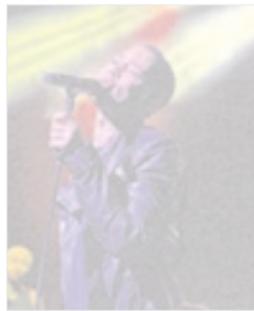


CONCERT REVIEW



Mona Reeder/Staff Photographer  
**For John Legend**, any change in topic — or a sly lyric — is a step toward a new approach.

## Performer tweaks his image

By THOR CHRISTENSEN  
 Special Contributor

GRAND PRAIRIE — R&B singer John Legend has built his whole career on songs about love, romance and the best way to get it on. But now that he's gotten hitched, he'd like to tweak his lothario image if you don't mind.

"I'm not supposed to do any more cheating songs," he said with a grin Thursday night at Verizon Theatre. Presumably, that was a directive from *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit model Christy Teigen, whom he married in September.

He went ahead and sang "Number One," his tale of unrepentant two-timing from *Get Lifted*, the 2004 debut album that won him the best new artist Grammy. But Legend spent part of the show searching for more mature love in songs from his fourth and latest CD, *Love in the*

See **LEGEND** Page 3E

THEATER REVIEW

## Lyric's 'Nine' rates a full 10

By LAWSON TAITTE  
 Theater Critic  
 ltaitte@dallasnews.com

*Nine*, to paraphrase its most stunning song, is a very unusual musical. It doesn't come along often, and it may never have been sung or played as well as in its short current run at Lyric Stage.

Playwright Arthur Kopit and composer Maury Yeston adapted Federico Fellini's great autobiographical film *8½* into the 1982 Tony Award-winning best musical. It was an audacious project because the movie's mix of dream, memory, fantasy and a film-within-a-film can confuse and overwhelm a first-time viewer. Tommy Tune's groundbreaking original production was similarly bold.

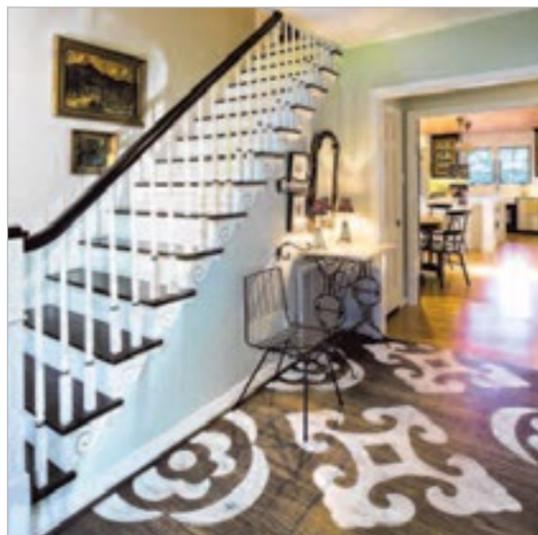
The plot centers on Italian director Guido Contini, who has

See **'NINE'** Page 3E

HOME

# A redo of a Lakewood redo

Empty nesters let imagination fly in remodeling of 1946 colonial



Jenifer McNeil Baker/Special Contributor  
**Jeannie Pugh**, a professional faux painter, created and applied the floor stencils in the central hallway.



Jenifer McNeil Baker/Special Contributor

**Carol Gantt rebuilt** her family room and fashioned a new kitchen, which mixes Italian marble, appliances found on eBay and an Ikea sink.



Rex C. Curry/Special Contributor

**Gantt, a designer** and construction consultant, and husband Henry Wells are making their third appearance on the annual Lakewood tour. She sits in her favorite room of her current house, the living room.

By CONNIE DUFNER  
 Special Contributor

The story of Carol Gantt's and husband Henry Wells' new home follows a predictable script. Grown kids, thoughts of downsizing, finding a fantastic house that just needs a little work.

Lucky for visitors to the Lakewood Home Festival on Saturday and Sunday that Gantt had the smarts to reimagine her house as beautifully as she has.

As a construction consultant and designer, and with a career of dealing with anxious homeowners, Gantt knew to detach emotions from house buying and selling. By 2011, she was ready to leave the family home, even if her three adult children were dismayed.

"I love just about all houses," she says, "so I can stay a little objective. Most people don't look at a house and see a commodity. It's held a family, a lot of dreams. It's a safe place; it's the home thing."

The couple found the 1946 garrison colonial, a style known for its cantilevered second story and central hallway, after another deal fell through a week before they were supposed to move. Undaunted by the delay, Gantt appraised the house: "It had a lot of possibilities for me to put my stamp on it."

But first, there was the matter of selling. Gantt ignored her own advice

See **IMPROVING** Page 8E

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Guide LIVE

# Improving on the past

Continued from Page 1E

when her Realtor sent a home staging professional to advise her about getting the house ready for showings. "I was insulted! I couldn't believe he was telling me to do stuff to my own house," she laughs. So much for objectivity.

Visit the house, along with five others of different eras and styles, at the 37th annual Lakewood home tour. Sponsored by the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA, the tour raises funds for the neighborhood schools, Lakewood Elementary, J.L. Long Middle School and Woodrow Wilson High School.

See for yourself how Gantt's and Wells' empty-nest house grew to accommodate a new master suite and rebuilt family room and kitchen. It is, she says, the couple's favorite in a long line of address changes. They have owned nine houses in Lakewood, because when Gantt was getting her business started, the family lived in houses she flipped, and they moved every few months. This is Gantt-Wells' third turn on the Lakewood home tour.

"This is probably the most comfortable home we've lived in," she writes in the homeowner questionnaire for the tour. "It's homey and warm, with lots of storage and all the rooms you need. We love it."

Although Gantt eschews titles such as architect and interior designer — she was trained in neither field — architectural integrity and an eye for design are everywhere, plus a good old-fashioned pro shopper's penchant for a deal. In the

**SEE MORE** photos at [dallasnews.com/lifestyles](http://dallasnews.com/lifestyles). new kitchen, Italian marble counters are at home with sleek appliances found on eBay and a farmhouse sink from Ikea.

The original kitchen is now Gantt's office, with a separate entrance for clients. The living areas combine '70s sofas owned by husband and wife in their first homes and reupholstered many times over the years. Add family antiques, plentiful occasional tables, original art by friends and family, and builder details such as nonstandard moldings and built-in shelving in the living room and family room.

When the couple moved in, the house had been well-maintained, but "it was real traditional and real formal," Gantt says. A series of owners had "gotten away from the ranch look."

The most serious structural problem was in the family room that had occupied the width of the house. The roofline was sagging, most likely because three sets of French doors had been added that Gantt said disturbed the structural integrity. Since she knew she'd have to redo the roof anyway, why not add a master suite upstairs and create a laundry room from part of the old master bedroom?

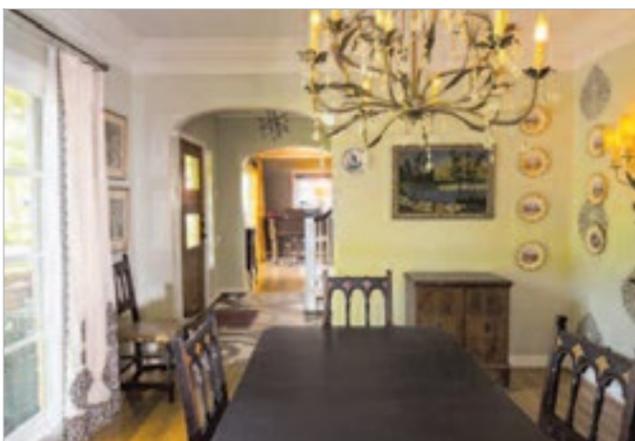
The result is a 3,300-square-foot, four-bedroom house that effortlessly blends old and new, with plenty of surprises — and great space for extended family. "We intend to stay for quite a while," she says. "It suits us."

*Connie Dufner is a Dallas freelance writer.*

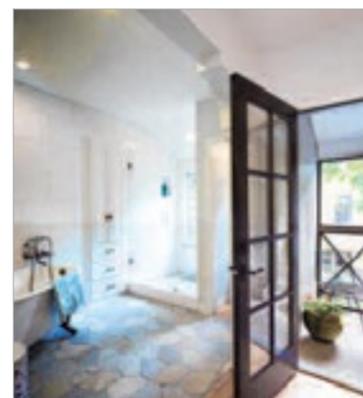
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**Carol Gantt's home**, her ninth in the Lakewood neighborhood, is a 1946 garrison colonial, a style known for its cantilevered second story.



**The dining room** leads to the original kitchen, which has been turned into Gantt's office. Gantt, a lover of stencil patterns, hung the curtains upside down for dramatic effect.



**"The tub is new**, but since so many of my clients are ordering big things online, I thought I should figure out how that works," Gantt says. Contractor Russell Labhart framed the master suite addition.

## Lakewood Home Festival

**Tour hours:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

**Market and cafe:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Lakewood Elementary School, 3000 Hillbrook St., Dallas. Tour ticket includes market entry; for market access only, pay \$5. Food trucks from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days

**Tickets:** \$20 at the market and at any tour house:  
 ■ 6828 Avalon Ave.  
 ■ 6565 Bob-O-Link Drive  
 ■ 7130 Brookcove Lane  
 ■ 6616 Lakewood Blvd.  
 ■ 6624 Lakewood Blvd.  
 ■ 7169 Greentree Lane

Tickets are \$12 each if purchased at participating Tom Thumb stores, including 5809 Lovers Lane and 6333 E. Mockingbird Lane, both in Dallas. Tickets are \$15 at neighborhood retailers, including Paciuco, White Rock Coffee, Talulah Belle and Comerica Bank.

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**The pair** of comfy chairs in the family room are from Ikea.

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SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2 PM - 6 PM

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