

# River Oaks

LIVING



## David Hock on Delivering Top-Notch Revues with the Houston Musical Theater Company



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Edited By Leslie Fuentes • Photo Courtesy of the Houston Musical Theater Company

David Hock was born and grew up in Los Angeles. He began performing at camp during his early teens and later performed in his high school's shows, then at local community theaters and regional theaters. He was a theater major at UCLA and has been active in the professional theater world and the entertainment industry for more than 40 years.

In the early 80s, while Hock was still at UCLA, his father bought a famous nightclub in Los Angeles called The Horn. Performers like Carol Burnett, Jack Jones, Vicki Carr, and Jay Johnson all began their careers at The Horn. Hock served as the Entertainment Director for the club and the connections and relationships that Hock formed at such an early age with performers, agents, managers, and producers during those years were invaluable to him and carried him through many projects in the television, film, and theater industries. From working with Joan Rivers in the days she

was doing the Tonight Show, to meeting Johnny Carson, Jackie Mason, Carl Reiner, Mel Brooks, Milton Berle, Steve Allen, Jay Johnson, Billy Davis and Marilyn McCoo of The 5th Dimension, Jay Leno and Brad Garrett—the list is long and impressive.

Early on in his career, Hock transitioned from tap dancing and performing to producing, directing and choreographing. He realized that he wasn't the most talented, but instead could see the bigger picture—a talent that most performers don't have. While their talents rested on evolving their craft and developing their performance skills, Hock's talent was in meshing all that talent together.

Early on, Hock helped produce a revue at The Horn, *Seymour Glick is Alice but Sick*, written and co-directed by Steve Allan, and produced a tour of a one woman show called *Musical Feat* that





Hock moved to Phoenix in 2001 during the week of 9/11 and in 2010 opened Scottsdale Musical Theater Company where he produced many shows for the next ten years at the state-of-the-art 650 seat Tempe Center for the Arts. There, he produced *Annie* starring Bronson Pinchot (TVs *Perfect Strangers* and the *Beverly Hills Cop* movies) and Broadway star Kaitlin Hopkins; *42nd Street* with Emmy award winner Charles Shaughnessy (TVs *The Nanny*), Grammy winner Debby Boone and Broadway dance sensation Eloise Kropp; *Thoroughly Modern Millie* with Dawnn Lewis (TVs *A Different World* and *Major Crimes*); *A Christmas Carol* again with Charles Shaughnessy, and prior to the pandemic, *Man of La Mancha*, which starred the late Peter Scolari (TVs *Bosom Buddies*, *The Bob Newhart Show*, *Girls, Gotham*, *Evil*, *Honey I Shrunk the Kids*).



One of the impressive aspects of Hock's shows was his use of a 25 piece live orchestra for every show SMTC presented.

His production of *42nd Street* at the SMTC was a crowning achievement. Utilizing the national tour set, a repertoire of over 300 costumes and the dazzling choreography by Eloise Kropp, *42nd Street* reached the pinnacle of musical theater production. *Annie* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* were also special achievements for the Hock.

"Working with all of these television, film and Broadway stars has truly been the experience of a lifetime," he says.

But just as memorable was his 2017 production of *West Side Story* before he began casting the celebrity guest stars.

"The audience doesn't realize how difficult and emotional *West Side Story* is to perform," says Hock. "The massive touring set and the intensity of the racial storylines given what was happening in the news with the anti-immigrant policies made the show so impactful. Performers were so emotionally drained that the tears at the end of the show when Tony gets shot and killed were real."

Another production that can't be left out of Hock's list of greatest



he also co-directed and co-choreographed with four-time Tony-Award winning director and choreographer Thommie Walsh. Over the years, Hock has founded regional theater companies in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Francisco and Phoenix. During his time in San Francisco, he directed and produced *Pippin*, which starred the legendary Nanette Fabray and Morgan Brittany from the television show *Dallas*.

achievements is his 2019 production of *Man of La Mancha* with Peter Scolari, who was known for his comedic roles on TV. A few months after the production, in the spring of 2020, Hock learned from Peter that he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and had the tumor in his throat while performing in *Man of La Mancha*. Peter Scolari sadly passed away in 2021, with his performance of Don Quixote being the last onstage role he performed.

“He was the most introspective and moving Don Quixote you could imagine,” says Hock. “His performance, as an actor, of that role was riveting every night for both cast and audience.”

When the pandemic put a pause on theater in 2020, Hock was presented with an opportunity to produce a documentary for NASA on space health that brought him to Houston the following year. It was a turn in life that never would have happened without the pandemic.



Since his work with Charles Shaughnessy for *42nd Street* in 2018, Hock and Shaughnessy have become good friends and created a production company together, Dynamic Digital Content Worldwide. They developed *LA Mix*, an episodic TV series about a diverse group of people living in L.A. Although the show’s production was halted by the pandemic, their production company is still active and carried forward with the space health documentary for NASA. Hock created a shorter version of the documentary that will have distribution in 2023 and is in the pre-production stages for a limited docuseries that will expand on the topic of

surviving in space. Hock and Shaughnessy are also planning to reboot their series once the industry gets past the situation of the current labor strikes.

Upon his arrival in Houston in 2021, Hock started the Houston Musical Theater Company doing intimate cabaret-style revues. HMTC’s focus is in doing musical revues at smaller venues for charity events, retirement communities, fundraisers, private and



corporate events, and at churches and temples. HMTC offers a number of revues that run the gambit of musical theater styles from Broadway show-stoppers, to Irving Berlin, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Sondheim, all delivered by top-knotch professional performers with incredible vocal talent.

“I’ve been lucky to have found phenomenal singers that truly enjoy singing such a broad range of musical theater repertoire,” says Hock.

“Our audiences get to hear Broadway music as it was originally intended to be heard.”

HMTC has a number of upcoming shows in the Houston metro area. For more information about HMTC, please visit their website at [www.houstonmusicaltheater.com](http://www.houstonmusicaltheater.com).



## The HMTC Presents The Best of Rodgers & Hammerstein

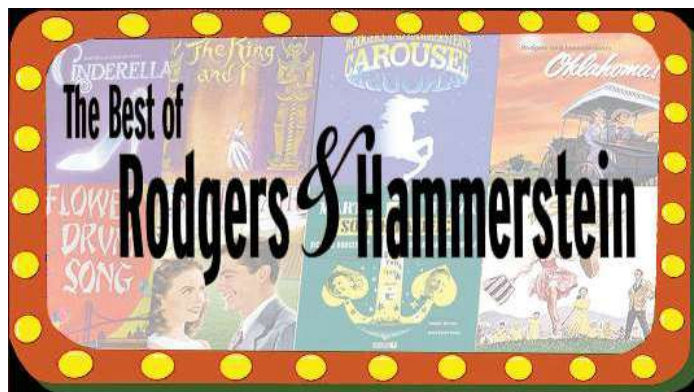
The HMTC's upcoming show will be the premiere of their newest revue "The Best of Rodgers & Hammerstein". The show will feature the most beloved songs from *Oklahoma!*, *South Pacific*, *Carousel*, *The King & I*, *The Sound of Music*, *State Fair*, *Flower Drum Song* and *Cinderella*.

**Date:** Thursday, September 28th

**Time:** 8PM

**Location:** @The POST Houston, 401 Franklin St. Houston, TX 77201

The show will take place outdoors on the POST rooftop in their



covered climate controlled pavilion, with views of the Houston skyline as a backdrop. To purchase tickets for this upcoming show and for more information about HMTC, please visit their website at [www.houstonmusicaltheater.com](http://www.houstonmusicaltheater.com).

## 24th Annual Southwest Regional Folk Alliance Conference

Edited By Leslie Fuentes • Photo Courtesy of the Houston Musical Theater Company

Every year, the non-profit organization, SWRFA, presents a conference in Austin, TX to connect artists, presenters, radio DJs and fans to the tradition of folk music in the region that covers Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Mexico. The SWRFA's mission is to build and strengthen the community around folk music and songwriting.

Registration for Folk Alliance International members is \$275 or \$325 for non-members. Registration covers access to all conference events, including showcases, panels, open-mics, The Folk DJ Meet & Greet and Happy Hour and includes two lunches, two dinners, and Sunday Brunch. The official showcases will take place on Friday and Saturday nights in the hotel ballroom from 7:30-10PM. The cost for each night to hear 8 artists is \$15.

**Date:** Sept. 27th- Oct.1st

**Location:** Holiday Inn- Midtown in Austin, TX

6000 Middle Fiskville Rd. Austin, TX 78752

### 2023 Official Showcase Artists:

Aaron Smith  
 Brian Wolff  
 Charlie Chamberlain  
 Deer Fellow  
 Flamy Grant  
 Garrett Owen  
 Helene Cronin  
 Jackson Emmer  
 Jaimee Harris  
 Jason Erie  
 Katie Boeck

Miguel Espinoza Fusion

Ordinary Elephant  
 Rachel Laven  
 Robin Bienemann  
 Sam Robbins

### 2023 Alternate Official Showcase Artists:

Aleksi Campagne  
 Brian Kalinec  
 Heather Pierson Duo  
 Jaime Michaels  
 Teresa Storch

For additional event details and updated information, please visit:  
[SWFOLKALLIANCE.ORG](http://SWFOLKALLIANCE.ORG).

