

On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

Volume 11, Number 3 THE COLUMBUS NATIONAL LESBIAN & GAY THEATRE FESTIVAL ISSUE

Welcome to On the Purple Circuit!

We are a network of individuals, theatres, and production companies that exist to celebrate and promote GLBT theatre and performance throughout the world. You are invited to join us in that endeavor! Our email: purplecir@aol.com. Our theatre listing hotline for California: 818-953-5072. Our expanded Web site: www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

Even if you just use the Web site, we need subscribers and contributions to survive. Suggested annual subscription is \$20/ year payable to "Bill Kaiser," 921 N. Naomi St., Burbank, CA 91505. Thank you to all who have subscribed or renewed, and for your support in the past and future!

I am delighted in Pride month for this to be The Doric Wilson Issue for many reasons. Doric is one of the pioneers of the Gay Theatre Movement and founded The Other Side Of Silence (TOSOS), the first professional theatre group in 1974 in New York. TOSOS presented his plays and others in bars and other locales in the city. Now TOSOS II has been resurrected by Doric, and directors Mark Finley and Barry Childs. They are dedicated to an honest and open exploration of the life experience and sensibility of our community. From the buzz and excitement I have heard, there is much interest over their just concluded "Look Again" reading series and the revival of Doric's classic play, "STREET THEATER" at the Eagle Bar. More projects are underway including a Women's Series: The Irene Kenal Women's Theatre Project, a "newer" plays series "Look Ahead" and a musical theatre series: "The Billy Blackwell Musical Theatre Project." Congratulations to Doric and all his colleagues on TOSOS II. For further information and to get involved visit www.doricwilson.com

The 25th anniversary of The Robby Awards was a gala event for the Southern California theatre community on February 25, 2002. For all these years critic Rob Stevens has been nurturing and encouraging theatre here. We heard a rumor that this will be his last year giving these awards and hope it is not so as it is the most entertaining night out of the year for theatre folk! Thanks Rob! Contact: 323-656-9407, robstevens@attbi.com or www.showmag.com

On March 4, 2002 DRAMA! and the New Orleans community suffered the loss of their AD, playwright and theatre pioneer Charles Krebs whose work went back to the legendary Caffe Cino in NYC. The Purple Circuit salutes his life and career. drama@dramano.org

An important theatre event for me was finally seeing a production of five one-acts by our longtime Chicago columnist Howard Casner. Under the collective title: HALSTED STREET, CHICAGO, A FEW TALES FROM BOYSTOWN it was a pleasure to see and hear such literate, and impressive

work. Bravo Howard. Now playing at Moving Arts in Silver Lake 323-856-4200.

On May 12, 2002 ONE Institute & Archives celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a gala fundraiser at the building at 909 West Adams. Having the largest collection of LGBT materials in the world, visitors are invited to visit the building, and see its museum, art gallery, special collections (including The Performing Arts Collection that I curate) and special exhibits. Call 213-741-0094 or www.oneinstitute.org

The LGBT Focus Group of ATHE will have a pre-conference: "Re-Orienting Ourselves: LGBT Theatre In the 21st Century" at The Town And Country Resort in San Diego July 23-24, 2002 before the ATHE convention. Contact Brian Haimbach at 864-243-5506 or haimbach@hotmail.com

I welcome AQT Vancouver, a new queer theatre to The Purple Circuit. They will be premiering in August 2002 with a mini-festival of Sky Gilbert's works followed by a regular season. Contact: 460 E. 48 Ave, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V5W 2E5, or www.queertheatre.com

I note that one of the most successful plays of the past decade, PARTY by David Dillon will be celebrating its tenth anniversary having had its world premiere in Chicago in Nov, 1992. A Florida tour is being planned for this summer and for licensing rights throughout the world contact the playwright at emaiddavid@aol.com - Kudos, David!

This year will be the 177th birthday anniversary of the gay activist Karl Heinrich Ulrichs. People are asked to remember this important pioneer of our movement by events throughout the world on August 28, 2002. There will be an observation at noon at the Civic Cemetery in L'Aquila, Italy. www.angelfire.com/f13/celebration2000

The place to be in September is The Columbus National Gay & Lesbian Theatre Festival, September 12-21, 2002. It will be truly a Purple Circuit with performers and theatre companies from all over the country in attendance and I urge everyone to try to attend this fabulous event. Phone/fax: 614-263-9448, FABACT1@aol.com - www.geocities.com/actoutproductions Bravo Frank Barnhart and your staff for all the hard work in organizing this Festival!

Thanks to Doric Wilson, Frank Barnhart, Linda Eisenstein, John Clum, Max Turner, Carolyn Gage, Tom O'Neil, Nathaniel Grey, Steven LaVigne, Michael Van Kerckhove, Ellie Covan, Jason Stuart, Sandra de Helen, Howard Casner, all The Publicists, Theatres and Other Individuals who contributed information and to Jim Russell, Demian and Sally Barron for making this issue possible.

Happy Pride! Keep Creating and Wage Peace,

**Bill Kaiser
Editor**

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ON THE BOARDS

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

***After Dark** by Steve Kluger, a romantic comedy, Gaydar Productions, Minneapolis, opening summer 2002, details at www.michaelthomasford.com

***Always a Part of Me** by Jeffrey Kin, SNAP!Productions, Omaha, opens in June 2002.

***American Fabulous** with Troy Carson, an adaptation of the film about the life of Jeffrey Strouth, The Duplex Cabaret Theatre, NYC, opened April 1, 2002, 212-255-5438

The American Plan by Richard Greenberg, what did it mean to live in the closet in 1960? Son of Semele, LA, March 2002.

***Baby with the Bathwater** by Christopher Durang, Knightsbridge Theatre, Pasadena, CA, opened May 25, 2002, 626-440-0821.

Bend Over, Straight Boy! by Gary L. Day, a new comedy/drama - he wants a woman but needs a man, ErotiZone Theatrics, a project of Daylight Zone, Philadelphia, May 2002.

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

Billie Holiday: Colors of My Soul with Anne Le Sear, dialogue by Joe Watts, Theatre New West, Houston, March-April 2002.

Bill's New Frock adapted by Scottish theatre company Visible Fictions from novel by Anne Fine this children's piece takes on gender stereotypes, Mark Taper Forum and on tour in LA area, April-May 2002.

Blade to the Heat by Oliver Mayer, a glove love drama, Center for Mexican-American Culture, Austin, April 2002.

***Body Blows** with Tim Miller, his latest tour-de-force about being gay in America, Bailiwick, Chicago, March 2002, Legion Arts, Cedar Rapids, Mar. 2002, Highways, Santa Monica, May 2002 and on tour.

Boy Meets Boy by Bill Solly and Donald Ward, concert reading series, TOSOS II, NYC, April 2002.

***Boys and Girls** by Tom Donaghy, A lesbian couple ask a gay male friend to serve as a male role model for their son, Playwrights Horizons, NYC, opened May 28, 2002, 212-239-6200.

Cherchez Dave Robicheaux by Nancy Wright, a comedy about one's higher power of fiction, Red Hen Productions, Cleveland, March 2002.

Cloud 9 by Caryl Churchill, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego March-May 2002.

The Dazzle by Richard Greenberg, story of the eccentric Collyer brother in NYC, South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa CA, March-April 2002.

***The Dead Boy** by Joe Pintauro, a sex scandal that pits The Catholic Church against the modern press, NJ Repertory Company, Long Branch, opened May 3, 2002, 732-229-3166

Destronelli by Dennis Miles, Theatre of Note, LA, Feb.-March 2002.

***Dirty Little Showtunes ... Encore** conceived by Tom Orr, Theatre New West, Houston, opened May 3, 2002, 713-394-0464.

Dirty Little Stories with Hilary Ramsden and Yvonne DuQue, Walk & Squawk, Detroit, April 2002.

***Discordia** by Linda Eisenstein and James A Levin, a

musical with satiric songs with a backdrop of the Holy Grail, Percival, Cassandra and Arthurian knights, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland, opened in April 2002.

***Embracing the Undertoad** by Robin Rice Lichtig, a one-act featuring a waitress in a diner, her tuned-into-the-aura-of-the-universe sister and her lesbian lover in a struggle for love, life, and sanity, Bailiwick's Lesbian Theatre Initiative Playwriting Competition winner, Bailiwick Rep, Chicago, opening September 23, 2002, 773-883-1090.

***End of the World Party** by Chuck Ranberg, a hit comedy set on Fire Island, Buffalo United Artists, Buffalo, opened May 24, 2002, Reality Theatre, Columbus, June opening and other productions planned for Bailiwick, Chicago and Naughty Austin, Austin, details forthcoming.

www.buffalobua.org

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

***Epic Proportions** by Larry Coen and David Crane, a rollicking comedy of Hollywood's heyday, West Coast Ensemble, Hollywood, opened June 7, 2002, 323-525-0022.

Falling Man and other Monologues by Will Scheffer, five interconnected solo pieces about gay male love and sexuality, The Duplex, NYC, directed by Mark Cannistraro, March-April 2002.

***Fifth of July** by Lanford Wilson, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, opens June 8, 2002, 619-220-0097.

Gates of Gold by Frank McGuinness, inspired by longtime lovers Michael MacLiammoir and Hilton Edwards who founded the Gate Theatre in Dublin, Gate Theatre, Dublin, May-June 2002.

***Girl Meets Girl** by Craig Fox and Sally Stover, six women searching for love in the new millennium, The Theater Building, Chicago, opened May 6, 2002.

Glory Box with Tim Miller, tells his struggles to keep his Australian partner Alistair McCartney in the U.S. and the inequities of marriage law, U.Wisconsin, Madison, April 2002.

***The Goat or Who is Sylvia?** by Edward Albee, bestiality and a gay son too, Golden Theater, NYC, opened March 10, 2002, 212-239-6200.

***Halsted Street, Chicago: A Few Tales from Boystown** by Howard Casner, a very entertaining and literate evening of one-acts ably directed by Michael Van Duzer and well acted, Halsted Street Productions at Moving Arts, LA, opened May 3, 2002, 323-856-4200.

Hamartia Blues by Letta Neely, brings to life a literary work with mythic overtones about the intertwined lives of individuals battling against the racist and homophobic violence in their communities, The Theater Offensive, Boston, May 2002.

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

***Honey, I'm Home** by Paul Vanderost and Bruce Hart, a screwball comedy with all gay characters, Knightsbridge Theatre, Los Angeles, opening Aug. 2, 2002, 818-440-0821.

***The Hot L Baltimore** by Lanford Wilson, Mud-Luscious Theatre Ensemble, Burbank, CA, opens May 31, 2002, 818-773-3117.

Hot Flashes, Power Surges and Private Summers with Rhodessa Jones, a one-woman show about being female, fifty and loving it, Out North, Anchorage, March 2002.

In My Dream, I am Surrounded by Dancing Naked Men by Robert Coles, a mild-mannered gay book editor has a recurring dream, The Vortex Theater Company, NYC, March-

April 2002.

Insurrection: Holding History by Robert O'Hara, a time-bending comedy/drama about slavery with some gay undertones, expertly directed by Derek Charles Livingston, Celebration Theatre at McCadden Place, Hollywood, February-May 2002.

***In the Outfield** with Laurie Wolf, the coming out of a NY Jew/southern dyke, Don't Ask, Don't Tell 2002 at Manbites Dog Theater, Durham, opened May 28, 2002, 919-682-3343.

The Invisibles by Kevin Brofsky, a new comedy for anyone who ever thought about moving back with mom, New Village Productions, NYC, April 2002.

***Kate's Chink-O-Rama** with Kate Rigg, madcap review of character comedy of Asian stereotypes, Brava Theater Center, San Francisco, opens June 5, 2002, 415-647-2822.

Kilt by Jonathan Wilson, Esther needs to accept her son's homosexuality, he uses his Scottish dancing and grandfather's kilt as "Tartan Tom" in a gay strip club, Director's Company, NYC, April 2002.

Kiss of the Spiderwoman by Kander and Ebb with book by Terrence McNally, Richmond Triangle Players, Richmond, April-May 2002.

***Knuckles and Crunch** by Doug Holsclaw, a special friendship develops between two drifters drummed out of the military who find work and refuge in a gay bar, Theatre Rhinoceros, opened May 11, 2002, 415-861-5079.

***The Laramie Project** by Moises Kaufman and the members of Tectonic Theater Project, The Colony Theatre Company, Burbank CA, opens June 1, 2002, 818-558-7000; also at (Mostly) Harmless Theatre, St. Louis, opening in June 2002, 314-614-7411 or www.mhtheatre.com

The Lavender Lockerroom by F. Allen Sawyer, a comedy with balls! Theatre Rhinoceros, SF, March-April 2002.

***A Layman's Guide to Safe Sex** by Jeff Hagedorn, a revival for The Pride Series, Bailiwick Theatre, Chicago, opens June 2002, 773-883-1090 or www.bailiwick.org

A Letter from Ethel Kennedy by Christopher Gorman, a man tries to reconcile with his parents over lunch at Joe Allen before a matinee, MCC, NYC, April-June 2002.

***A Letter to Harvey Milk** with Varon Schweizer, a man's journey from The Holocaust to the struggle for gay rights, Don't Ask, Don't Tell 2002 at Manbites Dog Theater, Durham, June 2002, 919-682-3343.

Look: We've Come Through by Hugh Wheeler, awkward relationship between a plain girl and a pretty boy struggling with his sexual identity, TOSOS II, NYC, March 2002.

Lookin' Cute/Feelin' Cute: Dirty Gay Teen Pop

Superstars In Concert with Jonny McGovern, P.S. 122, NYC, April-May 2002.

***The Madness of Esme and Shaz** by Sarah Daniels, a tale set in modern London between a deeply religious 65-year-old who takes in her lesbian niece who has spent 13 years institutionalized for committing a horrific crime, Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles, opened June 14, 2002, 323-957-1884.

***Making Porn** by Ronnie Larsen, this time starring Ryan Idol, Naughty Austin at Hyde Park Theatre, Austin, opens June 13, 2002.

***Mandy's Yearbook** by Jeff Ham, a comedy send-up of teen suspense drama with lesbians and more! Met Theatre, LA, opened June 6, 2002, 323-957-1152.

Moscow by Nick Salamone, an unusual musical with three gay men lost in time rehearsing a Chekhov play, WaterFront Playhouse, Key West, March-April 2002.

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told by Paul Rudnick, Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, March-May 2002.

Mother Bird: A Retrospective of the Short Plays of Craig

Lucas by Craig Lucas, love, sex, death, an American family and their pets, Circle East, NYC, April 2002.

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

Never the Sinner by John Logan, a retelling of the infamous murderers Leopold and Loeb story, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, February-March 2002.

Pageant with book and lyrics by Bill Russell and Frank Kelly and music by Albert Evans, North Coast Rep, Solana Beach, CA, April-May 2002.

***The Phacts of Life** with Sam Pancake, Mike Hitchcock, Mink Stole, Madeline Long, Kate Flannery, Steve Sobel, Tom Booker, Mindy Morgenstern, Bruce Daniels, and Terrence Michael, a spoof of the TV show, Renberg Theatre at The Village, Los Angeles, opening June 6, 2002, 323-860-7300.

Pinafore adapted by Mark Savage from Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, hilarious hit about the gay navy stationed in Palm Springs! Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles, September 2001-May 2002.

***Pins** by Jim Provenzano, adaptation of his novel about a gay high school wrestler, New Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco, opening August 14, 2002, 415-861-8972.

Plays Well with Others by Coats Gules and Jeff Storer, three artists hurl themselves into the bohemian scene of NYC in the '80s, Manbites Dog Theater, Durham, April 2002.

Project: Nine-Eleven by Matthew Burlingame, a groundbreaking comedy/drama set in the lobby of a community college theater between seven students and their ultraconservative theater instructor, Paperclip Productions and Lambda Players, Sacramento, April-May 2002.

***Questionable Origins** by Danielle Dresden, a suspicious fire at a nightclub causes a researcher to dig into the private lives of public figures in this noire play, Tap-It, Madison, toured to University of Kansas, Lawrence, April 2002 and planning to tour, 608-244-2938 or tapit@mailbag.com

The Rainbow Revue conceived by Matt Gatson, vaudeville for the new millennium - the plethora of talent in the GLBT communities, Ivar Theatre, LA, April 2002.

***Randy's House** by John Clum, Cherry Theater, Carmel, CA, opens July 19, 2002.

Rich White Trash by Jerrold Rabushka, set in a Johnson City Tenn. hardware store, a closeted and uninitiated gay man battles a homophobic mother, deals with his attraction to his brutal and married best friend and a host of other greedy folk. The Theatre at St. John's, St. Louis, April 2002.

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

Rustle of Wings and Other One-Act Comedies by Linda Eisenstein, a collection of crisp, relevant and thoughtful one-act plays, HAG Theatre, Buffalo, March 2002.

***Shakespeare's R & J** by Joe Calarco, four young prep students read Romeo and Juliet and get swept away with the story and its parallels to their lives, New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF, opened May 4, 2002, 415-861-8972.

Sin by Bennett Schneider, a new show with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence exploring the darkest taboos, Highways, Santa Monica, April 2002.

***Sleeping with Straight Men** by Ronnie Larsen, the master is back with a play loosely based on the Jenny Jones murder case in 1995, Theatre Rhinoceros, SF, opens June 14, 2002, 415-861-5079 or www.ticketweb.com

***Son of Drakula**, a new solo work by David Drake, Theatre

Project, Baltimore, opened May 16, 2002, 410-752-8558, Dance Theatre, NYC, will open October 2002, then tour to Alaska in Winter 2003.

Stop Kiss by Diana Son, contemporary women's love story, Theatre Intime, Princeton University, March-April 2002; Theatre Margot, Franklin College, Ind., April-May 2002.

***Street Stories** by Paula Cizmar, a sleepless night in Hollywood where everyone is alone, surviving and ultimately connecting, Playwrights' Arena, LA, opened May 11, 2002, www.playwrightsarena.org

Street Theater by Doric Wilson, the classic story of the Stonewall returned in this hit revival, TOSOS II at The Eagle NYC, April-May 2002.

Swing out Bernadotte! by Jodi L. Smith, behind the scenes look during the making of the film "Song of Bernadotte," NativeAliens Theatre Collective, NYC, April 2002.

Tango Masculino by Clint Jeffries, a new musical, Wings, NYC, April-May 2002.

***The Theban Warriors** adapted by director James Eric of the short story by Lonnie Coleman of four sailor buddies in 1954 one of which is openly gay, Greenway Arts Alliance, Los Angeles, opened May 9, 2002, 323-655-4402.

These Four Walls by Charlotte Meehan, a surreal and hilarious look at the bizarre life of an all-American Christian family, Dixon Place, NYC, April 2002.

***This Queer Life** by Michael Thomas Ford, a world premiere of a new comedy, Gaydar Productions, Minneapolis, opening Summer, 2002, details at www.michaelthomasford.com

***To Bitter and Back** with David Pevsner, solo show that takes you on a journey of memory for anyone who grew up in the '60s, is Jewish, is gay or has coped with the foibles of love, survival and success, Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, ongoing, 773-883-1090.

The Traveling Companion by Tennessee Williams, DRAMA! New Orleans, March 2002. A Tribute to the Stepford Wives by Ron Megee and Philip Hooser, Late Night Theatre, Kansas City, March 2002.

Varla by Request with Varla Jean Merman, Joe's Pub, NYC, May 2002.

***The Very Worst of Varla Jean Merman** with Jeffrey Roberson, the Diva is back, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, April-May 2002 & Soho Theatre, London, opening June 11, 2002, (020) 7478 0100.

***Victory Dance** by Jessica Litwak, seven soulful characters tear at your heart, The Davidson/Valentini Theatre at Gay & Lesbian Center, LA, opens June 7, 2002, 323-860-7300.

***The Violet Hour** by Richard Greenberg, a world premiere about a new breed of men returning after WWI, South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa CA, opens November 8, 2002, 714-708-5555 or www.scr.org

***Well of Horniness** by Holly Hughes, Lambda Players, Sacramento, opens June 21, 2002, 916-366-3904. **The West Side Gang** by Doric Wilson, a revival of the classic hit play, The Eagle New York Bar, NYC April 2002.

***Witch** by Sandra de Helen, a drama-comedy about a career-oriented lesbian professor accused of being a witch, Stark Rave Theatre's New Rave Festival, Portland OR, September 29, 2002.

Winter Wedding by Carol Polcovar, comedy of three generations of women, a reading at Drama Books, NYC, April 2002.

Women behind Bars by Tom Eyen, a stage-noir send-up of the women's prison movies of the 1950s, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, March-April 2002.

Word Made Flesh by Michael Maher, explores the

relationship of spirit and body, god and human, Bailiwick, Chicago, February-April 2002.

THEATRE BITS
by Bill Kaiser

Austin: In May and June, 2002 Vortex Repertory is presenting the world premiere of THE MUSIC OF ERICA ZANN, a modern opera based on H.P. Lovecraft's short story. 512-478-lava, www.vortexrep.org

Australia: Ray Goodlass inspired by THE LARAMIE PROJECT has written a play about one of the world's foremost gay martyrs, Dr. George Duncan who was drowned 30 years ago after being thrown into Adelaide's River Torrens. His death, which is still unsolved, resulted in the first major homosexual law reform in Australia.

Bloomington, Ind.: Outspoken Gayla was held in March at Space 101 by Outspoken, a social activist lesbian organization. The event celebrated local lesbian artists with comedy, music, and spoken art.

Brooklyn: Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX) continues to be a hotbed of activity. Their 11th Annual Women's Performance Festival was in March 2002 and featured Drag King Dred and Terriane Falcone among others. They had a benefit concert in April with the staff and faculty of BAX performing. Their new works series had playwrights Imani Henry's B4T (a solo piece about being black, butch, and lesbian), and Joe Salvatore's Mindlynes, a piece based on the life and work of artist George Platt Lynes. 718-832-0018

Calgary: Teatro Berdache is a new Gay and Lesbian Theatre Company which just celebrated its first anniversary was founded by Steve Gin and Larry Smith. Their latest effort is HOLY WARHOLA!, which played from February-May 2002 examining the rise to fame of Andy Warhol. Their next project is QUIETLY OVERWHELMED by Corrina Hodgson, a rich multi-layered work with powerful messages about love, loss, forgiveness and the healing power of art in our lives. 403-245-0127 or burkegin@aol.com

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

Houston: ubertoast is a sketch comedy troupe that has been dazzling Houston audiences. They performed at Theatre New West in March 2002. dukeofhill@aol.com

Los Angeles: The Village hosted the 3rd Annual South Asian Arts Festival in April 2002 bridging a cultural gap between two important communities in Southern California.

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) will host an important Warhol retrospective beginning May 25, 2002. 213-626-6222 or www.moca.org

Chautauqua Theatre Alliance is one of LA's newest dynamic companies founded by Rachel Winfree and Michael Caldwell and others. Their latest production was GANGSTER PLANET! a re-experience of the LA riots. 323-960-8865 or www.ctala.com

Our friend Mead Hunter has left the staff of A.S.K. Theater Projects. Kudos to him on all his good work there and for his future contributions to LA culture!

Playwrights' Arena are celebrating their 10th season! They had a gala benefit on May 18, 2002 at Los Angeles Theatre Center honoring Michael Kearns for his outstanding contributions to Los Angeles Theatre, and marking his 30th anniversary on the local theatre scene.

www.playwrightsarena.org

MY LUCHA (Minds Yearning Lives United through Community, History & Art) is a non-profit collective of artists and activists fighting against oppression including homophobia. They presented Adelina Anthony in MASTERING SEX & TORTILLAS as a fundraiser in April 2002 at The Mayan Club. 323-993-8559 or mylucha2002@yahoo.com

Montreal: Out Productions has changed its mailing address to 630 Cathcart St., Suite 186, Montreal, QC Canada H3B 1L9. Upcoming events: www.out.ca

New Orleans: DRAMA! celebrated the Life and Works of Director Charles Krebs, March 24, 2002. Upcoming projects: www.dramano.org

New York: P.S. 122 held its 2002 Annual Gala in May hosted by the legendary Carmelita Tropicana and featuring Spaulding Gray, Miss Shequida, Patty Chang, and Ain Gordon. 212-477-5829.

Performing in the hit revival of Doric Wilson's STREET THEATER is solo artist Bruce Ward. He also appeared recently in the TV show ED and was in the Craig Lucas' one-acts at Circle East. Watch for him! bdwardbos@aol.com

The NYC Center and ALL OUT ARTS sponsored mixers for LGBT artists in March and April to share their work and find collaborators to create a finished work for a public performance in May. Producer was Nick Curto: 212-289-1741 or nicknyny@nyc.rr.com

There is so much happening at Dixon Place. Among performances were I'LL SHOW YOU MINE ... IF YOU SHOW ME YOURS with Michael Burke, BOING! with Scotty The Blue Bunny, Homotext literary series curated by Pamela S. Booker, The Culture Bodega, a live streaming audio-web-based radio show featuring NYC based artists. Coming in June 2002 are THE LITTLE FROG CATCHER, the true story of Jeanne Bonnet, a Gold Rush heroine with words and music by Rachelle Garniez. Also in June is WARNING: NOT FOR BROADWAY OR THE MET EITHER! the Third Festival of New Musical Works for the Theatre including BOGIE THE FAGGOT by Kyle Jarrow, and Travis Chamberlain and more. Submissions for future Festivals are accepted but I believe Dixon Place is for NYC based artists. 212-532-1546 or www.dixonplace.org

San Francisco: UStickEm Productions and Theatre Rhinoceros present Sam Shepard's FOOL FOR LOVE, which opened May 18, 2002, 415-861-5079.

Jon Sims Center's winter AIRspace artists in residence were Eric Krupers: UNDRRESSED AND ADRIFT, Shar Rednour:

NIGHT COMING , Kevin Ottem-Fox: ANDROGNYKKA! The Hello Tour and Dominique Zeltzman: SKIN ON THE PUDDING (or SUGAR SUGAR) For information on this and other programs at JSC contact the Director Charles Wilmoth at 415-554-0402 or director@jonsimsctr.org www.jonsimsctr.org

Kaliyuga Arts founders Steven Patterson and John Sowle will be losing their Mission digs this year and are looking for an industrial building to live and create. They have been "rendering Oddities with Grace and Insight" since 1986 as well as celebrating an 18-year relationship in March 2002. If you know of any available real estate contact: steven@kaliyuga.com

On May 31, 2002, Jon Sims Center hosted a reception for the opening of the Archival Photography Exhibition, "Catching Up with the Cockettes." Some of the famed troupe was there. The exhibit will run through July 31, 2002. 415-554-0402, www.jonsimsctr.org

"Help Is on the Way VIII - The Music Of Johnny Mercer" the Bay Area's star-studded AIDS benefit is July 29, 2002 at the Palace of Fine Arts. For tickets call 415-273-1620 or www.helpisontheway.org

Santa Monica: Highways continues to present cutting edge performance. Among new works were CONTENDERS with Rebecca Gray, Maria Elena Fernandez and Aomawa Baker as well as BODY BLOWS! with Tim Miller and SIN! a new piece by Bennett Schneider with The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. 310-315-1459, www.highwaysperformance.org and www.lasisters.org

Smithville, TN: Ida Arts Community hosted its 2nd Annual Memorial Day weekend with feasts, festivities, film, fire, frolicking and fundraising. Their Idapalooza 2002 Fruit Jam is slated for September 16-22, 2002. For info on IDA contact idadalooza@yahoo.com and to help these queer artists continue to create art in rural Tennessee, send checks payable to IDA at PO Box 874, Smithville, TN 37166

Tampa: Janet Reno attended the opening night of Max Turner's new play JERRYO in March. The show was a huge hit with her as well the 600 people nightly who saw it. JERRYO is based on Max's novel about a developmentally challenged young man entering the gay world. For further information about rights contact the playwright at tahhill@juno.com

Washington DC: The Woolly Mammoth's Annual Benefit was held in April 2002 and featured the Rocking Girl Band Betty. They also produced SURFACE TRANSIT with Sarah Jones, "the hottest spoken word diva on the planet" (Interview Magazine). Kennedy Center, March 2002.

The Actors' Theatre, DC's GLBT Theatre will move to a new space, The H Street Playhouse, 1365 "H" St. NE. The theatre will be named the Schwartz Theatre after playwright Sam Schwartz Jr., whose play PIGMALEON will open the new space. Mr. Schwartz died on February 4, 2002. The Sam Schwartz Jr. Theater Fund was established in his memory. 202-319-1919 or www.atwdc.org

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CHICAGO SCENE

by Michael Van Kerckhove

Happy spring everyone! I hope love is in the air for all!

A One Man Army: In March, About Face Theatre presented the world premiere of the Obie Award-winning play, *Another American: Asking and Telling*. Performed by Marc Wolf and directed by Joe Montello, the real words of 18 individuals are heard on all sides of homosexuals in the military issue. Wolf transformed himself into all his subjects — men, women, gay, straight — to give us a chilling picture. His talent was highlighted in the rapid transitions between two elder military lesbians sitting at a bar. The emotions ranged from the playful camp of an effeminate soldier who boosted the morale and saved the lives of his Vietnam platoon, to the heart wrenching words of the mother of seaman Allen Schindler who was beaten to death by his shipmates. A very impressive evening of theatre!

Xena Sings! This spring, About Face also presents *Xena Live! Episode 2: The Musical*, the follow-up to 2000's *Episode 1*. Both are written by lesbian playwright Claudia Allen (a Victory Gardens ensemble member) based on the TV series. Elizabeth Laidlaw and Amy Matheny return as everyone's favorite princess warrior and sidekick Gabrielle, respectively. Filled with thrilling stage combat and loads of laughs, the *Live!* shows have been enjoyed by both hardcore fans and casual late night channel surfers alike.

LAFing at the Bailiwick: This spring, Bailiwick Repertory and the Lesbian Theatre Initiative have teamed up to present the 1st Annual Lesbian Arts Festival. Running through June, the series presents evenings of short plays, music, staged readings, poetry, and stand up comedy. Topics range from history to love to psycho therapy to a woman who "finds out her aura indicates she's been inadvertently feeding an ancient vampire goddess." Huh.

Miller Time: Queer performance artist and one fourth of the "NEA Four," Tim Miller spent some time in Chicago in March. In residency at Roosevelt University, he performed for two nights at the Bailiwick to kick off his book, a collection of monologues called *Body Blows*. I'd never seen him live before and was thrilled. He did two older pieces including the story of his first date with a guy in high school. Then he presented a new piece about the Bridge of Love in Niagara Falls and the publicized problems he and his Australian partner are facing with the INS. I got the chance to meet him afterwards (and ask the question Ernie, my friend Sarah, and I had been trying to figure out all day — Who was the fourth NEA Four?) When I told him I was a playwright, he wrote in my copy of his book, "Tell your stories!" Encouraging words that countered Larry Kramer's advise to me: "Stick to novels."

Naked Boys, Naked Words, & The Bible: Bailiwick's *Naked Boys Singing* keeps going despite my reports of its March closing. Set to close in June. In the middle of *Pride*? Somehow I don't believe it.

Bailiwick presented *Word Made Flesh*, an exploration of sexuality and spirituality. Catholic lay minister Michael Maher used biblical texts and the works of Michelangelo for inspiration. Scarves, paint, and plenty of flesh covered the stage to turn the Bible into theatrical poetry. Chicago Reader critic, Brian Nemtusak, described the show as "a singularly strange experience." Closed April 14, 2002.

Keeping with biblical twists, the Bailiwick presents through May the Chicago premiere of *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*. This off-Broadway hit is Paul Rudnick's take on the history of civilization that begins with the idea of "What if God really did start with Adam and Steve and not Adam and Eve." The production stars David Davita, and Corpus Christi alum, Stephen Rader, as well as Jennifer Wilson, and Kelli Strickland as Jane and Mabel.

A One-Woman Army: Corn Productions presented their take on the one-woman show, *Just Playing Me*, the story of Jeremè Cullens. An aging music and TV star, Jeremè makes her triumphant return to the stage (along with her four cutey-patooty backup boys) to tell her story. She sings her way through the many phases of her career: country western starlet, a gospel singer and Tammy Faye-esque preacher's wife, a punk rocker, and more. She also performed her own *Vagina Monologue*. Written by Robert Bouwman and Todd Shaner, the brains behind "Tiff & Mom."

Execution Revival: Hyper-World Theatre presented Emily Mann's *Execution of Justice*, the docu-drama of the 1978 assassinations of Harvey Milk and SF mayor George Moscone by Dan White. While an important story to tell, reviewer Albert Williams felt that 24 years since the events, the play needs a stronger sense of context to grab today's audiences. Strong performances also bend sympathy to White's personal tragedy that lead to his actions. A sad tale that overshadows the loss of two of our strongest leaders.

Pride is Coming! As we go to press, *Pride* events will be underway all over the country from bars to music to theatre, including Bailiwick's *Pride Series* and projects by the New Town Writers. A full recap next time.

Happy *Pride* and come see my play, *The Melted Lampshade* at the Playwrights Center of Minneapolis, June 7-16.

[Michael Van Kerckhove is a native of Detroit. Living now in Chicago, he is a current Network Playwright with Chicago Dramatists. He is a founding member of The Living Room Project, a new playwright's group. He was awarded a 2001 Finalist Award Grant from Illinois Arts Council and is a member of The Dramatists Guild]

A CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE

Entertainment News

by Nathaniel Grey

- Reviews for London's Boy George musical *Taboo* have been good enough to convince the show's producer extend it's Leicester Square run to September 14. The show centers on London's club scene of the 1980s, and is directed by Christopher Renshaw who will also helm the upcoming Queen musical "We Will Rock You." The May 14th London premiere of that show is already sold out as it's being compared to the ABBA inspired hit "Mamma Mia." I couldn't make this stuff up if I tried. The same day I received an invite to cover the opening of another production of "The Vagina Monologues" I opened a release for Sacramento's Lambda Player's production of "Clit Notes, A Sapphic Sampler." Too bad I have a Pap smear scheduled on the same day.

- The upcoming musical version of the John Waters film "Hairspray" will star Marissa Jaret Winokur (American

Beauty) in the Ricki Lake part with Harvey Fierstein in the Divine role. A pre-Broadway run takes the show to Seattle on May 30-June 23 with a Great White Way August debut.

- Rehearsals for a road production of "The Producers" begin July 22 as preparations begin for a Pittsburgh, Penn. debut on Sept. 12th. Cincinnati, Ohio will host the Mel Brooks hit October 22-November 10 with other cities to follow. A Liz Smith piece claims the cast for the LA production will star Jason Alexander and Martin Short as Bialystock and Bloom.

- The producers of the down-under hit musical, Peter Allen, the Boy from Oz, are preparing for the show's Broadway debut and hope to have movie hunk Hugh Jackman on board to assure big ticket sales. Jackman actually has a wonderful singing voice and starred in a London revival of Oklahoma a few years back. The musical biography covers the life of the late entertainer and ex-husband of Liza Minnelli.

- Producer Scott Steindorff and Stone Village Productions have the rights to turn the hit 60s sitcom "I Dream of Jeanie" into a Broadway musical.

- But you are Blanche, you are in Texas. At least come October when Houston's Theatre Under the Stars presents a musical version of "Whatever Happened To Baby Jane." Original novelist and screenwriter, Henry Farrell wrote the libretto, so one can expect a true to form production.

- Madonna is all set for her West End theatrical debut in the David Williamson's "Up For Grabs." Previews begin May 9th for this comedy set in the world of Art under the direction of Laurence Boswell. Don't hold hope for May 23rd opening night tickets. Those sold out within hours of the announcement that the Material Girl would star.

- The new CD "Michael Feinstein with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra" comes out May 7th and features such tunes Stormy Weather, Laura, On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever), Love Is Here to Stay and Somewhere.

- LA's Celebration Theatre's gay adaptation of Gilbert & Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" has been extended through May 26. Don't despair if you can't catch this production, a cast album was recently recorded and released on March 12th. Wonder if it's being offered through my Columbia CD club.

- Elton John is working with writer Lee Hall to develop a stage musical version the film "Billy Elliot," for which Hall wrote the screenplay.

- Michael Cerveris, best known from the Broadway version of "The Who's Tommy" and on Off-Broadway's "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" plays the next door neighbor drag-Queen in the new FOX series "American Embassy."

SODOM EAST: NEW YORK

On the Great Purple Way

by Tom O'Neil

"Speed-Hedda" zoomed into Manhattan like a whirlwind in Jan./Feb. and - yikes - Ibsen would gulp a few dolls if he saw his Ms. Gabler now! Here she's a pill-popping suburban housewife swept up in her tragic destiny when an old flame comes to town. The Fabulous Monsters Performance Company made its Manhattan debut when it brought the hit romp by Robert Prior to LaMaMa. 'Twas a great success.

MORE ON CAMP: "Lesbian Pulp-O-Rama" is going on, and on — just like the pop pulp books that it spoofs. After reaping raves at last summer's Queer@HERE Theater Festival, "Pulp" just had a new installment at HERE: more outrageous lesbian vignettes ("Reformatory Girls," "Orgy at Sea") that are just as popular with fey guys as lesbos because of their gothic silliness. Expect more installments soon.

It's always noteworthy when Wings Theatre chief Jeffery Corrick takes a side step to direct a show on his own stage. This time — oo-la-la! — it was "Tango Masculino" by Clint Jefferies. Corrick's best move: casting dreamy dancer-turned-actor JoHary Ramos, who seduces the audience as a secret maricon swept off his feet by a thug in butch 1920s Buenos Aires. Corrick stages their tangos soooo sensuously (ha! cha! cha!) that the audience pants to the music while lines form at the box office. "Tango" is Wings' biggest hit in some time. www.wingstheatre.com

The success of "Street Theater" is great news for pub theater! The Stonewall play just reprised the kind of staging it used to have back in the 70s & 80s: in cheap bar space. The new production extended its run at the Eagle in Chelsea by three weeks, proving that saloons are great settings for drama (even of the non-cruising kind). Expect more shows to follow. tosos2@nyc.rr.com

Recent notable productions around town:

- "Lookin' Cute/Feelin' Cute: Dirty Gay Teen Pop Superstars in Concert" — Bawdy musical fun from gay-circuit gadfly Jonny McGovern (the tres-butth gay pimp in Grindhouse-a-Go-Go Productions) — with dancing boys and cheeky songs like "Girl, I Fucked Yo' Boyfriend." April-May. P.S. 122 Theater. thegaypimp@yahoo.com

- Sanford Meisner Theatre recently staged two of Robert Coles' notorious romps about fruity boys in and out of their Fruit-of-the-Looms: "Cute Boys in Their Underpants Versus the Wicked Queen" (help! we're trapped in a parallel universe!) and "In My Dreams, I Am Surrounded by Dancing Naked Men" (don't help! I'm being haunted by 4 hoofing nudies!). February & March.

- "Richard and Philip" - Yes, as in those frisky 12th-century monarchs with lion hearts and horny loins. Very weighty drama by George Barthel. Wings Theatre. January. www.Wingstheatre.com

- "Judy and Me" — Judy just had ONE MORE comeback — she came to the rescue of a shy 16-year-old suburban boy

who's been hiding his ruby slippers under his bed. By Charles Taviller. Rose's Turn cabaret. March.

- "A Letter from Ethel Kennedy" — gay man tries to reconcile with his disapproving parents. Stars "Queer as Folk" stud Randy Harrison. MCC Theater. May.
- "Love Seats for Virginia Woolf" by Randy Gener — new Brooklyn art gallery was the setting in February & March for this exploration of the kinky novelist's key relationships (lesbo & str8). mdygener@aol.com
- "Milton's Way" by Ted Williams — gay man goes defiantly his own way for 22 years. Spotlight On Festival at the Raw Space. March. Email author: teejis8@aol.com.

[Hey, gay theater folk in NYC — keep me posted on what you are doing. Email this columnist at goldderby@aol.com with your news.]

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MINNEAPOLIS SCENE

by Steven LaVigne

As the ice sculptures of the Winter Carnival melted across the street, the orchestra was the star of Minnesota Opera's LA CLEMANZA DI TITO at the Ordway. Never have they sounded better as they played Mozart's baroque score. Written in Italian, not German, just prior to his masterpiece, THE MAGIC FLUTE, and produced six months before his death, this study of the Roman Empire's most open-minded ruler should have been an exciting event. However, stage director Steven Lawless' uninspired direction, while fueled with beautiful pictures, did little to stimulate the audience. Lawless' ancient Rome, in a production design borrowed from Dallas, resembled the Renaissance. Three women, two of them in trouser roles, held the stage, while its leading character, entering with much ado, sang little and was supposedly murdered before the interval. (I can't account for Act 2, because I didn't stay for it.)

It's cramped and audiences are crowded into their seats, but in less than a decade, the Bryant Lake Bowl has gone from being the trendiest place to see offbeat theater, to just another place offering a quirky night out. As long as the Minneapolis Musical Theater remains its first resident company, I can live with the cramped conditions. They really use the space well and continue to challenge audiences with their choice of material. Their latest outing is WEIRD ROMANCE, a pair of one-act musicals "of Speculative Fiction," that's a treat for everyone.

Act One, THE GIRL WHO WAS PLUGGED IN, puts us into a futuristic world where advertising is illegal. A large corporation, GTX, "grows" its own stars and puts them into productions such as an "OUR TOWN set on the Third Moon of Jupiter." Product placement is vitally important as the performers are manipulated. They also manipulate the head of the corporation, Dr. Theodore S. Isham, by asking for more money, although it's not clear what they spend it on. You see, these performers are clones, and others give up their existence so these stars can live.

One example is P. Burke, a homeless woman who is transformed into the stunning Delphi. As her career takes off, however, Delphi's body projects P. Burke's humanist attitudes toward life, especially when she dates Isham's son,

Paul. The Corporation must stop to such thinking. Directed by Steven J. Meerdink, in what is possibly his finest work, there are several outstanding performances here, specifically from Paul Reyburn as Isham, Gary Geiken as Paul, Kevin Hansen in four roles and Suzanne Reyburn as Delphi.

The real reason this is so terrific is Susan Nickel's performance as P. Burke. Gifted with a clear, lyrical voice, this is one of those singers who renews your faith in musical theater talent, just when you thought it was left to those who can't phrase properly, think through a lyric, or project! Her performance alone is the reason to see WEIRD ROMANCE.

Also, Jay Schueller is to be commended. His set pieces are marvelous, and it's amazing what he does with vacuum cleaner parts. As creatively different as THE GIRL WHO WAS PLUGGED IN is, WEIRD ROMANCE, written by Alan Menken, David Spencer, and Alan Brennert, has its roots in traditional musical theater, especially that of Alan Jay Lerner.

If Act One is basically a Science Fiction MY FAIR LADY, Act Two, HER PILGRIM SOUL, somewhat resembles ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE FOREVER. Still set in the world of science, the focus is on Dr. Kevin Drayton, who is programming 3D holographic images into his computer. When a fetus mysteriously appears, we follow the drama of a man in love with "Nola," a reincarnated woman from the past, who's returned to make peace with "her pilgrim soul," so she can, at last rest. The show is charming, as it relates the miniature story of a woman from World War I and into young adulthood. HER PILGRIM SOUL is a rather sweet little piece, and the ensemble, especially Alan Sorenson as Drayton, Deborah Draheim as his wife, Susan Nickel as her associate and especially Suzanne Reyburn as Nola. WEIRD ROMANCE isn't really all that weird. It's a lovely night of nontraditional Musical Theater.

Where does one begin praising HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH, John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask's exquisite musical which took the off-broadway theatre by storm just four short years ago? Does one begin with the excellent, dead-on script? The terrific direction by Jef Hall-Flavin? The outstanding, completely remarkable performance of Jason S. Little in the title role? Seldom have so many elements of theatre come together so successfully into so enjoyable an evening. Even these superlatives seem tame.

Mitchell was a Broadway actor, fresh from his performance as Dickon in the musical THE SECRET GARDEN, when he and his writing partner, Trask, began to collaborate on HEDWIG. They decided to blend their love for rock 'n roll with musical theatre elements to create a rock musical about Hedwig, a transsexual, born Hansel Schmidt in East Berlin. After falling in love with an American G.I., he undergoes a sex change and becomes Hedwig. The operation is muddled, leaving an "angry" inch of skin while the remainder of the wound heals. After being abandoned in a Kansas trailer park, she trains a neighbor boy, Tommy Speck, in rock 'n roll. After stealing material from her, Tommy plays arenas, while Hedwig and her band, The Angry Inch, tells her story performing in dives.

After a long and successful run in New York, Mitchell made an award-winning film version, but it still hasn't reached the cult status of THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW. One reason for this is that it brought too much visual reality to a

work that's meant to be theatrical. After seeing the Outward Spiral production, it's clear: HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH is a better stage musical. The Minneapolis premiere of this dynamically original work is being performed at the Loring Playhouse, which has been transformed into a cabaret. Opening night brought out a curious audience of glam rockers and gay theatre groupies. Mitchell and Trask have prepared their script so that it's very up to the minute. It's open for improvisational barbs as its multimedia production uses slides to great effect.

Reset tonight in the Loring Playhouse, as Hedwig goes through her opening banter, we learn something of the history of this building, a former garage, with its muscular auto mechanics working on cars. Mitchell manages to use this and other subjects for lots of double entendres, dryly delivered by Little. As she searches for her other half, Hedwig provides reason for her anger. She browbeats Yitzak, her drag queen husband who fears immigration. She also abuses the members of the band. Jef Hall-Flavin has directed this very humane story with a firm sense of humor.

There's never a weak or dull moment, with fine performances from Ann Michels as Yitzak, and the band, featuring Jendean Brett Forberg, Joe Papke, Desdmona Racheli and Amy Van Patten. Jason S. Little who is simply astounding as Hedwig. From the moment he steps onstage, the show belongs to Hedwig. This is a difficult role, because, through songs and dialogue, Hedwig must show a vast array of emotions. She must also maintain the energy throughout two grueling hours of angst-ridden drama. Little is certainly up to that task. This is an unforgettable performance! HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH was so successful that it was extended twice.

Midwest playwright Lee Blessing relocated to NYC a long time ago, but his play about gay rural life, THIEF RIVER, had its area premiere at the Guthrie Lab in February. This is the study of two men, in love with each other for a half-century. On their prom night in 1948, a twist of fate plunges Gil and Ray into a deep secret that sustains their relationship as the years go on. Gil, who is queer-bashed, attempts revenge and runs to an abandoned farmhouse owned by his best friend, Ray. As Ray helps Gil get himself together, a bum attempts to rob and murder both boys for being "fairies." Ray's grandfather intervenes and offers an ultimatum to the boys.

THIEF RIVER trips back and forth in time, following this couple at three significant times in the lives created by this ultimatum. Gil goes to school and eventually settles in "the cities" (Minneapolis and St. Paul). Ray remains in Thief River, marries, raises a son, and is eventually elected Mayor. In 1973, Gil's brought his lover, Kit to meet his old friend. Unfortunately, it's the day of Ray, Jr.'s wedding rehearsal, disrupted by Kit. At the farmhouse, Ray let's Gil know how he's felt over the years, but when Kit shows one of the letters Ray wrote to Gil (who's saved them all), he, too, becomes the victim of bashing by a Thief River bigot. The last sequence, in 2001, ties the whole thing together.

THIEF RIVER is very much a Midwestern play, clearly written by a Minnesota voice. There are a lot of issues here: violence, harassment, bigotry, resentment, AIDS, unhealed wounds, and aging. The play attempts to put a believable, religious fanatic onstage. However, Blessing has given this play so many awkward twists of fate that much of it rings false. This isn't an easy play to write about, because it's not

easily likable. Blessing may be a fine playwright, but he's attempted to write across the decades with characters that are often stereotypes. Too often, the script resembles a male stage version of FRIED GREEN TOMATOES without the wit. The performances of the six versatile actors are splendid, with Richard Ooms, Bard Goodrich, Alex Podulke and William Whitehead especially outstanding. Director Ethan McSweeney does well, but never finds the dynamics he gave to his marvelous LAB production of SIDE MAN.

The April snowfalls that framed the two weekends for the Minnesota Opera's production of LITTLE WOMEN, may have been an omen. Mark Adamo's revision of Louisa May Alcott's Civil War masterpiece has received multiple productions since its premiere in Houston a few years ago, but what appears onstage leaves much to be desired. It's evident that Adamo hasn't read the book, because his libretto neither respects nor trusts Alcott's writing.

Adamo has eliminated the entire Civil War, thereby depriving audiences of any plot or character development. Too many important, necessary moments are missing. Gone is the development of Jo's relationship with both her family and her friend, Laurie; we never get either Beth's being given a piano by old Mr. Laurence or her visit to the Hummels, where she contracts the Scarlet Fever that will lead to her death. Amy doesn't destroy Jo's journal, and doesn't fall through the ice while skating. We don't get the party where Meg meets Mr. Brooke, and neither Marmee nor Aunt March are important characters. Father isn't taken ill in Washington, D.C., so Jo never cuts her hair so Marmee will have the money to bring him home. So much has been left out, that those unfamiliar with the story won't understand the libretto.

This is especially true when, in Act 2, characters reference aspects of Alcott's book that hadn't been mentioned. Aunt March informs Meg she'll lose her inheritance if she marries Mr. Brooke. She later gives her estate, Plumfield, to Jo, who's been her aunt's companion for many years. Up to this point, it's the first time Plumfield's been mentioned, and it's never addressed again. We never learn that Jo transforms the estate into a writer's colony. There's a brief mention of the Hummels when Beth falls against the piano in Act 2, but the dramatic tension that leads to her death, so beautifully written by Alcott, comes out of nowhere in Adamo.

Many in the audience, especially the children, were deprived of what could be a beautiful operatic interpretation of a great novel. Even LES MISERABLES, while merely scratching the surface at three hours, at least sticks to Hugo's basic lot. Alcott's novel has often been ridiculed, but always bounces back as new readers discover it. If Adamo is to succeed with this work, (which is a half-hour shorter) he needs to examine the story and bring the important character and plot development back into this. Otherwise, Alcott's novel will exist long after the last notes of Adamo's score are played and the work falls into obscurity.

To be sure, the Minnesota Opera production had some outstanding performers who tried to overcome the inadequacies. Deanne Meek as Jo, Adriana Zabala as Meg, John Tessier as Laurie, and Ryan Kinsella as Professor Bhaer are all in good voice and give lively performances, but it doesn't keep this from being a major disappointment!

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NOTES FROM LONDON

by John Clum

This has been a bumper season for gay drama in London. THE YORK REALIST, Peter Gill's drama of a gay love affair between a young director and a Yorkshire farmer, garnered adulation from the critics and sold out its entire run at the Royal Court. It has moved to the West End for a limited run. A lovely, touching play with two brilliant performances from Lloyd Owen and Richard Coyle as the lovers. The scene of their negotiation of their first night together is one of the loveliest scenes in gay theater. The romance is doomed, as it always is in British gay drama.

Mark Ravenhill's MOTHER CLAP'S MOLLY HOUSE is not on the same level of excellence, but is delightful. After a successful run at the National, it too moved to the West End. It is a fascinating picture of London gay culture in the 18th century interspersed with less original contemporary scenes. Other playwrights have done better satires of contemporary gay life. Nicholas Hytner's direction is clever and touching.

THE LODGER, now at the tiny Jermyn Street Theatre, offers an interesting picture of gay life in the 50s. A window dresser about to go to trial after being entrapped by a policeman in a public bathroom lives on his memories of a youthful affair with composer-star Ivor Novello. The 90-minute one-man drama is interspersed with Novello songs. The play gives a picture of the role models for young gay men in England at the time: Novello, Noel Coward and John Gielgud. It's not a masterpiece, but worth seeing. American playwright Richard Greenber's tale of a gay baseball player, TAKE ME OUT, will be at the Donmar Warehouse this summer.

[John's play RANDY'S HOUSE will be presented by the Cherry Theater in Carmel, Calif. from July 19-August 18, 2002, directed by Robert Senensky, who was one of the principal directors of TV's THE WALTONS some time ago "Good night, John Boy."]

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COMEDY

Lisa Geduldig/Kung Pao Kosher Comedy presented the 4th annual Funny Girlz: A Smorgasbord of Women's Humor on May 11, 2002 at Herbst Theatre in San Francisco. Among those appearing were Luenell, Oakland's Bad Girl of Comedy, Vigai Nathan, an Indian American comic from NYC, Maria Elena Gaitan, Chola con Cello, Karen Ripley, the Bay Area's favorite deadpan lesbian comic and Juanita MORE, a lovely lip-synching Latino/a drag queen.

www.koshercomedy.com

QComedy happens Mondays at the SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., in San Francisco, 415-552-7200

www.harveymilk.org/enroll.shtml

Comedians appearing include Scott Capurro, Mark Davis, Bridget Schwartz, Doreen Lopez and many more.

Funny Gay Males (Jaffe Cohen, Danny McWilliams and Ed Sarfaty) performed at the Kamp Club in Providence in March.

Comic Jason Stuart has a recurring role on TV's "My Wife and Kids" as gay psychiatrist Dr. Steven Michael Thomas. He has also reprised his role as Stuart, the MC of the Duplex Cabaret where Jack does his new show on WILL AND

GRACE. Glenn Close is also in that upcoming episode. He has also optioned the book "Wisecracker" about gay movie star Billy Haines with partner Bonny Dove for a film.

www.jasonstuart.com

Jason will also do a concert for Mojo Concerts and Clearchannel Communications at Dilinitia Theatre in Derhaag, Holland. For info: beckland@mojo.nl

The fabulous Karen Williams will perform at the Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club in Oakland CA on June 28, 2002. For further info call 510-339-1839.

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FESTIVALS & SEASONS

Diversionsary Theatre, San Diego, announces its 2002 season to include THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE by Frank Marcus, August 28-September 28; THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP by Charles Ludlum Oct 19-De 14, 2002; GROSS INDECENCY: THE THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE by Moises Kaufman January 18-March 8, 2003; DEPARTING THE DIVAS by Guillermo Reyes, March 29-May 10, 2003 and TBA, musical May 31-August 2, 2003; 619-220-0097 or www.diversionary.org

Theatre Rhinoceros in San Francisco announced its 25th season to include HAIRSTORY by Johan Jabir and Doug Holsclaw, September 5-October 5, 2002; YOU LOOK LIKE YOU NEED A LAUGH with Kate Clinton, September 27-28, 2002; SHOW HO with Sara Moore, November 7-December 7, 2002; AMNESIA by John Fisher, January 16-February 15, 2003; STRANGERS IN PARADOX by Kate Bornstein March 13-April 12, 2003, and C*S*: A LOVE STORY by Ronnie Larsen, May 8-June 7, 2003. 415-861-5079.

New Line Theatre in St. Louis has a season of provocative musicals: THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW by Richard O'Brien, October 10-November 2, 2002; BAT BOY THE MUSICAL March 6-29, 2003 and JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, June 5-28, 2003. 314-773-6526 or www.newlinetheatre.com

Playwrights' Arena in Los Angeles announced their 10th season to include: STREET STORIES by Paula Cizmar May 10-June 9, 2002; GUMSIMAO by Jean Colonomos, June 21-July 21, 2002; FAILURE OF NERVE by Larry Fineberg Aug 9-Sept 8, 2002; and WAR MUSIC by Bryan Davidson, October 18-November 17, 2002. www.playwrightsarena.org

The Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival was organized in 1993 to provide a vehicle for the development of solo artists celebrating the diversity of women's voices. 818-760-0408 or www.lawtf.8m.com

SNAP!FEST 2002 in Omaha will present ALWAYS A PART OF ME by Jeffrey Kin and A WINTER BEAUTY by Bill McMahon May 30-June 16, 2002. 402-342-9053 or www.snapproductions.com

Bailiwick Repertory and the Lesbian Theatre Initiative presented the First Annual Lesbian Arts Festival in Chicago April 5-May 4, 2002. Included were HARRIET TUBMAN VISITS A THERAPIST by Carolyn Gage; LORENA HICKOK & ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: A LOVE STORY by Pat Bond featuring Marjorie Conn; also live music from rock to cabaret; I'M BANGIN' IN THE KITCHEN OR HI HONEY I'M HOME

with C.C. Seymour; Stage combat: DUTCH LOVE by Claudia Allen; GayCo Sketch Comedy; RUNNING FROM THE RED GIRL by Linda Eisenstein; L.A.F. Laffs Standup Comedy; SISTER OUTLAW by Lani T. Montreal; SOUTHSIDE by Dee Bolos; Hysterical Women Comedy Troupe: and more. Kudos to BR and LTI! 773-883-1090 or www.bailiwick.org

Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times presented their 4th Annual AnteChamber reading series in May, 2002. The series showcased the work of their Playwrights' Unit and included WHISPERS OF THE HIBAKUSHA by Bruce Bell, PUSSYGATE by Alex Bulmer, MY BROTHER'S JAILER by Michael Rawley, RENT BOY by Ryan Farrell, ELEGY by Sarah Liss and VEAL by Chris Dupuis.
www.buddiesinbadtimes theatre.com

In July 2002 Dixon Place presents its 10th Annual HOT! — NYC's Celebration of Queer Culture and homoeroticism for the whole family. The Festival features Jen Abrams, Tom Bondi, Richard Bowes, Andy Buck, Regie Cabico, Travis Chamberlain, Aileen Cho, Terry Dame, Nicholas Estevez, Franka Fiala, John Fleck, Jim Grimsley, Holly Hughes, Kyle Jarrow, Lisa Kron, Rob Nash, Michael Scassera, Paul J. Williams, Zenobia, and many, many more. For a complete schedule call 212-532-1546.

The Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Festival is in full swing for its September 2002 opening. Reservations are being taken at 614-263-9448 or outincolumbus.com

Confirmed performers include:

- The Brian & Mal Show (Dorchester, Mass.)
- CJ Productions with THE BOY NEXT DOOR (St. Louis)
- Sky Gilbert and The Cabaret Company's THE BIRTH OF CASPAR (Toronto)
- Conn Artist Performance Event with LORENA HICKOK, A LOVE STORY (Provincetown, Mass.)
- DRAMA! with THE TRAVELING COMPANION (New Orleans)
- Hit The Ground Running with POWERFUL MAGICS (Columbus)
- Jeffrey Solomon with MOTHER/SON and SANTA CLAUS IS COMING OUT (Philadelphia)
- Village Scene Productions with JUST ANOTHER TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE MEAT RACK (Montreal)
- Laughlin Artz with THAT'S MISTER FAGGOT TO YOU (Pittsburgh)
- Naughty Austin with AIDEN'S BED (Austin)
- Playback Theatre's Gay and Lesbian Stories (Columbus)
- The Nighthouse Company with SHADOW BOY (NYC)
- 2 Co's Cabaret with I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD COOK (Columbus)
- Ragged Blade Productions with RULA LENSKA.COM (St. Louis)
- Recycle Rep with BLADE PARADE and Source Works Theatre with THE VELOCITY OF GARY (both NYC)
- TAPIT/New Works with QUESTIONABLE ORIGINS (Madison)
- Theatre Entropy with STUPID KIDS (Chicago)
- Jade Esteban with ICONS: THE LESBIAN AND GAY HISTORY OF THE WORLD and David Sisco with HERE I AM (both NYC)
- Bear with LIFE AS A FREELANCE DYKE DAD (Amherst, Mass.)
- Chris Burnside with TRAVELOGUE from Richmond and Mina Hartong with MIMI'S WEDDING (Boston)

Bravo, Frank Barnhart and all the people in Columbus!

The 6th Annual QUEER@HERE Festival is June 17-29, 2002 in NYC. Two weeks of plays, music, dance, readings, solo works and performance by GLBT artists.
212-647-0202 or www.here.org

PRIDE 2002, Bailiwick in Chicago's Pride Series is in its 14th year. Six works will be presented from June 4-September 8, 2002. They are FUCKING OUR FATHERS by Scott Capurro, ICE/AGE by Bob Canning, NIFTY, an evening of erotic reading developed by Scott Lee Heckman, SOUTHERN BAPTIST SISSIES by Del Shores, END OF THE WORLD PARTY by Chuck Ranberg, and 20, an ensemble-generated piece directed by Stephen Rader. 773-883-1090 or www.bailiwick.org

FILM / VIDEO / TELEVISION/RADIO

- Nicholas Snow, the multimedia entertainment personality is back with "Notes From Hollywood", a syndicated print, radio spot and television programming.
www.notesfromhollywood.com
 - Queer Filmmakers 2002 in New York presented a night of movies starring David Drake in March 2002. Included were his "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me." Queer Filmmakers is at Anthology Film Archives, 212-505-5181.
 - Court TV aired in April 2002 "Execution of Justice," the 1999 film based on Emily Mann's play.
 - "Hope Along the Wind" is a new documentary on Pioneer Harry Hay by Eric Slade. There was a Portland Oregon premiere in March 2002. Harry incidentally celebrated his 90th birthday in San Francisco surrounded by partner John Burnside, friends, and admirers! Congratulations Harry!
 - Demian (director of Partners Task Force for Gay & Lesbian Couples) is in production for the video SCAREDY-KATE & THE MONSTERS -or- HOW TO PAY THE RENT — a marionette opera (music by Joseph Haydn)
www.buddybuddy.com/kate.html
and he is in pre-production on the video GILGAMESH & ENKIDU: The Oldest Love Story Ever Written
www.buddybuddy.com/g.html
Demian also just lensed and is editing a short comedy: DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY
www.buddybuddy.com/dc.html
- Demian's videos currently available include:
THE FIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS — a musical comedy about same-sex couples and family values (VHS \$11)
www.buddybuddy.com/fight.html
and two shorts:
GERTIE TAKES A TRIP TO THE MOON & A MAN RECYCLES, and LEGGO (on a compilation DVD \$14)
www.buddybuddy.com/dvd-1.html
- Demian, Sweet Corn Productions, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109, 206-935-1206, demian@buddybuddy.com
www.buddybuddy.com/sweet.html

LITERARY SCENE

Ned Rorem has a new book called A NED ROREM READER from Yale University Press. Aside from insights on music the book includes portraits and memorials of 14 artists, 13 of them gay men and then Martha Graham.

Jon Sims Cewnter in San Francisco continued their LIT@JSC series in March, 2002 with Brighde Mullins, Justin Chin, Brian Thorstenson and Maria Breaux and in April, 2002 with Nona Caspers and Louise Rafkin. 415-554-0402 or director@jonsimsctr.org

A.S.K.Theater Projects publishes "Parabasis." The Spring 2002 issue featured "Heroes & Mentors; playwrights writing on playwrights." info@askplay.org

A new book from Odd Girls Press is "Bethlehem Road" by Nancy Crowe. New Bethlehem Indiana collides with San Francisco in this novel of lesbianism and Christianity. 800-821-0632. www.oddgirlspress.com

ONE Institute's Literary series curated by Mark Haile presented Waide Aaron Riddle reading his poetry during National Poetry Month in April 2002, call 213-741-0094 for information on the monthly series.

Tim Miller's new book, BODY BLOWS is out from University of Wisconsin Press. Covering six performances, it has a foreword by Tony Kushner, get it today.

Caroly Gage's play THE LAST READING OF CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN is being published in Voices Made Flesh: Performing Women's Autobiography, edited by Lynn C. Miller (University of Wisconsin Press. Two of her one-act plays THE PARMACHENE BELLE and HETROSEXUALS ANONYMOUS have been published in the Harrington Lesbian Fiction Quarterly (Haworth Press)

MUSIC / OPERA / DANCE

San Francisco's New Conservatory Theatre Center's in-concert series continues with "THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND," the songs of Kander & Ebb running June 1-July 14, 2002, 415-861-8972 or www.ticketweb.com

Jill Togawa of Purple Moon Dance Project performed in the Asian American Dance Presentation of "Through My Eyes" in May 2002 at SomArts Cultural Center in San Francisco. 415-552-1105, www.purplemoondance.org

Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles had a great Spring concert called "Divas Revenge - Opera-Our Way!" in April, 2002 at Alex Theatre in Glendale. Their next concert "Jerry's Boys" is July 12-14, 2002 and will feature not only the songs of Jerry Herman but the composer himself! 800-MEN-SONG or www.gmcla.org

Legendary Cuban singer-impressionist David de Alba who worked at Finocchio's has released four CDs. For information david-de-alba.com

Two gay operas premiered at the BAC Opera in London this spring 2002. uk.gay.com/news/5368

PINAFORE, the hit parody of Gilbert and Sullivan by Mark Savage is out on CD from Celebration Theatre's Web site at www.celebrationtheatre.com or you can go to Amazon.

Tom Wilson Weinberg's musical revue GET USED TO IT is available for \$14.95 (CD) or \$9.95 (cassette) from Aboveground Records, PO Box 2233, Philadelphia, PA 19103, add \$2.00 p&h per and Penn. residents 7% sale tax.

OUTMUSIC has open-mic programs for LGBT musicians in New York and San Francisco. For more information 212-330-9197, info@outmusic.com or www.outmusic.com

Les Ballets Grandiva, a male comedy ballet company returned to performing in NYC in April after touring for four months in Japan. www.gfn.com/bizforum/announce/full.phtml?aid=21

Jade Esteban Estrada is billed as "the first gay Latin star" by Out Magazine. His CD "Angel" is available at www.getjaded.com from Vicarious Records. His Passions Tour started in March in West Palm Beach, Fla.

The 18th Annual STAGE benefit in Los Angeles in March 2002 was a tribute to the Lyrics and Music of Johnny Mercer. 323-656-9069, www.stagela.com

For information on Vox Femina, LA's women's choral ensemble call 310-838-8151 or www.voxfemina.org

Lea Delaria performed at The Market Theater in association with The Theater Offensive in Boston last March, 2002 with selections from her new CD "Play It Cool."

The National Women's Music Festival was held June 7-9, 2002 at Ball State University in Muncie IN. 317-585 9447 www.wiaonline.org/nwmf

PLAYWRIGHTS / PRODUCERS FORUM

AD David OIye of Buddies in Bad Times in Toronto reports they have a new Web site at: www.buddiesinbadtimes.com

Linda Eisenstein had her one-act RUNNING FROM THE RED GIRL featured in The Bailiwick Rep's Lesbian Arts Festival in April 2002. In addition her musical comedy DISCORDIA about a retelling of the Percival quest through the eyes of the prophetess Cassandra, had a workshop at Cleveland Public Theatre. Actors Training Studio in Kansas City presented ACME TEMPORARY SERVICES and part of CASSANDRA COMPLEX in May and Actor's Alliance in San Diego did A COCK, A DREAM also in May, 2002. For information on Linda Eisenstein's work: plays@lindaeisenstein.com or www.lindaeisenstein.com

There was a first reading of HETEROSEXUALS, a new play by Robert Patrick in May 2002 in Los Angeles with Jim J. Bullock, Sharon Madden and Don Paul. rbrtprck@aol.com

NAKED BOYS SINGING which has had huge success all-round, had another first in May when the NYC troupe appeared on The Rikki Lake Show.

Playwrights 6, Los Angeles' only playwright-managed theatre was back on the boards in April-May, 2002 with two shows: DEAD GIRLS DIARY by Amy Heidish and COLD by Larry Dean Harris. COLD was an incredibly moving and emotionally piece about a group of college friends stranded in the cold wilderness of Northern Minnesota.

Also Playwrights 6 presented "There's Something About Larry!" an evening of nine plays in 90 minutes celebrating the theatrical world of Larry Dean Harris in February-March 2002 at The Lillian Theatre with special appearance by Sally Struthers. 323-666-6086

The winner of the Bailiwick's Lesbian Theatre Initiative Playwriting Competition is EMBRACING THE UNDERTOAD by Robin Rice Lichtig. The work will be produced at the Bailiwick in the future. bailiwickr@aol.com

The Ivy Theatre is currently accepting submissions for their next production. They are looking for a small cast, lesbian-focused story line but male or female playwrights will be considered. Contact Marian Jones/The Ivy Theatre, 1325 N Gardner #106, LA, CA 90046.

Dan Nurczyk will be producing Jeff Hagedorn's A LAYMAN'S GUIDE TO SAFE SEX in June as part of Bailiwick 's Pride Festival in Chicago. 773-883-1090 or www.bailiwick.org

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation has announced the winners in their short fiction competition. \$1000 was awarded to Bev Jafek of Astoria, NY for her story THE DEATH OF SAPPHO. A \$500 second prize went to Jobert Abueva of New Hope, Penn. for POSTMORTEM, Honorable Mentions went to Edward M. Cohen for BIRTH OF THE REVOLUTION, Chip Livingston for OWLS and Michael Ketterer for I, PATROCLUS.

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation also announces a Competition for Playwrights for the Foundation's 2002 Writing Awards. All plays, screenplays, or musical works must be unpublished, present gay and lesbian lifestyle in a positive manner and be based on a historic person or event. All submissions must be postmarked by midnight November 20, 2002. Winners will be announced at the Lambda Literary Awards in the spring of 2003, and will receive a cash prize of \$1000 (not limited to a single winner).

The Foundation also offers grants to production companies to help in producing gay-positive works on historic subjects. For writing or producing guidelines send a SASE to The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation, PMB 503, 31855 Date Palm Drive, Suite 3, Cathedral City CA 92234 or www.aabbfoundation.org

Michael H. Arve directed the Greater Rochester Repertory Companies in "We're Still Here" a musical revue at The Edgartown Community Center in May 2002. 585-624-8360 or grrc@rochester.rr.com

Carolyn Gage will be presented with the Jeanine C. Rae Award at the National Women's Music Festival this year. Past winners include Holly Near, Audre Lord, Del Martin, and Phyllis Lyons among others.

Act Out Productions in Columbus presented OH, JACKIE!, HER FATHER'S STORY by Mel Helitzer in March 2002. The musical traces Jackie Kennedy's rise to national adoration with the help of her father Black Jack Bouvier. fabact1@aol.com

The Theater Offensive and DAGGER in Boston in May presented a theatrical evening for Women of Color and their friends with Drag King DRED of NYC and local playwright Letta Neely. amatul@thetheateroffensive.org

A. Giovanni Affinito's play DINNER AT DARIO'S is available for production. The one-acts deals with ex-lovers Frank and Mark, and Mark's attempt to get back together. After a wrestling match overwhelming physical and emotional reactions are engendered. And it has a happy ending, one set and four males, 40 minutes. Contact the playwright at gioman2@aol.com, 576 Forest Rd, West Haven, CT 06516, or 203-397-8966. Further information on www.buddybuddy.com/pc-writ.html

David Gaard's plays are available from the playwright at 77 East 12th St, #17-H, NY, NY 10003, 212-886-9850 or nynitehouse@aol.com. Plays include ABOUT BERNARD CARLTON, AND PUPPY DOG TAILS (a lost play that has been found!), BEFRIENDING BEAU, Xs, and SHADOW BOY. Details on these plays and others on www.buddybuddy.com/pc-writ.html

The Queen's Company is All Female! All the Time! No Apologies! They presented THE FEIGN'D COURTESANS by Aphra Behn in March and April 2002 at The Tribeca Playhouse in NYC. www.queenscompany.org

THE CRUMPLE ZONE by Buddy Thomas has been produced at Rattlestick Theatre Company in NYC and at New Conservatory Theatre Center in San Francisco. Published by Samuel French it is an hilarious comedy concerning three gay roommates coming to crisis during one frantic Christmas weekend. Contact Mitch Douglas at ICM, 40 West 57th St., NY, NY 10019, 212-556-5720, bthomas@icmtalent.com

Owner of TnT Classics, Francine L. Trevens has become literary agent/literary executor for Sidney Morris, one of the earliest gay playwrights who came "out" before the term was coined and wrote "gay plays" before Stonewall. Among his best known works are UNCLE YOSSIL which won awards in Jewish Theatre; IF THIS ISN'T LOVE which is frequently staged by New York theatres; THE GOOD TIME BOYS which details the shock and confusion when "the gay disease" began; and THE WIND BENEATH MY WINGS. By the summer, the entire list of Morris plays will be on the Purple Circuit Web site.

Ms. Trevens also acts for Michael Devereaux, another casualty of AIDS whose THE ENVELOPE PLEASE (formerly titled DO YOU THINK THE RAIN WILL HURT THE RHUBARB?) won the LA Drama Critics Award; THE DUMMY, about a misunderstood poor youth and TRICK OR TREAT, a shocker about random killings. Ms. Trevens also handles some of the plays and books of Doric Wilson, Jane Chambers, Arch Brown and Robert Chesley among others. For a catalogue and rights to plays handled by TnT contact at 360 W. 36 St., #2, NY, NY 10018-6412 or tntClassics@aol.com

David Dillon's PARTY recently toured the country with productions in 6 cities- San Diego, Raleigh, Cleveland, New Orleans, Detroit and Minneapolis. If it hasn't be done in your city contact the playwright at daviddillion@aol.com or contact Buddy in Mitch Douglas' office at ICM. 212-556-5738.

This winter Carolyn Gage has formed a new Lesbian-Feminist theater called Cauldron and Labrys, 103 Benson St, Portland ME 04103. Send No Scripts. Adm./Office 207-774-4231, carolyn@carolyngage.com, www.carolyngage.com

The Cauldron's first production was an audience interactive court drama, THE ANASTASIA TRIALS IN THE COURT OF WOMEN. The play was sold out and received touring offers. JOAN REVOLTA, the Portuguese-language version of her play THE SECOND COMING OF JOAN OF ARC was seen by 600,000 people in Brazil last year. Gage continues to tour in the English-language version. She will be touring to the National Women's Music Festival in her one-act LOUISA MAY INCEST and THE PARMACHENE BELLE, a lesbian one-act will be featured at the New England Academy of Theatre Festival in New Haven this summer.

The Center Stage inc. has been a lesbian theater company for seven years producing plays in California and now Las Vegas. Co-Producers are Lenore Andrea Simon and Alana Brown. They can be reached at lasasb11@aol.com or abrown@thorndal.com

Screaming Venus is an established award-winning theatre company in its third season. They are a company of women and men working together to further the female voice and encourage the development of interdisciplinary creative theatre artists. They are interested in by/and/or about women. They are holding a contest with a deadline of March 1, 2003. To submit send script, bio, cover letter, synopsis, character breakdown and \$10.fee/script. Prize is \$500, reading and possible workshop and/or production. Scripts will not be returned. Contact them at svplays7@aol.com or in July at www.screamingvenus.com

Buntville Crew announces the guidelines for their Awards 2002. All entries (\$8.00 fee per script) must be postmarked by June 30, 2002. Contact them for details at Buntville Crew, PO Box 445, Buckley, IL 60918-0445. buntville@yahoo.fr

An excerpt from Felix Racelis's full-length drama, "Days of Rest," will be performed at the 9th National Conference of the Filipino American National Historical Society Thursday, July 25th at Loyola Marymount University. In this gripping psychological/historical drama, a nursing home proprietor and her clients are haunted by memories of World War II in the Philippines. For information, please call 323-662-6861.

Stonewall by Carol Polcovar, is a theatre piece based on interviews with people at The Stonewall Rebellion. It will have a reading at Musical Theatreworks in NYC on July 17, 2002 at 8pm. carolpolcovar@cs.com

TOURING

Writer-performer Jeffrey Solomon tours with his two solo plays SANTA CLAUS IS COMING OUT and MOTHERSON. SANTA CLAUS is a comic spoof about the world's hysterical

reaction when it is revealed that Santa Claus is gay. MotherSon is about the comic relationship of a fulltime Jewish mother and her gay son. Jeffrey will be performing at the National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival in Columbus this September. For touring information call 215-928-9040 or jeffsolo@earthlink.net
www.santaclausiscomingout.com

Comic Jason Stuart continues to tour everywhere: Central PA Pride in Harrisburg, U. Wisconsin, Fox Valley, U. Kansas, Lawrence, The Wilde Goose Cabaret, Palm Springs, Calif., Bucknell U., Mass; New Zealand Gay & Lesbian Film Festival; U. Hartford; Dilintia Theatre in Dehaag Holland and in June, The Barcelona Gay & Lesbian Film Festival and Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa CA. July 11 at the Go Club in Olympia Wash. 360-704-7278; July 12-13 at Giggles Comedy Club, Seattle 206-526-5653; and Sept at the Indiana Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. For comedy touring: OUTmedia 718-789-1776 .

Steven Fales is touring with his solo show, CONFESSIONS OF A MORMON BOY with performances in NYC during Pride month, San Francisco in August, Las Vegas and Salt Lake City in Sept and back to NYC in the Fall. For further details contact neverfales2@aol.com

WILDEANA

Rupert Everett's new film version of THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST has recently opened.
www.apple.com/trailers/miramax/importanceofbeingearnest.html

There is a new online issue of the Oscholars at homepages.gold.ac.uk/oscholars

In Enniskillen, County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland there was an Oscar Wilde Weekend Festival May 31-June 2, 2002, www.projectoscarwilde.net

A play about Oscar, IN EXTREMIS by Neil Bartlett was done on the BBC in April 2002. It concerns a visit Wilde made to the society palmist Mrs. Robinson shortly before his trial and starred Corin Redgrave and Sheila Hancock.

APPEALS / OPPORTUNITIES

HERE is an Obie award winning arts center in NYC that needs your support. Contact them at 212-647-0202 or 145 Ave. of the Americas, NY, NY 10013-1548. www.here.org

Legion Arts in Cedar Rapids is in the final stages of a \$65,000 fund drive. They do great work in Iowa. Please help them at 319-364-1580, www.legionarts.org

Zoo District in Los Angeles is celebrating their 5th anniversary of venturing into the art wilderness. They take their name from an area in Berlin featured in Brecht's DRUMS IN THE NIGHT, the seedy area inhabited by free thinkers and artists where revolution first erupts. Support their arts revolution at 323-769-5674, 5900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 605, LA, CA 90036. www.zoodistrict.org

How to Reach Us
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www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

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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.

This year's competition is for playwrights — submissions due November 30, 2002.

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

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