

# On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

Volume 8, Number 3

THE PLAYWRIGHT'S ISSUE

## WELCOME TO ON THE PURPLE CIRCUIT!

The Purple Circuit is an informal network dedicated to promoting and encouraging GLQBT theatre and performance throughout the world. The newsletter is published quarterly. We also have a Directory of venues, which has just been updated.

This Issue is dedicated to our Community's Playwrights, who are the lifeblood of our Movement. I salute the people who write the words that move and entertain us. Currently there is a 20th anniversary production of Martin Sherman's BENT and February, 2000 will be the 20th anniversary of Jane Chambers' LAST SUMMER AT BLUEFISH COVE. Director Francine L. Trevens envisions East Coast productions of COVE to celebrate that milestone in Lesbian theatre. Contact her at SHELLEYFT@aol.com or 212-726-6279. Another event which impressed me further about the power of playwrights was The Ivy Theatre's reading of LETTERS HOME by Dee Jae Cox about the witchhunt of Lesbians in the military. The raw emotion of the piece moved the entire audience in a packed theatre in West Hollywood. I also note that Michael Mann's BOX 27 which won the GLAAD award for LA Theatre a few years ago will have a New York production at Wings, as will James Rosenfield's timely ADAM'S WEDDING. Also exciting was a one-night production of Mart Crowley's FOR REASONS THAT REMAIN UNCLEAR with Philip Anglim and Keene Curtis in Los Angeles.

The threats and censorship both external and self-imposed continued around the country. The National Campaign for Freedom of Expression is approaching its 10th anniversary and is needed more than ever. They have a new handbook on responding to challenges to artistic freedom. Support them at ncfen@ncfe.net, www.ncfe.net, or 800-477-NCFE. Speaking of freedom, I am happy to report that Bruce Mirkin has been vindicated in court and now he will be able to concentrate on his important journalism rather than fighting police entrapment.

In this Issue we have further discussion of play publication and distribution post-Dialogus. We need volunteer correspondents in most parts of the world including New York City, Atlanta, and abroad to either write or clip and send information.

Another important development is the formation of The Pink Network (Le Reseau Rose) which plans to unify a Canadian-Quebecois network of groups/artists/theatres to promote Queer Art in Canada. Check out www.out.ca and congratulations to OUT Productions and David Allan King on this grand endeavor!

ONE Institute/International Gay and Lesbian Archives' new building is nearing completion. It will house many special collections including The Performing Arts, of which I am the Director, at 909 W Adams in Los Angeles near the University Of Southern California campus. I am in the midst of an Appeal to finish the room and The Purple Circuit will be producing a fundraising event "Tea With Oscar And Gertrude" on October 16, 1999 to celebrate Oscar Wilde's birthday. Join Gertrude Stein and ONE Institute for this special event featuring Phoenix Encore, Kevin Rettig and other guest performers. For reservations call The Purple Circuit hotline at 818-953-5072.

Thanks to Associate Editor Jim Russell for formatting OTPC and to Fritz Klein and The California Institute for Contemporary Arts and all our new or renewing Subscribers for their financial support. Please get a subscription and as a great gift idea, get a Gift Subscription for friends who will appreciate what is happening on The Purple Circuit.

Thanks to our correspondents: Tom W Kelly, Howard Casner, Gerald Semas and Tim Miller and to Linda Eisenstein, David King, Doric Wilson, Eric Bentley, Francine L. Trevens, James Rosenfield,

Tom Vegh, Richard Israel, Wayne Tibbetts, Sally Barron, Theatres and Publicists for contributions of material.

**Please note our ADDRESS has changed to:**

**921 N Naomi St, Burbank CA 91505  
818-953-5096  
hotline: 818-953-5072.**

Thanks also to Stephen Rupsch and Ed Decker at New Conservatory for joining Celebration Theatre in listing themselves as a Member of The Purple Circuit and giving our hotline number in their programs.

As The Millennium approaches we are planning new innovations for both The Purple Circuit and On The Purple Circuit. We will be having a Web site and considering sending OTPC electronically. Toward that end I would like Subscribers and Readers who have email to send their email address and comments to Purplecir@aol.com. Also due to the post office changes people with private mailboxes should send us their new formatted address.

Recently we had the loss of three diverse men in Los Angeles. Producer Allen Carr, Director Ron Link and Composer (and dear friend) Gale Hunt AKA Gary Borden Hall. Each will be missed.

Thank you all for making The Purple Circuit a truly fabulous place to be,

**Bill Kaiser, editor**

## ON THE BOARDS

Note: Descriptions are based on press releases or personal knowledge. An \* indicates a current or future show, information subject to change, shows may be extended so check them out and remember to see a Gay or Lesbian show tonight.

**About Bernard Carlton** by David Gaard a US Senator has a secret that lasts a lifetime; HERE, NYC; June, 1999.

**The Balcony** by Jorge Albertella, two women struggle for happiness in the midst of the 1982 Falkland Island war. Actors Playhouse, Long Beach, CA; July-Aug. 1999.

**Beautiful Thing** by Jonathan Harvey; The Famous Door at The Cherry Lane Theatre, NYC; Apr.-June, 1999.

**\*Bent** by Martin Sherman, a 20th anniversary production; Redeye Theatre Company at Stella Adler Theatre, Los Angeles; opened August 11, 1999; 323-655-8587.

**\*Bible Stories** by Larry Dean Harris. Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles; July-Aug. 1999, reopened Aug. 21, 1999; 323-666-4638.

**Bill and Eddie** by Robert Harders. Playwrights' Arena, Los Angeles; July -Aug. 1999.

**The Birth of Casper G. Schmidt** by Sky Gilbert, an AIDS dissidence play; Toronto Fringe Festival; July 1999.

**B. J.: The Trail of a Transgender Country-Rock Singing Star** with Scott Hess; HERE, NYC; June 1999.

**Bob's Office Party** by Rob Elk and Joe Keyes. Hudson Avenue Theatre, Los Angeles; May-June 1999.

**Boys Of Mariel** by Bill Yule and Barry Ball, Cuban Gay men part of those exiled by Castro; The Lillian Theatre, LA; June-Aug. 1999.

**Brave Smiles** with The 5 Lesbian Brothers; PS 122, NYC; June 1999.

**Breathe** by Dan Martin and Michael Biello. 7 short musicals in 2 acts

united by a prologue and ritual; Bailiwick, Chicago; June-Aug. 1999.

**Butt Pirates of the Caribbean.** Josies Cabaret, SF; June 1999.

**Camera, Woman** by R. M. Vaughan. The fascinating life of Dorothy Arzner, the first out Lesbian Hollywood director; Buddies In Bad Times, Toronto; Oct.-Nov. 1998.

**\*Can't Get Enough** with Gay Goodenough. Bittertruth Theare, North Hollywood; June-July 1999; Third Stage, Burbank; ongoing; 213-664-9150.

**\*Christmas with the Crawfords** created by Wayne Buedins and Mark Sargent. triangle productions, Portland; Nov. 23-Dec. 23, 1999; 503-239-5919.

**\*Cootie Shots** with Fringe Benefits and guest artists; LA's GL Youth Theatre Group puts on a show! Highways, Santa Monica; Oct. 8-18, 1999; 310-315-1459.

**\*Crossroads/Intersections** with Ivy Theatre explore the crossroads & divergence of ethnic and Lesbian identities; The Village, Los Angeles; Sept. 10-26, 1999; 323-876-1938.

**\*Cyberqueer** by Tom Jacobson. Diversionary, San Diego; ongoing; 619-220-0097.

**Desire** by John Patrick Langs, a young Tennessee Williams-like writer arrives in New Orleans; Golden Means, LA; July-Aug. 1999.

**\*Die! Mommy! Die!** by Charles Busch. The Great NY Diva's hit Off-Broadway show comes to LA! Coast Playhouse, West Hollywood; ongoing; 323-655-8587.

**\*Divine Thing: The Joey Stefano** by Michael Spillers, 6@Penn, San Diego, & Highways, Santa Monica; 310-315-1459.

**\*Duboco Triangle:** Four episodes of a Gay soap opera: "Menacing Phantom" by Garret Groenveld; "Can I See Your Briefs?" by Dean Backus; "Smutopolis" by Prince Gomolvilas and "Holes Of Glory " by Doug Holsclaw; Josies, San Francisco; ongoing; 415-861-7933.

**\*The Dyke and the Porn Star** by Bayla Travis, Femme icing on a Butch Cheesecake! Highways, Santa Monica; opened Aug. 19, 1999; 310-315-1459; earlier run at 6@Penn, San Diego.

**\*Eden** by Jennifer Maisel, three women struggle to keep their friendship in the face of AIDS, alienation and upheaval including a Lesbian wedding; Theatre of NOTE, Hollywood; opened July 30, 1999; 323-856-8611.

**The Fag and the Porn Star** by Bayla Travis, the male version, 6@Penn, San Diego, June-July, 1999.

**\*Falsettos** by William Finn and Jame Lapine; triangle productions, Portland; Apr. 21-May 21, 2000; 503-239-5919.

**Fat!** by Big Queen Productions, a bit fat-ass multi-gender drag queen feminist musical love story about food; Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles; June-July, 1999.

**Fighting the Gorilla** by Charles Hingham, two Gay guys try to make it in Hollywood with nudity; Two Roads Theatre, Studio City, CA; July-Aug. 1999.

**Flying Nectarines, Zip Codes Pending** with Pam Raines. A wacky journey through adoption, therapy and flying fruit; Highways, Santa Monica; July 1999.

**\*For Reasons That Remain Unclear** by Mart Crowley. A staged reading by Alive Productions, MCC in The Valley, North Hollywood; Sept. 11, 1999 only; 818-762-1133 (ext. 4).

**\*Freeda Slave: Mask of a Diva** by Darryl LeMont Wharton, Hudson Backstage, Hollywood; ongoing; 323-939-4217.

**Freshman Year Sucks** with Rob Nash, comic solo show with many characters going through the angst of freshman year; Stages, Houston; June-July 1999.

**From Shirley Temple to Aimee Semple** by David Williams. One man's experience with Gay conversion therapy; 23 Golden Zephyr Productions, West Hollywood; July-Aug. 1999.

**Gay! Gay!** by Madeleine Olnek. A rowdy one-act; WOW Cafe, NYC; June 1999.

**Head Games** by Scott Miller, a gay comedy at the birthday party of a 35 year old off-Broadway director; New LineTheatre's Out Of Line Productions, St. Louis; August 1999.

**\*Hedwig and the Angry Inch** by James Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask; The Jane Street Theatre, NYC; ongoing; 212-2329-6200; opening at Henry Fonda Theatre, Hollywood, Oct. 31, 1999.

**Hello ... (Transition)** with Stormie M Graham. A One-Human show; Vortex, Austin; August 1999.

**Homme Fatale: The Joey Stefano Story** by Barry Lowe; Bailiwick, Chicago; June-July 1999.

**Hot Pants Homo** by F. Allen Sawyer; Josies, San Francisco;

ongoing; 415-861-7933.

**How, Now Voyager** by John Glines. Shy sissy goes to spa, gets pumped up and goes on a cruise where he meets a man who can light two cigarettes at the same time; The Glines, NYC; June 1999.

**I Never Knew Oz Was in Color** with Steve Moore, a funny and moving one-man show, Richmond Triangle Players, July, 1999

**Immaculate Infection/Infeccion Immaculata**, a friendship between a stoic Latina housewife and a cranky Jewish diva begins in an AIDS clinic; New Work for a New World, Amherst College; July 1999.

**Independence** by Lee Blessing; Actors Circle, West Hollywood; July 1999.

**\*Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time.** An erotic comedy; Players Theatre, NYC; June-July 1999; St. Genesius, West Hollywood; opens Oct. 2, 1999; 800-542-2131; Diversionary, San Diego; late Jan. 2000; 619-220-0097.

**Jeffrey** by Paul Rudnick. Lost Dog Productions, Los Angeles; May-June 1999.

**\*Julie Goldman Works it Out** with Julie Goldman. A kick-ass out comic; Vortex, Austin; Sept. 9-19, 1999; 512-454-tixs.

**\*Junior Blues** with Rob Nash. The third installment of The Holy Cross HS quadrilogy world premiere; Vortex, Austin; Aug. 27-Sept. 19, 1999; 512-454-tixs.

**\*The Kathy and Mo Show: Parallel Lives** by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney; triangle productions, Portland; Jan. 12-Feb. 6, 2000; 503-239-5919.

**Key West** by Jack Heifner. A sexy romp at Deja Vu, a clothing optional resort; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; May-July 1999.

**King Levine** by Richard Krevolin, a new comedy about the bialy king with three daughters and one's a Lesbian; Tiffany Theatre, West Hollywood; May-June 1999.

**Letters Home** by Dee Jae Cox. A staged reading about Lesbians being discharged from the military; Ivy Theatre; Aug. 1999.

**Live with It** by Elise Moore; hip London in the '60s weaves in the relationship between Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell; Buddies In Bad Times, Toronto; Nov.-Dec. 1998.

**Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt: A Love Story** by Pat Bond; Provincetown Inn; Aug.-Sept. 1999.

**\*The Marriage of Bette and Bo** by Christopher Durang; Flight Theatre, Los Angeles; opened Sept. 2, 1999; 323-692-9692.

**\*Marry Me a Little** by Stephen Sondheim, a reworking of the classic musical with two Gay men; Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles; previews Oct. 12-14; opens Oct. 15, 1999.; 310-289-2999.

**Medea the Musical** by John Fisher, Gay undertones to a production of Medea that goes overboard; Hudson, Hollywood; June-Aug. 1999.

**\*Memories Caretaker** by Paul Bonin-Rodriguez. A solo journey of loss and recovery; JumpStart, San Antonio; 210-227-5867.

**Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown** by Guillermo Reyes. A charged humorous examination of Queer Latino life; Miracle Theatre Group, Portland; June 1999; Borderlands Theater and Pima Community College, Tucson; July 1999.

**Miss Conception** by Neilia Brown, Gonzo Schexnayder and Pamela Forrest; Ivy Theatre at Highways, Santa Monica; July 1999.

**\*Miss Desmond Behind Bars** with book by Mark Goff, Marc Ian Sklar, Gregory Messer & David Bouzas and original music by Leo Savalas. An original musical parody of what happens once Norma Desmond is behind bars; Court Theatre, Los Angeles; opened Aug. 13, 1999; 310-289-2999.

**Motel Sicks: A Dragapella Summer Vacation** with The Kinsey Sicks. A fashion faux-pas entertainment; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; June-July 1999.

**Mother Son** with Jeffrey Solomon. A solo show about the relationship between a Jewish mother and her Gay son; Provincetown, Cape Cod and Wellesley College; on tour, July 1999.

**Muchacha Crazy!** with Marga Gomez. Latina, Lesbiana, and math deficient comedy goddess; Josies, San Francisco; June-Aug. 1999.

**\*Naked Boys Singing** created by Robert Schrock, just that and much more! Ran at Celebration Theatre, LA for over a year; Actor's Playhouse, NYC; ongoing; 212-239-6200.

**Naked Naked Naked** by Blair Fell and Jess Cagle, an evening of short theater: **Them, Beauty, Tom and The Pterodactyls** and **Romeo and Medea**; Independent Art@ HERE, NYC; July 1999.

**On Being Cool, and Other Digressions** with Lauren Crux. A comedy with tragic potholes; Highways, Santa Monica; Aug. 1999.



Kevin Rettig had an enchanting "Mid-Summer Night's Dream" party. Danielle Brazell became Co-Artistic Director of Highways with Tim Miller and presented an evening "Queer Enough?" in August. In June 1999 this talented performer appeared in BLOWING THE SYNTAX as part of an evening with Tre Temperelli's TONGUE-HI-FI RIDICULE. Michael Kearns was busy too starring as a psycho in BILL AND EDDIE, writing WHO'S AFRAID OF EDWARD ALBEE? and soloing at The Village in ONE MAN, ONE NIGHT, TOO MUCH! STAGE, the annual benefit fundraiser that Kearns and Jim Pickett started will receive a Spirit Of Hope award Oct 17, 1999 from Being Alive; 310-289-2551 for ticket information. Also at The Village in Hollywood (The Center's cultural center) was The Fabulous Monsters Psy-Cabaret in Aug and they will be creating their magic in September 1999 at Highways as well. First Stage, the group dedicated to the development of new material for the stage and screen moved to better digs in the same location at United Methodist Church complex in Hollywood.

An Elegant Evening of Change, a benefit for Minority AIDS Project on Aug 14, 1999 featured live jazz, classic and the R & B vocal group ONE; 323-936-4948.

In addition to being the dynamic chair of the GLAAD Theatre Subcommittee, Jim Talbot is co-President with Zara Taylor of The Writers Guild of Media Image, a coalition to promote fair depiction and diversity in media.

A highlight for me this theatrical Summer was venturing down to the Artists District east of downtown LA where lots of creative things are happening in old buildings and lofts and places like Zoo District where Kevin Dulude and Tamar Fortgang were appearing in TWO CHARACTER PLAY by Tennessee Williams. It was an incredible totally artistic experience and made me wish I were an artist too. 323-769-5674.

**Madison:** Tap-It New Works celebrates its 15th anniversary with the 1999-2000 season. Bravo! Danielle and Donna; 608-244-2938; tapit@mailbag.com

**Montreal:** Out Productions not only created The Pink Network but held a colloquy on the interpretation, representation and creation of Gay and Lesbian history in the theatre internationally in May 1999; 514-590-0589; in@out.ca

**New York:** Dixon Place had a one-time event called "Sink Or Swim" in July on the historic Yankee ferryboat at Pier 25. Carmelita Tropicana emceed the evening that celebrates the good things in Dixon Place's history: a 1999 Obie, The Edwin Booth Award, and having lost its lease a new home. September 15, 1999 was Opening Night at their new space at Vineyard 26, 309 E 26 St, NYC 10010; 212-532-1546; fax 212-532-1092; [www.dixonplace.org]. Bravo to Ellie Covan and the artistic people at Dixon Place!

Bob Schrock and the cast of NAKED BOYS SINGING got a fine review in The New York Times! Congratulations! The show is at Actors Playhouse.

June 26 was The Faerie Ball in NYC; June 27 was Fringe Pride, the other gay festival hosted by the Radical Faeries.

On May 19, 1999 Greg Walloch was named Stand-Up New York's Funniest Gay Man Of The Millennium! On top of that, he celebrated his 29th birthday in style!

**Ovett, MS:** Brenda and Wanda Henson continue to thrive at Camp Sister Spirit. The 11th Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival was held in April 1999. They are doing very worthy projects and are a feminist educational and cultural retreat for residents and visitors. Contribute to them at PO Box 12, Ovett MS 39464; 601-344-1411; sisterspir@aol.com, http://members.aol.com/SisterSpir

**Pasadena:** The Musical Theatre Guild at The Pasadena Playhouse had another one of its fab concert version musicals. This time it was Stephen Sondheim's masterpiece PASSION; 818-848-MYG4; mtguild@aol.com

**Portland:** triangle productions! celebrates its 10th Anniversary! Congratulations to Don Horn and company! 503-239-5919.

**San Diego:** Sushi Performance and Visual Art is beginning its 20th year of production with New York monologist David Cale. Sept 16-25, 1999, Oguri and his LA company will perform dance/butoh theater work entitled IN BETWEEN THE HEARTBEAT; Oct. 4-23, 1999; 619-235-8466.

Lots of work coming out of Charles Lago and Charles Snell's 6@Penn and then touring. Bayla Travis' THE DYKE AND THE PORN STAR, and soon a work about Joey Stefano! And they book Quentin Crisp, Annie Sprinkle and more!!

**San Francisco:** The camp show that became an institution, BEACH BLANKET BABYLON celebrated its 25th anniversary in June! Bravo!

The LAVA Awards will be presented March 18, 2000. A past honoree was Adele Prandini, AD of Theatre Rhinoceros. For further information on this premiere event for Bay Area Lesbians call 510-531-2863, or DPetty2727@aol.com

I am happy see that Josie's Cabaret is still giving the community a lot of fun and entertainment. THE DUBOCE TRIANGLE series sounds like a hoot! 415-861-7933.

**Santa Monica:** In August Highways presented QUEER ENOUGH? curated by Danielle Brazell featuring four amazing artists: Swan The Storyteller, Sabrina Alonso, Erin O'Brien, and A Rosser Goodman's ultra sexy short film "Wet Dress." 310-315-1459.

**Scottsdale:** The Essential Theatre of Tempe presented Play Back Theatre: Dream Stories in June 1999 at The Scottsdale Center For The Arts; 602-897-6711.

## CHICAGO SCENE by Howard Casner

On June 17, the About Face Youth Theatre (AFT) premiered First Breath, a theatre piece about gay teens created by the members of AFT's new youth outreach program. First Breath, the result of a five-month workshop, debuted to great fanfare and success. This program will be repeated next year, while in the meantime sections from this production will be toured to high schools and colleges. If anyone is interested in more information on this tremendous program, contact Brian Goodman, the Director of Education Programs, at 773-549-7943. This is not the only feather in AFT's cap. When the Joseph Jefferson Awards for non-union theatres were handed out AFT became King (Queen?) of the Hill winning the most, four for Dream Boy (best production, director and sound and lighting designs) and one for Kyle Hall's adaptation of A Home at the End of the World. In addition, AFT produced a successful and beautiful production of Caryl Churchill's Cloud Nine. Can they possibly get any more annoying?

This year's Pride Series at The Bailiwick is perhaps one of their most successful, both audience and critic wise. Its twin productions of the new age musical, Breathe by Dan Martin and Michael Biello, and Homme Fatale: The Joey Stefano Story (the Australian hit by Barry Lowe) have so boffo'd the press and the box office, they've been extended. Not too surprising a description for a drama about Mr. Stefano when you think about it, and how apropos that this play comes from down under, too.

Still to come, Damage & Desire by Kate Moira Ryan, a tale of two sisters (the Dickens, you say), and a literary magazine, and Scent of Rain by Mark Dunn, starring Ryan (bigger than a breadbasket) Idol, a comedy about a father and two sons trying to find a "husband" for the third son before the father dies. As a side note, after rehearsal one night, Idol was fag bashed when he finished dining with a friend. He seemed to have given as good as he got to his assailants, but the report stated that the police had no interest in tracking down the goons.

theatreQ continues its readings of new works by gay / lesbian / transgender writers in its series The Stories of Our Lives. They also performed several of these works for the audience at Edgewater Days, a community street fair, and the location of the Gerber/Hart

Library which houses theatreQ. Suffice it to say, their audience was probably not made up of your usual queer theater goers, so kudos to performing at such an unusual venue and probably opening a few eyes, as well as astonished mouths.

Also breaking a leg: Joan Crawford Goes to Hell in David Cerda's camp version of the movie star who is forced to watch her life retold under the auspices of someone with even bigger shoulders than herself, Mr. DeVille, the Big S himself; John C. Russell's Stupid Kids (can anyone say redundancy) dramatizes two straight high schoolers and their queer classmates who love them (sounds like a self-help book) in a powerleveling at Roadworks Production; the improv group GayCo Productions decided to Don't Ask ... Don't Teletubby! at The Second City; at Apple Tree Theatre, Craig Lucas's hero in The Dying Gaul sells his soul to Mr. DeVille when he changes a man dying from AIDS to a woman; Larry Kramer's The Normal Heart shows no signs of hardening of the arteries in this well-received production by Ulysses Theatre Company; Stage Left revives an earlier success, Timothy Cope and Paul Boening's musical the Secret of the Old Queen about the Hardy (are they, or aren't they) Boys; and The Phoenix Ascending carries the Torch Song Trilogy, Harvey Fierstein's tribute to a diva who does and does not want to be a drag.

Department of Self-Aggrandizement: My one act play, A Little Lear and Laundry, will be presented at The Bailiwick's Director's Festival this August.

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### A CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE

#### Entertainment News

by Gerald Semas

- **Lisa Diana Shapiro's** comedy Labor Pains concluded Tuscon's Invisible Theatre's 1998/99 season May 19 - June 6. The play tells the story of an Italian Gay man and a straight Jewish woman who raise a child together.
- **Buddy Thomas' play, The Crumple Zone** is heading to an Off Broadway home in the fall. This winner of the 1998 New Voices Play Award focuses on four gay men and their inability to sustain relationships. A number of backers' readings were held in LA last spring featuring actor/comic **Mario Cantone**.
- **Kathleen Turner** puts her sultry voice to good use in the one-woman show Tallulah. **Sandra Ryan's** biographical play begins a national tour this fall with hope of a Broadway premiere in spring 2000. The show is set during preparation for a **Harry S. Truman** fundraiser, while hostess, Bankhead reminisces about her life.
- Despite the crappy script for the film To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar, Director **P.J. Hogan** (My Best Friend's Wedding) still has faith in writer **Douglas Carter Beane**. The two are teaming to film Beane's play As Bees In Honey Drown. The story involves a rich socialite who relies on glamour, money, and fame to lure a young novelist into writing a film version of her life.
- Tales of the City' star **Olympia Dukakis** made her UK stage debut in June in the one-woman play Rose, by Bent playwright **Martin Sherman**.
- The Actor's Playhouse in NY's Greenwich Village hosted the June opening of Naked Boys Singing! An announcement for the show's casting call mentioned "only actors willing to sing naked in the show" would be considered. Though in larger letters at the top of the page read "ACTORS MUST BE WILLING TO JOIN EQUITY." Apparently unions cause greater concern than nudity does these days.
- June brought NY's Wings Theatre staged **Gene Franklin Smith's** Rubicon as part of it's Gay Plays Series. The play combines elements of sex and politics with the potential of a gay president.
- Former soap opera hunk, **Robert Kelker-Kelly** returned to his gay roots in West Hollywood. That is last May, he played a gay man in Coast Playhouse's production of Parental Discretion. Not the first

time playing a homosexual, Kelly starred in a 1985 production of The Normal Heart in St. Petersburg, FLA.

- **Jerry Herman's** musical version of Auntie Mame is getting one more chance for redemption on film. Non-theatre goers only know it from the horrible 1974 film version starring **Lucille Ball**. ABC, Storyline Entertainment, and **Barbara Streisand** are working together on a 3-hour TV version of the former Broadway hit. Streisand has not signed to star in the vehicle but will act as Executive Producer.
- **Danny Pintauro** (Who's The Boss) starred in a recent NY production of The Velocity of Gary. Originally written and performed by playwright James Still, the show exposes the naïve title character to the world of drug dealers, drag queens, and porn stars. Pintauro, who came out a few years ago, recently graduated from Stanford with a degree in, what else? Theatre. A film version of the play, without Pintauro is expected to be released by early fall. The cast features **Ethan Hawke**, **Salma Hayek** and **Vincent D'Onofrio**.
- The sold out run of **Neil LaBute's** play, bash starring **Calista Flockhart** was extended but without the Ally McBeal star. The show's original close date was July 25<sup>th</sup> that allowed Flockhart to return to taping of her series. Author LaBute describes this collection of one-acts as the story of beautiful people doing awful things. The third segment, titled A Gaggle of Saints is a disturbing tale of a Mormon who beats a gay man to death while on a NY vacation.
- A company called Flatt World Figures is releasing a series of collectable action figures from the movie The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Expected on store shelves this September, fans and collectors can pick up their own versions of **Dr. Frank-N-Furter**, **Riff Raff** and of course the Diva of Dementia herself, **Magenta**. What? No Rocky?

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### WAY OFF BROADWAY BY THE BAY

by Tom W. Kelly

#### NEWS:

MANY shows received extensions including Sara Felder's **Shtick! A Queer Play on Jewish Vaudeville** (at Traveling Jewish Theatre) as well as New Conservatory Theatre's **Key West** and The Kinsey Sicks' **Motel Sicks**.

June was GAY PRIDE MONTH and gay shows abounded! Kaliyuga Arts presented **Pride**, a scathing new comedy by Myles Weber at the EXIT Stage Left theatre. Directed by John Sowle. "An entertaining and ultimately moving story of a guy looking for some kind of permanence in a world where everything seems to be disposable." [www.kaliyuga.com](http://www.kaliyuga.com)

At Venue 9, **Fanny and Walt** by Jewel Seehaus "celebrated the meteoric friendship between the young, not-yet famous Walt Whitman and the older, much more successful Fanny Fern, a newspaper columnist and novelist (who originated the aphorism "The way to a man's heart is through is stomach").

On June 15, the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts kicked off Pride month with a free arts festival at Yerba Buena Gardens which featured excerpts from new opera "Wuornos," new drama from Tommy Aviccoli-Mecca, jazz by Dixieland Dykes, City Swing with Gail Wilson, Barbary Coast Cloggers, singer Tuffy Eldridge, Cheer San Francisco, Arabesque Ballet, and much more.

And in Berkeley, Central Works Theater Ensemble produced their collaboratively written **Pyrate Story**, "a wildly theatrical tale of the two most famous/notorious women pirates" (cross-dressed to appear male).

**Theatre Rhinoceros**, 2926 16th St.; 415-861-5079.

Coming up: In **Shopping and F\*\*\*ing** by Mark Ravenhill, "a mysterious trio of working class youth explores the world of commerce, sex and drugs where every transaction has a price." Sept. 16-Oct. 16.

Through June, Lauren Carley performed her theatrical cabaret, **Venus Envy**, a chiaroscuro of funny, haunted, star-crossed and playfully invented women.

During July, SF's comedy collective presented **Killing My Lobster Loves a Parade!** Their new comedy shorts "connect in surprise parties for doctors in surgery, families who only wear clogs, combat safety demonstrations at Renaissance Fairs & Auto Shows and lots more hootenanny. [www.killingmylobster.com](http://www.killingmylobster.com)

**Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts**, 1519 Mission St.; 415-554-0402; [director@jonsimsctr.org](mailto:director@jonsimsctr.org); [www.jonsimsctr.org](http://www.jonsimsctr.org)

Committed to providing a nurturing environment to develop queer plays, Jon Sims Center is currently presenting four new works. In **Bear-A-Go-Go!**, a series of seven monologues, writer and performer Alan Reade offers a pleasant stage presence and excellently varied vocal pitch and rhythm for each bear-identified character.

Also, Sue Roginski who uses theater, dance, music, text and slide imagery to take a quirky look at what life should be (Aug. 13 and Sept. 10); Lisi DeHaas un-closets her relationship to performance in **Studly**, an investigation in movement and language; July 23, Aug. 20 and Sept. 17; and San Diego actress and playwright Zina Camblin in **Bedroom Stories**, a comedy about nine young women coming to terms with their womanhood as lesbians; July 30, Aug. 27, Sept. 24.

**New Conservatory Theatre**, 25 Van Ness Ave.; 415-861-8972.

Coming up: In **Steel Kiss** by Robin Fulford, "fag-bashing, roughhousing, and the bravado of teenage boys fuel this riveting new Canadian play." Sept. 18-Oct. 30.

Also coming up: With the Celebrating Women Festival, Holly Hughes returns to the stage with the world premiere of her new solo work, **Preaching to the Perverted** where this "insightful, funny and entertaining storyteller takes on decency, family-lesbian chic and child pornography." Sept. 10-25.

In August, multi-media event **My Sister, My Sister** combined "the startling black and white photography of Meredith Stout, with spoken words of poetry by Zelma Brown, recorded music and the voices of six performers to offer an insight to homelessness and to pay tribute to struggling women and children." Replaced "Waking Up: one woman's story" in Celebrating Women Fest.

The completely delightful, contemporary comedy, **Key West** by Jack Heifner, is beefed up by some meaty generation gap subtext. Long-time buddies vacation together at a clothing optional gay resort where one seeks love in all the wrong places and the other woefully ponders his place in the gay community and life in general. Razor-sharp dialogue by Heifner and great direction by Ed Decker.

The many short sketches in **Parallel Lives** by Mo Gaffney and Kathy Nijimy offered lots of laughs thanks to clever direction by Kathryn G. McCarty and the consummate comic talents of Caitlin McClure and Mary Jo Mrochinski. Though part of NCT's Celebrating Women Festival, these amusing and poignant shorts were loads of fun for men too.

From transit station to tropical paradise, **Motel Sicks: A Dragapella Summer**, created and performed by The Kinsey Sicks, took tawdry to new heights (or depths). These "dubious divas" superbly sang, without benefit of instrumental backup (aka acapella), many familiar tunes with naughty new lyrics. For gay and straight audience alike.

Through August at the Exit Theatre, AvidFan Productions mounted Edward Albee's **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** [avidfan.com](http://avidfan.com)

Through July and August, the **Center for Theater Arts, UC Berkeley**, at the Durham Studio Theatre, presented **A Perfect Ganesh** by Terrence McNally (directed by Amir Talai) and **Pterodactyls** by Nicky Silver (directed by Christopher Heald). 510-642-1677.

**TheatreWorks**, Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts; 415-903-6000.

Playing until Oct. 3 on their Second Stage, **As Bees in Honey Drown** by Douglas Carter Beane is "an absolutely fabulous comedy set in the fast lane of high-style Manhattan which features the character Alexa Vere de Vere, a fascinating amalgam of Holly Golightly, Sally Bowles and Auntie Mame."

Through June, **Sunday in the Park with George** by James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim received a brilliant production, directed by Robert Kelley and starring Michelle Duffy and Michael Babin. Wonderful!

**Berkeley Repertory Theatre**, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley; 510-845-4700.

As part of their Parallel Season, Brian Freeman's **Civil Sex** (winner of the Will Glickman Playwright Award) will play from Jan. 14 to Feb. 11, 2000. Directed by Lisa Peterson. "A dramatic investigation into the life of gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin and a moving inquiry into what it means to be black, gay and militant in America."

**Marin Theatre Company**, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley; 415-388-5200.

From Nov. 11 to Dec. 12, MTC will mount the first licensed production of **Spring Storm**, a 1937 play written by 26 year old Tennessee Williams. Directed by Lee Sankowich. "This peek into the mind of the young Williams deals with the beautiful Heavenly, a 24 year old woman, her aspirations, relationships with men and the expectations of the aristocratic deep south as well as social status, Southern mores, racial and provincial customs."

**New Conservatory Theatre Center's** fifth Pride Season, titled "Sex, Guts, Glory -- the Millennium Pride Season," includes the U.S. premiere of a Canadian drama, two West Coast premieres and revivals of two Tony Award-winning plays.

**Steel Kiss** by Robin Fulford; Sept. 18-Oct. 30. Fag-bashing, roughhousing, and the bravado of teenage boys fuel this riveting new Canadian play.

**Dream Boy** adapted by Eric Rosen, based on novel by Jim Grimsley; Nov. 20-Jan 1. Story of a painful first love between two adolescent boys who bravely sustain each other in a world of domestic violence and disintegration.

**Who's Afraid of Edward Albee?** by Michael Kearns; December 11-January 2. Behind the scenes of a Los Angeles Equity-waiver acting troupe premiering the first all-male version of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" despite the playwright's protestations.

**Love! Valour! Compassion!** by Terrence McNally; Jan. 22-March 4. Eight friends leave the city behind for three simple weekends and find the bonds of friendship. LVC reminds us all of how funny and heroic love is and how wondrous the human spirit can be.

**Message to Michael** by Tim Pinckney; March 25-May 6. A sexy, well-crafted tale of two best friends who go to bars, pick up men and harbor only nominal anxieties about career, sex and the future.

**Torch Song Trilogy** by Harvey Fierstein; June 3-July 15. Armed with a keenly developed sense of wit, Arnold tells of his universally affecting story, and he confirms that it is well worth carrying the torch for happiness.

**Theatre Rhinoceros's** 22nd season (1999-2000) includes three world premieres, one West Coast premiere, and the return of a local icon.

**Shopping and F\*\*\*ing** by Mark Ravenhill; Sept. 16-Oct 16. This smash-hit from London's West End makes its West Coast Debut. A mysterious trio of working class youth explores the world of commerce, sex, and drugs where every transaction has a price.

**jaywalker**, written and performed by Marga Gomez; Nov. 11-Dec. 11. A law-abiding queer Latina pedestrian goes on a one-woman misdemeanor rampage in Hollywood when the pressure of competing against Chihuahuas and Jennifer Lopez takes its toll. This is Marga's latest solo comedy, direct from the New York International Fringe Festival.

**Barebacking, A Sex Panic! Comedy** written and directed by John Fisher; Jan. 20-Feb. 19, 2000. The two-time Glickman Award winning playwright of *Medea the Musical!* and *Combat! An American Melodrama* brings a world premiere to Rhino! From the sex clubs South of Market to the supervisors chamber of City Hall, the war is on between the defenders of sexual abandon and the promoters of sexual restraint.

**Latin Hustle** with Jaime Cortez, Adriana Gordon and Al Lujan; March 16-April 15. Last seen rocking the Studio with their irreverent humor in *Full Frontal Rudity*, this SF comedy trio is moving upstairs with a brand new show.

**Whatever Happened to Sister George?** written and directed by F. Allen Sawyer; May 18-June 17. Through the story of a soap opera star about to be outed, Sawyer combines the star power of the 40's and 50's with the *Lesbian Angst* films of the 60's and 70's to create a Lesbian Camp Comedy for the 00's.

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## QUEERFEST REPORT from BIRMINGHAM, U.K.

By Tim Miller

I'm feeling really good about the gay men's performance project I did in England (festively titled SUCK SPIT CHEW SWALLOW!) I think it came together very powerfully. It is very challenging to work so quickly with a group of performers (and non-performers) to make something come to life. The piece really came to be about desire and disaster I think. All this aspiration to love and for companionship ... surrounded by the bombs without and within. The piece began with five men sleeping in the space surrounded by a haunting ambient score with a collage of snippets from the groups' stories of very intimate moments they had had with other men. The musician I collaborated with created a great score for the show full of sampled bits of interviews of the performers.

I was also working with a video artist and we collaborated on a wonderful video sequence for the show. It was the most multi-media I have been in years! The piece marked the men's stories of their bodies, search for love, the challenge of the many obstacles (and the bombs like the one in the bar in Soho!) that the world tosses in our way. Kuli, a young Indian man did a great piece about coming out during the rehearsal process and going to a gay club for the first time after our fifth workshop. I did a piece about getting a bottle thrown at me in Montana two years ago when I was performing at Montana Pride in Bozeman during a time when Alistair was being refused a visa by the US government. Ken, a Jamaican man, did a great piece about being invisible in gay culture as a middle-aged man of color. It felt pretty strong. Ian McKellen came up and saw it, which was so sweet and tickled the performers to no end!

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## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA THEATRE

by Bill Kaiser

Lots of productions this summer in Los Angeles, San Diego, and surrounding areas. Lesbian Theatre got a big jolt from The Ivy Theatre on three fronts: co-production with Celebration Theatre of "Short & Sexy," an evening of brief romantic encounters by Lesbian playwrights Jennifer Swiatek, Pamela Gray, Sharyn Blumenthal, Pam Raines, and Sibyl O. Malley brought that -- and more -- especially to those unfamiliar with Lesbian passion on stage. Later that week in August was LETTERS HOME by Dee Jae Cox, an emotion-packed evening about a Lesbian witch-hunt in the military, and the devastating results. Ivy also had a co-production with Highways and 6@Penn's San Diego hit THE DYKE AND THE PORN STAR by Bayla Travis. This was a stunning tour-de-force with captivating performances by Gayle Feldman and Veronica Hart. The Ivy continues their sweep with "Crossroads/Intersections" playing in Sept, 1999 at The Village in Hollywood with three works: GOODBYE, CONEY ISLAND by Roz Winter and Janet Alessandro; GHOST AND THE SPIRIT by Pat Alderete and THE POLITICS OF

ME-SUNG AND UNSUNG with Barbara Roberts. Brava to The Ivy! and the other Theatres involved. A fourth show running in LA was REAL GIRLS with comics Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon.

Another genre that has taken LA by storm is the Drag/Camp one. Charles Busch is starring in the fab thriller DIE MOMMY DIE! at the Coast Playhouse where it has been extended to the end of September, 1999. I believe that the hit WHEN PIGS FLY by Howard Crabtree has some drag; at The Coronet. And then MISS COCO PERU is showing us her UNIVERSE at The Beverly Hills Playhouse, and nearby at The Court Theatre MISS DESMOND BEHIND BARS by Mark Goff, Marc Ian Sklar, Gregory Messer, David Bouzas and Leo Savalas is wooing them in the aisles.

Some personnel news: Richard Israel from West Coast Ensemble has become Artistic Director of Celebration Theatre with Jill Moore as Managing Director. Richard plans to continue Bob Schrock's practice of presenting original plays and new playwrights but he also wants to make Celebration the first stop for G/L plays that have premiered in New York. He hopes to present work that will illuminate the G/L community for crossover audiences. His first production will be a male version sanctioned by Sondheim of MARRY ME A LITTLE opening in mid-October, 1999.

Wayne Tibbetts has established himself as Artistic Director of Diversionary Theatre in San Diego with a goal of expanding the mission of the theatre to crossover shows. He eventually would like Diversionary to become an Equity theatre. Diversionary currently is presenting Tom Jacobson's CYBERQUEER.

It's shaping up for a big Fall too with WONDERLAND by Chay Yew at the LaJolla Playhouse, DIVINE THING: THE JOEY STEFANO STORY at 6@Penn, VISITING MR GREEN at The Pasadena Playhouse and HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH at the Henry Fonda Theatre.

Call The Purple Circuit Hotline at 818-953-5072 for weekly updates and remember to see a G/L show tonight and when you travel!

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## ART

The National Academy of Design in NYC presented two exhibits "Men Without Women: Paul Cadmus As Curator and Paul Cadmus" June-Aug, 1999. Paul Cadmus is 91 and still painting.

Across the country at the Highways gallery in Santa Monica presented "Bad Boys ... Rough Trade" July-Aug curated by Philip Hitchcock featuring male erotica by the curator, Don Baccardy, Tom of Finland, Jeff Palmer and more.

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## DANCE / MUSIC

In June, Purple Moon Dance Project in San Francisco celebrated the multi-faceted experiences of Lesbian mothers in an evening-length dance piece called "Conceptions". The work under the artistic direction of Jill Togawa featured dancer/choreographers Arisika Razak and Alena Cawthorne as well as composers Afia Walking Tree and Gwen Jones, and is based on the experiences of 30 Lesbian mothers. 415-552-1105.

Vox Femina, LA's Women's chorus performed "Celebrating Women" in June, a concert which celebrated women's relationships. Vox Femina also released its first CD "Taking Shape" based on their first two years of concerts. Contact Vox Femina for information on future concerts at 310-559-1017; voxfem@aol.com.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles is preparing for its tour to Russia in October 1999. They were recently honored for their 20th anniversary of performing. Their concert in July was called "Let's go to the Movies". The 1999-2000 concert season includes "From Russia with Love" Nov 7, 1999 at Pacific Design Center, "Joys of The Season" Dec. 17-19, 1999 at The Alex Theatre, Glendale; "With a

Mighty Voice" Apr. 1-8, 2000 at various church locations (with big pipe organs), and "Oz and Beyond: The Music Of Harold Arlen," July 7-9, 2000 at The Alex. For further information: 800-MEN SING.

Composer Brian Gross holds a monthly Salon for California composers and new music aficionados. Contact B12x12 @aol.com; members.aol.com/camusicalp

## FESTIVALS / SEASONS

The 1999/2000 Wings Theatre Company of New York Season includes The Gay Plays Series as follows: BOYFRIEND FOR THE HOLIDAYS by Holland MacFallister, a romantic Christmas Manhattan musical Nov 26-Dec 23, 1999; ADAM'S WEDDING by James Rosenfield, Adam's marrying a guy in a big wedding, Feb. 4-Mar 4, 2000; COWBOYS by Clint Jeffries and Paul Johnson, the sweetest soundin' purtiest posse of harmonizin' hombres in this new musical, Apr. 7-May 6, 2000; BIG DICKS IN STAGE by Steven Dawson, from Australia, a delightful story of a Gay writer's dilemma, June 16-July 8, 2000; and BOX 27 by Michael Norman Mann, the Drama-Logue-GLAAD award-winning play about the searing repercussions of don't ask, don't tell in the military, Aug 11-Sept 2, 2000.

Wings is also presenting Women At Wings Lesbian Play Series for the first time! with STRANGE LIGHT by Cindy Cooper, caught between her lover's dreams and mother's failing memory Bayley abandons Gay marriage to delve into the past, Mar 10-Apr 1, 2000 and BROKEN TALE OF MOUSE by Amy Pivar, Freda Rosen, Patricia Chilsen & Paula Kimper, Life lands on a Woman--hard, May 9-May 13, 2000; 212-627-2960.

Artland 1999 is IDA's 6th Annual Extravaganza of art and fun for Queer men, Wimmin and friends from all over the world Sept 17-26, 1999 at the hollar in Tennessee. For further info call 615-597-4409, or Idahoes@dtccom.net

Theatre Rhinoceros of San Francisco begins its 22nd season of queer theatre with SHOPPING AND F\*\*\*ING by Mark Ravenhill, Sept. 16-Oct. 1999; jaywalker with Marga Gomez, the Latina comic's latest solo show from the NYC International Fringe Festival, Nov. 11-Dec. 11, 1999; BAREBACKING, A SEX PANIC! COMEDY by John Fisher, the war is on between sexual abandon and restraint, Jan. 20-Feb 19, 2000; LATIN HUSTLE with Jaime Cortez, Adriana Gordon and Al Lujan, a new comedy show, Mar. 16-Apr. 15, 2000; WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SISTER GEORGE? By F. Allen Sawyer, a soap opera star about to be outed turns into a Lesbian camp comedy for the 00's, May 18-June 17, 2000; 415- 861-5079.

"Screen, Stage and the Page " was a Reading Festival produced at The Village by Mary Casey and the classes at The Village in Hollywood July 9-Aug. 15, 1999; 323-860-7300.

Bailiwick Repertory Theatre in Chicago presented Pride'99 from May to Aug. 1999, which included JUST SAY NO by Larry Kramer; with Greg Louganis; SHIRTS AND SKIN with Tim Miller; CONVERSATIONS WITH A DIVA by Dr. Shirlene Holmes; BREATHE by Dan Martin and Michael Biello; SELF-HELP by Clark Carlton; HOMME FATALE by Barry Lowe; DAMAGE AND DESIRE by Kate Moira Harris; SCENT OF RAIN by Marc Dunn and A Real Read in COLORPHOBIA: A PERSPECTIVE IN RACIAL TENSION IN THE LESBIGAYTRANS COMMUNITY. 773-883-1090; BailiwickR@aol.com

The Bailiwick in Chicago presented its annual Directors Festival in August 1999 presenting 26 works. The coordinator is Samuel Jordan.

In Los Angeles, in June, was the First Annual Celebration of Live Theatre with all performances free. www.latheatrefest.com

Queerfest happens in England. Tim Miller organized a multi-media residency in Birmingham in June 1999 called SUCK, SPIT, CHEW, SWALLOW. For Queerfest: 0121-244-9090.

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project in San Francisco presented the first DykeDrama Festival in July-Aug. 1999. Among the offerings was A RUSTLE OF WINGS by Linda Eisenstein.

The 6th Annual Afrosolo Arts Festival also was in San Francisco Aug. 14-22, 1999. Among the events was a community forum and performances with Black Artists on AIDS; 415-771-Afro(2376).

The New Conservatory Theatre Center in San Francisco announced The Millennium Pride Season which includes STEEL KISS by Robin Fulford; DREAM BOY by Jim Grimsley; WHO'S AFRAID OF EDWARD ALBEE? by Michael Kearns; LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION! by Terrance McNally; MESSAGE TO MICHAEL by Tim Pinckney ; and TORCH SONG TRILOGY by Harvey Fierstein; 415- 861-8972.

Dixon Place in NYC presented the 8th Annual HOT: Celebration of Queer Culture in July 1999. Among the offerings was Holly Hughes' PREACHING TO THE PERVERTED; new works by Reno, Moe Angelos and Leigh Silverman, Hot Peaches, Emmett Foster (STOP THE LIES), new play reading series with Andrew Mellen of STRANGE KINDNESS by Brooke Berman; THE CRACK MUFFIN OPERA, a terrific and twisted work of operatic proportions by Tom Bondi, Jim Boutin and Mark Holt; Felice Shays in JEW HUNGRY and our pal from Seattle David Schmader in STRAIGHT, and his signature piece LETTER TO AXL. 212-219-3088.

A.S.K. Theater Projects in LA sponsored their Annual Festival "Common Ground" in June 1999 at UCLA. Events included Julie Jensen's TWO-HEADED, Karen Finley in GENUINE IMPULSE, The Fabulous Monsters in SPEED HEDDA and The Diavolo Dance Theater among much more 310-478-9ASK.

QUEER@HERE had its second year outing in NYC in June, 1999 with HOMO HOSTAGE with James Lescene; Madeleine Olnek's CO-DEPENDENT LESBIAN SPACE ALIEN SEEKING SAME; and BOBBY MILLER. BOBBY MILLER with Bobby Miller. HERE also presented THE AMERICAN LIVING ROOM Festival in July and August featuring 200 new works by emerging artists. 212-647-0202; Info@here.org

SNAP!Fest '99 in Omaha in July, 1999 produced THE LAST SESSION by Steve Schalchlin and Jim Brochu, the LA GLAAD theatre winning musical; EMPTY CLOSETS by Jerrold Rabushka, six strangers meet for an encounter about 'coming out' and WALTER'S BIG ADVENTURE by Doug Marr, when developmentally disabled Walter starts to tell ambitious Kenny about his adventure they both begin a journey of learning and self discovery.

New Line Theatre in St. Louis announced its 9th season of provocative alternative musical theatre to include: FLOYD COLLIND Nov. 4-20, 1999; OUT ON BROADWAY 2000 (presenting a revue of gay composers with their songs in a Gay context) Mar. 9-25, 2000, and HAIR June 1-24, 2000. 314-773-6526.

Provincetown Fringe Festival was organized by Marjorie Conn from late July to Labor Day and included LORENA HICKOK & ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: A LOVE STORY, GERTY GERTY GERTY STEIN IS BACK BACK BACK, singer Kate Schutt, the band Yoke, also Blue Stogie, Commonbond, Poetry Slam and Puppet Rag-Queer Adult Puppetry as well as MAEBUSH BLOOMS IN PROVINCETOWN

Glasgay'99 is October 22-31, 1999 in Glasgow, Scotland. In addition to great performances there will be a free workshop program. Call 0141-400-0301 for a copy of the Festival Brochure.

In July, 1999 Mark Taper Forum's Asian Theatre Workshop and East-West Players presented a Festival of Asian American Performance called "Word Up!" Included was POINTLESS with Alec Mapa.

SpeakEasy Stage Company in Boston presents A NEW BRAIN by William Finn and James LaPine; Oct. 7-30, 1999.

A DYING GAUL by Craig Lucas; Apr. 13-29, 2000, and THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD by Paul Rudnick; June 1-24, 2000. In addition, there will be the Millennium Concerts in Nov. 1999,

and Cabaret Shows like "A Star Is Bored" and "Die Die My Darling." 617-437-7731.

The Bailiwick's Primary Season will include the world premiere of David Biele's musical play DEAR FRIENDS AND GENTLE HEARTS opening Mar. 20, 2000; a new revival of Terence Rattigan's THE DEEP BLUE SEA; opening Jan. 9, 2000; 773-883-1090.

Dixon Place will have a new season in its new digs at VINEYARD 26 to include in September a workshop production of Craig Lucas' controversial new play THE CHILD about the relationship of two men and a 15-year-old boy. Other performers appearing in Oct. and Nov. will be Derek Hughes and Nancy Giles. 212-532-1535.

## FILM / VIDEO / TV

The Oboys: Parties, Porn & Politics is a new documentary that had its world premiere at OutFest in Los Angeles in July 1999. The Oboys' DickBrain News has articles by Robert Patrick, Allan Gassman and more. Reach them at 310-289-8517, or oboys123@aol.com; www.gaywired.com/oboy/index.html

"Crocodile Tears," an independently made movie by Ted Sod based on his play, is a very dark comedy about an HIV-positive Gay man Simon DeSoto who sells his soul to the devil circa 1995 in order to be free of the virus. The film was shown commercially in Los Angeles in August 1999 after premiering at film festivals around the world. The August issue of Art and Understanding has an article on the film. 908-561-7306.

## LITERARY SCENE

Michael Van Duzer's hilarious one-acts HEAT THE SAMOVAR, BLANCHE and POSING STRAP PIRATES which are performed under the umbrella title TAWDRY TALES have been published in the Alyson Press anthology of Gay and Lesbian parodies." Wilma Loves Betty."

T'n'T Classics Inc has its 1999 Catalog available. They are the publishers for Jane Chambers, Doric Wilson, Arch Brown, Robert Chesley, Sidney Morris and much more. We need to support all play publishers! Contact: or 360 W. 36 St., #2, NW, NY 10018-6412; 212-736-6279; fax 212-695-3219; SHELLEY FT@aol.com

Holiday Gift giving? Waide Aaron Riddle (actor and cable TV host) has a new book of poetry out called "All-American Texan." Check it out.

David Roman's "Acts Of Intervention: Performance, Gay Culture and AIDS" has been published by Indiana University Press; 800-842-6796; or iupress@indiana.edu; or from your independent gay and lesbian bookstore.

Terry Wolverton has edited "His 3", and Hers 3", brilliant new fiction by gay and lesbian writers.

Production Notes is a theatrical newsletter. Contact at ProdNotes@aol.com and let them know The Purple Circuit sent you.

The Bottom Line is a great newsletter by Scott Miller, AD of New Line Theatre of St. Louis. Crammed with info on musical theatre with an emphasis on Sondheim, natch. 3649 Dunnica #2-E, St. Louis, MO 63116. www.geocities.com/Broadway/3164

Ed Karvoski Jr has a fascinating new book out called "All Male: Quirky Quotes, Intimate Interviews, and Tantalizing Trivia from the Most Desired Men on Earth." Kensington Books; June 1999.

Sway is a great new zine by John Chaich and Erin Hosier that explores symbols, semantics, pose and prose about AIDS through the voices and visions of emerging artists and activists. jachaich@aol.com; or 216-621-0766, ext. 239. Latest issue has Tim Miller, Beto Araiz, Annie Sprinkle, Monika Treut, and much more.

Holly Hughes, Larry Kramer, and others brought up the issue of unacceptable homophobia in John Updike's review of Alan Hollingshurst's latest novel "The Spell" in the May 31, 1999 issue of The New Yorker.

"When Love Lasts Forever, Male Couples Celebrate Commitment" includes a piece by LA's performance duo and fathers, Keegan and Lloyd edited by Merle James Yost from The Pilgrim Press, 800-654-5129. A book signing will be at A Different Light, LA in Nov. 1999.

In a revealing piece in the magazine After Dark in LA, playwright/actor Travis Michael Holder states "he'd never worn a dress and high heels before" until his co-starring in BENT as Greta" at The Stella Adler Theatre in LA.

Massimo Consoli's "Special Affects or the Poetics of Remembrance" (Affetti Speciali) is his most recent book, which chronicles his own interior route of coming out and the history of the Italian Gay Movement., R Massari Editore, 0761-79 98 31.

Eric Bentley has combined LA RONDE into ROUND 1 with his Gay classic ROUND 2 to form a single evening ROUND 1/ROUND 2. For scripts and information contact the Tantleff Agency, 212-941-3939.

## PLAY PUBLISHING

Since our last issue Generic Plays has become a new play service planning to publish as well as represent the work of women, gays and lesbians. Their publisher is Cody Miller. For further information on criteria and terms contactgenericplays@hotmail.com (Generic Plays), PO Box 81, Bristol TN 37621-0081.

I have also received two letters on the subject of play publication by Francine L. Trevens of T'n'T Books and Playwright Doric Wilson.

From Ms. Trevens:

As President of T'n'T Classics Inc., I understand John Dunn's problem. It lies not in the bookstores but in gay book buyers. Bookstores stock books to sell, not sit on shelves for years.

We find through direct contact with gay readers, and at annual book fairs, how reluctant they are to read a play. They think they are only to be seen. Until the gay community supports play publishers and bookstores there is no way to get decent distribution for plays. Samuel French, Applause, Drama Bookstore, Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com have always bought "the leaders" on our list. But for example, The Oscar Wilde Bookstore and A Different Light have NEVER purchased any of our books despite mailings, phone calls, and personal visits. We sell more books to colleges than to gay bookstores or gay theatre companies.

Ms. Trevens also offers suggestions to improve this situation. Gay community centers should stock all the gay plays, theatres should purchase copies rather than illegally copy them, gay book clubs should list, gay readers should ask their bookstores to stock and then buy and read gay plays, and groups of friends could have "read a-louds" of plays. She and her partner Maggie Trask should be commended for trying to keep some of our classic plays in print. For their catalogue: 212-726-6279; fax 212-695-3219; 360 W. 36 St., #2NW, NY, NY 10018-6412; SHELLEYFT@aol.com

Mr. Wilson writes also:

A recent check of gay and lesbian bookstores in New York City for some of the major contributors to our dramatic literature proved "fruitless." The plays of Robert Patrick, Jane Chambers, Robert Chesley, Victor Bumbalo, Harvey Fierstein, etc., were nowhere to be found, forget looking for newer, less well known writers. Oscar (the quintessential closet case) Wilde was there with a copy of IDEAL HUSBAND. An important play if you are in the market for a "beard."

When staff were questioned, they patiently explained to me that these writers did not exist. When I, with equal patience, explained

that, yes these writers did exist, the staff less patiently, informed that as "they" had not heard of these "so-called" writers, they couldn't be of any "importance."

Politics also enter into the picture. For more than twenty years, bookstores on both coasts have refused to carry my plays because female employees object to my leather lifestyle. I know of one bookstore that had a "weenie" roast with one of Robert Chesley's hard core entertainments. It is interesting that "straight bookstores (Drama Bookstore in NYC, French's in LA, etc., and amazon.com could happily supply all the titles I asked for.

Doric Wilson plans to help the problem of play distribution by reviving TOSOS (his gay theatre company from the '70s) as a Web site under the name: TOSOS Too in the near future.

## PLAYRIGHTS / PRODUCER'S FORUM

Available for production is FANTASY MEN, an erotic, sensual, often nude Gay musical comedy revue about the various icons of homoerotic fantasy, written by Chuck Cannon. The show's ten songs include: Searchin' for a Hot Number" and the title song. Vignettes include "Gunfight at the J-O Corral," and "Gridiron Slammer." For information call 302-3225-0329; or write PO Box 838, New Castle DE 19720.

In June, the Coho production of William S. Gregory's MARY TUDOR received 3 Drammy awards in Portland. In July, the Shakespeare Martyr Complex Theater Company did an intensive workshop of his WW2 drama AT WATCH IN THE GARDEN, a piece for 5 men examining the nature of religious and moral choice during war. There was also a workshop of his ROSE TREE, an all woman courtroom drama about a Lesbian parent and her struggles with the justice system. For a catalogue of his plays write to the author at 3012 S.E. 51st., Portland OR 97206; 503-772-3123.

Paul Harris' TO HAVE AND TO HOLD was done at the Edinburgh Festival this year at the F9 Theatre Workshop. The play premiered at the Bailiwick under David Zak's direction and has subsequently been produced in California, Miami, New York City and as a part of the "Queer as Fuck Festival" in Sydney. For inquiries about the play contact the playwright at PHarris825@aol.com; or UPSTARTth@aol.com

UNREQUITED LOVE'S A BORE, by Steve Lovett, was produced successfully by Pegasus Theatre in Dallas. The story of a romance novelist and tennis pro, falling in love despite the fact they are exact opposites. Contact: 3003B Mahanna Springs, Dallas TX 75235-8743; 214-526-0155; lovetth@swbell.net

Virginia Playwright Stan Fuller has two diverse plays about the same set of characters. FINDING THE FORMULA is romantic comedy about a dry as dust well-meaning academic and a cynical ex-hustler and the effects of the romance on the academic's loony family. IMPASSE takes the same characters four years into the future. Contact the author at 826 Maple St., #2, Staunton, VA 24401; 540-885-5895; stanfuller@rica.net

Full Moon Theatre Company resurrects itself with a space of its space and the energy to present new works, staged readings, and the Lambda Theatre Festival in April 2000. They are seeking new plays by Gay and Lesbian playwrights. Send scripts to Suzanne Hudson-Smith, Artistic Director, Full Moon Theatre Company, 3328 Thornwood Rd., Sarasota FL 34231; fullmoonth@aol.com

Danielle Dresden's play WITHOUT PITY, A PLAY ABOUT A MAN AND HIS TIMES was selected for reading at the 7th annual Edward Albee Theatre Conference in Valdez Alaska in June, 1999. She was a semi-finalist in the Yukon Pacific New Play Award. For production information contact Etta Gasport, TAPIT/new works Inc, 1957 Winnebago St., Madison, WI 53704.

Diana Son's drama STOP KISS was the winner of GLAAD's 1999 New York Theatre Award for Broadway/Off Broadway and Paul Rudnick's THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD won for

outstanding Off-Off Broadway production. In Los Angeles our theatre committee under hard-working chair Jim Talbot who does so much to promote GLQBT theatre, picked Jim Brochu's THE LAST SESSION and there are many, many serious contenders for the 2000 award.

Steve Willis' one-act play WE NEVER CLOSE won the 17th Annual Savannah Playwrights Festival and received a three-week run at City Lights Theatre in Savannah. The play takes place at a roadside diner in rural North Carolina in 1982 where Callie, a waitress and Wayne, whose car has broken down, discover their similarities and differences. Contact OutMedia for information of Steve Willis' work as well as that of Jeffrey Solomon and Rob Nash at Shelly Weiss; 718-789-1776; OUTMedia@msn.com; www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/8517/

BREATHE, a new musical by Dan Martin and Michael Biello, has just completed a critically and popularly acclaimed 2 1/2 month run at the Bailiwick Rep in Chicago. BREATHE is a series of 7 musical stories celebrating gay men and Lesbians and their collective spirit and vision. Performed by five actors playing multiple roles, BREATHE weaves a magical tapestry of our lives. Press, script and demo-tape available. Contact the authors at 215-923-8009; danandmike@earthlink.net

Daniel Curzon, San Francisco novelist and playwright, just won The Southwest Theatre Association's 1999 New Play Contest for his work, GODOT ARRIVES. Contact him at curzon@pacbell.net

Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York presented a staged reading of A TRIBE OF ONE by Andrew J. Mellen with music by Todd Almond. A ridiculously comic and hallucinogenic ride through Suburban Detroit chock full of singing and dancing. A TRIBE OF ONE is a fierce, relentlessly funny and haunting tale of six delightful and desperate people. Contact: andrew@virgoman.com

LOVE IN RUINS by Tom W. Kelly is a two-act lyric comedy that dramatizes and celebrates the Zeus-Ganymede myth (the most famous Greco-Roman same-sex myth). Thanks to grails of Dionysian wine, various mythological couples abandon all inhibitions with disastrous consequences. Though Love in all its chaotic power dubiously prevails, only Zeus clearly triumphs as he departs with a willing new cup-bearer. LIR recently received a very successful staged reading at SF's New Conservatory Theatre and is ready for its world premiere. Contact Tom at 4150 - 17th St., #29, SF, CA 94114; 415-863-7707; Redbeard@Quest-Inc.com

STOP KISS by Diana Son was done at The Public in NYC last Nov., and was the 1999 NY GLAAD Theatre winner. For rights contact ICM, 40 W. 57 St., NYC 10019; 212-556-5600.

Submissions are being accepted by Bailiwick's AD David Zak for PRIDE 2000. Should be received from authors, directors, and other artists by December 1, 1999. Information: 773-883-1090; BailiwickR@aol.com

From Jerrold Rabushka, two one-act comedies: NO AIDS, NO ALCOHOL, NO SEX, NO STONEWALL! Is about a gay couple trying to come up with ideas for a new gay TV series. EMPTY CLOSETS presents six people telling their stories at a "Coming Out Workshop" Can be done separately or together. Both performed at St. Louis PrideFest and by Snap!Productions in Omaha. His SHIP IN A BOTTLE is described as "A story of love, beer and bondage A very poetic, surreal and emotional look at three gay guys searching for an all encompassing love. Produced in St. Louis in April 1999. Original cast recording demo in cassette or CD available. Contact the author at 109 E. Washington #2N, St. Louis, MO 63122; 314-822-5129; RagdBlade@aol.com

## TOURING / BOOKING

Charles Lago and Charles Snell are Authors on Tour. They have presented Tim Miller, Quentin Crisp, Annie Sprinkle, Michael Kearns and productions like THE MASSEUR, WHITE BOY, DYKE AND THE

PORN STAR and BALLAD OF LITTLE MIKEY. Reach them at in San Diego at 619- 688-9210; fax 619-688-688-9211; Pennstudio@aol.com

Rob Nash does 12 STEPS TO A MORE DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY as well as his HS series FRESHMEN YEAR SUCKS!, and SOPHMORE SLUMP. For booking info contact Shelly Weiss; 718-788-1776; Outmedia@msn.com; www.geocities.com/West Hollywood/8517

**WEB SITES**

Josie's Cabaret in San Francisco  
www.interstellar.com/josie/

The Pink Network (OUT Productions in Montreal)  
www.out.ca

San Francisco activities from Tom W. Kelly (PC columnist and playwright)  
www.QueerSF.Com

Quentin Crisp free email facility  
(90-year old Crisp's one-man show continues to tour and he will be returning to do it in England after a 30-year absence this fall after touring in Baltimore, Atlanta and Philadelphia this Summer.)  
www.quentincrisp.com

Queer Arts Resource  
(not-for-profit forum for the discussion and display of queer art and culture)  
www.queer-arts.org

New Line Theatre, St. Louis  
(the theatre company as well as much information on musical theatre, thanks to Scott Miller)  
www.geocities.com/Broadway/3164

**WILDEANA**

At Highways Tad Coughenour created A THORN AT MY HEART based on the Wilde fairy tale in August 1999, a Dance/Theatre dream.

C. R. Holloway's novel THE UNAUTHORIZED LETTERS OF OSCAR WILDE was the winner of the Hemingway Prize and available from Xlibris Publishers in Princeton at 888-795-4274 or from Amazonbooks.com or BarnesandNoble.com

The Pasadena Playhouse did a production of THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST with Shirley Knight as Lady Bracknell and The Knightsbridge Theatre there did AN IDEAL HUSBAND July-Aug, 1999. They do many classics call 626-440-0821.

The UCLA Hammer Museum Art is presenting an exhibit "Oscar Wilde: From The Collection Of The Clark Library, UCLA in October, 1999. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is holding an event during the exhibit on Oct. 17, 1999; 323-937-2728, ext. 226.

October 16 is Oscar Wilde's birthday. The Purple Circuit will be presenting an event as a fundraiser for the Performing Arts Collection of ONE Institute that afternoon at the Archives grounds, 909 W. Adams called "Tea With Oscar and Gertrude." Entertainment (courtesy of Oscar Wilde and Gertrude Stein), refreshments, and advance tours of the new building.

Call The Purple Circuit Hotline for more details 818-953-5072. SAVE THAT DATE.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

Queer Arts Resource at www.queer-arts.org has issued a call for entries for Y2Gay: Queer Visions of the Millennium, their second annual Net Art Exhibition.

Volunteers needed for The Performing Arts Collection and other Departments of ONE Institute/International Gay and Lesbian Archives as the new Building prepares to open. For further information contact Bill Kaiser 818-953-5096, 921 N. Naomi Street, Burbank, CA 91505

**How to Reach Us  
The Purple Circuit**

Attn: Bill Kaiser 921 N. Naomi St., Burbank, CA 91505  
Office: 818-953-5096  
Hotline: 818-953-5072  
Purplecir@aol.com  
www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

**Purple Circuit Newsletter**

Please make checks payable to:  
Bill Kaiser  
921 N. Naomi Street  
Burbank, CA 91505

Here's 20 bucks for OTPC for a year

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