

On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

Volume 9, Number 4

THE LINDA EISENSTEIN ISSUE

WELCOME TO ON THE PURPLE CIRCUIT!

We exist to promote GLQBT theatre and performance throughout the world and invite you to join in that endeavor!

This last issue of 2000 honors Playwright Linda Eisenstein whose works are mentioned in this and many other issues of OTPC. I finally got to see a production of some of her plays in Burbank recently and they were sensational. Linda is a strong voice in lesbian, women, and feminist theatre. In addition to promoting her own work which incidentally has been produced all over in cities and in small college towns, she demonstrates a willingness to help others get their work out there. I wish Linda Eisenstein continued success at the Red Hen in Cleveland and elsewhere and salute her talent and generosity.

I'd like to welcome Tom O'Neil who is joining OTPC writing about theatre in New York. Tom is an important journalist at E!, a writer of awards books and is the handsome, intelligent one on the Joan and Melissa pre-shows. In addition he is the playwright of JUDY AT THE STONEWALL INN. We continue to need volunteer correspondents in other parts of the country and thank our other regular columnists: Tom W. Kelly in San Francisco, Howard Casner in Chicago, and Gerald Semas in Central California.

A lot has been happening around the world. We have had a Gay play shut down in Belarus and numerous new plays, productions and playwrights surface. The Web site has been a great tool and success in reaching people as well as posting information more timely. I thank Demian and Jim Russell for making www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html a site people are turning to. Those of you online please put our Web site on your favorites and check it regularly. We plan to post news there as well as expanded features that we do not have space for financially in the printed newsletter. We are still working on procedures to electronically send OTPC and cut down on mailed copies. We will be referring non-subscribers to the Web site, and this will be the last issue mailed to them. Naturally we will accommodate those of limited means and without access online that wish to continue to receive OTPC who contact us.

Glen and I have returned from a wonderful trip to Paris where we did a pilgrimage to Oscar Wilde's monument at Pere LaChaise as well as a rare opportunity to stand in the hotel room where he died one hundred years ago (Nov 30, 1900).

On World AIDS Day, Dec 1, Michael Kearns and I produced **AfterWords: Honoring Writers We Miss**. It was an emotional 15-hour marathon of readings by many celebrities from the arts and public life at Skylight Books in Los Angeles. We hope to continue this as a yearly event. I thank all the participants and Skylight Books' Kerry Slattery and staff, Michael Kearns, Highways, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Ferd Eggan and staff at LA City AIDS Coordinator's Office, The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation, The Robert Chesley Foundation and PEN West. I miss all the honored writers as well as James Carroll Pickett, Vincent Barron, Michael Stuart Shere, Bill Oxendine, Scott Giantvalley, and so many more friends and artists.

Other interesting developments include the hoopla over Showtime's new series "Queer as Folk." Out North in Anchorage's Jay Brause poses some important questions in an email on what can we do when economic forces suppress differing viewpoints (jay@outnorth.org). Italian Gay Rights Pioneer Massimo Consoli in another email informed us about Operation Dark Night, an initiative to remember Pier Paolo Pasolini, whose murder in 1975 by a hustler has never been made totally clear. Each year at midnight between Nov 1-2, the anniversary of his death, lights are turned off throughout Italy and now the world. diana@tin.it

I wish to thank those who made this issue possible: our subscribers with special gratitude to the senior group Project Rainbow in West Hollywood; the publicists; theatres; individuals who send material to OTPC; our columnists and writers; Demian who maintains the Web site; Jim Russell, my Associate Editor; Sally Barron, who helps get the mailing out; and Linda Eisenstein, Jay Brause, Tom Wilson Weinberg, Massimo Consoli, Michael Van Duzer, Michael Kearns, Rebecca Ranson, Carolyn Gage, Kevin Rettig, David Dillon, Ric Drapou, and Glen Moore.

Lastly I want to acknowledge a fine actor and friend of The Purple Circuit, Albert Lord who died August 9, 2000. He worked in film and television but his passion was theatre. He had a special affection for Noel Coward and performed in many of his plays as well as a solo show he developed about The Master. He was a longtime member of the Colony Theatre where he performed in many of their productions. We will all miss this great trouper!

I wish you all Creative Holidays, and a Great Artistic New Year.

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.

A Difficult Patient by David Ste. Croix; dramatizes the difficult fight to get homosexuality removed from the APA's list of diseases, Dignity at St. Matthews, N Hollywood CA, Nov 2000.

***Adoit Enough?** by Heriberto Oquendo Jr.; a play devoted to homosexuality, AIDS and the Santeria spiritual tradition set in a Bronx Latino community; Theatre B at Harlem's Center for the Performing Arts, NYC; opened Dec 7, 2000; 212-650-6666.

A Glorietta by Rebecca Ranson; a new play tracing the history of prejudice over 50 years through the eyes of one Black Gay man; 7 Stages, Atlanta, May-June 2000.

***A New Brain** by William Finn and James Lapine; a musical about brain surgery; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; runs through Jan 9, 2001; 415-861-8972.

A New You by Nancy Beverly; Celeste Kessler was trying to make her mark in 1972 in junior high; Celebration Of New Lesbian theater, Celebration Theatre at The Village, Hollywood; November 2000.

Appearances to the Contrary by Jim Inman; a young playwright has a meeting with a high-powered deeply closeted Lesbian literary agent and the sparks fly; Gascon Center Theater, LA; Oct.-Nov. 2000.

At the Root by Linda Eisenstein; DiverseWorks, Houston; Oct. 2000.

***Babe; An Olympic Musical** by Carolyn Gage and Teresa Wilhelmi; world premiere; Luthor Burbank Center, Santa Rosa, CA; opens April 28, 2001.

***Bad Beans** by James Magruder; four plays: Penelope and the Sterile Field, Too Much Of Me, 9 Rooms Worth and Dead Parents offer tough and humorous looks at love, death, Mothers, mortgage, Jesus, Limoges and forgiveness; Baltimore Theatre Project, Baltimore; opened Nov. 30, 2000; 410-752-8558.

The Bathtub by Lisa Shipley; a Lesbian couple has problems when one has been in the bathtub for two weeks and refuses to come out!; Theatre New West, Houston; Sept.-Nov. 2000.

***Beautiful Thing** by Jonathan Harvey, St.; Genesis Theatre, West Hollywood; through Dec. 10, 2000; 800-965-4827; www.ticketweb.com

***The Big Hoover** by Antay S. Bilgutay; a screwball comedy about Gay men, Bea Arthur and the quest for love; OutWard Spiral, Minneapolis; opened Nov. 17, 2000; 612-343-3390.

Blood Wedding by Federico Garcia Lorca; an adaptation with an all female cast by Odalys Nanin; Ventura Court Theatre, Studio City, CA; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

Breaking Free of Now & Then by Nick Peturka; Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea Ohio; Nov. 2000.

The Bridge Burner by Aaron Brown; can a Gay man bridge the gap between his street junkie brother and their family?; Vortex Repertory, Austin; through Dec 2, 2000; 512-454-8497.

Cafe at the End of Time by Sue Carroll Moore; seriocomic Gay romp in the Florida Keys; Out/Loud Productions, Ventura CA; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

***Cafe Depresso: Where Prozac, Caffeine, and Black Leather Converge** by Tom Vegh; Exit Theatre, San Francisco; opens Jan. 26-Mar. 3, 2001; 415-771-0696.

***Can't Get Enough**, explore life with Gay Goodenough; Third Stage, Burbank CA; ongoing; 323-664-9150.

***Cleopatra, the Musical!** by John Fisher; Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; opened Nov. 2, 2000; 415-861-5079.

The Collected Works of Billy the Kid by Michael Ondaatje; Kaliyuga Arts, San Francisco; Oct.-Nov. 2000.

Confidentially Cole with Sean Hayden; a theatrical exploration of the Gay subtext of the "coded" lyrics of many of Cole Porter's classic songs; Tiffany Theatre, West Hollywood; Oct.-Nov. 2000.

***Corpus Christi** by Terrence McNally; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; ongoing; 415-861-8972.

Cowboys by Clint Jefferies; OOBRR winning musical; Wings, NYC; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

***Dame Edna: The Royal Tour**; Shubert Theatre, LA; May 15-May 27, 2001.

The Day I Kissed Mike Sanchez by Craig Acosta Rowe; explores the growing borderlands of identity politics; Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, San Francisco; Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, 2000.

***Debunking Love** by Prince Gomolvilas, a sparkling comedy looking for love in all the wrong races!; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; through Jan 6, 2001; 415-861-8972.

Desperately Aloof with Craig Houck; a candid look at Gay life, Bailiwick, Chicago; Sept. 2000.

Doll with Theatre Couture; a freewheeling take on the Ibsen classic; P.S. 122, NYC; Oct.-Nov. 2000.

Dorothy Parker: Lady of the Corridor with Victoria Thompson; California Artists Radio Theatre, LA; Sept. 2000.

Enough About Me with Diva Extraordinaire Varla Jean Merman; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

Entertaining Mr. Sloane by Joe Orton; South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa CA; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

***Entr'acte or the Night Eva Le Gallienne Was Raped** by Carolyn Gage; Pandora's Box, Buffalo; Jan. 4-14, 2001.

***For Colored Boys ...** by Marvin K White; a choreopoem with original music telling the stories of gay African-American men; Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; opens May 3, 2001; 415-861-5079.

The Girlfriend Show with Jason Stuart, Carlease!, Scott Kennedy and Sherri Shepherd; discover the hilarious connection between African American women and gay men; The Village, Hollywood; Nov. 2000.

The Girl Stories by Danielle McClelland; a solo about gender, sex, love and all the stories in between; Rose Firebay Theatre, Bloomington, IN; Nov. 2000.

Glorify Box with Tim Miller; politically powerful solo about gay relationships, binational romance and unjust immigration laws; Vortex Repertory, Austin in Oct. 2000; Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, Salt Lake City in Nov. 2000.

***Gypsy** by Styne, Sondheim and Laurents; daring revival with Alexandra Billings; Bailiwick, Chicago; opens Jan 15, 2001; 773-883-1090; www.bailiwick.org

Hearing Voices: three short plays by Linda Eisenstein: the 3 intriguing plays are THE CASSANDRA COMPLEX, ACME TEMPORARY SERVICES, and THE NAMES OF THE BEAST; Tempting Fates at Gene Bua Theatre, Burbank; Oct.-Nov. 2000.

***Holy Sh*T: Stories from Heaven and Hell** with Janice Perry; a comic cross between Kate Clinton, Lenny Bruce and Marlene Dietrich; The Furniture Factory, Detroit, Dec. 15-16, 2000; 313-832-8890.

***Icarus** by Edwin Sanchez; a group of oddball characters, all searching, all damaged, quietly do wonderful things for each other in an enchanted setting; The Fourth Estate at Bank Street Theater, NYC; opened Dec 1, 2000; 212-353-3837.

It's a Small House and we Lived in It Always with Peggy Shaw and Lois Weaver; two explorers lay claim to the same territory; Hag Theatre and HARP at Halliwalls, Buffalo; Nov. 2000.

June Bug Music by Charles E. Polly; the third play of The Twyla Trilogy, soul-baring revelations in the coal mining hills of SE Kentucky; Eastenders Rep at Magic Theatre, San Francisco; Nov. 2000.

Kung Foo on the Donut with Pierre Vladimir Stroud; a one man extravaganza; Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; Aug. 2000.

***The Laramie Project** conceived by Moises Kaufman and Tectonic Theater Project; a performance about the murder of Matthew Shepard through interviews with townspeople of Laramie Wy.; Denver Center Theater, Denver, Mar.-Apr. 2001; Union Square Theatre, NYC, ongoing, 212-505-0770.

***Leading Ladies; A Cabaret Musical** by Carolyn Gage and Teresa Wilhelmi; world premiere; Wild Wimmin Theatre, Rochester, NY; Feb. 10-Mar. 3, 2001.

***Like an Old Song** by Larry Dean Harris; a wild evening with seven "mature" Gay men with music, humor, campiness, and of course high drama; Hudson Avenue Theatre, Hollywood; ongoing; 323-666-6086.

***Love! Valour! Compassion!** by Terrence McNally; Living End Theatre, Philadelphia; opens Dec. 6, 2000; 215-563-4330.

Marga Gomez: Live and Undead; a wicked evening of standup, satire and a pinch of smut; the Latina Theater Festival at The Village, Hollywood; Oct. 2000.

Marla's Devotion by Linda Eisenstein; a Lesbian relationship is in jeopardy when Marla becomes intensely devout!!; Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, OH; Nov. 2000.

***Martin Yesterday** by Brad Fraser; another sizzling play by Canada's enfant terrible; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; previews Feb. 14, 2001, opens Feb. 24, 2001; 415-861-8972.

Memory's Caretaker with Paul Bonin-Rodriguez; a funny savvy account of growing up the Gay son of a Mexican mother and a Cajun father; JumpStart, San Antonio; Oct.-Nov. 2000; CSPS, Cedar Rapids, Mich.; Oct. 2000.

Menopausal Gentleman with Peggy Shaw; a wild ride with a butch Lesbian grandmother; Howie Baggadonutz Presents, Portland; Oct. 2000.

The Mineola Twins by Paula Vogel; a cultural history of suburban America through the lives of two twins; Diversionary Theatre, San Diego; Oct.-Nov. 2000.

***The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told** by Paul Rudnick; a new "take" on the Old Testament; Diversionary Theatre, San Diego; through January 21, 2001; 619-220-0097; Richmond Triangle Players, Richmond; Nov.-Dec. 2000.

Mrs. Peel, We're Needed with Kevin Fabian; growing up as a somewhat effeminate young student he finds comfort in a commanding role model; Blue Sphere Alliance at The Lex, Hollywood; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

My Brain Tumor with David Nathan Schwartz; a mind-expanding comedy; Edge of the World Festival, LA; Nov. 2000.

***Naked Boys Singing** created by Robert Schrock; Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; opened Sept. 9, 2000; 415-861-5079; Actors Playhouse, NYC, ongoing, 212-239-6200; BienVenue Theatre, Houston, ongoing, 713-426-2626.

***Now She Dances!** by Doric Wilson; a world premiere, a nightmare investigation of the trial of Oscar Wilde through the characters of SALOME; Flexible Deadlock Theatre Company, Glasgow; opened Nov. 29, 2000; 44-141-330-5522.

One Tit, a Dyke & Gin by Pennell Somsen; a warm hearted comedy about a heterosexual woman who has had a mastectomy and is accidentally locked in her doctor's office to be discovered by a Lesbian security guard; Theatre New West, Houston; Sept.-Nov. 2000.

Original Blessing by Rico Hewson; a look at last year's Y2K craze; Jon Sims Center, San Francisco; Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, 2000.

***Oscar and Speranza** by C. Robert Holloway; a drama about Oscar Wilde and his mother who used the pen name Speranza in her youth; Trumpet Vine Theatre Company, Arlington VA; opened Oct. 27, 2000; 703-912-1649.

Outrageous! by Brad Fraser; musical adaptation of the Craig Russell film; Canadian Stage Company, Toronto; Oct.-Nov. 2000.

Out Spoken adapted by Frank A. Barnhart from the columns of writer Phil Martin; Davis Discovery Center, Columbus; Nov. 2000.

Party by David Dillon; an uplifting proud affirmation of Gay life; Bailiwick and elsewhere; Sept.-Nov. 2000.

Party Devil with Ken Bullock; political activist Princess Sahara desperately tries to find the daughter she gave up at birth; Dixon Place, NYC; Oct. 2000.

Passages by Rebecca Schultz; the experiences of being a young woman over three generations; Jon Sims Center, San Francisco; Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, 2000.

Preaching to the Preverted with Holly Hughes; a tour of the dark side of democracy; Halliwalls, Buffalo, October; CSPS, Cedar Rapids, Oct. 2000; Woolly Mammoth, Washington DC, Oct.-Dec. 2000.

Prelude & Liebestad by Terrence McNally; Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea Ohio; Nov. 2000.

***The Prostitution Play** by John Roman Baker; the play explores the lives of young Eastern European men working as prostitutes in Amsterdam; Aputheatre at COC Theatre, Amsterdam; opened Nov. 23, 2000; 20-626-3087; www.aput.demon.nl

Red Scare on Sunset by Charles Busch; comedy explores the Soviet war on makeup and more; The Daylight Zone, Philadelphia; Nov. 2000.

Rehearsing Cyrano by Linda Eisenstein; Red Hen Productions, Cleveland; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

***Rhinoceros** by Ionesco; a reworking of the absurdist classic; Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; opens Jan. 11, 2001; 415-861-5079.

***Rose and Thistles** by Susan Kelso; 10 of Shakespeare's women plus the Bard; Vortex Rep, Austin; opens Feb. 9, 2001; 512-478-LAVA.

***Sappho in Love** by Carolyn Gage; world premiere; Center Stage, Las Vegas; July 2001.

***The Second Coming of Joan of Arc** by Carolyn Gage; Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA, March 20; University of Oregon, Eugene, April 5; and National Women's Music Festival, Muncie IN, June, 2001.

Seven Days by Laura Black; a Lesbian comedy of five women on a journey of self-discovery in the wilderness; Hudson Avenue Theatre, Hollywood; Sept.-Nov. 2000.

Shut Up and Love Me with Karen Finley; deconstruction of Oedipus and Electra complex of her own version of On The Road; P.S. 122, NYC; Oct. 2000.

***Sleepwalk** by Daniel Cariaga; world premiere of an "American Beauty" story with dazzling staging, an extraordinary evening; Playwrights Arena, Hollywood; through Dec. 17, 2000; 323-go-1ford.

***Snakebit** by David Marshall Grant; a clever, wise comedy and modern friendship put to the test, with Leigh Fortier; New Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco; previews start Jan. 24, 2001, opens Feb. 3, 2001; 415-861-8972.

***So What are You Wearing** by John Chaich; Dobama Theatre, Cleveland; opening for World AIDS Day in December.

Speed-Hedda adapted by Robert A. Pryor; Fabulous Monsters deconstruct of the Ibsen classic, a living movie in black and white; Evidence Room, Hollywood; Aug.-Oct. 2000.

Stand Up, Sit Down, and Sing! with Chandler Levrich; journey from cub scout/altar boy to gun-toting gay comic; The Village, Hollywood; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

***Stop Kiss** by Diana Son; the acclaimed story of two women and the kiss that changed their lives; Theatre Rhinoceros at Brava! Center for the arts, San Francisco. Dates to be announced.

Straight as a Line by Luis Alfaro; a unique bit of theatre, setting loose all kinds of emotions; Primary Stages, NYC; Oct. 2000.

Street Theater by Doric Wilson; the Stonewall classic; Quentin Crisp Theatre, San Diego; Oct.-Nov. 2000; www.QuentinCrispTheatre.com

Strip! Barely Legal - The Full Dish with Madame Dish and her hunks; Globe Playhouse, W Hollywood; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

Talking to Gertrude by Jolene Rice; the past and present collide in this romantic comedy about a thirty-something Lesbian who conjures up the ghost of Gertrude Stein; St. Genesius Theatre, West Hollywood; Oct.-Nov. 2000.

The Theory of Everything by Prince Gomolvilas; focuses on seven Asian Americans who gather atop a Las Vegas wedding chapel every week for a UFO watch!; Jubilee Hall, Raffles Hotel, Singapore, Oct. 2000; East-West Players, LA, Nov.-Dec. 2000.

Too Many Balls in the Air by Greg Nott; full of the sharp little slivers of life that get under the skin as one gay ex-couple passes through the minefield of life, death and fear of fabric; Artists Alliance Against AIDS at the Jon Sims Center' Alchemy Emerging Playwrights Series, San Francisco; Oct. 2000.

***The Twelve Days of Cochina** with Marga Gomez; Cochina and her pal Rudy, the red-nosed mosquito deconstruct Christmas; Dixon Place, NYC; Dec. 14-17, 2000; 212-532-1546.

***Unhung** with Ilya Pearlman; a cabaret style evening with a tranny mangirl, musical numbers and stuff; Highways, Santa Monica; opening Jan. 12-20, 2001; 310-315-1459.

Up the Week Without a Paddle by Amanda Green, Curtis Moore, Lauren Cohn and Lauren Bowles; a contemporary reworking of Wonderful Town with lesbianism, gay parenting and more; Celebration Theatre; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

Vampire Virgins from Venus by Gary McAuley; Hudson Backstage, Hollywood; Sept.-Nov. 2000.

The Velocity of Gary (Not His Real Name) by James Still; a naive young hustler tries to make it on the mean streets of Manhattan; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

Victory Dance with Jessica Litwak; a clash of ideals between an aging Russian radical and her misfit granddaughter; The Village, Hollywood; Oct.-Dec. 2000.

Water Water Everywhere by Bretton B. Holmes; a grim story of two boys, one gay, one straight, abused by their mother; Theater of Hope, North Hollywood; Sept. 2000.

What's Wrong with Angry? by Patrick Wilde; US premiere of play about British Gay teenager experiencing his first love and sex; Celebration Theatre, Hollywood; Sept.-Oct. 2000.

***XXXmas Show** by Ronnie Larsen; St. Genesius Theatre, West Hollywood; opened Dec. 13, 2000; 800-965-4827.

Young Stowaways in Space by Richard M. Elam; tongue in cheek adventures of two orphan boys who end up in outer space; Native Aliens Theatre Collective at Metro Playhouse, NYC; Oct. 2000.

THEATRE BITS

by Bill Kaiser

Anchorage: Out North had sellout shows when Karen Finlay brought her show SHUT UP & LOVE ME to town in September. Out North has been expanding and sent a survey recently about what audiences thought about their operations; www.outnorth.org

Austin: Vortex presented the musical DESPAIR'S BOOK OF DREAMS AND THE SOMETIMES RADIO by Kirk Smith in October. Connie, a sometimes poet reconstructs an old radio and comes to grips with voices and memories from his past. radiodespair.com
www.vortexrep.org

Brooklyn: Brooklyn Arts Exchange presented comic Julie Goldman in "Julie Goodman Works It Out in October along with Jen Mitas' GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS. 718-832-0018; info@bax.org

Cedar Rapids: CSPS celebrated National Coming Out Day Oct. 11 with a performance by Holly Hughes of A SAPPIC SAMPLER and later in the weekend with PREACHING TO THE PREVERTED.
www.legionarts.org

Columbus: Stage 5 Rep sponsored a 25th anniversary of the Rocky Horror Picture Show release on Sept. 26, 2000.

Denver: TANTATUS, an adaptation of the original ten-plays of the Trojan War produced by Peter Hall was a joint venture of Denver Center Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company in Sept.-Nov. 2000; www.denvercenter.org

Detroit: October 21 marked the debut of The Furniture Factory, Detroit's newest state of art performance space developed by Walk & Squawk Performance Project. The first production in the new theatre is SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES, Walk & Squawk's adaptation of MACBETH and Nov. 22 Gogol's THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR opens. Congratulations Hilary and Erika and all at Walk & Squawk! 313-832-8890,
www.walksquawk.org

Los Angeles: CLUB TERMINA by Susan Rubin was a free concert reading for Breast Cancer Awareness month in October by Indecent Exposure Company.

Adult entertainment's Will Clark hosts a weekly chat show at Mickey's in West Hollywood interviewing a porn star-a-week. In addition to his Bad Boys events he produces several fundraisers a year for Aid for AIDS.

The latest S.T.A.G.E. benefit was for the Actor's Fund on November 4 and celebrated the music of Kurt Weill at the Luckman Theatre. S.T.A.G.E.'s 17th Annual Benefit for AIDS charities will benefit Jeffry Goodman Clinic and Being Alive Los Angeles will be Mar 2-4, 2001. 323-656-9069. Great work Michael Kearns and all involved!

An interesting production of Lorca's BLOOD WEDDING was staged by Odalys Nanin with an all female cast and Lesbian twist. The cast also featured the talented Ariela Henri-Marin.

A.S.K. Theater Projects to celebrate their tenth anniversary has commissioned ten short plays collectively entitled L.A.X. Among the authors are Julie Jensen and Chay Yew.

The Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance Cabaret 2001 will be held Mar 10, 2001 at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. This great revue directed fabulously by Ken Kane sells out every year so don't miss it! Auditions will be held Jan. 13, 2001. Call Joan Potter at 323-258-2555.

Celebration Theatre's new AD Derek Charles Livingston has some great ideas for the theatre's future. He hopes to continue to bring good shows to Celebration that are well written and speak to our people. He also wants to give members of the community a sense of

ownership in Celebration. The Purple Circuit wishes him the best success in achieving such great goals.

Los Angeles: Margaret Cho will be performing new material at the Village in Hollywood Jan. 5-7, 2001, don't miss her! 323-860-7300.

Milwaukee: Eldon Murray reports that SAGE has signed a contract with the Country to assess the needs of GLBT older community. I note too that Eldon is one of 7 Gay seniors with bios in "Outing Age," a report by the NGLTF just released.

New Brunswick NJ: George Street Playhouse announced that Chita Rivera will appear in the American premiere of VENECIA adapted and directed by Arthur Laurents from Jorge Accame's smash Argentine hit. The show runs Feb. 10-March 11, 2001. 732-246-7717; www.culturefinder.com

George Street Playhouse also does a "Lambda Night" a lively celebration for the GLB community with a pre-show reception and post-show discussions with artists from the production.

New Orleans: DRAMA! is a non-profit multi-disciplinary arts organization which promotes GLBT artists in a variety of media to outreach, educate and enlighten the community. drama@gay.com; www.dramano.org

New York: Performance artist Roi Varra from Poland appeared at the Storefront east in November with some extraordinary material and moves.

At P.S. 122 Theatre Couture Doll was performed by Theatre Couture in October along with some great installations like "Roamin' Holiday" by Pat Oleszko. Check out events at P.S. 122 at 212-477-5288; www.ps122.org

Appearing at Dixon Place this Fall were: Ken Bullock, Nancy Agabian, Amanda Nazario, Performance Mix, Kate Wilson & Taxi Dancers, Perry Brass' full length THE DEATH OF THE PEONIES with Michael E O'Connor and Robert Branigan, directed by Peter McLean, and Phat Tuesday curated by Boo Froebel with Yanira Castro, Sarah East Johnson and Teresa Cooper of the Backdoor Boys. Scheduled in December are MEN with Edgar Oliver and Michael Wiener, Writers On The Edge curated by Regie Cabico with Mark Nickels, Ram Devineni, Evan Eisman, and Brendan Lorber. Homotext, curated by Michael Klein will feature Wayne Koestenbaum and Carol Maso. December 14-17, 2000 Marga Gomez will appear in THE TWELVE DAYS OF COCHINA; 212-532-1526; www.dixonplace.org

Omaha: SNAP! presented Terrence McNally's A PERFECT GANESH in Sept-Oct. They are an organization with the mission to provide support of AIDS-related programs and to promote understanding of all members of the community through artistic expression; www.snapproductions.com

St. Louis: Ragged Blade Productions presented THE SOVIET TANGO, an "All-American" musical by Jerrold Rabushka in November 2000; www.raggedblade.com

San Francisco: BACW called for nominations for the 2001 LAVA (Lesbians Of Vision and Achievement) awards which will be presented next Spring; 415-495-5393; www.bacw.org

Jon Sims Center for the Arts presented the First Annual Performance Panoply Nov. 11, 2000 featuring musicians, performance artists and dance ensembles. Among those who appeared were Justin Chin, the Dixieland Dykes+3, Tommi Avicelli and the Lemon Limelights. The Jon Sims also sponsored the 2000 Dance-Along Nutcracker-this time with n outer space theme Dec. 2-3, 2000; 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Sarasota: Garry Allan Breul has formed a troupe of PWAs called the Sarasota AIDS Theatre Project. They do play readings at Bethesda House and plan readings from William Hoffman's AS IS during World AIDS Week in December; beagar@aol.com

Singapore: East West Players in Los Angeles teamed up with the Singapore Repertory Theatre for the world premiere of THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING by Thai-American playwright Prince Gomolvilas at Jubilee Hall at the Raffles Hotel in October. The show moved to Los Angeles opening November 8, 2000. For an account of the playwright's trip to Singapore: www.eastwestplayers.org/truesingaporestoryframeset.htm

Smithville TN: Our friends at IDA community reported the queerest musical event of year was their first IDAPALOOZA FRUIT JAM. They are already planning for next year's extravaganza that will be Sept. 17-23, 2001. The Eggplant Faerie Players toured to North Carolina with NEXT YEAR IN SODOM in Nov and Delilah's one man show A LETTER TO HARVEY MILK runs at Darkhorse Theatre in

Nashville Nov. 30-Dec. 9, 2000; 615-597-4409;
www.rfdmag.org/idaland

Sydney: NBC edited out the Drag Queen segment of the closing ceremonies of the Summer Olympics. Local performers had appeared in a tribute to Australian films wearing costumes from THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA: QUEEN OF THE DESERT.

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CHICAGO SCENE

by Howard Casner

Reeling, the 20th Chicago Gay & Lesbian Film Festival is up and roaring like the MGM Lion in heat. One of the highlights of the fest was the film version of David Drake's one-man show, *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*. The screening was followed by a panel discussion on *The State of Gay Theater in Chicago*. Panelists included such local luminaries as Lionheart Theatre founder Rick Paul; critics Lawrence Bommer and Jonathan Abarbanel; About Face Theatre's Eric Rossen; and the ubiquitous, but not in this context pulchritudinous, author, and star of *Party*, David Dillon.

Speaking of Dillon, it seems the *Party* is finally over. After a sold out run at Bailiwick Repertory and at least two extensions, *Party* finally shooed out its last guest on November 12. The run included a special 8th Anniversary Gala on November 8 with plenty of food, bubbly and beefcake ... I mean cheesecake.

Speaking of Bailiwick, Rep, AD David Zak was interviewed by local fag rag *Windy City Times* where we discovered, among other choice bits, that as a wee lad he was a member of an Osmond-like singing group with his father and three sisters. His specialty was *The Little Drummer Boy*, complete with toy snare. Shall we ever let him live this down? I think not.

About Face Theatre opened an ambitious and well-received production of *Whitman*, a portrait of the *Song of Myself* poet. Writer Eric Rossen took forty of his most loved Whitman poems and created a theatre piece complete with original music by Andre Pluess and Den Sussman. Oddly, one major weekly criticized the play quite heavily, finding the portrait too gay. Even more oddly, that same paper gave the show Critic's Choice. I'd say that was rather queer of them, but that's too obvious a punchline.

Meanwhile, another chance for stage folks to say hello: Ulysses Theatre Company treats the oft-overlooked distaff side to the Oscarean tragedy in Thomas Kilroy's *The Secret Fall of Constance Wilde*; A.E. Housman whines while a redux Wilde refreshingly tells him off in Tom Stoppard's not particularly inventive *The Invention of Love* at Court Theatre; Mark Ravenhill desperately tries to shock again with his post *Shopping and F**cking* play *Some Explicit Polaroids* at Roadworks (but the question remains, is he simply a flash in the pan? ... get it, "flash," "Polaroids" ... never mind; theatreQ stage read Wendy Ludgewart's new play *The Life of Riley* (sans William Bendix, we hope); and in *A Fag and His Hag*, Kara Buller and Jeremy Wells (I assume not respectively ... but then again) recount their fifteen year journey together at Heartland Studio Theatre.

This column, unfortunately, must end on a sad coda: Larry Osburn, board president of Bailiwick Repertory, passed away on October 27. He will be sorely missed.

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A CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE

Entertainment News
by Gerald Semas

▪ The *Pink Panther* is heading to Broadway and it ain't as a balloon in the Macy's parade. **Blake Edwards** is writing a stage version of his *Pink Panther* film franchise, tentatively slated to open on Broadway in two years. Blake previously brought a musical version of his movie *Victor/Victoria* to the Broadway stage, starring his wife, **Julie Andrews**.

▪ **Charles Nelson Reilly** celebrated his 50th year in showbiz when his new solo show, *Save It for the Stage: The Life of Reilly*, at Burbank's Falcon Theatre, which ended this past August. The show looks back at Reilly's colorful half century of life on stage and off.

▪ Comedian, actress, singer **Lea DeLaria**, can add title of Author to her resume. Her new book *Lea's Book of Rules for the World* is now available at bookstores. The Dell trade paperback is co written with **Maggie Cassella** and features candid explanations and observations of lesbian life, sex, and love. DeLaria can currently be seen in producer **Jordan Roth's** off-Broadway 25th anniversary revival of the *Rocky Horror Show*.

▪ L.A.'s Theatre Botanicum recently hosted a unique stage version of the film *Harold and Maude*. **Ellen Geer**, who appeared in the film version, played Maude with **Aaron Angello** as Harold. The project was adapted for the stage by the late **Colin Higgins** who wrote the original screenplay and died of AIDS in 1988.

▪ The new Broadway version of the film *The Full Monty* features a **Terrence McNally** book, which differs slightly from the film. While the movie focused on six average-looking British men who decide to star in a strip show to raise money the stage version is set in Buffalo, NY. Among the new characters are a handsome Gay stripper who beats up one of the homophobic dancers and a female piano player who lends a hand during their rehearsals.

▪ Could this be a modern updating of the classic farce *Charlie's Aunt?* Former *In Living Color* cast member, **Tommy Davidson** plays an NBA star who gets thrown out of the league in the film, *Juwanna Man*. The frustrated and volatile player ends up dressing like a woman to become a major star in the Women's NBA. What's the penalty for dribbling with more than one ball?

▪ **Oscar Wilde** continues to be fodder for numerous theatrical productions. The timeless and tragic author is the center of **C. Robert Holloway's** play *Oscar & Speranza*, about the relationship between Wilde and his mother. The two-character play, drawn from correspondence between Wilde and Lady Jane Wilde, was to have it's world premiere at Trumpet Vine Theatre Company in Arlington, VA, in October. The author, a lifelong Wilde enthusiast, was granted access to Wilde's letters in the Wilde Collection at UCLA while working on his play. The two-act drama spans 18 years, 1882-1990, beginning with Wilde's lecture tour in the U.S. and ending with his death after public shaming and imprisonment following trials involving charges of gross indecency.

▪ The U.S. version of the hit British telly series *Queer as Folk*, will have a few changes but still focus on the private and professional lives of three gay men, though in this version they live in Pittsburgh. Yes, Pittsburgh. No gay man in his right man would live in Pittsburgh, let alone three of them. Set to air on Showtime, the program will address sexual themes and feature some nudity but that's not new for the cable net. The critically acclaimed *Sex in the City* has been doing that for years. One recently announced cast member is former **Cagney & Lacey** star **Sharon Gless** who plays the waitress mom of one of the gay characters. The series is being written by **Daniel Lippman** and **Ron Cowen**, better known as the creators of the former NBC series *Sisters* and one of the first telefilms on AIDS *An Early Frost*.

▪ The Greenwich Village based, Duplex Cabaret Theatre is offered a new look at the Stonewall Riots with **Daniel Logan's** play, *Where's Rose*, in October. Logan directed and starred in this story of a former drag queen and witness to the riots being who is interviewed by a gay TV host.

▪ *Longtime Companion* scribe, **Craig Lucas'** latest work, *Stranger*, had it's world premiere at the Vineyard Theatre in September. The play featured **Kyra Sedgwick** and **David Strathairn** (Passion Fish) in the story of two newly befriended strangers on a plane who discover that one has a terrible secret.

▪ Ever wonder what made the Wicked Witch of the West so mean? Composer **Stephen Schwartz** (Pippin) has and is writing a musical

about the early days of Dorothy's nemesis. Though not an original idea, Schwartz is basing his work on **George Maguire's** novel, Wicked, the story about the early life of the Wicked Witch of the West from the Wizard of Oz. Collaborating with Schwartz is librettist **Winnie Holzman**, better known as the creator of the series My-So-Called-Life. Maguire's novel about a little green girl who grows up "wicked" has been such a success he's readying his next work, Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister a new look at the Cinderella story.

▪ The West End's Whitehall Theatre hosted a recent hit at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Puppetry of the Penis. What sounds like a cross between Jim Henson and Hustler magazine is actually an adult cabaret show in which two men manipulate their genitalia into various shapes, objects, and landmarks. No, I am NOT kidding. Some of their more notable impressions are the Hamburger, The Windsurfer, The Loch Ness Monster, and The Slow-Emerging Mollusk. For those audience members with poor sight lines, a video camera will project all the details of the performance onto a large screen behind the, so-called, actors.

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SODOM EAST: ON THE GREAT PURPLE WAY
by Tom O'Neil

SONG WITHOUT END, DONGS WITHOUT SHAME ... Those boys in the buff are STILL crooning at the Actors Playhouse in Greenwich Village 16 months after *Naked Boys Singing* premiered to hosannah reviews. Catching a recent show revealed why: the (handsomest ever) cast still sells the production as if it was opening night and Michael Ovitz was in the front row. On a typical Wednesday evening, the audience was more than two-thirds full and included, yes, panting Chelsea boys, but also a surprising number of real women -- bachelorette party-goers, naughty Jersey housewives and, at that particular show, a dethroned old burlesque queen who took an eager bow from the sixth row when she was acknowledged from the stage. It looks like *Naked Boys Singing* will run forever and become to the tourist-besieged Village what *Oh, Calcutta!* once was to Times Square.

Meantime, up in Times Square now is the new Off-Broadway production that looks like it'll probably run until ... well, the end of the world.

The End of the World Party was an obvious hit when it opened Nov. 10 at the 47th Street Theater: the ordinarily cynical press crowd was observed whooping with delight. The cast is comprised of real standouts, particularly Jim J. Bullock, spookily cast as the gin-swilling, venom-spewing mother hen in a house full of hunks on Fire Island. Bullock recently 'fessed up on *E! True Hollywood Story* about his own booze-fueled descent into Hades after his TV bows from *Too Close for Comfort* and *Hollywood Squares*. Maybe that's why he's so heavenly in this part?

Cast also includes David Drake (star/author, *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*) as an HIV survivor who pines for his dead lover (and as a closet diva who can't resist breaking out into "Don't Rain on My Parade" moment). The biggest star, though, is the script by Chuck Ranberg, which sparkles with knee-slappers and backward winks at the Village People and *Bewitched*. Its message of homo camaraderie is summed up best by one of Bullock's lines: "Our friends are our true lovers. The others are just the ones we cling to in the dark."

Here's what else has been playing recently on stages in Sodom East:

Avow — Bill C. Davis followed up *Mass Appeal* with his dramady about two men who ask a priest to bless their union. The show was launched at the George Street Theater in New Jersey a few years ago and made it to NYC this past July/August with Jane Powell (as mother of one of the grooms-to-be) at the Century Center for the Performing Arts on W. 15th Street. AP drama critic Mike Kuchwara saw both stagings and tells us, "New York was slicker, but the Jersey production was more poignant."

Boys Don't Wear Lipstick — Opened Oct. 22 at the Players Theater on MacDougal St. While old snapshots flash on the wall behind him and old Supremes tunes play, Brian Belovitch relives his 15-year journey to womanhood and back. He was such a dish as young "Tish" that it's easy to see why a studly GI turned her/him into his Tupperware-selling wife. But the true tale of this former member of the Ridiculous Theatrical Company is no laughing matter (at least not all the time), and Belovitch knows his stagecraft. Throughout the audience, you can hear hearts crack like dinner plates.

The Crumble Zone — Buddy Thomas' laffer about desperate wannabe actors who room together and bed hop had audiences howling from June 28 to Oct. 29 at the Rattlesnake Theater on Waverly Place. Most reviews were kind and Liz Smith gushed, of course ("Spectacular!").

Doll — High-camp Theater Couture premiered a re-interpretation of *A Doll's House* by Erik Jackson that would've made Ibsen fall on his feathered pen. Wonder no more: here's what Nora would be like as a Barbie with size 11 feet and living in an all-tinsel house. The faultless dragfest starring Sherry Vine and Candis Cayne ran thru Nov. 19 at P.S. 122.

Les Mizrahi — Greenwich House Theater on Barrow St. Designer Isaac Mizrahi rips apart the fashion world as he retells the tale of his rise and fall (his clothing line folded in 1998). Covered in blinding rhinestones, he's a lovable, "out" Liberace pining for his imaginary, ideal stud, "Adonis Goldfarb." The audience can't resist giving him the rapturous hug he craves.

Lipsinka! The Boxed Set — This Whitman's Sampler of the drag empress' yummiest perfs made a return engagement to the Westbeth Theater beginning Nov. 8.

Other People — Playwrights Horizons developed this show as a staged reading and recently gave it a limited, four-week production at its Studio Theater on 42nd Street. The plot: An angst-riddled writer is tortured by old feelings of love and lust when he lets his ex-beau, who's rebounding from drug abuse, move back in with him. Strong ensemble perfs.

Straight as a Line — A man dying of AIDS renews his relationship with his mother in a series of short scenes by Luis Alfaro. AP drama critic Mike Kuchwara tell us that it's "dark, ironic, surreal ... It reminded me of *All That Jazz*." Primary Stages, closed Oct. 22.

ALSO WORTHY OF NOTE: Native Aliens is a collective of 10 artists who stage two productions per year plus workshops and cabarets. Not all are gay-themed, but some shows are "homoerotic," says member Mike Finley, whose *Young Stowaways* was performed in October at the Metro Playhouse on East 4th Street. Finley adapted a book written in the 1960s about two orphan boys who stow away on a spaceship.

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WAY OFF BROADWAY BY THE BAY
by Tom W. Kelly

Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St, SF; 415-861-5079;
www.therhino.org

Naked Boys Singing! "The saucy little musical revue" received a major EXTENSION.

Rhino produced *Cleopatra: The Musical* written and directed by John Fisher at the Victoria Theatre (just across the street). "A gender-bending musical parody of the Caesar/Cleopatra/Anthony love triangle, overflowing with resplendent tap dancing production numbers satirizing scheming politicians, theatrical ambition, and epic romance."

New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave, SF; 415-861-8972;
www.nctcsf.org

Opening NCT's 6th Pride Season, titled "Body and Soul" was Terrence McNally's controversial passion play *Corpus Christi* which asks: "Do I love my neighbor? Am I contributing good to the society in which I operate or not? Do I, in fact, matter?"

PAST:

Three **special events** of the 6th Pride Season: Highest praises go to the West Coast premiere of *Another American: Asking and Telling*, written and starring the handsome and talented Marc Wolf!! Also, *Visiting Mr. Green* by Jeff Baron which received full houses and an extension. And Danny Pintauro starred in the one-man drama *The Velocity of Gary (Not His Real Name)* by James Still. What a combo: poignant script and excellent performance.

Sensational drag diva Varla Jean Merman sold out house after house with her one-gal show about self-obsession titled *Enough About Me: An Unauthorized Autobiography*. If you ever have a chance to see this talented chanteuse (she does her own singing!), be there!

IN CONCERT SERIES:

The New Brain by "Falsettos" with music and lyrics by William Finn and book by James Lapine and WF. Finn responds to surviving an inoperable brain tumor. Upcoming in the IN CONCERT series: *A Grand Night for Singing* (Dec. 9-Jan. 21, 2001); *Chess* (April 7-29, 2001); and *Forever Plaid* (June 2-July 8, 2001).

Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St, SF; 415-554-0402.

The Sims Center in association with Artists Alliance Against AIDS's Alchemy Emerging Playwrights Series presented Greg Nott's dark comedy *Too Many Balls in the Air* where "one gay ex-couple passes through the old minefields of life, death, and fear of fabric."

Performance artist Justin Chin and poet/writer Khan Wong appeared as part of the Sims Center's first LIT@JSC, a queer literary reading series in a non-commercial setting.

7th NOTE Showclub, 915 Columbus, SF; 415-273-1620

The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation presented a special night with the combined talents of *Titanic* and *Les Miserables* for an upbeat, offbeat evening of cabaret titled "One Night Only," a fundraiser for REAF and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. A follow-up benefit at same location featured the cast of *Ragtime*.

Paradise Lounge, 308 Eleventh St, SF

The critically acclaimed Tuck 'n' Roll Players mounted a rock musical titled *Club Inferno - The Road to Fame Can Be Hell*, based on Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy*. "One hell of a good time blending fierce drag, kick-ass rock and a classic story of the Afterlife."

Dance Mission Theatre, 3316 24th Street, SF; 415-924-3325

Sacredly Immortal, an original urban rock musical written, composed and directed by Robin Taylor presents characters dealing "with the real life challenges of homosexuality, homelessness, discrimination, gang violence and racial tension through the grace and strength of their friendships, love and family ties."

il Teatro 450, 449 Powell St., SF

The **Working Women Festival** presented *Harold's Death* by Kate Moira Ryan where "precocious baby dyke Shea looks for love and finds herself at the heart of an unexpected family."

www.workingwomenfestival.org

The Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter Street, SF; 415-885-2800

Richard Skipper brought to SF his award-winning "An Evening with Carol Channing" with pianist Barry Lloyd.

EXITheatre, 156 Eddy Street, SF; 415-401-7421; www.sffringe.org

Shotgun Players presented *Arrivals//Departures* by Daniele Nathanson, Tania Katan and Katie Bales. "See what happens when a lonely lesbian takes flight, a NY cabbie strikes it rich, and a man stands in the shadow of the gate his mother left him through."

Also in SF:

As part of the AfroSolo Arts Festival 2000, a free forum reflected upon the impact of HIV/AIDS and the response of African American artists to it.

Woman's Will produced an all-woman **Hamlet (the melancholy dame)** at the Phoenix Theatre; www.womanswill.org

At Venue 9, Paducah Mining Co. presented Paula Vogel's *Hot 'N' Throbbing*, a play about sex, violence and the American family.

Tony Kushner's *The Illusion* was produced by foolsFURY at Gurdjieff Hall.

42nd Street Moon reprised their wonderful new version of Cole Porter's sexually ambidextrous **Out of this World**.

Also in Bay Area: Both TheatreWorks in Mountain View and Willow Theatre in Concord presented Terrence McNally's *Master Class*.

COMEDY

Comic Jason Stuart is on TV a lot with appearances on Providence in October, Norm Show in November and The Huntress on USA airing January 3, 2001, and MTV's The Sausage Factory also in January, 2001. For information on bringing Jason to your venue, contact Shelly Weiss, OUTMedia@msn.com, 718-789-1766; www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/8517/

The Kinsey Sicks, America's favorite Drapapella Beautshop Quartet, appeared at Seattle's Nordstrom recital Hall in November.

QComedy presents comedy at Piaf's in San Francisco and elsewhere. To get regular information: comedy@interstellar.com

FESTIVALS & SEASONS

Theatre Rhinoceros' 23rd season in San Francisco began with NAKED BOYS SINGING! conceived by Robert Schrock in August and Eve Ensler's THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES. In November, John Fisher's CLEOPATRA, THE MUSICAL! opened. On January 11, 2001 Ionesco's RHINOCEROS will open relocated in venue to San Francisco, and there will be a coproduction of Diana Son's STOP KISS with Brava! For Women in the Arts. Closing the season with be Marvin K. White's choreopoem FOR COLORED BOYS May 3-June 2, 2001; 415-861-5079; www.therhino.org

During November 2000 Hallwalls presented their WAYS IN BEING GAY Festival in Buffalo. Visual arts, music, theatre, film and more. Highlights included Hag Theatre's AN EVIDENCE OF LETTERS with Alexis De Veaux and Renee Armstrong based on the correspondence of two Black women in 19th century Connecticut. Also the film De Profundis by Lawrence Brose was presented on Nov. 30, the centennial of Wilde's death. www.hallwalls.org

Moving Arts presented its 2000 Moving Arts Premiere One-Act Festival in October and November in Los Angeles including MORNING TEA by Robert Barnett. 213-622-8906; www.movingarts.org

triangle productions! current season in Portland includes THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T SAY PAST MIDNIGHT by Peter Ackerman in Sept., UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS AND THE TRUE NATURE OF LOVE by Brad Fraser, Oct.-Nov. 2000, A GAY CHRISTMAS CAROL by Claudia Allen, with Leigh Fortier and Steven Benson, Nov. 24-Dec. 23, 2000; SHIRLEY VALENTINE by William Russell, January 12-February 10, 2001, SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD by Jason Robert Brown, Feb. 2-24, 2001, VERONICA'S POSITION by Rick Orloff, Apr. 20-May 19, 2001, WHEN PIGS FLY by Howard Crabtree, Apr. 27-May 19, 2001. 503-239-5919; www.tripro.org

Diversionsary Theatre in San Diego new season includes Paula Vogel's THE MINEOLA TWINS, Oct. 6-Nov. 4, 2000; THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD by Paul Rudnick, Nov. 18-Jan. 20, 2001; BREAKING THE CODE by Hugh Whitmore, Mar. 3-Apr. 8, 2001; and opening in late Apr.-May. 2001, NAKED BOYS SINGING! conceived by Robert Schrock; 619-220-0097; www.diversionary.org

About Face Theatre in Chicago announces its 2000-2001 Season: On The Edge. Shows include WHITMAN by Eric Rosen beginning Oct 12, 2000; BASH by Neil LaBute, opening Jan. 18, 2001. THE TERRIBLE GIRLS by Kyle Hall based on the Rebecca Brown novel opening Apr. 12, 2001; About Face Youth Theatre's new performance piece, opening June 21, 2001 and New Work Festival in Spring, 2001. 773-549-3290; www.aboutfacetheatre.com

The Lambda Players in Sacramento's 2000-2001 Season includes: OSCAR & BOSIE by Gregg Peterson in Sept.-Oct. 2000. GAYS PLAYS Jan. 18-20, 2001 with A LADY AND A WOMAN by Shirlene Holmes; THE DRAG by Mae West and A LATE SNOW by Jane Chambers. STANDING IN THE SHADOWS by Rosemary McLaughlin, a young woman is injured in a car accident and her lover must struggle for the right to help her recover, Jan. 26-Feb. 24, 2001. OPENING LINES by Tom Swanner, the daunting task of dating, love and moving in together of Chris and Richard, Mar. 30-Apr 28, 2001. LESBIAN LAUGH FEST May 12, 2001, and BEAUTIFUL THING by Jonathon Harvey, June 15-30, 2001. 916-484-4742; www.lambdaplayers.org

NY Play Development presented 4PLAY: A Festival of New American Plays in September and October at the Phil Bosakowski Theatre in NYC. The plays included EAT ME! by Ethan Kanfer, SUBCITY by Bob Jude Ferrante, TALKING CURE by Bob Jude Ferrante and UNVEILING by Jennifer Sokolov. jude@pipeline.com; www.pipeline.com/~jude/4playmain.htm

LITERARY SCENE

Cleveland arts-programmer John Chaich proudly presents the latest issue of his zine. SWAY:style = substance for smart sexysomethings. Contact at jachaich@aol.com

Showtime will premiere Queer as Folk on Sunday, December 3. www.sho.com

A new book from Haworth Press is THE AIDS MOVIE: Representing A Pandemic on Film and Television by Kylo-Patrick R. Hart. ISBN 0-7890-1108-5

Los Angeles has a new theatre publication called LA Stage. The first issue featured East-West Players AD Tim Dang on the cover and features writing by many of the stalwarts of the old Drama-Logue like Polly Warfield. It is published by THEATRE League Alliance. 213-614-0556: info@theatrela.org

The Walt Whitman Project presented a four-hour reading from Whitman's prose autobiography SPECIMEN DAYS at the Brooklyn Heights Public Library in October. The event was produced by Greg Trupiano. www.whitmanproject.org

The Jon Sims Center for the Arts has started the Bay Area's first ongoing Queer reading literary series LIT@JSC. Featured in November were Cherrie Moraga and Cathy Arellano and Esther Newton. Earlier this Fall Jewelle Gomez and Marvin White appeared. For information: director@jonsimsctr.org

This fall, Stage and Screen Book Club is publishing a new anthology by John M. Clum called "Asking And Telling: Gay Drama For The 21st Century." The collection includes PARTY by David Dillon, RESCUE AND RECOVERY by Steve Murray, DEPARTING THE DIVAS by Guillermo Reyes, SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC by Neal Bell, CLOCKS AND WHISTLES by Samuel Adamson, and DANCING IN THE MIRROR by John M. Clum. His SOMETHING

FOR THE BOYS: MUSICAL THEATER AND GAY CULTURE will have a paperback edition in U.S. and Britain this winter.

Joan Lipkin was among other celebrities in St. Louis who read from the banned books of 1999 in September at Left bank Books. Joan performed from The Handmaiden's Tale by Margaret Atwood.

MUSIC / OPERA / DANCE

San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Band performed AIR! in September based on the Charles T.Griffin poem.

Vox Femina, Los Angeles' premier women's chorus performed with the West Hollywood Orchestra in November.

At The Village's Latina Theater Festival in Hollywood. Licia Perea performed "Frida: A Dance Drama" in October. Peter Wing Healey performed "The Death of Isadora," solo dance drams at the Los Angeles Theatre Festival in November.

There were two Bay Area concerts in Northern California to benefit "Radical Harmonies: The Story Of Women's Music," a film project spear-headed by Dee Mosbacher. The film to be released next Spring documents the rich diversity in women's music in the 1970s and 1980s. The film is produced by Women Vision, which is also doing "No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon." 415-921-5687; www.woman-vision.org

There were numerous concerts and events to celebrate the centennial of Aaron Copland's birth. Two of the best were in Los Angeles where Pianist Carl Matthes and others performed at One Institute's new building and at the Zipper Auditorium.

Jen Abrams and Juicy Girl Dance Theater presented the premiere of "Itch," a new improvisational dance piece exploring Lesbian desire and obsession at the WOW Cafe in NYC in October. 718-399-3480; jenabrams@mindspring.com

PLAYWRIGHTS / PRODUCERS FORUM

ROSES AND THISTLES by Susan Kelso is having its Texas premiere in Feb. 2001at Vortex Repertory Company in Austin. The play features 10 of Shakespeare's female characters, the Bard himself, his fictional sister Judith, and Virginia Woolf. Auditions for 12 women and 1 man are Nov 13,2000; 512-478-LAVA; www.vortexrep.org

Linda Eisenstein's MARLA's DEVOTION, a comic look at a relationship between Marla, a student who gets into extreme Buddhist meditation and their partner Joey, a driven feminist attorney will be produced at Baldwin-Wallace College. herone@en.com

Dennis Safren had a reading in October of his new play IT'S ALIVE, a comedy concerning a HIV patient's obsession with disease and death and his journey back to life when the cocktail saves his live at FirstStage in Hollywood. safstar@aol.com

The Playwrights Kitchen Ensemble (Dan Lauria,AD) presented a special reading of Larry Dean Harris' BIBLE STORIES in October at the Coronet Theatre in Hollywood. LarryDeanHarris@aol.com

Cafe Depresso: Where Prozac, Caffeine and Black leather Converge is Tom Vegh's dark comedy set for a January production at Exit Theatre in San Francisco.

To contact Performance Artist/Playwright Paul Bonin-Rodriguez write to 110 Blue Star, San Antonio TX 78204; 210-737-0793; pbonrod@aol.com. He will have a Web site soon at www.paulbonin-rodgriguez.com

Producer Caryn Horwitz and Playwright Ronnie Larsen have taken over the St. Genesius Theatre in West Hollywood. The theatre is named of course for the patron saint of actors.

Jordan Budde's first play FRATERNITY was produced at the Colonnades Theatre in NYC with Robert Downey Jr. It's about a group of young men grappling with masculine values. His second play HEAVEN'S HARD featured Calista Flockhart and was about a screwed up family in Texas with a dark secret. His third play LOVE LIES was the Winner of the Best gay Play Pride Theater Award in 1995. He is currently writing a Gay love story for David Duchovny's production company. For availability of scripts: 323-466-1843; fjbudde@aol.com

Carolyn Gage's plays LOUISA MAY INCEST and THE SECOND COMING OF JOAN OF ARC were performed in November at Theatre on the Square in Indianapolis and also in November her play THE LAST READING OF CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN was performed by touring performer Debra Wright at Luna Sea in San Francisco. Her play HARRIET TUBMAN VISITS A THERAPIST was presented at Actors Theatre of Louisville in their Juneteenth Festival and at the National Women's Music Festival. In July, National Public Radio broadcast a half-hour interview with Gage about her play THE SECOND COMING OF JOAN OF ARC, which received a first-class production in Brazil this year with film star Christiane Torloni. Her catalogue is online at: www.javanet.com/~cgage

All inquiries for Jane Chambers works should go to Beth Allen, 402 Fifth St, Greenport, NY 11944, 631-477-2491; ba402@aol.com. Scripts and other books are available through T n T Classics at 360 W 36 St, Ste.2NW, NY, NY 10018; shelleyft@aol.com

Michele Forsten's plays BE MY BABY!, WINNING, and DINOSAUR DOC are available by contacting the author at: 59 West 88 St., #1R, NY, NY 10024-2545; mich@bway.net. WINNING has been produced at Luna Sea Women's Performance Project in San Francisco and Love Creek Productions in New York, and BE MY BABY! is a finalist in the Pittsburgh New Play Festival.

TOURING

Tim Miller began a Fall Tour with his dynamic piece GLORY BOX at Brown University in September. GLORY BOX explores both Tim's personal life with his life partner Alistair, and the issues of binational immigration rights. After Brown, he performed at Boston Center for the Arts, Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Vortex Repertory in Austin, University of California-Riverside and ending in November at the University of Utah and Rose Wagner Theater in Salt Lake City. Contact: millertale@aol.com

Greg Walloch has been busy too with his WHITE DISABLED TALENT and other shows performing at Comic Strip Live in NYC in September, Zeitgeist in New Orleans and Boneshakers in Athens GA in October and ongoing Tuesdays at VENUE in NYC every Tuesday. For booking information contact Cultural Media Icons, 601 West 137 St #57, NYC 10031; 917-544-1894; gregwdt@ix.netcom.com

A new play titled OUTSPOKEN is now available for touring to universities and gay and lesbian theatres and theatrical events. OUTSPOKEN follows the life of a gay every man growing up in the midwest. The play is often humorous, sometimes brash, and deeply touching. "A personal triumph" ... The Columbus Dispatch. Contact Frank A. Barnhart at Act Out Productions 2517 N. 4th St. Columbus, Ohio 43202; 614-263-9448; fabact1@aol.com

WILDEANA

Much happened this fall in anticipation of the centennial of Oscar Wilde's death November 30 in London, Paris and throughout the Purple Circuit world. The Purple Circuit produced for Oscar's

birthday in October a dramatic reading of "De Profundis" adapted by Professor George Enell and performed by him, Dennis Doph and some other wonderful actors at One Institute.

Oscar's grandson Merlin Holland read from the new edition of Wilde's letters that he edited with Rubert Hart-Davis which has just come out at the Central Library in Los Angeles.

Apparently the Jesuit magazine La Civilita Cattolica has rehabilitated Oscar based on his apparent deathbed conversion after they had previously condemned him based on his famous poem The Ballad of Reading Gaol.

Henry Muldow has composed a CD of four songs to Wilde texts. dreamwater.net/art/oscarwilde/products.html

Another new play is OSCAR & BOSIE by Gregg Peterson, which was done by Lambda Players in Sacramento in September and October. And Travis Michael Holder who was so good as Oscar in Leon Katz' BEDS is reprising Oscar in C. Robert Holloway's OSCAR & SPERANZA at Trumpet Vine Theatre in Arlington Virginia.

APPEALS / OPPORTUNITIES

Celebration Theatre has an exciting new AD in Derek Charles Livingston. They need your support. Send to 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., PMB 109-1, W Hollywood CA 90046. www.celebrationtheatre.com

New Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco holds its second annual Wreaths For The Arts sale Nov. 24-Dec. 23, 2000 in the lobby of the theatre. The sale raises money for NCTC's educational touring programs for youth; 415-861-4914.

Theatre Neo presents a fundraiser "Neo Sings!" Tuesdays Nov. 21, 28 and Dec. 5 only at Hudson Avenue Theatre in Hollywood to benefit the theatre group. The event is co-produced by Steven Benson, Jeff Scott and Wendy Worthington; 323-769-5858.

Dark Corners a Concert of poetry, dance and theatre which features three performance artists that explore the politics, social and sexual complexities of being Black and Gay in America is seeking venues to tour. Contact Terry W. Sidney at Emerald City Productions, 1419 V St, NW, Ste.402, Washington DC 20009; 202-483-4721; ec onstage@aol.com

SNAP! in Omaha is doing great work there to provide educational and humanistic support of AIDS-related programs and promote understanding and acceptance of all Members of the Community through Artistic Expression. Support them at PO Box 8464, Omaha NE 68108.

Playwright Jordan Budde has 18 years experience in Theatre, Television, and Film. He works as a play and screenplay consultant helping writers work through blocks they have with their scripts. Please contact him for a list of credits, and turn your script into a winner. 323-466-1843; fjbudde@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

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation

continues to accept applications from all theatrical and musical producing organizations for grants to help with Gay-positive productions based on historical subjects.

The AaBB Foundation is also holding a full-length fiction competition for 2000 with cash awards of \$1000. For production or writing guidelines send a SASE to our new address:

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation, PMB 503,
31855 Date Palm Drive #3, Cathedral City, CA 92234

or see the Foundation Web site:

www.aabbfoundation.org

Purple Circuit Newsletter

Please make checks payable to:

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921 N. Naomi Street
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