

# The Marvelous Wonderettes

## STUDY GUIDE

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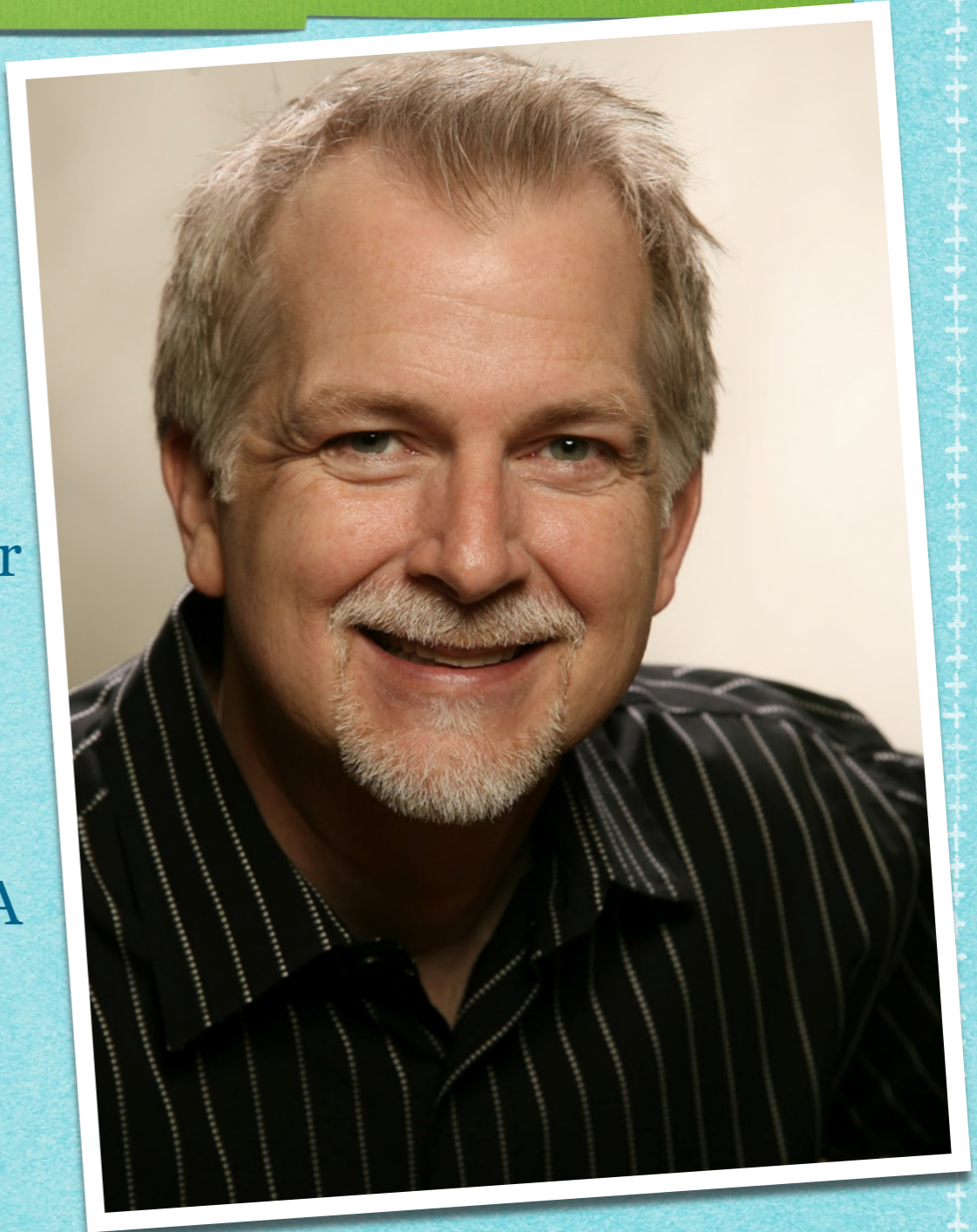
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# About the Author

**Roger Bean** (born March 20, 1962) is an acclaimed writer and director of **jukebox musicals**. He created ***The Marvelous Wonderettes***, for which he received the 2007 Ovation Award for Best Musical Intimate Theatre along with nominations for Ovation Awards for Direction of a Musical. Other audience-praised jukebox hits include *Summer of Love*, *The Andrews Brothers*, *Why Do Fools Fall in Love?*, *Route 66*, and *Life Could Be a Dream* which received the LA Drama Critics Circle Award, the LA Weekly Theatre Award, and the Backstage Garland Award for Outstanding Musical of 2010.



# Production History



*The Marvelous Wonderettes* began as a one-act in 1998 after Roger Bean was asked to write a new musical for the Stacker Cabaret at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Through the years *Wonderettes* developed into a fully realized two-act musical.

In 2006, David Elzer and Peter Scheinder (producing partners) created a Los Angeles production which ran at El Portal Theater for two years, and later the show was traveled to the Westside Theatre in New York City. It ran Off-Broadway from 2008 to 2010.

## Jukebox Musicals

A jukebox production utilizes previously released songs as the musical score. The songs are integrated into a storyline, which is either a biographical retelling of the artist(s) of the music or an homage to the events and culture of the related time/place.

## SEQUELS



# Time / Setting

Springfield High School Gym

Act I - 1958 Prom

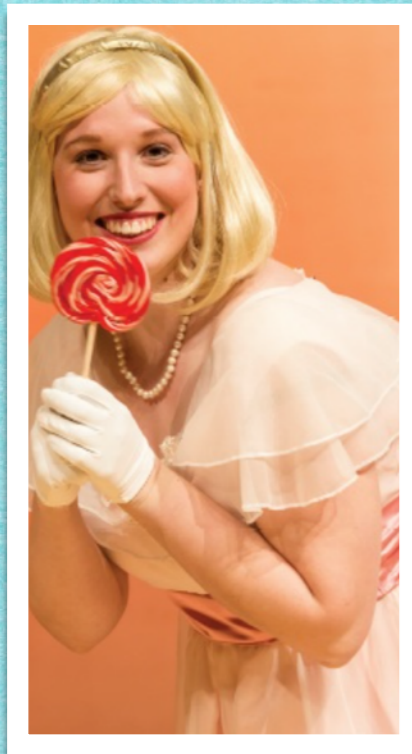
Act II - 1968 10-Year Reunion

# Story

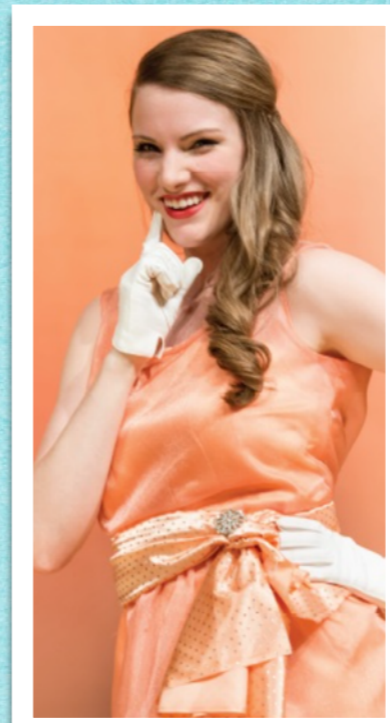
This smash off-Broadway hit takes you to the 1958 Springfield High School prom where we meet the Wonderettes, four girls with hopes and dreams as big as their crinoline skirts! As we learn about their lives and loves, we are treated to the girls performing such classic '50s and '60s songs as "Lollipop," "Dream Lover," "Stupid Cupid," "Lipstick on Your Collar," "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me," "It's My Party," and over 20 other classic hits! These marvelous ladies will share their story about coming into adulthood, the joy of sisterhood, and the pursuit of their dreams!



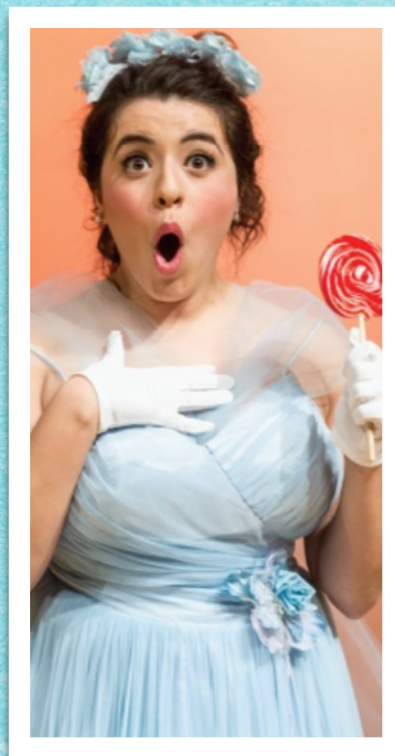
# Characters



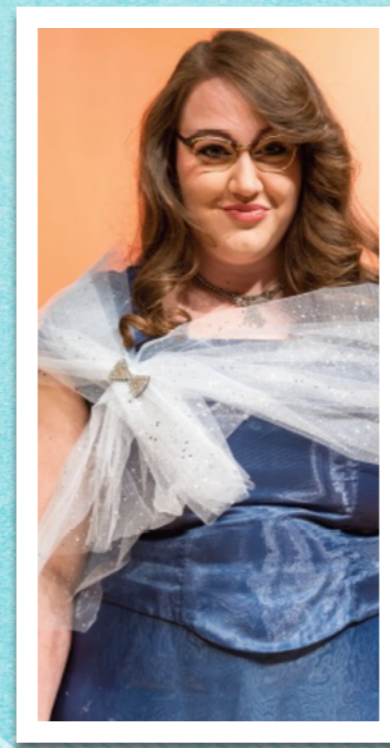
**Miranda West  
as Betty Jean**  
*The self-anointed  
clown, always  
vying for attention  
from her best friend  
Cindy Lou.*



**Sara Williams  
as Cindy Lou**  
*The bad girl. Things  
always go her way,  
which makes Betty  
Jean crazy.*



**Alyssa Cavazos  
as Suzy**  
*Gum chewing,  
happy-go-lucky,  
giddy, and silly. She  
finds great pleasure  
in everything; the  
sillier, the more  
fun!*



**Rachel Ross as  
Missy**  
*The over-achiever.  
She covers for others'  
mistakes and jumps  
in to save the day.  
Friends with Suzy  
since elementary  
school.*

# Historical Context

## Fifties

- 50s was the pinnacle of gender inequality.
- Postwar Americans viewed rigid and traditional gender roles: men were the “alpha” and women cleaned, cooked, etc.
- Feminist movement halts after the war.
- Propaganda and popular culture molded the role of the woman towards traditional concepts.
- Men who returned from the war assumed their regular jobs which drove women out of manufacturing
- 50s music had tight harmonies and uniformity.



## Sixties

- 60s show deconstruction of the American Dream, groups start moving into political activism, and the reality of war now broadcast into your living room (Vietnam).
- Cultural change altered the role of women.
- Goals of the 60s feminists included equal pay, end to domestic violence, and sharing responsibilities for housework and children.
- In 1966 the National Organization for Women was formed.
- 60s music has more female lead vocalists and a more independent voice for women population.