

# On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

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THE MEMORIAM ISSUE

## WELCOME TO ON THE PURPLE CIRCUIT!

This is our last issue of the 20th century! It has been a rewarding 8 years of reporting on the activities of The Purple Circuit that is all of you! The Purple Circuit (for newcomers) is an informal network which exists to promote, nurture and preserve GLQBT culture especially theatre and performance.

This Issue is in Memoriam to our Brothers and Sisters who have left us. Especially since AIDS, we have lost a generation of writers, performers and artists of all kinds. Our culture has been profoundly affected. I am heartened to know that there are still individuals and groups creating for the future. As an archivist I am committed to preserving our culture and the memory of these special people. So I wish us all to remember them and their work. The latest is Quentin Crisp who died in his sleep at 90 while on tour with his one-man show in England.

I am concerned that World AIDS Day has gotten so low key in my area and also that plays seem to go out of their way to avoid mentioning AIDS at all. I had a serious discussion with Beto Araiza about this subject. He continues touring the country with his powerful piece H.I.VATO, but playing at conferences and colleges where there is still great interest. I see a lot of theatre and it is a great surprise for me that AIDS was a major theme of Luis Alfaro's remarkable new play STRAIGHT AS A LINE.

Another person who deserves credit for not forgetting is Producer David Reid whose organization AIDS WATCH broadcast the names of those who need to be remembered on Dec. 1 on cable stations and online throughout the world at [www.aidswatch.org](http://www.aidswatch.org). Bravo to David and all who work with him on this important project. AIDS is not over either in our cultural community or sub-Saharan Africa.

I specifically want to remember some creative people that touched my life and that of The Purple Circuit. A founding member was Playwright James (Jim) Carroll Pickett, who set up our early issues, Michael Stuart Shere, David Stebbins and Joe Fraser, Robert Chesley, Wilson DiPalma (who starred in GUNSEL that I produced), and the talented Vincent Barron. There are certainly many, many others from AIDS and not who have an important memory for me: Chuck Rowland, the founder of Celebration Theatre, dear Jim Kepner, Martin Block and Ernie Potvin, all creative stalwarts of Celebration Theatre and The International Gay and Lesbian Archives. I miss them all more than I can say.

In this issue, we have columns by Tom W Kelly, Howard Casner and Gerald Semas who have written for OTPC for a long time and we welcome Marian Jones with a book review and Barry Lowe who has sent a lot of information about Australia. There are recurring topics that continue to concern The Purple Circuit and me. One is the treatment of playwrights by producers and the other is censorship and acts on artistic freedom through de-funding and other violent means. Art in the broadest sense can be powerful and our playwrights are that voice of art. Their names should never be left off press releases, flyers, or programs. They deserve respect as does their work in regards to changing it and responding to it timely. Likewise playwrights need to appreciate the immense effort producing their work entails for producers and both should cooperate!

Regarding censorship, several cases come to mind recently. One is Mayor Guliani's efforts to censor The Brooklyn Museum Of Art's exhibit "Sensation". You can still write to the Mayor at City Hall, New York NY 10007. Another much less publicized case is that of Raymond Caldwell and The Texas Shakespeare Festival in Kilgore, Texas. Because Mr. Caldwell decided to go ahead with a production

of ANGELS IN AMERICA -- with the support of Kilgore College president William M. Holda -- he and the production were attacked by the homophobic community. And the Gregg County Board of Commissioners voted not to fund \$50,000 for Mr. Caldwell's ongoing pet project, The Texas Shakespeare Festival, an highlight of the cultural community of East Texas! I urge you to do what you can to help support this Festival. President Holda asks people to publicize the actions of the County commissioners and for help in restoring the funds needed for the Festival as well as suggest other funding sources. You can reach Raymond Caldwell or President Holda at Kilgore College, 1100 Broadway, Kilgore, Texas 75662-3299, 903-983-8100 or fax 903-983-8600 Bravo to them!

On some positive notes -- Out North, which had its funding killed in Anchorage two years ago, has received a \$14,000 grant from the current city Assembly on an 11-0 vote. Kudos to the city of Anchorage and Out North. Another brava goes to Marjorie Conn who received recognition from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force for her work in theatre in Provincetown. She and her Conn Artist Performance Event provide a risk free experience for any performer that wants to come on board. I also congratulate David King and his compatriots at Out Productions in Montreal for creating The Pink Network [[www.out.ca](http://www.out.ca)]. They have patterned themselves a bit after The Purple Circuit and provide information and communication throughout Canada to support our culture.

Charles Lago and Chip Snell, Authors On Tour Productions who produced Quentin Crisp's show are forming The Quentin Crisp Foundation which will help gender-confused youth, a cause near and dear to Mr. Crisp. There will be a talent-studded Benefit held on Friday, Jan. 21, 2000 at The Village, Ed Gould Plaza, 1125 n McCadden Pl. in LA. For tickets call The Village, 323-860-7300. For Foundation information, 619-497-0203. Bravo to Charles and Chip!

As to the future of The Purple Circuit, we will continue into the new Millennium. We hope to go online in one form or another. A home page at wonderful for years now and I personally am very grateful to them. They are just not structured to continue supporting us indefinitely. We are an informal organization that limits our sources of funding. So I will ASK YOU outright to RENEW your subscription if it is due and send a CONTRIBUTION if it isn't payable to Bill Kaiser. You could consider sponsoring an Individual Issue and we will consider ads too that are compatible with our philosophy.

I want to thank everyone who made this Issue possible: Dr. Fritz Klein and C.I.C.A, my associate Editor and Art Director Jim Russell, Sally Barron and my partner Glen Moore for their technical support, Subscribers and Donors, Publicists who sent material (it's the best way to be mentioned), Tom W. Kelly, Howard Casner, Gerald Semas, Marian Jones, Barry Lowe, Beto Araiza, Ronnie Larsen, Caryn Horwitz, Linda Eisenstein., Steve Lovett, Michelle Weiss, Carolyn Gage, Charles Lago ,David King, Brian Gross, Sidney Morris, Tom O'Neil and John O'Brien.

Lastly I want to tell you about my efforts at preservation of our cultural history. As you know, I am Director of The Performing Arts Collection at ONE Institute. Once our new building at 909 West Adams at University of Southern California is open in 2000 I want to acquire Materials to preserve that culture from Theatres and Individuals. I am also beginning an Oral History project. The first video interview will be with Playwright Sidney Morris conducted by media celebrity Tom O'Neil. Once I receive grant funding I hope have Purple Circuit people interviewed all over the world.

Thank you for your Support, Happy Holidays and 2000 to you all!

**Bill Kaiser**, editor

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## 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.

\***Adam's Wedding** by James Rosenfield, Adam's marrying a guy and people are being urbane about it-but is it a wedding and brings out the comic worst in everyone!, Wings, NYC, opens Feb. 4, 2000; 212-627-2961.

**Amma: In Search of My Clitoris** with Sia Amma Solo, humor in poverty, racism, and female circumcision? Josie's, San Francisco, Oct. 1999.

**Amphibians** by Billy Roche, in a close-knit village in Ireland secrets are opened up that had long been buried; New Conservatory, San Francisco; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**Bad Seed** by Maxwell Anderson, camped up to the nth; Theater 911 at Hudson Avenue Theatre, Hollywood; Sept-early Dec. 1999.

**Beautiful Thing** by Jonathan Harvey; Price Theatre, Adelaide, Feast Festival; Oct. 1999.

**Bent** by Martin Sherman; Redeye Theatre Company at Stella Adler Theatre, Hollywood; Aug.-Oct. 1999.

\***Big Dicks on Stage** by Steven Dawson, a new comedy about a playwright with a message and conflicts with his director and producer; Bailiwick, Chicago; opened Oct. 22, 1999; 773--883-1090, & The Stables, Sydney; opens Feb. 15, 2000.

\***Bitter Women** by Justin Tanner; CAST Theatre, Hollywood, ongoing; 323-462-9872.

**Bloodlines** by William Yang, a monologue with slides; Performance Space, Sydney; Oct. 1999.

**Boy** by Beth Bigler, a new play by a teenager about a teenage Lesbian coming out; The Blank Theatre Company, Hollywood; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

\***Boy Meets Boy**, the classic musical comedy by Bill Solly and Donald Ward, 6@Penn, San Diego; opened Nov. 12, 1999; 619-668-9210.

\***Boyfriend for the Holidays** by Holland MacFallister, a musical comedy romance made for Manhattan in December, Wings, NYC; opened Dec. 2, 1999; 212-627-2961.

**Brothers Tellin'** with Syd Rushing, tellin' secrets, tellin' on each other, tellin' it like it is; The Village, LA; Nov. 1999.

\***Can't Get Enough** with Gay Goodenough, the critically acclaimed one-woman show explores sexuality, spirituality and much more, Third Stage, Burbank; ongoing; 323-664-9150.

**Charlatan** with Tony Tanner, a moving memoir of Diaghilev and the Ballet Russes; Fremont Centre Theatre, South Pasadena, Calif.; Oct.-Nov. 1999.

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

\***The Cleaning Man** adapted by Michael Holmes. A deposition in the estate of Rock Hudson by his cleaning man, John Dobbs; The Action/Reaction Theater Company, North Hollywood, Calif.; 818-908-4094.

\***Cole**, a celebration of the words and music of Cole Porter, Group Repertory Theatre, North Hollywood, CA; opened Dec. 3, 1999; 818-785-7717.

**Crtl+ Alt+ Delete** by Chris Toland, a new comedy directed by Andrew Mellen; Bank Street Theatre, NYC; Oct. 1999.

**Cootie Shots** with Fringe Benefits youth theatre and friends, a kids show against bigotry; Highways, Santa Monica; available for touring elementary schools; Oct. 1999.

\***Corpus Christi** by Terrence McNally, the hot potato, highly spiritual 1998 play has its Southern California premiere; Rude Guerilla Theatre Company, Santa Ana; opened Nov. 12, 1999; 714-547-4688.

**Cyberqueer** by Tom Jacobson, surreal fantasy of cyberspace in a Gay chatroom and out; Diversionsary Theatre, San Diego; Oct.-Nov. 1999.

**Die! Mommy! Die!** by Charles Busch, a tour-de-force by the Divine Charles with our own Wendy Worthington in support; Coast Playhouse, West Hollywood; July-Sept. 1999.

\***Divine Thing: The Joey Stefano Story** by Michael Patrick Spillers, Authors On Tour at The St. Genesius Theater, West Hollywood; opened Dec. 3, 1999; 310-399-9182.

\***Drapes** by Stephen House, a twisted human drama about love, sexuality and family; The Chapel, Theatre 62, Adelaide; opens March 2, 2000.

\***Dream Boy** adapted by Eric Rosen from Jim Grimsley's southern gothic novel about two adolescent boys in love in rural North Carolina; New Conservatory, San Francisco; opened Nov. 20, 1999; 415-861-8972.

**Dyslexic Heart** by Robyn Dettman. An explosive drama among 8 artists, musicians and students; Wings, NYC; Oct.-Nov. 1999.

\***Escape from Happiness** by George F. Walker, Open Fist Theater, Hollywood, Calif.; ongoing; 323-882-6912.

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

**A Fairy Tale** by Daniel T. Parker, Chris Wells, and Tracy Young, the adventure of two hungry boys lost in the forest; The Actor's Gang, Hollywood, Calif.; Oct. 1999.

**Frankenstein in Love** by Clive Barker; a wildly funny journey of perverse pain and pleasure live on stage; Off The Wall Productions, Milwaukee; Aug.-Sept. 1999.

**FREEda SLAVE: Mask of a Diva** by Darryl LeMont Wharton. Dale G Madison as Alfred, the ultimate mask wearer, a drag queen. Hudson Backstage, Hollywood, Calif.; July-Sept. 1999.

**Friends of Dorothy** by William Yang, a monologue with slides; Space Theatre, Feast Festival, Adelaide; Oct. 1999.

**Gaysia**, Paul Cordeiro's one-man show with dance about growing up Gay and Asian in Australia, Belvoir Street Theatre, Sydney; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**The Gene Pool** with Regie Cabico and Aileen Cho, triumphing over "The Joy Luck Club with quirky Queer brand of politics and spoofing of popular culture; Dixon Place, NYC; Nov. 1999.

\***The Glory Box** with Tim Miller, a funny sexy and charged exploration of love, Gay marriage and the rights of Gay immigrants and their partners; CSPS, Cedar Rapids; Oct. 1999; New Conservatory, San Francisco; Nov. 1999, and Highways, Santa Monica; Feb. 4-12, 2000; 310-315-1459.

**Go by Night** by Stephen House, a dark and dangerous walk on the wild side; Blue Room, Perth; Sept. 1999.

**Halloween Show** by Garret Jon Groenveld, a new episode of The Duboce Triangle, The Half-Baked Players at Josie's, San Francisco; Oct. 1999.

**Hard Candy** by Joseph C. Wilson. An intriguing AIDS play where a PWA is selected via lottery for a baboon marrow transplant in hopes of an AIDS cure that turns into a greedy game by a pharmaceutical giant; Jon Sims Center and Emerging Playwrights of the Pieces Of The Quilt Theater Project of Artists Alliance Against AIDS, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; Dec. 1999.

\***Hedwig and the Angry Inch** by John Cameron Mitchell. Ongoing, NYC; Henry Fonda Theatre, Hollywood, ongoing; 310-859-2830; and Jane Street Theatre, NYC; ongoing; 212-947-8844.

**Hogtown Bonbons** by Greg Kramer, Toronto's own Tales of the City; Playwright's Workshop, Montreal; Nov. 1999.

\***Homme Fatale: The Joey Stefano Story** by Barry Lowe, Sanford Meisner Theatre, NYC, June-Sept. 1999; Bailiwick touring company, Miami; Nov. 1999; Ft. Lauderdale; Dec. 1999; and Detroit; Jan. 2000; and Rob Chuter's Aussie touring production, Midsumma Festival, Melbourne; Feb. 1-12, 2000; Blue Room, Perth Festival Fringe; Feb. 15-26, 2000.

**It Started With a Lie!** by Paul Vander Roest, a solution to Gay monogamy: never settle down; Hudson Avenue Theater, Hollywood; Nov.-early Dec. 1999.

**I Was the World's Most Famous Juggler** by Chris Bliss, a feel-good tale of assisted suicide; Globe Theatre, West Hollywood; Oct. 1999.

**In Walked Monk** by Mike Petty, a mystery; Big Chill story Hudson Guild, Hollywood; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

\***jaywalker** with comic Marga Gomez. A dream to play the first Lesbian on Baywatch and more; Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; opened Nov. 11, 1999; 415-861-5079.

\***Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time**, the dark prison comedy; Players Theatre, NYC; June-July, 1999; The Complex, Hollywood; Oct.-Nov. 1999; and *Diversionsary*, San Diego; late Jan. 2000; 619-220-0097.

**The Judas Kiss** by David Hare, Oscar, Bosie and Robbie Ross; Richmond Triangle Players; Nov. 1999.

**The Last Session** music and lyrics by Steve Schaalchlin and book by Jim Brochu; SNAP!, Omaha; Oct. 1999.

\***Letters Home** by Dee Jae Cox, the dynamic story of the Lesbian military witchhunt; Ivy Theatre, Los Angeles; opening March 2000; don't miss it! 323-876-1938.

\***Life Is a Funny Business**, Queer revue for the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival; New Theatre, Sydney; Feb. 2000.

**The Lisbon Traviata** by Terrence McNally; Long Beach Playhouse, Long Beach, CA; Oct.-Nov. 1999.

**Lonely Planet** by Steven Dietz, Producer's Club Theatre, NYC; Oct. 1999.

\***Love in a Cubicle** by Steven Dawson, OutCast Theatre's latest sex comedy from one of Australia's most prolific Gay playwrights; David Williamson Theatre, Melbourne; opens Jan. 13, 2000.

**Love Scenes** with Moe Bertran. He plays 8 different characters falling in and out of love in Gay New York; Center Stage, NYC; Sept. 1999.

\***Love! Valour! Compassion!** At the New Conservatory, San Francisco; preview Jan. 12-21; opens Jan. 22, 2000; 415-861-8972.

**Lydia's Plumber** by Vince Rhomberg, a middle-aged widow enters a relationship with a female plumber; Public Theatre of South Florida, Fort Lauderdale; Oct. 1999.

**Maps of City and Body** with Denise Uyehara, drawing maps over her body she explores borderless identities; Highways, Santa Monica; Nov. 1999.

**Marlene - a Tribute to Dietrich** with Jeannie Little; Norwood Concert Hall, Feast Festival, Adelaide; Oct. 1999.

\***Marry Me a Little** by Stephen Sondheim, conceived and developed by Craig Lucas and Norman Rene. A male version of the classic; Celebration Theatre, Hollywood; opened Oct 15, 1999; 310-289-2999.

**Medea the Musical** by John Fisher, gender politics and backstage bitchiness; Hudson Mainstage, Hollywood; June-Oct. 1999.

**Memory's Caretaker** by Paul Bonin-Rodriguez, caring for a grandmother whose son was denied because of his Gay identity; Jump-Start, San Antonio; Oct. 1999.

**Men's Singles** by D. J. Giles. Men raise a racket when women hold their balls; The Complex, Hollywood; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

\***Message to Michael** by Tim Pinckney. A sexy, well-crafted tale about normal people in normal situations; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; previews Mar. 15-24; opens Mar. 25, 2000; 415-861-8972.

\***Miss Coco Peru's Universe** with Clinton Leupp, Miss Coco is back and LA has her! Beverly Hills Playhouse; July-Sept and reopened Oct. 31, 1999; 310-281-6557.

**Miss Desmond behind Bars** book and lyrics by Mark Goff, Marc Ian Sklar, Gregory Messer and David Bouzas and music by Leo Savalas. There are survivors and then there are LEGENDS! A musical parody; Court Theatre, West Hollywood; Aug.-Oct. 1999.

**Mixed Salad** with Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw of Split Britches and Stacy Makishi; an evening of new work; Gowanus Exchange, Brooklyn; Nov. 1999.

**The Monkey's Mask** with Marriane Bryant, solo based on Dorothy Parker's crime thriller about Lesbian detective, Jill Fitzpatrick; Lion Theatre, Adelaide; Nov. 1999.

\***Murder by Moonlight** by Charles Higham, Miss Marple meets Noel Coward; El Portal Theatre, North Hollywood, CA; opens April 6, 2000; 818-508-4200.

\***Naked Boys Singing** conceived by Robert Schrock; Actors Playhouse, NYC; ongoing; Drama Center, Deerfield Beach, FL; The Colony, Miami; Wilton Theatre, Ft. Lauderdale.

**Naked Clue** book and lyrics by Catherine Bush, music by Gary Bartholomew. The musical adventures of America's favorite titian-haired teenage sleuth! Wings, NYC; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**The Naked Guy**, three Gay roomies write an award-winning play about a Gay escort and now must produce the gigolo; Experimental Theatre, NYC; August 1999.

**Oblivia: The Lesbian Pleasure Cruise That Goes Out Of This World** with Flaming Dykasaurus, the Lesbian comedy improv troupe,

a musical spoof of Olivia Cruises; Esquire Theatre, Madison; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**Offsides** with Dennis Safren and Dan Davis; Stella Adler Theatre, Hollywood; Oct.-Nov. 1999.

\***Our Gay Apparel** by Robert Joseph, a special "family" Christmas show; opens Dec. 4, 1999; 619-220-0097.

**Pilgrims** by Larry Buhl, Blaine, and James are about to become the first legally wed male couple in America if they can survive 24 hours with James' biological family; The Bitter Truth Theatre, North Hollywood, CA; Oct. 1999.

\***Pointless** with Alec Mapa, a new comedy about Mapa's two favorite subjects: love and himself! East West Players, Los Angeles; opens Dec. 2, 1999; 213-625-7000.

**Poor Superman** by Brad Fraser. New Theatre, Sydney; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**Pre-Paradise Sorry Now** by Rainer Werner Fassbinder, the chilling story of two of the century's most infamous sex killers; City Garage, Santa Monica; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**Preaching to the Perverted** with Holly Hughes, a new piece by the dyke described as a threat to national security; New Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco; Sept. 1999.

**Pretzels and Longing** by Linda Eisenstein. Love Creek Productions, NYC; Nov. 1999.

\***Project: Alice** with the Fabulous Monsters, a fabulous reconstruction of Alice in Wonderland, touring to Redlands University; Apr. 20-22, 2000; touring information 323-857-7512.

**A Question of Mercy** by David Rabe. Reality Theatre, Columbus; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**Random Harvest** by Richard Willett. Ensemble Studio Theatre's 19th Annual Fall Harvest of New Theatre, NYC; Oct. 1999.

**Relative Comfort** by Gina Schien, Lesbian relationship comedy about a dyke sex club bouncer; New Theatre Sydney; Oct. 1999.

**Ritual for La Pucelle** with Donata Ahern, David Butler and others. A Wiccan ritual in memory of Joan, The Maid; Hallwalls, Buffalo; Oct. 1999.

**Rustle of Wings** Love Creek Productions, NYC; Nov. 1999; and Luna Sea Women's Performance Project, San Francisco; Dec. 3-4, 1999.

\***Scent of Rain** by Mark Dunn, a Gay comic fantasy set in rural America (starring Ryan Idol); Tiffany Theatre, West Hollywood; opened Nov. 28, 1999; 310-289-2999.

**The Second Coming Of Joan Of Arc** by Carolyn Gage, the angry young woman unmasking her betrayers and rallying contemporary women to a rousing call to arms; Hag Theatre, Buffalo; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

\***Sex** by Mae West. Hourglass Group, Gershwin Hotel, NYC; opened Dec. 9, 1999; 212-439-8122.

\***Shooting Porn** by Ronnie Larsen, based on his hit film about the porn industry with Ronnie himself playing Chi Chi LaRue and JT Sloan and Chad Donovan; Zephyr Theatre, Hollywood; opened Nov. 12, 1999; 323-852-9111; www.ticketweb.com

**Shopping and Fucking** by Mark Ravenhill. A mysterious trio of working class youth explores the world of commerce, sex and drugs where every transaction has a price; Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**Simply Barbara 2000** with Steven Brinberg. Dominion Theatre, NYC; Nov. 1999.

**Space** by Tina Landau. One of those abducted by aliens is gay; Mark Taper Forum, LA; Sept.-Nov. 1999.

\***Solar Anus, St. Sebastian Suspended and Suicide /Tattoo Salvation**, three solos by Ron Athey; Highways, Santa Monica; Feb. 25-26, 2000; 310-315-1459.

**Special Delivery** with Harry Hart-Browne, a 20-character one man play about remembering the Spirit while doing the Earth gig; Highways, Santa Monica; Oct. 1999.

**Stark Raving Mad** by Don Cummings, a dysfunctional family celebrates July 4, 2000 with a bisexual football player son among others; Tamarind Theatre, Hollywood; Oct.-early Dec. 1999.

**Starry Night** by Joshua Levine, a new drama by a teenager about gay college students; The Blank Theatre Company, Hollywood; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**Steel Kiss** by Robin Fulford. Gaybashing by teenage boys in this riveting Canadian play; New Conservatory, San Francisco; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**Stonewall '69** by Doric Wilson; Vancouver B. C.; Sept. 1999.

**\*Straight as a Line** by Luis Alfaro. A mother. A son. Las Vegas. Life's a gamble as two individuals search and discover what it means to be a family; Playwrights Arena, Los Angeles; opened Nov. 19, 1999; 323-960-7756.

**Tales from a Bitch Girl** with Danielle Brazell, a solo performance; The Village, Los Angeles; Oct. 1999.

**Tallah and Tennessee** by Charles Rome Smith, with Jim Bailey and Betty Garrett; Theatre West, Hollywood; Oct.-Nov. 1999.

**Tongue in Chic** by Michael Latshaw, a comedy that explores serious issues for two gay men whose wedding in the small town of Tongue, PA is threatened by an ambitious brother and a PBS documentary film crew; Public Theatre of South Florida, Ft. Lauderdale; Nov.-early Dec. 1999.

**\*Torch Song Trilogy** by Harvey Fierstein. New Conservatory, San Francisco; previews May 24-June 2; opens June 3, 2000; 415-861-8972.

**Versions of Lust and Disgust** by Mike Donner. What happens when love and lust cross the fine line; St. Genesius Theater, West Hollywood; Oct. 1999.

**Visiting Mr. Green** by Jeff Baron. The NY hit with Harold Gould and Daniel Nathan Spector; Pasadena Playhouse; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**Viva Elvira** with Elvira Kurt. Storytelling studded with a series of unexpected razor-sharp barbs; Hudson Mainstage, Hollywood; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**Voluptuous Madness** with Robert Prior and The Fabulous Monsters, a truly amazing presentation of four folk tales from the ancient epic of Gilgamesh, Rama, and more, magical, fascinating and extravagant; Highways, Santa Monica; Sept. 1999.

**Wait for Me at the Bottom of the Pool** with Stephen Nisbet, a solo piece giving dramatic life to little known literary text by major playwrights; HERE, NYC; Oct. 1999.

**What I Want** with David Mills, a new comic solo piece; Jon Sims Center, San Francisco; Dec. 1999.

**When Pigs Fly** by Howard Crabtree, Coronet Theatre, Los Angeles.

**Whispers of the Soul** by Saleem, series of personal revelations of an immigrant who comes to America to seek a new life and instead goes through a journey to seek the truth about himself; Bitter Truth Playhouse, North Hollywood, CA; Oct.-Nov. 1999.

**\*Who's Afraid of Edward Albee?** by Michael Kearns. A behind the scenes new play about an all-male version of Virginia Woolf and the lives of the four gay men in the cast; New Conservatory, San Francisco; opens Dec. 11, 1999; 415-861-8972.

**Wonderland** by Chay Yew. Contemporary drama about an Asian American family and their gay son; La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, CA; Sept.-Oct. 1999.

**\*Xena Live!, Episode 1: Double Your Pleasure** by Claudia Allen, great fun, babes fighting, Xena out of the subtext; About Face Theatre, Chicago; ongoing; 773-549-7943.

**Yes is for a Very Young Man** by Gertrude Stein, adapted by Drew Pissarra. An all-female cast of Stein's tragicomic tale of love and espionage during WW II; Gowanus Arts Exchange, Brooklyn, NY; Oct. 1999.

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**THEATRE BITS**  
by Bill Kaiser

**Anchorage:** Out North begins its 15th season of new art. Their live art series includes "Under 30;" Jan. 6-11, 2000; new showcases by young Alaskans. email@outnorth.org [www.outnorth.org]

**Austin:** Vortex Repertory Company presented DIRTY MONEY by Lisa Peschel; Oct.-Nov. 1999; an exploration of prostitution. They are presenting HEAVING SHADOWS AT THE SKIN SHOW by Kerthy Fix; Mar. 23-Apr. 15, 2000. It is billed as an unconventional new musical with performers with non-traditional bodies and attitudes; 512-478-LAVA.

**Australia:** Barry Lowe writes from Downunder that BIG DICKS got the Bobbitt Treatment. Playwright Steven Dawson (BIG DICKS ON STAGE) was one pissed off Gay playwright when the Mardi Gras in Sydney rejected the production of his play which has had acclaimed productions in Chicago and opens off-Broadway next year. The

rationale was there would have been too much competing for audience? Steven Dawson's play will be in Sydney in Feb. 2000 in spite of the Mardi Gras rejection.

**Boston:** Some shows that have been or will be in Boston soon are VIOLET, A DYING GAUL by Craig Lucas in April 2000; and Paul Rudnick's THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD. We need a Boston contact. If interested: Purplecjr@aol.com

**Brooklyn:** Gowanus Arts Exchange is bustling in its second year at its new location. MIXED SALAD featured Lois Weaver, Peggy Shaw, and Stacy Makishi in Nov. 1999, and there is music, dance, film, and lots of other activities. 718-832-0018; info@thegowanus.org

**Buffalo:** Lots happening at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center. Diversity in the arts with Israeli, Latin American and Dutch swing music among much more. 716-835-7362; hallwall@pce.net

**Cedar Rapids:** Legion Arts and CSPS bring a lot of different musicians and performers to Iowa. Tim Miller's GLORY BOX had its world premiere there too. Tim, Sean Strub and others were at LIVES WORTH LIVING a daylong retreat sponsored by Rapids AIDS Project; 319-364-580.

**Chicago:** The Great Beast Theater presents VERBATIM VERBOTEN on first Sunday nights of the month. There are no end to the private conversations that are exposed. 312-409-2876.

**Columbus:** In October, Act Out Productions presented the world premiere of the musical OH, JACKIE by Melvin Helitzer, on the life of Jackie Kennedy. 614-263-9448.

**Durham:** Manbites Dog Theater presented Shakespeare's KING LEAR in Oct-Nov, 1999; 919-682-3343.

**Fort Benning, Georgia:** Queer activists joined the thousands of anti-military protests at the US School of The Americas. This military training center financed by US taxpayers has trained the dictators, and death squads of Latin America and South America. MaxZine Weinstein, Tom-Foolery, and the Eggplant Faerie Players will participate in this resistance to torture! Bravo to them and the other activists! Visit them at the IDA arts community in the hills of Tennessee; 615- 597-4409; idahoos@dtccom.net

**Hollywood:** MENTIONABLES is a new store at 6406 Hollywood Boulevard, the only out Gay-owned business in the area. Featuring intimate apparel and gifts for men, it is the scene for performance art, dance and more; 323-465-6492; www.MENTIONABLES.com

**Los Angeles:** Ivy Theatre Company presented CROSSROADS/INTERSECTIONS at the Village with Pat Alderete, Roz Winter and Barbara Roberts where Women writers explored community and diversity in Sept. 1999.

A.S.K. Theater Projects presented their New Play Weekends in October 1999 at Inside The Ford. Two of the plays FOUR by Christopher Shinn and SLEEPWALK by Daniel Cariaga would be of interest to PC readers. A.S.K. Theater Projects does many events during the year including their Festival in June and it is all free; 310-478-9275.

The Ovation Awards were presented Nov 8, 1999. Among the nominees were Louis Broome for writing TEXARKANA WALTZ, Mark Winkler and Shelly Markham for TOO OLD FOR THE CHORUS (at Celebration Theatre which was also nominated for best musical in a smaller theatre) and WHEN PIGS FLY which won for best costumes natch.

There was a joyous benefit for Celebration Theatre at the Cinegrill nightclub in Nov. 1999. Directed by new AD Richard Israel the show featured singers mostly from recent CT shows NAKED BOYS SINGING, TOO OLD FOR THE CHORUS and the recent tour-de-force MARRY ME A LITTLE. Hosted by Miss Coco Peru it was a Rave! Kudos to Richard, organizer Jill Moore and the Performers! 323-957-1884.

A star-studded benefit for Trevor Helpline, a suicide prevention line for GL and questioning youth to be held at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre on Dec. 12, 1999. With Gillian Anderson, as chair, Suzanne

Westenhoefer hosting and appearances by Delta Burke, Drew Carey, Nellie Olesens, Sisters Of Perpetual Indulgence, Bob Smith and Jason Stuart and more. 213-480-3232; www.trevorproject.com

**New York:** Dixon Place continues in full swing in its new location with THE CHILDE by Sarah Schulman, directed by Craig Lucas in September along with "Queer Studies" one-act plays by Craig Lucas. These events followed their gala opening night celebration of the new venue. Other events at Dixon Place are Homotext new G/L literature curated by Michael Klein, Queer Stories for Boys, a storytelling workshop. Writers on the Edge, a poetry and fiction series curated by Regie Cabico and The Big Broadcast taped monthly for WBAI 99.5 FM; 212-532-1546; contact@dixonplace.org; www.dixonplace.org

**Ovett, MS:** Camp Sister Spirit is flourishing. The 11th Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival was in April. It is amazing what our Sisters, The Hensons and their friends have done for the people of their area. They had a food bank until the government bureaucracy made it not possible and a prison program Project: Christy and they provide a place for people to have a special spiritual or camping weekend. Coming up their annual trip in Dec to Isla Mujeres Mexico to deliver medical supplies, and learn and teach with families there. Mid Feb-April 15 is the LesBiGayTrans and Allies Sober Spring Break and Apr. 20-24, 2000 is the 12th Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival. Inquiries 601-344-1411; sisterspir@aol.com. [members.aolcom/SisterSpir] and you might mention The Purple Circuit sent you!

**San Antonio:** Jump Start did Sterling Houston's piece SANTO NEGRO, a folk opera about Martin De Porres known as the patron saint of oppressed people in Nov. 1999; 210-227-5867.

**San Francisco:** New Conservatory Theatre Center holds the 1st "Wreaths For The Arts" with celebrity wreaths and others for auction and sale through Dec. 18, 1999 for the Theatre Center's new Tolerance Project for teens. Performances of A CHRISTMAS MEMORY Dec. 12-18, 1999 will be a benefit for THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CLOSET an educational play addressing tolerance, homophobia and hate crimes; 415-861-8972.

**Santa Monica:** There will be some fun fundraisers for Highways coming up. Phranc, the butch singer will have a Tupperware Party for Highways on January 30, 2000 from 3-5 PM. A Benefit Love Fest will be on Feb. 18-19, 2000 featuring Dan Froot, Victoria Marks, Conor McTeague and Guiter Boy, Phranc, Keith Terry, and more. 310-3215-1459.

**United Kingdom:** Barry Lowe reports that some of the recent shows were: ANGELS IN AMERICA in Manchester; GARLAND: THE UNSUNG YEARS at Moon in Man Theatre; SOME EXPLICIT POLAROIDs by Mark Ravenhill at New Ambassadors Theatre; WIDE OPEN FOR YOU with Alan Pillay at The New End Theatre; TALKING ABOUT MEN by Steven Luckie at Oval House Theatre; and Les Ballets Trockadero's 25th anniversary tour at Peacock Theatre. All in London this Fall. STAIRCASE by Charles Dyer at Oldham Coliseum in Oldham; and Matthew Bourne's SWAN LAKE on tour throughout the UK Oct.-Dec.1999.

**West Hollywood, CA:** Queer Slam Artist Alix Olson appeared at The Globe Playhouse in November sponsored by The Ivy Theatre, Los Angeles; NOW and The City Of West Hollywood; 323-876-1938.

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**CHICAGO SCENE**  
by Howard Casner

They say that pride goeth before the fall, but in Bailiwick Repertory's instance, it's not only literally true, it extended into that period as well. Two productions of its annual gay-themed Pride series of plays, down under Barry Lowe's "Homme Fatale: The Joey Stefano Story," and Mark Dunn's ("let's take off all our clothes, and go down to the swimmin' hole," Ryan Idol vehicle) "Scent of Rain," were so successful, they were both extended through the early parts of September. Due to the runaway success of these plays and the early arrival of Greg Louganis in Larry Kramer's newly revised "Just

Say No", box office revenues were up 400% over any previous series, and subscription renewals are up 43%. In addition, Byron S. Stewart, the tour de force of "Conversation with a Diva," was nominated for a Black Theatre Award for performance. And I guess you just can't keep 'em down, either. "Big Dicks on Stage," Steve Dawson's dramady about a playwright asked to compromise his artistic vision and put nudity in his show, recently opened at Bailiwick and seems an appropriate coda to all that has come before it.

Fred Solari has the sort of problems most theatre's dream of: two successful productions that need to be extended, but not enough space to house them both. So he'll take a page from Gilbert and Sullivan's Box and Cox and use the same theatre, sort of Athenaeum and Porchlight Theatre Company's "Falsettos" was managing quite well on a stage with the audience on either side. Then Ulysses Theatre screwed things up by making a huge hit of Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart", so Solari solved the problem by erecting another stage in a corner of the room. On the nights that "Falsettos" is nothing more than a mere basso, half the seats will be turned to face the new stage. Both mother and child seem to be doing nicely in this arrangement.

Solari's not the only one having to deal with the stress of success. Northlight Theatre is moving south with their production of Jeff Baron's "Visiting Mr. Green", a drama about a gay man ordered to visit an older man after nearly running him over (I guess "What's your sign" just doesn't work like it used to). It will be remounted at the more spacious Royal George Theatre where everyone is praying for a fruitful (no pun intended) run.

Gay Chicago Magazine presented their yearly "After Dark Awards". Queer-related recipients included:

*Outstanding Cabaret Artist:* Stephen Rader; *Directing:* Jeremy B. Cohen for "Shopping and Fucking" (Bailiwick), Greg Kolack for "Salome" (Circle Theatre) and Marc Robin for "La Cage Aux Folles" (Drury Lane).

*New Work/Adaptation:* Biello and Martin for "Breathe" (Bailiwick).

*Production:* "Dream Boy" (About Face); and Ensemble: "Lips Together, Teeth Apart" (Circle Theatre), "Stupid Kids" (Roadworks Productions).

*Performance:* Janna Cardia for "Falsettos" (Athenaeum Theatre and Porchlight Theatre), Derek Hasenstab for "Cloud Nine" (About Face), John Simmons for "Salome", Byron S. Stewart for "Conversation With A Diva" (Bailiwick and A Real Read)

*Voices of Vision Award:* About Face Youth Theatre's "First Breath" (rumor has it that this will be remounted for a few evenings in the near future).

Congrats to all and one.

About Face Theatre has a lot of balls, disco balls that is. Their eagerly awaited new production is an adaptation by Eric Rosen (who also directs) of Andrew Holleran's "Dancer From the Dance."

Also on the other side of the asbestos curtain: theatreQ continues its support of Chicago playwrights by presenting John Pappas Koulias' "Pieces, a conversation in parts" and Alexandra Billings' "These Three Stay; on the fun side."

Cobalt Theatre Company presents Nicky Silver's "Raised in Captivity", which has a gay writer so distraught over the death of his lover that he develops a strange relationship with a murderer on death row.

Kamys and Tab Baker two steps it with a country western musical, "Future City Homosexual Tells All," about a small town boy trying to do the big town thing.

Equity Library Theatre Chicago helps Tennessee Williams recreate 1938 New Orleans in his semi-autobiographical "Vieux Carre"; Sweetback Productions presents Timothy James-O'Brien's adaptation of Jackie Susann's "Valley of the Dolls" and I think that just about says it all.

The only-her-hairdresser-knows-for-sure musical, "Victor/Victoria", slowly starts making its way to war-horse status at Marriott Theatre; and FrütLoops Comedy Troup improves their way through Comedy for Dummies, including such highlights as "Judge Judy Garland."

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## A CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE

### Entertainment News

by Gerald Semas

- Esteemed British actor **Derek Jacobi** will join **Joseph Fiennes** (Shakespeare in Love) to voice characters in an animated version of **Beowulf**. This film version of the 6<sup>th</sup>-century poem will be co-produced by the BBC and HBO. Jacobi is expected to step into the Thomas Moore role in the upcoming revival of Robert Bolt's drama *A Man For All Seasons*.
- **Alan Menken's** (Aladdin) first non-Disney musical in years is hit the Big Apple this September. The new work is called **Big Street** and features lyrics by **Marion Adler**, and a book by **Warren Leight**. The story is taken from a little-known 1942 film of the same name that starred **Lucille Ball** and **Henry Fonda** and was based on a **Damon Runyon** story called **'The Little Pinks.'** Pinks is a busboy with a crush on nightclub singer Gloria, who ignores him in pursuit of sugar daddies. Sounds like the **Anna Nicole Smith** story to me.
- **Barry Humphries** brought his show **Dame Edna: The Royal Tour** to NY's Booth Theatre this fall with previews beginning Sept. 15th. This is the same show that ran at SF's Theater on the Square last Winter.
- Playwright **Paul Rudnick** has written the script for **Bette Midler's** next film. It's called, **Isn't She Great**, and looks at the life of the late author of Valley of the Dolls. The cast features **Stockard Channing** (Six Degrees of Separation), **David Hyde Pierce** (Frasier), **Sarah Jessica Parker** (Sex in the City) and **John Cleese** (The Out-of-Towners).
- **Ally Sheedy** stepped in the role of Hedwig, a transsexual glamor rock star from Berlin in the off-Broadway play **Hedwig and the Angry Inch** at NY's Jane Street Theatre. Now if that doesn't rid one of the Brat Pack image, I don't know what will.
- Sacramento's Lambda Players hosted **Michael D. Jackson's** new play **Coffeehouse** as an October treat for audience members. The play features such characters as butch and lipstick Lesbians, straight college students, a gay teen, a gay senior and a drag queen.
- New Jersey's Paper Mill Playhouse recently staged a revival of **Jerry Herman's** musical, **Mame**. **Christine Ebersole** starred as the extravagant Auntie Mame as many people including myself hope it will lead to a national tour. Mame alumni, **Angela Lansbury** will star in a musical adaptation of Friedrich Duerrenmatt's drama **The Visit**. Aiming for a spring 2000 premiere the show will feature music by **John Kander**, lyrics by **Fred Ebb** and a book by **Terrence McNally**. Now that sounds like a guaranteed hit.
- The American premiere of **Noel Coward's** 1960 comedy drama, **Waiting in the Wings** is through waiting and begins previews in December. Holding court at Boston Colonial Theatre, the show will feature a top-notch cast including **Lauren Bacall**, **Rosemary Harris**, and **Barnard Hughes**.
- Gay producer **Scott Rudin** (In & Out) has had a hand in a number of recent and upcoming projects. He is one of the producers behind the **Kiss Me Kate** revival at NY's Martin Beck Theatre, which opened in November. Rudin also has producer's credit on the new **Stephen Sondheim** musical **Wise Guys** starring **Nathan Lane** aiming for next Spring. **Joseph Moncure March's** poetry has impressed Rudin enough to produce **The Wild Party**, a new musical based on March's work. **George C. Wolfe** will direct a yet to be announced cast though a recent workshop production featured **Vanessa Williams**, **Mandy Patinkin** and **Eartha Kitt**.
- **Steven Weber** (Jeffrey) and **Jonathan Taylor Thomas** (Home Improvement) will star in the original made-for-cable film **Common Ground** scheduled to air next year on Showtime. The trilogy focuses on 50 years of gay life in a small American town. Other cast members include **Brittany Murphy** (Drop Dead Gorgeous), **Jason Priestley** (Beverly Hills, 90210), **Eric Stoltz** (Chicago Hope) and

**Harvey Fierstein**. **Brian Kerwin**, Fierstein's co-star from the film version of **Torch Song Trilogy**, co-stars and serves as Executive Producer. The script was written by three award-winning scribes, Tony winner Fierstein, Tony winner **Terrence McNally** ("Master Class"), and Pulitzer prizewinner **Paula Vogel** ("How I Learned To Drive"). You better learn to set your VCRs by then folks.

▪ **Nicholas Hytner** directs **Dame Maggie Smith's** returns to the West End in the new **Alan Bennett** play **The Lady in the Van**. The December opening at the Queen's Theatre introduced Dame Maggie as Miss Shepherd, a woman who spent 15 years living in a camper van parked outside his home in London's posh Primrose Hill area.

The **Rocky Horror Picture Show** creator **Richard O'Brien** is writing a sequel. Expecting to complete the script by spring, O'Brien has completed six new songs including one titled "Bitching in the Kitchen." The story is set nine months after the end of the original with Janet pregnant by Dr. Frank N. Furter. Though O'Brien claims to have a half dozen NEW songs, it's ironic that his failed Rocky spin-off film, 1981's Shock Treatment, also featured a song called "Bitching in the Kitchen."

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## WAY OFF BROADWAY BY THE BAY

by Tom W. Kelly

### NEWS:

Ed Decker, Executive Director of the New Conservatory Theatre, recently received the Sam B. Puckett Memorial HIV Prevention Award at the Stop AIDS Project's fourth annual celebration. Decker was recognized as a Local Hero for his work producing and touring plays for young audiences that deal with themes such as peer pressure and AIDS. The plays have reached over 3.5 million young people around the world.

On Nov. 1, Petula Clark and the cast of Sunset Boulevard presented an evening of cabaret at Club Fugazi (the home of Beach Blanket Babylon) to benefit the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

Also, a fundraiser titled "A Salute to Sondheim" (as part of the fifth annual "Help is on the Way") at the Palace of Fine Arts featured a bevy of performing celebrities and distributed \$150,000 to various local and national AIDS organizations.

One of the Bay Area Playwrights Festival 22's special events was "Lesbians in Theatre: Identity, Perception and Stereotypes," a free program cosponsored by The Playwrights Foundation and Theatre Bay Area.

A group of teenagers produced their own musical revue about AIDS prevention and survival titled We're Gonna Make It. The show uses actual stories from kids with AIDS and is intended as a wake-up call for the highest risk group in the Bay Area -- teens. They have produced the show at San Mateo Performing Arts Center and Cupertino High. They are seeking other venues. Contact Maria San Antonio at 650-969-7981.

**Victoria Theatre**, 2961 - 16th St.

Caryn Horwitz presented Ronnie Larsen's lusciously lascivious All-Male **Peep Show** about the "boys who dance behind the glass." Playwright and director Larsen masterfully interwove two-handfuls (at least) of subplots, offering voyeuristic peeks into the lives of erotic performers and the men who love them. In Act II, the palpitating performers leapt into the audience for a wild free-for-all that almost climaxed the play early. Tendering excellent performances one and all, the porn-studded cast roster read like a Who's Who in Gay Porn, including Marco Rossi, Chad Donovan, Tommy Lord, Brad Phillips, J. T. Sloan, Max Stone, Erich Lange, and Gino Colbert. Though oddly not quite sexy, the show is too much fun! Bring your own towels!

**Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts**, 1519 Mission St.; 415-554-0402; director@jonsimsctr.org; www.jonsimsctr.org

Charles Wilmoth is the Center's new Artistic Director.

Dec. 4-5, the Dance-Along Nutcracker invited Bay Area audiences to tie on their tutus and get into the show at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street. Tutu rentals and fairy wands were available for those with nothing to wear.

On Oct. 9 and 10, The Emerging Playwrights Series of the Artists Alliance Against AIDS in association with the Jon Sims Center presented staged readings of **Reaching Out** and **Topping Out**, two short plays by Irl Mowery, and **Chimayo**, a monologue by Christopher Woods. Directed by Alan Goy. And on Aug. 21 and 22, they presented **We Are All Together** by Roby Newman. AAAA is an AIDS-service organization dedicated to bringing before the public the works, in various forms, of contemporary artists that educate and enhance awareness of the human face of AIDS. AAAA's Directors are Sean San Jose and Frank Malifrando.

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

As part of their Millennium Pride Series, NCT mounted (Nov. 20 to Jan. 1, 2000) the West Coast premiere of **Dream Boy**, adapted by Eric Rosen from the book by Jim Grimsley. Directed by Dan Oliverio. "A stunning play that recounts the story of a painful first love between two adolescent boys, sustaining each other in a world of domestic disintegration. Both haunting and sublime, **Dream Boy** is an amazing tale of boundless hope."

From Dec. 12-18, NCT presented **A Christmas Memory** by Truman Capote. Directed by Arturo Catricala. "Set in the 1930's rural south, this is a heartwarming, holiday tale about a seven year old boy and his older yet child-like cousin, both of whom come to realize that the greatest gift is the gift of love."

Performance artist Tim Miller returned (Nov. 5-14) to NCT with his new work titled **Glory Box**. "**Glory Box** is a funny, sexy and charged exploration of the challenge of love, queer marriage, and the struggle for immigration rights for gay people."

**Steel Kiss** by Canadian playwright Robin Fulford received a decidedly gutsy U.S. premiere as it opened NCT's "Sex, Guts, Glory -- Millennium Pride Season." This powerful, episodic, non-linear play hits the audience from many angles: profane street teens, nocturnal gay sex in public places, homophobia, fatal violence, and more. Director Ed Decker creatively stages, with actors bursting forth onstage at high velocity and forming compelling visuals. Strong ensemble!

With the Celebrating Women Festival, writer/performer Holly (NEA Four) Hughes world premiered her new solo work, **Preaching to the Preverted**. This extremely intelligent, sensitive and engaging writer has assembled historical references to the ironies and hypocrisies of this country's censure of art. A moving account of her twisted journey through the U.S. "judicial" system (her trials and tribulations) all the way to the Supreme Court. Most importantly, she put a human face on one-fourth of the vilified "NEA Four." Lois Weaver directed.

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

On Dec. 13, as one of Rhino's most treasured holiday traditions, Robert Coffman read Truman Capote's **A Christmas Memory**. And on Nov. 22, he read Capote's **A Thanksgiving Visitor**.

Through November, writer and performer Marga Gomez premiered her latest solo comedy **jaywalker** "the surreal Hollywood adventure of a law-abiding Latina pedestrian with a dream: to play the first Lesbian on Baywatch. But when the pressure of constantly competing for fame against Jennifer Lopez and Chihuahuas takes its toll, the jaywalker erupts into a one-woman misdemeanor rampage: littering, loitering and crossing against the light." Directed by David Schweizer and production design by Dana Peter Porras.

The season opener, **Shopping and F\*\*\*ing** by Mark Ravenhill, took an incredibly raw look at the plight of London's disenfranchised young people. Abuse abounded in this tough-hitting gritty drama. Not for the squeamish. Directed by Michael Donald Edwards.

At Studio Rhino: SF welcomes playwright Adam Bock, a recent East Coast transplant. His quirkily creative play, **Swimming in the Shallows**, features six disparate characters making connections

wherever they can. Kent Nicholson directed with sublime style. Excellent ensemble and production values by the Shotgun Players.

Also in the Studio: erinys productions presented **In Trousers**, Part I of the "Marvin Trilogy of the Falsettoland," with book, lyrics and music by William "Falsettos" Finn. The superb ensemble brought many sparkling moments to this "coming out" musical, which includes key moments in the struggles of a closeted homosexual to meet Mr. Right. Imaginatively staged by director Zanne Burdick. Check their website: members.xoom.com/erinysf

**Venue 9**, 252 Ninth St.; 415-626-6404.

On Dec. 14, 1999, Footloose Presents at Venue 9 a staged reading of **Love in Ruins** by Tom W. Kelly as part of the Page to the Stage series. Mike Ward directed. LIR imaginatively dramatizes Zeus' pursuit and acquisition of handsome young Ganymede, the most famous surviving Greco-Roman same-sex myth.

**Magic Theatre**, Building D, Fort Mason; 415-441-8822; www.magictheatre.org

The Magic's upcoming 1999-2000 season will include Claire Chafee's **Five Women on a Hill in Spain** which "takes us back to 1963 in Spain, where a group of women vacation, as the first female cosmonaut circles the globe above them. A tale of longing, lesbian etiquette, and the impact of culture."

Also, the Magic will feature new works during their first Festival of Lesbian Playwrights: Jan. 2-23, 2000.

**Plush Room Cabaret** at the York Hotel, 940 Sutter; 415-885-2800.

Singer, songwriter, and Tony-nominated Sharon McNight (star of many, many AIDS fundraisers) powerfully performed her **Personal Anthems**.

Through September, new Bay Area resident Rita Moreno performed her classy cabaret act with a smooth and sexy voice and a mischievous gleam in her eye. Welcome, Rita! Oh, Moreno's final performance benefited Brava! for Women in the Arts.

**Theater Artaud**, 450 Florida St.; 415-621-7797.

In early October 1999, Cultural Odyssey presented **Ask Any Girl** written and directed by Robert Banks Ramirez, featured Drag Diva Jazzmun and actor Wheaton James. "A fierce transgender from Oakland returns to LA to help a young Harvard grad get on with his life after the death (from AIDS) of his twin brother."

From August 14-22, 1999, the AfroSolo Theatre Company celebrated their sixth annual AfroSolo Arts Festival, "giving voice to the Black experience through solo performance." At the Center for African & African American Art & Culture, they sponsored a free Community Forum titled "Black Artists on AIDS: Saving Lives, Raising Awareness and Inspiring Hope" which included two performances and a panel discussion.

**Yugen/Noh Space**, 2840 Mariposa Street (415) 621-7978

Through October, SF solo performance artist Canyon Sam premiered her provocative, new one-woman show **Capacity to Enter**, "the story of Sam's changing mid-life passions in light of her own sexual identity and spiritual commitments." Directed by Pam McDaniel.

**Also in San Francisco:**

Extended again and again, the tuck & roll players mounted **Cyberotica!** a new rock musical at the Transmission Theatre. Written and directed by Kelly Kittell and created and produced by Peter Fogel. (Closed Oct. 28)

Imagination Productions, newly arrived in SF, presented **The Shawl** by David Mamet at Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market St. (Nov. 11-14). And from Nov. 26-28, they presented **The Shawl** in addition to Sam Shepard's **Savage Love** at

Theatre Rhino. IP hosts post-production discussion workshops between the cast and audience members, developing, and performing scripts about a variety of issues (including domestic violence, AIDS, homelessness, homophobia, etc.) and committing to performance in non-traditional spaces. Welcome to SF!

On Nov. 13, SF comedian Margaret Cho performs at SF's Warfield Theatre with one performance only of her hit NY autobiographical show, **I'm the One That I Want** where she looks at her TV sitcom, her decline into booze, and her self-reclamation.

Third-year students of the American Conservatory Theater Master of Fine Arts Program presented through Nov. repertory performances of **Spring Awakening** by Frank Wedekind and **Pains of Youth** by Ferdinand Bruckner. Directed by Barbara Damashek and Adrian Giurgea, respectively.

In early Nov., 42nd Street Moon [www.capybara.com/42ndStMoon] presented at New Conservatory Theatre a concert version of **The Grass Harp**, a musical by Kenward Elmslie and Claibe Richardson based on a Truman Capote novella.

On Nov. 29, Michael Nava, writer of mysteries featuring gay Latino detective/hero, was part of Readings at Lone Mountain, a series of free literary readings and discussions, open to the public, presented by the University of SF, Master of Arts in Writing Program.

Through August 1999, Avid Fan Productions presented Edward Albee's **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** at the Exit Theatre.

And also in August 1999, the SF Gay Men's Chorus performed at Davies Symphony Hall their concert "Music for Michael Mouse" songs and selected readings from *The Tales of the City* by Armistead Maupin who appeared and shared related anecdotes.

#### SF BAY AREA:

**Marin Theatre Company**, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley; 415-388-5208.

From Nov.11 to Dec.12, MTC mounted the first licensed production of **Spring Storm**, a 1937 play written by 26 year old Tennessee Williams. Directed by Lee Sankowich. "Set in the 1930's in the small Southern river town of Fort Tyler, beautiful 22 year old Heavenly Critchfield is torn between her passion for Dick Miles, a young man with wanderlust, and the financial security offered her by Arthur Shannon, the son of the wealthiest family in town."

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

So popular they extended and extended! **As Bees in Honey Drown** by Douglas Carter Beane was a winner! From opening scene where viewers were treated to some finely-chiseled pectorals to the snappy surprise ending, the story careened along a wild tour of high-style Manhattan's poshest spots ... and a few not so posh. Alexa Vere de Vere is certainly the newest and most vivacious gay icon! She charms the pants of the gay protagonist (literally). Rebecca Dines rendered a perfect portrayal of Vere de Vere and Michael DeGood was darned good as the impressionable young writer. Director Danny Scheie paced it all at lightning speed.

Also, **Pride's Crossing** by Tina Howe featured a strong-willed female protagonist (played by Maureen Silliman), a probably-gay character, and some fun gender-bending casting. Strong direction from Amy Glazer.

#### Also in the Bay Area:

John Fisher ("Medea: The Musical," "Combat!" and much more) presented **Partisans**, his first "straight play" at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Playhouse. **Partisans**, based on a historical footnote to World War II, focuses on a band of young Polish Jews who became part of the resistance as they lived a life on the run."

Writer, performer and fumerist (feminist humorist) Kate Clinton presented **Y2K8**, an "outsspoken agenda of riffs on gay life, up-to-the-

minute current events and political insights that serve as thematic launching pads for astute takes on the state of the nation. CenterStage at Hoytt Theater, Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, San Rafael.

The Peninsula Civic Light Opera produced **A Chorus Line**, conceived by Michael Bennett at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center (Sept.24 to Oct.10).

#### Ashland, Oregon

On Aug. 23, 1999, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's twelfth annual Daedalus Project raised over \$45,000 during its day of festivities, which included a reading of David Marshall Grant's **Snakebit**, the Daedalus Project 5K Run/Walk, an art exhibit and auction, a sale of theatre and company related items, and an evening variety show. \$51,000 was distributed to various local and national HIV/AIDS-related charities. Next year's Daedalus Project will be held Monday, Aug. 21, 2000. Box office (541) 482-4331.

**San Francisco Fringe Festival 1999**, at various venues. Many lesbian and gay shows were included this year.

**Home Plate** by local playwright Margery Kreitman where "It's the fifth game of the Yankee-Dodgers World Series. In her Bronx apartment, a ten year old girl, perched in front of the TV set, prepares t pitch a no-hit `perfect` game with Don Larsen."

**But Stevie Nicks Understands--Part IV** by Eugene Paulish, Jr. (dir. Michael Kearns) "Young, naive, new to L.A., and sexually confused. How could life get any more interesting? Well, falling in love with the wrong guy at the worst possible moment would be a start."

**No Fences**, a midwestern tale by Jan Probst (dir. Amy Mueller). "Etta's lifelong best friend just up and died, and her lesbian granddaughter moves in next door, reminding her that love in the sticks is anything but ordinary."

**Killing My Lobster's Comedy Show** offers "raucous, ribald and ridiculous sketches."

**Faust/Faustus, a Duet for Devils** by Leon Johnson and Christopher Biddle. "Despair and grief transmute to resistance and alliance, culminating in a new contract of regeneration."

**Moog Bandits Gave Me the Clap** by Aphrodite's All-Purpose Bog Wax "coming to you in Queer-o-vision!"

**Right-On Insane Asylum** by Bill Bernat and Scott Malone. "Imagine a world where prison sluts become senior vice presidents ... and where justice comes from a vigilante band of superhero strippers." Gay? Who knows, but what a gay sensibility!

**In Shakespeare's Mums**, Joanne Joseph "goes in search of mothers in the Bard's plays finding mostly those with evil and frightening agendas, and some few who are benevolent."

### DALLAS THEATER NEWS with Steve Lovett

I am pleased to report that two gay-oriented theater pieces were honored November 1 at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas by the Dallas Theatre League. Receiving "Leon Rabin Awards" for excellence in Dallas-area theater, were Scott Eckert (Best Musical Direction) and Bruce Coleman (Best Direction of a Musical) for Coleman's Cole Porter Revue "Night and Day", which re-examined the composer's work from the point of view of his gay status. Also honored was (myself) Steve Lovett for "Best Original Play or Musical" for "Unrequited Love's a Bore" also directed by Coleman.

In addition, The Dallas Observer recently cited Nye Cooper as Best Actor in Dallas for 1999 for his work in "Unrequited Love's a Bore".

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## BOOK REVIEW

by Marian Jones

In this day of "non-labels" Carolyn Gage offers the acting world a non-apologetic (thank goodness) book - **MONOLOGUES & SCENES FOR LESBIAN ACTORS**. The introduction alone is inspiring. Carolyn's passion for lesbian artists is evident.

As an actor looking for a scene or monologue Carolyn's book has a myriad of opportunities. She has offered a character index, which breaks the scenes down by age, ethnicity, economic background, regional background as well as sexual abuse, fat, male, butch and anorectic. Her monologues vary from Joan of Arc speaking to a modern day audience to a 19-year-old lesbian camp counselor and her struggles with attractions as well as losing her job. We are then offered the wonderful Charlotte Cushman monologue of her encounter with death in bed with a prostitute and the fabulous Calamity Jane speaking to her daughter. These are rich monologues any actress would be fortunate to work on, straight or lesbian. These characters need to be seen and heard on the stage. Carolyn has given all actors this opportunity.

The scene portion of the book did nothing but wet my appetite for the full lengths (which I will find and read). Again, we are given the opportunity to reach inside some moments in time that offer a glimpse we often, or I should say, never see. Harriet Tubman defending herself to her modern day therapist, on the Isle of Lesbos we see Atthis attempt to kiss Anactoria for the first time at the temple of Aphrodite. We get to meet The Amazon All Stars and see a scene between a lesbian separatist Maria from Westside Story and a prostitute-rights activist Aldonza from Man of La Mancha. This is just a small portion of what **MONOLOGUES & SCENES FOR LESBIAN ACTORS** has to offer.

Carolyn's imagination and her richness of dialogue are a wonderful offering to a theatre community that could certainly use a push in the direction of representing US ALL on the stage. As the Artistic Director of a lesbian focused theatre company (LA's **IVY THEATRE COMPANY**), I appreciate Carolyn's efforts in that direction and have a sense of comfort knowing that she is **OUT THERE**.

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## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA THEATRE

by Bill Kaiser

There have been a lot of remarkable shows this fall in Los Angeles.

The Blank Theatre Company presented world premieres by teenage playwrights: **BOY** by Beth Bigler and **STARRY NIGHT** by Joshua Levine.

The most intriguing theatrical event for me was **VOLUPTUOUS MADNESS** with the Fabulous Monsters. This was their 5th anniversary performance and it was magical and mysterious, a blend of traditional epic legends and contemporary camp brewed fabulously by Robert Prior.

Ronnie Larsen's **SHOOTING PORN** was the most entertaining and fun show with Ronnie as Chi Chi LaRue the highlight of the evening as well as the studly Porn Stars!

The best "straight" play I saw was **BEE-LUTHER-HATCHEE** by Thomas Gibbons done by the Robey Theatre Company. Not only was the production first-rate and had Royce Herron in it but so was the script and the Black-White issues raised.

Luis Alfaro's long awaited **STRAIGHT AS A LINE** at The Playwrights Arena was worth the wait. An offbeat story of a Boy and his Mum, it also had AIDS as a major theme which was not a turnoff to audience and critics.

I see that The New Conservatory in San Francisco is doing a concert version of Solly and Ward's **BOY MEETS BOY** Feb. 9-Mar. 5, 2000; 415-861-8972. The full production is currently being done at 6@Penn in San Diego (and may move up to LA?). 619-688-9210.

**HANDSOME MEN** by Mike Donner is at The St. Genesius. It's a story of four generations of Gay Men.

**CORPUS CHRISTI** is SRO in Santa Ana and worth the trek down to Orange County. To see this controversial Terrence McNally play about love and tolerance!

Other shows coming up are **HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH** at the Henry Fonda, **DIVINE THING: THE JOEY STEFANO STORY** at St. Genesius, **SCENT OF RAIN** at Tiffany, and **POINTLESS** at East-West Players.

Call The Purple Circuit Hotline at 818-953-5072

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## ART

At Highways in Santa Monica is a photographic exhibit called 'Socially Concerned-Socially Irrelevant' by twelve artists that opened in November 1999. 310-453-1755.

At Barnsdall Art Park in Los Angeles "PROs and PROteges: Los Angeles Artists and the Youth They Mentor" has been extended until the end of 1999.

Hallwalls in Buffalo is having its own Blockbuster exhibition which will open January 29, 2000-The Year 2000 Hallwalls members Show. 716-835-7362.

VIVA Lesbian & Gay Latino Artists present VIVA 2000, the last art sale of the century on Dec 11, 1999 at Perfect Exposure Gallery. For info on the sale and VIVA whose members are in all the arts call and talk with the fabulous Monica Palacios. 323-468-1097.

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## DANCE / MUSIC

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles returned from their triumphant tour of Moscow and the Baltic with a Nov concert "From Russia with Love" This was a groundbreaking tour with audiences never seeing an openly Gay group of performers before. Their 1999-2000 season includes: "Joys Of The Season, Dec 17-19, 1999 at Alex Theatre, Glendale; "With A Mighty Voice," April 1-8, 2000 at various churches; and "OZ and Beyond: The Music Of Harold Arlen," July 7-9, 2000 at Alex Theatre; 800-Men-Sing.

The Village in Los Angeles sponsored the First Annual All-Lesbian Music Festival Villith Fair in November 1999. Appearing were Sonia and Disappear Fear, Jull Sobule, Phranc, Alix Dobrkin and local artists Patti Rayne, Jariya, Lisa Stark, Amy Rosenberg, Wendy Schwartz and The Ukadelics. 323-860-7300.

A Wholeness & Wellness Concert was held in October 1999 for The Minority AIDS Project in Los Angeles. Hosted by Jennifer Lewis, the concert featured Carl Anderson and other talents. 323-936-4949.

In December the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band held its annual Dance-Along Nutcracker where the Bay Area audiences can don tutus and dance along. The Band is a resident program of the Jon Sims Center for The Performing Arts whose motto is "The Closet is No Place for Art." 415-554-0402.

Apocrypho continues to plough the fields of electro-harsh-wave music finishing their debut album "Spiritual Cannibal." Check their website at: [apocrypho.web.com](http://apocrypho.web.com)

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## FESTIVALS / SEASONS / SERIES

Jump Start Performance company in San Antonio announced its 1999-2000 season. Among the highlights Paul Bonin-Rodriguez's **MEMORY'S CARETAKER**, **LAS NUEVAS TAMALERAS** by Alicia Mena, and **LE GRIFFON** by Sterling Houston. 210-227-5867.

GLASGAY! 99 was the 5th Glasgay! Festival taking place October 22-31, 1999 in Glasgow Scotland with 68 events in 20 venues throughout the city. Among the highlights was the professional theatre premiere of Harvey Fierstein's TORCH SONG TRILOGY; THE GAY DETECTIVE by Gerard Stembridge, two Youth Theatre pieces: FRIENDLY FIRE by Peter Gill and NOMADS by John Binnie, PUCKER with Helena Goldwater, and Drag Divas, Film, Music, Comedy, Visual Art, Literature and more events! Bravo to Lindsay Mitchell and Robert Thomson and all the people who made

Glasgay! possible! 0141 334-7126, lindsaym@pcscience.net; www.glasgay.co.uk

The New York Fringe Festival in August had many productions that have not been previously mentioned in OTPC, including: COCK AND BULL STORY at the Greenwich Theatre; ALL MALE LIVES OF Y2-GAY at Henry Street; HEAVEN KNOWS at WOW Café; ROSES THAT PIERCE THE NIGHT at Red Room; and SODOM OR THE QUINTESSENCE OF DEBAUCHERY at St. Mark's Studio Theatre.

Theatre Group of Denver Colorado has been around for 27 years. One of their 2 buildings, Theatre on Broadway is dedicated primarily to G/L issues having done the regional premiere of JEFFREY, PARTY, THE DYING GAUL, and currently CORPUS CHRISTI. Their 2000 Millennium season includes ROMEO AND JULIET, A BEAUTIFUL THING, WHEN PIGS FLY, FOOD CHAIN, A QUESTION OF MERCY, THE ONLY THING WORSE YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME and THE BLUE ROOM. Contact: THEATREGRO@aol.com

Les productions OUT- OUT Productions presents OUT 2000 in the Spring and Summer 2000 with four new English language plays by young writers with a unique perspective on Canadian gay and lesbian history. OUT also maintains The Pink Network (The Purple Circuit's Canadian counterpart); 514-590-0589; www.out.ca,in@out.ca

The Richmond Triangle Players 1999-2000 Season includes: STOP KISS by Diana Son, JUDAS KISS by David Hare, KEY WEST by Jack Heifner (Feb 2-Feb 26,2000), and HYSTERICAL BLINDNESS AND OTHER SOUTHERN TRAGEDIES THAT HAVE PLAGUED MY LIFE SO FAR by Leslie Jordan with music by Joe Pat Ward; 804-346-8113.

Outward Spiral in Minneapolis just ended their 1999 season with CLOUD NINE by Caryl Churchill. Their 5th anniversary season coming up includes the regional premiere of THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD by Paul Rudnick opening January 14, 2000; the North American premiere of LADIES AND GENTLEMEN by Emma Donoghue, opening April 14,2000 and THE BIG HOOVER by Twin Cities playwright Antay Bilgutay. 612-504-2323; outwardspiral@yahoo.com

New York Theatre Workshop has an ongoing series of play readings Mondays at 3. Call 212-80-9037 for information.

The Public Theatre of South Florida's 1999-2000 season included The Lesbian/Gay Festival this fall of LYDIA'S PLUMBER by Vince Rhomberg and TONGUE IN CHIC by Michael Latshaw. Their Mainstage Season includes EARNEST IN LOVE by Anne Crosswell and Lee Pockriss which opens February 11, 2000; 954-68-2243.

San Francisco's New Conservatory Theatre Center's Sex, Guts, Glory- The Millennium Pride Season includes STEEL KISS by Robin Fulford, DREAM BOY adapted by Eric Rosen from Jim Grimsley's novel, WHO'S AFRAID OF EDWARD ALBEE by Michael Kearns, LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION! by Terrence McNally, MESSAGE TO MICHAEL by Tim Pinckney and TORCH SONG TRILOGY by Harvey Fierstein; 415-861-8972.

Marjorie Conn continues to bring entertainment to Provincetown with 9 Days Of Entertainment in October, 1999 including LORENA HICKOK & ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: A LOVE STORY by Pat Bond, GERTY GERTY GERTY STEIN IS BACK, BACK, BACK by Pat Bond, and comedy and music and more. 508-487-2400.

Essential Theatre announced its 5th Season at Scottsdale Center for the Arts with Creation Stories in Nov. 1999; Love Stories; Feb. 14,

2000; Incredible Stories, April 1, 2000; In Pursuit of Happiness: Gay and Lesbian Stories, May 19-20, 2000; and Beating The Odds: Tales of Triumph, June 24, 2000; 480-897-6711; producers@essentialtheatreco.com

Richard Israel, the AD of Celebration Theatre has announced the 1999-2000 season: MARRY ME A LITTLE by Stephen Sondheim, WHAT'S WRONG WITH ANGRY by Patrick Wilde, HEREAFTER music by Robert Hartmann with book and lyrics by Robert Hartmann and Scott Keys, and COOL MY TONGUE by Tom Jacobson; 310-289-2999.

## FILM / VIDEO / TV

Showtime has turned Emily Mann's play EXECUTION OF JUSTICE into a TV movie screen-written by Michael Butler. It premiered on November 28, 1999.

Breakout was a National Coming Out Video Competition at the LA Gay and Lesbian Center. Contact Sue Hamilton at the Village; 323-860-7336. www.glscsc.org

The Honolulu Gay and Lesbian Cultural Foundation Film Festival is May/June 2000. For information of participating call 808-941-0424 ext. 18; fax 808-943-1724; or filmkinghonolulu@aol.com; www.hglcf.org

In the Life continues on PBS. Theatre, performance, and culture in general are covered regularly. For information and to support them: 30 West 26 St, 7th floor, NY, NY 10010.

"The O Boys: Parties, Porn & Politics" is available on home video. For information call The O Boy Hotline at 310-289-8517 or see www.gaywired.com/oboy/index.html

There are many new GL films out however a fun one is BUTCH CAMP with Judy Tenuta and Paul Denniston. Directed by Alessandro De Gaetano and designed by Rick Paul. BUTCH CAMP is available at 888-542-5421 or www.cultureqconnection.com

## LITERARY SCENE

Linda Eisenstein's monologue PRETZELS AND LONGING which premiered at the Pussycat Theatre in Baltimore last summer is featured in "The Best Women's Stage Monologues of 1998" available from Smith & Kraus.

From Duke University Press, Paula A Treichler has written "How To Have Theory In An Epidemic, Cultural Chronicles of AIDS"

The Vice Versa Press Awards were announced in September and Chicago Outlines won an award for its profile of filmmaker John Waters by Lawrence Ferber. From Press Pass Q, a newsletter for the Gay and Lesbian Press Professional, PressPassQ@aol.com

COMEDY GUARANTEED MORE THAN 10%, MARLA'S DEVOTION and other works by Linda Eisenstein are available from Herone Press, P.O. Box 749, Cleveland, OH 44107-0749. Copies are \$7.00 which includes U.S. and Canadian postage, outside add'tl postage. (You have heard in The Purple Circuit about the productions of Linda's plays around the country now read what you are missing-editor) For more information on Linda Eisenstein's works: hereone@en.com; www.en.com/users/herone

Playwright J. Max Turner continues to amaze with his energy. Not only writing hit plays but novels too. WITHIN THE CIRCLE is an adult Gay novel about a circle of friends who love, sleep around, and survive the outside world of hate and violence. A Hot intriguing story of love, sex, deceit and survival. From Kalinke Books, ISBN 1-891346-06-7; fax 941-686-7720; www.kalinkebooks.com

Critic Les Spindle continues to write great features and profiles for BackStage West. Some recent articles were a profile on Gay

playwright/Pioneer Mart Crowley and "Small Wonders" about downsized musicals finding success on LA Stages.

Terry Wolverton's Writers at Work celebrated its second anniversary recently. It's a Creative Writing Community with many workshops and other activities. For info: 4022 Fountain Ave, Ste. 202, LA, CA, 90029-2220; 323-661-5954; wtrsatwork@aol.com; www.writersatwork.com

Playwright Paul Harris has edited THE QUEER PRESS GUIDE 2000. The book contains listings of GLBT publications all over the world and published by Painted Leaf Press ISBN 1-891305-17-4. Available at bookstores or online at Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

Pilgrim Press has published WHEN LOVE LASTS FOREVER: MALE COUPLES CELEBRATE COMMITMENT edited by Merle Yost, an anthology by and about long term male couples together from 10-45 years. One of the contributors is Davidson Lloyd of the Performance team Keegan and Lloyd. www.myost.com

Playwright Carolyn Gage has written MONOLOGUES & SCENES FOR LESBIAN ACTORS (reviewed by Marian Jones in this issue) from Odd Girls Press, 1-887237-10-0 trade paper, 1-887237-07-0 cloth. For info on Odd Girls Press; 800-821-0632, publisher@OddGirlsPress.com

Ed Karvoski Jr, author of ALL-MALE, his interviews with porn stars was interviewed himself on Rainbow Network, the U.K.'s online GL magazine. His book is available from Kensington Books.

Massimo Consoli, the founder of the Italian Gay Movement has a new book Bandiera Gay (Gay Flag) History of The Italian Gay Movement in 200 photos coming out in December 1999.

A group of gay writers has been formed at the GLBT Community Center in Milwaukee called The Wilde Bunch. Members are working on short stories, poetry, drama and nonfiction. Among them is author Marvin Martin.

"Plays From Woolly Mammoth" was published by Broadway Play Publishing in September 1999. Included in the anthology is THE GENE POOL by Christi Stewart-Brown, a comedy with two Moms which spoofs traditional family values.

There was a fascinating piece in the October 17, 1999 issue of The New York Times by Mark Ravenhill (author of SHOPPING AND FUCKING) about John Osborne's LOOK BACK IN ANGER and the prominence it has in British theatre history. Ravenhill makes a case about the fact this was a break from the Gay playwrights of the earlier period and how cultural commentators always welcome when straight boys arrive to sort things out!

## PLAYRIGHTS / PRODUCER'S FORUM

David Williams' tragicomedy FROM SHIRLEY TEMPLE TO AIMEE SEMPLE ran successfully for eight weeks (July-August, 1999) produced by David Goldyn at the St. Genesius Theatre in West Hollywood. Based on the true story of the author's experience with Gay conversion therapy, the full-length play was a finalist in the Jewel Box Theatre Play Competition for 1999. Hailed as a "substantial story" by NightLife Magazine and "a gratifying performance" by Edge Magazine, the script is available for production. Contact the author at 909-798-9278, or PO Box 2086, Redlands, CA 92373-0661; www.geocities.com/Broadway/Balcony/9278.index.html

Playwright Richard Greenberg (EASTERN STANDARD) has been named Associate Artist at The South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, CA.

Playwrights 6 presented "Do You Want To Know A Secret? An evening of comedic one-act plays. The writers are Laura Black, David Boito, Larry Dean Harris, G. Bruce Smith, and Monica Trasandes. The show was done in Oct-Nov at Theatre East in Studio City, CA.; 310-305-8205.

Lawson H. Caldwell has written THE WISDOM CHANNEL, a play about Hollywood Stars and coming out and what is family and much more. For further info contact the playwright at 704-332-2328; Lcald56333@aol.com, or 2209-O Sumner Green Ave., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Charles Bloom's INSOMNIA is an entertaining, sometimes moving musical about a Gay man who can't sleep, and can't make commitments about relationships let alone fathering a child! For information: Bloomusic@aol.com, 310-659-3500; fax 310-659-5080.

Agent Bret Adams represents Jack Heifner's KEY WEST, Guillermo Reyes' MEN ON THE VERGE OF A HIS-PANIC ATTACK and Solly and Ward's BOY MEETS BOY among others. Contact: BAdamsLtd@aol.com; 212-65-5630; fax 212-265-2212, 448 West 44 St., NY, NY 10036.

PILGRIMS by Larry Buhl received a staged reading at the Bitter Truth Theater in North Hollywood California in October. It's a pitch black comedy that follows 24 hours in the life of a fictional couple James and Blaine who will be the first legally wed same sex couple in America. The play was well received and looking for a production. Contact: mrbuhl2u@hotmail.com

Artists Alliance Against AIDS in San Francisco with the Jon Sims Center for The Performing Arts presented a staged reading in October of REACHING OUT and TOPPING OUT by Iri Mowery and CHIMAYO a monologue by Christopher Woods. 415-554-0402; director@jonsimsctr.org

The Playwrights Theatre of Madison NJ presented a concert reading of Tom Jacobson's intriguing chronological palindrome play OUROBOROS in October 1999. The title refers to a Greek word that means "Earth Snake" - a snake or dragon that turns back upon itself to swallow its own tail.

Two of Linda Eisenstein's plays A RUSTLE OF WINGS and UNGRATEFUL were featured during the Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Arts Festival Oct. 21-24, 1999. Her ACME TEMPORARY SERVICES was done at Impact Theatre in Berkeley in Oct-Nov and THREE THE HARD WAY had a reading at the Angels Company in Lincoln. Linda's work is literally produced across the nation. Contact her at herone@en.com; www.en.com/users/herone

A reading of Larry Harris (BIBLE STORIES)'s new play LIKE AN OLD SONG WE HAVE SUNG was held at Celebration Theatre in LA in September. It's a comedy about 7 old Gay guys who hang out at a supper club in Fort Lauderdale. Sort of like The Golden Girls meets Boys in The Band. Contact: WORDSofLA@aol.com

Jeffrey Kagan-McCann has won his third Johnston award for the 2000 Seattle Fringe Festival for his play SIGOURNEY SQUARE. The Festival will be Mar 9-19, 2000. For info on Jeffrey's play, kaganj@act.iswnet.com (Jeffrey Kagan-McCann)

Daniel Curzon was the winner of Southwest Theatre Association's 1999 contest with his play GODOT ARRIVES. Contact him at curzon@pacbell.net

Dee Jae Cox has a powerful play in LETTERS HOME about a Lesbian witch-hunt in the military. She is looking for producers around the country outside of Los Angeles where The Ivy Theatre will produce it in March 2000. Interested Producers call 818-985-5466; or Djuna@aol.com. Ms. Cox is the author also of THE RAPE OF DJUNA BARNES.

Diversionsary Theatre has been doing OUR GAY APPAREL by Robert Joseph now for 5 years as an annual holiday show. The script has now been formatted for production elsewhere on The Purple Circuit. Diversionsary is acting as agent so for Christmas, 2000 production call Wayne Tibbetts; AD at 619-220-6830; fax 619-220-0148; www.diversionsary.org

## TOURING / BOOKING

Comic Rob Nash was at the Aspen Comedy Festival in October. His multi-character FRESHMAN YEAR SUCKS! was the first installment of the Holy Cross Quadrilogy.

Plans are for an Off-Broadway premiere of FRESHMAN as well as SOPHOMORE SLUMP next Spring. Rob has been touring colleges and elsewhere. To bring him to your venue contact OutMedia, Shelly Weiss at OUTmedia@msn.com; 718-789-1776; www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/8517/

The fabulous Karen Williams also tours the country with "Essentially ..."One Woman's Performance. For information and bookings for this Cosmic Comic and Founder of The HaHa Institute call 216-289-7079; haha@multiverse.com

HOMME FATALE: THE JOEY STEFANO STORY produced by Hunter Hodgson Productions opened at The Bailiwick Theatre in Chicago during Pride '99. It opened in South Beach Florida at the Colony Theater in Nov. and moved to the Wilton Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale December 1, 1999; 954-571-7909. For information on booking call Murray Hodgson, 248-593-6666.

Actor/Comic Jason Stuart will be in the film FLUFFER co-directed by Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland and described as a cross between BOOGIE NIGHTS and MIDNIGHT COWBOY. Jason has also been touring colleges and clubs from Rutgers University in NJ to the Comedy Store in LA. January 14-15, 2000 he will be at the Comedy Store in San Diego 619-454-9176, and Jan. 19-23 at Funny Bone Comedy Club in Omaha, 402-93-8036. His manager is Empowered Artist at 213-480-1996, and his Stand-Up Agent is OUTMedia at 718-789-1776.

Beto Araiza has been touring colleges and conferences with his powerful performance piece H.I.VATO.

NAKED BOYS SINGING conceived by Robert Schrock started in Los Angeles where it ran for a very long time. Then it took New York by storm and a production in South Florida. Now a San Francisco production is forming with opening before June 2000. Web site: www.NakedBoysSinging.com

## WEB SITES

The Public Theatre of South Florida  
www.publictheatre.com

The Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Arts Festival  
www.artsfest.org

Queer Arts Resources  
www.queer-arts.org

Gabriel Shanks Funkopolis  
members.tripod.com/funkopolis

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project  
www.lunasea.org

Production Notes, online theatre newsletter  
Prodnotes@aol.com

Composer/Artist Brian Gross' events and art  
briangross.web.com

## WILDEANA

2000 is the centennial of Oscar Wilde's death (November 30) and there will be many events undoubtedly throughout the world. Doric Wilson's fine play NOW SHE DANCES will have a major production in Glasgow in Nov, 2000 on a double bill with SALOME.. For

information on this remarkable work contact the playwright or his agent c/o TOSOS too, 506 Ninth Ave, 3FN, NY, NY 10019; 212-563-2218; fax 212-629-7360; doricw@tiac.net

"Tea with Oscar and Gertrude" was a pleasant afternoon of readings of Wilde and Stein by Phoenix Encore, Kevin Retag and Shoeshine Henry as Dolly Wilde on the grounds of 909 West Adams in Los Angeles, ONE Institute's building at The University Of Southern California. The Purple Circuit and The Performing Arts Collection of ONE will be hosting events on May 17, (the release from prison), October 16 (the birthday) and November 30, 2000. For further information call The Purple Circuit Hotline at 818-953-5072.

The inspiration for Blair Fell's NAKED WILL was the Wilde story "The Portrait of WH" that surmised that the inspiration for Shakespeare's sonnets was a boy actor. The play was done at PS 122 in NYC last August.

The UCLA Hammer Museum is hosting "Oscar Wilde: From The Collection Of The Clark Library, UCLA" until January 2, 2000. This is a fine exhibit on Wilde's life and times and it is great to see the Wilde banners up all over LA. 310-443-7000.

A very interesting book is OSCAR WILDE'S AMERICA: COUNTERCULTURE IN THE GILDED AGE by Mary Warner Blanchard from Yale University Press.

## APPEALS

Highways Performance Space needs your tax-deductible donation. They have a donor who will match your end-of-the-year contribution: Highways, 1651 - 18th St., Santa Monica, CA 90404.

Brooklyn Museum of Art was attacked by the rightwing for its exhibit SENSATIONS. 718-638-5000 ext. 326 for information on contributing to the Museum.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) needs your support to fight GL harassment in the military. 202-328-3244; sldn@sldn.org; www.sldn.org

Our friends, The Hensons, at Camp Sister Spirit still need your support. Send contributions to Camp Sister Spirit, PO Box 12, Overt, MS 39464.

Out Productions in Montreal is reaching OUT for help to continue celebrating professional and inspiring plays about Gay and Lesbian history and identity. They also are increasing visibility for other Canadian companies through their PINK NETWORK [www.out.ca] Check them out and send your support!

## OPPORTUNITIES

A.S.K. Theater Projects is accepting applications for participation in 'Common Ground Festival 2000. Their annual Summer Festival highlights works-in-progress by theater artists creating innovative new work. For applications contact their office at 310-78-3200 [www.askplay.org]. Deadline is received in A.S.K. office by 5 PM on January 15, 2000. The Festival will be June 18-25, 2000 on UCLA campus.

Composer/Artist Brian invites you to ARTS Manhattan Moment New Year's Eve Party in Manhattan Beach, CA. "125 for \$125". Make reservations at 310-98-4904, or artsmanhat@aol.com. For more info go to artsmanhattan.web.com

Full Moon's Lambda Theatre Festival has put out a call for A Strong Voice from The Lesbian Community focusing on Women's Issues in The Community: Family and Diversity specifically. Scripts will be accepted until February 1, 2000. Contact: Fullmoonth@aol.com, or 941-922-4319 for details.

Alessandro de Gaetano (BUTCH CAMP) will be shooting his next film BOY WITH A SUITCASE, a serious and intense roman a clef

about life and death in small mid-western town in the '60s. The film has strong Gay content and biracial themes. It will go into production in February 2000 in NW Indiana. He is looking for 2 - 18 -year-old men who are superb actors and other supporting roles. Characters described as Massimo, 17, very Italian; Larry, 17 HS quarterback type but small, Robespierre; 17, Black with a touch of camp; Salvatore, 45, sensitive not Italian stereotype and Pardee, 70s, Black man who is blind. For more details contact SMS Productions, 847-853-6151; fax 312-965-1340.

All Out Arts has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Jerome Foundation to develop and produce workshops of lesbian/gay themed plays by emerging writers. The bulk of the grant will go for direct payment to playwrights. Eight semi-finalists will be given a public reading. From that group, 4 winners (2 men / 2 women) will receive a workshop production plus a \$2,000 cash award each.

All New York City area playwrights, who are interested in submitting a lesbian/gay-themed, previously un-produced play for consideration, should send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to: All Out Arts, 107 Suffolk Street, #310 - B, NY, NY 10002.

The Theater Offensive seeks ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE Assist A/D in all creative & educ. prog's. Lead selected proj's. Qual: 2yrs prof. arts work, 2yrs mgmt, BA or equiv., exc. org. & com., exp. w/GLBT community & theater. P/T, \$12k + bens. & PRODUCTION MANAGER Org. staff & tech needs for all prod'ns. Set/ad here (10) prod'n (6) budg. Exc. org. and com. P/T yr round. Send res. & cov. let. by 12/17/99 to 539 Tremont St. #408, Boston 02116, or offensiv@tiac.net

**DEATH OF A PORN STAR**  
**written and directed by Ronnie Larsen**

A new play about Jeff Stryker, Rex Chandler,  
Ryan Idol, and Joey Stefano

St Cecilia's Playhouse, San Diego  
Performances begin January 6th for 3 weeks.

For reservations and also production licensing rights  
to this and other Ronnie Larsen shows contact  
Mrsproducer@aol.com

**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

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