

Dallas Theater Center

DIRECTED BY: JOEL FERRELL

BOOK BY: JOE MASTEROFF

MUSIC BY: JOHN KANDER

LYRICS BY: FRED EBB

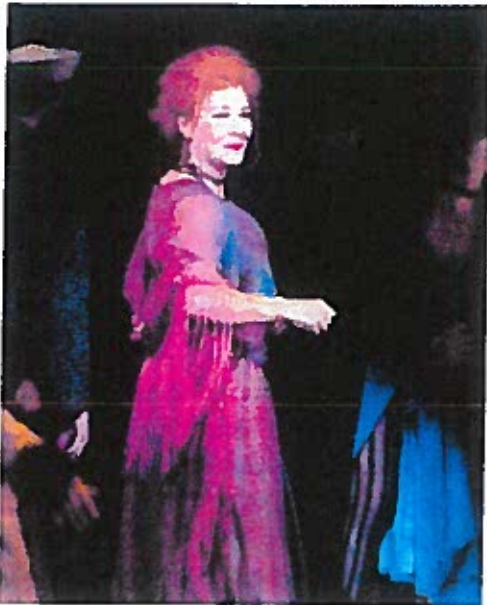
CABARET

In
Here,
Life Is
Beautiful

MARCH 25-MAY 22

THIS SCRIPT BELONGS TO:

Sally Vahle



Sally Nystuen Vahle as Fraulein Kost

Strong performances from all cast members kick this production into high gear, with David Coffee and Julie Johnson creating particularly lovable portrayals of the elderly star-crossed lovebirds Herr Schultz and Fraulein Schneider. **Sally Nystuen Vahle takes an original approach with the role of prostitute Fraulein Kost, frequently thrown away on a younger performer doubling from the Kit Kat Girls. Vahle presents Kost as a multi-dimensional tragic and catalytic figure, in intriguing dramatic contrast to the conventional, fearful Fraulein Schneider.** It's also a thrill to see well-respected local talent used effectively in their DTC debuts in ways that allow their considerable talents to shine: Jeremy Dumont, Katharine Gentsch, Alex Ross.

And there's a veritable powerhouse performance. From the moment opening scene lights focus on him as Emcee, Wade McCollum cocks a hip, curls a lip and uncoils his gaunt, ripped body in a malevolent, dystopic portrayal that feels part Mick Jagger, part Sting, part *A Clockwork Orange* "droog". He's captivating, original, a master of vocal delivery and movement, absolutely riveting: NOTHING like Joel Grey (who was marvelous in his own right).

Joel Ferrell's *Cabaret* is the best production I've seen to date by the Dallas Theater Center. The production's final moment is as thought provoking and gut wrenching as the rest of the show is a sheer delight in spectacle, song, movement and characterization.

With set, sound, lights and costumes that bring the stage fantasy palpably to vivid life: Bob Lavallee, Ray Nardelli, Lap Chi Chu, Clint Ramos; along with superb musical direction and onstage conducting by Elaine Davidson and assistant choreography by Kent Zimmerman. *Come inside where life is beautiful and hear the music play....*

