On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

Volume 10, Number 2

THE VILLAGE AT ED GOULD PLAZA ISSUE

WELCOME TO ON THE PURPLE CIRCUIT!

I wish everyone a Happy Pride to all! The Purple Circuit exists to encourage and promote GLQBT theatre and performance throughout the world. To achieve that mission we highlight the creative achievements of individuals and organizations to our reading audience.

This issue has a lengthy title but The Village at Ed Gould Plaza has become a center for creativity in Los Angeles and in a short time has become a premier venue for performance and social and educational gathering. The late Ed Gould, I understand, was a major mover and contributor to this wonderful project.

I salute the staff of the Village, which includes Cultural Arts Director Jon Imparato, Producing Artistic Director Sue Hamilton, and Cultural Arts Coordinator Matt Walker among many more. The Village has the larger Renberg Theatre as well as the Davidson/Valentini black box theatre. Visit the Village if you live in California or are visiting. Recent appearances were made by Varla Jean Merman, Miss Coco Peru, Tim Miller, as well as productions of SECRET AGENTS, VICTORY DANCE, and BLONDE JOKES attest that The Village is an important part of The Purple Circuit.

The Village is also sponsoring an All-Youth production of THE NORMAL HEART by Larry Kramer, July 20-22, 2001 at the Davidson/Valentini Theatre with free admission. Contact them at 323-860-7300.

We will be revising The Directory of Venues soon. There are many changes to be made as well as additions. We also have been adding to our Web site at www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html and the Web site edition of OTPC is also expanded.

I am considering eliminating or curtailing the hotline at 818-953-5072 unless more people use it. Please call the hotline and let me know if you want it continued. We encourage you to support The Purple Circuit by becoming or renewing as subscribers even if you plan to view online only. Contributions should be made payable to "Bill Kaiser" not to "The Purple Circuit."

Recently Playwrights Arena honored Kevin Rettig at their Gala for his many contributions to theatre in Los Angeles. The Purple Circuit applauds this deserved honor to this important patron of the arts and Wildean. Bravo Kevin and Playwrights Arena!

Our friends at Out North in Anchorage continue to present cutting edge culture there despite continued adversity. Their efforts at publicity for THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES have encountered prudishness from the US Postal Service as well as billboard locations in the city. We at The Purple Circuit commend Out North and are reminded that censorship, cultural bigotry and homophobia and the like, can happen all over and we need to be vigilant and supportive.

I am also moved by the somber 20th anniversary of the first reported cases of AIDS and the devastation that still occurs in Africa and in communities in the US too.

There should be a story on gay and lesbian theatre companies in the June 24, 2001 issue of BackStage by Erik Haagensen. Several members of The Purple Circuit were interviewed. One issue that came up was what are GLQBT playwrights writing about these days? AIDS was the central theme for a long time. Playwrights and others email me at purplecir@aol.com with current themes for our next issue.

The Opening of ONE Institute's new building in Los Angeles happened in a grand way on May 6, 2001. The Library, Archives, Museum and Art Gallery, not to mention The Charles Pierce and Performing Arts Collections, should be a must see this Summer for Californians and visitors to Los Angeles. Call 213-741-0094 for hours. Also people interested in being a volunteer or docent for the museum and art gallery especially contact Bill Kaiser at 818-953-5096.

I want to thank Demian and Jim Russell for making the Web site and OTPC possible and Sally Barron for helping me get the published version out. Thanks to our faithful columnists: Tom W. Kelly, Tom O'Neil, Jerry Semas and Howard Casner. I welcome other writers in other parts of the country and abroad to offer their volunteer services. I also want to thank Brian Gross, Marjorie Conn, Sue Hamilton, Jon Rivera, Linda Eisenstein, and the many publicists, playwrights and theatres that sent information for this issue.

Have a Great Pride Summer and Continue that Magical Purple Creativity,

Bill Kaiser, editor

ON THE BOARDS

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

*All in the Same Boat! by Glenn Hopkins, a political romp exploring the origins of AIDS, Cordell Hall, Venice, CA, opened May 18, 2001; 310-586-0114.

Apertura Modotti by Ellen Gavin, the story of the actor, photographer and Spanish Civil War freedom fighter's short life, Brava Theater Center, San Francisco, April-May 2001.

A to Z: 26 Stories from the Edge with Michael Kearns, Studio A, Los Angeles, June 2001.

*Beautiful Thing by Jonathan Harvey, Lambda Players, Sacramento, opens June 15, 2001, 916-484-4742.

Big Dicks, Asian Men with The Slant Performance Group of New York, David Henry Hwang Theatre/East-West Players, Los Angeles, April 2001.

*Bitter Homes and Gardens by Luis Alfaro, a new dark comedy about a Latina mother and daughter, Playwrights Arena at LATC, Los Angeles, opened May 25, 2001; 213-485-1681.

*The Boys in the Band by Mart Crowley, Knightsbridge Theatre, Pasadena, opens June 23, 2001; 626-440-0821.

Buzz! by Andrew Alty, a drug education theatre program, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, March-April 2001.

*Camera, Woman, a play about director Dorothy Arzner, Out Productions, Montreal, opens August 1, 2001.

*C-Cup by Doug Field, a hilarious new comedy, The Complex, Los Angeles, opened March 3, 2001; 323-957-9009.

Cinderella: The Real True Story by Cheryl Moch, a tenth year anniversary revival of the classic tale twisted, Goddess Theatre, Boulder, April-May 2001.

Clit on a Hot Tin Roof with Holly Hughes, audiences can expect tips on how to break into the high paying field of homosexual performance and to survive the return of the Bush bunch, Jon Sims Center, San Francisco, May 2001.

*Cloud 9 by Caryl Churchill, a revival of the biting witty farce, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened May 5, 2001; 415-861-8972.

*The Club Beautiful, a new gay dramatic comedy, Aputheatre, Amsterdam, opening in July 2001; www.aput.demon.nl

Dame Edna: The Royal Tour, Shubert Theatre, Century City, CA May 2001.

*Dangerous but Charming with Sarah Fairfax, portrayals of six dangerous but charming female characters, Theatre/Theater, Hollywood, May-June 2001; 323-939-1098.

David's Red-Haired Death by Sherry Kramer, two women share a magical red-haired kinship, Outward Spiral, Minneapolis, April-May 2001.

*Dear John by Marcia Cebulska, letters from the heart of a gay man and the woman he loved, Fremont Centre Theatre, South Pasadena CA, May-June 2001; 626-441-5977.

Dinosaur Doc by Michele Forsten, a spoof on the lesbian patient/straight doctor relationship, Love Creek Productions, NYC, April 2001.

Doomed Angels with DeadLee and the Doomed Angels, a rap/opera to shock, taunt and haunt you with reality, Highways, Santa Monica, May 2001.

Emotionally Unavailable by Caren McDonald, is the girl of your dreams... emotionally unavailable? Hudson Avenue Theatre, Hollywood, March-Apr 2001.

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

*For Colored Boys Who have Considered S-Curls when the Hot Comb was Enuf by Marvin K White, a world premiere stage adaptation based on Marvin K. White's poetry, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, opened May 3, 2001; 415-861-5079.

Gertrude Stein and a Companion by Win Wells, JumpStart, San Antonio, April 2001.

*Glorious Wounds by Clinton Leupp, Miss Coco Peru. She's damaged, The Village at Ed Gould Plaza, Los Angeles, April 2001 & the show returns to The Village June 15-22, 2001; 323-860-7300. *Glory Box with Tim Miller, the saga of Tim and his partner Alistair as a persecuted binational couple trying to stay together, Patrick's Cabaret, Minneapolis, April, 2001, Stanley Theatre, Vancouver, Hallwalls, Buffalo, The Village, Hollywood, all in May and upcoming Houston and Key West and more.

Head Games by Scott Miller, an off-Broadway director's 40th birthday party complicates everyone's life, Lillian Theatre, Hollywood, April-May 2001.

The History of Religion with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Highways, Santa Monica, March-April 2001.

Hot Fool Injection! with FOOL the resident theatre company, characters include an openly gay teen in an Amish community and more, Sacred Fools Theater, Hollywood, March-April 2001.

*An Ideal Wife adapted from Oscar Wilde's AN IDEAL HUSBAND with the genders reversed and updated to glamorous 1946 Washington, DC, Pacific Resident Theatre, Los Angeles, opens June 14, 2001; 818-759-6700.

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde, a lot of genderbending in this play by a butterfly for butterflies, NativeAliens at John Houseman Studio Theatre, NYC, March 2001.

*It Started with a Lie by Paul Vander Roest, a hilarious look at gay relationships both in and out of the bedroom, Hudson Ave. Theatre, Hollywood, opened April 20, 2001; 310-289-2999.

*Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time with Jeff Stryker, Bailiwick, Chicago, opened April 2001; 773-883-1090.

La Piece de Resistance by Lyla Hay Owen, DRAMA! New Orleans, March-April 2001.

The Laramie Project conceived by Moises Kaufman and Tectonic Theater Project, a performance about the murder of Matthew Shepard through interviews with townspeople of Laramie, Denver Center Theater, Denver, March-April.

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

Lesbians Who Kill, Freeman Auditorium, Tulane University, New Orleans, April 2001.

Living Out Loud: Gay and Lesbian Stories with Playback Theatre, Essential Theatre at Phoenix Theatre, Phoenix, May 2001.

*Lypsinka! The Boxed Set with John Epperson, Tiffany Theatre, West Hollywood, ongoing; 310-289-2999.

Martin Yesterday by Brad Fraser, a recounting of how difficult it can be to live in a world riddled by disease, death and paranoia, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, February-April 2001.

*Medea with The Gold Dust Orphans, a deconstruction of the classic tale, Celebration Theatre, Hollywood; 310-289-2999.

Memory's Caretaker with Paul Bonin-Rodriguez, Sushi Performance Space, San Diego, April 2001.

Miss Lizzie A. Borden Invites You to Tea by Marjorie Conn, a solo show with Karen Asconi 21 years after the murders, Sande Shurin Theatre, NYC, May 2001.

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told by Paul Rudnick New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened May 19, 2001; 415-861-8972.

Mud in Your Eye with John Fleck, a survival seminar in this Bushwhacked age, P.S.122, NYC, May 2001.

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

*Naked Boys Singing created by Robert Schrock, Actors Playhouse, NYC, ongoing; 212-239-6200. Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, opening August 26, 2001; 773-883-1090.

*A New You by Nancy Beverly, follows the life of an adolescent girl with a passion for the new girl in school, Celebration Theatre, Hollywood, opens June 29, 2001; 310-289-2999.

*The Normal Heart by Larry Kramer, all-youth production, The Village, Los Angeles, July 20-22, 2001, free with reservation; 323-860-7300.

Nosferatu: Angel of the Final Hour by Kaaren J. Luker, the atmosphere of decadent Berlin while the director films the classic

tale and featured Kevin Dulude, Zoo District, Los Angeles, February-May 2001.

Nuttin', a new musical by Mark York and Tony Buckley, the misadventures of a hunky, lovable, clueless country boy from a trailor-park to Manhattan, Don't Tell Mamas, NYC, March 2001. Oklahoma City by Tom Cole, two queer guerilla performers form

their own hilarious dysfunctional family of choice, The Theater Offensive, March 2001.

Opening Lines by Tom Swanner, a new comedy about falling in love, Lambda Players, Sacramento, March-April 2001.

*Original Blessing with Rico Hewson, contrasting personal desires with a collage of varied perspectives in a love letter to the 21s Century, performing at the New York Fringe Festival this summer.

*Pantheon by Arch Brown, a fascinating ungodly comedy of senile saints, babbling Buddhas, ghastly goddesses, homo heroes, and virtuoso virgins and featured Shoshana Henri, The Complex, Hollywood, April-May 2001.

*Party by David Dillon, a celebration of modern gay life, Quentin Crisp Theatre, San Diego (with the author in the cast!), ongoing; 619-688-9210; Gaydar Productions at Loring Playhouse, Minneapolis, opened June 1, 2001; 612-486-5757. Also productions in Houston and Seattle coming up.

*Poor Superman by Brad Fraser, a creatively blocked artist takes a waiter's job at a restaurant owned by a husband and wife and becomes entangled in their lives, The Professor and MaryAnn Productions at Actor's Lab Theater, Los Angeles, opened May 17. 2001; 310-489-1735; www.ticketweb.com

*Present Laughter by Noel Coward, Long Beach playhouse, Long Beach CA, opened May 18, 2001; 562-494-1014;

www.seatadvisor.com

*Psycho Beach Party by Charles Busch, someone is very unhappy at the beach and everyone is paying the price, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, opened May 5, 2001; 619-220-0097.

*Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw, Wild Wimmin at Visual Studies Auditorium, Rochester NY, opened May 18, 2001. Reality Check with Mighty Real Theater, an improvisational performance by resident queer Youth Theater project, Jon Sims Center, San Francisco, April 2001.

*Sappho in Love by Carolyn Gage, Center Stage, Las Vegas, July

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

*2nd Wind a new musical by Gene and Toni Bull Bua, inspired by experiences at the Penny Lane Resident Treatment Center for atrisk teens, Gene Bua Theatre, Burbank CA, opens June 8, 2001; 818-505-6954.

*Secret Agents by Jessica Litwak, a brother, a sister, a secret and James Bond starring Peter Paige, Jessica Litwak and George Hertzberg, The Village, Hollywood, opened May 4, 2001; 323-860-

Selling Breasts by Sally Stover and Jennifer Leach, a new play based on a true story: what would you pay for the perfect body? St. Genesius Theatre, West Hollywood, March-April 2001.

*Sex Farce with Rob Nash, a zany solo sex farce covering all the possibilities, Vortex repertory, Austin, opened May 24, 2001; 512-454-8497.

Shakespeare's R & J by Joe Colarco, a seething new adaptation in which four Catholic schoolboys seek escape from Verona only to discover new passions are being liberated, the Daylight Zone, Philadelphia, May 2001.

*Sirena: Queen of the Tango by Guillermo Reyes, a film noir style with passion and charm, Celebration Theatre, Hollywood, February-May 2001; Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, opens September 8, 2001; 415-861-5079.

A Small Miracle by Lisa Marjorie Barnes, LESbien Theater, Theater for the New City at the Lower Eastside festival of the arts, June

The Smiths - or - 12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Family with Rob Nash, witness the unbearable intimacy that is family in this solo show! Don't Tell Mama's, NYC, April 2001.

Something Cloudy, Something Clear by Tennessee Williams, Bailiwick repertory, Chicago, April-May 2001.

*Southern Baptist Sissies by Del Shores, Zephyr Theatre, Hollywood, until June 24, 2001; 310-289-2999; McKinney Ave. Contemporary, Dallas, opening July 25, 2001; 214-953-1212; www.southernbaptistsissies.com

Straight with David Schmader, solo directed by Chay Yew about conversion therapy, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, April 2001. *Strange Bedfellows by Clint Jefferies, Wings, NYC, opened April 26, 2001; 212-627-2961.

*The Sum of Us by David Stevens, Long Beach playhouse Studio Theatre, Long Beach CA, opens July 20, 2001; 562-494-1014. Survive This! created by Rusty Hernandez, a comic send-up of America's television phenomenon, Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago,

The Ten Year Chat with David Rousseve, a performance terrain exploring race, gender, and AIDS, P.S. 122, NYC, April 2001. *There's No Place Like Hollywood a musical by Dan Berkowitz, Shirley Hillard and Wayne Moore, an original satire of the Hollywood machine and the stars it created, Stella Adler Theatre, Hollywood, opened June 1, 2001; 323-930-9304.

To Bitter and Back with David Pevsner, explores the life of an attractive gay man who knows he needs to change when he can't get out of bed in the morning because all he has to do that day is buy shoelaces, Tamarind Theatre, LA, February-April 2001.

*Too Tall Blondes in Love with Kate Bornstien and Barbara Carrellas, sexual variety is the coin of the realm in this world, The Theater Offensive at Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, opened May 31, 2001; 617-426-4214.

Tour De Femme with Suzanne Westenhoefer, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, April 2001.

The Traveling Companion by Tennessee Williams, DRAMA! at Cowpoke Theatre Space, New Orleans, March-April 2001.

*Tribes 2001 with Act Out Productions troupe, sketches and satire galore in this gay institution, Axis Night Club, Columbus Ohio, opens June 1, 2001, 614-263-9448.

*Uncaged! with Vortex Workshop, an evening of crazy love and theatre, Vortex Repertory, Austin, opens June 15, 2001; 512-454-8497

*Uncle Bob by Austin Pendleton, Soho Playhouse, NYC, ongoing; 212-695-7400.

*The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler, Canon Theatre, Beverly Hills, ongoing; 213-365-3500. Out North, Anchorage, April 2001. *Vanille by Barbara Kahn, the lost (last) Xena episode, Theater for the New City, NYC, June 2001, 212-254-1109.

*Velvetville with Paul Zaloom, a low-tech puppet extravaganza, Highways through June 10, 2001; 310-315-1459.

Very Worst of Varla Jean Merman with Varla Jean Merman, the love child of Ethel Merman and Ernest Borgnine? Offers some life lessons, The Village later Hudson Ave. Theatre, Hollywood, March-April 2001.

Victory Dance with Jessica Litwak, a clash of ideals between an aging Russian radical and her misfit granddaughter, The Village, Hollywood, October-December 2000 & Mar 26, 2001, a special free performance.

White Disabled Talent with Greg Walloch, Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, NYC, April 2001; Vortex Repertory, Austin, June 8-9, 2001.

THEATRE BITS by Bill Kaiser

Boise: Spontaneous Productions Theater Company is Idaho's only GLQBT theater company. Contact them at 2350 Vista Ave., Boise ID 83702; 208-368-0405; www.idahodesigns.com/sponprod

Brooklyn: The Women's Festival was held in March at Brooklyn Arts Exchange. Included were Nancy Alfaro in SEX AND THE SINGLE MOTHER and Monika Gross in LOVE, LOSS & WHAT I WORE. BAX celebrated its 10th anniversary with a gala at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. BOXED, an excerpt from Martin and Biello's musical BREATHE was performed along with appearances by Julie Goldman, Indigo Etheridge, Grant King, and more. BAX is also home to Brooklyn's Center for Lesbian & Gay Artists. 718-832-0018. Kudos to BAX on their anniversary!

Chicago: The Association for Theatre in Higher Education's Lesbian & Gay Theatre Focus Group is holding a pre-conference before the

ATHE conference July 31-August 1, 2001. You do not have to be a member of ATHE to attend. Events will take place at Bailiwick Arts Center. Deadline to register is July 15, 2001. For information contact Michael Ellison at 419-372-0472 or mbelight@aol.com

The Bailiwick also honored seven with the Larry Osburn Trailblazer Awards at a gala event May 20, 2001. The Chicago honorees include Rev Gregory Dell, E. Lynn Harris, Don Landers, Achy Obejas, Jeff Rosen, Dorothy Tanner, and Rudy Galindo.

Durham: Manbite Dog Theater presented A NEW FINE SHAME, the life and loves of Lu Andreas Salome in May. They also brought their charming production of LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC to Los Angeles where it is still running at the Tamarind Theatre in Hollywood.

Los Angeles: After Actor Kevin Dulude ended his run in NOSFERATU, he appeared in "The Actor's Life: A Showcase of Monologues" at the Odyssey Theatre in Apr and May as well as on AMC's series THE LOT. Also at the Odyssey, is the world premiere of SOUNDINGS by Beverly Olevin about the difficult world of people who stutter, directed by Jon Rivera.

The Asian Theatre Workshop of The Martin Taper Forum presented 3 works in the Spring including RICE BOY by Sunil Kuruvilla, directed by Chay Yew as well as 99 HISTORIES by Julia Cho and NEW AND STILL CRUZ'N by Alison de la Cruz and Denise Uyehara. Davidson Lloyd (of Keegan and Lloyd) has left his post at The Actors Fund and is now in charge of some interesting programs at the Screen Actors Guild Foundation.

The benefit for the Southern California Library was at the Writers Guild Theater and called "The Hidden History of Hollywood: Class, Race & Gender."

The 17th annual STAGE (Southland Theatre Artists Goodwill Event) was "Jerome Kern: Life upon the Wicked Stage" and benefited the Jeffrey Goodman Clinic and other HIV programs at the GL Center and the Dental Clinic of APLA. Many performers appeared including Bruce Vilanch, Bonnie Franklin, Jane Carr, Rod McKuen, Lee Lessack, Carole Cook, Dale Kristien and many more. Kudos to Michael Kearns, Naomi Caryl, Betty Garrett, Ron Abel, and all involved!

Other fun benefits were the Uptown Gay and Lesbian Cabaret directed by Ken Kane. A highlight was a comic scene between Shoshana (Dolly Wilde) Henri and Jay Willick at the Paris cafe and Hot in the City, a celebration of LA playwrights for the Playwrights Arena. Father Kevin Rettig was honored for his contributions supporting theatre in the city and scheduled artists included Barbara Bain, Maxwell Caulfield, Wilson Cruz, Juliet Mills, Amy Hill, and more.

New Brunswick NJ: In April, George Street Playhouse premiered Arthur Laurents new play CLAUDIA LAZLO, a play within a play set after World War II that confronts the duel between talent and morality in April-May 2001. The theatre has a Lambda Nights series and Mr. Laurents appeared at that prior to the play. 732-246-7717; www.georgestplayhouse.org

New York: Dixon Place at Vineyard 26 always has a lot of GL events. In April there was Victoria Libertore's stalk (her), a good time extravaganza of theatre, dance and whisky: TENDER, an evening of songs, situations and stories about shoes with Scott Heron; and the incomparable Reno performed and at homotext Augusten Burroughs and Hope Forstenzer. In May, it was THREE PART DISHARMONY by L. Trey Wilson, about African American men's encounters with police; EMMY GAY IN WOMAN LAND, a chorus of men dressed as ladies and ladies dressed as men with NY's hottest drag king Robert Toms and others, and Coco Frio: AM I MY BROTHER'S DEALER? June will feature Writers on the Ledge with Ron Drummond, Daniel Nester and R. Omar Telon, curated by Regie Cabico; THE LAND COLUMBUS LOVED BEST with Nicholas Estevez, HE-MEN & OTHERS starring Burn, The Human Torch and more, and WARNING: NOT FOR BROADWAY, Dixon Place's first Festival of New Musical Works for the Theatre, and homotext features Douglas A Martin and Elizabeth Stark curated by Jill Dearman. 212-532-1546, www.dixonplace.org

The New York Historical Society's exhibit on "Choosing To Participate" featured "New York Stories: A Gallery Of Unsung Heroes" -one of which was Playwright pioneer Sidney Morris who is still out there writing and ready for productions of his fine works. Two comedies by Madeleine Olnek were performed at Joe's Pub at The Public Theater in April. They were YOU CALL FOR THE

FIREMAN AND THE ARSONIST COMES and OONA AND LURLEEN.

Pasadena: Among the many classics done at the Knightsbridge Theatre in its two theatres- Pasadena and now in Los Angeles recently were THE JEW OF MALTA by Christopher Marlowe, Shaw's ARMS AND THE MAN, and an adaptation of Wilde's THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY. 626-440-0821: www.knightsbridgetheatre.com San Diego: Diversionary Theatre hosted its 2001 Annual gala at the Doubletree Hotel in Mission Bay on May 14, 2001 when its new season was announced. 619-220-0097.

San Francisco: The Jon Sims Center announced its Spring AirSpace artists-in residence. They are Stephen Pelton Dance Company, Duy Nguyen with MEN IN LOVE, Carolyn Cooley, and Ghost Town, a multimedia performance company directed by Zachary Barnett. For residency program information, contact Sims Executive Director Charles Wilmot: 415-554-0402; director@jonsimsctr.org

"Help Is On The Way VII: An All-Broadway Concert of the music of Adler, Bock and Coleman" is slated for July 30-31, 2001 at The Palace Of Fine Arts. It is the Bay area's largest annual AIDS benefit concert directed by David Galligan and Musical Director Ron Adler. Features Rita Moreno, Shirley Jones, Bruce Vilanch and many more; 415-273-1620.

Washington DC: May 2001, the 17th annual Helen Hayes Awards were announced at the Kennedy Center. The award for lead actor in a non-resident production went to Marc Wolf for his solo show ANOTHER AMERICAN: ASKING & TELLING. Incidentally the show will have a run at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles later this year.

CHICAGO SCENE by Howard Casner

Jeff Stryker is extended. I realize that's a redundant statement, but it seems that Stryker's play, "Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time" (now playing at the Bailiwick Arts Center), is such a huge success that Chicago apparently needs more time to take it all in. Stryker also made a ballsy appearance at the Grabby Awards, held here during IML (International Mr. Leather) over Memorial Day Weekend. He bounded on stage, obviously not having taken the time to change costumes, revealing himself in all his glory, prompting this writer to be relieved that for Jeff there will always be life post-porn. The days his movies no longer sell, he can replace the bouncing ball on all those sing-a-long videos, perhaps as soon as the Sing-A-Long Sound of Music returns here in November. At the same time, in Bailiwick's other space, Artistic Director David Zak directed an extremely moving and powerful production of Tennessee Williams' final play "Something Cloudy, Something Clear." Guess which show had the sold out crowds?

Enough of the long of it ... now let's go for the short. A stunning production of John Cameron Mitchell's "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" opened in the newly renovated Broadway Theatre in the heart of Boystown. This tale of an East German girly-boy who trades in what Stryker has more than his fair share of and spends the remainder of the musical telling of her search for her non-Platonic Platonic-half is a triumph for the star, Nick Garrison.

Girls, Girls, Girls: from the terrible to the golden, and everything in between. About Face Theatre mounted an adaptation of Rebecca Brown's novel, "The Terrible Girls," about obsessive, abusive and all consuming love (or a typical night at the baths for the boys). On a more lighthearted (as opposed to crush-hearted) note, Bailiwick Repertory offered the "All Girl Review 2," an evening that included everything from songs and stand-up to performance art (or a typical night at the baths for the boys) to raise money for its Lesbian Theatre Series. Meanwhile, Alexandra Billings played Margo Channing in a concern version of "Applause" to benefit HealthWorks Theatre's HIV/AIDS and violence prevention program, while Beatrice Arthur played Beatrice Arthur in a concert version of herself to tons of applause at the Park West. Also, six boys vie for the title of Miss Glamouresse in Bill Russell, Frank Kelly and Albert Evans' beauty pageant musical spoof, appropriately titled "Pageant," at the Black

Orchid Room in Piper's Alley, while one boy, J. Scott Ament, does that over the rainbow girl in "The Judy Garland Arbor Day Special" at the Theatre Building.

Finally, it is my sad duty to report that Julie Harris became ill and entered the hospital during the run of Claudia Allen's drama "Fossils," about aging lesbians who meet on summer holiday—at this time, her role is to be permanently recast.

The suspense was killing us, but Bailiwick Repertory finally announced its complete roster for its annual Pride Series: in Terence McNally's "Corpus Christi," that baker's dozen of scalawags from the Old T modernize our fave Biblical story; Dianna Russell's "Prism" gives us a history of gay activism from The Mattachine Society to rioting drag queens to Matthew Shepherd; Jeffrey Solomon returns with his one-man hit "MotherSON," while also giving us "Santa Clause is Coming Out" where we discover that "jolly" wasn't exactly the word that red-suited gentleman was aiming for, also doing double duty is playwright Carolyn Gage, giving us "Sappho in Love" (in which that poetess is courted by the goddesses of celibacy, love and marriage in a comedy described as a lesbian "Midsummers Nights Dream") and "The Second Coming of Joan of Arc" about, well, you know who; Power Strokes is David Gaard's drama about a studio mogul and a hustler (and here I thought we just called them actors); Dan Kagan goes for Emotional Monogamy in a comedy about straying lovers and swinging parents (or a typical night at the baths for the boys); Stephen House gives us a down under perspective of homeless gay teens in his Australian drama "Go by Night;" Michael Van Duzer sends up 50's erotic movies and purple prose gay novels in "Posing Strap Pirates;" and finally even the posing straps are doffed for Bob Schrock's musical review "Naked Boys Singing," in which the title says it all.

Meanwhile, behind curtain number three: David Henry Hwang's "M. Butterfly" bursts its cocoon at Apple Tree Theatre; Tony Kushner's dark drama "A Bright Room Called Day" explores Weimar Republic intellectuals and the rise of Nazism; Michel-Marc Bouchard's "Lillies, or the Revival of a Romantic Drama" blossoms at the Journeymen Theater Company; McKinley Johnson and Stephanie Newson's new musical, "Being Beautiful," which portrays a gay African-American youth who leaves his Texas hometown and comes to Chicago in the 1940's, overtures at the Chicago Theatre Company; Chay Yew's not-so-delicate "Porcelain," about a gay Anglo-Asian youth who kills his white sex partner in a London tea room, is presented by the Trap Door Theatre; and performance artist Tim Miller stopped by Chicago with his show "Glory Box" about gay immigration rights.

And what column would be complete without its department of self-aggrandizement: three of my one-act plays ("A Cold Coming We Had Of It," "A Misreading of Camus," and "A Little Lear and Laundry") that were produced here last year in Chicago under the title of "Random Acts: Three Tales From Boystown," have been published on-line. Check it out: www.hollowhillspublishing.com

A CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE Entertainment News by Gerald Semas

- Playwright and screenwriter **Paul Rudnick** ("In & Out") has written a comedy called "Marci X" which will star **Lisa Kudrow** ("The Opposite of Sex"). **Richard Benjamin** ("Mermaids") directs this story of a Jewish-American Princess who finds herself the head of a hard-core hip-hop record label and tries to soften one of the label's most controversial rappers. Gay producer, **Scott Rudin** ("The First Wives Club") will oversee the project for Paramount Pictures.
- Joan Jett, who's been seen of late in the "Rocky Horror Show" revival, gets double exposure with the release of "Speedway Junky." Postponed from an August 2000 release, Regency Entertainment has picked up distribution rights. Directed and written by Nickolas Perry ("Boys Life 2"), the movie follows a young man who runs away to Las Vegas hoping to win enough money to become a race car driver. Those plans change unexpectedly when he is beaten up, robbed and then taken in by a young gay man who teaches him the

- intricacies of becoming a male hustler. The eclectic ensemble consists of **Daryl Hannah** ("Grumpy Old Men"), **Jonathan Taylor Thomas** ("Common Ground"), **Tiffani-Amber Thiessen** ("Beverly Hills 90210").
- Jonathan Pryce ("Carrington") joined the National Theatre's revival of "My Fair Lady" when it opened in London last March. Pryce played Professor Henry Higgins to Martine McCutcheon's Eliza. The production was directed by Trevor Nunn and choreographed by Mathew Bourne, best know for his all-male production of "Swan Lake." I wondered why they didn't pursue an all-male production but then I realized that "My Fair Guy" just isn't very catchy. Bourne was recently awarded the OBE, Order of the British Empire by Queen Betty herself, Elizabeth II.
- You haven't heard the last of "The Talented Mr. Ripley." John Malkovich takes over from Matt Damon in the upcoming film version of Patricia Highsmith's third Ripley novel, "Ripley's Game." Filmed in Venice, the picture is set 20 years after the events in "The Talented Mr. Ripley" and has Tom, married and living in French estate. A personal slight at a social function brings on Ripley's wrath forcing him to seek revenge. When a friend, played by Dougray Scott (Mission Impossible II) asks for his help in committing murder, Ripley decides to include the offending party in the scenario. Effectively killing two birds with one plot. Could Ripley Meets Andy Hardy be far behind?
- Writer John August found success as one of the many co-writers of the recent "Charlie's Angels" film. He is already attached as scribe for such upcoming film projects as the live action version of "Scooby Doo" starring Sarah Michelle Gellar and Freddie Prinze Jr., a remake of "Barbarella" with Drew Barrymore, and the Steven Spielberg sci-fi thriller "Minority Report" featuring Tom Cruise. With such auspicious additions to his resume, add August's name to the list of most powerful Gay movers and shakers in Hollywood.
- Gay producer/writer Kevin Williamson ("Dawson Creek") is diving forward despite a number of career disappointments including the cancellation of his series "Wasteland" and the critically panned movie "Teaching Mrs. Tingle." Williamson has partnered with Greg Berlanti ("Broken Hearts Club") to write the film "Her Leading Man" for Outerbanks Entertainment, the company that released the film "Broken Hearts Club."
- It takes one to know one. Gay playwright **Edward Albee** looks at the life of gay playwright **Federico Garcia Lorca** with his latest dramatic production scheduled for a late 2001 premiere. In addition to his notoriety as a left-wing poet and playwright, Lorca was a Spanish left-winger who was murdered by Franco sympathizers during the Spanish Civil War. Lorca's theatrical works include "Blood Wedding" and "The House of Bernarda Alba."
- Barely three months since it's Broadway debut, the musical version of the film 'The Full Monty' is on it's way across North America. The show kicked off its tour May 22 in Toronto Canada with plans to stop in Chicago, Washington, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The road version will feature a whole new cast, separate from the Broadway version. If your city isn't on the tour, you might find some satisfaction with the show's soundtrack, now available on CD. Among the tracks are "Big Ass Rock," "Michael Jordan's Ball" and "Big Black Man." Doesn't that make you long for the days of song titles like, "Some Enchanted Evening" or "I Could Have Danced All Night?"
- Openly gay Australian athlete and former rugby star **Ian Roberts** is attending the esteemed National Institute of Dramatic Art. The same Institute whose alumnus include **Cate Blanchett** and **Mel Gibson**. Responding to critics comments about his limited chances in succeeding as an actor, Roberts replied "I acted straight for 25 years." The athlete/actor has a small part in the next Star Wars film, Episode Two.
- Melissa Etheridge hasn't given up on plans to bring her autobiographical show to Broadway this year, she's only pushed it back to the Fall. The singer intends the one-woman show to review her life from growing up in Kansas, reaching a successful singing career, coming out as a lesbian and her longtime relationship (though now over) with Julie Cypher. The segment covering the process of David Crosby becoming a sperm donor for the couple will be handled through the magic art of puppetry. Just kidding. It's not really magic.
- Kelsey Grammer ("Frasier") has purchased the production rights to Eric Myers' book "Uncle Mame: The Life of Patrick Dennis." The

actor plans to produce a film on the eccentric man who created the life and world of "Auntie Mame."

- Allison Janney goes from press secretary on "The West Wing" to pressing lips with Meryl Streep in the upcoming film, "The Hours." Based on Michael Cunningham's Puliitzer-winning novel, the story focuses on three women from different times and how they are deeply affected by the works of Virgina Woolf. The ensemble cast includes Claire Danes, Ed Harris, Nicole Kidman and Julianne Moore. Producer Scott Rudin has chosen Stephen Daldry ("Billy Elliot") to direct the project.
- Comments or questions can be sent to Gerald Semas at shownewz@aol.com

SODOM EAST: NEW YORK

On the Great Purple Way

by Tom O'Neil

STOPPARD PULLS OUT THE GAY STOPS

Tom Stoppard and Lincoln Center have pulled off the impossible: they've staged a hit Broadway play about a prissy old British poet, A. E. Houseman, who spends two hours wrestling with his secret homosexuality, loses out and never nails the boy he aches for.

But "The Invention of Love," which opened March 29, is just what serious theater-goers pine for — a serious play is about love and people that matter while "The Lion King" clones continue to devour Broadway. The reviews for Stoppard's latest read like gushing love sonnets ("Exhilarating!" cried Variety, "Stirring! Glistening!" said The New York Times), while Tony Award voters lavished it with noms and serious theatergoers — hooray — turned it into a sell-out.

Theatergoers get two Housemans for the price of one. "I'm dead, then. Good!" sighs the older one, at age 77, when the play opens and he's about to go to hell. Why he's heading there is a mystery, even if God should be revealed someday to be an Edwardian prude: Stoppard's Houseman never gets laid. Soon we see evidence of how much he wanted to, though, when the play travels back in time and we meet the young poet at Oxford where he had long, brainy chats about Greek boy-love with his classmates and secretly craved the fleshy pleasures he denounced as "beastliness" and "spooniness." Meantime, the senior Houseman looks on and sighs to a young athlete, who became his lifelong obsession, "I would have died for you, but I didn't have the luck."

Houseman never met Oscar Wilde, but Stoppard doesn't give a hoot about that, not when his play can be enriched by an imaginary powwow between the two literary titans. The two rendezvous along the River Styx where Wilde admits to Houseman that his love of Alfred Douglas was own ruin, but he nonetheless insists: "Better a fallen rocket than never a burst of light!" Robert Sean Leonard stars as the young Houseman, Richard Easton as the senior. Directed by Jack O'Brien at the Lyceum Theater.

Here's what else has been illuminating New York stages recently:

UNCLE BOB - Since it premiered in 1995, Austin Pendleton's sassy wordfest about a senior dying of AIDS has caused jaws to drop because of its unflinching peep at gay incest. Recently, jaws hit the floor at the SoHo Playhouse when "Queer as Folk" hunk Gale Harold stepped into the role of the senior's straight thug nephew who moves in with his uncle to take care of him, at first repulsed by his homosexuality, then oddly seduced by it. Forgot about how hard it must've been for the studly Harold to portray convincing lust for a crusty old coot. What took real guts was for him to make his stage debut Off-Broadway opposite celebrated thesp George Morfogen, for whom the title role was written. Harold pulled it off with panache -- while panting audiences cheered him on. Opened April 23.

SERVICEMEN - A new play, presented by the New Group, about a draft-dodging playboy and a lonely socialite who cruise World War II-era New York City nightlife while competing for the affections of departing servicemen. Highlight: Manhattan drag empress Hedda

Lettuce made cameos throughout, dressed like Madeline Kahn's sendup of Marlene Dietrich, while warbling "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" and "Falling in Love Again." Play written by Evan Smith, staged by London-based director Sean Mathias. Theatre at St. Clements, March 25 - April 21.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS - Playwright Clint Jefferies recounts a steamy encounter with an old neighbor that he had with he was a troubled young man growing up in the Midwest. Wings Theatre. May.

THE WRONG FAG TO FUCK WITH (OR) THE GAY PIMP VS. EMINEM - The "fun-loving pervs and sex criminals" of Grindhouse-a-Go-Go fire up this zany show set at the MTV Music Awards. Characters including Courtney Love, VJ John Norris and "Timmy, a sensitive gay teen." Kraine Theater. May.

WAY OFF-BROADWAY BY THE BAY

by Tom W. Kelly

Brava! For Women in the Arts, 2789 24th St., SF; 415-392-4400; www.brava.org

Brava! presented the California premiere of "Stop Kiss" by Diana Son, directed by Loy Arcenas, a work that manages to be both funny and provocative as it tells the story of Sara and Callie, two "straight girls" in their late twenties who are the last to realize they are falling in love. Confronting their fears and identities, the two women finally kiss, but what happens after the kiss is the heart of this poignant and humorous tale about love in a hostile landscape.

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

NCT closes their sixth Pride Season with Paul Rudnick's sexy farce "The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told." Instead of Adam and Eve, it's Adam and Steve as well as Jane and Mabel, a lesbian couple with whom they decide to start a civilization. Directed by George Maguire.

NCT, as part of its sixth Pride Season, mounted a revival production of Caryl Churchill's biting, witty farce Cloud 9. It riotously examines a cornucopia of sexual mores, from heterosexual adultery to bisexual incest, in a circus of carnal confusion and topsy-turvy theatrics. Directed by Arturo Catricala.

NCT presented the West Coast premiere of Martin Yesterday by Brad Fraser, a sizzling work for five characters about sex and politics. A 30-something Matt suddenly finds himself looking for more than reckless flings with younger partners. Martin Yesterday, a middleaged city official appears to be the end to Matt's pursuit; however, Martin is not forthcoming about his private affairs and holds some very dark and destructive secrets. Directed by Christopher Jenkins.

As the third offering in its In Concert Series, NCT produced Chess, the light rock opera created by Richard Nelson (book), Tim Rice (lyrics), and Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (music). George Quick was stage and music director.

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

Theatre Rhino presented For "Colored Boys... Who have Considered S-Curls when the Hot Comb was Enuf," a world premiere written by Marvin K. White, stage adaptation based on the poetry of Marvin K. White (relating to being both black and gay). This production addresses the schizophrenia that African American gay people live with, being black in the gay community and being gay in the black community -- each with its condemnation and its blessings. It deals with sexuality, loss, camp, family, and church through a series of White's staged poems with vibrant singing and flamboyant theatricality. Directed by Johari Jabir.

Theatre Rhino mounted the 10th anniversary production of a surreal comedy about the inner life of a man in hiding "Don't Make Me Say Things that Will Hurt You," written and performed by Doug Holsclaw. Directed by Sabin Epstein.

Straight, the critically-acclaimed solo play, written and performed by David Schmader, explores the world of conversion therapy, the psychological and spiritual procedure by which homosexuals are reputedly made "straight." Concurrently, he casts an equally critical eye on the "gay community," whose limitations at times seem to rival those of the conversionists. Directed by Chay Yew.

At the Victoria Theatre, lesbian comedy star Suzanne Westenhoefer performed her "Tour de Femme" to benefit Theatre Rhino. At once glamorous and irreverent, she has cut a swath across America with her sold-out comedy performances.

And in the Rhino Studio:

Make It So Productions produced Viva Variety XV to benefit Art for Healing, which collects works of art through donations and lends them to health care facilities. This is the 15th show in an ongoing series of variety shows in the "old-style format" highlighting the very best in gay and "gay-friendly" entertainment in the Bay Area. Hosted by Steve Murray.

The Cutting Ball Theater mounted the Bard's "As You Like It." The company plays with the various disguises used in the script and explores the confines of identity and gender roles. Through a gender switch, Rosalind finds newfound freedom and power and learns much about herself and the world. Directed and designed by Rob Melrose.

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project, 2940 16th Street, SF The 2nd Annual Lesbian Playwrights Season included Good Friday 13th Uprising... Rising Up, a trio of plays celebrating Black womyn's lives and experiences: "The Calling" and "Like Father" by Shirlene Holmes and "Harriet Tubman Visits a Therapist" by Carolyn Cage.

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

Jon Sims Center presented Reality Check, an interactive improvisational performance by queer youth theatre project, The Mighty Real Theater. Reality Check weaves together an eclectic and riveting montage of moments mined from the performers' own experiences, life stories, fantasies, and visions of the world around them.

Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St., SF

From the creator of "Making Porn:" superstars Blake Harper and Jason Branch appeared in "Shooting Porn," the comedy created by Ronnie Larsen based on his hit film. This comedy brings the celluloid to life on stage with actors re-enacting the film.

Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St., SF; 415-474-8800 The world premiere of Bee by Prince Gomolvilas tells the fascinating story of a young gay Korean American man, who is invisible, and an older African American woman, who is the only person who can see him.

Thick House, 1695 18th St., SF; 415-401-8081

Encore Theatre Company presented the World Premiere of "I Think I Like Girls," written and directed by Leigh Fondakowski (head writer for Tectonic Theater Project's "The Laramie Project"). This new work is a compelling multi-media performance piece focusing on gender and growing up gay in America.

New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom St., SF

Inquiline Theatre Company in association with the Playwrights Foundation produced A Fair Country, a play by Jon Robin Baitz. Set against the landscape of apartheid South Africa, freezing Holland, and the jungles of Mexico, A Fair Country follows the family of an American cultural diplomat (including a gay son) over the turbulent decade of 1977-1986 as they struggle with issues of race, class, and loyalty. Directed by Val Hendrickson.

Also in Bay Area:

The Shotgun Players presented William Finn's "A New Brain" in conjunction with BareStage Productions.

The American Musical Theatre of San Jose produced the West Coast premiere of "Victor/Victoria," Blake Edwards' screwball farce about the illusions we create and the people who live underneath them.

In the South Bay, TheatreWorks presented the West Coast premiere of "Far East" by A.R. Gurney, directed by Jules Aaron. Set at an American naval base in Tokyo in 1954, this new drama deals with interracial marriage, feminism, the impending Vietnam conflict, antiwar sentiment, and even gays in the military.

Also, Teatro Visión, San Jose's premier Chicano/Latino theater company, produced "The Kiss of the Spider Woman" by Manuel Puig with English adaptation by Michael Feingold. This powerful story shows how the light of the human spirit can shine through a most dark situation.

In Milpitas, the Calaveras Repertory Theatre produced Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest."

COMEDY

There is a lot of comedy happening in San Francisco.

QComedy is on Mondays at Piaf's, 1686 Market St at Gough. Other performers were Amma and her show "In Search of My Clitoris" in May at Buriel Clay Theatre and SHTIK! with Sara Felder a queer play on Jewish vaudeville was at Z space studio. On June 9, 2001 at the Herbst Theatre Kung Pao Kosher Comedy presented the 3rd Annual Funny Girlz: A Smorgasbord of Women's Humor. Also coming up at the Herbst Theatre on June 29, 2001 is The Dragapella Beautshop Quartet; 415-392-4400.

In Santa Rosa CA the 7th Annual LG & B Pride Comedy Night took place on June 9, 2001 at Luther Burbank Center for the arts with Danny Williams, Vickie Shaw, Dan Rothenberg and Julie Goldman. For further info on comedy in Northern California contact: comedy@intersteller.com

Comic Jason Stuart recently released his first full-length comedy CD, "Gay Comedy without A Dress". Available at wwwjasonstuart.com and elsewhere. He is appearing all summer at The Jungle Cabaret in Tropical Joe's in Provincetown. In addition his first self-produced feature "10 Attitudes" will be screened at the Philadelphia and also the Austin Film Festivals. Watch for him on TV too-check the Web site.

At The Village in Los Angeles Women On A Roll presented "Blonde Jokes" with Michele Balan and Vickie Shaw in April.

In March in New York was "Stories of Tested Faith" at the restaurant City Hall.Appearing were Andre Gregory, Patty Griffin, Stacy Horn, Robert A. F. Thurman and Greg Walloch. greg@gregwalloch.com

FESTIVALS & SEASONS

A.S.K. Theater Projects Common Ground Festival 2001 will be June 20-24,2001 at UCLA in Los Angeles. All events are free but reservations are required at 310-478-9ASK. Performing are The Ghost Road Company with Theater of NOTE, Heather Woodbury, Humility Incorporated, Sandra Tsing Loh, Actors' Gang, Ziggurat Theatre, Guerrilla Girls: HISTORY OF WOMEN IN AMERICAN THEATER, The Coastline Project, Burglars of Hamm as well as a Theater Fair and Playwrights Slam.

Bailiwick Repertory presents 13 Premieres and Productions in Pride 2001 running May- September 30, 2001 at two theaters in Chicago. Call 773-883-1090 for tickets. There will be 207 performances making this America's largest GLBT performance festival of the year. Included are: Jeffrey Solomon's SANTA CLAUS IS COMING OUT and MotherSon; Diann Russell's PRISM, GO BY NIGHT by Stephen House, SAPPHO IN LOVE and THE SECOND COMING OF JOAN OF ARC by Carolyn Gage; POWER STROKES by David Gaard;

Steve Willis' PASSING CEREMONIES; CORPUS CHRISTI by Terrence McNally; EMOTIONAL MONOGAMY by Dan Kagan: Michael Van Duzer's POSING STRAP PIRATES and NAKED BOYS SINGING created by Robert Schrock.

Playwrights Arena in Los Angeles announces its 2001 season at the Los Angeles Theatre Center to include: BITTER HOMES AND GARDENS by Luis Alfaro; LAST OF THE SUNS by Alice Tuan and CRAWLSPACE by Robert Harders. Call box office at 213-485-1681.

The National Queer Arts Festival will blaze across San Francisco during the month of June. The June 1 opening night gala features Alice Walker, Dorthy Allison, and Jewelle Gomez. The events include literature/poetry, performance, video, art, dance, music, and theatre. Some highlights are the world premiere of the opera WUORNOS; Annie Sprinkle, the 11th Annual Queer Latina/o Arts festival including Marga Gomez, and Hank Tavera's Performance Show; Terrence McNally, Joe Goode Performance Group, and much, much more. Check it out: 415-552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Diversionary Theatre's Executive Director Chuck Zito announces the 2001-2002 season to include: Mart Crwoley's BOYS IN THE BAND; LOT'S DAUGHTERS by Rebecca Basham; Paul Rudnick's JEFFREY; NEVER THE SINNER by John Logan and Caryl Churchill's CLOUD 9. Box Office: 619-220-0097.

In May, 2001 Bailiwick in Chicago presented a Tennessee Williams Festival including SOMETHING CLOUDY, SOMETHING CLEAR; 27 WAGONS FULL OF COTTON and A TRIPLE SHOT OF WILLIAMS.

SNAP! Productions announced its 2001 -2002 season with Shelterbelt Theatre sharing a theatre space at 3225 California in Omaha to include: 3 GUYS NAKED FROM THE WAIST DOWN by Jerry Colker; EARL, OLLIE, AUSTIN & RALPH by Glenn Rawls; SNAP!fest 2001- 4th Annual New Works Festival; PRECIOUS FEW by Terry Sneed: SONG AT TWILIGHT by Noel Coward; Shelterskelter 6; Terrence Mcnally's CORPUS CHRISTI: From Shelterbelt With Love: SPLENDORA by Peter Webb, Stephen Hoffman and Mark Campbell; THE MARRIAGE OF BETTE & BOO by Christopher Durang; THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD by Paul Rudnick; and THE LARAMIE PROJECT by Moises Kaufman. For reservations 402-341-2757; www.snapproductions.com, www.shelterbelt.org

Outward Spiral Theatre Company in Minneapolis is pleased to announce three main stage productions for its 2001 season. They are Sherry Kramer's Jane Chambers Play Writing Award-winning DAVID'S REDHAIRED DEATH; DOG OPERA by Constance Congden and John Cameron Mitchell's HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH. Contact Ticket Work: 612-343-3390; www.ticketworks.com

Triangle Productions! in Portland Oregon's new season will include AS BEES IN HONEY DROWN; TRU; DRIVING MISS DAISY; FOR REASONS THAT REMAIN UNCLEAR; WHAT THE BUTLER SAW; FORBIDDEN BROADWAY 2001; NUNSENSE A MEN; PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES; BASH; CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRAWFORDS and SHAKESPEARE'S R & J. Discounted season tickets to the three venues are available until July 15, 2001. For tickets or information: 503-239-5919; www.tripro.org

The Theater Offensive recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and offers for its Pride Month: TOO TALL BONDES IN LOVE with Kate Bornstein and Barbara Carrellas; THIS YEAR'S FASHIONS by Abe Rybeck and QUEER THEORY! a musical travesty by Thomas Defrantz. 617-542-4214; www.thetheateroffensive.org

FILM / VIDEO /TELEVISION

Del Shores' wild comedy SORDID LIVES has been made into an equally hilarious film with Leslie Jordan, Olivia Newton-John, Beau Bridges, Bonnie Bedalia, Delta Burke and many of the fabulous cast of the original play. If you can see it anywhere do so and get the video when that comes out!

FILM FATALE was founded in 1997 for women-centric film and is now a queer arts quarterly forum. An April screening at Highways in Santa Monica included "Life's A Butch," by A Rosser Goodman, and three short films, "Outcasts" by Leigh B Grode, "Crazy Ladies" by Darla J. Fjeld, and "Trio" by Jennifer Pawlitschek. www.kgbfilms.com

Our NY correspondent Tom O'Neil was all over the screen in the pre-show on E! with Joan and Melissa. Tom had a Web site — www.goldderby.com — and has written a book covering most of the major awards. Watch for him on the Emmys later this year!!

Ellen DeGeneres is slated to return to network TV on CBS again playing a lesbian with Clovis Leachman, Martin Mull and Jim Gaffigan as co-stars.

A new film on THE COCKETTES by David Weissman and Bill Weber is having its world premiere at the San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in June.

The Sixth Annual Phoenix International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival will be held February 14-17, 2002. They are accepting shorts and full-length films. There is no submission fee, and the deadline is December 1, 2001. For information: 602-249-1074; outfarfilmfest@aol.com; www.outfar.org

Out North in Anchorage presented the 20th Black Maria Film & Video Festival in April. This is a national cutting-edge festival of fiercely independent work. www.outnorth.org

On March 31, 2001 the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences presented "Ribbon Of Hope Celebration 2001" which honored programming and deeds in the area of AIDS education and awareness. Honorees included Bruce Vilanch, Hugh Hefner, "60 Minutes II," "The West Wing," Cable Positive, Joel Rothschild and "Sex and The City." Appearing were Michael Jeter, Judith Light, Fabio, Michael Kearns and more. 818-754-2877.

The 19th Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival — OutFest 2001 — will be held July 12-23, 2001 at various locations. Opening night is John Cameron Mitchell's HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH. 323-960-0636; www.outfest.org

LITERARY SCENE

The Jon Sims Center in San Francisco has created the Bay Area's first ongoing queer literary series in a noncommercial setting. The opening event in March was Sister Spit, the lesbian poets and writers collective. Adam Klein and Camille Roy were featured in May 2001. For further information: 415-554-0402.

In the April 2001 issue of American Theater Magazine is an article by Tim Miller called "There's No Green Card at the End of the Rainbow" about what binational couples like Tim and his partner Alistair are going through. https://doi.org/millertale/timmiller.html

Haworth Press has a number of journals and other publications of interest to PC readers like the Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly and the Harrington Lesbian Fiction Quarterly as well as the Journal of Bisexuality which is edited by Fritz Klein, MD. 800-429-6748; www.haworthpress.com

Founded by Terry Wolverton in 1997, Writers at Work offers a lot of good workshops and other events in Los Angeles; 323-661-5954; www.writersatwork.com

T'N'T Classic Books has a catalogue of plays and other books by Doric Wilson, Sidney Morris and Jane Chambers (including a few hard cover copies of LAST SUMMER AT BLUEFISH COVE signed by the author at \$35). These books make great gifts for graduation, birthday and to complete your G-L library. For a complete listing, contact T'N'T Classic Books, 360 West 36 St., #2 NW, NY, NY 10018-6412; shelleyft@aol.com

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation 2000 full-length fiction award winners include Maida Tilchen of Somerville, MA for "Land Beyond Maps"; Gloria Duran of St. Petersburg, FL for "Catalina, My Father"; Harlan M. Greene of Charleston, SC for "The Lost Light"; and Carlyle Johnson of Carrollton, GA for "Love Comes to King James."

New from Heinemann is "Even More Monologues for Women by Women" edited by Tori Haring-Smith and includes two monologues by Linda Eisenstein: ACME TEMPORARY SERVICES and ZOMBIE GRRLS FROM THE CRYPT.

Also from Heinemann is Sheila Kerrigan's "The Performer's Guide to the Collaborative Process." For further information: www.collaborativecreativity.com; www.heinemanndrama.com

The recent issue of The Threepenny Review contains an article entitled "The Importance of Posing as Oscar" by Eric Bentley. This place had been commissioned by the Los Angeles Times Book Review but they declined to print it. It has aroused widespread interest and people are talking about Bentley's play LORD ALFRED'S LOVER again. That fine actor Tony Newfield has been doing staged readings for producers in New York with himself as Oscar and Michael Paller directing. The play is marketed by Samuel French in Hollywood.

The January issue of American Theatre featured a major interview with Craig Lucas by Sarah Schulman as well as a new feature called "20 Questions" with Holly Hughes as the first subject. In the February issue was the script of Han Ong's erotically charged MIDDLE FINGER.

In February, the publication of Paul Harris' "The Harris Guide 2001" was announced by Upstart Press. ISBN 0-9701274-0-5. The book will be distributed by Bookazine, Alamo Square and Baker, and Taylor.

MUSIC / OPERA / DANCE

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

The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents it's In Concert series. CHESS was performed in April 2001 and currently FOREVER PLAID is running through July 8, 2001. 415-861-8972 for tickets.

The Bridge Dance Theatre premiered "Sugar & Spice" with original music by Brian Gross at the Electric Lodge in Venice CA in May. For other events from Brian this summer: www.b12x12com

The Purple Moon Dance Projected presented "Horizon" in May at The Luna Sea Women's Performance Project in San Francisco. This production explores the Horizon(s) of aging, loving women, transforming rage and the significance of embracing the oppositions, transitions, and continuity in our lives. Coming up September 7-8, 2001 at the Cowell Theatre will be "The Tenth," Purple Moon's 10th anniversary production. 415-552-1105; www.purplemoondance.org

Vox Femina, Los Angeles' Women's chorus presents its last concert of the 2000-2001 season with "Celebrating Women-Singing for Our Lives" on June 10, 2001 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Westchester and on June 23, 2001 at Zipper Concert Hall at the Colburn School. 310-838-8151; www.voxfeminala.org

WUORNOS, a new opera by Carla Lucero will have its world premiere June 22-24, 2001 at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. WUORNOS examines the actual life story of Aileen Wuornos, the sex worker who is currently on Death Row in Florida for killing seven men in Florida. 415-441-1366; www.wuornos.org

Peter Eing Healey performed three dance pieces at Highways in March: AUNT JANE about Jane Austen; WE ARE ALL AMNERIS based on AIDA; and THE DEATH OF ISADORA DUNCAN. Also at Highways was TRANSLATIONS, an evening of fluid off-center dancing with Carol McDowell.

Out singer and recording artist Bill McKinley appeared at the Gardenia Club, Los Angeles, in March 2001 with his solo show "Don't Tell Walt: An Animated Evening of Music" from classic animated films. www.billmckinley.com

A new CD out from MM records is "Songs from the Age of the Closet" featuring the music of Tchaikovsky, Han, Szymanowski, Poulenc, and Griffes.

Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX) has many musical events as well as workshops and classes in the arts. Check out their devoted teachers and happenings at 718-832-0018; info@bax.org

PLAYWRIGHTS / PRODUCERS FORUM

The South Coast Repertory's summer line-up includes Amy Freed's THE BEARD OF AVON, a world premiere about Shakespeare and The Hispanic Playwrights Project: California Scenarios by Luis Alfaro, Joann Farias, Anne Garcia-Romero, Jose Cruz Gonzalez and Octavio Solis. Costa Mesa, California; 714-708-5555; www.scr.org

Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles is presenting another series of "Queering the Classics" curated by Mark (Ballad Of Little Mikey) Savage. Included were Ardele by Jean Anouilh, Les Liaisons Dangerouses by Christopher Hampton, Othella by Wm Shakespeare, HMS Pinafore! by Gilbert and Sullivan (June 22 full production to follow) and Peter Pan by JM Barrie adapted by Ken Roht on August 11. Saturdays at 2:30, reservations: 310-289-2999.

Dagger, dykes with a cutting edge is a new guerilla theater troupe at The Theater Offensive in Boston that will present queer women's and girls' perspectives on social and political issues. For more information contact Eve C. Alpern at 617-542-4214 or offensiv@pop.tiac.net

It may be too late for this summer but NativeAliens Theatre Collective in NYC was seeking short material for a summer theatre festival called Short Stories. Contact their literary manager, Mark Finley at mfinleyt@aol.com

SPRING's AWAKENING by Frank Wedekind is a play about puberty in an English version by Eric Bentley that provides Wedekind's original thoughts back in 1890. Bentley has also written LORD ALFRED'S LOVER, his take on the Wilde-Bosie affair. Production rights: first class: MARTON office in NYC, stock and amateur: Samuel French.

Kaliyuga Arts John Sowle and Steven Patterson are staging H.K. Gruber's opera GOMORRA for College of Marin in June and John's directing the world premiere of Joe Besecker's MARY IN THE HYDRANGEA BUSH in July in San Francisco. www.kaliyuga.com

A seminar moderated by Don Shewey called "Creating and Producing Commercial Theatre with Gay Themes on Broadway and

Volume 10, No. 2

Off" was held at the Lesbian and Gay Center in NYC in March. Appearing were Stephen Bates, Jerry Mitchell and Jordan Roth.

Linda Eisenstein has one-act plays blossoming around the country. Her newest comedy HEART SMART premiered at Heartlande Theatre in Rochester Michigan in April and in May at Big Dawg New Play Festival in Wilmington NC and Long Island City's Arts Project Springfest 2001. Her REVELATION 24:12 was done at Actor Training Studio in Kansas City in April, and MARLA'S DEVOTION was also staged in April at University Of Arizona in Tucson. Contact Linda at herone@en.com

Director Francine Trevens and the actors from TASK FORCE (named in memory of Maggie Task)are conducting a reading series this summer with THE LAST ACT OF ARTIE LORD by Linda Reynolds of particular interest to PC audience on June 4, BOY A BOY B, AFTER A MURDER by Jennie Kiffmeyer on July 16 and GOLDBERG'S KADDISH by Michael Ackerman. 212-736-6279; shelleyft@aol.com

Bailiwick Theatre is seeking submissions of any length not yet produced lesbian-centric-theme plays for a reading series. Mail to Bailiwick Repertory, 1229 W Belmont, Chicago IL 60657, Attn.: Kelli Strickland or email as a Word doc to kstrick@luc.edu

FirstStage in Hollywood is seeking submissions for its Fifth Annual One-Act Play Contest. \$10 per script fee. Deadline for unproduced plays, July 1, 2001. Winners notified November 1, 2001. For further information contact FirstStage at 323-850-6271; www.firststagela.org

Incidentally, AD Dennis Safren has been honored for his lifetime achievement by his Board. Their main stage has been named "The Dennis Safren Stage." Bravo Dennis!

Playwright David Dillon has been busy. Not only is his hit show PARTY getting raves at the Quentin Crisp Theatre in San Diego but he is starring in it there too! There are two more productions in Houston and Minneapolis in June, and a fall production in Seattle. Can a movie deal be far behind?

Producers: For information on Paul Bonin-Rodriguez's works contact the playwright/performer at 110 Blue Star, San Antonio TX 78204; 210-737-0793; pbonrod@aol.com

Wild Wimmin ETCetera, Inc is an exciting new theatre company that recently world premiered Carolyn Gage's LEADING LADIES in Rochester New York. Submissions are welcome at 1625 East Avenue, #215, Rochester NY 14610.

Many playwrights have responded to listing their plays on our Web site. Producers: I encourage you to check out www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html and view the treasures there waiting to be produced!! We certainly have more room there to list than in our published version.

St. Louis Composer Chris Jackson has a repertoire of original musicals available for production including STAY WITH ME, THREE BOYS, MY INSIGNIFICANT OTHER, SAUGATUCK and SOUTH BEACH. Contact him at: 199 Gilla Dr, St. Louis MO 63011; 636-227-8762.

Australian Steve Dawson's works include BRAD PITT WHY HAVEN'T YOU CALLED?, BIG DICKS ON STAGE, and THE WHITE ROSE. Contact him at stevend@sub.net.au

Sidney Morris' work includes the hit romance IF THIS ISN'T LOVE!, THE GOOD TIME BOYS, and THE MAGIC FORMULA and many others. Contact him at 475 - 57th St., #30-D, NY, NY 10019.

Adrienne Perry's plays include THE WHITE GARDEN (Vita Sackville-West, Virginia Woolf and Violet Trefusis, among others), and HORS D'OUEVRES AND DESSERT (a short, lesbian romantic comedy) Contact the playwright at 2006 S Holly Strav, Tucson, AZ 85713; 520-321-0072.

Joe Marshall's works include DIRTY SECRETS, A NIGHT IN VEGAS, and his new play IN A NUTSHELL which opens June 15, 2001 at Alternative Theater Company in Phoenix and features Corey, His Mother, his deaf lover, the lesbian friend, and more. Contact the playwright at 4140 N. Central Ave., #3069, Phoenix, AZ; 602-793-6879; joewmarshall@aol.com

Michael D. Jackson's play COFFEEHOUSE is a comedy about the gay community was produced by Lambda Players in Sacramento CA. Contact the playwright at 28-40 - 36th St., Astoria, NY 11103; bwayboy@aol.com

The LGBT Theatre Project in Atlanta announces its first public performance will be June 23, 2001 during Atlanta's Pride Celebration during which they will present four short plays. For further information 404-371-0212; lgbt-theatre@mindspring.com; www.mindspring.com/~lgbt-theatre

Paul Harris's play "You Look for Me" which played in NYC last summer at HERE earning great reviews is going to play out on Fire Island this August as part of the Island Rep's second season of plays. The Island Rep is directed by Richard LeFrance. "You Look for Me" also received a rehearsed reading at the Actor's Arts Theatre out in LA in May. There is hope of a fall production. If your theater company would like a "reading" copy of the play contact the playwright directly at 212-265-6845; pharris825@aol.com

.......

TOURING

Tim Miller has been crisscrossing the country on tour with his powerful and important show GLORY BOX, which documents the dilemma of binational lovers and the antiquated US immigration laws

Jan Einarson and her entourage have also been touring with her show, WHAT DIDN'T SOMEBODY TELL ME I WAS A LESBIAN? Check out "Road Notes" on her Web site for information on the tour and when she comes to your town: www.rozproductions.com

WEB SITES

OUT Productions in Montreal has created The Pink Network — a companion in Canada to The Purple Circuit:
English version: www.out.ca/en_pink.html
French version: www.out.ca/fr pink.html

Jon Sims Center for the Arts in San Francisco has created a new queer artists, web-based audio archive, "San Francisco in Exile Live at the JSC (SFinX)" at www.sfinexile.org

The Quentin Crisp Theatre in San Diego has its Web site now at www.quentincrisptheatre.com

WILDEANA

"A Symphony of Sorrow" is a wonderful CD with songs by Henry Muldrow and text by Oscar Wilde. Available from FAB Music at www.fab-music.com

During the Wilde centennial there was an Oxford Wilde Festival at Magdalen College including a silent film screening, a performance of EARNEST, and an exhibit of artifacts from the College's archives.

Knightsbridge Theatre in Pasadena is presenting a homoerotic version of THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY which opened May 18, 2001: 626-796-6950

APPEALS / OPPORTUNITIES

Cultural Media Icons in NYC is a company dedicated to artist development, communication, and success. They are currently seeking sharp, progressive musical talent and artists at the forefront of comedy, performance, circus/vaudeville, variety, and improvisation. If you are an artist or group and interested in submitting your work or proposal for a future Cultural Media Icons live show in New York send information to: cmi@gregwalloch.com; www.gregwalloch.com; www.gregwalloch.com; www.gregwalloch.com;

P.S. 122 in NYC has an appeal for supporters who like opening nights. For only \$75 you can be a first-opener at P.S. 122. www.ps122.org

An appeal from a totally different place — our friends at Out North in Anchorage continue to create a diverse cultural space in Alaska. Support them too at 1325 Primrose St, Anchorage AK 99508; email@outnorth.org

The Theater Offensive has some staff positions open for Community Programs Director, Managing Director, and Production Manager - part time. For further information, contact: voice 617-542-4214 or fax 617-2929898; renee@thetheateroffensive.org; www.thetheateroffensive.org

On June 30, 2001 at Butterfields in Los Angeles there will be Art Source Benefit Auction to benefit Youth Services at the LA Gay & Lesbian Center. Information: 310-996-1188; www.laglc.org/specialevents

Friends of activist Betty Rottger are seeking contributions for "A Brick for Betty Rottger" on the wall of honor at Southern California Library. Send your checks payable to "Southern California Library" to Robert Manners, PO Box 17218, LA, CA 90017-0218.

In April 2001, the Michael Himovitz Gallery in Sacramento opened an exhibition called "The World from a Gay Perspective." Information: 916-929-7896; himovitzgallery@aol.com

Managing Director for Walk & Squawk being sought. Innovative, rapidly growing, physical theatre company with a new, 100-seat performance space in Detroit's Cultural Center seeks experienced, resourceful, entrepreneurial Managing Director to coordinate producing, presenting, facility management, and financial operations. Programming includes original, company-created work, international exchange residencies, and multi-disciplinary presenting. Walk & Squawk is completing the successful first phase of a capital campaign and building renovation. Phase II development is scheduled to begin in 2002. This is a unique opportunity to play a leadership role in an expansive, collaborative vision of art and community development. Equal opportunity employer. Fax or email resume, references, and salary requirements to Artistic Directors, Walk & Squawk Performance Project: 313.832.8891; info@walksquawk.org

How to Reach Us

The Purple Circuit

Bill Kaiser

921 N. Naomi St. Burbank, CA 91505

Office: 818-953-5096

Hotline: 818-953-5072

purplecir@aol.com

www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation

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

The AaBB Foundation is also holding a short story competition for 2001 with cash awards of \$1000. 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

Purple Circuit Newsletter

Subscriptions only: \$20 / year Please make checks payable to:

Bill Kaiser 921 N. Naomi St. Burbank, CA 91505

Please Print:
Name
Interest
Address
City
State/Zip
Phone
Fax
E-mail