

On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

Volume 11, Number 1

THE SUBSCRIBERS ISSUE

WELCOME TO ON THE PURPLE CIRCUIT!

We exist to promote, encourage and celebrate GLQBT Theatre and Performance throughout the world and welcome you to our first issue of 2002. This issue acknowledges Our Subscribers without whom we could not continue publishing. Thank you all for your support of The Purple Circuit over the past ten years and for the support you are giving all the arts organizations which need your financial help. Please subscribe, renew, and contribute to OTPC by sending your payments payable to "Bill Kaiser"

In spite of the financial crunch many groups are in, I am overwhelmed by the creative input and information pouring into The Purple Circuit. I urge you to supplement the printed version of OTPC by going to our expanded Web site edition. There you can also see the updated Purple Circuit Directory of Venues at www.buddy.buddy.com/pc.html, or we can send a printed version with a SASE and contribution. Already we have an addition. I'd like to welcome GayCo Productions in Chicago to The Purple Circuit. Their mission is to create intelligent and thought-provoking sketch comedy on GL themes and they tour around the country; 312-458-9400, inquiry@gayco.net, www.gayco.net [note: they do not accept scripts or sponsor visiting performers at this time.]

I'm very excited that Frank Barnhart reports the Columbus National Gay & Lesbian Theatre Festival for Sept 12-21, 2002 is proceeding well. Confirmed groups and performers include The Brian and Mel Show from Dorchester, MA, C.J. Productions from St. Louis, Sky Gilbert and The Cabaret Company from Toronto, Conn Artist Performance Event from Provincetown, DRAMA! from New Orleans, Jeffrey Solomon from Philadelphia, J.E.R. Productions from Montreal, Laughlin Artz from Pittsburgh, Naughty Austin Productions from Austin, The Nighthouse Company from NYC, OUT Productions from Montreal, Ragged Blade Productions from St.Louis, SourceWorks from NYC, TAPIT from Madison and Theatre Entropy from Chicago and more to follow. For further information call/fax 614-263-9448, fabact1@aol.com or www.geocities.com/actoutproductions

I am thinking about hosting a Purple Circuit reception during the Festival and would welcome financial support/co-hosts for that event. Let me know at 818-953-5096 or Purplecir@aol.com

I have some important news from New York. Doric Wilson has brought TOSOS back. This pioneer gay theatre group is now TOSOS 2 and they are producing The Look Again reading series through May 2002 at the Harvey Lerner Auditorium at The Center. They are presenting landmark plays by Lanford Wilson, Tom Eyan, Robert Patrick, and

many others as well as a commercial production of Doric's classic STREET THEATER opening at The Eagle Bar on April 4, 2002! Bravo to Doric, Mark Finley, and the rest of the troupers of TOSOS 2. Info: www.doricwilson.com

Another great development is Bill Poore's new theatre company in Salt Lake City called Lakota Rainbow. Despite homophobic threats, Bill intends to open the closet door in Utah at least on stage! Their first production is THE MASSEUR by Bill Poore and Robert Joseph. Kudos Bill! 801-583-2036 or lakotarainbow@aol.com

I am pleased to know that our culture is being taught around the country. I received a course description from Professor Bud Coleman at University of Colorado/Boulder. Bravo Bud on your extensive course! I'm sure many of you know or even teach other courses. Please send info to me about them.

I am still working at ONE Institute & Archives, curator for The Performing Arts Collection. I was thrilled to receive a copy of David Gaard's "lost play" AND PUPPY DOG TAILS from the author with a promise to send us his personal archives as well. I thank David and urge all of you artists to consider sending your papers and scripts to a facility that is dedicated to preserving our community's culture and history. Let ONE preserve your work for the future generations to appreciate, and, if you could send a check to help maintain the Collection, that's great too.

Unfortunately Tom W. Kelly was unable to write a S.F. column this issue but I hope he will be able to next time. I also thank Steven LaVigne, Nathaniel Grey, Tom O'Neil and Michael Van Kerckhove for their columns; and Howard Casner, Doric Wilson, Sandra de Helen, Ellie Covan, David King, Linda Eisenstein, Ronnie Larsen, Sue Hamilton, Jason Stuart, David Gaard, Bill Poore, Bud Coleman, Kim Garfield, and all The Publicists and Theatres that sent information. Also I especially want to thank Fritz Klein and C.I. C.A. for their generous grant and Bill Poore, and our other Subscribers and Jim Russell, Demian and Sally Barron for making this issue happen.

We mourn the passing of Stonewall veteran and STAR activist Sylvia Rivera on February 19, 2002.

**Keep Creating and Wage Peace,
Bill Kaiser, editor**

PURE GOLD

ONE's 50th Anniversary Benefit
Sunday, May 12, 2002, 2pm, 909 W. Adams, L.A.
Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at door
Call Bill at 818-953-5096, or ONE at 213-741-0094

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ON THE BOARDS

Note: Descriptions are based on press releases or personal knowledge. "*" 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.

***Altered Ego** with Will Clark, Wings, NYC, opens March 9, 2002; 212-627-2961;
www.cockring.org/PornoPaparazzi/2002/02AlteredEgo/AlteredEgo.htm

And Then There Was Nun by Bruce W. Gilray and Richard T. Witter, a spoof of Ten Little Indians with celebrity order of nuns including Shoshana Henri as Sister Bette!
Knightsbridge Theatre, Los Angeles, Jan.-Feb. 2002

***Awaken the Wolves** by Kevin Brofsky, a young man lit the fuse that sparked the Holocaust, Raw Space, NYC, opens March 8, 2002; 212-279-4200;
www.geocities.com/awakenthewolves

***Being Beautiful** by McKinley Johnson and Stephanie Newsome, an original musical detailing the lives of Black drag queens in the 40s alternating with 70s Chicago, Bailiwick, Chicago, opened January 20, 2002; 773-883-1090.

Bent by Martin Sherman, Flatiron Theatre Company, NYC, Feb. 2002.

***Besame Mucho Chicana** by Monica Palacios, The Village, Hollywood, opens June 7, 2002; 323-860-7300.

***Body Blows** with Tim Miller, Tim's latest tour-de-force, Bailiwick, Chicago, March 16-17, 2002; 773-883-1090, and on tour.

Callboy by Thomas Santiago, deception, greed, exploitation, Coleman and Smith Theatre, Los Angeles, January 2002.

***Circle** by Suzanne Bachner, a group of diverse characters all linked together through a series of sexual encounters, The Kraine Theatre, NYC, opened Feb. 15, 2002; 212-206-1515

***Civil Sex** with Brian Freeman, a solo piece with one of the original Pomo Afro Homos, The Furniture Factory, Detroit; March 8-10, 2002, 313-832-8890.

Clit Notes by Holly Hughes, an insightful and hilarious tour of the psychic swamps of home, the wasteland of pop homophobia and high reaches of lesbian passion, Lambda Players, Sacramento; Jan.-Feb. 2002.

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

Community Property by Ed Stevens, a comedy with ex-lovers on vacations with new lovers, 6@ Penn Theatre, San Diego, Nov.-Dec. 2001.

Conversations with the Pool Boy by Robert Coles, the Virgin Islands turned out not to be a place to relax in this new comedy, Vortex Theater Company, NYC, Dec. 2001-Jan. 2002.

A Comedy of Eros by Paul Firestone, a contemporary madcap lesbian farce, Hudson Guild Theatre, NYC, Jan.-Feb. 2002.

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, Nov. 2001-Jan. 2002.

The Day I Stood Still by Kevin Elyot, a gay teenage boy's unrequited love for his male best friend with surprising twists, Elephant Theatre, Los Angeles, Jan.-Feb. 2002.

Design for Living by Noel Coward, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, Jan.-Feb. 2002.

***Discordia** by Linda Eisenstein and James A. Levin, a musical with satiric songs amidst the background of the Holy Grail, Percival, Cassandra and Arthurian knights, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland, opening in April 2002.

***Doing Judy** by Dan Evans, a serial killer is bumping off Judy Garland impersonators in this new comedy, Matrix Theatre, Hollywood; opened Jan. 19, 2002, 310-289-2999.

***Double Agency** by Peggy Shaw and Lois Weaver. Two shows: MISS RISQUE, fin de siecle Paris billed as a lesbian tarantella and IT'S A SMALL HOUSE AND WE'VE LIVED IN IT ALWAYS, a couple in a twenty year relationship still demanding attention and territory; La Mama, NYC, opened Feb. 14, 2002, 212-475-7710.

Drama Club with Alec Mapa, his newest solo show, The Village, Hollywood, Feb. 2002.

Eastern Standard by Richard Greenberg, the classic comedy with Mink Stole, Hudson Avenue Theatre, Hollywood, Feb. 2002.

***End of the World Party** by Chuck Ranberg, a hit comedy set in Fire Island, future productions planned at Reality Theatre, Columbus, June 2002, and Bailiwick, Chicago and Naughty Austin, Austin, details forthcoming.

***Endless Night, Sweet Delight** by Howard Casner, Wings, NYC, opening Aug. 9, 2002, 212-627-2961.

***eXs** by David Gaard, a comedy set in sexually active and free-wheeling San Francisco, Clemente Solo Velez Cultural Center, NYC, opened Jan. 18, 2002, 212-206-1515.

A Few Gay Men by Ronnie Larsen, true stories about sex, love, and life, Zephyr Theatre, Hollywood, Dec. 2001-Feb. 2002.

Fit to Be Tied by Nicky Silver, a dark holiday comedy, Manbites Dog Theater, Durham, Dec. 2001-Jan. 2002.

***Four** by Christopher Shinn, a Black English professor goes on a date with a 16-year-old boy he has picked up on the internet, Manhattan Theatre Club, NYC, opened Feb. 19, 2002.

***Halsted Street, Chicago: A Few Tales from Boystown** by Howard Casner, five one-acts centered on Chicago's gay ghetto, Halsted Street Productions at Moving Arts, L.A., opening May 3, 2002.

***Hedwig and the Angry Inch** with text by John Cameron Mitchell and lyrics by Stephen Trask, Outward Spiral, Minneapolis, opening Feb. 12, 2002, 612-343-3390, or www.theatreworks.com

***Holy Warhola** with Steve Gin, a glimpse into the art and life of one of the world's best known gay artists, Andy Warhol, Teatro Berdache, Calgary, opened Feb. 17, 2002, 403-268-4100.

Hotel Bethelhem! by Tim Bryant and Tom W Kelly, an over the top holiday farce, EXIT, San Francisco, Nov.-Dec. 2001

I Should Be So Lucky by Kylie Minogue, a musical about a young gay man trying to find true love, Melbourne, Jan.-Feb. 2002.

I Think I Ken - conceived by Alan Tibbetts, a comic dance theater with Barbie and Ken (who's gay); HERE Arts Center, NYC, Feb. 2002.

Imitating Sam by Ray Proscia, a comedy that celebrates love, friends and family, Chautauqua Theatre Alliance, Hollywood, Jan.-Feb. 2002.

***Insurrection: Holding History**, "Angels In America" meets "The Colored Museum" in this riff of repression of sexuality and race in America, Celebration Theatre, at The McCadden Place Theatre, Hollywood; opened Feb. 22, 2002, 323-957-1884.

Jeffrey by Paul Rudnick, Diversionsary Theatre, San Diego, Dec. 2001-Jan. 2002.

***Jerry-O** by J. Max Turner, an adult gay play about with love and caring, a mentally challenged emotionally starved young man's latent talents unfold, Palladium Theatre, St. Petersburg, FL; opens Mar. 1, 2002, 727-822-3590.

***The Laramie Project** conceived by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project, an OUR TOWN exploration of the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, Stages Repertory, Houston, Jan.-Feb. 2002; NJ Rep, Long Branch, NJ, Jan.-Feb. 2002; Stoner Studio Theater, Des Moines, Feb. 2002; (Mostly) Harmless Theatre, St. Louis, opening June 2002, 314-614-7411, www.mhttheatre.com ... and many more productions everywhere.

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, Oct.-Dec. 2001.

***The Lavender Lockerroom** by F. Allen Sawyer, a comedy with balls! Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, opens Mar. 7, 2002, 415-861-5079.

***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, opened 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, Jan.-Feb. 2002.

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, Jan.-Feb. 2002.

***Love Seats for Virginia Woolf** by Randy Gener, drawn from diaries, letters and other autobiographical sources the play reconstructs the important figures of the Bloomsbury Group, D/B Project Space, Brooklyn; opened Feb. 16, 2002, 718-855-9394.

***The Masseur** by Bill Poore and Robert Joseph, two men are stripped of body and soul and what it takes for a healthy relationship, premiere production of Lakota Rainbow, Black Box Theater, Gay and Lesbian Community Center, Salt Lake City, opens Mar. 7, 2002, 801-583-2036.

***Menopausal Gentleman** with Peggy Shaw, Furniture Factory, Detroit, Mar. 22-24, 2002, 313-832-8890.

***Milton's Way** by Ted Williams, a journey of a gay man, Spotlight On Festival at the Raw Space, NYC, Feb. 28-Mar. 17, 2002.

Miss Gulch Returns! by Fred Barton, the wicked musical, Richmond Triangle Players, Richmond, Feb. 2002.

***Mistress Ecstasy's Erotic Circus**, a kinky memoir with Marjorie Conn, Raw Space, NYC; opens Mar 3, 2002, 212-279-4200, www.spotlighton.org

***The Moons of Jupiter** by Jessica Litwak, an odyssey stretching from the pioneer American West to outer space, The Village, opening in May 2002, 323-860-7300.

***The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told** by Paul Rudnick, Adam and Steve with their lesbian friends Jane and Mabel discover the pleasures and perils of the Garden Of Eden, Theatre New West, Houston, Dec. 2001-Jan. 2002; Bailiwick, Chicago, opens March 24, 2002 after previews, 773-883-1090.

My Night with Reg by Kevin Elyot, the tour-de-force London hit, Knightsbridge Theatre, Los Angeles, Nov.-Dec. 2001.

The Mystery of Irma Vep by Charles Ludlam, New Conservatory Theatre Center, S.F., Jan.-Feb. 2002.

***Naked Boys Singing** created by Robert Schrock, the musical revue sensation, ongoing 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; opened 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, Sept.-Dec. 2001, New Line Theatre, St. Louis; opens March 7, 2002, 314-773-6526.

***Out in the Garden** by Carolyn Scott Jeffs, an outrageous comedy where Stuart decided on the night before his wedding to have his first gay experience and his lover follows him home with hilarious results, Finborough Theatre, London; opened Feb. 6, 2002, 020-7373-3842.

***Party** by David Dillon, Cowpokes Theatre, New Orleans, Sept, 2001, also on tour with two different companies, and The Little Theatre, Las Vegas, opening May 2002.

***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.

A Queer Carol by Joe Godfrey, a resetting of the Dickens classic to a group of gay men in contemporary Manhattan; The Duplex, NYC, Dec. 2001-Jan. 2002.

Real Live Girl with Damien Atkins, an outrageous gender-bending solo, Buddies in Bad Times, Toronto, Dec. 2001.

***Rich White Trash** by Jerrold Rabushka. Set in a Johnson City Tenn. hardware store, a closeted and uninitiated gay man battles a homophobic mother, deals with his attraction to his brutal and married best friend and a host of other greedy folk, The Theatre at St. John's, St. Louis; opens Apr. 5, 2002, 314-276-8693.

Richard And Philip by George Barthel, the story of Richard The Lionheart and Philip of France, Wings, NYC, Jan.-Feb. 2002.

***The Ritz** by Terrence McNally, Lambda Players, Sacramento opens Mar. 22, 2002, 916-366-3904; also New Conservatory Theatre Center, S.F., 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, Dec. 2001-Jan. 2002.

***Runt** with Michael Phillip Edwards, Edinburgh Fringe winning solo show, The Village, Hollywood, opens Mar. 1, 2002, 323-860-7300.

***Rustle of Wings and Other One Act Comedies** by Linda Eisenstein, a collection of crisp, relevant and thoughtful one acts, HAG Theatre, Buffalo, opens Mar. 1, 2002, 716-879-0935.

***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; also New Conservatory Theatre Center, S.F., opens May 4, 2002, 415-861-8972.

Something Cloudy, Something Clear by Tennessee Williams; Daylight Zone, Philadelphia, Nov.-Dec. 2001.

***Sordid Lives** by Del Shores, Hothouse Theatre, St. Louis, opens May 2002.

Spanked with Aaron Hartzler and Ian MacKinnon, exploring being boyfriends in the 21st century, Highways, Santa Monica, Feb. 2002.

Speed Hedda adapted from Ibsen by Robert Pryor and The Fabulous Monsters, La Mama, NYC, Jan.-Feb. 2002.

***Splendor**, SNAP! Productions, Omaha, opens Mar. 7, 2002, 402-341-2757.

***Strip/Tease** by Neil Weaver, a gay director and straight actor engage in nude acting exercises, moved to The Complex, Hollywood, ongoing, 323-692-8059.

***Tango Masculino** by Clint Jeffries, a new musical, Wings, NYC, opens April 4, 2002, 212-627-2961.

A Taste of Honey by Shelagh Delaney, the ground-breaking play made its L.A. debut, 2100 Square Feet Theatre, L.A., Jan.-Feb. 2002.

***Telling Tales Out Of School** with Kathy Griffin, an Eve Arden for the new millennium, The Village, Hollywood, opens Mar. 2, 2002, 323-860-7300.

***Thief River** by Lee Blessing, a love story between two men in rural Minnesota, Guthrie Lab, Minneapolis, opened Feb. 20, 2002, 612-377-2224.

The 13 Circles by The Ordyr of the Black Sun, a demonic Goth-Rock orgiastic ritual, Vortex Rep, Austin, Feb. 2002.

***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.

Valhalla by Paul Rudnick, the story of mad King Ludwig of Bavaria intersects with two Texas not so good old boys, Juilliard, NYC, Dec. 2001.

***The Very Worst of Varla Jean Merman** with Jeffrey Roberson, the Diva is back, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opens April 6, 2002, 415-861-8972.

Visiting Mr. Green by Jeff Baron, Ross, a NYC Guppie does community service with an elderly recluse he almost hit in a crosswalk, Off-Broadway Theatre, Milwaukee, Nov.-Dec. 2001.

The Watch for Sunrise by G.J. Portman, a young gay priest and South African bishop against the backdrop of the Anglican Bishops Conference, Buddies In Bad Times, Toronto, Jan. 2002.

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

***The West Side Gang** by Doric Wilson, a revival of the classic hit play, The Eagle New York Bar, NYC, opens Apr. 4, 2002, 212-563-2218.

***Women Behind Bars** by Tom Eyan, a stage-noir send-up of the women's prison movies of the 1950s, Theatre Rhinoceros, S.F.; opens Mar. 14, 2002, 415-861-5079.

***Word Made Flesh** by Michael Maher, piece explores the relationship of spirit and body, god and human, Bailiwick, Chicago, opened Feb. 9, 2002, 773-883-1090.

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THEATRE BITS

by Bill Kaiser

Austin: the Vortex Repertory Company presented an all-new theatre ritual DARK GODDESS 2002 in January 2002. The stunning gathering of goddesses features Hekate, Pele, Lilith, Kali and many more. 512-478-lava, www.vortexrep.org

Boston: The Theater Offensive's troupe Dagger (dykes with a cutting edge) presented ONE LOVE for Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 19, 2002. Peace begins in the hands of women. 617-542-4214, dagger@thetheateroffensive.org, www.thetheateroffensive.org

Brooklyn: Events from Brooklyn Arts Exchange in January-February, 2002 included Women Hitting The Wall: Stories from The Dance World, and an adaptation of Gertrude Stein's

children's tale THE WORLD IS ROUND. 718-832-0018 or info@bax.org

Calgary: Teatro Berdache under Creative Director Steve Gin is producing GLTB work with an emphasis on multiculturalism. Currently they are mounting a piece on Andy Warhol. 403-245-0127 or tberdache@aol.com

Cedar Rapids: CSPA continues to bring theater, music and art. In Jan. 2002 the Rude Mechs troupe from Austin performed LIPSTICK TRACES. 319-364-1580 or info@legionarts.org

Chicago: Bailiwick had a benefit for its Pride Series in January called "Heat 2" which featured exotic male dancers taking it off for art. www.bailiwick.org

Los Angeles: Michael Caldwell and Rachel Winfree launched a new theatre company this fall with Chautauqua Theatre Alliance. After a gala in November, they presented their first show IMITATING SAM at the Egyptian Arena Theatre recently. 323-60-8865, www.ctala.com

In Nov.-Dec. 2002 talented actor Amos Cowson appeared in HEAVEN CAN WAIT by Harry Segall at Theatre Palisades.

At ONE Institute & Archives AIDS History Project curator Lee Mentley produced a World AIDS day weekend event with readings by Dale Raoul, Michael Kearns and Mark Thompson in conjuncture with an exhibit on AIDS activism curated by Stuart Timmons.

ONE will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of ONE Inc. On May 12, 2002 at 2pm, 909 W. Adams. Don't miss this special event. For further information call 213-741-0094 or www.oneinstitute.org

PINAFORÉ! adapted by Mark Savage has been extended at Celebration Theatre and has garnered four Robbie nominations, three Backstage West awards, and six LA Weekly nominations. Bravo! Incidentally, the Robbie Awards bestowed by critic Rob Stevens were held at The El Portal Theatre Feb. 25, 2002 and April 22 is the L.A. Weekly Award show.

Mar. 8-10, 2002 is the 18th Annual STAGE Benefit show DREAM: The Lyrics and Music of Johnny Mercer at the Luckman Center benefiting AIDS Project Los Angeles, The Neil Bogart Memorial Fund and Laguna Shanti. Bravo Michael Kearns and all involved. 323-656-9069 or www.stagela.com

More Kudos to Michael Kearns as he will be honored with the Playwrights' Arena's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Los Angeles Theatre on May 18, 2002 at the LATC. Bravo also to Playwrights' Arena now celebrating their 10th Anniversary Season. 213-485-1631 or www.playwrightsarena.org

March 15, 2002 at The Village will be "Symbolic Arts," an evening of original performance work from the participants of Danille Brazell's Intensive Workshop: Nancy Beverly, Kathleen Fontaine, Marian Jones, and Jennifer Pawlitschek; 323-860-7300.

Montreal: Les productions OUT/OUT Productions held a benefit in January 2002 for bent girls and their buddies at Belle Sala Rossa. www.out.ca

New Orleans: DRAMA! participated in "DramaRama 9" held in New Orleans in January 2002 doing a performance of MIDGETS FROM URANUS by Charles Kerbs. www.dramano.org

New York: Events at Dixon Place in January and February, 2002 included THE UNCLE DIARIES with Bob Morris, a single gay man's perspective on children and child-rearing; Singdangle! with Greg Walloch and others; LESBIAN AFFAIRS: a live soap opera by J. Schray; Queer Stories for Boys with Robin Goldfin, Brad Gretter, Doug McKeown, Dov Mostovoy, Jim Piazza, Glenn Schwartz, and George Stylians; and The Culture Bodega.

In March see Emmett Foster, Susan Burns, Soppin' Juice with Mark Holt, and singer Imani Q'ryn. 212-532-1546, www.dixonplace.org

Dance Theater Workshop held a panel at New School University on Feb. 19, 2002 entitled "Gay Theater Now" Panelists included Justin Bond, David Drake, James Hannaham, Tony Phillips, and Moderator Philip Yenawine. www.dialnosa.edu
www.nsu.newschool.edu

St. Louis: Joan Lipkin, AD of That Uppity Theatre Company emceed the 7th annual benefit for PROMO, a personal rights group in Missouri. Called "Words of Love," the event is a contrast to the traditional Valentine's Day stereotype of heterosexual love. 314-862-4900.

Salzburg: Writer Sandra de Helen recently went to the American International School in Salzburg, Austria to head up the drama program for their Arts Festival.

San Diego: Diversionary Theatre garnered 5 awards in the 5th Annual KPBS Patte Awards for Theater Excellence held in January 2002. Shows honored included JEFFREY, BREAKING THE CODE and LOT'S DAUGHTERS.

San Francisco: Theatre Rhinoceros started the new year with a bang — a Standup Spectacular starring Tom Ammiano, Karen Ripley, Pippi Lockstocking, Lisa Geduldig, Bridget Schwartz and Doug Holsclaw. 415-861-5079, www.therhino.org

Theatre Rhinoceros made history with its first contract with Actors Equity. The Jon Sims Center presents POLARI, a queer Hip-Hop cabaret March 9, 2002. 415-554-0402.

Also March 8, 2002 The New Conservatory Theatre opens the latest in its in-concert series with Stephen Sondheim's PASSION. 415-861-8972.

Santa Monica: Winter Wonderland was a dance party benefit for Highways in late Dec. 2002. Performing were Diviana Ingravello and many others. 310-315-1459.

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CHICAGO SCENE
by Michael Van Kerckhove

Greetings from an unseasonably warm Windy City!

Matthew Meets Jeff: As reported last time, Next Theatre was in preparation for the Chicago premiere of *The Laramie Project*. Since its opening in November, it received good reviews and was recommended for a Jeff Citation Nomination. (The Jeffs are basically Chicago's Tonys.) My boyfriend, Ernie, saw the original New York production and was worried about how second generation productions would work (other actors portraying the actors who played the townspeople ... you get the picture.) His worries were washed away and he feels the play has a strong life in the regional theatre circuit and beyond. And that's a good thing.

A Moving Mystery: This winter, About Face Theatre presents *Seven Moves*, Patricia Kane's adaptation of the Carol Anshaw novel. The story follows Chris Snow (played by Kane) whose lover of five years, Taylor (Elizabeth Rich), mysteriously disappears. Chris embarks on a journey to figure out what happened, and along the way faces the fear that we never really know the people we love ... In an interview with *Windy City Times*, Kane said she was drawn to the book because it wasn't a coming out story. It provided roles for women not just in their 20s (the supporting cast ranges from a friend's new 20-something girlfriend to Chris' elder therapist.)

Still Singing: Those *Naked Boys* are still *Singing* at Bailiwick Repertory. ("Extended Again!") For how long? Set to close March 24, 2002 before heading out on tour, perhaps the mild winter we're having has inspired them to stay awhile and keep their clothes off. Recently, there was an audition call for replacements. Any takers out there?

Bailiwick also presents: *Being Beautiful*, a musical by McKinley Johnson (who also stars) and Stephanie Newsom that takes us to the Chicago of the 40s and 70s as it follows the story of Afton, a young African American man who escapes his small town Texas life and becomes a drag queen in Chicago. There (here) he finds a new family and learns to live life to its fullest. Closes March 10, 2002.

Sweet Smell? In other musical buzz, *Sweet Smell of Success*, the new show by Marvin Hamlisch, John Guare, and Craig Carnelia, recently opened its pre-Broadway run at the Shubert theatre. Based on the 1957 film, the show stars John Lithgow, Kelli O'Hara, and Brian D'Arcy James. The reviews are in and they're mixed. Strong performances, uneven book, fabulous set, an imperfect score. But a good effort and the producers are working out the kinks before opening in New York in March. The show will most likely receive a handful of Tony nominations, but it may not succeed over the already hit Broadway show, *Urinetown*.

Real Drama: In drama of a different kind, MTV's long running reality show, *The Real World* premiered its Chicago season featuring gay cast members, Chris and Aneesa. (The double-headed shower stall should prove to add some extra excitement.) The cast was reported to have gone to see the also long running Chicago production of *The Vagina Monologues* at the Apollo Theatre, but apparently the

cameras weren't rolling. While we Chicagoans welcomed the cast for the most part, a small but vocal group in Wicker Park (where the cast lived) staged that good old tradition of street theatre: the protest. It was a protest against corporate entertainment moving into the traditionally artsy and bohemian neighborhood. Time will tell if the show incorporates the rallying into the final cut.

Who's Right? Speaking of protests, Chicago Dramatists presented a Saturday Series reading of *Visions of Right* by fellow Network Playwright Marcia Cebulka. Photographer Christina Romanek finds her show at a Topeka, KS gallery under attack by the "Phelpsonian" preacher, Noah Jones. The attack had more to do with her gay and Jewish associations than her actual art. In a scene where she confronts the Reverend, we realize that our ideas of right and wrong are not as easily definable as we'd like. A reading in Topeka was protested by Rev. Phelps himself. He wasn't in Chicago. We didn't give him a camera.

The Pulse: For those of you in the Twin Cities, my play *The Melted Lampshade* will be produced by The House of Bü at the Playwrights Center of Minneapolis. It opens June 7. A joyous spring to all. See you in the summer!

[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

- The long awaited movie version of the Tony-winning musical "Chicago" began production just before the New Year with cast members **Renée Zellweger**, **Catherine Zeta-Jones** and **Richard Gere**. In a recent interview Gere was quoted as describing Zellweger's vocal abilities as similar to Billie Holiday (maybe he meant Billie Burke) and Jones singing style as like Dusty Springfield. Before or after her early unfortunate demise?
- The long planned film version of the stage musical Les Miserables may bypass the big screen for the little screen. Uber Producer Cameron Mackintosh has been in talks regarding a made-for-TV version of the singing version of Victor Hugo's classic drama.
- After Pupperty of the Penis and the Vagina Monologues what could possibly be left to surprise theatre audiences? How about "Menopause, the Musical?" Off-Broadway's Theatre Four will debut the turn of life songfest on April 4, postponed from last fall at the Minetta Lane Theatre.
- If you can handle Menopause the Musical then you can handle "Taboo," a new autobiographical music written by none other than Boy George. Now we now why he was too busy to be Liza's flower girl. The show had its West End premiere early this year. Looking at the world of London's club scene in the 80s, audiences are exposed to a world of

cross-dressers, drugs, and the music industry. A surprise to many, in the midst of this look at extreme lifestyles is a heterosexual love story. Put it all together and you've got Andy Hardy on Ecstasy.

- Remember that when you read about the April West End opening of "Shockheaded Peter," it is NOT about a botched circumcision. Scheduled to run at the Albery through June 15, the show is based on Heinrich Hoffman's children's stories.
- The current run of My Fair Lady, at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane, features choreography by the incomparable Matthew Bourne. The current cast of Jonathan Pryce and Joanna Riding will likely change as the show has been extended once more and this time through Dec. 21.
- All that talk of MTV and Showtime joining forces to create a gay network has certainly sparked numerous suggestions on programming. The powers involved are confident they can have the project up and running within a year and make it available on Satellite to provide greater availability. Though there would be substantial financial investment, you can pretty much count on limited original programming with likely reruns of "Queer As Folk," "In The Life," and probably the old "Ellen" series. One hopes they would also consider rarely seen gems from the past like the old cable series "Brothers," or a 70s tele-film "That Certain Summer" in which Martin Sheen and Hal Holbrook played a gay couple.
- Call it performance art, stand up comedy or whatever but I believe the **Liza Minnelli's** wedding in March will be the best piece of theatre on the East coast. Liza's nuptials to producer **David Gest** will be her fourth and his first — to a woman at least. **Michael Jackson** will be Best Man and **Elizabeth Taylor** will be Bride's Maid, which should change her sad reputation of "Always a Bride, never a Bridesmaid." The bride chose ivory colored invitations with Victorian style lettering that reads "Wedding with a W."
- **Rupert Graves**, Scutter from the film "Maurice," will star with **Kate Burton** in a revival of "The Elephant Man" at Broadway's Royale Theatre beginning March 26. American actor **Billy Crudup** plays John Merrick with Graves as his friend Dr. Treves and Burton as Mrs. Kendall.
- The world premiere of HBO's 'The Laramie Project, based on Moises Kaufman's play is set for March 16. If you don't get HBO then find a friend with a satellite dish. The project was direct and adapted by Kaufman, and explores the tragic murder of Matthew Shepard. The cast includes such notables as Nestor Carbonell (Resurrection Blvd.), Peter Fonda, Christina Ricci, Steve Buscemi (Parting Glances) and the great Frances Sternhagen.
- The recent hit revival of Clare Booth Luce's "The Woman" will be broadcast on PBS, May 29. The much-publicized full-frontal nudity scene when one character steps out of the tub, will be shot from a different angle for the television broadcast. Hasn't everyone seen Jennifer Tilly's tits by now anyway? The ensemble includes Mary Louise Wilson, Rue McClanahan, Cynthia Nixon, and Kristen Johnson.

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SODOM EAST: NEW YORK

On the Great Purple Way

by Tom O'Neil

Ho-Ho-Homo Christmas in New York

No one — not even a straight, constipated Scrooge — could cry "Bah! Humbug!" at the bravura homo twist on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" that made Manhattan's Yuletide gay when it premiered at the Duplex cabaret theater in Greenwich Village in December. As most rave reviews pointed out, the stockings of "A Queer Carol" are not only stuffed with high camp — imagine a wigged out Pearl Bailey as the Drag Ghost of Christmas Present — but it's also loaded with soul, poignancy, deft writing, and enough heart to melt any Ebenezer Falwell or Robertson. "It's not just some kitschy gay 'Christmas Carol,'" star Danny Pintauro (Jonathan on 1980s TV series "Who's the Boss?") insisted during media interviews. "It's very touching and true to life." Pintauro earned critics' huzzahs for portraying both Scrooge and Tiny Tim. For further info on the show, contact the playwright via email at josephfgodfrey@aol.com

"I think this is 'The Christmas Carol' of the 21st Century!" insists drag icon Joey Arias about "Christmas with the Crawfords," which was revived for a second consecutive year in Manhattan, this time at that the Chelsea Playhouse. Once again Arias filled Crawford's considerable shoulder pads with aplomb, making critics (and audiences) flip their wigs.

Meantime, actor/author Jeffrey Solomon enjoyed flipping out with theatrical abandon while portraying more than a dozen characters in "Santa Claus is Coming Out," his one-man "mockumentary" about the secret life of St. Nick as if told by VH1's "Behind the Music." But critics and audiences cheered him on, too, when he took the stage at the Gene Frankel Theater to dispense barbs to the religious right and homophobic rappers, all tightly wrapped in sassy satire. Contact: director Marc Cannistraro at 212-307-1118.

Unity Fest, now in its fifth year, featured 18 new gay plays by 14 authors performed over three nights. The trio of programs rotated throughout December at the Bank Street Theater and showcased such standout new works as "Rug Store Cowboy" by Gary Garrison, a slick comedy about a clerk in a Manhattan carpet store who'd "luv" to get rug burns from being ridden by a wily cowboy who's shopping for a floor covering. Also funny, but filled with well-spun drama, was "Never Said," playwright Kim Yaged's recollections of two past lovers — one female, one male — while she yearns for a romp with a horny stranger. In Anton Dudley's "Pick-Up Lines," two studs misunderstand each other to hilarious extremes when their conversation is drowned out by the hubbub in a gay bar. For more info: www.4thunity.org

Thank God drama is returning to Manhattan's gay bars! REAL drama, that is, officially this time. Playwright Doric Wilson is currently spearheading the resurrection of TOSOS, a randy gay troupe that once staged plays in some unlikely non-theater spaces during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Wilson's "The West Street Gang," for example, became a

long running hit at the Spike, the legendary leather bar, in 1977.

Now TOSOS 2 will present a new production of Wilson's Stonewall play "Street Theater" at Manhattan's hottest new leather bar, the Eagle (55 W. 28th St.) sometime in March. If the production proves to be commercially successful, the venue — and other gay bars with performance-friendly spaces — could be used to stage other plays that TOSOS 2 is showcasing in a reading series at the Gay Community Center. The series has revived many gay plays that failed to get proper attention in years past, such as "Look, We've Come Through," which closed on Broadway after five performances in 1961 despite starring a studly young Burt Reynolds. TOSOS 2 also includes readings of musicals and new plays, although Wilson stresses, "We're not big enough yet to accept unsolicited new plays, sorry!"

Wilson defines TOSOS 2's goal thus: "We want to find alternative spaces — like gay bars — where we can perform plays, prove that they're viable and then move them to traditional theaters where they can have extended runs." Contact: 212-563-2218, tosos2@nyc.rr.com

Here's a roundup of recent notable stage productions:

Exs - The title of the newest play by noted playwright David Gaard has a double meaning. It's about ex-lovers and the excess of the gay-love lifestyle. The story tracks two San Francisco studs from gym to Caribbean beach to bed to bust-up when one of them cheats on the other. En route: Gaard's mastery of melodrama in poignant words — and lots of nudity on stage. CSV Cultural Center Theater, Jan. 23-Feb 17, 2002.

Richard and Philip - Wings Theater launched its latest gay series in early January with a new drama by George Barthel about the lusty relationship between England's Richard the Lionhearted and France's Philip II. Info: www.wingstheatre.com

Speed-Hedda - Ibsen's Hedda Gabler is re-imagined as an early 1960s cinema shocker in a gender-bending production by L.A.-based Fabulous Monsters Performance Company. Jan.-Feb., La Mama, 212-475-7710.

Orgy at Sea, Women behind Bars, and Lavender Love Rumble were among the wacky love stories included in Lesbian Pulp-O-Rama at HERE, 145 - 6th Ave. in mid-Nov.

Dinner at Dario's - A comedy about the breakup of a rocky gay relationship that entwines all of the couple's friends. Mid-Nov. at the Theatre-Studio.

Neurotica - Two women meet in a chat room and reenact the romances of such historic lesbian figures as Eleanor Roosevelt and Lorena Hickock in this lusty cyber-comedy. Mid-Nov. at the WOW Café Theater.

Conversations with the Pool Boy - A revival of Robert Cole's 1994 comedy about a harried Manhattanite suffering a miserable Caribbean vacation until he's charmed by a young maintenance man. Sanford Meisner Theater, 212-206-1764.

Havana Is Waiting - The New York premiere of a new play by Eduardo Machado tells the tale of a gay Cuban man who

returns home to confront the demons of his childhood and the brutal repression of gays by Castro's government. Nov., at the Cherry Lane Theater.

A Comedy of Eros - A new comedy by Paul Firestone about a mother who freaks out when her daughter decides to wed her lesbian lover. Hudson Theater, Jan. 27- Feb 17.

Neil's Garden - a comedy by new playwright Geoffrey Hassman about two interior designers who live in a fragile world of fine crystal and hearts easily broken. Nov., Rattlestick Theatre.

Publicists in NYC area: please contact Tom O'Neil at nyctom1111@aol.com

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MINNEAPOLIS SCENE

by Steven LaVigne

Surprisingly warm weather in early November kept people outdoors longer than usual, as we geared up for the cold weather ahead here in the northern Midwest. Minnesota Opera opened its season with a slightly restrained rendition of Donizetti's LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR at the Ordway Music Theatre. Directed by James Robinson, who previously staged a smashing production of TURANDOT, it was handsomely designed by Christine Jones, and beautifully conducted by Dean Williamson. Using two large set pieces that resembled both the walls of Lammermoor, and the Scottish highlands, we easily came to understand how Lucia could be driven to insanity by her surroundings and her brother's actions, as her love for Edgardo, the Master of Ravenswood falls apart before her.

Costume designer Constance Hoffman used leather when costuming all the men except Edgardo. All of the women were in veiled reds. Lucia's mad scene, lit in psychedelic shades of red and blue, almost resembled a bar full of leather daddies, which distracted from Jeanine Thames' performance as Lucia. Although she was competent, she seemed to be holding something back, and she failed to bring any passion to this most tragically romantic of Donizetti's operas.

Margaret Cho brought her NOTORIOUS CHO tour to Orchestra Hall on Nov. 16. While this isn't the appropriate venue for comedy, Cho shone brightly. African American drag performer Vaginal Davis opened for her. Davis performed some sort of silly sacrifice to the Goddess with a "male virgin." She used cherries and whipped cream on his toes, as she sashayed around, lip-synching to her new CD, "Cherries in the Snow." Cho faced a lively audience, talking about an Edinburgh gay bar, C.C. Bloom's, named after Bette Midler's character in BEACHES. She said it's the gayest place on earth. Cho uses her life experiences, like an in-depth discussion of Colonic Irrigation to create her comedy. She makes a connection between S/M sex, fans of STAR TREK, and those who participate in Renaissance Festivals. While Cho can't decide if she's a bottom because it turns her on, or because she's just lazy, she notes that "if straight men had a period, every bachelor pad would look like a murder scene."

Undoubtedly, the highlight of Cho's Minneapolis performance, however, was a moment when she was

discussing getting fisted at an S/M club. Cho broke up the woman who was signing her performance when she asked about the fisting gesture. A politically active comedienne, Cho has a greater sense of self-esteem since her last tour, I'M THE ONE THAT I WANT, and she told the audience that the minority revolution is long overdue.

Of course, holiday entertainment was the bill of fare for this time of year. In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre brought back their delightful version of the Italian classic, LA BEFANA. While the title character wears a mask that's a cross between queer children's writer, Tomie de Paola's STREGA NONA and Miss Viola Swamp, another favorite children's character, this production, which explores the legend of the old woman who follows the star of the Three Kings searching for the baby Jesus, is a real treat. Using every corner of their theatre, the show delightfully takes the audience around the world as it tells its classic story.

Someday, I hope that Joel Sass, the director of the Mary Worth Theatre Company, will achieve enough status that a student writes a paper about Sass' extensive uses of red on the stage. The bloody images of TITUS ANDRONICUS led into the glorious reds onstage in M. BUTTERFLY. The clever manner in which Sass uses a single piece of long red cloth in SHAKESPEARE'S R & J, at the Loring Playhouse this winter, somehow completes a cycle.

The Twin Cities has seen several variations on Shakespeare's great romantic tragedy in the past several years. Chief among these was a musical version written by Broadway star Terrance Mann, which premiered at the Ordway Theatre a couple of years ago. There was even a production done by grade school children in a local park. None of them, however, has the impact of this handsome production. Written by Joe Calarco, SHAKESPEARE'S R & J is set in a Catholic Prep School. A stage filled with cage-like bars, behind which are dozens of burning red votive candles and the rigid movement of the cast's four actors, reflects the regimented repression these characters live under. Dressed in gray slacks, white shirts and blue ties, the boys march in formation, recite in formation, and extinguish any personality that may hinder them from pleasing those in charge. During their free time late at night, they burn energy, slamming into one another, using chalk to create graffiti as a means of individual expression and they study the texts for the classics, in this case, ROMEO & JULIET.

As the testosterone flows, and the ensemble slams into one another, there's at first a lingering masculinity. Shakespeare's text is somewhat jumbled, but it gives a surprisingly fresh meaning to the scenes. During the wedding scene, for example, the dialogue is ripped from the text and Sonnet 18, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" is interpolated. On its own, the focus of repression, so much a theme of Shakespeare's play, is deeply reflected here. As the romance of this play is performed, the rigidity is loosened, along with the ties and shirts, and merges into a complete new whole.

While the cast does superb ensemble work, they each have their merits. Doe-eyed and handsome, Brent Doyle is a terrific Romeo, while Mark L. Mattison has one of those faces that easily softens into a beautiful Juliet, and hardens to play Benvolio. Steve Kath's body is lithe and sturdy, and he's

found completely rounded characters as both the Nurse and as Tybolt. Joe Leary in the triple roles of Mercutio, Friar Lawrence and Lady Capulet shows enormous versatility.

On Jan. 3, offices at The Guthrie Theatre suffered major damage when a water main broke and destroyed archives, and design plans. The theatre is building a new home on the riverfront, and this building will eventually be demolished. Changes in the current season schedule were also announced. Michael Kahn was scheduled to direct Tennessee Williams' CAMINO REAL, but, due to the death of his partner the production will be replaced with Arthur Miller's ALL MY SONS. SPEAK EASY, a 1920s revision of Moliere's LE BOURGEOIS GENTILHOMME is being developed into a full-scale musical, so a new version of THE CANTERBURY TALES will take its place. Michael Bogdanov and Kevin Kling, who created the successful revision of THE VENETIAN TWINS a few years ago, are creating this script.

With all this, it would be nice to report that their production of Shakespeare's ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA is a terrific, splashy production. There is much to admire in this very handsome staging, lavishly directed piece by Mark Lamos. Still, I admit that, before this was over, I was cheering for the asp. Even with cutting, this is a long evening of theatre.

Power, lust and greed are the themes of this minor classic. Following the death of his wife, Antony must choose between his Italian roots and the woman he loves. Played against Ming Cho Lee's set of light green and sky blue, there are touches of yellow but it doesn't really represent either the hot African desert and lends a rather cool treatment of this passionate, historic love story. Lamos has managed to find humor in the situations, and he gives his Egyptian characters a free-spiritedness that will work against them, as they are defeated by the pompous Romans. Shakespeare's never had so rich an historic tapestry to draw from and ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA should be electrifying. Why then, is it not?

As Cleopatra, Laila Robins is passionate, dynamic, and a bit silly, using lower registers in her voice to convey her emotions. Robert Cuccioli as Antony, wearing his heart on his sleeve, is equally dynamic, as he portrays the deeply conflicted hero of this romantic tragedy. Stephen Yoakam delivers an outstanding performance as Enobarus, Antony's first in command, while Leith Burke uses his commanding voice to articulate Caesar's greed as the Roman Empire grows. Among Cleopatra's handmaidens, Tess Lina as Charmian gives an especially lovely performance.

Lamos has given this production some marvelous touches, from Joan Greenwood's costumes: white cottons and linens for the Egyptians, red velvet and brown leather for the Romans. The all-male drunken party, following Antony's betrothal to Octavia with its shirtless men staggering about the stage is enjoyable. By far, the opening of the second act, which uses a large map and toy ships to represent sea battles, resembles a game of Risk, and for the most part, effectively convey's the pageantry, if only in a minimal fashion. There lies the chief difficulties with the script. Written about 1607, either the trimming of the script or the play itself leaves issues unresolved, and leaves us questioning why things are presented as they are. For example, when Antony deserts Octavia, we never find out what's happened to her. Where does Antony's rage derive from when he has Thidias

whipped? (Or is it just because of Barton Tinapp's over the top line delivery?) Frankly, Shakespeare gave us the pageantry of war better during the climax of Henry V, and it's evident he couldn't top himself. The Guthrie's production of ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA is still an exquisite evening of theatre. One can't help but feel this is probably the best that can be done with an inferior script.

COMEDY

The Theater Offensive in Boston launched its 2002 season with the edgy comedy of Unitard-three solo performers - Michael Albo, Nora Burns, and David Ilku who recently were a hit in NYC. The show runs through March 16, 2002, 617-426-2787.

Comics Bob Smith and Mark Davis performed at the Celebrity Cavern Theater in Los Angeles in Jan. 2002.

Q Comedy showcase celebrated its 2nd anniversary in Jan. 2002. Shows are now on Mondays at 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero in San Francisco. Performers have been Scott Capurro, Bridget Schwartz, Karen Ripley, Nick Leonard, Lisa Geduldig, and many more. www.qcomedy.com

Other comedy in S.F. Bay area included the 3rd Annual Fall Lesbian and Gay Comedy Night in Nov in Santa Rosa with Jaffe Cohen, Mary Carouba and Elvira Kurt from We Mean It Productions; 707-824-0335.

Also Castro Comedy in Jan. 2002 included Tom Ammiano, Nick Leonard, Bob Douglas and more at Art's Coffee Shop. 415-951-2448. ComicKaze in Walnut Creek's 1220 Club featured Ronn Vigh, Dana Cory, John Doyle and Chantel Carrere.

Aside from touring everywhere! Jason Stuart appeared on TV in "My Wife and Kids" in January. His CD is "Gay Comedy without a Dress." www.jasonstuart.com

FESTIVALS & SEASONS

Lambda Players in Sacramento held a Readers Gay Play festival in January, 2002 with readings by Sacramento playwrights. The plays included PAPERCLIP MESSIAH by Matt Burlingame about a priest finding himself in a center of a forbidden love story: TOOT SWEET by Ani Pulai, in the 1800s France a transgender twist as a young woman transitions into a man; and DECEIT & FOUL PLAY by D.M Schuettee, the story of a retired talk show host visited by her two sons and resulting mayhem. 916-484-4742.

Buddies in Bad Times in Toronto held their 24th annual Rhubarb! Festival in Feb. 2002, which presented the largest and most raucous festival of new works produced in Canada! www.buddiesinbadtimestheatre.com

Unicorn Theatre's new season in Kansas City includes IN THE BLOOD by Suzan-Lori Parks; THE LARAMIE PROJECT by Moises Kaufman; and more. www.unicorntheatre.org

Bailiwick 's Lesbian Arts Festival in Chicago will be April 1-May 5, 2002. Highlighting the Festival will be Holly Hughes

among with Chicago's esteemed comedy group Hysterical Women. For a full schedule of events: 773-883-1090 or www.bailiwick.org

Unity Fest in NYC presented 18 short plays in 3 programs in Dec. 2001 at the Bank Street Theater. Some of the entries included St. ANTHONY AND THE APPENDIX by Robin Rice Lichtig, F2F by Linda Eisenstein, NOT EXACTLY STRANGERS by Andres J. Wrath, STACKED; A DEVIANT DOCTORAL DISSERTATION by Lisa Haas AND BLOW by Chay Yew. Other plays were RUG STORE COWBOY by Gary Garrison, a comedy between a carpet clerk and a cowboy, EVERGREEN by Amy A. Kirk about two women who was best friends as children and reunite later in life, PICK-UP LINES by Anton Duley, a comedy about two guys meeting in a bar, CLASS DISMISSED by Rich Orloff a religion professor has an affair with his student, NEVER SAID by Kim Yaged, a bisexual comedy and WHITE by Chay Yew, a middle-aged Chinese man's account of a night at a gay bathhouse. www.4thunity.org

Circle East (formerly Circle Rep) produced Centered Margins Festival for World AIDS weekend Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2001. There were nine staged readings of plays from the Age of AIDS: the First Twenty Years including AS IS by William Hoffman, THE BALTIMORE WALTZ by Paula Vogel, RAFT OF THE MEDUSA by Joe Pintauro, BEFORE IT HITS HOME by Cheryl L. West, THE DESTINY OF ME by Larry Kramer, LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION! by Terrence McNally, ANGELS IN AMERICA: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES and PERESTROIKA by Tony Kushner, and A PERFECT GANESH by Terrence McNally.

Manbites Dog Theater in Durham's 15th season continued with FIT TO BE TIED by Nicky Silver, and coming up in Spring, 2002 the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Festival 919-682-3343.

Act Out Productions season included BIGGER IS BETTER with Jane Hurst, SHAKESPEARE'S R&J, CORPUS CHRISTI by Terrence McNally. Upcoming in Sep. 2002 will be their hosted National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival.

DRAMA! in New Orleans season includes MIDGETS FROM URANUS and SEXY MUSIC AGAIN by Charles Kerbs, SELDOM SEEN by Tennessee Williams, and In The Works, new work from the DRAMA workshop. www.dramano.org

BAX/Brooklyn Arts Festival presents its 11th Annual Women's Performance Festival Mar. 8-17, 2002. Appearing will be Jennifer Allen, Terrain, Kriota Willberg and her group Dura Mater, African-American Choreographers Showcase curated by Christalyn Wright, Drag King Dred, Terianne Falcone, A Workshop for Women Writers with Joan Larkin, and Mothers/Daughters/Grandmothers/Granddaughters curated by Judith Sloan. 718-832-0018.

Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett, Mississippi presents the 14th Annual Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival Mar. 29-31, 2002, with music, performances, food and more. 601-344-1411, sisterspir@aol.com, www.rainbowpriderv.net/css

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FILM / VIDEO / TELEVISION/RADIO

AMC examined homosexuality in Hollywood with their OUTstanding Movies Festival in February with the premiere

of OUT OF THE CLOSET, OFF THE SCREEN a documentary of the life of openly gay actor William Haines, based on the bio by William Mann. There is a fine play on this subject by Claudio Macor called TAILOR MADE MAN that was done at Diversionary Theatre in San Diego. The Festival also ran GODS AND MONSTERS and THE CELLULOID CLOSET.

The Moondance 2002 Film Festival in Boulder was SRO in Jan. Go to www.moondancefilmfestival.com for a listing of winners. The stage play award was given to FIREHEART by Kari Ann Owen and Libbe S. Halvey was given the Libretto award for NOW, VOYAGER. The 2003 entry forms will be available starting in March 2002.

OUTFEST 2002 will be July 11-22, 2002 in Los Angeles. Submissions must be received by March 29, 2002 and are available at www.outfest.org

The documentary on the legendary Cockettes by Bill Weber and David Weissman was well received at Sundance with raves from audiences and critics. Watch for it!

There's been talk lately about gay TV channels in the works with MTV/Showtime and Alt 1-TV weighing in with plans for airing in 2003. There is also the possibility that Canada's PrideVision may expand into the American market.

The 6th Annual Out Far! Phoenix LG Film Festival was held Feb. 14-17, 2002. Their opening night film was SORDID LIVES, the film based on Del Shores' hilarious play. www.outfar.org

JOY Melbourne, 94.4 FM in Melbourne, Australia's first gay and lesbian radio station has finally been granted a permanent license after operating since Dec. 1, 1993 under temporary licenses. Kudos to them!

Speaking of radio, WBAI in NY, presented the play CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRAWFORDS Dec. 2001. And the Gay Radio Network made its launch Nov. 15, 2001 with diverse programming. Check out: www.gayradionet.com

Demian and Steve Bryant (of Partners Task Force for Gay & Lesbian Couples) are working on a video "GILGAMESH & ENKIDU: The Oldest Love Story Ever Written." Check out how you can help on this project: www.buddybuddy.com/q.html

Another project they are doing is "SCAREDY-KATE & THE MONSTERS –or- HOW TO PAY THE RENT," a marionette opera with music by Joseph Haydn. www.buddybuddy.com/kate.html

Demian has several videos currently available including "THE FIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS" (a musical comedy about same-sex couples and family values) www.buddybuddy.com/fight.html and two shorts: "GERTIE TAKES A TRIP TO THE MOON & A MAN RECYCLES" and "LEGGO" www.buddybuddy.com/dvd-1.html

Further information on Demian's company, Sweet Corn Productions, please see: www.buddybuddy.com/sweet.html

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LITERARY SCENE

Scott Miller's hilarious gay serial "The Ocean Chronicles" is the story of Joey and Joanne Ocean, an adult gay brother and lesbian sister and appears in newspapers across the country. Celebrating its first anniversary, check it out at www.geocities.com/theoceanchronicles/1-10.html

"noodle," a quarterly magazine about gay Asian and Pacific Islanders has issued a call for submissions. For further information call Max Lau at 415-587-3924 or visit www.noodlemagazine.com

COOTIE SHOTS: Theatrical Inoculations Against Bigotry for Kids, Parents and Teachers is a delicious assortment of plays, songs and poems that promote tolerance and celebrate all forms of diversity. Available from Theatre Communications Group ISBN 1-55936-184-0, COOTIE SHOTS is based on the work of the youth theatre group Fringe Benefits. Call 212-697-5230 or www.tcg.org or contact your local bookstore.

Writers Bloc in Los Angeles presented Another City: Writings From Los Angeles in Dec. 2001 with Luis Alfaro, Eloise Klein Healy and others.

The Purple Circuit will again be listed in TCG's Dramatists Sourcebook 2002-2003.

Dennis Doph has signed a contract with 1st Books Bloomington, IN to publish his volume of poems INSTEAD OF SOLITAIRE. Check out PATRIOTISM IS at www.geocities.com/broadway3524/insteadofsolitaire99

From Oxford Univ. Press, OUTLAW REPRESENTATION by Richard Meyer, on censorship, and homosexuality in 20th century American art. Orders: 800-451-7556.

Tim Miller's new book is BODY BLOWS, Six Performances from University of Wisconsin Press. Order from them at: www.wisc.edu/wisconsinpress/books/2073.htm or from your local bookstore.

Performance Artist Noel Alunit has written his first novel: LETTERS TO MONTGOMERY CLIFT. A coming of age story for a Filipino boy who enlists the help of the spirit of Montgomery Clift to find his mother imprisoned during the Marcos regime. Available from MacAdam/Cage Publishing, 1-931561-02-8.

Mark Haile is curator for the 2002 Literary Series at ONE Institute & Archives in Los Angeles on the third Sun of the month at 2pm, and on Oct. 5 which is Arts Open House throughout L.A. County. First writers to read were Paul Manchester and Eduardo Santiago. 213-741-0094

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MUSIC / OPERA / DANCE

The Bridge Dance Company premiered a new work at Highways in Santa Monica with "In the Beginning, Truth Walked Around Naked" Jan. 31, Feb. 1-2, 2002. The composer is Brian Gross and AD Phyllis Douglass.

Other dance events at Highways in January 2002 were Hae Kyung Lee and Dancers and Jack Kirven who performed a solo dance concert with "Icon," drawing a complex portrait of male sexuality.

There will be a new stage and mini-festival at the 2002 National Women's Music Festival with SheRocks! on June 8, 2002 at the Pruis auditorium in Indianapolis. www.wiaonline.org/nwmf

A CD release party of Aliso Lewis' "Hideaway" was hosted by Planet Ant records at The Furniture Factory in Detroit Jan. 26, 2002 and a monthly music series hosted by WDET will feature Liz Larin, Matt Watroba and The Dearing Concert Duo in coming months. www.walksquawk.org

Sugar Mama Gwen Avery and her Blues Band Sistah's performed at the Jon Sims Center in San Francisco in Feb. 2002. www.jonsimsctr.org

The Greater Cincinnati Gay Pride Music Festival will be June 8-9, 2002 in Hoffner Park featuring the Cincinnati Men's Chorus presentation of "Let Freedom Sing!" Cincinnati Pride is accepting applications for musical acts. www.cincypride.com

CROSSING OVER is a new music theater cabaret with Tom Bogdan (vocals) and Harry Huff (piano) directed by Terry Creach. The show was performed at La Mama ETC in NYC in Jan. 2002. 212-475-7710.

Steve Bryant gave a recital-concert in Seattle that was quite well received. See the concert program, extensive program notes, and performer's biographies at: www.buddybuddy.com/s-hn-1.html

Ducy Lee recordings announced the release of the original cast recording of THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOLLYWOOD by Wayne Moore. www.ducylee.com/cathld

There were many holiday concerts. In Los Angeles, The Gay Men's Chorus concert was called "Holiday Lights" and was the debut of new AD Dr. Bruce Mayhall. Their April 5-7 concert is "Divas' Revenge" at the Alex Theatre in Glendale. 323-650-0756.

Los Angeles Women's Chorus Vox Femina 's next concert is Mar. 9, 2002 called "Magic and Mystery" at All-Saints Church in Pasadena. www.voxfemina.org

The premiere concert of Men's Voices Milwaukee was Dec. 1, 2001 and called "Peace on Earth." Their concert June 15-16, 2002 is "Men on Broadway" and features special guest Ann Morrison at Vogel Hall. 414-765-9198

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band celebrates Women's History Month in March with "Women in Music" concert featuring "Freedom Dreams" by Jennifer Higdon on March 16 and 19, 2002. 415-693-9056.

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PLAYWRIGHTS / PRODUCERS FORUM

Talented actor/director Bill Poore from San Diego fame has relocated to Salt Lake City to found their first openly gay and lesbian theatre company: Lakota Rainbow. He welcomes

submissions at 733 S. 1200 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84102, lakotarainbow@aol.com or 801-583-2036. Break A Leg Bill!

TOSOS 2, the revival of Doric Wilson's groundbreaking NYC theatre company is presenting a series of ten readings surveying pre-AIDS plays and musicals beginning in February, 2002. The first reading was Lanford Wilson's THE GREAT NEBULA IN ORION and THE MADNESS OF LADY BRIGHT. TOSOS (The Other Side of Silence) was founded in 1974. Twenty-six years later, directors Mark Finley and Barry Childs and founder Doric Wilson resurrect the company dedicating it to an honest and open exploration of the life experience and cultural sensibility of our community. Bravo Doric, Mark and Barry! www.doricwilson.com

TOSOS 2 has also formed two affiliates: The Irene Kendell Women's Theater Project, Rebecca Kendell, coordinator and The Billy Blackwell Musical Theater Project, Igor Goldin, coordinator. Incidentally Doric Wilson's classic STREET THEATER has recently been translated into Italian!

Richard Greenberg's THE AMERICAN PLAN runs at Actor's Lab in Hollywood Mar. 7-24, 2002 produced by Son Semele Ensemble. 323-860-9970 or www.sonofsemele.org

A.S.K Theater Projects in Los Angeles is offering a free Playwriting Lab in May with Paula Cizimar. Application deadline is Mar 22, 2002. Contact A.S.K. for all the other programs they offer. Their Common Ground Festival is at UCLA June 20-23, 2002. Also applications for the 2003 Festival will be available Oct. 1, 2002. 310-478-3200 or www.askplay.org

Pioneer Playwright Sidney Morris, who has written some of our community's most important plays, is still writing and even performing! He recently did a solo piece GIRLIE/BOY at the Colleen Dewhurst Room in NYC. His classic plays as well as the newest ones deserve producers consideration! For a catalog of works please contact the playwright at Sidney Morris Feinberg, 475 W. 57th St., #30D, NY, NY 10019, or contact Purplecir@aol.com for assistance.

Australian playwright Steven Dawson's latest script LOVE IN A CUBICLE is available on his website at: www.sub.net.au/~stevend

Jeffrey Kin's comedy ALWAYS A PART OF ME is available for production. It is billed as a comedy with issues- money, ashes, alcohol, spousal abuse, AIDS and more but it is funny! Contact the playwright at Jeffnik@comcast.net or 941-957-1959, 2602 Sunnyside St., Sarasota, FL 34239.

Kudos to our amazing Max Turner who has turned his novel JERRYO about a mentally challenged young man who is turned around with love and caring, into a play which has its world premiere in March 2002, at the Palladium Theatre in St. Petersburg, FL. Contact the playwright at: tahhill@juno.com

Jordan Beswick's new play the "F" word is available online at www.hometown.aol.com/jbeswick7/myhomepage/index.html

Producers: check out Gordon Osmond's plays on his Web site at: www.gordonosmond.com

Bailiwick Repertory is seeking both material and talent for the upcoming pride Series and Lesbian Arts Festival. Send LAF materials to Kelli Strickland, and Pride submissions to David Zak, AD, at LTI, 1229 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60657.

Gabriel Shanks is working on a commission called TWELVE CONFESSIONS which will be part of a Festival called The Don Quixote Project in NYC in 2003. jaiphon@yahoo.com

Cheryl Ann Costa's one-act, A PRINCESS IN TRAINING is a funny one-woman show about a trans-person's exploration and experiences growing up trans. The play has been translated from English into Spanish, German, and Flemish. It is available for reading at: www.cherylcosta.com/CACOSTA-PrincessTraining.htm

Joan Lipkin and That Uppity Theatre Company in St. Louis has a new project, The Louie Project, an ensemble of gay men who are developing original theatre work, contact director@uppityco.com

Playwright Ronnie Larsen has revealed that his alter ego is Sally Stover, co-author of SELLING BREASTS which has been nominated for an LA Weekly Award for playwriting along with Jennifer Leach. Sally is also co-writer of GIRL MEETS GIRL with Maddy Alexander AKA Craig Fox.

Mary Casey hosted Dyke Drama, a reading series of lesbian plays in Feb. 2002 at Celebration Theatre, L.A. 310-44-7794.

Robert Patrick will be directing a production of his hit KENNEDY'S CHILDREN at the Ensemble Theatre, Phoenix.

March 10, 2002 is a fundraiser/reading for Playwrights Arena in L.A. of Luis Afaro's Chicano take on Sophocles' ELECTRA called ELECTRICIDAD. 213-485-1631

TOURING

Comic Jason Stuart is kept busy touring around the country in Jan. 2002 he was in Las Vegas, Rancho Mirage, CA, Dearborn, MI, Indianapolis (with Kate Clinton) and February in Vermont with Marga Gomez, and Minneapolis. March 20-24 he will be appearing at Funny Bone in St. Louis, March 30 at Central PA Pride in Harrisburg PA, and April 3 at University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley in Menasha. He also performs a lot at Laugh Factory in West, call 323-656-1336. For comedy booking contact Shelly Weiss with OUT media 718-789-1776 or outmedia@msn.com

Bailiwick production of Naked Boys Singing is planning a tour to Playhouse 11 in Cleveland for two weeks in April, and possibly available for visits to other Midwestern markets. Contact Bailiwick's AD David Zak: bailiwick@aol.com

Writer-Performer Jeffrey Solomon tours with his two solo plays SANTA CLAUS IS COMING OUT and MotherSON. Two touring dates include Quinnipiac University, UMASS, UDEL, The Berkshire Gay and Lesbian Festival, and the upcoming Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theater Festival. Contact Jeffrey Solomon at jeff.solo@onebox.com - or 215 688 1292 for info about either show. For info on Santa you can visit www.santaclausiscomingout.com

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WEB SITES

Playwright and theatre author Carolyn Gage has a new Web site at: www.carolyngage.com

Rob Terrazas has a Web site for upcoming theatre projects, music, and cabaret performers at www.robterrazas.com and invites submissions and hits.

Gay Theatre Exchange is a free networking site, check out: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/gaytheatreexchange

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APPEALS / OPPORTUNITIES

While all the groups on The Purple Circuit need your financial support (including us!), these groups have recently sent us appeals:

Arts in Action has just had its grand opening at 1919 W. 7th St., L.A. They are an arts collective working for social justice and peace. They need your support at P.O. Box 26374, Los Angeles, CA 90026. 323-993-6001.

Our friends at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts have supported LGBTQ arts for over 23 years and need your help. Send checks to them at 1519 Mission St., San Francisco CA 94103, 415-554-0402.

SNAP! Productions has found a home at ten years of bringing cutting edge theatre to Omaha in support of AIDS related programs and promoting understanding and acceptance of all members of the community. Support them at P.O. Box 8464, Omaha NE 68108, 402-331-2321.

Dixon Place has been providing an alternative space in NY since 1986 for a very diverse community including the GLBT. Help them at 309 E. 26 St., NYC 10010, 212-532-1546.

And don't forget our neighbors to the north Buddies In Bad Times that have been the vanguard in Canada for so many years. They can be reached at 12 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B4, Ontario, Canada.

Calling All Artists: The Sydney 2002 Gay Games VI Cultural Festival is a fantastic opportunity to perform in the LGBT community of Newtown according to David Jobling of qstage and Tom Cullen, the Program Manager for the Cultural Festival. Check out: www.sydney2002.org.au

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How to Reach Us **The Purple Circuit**

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www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

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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

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