering Fathers of Minn-Stf. His cartoons have inspired an entire generation of funny-animal cartoonists.

**Lisa Freitag** (*lighting*) is a physician who frequently hosts convention panels discussing how SF gets medical science wrong.

**Floyd Henderson** (*backstage engineer*) is a Minn-Stf member from way back who can often be seen playing guitar in non-smoking music circles.

**J. John Kozel** (*lighting*) has been coming to Minicon since 1984. He specializes in creating prosthetic makeup for Masquerade costumes.

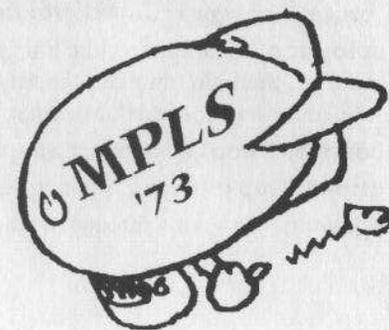
**Tanya Lewison** (*costumer*) was introduced to Minicon 9 years ago by a friend in a Star Trek group. She participates in the Masquerade and is a member of the SCA.

**Erin McKee** (*set design*) found fandom at the 1978 Worldcon. She has been a 20-year regular at Minicon, where she ran the Art Show for 8 years. Her artwork has been nominated for a Chesley award this year.

**Jim Melin** (*backstage engineer*) is a Minn-Stf member who was seen at Minicon a few years ago in costume as Pentium of Borg.

**Kathy Sidles** (*prop & set co-ordinator*) can usually be found at the 8:00am panels or listening to music in Dark Star. She has been coming to Minicon for five years.

**Jerry Stearns** (*sound effects*) is a long-time Minn-Stf member, who has co-created the Minicon Opening Ceremonies for the last 18 years. He hosts a weekly SF radio show on KFAI. Jerry played Riff in the original production of this play.



## The Cast and Crew, continued

**Donna Cunningham** (*Comeback*) is at her 12th Minicon. She has won trophies in two of the four masquerades she has entered, and shows her works in the art show every year.

**Anne Johnson** (*Filk*) is an aspiring SF/fantasy writer who watches far too many cartoons. This is her fifth Minicon.

**Patti Keiper** (*Charlie*) is a seven-year veteran of Minicon. She is an avid Trekker and does a credible imitation of Captain Janeway. She is a regular Minicon hall costumer.

**Jeff Mancl** (*Riff*) has heard of Minicon, but is participating anyway. He reads SF in any form, at any price, and enjoys Star Trek. Fleeting glimpses of him can be caught at the Renaissance Festival, wearing bells and dancing with a fish named Marvin.

**Ed McGlaughlin** (*bass*) was introduced to Minn-Stf music parties by his former co-worker Sharon Kahn. He's never been to Minicon, but he's excited to be a part of this production.

**Melinda Melin** (*Anita*) married into fandom at age nineteen, when she found herself beguiled by Minn-Stf member James Melin. She has worked at Ren Fest for several years.

**Ren Miraglio** (*Colophon*) teaches juggling at Ren Fest. She's never actually read a fanzine, and most of the terms in the play had to be explained to her — including the name Colophon.

**John Sanderson** (*Egoscan, Peter Pretentious*) is new to the Twin Cities, Minicon, and acting. His SF/fantasy favorites range from Dr. Who to Tolkien to The Tick. His childlike demeanor is merely a convenient facade to conceal his laser wit.

**Jeff Schalles** (*drums*) got into fandom in the late 60's in Pittsburgh. He has published fanzines, written for fanzines, and drawn cartoons for fanzines. He is currently chief mimeographer for his partner Geri Sullivan's award-winning fanzine IDEA (which resembles the fanzine produced in this play in name only).

**Karen Smudski** (*Backspace*) started watching Star Trek when she was 8 years old, and is a fan of all Trek permutations. She is a member of the Morris Dance community and has performed at Ren Fest.

**Amber Tatge** (*Maria*) has been coming Minicon since before she was born. As a second-generation fan, she has grown up with Minn-Stf meetings frequently held at her house and Minicon being a major family holiday.

**Richard Tatge** (*Utility Bill*) is one of the earliest members of Minn-Stf, having joined shortly after the club was founded. He has lived in several "slan shacks" and was a founding member of Minneapa. Richard is the only cast member to act in both the original and current productions.

**Thorin Tatge** (*Umpkin*) was born into fandom and has been to Minicon every year of his life. This has led some people to nod knowingly and exclaim, "Ah, that explains everything!"

**Chris Vigliaturo** (*Anti-Fan*) first attended Minicon 5 years ago, when he was abducted by a neighbor. (His mom says it was just a dream.) He has been a Minicon regular ever since.

## Production

Director and Producer

Music director

Voice coach

Set design

Backdrop cartoons

Set construction

Lighting

Costumes

Props

Backstage engineers

Sound engineer

Sound effects

Crudzine created by

Crudzine reprinted by

Playbill text

Playbill design and production

Playbill artwork

Barb Jensen

David Emerson

Barb Jensen

Barb Jensen, Erin McKee

Ken Fletcher

Erin McKee, Dave Wilford, Jerry Corwin, Nancy

Klock, John Garner, Richard Tatge, Kathy Sidles,

Floyd Henderson

J. John Kozel, Lisa Freitag

Tanya Lewison, the cast

Kathy Sidles

Floyd Henderson, Jim Melin

Scott Tome

Jerry Stearns

Denny Lien (1977)

Jeff Schalles (1998)

David Emerson (1998), Denny Lien (1977)

Katja Amyx

Ken Fletcher (from the 1977 original)

## Written by

Susan Ryan, Denny Lien, and Jerry Stearns

*And by*

Ruth Berman, Mark Digre, David Emerson, Ken Fletcher, and Dick Tatge

*And by*

Karen Johnson, Larry Nichols, Renee Valois, Reed Waller, and S.J.

*From an Idea by*

Susan Ryan and Sandy Allen

*With Moose Joke by*

David Stever

## Framing Sequence Written by

Barb Jensen and David Emerson



# ACT ONE

## Scene One

Time The day before BozoCon — the 1973 Worldcon in Minneapolis — opens

Place The Bozo Bus Building, 5D - Maria's apartment

Action An apa collation, and the infringement of convention fandom upon fanzine fandom

## Scene Two

Time The same as the preceding scene

Place The Bozo Bus Building, 5C - Tony's apartment

Action A pre-con party, and the infringement of fanzine fandom upon convention fandom

# ACT TWO

## Scene One

Time The first day of the convention - early evening

Place BozoCon - the registration area

Action Two worlds meet - or three? (Or four?)

## Scene Two

Time Immediately following

Place BozoCon - the party suite

Action Mundanes, villains, and star-crossed lovers pass in the night

# ACT THREE

## Scene One

Time Later that evening

Place BozoCon - outside Tony's hotel room

Action Growth, deterioration, and Just Being Silly

## Scene Two

Time Sunday morning

Place BozoCon - the hotel lobby

Action Despair, rebirth, catharsis, synthesis (and a bit more of Just Being Silly)



# SONGS

## Act I

Scene 1 I Feel Fannish Maria and fanzine fans

Scene 2 When You're a Fan Riff and convention fans

## Act II

Scene 1 Gee, Editor Bova Colophon and fanzine fans

Scene 2 Minicon Anti-Fan and convention fans

Tonight Tony and Maria

A Fan Like That / I Am a Fan Anita and Maria

## Act III

Scene 1 Make of Our Con Riff and Anita

Idea Tony

Scene 2 Worldcon's Coming Fanzine fans

There's a Con for Us Tony and Maria

# THE CAST & CREW

**Joe Agee** (*Ben Bova*) has been attending Minicon since 1985 and Worldcon since 1992. Mostly known for programming and a love of vampires, he is active in media fandom and gay fandom and helps run Diversicon.

**Katja Amyx** (*Faunch*) has been coming to Minicon since 1989, and attended Mythcon in 1988. A sometime Morris dancer, she has been a participant at Ren Fests in three states. This is her first year volunteering in Programming, and she already has a scheduling conflict.

**Andy Anda** (*violin, mandolin*) is well known in fannish music circles as well as the local folk scene. He has performed at Dark Star and at other conventions.

**Andrew Bertke** (*Tony*) has been active in Twin Cities fandom since 1989. He is an active member of the Phoenix SF&F Group, and has been publications head for both Minicon 33 and Diversicon (past 3 years). Andrew thinks he remembers actually meeting Bob Tucker once.

**Aliera Brust** (*Mickey*) was born into fandom and has been to every Minicon since her birth (this being her 15th). She has worked at the Ren Fest for 7 years. Her fannish interests include reading the works of her famous father, writer Steven Brust.

**Will Crolley** (*Alien*) first encountered fandom at the 1971 Minicon. He has been a regular since the early '80s.

