

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 SMOFFing (running world-cons, nominating candidates for TAFF/DUFF, etc.).

SMOOOOTH 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 Femmefan

November 6-30, 1997

The Mimeo Man

January 8-25, 1998

*Midwestside Story**

April 10-12, 1998

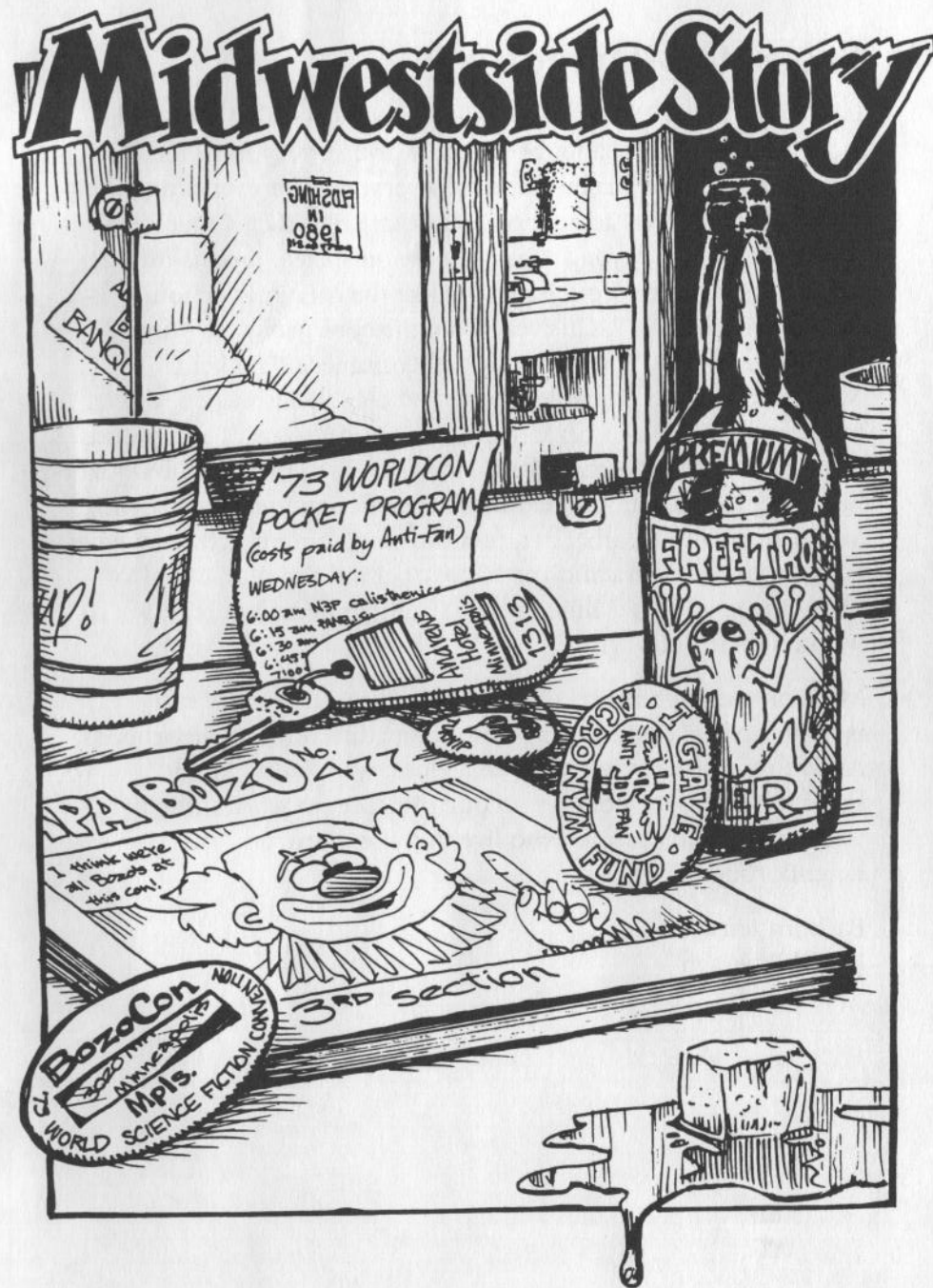
Filker on the Roof

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.

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.

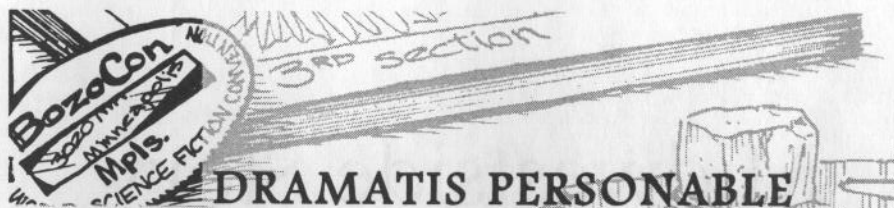
egoscan To scan a fanzine in search of one's own name in print.

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.

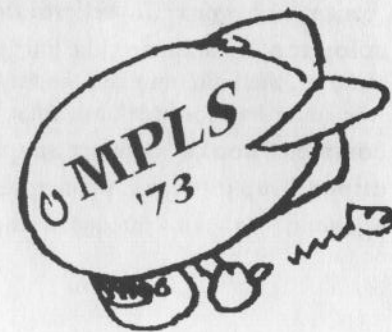
Tanya Lewison (*costumer*) was introduced to Minicon 9 years ago by a friend in a Star Trek group. She participates in the Masquerade and is a member of the SCA.

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.

