Dallas Theater Center would like to recognize the generosity of our major corporate partners.

Alon USA • Chase • Southwest Securities • Target • howard + associates • Wells Fargo

Celebrating 25 years of Project Discovery

Based on the novel by EDNA FERBER 
Music and Lyrics by MICHAEL JOHN LACHNITA 
Book by sybill EPSTEIN 
Directed by MICHAEL GREIF 
Choreographed by ALEX RANEGE 
Jan 11-Feb 19, 2012 • WYLY THEATRE

In this epic story that spans 27 years we see Jordan ‘Bick’ Benedict, a rich cattleman from Texas, and his bride Leslie, a young socialite from Virginia, try to tackle change as great as the Texas sky. Bick is focused on holding his ranch together, keeping his family’s legacy alive and raising his boy Jordy, Jr. to follow in his footsteps. Leslie struggles to acclimate to this new hot land, the complex racial relationships, the vast differences in social classes and raising her proper young daughter Little Luz.

But as change comes to the state and rascals like Jett Rink, a former ranch hand of Bick’s, strike big on oil, the Benedicts must navigate the effects of the oil boom on their close-knit ranching communities. Traditions, ideals and relationships take on whole new meanings in this “GIANT” tale.
Texas is steeped in many traditions—
land, cowboys, cattle, oil, pulling yourself up by your bootstraps, and carrying on the family legacy are just a few. But these traditions have a history of coming in conflict with each other, and with the world around them.

At the start of the 20th-century, agriculture, timber and ranching were the leading economic producers of Texas. Importance was placed on the land, which was passed down from generation to generation—especially cattle ranches.

After the dust bowl of the 1930s there was a significant change in the Texas economy. Almost half of the ranches previously owned by single families were failing. People could barely afford to feed themselves, much less their cattle. Many ranches that had been passed down from generation to generation were sold to the government, to various corporations, or leased for oil drilling in an oil boom that took the state by storm. Texas quickly became the lead oil producer in the U.S., producing nearly half of all oil in the country by 1940. Soon the value of oil produced in Texas exceeded the value of all agricultural products in the state.

The petroleum industry fed the folklore of Texas life and the public coffers. New terms and images joined the Texas lexicon, including the “go-for-broke wildcatter” (oil land operators); and the “newly-rich oilman” (land owners who struck oil). All of them were fully established in the public coffers. New terms and images joined the Texas lexicon, including the “go-for-broke wildcatter” (oil land operators); and the “newly-rich oilman” (land owners who struck oil). All of them were fully established in the public coffers. 

What’s in a Label?

The Mexican Revolution (1910-20) and the following agricultural boom in the southwestern U.S. sparked massive relocation to Texas by desperately poor Mexicans looking for work. By 1930, the Mexican-descent population in Texas approximates 700,000.

Labor shortages in the 1940s and the post WW2 industrial boom in the U.S. continue to entice the very poor of Mexico to find work north of the border. New immigrants and native-born Latinos increase the Spanish-surnamed population to 1,400,000 by 1960.

In the 1960s, Mexican immigrants continue to add to the Latino population, but the majority of Latinos in Texas are native born. By 1990 there are 4,000,000 people of Mexican descent living in Texas. Less than 20% of that population is foreign born.

In 2011, with Spanish surnames make up 10,219,674 of the total Texas population of 25,883,999. This number does NOT include the number of illegal immigrants in Texas that still make up an enormous amount of the workforce.

In 2011, with Spanish surnames make up 10,219,674 of the total Texas population of 25,883,999. This number does NOT include the number of illegal immigrants in Texas that still make up an enormous amount of the workforce.

“ar-mie

What’s the question you’re most asked? How do you describe Texas to outsiders?

Leslie stays up all night researching everything she can about Texas, but when she arrives she finds that life here is so much more than she imagined. How many times have you told someone you were from Texas and then been asked questions such as “Do you have a horse?” or “Do you drive a truck?” or “Where’s your cowboy hat?” Sometimes these questions aren’t far off—Texas does lead the nation in the sale of pick-up trucks, and we’re all Cowboys fans...

What’s the question you’re most asked? How do you describe Texas to outsiders?

Leslie stays up all night researching everything she can about Texas, but when she arrives she finds that life here is so much more than she imagined. How many times have you told someone you were from Texas and then been asked questions such as “Do you have a horse?” or “Do you drive a truck?” or “Where’s your cowboy hat?” Sometimes these questions aren’t far off—Texas does lead the nation in the sale of pick-up trucks, and we’re all Cowboys fans...

What’s the question you’re most asked? How do you describe Texas to outsiders?

Leslie stays up all night researching everything she can about Texas, but when she arrives she finds that life here is so much more than she imagined. How many times have you told someone you were from Texas and then been asked questions such as “Do you have a horse?” or “Do you drive a truck?” or “Where’s your cowboy hat?” Sometimes these questions aren’t far off—Texas does lead the nation in the sale of pick-up trucks, and we’re all Cowboys fans...

What’s the question you’re most asked? How do you describe Texas to outsiders?

Leslie stays up all night researching everything she can about Texas, but when she arrives she finds that life here is so much more than she imagined. How many times have you told someone you were from Texas and then been asked questions such as “Do you have a horse?” or “Do you drive a truck?” or “Where’s your cowboy hat?” Sometimes these questions aren’t far off—Texas does lead the nation in the sale of pick-up trucks, and we’re all Cowboys fans...

What’s the question you’re most asked? How do you describe Texas to outsiders?

Leslie stays up all night researching everything she can about Texas, but when she arrives she finds that life here is so much more than she imagined. How many times have you told someone you were from Texas and then been asked questions such as “Do you have a horse?” or “Do you drive a truck?” or “Where’s your cowboy hat?” Sometimes these questions aren’t far off—Texas does lead the nation in the sale of pick-up trucks, and we’re all Cowboys fans...

What’s the question you’re most asked? How do you describe Texas to outsiders?
Texas is steeped in many traditions—

land, cowboys, cattle, oil, pulling yourself up by your bootstraps, and carrying on the family legacy are just a few. But these traditions have a history of coming in conflict with each other, and with the world around them.

At the start of the 20th century, agriculture, timber and ranching were the leading economic producers of Texas. Importance was placed on the land, which was passed from generation to generation—especially cattle ranches.

After the dust bowl of the 1930s there was a significant change in the Texas economy. Almost half of the ranches previously owned by single families were failing. People could barely afford to feed themselves, much less their cattle. Many ranches that had been passed down from generation to generation were sold to the government, to various corporations, or leased for oil drilling in an oil boom that took the state by storm. Texas quickly became the lead oil producer in the U.S., producing nearly half of all oil in the country by 1940. Soon the value of oil produced in Texas exceeded the value of all agricultural products in the state.

The petroleum industry fed the folklore of Texas life and the public coffers. New terms and images joined the Texas lexicon, including the “go-for-broke wildcatter” (oil tycoons); the hard-working and hard-playing “roughneck” (oil workers); and the “newly-rich olman” (land owners who struck oil). All of them were fully established in folklore and films, but none more so than Jett Rink, a major role in the 1956 film adaptation of James Dean’s (left) tackle the iconic role. All of them were fully established in folklore and films, but none more so than Jett Rink, a major role in the 1956 film adaptation of James Dean’s (left) film adaptation of Jett Rink in the 1956 movie Giant, where the movie was filmed.
Dallas Theater Center would like to recognize the generosity of our major corporate partners.

Alon USA  
Chase  
Southwest Securities  
Target  
howard + associates  
Wells Fargo

Celebrating 25 years of Project Discovery

Based on the novel by Edna Ferber

Music and Lyrics by Michael John LaChiusa
Book by Sydney Eisenberg

Directed by Michael Greif  
Choreographed by Alex Sanchez

Jan 14 - Feb 19, 2012
Wyly Theatre

In this epic story that spans 27 years we see Jordan ‘Bick’ Benedict, a rich cattleman from Texas, and his bride Leslie, a young socialite from Virginia, try to tackle change as great as the Texas sky. Bick is focused on holding his ranch together, keeping his family’s legacy alive and raising his boy Jordy, Jr. to follow in his footsteps. Leslie struggles to acclimate to this new hot land, the complex racial relationships, the vast differences in social classes and raising her proper young daughter Little Luz.

But as change comes to the state and rascals like Jett Rink, a former ranch hand of Bick’s, strike big on oil, the Benedicts must navigate the effects of the oil boom on their close-knit ranching communities. Traditions, ideals and relationships take on whole new meanings in this “GIANT” tale.

Leslie (played by Kate Baldwin) ages from a young bride to a mature mother over the course of the play. To aid this transformation, Kate will wear 12 different costumes and 4 wigs. Together these pieces reflect the passage of time from 1925 to 1962, as well as her transition from a Virginia socialite, to a rancher’s wife, to a true Texan—maintaining Leslie’s grace and wealthy status along the way.

Bick (played by Aaron Lazar) matures 27 years with the help of 10 different costumes, 2 pairs of cowboy boots, and 2 cowboy hats.

In this epic story that spans 27 years we see Jordan ‘Bick’ Benedict, a rich cattleman from Texas, and his bride Leslie, a young socialite from Virginia, try to tackle change as great as the Texas sky. Bick is focused on holding his ranch together, keeping his family’s legacy alive and raising his boy Jordy, Jr. to follow in his footsteps. Leslie struggles to acclimate to this new hot land, the complex racial relationships, the vast differences in social classes and raising her proper young daughter Little Luz.

But as change comes to the state and rascals like Jett Rink, a former ranch hand of Bick’s, strike big on oil, the Benedicts must navigate the effects of the oil boom on their close-knit ranching communities. Traditions, ideals and relationships take on whole new meanings in this “GIANT” tale.

Leslie (played by Kate Baldwin) ages from a young bride to a mature mother over the course of the play. To aid this transformation, Kate will wear 12 different costumes and 4 wigs. Together these pieces reflect the passage of time from 1925 to 1962, as well as her transition from a Virginia socialite, to a rancher’s wife, to a true Texan—maintaining Leslie’s grace and wealthy status along the way.

Bick (played by Aaron Lazar) matures 27 years with the help of 10 different costumes, 2 pairs of cowboy boots, and 2 cowboy hats.

In this epic story that spans 27 years we see Jordan ‘Bick’ Benedict, a rich cattleman from Texas, and his bride Leslie, a young socialite from Virginia, try to tackle change as great as the Texas sky. Bick is focused on holding his ranch together, keeping his family’s legacy alive and raising his boy Jordy, Jr. to follow in his footsteps. Leslie struggles to acclimate to this new hot land, the complex racial relationships, the vast differences in social classes and raising her proper young daughter Little Luz.

But as change comes to the state and rascals like Jett Rink, a former ranch hand of Bick’s, strike big on oil, the Benedicts must navigate the effects of the oil boom on their close-knit ranching communities. Traditions, ideals and relationships take on whole new meanings in this “GIANT” tale.

Leslie (played by Kate Baldwin) ages from a young bride to a mature mother over the course of the play. To aid this transformation, Kate will wear 12 different costumes and 4 wigs. Together these pieces reflect the passage of time from 1925 to 1962, as well as her transition from a Virginia socialite, to a rancher’s wife, to a true Texan—maintaining Leslie’s grace and wealthy status along the way.

Bick (played by Aaron Lazar) matures 27 years with the help of 10 different costumes, 2 pairs of cowboy boots, and 2 cowboy hats.

In this epic story that spans 27 years we see Jordan ‘Bick’ Benedict, a rich cattleman from Texas, and his bride Leslie, a young socialite from Virginia, try to tackle change as great as the Texas sky. Bick is focused on holding his ranch together, keeping his family’s legacy alive and raising his boy Jordy, Jr. to follow in his footsteps. Leslie struggles to acclimate to this new hot land, the complex racial relationships, the vast differences in social classes and raising her proper young daughter Little Luz.

But as change comes to the state and rascals like Jett Rink, a former ranch hand of Bick’s, strike big on oil, the Benedicts must navigate the effects of the oil boom on their close-knit ranching communities. Traditions, ideals and relationships take on whole new meanings in this “GIANT” tale.

Leslie (played by Kate Baldwin) ages from a young bride to a mature mother over the course of the play. To aid this transformation, Kate will wear 12 different costumes and 4 wigs. Together these pieces reflect the passage of time from 1925 to 1962, as well as her transition from a Virginia socialite, to a rancher’s wife, to a true Texan—maintaining Leslie’s grace and wealthy status along the way.

Bick (played by Aaron Lazar) matures 27 years with the help of 10 different costumes, 2 pairs of cowboy boots, and 2 cowboy hats.

In this epic story that spans 27 years we see Jordan ‘Bick’ Benedict, a rich cattleman from Texas, and his bride Leslie, a young socialite from Virginia, try to tackle change as great as the Texas sky. Bick is focused on holding his ranch together, keeping his family’s legacy alive and raising his boy Jordy, Jr. to follow in his footsteps. Leslie struggles to acclimate to this new hot land, the complex racial relationships, the vast differences in social classes and raising her proper young daughter Little Luz.

But as change comes to the state and rascals like Jett Rink, a former ranch hand of Bick’s, strike big on oil, the Benedicts must navigate the effects of the oil boom on their close-knit ranching communities. Traditions, ideals and relationships take on whole new meanings in this “GIANT” tale.

Leslie (played by Kate Baldwin) ages from a young bride to a mature mother over the course of the play. To aid this transformation, Kate will wear 12 different costumes and 4 wigs. Together these pieces reflect the passage of time from 1925 to 1962, as well as her transition from a Virginia socialite, to a rancher’s wife, to a true Texan—maintaining Leslie’s grace and wealthy status along the way.

Bick (played by Aaron Lazar) matures 27 years with the help of 10 different costumes, 2 pairs of cowboy boots, and 2 cowboy hats.