

On The Purple Circuit

With **Bill Kaiser**

Volume 12, Number 4

THE JADE ESTEBAN ESTRADA ISSUE

Welcome to On the Purple Circuit!

We were founded to promote and encourage GLBTQ Theatre and Performance throughout the world and for over 12 years I hope we have fulfilled that mission.

I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that after 12 years of publishing our newsletter this will be the last issue of our quarterly newsletter. It has become quite an effort to get the newsletter out each quarter, and I thank all that helped with that effort financially and otherwise.

Special thanks to Fritz Klein and The Institute for Contemporary Arts, Haworth Press, all our Subscribers, and those that contributed to the content of On the Purple Circuit.

I also want to commend our great printer and thank Michael and the staff at Copies Unlimited for their superb and reasonable work. I urge any in the Los Angeles area to use their services. Copies Unlimited is located at 1823 N. Western Ave., #1; 323-462-5532; fax 323-462-5688. Let them know The Purple Circuit sent you.

The good news is that we are moving in a different direction in order to reach more people and to report your creativity in a more timely manor. I have felt privileged to have done this in the past and, with the help of our Web site manager Demian and my associate editor Jim Russell, will continue to do so by focusing on our Web site:

www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

We hope to continue most of the features of the newsletter with our regional columnists as well, as other articles of Purple Circuit interest. Please contact me if you wish to write for the Web site at purplecir@aol.com

We will still have expenses maintaining the Web site so I ask anyone who appreciates and uses this free service to send contributions payable to Bill Kaiser to 921 N. Naomi St., Burbank, Calif. 91505.

In 2004 I hope to concentrate on my work as curator for The Performing Arts Collection at ONE Institute as well as political activism for peace, GLBTQ issues, and stopping Bush from destroying our community and the world. This man cannot be allowed to be elected president.

I also hope to host a local Oscar Wilde Festival in October 2004 to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of his birth and urge people around the world to do likewise.

I am also a member of their Advisory Board to assist Frank Barnhart and the Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival in September 2004.

This issue is The Jade Esteban Estrada Issue named for this man who has done what The Purple Circuit envisioned happening. He has crisscrossed the country on "A Purple Circuit." His show "Icons" portrays some of the icons of GL history, and showing the humanity in his monologues and songs. In addition Jade is a director, producer, choreographer, and of course gay, Latino singing superstar. Bravo Jade for all your fabulous energy and creativity!

Thanks to our all our great volunteer columnists: Nathaniel Grey, Steven LaVigne, Tom O'Neil and Michael Van Kerckhove. Thanks to all who contributed material for this and past issues including: Tom W. Kelly, Howard Casner, David King, Linda Eisenstein, Marjorie Conn, Lily Sauvage, Gail Matsunaga, David Elzer, David Zak, Lawrence Helman, Victoria Kirby, Chuck Zito, Vox Femina, Buddies in Bad Times, Lambda Players, Richmond Triangle Players, Sue Hamilton, G. Bruce Smith, Larry Dean Harris, R.S. Bailey, Glenn Hopkins, Will Clark, Jerry Charlson, Michael Kearns, Danielle Brazell, Frank Barnhart, and Carol Polcovar.

Thanks also to festival creators, publicists, theaters, and individuals that have contributed to On the Purple Circuit. Thanks to my production team: associate editor Jim Russell, Web site manager Demian and Administrative Support Sally Barron and my life partner Glen Moore who puts up with all this madness year after year.

We mourn all our Brothers and Sister on World AIDS Day. These include: James Carroll Pickett (who was a founder of this organization and word processed its early issues); Michael Stuart Shere (designer and producer extraordinaire); Vincent Barron (who was the epitome of creativity); playwrights Scott Giantvalley and Bill Oxendine-Santana; actors Joe Fraser, David Stebbens, Jerry Clark, and Gene Anthony Ray; and activist Connie Norman. Plus so many more than those I have mentioned here.

Keep checking our Web site and sending us information and most importantly, keep creating great theatre and performance. We need it more than ever in these times of adversity and attacks against our communities.

**Bravo/Brava to You All and Break Legs,
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. The information is subject to change, and shows may be extended. Remember to see a gay or lesbian show tonight.

And You Sang To Me by Steve Lovett, a romantic comedy about six people falling in and out and around love, Bailiwick, Chicago. September-October 2003

***Another American: Asking and Telling** by Marc Wolf, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego. Opened November 6, 2003, 619-220-0097, www.diversionary.org

Autumn Canticle by John W Lowell, a scintillating, intelligent, and moving play loosely based on the lives of renowned composer Benjamin Britten and singer Peter Pears, Celebration Theatre, L.A. October-November 2003

***Avenue Q** with music and lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx and book by Jeff Whitty, Golden Theatre, NYC. Ongoing, 212-239-6200

Backyard Fruit by Andy Corren a collection of interwoven monologues about gay life in the South, Asheville Community Theatre, Asheville, NC. September 2003

The Barbecue Murders by John Fisher, dramatization of Marin County's most notorious murder, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco. October-November 2003

***Behind You Behind You** by Steven Dawson, a gay theatre company's first foray into children's theatre goes belly up in this new comedy, Melbourne Australia's Midsumma Festival. January 20-February 21, 2004, www.sub.net.au/~outcast

Bernadette and the Butcher of Broadway by David Bell, a delightful deadly satire about how GYPSY star Bernadette Peters was treated by two critics last season, Duplex, NYC. September 2003

***The Boy from Oz**, the musical story of Peter Allen with Hugh Jackman, Imperial Theatre, NYC. Ongoing, 212-239-6200, www.theboyfromoz.com

Chain.Link.Fence. by Chuck Cannon, a gay comedy loosely based on Schnitzler's LA RONDE The Living End Theatre, Philadelphia. November 2003

***Christmas Gifts** by Alan Sharpe, chronicles the Christmas Eve meltdown of a middle-aged lesbian, and the conflicting needs of her 10 year old daughter, sentimental ex-husband and frustrated female lover, slated to open during the holiday season, African-American Collective Theater, Washington DC. www.a-act.org

***Christmastime is Queer Again**, six one-acts by Playwrights 6 including Laura Black, Larry Dean Harris, Amy Heidish, G Bruce Smith and Nathan Clum and Steve Luther, Celebration Theatre, L.A. December 5-28, 2003, 323-860-6625

***Cinderella: The Real Story** by Cheryl Moch and Holly Gewandter, Cinderella and The Princess find they don't need Prince Charming to be happy in this adult tale, The Lambda Players, Sacramento. Opens January 22, 2004, 916-484-4742

Closet Chronicles by Eric Pfeffinger, a fast-paced hilarious comedy follows the Angell family through 3 holidays and a slew of "coming outs," Fat Chance and Monday Morning Productions, NYC. October-November 2003

Don't Ask! Don't Tell! by Jaz Dorsey and Thom Deis, based on true accounts of gay military veterans during the Vietnam era, Silver Lining Productions, Nashville. October-November 2003

Faust is Dead by Mark Ravenhill, the world's most famous philosopher arrives in America and is treated as a star as he embarks on a hedonistic voyage across the U.S., Rude Guerilla Theater Company, Santa Ana, Calif. October-November 2003

***Flaming Iguanas** by Erika Lopez, based on her graphic novel about Tomato Rodriguez and their quest for identity and very good lesbian sex, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco. Opens February 19, 2004, 415-861-5079

Foreign Aids with Pieter Dirk-Uys, a solo show with the South African satirist and actor-vist, La Mama E.T.C, NYC. September 2003

Frappucino by Manos Pantelidis, a family put to the test, parents must love their children, and each other, as they are, Ryan Repertory Company, Brooklyn. September-October 2003

***Gay Times Requiem** created by Eli Glazier. A staged silent movie about love, rubber love, fists, soft wrists, beating, cheating, indecent exposure, seeking closure, master slave, masturbation, suicide, spermicide, boys, toys, drugs, queer hugs and nasty bugs, god and the grim reaper, Highways, Santa Monica. September 18-21, December 5-20, 2003. 310-315-1459

Ghost from a Perfect Place by Philip Ridley, gang leader from the 60s Travis Flood confronts The Cheerleaders, an Amazonian gang today terrorizes East End London, The Rose Alley Theater, Venice, Calif. September-October 2003

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde by Moises Kaufman, StageWest, Des Moines. October-November 2003

***Icons: The Lesbian and Gay History of the World, Vol 1**, a solo musical with the legendary Jade Esteban Estrada, Ragged Blade Productions and Vicarious Productions at The Theatre at St. John's, St. Louis. November 2003 and touring. www.iconsofhistory.com

Interior Designs by Kiseung Rhee, a play exploring love and dysfunction and being bicultural: being Asian American and gay, Theater Garage, Minneapolis. September-October 2003

***J'ai Deux Amours ... A Journey with Josephine Baker** with Kimberly Q, Ron Richards and ToDaz Woman Productions at 4305 Village Theatre, Los Angeles. Opened November 5, 2003, 323-293-1230

Joe and Ken by John Dunne, a play about the last few days of Joe Orton and his lover Kenneth Halliwell, Plough Inn, Walthamstow, UK. November 2003

La Cage Aux Folles by Jerry Herman with libretto by Harvey Fierstein, Musical Theatre West, Long Beach, Calif. November 2003

***The Laramie Project** created by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theatre Project, Greer Garson Theatre, College Of Santa Fe, August 2003; revival of the award winning Colony Theatre production in Burbank now remounted at Laguna Playhouse, Laguna Beach Calif. September-October 2003. www.lagunaplayhouse.com — and ongoing productions around the country

***The Last Sunday in June** by Jonathan Tolins, comedy about a gay couple during the Pride Parade in NYC, The New Conservatory Theatre Center, S.F. Opens January 24, 2004, 415-861-8972, www.nctcsf.org

Lilies by Michel Marc Bouchard, a beautiful French Canadian play of passion about innocence of first love and the depth of jealousy, Actors Theatre of Washington, Source Theatre, Washington, DC. September-October 2003

The Lisbon Traviata by Terrence McNally, a wonderful staging for opera divas and others! A story of friendship,

passion and love, 23 Golden Zephyr Productions at The Actors Lab, L.A. October-November 2003

***London Reunion** by Josh Schiowitz, an eerie sexually charged drama set in a hotel in London where two men meet, Rose Alley Theater, Venice California. Opened November 13, 2003, 323-650-3013

Lulu adapted by Peter Barnes from Frank Wedekind, the bisexual-lesbian-character classic, The Little Victory Theatre, Burbank Calif. October-November 2003

A Man of No Importance musical with book by Terrence McNally and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens and music by Stephen Flaherty based on the 1994 Albert Finney film, SpeakEasy and Suga Theatres co-production at Boston Center for the Arts, Boston. October-November 2003

Miss Coco Peru is Undaunted with Miss Coco Peru, all she dreamed of was fame and fortune, and she is still dreaming, Renberg Theatre at The Village, L.A. October-November 2003

Mrs Roosevelt by Glenn Hopkins, a one-woman treatment one act, special performance at Fields Auditorium, L.A. December 12, 2003, 310-478-7379, www.mootney.org

***My Boyfriend the Stripper** by Joe Baiey and Ronnie Larsen, a romp through today's gay urban experience and how love can unexpectedly arrive, 14th Street Playhouse, Atlanta. Opened November 6, 2003, 800-965-4827

***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 other productions in Vancouver and Puerto Rico and the national tour played San Diego and elsewhere

***Naked Will** by Blair Fell, a great adaptation of the Oscar Wilde story Portrait of Mr. W.H. with Oscar as one of the characters along with Shakespeare and the boy actor Willie Hughes, Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles. Opens January 9, 2004. 323-957-1884

***The Normal Heart** by Larry Kramer, The Public Theater, NYC. February 2004

One Finger Salute with comic Julie Goldman explores America after 9/11, FEZ, NYC. October 2003

***One Moment Please** by Rick Coons, new comedy is Office Space meets Queer As Folk, Hudson Guild Theatre, L.A. Opened November 13, 2003, 323-856-4200 x32

... Or Not to Be? by Tom W. Kelly, Directed by Alan Quismorio. Featuring John Michael Beck, Jon Gale, and Leo Lawhorn. Three gay men sip lattes and discover their friendship is the only certainty in an uncertain world, The Canvas Café and Gallery, S.F. October-November 2003

***Oy Vey in a Manger** with The Kinsey Sicks, their global effort to stamp out holiday cheer, The New Conservatory theatre Center, S.F. Opened November 19, 2003, 415-861-8972

***Pirates!** with book and lyrics by Barbara Kahn and music by Jay Kerr, a new musical about real-life lesbian pirates Anne Bonny and Mary Read, Theater for the New City, NYC. Slated to open April 15, 2004

Raft of the Medusa by Joe Pintauro, classic play about diverse characters brought together at an AIDS support meeting, Millennium Talent Group at Wings Theater, NYC. September-October 2003

Salam Shalom by Saleem, a tale of passion between a gay Israeli and a gay Palestinian, New Conservatory Theatre Center, S.F. September-October 2003

***Sexy Music Again** by Charles Kerbs, DRAMA! at Cowpokes Theatre Space, New Orleans. Opened November 21, 2003, 504-948-9924

***Sharing a Dance** by Tom Wilson Weinberg, a new musical about the remarkable relationship of Bruhs Mero and Gean Harwood who had a 60 year life together, LGBT Center, NYC. Opened November 17, 2003, 212-986-2918, sharingadance@yahoo.com

***Shyness is Nice** by Marc Spitz, The Smiths, drug deals, prostitutes, heroin, gunshots...just another play about falling in love, Alliance Theatre, Burbank Calif. Opened November 14, 2003, 800-595-4849, www.tix.com

***Slap & Tickle** by David Parr, an intergenerational portrait before AIDS and after reexamining sexual behavior and attitudes, The Independent Theater, NYC. July 2003. Also at Gypsy Productions at the Suncoast Theatre, Tampa. Opened November 21, 2003, 727-456-0500

Sleeping with Straight Men by Ronnie Larsen, based on the events surrounding the notorious Jennie Jones case, Theatre Rhinoceros, S.F. August-September 2003

Solace by Jake Jay, a recently widowed homophobe meets a 12-stepped heterophobe who lost his lover to AIDS, Jewel Box, NYC. November 2003

Son of Drakula with David Drake. New solo show. New Conservatory Theatre Center, S.F. October-November 2003

Split Milk with Tim Miller, a special solo show about Harvey Milk and more on the 25th anniversary of the assassination, New College of California Theatre, S.F. November 22, 2003

***Spray** with Mike Albo, explores the blurred reality of our contemporary culture through frenetic and funny monologues, Theatre Rhinoceros, S.F. Opens January 15, 2004, 415-861-5079

***The Stops** by Eric Lane Barnes, all singing, all dancing lady organist revue discovers their mentor/arranger is a homosexual! Theatre New West, Houston. Opened October 24, 2003, 713-522-2204

The Story of My Life by Neil Bartram and Brian Hill, a new musical charting the choices we make in life and weighing a small town existence against the struggle in the urban jungle, Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, Toronto. October 2003

***A Streetcar Named Desire** by Tennessee Williams, an alternatively-gendered production, UStickem Productions and Theatre Rhinoceros, S.F. Opened November 21, 2003. 415-861-5079, www.therhino.org

Suicide: The Musical by Mark Rossella, a would-be suicide is thwarted by his gay neighbor and other circumstances, McCadden Place Theatre, L.A. September-October 2003

***Taboo** by Boy George, the decadent club scene circa 1980 London with Boy George and his set, NYC. Ongoing, 212-239-6200

***Take Me Out** by Richard Greenberg, a young baseball star's coming out sparks a national debate, Donmar Warehouse, London, June-August 2003, co-production moved to The Public Theater, NYC. Then to Walter Kerr Theatre, ongoing

Thor's Day by Edward Crosby Wells, an afternoon tryst in a small New Mexican town between a middle-aged insurance salesman and a seductive young man becomes a breathtaking journey. Chashama Theatre, NYC. October 2003

Trolling by Tom Swanner, generations collide in this new comedy about gay aging, generation gaps, and the true definition of family, Lambda Players, Sacramento. September-October 2003

***Tru** by Jay Presson Allen, solo time with Truman Capote in his own words and works, Richmond Triangle Players, Richmond. Opened November 12, 2003, 806-346-8113

***12 Steps To A More Dysfunctional Christmas** by Rob Nash, a 10th anniversary production of this multi-character

solo show, Vortex Repertory, Austin. Opens December 18, 2003, 512-478-5282

***Unaccessorized** with Rich Kiamco, a queer Filipino boy escapes the cornfields of Illinois for the streets of NYC. After July performances in NYC, moved to Fringe Festival, Seattle, September 18-28, 2003, www.seattlefringe.com, and The Kraine Theater, NYC, opened November 19, 2003.

212-352-3101, www.theatermania.com

The Unsinkable Bismarck by Jeff Folchinsky, a hilarious retelling of the story of the ship Bismarck and a gay-ish subplot, The Eclectic Company, North Hollywood, Calif. September-October 2003

us with Tim Miller, another tour-de-force about Tim and Alistair's denial of rights by immigration by America's premier performance artist, 7 Stages, Atlanta, April 2003, and Vortex Repertory, Austin, June 2003, and Manbites Dog Theater's Don't Ask Don't Tell 2003, Durham. September 2003

Worse Than Chocolate by Jaeson Post, a new comedy, Theatre Rhinoceros, S.F. October-November 2003

X'd: Confessions of a Mormon Boy with Stephen Fales, a new play about being gay and Mormon, Acorn In The Theatre, NYC. August-September 2003, and Hollywood Theater, Portland Oregon, and Camelot Theatre, Palm Springs, both in November 2003

***You Should be so Lucky** by Charles Busch, a gay electrologist, a ten million dollar inheritance are just two elements of this screwball comedy, The New Conservatory Theatre Center, S.F. Opened November 8, 2003, 415-861-8972

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THEATRE BITS

by Bill Kaiser

Anchorage: Out North held their fall fundraiser on October 28, 2003 with a silent auction and more. In their 19th season, Out North was recently honored with an award for Outstanding Community Outreach and services to victims of sexual assault from the organization STAR. www.outnorth.org

Austin: Vortex Repertory presented ELYTRA, a sci-fi cyper-opera about four female Insect-Angels in Heaven who find it in need of repair in October, 2003. In November 2003 they staged Shakespeare's CORIOLANUS with their trademark non-traditional casting, futuristic settings and a concise cutting of the text. In December 2003 they present Heather Woodbury's living novel, WHAT EVER. 512-478-5282, www.vortexrep.org

Berkeley, California: Recently for its third season Alchemy Works presented "Where There's a WIL(L) There's a Play", a collection of short works by or inspired by famous WILs. These included FOR WHOM THE SOUTHERN BELL TOLLS by Christopher Durang based on Tennessee WILliams' GLASS MENAGERIE; LADY WINDEMERE'S FAN by Oscar WILde; IKKE, IKKE, NYE, NYE, NYE by Lanford WILson and WAITING FOR PHILIP GLASS by Wendy Wasserstein interpreted from Sonnet #94 by WILliam Shakespeare.

Boston: DAGGER is a troupe of Queer Women and Girls of The Theater Offensive. In October 2003 they received an award from the city of Cambridge at the Cambridge Peace and Justice Awards. They welcome new members who are lesbian/bi/queer-identified women. www.thetheateroffensive.org/dagger.html

Brooklyn: BAX/Brooklyn Arts Exchange held their Third Annual BAXten Arts & Artists in Progress Awards. Awards were given to artists Meredith Monk and Jennifer Miller; Arts Educators David Pleasant and Jackie Chang and Arts Managers Nathan Elbogen and Martha Wilson (founder of the Franklin Furnace who was presented by Ellie Covan of Dixon Place). 718-832-0018. www.bax.org

Burbank: The Colony Theatre presented the Los Angeles area premiere of a killer musical GUNMETAL BLUES with book by Scott Wentworth and music and lyrics by Craig Bohmler and Marion Adler.

Cedar Rapids: Legion Arts held their fall fundraiser in October 2003 with silent and live auctions featuring the works of 35 arts. www.legionarts.org

Chicago: Bailiwick's 2003 Trailblazer Awards were held in September with Terrence McNally as the special guest. Awards were presented to Rick Paul, founder of Lionheart Gay Theater, and Stephen Bates, one of the composers of NAKED BOYS SINGING among others. In October 2003 their Pancake Theatre Club did a reading of DUBYA IN HELL by Blair Whitney and in November 2003 their fundraiser HOT MOSCOW NIGHTS previewed some of the 2004 season which includes the Chicago premiere of Nick Salamone and Maury R McIntyre's MOSCOW. Their holiday fare includes the annual production of THE CHRISTMAS SCHOONER with book by John Reeger and music and lyrics by Julie Shannon as well as the world premiere of A MERRY JEWISH CHRISTMAS by Josh Levine. 773-883-1090, www.bailiwick.org

Glendale, California: The Musical Theatre Guild did a wonderful staged reading of Jerry Herman's DEAR WORLD in November 2003.

Los Angeles: In October 2003, there was a benefit for The Actors' Fund at the Luckman Fine Arts Complex called "Sing Happy!" the music and words of John Kander and Fred Ebb.

The Fabulous Monster reprised their fantastic epic RAMAYANA 2K3 at the El Portal Theater in October 2003. www.fabulousmonsters.org

The Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance presented their annual Cabaret directed by the incomparable Ken Kane and starring Jason Stuart, Lily Sauvage, Hugh Harrison, Carl Mathes, The Uptowners with Joan Potter and many more!

The Knightsbridge Theatre presents many classics as well as new ones. Currently they are doing BEAUTIFUL BODIES by Laura Shaine Cunningham with Margaret (Mae West) McCarley and others. 323-667-0955

ONE Institute and University of Southern California are presenting an exhibit "Out West: LA's Influence on the Lesbian and Gay Movement" at Doheny Library through December 18, 2003. 213-741-0094

Sue Hamilton has returned to The Village as Producing Artistic Director for the Renberg Theatre and Davidson/Valentini Theatre. Brava Sue!

As part of World AIDS Day observances Michael Kearns' INTIMACIES AND COMPLICATIONS was read in Silver Lake at Studio A on November 30, 2003 as a benefit for LA Shanti

December 13, 2003 will be a night of gender-bending at Cabrini's Spot as DRED performs her entire one-woman show. Reservations: 310-399-7859. www.dredking.net

New York City: Dixon Place in exile is presenting new work all around the city. December 2003, David Drake premieres a work in progress: THE SECRET HISTORY OF DRAG: A VISIT WITH AGRIPPINA VAN HANSEN-CORTEZ. Other queer events are Homotext curated by Kevin Wolfe and Pamela S. Booker; The Dixon Place Veterans series with Deke Weaver; and DangerZone a new dance/performance party. 212-219-0736; www.dixonplace.org

The Genesis Theatre Guild honored Director-Choreographer Rob Marshall and Producer Ted Snowdon with their Annual Genie Awards on November 10, 2003. www.genesiustheatre.org

Greg Walloch appeared in Epstein & Hassan's "Shock & Awe A Go-Go Not Your Grandfather's Burlesque at the Cutting Room in November 2003. His writing is featured in the book "Queer Crips" recently published from Haworth Press.

At Wings TALES FROM THE MANHATTAN WOODS is a present-day adaptation of Johann Strauss junior's DIE FLEDER-MAUS opened November 13, 2003. 212-627-2961.

Omaha: Shelterbelt Theatre presented "Shelterskelter" 10 brand new Halloween one-acts in October 2003. www.shelterbelt.org

Philadelphia: The Daylight Zone presented an intriguing new play in October-November 2003 called SACRILEGIOUS SEQUELS by Gary L Day, tempting hellfire again. 215-336-1482

San Francisco: Jon Sims Center for the Arts, San Francisco's interdisciplinary queer performance space announced its new Executive Director is Amy Robinson. www.jonsimsctr.org

In October and November 2003, La Luna Theatre Collective did a production of Tony Kushner's A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY at EXIT Theatre.

Two exhibits about Harvey Milk — one at the Hormel Room at the Main Public Library — the other the inaugural exhibit at The International Museum of GLBT History, 657 Mission St., #300, called "Saint Harvey" through April 2004. www.glbthistory.org

"Help is On the Way for the Holidays IV" is an all-star benefit concert December 15, 2003 at Herbst Theatre. Directed by David Galligan with Musical Directors Richard Berent and Bill Keck. The show features Debby Boone, Sally Struthers, Maureen McGovern, Kenny Washington, Joey McIntyre and many more. Tickets: 415-273-1620, www.helpisontheway.org

Santa Monica, California: Highways Performance Space continues to do much with bold new work of 33 Fainting

Spells from Seattle, Joel Smith, Aomowa Baker; Performance International with Denise Uyehara, Yoshiko Shimada, Tari Ito, and more. 310-315-1459, www.highwaysperformance.org

Sarasota, Florida: The Sarasota AIDS Theatre Project under the direction of Garry Allan Breul presented their 3rd Annual Night of Alternative Theatre with excerpts from LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION! the "gay 90s" musical and more. 941-587-9746

Toronto: Buddies In Bad Times presented "Outrage!" a show, party and dance celebrating a quarter century of queer culture in Toronto, curated by Keith Cole. 416-975-8555

Washington, DC: Woolly Mammoth is presenting COOKING WITH ELVIS, a dark comedy by Lee Hall, the writer of BILLY ELLIOT opening December 21, 2003 at The Kennedy Center. 202-467-4600, www.woollymammoth.net

CHICAGO SCENE

by Michael Van Kerckhove

Happy fall everyone! Hope you've been enjoying the new season — both on the calendar and in theatre offerings. Here's what's been going on in Chicago...

GayCo Gets Poked: GayCo presented *Poked*, as part of Second City's *Unhinged* series. This two-part evening started with Butch Jerinic's one-woman piece, *Growing Up Butch*, about being the only straight sibling in the family. She channels her Croatian parents, gay brother, and lesbian sister. The second part was a comedy revue, *Celebrating Sodomy*. The cast led with a musical bang as they embraced, and portrayed, the various freedoms our Supreme Court gave us this summer. Ended September 24, 2003. www.gayco.com

Albee 75: The Goodman Theatre presented a six-week Edward Albee Festival to celebrate his work, life, and 75th birthday. The Chicago powerhouse began with Albee's 1998 *The Play About the Baby*. Artistic Director Robert Falls got the inspiration for the Festival upon seeing the London world premiere. Falls directed *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?* The 2002 Tony Award-winning play about a man who confesses to his best friend that he is having an affair with a goat, and then faces his wife and gay teenage son. The Fest also included three programs of one-acts including *The Zoo Story*, *The Death of Bessie Smith*, and *Marriage Play*. About Face Artistic Director, Eric Rosen, made his Goodman directorial debut with *The Sandbox*, *Finding the Sun*, and *Box*. Ended November 2, 2003. www.goodman-theatre.org

Crypt 7: Those bawdy Berwyn babes, Tiff & Mom (Robert Bowman and Todd Schaner), were at it again in Corn Productions' *Tales From Mom's Crypt 7: The Thing Beneath Tiff's Chins*. A chiller about domestic violence, 11 actors tell 11 tales of ghosts and bogeyman. And just in time for pre-*Return of the King* buzz, there was a *Lord of the Rings* parody featuring Mom as Dildo Gaggins who sported fur covered pumps. Oh my! Ended Halloween 2003.

Corn also presented its latest kids' mystery thriller, *Rachel Corn and the Loch Ness Mess*. Ended November 9, 2003. www.cornservatory.org

Sex at Bailiwick: Bailiwick opened its 22nd season with *Dr. Sex*, the Larry Bortniker and Sally Deering's musical celebrating the life and work of Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey. Kinsey, as we know, first released his findings on male sexuality in 1948 (where do *you* fall on his scale?) The show — partially was inspired by a 1997 biography — also delves into his personal, uninhibited life. Windy City Times' own Backdoor Johnny says, "If it's not the town's juiciest, jolliest frolic, then I don't know what is."

Bailiwick also kicked off its Pancake Theatre Club, a Sunday afternoon reading series dedicated to new work. The series started with *Dubya in Hell*, Blair Whitney's comedy about Bush Junior's afterlife trial for crimes against humanity. The prosecutor: Richard Nixon. There was a new play every Sunday until December 7, 2003. www.bailiwick.org

A New Balm in Chicago: Lanford Wilson's 1965 play, *Balm in Gilead*, about junkies, hustlers, and other various freaks in a SoHo diner, helped put Steppenwolf in the national spotlight back in the 1980's. The Hypocrites, under the leadership of Sean Graney, have now made the play its own. A great space (the intimate basement studio of Wicker Park's Chopin Theatre), a high energy ensemble cast, and some chilling design work (such as the perfectly timed echo of water pipes dripping and the passing of subway cars) helped make for cool experience. Plus, a couple guys from my college theatre days were in it, so that's fun. Rick Reed concluded his Windy City Times review by saying, "It's great to see smaller companies do such refined work. It's what Chicago theatre is all about." Ended November 2, 2003.

Cutting Edge: Stage Left Theatre Company presented the world premiere of David Rush's *Cuttings*. Partially set in Chicago's "Boys Town" neighborhood, it examines the multi-layered relationship between Paul, a former psychologist and sex-offender, and Greg, a teenage runaway. The play deals with some pretty heavy themes such as pedophilia and fetish cutting, but underneath, there lies a story of two men who truly need each other. One needs a caretaker, the other a healthy outlet for love. In an interview with Rick Reed for Windy City Media Group, Rush says, "People may be uncomfortable with the way the two men express these needs, but anybody who doesn't understand the needs themselves is probably a little bit frozen." Ended November 15, 2003. www.stagelefttheatre.com

Nazis in Chicago: Two Tony Award-winning musicals were in town, both with a common (however opposite) Nazi ground.

Porchlight's first show of the season, *Cabaret*, ran through December 7 at Theatre Building (complete with the front row turned into cabaret tables). It's a pretty straight forward production, with one exception: the traditionally male cast role of the androgynous Emcee is played by Rebecca Finnegan, who recently won a Jeff Award for her performance as Joanne in last season's *Company*. www.porchlighttheatre.com

The national touring production of *The Producers* played the Ford Center/Oriental Theatre until November 30, 2003. Ernie

and I went to see it as part of our second-year anniversary celebration, and it was fun! Brad Oscar and Andy Taylor played the Nathan Lane/Matthew Broderick roles, and they were great. But there is something amazing about that original cast (as is often the case.) The endearing "Keep it Gay" number is always a highlight. *Springtime for Hitler* is so many shades of wrong, but hilarious! From those chorus girls, and all their energy, to swinging, little old ladies, it was a Broadway-in-Chicago good time.

Gay Chicago presented its annual **After Dark Awards** this fall. Some of the winners:
= *Outstanding Direction:* Jason Loewith for *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* at Next Theatre, Michael Menendian for *Marvin's Room* and *Golden Boy* at Raven Theatre
= *Outstanding Ensemble:* Entertaining Mr. Sloane (Next), The Mystery of Irma Vep (Northlight)
= *Outstanding Performance:* Karen Aldridge (*In The Blood*, Next), Elizabeth Rich (Hannah and Martin, Time Line), and Mark E. Smith (Promises, Promises, Porchlight). Congratulations to all winners!

Have a safe and joyous upcoming Holiday Season, and I'll see you next time when Lake Michigan is frozen.

[Michael Van Kerckhove 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]

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CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE
by Nathaniel Grey

= If you can't wait for Melissa Etheridge to write a musical version of Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman then you may settle for the upcoming musical version of the classic camp Joan Crawford film (isn't that redundant) Johnny Guitar. That 1954 effort from director Nicholas Ray (Rebel without a Cause), featuring Christina's mommie and Mercedes McCambridge is heading to the stage next year. The show will feature the work of librettist Nicholas van Hoogstraten with lyrics and music by Joel Higgins — under the name of "Johnny Guitar: the Lounge Western."

= Urinetown has been told to piss off and must leave the Henry Miller Theatre in February. The venue is slated for demolition to make way for a new 57-story tower.

= Hugh Jackman, as Peter Allen, from The Boy from Oz will be one of the feature performances during this year's 77th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Let's hope organizers keep the giant Betty Boop balloon out of sight since it looks so much like Liza.

= Stan Zimmerman and Jim Berg, who worked on the 1999 ABC version of Annie are behind the upcoming ABC series Mr. and Mr. Nash featuring Alan Cumming as half of a pair of gay detectives. Heading to the small screen as a mid-season replacement series, the show features Steve Martin as Executive Producer for Carsey-Werner-Mandabach, names familiar from the old Roseanne show. Zimmerman and Berg are also writing an updated version of Valley of the Dolls.

= Daniel Sunjata will leave the current Tony winning production of "Take Me Out" on January 4, 2004 to star in a

TV series about firefighter. Sunjata was nominated for a Tony for his performance as Darren Lemming, a gay, professional baseball player.

= Ken Ludwig's (Lend Me A Tenor) new comedy, Leading Ladies, is coming to the Cleveland Playhouse for the 2004 season. Recent readings in NY and DC introduced audiences to the lead characters of two male actors pretending to be women in an effort to win a substantial inheritance. How about calling it "Victor Bequeaths Victoria?"

= "The Golden Girls: Live!" the all-male tribute show to the classic NBC comedy has been extended at Rose's Turn through Feb. 5. Less than a week later, the show reopens at Dillon's Cabaret for an open-ended run. Talking about "open end" — with productions of The Vagina Monologues, Urinetown and Menopause the Musical playing around the country, can the Prostrate Chronicles be far behind?

SODOM EAST: NEW YORK

On the Great Purple Way

by Tom O'Neil

Everything suddenly stopped coming up roses for Rosie O'Donnell soon after she fended off a lawsuit filed by her magazine publisher. Critics bitch-slapped "Taboo," the musical about, and starring, Boy George that Rosie imported from London, paying the full tab (10 million smackeros). But audiences at the Plymouth Theater gave it cheering standing ovations nonetheless, even though it's a bit raunchy (the Culture Club queen makes his grand entrance from a crowded toilet stall, wiping his lips). Can word of even-sloppy mouth save it? The flamboyant production is a drag queen's wet dream and just the kind of camp fest supported by tourists and NYC suburbanites who pooh-poohed critics to make "Mamma Mia" a hit. They're nuts for Boy George.

Another fawned-over celeb, Hugh Jackman, saved "The Boy from Oz" from even worse reviews. The studly film superstar wowed audiences at the Imperial Theater with his sparkle, his bare chest while stripping off lots of Hawaiian shirts and his muscular singing voice during his stage debut as gay entertainer/composer Peter Allen, who was discovered by Judy Garland and married daughter Liza. More than a month after the show's mid-October opening, sale of "Oz" tix still flew over the rainbow with \$8 million in advance bookings. Meantime, poor "Taboo" struggles along with merely \$2 million pledged.

OTHER RECENT GAY NYC SHOWS:

BEYOND RECOGNITION - John Patrick's new drama follows a gay therapist who visits a former lover in Seattle while hoping to recover from a nearly fatal attack in New York's Central Park. Abingdon Theatre Arts Complex. November 2003

THE CLOSET CHRONICLES - Comedy follows a family through three turbulent holidays, which are disrupted by the revelation of shocking personal secrets, including some of the lavender variety. Ground Floor Theater. October 2003

THINK I LIKE GIRLS - Leigh Fondakowski tells the life stories of average American lesbians by employing the same technique she used as head writer of "The Laramie Project" - actual interviews. Cherry LaneTheater, September 2003

MERCURY - Drama recalls Freddie Mercury facing the onslaught of AIDS while at the peak of his rock popularity. Phil Bosakowski Theater, November 2003

MY BIG GAY ITALIAN WEDDING - A man plans to ruin the wedding of his ex-lover. Actor's Playhouse. September 2003

NEW BOY - An adaptation of William Sutcliffe's novel about a teen, desperate to improve his grades at school and to establish a sex life, developing a hopeless crush on a new student. Beckett Theater, September 2003

SACRIFICE TO EROS - Gay themes abound in this mythic retelling of the biblical prodigal-son tale set on a failing farm at the height of the Depression. Pantheon Theater, November-December 2003

SOLACE - A hetero-loathing gay man recovering from his lover's death from AIDS learns to forgive and befriend a beer-guzzling homophone who recently became widowed. Jewel Box. November 13-22, 2003

SHARING A DANCE - One-hour, musical traces the love relationship of SAGE activists Bruhs Mero and Gean Harwood, who were once known as "The Oldest Gay Couple in America." It is also the title of a memoir by Harwood. The duo met in New York in 1929 and made instant music together: Mero had danced with Martha Graham and Harwood was a pianist. Mero died in 1995. Today Harwood is age 95. The Center and Marie's Crisis. November 17-December 8, 2003

STAGES - Two-week, theater festival devoted to exploring transsexualism, featured 20 productions from Canada, New Zealand and the U.S. W.O.W.Café Theater. September 2003

TANTALUM THEATER PROJECT - Festival presented wild twists on gay men and Greek tragedies in new works like "Electra - Daughter of Privilege" plus the Food TV Network's Bobby Rivers in "I Look Thinner on TV!" and Andy Horwitz's "B.F.D.," a follow up to "Potty Mouth." Ground Floor Theater. September 2003

THOR'S DAY - A dark, erotic drama about a middle-aged New Mexico insurance salesman who brings home a sexy young dude for a romp. Chashama Theatre, October 2003

[Tom asks gay theater folk in NYC to keep him posted on what you are doing. Email your news to: goldderby@aol.com]

MINNEAPOLIS SCENE

by Steven LaVigne

The Minnesota Fringe Festival garnered several attractions for queer theatergoers. The Ministry of Cultural Warfare offered "Industrials," based on classic Prelinger Industrial Films, and featured "Going Steady," a modern twist where Marie becomes Murray, and his boyfriend, Jeff starts two-timing him. Filthy Whore Productions whipped up 3 Way,

wherein three men wake up naked with hangovers, and sort out what happened, while Tod Peterson's "Buy Me a Mockingbird" was essentially theater as therapy. The less said about Claire Chafee's "Five Women on a Hill in Spain," the better, and "69 Moments of Life" was 68 moments too long.

Artistic Director Jef-Hall Flavin is leaving Outward Spiral Theatre Company, and his swan song was a smashing production of William Finn's "heartwarming gay family musical," Falsettos. Hall-Flavin gathered together a magnificent cast, who gave standout performances.

John Command, the Artistic Director of the newly opened Bloomington Arts Center invited Sally Struthers to star in Hello, Dolly! Struthers was just fine as the meddling matchmaker and she deserved a more sure-handed production than this.

Avoid, at all costs, a mess called The Penis Dialogues, a sort of camp follower to the touring company of Vagina Monologues. Written by Scott Dominion under the pen name Adam Antler, and barely an hour long, it's an under-rehearsed collection of sketches that use local talents. While an occasional audience-participation improvisation is entertaining, overall, it is barely acceptable frat boy stuff.

Finally, Gaydar Productions current production of Chuck Ranberg's End of the World Party is a little gem. This sweet-natured romantic comedy, set in a Fire Island summer time-share, focuses on six housemates (each with their own baggage) during a relaxing summer. A vastly entertaining treat, this was a perfect end-of-warm-weather capper.

COMEDY

Kate Clinton, one of America's best comedians appeared at The Village in L.A., December 5-7, 2003, 323-860-7300.

QComedy happens Monday nights at the LGBT Center in San Francisco. Appearing have been Pippi Lovestocking, Bridget Schwartz, Doug Holsclaw, Stephanie Howard, Scott Capurro, Robert Ayala and many more. www.harveymilk.org

The Chicago sketch comedy troupe GayCo appeared in Los Angeles in Sept. and Oct. 2003 with one of their showcases. They were founded from the Second City's Outreach program in 1996. 773-458-9400. www.gayco.com

Comic Jason Stuart headlined Cruise-Travelers gay cruise to the West Indies in November 2003. Jason also will co-star with Faye Dunaway, Sean Young, and Tony Goldwyn in an independent film KILL SWITCH. His own film 10 ATTITUDES has won the Best Picture award at the Barcelona International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Bravo Jason! www.jasonstuart.com

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy- the 11th Anniversary show in San Francisco will be December 24-27, 2003. The show features Judy Gold, Ed Crasnick, Bruce Smirnoff, and Lisa Geduldig and celebrates Christmas the Jewish Way, in a Chinese Restaurant with Jewish Comedy! Tickets: 415-522-3737. www.koshercomedy.com

The R-rated all-female sketch comedy show "Tomboys in Fishnets" returned to the Zephyr Theatre in Los Angeles in September 2003 for three weeks.

FESTIVALS & SEASONS

Wings Theatre Company in NYC's 2003-2004 Gay Play Series includes: RAFT OF THE MEDUSA by Joe Pinauro; BANJEE by A.B. Lugo, AFRICAN NIGHTS by Clint Jefferies, and THOR'S DAY by Edward Crosby Wells. Extra events included Fattie & Skinny Show and SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION by John Guare plus their New Musicals Series. 212-627-2960, www.wingstheatre.com

In October 2003, Bailiwick's Lesbian Theatre Initiative presented the 2003 Lesbian Arts Festival with BITCHES BREW an evening with some of Chicago's most provocative lesbian writers such as Rose Tully, Deb Lewis, JT Newman, Jen Fish, and Superstar and LAF RIOT, a comedy night featuring Delphina, Denise Johnson, Sapna Kumar, Carolyn Law, Julie Paradise, Jen Slusser, Sue Stirling and Tamale! 773-883-1090, www.bailiwick.org

NYC's TOSOS upcoming season at The Flatiron Playhouse includes the world premiere of Robert Patrick's HOLLYWOOD AT SUNSET (opens March 4, 2004) and MOVIE LOVER, a triple feature of Mark Finley's HOW DO WE GET HER IN THE WATER? Kevin Brofsky's DANCING STRAIGHT and Chris Weikel's SPEAKING PARTS.

The Feast Gay and Lesbian Cultural Festival in Adelaide Australia was November 7-30, 2003. www.feast.org.au

QFest Canada's Queer International Arts Festival is slated for May 2004 in Vancouver. Information: queertheatre@canada.com, www.terrycostaproductions.com

Humana Festival of New American Plays in Louisville has a Special Visitors Weekend April 2-4, 2004. 502-584-1265, mbrooks@actorstheatre.org

A preliminary listing of performers and shows for The 2004 Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival looks like a super lineup:

ICONS Part 2 with Jade Esteban Estrada
SOLO SHOW with Jeffrey Solomon
DEVIANT WOMEN presented by Conn Artists
NOT THE BOY NEXT DOOR with CJ Productions
MISS GULCH RETURNS with Richmond Triangle Players
EMPTY CLOSET with RaggedBlade

to name some Purple Circuiters. Plan to come to Columbus in September 2004! www.cnglrf.com

In January-February 2004 Performing Arts Productions will be presenting two shows at The Midsumma Gay & Lesbian Festival in Australia: A THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHT STANDS: THE JON VINCENT STORY and A CLASS APART both by Barry Lowe. PAPA is also looking for stage adaptations of A SEPARATE PEACE and GIOVANNI'S ROOM. Contact: performingartsproductions@hotmail.com

Stages presented The National Transgender Theatre Festival September 4-13, 2003 in NYC at WOW and Under

Saint Marks Theater. Among the 20 productions were THE NAKED I by Toby Davis and directed by David Gaard and called "The Vagina Monologues for Transpeople" and EX POST PAPA with Bear, a solo about mentoring, gender and getting your parents a la carte. www.stages2003.org

In September 2003, African-American Collective Theater performed CHRISTMAS GIFTS, a Lesbian romantic comedy by Alan Sharpe at Washington DC's 11th Annual Arts On Foot Festival. www.a-act.org

In September 2003, Theater Offensive held its annual Out on the Edge Festival with works by Noel Alunit and Imani Henry's transgender piece B4T. www.thetheateroffensive.org

Queer Zagreb is a GL Cultural Festival in Croatia that was held in April 2003. For information www.queerzagreb.org

Glasgay! The UK's largest multi-arts Festival for Multi-Sexual People and their Friends was held November 1-15, 2003 in Glasgow Scotland. www.glasgay.co.uk

Manbites Dog Theater in Durham's 2003-2004 season included US with Tim Miller, and SHOPPING AND F***KING by Mark Ravenhill. www.manbitesdogtheater.org

Buddies In Bad Times and Nightwood Theatre in Toronto presented HYSTERIA: A Festival Of Women with over 100 female artists from across North America in October-November, 2003. 416-975-8555

Unhinged Productions in Houston is promoting theatre of interest to the GLBT community. Its 2003-4 season includes:

LAUGHING WILD by Christopher Duran
(December 5-20, 2003)

THE HOUSE OF YES by Wendy MacLeod
(February 6-29, 2004)

FREE WILL AND WANTON LUST by Nicky Silver
(May 28-June 27, 2004)

713-527-0123

In October 2003, Conn Artists had their annual Women's Week in Provincetown:

DEVIANT WOMEN with Annie Hart Cool

LuLu Lo Lo with Dian Hamilton, Marjorie Conn
and Karen Maloney

THE TALE OF BEATRIX POTTER with Rohan McCullough

TESTAMENT OF YOUTH with Rohan McCullough

Jane Wagner's THE SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF

INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE
with Deanna Frahilla

LORENA HICKOK & ELEANOR ROOSEVELT:

A LOVE STORY by Pat Bond

THE HONEYMOON YEARS OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
AND LORENA HICKOK by Marjorie Conn

www.ptownfring.org

The Midtown International Theatre Festival seeks plays by LGBT playwrights for its 5th season in July 2004 in NYC.

Deadline: January 15, 2004. Application:

www.midtownfestival.org

New Village Productions and All Out Arts present the Second International Lower East Side Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Performance And Theater Festival: Fresh Fruit Festival in July 2004. Deadline for submission is

February 5, 2004. Information: New Village Productions, 145 E 27th St., Suite 1A, New York, NY 10016, www.newvillageproductions.org

The Fall Season for Dixon Place included:

TO MY CHAGRIN with Peggy Shaw

REND AND SEW a two-part dance by Clare Byrne Dance

PLACID BABY by Sam Kim

and performance works in progress with Coleman Hough, Reno, Marga Gomez, Emmett Foster and Nancy Giles, Dan Cohen, Carousel, Deke Weaver, Dr Julia Wonder and David Drake. 212-219-0736, www.dixonplace.org

FILM / VIDEO / TELEVISION / RADIO

The 12th Annual **Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival** was held October 8-12, 2003. www.siglff.org

Lesbian groups from around the world descended on Mumbai, India in October 2003 for a three day **Film Festival** showcasing work emerging from Southeast Asia, The Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. The organizers also saw the Festival as a platform to help the movement to legalize same-sex relations in India.

At the LGBT Center in San Francisco there was **Halloween with the Cockettes** on October 31, 2003 with a live Cockette cabaret and rare cockmemory films like "Elevator Girls in Bondage."

Filmmakers and stage playwrights are welcome to enter the **Moondance International Film Festival** 2004 which will be held in Chautauqua Park, Boulder, Colorado May 28-31, 2004. Deadline for submissions is March 15, 2004. www.moondancefilmfestival.com

Demian / Sweet Corn Productions

Current videos available:

"The Fight Before Christmas" (VHS)

www.buddybuddy.com/fight.html

"Gertie Takes a Trip to the Moon & a Man Recycles"

"LEGGO" (both on DVD)

www.buddybuddy.com/dvd-1.html

Currently in production:

"Scaredy-Kate & the Monsters -or- How to Pay the Rent"

www.buddybuddy.com/kate.html

"Gilgamesh & Enkidu: The Oldest Love Story Ever Written"

www.buddybuddy.com/g.html

"Director's Commentary" A comedy

www.buddybuddy.com/dc.html

Demian, Sweet Corn Productions, Box 9685, Seattle, WA

98109. 206-935-1206. demian@buddybuddy.com

Demian is director of

[Partners Task Force for Gay & Lesbian Couples](#)

LITERARY SCENE

The Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle held a lively discussion in October 2003 called "Meeting on the Edge: Press, Publicity and Performing" as part of the EdgeFest events. Publicists David Elzer and Kim Garfield participated.

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MUSIC / OPERA / DANCE

In October, Highways presented "Bareback into the Sunset" a new dance/theater work by Peter Carpenter that integrates identity amidst HIV/AIDS.

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Band's "2003 Dance-Along Nutcracker around the World" was held December 6-7, 2003 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. In September 2003 The Band presented "Between the Line," music that is coded, subversive or otherwise unexpected.

Vox Femina in Los Angeles presented "One World, Many Voices", a concert focusing on peace and harmony in the world. December 19-21, 2003 they will be the special guests of the LA Gay Men's Chorus in the world premiere of "Kindred Spirits," a commissioned work by Dr. Jon Bailey. Vox Femina's 2004 concerts include "All The World's A Stage" April 2-3, 2004, and "Music In My Mother's House" June 25-26, 2004. 310-391-2402, www.voxfeminala.org

Teatro La Tea and choreographer Jade Esteban Estrada announced the creation of The Jade Esteban Estrada Dance Experience, an exciting new Latino dance company in NYC. For more information on auditions and debut performance in March 2004. 646-271-6845, greta@vicariousnewyork.com

Dance events sponsored by Dixon Place in New York in Nov and December 2003 included:

"Placid Baby" by Sam Kim
"Crossing Boundaries" curated by Marcia Monroe
"Body Blend" a dance series of mixed media curated by Daman Harun, Philippa Kaye, Jennifer Nugent and Brian Shapiro/Cultureworks
"Under Exposed" curated by Shannon Hummel
212-219-0736, www.dixonplace.org

The Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus is beginning their 25th anniversary season. Their holiday concert "In and Out" is December 19-21, 2003. "Stoplight on Los Angeles" is March 26-28, 2004, and "You Made Me Love You: The Music of Judy Garland" is July 9-11, 2004. Information: 800-636-7464, www.gmcla.org

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PLAYWRIGHTS / PRODUCERS FORUM

Tony Kushner spoke at UCLA about timeless matters such as faith, death, and life on September 22, 2003 in their UCLA Live series.

The Women Playwrights Outreach Project held two readings at Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles on November 8 and 15, 2003 entitled "Fallen Women: Visionaries, Vixens, Veterans & Vamps. Presented were new works by Mary Casey, Cathy Cecchin, Anita George, Lisi DeHaas, Ana Castanon, Sibyl O'Malley, Judith Ressel, Sharyn Blumenthal, Gail Heitman, Angela Bolton, Catherine Coker and Lily Sauvage.

NYC's Signature Theatre 's 2004-2005 season will present the works of Paula Vogel. Ms Vogel plans to write a new play

for the season as well as two plays that have not been staged in New York before.

In September, 2003 Son of Semele Ensemble in Los Angeles did a staged reading of DOWN DANGEROUS PASSES ROAD by Michael Marc Bouchard about 3 brothers confronting their past, their father's death and their own insecurities. www.sonofsemele.org

Arkansas Repertory Theatre announces a call for entries for its biennial The Kaufman and Hart Prize for New American Comedy. It was created to encourage development of new comic plays. Deadline is February 1, 2004. www.therep.org

Linda Eisenstein's monologue ACME TEMPORARY SERVICES was reprised by Impact Theatre in Berkeley Calif. in September 2003 and her UNGRATEFUL was done at Cleveland Public Theatre's 20th anniversary benefit. She was also the kickoff speaker at the Washington DC Annual Playwrights Conference, "The Playwright as CEO." www.lindaeisenstein.com

Actors Theatre of Washington DC presented the new play WHEN THE SUN COMES OUT by Jeffrey Johnson at The Kennedy Center New Playwrights Festival in September 2003. The play has "the bite of WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF, and the quick wit of Neil Simon." groups.yahoo.com/group/ActorsTheatreofWashington/cal

Act Out Productions has announced that Frank Barnhart and The Columbus Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival has been named a finalist for The Stonewall Community Service Award in Columbus. Bravo Frank!

The OOB award-winning play for Outstanding Production, MEMBERS OF THE TRIBE by Nancy S. Heiden is now available for production around the country. This is a wonderful play for six actors dealing with issues of sexuality and spirituality. For a copy of the play, producers should email fabact1@aol.com or call Frank Barnhart, Literary Manager at Act Out Productions: 614-263-9448.

The legendary Jade Esteban Estrada presented the 2003 Award of Excellence to Playwright Doric Wilson and Producer Frank Barnhart at the Annual Off-Off Broadway Awards in September 2003.

Playwright Grimace Boyer is the author of the play THE NIGHT JULIE TAYMOR CRIED. For further information on this intriguing play contact the playwright at grimaceboyer@msn.com

William Hoffman continued his Conversations Series of televised discussions with major theatre artists of our time with Lanford Wilson in October and Barbara Cook in November 2003 at NYC's Lehman College. theatre@lehman.cuny.edu

The New Cockpit Ensemble will be producing Frank J. Avella's powerful new gay chat room play M4M4NOW in 2004. Information: www.newcockpitensemble.com

Playwright Nancy Dean has written 13 plays and been produced Off-Broadway. She wishes to get in contact with theatres considering doing lesbian work with major lesbian themes. Information: www.nancydean.com

Gypsy Productions has been formed in St. Petersburg, Florida by Trevor Keller and a group of actors to continue the work of Central Stage Theatre's Brett Lassiter who died in March 2003. Their plays will be geared toward a gay audience and the first production SLAP AND TICKLE by David Parr opened in November 2003 at Suncoast resort. The Purple Circuit tells them to break a leg! 727-456-0500

Jefferson Charles Beeker's THE CURRENT MRS. HARRISON was given a reading at the Interact Theatre in North Hollywood California recently. Set in 1968 three southern sisters get together for a visit in their childhood home and revelations are made. This play has roles for four women 40-50s. Contact: jcbeeker@yahoo.com

Veteran producer/playwright Glenn Hopkins had a reading of his work MRS ROOSEVELT. a solo 30 minute one-act on December 12, 2003 in Los Angeles. www.mootney.org

WEB SITES

The Lambda Players, Sacramento, California newsgroup: groups.yahoo.com/group/TheLambdaPlayers

BAX/Brooklyn Arts Exchange has a new Web site: www.bax.org

Contemporary Arts Organisations (Australia) has a network: www.caos.org.au

WILDEANA

The Annual Wilde Birthday Celebration on October 11, 2003, produced by The Purple Circuit for ONE Institute, was a great success — if I, Bill Kaiser, do say so myself. Called "A High Aesthetic Line," it parodied Wilde, and featured Lily (Dolly Wilde) Sauvage, Kevin Dulude and Kevin Rettig, with songs from Gilbert and Sullivan's PATIENCE sung by Steven DeMuth and Kevin Dulude.

Next year will be the 150th anniversary, and I (Bill Kaiser) hope to do a local Wilde Festival!

In South Pasadena, California there is an ongoing production of ERNEST IN LOVE, a musical version based on THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, book and lyrics by Anne Crosswell and music by Lee Pockriss. 626-441-5977

In New York, The Sonnet Repertory Theatre did a production of Wilde's timely political play AN IDEAL HUSBAND in October and November 2003.

APPEALS / OPPORTUNITIES

HERE Arts Center, in NYC is raising funds to buy their theatre space. Please support the work they have done for the past ten years by sending to HERE, 145 Sixth Ave., New York, NY 10013. Charge: 212-647-0202 x307

The cost of theatre is prohibitive in NYC. If you would like to help the Fresh Fruit Festival bring diversity to their festival please send contributions payable to All Out Arts c/o New Village Productions, 145 E. 27th St., New York, NY 10016

Donate to the Purple Circuit

Please make checks payable to:

Bill Kaiser
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Burbank, CA 91505

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The Purple Circuit's Printer for 12 years!

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.

Production grants are available through 2004.

The 2004 contest is for *Short Fiction*, including *One Act Plays*. The submission date is November 30, 2004. Notification is the following spring.

For production or writing guidelines send a SASE:

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

Guidelines are also on the Web site:

How to Reach Us The Purple Circuit

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