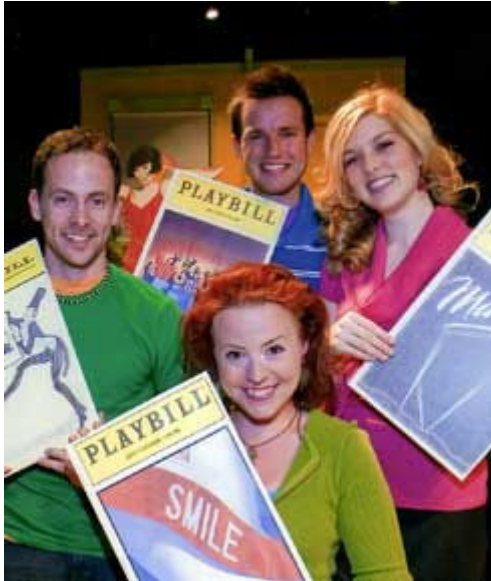




## Entertainment :: Theatre

### [title of show]

by Doug Dodasovich  
EDGE Contributor  
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The cast of



Remember Val from A Chorus Line? Of course you do. She swiped her dance card after an audition and on a scale of 10 they gave her "for Dance: 10 for Looks: 3". That split decision is how I feel about Theatre Three's regional premiere of **[title of show]**, which opened Monday night, except I would change it to: Show 7 Cast 10.

The title of Theatre Three's newest production is [title of show], as in 'for position only' or 'to be determined'. [title of show] is a show about two friends writing an original musical about two friends writing an original musical to submit to a Musical Festival. When they get to the "Filling out the Form" they realize they don't have an answer to the first question...Title of Show and aha! decide to name their show [title of show] with chevrons included.

[title of show] is a cute concept show with music and lyrics by Jeff Bowen and book by Hunter Bell. Their names are especially relevant because they played themselves in [title] from it's inception through it's first showing in 2004 and all the way through it's

Broadway run in 2008 (Bell received a Tony nomination for Best Book). In addition to writing themselves into the musical they also wrote their friends Heidi and Susan into [title] as well.

It's a whimsical design that mostly works. There are some terrific songs that even in this conceptual piece help move the plot forward. "An Original Musical" has one character playing a blank sheet of paper singing to the composer that the blank paper can be whatever the composer wants. Witty. Another fantastic song is "Die, Vampire, Die" which tells the tale of the creative energy suckers in our lives (including ourselves) who stop us from creating art. And I love two new words, at least to this writer, which I am adding to my vocabulary: 1) Hangry - hungry and angry 2) Shomo. Figure it out.

However, the show loses serious momentum, and fun, when our heroes land off-Broadway and are faced with compromise vs. conviction. <[title] has a tendency to set itself up for irony. Jeff and Hunter ultimately choose conviction over compromise, but in real life there's a change made from the original cast album that references Paris Hilton in The Apple Tree to the production that references Paris Hilton in Mame. And at one point, Hunter talks about wanting to make a show about substance, not just "sketches and novelty songs linked together." Sorry, Hunter. With no intermission and a playing time of about two hours [title] seems long. Show: 7

The ensemble for this [title] is brilliant. The ubiquitous Chad Peterson and Alex Ross are both dreamy cute, playful and sing splendidly. Chad Peterson as the Blank Paper is a scream. Dressed in an oversize white tee shirt and shades, he bounces all over the set jazz hands flying. It's a tour de force performance. Marianne Galloway is a spitfire as Susan. Ms. Galloway is the funniest performer in the show and maybe the funniest on a Dallas stage right now. Tricia Ponsford is excellent as Heidi, a working musical chorus actress. Heidi is the least developed character in the show, yet Ms. Ponsford shines charmingly singing "I Am Playing Me" and delivering her lines with aplomb. Peterson, Ross, Galloway and Ponsford act and play like they've known each since their sandbox days; this is exceptional ensemble acting. Terry Dobson appears on stage throughout as Larry, given very few lines but providing all the music on keyboards. The music sounds very much like the original cast album. Nifty. He who can do no wrong,

Director/Set Designer/Costume Designer Bruce R. Coleman, has another hit to add to his long line of winners. Cast and Crew: 10

**[title of show]** continues through May 23, 2010 at Theatre Three, 2800 Routh Street, Suite 168, Dallas, TX 75201. For more information visit [www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com)

*Doug Dodasovich is a playful free lance writer and designer who is passionate about live theater, dance and film. He and his husband, Mark enjoy reading, traveling, friends and family of choice and their 3 miniature dachshunds, Roxie, Velma and Seymour.*

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