**sercon** Serious and Constructive. A compliment or an insult, or both, depending on intention and views of the user.

**slan** Early fans fancied themselves examples of the next stage of human evolution, like the title characters of A. E. van Vogt's novel *Slan*, who could only be distinguished from normal humans by antenna-like tendrils on their heads.

**slan shack** Fannish household.

**slushpile reader** Reader in charge of examining unsolicited manuscripts to the professional magazines. They tend to die young.

**SMOF** Secret Master of Fandom. One who engages in SMOOfing (running worldcons, nominating candidates for TAFF/DUFF, etc.).

**SMOOOOOTH** See “Bob Tucker.”

**umpkin** The designation for one issue/mailing/distribution of the Minn-Stf apa Minneapa. The term comes from a wisecrack answer to “Is ‘pumpkin’ spelled with one or two P’s?”

**zeppelin** The only fannish flying machine. Airplanes are Right Out.

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**Jesus Christ,**

**Big Name Fan**  
September 4-21, 1997

**My Fair Femmesfan**  
November 6-30, 1997

**The Mimeo Man**  
January 8-25, 1998

**Midwestside Story**  
April 10-12, 1998

**Filker on the Roof**  
June 11-21, 1998

**Fandom of the Opera**  
August 20-September 7, 1998

All plays will be presented at the Feder Theatre, conveniently located in the Tucker Hotel (except * at Minicon 33).
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.
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
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 Trekkie 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
Barb Jensen

Music director
David Emerson

Voice coach
Barb Jensen

Set design
Barb Jensen, Erin McKee

Backdrop cartoons
Ken Fletcher

Set construction
Erin McKee, Dave Wilford, Jerry Corwin, Nancy Klock, John Garner, Richard Tatge, Kathy Sidles, Floyd Henderson

Lighting
J. John Kozel, Lisa Freitag

Costumes
Tanya Lewison, the cast

Props
Kathy Sidles

Backstage engineers
Floyd Henderson, Jim Melin

Sound engineer
Scott Tome

Sound effects
Jerry Stearns

Crudzine created by
Denny Lien (1977)

Crudzine reprinted by
Jeff Schalles (1998)

Playbill text
David Emerson (1998), Denny Lien (1977)

Playbill design and production
Katja Amyx

Playbill artwork
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 SJ.

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 apacollation, 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 A Fan Like That /
I Am a Fan Tony 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 fan-
nish 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.