



We Three Lizas

**Book and Lyrics by Scott Bradley
Music and Additional Lyrics
by Alan Schmuckler**

We Three Lizas was originally produced
by **About Face Theatre**, Chicago, Illinois
Bonnie Metzgar, Artistic Director
Jason L. Held, Executive Director
It opened at Steppenwolf Garage on December 2, 2012,

We Three Lizas was performed in concert on July 15, 2013,
at **Joe's Pub** at The Public Theatre, New York, New York,
produced by About Face Theatre and John Sanders

***We Three Lizas* returns to Chicago
with a new book and expanded score!**
Produced by About Face Theatre at Stage 773,
performances run **November 27th, 2013, to January 5th, 2014**

Included here:

- 1. Author Biographies**
- 2. Synopsis and character breakdown**
- 3. Press clippings from 2012 production**
- 4. Letter from Steppenwolf Artistic Director Martha Lavey**

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We Three Lizas **Author Biographies**

Scott Bradley (Book & Lyrics)

Bradley is co-founder of Chicago-based performance company The Scooty & JoJo Show, for which he developed and created the books for their critically-acclaimed, multi-disciplinary musical works *Alien Queen*, *Carpenters Halloween*, *Rosemary Clooney's Baby*, *Mollywood*, *Tran: The Atari Musical*, *The Scooty & JoJo Variety Hour*, *Thank God! It's the Scooty & JoJo Show* and *Diva Brunch*. As a writer, director, designer, and performer, he has collaborated in the development of new plays, musicals, and devised theatrical works at New York's PNBC/HERE (*Fiona Apple Kwaanza Explosion*), New Works Project (*Atlantis City*, *RSVP*), adobe theater company (*The Eight*, *Tracker*), Next Stage Theater (*Adventures of Bobbi & Vaughan*), HOME for Contemporary Theatre & Art (*No Shame*), BACA Downtown (*A Child is Being Beaten*), and CBGB's Galleria (*I'll Go On*); Chicago's About Face Theatre (*We Three Lizas*, *The Homosexuals*), Walkabout Theatre Company (*Crow*), BigTop JoJo (*Phenomenal Phantasmagoria*), Hell In A Handbag Productions (*The Birds*, *Caged Dames*); Washington DC's Washington Shakespeare Company (*Romeo & Julius Caesar*); Seattle's UMO Ensemble (*Maldoror*), Open Circle Theater (*Ballyhoo*, *Poona the Fuckdog*, *ETA: Phoenix*, *Little Boy*, *Return to the Garden of Allah*, *The Shadow*) and Bald Faced Lie (*Slow Children*). He is an Artistic Associate with About Face Theatre, former Artistic Director of Seattle's Open Circle Theater, and served as Associate Artistic Director to Bonnie Metzgar at BACA Downtown, Brooklyn, NY. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild, AEA and SAG/AFTRA.

Alan Schmuckler (Music and Additional Lyrics)

Music and lyrics: *Stars of David* (DR2 Theatre); *The Emperor's New Clothes* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater; Stage Artz Theatre Company, Sydney, Australia). With Michael Mahler, book/music/lyrics, *How Can You Run with a Shell on Your Back?* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater, NAMT Festival, theaters and colleges nationwide). In concert: *Alan Schmuckler: I Miss The City* (Joe's Pub); with Mahler, the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, and Chicagoland gigs with folk-pop band The Lincoln Squares. Upcoming: *Days Like Today* (Writers' Theatre). Onstage: *Nikolai and the Others* (Lincoln Center Theater); *Stars of David* (DR2 Theatre); three-time Joseph Jefferson-nominated actor. Alum, Northwestern University and School at Steppenwolf. Member of ASCAP and AEA.

We Three Lizas

By Scott Bradley and Alan Schmuckler

Synopsis

The shadowy cloaked figures of the three Fates emerge from the mist to introduce a new holiday special: the cautionary tale of Conrad Ticklebottom, a man who discarded the gifts they placed along his life's path. Once an idealistic young artist who found fame and fortune with his ubiquitous purple "Conrad Box", he is now a cruel and deluded middle-aged box manufacturer teetering on ruin. With only his long-suffering assistant Reggie beside him, Conrad attempts to salvage his name with a low-budget holiday commercial just as the board sends in Donna to shut the company down. Suddenly, the Fates appear and offer Conrad a way out by concocting a Witchy Wishing Brew that promises "gifts forgotten" and "chances new". Conrad chugs down the strange brew and, with each wave of nausea that ensues, he sees a new Liza Minnelli – first a young Liza, then an old Liza, and finally Liza-The-Enormous-Scary-Eyeball. As the Lizas lead Conrad on a quest through topsy-turvy worlds of past and present, could-have-beens and still-could-be's, Conrad must retrieve the gifts he left behind and find a way to change his story before it's too late.

Character breakdown (*in order of appearance*)

FIRST WITCH/LIZA WAS: 20s female Caucasian; one of the three Witches, bearded crones who control humankind's fate; transforms into the young Liza Minnelli of Cabaret and Liza with a Z.

SECOND WITCH/LIZA IS: 40s-60s male Caucasian; one of the three Witches, bearded crones who control humankind's fate; transforms into the Liza Minnelli of today - longtime showbiz trooper with the hip replacements to prove it. Also appears as ANDY WARHOL, LIZ SMITH, CHRISTIE BRINKLEY.

THIRD WITCH/LIZA ALWAYS: 30s-50s female African-American; one of the three Witches, bearded crones who control humankind's fate; transforms into Liza Minnelli as omnipotent diety -- represented by an enormous eyeball puppet; also appears as GRACE JONES, DOWNTOWN JULIE BROWN

GINCH: 20s male any ethnicity; a Witches' familiar who appears as a Fosse-styled chorus boy; transforms into BEAU, Young Conrad's partner.

GONCH: 20s male - ethnicity matches CONRAD; a Witches' familiar who appears as a Fosse-styled chorus boy; transforms into YOUNG CONRAD: a representation of CONRAD as a young man and then as CONRAD's son.

CONRAD TICKLEBOTTOM: 50yo male any ethnicity; an artist facing obsolescence with abject terror.

REGGIE: 20s female any ethnicity; Conrad's assistant - anxious, self-conscious and desperate to please. Also plays HELMUT.

DONNA: 20s female any ethnicity; no-nonsense financial consultant; also plays LORNA LUFT.



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It opened at Steppenwolf Garage on December 2, 2012

***We Three Lizas* 2012 Critical Acclaim:**

- #1 Critics Pick – TimeOut Chicago, Theatre**
- #1 Critics Pick – TimeOut Chicago, Gay & Lesbian**
- Recommended – WBEZ, Dualing Critics**
- Recommended - Around the Town Chicago**
- Recommended - Chicago Reader, Culture Vulture**
- Recommended - Newcity**

“We loved this holiday tale that channels the spirit of the season via Liza Minnelli and a cast of misfits...The indefatigable Scott Bradley (*Alien Queen, A Carpenters Halloween*) channels legendary diva Liza Minnelli in a queer holiday musical that’s **unexpected, uplifting and totally joyful.** “ – TimeOut Chicago

“About Face Theatre’s *WE 3 LIZA’S* Is A **Fantastic** Holiday Survival Guide. Move over Christmas Carol; step aside *It’s A Wonderful Life* (radio version or other), a **new original holiday classic is born** and it is **the most fun you will have at a show** this season...The original score composed for *We 3 Liza’s* is **very smart and melodic.** Alan Schmuckler’s music (and additional lyrics) coupled with Mr. Bradley’s use of the narrative is a **perfect collaboration** using jazz, standards and gritty showtune ballads. It is by far **one of the most creative scores** written for any new work this season.” – Showbiz Chicago

“This gender-bending show from About Face Theatre Company is **the holiday musical comedy of my dreams.** The script by Scott Bradley...is **hilarious** but also more **sophisticated** than you might expect. The music by Alan Schmuckler...is **perfect for the edgy, sexy, fun story line,** in which all hell breaks loose when a

bitter design-house owner attempts to conjure up a Christmas wish and three versions of Liza Minnelli arrive instead.” – Chicago Reader “Culture Vulture”

“As we see more and more of Queer America morphing into something resembling everyone else, it is refreshing to **catch a glimpse of that darling decadence** that scares the ultraconservatives and **dares to celebrate our own playfully twisted uniqueness**. *We Three Lizas* is a fusion of faintly recognizable seasonal stories tossed into a martini shaker with queer pop culture references serving as the hard liquor. Playwright Scott Bradley mixes this signature cocktail up with a generous helping of **wonderfully original songs**, by composer Alan Schmuckler, and an infusion of **FABULOUS** to realize **a phantasm of holiday escapism**.”

– Chicago Stage Review

“This **colorful Christmas chestnut** features catchy songs by Scott Bradley and Alan Schmuckler.” – Stage and Cinema

“For those who like their holidays with a little **extra glitz** and a whole lot of **pizzazz...**” – Sheridan Road

“There are many...times where I can just see the great **Sondheim giving Schmuckler a broad smile** and a ‘high five’.” – Around the Town Chicago

“Bradley creates **a go-for-broke universe** that...resonates with emotional power.” – Sheridan Road

“Alan Schmuckler’s score..., **a buoyant gift** wrapped in **a melodic, dramatically well-conceived bow**, is a real find.” – Newcity

“**Weirdly refreshing** new Christmas musical from About Face Theatre...with music by the **very talented** young composer Alan Schmuckler.” – Chicago Tribune

“Scott Bradley and Alan Schmuckler’s **Seuss-like, delightfully queer** new holiday piece.” – TimeOut Chicago

“Schmuckler’s **pleasant, poppy score** provides plenty of hooks.” – TimeOut Chicago

“**undeniably original and joyously queer**.” – TimeOut Chicago

“**Razzle-dazzle** musical riff on *A Christmas Carol*.” – Chicago Reader

“Alan Schmuckler’s **flashy** score... **sharp-witted** lyrics by Bradley” – Chicago Reader

“That’s my idea of a great holiday show...**captivating** melodies and **hilarious** lyrics...saturated with **wit and charm**.” – Splash Magazine

“This is like a New York show - in Chicago.”
– Best Gay Chicago

steppenwolf

March 4, 2013

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To whom it may concern,

I don't like Christmas and I don't like camp. *We Three Lizas* is a campy Christmas show. I loved it. The show has an incredibly kind heart. I fell in love with the characters, was delighted by the spirit and humor, and really appreciated the production's finesse and verve. *We Three Lizas* is a delightful riff on The Christmas Carol. With detours



Martha Lavey
Artistic Director