

On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

Volume 10, Number 3

THE JILL TOWAGA / PURPLE MOON ISSUE

WELCOME TO ON THE PURPLE CIRCUIT!

The Purple Circuit promotes and celebrates GLQBT theatre and performance throughout the world. We need your help to continue our work, so please subscribe or renew today by sending a check payable to "Bill Kaiser" at \$20/year or whatever you can afford.

This issue is The Jill Towaga / Purple Moon Dance Project Issue. Purple Moon is celebrating its 10th anniversary this Sept. Jill Towaga founded Purple Moon in 1992 to realize a creative vision, that of integrating non-western and western dance forms and aesthetics and multi-disciplinary collaboration while consistently exploring the continuum of intimacy between women. The mission of Purple Moon is to develop a greater appreciation and visibility for American cultural diversity especially for Lesbians and Women of Color and to contribute a healing, positive social change and peace in our society through the medium of dance. In the past ten years, Purple Moon has done just that, establishing itself as one of the most innovative dance companies in San Francisco and across the country.

It is long overdue that The Purple Circuit honors a dance company. We ask you dance aficionados to please let us hear about the work of your favorite GLQBT dance companies and dancers at purplecir@aol.com. Congratulations to Jill Towaga and the many artists and supporters who have sustained Purple Moon! For further information or to contribute: PMDC, 3543 - 18th St., #25, SF CA 94110; 415-552-1105, office@purplemoondance.org, www.purplemoondance.org

Another exciting development is the announcement of The Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival by Frank Barnhart and Act Out Productions to be held in Columbus Ohio, Sept. 11-21, 2002. It seems this will be an important and well-organized cultural event and we give it our strong endorsement. I am told that, already, Purple Circuit theatre groups like Ragged Blade, CJ Productions, Tap It, DRAMA and Bailiwick plan to be there. This sounds like the place to be in Sept. 2002!

For more information on participating, or sponsorships, contact Frank A. Barnhart; 614-263-9448; fabact1@aol.com; www.geocities.com/actoutproductions

Note the first round deadline is Dec 3, 2001.

We welcome a new columnist Steven LaVigne, a playwright who's recent work, PITCHIN' PENNIES AT THE MOON: A NIGHT WITH CASS ELLIOT, premiered in Minneapolis. He covers the Minnesota Fringe festival in this issue and productions in the Upper Mid-West in the future.

We also have to say "thanks and farewell" to Howard Casner's often witty and caustic Chicago column as Howard

is leaving Chicago for LA. Now we need a volunteer to report on The Windy City's happenings. Interested? Contact Bill Kaiser at purplecir@aol.com

Erik Haagensen, a playwright/lyricist whose most recent show was the Obie-winning musical revue TAKING A CHANCE ON LOVE about gay lyricist John Latouche, wrote an extensive article on gay/lesbian theatre companies for the NY edition of Back Stage for June Pride month. He interviewed representative PC companies around the country as well as focusing on what was happening in NYC. He also published The Purple Circuit Directory of Venues. Well done, Erik! Back Stage kindly granted us reprint permission so you can read the article on our Web site: www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

By the way, we are updating and expanding the Directory soon so check the Web site or send a SASE (64 cents) to Purple Circuit Directory, 921 N Naomi St, Burbank CA 91505 with a contribution payable to "Bill Kaiser."

Also, see Sky Gilbert's tribute to playwright John Herbert, who died June 22, 2001, called "An Icon of Flamboyance" on our Web site. Thanks to Toronto's Eye Magazine for permission to reprint.

I want to thank Tom W Kelly, Tom O'Neil, Gerald Semas, Howard Casner, Francine Trevens, Steven LaVigne, Dee Jae Cox, Jill Towaga, John Sowle, Steven Patterson, David King, Erik Haagensen and Back Stage, Sky Gilbert and Eye Magazine, David Gaard, All the Publicists, Theatres, and other Individuals who sent information, Demian, Jim Russell and Sally Barron for making this issue possible.

October is Gay and Lesbian History Month and there will be special events at ONE Institute & Archives in Los Angeles and in your area too. ONE's celebration begins with a reception for a special exhibit called "The Gay Presses of New York" with materials and an appearance by author Felice Picano on Sept. 30 at 4 PM. This is followed on Oct. 7 by an event on Gay Theatre hosted by Michael Kearns. It's annual Oscar Wilde Birthday Celebration is on Oct. 13. There is a talk by Jim Sears on "The Gay Movement in the South" on Oct. 14, and a talk on "Sexuality" by Joanne Meyerowitz on Oct 26. For info: 213-742-0094. Reservations for the Wilde event — a fundraiser for The Performing Arts Collection of ONE — are made on The Purple Circuit Hotline: 818-953-5072.

ONE's AIDS History Curator, Lee Mentley, is also planning a series of events in late Nov., culminating in a Fair on World AIDS Day Dec 1, 2001.

**Have An Active and Creative Autumn,
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.

***Another American: Asking and Telling** with Marc Wolfe, the explosive solo show about Gays in the military, Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles, opened August 5, 2001; 213-628-2772.

Another Gay Play by Jonathan Tolins, CAP21, NYC, June, 2001 At First Blush with Rochelle Fabb, a performance piece covering feminism, abstinence, flirtation and sexual freedom and more, Highways, Santa Monica, June 2001.

A to Z: 26 Stories from the Edge with Michael Kearns, The acclaimed solo performer tells 26 stories, Highways, Santa Monica, Sept 9, 2001.

***Avow** by Bill C. Davis, two Gay Catholics ask their liberal priest to bless their vows to each other, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened August 25, 2001; 415-861-8972.

Beautiful Thing by Jonathan Harvey, Lambda Players, Sacramento, June 2001.

***Beds, Boys & Beyond** with music by Alfredo Alvarez and book/lyrics by Jeff Dobbins, a musical revue and more, Hudson Avenue Theatre, Hollywood, opened July 26, 2001; 323-856-4200.

Belching from the Vault with Jerry the Priest and the Commandos of Humiliation, wildly theatrical and anything but saintly, Highways, Santa Monica, August 2001.

Body Outlaws based on the book of essays on women's perceptions of their bodies, Red Hen Productions, Cleveland, August 2001.

***The Boys in the Band** by Mart Crowley, Knightsbridge Theatre, Pasadena, June-July 2001, moved to Los Angeles, ongoing; 626-440-0821; Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, opened August 18, 2001; 619-220-0097.

***The Break Up Notebook** by Patricia Cotter, a hilarious satire on the trials and tribulations of getting dumped by your lover and descending into dating hell, The Village, Hollywood, ongoing. 323-860-7300.

Camera, Woman - a play about director Dorothy Arzner. Out Productions, Montreal, August 2001.

Citizen Reno with Reno and Miss Tahoe Jackson, raw and funny, Howie Baggadonutz Presents, Portland, OR, June 2001.

***Clothes Minded?** created by Tim Miller, Monica Palacios, Chris Wells, Jennifer Miller, Bernardo, Paula Weston Solano and the youth of LA, Orange County, and NYC. A theatrical deconstruct of Teen Magazine, Highways, Santa Monica; Sept. 14-16, 2001; 310-315-1459.

The Club Beautiful, a new Gay dramatic comedy, Aputheatre, Amsterdam, opening in July-August 2001.

***Corpus Christi** by Terrence McNally, Fort Wayne, IN, Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, ongoing; 773-883-1090; Lillian Theatre, Hollywood, opened August 17, 2001.

***Cowboy Logic** by Jerrold Rabushka, the relationship of a set of twin Gay and Straight cowboy brothers living in rural Oklahoma, Ragged Blade, St. Louis, opens November 9, 2001; 314-276-8693

Dangerous but Charming with Sarah Fairfax, playing six dangerous but charming female characters, Theatre/Theater, Hollywood, May-June 2001.

***The Dead Boy** by Joe Pintauro, based on the scandal that rocked the foundations of the Catholic Church, Laurelgrove Theatre, Studio City, CA, opened August 10, 2001; 818-760-8368

Dearboy's War by Mike Ambrose, Gays in the military during WWII, Elephant Theatre Company, Hollywood, June-July 2001.

***Dog Opera** by Constance Congden, a comedy about a Gay man, a Straight woman and the quest for "Mr. Right," Outward Spiral, Minneapolis, opened Aug. 24, 2001. 612-343-3390; www.ticketworks.com

Dusk by Joe Pintauro, six short plays written with the premise of starting a play just before the climax, Outward Spiral Theatre Company, Minneapolis, August 2001.

***The Dying Gaul** by Craig Lucas, dark cyber thriller, Lambda Players, Sacramento, opens Sept. 28, 2001; 916-484-4742

El Vez with Robert Lopez, around the world in 80 minutes or less with your "Uncle Mame", Highways, Santa Monica, July 2001.

Eve's Tail with Laura Bozanich, an acclaimed one-woman show, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, July 2001.

Fag Hag Anon by Rebekah Morgan, a 12-step romp into disco-dependency, part of Short Stories 3 Short Play Festival, NativeAlien Theatre Collective, NYC, June 2001.

***A Few Gay Men** created by Ronnie Larsen, a documentary style theater piece about Gay men discussing intimate details about their sex lives, relationships and more, world premiere at Venue 9, San Francisco, opened July 5, 2001; 866-468-3399; www.ticketweb.com

Flight by Joe Godfrey, an amusing take on butch and fem role-playing, NativeAliens, NYC, June 2001.

***Frederick of Prussia / Georgew's Dream of Sleep** by Charles A. Duncombe, Jr. A sleeping president dozes through three hundred years of history, City Garage, Santa Monica, opened August 10, 2001; 310-319-9939.

***Garbo's Cuban Lover** by Odalys Nanin, the pitfalls of loving closeted Lesbians Los Angeles

Girl Meets Girl by Maddy Alexander and Sally Stover, a comedy about falling in and out of love, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, July-Aug 2001.

***Glorious Wounds** with Clinton Leupp as Miss Coco Peru, The Village, Hollywood, opened Sept 7, 2001; 323-860-7300

***Glory Box** with Tim Miller, an activist performance piece on a binational couple and their immigration struggles, Theater Lab Houston, Houston, June, 2001; Waterfront Playhouse, Key West, June 2001; and touring continues;

hometown.aol.com/millertale/timmiller.html

***Hushabye Mountain** by Jonathan Harvey, a warm new play by the author of BEAUTIFUL THING, Famous Door Theatre Company, Chicago, opened Sept. 11, 2001; 773-327-5252.

I Remember Mapa with Alec Mapa, his adventures in show business, East-West Players, Los Angeles, August, 2001.

An Ideal Wife adapted from Oscar Wilde's AN IDEAL HUSBAND with the genders reversed and updated to glamorous 1946 Washington, DC, Pacific Resident Theatre, LA, June-July 2001.

***Incognito** by Michael Fosberg, a search for a father turns up a lot more, Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, opens Oct. 18, 2001; 773-883-1090; www.bailiwick.org

***In Thirty Days** with LeVan D. Hawkins, an examination of a thirty day period of daily life, Highways, Santa Monica, Oct. 18-20, 2001; 310-315-1459.

It's Alive! by Dennis Safren, a comic romp about death, can a Gay man obsessed with dying find the will to live? FirstStage, Hollywood, July 2001.

***Jeffrey** by Paul Rudnick, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, opens Dec. 8 after preview; 619-220-0097.

Jesus Hates You by Robert Shaffron, a new short play part of Yo Yo Homo, Circle East Theater Company, NYC, August 2001.

Key West by Jack Heifner, a zany romp in a Gay guest house in Key West, Theatre New West, Houston, June-Aug. 2001.

Kissing the Corners with Thomas Robert Nedderman, an outrageous and obsessive one-man musical comedy and billed as the gayest show in town, Coronet Studio Theatre, Los Angeles, June-July 2001.

***Lady Macbeth** adapted from Shakespeare by Joseph P. Stachura, Knightsbridge Theatre, Los Angeles, opened Sept. 8, 2001; 626-440-0821.

***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, La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, CA, opened July 31, 2001; 858-550-1010; www.lajollaplayhouse.com

The Legendary St. Vincent Design by Michael R. Murphy, an ambitious young architect faces the temptations of excess, Wings, NYC, July-Aug 2001.

Les Bonnes by Jean Genet, McCadden Place Theater, Hollywood, June-July 2001.

***Lot's Daughters** by Rebecca Basham, powerful love story of two women who find love in a world at war, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, opens Oct. 20, 2001 after previews; 619-220-0097.

Lypsinka! The Boxed Set with John Epperson, Tiffany Theatre, West Hollywood, Apr-Aug. 2001.

Mangina and Wenis by Patrick Bucklew, a performance art piece, Vortex Repertory Company, Austin, July 2001.

Mary in the Hydrangea Bush by Joe Besecker, a sexy comedic romp modern version of Bob, Carol, Ted and Alice, directed by John Sowle, Yugen / Noh Space, San Francisco, July-Aug. 2001.

***Master of the (Miss) Universe** with Noel Alunit, a statement about sexuality and race and beauty pageants, Highways, Santa Monica, Aug. 31-Sept. 8, 2001; 310-315-1459.

Moscow by Nick Salmone and Maury R McIntyre, three men trapped in a theatre with only a copy of THREE SISTERS to perform as a musical, Playwrights Arena, LA, earlier and in July 2001, then went to Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

***My Night With Reg** by Kevin Elyot, the London hit comes to California, Knightsbridge Theatre, Pasadena, opened August 10, 2001; 626-440-0821.

***Naked Boys Singing** created by Robert Schrock, Actors Playhouse, NYC, ongoing; 212-239-6200; and Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, opened August 26, 2001; 773-883-1090; ran in Portland OR and ongoing in Provincetown.

***A New Brain** by William Finn and James Lapine, a life-affirming musical, West Coast Ensemble, Hollywood, opened Sept. 7, 2001; 323-876-9337.

A New You by Nancy Beverly, follows the life of an adolescent girl with a passion for the new girl in school, world premiere at Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles, June-July 2001.

The Normal Heart by Larry Kramer, all-youth production, The Village, Los Angeles, July 2001.

Nude by Bennett Schneider, a performance piece devoted to nudity, Highways, Santa Monica, July 2001.

***Nude Boys Prancing About** by Robert Coles, a playwright is made to answer for his constant use of gratuitous male nudity; a serious play about the nature and purpose of Gay theatre, The Vortex Theater Company, NYC, opens Aug. 10, 2001; 212-206-1764.

Original Blessing by Federico Hewson, a dance theater solo examining the millennium: evolution, dreams and the future of Queer identity, Ontological Theater at St. Mark's, NYC Fringe, Aug. 2001.

***Party** by David Dillon, a celebration of modern Gay life, Quentin Crisp Theatre, San Diego (with the author in the cast!), June-July 2001; see our TOURING column for details.

***Pinafore!** adapted from Gilbert and Sullivan by Mark Savage, Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles, opened Sept. 7, 2001; 310-289-2999.

Poor Superman by Brad Fraser, a creatively blocked artist takes a waiter's job at a restaurant owned by a husband and wife and becomes entangled in their lives, The Professor and MaryAnn Productions at Actor's Lab Theater, Los Angeles, May-June 2001.

***Post-Matinee Tristesse** by Felix Racelis, a dramedy about the breakup of a mismatched couple, an evening of shorts A LA CARTE at Tamarind Theatre, Los Angeles, opening Oct. 26, 2001; 213-892-6825.

Precious Few by Terry Sneed, two one-acts, one about the worst opera singer of the 20th century Florence Foster Jenkins and one about the novelist Ronald Firbank, Shelterbelt Theatre, Omaha, Aug. 2001.

Psycho Beach Party by Charles Busch, someone is very unhappy at the beach and everyone is paying the price, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, May-July 2001.

***Real Girls** by Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon, based on the lives of its writers and real life lovers, Hudson Avenue Theatre, Hollywood, opened Aug. 4, 2001; 323-930-9304.

The Recruiting Officer by George Farquhar, a classic, The Knightsbridge Theatre, Pasadena, May-June 2001.

***Save It for the Stage: The Life of Reilly** with Charles Nelson Reilly, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened August 11, 2001; 415-861-8972.

***The Second Coming of Joan of Arc** with Carolyn Gage, her one-woman award-winning show, Provincetown Inn (part of Fringe festival), Provincetown, Oct. 10-14, 2001; 508-487-2666.

***Shadow Boy** by David Gaard, Gay NY in the 20s and 30s of a young boy coming to the city in search of a better life, Paul Nagle & All Out Arts at C.S.V., NYC, opened Sept. 5, 2001.

Shooting Porn by Ronnie Larsen, The Theatre Building, Chicago, July-Aug 2001.

***Simply Barbra** - The Farewell Tour with Steven Brinberg, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened Aug. 24, 2001; 415-861-8972.

***Sirena: Queen of the Tango** by Guillermo Reyes, a new play in three fabulous adventures, Theatre Rhinoceros in association with El Teatro de la Esperanza, San Francisco, opens Sept. 6, 2001; 415-861-5079.

Sketchbook by Jake Jay Clark, world premiere of two short plays HOW TO RUIN LOVE about two middle-aged men struggling for intimacy and THE LADY WHO LOVED, a tribute to Lesbian support to PWAs, El Portal Center, N. Hollywood, CA, July-Aug. 2001.

Something's got to Give by Sandra de Helen, a play about Marilyn Monroe, Portland State University, Portland OR, June 2001.

Southern Baptist Sissies By Del Shores, McKinney Avenue Contemporary, Dallas, opened July-Aug. 2001.

***Stop Kiss** by Diana Son, two women fall in love finally and then experience gay bashing in this important drama, Red Hen Productions, Cleveland, opens Sept. 6, 2001; 216-661-4301; redhen@logan.com

The Sum of Us by David Stevens, Long Beach Playhouse, Long Beach CA, July-August 2001.

Sunday Paper by David Zellnik, a wise and witty play about a Gay man and a close woman friend spending the day at the beach, NativeAliens, NYC, June 2001.

***Taming of the Shrew** adapted from Shakespeare with Ronnie Larsen as Kate!, Globe Playhouse, West Hollywood, opens Sept. 20, 2001; 1-866-468-3399; www.ticketweb.com

***There's No Place Like Hollywood** a musical by Dan Berkowitz, Shirley Hillard and Wayne Moore, an original satire of the Hollywood machine and the stars it created, Stella Adler Theatre, Hollywood, opened June 1, 2001; 323-960-5511.

This Will Be the Death of Him by David DeWitt, a harrowing investigation of Gay murder, NativeAliens, NYC, June 2001.

***Twelve Days of Cochina** with Marga Gomez, filth to the world in a toxic new holiday show, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, opens Nov. 9, 2001; 415-861-5079.

***Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love** by Brad Fraser, NoHo Actors Studio, North Hollywood, CA, opened Sept. 8, 2001.

***The Very Worst of Varla Jean Merman** with Jeffrey Robinson, the alleged lovechild of Merman and Borgnine, Soho Theatre, London, Sept. 15-Oct. 6, 2001; 020-7478-0100; and at The Village, Hollywood, opens Nov. 2, 2001; 323-860-7315.

Virgin Tango by Tom W. Kelly, a romantic tale of two love-struck teenage boys, SourceWorks Theatre Production, Homosexual Acts, The Duplex, NYC, July-Aug 2001.

***Vivien** by Ric Foster, a one-woman play about Vivien Leigh starring Janis Stevens, The Magic Theatre, San Francisco, opens Sept. 8, 2001; 415-441-3687.

When Pigs Fly by Howard Crabtree, Richmond Triangle Players, Richmond, July-Aug. 2001.

Wicked by Gavin Glenn, a hybrid adaptation of Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Hudson Mainstage Theatre, Hollywood, June-August 2001.

You Look for Me by Paul Harris, Cherry Grove, Fire Island, Aug. 2001

THEATRE BITS

by Bill Kaiser

Austin: Summer Youth Theatre presented CYRANO DE BERGERAC by Rostand at the Vortex Rep. They also hosted their Carnival fundraiser in July 2001. www.vortexrep.org

Birmingham, England: Crescent Theatre made the Shakespeare traditionalists livid when they turned Romeo into a Lesbian woman and also turned the Nurse into a Gay transvestite.

Boston: The Theater Offensive created a new Lesbian guerilla theatre troupe called Dagger dedicated to presenting Queer Women's and Girls' perspectives on social and political issues. 617-542-4214

Buffalo: Ujima Company Inc. announced its 23rd season for 2001-2002 to include THE GREEN PASTURES by Marc Connelly, IN MY FEET IS GOD'S THUNDER with Imani Dance Company, EAST

TEXAS HOT LINKS by Eugene Lee, WIT by Margaret Edson, PERSISTANCE OF MEMORY with Spiderwoman Theater Company, and AND BID HIM SING by Lorna C. Hill; ujimacoinc@aol.com; www.ujimatheatre.org

Chicago: Bailiwick Repertory held a benefit called "Sondheim And Smirnov" Sept 9, 2001 featuring Chicago's top singers including Alexandra Billings, Stephen Rader and Amy Arbizzani. 773-883-1090.

Cleveland: John Chaich through his zine, Sway, created "retro/virus: 79,89,99," an art project covering 20 years of AIDS at Zygote Press in June; www.zygotepress.com

Costa Mesa CA: South Coast Repertory's Season Opener is Somerset Maugham's social satire about a Victorian generation's ups and downs, THE CIRCLE running August 31-October 7, 2001; 714-708-5555; www.scr.org

Cranford, NJ: Gabriel Shanks recently directed AN EMPTY PLATE IN THE CAFE DU GRAND BOEUF, a comedy by Micahel Hollinger at The Theater Project at Union County College.

Detroit: Amrit Chauhan was the featured performer at Union Street in July. He is scheduled to appear in September at Urban Break, and more gigs after that. www.blue-bottled-skies.com

Durham: Manbites Dog Theater Company presented a brain-bending adventure in Durham Central Park. www.manbitesdogtheater.org

Hollywood: THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOLLYWOOD is a madcap Hollywood fantasy musical with Book by Dan Berkowitz and Shirley Hillard and Music and Lyrics by Wayne Moore still wowing them (it is great fun!) at The Stella Adler Theatre; 323-960-5511; www.noplacelikehollywood.com

Los Angeles: The Art Source auction was held June 30 benefiting Youth Services at LAGL Center.

The Village presented a 25th anniversary staged reading of VANITIES by Jack Heifner with Kathy Bates recreating her original role. 323-860-7300.

Actor Kevin Dulude will be appearing in CASH ON DELIVERY by Michael Cooney in Aug. and Sept. at Stage Door Theatre in Agoura Hills, 818-889-5209 and Shoshana Henri will be appearing in LADY MACBETH at the Knightsbridge in Sept. 626-440-0821.

"Tap Your Troubles Away, The Music of Jerry Herman" will be a benefit concert for The Actors Fund of America on Nov. 10, 2001 at The Luckman theatre, Los Angeles.

Staged and directed by David Galligan with Musical Direction by Ron Abel and produced by Michael Kearns and Harry Prongue. Featuring everyone from Lucie Arnaz to Jo Anne Worley with many stars in between. 323-933-9244 x 54; www.actorsfund.org

New Orleans: DRAMA! is sponsoring an ongoing workshop for any and all artists. The workshop was filmed in July for local TV show, A Krewe Production. 504-671-8232; dramano.org

New York: The New York Theatre Workshop had its Community Day on July 21, 2001 with sneak previews of new works by Lisa Kron, Tony Kushner and much more. 212-780-9037.

Pasadena: Pasadena Playhouse did a production of DO I HEAR A WALTZ? by Rodgers, Sondheim and Laurents in July-Aug. 2001 that was delightful. Knightsbridge Theatre in Pasadena and Los Angeles did back-to-back gay classics with BOYS IN THE BAND by Mart Crowley directed by Hugh Harrison and starring Noah Wagner and the British hit MY NIGHT WITH REG by Kevin Elyot directed by Dan Moran with an excellent cast and an intriguing play. www.knightsbridgetheatre.com

San Francisco: AfroSolo Arts Festival VIII was held Aug. 5-Sept. 1, 2001 throughout the city with visual and performing arts including a forum on "Black Artists On AIDS." www.afrosolo.org

The Jon Sims Center presented Carolyn Cooley's newest musical passion play, PASSION OF BEES in July 2001. 415-554-0402.

Also, The Jon Sims Center announced its fall 2001 artists-in-residence to include: Miriam Kronberg with EDGE performed Sept. 9, Oct. 5, and Nov. 9; Cara Judea Alhadeff and Nicole Sumner with TONGUE AND TRIGGER Sept. 14, Oct. 12, and Nov. 16; Charna Cassell with INTERSEXTIONS, Sept. 21, Oct. 26; and Dec. 7 and Sue Roginski with ONE OR TWO Sept. 28, Nov. 2, and Nov. 30. For information on the residency program: 415-554-0402; director@jonsimsctr.org

Smithville, TN: Idapalooza Fruit Jam will be held Sept. 17-23, 2001, in the hollow at IDA with up-and-coming Queer superstars and other folk jamming in the woods.

CHICAGO SCENE by Howard Casner

Some people just won't stay dead. Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the Garden of Gethsemane, two Midwest theaters have resurrected Terence McNally's Corpus Christi. His play is about that khaki panted/white shirted savior of mankind (or as one local wag put it: "The gospel according to Gap"). Never particularly well received, right wingers found it blasphemous and lobbied against it, critics and audience found it mediocre at best. Both productions are following in their predecessors' sandal steps. At Purdue University in Fort Wayne, Indiana, local citizens and government officials went to court in a futile attempt to prevent production of the play when student Jonathan Gilbert chose to direct it as his senior class project.

The anti's reasoning was that if government could not promote religion, it should not be allowed to spend taxpayer's money to attack it. Actually, the First Amendment doesn't prevent an institution like Purdue from allowing a student to direct a senior thesis that promotes Evangelical Christianity, if he or she so wishes.

Meanwhile, as Purdue faces placards and protesters, Bailiwick Repertory and Ulysses Theatre Company (which is giving the drama its Chicago premiere during the annual Pride Series) has only had to face a handful of crank phone calls and the best reviews I've ever seen for the play. The results: sell-out crowds for both. Purdue had to add extra performances — when will the far right ever learn? — and Bailiwick/Ulysses has extended the play through September. In fact, Bailiwick is even getting some spill-over from the Hoosier State since Purdue can't accommodate everyone who wants to see the show.

Going, Going, Gone. Speaking of Bailiwick, as the Pride Series nears its close, it seems to be losing more and more of its clothes. In Corpus Christi, the disciples strip to their BVDs (or whatever brand is popular these days) in order to be baptized. In Michael Van Duzer's successful tribute to purple prose and 50s male skin flicks, Posing Strap Pirates, the actors strip to G-strings for no particular reason, but that they're there (and rumor has it that these campy cutthroats might be finding new harbor in New York City come fall). And in the final production of the Series, the long anticipated musical by Bob Schrock, Naked Boys Singing, the actors will deshabiller themselves down to nothing in order to, well, warble (and in schwing time, no less).

But was it long enough. Ronnie Larsen graced Chicago with a two-week (count-em) two-week only production of the sequel to Making Porn, called Shooting Porn (what's next — Lord of the Porn, the dance remix?). Obviously into three-ways, Larsen wrote, directed, and acted, playing drag diva, fried chicken gorging Chi Chi LaRue. The production boasted a couple of porn stars and a promise of more frankness than in Making. No word as to whether the pages of the programs were found stuck together.

Maybe if they used the metric system. John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask's Hedwig and the Angry Inch, has come up short. This wonderful production of the girlie boy looking for his other half did not turn out to be the success critics and theater aficionados hoped it would be. After a canceled show or two, the producers suddenly closed shop. At first everyone assume this was permanent, but rumor has it that the show will reopen soon. Producers are also hoping that the recent arrival of the film will increase interest in the stage version.

Department of self-aggrandizement. This is to announce that this will be my final column for the Circuit. Now, now, I can already hear all the weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, but que sera, sera, as Christopher Marlowe said in Dr. Faustus. My reason for departing is because I will be moving to Los Angeles in September. Be sure to say hello. You'll be able to find me at various coffee shops, my favorite locations.

A CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE

Entertainment News

by Gerald Semas

- Moises Kaufman will direct the cable film version of his play "The Laramie Project" for the people who produced "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." No word yet on cast though some filming is planned for Denver and Laramie Colorado. If the project stays on schedule, it should air on HBO in November. The cast will feature such names as Steve Buscemi (Parting Glances), Clea DuVall (But I'm A Cheerleader), Laura Linney (Further Tales of the City), Joshua Jackson (Dawson's Creek), Cameron Manheim (The Practice) and Frances Sternhagen (Sex in the City.)
- News comes that Ben Elton's script version of the Andrew Lloyd Weber musical "Phantom of the Opera" has been tossed. A recent workshop read-through, using the script, proved most disappointing so it's back to scratch.
- A revival of Noel Coward's "Private Lives" is scheduled for a London opening in September with an official opening on Oct. 4th at the Albery, St. Martin's Lane. The show will star Alan Rickman and Lindsay Duncan as the couple whose adventures take place on the balconies of their hotel suites.
- Playwright Adam Rapp will see his brother, Anthony Rapp (Rent) star in the West Coast premiere of the former's new play, "Nocturne," which runs Oct. 12-Nov. 11, 2001 at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. The play looks at a young man struggling to put his life back together after accidentally killing his sister. After the tragedy, he leaves his suburban life for New York City's Lower East Side and devotes himself and time to his writing though he knows he must return home and face the demons of his guilt. Fans of Anthony Rapp can pick up his new CD "Look Around."
- I always said she'd be perfect in the Patricia Neal story. Now producers have found another perfect role for "Star Trek: Voyager"'s Kate Mulgrew. Starting in Connecticut, next February, the actress will appear as Katharine Hepburn in the one-woman play "Tea at Five." Beam me up Norman.
- Noted pianist, Peter Mintun is back, entertaining crowds in Bemelmans Bar in New York's Carlyle Hotel through October 13th. Don't miss a delightful evening of classic tunes performed as they should be.
- Karma Chameleon Boy George is penning a musical called "Taboo," based on his nightclubbing experiences during the New Romantic heyday. The tale follows a young man from the North of England who travels to London where he meets various nightclub celebs including the Queen herself. Not Betty Windsor, Boy George himself. Who can blame the guy for assuring work for himself if they make a movie version?
- David Sedaris, author of "Me Talk Pretty One Day," is rewriting a script treatment for his book of which director Wayne Wang has expressed an interest. In a recent interview, Sedaris mentioned that Matthew Broderick has conveyed his desire to star in the project. Let us not forget Broderick's early career gay role as Harvey Fierstein's lover in the film version of "Torch Song Trilogy."
- Plans are in the works to develop a revival Gore Vidal's 1957 satirical play "Visitor to a Small Planet," to Broadway in the fall of 2002. John Tillinger would direct with hopes of the lead role going to Alan Cumming. The actor participated in a spring reading of the updated show along with such talents as Christine Baranski, Philip Bosco, Tony Randall, and Lily Tomlin.
- Vidal is joining forces with filmmaker Sidney Lumet (100 Centre Street) to film actual transcripts of U.S. Supreme Court cases into a one-hour drama called, "May It Please the Court" for A&E. While Lumet will act as Executive Producer, and direct a few segments, Vidal will create scripts taken from actual court records.
- Though announced for a pending but canceled Broadway debut back in 1997, director-in-exile, Roman Polanski's hit musical "Dance of the Vampire" may finally be reaching US shore. The latest plans have former "Phantom of the Opera" star Michael Crawford play a lead role in a UK production, to the tune of 20 million pounds. The show, which features music by Meatloaf collaborator Jim Steinman, is aiming for a new Broadway premiere with plans to move on to LA, and eventually London's West End.

- Though some newspapers have problems with running the shows ads, you may have not heard that the Australian-London cult hit, "Puppetry of the Penis," is coming to Off-Broadway's John Houseman Theatre, in September 2001. For benefit of the unaware, the show features two Australian men who "manipulate their genitalia into various shapes, objects and landmarks." Press material for the performance describes it's cast as "the well endowed," performers, who spend 70 minutes engaging in the ancient Australian art of "Genital Origami." Among the titled arrangements are, Loch Ness Monster, a hamburger, bow tie, wristwatch, bullfrog, atomic mushroom, windsurfer, wedding ring, sea anemone, slow-emerging mollusk, 3-wood golf club and the Eiffel Tower. What? No Plymouth Rock(s)? I've been told that the latest party game among actors and theatre people is to come up with alternate names for the show. My favorite to-date is "Manipulating the Member."
- No longer head of his own house of couture, Isaac Mizrahi, has kept busy as an actor and upcoming host of his own talk show on the Oxygen cable channel. Missing the world of fabric and fringe, Mizrahi is back into the world of design creating the costumes for the Roundabout Theatre Company's revival of "The Women." The cast for this new version of the Clare Booth Luce comedy classic includes Kristen Johnston (Third Rock from the Sun) as Sylvia, Cynthia Nixon (Sex in the City) as Mary Haines, plus Jennifer Tilly and Rue McClanahan (The Golden Girls).

Comments or questions can be sent to
Gerald Semas at shownewz@aol.com

SODOM EAST: NEW YORK

On the Great Purple Way

by Tom O'Neil

Despite the title, it's not just "Another Gay Play." It's the latest light comic drama from Jonathan Tolins, who's so deft at writing bitchy dialog that he was hired by the Academy Awards to pen the most recent ceremony script with Bruce Vilanch. Tolins' past gay plays include "Twilight of the Golds," which was produced on Broadway several years ago. His latest was just staged Off-Broadway at the CAP 21 Theatre to celebrate Gay Pride Week.

The two lead characters of "Another Gay Play" — a thirty-something couple named Michael and Tom — want nothing to do with celebrating Pride, however, even though the New York parade marches right underneath their apartment window as this play begins. "I hate Gay Pride!" Michael harrumphs as he spies the flow of shirtless beefcake below. "It makes me feel ugly and out of step!"

Michael and Tom feel so out of step with the New York gay scene that they're planning to move to suburbia soon. In fact, as "Another Gay Play" begins, they're about to go shopping at Pottery Barn to buy lamps for the new house they just bought. The boys never get far, though, since, one by one, friends drop by their apartment so they can watch the parade from the pad's nifty vantage point.

Pretty soon — like it or not — Michael and Tom have a Gay Pride party going on, but the mood becomes less than festive when lighthearted bitching turns into vicious fighting and an old boyfriend of two of them stops by to announce that he's getting married — to a woman! — because he feels that he doesn't fit in to the gay community.

As the clashes intensify, personal secrets about Michael and Tom get spilled that are so devastating that, it turns out, the couple may not need those new lamps, after all. "Another Gay Play" was produced by the Genesis Guild. 212-946-5625.

In Christopher Shinn's new play "Four," June is a naive, 16-year-old virgin who doesn't know what he's getting into when he agrees to hook up with the person he's been flirting with on line. Apparently, opposites do attract, at least in cyberspace. June is white and slightly built. The person turns out to be chubby, tall, black and old enough to be June's dad's older brother.

When they meet, it's obvious from the look on June's face that this was not what he expected.

June, however, is the sweet sort of guy who doesn't want to hurt the man's feelings by rejecting him, so he gets in his car and off they go under a dark, ominous July sky bursting with fireworks. After just a few minutes it's obvious to the audience — although still not to the innocent June — that this guy is SMARMY. It's enough to make every audience member want to shout to the stage: "June, jump out of that car! Now!"

But June sits tight and, as the night and the play roll on, the trip is full of curious and heart-felt twists that make the audience glad June sticks around. This play has other characters as well — two (half of the "Four" that's implied by the title). They're the man's daughter and a dimwitted guy she decides to screw out of boredom. The two pairs of people never meet on stage since they're all lost in journeys trying to find themselves — sexually and spiritually.

"Four" was staged by the Worth Street Company at the TriBeCa Playhouse in July. The New York Times called it a "smart, broken-hearted new play" that was performed by an exceptionally well-chosen cast. Contact: Carol Fineman, 212-539-8640.

Other notable recent New York City productions included:

"Candelabras & Cocaine" is a comedy by Michael Murphy about art, money, architecture, love, and drug lords. Wings Theatre, July-August. 212-627-2960.

"Eli's Comin'" was inspired by the life of Bronx-born lesbian singer/songwriter Laura Nyro, who wrote such 60-70s hit singles as Peter, Paul, and Mary's "And When I Die." Performed at the Vineyard Theatre in June and July.

The HERE Arts Center celebrated Gay Pride in June with its Queer @ HERE festival that included "I Think I Ken," which depicted how Barbie, Ken, and their pals deal with plastic Chelsea boys. "She Cuts Herself / She Likes to Write" told an anti-love story through the eyes of four Catholic schoolgirls. 212-647-0202.

"Homosexual Acts" — Short plays and songs examining various aspects of gay life, including a queer retooling of "Our Town" and a one-act titled "The Virtual Closet" about an online chat-room romance. In Tom Kelly's "The Virgin Tango" (which was performed previously in San Francisco) two young, very nervous men attend the high-school prom together and share their first kiss. Staged by SourceWorks at the Duplex on weekends in July and August.

"Hot!" The NYC Celebration of Queer Culture took place in July at Dixon Place and included the well-reviewed "Go-Go Real," a two-man cabaret-and-performance pastiche about love, sex, and disco dancing.

"Jitter," a new one-act play by Richard Sheinmel, premiered at the Greenwich Street Theatre in June. It chronicled the lives of four best friends, whose relationships change dramatically when one of them reveals a secret sexual orientation. 212-581-3836.

The Present Theater Company Theatorium presented a gender bending Shakespeare spoof in May and June: "Two Girls from Vermont: A Dirty Pop Extravaganza," a hip-hop musical about two spunky teenage girls who compete for the star of a boy band. Along the way they battle an evil cheerleader, prevail over a drag queen named Duchess and try to cope with their disapproving fathers, who fall in love with each other. 212-946-5537.

"Spooky Dog and the Teenage Gang Mysteries" follows a butch frat boy with a penchant for orange neckerchiefs, a lesbian with a big magnifying glass, a hot-to-trot diva, and a talking dog. Staged in June at the Red Room Theater. 212-539-7686.

"Strange Bedfellows" In Clint Jefferies' play, an ex-con, his mother, a confused NY poet and a deranged hooker seek the meaning of life in a double-wide. April-May at the Wings Theatre. 212-627-2960.

"Watcher" is Han Ong's coming-of-age tale about a teenage boy who becomes seduced by the seedy side of life as a hustler in New York City. Staged in June by the May-Yi Theatre Company. 212-581-8896.

WAY OFF-BROADWAY BY THE BAY

by Tom W. Kelly

NEWS

SourceWorks Theatre produced Purple Circuit columnist Tom W. Kelly's one-act play "The Virgin Tango" as part of an evening of short works titled Homosexual Acts at the Village's Duplex Cabaret Theatre, NYC. Beautifully directed by Mark Cannistraro.

Help is on the Way VII

Northern California's largest annual musical concert benefiting AIDS agencies featured a star-studded cast performing the music of Broadway tunesmiths Richard Adler, Jerry Boch, and Cy Coleman. This year's gala includes Lucie Arnaz, Bruce Vilanch, tv stars Jill Eikenberry and Michael Tucker, singers Jane Olivor, Paula West, Meg Mackay and Kathy Garrick. 100 percent of ticket sales goes directly to the beneficiaries.

Gay playwright Tom Vegh is also an actor and director! This summer he performed in the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's productions of Merry Wives of Windsor and King Lear. And in his "spare time," he directed "HoMom" by Kevin Ottem-Fox, a play in Rhino's Playwright's Stew.

The 4th annual National Queer Arts Festival 2001 featured a series of cultural programs, exhibitions, and performances organized by The Queer Cultural Center and Harvey Milk Institute, with over 40 events at various SF locations.

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

NCT opened its Pride Season 7 Staging Passion with the Bay Area Premiere of the one-man show, "Save It For The Stage: The Life Of Reilly" starring Charles Nelson Reilly (written by Reilly and Paul Linke), a co-production with Michael Alden Productions. C.N. Reilly steps out from the wings to take the audience on the roller coaster ride of his life which traverses the diverse, sometimes volatile, and always hysterical journey of one of our Nation's leading theatre artists. Directed by Paul Linke.

"Simply Barbra — The New Farewell Tour" is a one-man theatrical cabaret show created by and starring Steven Brinberg. It is part homage to and part parody of one of the greatest stars of our generation.

In "Avow," playwright Bill C. Davis takes on romantics and Roman Catholics. Brian and Tom ask their liberal and forward-thinking parish priest to witness and bless their vows to each other. Tom and Brian's catalytic request creates five separate but linked journeys of family and friendship with each seeking to balance passion and faith. Directed by Christopher Jenkins.

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

Rhino presented Playwright's Stew, a summer festival of short queer works. Over 50 young artists — writers, directors, and actors — came together over a three-week period to showcase one-act plays, scenes, monologues, and performance pieces on a variety of queer themes. Joan Grinde and Megan Murphy were the festival directors.

"Girl Meets Girl" is a new sizzling lesbian comedy about falling in and out of love, written by Maddy Alexander and Sally Stover, and produced by Caryn Horwitz. Set in SF, Girl Meets Girl follows the lives of six women searching for love and sex in the new millennium.

The story focuses on Anita, a magazine editor who's turning forty and fed up with her job. Her friends throw her a surprise birthday party, and that evening Anita meets a woman who sweeps her off her feet. Directed by Sally Stover.

And in the Rhino Studio: "Sax and the Single Dyke: A Screwball Love Story." Playwright Margery Kreitman's newest comedy, is set in contemporary SF where two women — roommates and close friends — are suddenly forced to reconsider the true implications of their relationship when an ex-husband reappears and a personals-ad date takes all three of them over the top.

Make It So Productions produced "Viva Variety XVII" which benefited Positive Resource Center (www.positiveresource.org), a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist people affected by HIV/AIDS through culturally appropriate counseling, education and advocacy in making informed choices which maximize available benefits and employment opportunities.

"Viva Variety XVIII" also benefited the STOP AIDS Project (www.stopaids.org), a non-profit organization whose mission is to prevent HIV transmission among all gay and bisexual men in San Francisco, through multicultural, community-based organizing.

Sex-Club Shakespeare presented the Bard's "All's Well That Ends Well," which tells the story of a female stalker determined to win a bisexual rich boy away from the clutches of his servant/lover. Aided and abetted by a decadent Countess and a lusty King, the chase continues through the world of lesbian cabaret and gays in the military. Directed by Val Hendrickson.

Potrero Hill Playhouse, 953 DeHaro, SF, 510-845-2687, www.lastplanettheatre.com

Last Planet Theatre mounted the Bay Area premiere of Craig Lucas's "The Dying Gaul," an AIDS play that critics have called "the ANTI-Angeles in America." It's a hallucinatory play about a screenwriter who — after losing his lover to AIDS — decides that murder might be the surest path to enlightenment. There's no nobility in suffering. A dark and disturbing look at loss and man's infinite ability for rationalization.

Venue 9, 252 Ninth Street, SF
Caryn Horwitz and Jared Scott presented (in association with Footloose at Venue 9) the first ever collaboration between Ronnie Larsen and John Fisher in A Few Gay Men: True Stories from Real People about Sex, Love, and Life. Created and directed by Ronnie Larsen and starring John Fisher. "A Few Gay Men" is a documentary style theater piece featuring gay men discussing intimate details about their sex lives, relationships, coming out, etc. Extended at the Rhino main stage.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison Street, Berkeley, 510-647-2949, www.berkeleyrep.org
BRT produced The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman and the members of Tectonic Theater Project (TTP), directed by Moises Kaufman with additional staging by Leigh Fondakowski. One month after openly gay Wyoming student Matthew Shepard was murdered in 1998, members of the TTP traveled to Laramie and conducted more than 200 interviews with the community. These interviews, along with court records and personal journals, are the basis for the play. Powerful, painful and thought provoking!

The Plush Room in the York Hotel, SF, 415-885-6800
Sharon McNight, diva of divas, tells it like it is in Songs to Offend Almost Everyone. Cabaret queen McNight returns to The Plush Room with a program of songs designed to offend minorities and majorities of every ethnic persuasion and to shove PC back into the closet and bolt the door.

Also in Bay Area:

The Actors Theatre of San Francisco produced Christopher Durang's wild comedy "Betty's Summer Vacation."

At the EXIT Theatre, "Lonely Planet" by Steven Dietz follows the exploits of two everyday philosophers trapped in a map store. It is an exquisite tale of an unconventional friendship between two men who face the AIDS crisis in deeply personal and disarming ways. Directed by John Warren.

At the Marsh, "Rock 'n' Roll Jeopardy" featured two love stories in three acts by Richard Pierce.

In Berkeley, the Shotgun Players presented "Loot," Joe Orton's blistering farce which drops the drawers of the British bourgeoisie.

In parks throughout the Bay Area, Woman's Will, an all-female Shakespeare company, returns to its roots in goofiness with "Comedy of Errors," a comic confection of mistaken identities, marital mishaps, and family feuds.

JB Enterprises world premiered "Mary in the Hydrangea Bush" by SF playwright Joe Besecker at the Yugen/Noh Theatre. Interpersonal tensions thrive when the "morning after" is re-lived from every perspective by the two hetero couples involved in a "complete" sexual four-some.

COMEDY

QComedy continues to present the best in GL comedy. Recently they did Mondays at Theatre Rhinoceros with Host Maureen Brownsey. Appearing were Karen Riply, Carla Clay Mary C. Matthew, Erin SouzamMaggie Dolan, Eric Lindstrom, Dana Cory, Nick Leonard and Bridget Schwartz. Part of the proceeds benefited Laughingstock, which offers free improv classes to PWAs. comedy@interstellar.com

The Kinsey Sicks appeared at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco on June 29, 2001.

In Los Angeles there is a Gay weekly comedy showcase at the Haha Cafe in North Hollywood. www.hahacafe.com/liveshows.htm

Jason Stuart appeared at The Jungle Cabaret in Provincetown from June to early Sept 2001. His CD "Gay Comedy without a dress" is sold via selected stores and through his Web site: www.jasonstuart.com

Comedy agent: Shelly Weiss, OUTmedia: 718-789-1776; outmedia@msn.com

QComedy in San Francisco has moved to 848 Community Space on 848 Divisadero for its Monday night comedy shows.

A Queer comedy troupe in San Francisco is Dojo Fabuloso who recently appeared at Fort Mason's Blue Bear Theater. www.dojofabuloso.com

Those Meddling Kids, LA's death-defying comedy troupe will be appearing at The Village in Los Angeles from Sept. 7-October 13, 2001. Reservations: 323-860-7300.

FESTIVALS & SEASONS

Theatre Rhinoceros in San Francisco presented Playwright's Stew in August, a three-week festival of new queer works. The directors of this year's fest were Joan Grinde and Megan Murphy. Plays included HOMOM by Kevin Ottem-Fox (directed by Tom Vegh), CYCLOPS by prince Gomolvilas, BLIND DATE by Michelle Paradise, LAST WORDS by Jeff Carter, EVERGREEN by Amy Kirk, WMYN/TETE A TETE/WOMYN TOO by Michelle Beyda, TONIC, a collaborative piece, F*CKED ... A LOVE STORY by Craig Osterberg, HOOPLA by Tom Bentley and FREEDOM OF SPEECH by Jeremy Joseph.

Theatre Rhinoceros also announced its new season to include SIRENA: QUEEN OF THE TANGO by Guillermo Reyes, THE

TWELVE DAYS OF COCHINA by Marga Gomez, DESIGN FOR LIVING by Noel Coward, STRANGERS IN PARADOX BY Kate Bornstein, AN EVENING OF COMEDY with Karen Williams, and lastly KNUCKLES AND CRUNCH by Doug Holsclaw. 415-861-5079.

The Richmond Triangle Players production of WHEN PIGS FLY was such a hit it reopened in August for three weeks. Their 2001-2002 season includes: ALWAYS A PART OF ME by Jeffrey King, world premiere with five mature men and a pool boy too, Sept. 26-Oct. 20, 2001; THE CRUMPLE ZONE by Buddy Thomas, five very different men comically confront life questions over a holiday weekend, Nov. 7-Dec. 1, 2001; MISS GULCH RETURNS by Fred Barton, a comic tour de force with Robert Throckmorton; KISS OF THE SPIDERWOMAN by Kander, Ebb and McNally. www.richmondtriangleplayers.com

Manbites Dog Theater in Durham announces its 15th season to include: THIS IS OUR YOUTH by Kenneth Lonergan; FIT TO BE TIED by Nicky Silver; A TUNE FOR TOMMY by Jesse Thompson Eustice, Edward Hunt and Jeff Storer; PLAYS WELL WITH OTHERS by Jeff Storer and Coats Guiles from the Allan Gurganus novel. In spring 2002, they will have their Don't Ask Don't Tell Festival. 919-682-3343; www.manbitesdogtheater.org

St. Louis based New Line Theatre's 2001-2002 season will include: Marc Blitzstein's THE CRADLE WILL ROCK, A NEW BRAIN by William Finn, and CHICAGO by Kander and Ebb. 314-773-6526; www.newlinetheatre.com

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre in Toronto will present PEEP SHOW created by Kelly Thorton, WORK IN PROGRESS with Sandra Shamas, REAL LIVE GIRL with Damien Atkins, THE WATCH FOR SUNRISE by Gordon Portman, The 24th Rhubarb Festival in Feb. 2002. CES PLAISIRS by Danny Grossman Dance Company, IN ON IT with Buddies In Bad Times Theater, and The Ante Chamber Series. 416-975-8555.

The Theater Offensive in Boston presents its 10th Annual Out On the Edge Festival Sept. 9-29, 2001. The schedule includes: DR. FROCKROCKERS VIVIFYING (RE-ANIMATRONIC) MENAGERIE AND MEDICINE SHOW by Jody Bleyle, Rachel Carns, Bridget Irish, Tara Jepson, Betsy Kwo, Nomy Lamm, Inga Muscio, Betty Ruption, Spider and Beth Stinson; REMEMBER MAPA with Alec Mapa: SHEQUIDA'S OPERA FOR DUMMIES with Shequida; CROUCHING CABICO, HIDDEN CHO with Regie Cabico and Aileen Cho; P.S. 69 by Susan Jeremy and Mary Fulham; A FAIRY TALE by Chris Wells, Dan Parker and Tracy Young, HOLY SHIT! STORIES FROM HEAVEN AND HELL with GAL (AKA Janice Perry) and HIGHER HIGHS, LOWER LOWS with Marga Gomez. 617-426-2787; www.thetheateroffensive.org

Theatre on the Square in Indianapolis announced its 2001/2002 season with: JEKYLL AND HYDE by Bricusse and Wildhorn, THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T SAY PAST MIDNIGHT; A COMEDY IN THREE BEDS by Peter Ackerman; TAKING LEAVE by Nagle Jackson; HELLO MUDDAH, HELLO FADDUH by Douglas Bernstien and Bob Krausz with music and lyrics by Allen Sherman; RESCUE AND RECOVERY by Steve Murray; APARTMENT 3A by Jeff Daniels; TWAIN BY THE TALE by Dennis Snee and Gregg Saeger; HOT N' THROBBING by Paula Vogel; LIFEBOAT adapted from the Hitchcock film by Ronal L. Spencer; FIVE WOMEN WEARING THE SAME DRESS by Alan Ball; and PAGEANT conceived by Robert Longbottom, book and lyrics by Bill Russell and Frank Kelly and music by Albert Evans. 317-637-8085.

The Provincetown Fringe Festival will be June 25-Sept. 16 and Women's Week there is Oct. 6-14, 2001 presented by Conn Artists Performance Event Inc. Included are: HITCHCOCK IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE; MACABRE QUARTET by Marjorie Conn from stories by Henry Slesar; LORENA HICKOK & ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: A LOVE STORY by Pat Bond; THE LETTERS OF ETHEL & JULIUS ROSENBERG; MISS LIZZIE A. BORDEN INVITES YOU TO TEA by Marjorie Conn, and Singer/Songwriters Vickie McKee and Kate Schutt. 508-487-2666.

Act Out Productions is planning a National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival for Sept. 2002 in Columbus Ohio and is inviting all to participate with fully staged productions. 614-263-9448; fabact1@aol.com

NativeAliens Theatre Collective presented "Short Stories 3" during Pride Month in June 2001 at the John Houseman Studio Theatre in NYC. Included were: David Zellnk's SUNDAY PAPER, FLIGHT by Joe Godfrey; THIS WILL BE THE DEATH OF HIM by David DeWitt; FAG HAG ANON by Rebekah Morgan; THE JOB by Brian Deming and Adam Moore; HAND ME DOWNS by Dave DeChristopher; and AFRAID OF HEIGHTS by David Folwell.

The 5th Annual Queer@ HERE Festival happened in June 2001 in NYC. Included were: QUEER SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL with Regie Cabico and Aileen Cho; SEX IS MY RELIGION by Colin Thomas; LESBIAN PULP by Heather de Michele, Anna Fitzwater, Beatrice Terry and Gretchen M Michelfield; TIGGA PLEASE with Tigger and guests; EL PATO FEO by Arthur Aviles; NEUROTICIA with Carolin Brown and Sally Sockwell; I THINK I KEN conceived by Allan Tibbets; 3 PLACES with Jack Shamblyn; SHE CUTS HERSELF / SHE LIKES TO WRITE by Gina Young; MERGE with Rob Newton, FTM with David Harrison; and WWW.MYDEADMOTHER.COM with Philip Kain. 212-647-0202.

In July 2001 it was HOT! The NYC Celebration of Queer Culture with performing artists and writers including Samuel R. Delaney, Emmett Foster, Lisa Kron, Perry Brass, Lavinia Co-op, Reno, Moe Angelos, Michael Burke, Regie Cabico, Howard Crusel, Jonathan Wooster, Brandon Olsen, Robert Shaffron's HOMO FOR THE HOLIDAYS, and much more. 212-532-1546; www.dixonplace.org

Bailiwick in Chicago presented their Directors Festival Showcases in August with: THE BALLAD OF READING GAOL by Oscar Wilde, directed by Kevin Theis; THE ROOT OF CHAOS by Douglas Soderberg directed by Andrew Whatley; GATOR PAWS written and directed by Geoff Burton; TENDER written and directed by Donald Williams, Jr.; THE MOST MASSIVE WOMAN WINS by Madeleine Gweorge directed by Rebekah Scallet; THE FROG PRINCE by David Mamet directed by Rob Schaefer; WHAT WHERE by Samuel Beckett, directed by Pauline Fatyga; UP THE HILL written and directed by Jason Kae; THREE MEN IN A BASKET by Gareth Davies directed by Kevin Hanna; RED CROSS by Sam Shepard directed by Lauren Golanty; ILLUMINATIONS by Enn Vetemaa directed by Gregory D. Gerhard; BECKETT POETRY PROJECT by Samuel Beckett directed by Ligia Popescu; and LOVE TRIANGLE by Kyle Maude directed by Ryan Magnuson.

Also Bailiwick in Chicago presented its Monday Montage Series celebrating Lesbian artists. Kelli Strickland, Director of the Lesbian Theater Series announced special performances in July and August, 2001 created by Gayle Weiss, Jocelyn Stella-rose, Jennifer Trowbridge, Sapna Kumar, Edith Corra, J. T. Newman, Lisa Rock, Robyn Huges, Michelle Benjamin, Ginger Plesha, Karen Weinberg, Julie Petrie, Pamela Fox, and Amanda Amidei.

SNAP! Productions presented its 4th Annual SNAPfest! in July with MOTHER, TREE, CAT by Dori Appel and STREET THEATER by Doric Wilson. We understand the playwrights were in attendance coming in from Oregon and New York respectively. 402-457-6160.

The 6th Annual Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival at Smokebrush Center for the Arts and Theatre in Colorado Springs, Colorado opens Oct. 3, 2001 with THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD by Paul Rudnick. SAPPHO IN LOVE by Carolyn Gage opens Oct. 10 and JEFFREY by Paul Rudnick opens Oct. 17. The festival is performed by Upstart Performing Ensemble. 719-636-5089.

Lambda Literary Festival IV will be held in San Francisco Oct. 19-21, 2001. Presented by Lambda Literary Foundation, and locally by Jon Sims Center, Harvey Milk Institute and James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center. For registration and other information: 202-682-0952; www.lambdalit.org

MINNESOTA FRINGE FESTIVAL

August 3-12, 2001

By Steven LaVigne

The Eighth Annual Minnesota Fringe Festival was held in the Loring Theatre District from August 3-12, 2001. 126 productions were produced in 11 venues during the ten days, some giving anywhere from two to eight performances. There were also a Fringe Film Festival and Children's Fringe events. Quite a few works with queer content were represented. Some of these will be presented again at other venues or on the Fringe Circuit. If any of these productions sound like something regional theatres would like to produce, artists may be contacted through: www.fringefestival.org

By far the best show I saw is Geof Fisher's BOY IN A BOX, produced by RM Sev. Fisher, also known as San Francisco drag performer Kitty Litter, has written an extraordinary example of the difficulties in the relationship between a flamboyant older gay man and the young hustler he befriends and loves. There wasn't a wasted moment in this bravura tour de force, and Sim Varner gave an outstanding performance.

The local gay theatre company, Outward Spiral produced DUSK, a quintet of short, queer-themed plays by Joe Pintauro. "Watchman of the Night" is the story of two men who meet over an answering machine. "Rex" is a debate by a pair of vegan women over the fate of road kill, and in "Seymour in the Very Heart of Winter," an embittered actor and his young lover, a chauffeur, argue over the past during an expensive Christmas dinner. "Lenten Pudding" is one of the most affecting scenes, in which a woman confronts her lesbian aunt's love affair. The best scene, however, is "Uncle Chick," a beautifully rendered piece about a gay man coming to terms with his nephew's sexuality. Directed by Jeffrey Lusiak, and performed by a talented ensemble of four actors, the acting was strong and the show moved quickly.

On the other hand, direct from Australia, we had "Dating Joe," produced by Springfield Productions. I wish this was better, but alas, it was the tedious adventure of a middle-aged gay man, preparing videotapes for a dating service. Solo pieces require a device that gets the plot rolling, and for the first 40 minutes, actor Robert van Mackelenberg talked to a video camera, and ended by talking on the phone. "Dating Joe" isn't a bad start for a project, but director Mark Fletcher didn't demand anything more from the author/actor, so it really doesn't go far enough or offer any new insights into this aspect of gay life.

Actor and playwright John Carl Heimbuch worked very hard to create a stylish mystery from "Edward Gorey's Eccentric Doorknobs," produced by Dramatis Personae, and for the most part he succeeded. About 80 percent of this adaptation worked, largely through the acting talents of the Heimbuch, who understood and enjoyed the style of the material. The remainder of the cast however, sometimes appeared to be in a different show, because none of them quite matched Heimbuch. Several actors doubled roles, and it moved along quickly. Sadly, the male lead gave a one-note performance, and seemed to be taking the plot seriously! With all good luck, future productions of "Edward Gorey's Eccentric Doorknobs" will be given better staging by a director who loves the material as much as this actor/author does.

Fans of the movies "Funny Girl" and "The Sound of Music" should be grateful that someone else doesn't come up with a doozy of a project like "Funny Sound of Music Girl," produced by Marvel Ann Productions. This thing played like a revue sketch that's too long and not especially inspiring. It began well, and the young lady playing Fanny gradually gained a Jewish accent, although she was closer to Drescher than Streisand. The twisted plot was unfocused and the development wasn't very clever. Song parodies were second rate, and there was literally a point in the show when an actor blew air out of his mouth, so you knew it had run out of steam!

"Into the Acid Fountain," presented by the Ministry of Cultural Warfare, was an attempt to take the self-indulgent themes from "La Dolce Vita," and transform them into a gay parody. There were some charming moments as Marcello, a gay man looking for love and understanding in modern-day Minneapolis ran through a series of life-altering scenes. Fellini's popular targets: Italian television, grotesque people, and questioning religion were represented. The acting was earnest and people were having a good time, but when it was over, you were left wondering what you just saw and why.

Sweet is definitely the word for "Real Beef" produced by Fairytale Productions. David DeBlicke's solo piece is about a young man from rural Minnesota who shared his fondly remembered first time with another boy's "real beef." After prancing onstage in a pink bathrobe and towel as he listened to Doris Day, there were a trio of pieces. In the first, David's rich fantasy life was revealed as he dreamed fantasy sex with the school's wrestling champ. In the second piece, he changed clothes and transitioned into the final piece, MIKE, which focused on his first love. This was a delectable afternoon of gay entertainment.

Just about every gay person loves the movies, and the European company, Blue, Inc. presented "Splice," a dance-theatre piece that's a love letter to the cinema. Ninety percent of "Splice" is terrific. It begins with the "silents," short tributes to the great comics: Chaplin, Keaton, and Harold Lloyd. The advent of sound is celebrated by recreating the "Beautiful Girls" sequence from "Singin' in the Rain." Then the show moves into those neo-classics of the later years. It's almost as if they took the American Film Institute's ridiculous "100 Greatest Movies" list, and brought it to life. The Hitchcock sequence, with its lively renditions of "Psycho," "The Birds," and "Vertigo" is hilarious. And a tribute to Spielberg's 70s popcorn movies is terrific. One could do without the "Star Wars" sequence late in the performance, which makes this just a little too long, but overall, "Splice" is an amply entertaining pleasure!

One problem with most Fringe shows is that they overstay their welcome. "White Noise / All Choked Up," presented by Theatre Pro Rata. It's an exception because it was both thought provoking and blissfully short! "White Noise" emphasized the impact of television violence on children, in a very effective manner, and it did so using subtle messages, leaving audiences with much to think about. For queer playwright Mick Weinblatt's "All Choked Up," the curtain raiser was a delightful comedy about a mortician who encounters a hit man and his devoted mother. Full of tongue in cheek double entendres, this was a treat, Weinblatt is to be commended for this charmer!

I felt a sense of deja vu when I saw Mark Hooker in "The Trouble with Dirty White Boys." I realized that I'd seen much of Hooker's work as a performance artist before. Sitting at a table, in the same fashion as Spalding Gray, this Texas boy proceeds to discuss the trouble as he's experienced it. The trouble, according to Hooker, is Geoffrey, a bisexual who uses people to get ahead. Hooker and his friend Carolyn were among those whom Geoffrey used during an Off-Off Broadway rendition of "Godspell." Hooker has stories to tell, and they start out very well, such as the Catholic High School producing THE FANTASTICKS where the nuns replaced "The Rape Ballet" with "The Snatch Ballet." The trouble with "The Trouble" is that he seldom gets to the point before his tangents lead him elsewhere. Ultimately, the show doesn't go anywhere. Hooker needs stronger writing skills or he'll never improve as a performance artist.

Angry Fool Productions, out of the University of New Mexico presented "Tale" by Justin Witter to the Fringe Festival. An S&M revisionist adaptation of classic fairy tales, specifically, "Beauty and the Beast," Witter has replaced Disney's talking dishd with corrupted, greedy users who make deals over cell phones and repent from their greed with whips, paddles and leather. In this version, Peter (Peter Pumpkin Eater) sells his wife, Sarah (Beauty) to greedy corporate mogul, Solomon Prince (The Beast) to pay off gambling debts. Peter struts about proclaiming he leads a healthy lifestyle, while polluting his body with alcohol. The Beast quickly transforms Beauty into his latest concubine, using dancing as a euphemism for sex. "Tale" is poorly executed rubbish that "was

directed by a whole lotta folks." Nothing even gratuitous topless nudity, both male and female, can save this disaster!

"Tale" may have been a disaster, but the worst show at the Fringe was Thespius Theatre's "Stewart." Whatever actor/author Lizzy Cooperman have against Martha Stewart, it just looks like sour grapes. Stewart is a woman whose grace, manners, and style have developed into a successful business. Cooperman's unflattering take on her is unsettling. If Martha Stewart knew about this, she'd sue Cooperman for libel!

While there were many other queer-themed pieces at the Fringe Festival, schedule conflicts kept me from seeing them all. Still, I saw more theatre in these ten days than I did all of last year. My own play, "Pitchin' Pennies at the Moon: A night with Cass Elliot" was among the presentations, and it kept me busy, too. This is the best Fringe Festival we've had so far in Minnesota. With all good luck, we'll top this next year!

FILM / VIDEO / TELEVISION

Moondance International Film Festival is seeking entrants for their 2002 Festival. To get on the mailing list: moondanceff@aol.com; www.moondancefilmfestival.com

Tom O'Neil and his fellow pundits are busy with the Emmy predictions. Check out the year round awards: www.goldderby.com

Jason Stuart's first starring role in "10 Attitudes" premiered at the Philadelphia International Film Festival in July 2001. The film focuses on looking for love in the millennium and features also Alexandra Paul, Judy Tenuta, David Faustino, Jim J. Bullock, and Sean Kanan, and is directed by Michael Gallant.

The film version of Del Shores' hilarious play SORDID LIVES came out in June from Regent Entertainment written and directed by Del Shores. In addition to Leslie Jordan, Ann Walker Kirk Geiger, Newell and Rosemary Alexander there are some Hollywood names including Beau Bridges, Delta Burke, Bonnie Bedelia and Olivia Newton-John to add to this outrageous comedy.

Out North in Anchorage featured two film programs in June to celebrate Gay and Lesbian Pride including THROUGH THEIR EYES about GL Appalachians and SCOUT'S HONOR a look at Gays in Scouting. www.outnorth.org

LITERARY SCENE

Sheila Kerrigan interviewed Djola Bronner (Pomo Afro Homos), Keegan and Lloyd and two of the Five Lesbian Brothers for her new book "The Performer's Guide to the Collaborative Process" out from Heinemann: www.heinemandrma.com

The Village at Ed Gould Plaza in Hollywood had an evening with Patricia Nell Warren in June to discuss her new book, "The Wild Man."

Ed Karovski, Jr.'s new project is about gay and bi men who have won a title. It will be called "Award-Winning Men". To be considered for an interview, e-mail a note explaining the title you won, some background info about yourself and an attached photo (not for publication): edkarvoskijr@prodigy.net

T"N"T Classics Books is where to get the scripts for Jane Chambers' LAST SUMMER AT BLUEFISH COVE, A LATE SNOW and MY BLUE HEAVEN (production rights are obtained from Beth Allen). They also have other playwrights in their catalog like Sidney Morris' IF THIS ISN'T LOVE, Bob Chesley's STRAY DOG STORY, FREEZE! by Arch Brown, and THE DINOSAUR PLAYS by C. D. Arnold and more like signed hardcover copies of BLUEFISH COVE at \$35.00 and 3 of Doric Wilson's plays: FOREVER AFTER, STREET THEATER, and A PERFECT RELATIONSHIP for \$9.00

plus \$4 mailing. These plays make great gifts or additions to your GL library! tniclassics@aol.com; folksites.com/BOOKSTnTclassics

The Purple Circuit will be listed again in The 2001-02 Dramatists Guild Resource Directory, which is delivered annually to all their members. www.dramaguild.com

Nancy Agabian, performer and writer, hosted "Writer-Witnesses" at Highways in August as well as conducting a writing workshop for women. She is also the author of "Princess Freak," a collection of poems, short stories, and performance: texts.nancyagabian@yahoo.com

Paul Harris has a new book called "Producing Your Own Showcase" from Allworth Press, a useful tool for fellow playwrights, and other theater professionals. It is available at www.amazon.com

MUSIC / OPERA / DANCE

Lavender Light Gospel Choir presented a fundraising concert, "A Brand New Day" at The Town Hall in New York on June 2, 2001. 212-714-7072.

Los Angeles Gay men's Chorus did a fantastic concert "Simply Sondheim" with special guest Joanna Gleason in July 2001. It marked the finale of AD Jon Bailey's 14th year tenure with the chorus, and what a wonderful 14 years it has been. The new AD will be Dr. Bruce Mayhall and the next concert will be "Holiday Lights," Dec. 14-15, 2001. 800-MEN-SING.

In August Diavolo Dance Company returned to Highways in Santa Monica with a showcase called "Diavolo Unplugged."

Also in August, pianist David Troy Francis performed in Pasadena presenting the West Coast premiere of Ned Rorem's "Etudes."

The New Conservatory theatre Center in San Francisco announced its In-concert series to include TAPISTRY with music by Carole King Oct. 31-Nov., THE ALL NIGHT STRUT conceived by Fran Charnas Dec. 12-30, PASSION by Stephen Sondheim Mar. 6-31, 2002 and SECRETS EVERY SMART TRAVELER SHOULD KNOW, a musical revue with songs and sketches by Douglas Bernstein, Frances Blumenthal, Michael Brown, Barry Creyton, Lesley Davidson, Addy Fieger, Stan Freeman, Dave Frishberg, Murray Grand, Gene Kelley, Jay Leonhart, Denis Markell and Nick Santa Maria, May 29-July 7, 2002; 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

The Purple Moon Dance Company in San Francisco celebrated its Tenth anniversary Sept. 7-8, 2001 with a gala celebration of the company's achievements.

Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego presented the Southern California premiere of EXILE, a 10-movement work with orchestra by composer Robert Seeley and lyricist Robert Espindola in July 2001.

Vox Femina closed its season with "Celebrating Women-Singing for Our Lives" in June 2001. Included in the concert was the West Coast premiere of "Where I Live" by Diane Benjamin which spoke powerfully to women's experiences with cancer. Brava Vox Femina! 310-838-8151; www.voxfeminala.org

GOMORRA, an operatic spectacle by H. K. Gruber had its American premiere with Contemporary Opera Marin at College of Marin Fine Arts Theatre in June. Directed by John Sowle, the opera featured Kaliyuga Arts other half Steven Patterson and a cast of 50 singers. www.kaliyuga.com/CurrentProjects.htm#Gomorra

The CD "Songs from the Age of the Closet" a compilation of art songs from gay composers of the 19th and early 20th centuries was released May 28, 2001. www.elifsavas.com

Presented in June, 2001 by the Chicago Theatre Company was BEING BEAUTIFUL by McKinley Johnson and Stephanie Newsom,

a musical dealing with the lives of Black Drag Queens around WWII in Chicago.

Bailiwick Repertory in Chicago presented a Summer cabaret series with Alexandra Billings, Suzanne Petri, Tom Michael, Beckie Menzie, Richard Knight and Becca Kaufman.

The Stephen Pelton Dance Theater was artist-in-residence at Jon Sim Center in San Francisco. They presented their work in progress ALL THE ROSES FALLING in August 2001.

"Trojans & Amazons" was a fabulous concert in July 2001 by The Women's Philharmonic and San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. 415-865-3651.

PLAYWRIGHTS / PRODUCERS FORUM

In the last issue of OTPC, I mentioned in passing I was interested in knowing what playwrights are writing about. I heard from David Gaard whose AND PUPPY DOG TAILS was considered a "lost play" by Terry Helbing and others. It is not, and he has a new play SHADOW BOY premiering this September in NY. He, as well as Dee Jae Cox, is exploring gay and lesbian history, how we lived in the past, and how we have arrived where we are now. Let me hear from more of you playwrights about what you are writing about!

Task Force in New York had a reading of BOY A BOY B AFTER A MURDER this summer which was timely as it concerned the two boys that murdered a young boy and are just getting paroled. While not gay-related this play was the winner of the Jane Chambers Playwriting contest.

In August, The Ivy Theatre had a reading of MUSTANG ISLAND, a screenplay by Neil Elliot which concerns a group of aging friends: gay, lesbian and straight as part of West Hollywood's Lesbian Visibility Month.

Playwrights' Kitchen Ensemble did a reading of Victor Bumbalo's WHAT ARE TUESDAYS LIKE? featuring John Glover among others in July 2001 at the Coronet Theatre in Los Angeles.

Love Creek Productions announced its one-act winners for 2000-2001. They are 1st place: J. C. Crook; 2nd place Lawrence Bullock; and honorable mentions to Mark Lowenstein, Bob McKay, Eric Pfeffinger, Michael Phelan, Floyd Reed and Judith Zivanovic. Love Creek is one of the major presenters of one-act plays in the United States. creekread@aol.com

Information about Fran Zell's Lesbian musical LAVENDER ROSE can be obtained from the author at fzell@ecb.state.wi.us or fzell@merr.com

Playwright Jerrold Rabushka received the St. Louis group "Arts For Life" Foundation's special award for unique endeavors in local musical theater for the original score of his musical SOVIET TANGO.

We hear that the reading of Sidney Morris' new play MAD ABOUT THE BOY (a memory play about that "the one that got away") went smashingly in New York in June. For information about this and other Sidney Morris plays contact the playwright at 475 W 57 St., #30D, New York, NY 10019; 212-541-6873.

FirstStage in Hollywood held its 5th annual one-act play contest in July 2001. Winners will be announced November 1, 2001. In honor of his lifetime achievements and dedication to FirstStage as AD, the Board of FirstStage has named their main space, "The Dennis Safren Stage." Bravo Dennis. 323-850-6271.

Australian playwright Steven Dawson has a selection of produced Gay-themed full and one-act plays including BRAD PITT WHY HAVEN'T YOU CALLED?, BIG DICKS ON STAGE, THE WHITE ROSE and more. Details: stevend@sub.net.au; www.sub.net.au/~stevend

Recently G. Bruce Smith award-winning play THE LAST PITCH was staged at the American Renegade Theatre in North Hollywood CA. It chronicles the lives of a father-son pair of pro ball players who face each other in the World Series. playwrights6@aol.com

Center Players in Freehold, NJ is looking for affirming and diverse material. Contact: AD David Sorin, PO Box 289, Freehold NJ 07728; info@centerplayers.org; www.centerplayers.org

We hear that Mark Cannistraro's SourceWorks had a success with its production of short plays under the title HOMOSEXUAL ACTS. One high point of the evening was VIRGIN TANGO penned by our San Francisco columnist Tom W Kelly and another comic entry was THE DORIS DAY COLLECTION by Robert Shaffron.

The Genesis Guild Theatre in NY has a series called The Raw Reading Series. In August they did a new musical THE REBORN AGAIN COWGIRL with book and lyrics by Richard Abernathy and Pat Watkins and music by Werner F. R Abernathy and P. Watkins in Aug. 2001. info@genesiusguild.org

TOURING

The Kinsey Sicks, America's favorite dragapella beautyshop quartet, is on a mini-tour. They are performing in Provincetown from July-Sept. and then open off-Broadway Oct. 10, 2001 at Upstairs at 54, a new performance space in NYC at the legendary Studio 54. 212-239-6200; www.dragapella.com

This is time for PARTY by David Dillon. There are two national tours that may be coming to your town in 2001-02 or close enough to drive or visit. Elephant Productions tour has opened at the Cleveland Public Theatre Aug. 23. www.partyontour.com

Playwright Dillon will be in the cast of the David Syner DS Unlimited tour, and will be opening at The Barn at Cowpokes in New Orleans Sept. 13, 2001. The tour's other cities in 2001-02 include Richmond, Atlanta, Key West, Palm Springs, Las Vegas, Hartford, Washington DC, Milwaukee, Seattle, and Amsterdam. Break A Leg to both of these PARTY companies! www.partyonstage.net

WEB SITES

New York based playwright Barbara Kahn lists a catalogue of her plays and bio: www.barbara-kahn.com

Another interesting site in the United Kingdom is www.pinklinks.co.uk

There is now a Quentin Crisp Archive that covers his books, writings, life and philosophy: www.crisperanto.org

WILDEANA

There was a fine production of THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY at the Knightsbridge Theatre in Los Angeles this summer. A Noise Within California's Classical Theatre Company will be presenting "A Wilde Holiday" Dec. 14-16 with Fairy Tales by Oscar Wilde; 818-240-0910. Naturally, The Oscar Wilde Society in London has much information. You can contact their Secretary, Vanessa Harris at vanessa@salome.co.uk There is also The Oscholars which has an electronic journal at oscholarship@ireland.com

The Purple Circuit is hosting The Oscar Wilde Birthday Celebration again this year as a benefit for The Performing Arts Collection at ONE Institute. The event will take place on Saturday, October 13, 2001 at 3pm in the garden at 909 W. Adams (near the University of Southern California campus). Guests performing include Kevin Rettig, Oscar's niece Dolly Wilde (aka Shoshana Henri), and some surprise guests. Tickets are \$10.00 and include tea and

refreshments as well as tour of the Building's library, archives, museum, and art gallery. Reservations: The Purple Circuit Hotline 818-953-5072.

APPEALS / OPPORTUNITIES

Our sisters at Camp Sister Spirit are asking people in the spirit of Judy and Mickey to come down to Overt, Mississippi and turn their pig barn into a theatre. They also need lighting equipment. They are a 501(c)(3) so if you can't build the theatre, help pay for one or their many other wonderful projects. Contact: Brenda Henson, PO Box 12, Overt, MS 39464; 601-344-1411; sisterspir@aol.com; www.rainbowpriderv.net/css

Thomas Klocke is starting an Experimental Theatre and Performance Art Venue based out of the Lawrence Community Theatre. He is a playwright. He wants the opportunity to create with other playwrights and then have a place to perform their work. He's seeking playwrights who have no fear of the most Experimental work in the broadest sense of that term. Story lines are not necessary. Surrealism and the absurd are great areas of exploration. In addition to playwrights, he's looking for an individual who has the ability to do technical work and scheduling in a multi-use facility. This would be a great opportunity for a theatre or grad student to learn the business. Contact: Thomas Klocke: 785-368-6544; tomokansas@aol.com

A.S.K. Theater Projects in Los Angeles offers Fall Labs, and has other programs of interest to playwrights, composers and performers and Performing Companies and audiences with workshops, New Play Weekends as well as the Common Ground Festival June 18-23, 2002. Deadlines approach so contact them at 310-478-9ASK; www.askplay.org

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Hotline: 818-953-5072
purplecir@aol.com
www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation

The 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 short story competition for 2001 with cash awards of \$1000. Closing date for submissions is November 30, 2001. For production or writing guidelines send a SASE to:

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

Guidelines are also on the Web site:

www.aabbfoundation.org

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