

Dumb and Dumber

StageCenter presents two-man musical comedy

BY KIFFIN COLLINS
The Battalion

The daring and exciting life of an American security guard who desires to be a federal agent but faces the problem of not being intelligent enough is a new music comedy skit.

"There's No Cure for Dumb...Once You've Got It, You've Got It All Your Life," is playing at the StageCenter in downtown Bryan.

The two-man show stars Texas Premiere veteran actor Pat Turner, who plays in a variety of roles, and author of the play "For Marrieds Only," J. Tom Graham, plays the role of the security guard Augie Albright.

Graham said when he began scouting for the second actor to fulfill his script, he looked to Tyler, Texas.

Turner was an actor out of Tyler who had previously starred in many plays.

Graham and Turner began a friendship that lasted for two years and continues with the success of "Dumb."

Turner plays all the other characters in the comedy, including two female roles.

Graham said it took a while for Turner to conform to playing a woman.

"He is a very uptight individual, so it took some time for him to transform himself into Fredricka, a hooker in the show," he said. "It is pretty hard for an East Texas man to play a prostitute. It requires a lot of acting."

Graham's career began with the debut of his first comedy, "Marrieds," which was so popular, it ended up on a 16-month road tour of the United States.

"There are many versions of 'For Marrieds Only,' and they have been retold everywhere," he said. "Most people know me for that show."

He said he began writing "Dumb" last summer as a hobby.

"I would spend my free time on the weekends writing the script and music," Graham said. "It took about six weeks to finalize the show. I initially wrote the parts for professional actors, but one backed out so I ended up playing the security guard. I am definitely a better writer than performer, but Turner and I do quite well."

Graham said there is no way to classify the show.

"There is nothing in the theater like this show," he said. "It is not a musical, we just sing dumb songs. It is best described as a word-and-music comedy skit. It is just a little road show full of nonsense really."

"I would compare it to the comedy 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum' in that they both contain 'ha-ha' funny songs and script."

The musical score accompanying the comedy was written by Graham and previously recorded at Rosewood Studio in Tyler.

Graham said the music is not meant to be beautiful.

"It is not extravagant music, just comedic in nature," he said.

When Graham is not on the road or humoring local audiences, he is the publisher of the *Pasadena Citizen*, the newspaper in Pasadena, Texas.

Graham said if there is a moral in this play it is: "God looks after morons too."

Graham said he hopes to continue performing with Turner and keep the show on the road.

"We will continue to do this as long as we are having fun and making money," he said.

"Dumb" will be playing at StageCenter in downtown Bryan Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1.

Tickets are \$10 for this special engagement, which serves as a fundraiser for StageCenter, Bryan-College Station's community theater.

For reservations or further information about this event or any upcoming events call 823-4297.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRAHAM AND TURNER

J. Tom Graham, left plays a security guard who is trying to become a federal agent, and Pat Turner, right plays many roles including, above a man and below in drag, in the two-man comedy.

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