

# On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

Volume 10, Number 4

THE DAVID KING / OUT PRODUCTIONS ISSUE

## WELCOME TO ON THE PURPLE CIRCUIT!

The Purple Circuit exists to promote and celebrate GLQBT theatre and performance throughout the world. We continue to need your support for our work so please subscribe or renew your subscription today by sending a check payable to "Bill Kaiser" at \$20/year or whatever you can afford. Artists comp subs are available too. Our expanded web edition is available at [www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html](http://www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html)

To save costs for us, we can put you on our email notification list so that when a new issue is put on the Web site you will know. Also we add news or opportunities to the site as they happen so check it out regularly.

I need to correct an error from the last issue of OTPC. The honoree of that issue is correctly named JILL TOGAWA. The Purple Circuit wishes Jill and The Purple Moon Dance Project continued success. You can reach them in San Francisco at 415-552-1105; [www.purplemoondance.org](http://www.purplemoondance.org)

With this issue we are honoring David King and OUT Productions / Les Productions OUT in Montreal. OUT Productions was co-founded by David in 1996 to enhance gay and lesbian culture. David recently visited The Purple Circuit and other arts organizations in LA eager to forge links between theatres and people of The Purple Circuit in the US and those of Quebec and Canada. I am looking forward to hearing about the work of our friends to the north in upcoming issues of OTPC and to highlight their achievements.

In addition to establishing his own bilingual GL theatre in Montreal, David has also created The Pink Network to connect PC theatres across Canada. This is a fantastic idea that could be repeated in other countries or regions so that GLQBT theatres and individuals would not be so isolated and could support each other. I believe we could all benefit from communication and the exchange of information. I salute David King and the people of OUT Productions. The Pink Network can be reached at [www.out.ca](http://www.out.ca), as can OUT Productions whose email is in @out.ca.

A devastating byproduct of the September tragedy has been the decline in attendance at performing arts events and in financial support of them. I continue to believe that we must preserve and support GLQBT culture more than ever. The use of fear to erode our civil liberties and all the gains of the peace, justice, and human rights movements must not prevail. Our culture has always been vulnerable to attack from the right so be vigilant as artists are to any hidden or not so hidden agenda that our enemies are trying to push through. Please go to shows and give our GLQBT arts organizations all the help you can.

Frank Barnhart tells me interest is growing for the Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival for next September in Columbus Ohio. PC theatres and individual performers will be there and many of us should plan to attend. I am thinking of hosting a Purple Circuit reception during the Festival so many of us can meet and network. For information on the Festival contact 614-263-9448; [fabact1@aol.com](mailto:fabact1@aol.com); [www.geocities.com/actoutproductions](http://www.geocities.com/actoutproductions)

With this issue we welcome Michael Van Kerckhove, a Chicago playwright who has volunteered to take over Chicago Scene column since Howard Casner has joined us in Hollywood. Thanks Howard for all your years of writing for OTPC. We also have our columns from San Francisco, New York, Minneapolis, and Entertainment news. In this issue we also have a poem by Eliza Amadea Sultan about her neighbor Robert Patrick and his poetic reply. I am so overwhelmed by all the material this time that some will have to be part of the first issue of 2002.

Also I received an email letter from Michael H. Arve about a show he had seen and thought PC should know about. That got me to thinking that I appreciate your input so if people send letters or recommendations we will try to fit them in our Web site edition if not the published one.

Thanks to Jim Russell, Demian, and Sally Barron for making this issue happen. Also, to our columnists Tom W. Kelly, Nathaniel Grey, Tom O'Neil, Steven LaVigne, and Michael Van Kerckhove. Thanks also to Michael H. Arve, Sue Hamilton, Linda Eisenstein, David King, Eliza Amadea Sultan, Robert Patrick, Eric Bentley, Ellie Covan, Jill Togawa and Purple Moon Dance Project, Caryn Horowitz, Jason Stuart and all the Theatres and Publicists who furnished material for this issue.

I had hoped to have the updated edition of The Purple Circuit Directory of Venues ready in October 2001, but with everything that is going on it has been delayed as there are a number of new theatres I need to contact. I hope to have it ready in the first quarter of 2002. I realize the edition online is outdated. If you wish a copy sent to you when it is ready send a SASE (64 cents) and a contribution payable to "Bill Kaiser."

**From all of us at The Purple Circuit  
I wish you a Fabulous Holiday Season  
and a Most Creative and Artistic 2002,**

**Bill Kaiser, editor**

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## ON THE BOARDS

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

**\*After Dark** by Steve Kluger, a raunchy comedy concerning the coming together and coming apart of a gay couple, Actors Theatre, Washington DC, Opened Oct. 2001.

**Always a Part of Me** by Jeffrey Kin, a world premiere of a comedy with issues as five men gather for the reading of their former lover's will, Richmond Triangle Players, Richmond, Nov.-Dec. 2001.

**Annie Sprinkle's Herstory of Porn** with Annie Sprinkle, Vortex Repertory, Austin, Sept. 2001.

**Beds, Boys & Beyond** a new musical revue, a witty and tuneful look at gay life with music by Alfredo Alvarez with book and lyrics by Jeff Dobbins, produced by Leigh McLeod Fortier at Hudson Avenue Theatre, Hollywood, July-Aug. 2001.

**Boy Meets Boy**, the classic hit musical, with music and lyrics by Bill Solly and book by Donald Ward, Theatre New West, Houston, Sept.-Nov. 2001.

**The Boys in the Band** by Mart Crowley, Diversionsary Theatre, San Diego, Aug.-Sept. 2001.

**\*The Break Up Notebook** by Patricia Cotter, a new Lesbian comedy, a hilarious play for anyone who has ever been dumped!, directed by Sue Hamilton at The Village at Ed Gould Plaza, Hollywood, Aug.-Sept. 2001.

**Caprice** by Charles Ludlum, a hilarious ridiculous look at the fashion world and human foibles, Sacred Fools Theatre, Hollywood, Oct.-Nov. 2001.

**Cinderella: A Hip-Hop Tale of an Illegal Alien** by Czarina Mirani, celebrating women in all their many talents, Bailiwick, Chicago, Oct.-Nov. 2001.

**Citizen Reno** with Reno, an energetic and thought-provoking evening of "investigative comedy," Howie Baggadonutz Presents at The Echo Theatre, Portland, Sept. 2001.

**Clothes Minded?** created by 300 GLTB and straight youth and 12 artists including Tim Miller, Monica Palacios, Chris Wells, Jennifer Miller, and Bernardo and Paula Weston Solano, a deconstruction of TEEN magazine as 21 century youth confront bigotry and homophobia, Highways, Sept. 2001.

**\*Cloud 9** by Caryl Churchill, Diversionsary Theatre, San Diego, opens Mar. 30, 2002; 619-220-0097.

**Co-Dependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same** by Madeleine Olnek, takes on the 1950s sci-fi B-movies, Lesbian potboilers and pop-psychology, Theatre Rhinoceros, Oct. 2001 (with a 10-minute curtain-raiser The Jewish Nun).

**Corpus Christi** by Terrence McNally, Act Out Productions, Columbus, Oct-Nov, 2001, & SNAP! Omaha, Nov.-Dec. 2001.

**Cowboy Logic** by Jerrold Rabushka, a story of romance and rodeo and two of the characters are gay, Theatre at St. John's, St. Louis, Nov. 2001.

**\*The Crumple Zone** by Buddy Thomas, a hilarious, dark, fast-paced comedy about three gay roommates coming to crisis during one frantic Xmas weekend, directed by Stephen Rupsch, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened Nov. 10, 2001; 415-861-8972.

**The Dead Boy** by Joe Pintauro, based on a scandal that rocked the Catholic Church and starring Stephen Nichols and Travis Michael Holder, Laurelgrove Theatre, Studio City CA, Aug.-Oct. 2001.

**The Dina Martina Holiday Show** with Dina Martina, a one-woman "Circus Of The Stars," Howie Baggadonutz Presents, Portland, Nov. 2001.

**\*The Dying Gaul** by Craig Lucas, Lambda Players, Sacramento, Sept.-Oct. 2001.

**Edge** by Miriam Kronberg, play-in-progress examines the survival strategies of teenage girls and women on the borderlines of patriarchal, capitalist society, Jon Sims Center, San Francisco, Oct. 2001.

**An Evening with Beatrice Lillie** with Layne Littlepage, an evening based on the life of the legendary comedienne, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, Sept.-Oct. 2001.

**Fabulous Ride into the Unknown** with Bruce Ward, chronicles the lives of 10 men in NYC during the 1980s, was part of the Circle East Festival, 42<sup>nd</sup> St. Theater, NYC, Nov. 26, 2001.

**\*Falling Upward! Or to Eire is Human, to Forbid Divine** by Ray Bradbury, the pub locals in Kilcock find they have a lot in common with some exotic fellows from Taormina, Theatre West, Los Angeles, Sept.-Oct. 2001 & reopened Falcon Theatre, Burbank, Nov. 30, 2001; 818-955-8101.

**\*Family Matters** by Craig Acosta Rowe, a compelling portrait of a contemporary working-class Latino family, Jon Sims Center, San Francisco, Dec. 8-16, 2001; 415-554-0402.

**\*A Few Gay Men** by Ronnie Larsen, true stories about sex, love, and life, Zephyr Theatre, Hollywood, opened Dec. 2001; 866-468-3399.

**First Date** by Michael Conley, one of the four one-acts in his MEN ABOUT TOWN, 6 @ Penn, San Diego, Sept.-Oct. 2001.

**Five Endings** by Michael Conley, The Fault Line Theatre, San Diego, Sept.-Oct. 2001.

**\*The Gertrude Stein Project**, created by Aresis Ensemble from the stories of Gertrude Stein, The City Garage, Santa Monica, opened Nov. 8, 2001; 310-319-9939.

**\*Girl Meets Girl** by Craig Fox and Sally Stover, follows the lives of six women searching for love and sex in the new millennium, Phoenix Theatre, Denver, produced by Varyn Horowitz and Jay H. Harris, opened Oct. 4, 2001; 866-468-7621; [ticketweb.com](http://ticketweb.com)

**\*Glory Box** with Tim Miller, a funny, sexy, charged piece about same-sex marriage and the fight for binational same sex couples to stay together fighting US immigration laws, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland, Oct. 2001, and touring around the country and beyond.

**Gross Indecency: the Three Trials of Oscar Wilde** by Moises Kaufman, Alliance Repertory, Bound Brook, NJ, Nov. 2001.

**\*Hedwig and the Angry Inch** with text by John Cameron Mitchell and lyrics by Stephen Trask, Outward Spiral, Minneapolis, opening Feb. 12, 2002, tickets now available at 612-343-3390, or [www.theatreworks.com](http://www.theatreworks.com)

**\*Hotel Bethlem!** by Tim Bryant and Tom W Kelly, an over the top holiday farce, EXIT, San Francisco, opened Nov. 30, 2001. 415-863-7707.

**\*Incognito** by Michael Fosberg, a search for a father turns up a lot more, Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, opened Oct. 18, 2001; 773-883-1090 or [www.bailiwick.org](http://www.bailiwick.org)

**Intersextions** by Charna Cassell, working in a sex toy store and talking with people about their needs, Jon Sims Center, San Francisco, Oct. 2001.

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

\***Jeffrey** by Paul Rudnick, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, opens Dec. 8, 2001. 619-220-0097.

**June Bride** with Sara Felder, a fabulous tale of a Lesbian wedding and juggling, Skirball Cultural Center, LA, Nov. 2001.

**Kiss of the Spiderwoman** by Manuel Puig, Rude Guerrilla Theater Company, Santa Ana, CA, Sept.-Oct. 2001.

\***A Lady and a Woman** by Shirlene Holmes, a charming, funny love story of two African American women in 1880's South, Lambda Players, Sacramento, opens Jan. 25, 2002; 916-366-3904.

**Lady Macbeth** adapted from Shakespeare by Joseph P. Stachura, featured women as Macbeth and Lady Macbeth as well as other warriors featured Karisten Davidson, Shari Shattuck and Shoshana "Dolly Wilde" Henri, Knightsbridge Theatre, Los Angeles, Sept.-Oct. 2001.

\***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, July-Aug. 2001.

\***The Last Session** with book by Jim Brochu and music and lyrics by Steve Schalchlin and additional lyrics by John Bettis and Marie Cain, a PWA songwriter is making a final album for his life partner to record his last will and testament- a suicide note in music, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened Oct. 27, 2001; 415-861-8972 or [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com)

\***Legion** by Hal Corley, life changing moments when two married men discover each other and a secret legion of husbands, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opens Jan. 23, 2002; 415-861-8972.

\***Lonely Planet** by Steven Dietz, the story of an isolated map store owner and a young jack of all trades, The Village, Hollywood, opens Jan. 18, 2002; 323-860-7300.

**Looking for God** by Stanley Bennett Clay, a musical drama about a young black AIDS orphan who feels abandoned by God has his life changed forever, Stage 52 Theatre, LA, Nov. 26-Dec. 2, 2001.

**Lot's Daughters** by Rebecca Basham, two young Kentucky girls form a friendship that deepens into love in 1944, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, Oct.-Nov. 2001.

\***Love in a Cubicle** by Steven Dawson, two schoolboys fall in love and years later catch up by accident during a hilarious night at a sex club, Mechanics Institute Performing Arts Centre, Melbourne, opens Jan. 10, 2002; 9305 5333 or Ticketek 132 849

**Moscow** with book and lyrics by Nick Salmone and music by Maury R McIntyre, a fascinating tale of three gay men trapped in a Satre-esque existence doomed to rehearse Chekhov's THREE SISTERS forever!, Playwrights' Arena, Los Angeles after a triumph at Edinburgh Fringe, Sept.- Oct. 2001.

\***The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told** by Paul Rudnick, Theatre New West, Houston, opened Dec. 7, 2001; 713-394-0464.

\***My Night with Reg** by Kevin Elyot, the tour-de-force London hit, Knightsbridge Theatre, Los Angeles, reopened Nov. 16, 2001; 626-440-0821.

\***The Mystery of Irma Vep** by Charles Ludlam, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco opens Jan 19, 2002; 415-861-8972.

\***Naked Boys Singing** created by Robert Schrock, the musical revue sensation, extended at Bailiwick, Chicago, 773-883-1090, still running at Actors Playhouse in NYC, opened in London, and more productions planned worldwide!

\***Never The Sinner** by John Logan, a retelling of the infamous murderers Leopold and Loeb story, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, opens Feb. 8, 2002; 619-220-0097.

\***A New Brain** with music and lyrics by William Finn and book by James Lapine and William Finn, an excellent production, West Coast Ensemble, Hollywood, opened Sept. 7, 2001; 323-876-9337.

**Nude Boys Prancing About** by Robert Coles, nudity, adult situations and plenty of laughs, Vortex Theater Company, NYC, Aug.-Sept. 2001.

\***Party** by David Dillon, Cowpokes Theatre, New Orleans, Sept. 2001, & on tour.

\***Pinafore** adapted by Mark Savage from Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, hilarious hit about the gay navy stationed in Palm Springs!, Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles, opened Sept. 7, 2001; 310-289-2999.

**Portrait of a Sissy** with David DeBlicke, the Honolulu performance artist explores cross-dressing, his first sexual encounter and his adult experiences in the Catholic Church, CSPA, Cedar Rapids, Oct. 2001.

**Post-Matinee Tristesse** by Felix Racelis, a delightful ten minute play skewering the Dec-May romance of an erudite professor for a delectable youth, part of A La Carte, eight ten minute plays, Tamarind Theatre, Hollywood, Oct.-Nov. 2001.

\***A Queer Carol** by Joe Godfrey, a resetting of the Dickens classic to a group of gay men in contemporary Manhattan, The Duplex, NYC, opens Dec. 6, 2001; 212-206-1515 or [www.smarttix.com](http://www.smarttix.com)

\***The Ritz** by Terrence McNally, Lambda Players, Sacramento opens Mar 22, 2002; 916-366-3904; & New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opens May 25, 2002; 415-861-8972.

\***Rob Nash Does Romeo and Juliet**, a one-man world premiere work in progress with Rob Nash, The Vortex, Austin, opens Dec. 14, 2001; 512-478-5282.

\***Robert's Rules of Ardor**, four one-acts by the fabulous Robert Patrick: Evan On Earth, Pouf Positive, Sitcom, and Fog, The Great Beast Theater, Chicago, opened Nov. 19, 2001; 312-409-1887.

**The Second Coming of Joan of Arc** by and in this case with Carolyn Gage, an interpretation where Joan is a teenaged, runaway butch who shares her passionate and radical perspective with contemporary audiences, Conn Artist Performance Event at Provincetown Inn, Provincetown, Oct. 2001.

**Shadow Boy** by David Gaard, gay underground world of roaring 20s NYC through the eyes of a gay factory worker, Flamboyant Theatre, NYC, Sept. 2001.

\***Shakespeare's R & J** by Joe Calarco, four young prep students read Romeo and Juliet and get swept away with the story and its parallels to their lives, Act Out Productions, Columbus, Oct. 2001 & New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opens May 4, 2002; 415-861-8972.

**Sherlock Holmes and the Purple Prince** by Dale Guzman, a naughty Victorian comedy thriller with the Baker St. sleuth hired by Oscar Wilde to solve a murder at a gay brothel, Off The Wall Productions, Milwaukee, Nov. 2001.



**Sirena: Queen of the Tango** by Guillermo Reyes, a campy noire play in three fabulous adventures, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, Sept.-Oct. 2001.

**\*Something Cloudy, Something Clear** by Tennessee Williams, Daylight Zone, Philadelphia, opened Nov. 30, 2001; 215-336-1482.

**A Song at Twilight** by Noel Coward, SNAP! Productions, Omaha, Sept. 2001.

**\*Spanked** with Aaron Hartzler and Ian MacKinnon, exploring being boyfriends in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Highways, Santa Monica, Feb. 8-16, 2002; 310-315-1459.

**Stop Kiss** by Diana Son, two women who surprise each other by falling in love, Red Hen Productions, Cleveland, Sept. 2001.

**\*Strip/Tease** by Neil Weaver, bold erotic stuff, Hudson Guild Theatre, Hollywood, opened Oct. 11, 2001; 323-692-8059.

**The Sum of Us** by David Stevens, Long Beach Playhouse, Long Beach CA, July-Aug. 2001 & Zephyr Theatre, Los Angeles, Oct.-Nov. 2001.

**Taken In** by John W. Lowell, the story of a young hustler befriended by a middle-aged man having trouble relating to the men in his life, Richmond Triangle Players, Richmond, Sept.-Oct. 2001.

**Taming of the Shrew** an adaptation of the Shakespeare classic starring Ronnie Larsen as Kate, Globe Playhouse, West Hollywood, Sept.-Oct. 2001.

**Tongue and Trigger** by Cara judea Alhadeff and Nicole Sumner, a visual and vocal investigation into the landscapes of the body, Jon Sims Center, San Francisco, Oct. 2001.

**\*Trolls** by Bill Dyer and Dick DeBenedictis, a musical about gay men throwing a memorial bash for a friend who's there in spirit, Coast Playhouse, West Hollywood, opened Dec. 1, 2001; 323-655-8587.

**Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love** by Brad Fraser, ARK Theatre, North Hollywood CA, Sept.-Oct. 2001.

**Varla Jean Merman is All Washed Up**, with Jeffrey Robinson, The Village, Hollywood, opened Nov.-Dec. 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.

**\*Well of Horniness** by Holly Hughes, Lambda Players, Sacramento, opens June 21, 2002; 916-366-3904.

**Xanadu Live** adapted by Kenny Williams, the cult classic on stage, Gascon Center Theatre, Culver City CA, Oct.-Nov. 2001.

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**THEATRE BITS**

by Bill Kaiser

**Anchorage:** Our friends at Out North continue to bring diversity to Alaska. Their current season includes British dancer Wendy Houston in Oct. A Fest of Alaskan Artists in short "Under 30" pieces in Jan. 2002, Guillermo Gomez-Pena in "Brownout: Border Pulp Stories" in Feb and Rhodessa Jones in "Hot Flashes, Power Surges and Private Summers" in Mar. [www.outnorth.org](http://www.outnorth.org)

**Austin:** Vortex Repertory Company held its Fire and Brimstone Awards and fundraiser in Sept. They also presented the world premiere of THE DELUGE by Kirk Smith, a retelling of Noah and the flood in Sept. 2001. Vortex held The 1st Annual Vortex Promenade on Dec. 8, 2001 with food and dancing and much more. [www.vortexrep.org](http://www.vortexrep.org)

**Brooklyn:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange continues to be quite active. An open house was held in early Sept. On Nov. 1, 2001 they held their first annual BAXten Arts and Artists In Progress Awards. Among the awardees was Peggy Shaw and presenters included Ellie Covan, Executive Director from Dixon Place. Peggy Shaw of Split Britches Theater Company also conducted a writing workshop at BAX in Nov. In Dec. "Women Hitting The Wall: Stories from the Dance World" sponsored by The Gender Project. 718-832-0018.

**Chicago:** Dec. 1 and 2 Bailiwick held the Winter All Girl Review featuring Lesbians who sing, dance, act, perform the spoken word and tell a joke or two. All to raise money for Bailiwick's Lesbian Theatre Initiative. The Review was directed by Kelli Strickland. Coming up in Feb. 2002 will be Winterfest, an expansion of their Director's Festival which features the talents of up and coming directors. Winterfest is coordinated by Jason Palmer. 773-883-1090; [www.bailiwick.org](http://www.bailiwick.org)

**Durham:** Manbites Dog presented BREAST-TAKING, a performance of theatre-dance by breast cancer survivors and daughters of survivors in Nov, 2001 as part of their Other Voices series. Shakespeare Originals presented CYMBELINE, a postmodern fairy tale at Manbites Dog in Oct. 2001. 919-682-3343; [www.manbitesdogtheater.org](http://www.manbitesdogtheater.org)

**Glasgow:** Glasgay! 2001: A Very Beautiful Thing happened Oct. 26-Nov. 4, 2001 in venues throughout the city. A Festival of theatre, music, comedy, visual art, film, literature and performance art, there were over forty events. Truly a great World community festival. Check out [www.glasgay.com.uk](http://www.glasgay.com.uk) Kudos to all involved!

**Los Angeles:** Much has happened in the last quarter. ONE Institute presented 5 events in Oct. during Gay and Lesbian History Month including a lively event on Gay Theatre hosted by Michael Kearns with a panel of 5 LA based playwrights including Victor Bumbalo, Tom Jacobson, Ronnie Larsen, Nick Salamone, and Kearns with scenes from their works performed. The month began with a special exhibit on The Gay Presses of New York with materials provided by author Felice Picano. In late August a launch party for David Dillon and the PARTY tour was held in West Hollywood. Their first venue was New Orleans.

A.S.K. Theatre Projects presented readings of seven new plays during their New Plays Weekend 2001. The plays included MAYHEM by Kelly Stuart, PARASITES by Marious von Mayenburg, THE GIBSON GIRL by Kirsten Greenidge, MAP OF HEAVEN by Michele Lowe, RAREE by KC Davis, BIG DEATH & LITTLE DEATH by Mickey Birnbaum and KATE CRACKERNUTS by Sheila Callaghan. 310-478-9ask; [www.askplay.org](http://www.askplay.org)

A big highlight in Nov. was a tribute to Jerry Herman as a benefit for The Actors Fund. Produced by Michael Kearns and Harry Prongue, it was directed by David Galligan with musical direction by Ron Abel and featured many celebrities including Angela Lansbury, Sam Harris, Rod McKuen and many more. The Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company did a production of THE WINTER'S TALE at the 24<sup>th</sup> St. Theatre in Oct. 2001. The Blue Sphere Alliance presented their fifth Solos In Harmony: Fact Or Fiction? in Oct.-Nov. 2001. Several of the pieces apparently had PC content.

The AIDS History Project at ONE Institute & Archives remembered World AIDS Day with a special exhibit opening on Dec. 1 about early AIDS history in Los Angeles as well as in the performing arts. On Dec. 2, Michael Kearns and Dale Raoul who were founders of Artists Confronting AIDS and author Mark Thompson read from their own, and James Carroll Pickett's works. Bells were Curator Lee Mentley's theme: ringing them out for remembering our fallen comrades and for continued AIDS awareness. 213-741-0094 [www.oneinstitute.org](http://www.oneinstitute.org)

An Intimate Evening with Lainie Kazan will happen at The Village Jan. 11-13, 2002, 323-860-7300.

**New York:** Varla Jean Merman will be giving the city a special holiday gift Dec. 17, 2001 when she will be appearing in Concert at Town Hall with the Kinsey Sicks and many other talented folk. Don't miss it!

At P.S. 122, Canadian playwright Daniel MacIvor's piece INONIT with Daniel MacIvor and Darren O'Donnell was performed in Sept.-Oct. 2001. 212-77-5288; [www.ps122.org](http://www.ps122.org)

Much happened at Dixon Place this Fall with a transgender performance by Berlin's Bridge Markland, Homotext, lesbian and gay literature curated by Pamela S. Booker, The Second Festival of New Musical Works for the Theatre, "Warning Not For Broadway 2" Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2001, and more. From The Ashes, artists' reflections on the recent tragedy was held at C.U.A.N.D.O, a former arts center at 9 Second Ave. slated for demolition. Arts for Arts, Dixon Place and others hosted a remarkable amount of creativity Oct. 13-Nov. 4, 2001.

Other gay and lesbian events at Dixon Place in Dec. 2001 include Cavum Gloriosum, a sensuous examination of a bodily organ with Nicolas Dumit Estevez, Performance Mix curated by Karen Bernard, which features Sigal Bergman, Audrey Kindred, Julie Ludwick, Tory Vasquez, Sarah Williams and Jackie Gallant; Homotext with Rafael Campo and Yvette Christianse; Brandon Olson, Jonathan Wooster and Unwrapped, Scotty Bunny's Antichristmas Show. 212-532-1546; [www.dixonplace.org](http://www.dixonplace.org)

**Omaha:** The Shelterskelter 6 from Shelterbelt Theatre presented 9 chilling one-act plays in Oct. 2001 including one by Howard Casner.

**Ovett MS:** Lots of events at Camp Sister Spirit helping their neighbors and community and gatherings of Dykes, and others. Brenda Henson reminded me that they still need some special volunteers to create a Theatre for them in a pig barn? Surely with our history making shows and places happen some Women (or Men) will want to go down to Mississippi and do this — Radical Faeries? Members of The Purple Circuit, a project for 2002? If you can send money or supplies to Camp Sister Spirit, PO Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464; sisterspir@aol.com; 601-344-1411; [www.rainbowpridev.net/css](http://www.rainbowpridev.net/css)

**San Antonio:** The City Council awarded a \$550,000 payment to the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center and two arts groups under its umbrella the San Antonio Lesbian and Gay Media Project and VaN. The City had stripped the organization of funding after a campaign by the Christian

right but a federal judge ruled that the First Amendments rights of the organization were violated. Kudos to Esperanza!

**San Diego:** Diversionsary Theatre has been named as the Best Performing Arts Company in San Diego by [sigonsandiego.com](http://sigonsandiego.com) (the Union-Tribute Web site. Congratulations to AD Chuck Zito and the people at Diversionsary!

**San Francisco:** Jon Sims Center for the Arts presented a lecture on Falling In Love and The Movies by Prof. Daniel Contreras starting from Kiss Of The Spiderwoman in Oct. 2001. Queeruption gathering happened Oct. 4-8, 2001 in the city and East Bay. The Queer gathering was to bring people from all over the world to share ideas and strategies about activism, social change, and the arts. [www.queeruption.org](http://www.queeruption.org)

Kaliyuga Arts in Sept. 2001 presented THE PILGRIM PROJECT conceived by John Sowle, scripted by Dan Carbone, and featuring actor Steven Patterson and others. THE PROJECT explodes the myths surrounding the Mayflower Pilgrims and the Native Americans they encountered. The event was part of the SF Fringe Festival 2001.

Lily Tomlin donated 100 tickets to her show THE SEARCH FOR INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE to support Theatre Rhinoceros, in Sept. 2001, according to Rhino AD Doug Holsclaw. Theatre Rhinoceros also presented its traditional readings by Robert Coffman of Truman Capote's A Thanksgiving Visitor on Nov. 19 and A Christmas Memory on Dec. 10, 2001.

The New Conservatory Theatre Center opened its Concert series Nov. 3-Dec. 2, 2001 with TAPISTRY featuring the songs of Carole King. NCTC presented A Conversation With Lily Tomlin to benefit their Youth Awareness Educational Theatre Program. Lily's show THE SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE by Jane Wagner has been extended through Dec. 31, 2001 at Theatre on The Square. 415-861-8972; [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)

The Richmond / Ermet AIDS Foundation presented Help Is On The Way For The Holidays III at The Palace Of Fine Arts Theater on Dec. 3, 2001 with any all-star cast including Bonnie and John Raitt, Jo Anne Worley, Holly Near, and more. [www.helpisontheway.org](http://www.helpisontheway.org)

**Santa Monica:** Highways remembered World AIDS Day, Dec. 1 with stories read by Danielle Brazell, Le Van D. Hawkins, Michael Kearns, Tim Miller and others from the recently refurbished Highways Memorial AIDS Floor. 310-315-1459 or [www.highwaysperformance.org](http://www.highwaysperformance.org)

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**CHICAGO SCENE**  
by Michael Van Kerckhove

Poetic Eclipse. Eclipse Theatre Company continued their single playwright season in August with Romulus Linney's Childe Byron about the life and affairs—with both women and men—of poet Lord Byron. The always-wonderful Jenny McKnight played Ada, Byron's daughter. Eclipses's often color blind casting gave the role of Byron to Anish Jethmalani, giving an exotic layer to the show's poetry and romance.

Past Eclipse seasons have included Jean Cocteau, Tennessee Williams, and Lillian Hellman.

Out of the Box is the title of About Face Theatre's 7<sup>th</sup> season. They've always prided themselves in pushing boundaries. In a piece from Footlights magazine, co-founder Kyle Hall, said, "What we're trying to do is look at the gay and lesbian experience as a way of viewing the human experience." This season aims to view that experience with a more cutting edge approach, combining various performance forms into the mix. The season kicked off with Undone, a world premiere original music theatre piece built around the poetry of cin salech, who also performs. Performance art, poetry, movement, and a Rent-ish number or two, this piece "celebrates an awakening to uncharted sexuality and creativity." Windy City Times raved. The Chicago Reader wasn't as thrilled. I found it wonderful — the imagery, voices, the bit about sin, once thinking that she was secretly Jesus. A friend wanted to know "how much ensemble member Paul Oakley Stovall would charge to come over and sing him to sleep?"

About Face received an After Dark Award (presented by Gay Chicago Magazine on Oct. 8) for Outstanding Production for the last season's Midwest premiere of Neil LaBute's Bash: Latter-day Plays.

Khakis are Out. Skin is In. Bailiwick Repertory's (featuring Ulysses Theatre Company) extended run of Terrance McNally's Corpus Christi said its final prayers Oct. 14. The production received an After Dark Award for Best Direction (Stephen Rader). It shares the Outstanding Ensemble award with their production of Something Cloudy, Something Clear, Tennessee Williams' final play.

In the mean time, their "hot theatrical attraction" Naked Boys Singing enjoys continued success. It (like, dare I say, more than one audience member) has been extended through December.

This fall Bailiwick also presents Incognito, Michael Fosberg's solo show that details his search for his biological father.

Tiff's Back. Tiff and Mom (Robert Bouwman and Todd Shaner), Chicago's premiere mother-daughter comedy drag act return to the Conservatory for Tales from Mom's Crypt V: Escape from Tiff's Mouthful, their annual Halloween romp. This year's well-reviewed revue combines campy fun and music (including "Snow White Cheddar" where Tiff is dissed by gangsta dwarves) and more serious, yet terrifying, pieces. Tiff and Mom were once upon-a-time a regular part of Corn's repertoire, so it's cool to be able to catch up with their bawdy antics at least once a year.

Corn also has been enjoying much success with their hit take on cultural dance shows, FLOSS! The Beboian Arts Group has sent dancers to present their people's history in order to raise funds to save their sinking island home. Since premiering in August 2000 (perhaps making it the Cats of Lincoln Avenue—or not), several gay Beboians have made an appearance making for an even more exciting cultural exchange.

Sweet Bird of ... Corn's former roommate (at the now-torn-down-and-turned-into-condos SweetCorn Playhouse) Sweetback Productions presents its "feminist drag

deconstruction" of Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds. And it's a musical too!

Matthew's Next. Next Theatre Company in Evanston prepares for the Chicago premiere of Moises Kaufman's The Laramie Project, the story of Matthew Shepard. In an interview with Windy City Times, director Kate Buckley emphasized the play's relevance in a post-11th world. "[It] is not about hate crime, but about how we deal with tragedy that touches home: Columbine, Waco, NY, DC—it's about how we respond to tragedy ... Hate is one of the causes of the tragedy but what the play speaks to is its effect." Another Midwest production was presented in September by my alma mater, Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

Thanks and see ya next time.

[Michael Van Kerckhove is a native of Detroit. At Western Michigan University his comedies PENELOPE'S PENCIL SHARPENER and HALF SHELF LIFE were produced. Living now in Chicago, he is a current Network Playwright with Chicago Dramatists where his play, THE EULOGY STALKER will receive a Saturday Series reading in winter, 2002. He is a founding member of The Living Room Project, a new playwright's group. He was awarded a 2001 Finalist Award Grant from Illinois Arts Council and is a member of The Dramatists Guild]

## A CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE

Entertainment News

by Nahaniel Grey

- How does one find a connection between drag nuns and Oscar Wilde? Follow the career of director **Oliver Parker** who directed the 1990 comedy "Nuns on the Run" to his next film "The Importance of Being Earnest." This latest adaptation of **Oscar Wilde's** work is scheduled to reach US shores next June and features **Rupert Everett** as Algernon. Other cast members include **Colin Firth** (Valmont), **Reese Witherspoon** (Cruel Intentions) and **Dame Judi Dench** (Tea With Mussolini).
- Everett fans can catch the sexy actor in director **P.J. Hogan's** (My Best Friend's Wedding) latest project, "Who Shot Victor Fox." The story follows a woman, **Kathy Bates**, who befriends the lover of a murdered celebrity played by **Jonathan Pryce** (Carrington). Also in the cast are **Lynn Redgrave** (Gods and Monsters), **Stephanie Beacham** (The Colbys) and Everett as the lover. (Carrington). Although the cast takes an almost Fellini-esque tone with cameos by **Julie Andrews**, **Barry Manilow** and **Sally Jessy Raphael**. I NEVER miss a Sally Jessy Raphael movie.
- Emmy Award winner, **Eddie Izzard** will be replacing **Clive Owen** in "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" when the dark comedy transfers to London's Comedy Theatre on Dec. 5. Izzard takes on the role of Bri, the father of a mentally handicapped child. Izzard's role as a drag queen in "All The Queen's Men" opened in Germany in November and should reach the US next year. Izzard's character teaches American GI's, including "Friends" star **Matt LeBlanc**, how to dress like women, in order to infiltrate a Nazi factory during WWII.
- Other news from the Rhineland. November brought the German premiere of a new stage musical on the life of **Princes Diana** called "Lady Di - Das Musical," which is convenient so Americans won't confuse it with "Das Boot"



the shoe? So if you're anywhere near the city of Saarbrücken, get in line for your tickets.

- **Jude Law** (Wilde) will star in a new adaptation of the Jekyll & Hyde story directed by **David Mamet**. Titled "Diary of a Young London Physician," the film is scheduled to begin production this Spring. Law has signed to play William Shakespeare in the **John Maybury** (Love is the Devil) motion picture "Marlowe." The story has playwright, Marlowe, falling on Queen Elizabeth's bad side and discovering William Shakespeare pilfering his work.

- The long awaited movie version of the Tony-winning musical "Chicago" is heading into production Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. While past rumored casts have included names like **Madonna**, **Shirley Maclaine** and **Rosie O'Donnell**, the final ensemble strays far from those rumor mills. Confirmed to date are **Renée Zellweger**, **Catherine Zeta-Jones** and **Richard Gere** who will likely be joined by **Queen Latifah** as prison head Mama Morton and **Christine Baranski** as reporter Mary Sunshine.

- In case you missed the recent list in American Theatre Magazine, the top ten list of most produced plays in the USA for the 2001-2002 season include "The Laramie Project" and "Dirty Blonde."

- The ill-timed Canadian Film festival premiere of the independent bio-film "Pinero" was canceled on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. 25 minutes into the screening, the film's writer-director **Leon Ichaso** halted the showing, in the wake of cancellation for all other festival activities for that tragic day. "Pinero" is the life story of poet, actor & playwright **Miguel Pinero**, who was best known for his 1974 Tony nominated work "Short Eyes." The picture stars **Benjamin Bratt**, in the title role who took over for **John Leguizamo** due to a scheduling conflict. Others in the ensemble include **Giancarlo Esposito** (Homicide), **Rita Moreno** (Oz) as his mother and **Mandy Patinkin** as Joseph Papp. The film will be in limited release as of December 7<sup>th</sup>.

- While under doctor's orders, **Nathan Lane** has shortened his performances in the Tony Award winning "The Producers" from 8-to-6 times a week. Fortunately he's already recorded his lines as the voice of the sarcastic cat Snowbell in "Stuart Little 2."

- The Tony Award nominated comedy, "Dirty Blonde," which focuses on the life of **Mae West**, begins a 20-week national tour on Dec. 12. The project, originally conceived by writer and star **Claudia Shear** and director **James Lapine**, begins the first leg of its tour at DC's Eisenhower Theatre at the Kennedy Center. While Shear takes the lead for the D.C. run through Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, Sally Mayes takes over on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>.

- **Armistead Maupin** wrote, "She is God's gift to romance" though I prefer the less limiting title of "God's Gift." My favorite female vocalist, the incomparable **Jane Olivor**, has recorded her very first collection of holiday songs, which can be ordered for \$25.00 plus \$5.50 shipping. Send checks made out to Mount in the Meadows, Inc. c/o Mount in the Meadows, Inc., P.O. Box 2885, Montpelier, MD 20708. A perfect gift for anyone — whether a current fan or not. Once they hear Jane's voice, they will indeed become one.

## SODOM EAST: NEW YORK

On the Great Purple Way

by Tom O'Neil

### N.Y.C. Theaters Dim on Sept. 11

It was a shockeroo to Manhattan's theater queens, but for the first time ever, it seemed, the show did not go on.

Who thought ANYTHING could ever stop those naked boys from singing? But it happened on the nights of Sept. 11 and 12 when most of New York City's theaters went dark after the World Trade Center towers collapsed downtown. On Sept. 13, at the recommendation of Mayor Giuliani, all 13 Broadway shows resumed performances, but many theaters way downtown in Greenwich Village, SoHo and Tribeca had trouble gearing up while the neighborhoods slowly came back to life after being officially "closed" south of 14th St.

"Yes, the effects of Sept. 11 were immediate and dramatic," reported Jeffrey Corrick, manager of Wings Theatre on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village. "Crowds had been running normal to above average right until that date." Then the theater shut down for two weeks. After that, and as of early November, "business could be described as nonexistent," Corrick said. "Audiences have not yet returned."

"Shadow Boy," a new play by David Gaard ("Befriending Beau," "About Bernard Carlton") had to drop the curtain just four days after its premiere. "We were building an audience nicely before Sept. 11," Gaard says. "Then, when we reopened one week later, everybody vanished. We went on with the show for two more weeks, but audiences were thin." Gaard believes the play will be remounted in 2002, but, meantime, he says, "I feel personally and artistically victimized by Osama bin Laden."

The scheduled Sept. 20 debut of "Rude Entertainment" was rudely interrupted (imagine irking acid-tongue playwright Paul Rudnick!), but only got bumped by two days.

Here's further info on some of the notable gay shows that played on New York stages in recent months:

**RUDE ENTERTAINMENT** — Paul Rudnick's latest features three dishy one-acts about (1) a fabulously flamboyant gay man, (2) a gay couple trying to adopt, and (3) the afterlife of Matthew Shepard. The first sketch is the funniest: entitled "Mr. Charles, Currently of Palm Beach," it focuses on the host of a gay cable show that broadcasts, he says, "at 4am on alternate Thursdays, in between 'Adult Interludes' and 'Stretching With Sylvia.'" He tackles such tough questions as "What causes homosexuality?" His reply: "I do. I am so deeply homosexual that, with just a glance, I can actually turn someone gay." The most dramatic segment is the third act — "On the Fence," which imagines a meeting between Matthew Shepard, Eleanor Roosevelt and Paul Lynde at the fence near Laramie, Wyoming, where the brutally beaten Shepard was left to die. Sept. 22-Oct. 28. Greenwich House Theatre, 27 Barrow St.

**SHADOW BOY** — David Gaard's newest play, is set in New York in 1927, and follows the adventures of a young upstate

factory worker as he journeys from grimy boarding houses to bawdy speakeasies, on to the glittering world of Park Ave., and into the very heart of a corrupt political machine. Along the way he encounters gin-soaked playboys, Wall St. lawyers, Broadway "pansies" and drag queens. Produced by the Nighthouse Company. Flamboyant-CSV Cultural Center.

IN ON IT — In this new work by Canadian Daniel MacIvor ("Never Swim Alone"), two gay men try to write a play, a pair of lovers try to get along, and a dying man plans the last days of his life. Sept. 27-Oct. 21. P.S. 122 Theater.

SOMETHING CLOUDY, SOMETHING CLEAR — Tennessee Williams' final and most overtly gay play just received, according to its producers, "its first uncensored New York production." Like most of Williams' work, the play is fiercely autobiographical, in this case showcasing a down-and-out playwright, who lives in a beach shack and lusts after a dancer while under the gun to finish a play for his rapacious producers. Directed by Anatole Fourmantchouk. Plays late Sept.-early Oct. Theatre @ St. Clement's, 423 W. 46<sup>th</sup> St.

PINK ELEPHANTS — D'Arcy Drollinger's new "musical noir farce" about gay nightlife celebs Mario Diaz and Candis Cayne. In 1961, as NYC pulses with and writhes with jezz and liquor, a gossip columnist is murdered, and a detective must determine which of the many suspects is the killer. According to D'Arcy, "picture a musical Perry Mason episode written by Agatha Christie and performed by the cast of 'The Dick Van Dyke Show.'" Oct. 2001, Slipper Room.

EULA MAE'S BEAUTY, BAIT & TACKLE — Frank Blocker and Chuck Richards wrote and performed this import from Atlanta that's full of hoots and camp. The upshot: Eula Mae left the rodeo circuit to start her own business in Odeopolis, Alabama, and wound up being the proprietor of Eula Mae's Beauty, Bait, and Tackle. Now she plots to help her niece win the crown of Miss Alabama. Oct.-Nov. Jose Quintero Theater, 534 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St.

BLOODY POETRY — Synapse Theatre Company presented a revival of Howard Brenton's play about Byron and Shelley expounding on Romantic poets, "atheistical perverts" and the virtues of sleeping with boys. Oct. Connelly Theatre.

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**WAY OFF-BROADWAY BY THE BAY**  
by Tom W. Kelly

**NEWS**

On Nov. 5, New Conservatory Theatre — in partnership with the Harvey Milk Institute and the Queer Arts Festival — presented a conversation with Tony Award-winning playwright Terrance McNally, moderated by Jonathan Katz.

In honor of Halloween, SF Performing Arts Library and Museum presented Lypsinka (AKA John Epperson) in conversation with Jan Wahl. Epperson is internationally recognized as a performing artist who has taken drag and lip-syncing to the level of an art form, creating cabaret extravaganzas that both satirize and celebrate the great chanteuses of the past.

On Oct. 19 and 20, SF is the prime destination for those seeking a taste of the GLBT publishing world.

The Lambda Literary Festival should appeal to aspiring and established writers who want to refine their techniques, hone their skills, and exchange ideas with other professionals. The event also will be for lovers of literature who want to meet authors and listen to them speak about their craft.

On Oct. 13, 2001 at Club Fab, Guerneville, "Make It So" Productions mounted Viva Variety XX, "The Road Show," a benefit for Sonoma County Face to Face, whose mission is to provide compassionate care to people with HIV, and their loved ones, as well as education and leadership in Sonoma County; [www.f2f.org](http://www.f2f.org)

Through Sept., the SF Fringe Festival 2001 featured a variety of works including many by and about gay and lesbians.

EXIT on Taylor, 277 Taylor St., SF; 415-863-7707; [www.lsisartscollective.com](http://www.lsisartscollective.com)

Isis Arts Collective presents the holiday Bible farce, Hotel Bethlehem by Tom W. Kelly and Tim Bryant. What on earth was going on in the overcrowded hotel that turned away the Holy Family? And, given all that "Divine Retribution" in the Bible ... could the inhospitable inn possibly have escaped un-smited? Will anyone survive the heavenly wrath, or do they all spiral to their ultimate destruction? Directed by Mike Ward. Nov. 30-Dec. 15, 2001.

At EXIT Stage Left, 156 Eddy St., the Chameleon Theatre Company mounted the world premiere of Killing Stalin by SF playwright Lee Kiszonas. In a remote castle in WWII Lithuania, a group of telekinetics has been gathered by the Nazi regime to implement a plot to assassinate Stalin, using the powers of thought. This dream-like drama challenges the audience on many levels. Directed by Anita Jo Lenhart.

New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave., SF; 415-861-8972; [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)

NCT presented the West Coast premiere of The Crumple Zone by Buddy Thomas. Set in a run-down apartment on Staten Island, this hilarious gay comedy concerns three gay roommates coming to a crisis during one frantic Christmas weekend. This rollicking farce is about staying together, breaking apart and the things we lose along the way. Directed by Stephen Rupsch.

NCT officially opened its 7<sup>th</sup> *Pride Season*, entitled *Staging Passion*, with the Bay Area premiere of the musical *The Last Session*, book by Jim Brochu; music and lyrics by Steve Schalchlin with additional lyrics by John Bettis and Marie Cain. Songwriter and singer Gideon Wells is making a final album for his life partner Jack. He has called together three singers to record his last will and testament -- a suicide note in music.

As part of their Tolerance Educational Theatre Production for Teens, NCT again presents public performances of *The Other Side of the Closet* by Canadian playwright Edward Roy. This theatre-in-education play teaches tolerance of gays and lesbians and communicates vital information to teens grappling with issues of peer pressure, youth violence, self-esteem, homophobia, behavior norms and expectations, discrimination and stigmatization, identity and friendship.



NCT adds a special production to this season's *In Concert* season with *An Evening with Beatrice Lillie* starring Layne Littlepage, produced in association with Prince SF Productions. Layne Littlepage is the author and star of *An Evening with Beatrice Lillie*, a delightful one-woman musical entertainment about the life of the legendary comedienne whom Noel Coward called the world's greatest comedienne. NCT's 2001-2002 Educational Season produced a Holocaust Memorial production of *And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank* by James Still. A multi-media play that weaves taped interviews with Holocaust survivors Edmond Silverberg and Eva Schloss with live actors recreating scenes from their lives as youngsters during WWII. Directed by Ed Decker.

Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16<sup>th</sup> St., SF; 415-861-5079;  
[www.therhino.org](http://www.therhino.org)

*The Twelve Days of Cochina*, by Marga Gomez, Gomez mixes Dickens with DeSade in the toxic new holiday comedy that brings filth to the world. Spiral down a silent night with Cochina, the disgruntled ex-gay, as she gives sex "the ax" for Christmas. Directed by Doug Holsclaw.

And in the Rhino Studio: Claire Chafee's poetic drama *Why We Have a Body* which profiles four women -- all outsiders, adventurers, explorers -- examining their roles in society and looking for answers about who they are and where they want to go. Produced by erinys. [www.erinysproductions.org](http://www.erinysproductions.org)

The Half Baked Players produced Co-dependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same, along with "The Jewish Nun," a 10-minute curtain raiser, both by Madeleine Olnek. Olnek takes on 1950's sci-fi B-movies, lesbian potboilers and pop-psychology in her comedic farce. Directed by John Morace.

Il Teatro, 450, 449 Powell St., SF; 415-433-1172  
Mother Wit Productions in association with il Teatro 450 presented *Brave Smiles*, an outrageously funny play by The Five Lesbian Brothers which follows the antics of five students at an all-girls school in the Alps and their subsequent misadventures as adults in Vienna, Paris, Manhattan, Southampton, and Sing Sing Prison. Directed by Arturo Catricala.

Shakespeare ETC in association with il Teatro 450 produced Mollena Williams' "69 Stories: One perverts tale." She's back for more! You think it's easy to find someone to respect you after you lick their boots? Neither does Mollena Williams whose hilarious, erotic, and poignant "69 Stories" entices you down the road less traveled to the SF S/M Community.

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**REVIEW**  
**TWIN CITIES THEATRE SEASON, FALL 2001**  
**by Steven LaVigne**

As always, there's an abundance of theatrical offerings for queer theatregoers in the Twin Cities. Gone is Hot Dish, the delightful queer improvisational comedy troupe, but several new or previously minor theatre companies have taken the reins to fill the cornucopia with a variety of choices.

After years in different venues, The Outward Spiral Theatre is now a resident company of the Loring Playhouse, and they're winding down their 2001 season with the area premiere of Constance Congdon's *DOG OPERA*. The play

follows a year (1991) in the friendship of Peter, a gay man and his best friend, Madeline, a Kindergarten teacher. Played against Carl M. Schoenborn's beautiful set, which resembles a large red ribbon, director Jef Hall-Flavin's efficient stagecraft moves us from one sequence into another as we're eased into getting to know the leading characters.

We can relate to both Peter and Madeline on several levels, because we know people exactly like them. For example, like many straight women with close gay friends, Madeline's mother drives her crazy. Peter's father, a bigoted cop trying to come to terms with the changing world, as he slowly falls in unrequited love with Madeline. As people pass in and out of their lives, we're reminded of the terrifying early years of the AIDS Crisis. The play is at times, a cautionary tale that reminds us it's not over yet, its just dormant.

Leif Jurgensen as Peter and especially Kim Schultz as Madeline do everything in their power to make these people real. Schultz has one of those cartoon faces that fails to hide any emotion. They're given ample support by David Coral, Karen Wiese-Thompson, Esera Tualo and especially Jon Mikkelsen, who steals every scene he's in, as he covers eight characters. Still, Congdon's script has plenty of clever dialogue and situations, but the writing in the disjointed first act feels like channel surfing. We're not sure where all this is leading, because often scenes and characters are set up, but never return to resolve their situations.

Somehow, it comes together in Act Two. Peter and Madeline fall into comfortable, if loveless relationships, and Madeline even experiments with lesbianism. The year ends on a sad note, yet we can't shake off a sense of *deja vu*, because we've all been there, dealing with a friend's HIV status.

Congdon's greatest achievement with *DOG OPERA* is in the creation of Jackie, the 17-year-old hustler, whom Peter picks up at one point. Frequently addressing the audience on the craziness of being a gay adolescent, here the writing and characterization are especially good, because it rings true. I felt I'd heard Jackie's speech about stealing remote control devices from hotel rooms before. Jackie and his plight seem like a one-act solo play planted within the framework of this larger work, and it's the best part of this production.

*DOG OPERA* was described by one local critic as little more than "an extended episode of *WILL AND GRACE*." That's unfair, because, despite its many flaws, there's far more depth here. Another colleague called this a masterpiece. It's hardly that, because the script lacks cohesiveness. Nevertheless, *DOG OPERA* has been given a beautiful production by The Outward Spiral Theatre Company. The company is ending its current season with the local premiere of *HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH*, however, where and when was still being determined at press time.

I'd seen Howard Crabtree's delightful revue, *WHEN PIGS FLY* while it was still in previews off-Broadway. Based on the ancient concept, "let's put on a show," the response here is, "great, what will we wear?" Crabtree, who died of complications from AIDS shortly before it's New York premiere, was a remarkable costumer, mostly for Industrials, and these outrageous togs become the basis for one of the most entertaining shows of the 1990s, which The Minneapolis Musical Theatre has chosen to open their newseason at the Bryant Lake Bowl. While the MMT

production doesn't have the set or costumes New York had, the variations are, for the most part, superb rivals. They're worn by an exceptionally talented cast. Kevin Hansen, as Howard Crabtree, is especially gifted, singing, dancing and designing his way through the story, which features Miss Roundhole, a high school guidance counselor recommending that Crabtree look for employment selling garden supplies, in clock repair, or as a plumber.

The MMT production is designed, and the costumes recreated by Steve Meerdinck, and they are, pretty much, successful renderings. The playing cards for "Stay in the Game," for example, are more flexible and show more creativity. The gargoyles for the HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME sequence are delightful as well. Alas, there are a few duds among them, and some look bargain basement. Still, it's rather fun, because it lends a tackiness to this show that's largely about great gay male singing voices and the costumes they're wearing.

Meerdinck's production brings a refreshing energy and better presentation to WHEN PIGS FLY. It's a little tough to concentrate on the songs when the costumes outshine everything else. Still, the music of Dick Gallagher and the libretto of Mark Waldrop is an example of tiptop storytelling through song, and the actors certainly had a lot of fun. Paul Whittemore, as the centaur who can't figure out why he's not invited to party with the guys, is a hunky delight, and "Sam and Me," a 1960s gay love song with a surprise ending, is charming. Watching Meerdinck prance around the stage during "Color Out of Colorado" is like seeing a gay Harold Hill joyfully perform. Gregg Peterson is a standout as Karen Ann Knipple, the matron in charge of The Melody Barn, who laments the lack of new musicals from Broadway (and leading roles she can play) before enticing us with her latest, ANNIE 3.

Done without interval, the majority of WHEN PIGS FLY is a treat. Audiences aren't in the theatre much longer than an hour and a quarter. However, with recent historical events, WHEN PIGS FLY has also lost some of its sharpness and impact. Mssgrs Waldrop and Gallagher might consider cutting the love songs to the bigots, Newt Gingrich, Strom Thurmond and Rush Limbaugh are a little dated, (although what Eric Johnson does with his tongue during Newt's number is delightful). Even with these flaws, WHEN PIGS FLY is not to be missed. It continues at Bryant Lake Bowl through the end of October. I can hardly wait for WEIRD ROMANCE and LUCKY STIFF!

I'd hoped to see queer comic Jason Stuart, but the actions of September 11 kept him from his Minneapolis booking, so he's rescheduled in March 2002. Theatre Latte Da, presented the area premiere of THE RINK, a musical written for Chita Rivera (who won her first Tony Award for it) and Liza Minnelli by Terrance McNally, John Kander and Fred Ebb. Requests for tickets to review this unique musical were ignored. Instead, I saw two other intriguing productions.

Those who've read DAZZLER, Steven Bach's exquisite biography of Moss Hart, know that, following his break with George S. Kaufman, Hart wrote I AM LISTENING, a play for Katherine Cornell about a woman undergoing psychoanalysis. When Gertrude Lawrence showed interest, the project was transformed into a musical, with a score by Ira Gershwin and Kurt Weill. Its title was changed to LADY IN

THE DARK, the show would become legendary. Over the years, attempts to revive this classic have failed, and the show is all but lost. The Plymouth Music Series offered a concert version titled LADY IN THE DARK: THE DREAMS at Orchestra Hall on Oct. 13.

Hearing this glorious musical score again, makes one wish for a full production, and for the most part, it was a splendid night. Actor Vern Sutton adapted the show, maintaining much of the plots necessary dialogue to lead into the musical numbers, which were all psychological dream sequences. Five women, costumed and moving to resemble dancers from the 1950s, provided much of the choreography for the evening. While the soapbox was painted brown instead of blue — and everyone changed clothes — except the leading lady, who only changed her gloves (Where was that blue dress?), many of the performances were top-notch.

Jazz singer Connie Evingson took on the role of Liza Elliott, and she was the exception. Evingson brought no warmth or emotion to the character, and one never felt that she was really a "lady in the dark." Like Ginger Rogers in the ghastly film version, Evingson also lacks a necessary sophistication. Her song stylings made one yearn for the recorded voices of Lawrence or Rise Stevens. Even Julie Andrews, in STAR, the ill fated film biography of Lawrence, gave energy, warmth and sex to "The Saga of Jenny," which had been a show-stopper in 1941. The only moment that Evingson brought something to the show was in her rendition of "My Ship."

I'd never seen KISS ME, KATE on the stage, so I was looking forward to the touring company of the current Broadway revival. Rex Smith and Rachel York are top-billed in Cole Porter's outstanding musical retelling of Shakespeare's TAMING OF THE SHREW. Directed by Michael Blakemore, with choreography by Kathleen Marshall, this should have been one of the most spectacular productions ever to play the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. Should have been. Alas, Porter and his librettists, Sam and Bella Spewack, must be turning over in their graves at this one! This KATE is played as if the actors don't trust the material of this classic musical, and at such breakneck speed, one can't savor the joys of Porter's greatest lyrics. After a promising opening number, during which Susan Beaubian as Hattie, leads the ensemble in "Another Op'nin, Another Show," the pacing stops dead with the arrival of Smith as Fred Graham. Constantly cheating out, and broadcasting his role, along with Patti LuPone's Maria Callas in MASTER CLASS, this is the worst performance I've ever seen on any stage. Smith doesn't belong here. He has no connection with any of the other players, and his performance is all on one-note. The orchestra has sped up Don Sebesky's orchestrations, presumably to get Smith offstage as much as possible.

York as Lilli Vanessi, Graham's ex-wife and costar is better, although she seems to be matching Katherine Grayson, the film's Lilli, shriek for shriek. This is evidenced in her delivery of "I Hate Men." Furthermore, the scenery and props are far too sturdy. When Kate's on a tear, she should break things! Blakemore has directed this ensemble to play the script too broad, and keep the vocals loud. When Petruchio delivers "Were Thine That Special Face," Porter's wooing song has none of the original slow and tender passion. The sexual innuendoes are as subtle as a sledgehammer and are obviously designed to please mass audiences, and probably

will offend genuine musical theatre fans. An embarrassingly long pause at the end of Act I causes the final scene to seem tacked on. The way it's played here, it doesn't flow with the rest of Spewack's brilliant script. Whose bright idea was it to revise Harrison Howell's character into so mortifying a role as it is here.

Is there anything good about this production? Well, yes. Jenny Hill as Lois Lane/Bianca is amazingly talented, and worth tolerating Smith's performance for. She, along with Jim Newman as Bill Calhoun/Lucentio and the ensemble bring the show completely to life, albeit a short one, when they perform "Tom, Dick and Harry," and in Act II, she nails the audience with her rendition of "Always True to You in My Fashion." Randy Donaldson as Paul made sure that "Too Darn Hot" was. Newman had a great time athletically singing and dancing "Bianca." Richard Poe and Michael Arkin as the gangsters steal the show with their rendition of Porter's deliciously naughty, "Brush Up Your Shakespeare." KISS ME, KATE continues in major cities throughout the country. If it continues on Broadway, see it there. If they replace Smith with someone else, say Barry Williams, the touring company is worth a visit.

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### COMEDY

Jason Stuart's new CD "Gay Comedy without a Dress" has sold 10,000 copies. Check it out for holiday shopping! It is available in selected stores and on his Web site: [www.jasonstuart.com](http://www.jasonstuart.com)

QComedy happens every other Monday in San Francisco at 848 Divisadero. The first Annual Queer Comedy Quack Up was held Oct. 13, 2001 at The Herbst Theatre featuring Sabrina Matthews, Pippi Lovestocking, Doug Holsclaw, Regins Stoops, Windy Plains, Jaffe Cohen and Lisa Geduldig.

Comic Mark Davis is touring the East Coast and New England this fall with his stand up and usual entourage of Ruth Drapersque monologues. [www.markmavisdavis.com](http://www.markmavisdavis.com)

Comic Kate Clinton appeared at Osher Marin College in Nov. in San Rafael CA.

The 9th Annual Kung Pao Kosher presents the best in Jewish humor during the Christmas holidays in San Francisco. Appearing will be Kathy Ladman, Lisa Kron, Scott Lakeman and Lisa Geduldig. The event is Dec. 23, 24, and 25 at New Asia Restaurant. Tickets: 415-522-3737.

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### FESTIVALS & SEASONS

Red Hen Productions, The Feminist Theatre in Cleveland began its current season with STOP KISS, which will be followed by CHERCHEZ DAVE ROBICHEAUX next March and the educational/outreach tour of BODY OUTLAWS. [www.logan.com/redhen](http://www.logan.com/redhen)

Upcoming productions at Buddies In Bad Times in Toronto include: REAL GIRL LIVE with Damien Atkins, Dec. 4-16, 2001; THE WATCH FOR SUNRISE by Gordon Portman, Jan 18-20, 2002 and the 24th Annual Rhurbarb! Festival with Festival Director Kelly Thornton and Assistant Rhurbarb!

Director Erika Hennebury. For further information: 416-75-8555; [www.buddiesinbadtimes theatre.com](http://www.buddiesinbadtimes theatre.com)

The 2001 Estrogenius Festival at Manhattan Theatre Source in Greenwich Village during Sept. 2001 featured 16 one-act plays about women. Three of the plays featured Lesbian content: THE CONTENTS OF YOUR SUITCASE by Daphne R. Hull, WHAT YOU SEE by Sonya Sobieski and SHE FINDS HER by David DeWitt. All of the plays are scheduled for publication in The Book of Estrogenius 2001.

[www.estrogenius.org](http://www.estrogenius.org)

Wings Theatre Company in NYC's new season includes FINDING THE BOYFRIEND WITHIN-THE MUSICAL by Christopher Jackson based on the best-selling book by Brad Gooch, Dec. 11-12, 2001, RICHARD & PHILIP by George Barthel, kings, enemies and lovers bound by duty, cloaked in chain-mail, Jan. 3-Feb. 2, 2002; TANGO MASCULINO with book and lyrics by Clint Jeffries and music by Paul L. Johnson, where men meet in a dangerous and seductive underworld, Apr. 4-May 4, 2002; and BIRTHDAY PIE by Arthur Wooten, a new comedy of love, chaos, secrets, confessions, the all-American family and a dash of comedic ege, Aug. 8-Sept. 7, 2002; 212-627-2960;

[www.wingstheatre.com](http://www.wingstheatre.com)

The Theatre Offensive in Boston presented their 10th Annual OUT ON THE EDGE FESTIVAL Sept. 5-29, 2001. Included were DR.FROCKROCKET'S VIVIFYING MENAGERIE AND MEDICINE SHOW, I 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 with Susan Jeremy.

[www.thetheateroffensive.org](http://www.thetheateroffensive.org)

The New Line Theatre in St. Louis presents its 11th season which included THE CRADLE WILL ROCK by Marc Blitzstein in Oct. 2001; and A NEW BRAIN by William Finn and James Lapine Mar. 7-30, 2002 and CHICAGO by Kander and Ebb, June 6-29, 2002. All shows at Art Loft Theatre; 314-773-6526; [www.newlinetheatre.com](http://www.newlinetheatre.com)

DRAMA! in New Orleans holds its workshops and performances at Cowpokes Theatre Space. "A LITTLE OF THIS, A LITTLE OF THAT", new works, Nov. 30-Dec. 9, 2001; MIDGETS FROM URANUS AND SEXY MUSIC AGAIN by Charles Kerbs, Jan 19 as part of DramaRama Festival 9 and again Feb. 15-24, 2002; SELDOM SEEN by Tennessee Williams Mar. 22-31, 2002; and "In The Works", work from DRAMA's workshop, May 10-19, 2002; 504-671-8232; [dramano.org](http://dramano.org)

Highways Performance Space presented its 9th Annual Asian Pacific American Performance & Visual Art Festival: Treasures In The House 2001 in November. Appearing were Sandra Low, Micehllie Krusiec, Kennedy Kabasares, Traci Kato-Kiriyama, Edren Sumagaysay,, Glenn Suravech, Shin Kawasaki, Jose Saenz, DJ Abel and Alex Luu.

Lambda Players in Sacramento will present a Gay Plays Festival Jan 18-20, 2002. Staged readings of PAPERCLIP MESSIAH (Matt Burlingame), where a priest finds himself in a forbidden love story; TOOT SWEET (Anni Pulai) about a transgender twist in 1800s France; and DECEIT AND FOUL PLAY (D.M. Schuettee) concerning a retired talk show host and her two sons, and did the butler do it? 916-366-3904.



The Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles presented with A.S.K. Theater Projects a New Works Festival 2001 in Nov. 2001. Among the plays presented were: NOWHERE TO RUN written and composed by Chris Wells and Fred Cassidy, a song cycle of modern love; SHE STOOPS TO COMEDY by David Greespan, a summer stock production of As You Like It has a lot of love triangles; and BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER by Luis Alfaro, a new comedy.

Jon Sims Center for the Arts was buzzing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Performance Panoply, Nov. 10, 2001, with the Bay Area's hottest dancers, spoken word artists, musicians and film/video makers. 415-554-0402.

Los Angeles celebrated the Edge of The World Theater Festival 2001 in November with several Purple Circuit shows including THE GRID LIFE with Grace Rowe as 7 young Asian-American women. Also ANIMAL DREAMS and IMPENETRABLE by Jennifer Maisel were performed at the GL Center's Village at Ed Gould Plaza. 323-860-7300.

### FILM / VIDEO / TELEVISION

The Moondance International Film Festival will be held in Boulder Jan. 25-27, 2002. The Festival will donate entry fees in the Columbine Awards category (films which promote non-violent conflict resolution in the arts and film) to a special fund to help filmmakers produce films that promote peace and understanding. They would appreciate any individual contributions to this fund.

[www.moondancefilmfestival.com/2002info.htm](http://www.moondancefilmfestival.com/2002info.htm)

Falcon Lair Films produced THE TRIP, which chronicles the quirky romance of two gay men from 1973-1984.

Performer Danny Hoch's JAILS, HOSPITALS & HIP-HOP has been turned into a film by Kicked Down Productions.

Germany's enfante terrible, Rosa von Praunheim, has two films playing. FASSBINDER'S WOMEN, a documentary into the private life and working methods of legendary filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder. The other is THE EINSTEIN OF SEX: THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. M. HIRSCHFELD.

Out North and Amnesty International in Alaska presented a screening of PARAGRAPH 175 by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman about the consequences of intolerance and survivors of Nazi and German persecution of gay men.

[www.outnorth.org](http://www.outnorth.org)

Comic Jason Stuart's film 10 ATTITUDES has been selling out at Film Festivals across the country. The romantic comedy is directed by Michael Gallant.

### CORRESPONDENCE A SHORT REVIEW

Hi Bill:

It's Michael from Rochester, New York. I am writing because I saw an absolutely wonderful original musical revue last week. It is called PORTRAITS by Mark Alan DeWaters.

It is very rare that I get so enthused about something; but this show is dynamite. It has 32 songs, many with positive gay lyrics, not smutty, just intelligent, witty and incisive. I dare say that most people will recognize themselves in quite a few of the numbers. The most wonderful thing, as far as I am concerned is that the show does not appeal just to a gay audience but to a general audience as well. It has love ballads for all orientations!

I am not the author's agent, just a very enthused audience member who really thinks that PORTRAITS deserves national exposure, if you know of anybody who might be interested in hearing this work I suggest you contact the author directory at [unklemark@juno.com](mailto:unklemark@juno.com)

Michael H. Arve

[Michael is a dedicated theatre professional. Recently managed theatres in Knoxville and Buffalo. His resume is on the PC Web site.]

### LITERARY SCENE

Scott Miller has written a wonderfully readable book in "Rebels with Applause: Broadway's Groundbreaking Musicals" published by Heinemann, ISBN 0-325-00357-2 and now available. In addition to some better know shows, Miller also includes Mark Savage's THE BALLAD OF LITTLE MIKEY, a big hit at Celebration Theatre and elsewhere. Incidentally Mark has another hit going at Celebration with his adaptation, PINAFORE! Scott Miller has also turned his musical into a novel with IN THE BLOOD also available from Amazon and other sources.

Perry Brass has written many fascinating books especially of science fiction. His latest novel is called WARLOCK and should be available now — ISBN 1-892149-03-6 — from Belhue Press. Check it out at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or your local bookstore. For information on his other titles contact [belhuepress@earthlink.net](mailto:belhuepress@earthlink.net)

COOTIE SHOTS should be out from TCG this fall. It is an assortment of plays, songs, and poems that promote tolerance and celebrate diversity including gender and sexual orientation. Created by Norma Bowles and Mark E. Rosenthal of Fringe Benefits, a coalition of theatre artists, youth, educators, and parents.

The Asian American Writers Workshop in NYC celebrated its 10th anniversary last Sept. 2001. 212-494-0061 or 16 West 32 St., Ste 10A, NY, NY 10001-3808.

Take Out: Queer Writers from Asian Pacific America was a reading at Skylight Books in Los Angeles in Nov. and featured Noel Alumit, R Sky Kogachi, Chen Lin and Eric Wat.

The gay and lesbian literati set descended on San Francisco Oct. 19-21, 2001 for The Lambda Literary Festival. Featured were Tim Miller, Felice Picano, Perry Brass, Patricia Nell Warren and the Violet Quill Award for best new work of GLBT fiction. The event was sponsored by the Jon Sims Center, Harvey Milk Institute, and the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center / Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. For more on Lambda Literary: [www.lambdalit.org](http://www.lambdalit.org)

Robert Patrick had a recent article in Emmy Magazine of the Academy Of Television Arts and Sciences called "Ghost on the Coast." It frankly described his activities ghostwriting for TV. He can be reached at [dottyprker@aol.com](mailto:dottyprker@aol.com)

Tim Miller has a new book being published in 2002 called BODY BLOWS by University of Wisconsin Press. It will be a collection of six of his performance and essays on their creation with an introduction by Tony Kushner. Watch for it!

Luis Alfaro appeared at the Writers Bloc in an event called "Another City: Writings from Los Angeles" on Dec. 5, 2001 at the Museum of Tolerance. [www.writersblocpresents.com](http://www.writersblocpresents.com)

This spring iUniverse will publish a book chronicling the first ten years of New Line Theatre in St. Louis covering the history of the 33 shows they have produced. Kudos to Scott Miller and New Line on their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Gay Theatre Exchange is a working site for dialogue, exchanges, and promotion. Check them out at [groups.yahoo.com/group/GayTheatreExchange](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GayTheatreExchange)

### MUSIC / OPERA / DANCE

Shoshana Henri appeared in Macy Gray's latest music video for her song "Sexual Revolution."

The San Francisco Lesbian / Gay Freedom Band's 2001 Dance-Along Nutcracker was held Dec. 8-9, 2001 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. 415-255-1355; [www.jonsimsctr.org/sflgfb](http://www.jonsimsctr.org/sflgfb)

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus presented "Lust In Space: Songs from The Galaxy" on Nov. 3, 2001 at The Palace of Fine Arts Theatre with special guest Nichelle Nichols, Commander Uhura from Star Trek.

The North American tour of Matthew Bourne's THE CAR MAN came to the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles in Sept.-Oct. 2001 after performing in St. Paul. The tour continues to Berkeley, Chicago, Toronto, and Boston. This original work is based on Bizet's CARMEN as well as Hollywood's film noir.

Jill Togawa, AD of Purple Moon Dance Project appeared on "Inside City Limits," a SF cable show. The Company also was at Women's Stage at East Bay Pride and staged "The Tenth," a celebration of their 10th anniversary in Sept. 2001.

Vox Femina, LA's women's choral ensemble presented "Water Music," a special concert on Oct. 27, 2001 at Zipper Concert Hall. & March 9, 2002 Vox Femina performs "Magic and Mystery" at All Saints Church in Pasadena. [voxfeminala.org](http://voxfeminala.org)

The Bridge Dance Theatre presents "In The Beginning, Truth Walked Around Naked" choreographed by Phyllis Douglas with composer Brian Gross, writers Anne Marie Mackler and Elizabeth Estabrooks and video artist Bianca Rose and percussionist Donald "The Junkman" Knaack at Highways in Santa Monica Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2002; 310-315-1459.

On Jan 29, 2002 the Los Angeles Philharmonic New Music Group will perform Five Images after Sappho with soprano Laura Claycomb at Zipper Concert Hall. 310-825-2101.

Dance at Highways in Santa Monica included Etudes For Male Nudes Dec. 13-16 by Miserany Dance! and Jack Kirven in Icon, a macho stud in a flaming queen's body Jan. 24-26, 2002. Call 310-315-1459.

Ibe or Two, a new dance work by Sue Roginski was performed at Jon Sims Center in San Francisco in Nov. 2001, where she is an artist in residence. 415-554-0402.

LA Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles holiday concert "Holiday Lights" will be Dec. 14-16, 2001 at Alex Theatre in Glendale. Call 323-650-0756.

### PLAYWRIGHTS / PRODUCERS FORUM

The Bernard Shaw Society and the Columbia Club hosted an 85th Birthday Celebration for Eric Bentley on Sept. 21, 2001. Representatives of The Shaw, Brecht, Ibsen and Pirandello societies offered their tributes to the multi-talented Professor Bentley. Happy Birthday Eric!

October productions include ROUND 2 by Eric Bentley at New Phoenix Theatre in Buffalo and THE FIRST LULU by Wedekind / Bentley at Theater X in Milwaukee.

The CLAGS discussion group in New York discussed Doric Wilson's STREET THEATER at their Oct. 13, 2001 meeting as well as the history and re-emergence of TOSOS.

There was a long interview with playwright Linda Eisenstein in the Sept. issue of Verge Magazine, [www.vergemag.com/0901/perfarts/perfarts.html](http://www.vergemag.com/0901/perfarts/perfarts.html) Her comic one-act RUNNING FROM THE RED GIRL was staged by Chicago's Heartland Studio Theatre in Sept. and her monologue play F2F was done at the International Center for Women Playwrights Regional Conference in Portland. Her 10-minute play HEART SMART was read at Manhattan Theatre Source. F2F will be produced at Unity Fest at the Bank Street Theatre in NYC Dec. 6-30, 2001. For info on Linda Eisenstein's plays: [www.lindaeisenstein.com](http://www.lindaeisenstein.com)

Robert Patrick has put two of his plays EVAN ON EARTH and HOLLYWOOD AT SUNSET online. They're available at [hometown.aol.com/rbrtptrck/myhomepage/writings.html](http://hometown.aol.com/rbrtptrck/myhomepage/writings.html)

Producers: Performer-Writer Paul Bonin-Rodriguez Web site is at [www.paulbonin-rodriquez.com](http://www.paulbonin-rodriquez.com)

Theatre OUTlanta is looking for plays that show how real LGBT folk live. They are interested also in plays that show intersections between various parts of the LGBT community. You may mail plays as an attachment to [outlanta@mindspring.com](mailto:outlanta@mindspring.com) Plays should be in Word or Word Perfect document or you can mail with SASE if you wish a return to Theatre Outlanta, 931 Monroe Dr, Ste 102, PMB 335, Atlanta GA 30308-1778.

Actors' Theatre of Washington, DC is looking for interesting Transgender plays and other plays for their future season. Contact via [www.atwdc.org](http://www.atwdc.org)

Bailiwick Repertory will be holding the first Annual Lesbian Arts Festival in Chicago during April and May 2002. For further information contact Kelli Strickland, Director Lesbian Theater Initiative, [bailiwickr@aol.com](mailto:bailiwickr@aol.com)

Sky Gilbert has written many plays including some about transgendered characters. Some of his plays are DRAG QUEENS ON TRIAL, DRAG QUEENS IN OUTERSPACE and LOLA STARR BUILDS HER DREAM HOME (a drag play about Lana Turner) and GARDEN VARIATIONS, an historical play about a drag bar in Seattle in the 50s called the Garden of Allah. Go to his Web site at [anita.istar.ca/~anita/](http://anita.istar.ca/~anita/)

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## POETRY

### THE POET

by Eliza Amadea Sultan

He sits in his apartment confined to has-been cynicism  
He is an antiquated breed and his mind has been ravaged by disappointment  
He is a reoccurring character in the epic story of a culture destroyed by machines.  
His resignation from life lingers like cigarette smoke in an elevator  
And in the world of paradoxes his obsession for fair-skinned boys is overshadowed by photographs of Marilyn Monroe  
He is beautiful  
He is brilliant  
He is a dirty old poet

[Eliza Amadea Sultan is from Santa Fe and currently produces talk radio in LA. She wrote a short film "White Noise" that won the Platinum Award at Houston Film Festival. She is currently working on a compilation of erotic short stories. Her neighbor is Robert Patrick]

### THE POET'S REPLY TO HIS PORTRAIT

by Robert Patrick

You call me cynical, burnout, withdrawn,  
Because I sit alone and write my verse,  
Not knowing that I rise before the dawn,  
To satisfy my Muses' bless-ed curse  
And revel all the day in carnivals,  
and double rainbows, snowfalls, avalanches,  
Observing cataracts of syllables  
Fan grandly where vocabulary branches,  
How can the pale, predestined patterns of  
Career and camaraderie compare  
With the spectacular events above  
Which I experience in my worn chair  
Abetted by caffeine and nicotine  
And drained, I guess, of every juice but spleen?

[Robert Patrick can be reached at [rbrtptrck@aol.com](mailto:rbrtptrck@aol.com)]

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## TOURING

Comedian Jason Stuart's Fall-Winter tour included Ferris State U in Big Rapids MI, AIDS Benefit for Project Angel Food hosted by Eric McCormick at the Improv in LA, NACA New England Showcase Winthrop University in Rockhill SC, University of Connecticut, Russian River Resort in

Guerneville CA, and to come Jan. 17-20, 2002 Joey's Comedy Club in Dearborn MI, 313-584-8885, Feb. 9 Vermont Ski Weekend with Marga Gomez, Feb. 16 the film! ATTITUDES at Phoenix Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Feb. 26-Mar. 2 Acme Comedy Club in Minneapolis, 612-338-6393, and Mar. 20-24, 2002 Funnybone in St. Louis, 314-469-6692. He appears ongoing at The Laugh Factory in West Hollywood, 323-656-1336.

Tim Miller tours with his provocative and moving GLORY BOX, a no-holds barred political and romantic show about the struggle for he and his partner to stay together as a binational same sex couple. In Oct.-Nov. 2001 he appeared at Cleveland Public Theater, Oberlin College, The University Of Michigan, Wayne State University and The Furniture Factory both in Detroit, Arts and Ethics Conference in Tempe AZ, The Tron Theatre in Glasgow Scotland, Towson University in Maryland, Vermont Middlebury College and he also hosted an event interviewing Armistead Maupin at the UCLA.

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## WILDEANA

Henry Muldrow has recorded a moving centennial CD of original songs based on texts by Wilde and sung by Dutch mezzo-soprano Cecile van de Sant. The CD can be ordered by contacting Henry Muldrow at Tussen kadijken 30, 1018 BC Amsterdam, The Netherlands or [henry.muldrow@888.nu](mailto:henry.muldrow@888.nu)

There is an online journal on Oscar Wilde called The Oscholars. A Web site is being constructed for future issues. The Sept. issue was posted on [homepages.gold.ac.uk/oscholars/](http://homepages.gold.ac.uk/oscholars/)

AOL Critic picked The Alliance Repertory's production of GROSS INDECENCY by Moises Kaufman in Bound Brook NJ. The show ran in Nov. 2001.

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## APPEALS / OPPORTUNITIES

Support Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica. Founded by Tim Miller and Linda Frye-Burnham, Highways have been an outstanding presenter of diverse cultural events including GLBT ones for twelve years. For information on membership contact them at 1651 - 18<sup>th</sup> St, Santa Monica CA or 90404; [www.highwaysperformance.org](http://www.highwaysperformance.org)

Also support our friends in New Orleans, DRAMA! by becoming a member and a Season Subscriber at [drama@gat.com](mailto:drama@gat.com) or 504-671-8232.

Designer Jim Boutin is available for work in Los Angeles area after relocating. Contact [SPLAT\\_PROD@aol.com](mailto:SPLAT_PROD@aol.com) for a resume. Recently he did Lypsinka's set at the Tiffany Theatre in Hollywood.

Comic Jason Stuart is writing a column that is available for publications to option. Contact Modern Artists at 323-871-2888; [modartists@aol.com](mailto:modartists@aol.com). For info on him and a sample column: [www.jasonstuart.com](http://www.jasonstuart.com)

Diversionsary Theatre in San Diego also needs your support. Please contact them at 619-220-0097 or [www.diversionary.org](http://www.diversionary.org)



Fabulous Monsters, the fabulous performance group is taking their production of SPEED HEDDA to the legendary LaMaMa Theatre in Jan. 2002 as part of the theatre's 40th season. The Monsters need your help to make the trip. You can contribute by visiting [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and entering thefabulousmonsters@hotmail.com or send a check to Fabulous Monsters Performance Group, 353 W Broadway, Suite D, Glendale CA 91204

How to Reach Us  
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Office: 818-953-5096  
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[www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html](http://www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html)

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[fabact1@aol.com](mailto:fabact1@aol.com)  
[www.geocities.com/actoutproductions](http://www.geocities.com/actoutproductions)

**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.

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](http://www.aabbfoundation.org)

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