Main Street Theater brings the wicked satire of Tom Lehrer to Houston audiences with the musical revue Tomfoolery. With previews June 9 and 10, Tomfoolery opens June 11 and runs through June 27 at Main Street Theater – Chelsea Market, Montrose Blvd. Performances are on Thursdays at 7:30pm, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, and Sundays at 3pm. Tickets start at $24, and are on sale in person at the Main Street Theater Box Office, 2540 Times Blvd., via phone at 713.524.6706, or online at www.mainstreettheater.com.

About Tomfoolery
Five actors, stools, a piano and a healthy dose of attitude are all you need to enter the witty, wicked, offbeat and thoroughly twisted world of famed satirical songwriter Tom Lehrer.

In concerts, television appearances and a series of now-classic recordings, the Harvard-educated math professor delighted millions of fans during the 1950s and '60s with his dry, cynical but good-humored attacks on the A-bomb, racism, pollution, pornography, the military, the boy scouts and, of course, mathematics.

Nothing is sacred in this outrageous revue featuring such Lehrer favorites as “Poisoning Pigeons In The Park,” “When You Are Old And Grey,” “The Masochism Tango,” “The Old Dope Peddler,” “The Vatican Rag” and an unforgettable Gilbert and Sullivan-esque recitation of the table of elements.

Tomfoolery was adapted by Cameron Mackintosh and Robin Ray and premiered in London June 5, 1980. It had more than 200 productions, including an off-Broadway production at the Village Gate, which ran for 120 performances in 1981.

Gala Opening Night
Friday, June 11 is the Gala Opening Night for Tomfoolery. Guests will enjoy a Mad Men style pre-show reception at 6:30 before the 7:30 performance. Yummy eats generously sponsored by Hungry’s. Tickets are $50 and $75. Call 713-524-6706 or visit www.mainstreettheater.com for tickets and more information.

About Tom Lehrer
Tom Lehrer is an American singer-songwriter, satirist, pianist, and mathematician. Lehrer was praised by Dr. Demento as "the best musical satirist of the twentieth century". In his inimitable style, Lehrer has said of his own musical career, "If, after hearing my songs, just one human being is inspired to say something nasty to a friend, or perhaps to strike a loved one, it will all have been worth the while."
Lehrer earned his B.A. in mathematics (*magna cum laude*) from Harvard University in 1947, when he was 19. He received his MA degree the next year and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He remained in Harvard's doctoral program for several years, taking time out for his musical career and to work as a researcher at Los Alamos, New Mexico. He served in the Army from 1955 to 1957, working at the National Security Agency. He taught classes at MIT, Harvard, Wellesley, and for the last part of his career at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

In 2001, Lehrer taught his last mathematics class (on the topic of infinity) and retired from academia. He resides in California.

**About the Production**

Matt Huff makes his MST directing debut with *Tomfoolery*. Miriam Daly is the Musical Director. The cast includes Susan Draper (*Ps and Qs: the ABCs of Manners, Pardon My English*), Joshua Estrada (*Urinetown*), Shondra Marie (*Ps and Qs: the ABCs of Manners, Morning Star*), Jonathan McVay (*Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*), and Dan O'Brien.

The design team includes Meghan C. Hakes (set design), Margaret Crowley (costume design), Daniel Polk (lighting design), Chris Bakos (sound design), and Richard Solis (properties design). Rob Flebbe is choreographer. Eva De La Cruz and Lauren Smith are the production stage managers.

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Since 1975, Main Street Theater has produced high quality professional theater for audiences of all ages through its MainStage productions and Main Street Youth Theater. The Main Street Theater Kids On Stage program offers performing arts classes and camps for children 5 years to 14 years of age. The organization produces plays at two locations, 2540 Times Boulevard in Rice Village and 4617 Montrose Boulevard at Chelsea Market.

Main Street Theater is a member of the Fresh Arts Coalition, a collaboration of 25 arts organizations that work collectively to raise awareness of the size and diversity of the arts in Houston, and a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for not-for-profit theaters. Main Street Theater offers a lively year-round repertory of classic and contemporary plays for audiences of all ages and provides a much-needed showcase for Houston theater professionals. Main Street Theater is also a member of Actors’ Equity Association and of ASSITEJ, the world theatre network of theatre for children and young people. Main Street Theater is funded in part by grants from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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