

On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

Volume 12, Number 3

THE CAROL POLCOVAR / FRESH FRUIT FESTIVAL ISSUE

Welcome to On the Purple Circuit!

The Purple Circuit was created to be an international network to encourage, promote, and celebrate the diversity of LGBTQ Theatre and Performance. For an expanded version of this issue and other features go to our Web site at

www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

This issue honors The Purple Circuit mission through the work of Playwright Carol Polcovar, her New Village Productions and her latest endeavor The Fresh Fruit Festival held in August 2003 in New York City. Brava to Carol for all her years of artistry and hard work!

The Fresh Fruit Festival was designed to support and develop the cutting edge in LGBT performance and theater arts. Their goal was to build a network of support to nurture emerging arts. From all reports this seems to have happened and I look forward to next year's Fresh Fruit 2. For info go to www.newvillageproductions.org/fresh.html

I am constantly amazed at all the creativity there is to report and realize that the PC is only reporting some of it. I ask you to all be reporters for me especially Lesbians — if you are producing a show or see a production or have written one that is being done, self promotion is fine! Email me at purplecir@aol.com or 921 North Naomi St., Burbank ,CA 91505, and anyone who would like to volunteer to be a regional correspondent let me know.

I am happy to announce that the updated Directory of Venues is now available on our Web site and in a printed version thanks to the efforts of Barbara J. Woods and on the Web thanks to Demian. If you want a printed version send a donation payable to Bill Kaiser and a SASE with 74 cents postage. Our subscription renewals are down so even if you download the Directory and access OTPC form the Web site remember we still need your contributions to continue to publish and maintain the Web site so give today to us as well as to your favorite arts organizations!

The climate in the US has worsened not only for artistic freedom but basic civil rights for all. We are turning into a militarized Spartan state and so it is imperative for artists and their supporters to become even stronger more truthful activists against the patriot and victory acts (what big lie terms they are!) and work for Peace and Justice!

Festivals were all the rage this summer. They include: our lauded Fresh Fruit Festival, numerous ones in NYC (such as International Fringe, FUSE from HERE Arts and Dixon Place), festivals noted by our columnists Joe Godfrey (Key West) and Jeffrey Solomon (Philadelphia), Marjorie Conn in Provincetown, and others in Omaha, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Canada, and Edinburgh.

Not all were GLBTQ but our creativity was evident in all of them. Kudos to the organizers and participants of all of them!! Next year they will continue with The Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival, September 9-18, 2004. The deadline for entries for Columbus is November 1, 2003, so go to www.cnglhf.com, 614-263-9448 or Act Out Productions, 2517 North 4th St., Columbus, OH 43202.

We mourn the deaths of S.F. Performer Michael Cameron Benbrook, Director Joe Chaiken, and Actor/Dancer Gregory Hines.

I want to invite all of you in the Los Angeles area on Saturday, October 11 to come to our Oscar Wilde Birthday Celebration at ONE Institute. Call the PC Hotline at 818-953-5072 for details and reservations.

Thanks to our Donors and Subscribers (and may there be many more of you), and our writers: Nathaniel Grey, Steven LaVigne, Tom O'Neil, Michael Van Kerckhove, Joseph Godfrey, and Jeffrey Solomon. Also thanks to the theaters, publicists, and individuals that sent material including Marjorie Conn, Linda Eisenstein, Margaret Smith, and Joan Lipkin.

Special thanks to Barbara J. Woods for The Directory project, and Associate Editor Jim Russell, Web site programmer Demian, and Technical Associate Sally Barron for getting yet one more issue out!

Peace and Break Legs,
Bill Kaiser
Editor



A WILDE PARODY EVENT

October 11, 2003 - 3-5pm
ONE Institute, 909 West Adams, Los Angeles, Calif.
\$10
818-953-5072

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ON THE BOARDS

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

Altered Ego with Will Clark, about his life and work as an adult entertainment star, Wings Theatre, NYC, June 2003

***Autumn Canticle** by John W Lowell, Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles, opens October 17, 2003, 323-957-1884

***Barbra's Wedding** by Daniel Stern, comedy focuses on the marital problems of a Malibu couple who live next to Barbra on the big day, Westside Theatre, NYC, opened March 5, 2003

Beyond the Valley of the Deviants with The Deviant Laboratories, comedy sketches Celebration Theatre, LA, June-July, 2003

The Big Voice: God or Merman with Steve Schalchlin and Jim Brochu, a musical romp about their artistic work and life together, Trinity Rivers Arts Center, Dallas, July 2003; Lex Theatre, LA, August 2003

***Book of Hours** by Thomas Klocke, what happens when a 14th century monk illustrating a prayer book begins to use two modern-day male hustlers as models, OUTlanta, Atlanta, opens October 3, 2003, 404-371-0212

Breaking the Code by Hugh Whitemore, the story of Alan Turing, L.A. Theatre Works at Skirball Cultural Center, LA, July 2003

Burning Deck by Sarah Schulman, a play about people who are refugees from America to New York and live on the margin, LaJolla Playhouse, July-August 2003

Cake Boy with Greg Walloch, interweaves new stories with that of his hit WHITE DISABLED TALENT, Vortex Repertory, Austin, August 2003

***Chain.Link.Fence** by Chuck Cannon, a Gay comedy loosely based on Schnitzler's LA RONDE The Living End Theatre, Philadelphia, opens November 11-21, 2003, 302-325-0329

***A Class Apart** by Barry Lowe, adapted from the cult classic about soldier and architect Montague Glover and his East End lover Ralph Hall, Performing Arts Productions at Midsumma Gay & Lesbian Festival Melbourne, January-February 2004

Cocksucker: A Love Story by Ronnie Larsen, the *enfant terrible* is back with a story about one of man's favorite pastimes set near a Marine base, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, May-June 2003

Corpus Christi by Terrence McNally, Modern Theatre Company at 14th Brisbane Pride Festival, Brisbane, June 2003

***Cry Havoc** by Tom Coash, set in present day Cairo where a naive British writer and an Egyptian university student are covert lovers, West Coast Ensemble, LA, will open October 7, 2003, 323-876-9337

Cyma's Story by Barbara Kahn, a one-character play about a Russian Jewish Lesbian who has lived in Wyoming many years with her lover and the outbreak of war in 1939 triggers memories of her past and scandal, Kaleidoscope Festival, Santa Monica, Calif., August 2003

Deathwatch by Jean Genet, Living End Theatre Company at Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, June 2003

Diva Diaries by Andrew Kato the story of three aging drag queens and their wisdom, Tampa Performing Arts Center, June, 2003; Broward Center, Fort Lauderdale, July-August 2003

Execution of Justice by Emily Mann, the classic recreation of the days and weeks following the assassinations of Harvey Milk and George Moscone by Dan White, Rude Guerrilla Theater Company, Santa Ana, CA, June-July 2003
Falsettos musical by William Finn, book by William Finn and James Lapine, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, June-August 2003

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

***Hairspray** by Marc Shaiman, Scott Wittman, Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, adapted from John Waters' hit film, Neil Simon Theatre, NYC, ongoing, 212-307-4100

***The Haunted Host** by Robert Patrick, the classic two-character play about a ghostly encounter between an eccentric Greenwich Village writer and a straight (?) young college man on his first night in the big city, DRAMA! at Cowpokes Theatre Space, New Orleans, September 12-28, 2003, 504-948-9924

He Pounces by Ken Roht, a wild dark vaudevillian ride with brazen homoeroticism and wit, Evidence Room, LA, May 2003

***Icons: The Lesbian and Gay History of the World, Vol. 1**, a solo musical with the legendary Jade Esteban Estrada, Ragged Blade Productions and Vicarious Productions at The Theatre at St. John's, St. Louis, November 18-23, 2003, 314-276-8693, www.iconssofhistory.com

The Importance of Being Three's Company by Phil Blue Owl Hooser, Jack, Chrissy, Janet and the gang stumble into the plot of THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, Late Night Theatre, Kansas City, May-June 2003

Judy Garland: A Night in the Life with Julie Sheppard, singing and stories, Actors Forum Theatre, N Hollywood CA, July-August 2003

Judy Speaks with Mary Birdsong, based on the Garland journal tapes, ARS Nova Theater, NYC, July-August 2003

Just Us Boys by Frank Stanci, the lives of five men sharing a chorus dressing room of the hot hit musical Depression, Abington Theater, Midtown International Festival, July-August 2003

The Karma Book Store by Flip Marinovich, a young gay man mourning his dead lover searches for a spell book to bring his lover back to life and unleashes a chain of consequences which threaten to destroy him, The Medicine Show, NYC, June 2003

***Kilt** by Jonathan Wilson, an enchanting comedy/drama in which a mother and son come to know themselves and how to love each other, The New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened August 23, 2003, 415-861-8972, www.nctcsf.org

Lagrimas de Cocodrilo / Crocodile Tears with Ingrid Rivera, how does a single mother survive the lingering nightmare of childhood sexual abuse and find inner peace? Nuyorican Poets Cafe, NYC, July-August 2003

***The Laramie Project** created by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theatre Project. Greer Garson Theatre, College of Santa Fe, August 2003; revival of the award-winning Colony Theatre production in Burbank now remounted at Laguna Playhouse, Laguna Beach CA. Previews begin September 9,

2003 and runs September 13-October 12, 2003, 949-497-2787, www.lagunaplayhouse.com

Laughing Wild by Christopher Durang, a man and a woman's separate struggles to find breathing room with everything from sexual identity to basic sanity, Open Circle Theatre, Washington DC, June-July 2003

Leopold and Loeb: A Goddamn Laff Riot, mixes explosive theater with ferocious dance and vaudevillian humor to tell the story of the criminal-lovers who pioneered the "thrill kill," The Anodyne Ensemble at The Tamarind theatre, Hollywood CA, May -July 2003

LOL by Tony Sportiello, a young man wants sex and even cybersex will do, In the Jewel Box, NYC, July 2003

***Love! Valour! Compassion!** by Terrence McNally, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, ongoing, 619-220-0097, www.diversionary.org

Making Porn by Ronnie Larsen, the classic look at the porn industry is back! Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, July 2003; Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, August 2003

***Manlady** with George Weiss Vando, Highways, Santa Monica CA, June 2003, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened August 23, 2003, 415-861-9872, www.nctcsf.org

Massage Therapy by Joe Godfrey, a strong and unusual relationship develops between a gay male massage therapist and a straight female client, Key West Theatre Festival, June 2003

The Matinee Ladies by Kevin Brofsky, the play concerns the lives of Nathan and his mother over the 25 years the mother and her two friends visit his cafe on their way to the theatre, SNAP! Productions, Omaha, June 2003

***The Men from the Boys** by Mart Crowley, the long awaited sequel to BOYS IN THE BAND finds the boys older and wiser but as sharp-tongued as ever, Fountain Theatre, Hollywood, opened July 25, 2003, 323-663-1525

***The Mineola Twins** by Paula Vogel, a romp through the Eisenhower, Nixon and Reagan/Bush years by two twins-one conservative and the other a radical activist and Lesbian, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington DC, opened August 25, 2003, 800-494-8497,

www.boxofficetickets.com

***MotherSon** with Jeffrey Solomon, the award winning story of the coming out journey of a Jewish man and his mother, Act Out Productions at Ohio State University, Columbus, October 9-11, 2003; University of California, Irvine, October 18, Berkshire Community College, October 28, 2003

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

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

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

Norman Normal Saves the World with Rob Nash, Volume 6 in the Holy Cross Sucks! Quadrilogy, Vortex Repertory Company, Austin, August 2003

Out from under It by Susan Bernfield, Joanna thinks too much and works too much and dates too little, Vital Theatre Company, NYC, June-July 2003

Party by David Dillon, the uplifting and affirming celebration of gay life hit with the playwright in the cast too! , New Line Theatre, St. Louis, July-August 2003

phidias8 by Michael Whistler, during his late night journeys on the Web, Erik becomes "phidias8," a keyboard chameleon who adapts his persona to the desires of the men he meets online, Phoenix Theatre, Indianapolis, June-July 2003

Phoneisexcancer by Gina Young, the work follows a 17-year-old grrl, her mother and her transgendered lover through some magical and painful transitions, Fuse Festival at HERE Arts Center, NYC, June 2003

***Pinafore**, hit musical in LA, adapted from Gilbert and Sullivan by Mark Savage, Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, previewed June 19-22, 2003, 773-883-1090

Poet in New York by Dito van Reigersberg and Dan Rothenberg, a biographical fantasia based on the life of Federico Garcia Lorca, Pig Iron Theatre at The Warehouse Theatre, Washington DC, June 2003

Precious Stones by Jamil Khoury, a Jewish-American woman and a Palestinian-American woman attempt to create a dialogue group and fall in love in the process, Silk Road Theater Company, Chicago, July-August 2003

***A Room of One's Own** by Patrick Garland, an adaptation of Virginia Woolf's classic, HAG Theatre at Hallwalls, Buffalo, opening September 19, 2003, 716-879-0935

The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe by Jane Wagner starring Lily Tomlin, Ahmanson Theatre, Los Angeles, May-July 2003

***Santa Claus is Coming Out** with Jeffrey Solomon, hit solo show about Santa Claus-the true story, Penn State University, October 15, 2003

Say You Love Satan by Roberto Aguirre, Sacasa, Andrew meets a handsome stranger who may be the Devil's only living son or something far worse in this romantic comedy, UNDER St. Marks, NYC, August 2003

Sebastian and the Tattooed Love Librarian by Debra Neff Nathans, actually an intelligent dramedy about the complex dynamics that can exist in friendships between gay men and straight women, Secret Rose Theatre, North Hollywood, CA, May-June 2003

Secrets of the Chorus by David Leddick, a musical mystery about a drag queen performer killed by a falling sandbag on the closing night of a Broadway flop, Manuel Artime Performing Arts Center, Miami, July 2003

Seven Lessons of Life by Adrian R Morales. theater troupe's production is sabotaged by its unstable stage manager, LA Repertory Company, Hollywood, July 2003

Sex Kittens In Hi-Fi an early '60s musical romp with arrangements by Richard Kildewyn, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, July-August 2003

***69 Moments of Life** with Terry Costa, Minneapolis Fringe, August 2003 and San Francisco Fringe Festival, September 3-14, 2003, www.queertheatre.com

Slap & Tickle by David Parr, a generational portrait before AIDS and after re-examining sexual behavior and attitudes, The Independent Theater, NYC, July 2003

***Small Craft Warnings** by Tennessee Williams, The Evidence Room , LA, opened August 7, 2003, 213-381-7118

Southern Gothic Novel with Frank Blocker, The Present Company at NY International Fringe, NYC, Aug, 2003

***Spanked** with Ian MacKinnon and Aaron Hartzler, these two real-life boyfriends recall the different relationships they had with their fathers, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opened August 22, 2003, 415-861-8972,

www.nctcsf.org

***Special Delivery** with Harry Hart-Browne, a magical spiritual romp, Foothill Church of Religious Science, Sierra Madre CA, opened August 16, 2003, 626-930-9249, www.harryhart-browne.com

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

That Day in September with Artie Van Why, a former actor watched the horrific events on September 11, Lamb's Little Theatre, NYC, July-Aug 2003

Thief River by Lee Blessing, in a small Minnesota town in 1948 two young boys fall in love, H Street Playhouse, Washington DC, June 2003

Thrill Me, a Leopold and Loeb musical by Stephen Dolginoff, Midtown International Festival, NYC, July-Aug 2003

***To My Chagrin** with Peggy Shaw, the story of how Peggy Shaw learned to communicate with her mixed-race grandson. Set in the body of a rusty old Chevy pickup—a tribute to all the cars she has ever owned and a treatise on sexuality, death and racism, Dixon Place at P.S. 122, NYC, October 2-26, 2003, 212-477-5829, www.ticketweb.com

Twilight of the Golds by Jonathan Tolins, Lambda Players, Sacramento, June 2003

***Unaccessorized** with Rich Kiamco, a queer Filipino boy escapes the cornfields of Illinois for the streets of NYC, after July performances in NYC, moves to PEELING Festival, Seattle, September 18-28, 2003, www.seattlefringe.com

Uncovering Eden by George Barthel, a quirky comedy drama about a maverick archeologist whose dig is threatened by an ex-lover, bookkeeping, Sumerian ghosts and more, Wings, NYC, June-August 2003

US with Tim Miller, another tour-de-force about Tim and Alistair's denial of rights by immigration by America's premier performance artist, 7 Stages, Atlanta, April 2003, and Vortex Repertory, Austin, June 2003

Vieux Carre by Tennessee Williams, Ivy Substation, Culver City, CA, August 2003

Virgin Territory with Aileen Cho, a Korean American bisexual woman embarks on a journey through sex, love and online dating, FUSE: NYC Celebration of Queer Culture, HERE Arts Center, NYC, June 2003

***Visiting Mr. Green** by Jeff Baron, a charming story about an elderly Jewish recluse and the hip, gay, Jewish man who must visit him as part of his restitution for a car accident, SNAP! Productions, Omaha, August 29-September 21, 2003, www.snapproductions.com; International City Theatre, Long Beach CA, opened September 5, 2003, 562-436-4610, www.ictlongbeach.com

Waiting for the Podiatrist with Terry Baum, with deft humor and hand puppets, Baum portrays herself caught between a deathly ill father and a terminally irritating mother, Antioch College, Ohio, June 2003

***The Wedding Banquet**, a musical version of the hit Ang Lee movie by Welly Yang, Taiwan, opened August 8, 2003.

When Pigs Fly by Howard Crabtree and Mark Waldrop with music by Dick Gallagher, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, May-July 2003

X'd: Confessions of a Mormon Boy with Stephen Fales, a new play about being gay and Mormon, Acorn In The Theatre, NYC, opened August 7, 2003, 212-239-6200 or www.mormonboy.com

Young and Beautiful or Hello I'm Old by Robert Coles. The story of a little theatre group rehearsing a gay play, and meeting disaster-after-disaster until a mysterious old man

delivers, not only artistic redemption, but a new understanding of youth, old age and human mortality, Vortex Theater Company, NYC, June-July, 2003

***Zanna, Don't** by Tim Acito, a musical set in a magical high school where relationships are reversed and the universe is Gay instead of straight, John Houseman Theatre, NYC, opened March 20, 2003, 212-239-6200

THEATRE BITS

by Bill Kaiser

Anchorage: On August 6 — which would have been Andy's 75th birthday — Out North announced they had reached their \$50,000 match with The Andy Warhol Foundation! Kudos to our friends up North!

Austin: Vortex Repertory's Summer Youth Theatre presented THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS adapted from a Persian Sufi poem of Farid Uddi Attar by Susan Kelso in July 2003.

Their Red Hot Americans Festival in June-July featured Tim Miller in US, Karen Finley in MAKE LOVE and Penny Arcade in NEW YORK VALUES. 512-478-5282, www.vortexrep.org

Brooklyn: Check out the fall activities and workshops on the new BAX Brooklyn Arts Exchange Web site: www.bax.org

Cape Cod: Tim Miller conducted a weeklong workshop at the Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill in Truro in August. Tim also performed BODY BLOWS at the Payomet Tent there. hometown.aol.com/millertale/timmiller.html

Chicago: The Bailiwick has been around for 20 years. A wonderful new project that was work shopped in Los Angeles is a new musical about Dr. Kinsey called DR SEX by John Reeger and Julie Shannon opening this fall. They need your support for all their projects. Please send contributions to attn Development Director Scott Heckman, Bailiwick Arts Center, 1229 West Belmont, Chicago IL 60657-3205.

Cleveland: Red Hen Feminist Theatre presented CRAZY LADIES by Dori Appel and Carolyn Myers during their 5th annual staged readings series about frank discussions of dieting, dating, menopause, play acting and well crazy ladies. www.logan.com/redhen

Durham: Manbites Dog Theater needs your help in their \$25,000 fundraising campaign. They have been presenting great theatre as well as an annual Don't Ask, Don't Tell Festival. Contribute to them at PO Box 402, Durham NC 27702 or online through Paypal link at www.manbitesdogtheater.org/donate

Los Angeles: TDRZ Productions in association with Playwrights' Arena presented SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD, the music of Jason Robert Brown.

Another promotion geared to gay/lesbian audience is REPRISE!'s Friday Night Out! The first Friday of each production invites gay and lesbian subscribers to a post-show reception. 310-825-2101, www.reprise.org

Fabulous Monsters held a fundraiser, "Hanumanville" on August 10, 2003 to send their production of THE RAMAYANA 2k3 to Burning Man.

The Mark Taper Forum will present Tony Kushner's HOMEBODY/KABUL September 21-November 9, 2003. 213-628-2772, www.marktaperforum.com

Knightsbridge Theatre in Los Angeles continues to present classics such as COMPANY and CABARET as well as revivals of shows like OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR and new plays like TENDER by David Preece about Hemmingway, Fitzgerald, and Zelda. 626-440-0821, www.knightsbridgetheatre.com

Holland Taylor appeared in BARRIERS by Michael Kearns as a fundraiser for The Lamp Community, serving Skid Row's population in June. You can aid this organization that helps people with AIDS, addiction, mental illness and homelessness at Lamp Community, 527 S. Crocker St., L.A., Calif. 90013.

The Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance's Cabaret is set for October 11, 2003 at 8 PM (you can go after the Wilde Birthday at ONE!) at the Women's Twentieth Century Club in Eagle Rock. Directed once again by the fabulous Ken Kane there will be returning talent such as Rene, and Lily Sauvage and much more. Don't miss this fun event which is UGLA's major fundraiser for the year. For information contact Joan Potter at 323-258-2555.

Montreal: OUT Productions/les productions. OUT has many projects in the works, including performing arts collection of queer materials in collaboration with Les archives gaies and CCGLM; The Pink Network/Le reseau rose, which is similar to The Purple Circuit for Canada; and Canada's first-ever GLBT Performing Arts Forum in 2006 during The Gay Games. www.out.ca

New York City: July 29-30, 2003 at NYU was LGBT Theatre Focus Group Symposium: Sexuality In The City with many PC movers and shakers such as Noreen Barnes-McClain, David Roman, and Paul Bonin-Rodriguez. The Symposium explored the intersection of sex and theater. Speakers included: Robert Schanke (on Mercedes De Acosta and Eva La Gallienne), Doric Wilson (on TOSOS), Chuck Brown (on using theatre for activism). Also, there will be performances with PERFORMANCE ART ON A BADMINTON COURT (by Paul Bonin-Rodriguez and Jaclyn Pryor) and FINGERS TO THE BONE: WORKING UNDER MARTHA STEWART (by Susan McCully). This was part of the pre-conference of ATHE, which had Kate Bornstein as the keynote speaker. I understand during the ATHE conference there was a great seminar on The Cafe Cino with Doric Wilson, Bill Hoffman, and many others, but sans the inspiring Bob Patrick who was there in spirit of course.

Wings Theatre Company presented the East Coast premiere of JANE EYRE: THE MUSICAL with book and lyrics by Rebecca Thompson and Kari Skousen and music by Bill Kilpatrick, during June-July 2003.

In June 2003, Dixon Place In Exile presented the 4th semi-Annual Festival: WARNING: Not For Broadway Of The Met Either! Included:
= LOOK AND LONG by Jessica Brater and Jason Binnick

= TED IN THE MIRROR by Mariana Elder and Andrew Elesesser
= EAT YOUR GREENS: The Complete Operas of Verdi in 20 Minutes with Peter Hilliard and Ben Medley
= SIT IN AT THE FIVE & DIME by Janice Lowe and Margie Duffield
= WARSAW by William Wade
= LILAHE by Ken Kurland, Robin Brownfield and Robin Reese
= MISTAFLO's REGGAE CABARET with Florante Galvez
= E DEATH OF HENRY HESS with Emily Conbere, Paul Bargetto and Alex Berglund
= EVIL EYE by Jay Alan Zimmerman
= SUPER STARLET SHERO SHOW with Stephanie Jones and Suzanne Jones
= BLAM! I'M LEE HARVEY OSWALD by Genevieve Bennett and Malachy Walsh
= THE BIRTHDAY BOY by Wesley Webb
= 60 SECOND NOVELIST by Anji Browne and Joy Son Dixon Place presents emerging work from New York area artists. 212-219-0736; www.dixonplace.org

Dixon Place is roaming around NYC venues until their new space is available in late 2004. In the meantime they have instituted the Dixon Place Veterans Series on Wednesdays where performers who have shaped Dixon Place's history will try new work.

= On September 10, 17, and 24, Coleman Hough tells tales with surprise musical guests
= October 1 and 8 is Reno with THE RELIGION SHOW
= October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 is Marga Gomez in MARGA GERMS ("Sexually Transmitted Comedy" and "Los Big Names")
= On October 15, 22, and 29 Emmett Foster with DATE BAIT and Nancy Giles with THINGS MY AFRO TAUGHT ME
For theatre, dance and other events at Dixon Place: 212-219-0736; www.dixonplace.org

Jade Esteban Estrada was production director for BEARAPALOOZA 2003 on August 30, 2003 at CBGB's gallery in lower Manhattan. Where does this talented man find the time? www.jadeddirections.com or www.bearapalooza.com

Rochester NY: The Greater Rochester Repertory Company presents JOHNNY ROMA PRESENTS THE STARLETTES, a hit musical revue in its 10th anniversary production September 4-13, 2003 at The Visual Workshop Auditorium, 585-624-8360

San Francisco: RED-HOT BROADWAY, Help is on the Way IX took place July 28, 2003 at The Palace Of Fine Arts as a benefit for The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation. Directed by David Galligan with Ron Abel as Musical Director, the show featured many stars of stage and screen including Stephanie Powers, Lucie Arnaz, Rod McKuen, and Carole Cook. www.helpisontheway.org

The inaugural exhibit of the International Museum of GLBT History is "Saint Harvey: The Life and Afterlife of a Modern Gay Martyr" which opened June 6, 2003 and will run until April 2004 at 657 Mission St. #300; 415-777-5455.

Theatre Rhinoceros held a benefit hosted by PA Cooley called Mid-Summer Madness on July 12, 2003. Special

guests included Drew Todd and Libby Cox.
www.therhino.org

BRAVA Theater Center is presenting NICKEL AND DIMED, a theatrical adaptation of Barbara Ehrenreich's bestseller by Joan Holden. This is an important work about the working poor in America! Don't miss it! Previews begin October 8 and the show opens October 11-November 9, 2003, 415-647-2822.

Santa Ana Calif.: Rude Guerrilla Theatre Company presented a fantastic production of ROAD by Jim Cartwright May-June 2003.

Rude Guerilla Theater Company holds its 4th annual fundraiser Rude G! murder-mystery-mayhem on September 13, 2003 at The Moose Lodge in Fullerton. This is a cutting-edge company in a conservative Orange County that needs our support. 714-547-4688; www.rudeguerilla.org

Santa Monica: Highways Performance Space celebrated its 15th Anniversary in May with a gala weekend of performance featuring Noel Alunit, Aaron Hartzler and Ian Mackinnon, Maria Gillespie, Rosanna Gamson World Wide, LeVan D. Hawkins, Denise Uyehara, Danille Brazel, Carmela Herman, Dan Kwong, Michael Mizerany, Tim Miller, Rebecca Romero and Dancers, Paul Zaloom and Joan Spitzer, Nurit Siegel, Rochelle Faab, and The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Kudos Highways! 310-315-1459

Washington DC: Jeffrey Johnson has become the new AD of Actors' Theatre of Washington. Kudos to Jeffrey. He has some exciting projects lined up for the coming seasons including LILIES the French-Canadian play by Michel Tremblay; The Maids Project, LOOT by Joe Orton and an all-male production of CHICAGO slated for the end of the 2005 season. Send donations to Actors Theatre of Washington, Source Theatre, 1835 – 14th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. www.atwdc.org

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CHICAGO SCENE
by Michael Van Kerckhove

Greetings once again! Hope everyone had a fabulous Pride and is continuing to celebrate the Supreme Court's momentous decision. Here's a look at summer in Chicago.

Fascinating Face: About Face Theatre presents the world premiere of Jim Grimsley's "Fascination," a play that explores society's obsession with serial killers. In this case, Randall, a gay man who takes the lives of 40 boys and young men in ways recalling various well-known actual serial killers. In an interview in Windy City Times, Grimsely says, "Ultimately, I don't think the true fascination is with the killers, but rather with the idea of one's own death. The killer becomes interesting as a person who crosses that line."

This year marks the 5th anniversary of the **About Face Youth Theatre**. For this milestone production, the company has teamed up with the Goodman Theatre to present "Up Until Now," an ensemble piece featuring GLBTQA youth as they present their stories based on Saturday afternoon workshops. www.aboutfacetheatre.com, www.afyt.com

Bailiwick Pride: Bailiwick has adopted its Out All Year Series to include GLBT theatre year round instead of just the traditional summer months. But summer in Chicago still shows a bit of skin with these offerings:

The Chicago premiere of Mark Savage's "Pinafore!" a retelling of the Gilbert and Sullivan classic. This time, The Pinafore is the flagship of the New Gay Navy — and it's docked in Palm Springs during the White Party. Topsy-turviness ensues. I'm sure this show is familiar to our L.A. readers as it received several L.A. area awards when it originally ran at the Celebration Theatre in 2001-02.

David Parr's "Slap and Tickle" takes place in a New York bathhouse and is based on interviews about sexual experiences with gay men ages 19-52.

David Zak adapts the poetry of Harold Norse for "Underground Love." The play tells the story of the poet as a young man in Brooklyn during WWII.

The Directors' Fest features GLBT works for Pride with short plays by William Inge, Linda Eisenstein, Ron Nyswaner, and Edward Albee.

Daryl Nitz's "Explicit Lyrics" is a wild and sexy cabaret full of showtunes, pop tunes, novelty songs, and stories celebrating sex and sexuality.

Jimmy Maize's "In One Room" is based on interviews with GLB youth under 25, highlighting the juxtaposition of both the rural and urban gay experience. The play is the winner of Bailiwick's First College/University Playwriting Contest on GLBT themes. Congrats! www.bailiwick.org

Sand in the Eye: Open Eye Productions presents summer fun of a psychotic sort with Charles Busch's "Psycho Beach Party," his take on Gidget, Frankie and Annette beach party movies, and multiple personality disorder. When the youthful Chicklet (Adam Cook) is denied surfing lessons from Malibu's beachiest bums, her alter ego, Ann Bowman, wrecks havoc. The Chicago Reader calls the production "hormonally hyper reality." openeyeproductions.org

End of Ten: Corn Productions ends its 10th anniversary season with "The Titlow Project," a dramatic musical inspired by the true story of Vonlee Nicole (Harry) Titlow who pays for a sex change operation by accepting money to kill a distant and wealthy relative. The show stars Sarah Clair Meyer and Brad Larsen as the male and female aspects of Titlow with a haunting chorus behind them playing various roles.

And Floss! is still running strong! www.cornservatory.org

End of the Tour: Victory Gardens presents Joel Drake Johnson's family drama that takes place in Dixon, Ill., hometown of Ronald Reagan. Andrew returns home after several years with his boyfriend, David, to visit his ailing mother, Mae (who once sang for the President), and his sister, Jan, who has been Mae's caregiver. In a Windy City Times interview, Johnson explained part of why he wrote it had to deal with the juxtaposition of a gay kid (him) who came out in the hometown of such a homophobic president "who did a lot of bad things for our community." www.victorygardens.org

Original Ecstasy: City Lit Theater Company, best known for producing stage adaptations of British classic literature, is producing its first entirely original work in its twenty-three year history: Page Hearn's "Ecstasy of Dragonflies." Billed as "a surreal gay fable about the joys and fears faced by anyone on the verge of commitment," Hearn (also the City Lit's Managing Director) downplays the idea of it being "just another gay play." In an interview with Rick Reed of Windy City Times, he says, "The characters are gay because that's the world I know. As for the commitment issue, whether you're straight or gay, there is nothing quite so terrifying or rewarding as completely opening yourself up to another person." citylit.org

Bouncing at the Goodman: And finally, the Goodman Theatre presents the world premiere of Stephen Sondheim's new musical, "Bounce," a tale based on Addison and Wilson Mizner. The brothers "bounce" their way from Alaska to Florida, from the gold rush to the 1920's. Despite its status of Theatrical Event (this being the first Sondheim/John Weidman/Harold Prince collaboration since 1976), the reviews also "bounce" around. On the upswing are the performances: Richard Kind and Howard McGillan as the brothers, Jane Powell as Mama Mizner, and "Millie" alumnus Gavin Creel as Addison's young lover, among others.) On the way down is the collective disappointment in the show itself. This ranges from its apparent identity crisis as a "musical comedy" (funny, but enough?) to the music. As WCT's Jonathan Abarbanal writes, "Sondheim simply doesn't do bad work, but he neither steps ahead musically nor reaches backwards to Broadway's golden age." As the show concludes its first run, perhaps some of this disappointment will dissipate as it (one more time!) "bounces" its way to Broadway.

That's all for now. See you next time for the kick-off offerings of the 2003-04 Theatre Season. Peace.

[Michael Van Kerckhove is a founding member of The Living Room Project, a new playwright's group. He was awarded a 2001 Finalist Award Grant from Illinois Arts Council and is a member of The Dramatists Guild]

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CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE
by Nathaniel Grey

= Playwright/actor Rupert Everett co-stars with Kathy Bates in "Unconditional Love" making it's August premiere on the STARZ cable movie channel. The quirky comedy bypassed a U.S. Theatrical release despite a brief run in a few overseas markets. Everett plays a British valet to Bates' Chicago housewife as they join forces to avenge the death of a pop star played by Jonathan Pryce. Directed by P. J. Hogan (My Best Friend's Wedding) the cast also includes Dan Aykroyd, Julie Andrews and Barry Manilow.

= Hunky Eric Mabius (Cruel Intentions) has one of the few male roles in Showtime's lesbian answer to "Queer As Folk" called "The L Word." The ensemble features Mia Kirshner (24), Pam Grier (Jackie Brown) and Jennifer Beals (Flashdance) under the direction of Rose Troche (Go Fish.)

= Four-time Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein is developing a new musical with composer John Bucchino. Though Bucchino is best known as a cabaret songwriter for

Barbara Cook and Patti LuPone there is no word on the topic or title of this collaboration with Fierstein.

= The creative juices continue to flow from the Hairspray stage as the show's Tony Award winning composers Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman are hard at work on their next project. The partners are developing a stage musical version of the Steven Spielberg film "Catch Me if you can."

= Richard Greenberg found the sweet smell of success when he won a recent Tony for his play "Take Me Out," the story of an outed Superstar baseball player. That aroma seems likely to linger when Greenberg's third Broadway effort "The Violet Hour" reaches the Manhattan Theatre Club this fall.

= Executive Producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron (Chicago) are behind the new ABC sitcom "Its All Relative." Debuting this Fall, the show will focus on a hetero Boston couple and their respective in-laws, one set straight, the other gay. The cast includes Harriet Harris (Frasier's former agent on "Frasier"), comedian Lenny Clarke and John Benjamin Hickey ("Love, Valour, Compassion"). Zadan and Meron, who brought recent versions of "Annie" and "The Music Man" to TV, are also working on a live action version of the animated "Hunchback of Notre Dame."

Fair warning to those repulsed by recent show titles as "The Vagina Monologues," "Puppetry of the Penis," and "Urinetown," grab an air sick bag and get ready for "Jerry Springer: The Opera." There is such a show and it's been playing to such success at the National Theatre in London, it will move to the West End's Cambridge Theatre in mid-October. National Theatre Artistic Director Nicholas Hytner selected the work as the company's first new opera and is talking to Yankee producers about a possible Broadway debut. The show does focus on former Cincinnati Mayor Jerry Springer whose talk show gained an international reputation for topics as "Hillbilly Love Triangles!" "A Transsexual Turned Me On!" and "Surprise! I Have a Bisexual Lover." Aren't those country Western song titles?

= Kevin Kline (In & Out) plays Cole Porter in the new film "Just One of Those Things" from director Irwin Winkler with a screenplay by Jay Cocks (Age of Innocence.) The cast also features Jonathan Pryce, Ashley Judd, and contemporary music artists Elvis Costello, Alanis Morissette, Sheryl Crow, and Robbie Williams.

= Though his second attempt at a Network Television series has been canceled, Nathan Lane is far from the unemployment line. The actor is currently filming "Win A Date with Tad Hamilton" for "Legally Blonde" director Robert Luketic. The script focuses on a small town girl who wins a date with her favorite male celebrity only to see a love triangle form between her, the celebrity hunk, and her girl's best friend. The cast includes soap opera heart throb Josh Duhamel as the title character along with "That 70s Show" Topher Grace, Kate Bosworth (Blue Crush) and Sean Hayes (Will & Grace.)

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SODOM EAST: NEW YORK

On the Great Purple Way

by Tom O'Neil

The New York Fringe Festival isn't all that fringe anymore. Now it helps to define what's hip and mainstream in Gotham's theater trends. The seventh annual event, which took place in August, featured 200 shows at 20 theaters throughout lower Manhattan.

Among the most prominent productions was the New York debut of "Pinafore!" - the long running L.A. hit created at the Celebration Theatre. The gay-take on the classic Gilbert and Sullivan operetta got terrific reviews and roaring audience reaction. Charles Dickens got tweaked by TOSOS II in "Penny Penniworth" about a young woman whose dire financial situation forces her to care for an eccentric widow; a tale full of "reversal, gender issues and 'great expectations' with a wry sense of humor." Another hot ticket was "Daddy Kathryn," a comedy about a young man's coming-out moment being upstaged by his transvestite father. Also of note: "American Fabulous" This is actor Troy Carson's stage adaptation of a film about Jeffrey Strouth, a flamboyant gay drifter who died of AIDS in 1992. More fest info: www.fringenyc.org

Meanwhile, at the fourth annual Midtown International Theater Festival, the stand out production was "Thrill Me," a new musical Stephen Dolginoff about the infamous 1920 "thrill killers" Richard Loeb and Nathan Leopold. Abingdon Theatre Arts Complex. July-August 2003

A new festival, called Fresh Fruit, was launched this summer in Manhattan's Lower East Side where the most notable production was "Bald Diva," new comedy by David Koteles about two sets of clueless, sexless, lifeless Chelsea boys. More fest info: www.newvillageproductions.org

OTHER RECENT GAY NYC SHOWS:

"Auntie Mayhem" by David Pumo - Gay theater group Fourth Unity staged this hilarious, heart-felt drama about a former drag queen and his partner who become a family when they take in three runaway teens - two gay, one transgender. Bank Street Theater. June-July 2003. www.4unity.org

"Avenue Q" - The Off-Broadway hit has moved up to Touristville Times Square where the musical (imagine "Sesame Street"-Meets-"Rent"-with-a-Lavender-Twist) starring "Broadway's first opening gay male puppet" holds forth at the John Golden Theatre.

"Busted Jesus Comix" - The quartet of gay plays by David Johnston was widely hailed by critics, particularly a one-act about a 19-year-old boy whose life is upended when he cavalierly creates a satiric gay comic book starring Jesus. Blue Coyote Theater Group. May 2003

"Daddy's Boy" - Comic Skot Hess relives his summer in the "insane circus atmosphere" of Provincetown. Marquee Theatre. July 2003

"The David Dance" - The life of a gay radio D.J. in Buffalo, New York, changes radically when his quirky sister decides to adopt. 78th Street Theatre Lab. May 2003. www.thedaviddance.com

"I Am My Own Wife" - Playwrights Horizons staged this critically hailed one-man show about the infamous German transvestite Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, who somehow managed to live openly as a cross-dresser during the Nazi and Communist regimes. Written by and starring Doug Wright.

"The Karma Bookshop" by Flip Marinovich. A young man searches for a spellbook that could bring his dead lover back to life. Medicine Show Theatre. June 11-21, 2003

"New Boy" - Teenager Mark is desperate to improve his grades and get a sex life in this stage version of William Sutcliffe's coming-of-age novel. Beckett Theatre. July 2003

"Oz: A Twisted Musical" - A cast of sissy teens turns Dorothy into a streetwise kid and her cohorts into colorful clowns with fetishes and addictions. The Producers Club II. July 2003

"Rhapsody in Seth" - Seth Rudetsky relates his tale of growing up gay and obsessed with Broadway musicals out in the 'burbs of Long Island. Actors Playhouse. June 2003. www.rhapsodyinseth.com

"Secrets Naked Dancers Tell" - Inner monologues of several male dancers, including a cowboy and student. Cool Mood Theatre at Club La Escuelita. July 2003

"7 Blow Jobs" by Mac Wellman. The secrets of pious, racist, homophobic people come out when a conservative Republican Senator's office on Capital Hill receives a package containing seven porn photos. Trilogy Theatre. June 19-July 13, 2003

"Slap and Tickle" by David Parr. Set in a contemporary NYC bathhouse, the play is an intergenerational portrait of men who grew up knowing about AIDS before sex, and condoms before kisses. Independent Theatre. July 2003

"Uncovering Eden" by George Barthel. In Iraq in 1926, a maverick archeologist's dig is threatened by bookkeeping problems, and the arrival of his former lover. Wings Theater. May 23-June 21, 2003. www.winstheatre.com

"Waiting for the Glaciers to Melt" by Brian Lane Green. A musical about a man who escapes his pain by drinking, drugging, and indulging in carefree sex after losing his lover to AIDS. Abingdon Theater Arts Complex. July 16-31, 2003

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

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MINNEAPOLIS SCENE

by Steven LaVigne

The musical revue, "Naked Boys Singing" has become a worldwide franchise since it opened in Los Angeles five years ago. (I saw it last Thanksgiving in Chicago) It's most recent edition, produced by Gaydar Productions, opened in Minneapolis on May 16th, and while it's not the clothing-free

entertainment one expects, what emerges instead is a refreshingly original entertainment. There may be less of the naked boys, but the singing is, overall, outstanding.

At first, the actors are so busy tugging at their robes, which reveal them in assorted colored boxers, that we question the validity of the opening number, and wonder where is the "Gratuitous Nudity?" Has the director missed the point? Not really, because director T.S. Lewis has other tricks up his sleeve, and he's decided to tease the enthusiastic audiences (who loved everything the night I saw it), thereby keeping us intrigued.

Jeremiah Lewis performs the delightful "Naked Maid" in a short apron, and delivers a lovely performance. Director Lewis has performer Lewis concentrate on his words and the material, although, he could use a choreographer. He also left out the Bette Davis "what a dump" line, which caps the number nicely. Led by Joey Gonsowski, "The Bliss of a Bris" is a treat, and Tom Nechodomu's delivery of "Window to Window," about an across the alley seduction, is a highlight of the First Act. Some of the sequences have been rearranged, but the production wisely draws our attention away from the lack of nudity.

Charm, sweetness, and sincerity are the key to several performances. Jason Durst brings this to his rapturous ode to "Robert Mitchum," as well as Durst, Nechodomu and Scott Griffin's "Nothin' But the Radio On," while Gonsowski opens the second act with a delightful treatment of "Perky Little Porn Star."

Some of the material is actually more inventive here than it was in Chicago. The masturbation number, "I Beat My Meat" is better staged, with less leg-slapping and cleverer costume pieces. "Muscle Addiction," a song about being attracted to the men at the gym is effective, if it could use a little more "production." It's nice that not all of the bodies onstage are gym-built and buff.

One song I've never cared for, "Kris, Look What You've Missed," in Jay Baumgartner's hands, becomes a beautiful, sensitive ballad of lost young gay love. The moment is sensational. In Chicago, "The Entertainer" featured a drag queen who strips for the audience. Here, although it could use better lighting, it's done as a Bob Fosse number, delivered by Andravy, with Ben Vereen's energy.

If there are any improvements to be made with "Naked Boys Singing," they would be to tighten up transitions and to stop teasing so much and feature more nudity in the second act. The coy hat play in "Nothin' But the Radio On" could be eliminated, and we could enjoy the dancing instead of watching the moveable hats. For "The Entertainer," the number could do what Fosse always wanted to do, but never succeeded at — full nudity. Eliminate the nylon shorts and the number will still work. "Naked Boys Singing" continues through June 2003 at the Loring Playhouse in Minneapolis.

In a community as large as Minneapolis/St. Paul, and with so many venues for theatre, it's surprising how little communication there is, and how, year upon year, we have a cycle of shows which receive multiple productions. "Camelot," "The Sound of Music," "Into the Woods," "West Side Story," and "Sunday in the Park with George" have been overexposed of late. It's, therefore, refreshing when

one of the fringe theatres presents something a little more challenging.

In the Basement Productions has recently answered the call with an all-too-short, but remarkable production of that French classic of sexual deviance, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," (aka "Dangerous Liaisons"). Under Jordan Estes' direction, In the Basement has created their own universe, proving there's universality to Christopher Hampton's revision of the Pierre Choderlos de Laclos novel. The setting here is closer to Lillian Hellman's 19th Century southern villains trying to outdo one another than the bodice-ripping sexuality of 18th Century France.

The plot of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" centers on the wealthy, embittered Marquise de Merteuil who plots with the rakish Vicome de Valmont, to seduce the virginal Cecile de Volanges after the Marquise has been spurned by a former lover, now Cecile's betrothed. When Valmont counters that he'll also bed the moralistic Madame de Tourvel, a path of destruction, deceit, and treachery is laid, leading to death and debauchery.

While there's some trouble, early on in the evening, with diction and pronunciation (there are several interpretations of the word "Madame" for example), they're quickly overcome by the dynamics of the acting and the script. Tina Frederickson as the Marquise de Merteuil, Aaron Coker as Valmont, Heidi Bakke as Cecile, Paula Weakly as Mme. Rosemonde and Crystal Rose Thomas as Emilie (pronounced as Emily rather than the more appropriate Emilia) deliver the finest performances. If Andy Chambers is a bit too old for the youthful music teacher, Danceny, his acting, especially in the climactic duel overcome the age difference.

By far the most striking moment in Estes' production occurs at the climax of the first Act, when Cecile's seduction by Valmont, which is bathed in a red light. It almost resembles the seduction of Little Red Riding Hood by the wolf in Bruno Bettelheim's interpretation, and it's a good choice, because it's both effective and very disturbing. Hampton's script doesn't retain the ending de Laclos gave his script. Following Valmont's demise, his journal is published, and the Marquise is doubly punished when she's spurned by society she contracts smallpox.

In the Basement Productions is to be commended for this brilliant evening of serious adult theatre, which sadly plays for only two weeks. With all good luck, they'll revive the play again, because it's an extraordinary production.

The Twin Cities has had the good fortune, for 30 years, of having a remarkable Children's Theatre Company which has delighted generations of children and adults with its creativity, exploring a variety of multicultural stories on their stage in South Minneapolis. Recipient of the Regional Theatre Tony Award this year, they began the 2002-2003 season with the original musical, "A Year with Frog and Toad," and concluded with the fifth production of their greatest achievement, "Dr. Seuss' The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins."

Adapted by Timothy Mason, with the approval of the late genius of children's literature, this is an absolute delight from start to finish. For those of you unfamiliar with the story, first

published in 1937, it deals with Bartholomew, a citizen of the Kingdom of Didd, who has trouble removing his hat for King Derwin. While Derwin's nephew, Grand Duke Wilfred and his Advisor, Sir Aleric offer advice, Bartholomew meets the denizens who populate the castle. There's plenty of exasperation as one hat after another is removed, only to be magically replaced by another.

What makes the CTC production so special is that Theodore Geisel himself participated in the first production, and it doesn't stray far from the source. Indeed, the only thing missing, is the comeuppance of Wilfred at the climax of the show. And then there are all those hats! The stagecraft required to produce Seuss' magic is amazing, and, in the program, the show's producers explain that "they'll never tell" how it's done.

This revival was directed and Choreographed by Matthew Howe, and overall, its' brilliant, although the choreography of the first crowd scene could have been tighter. There are several terrific performances here, specifically from J. P. Fitzgibbons as the King; Max Johnson as Wilfred, Gerald Drake in his patented performance as the Yeoman of the Bowmen, and Reed Sigmund as a scene-stealing Sir Aleric. At the performance I attended, Jake Endres stepped in to play the Executioner, and if he's the cover, the other actor must be incredible, because Endres, with that terrific voice and hunky demeanor, was outstanding!

Sadly, Ryan Howell as the title character left a lot to be desired. He frequently forgot his lines and had articulation problems, which improved throughout the performance, but he needs serious voice and diction work. How he was cast and not replaced is a question that needs to be addressed. The Children's Theatre Company will probably revive the show again, and when it does, I'll be ready to see it again, because, "Dr. Seuss' The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins" remains the best thing I've ever seen there!

It was with great excitement that I opened the Sunday Entertainment section of the Star Tribune and saw the full-page ad announcing that "Elaine Stritch at Liberty" was coming to Minneapolis. I've been a fan of the remarkably original actress since she played Vera in a road company of "Mame" opposite Janet Blair. Along with a tour of "Applause" starring a miscast Patrice Munsel(!), these shows were canceled before playing Milwaukee, only to be rescheduled with different stars, at the Melody Top, the beer capital's summer tent stock venue. I wore out my recording of "Company," featuring Stritch's ultimate delivery of Stephen Sondheim's three-act play, "The Ladies Who Lunch." But Elaine Stritch has had quite a life in the theatre, and she shares it with audiences, onstage alone for close to three hours. She dated Marlon Brando while studying at the New school (and living in a Manhattan Convent). Was the understudy for Ethel Merman in "Call Me Madam" (later to star in the national company). Threw over her lover, Ben Gazzarra when she fell hard for Rock Hudson while on location in Rome. Starred in a musical Noel Coward wrote for her. Lost a role on "The Golden Girls." And, until last year, never won a Tony. She was married to British performer John Bay for ten years, until cancer claimed him, and along the way, was often in her cups. Every role needed a different alcoholic beverage, until diabetes forced her to quit.

Elaine Stritch is a goddess of the theatre, and with a half-century of experiences to share, her sole play is a revelation. Favorite moments include the New Haven opening of "Pal Joey," while still covering for Merman; her remarkable rendition of "Zip"; her flirtation with Richard Burton; and the past decade of recovery. Stritch is crossing the country in this singular piece, and three words describe it best: Don't Miss It!

After spending most of this season reestablishing itself in a different, more comfortable venue, the Minneapolis Musical Theatre is slowly getting back on track. I'll be honest. I missed their first two shows this year for personal reasons. I didn't think I could sit through another "Rocky Horror Show," and frankly, I think "Sunday in the Park with George" is the most boring musical ever written.

The show selected to close the 2002-2003 season is Jerry Colker and Michael Rupert's Mail, a show that has both a clever premise and very creative moments. Heavily influenced by Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's musical, "Company," "Mail" is about Alex, (Tim McVean) an aspiring writer who gets cold feet just before he's expected to stand under the canopy with his girlfriend, Dana (Melinda Siedschlag). He leaves town, and four months later, finds himself confronted with his responsibilities via a huge stack of mail. Along the way, he experiences loneliness, rejection and pressure from such denizens as his father, Max (Paul Reyburn), best friend Franklin (Xavier Rice) and agent, Sandi (Cindi Scheffler).

Colker and Rupert's score is largely of contemporary music, including rap, pop, hip hop, blues, and country. It's enjoyable because it's not just traditional musical theatre. Performed upstairs at the Hey City Theatre in downtown Minneapolis, Set Designer Alan Sorenson has inventively created a midtown Manhattan apartment within the confines of the Chapel used for the theatre's other tenant, "Tony and Tina's Wedding." The plot of "Mail," rather wisely, is told primarily through song, making the book sequences rather sketchy. A highlight of Act I, "Family Ties," is terrifically performed by Reyburn as Alex's father.

While all of this, and more, make the show an enjoyable one, it pales by comparison to such past MMT productions as "Weird Romance" and "When Pigs Fly." The premise wears thin about halfway through the first act, making the material stretch beyond its limitations. There's a l-o-n-g section about Alex being cut off for not paying his bills, and while it's intended to give the ensemble plenty of chances to show off their varied talents, the whole thing made up of six musical sequences, could have been done in one short montage.

This, of course, is not MMT's fault, and director Steven J. Meerdink should be commended for moving things along, but one wishes, at times, he'd just let Alex stand still and sing instead of moving all over the place. Xavier Rice as Franklin fills out the character nicely, and Cindi Scheffler is a sexual revelation as the horny literary agent.

Sadly, Dana, the girlfriend, is really a thankless role, because she has only one emotion to play and while Melinda Siedschlag does well in the role, (she reminds one of Jennifer Aniston in the film "Object of My Affection"), we get tired of all that woe-is-me music she's forced to sing.

"Mail" is an enjoyable, if minor evening of musical theatre. It's a pleasant change from the usual fare offered in the Twin Cities. It's rather exciting to see the Minneapolis Musical Theatre will again produce their successful musical "Pageant," followed by "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," and later, the area premiere of the Ed Kleban musical, "A Class Act." "Mail" ran through June 29, 2003 at Hey City Theatre.

The current trend of adapting hit movies for the stage is a shaky enterprise, because, hopefully, the audience won't wish they went to the movies instead. Let's face it: "Sunset Boulevard," "Victor/Victoria," and "The Producers" are all much better movies and they belong on the screen. Up until now, only "The Lion King" has improved on its screen origins. One other musical has accomplished this: "The Full Monty." Based on the screenplay by Simon Beaufoy, the musical, adapted by Terrance McNally and David Yazbek, the musical moves the setting from Sheffield, England to Buffalo, New York. The steel mill has closed and several employees, including Jerry (Christian Anderson), Dave (Michael J. Todaro), Malcolm (Leo Daignault), Ethan (Christopher J. Hanke), Horse (Milton Craig Nealy) and Harold (Robert Westenberg), bored by unemployment, determine to make some quick cash. After observing how local women react to a troupe of male strippers, and with the help of Jeanette (Jane Connell), they create Hot Steel, an amateur troupe, whose gimmick is displaying "the full monty," that is, getting completely naked.

"The Full Monty" surpasses its movie version, because it does exactly what musical comedy is supposed to do. David Yazbek's score creates conflict and character development, while enhancing the emotional core of the story. McNally's libretto adds characters and situations to the original material, and improves it. Directed by the remarkable team of Jack O'Brien and Jerry Mitchell, who were recently honored for their work on "Hairspray," the show flows beautifully through John Amone's Scenic plot, which include a small car, several toilets, the steel factory and a cemetery. "The Full Monty" returns to the road following a short hiatus. It's an outstanding evening of theatre. I hope the community theatres discover and produce this marvelous show.

Sometimes theatre is just a treat. One such example is the University of Minnesota's production of "Bram Stoker's Dracula," adapted by Charles Nolte and being presented on the Centennial Showboat, now docked in St. Paul. To be sure, Nolte's script transforms the gothic horror classic into a melodrama, and it's played for laughs, but the acting is charming. The olios between scenes, with costumes worthy of a Ziegfeld revue and staged by retired professor Vern Sutton are simply marvelous. The olios themselves deserve to become a full-length production. The Showboat pulls out all the expected trappings and make for an enjoyable summer's evening out.

A week in New York revealed both great highs and disappointing lows at the theatre. Richard Greenberg's Tony Award-winning play, "Take Me Out" is essentially about Darren Lemming, center fielder for the New York Empire, a major league ball club. Lemming comes out to his teammates and the media during a championship season. The play is an account of the aftermath, specifically when ignorance, prejudice, and bigotry come to the forefront. The primary subplot concerns Lemming's financial advisor, Mason Marzac, an introverted gay man who gradually

becomes obsessed with baseball, finding in the sport a reason for living.

Produced by the Donmar Warehouse and the Public Theatre, and directed by the talented Joe Mantello, "Take Me Out" is by no means a great play, but it's certainly an excellent evening in the theatre. All of the performances are stupendous, and while Denis O'Hare won the Tony for his performance as Mason, Neal Huff's Kippy and Daniel Sunjata's Darren are equally impressive. Frederick Weller ("Stonewall," "The Business of Strangers") as Shane Mungitt, the white trash hick whose carefully learned and ignorant "isms" hurt the team beyond repair, delivers an outstanding and thought provoking performance. If there is a fault in this play, it's that Greenberg's resolve doesn't quite work. Perhaps he needs to resume this project after a break, and fix it. "Take Me Out" continues at the Walter Kerr Theatre.

Seth Rudetsky has come a long way since his horrible high school years on Long Island. He's an award-winning comedian, has written for Rosie O'Donnell and played for such musical hits as Les Miserables, The Producers and Pageant. He counts among his friends, Bebe Neuwirth and Betty Buckley. Rudetsky has also learned that the planned revenge he's desired since high school isn't necessarily sweet as he relates in his solo play, "Rhapsody in Seth," which is sharing the stage of the Actor's Playhouse with Naked Boys Singing. Rudetsky shares many of his favorite — and not so happy — moments from his childhood, and while we've heard many of these coming out stories in the past, Rudetsky's has a different spin as he shares his feelings for Janis Paige's voice; summer music camp and the people who wronged him. He even learns about small-minded people one night on the Long Island Railroad after meeting a former classmate. Accompanied with great music, including Gershwin's masterpiece, "Rhapsody in Seth" is a pleasure from beginning to end.

There's no question that "Gypsy" is one of the greatest musicals of all time. Somehow, I've never seen a good production of this classic, and I approached this revival with trepidation, partly because I'm not a fan of its star, Bernadette Peters. Imagine the joy I felt when Sam Mendes' exquisite revival had me sobbing before the curtain fell. Peters was out the night I saw the show, but her standby, Maureen Moore, was an astounding Rose, and with John Dosssett as Herbie and Tammy Blanchard ("Me and My Shadows") as Gypsy, I had the finest evening I've ever had on Broadway!

The show is, of course, the story of Gypsy Rose Lee, the renowned star of Minsky's Revues, who was driven by her ambitious mother, Rose Hovick. Moore played Rose with gusto and a strong need for accomplishment. Her first act curtain number, "Everything's Comin' Up Roses," had me in tears, but her 11th hour number, "Rose's Turn," had be heaving sobs, as all those emotions poured out of her (and me.) Needless to say, I loved Gypsy!

I achieved a life goal the following night when I attended Robert Falls' revival of Eugene O'Neill's masterpiece, "Long Day's Journey into Night." With a remarkable cast that includes Philip Seymour Hoffman, Robert Sean Leonard, and Brian Dennehy, it the woman I regard as out greatest living actress, Vanessa Redgrave, playing Mary Tyrone, the drug-addled mother (based on O'Neill's own mother) which was

for me, the fulfillment of a life goal. She is, simply brilliant in this role. Furthermore, it's a pleasure to watch actors who genuinely respect one another and the writing. O'Neill is very much a presence in this production.

It's also nice to see actors onstage who've done their homework. Dennehy is a strong, commanding James Tyrone, beautifully complimenting Redgrave's Mary, while Robert Sean Leonard's Edmond is a deeply moving performance. Philip Seymour Hoffman tries too hard as Jamie, evoking memories of Jason Robards' brilliant performance in the 1962 film version, and briefly, he throws off his drunk scene with Edmond in Act IV, but this is a minor quibble. There will simply never be a better, more professional and personal staging of *Long Day's Journey into Night*. It continued through August 31, 2003 at the Plymouth Theatre, but hope that it's taped for prosperity.

Created by its performers, Justin Bond (in drag) and Kenny Mellman, *Kiki and Herb: Coup de Theatre* is a comic nightmare of a show. This fictitious nightclub duo, currently housed at the Cherry Lane Theatre is performing a retrospective of their 50+ year career, which includes original material, revisions of pop songs, and political commentary. It's an act that could well have been conceived by Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the creators of "South Park." While Herb, whose time in treatment has been a failure accompanies his costar, Kiki, sharing the bottle, shares aspects of her life, including the failed relationships with her children, ups and downs of their mutual careers, and, in a creative flashback, how the two met and started performing together. *Kiki & Herb: Coup de Theatre* isn't everybody's cut of tea, but it's an hilarious outing, nonetheless.

I saw Disney's first musical theatre venture, "Beauty and the Beast" on tour eight years ago and decided I wanted to see this charming rendition of the romantic fairy tale again. While I had a great seat at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, I was disappointed with the production. Gone is the beauty, romance and charm that made this one of the loveliest musicals of all time. Clearly, director Robert Jess Roth doesn't police his production, because over time, innuendoes, anachronisms, and audience-pleasing nuances have been added. Costumes are showing their wear, and overall, transformed it into something meant for a theme park, instead of a Broadway stage.

To be fair, Steve Blanchard as the Beast, Cass Morgan, in beautiful voice as Mrs. Potts, and to a lesser degree, Chris Hoch as Gaston, maintained some dignity, but as Belle Megan McGinnis needs to get in sync with the conductor because she drops the beginnings of too many verses. "Beauty and the Beast" is a mess.

"Theatre of Testimony," or docudramas can make for intriguing theatre, as we've learned from such works as *The Laramie Project*, *Judgment at Nuremberg* and *The Exonerated*. Based on interviews with Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a transvestite who survived persecution from both Nazis and communists while opening his home as a Museum in East Berlin, Doug Wright's solo work, "I Am My Own Wife" is one of the finest examples of playwriting I've encountered. Wright taped his conversations with von Mahlsdorf for a decade, and when approached to transform the material for the stage, at first, Wright had no clue how to approach it.

Fortunately, director Moises Kaufman and actor Jefferson Mays (who deserves kudos for this performance), helped guide him, and the results are an innovative, provocative work indeed. Costumed in a black dress and a scarf, along with Redgrave's performance in "Long Day's Journey into Night" and Maureen Moore's Rose in "Gypsy," Mays gives the finest performance I saw in New York. The testimony of von Mahlsdorf's well-rounded life is extraordinary. "I Am My Own Wife" was extended through August 3 at Playwrights Horizons. With all good luck, this play will get regional and international staging, because it's not to be missed.

The Minnesota Fringe Festival and the Guthrie Theatre's production of *Pride and Prejudice* were looming as we moved into autumn here in the upper Midwest.

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REPORT FROM KEY WEST

by Joe Godfrey

This past June, the 12th annual Key West Theatre Festival presented three new plays in full productions and staged readings of six new plays, including Joe Pinturo's *THE DEAD BOY*.

Each year, the Festival invites a well-known playwright to host a "playwrights forum" and offers a reading of a new play. These free events are open to the public, and those that attended the reading of Pinturo's *THE DEAD BOY* were treated to a provocative and compelling drama about a priest who has helped scores of troubled young men — and is now accused of abuse by one of them. Is it extortion? Is it true? Does a reporter chasing the story have ulterior motives? The bottom line is that it's not all black and white. It's a wonderful play that will soon be staged in the New York area.

The three fully staged productions this year were *DANCES WITH PITCHFORKS* by John Flynn, *EASY COME* by Tony Konrath and Vanessa McCaffrey, and my own play, *MASSAGE THERAPY*.

DANCES WITH PITCHFORKS, a one-man musical written and performed by John Flynn, tells the story of a chorus boy in a new production of *GYPSY*, starring Betty Buckley, who soon learns that the experience of working with Miss Buckley is both less — and much more than he expected. Diva-worship transforms into Diva-disbelief in this hilarious, dishy, and true musical memoir of one chorus boy whose e-mails about the rehearsals begin to backfire.

EASY COME, a British farce, provided easy laughs from the seven actors thrown into a tizzy when their savings seemingly disappear overnight in the high-tech stock market. What to do? Rob a bank in costumes, of course. Director Rich Simone kept things going full-blast 'till the clever ending that righted all wrongs.

MASSAGE THERAPY, my own drama, played in the newly-renovated Red Barn Theater on Duvall St. A gay massage therapist and his female client form an unusual and strong relationship over eleven consecutive massage sessions. Both have baggage. Both have issues. Both have surprises for each other. And by the end of the play, they have formed a bond strong enough to help them through almost anything. I am indebted to my director, Barry Steinman, and our two

actors, Amy London and Terrell Hardcastle, for making the play so rewarding and touching.

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**FROM THE CITY OF BROTHERLY
(& SISTERLY) LOVE**
by Jeffrey Solomon

The First Annual Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival took place June 10-15, 2003 boasting 13 productions (10 of which were either world or Philadelphia premieres) on eight stages citywide.

Productions produced by the Festival itself were
= Barrymore winner Michael Ogborn's comedy MARY, DON'T ASK!
= the local premiere of Howard Crabtree's award-winning musical revue WHEN PIGS FLY
= David Zellnik's play about disability, Gay porn and Chairman Mao: LET A HUNDRED FLOWERS BLOOM
= Cynthia Cooper's Lesbian drama STRANGE LIGHTS
= one-acts included:
- Robert Shaffron's A DORIS DAY COLLECTION, and
- I AM JOE'S PROSTATE
- Ginger Lazarus' LEMONADE
- Linda Eisenstein's PRETZELS & LONGING
= David Simpatico's WISH FULFILLMENT, HOW LORELEI LOVEJOY BECAME A LOVE GODDESS
= QUEEN OF THE DYKE-O-RAMA! by Kristin Ryan

Visiting and Touring productions included:
= JESUS IN A BEEHIVE by Bob Stewart
= CAPACITY TO ENTER by Canyon Sam
= FEELING ALL THAT from Atlanta by Adodi Muse
= The musical BRUHS & GEAN by Tom Wilson Weinberg
= An Evening With Jeffrey Marsh
= DEATHWATCH by Genet by The Living End Theatre Company
= Rebecca Hayes in COMMON THREADS
= BUILDING HOUSES ON THE MOON - a play about GLBT youth by yours truly

Producers Mathew Cloran and Bill Esher reported The Festival just broke even and it will be exciting to see what happens next year!

[Ed. note- Jeffrey Solomon is a performer and playwright. His solo shows MotherSon and SANTA CLAUS IS COMING OUT are two shows that should not be missed.]

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COMEDY

There was a Gay Pride Comedy Show at Caroline's in NYC June 23, 2003 with comic Courtney Knowles and other up and coming and established comics.
www.courtneyknowles.com

Qcomedy happens every Monday night at the LGBT Community Center in San Francisco with a reception at 7:30 and show at 8pm. Appearing have been Amy Boyd, Betsy Salkind, Nick Leonard, Angie Krass, Amma, Ronn Vigh, Zeke Krahlín, Stephanie Howar, Beth Sherman, Adam

Sandel, Mark Davis, Karen Ripley, Dana Corey, the fabulous Jackie Beat and Bridget Schwartz. www.harveymilk.org

TOMBOYS IN FISHNETS featured a group of six hilarious women in outrageous sketches at the Zephyr Theatre in Hollywood during July-Aug, 2003. They will be appearing in Australia at the Gala Comedy Show at the Armidale Women's Comedy festival next Spring.
tomboysinfishnets@earthlink.net

On Nov 5, 2003 Lambda Players in Sacramento CA will host Suzanne Westenhoefer at Crest Theatre.
Tickets: 916-484-4742; www.lamdaplayers.org

The Stockton(CA) Comedy Jam was Aug 16, 2003 at the Stockton Scottish Rite Center with A.J. Johnson, Chris Thomas, Luenel, J Murray, Manny Maldonado and Reggie Galindo.

In June 2003 the four funny ladies of WIG BOX were at the McCadden Place Theatre in Hollywood. The performers are Dagny Kerr, Leslie McManus, Kate Movious, and Mary Wachtel.

Standout Productions presented at The Long Beach (CA) Center "Comedy Chic" with Vickie Shaw, Marga Gomez, and Carlease! on May 24, 2003.

"Trophy Wife And Houseguest" starring Maura Lake, and Nick Leonard, Darnell MacDowell, Marti MacGibbon, David Pavao, Shant'e Reese, and Robin Thede was performed at The Acme Comedy Theatre in Los Angeles in Aug, 2003. Many of these performers have appeared at QComedy in San Francisco at the LGBT Center there. www.trophylife.net

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FESTIVALS & SEASONS

I am truly amazed at all the Festivals this Summer. I believe NYC has the most with Fresh Fruit and The Fringe Festival and the others but everyone is to be commended for organizing them wherever you are. The Purple Circuit should start a calendar listing all of them. So, organizers please e-mail Bill Kaiser at purplecir@aol.com with the dates of either upcoming or annual/biennial events, descriptions, deadlines and rules for participation and contact numbers, emails and Web sites. Thanks!

All Out Arts and New Village Productions presented **The Fresh Fruit Festival**, three weeks of LGBT Performance and Theater at the Milagro Theater at the Clemente Soto Vlez Center in NYC during July-Aug, 2003. Included were:
= OUTMUSIC MUSICIANS Jen Lindsay and Josh Zuckerman
= BALD DIVA! the Ionesco Parody Your Mother Warned You About by David Koeteles
= A Tres Gay Buffet with singer Danny Katz; Lissa Moira's punk musical METAMORPHOSEX
= Michael Burke's MY LOVE, a tale of a boy and his doll Pelleas

Another highlight of the Fresh Fruit Festival was the triumphant return of the hit solo musical ICONS: THE LESBIAN AND GAY HISTORY OF THE WORLD, VOL I, the dynamic Jade Esteban Estrada's musical version of Gay

history icons. Another comedy troupe appearing at the Festival was Gayco (men and women) from Chicago.

There were a number of Women-specific events at The Fresh Fruit including GRRRLS NIGHT OUT with comedy, music and performance groups around the US like Diana Son's R.A.W. (Raunchy Asian Women) and Boston's Drag Kings, Sluts and Goddesses; Poetry Reading for Women curated by Ellen 'Windy' Lytle with Susan Sherman, Chocolate Waters, Nada Heath, Susan Maurer, Dangerous Diane Spodarek, Joanne Pagano Weber, Yuko Otomo, Jan Schmitt and more. www.newvillageproductions.org

Vortex Repertory in Austin presented Red Hot Americans: Performance from the Edge 2003 in June and July 2003. Appearing were Tim Miller, Karen Finley, and Penny Arcade. 512-478-LAVA; www.vortexrep.org

Triangle Productions in Portland, Oregon announced their 14th season **Choices, Choices, Choices** to include:
= THE WOMEN by Clare Booth Luce Sept 11-20, 2003
= BEAUTIFUL THING by Jonathan Harvey - romantic comedy of two teenage working-class boys who fall in love, October 30-November 15, 2003
= JUDY'S SCARY LITTLE CHRISTMAS - a musical of the mother of all variety Xmas TV shows by James Webber and David Church with music and lyrics by Joe Patrick Ward, November 26-December 21, 2003
= ALAN BENNETT'S TALKING HEADS - 3 one-acts by Alan Bennett, January 15-February 1, 2004
= CIRCLES by Suzanne Bachner - amusing, insightful, sexy adaptation of Schnitzler's LA RONDE
= EDWARD II by Christopher Marlowe - February 26-March 20, 2004
= THE ALLERGIST'S WIFE by Charles Busch - the hit Broadway comedy, April 22-May 15, 2004
503-239-5919; www.tripro.org

San Francisco's **Theatre Rhinoceros**, now in its 26th year, announced the upcoming season to include:
= SLEEPING WITH STRAIGHT MEN by Ronnie Larsen the enfant terrible of the sexy and scandalous, August 28-October 4, 2003
= WORSE THAN CHOCOLATE by Jaeson Post - lesbians, transgenders, gays, this show has something for everyone about love, lawyers and other lost causes, October 16-November 8, 2003
= CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRAWFORDS created by Richard Winchester and written by Mark Sargent - this is a perennial favorite drag queen musical comedy, November 20, 2003-January 3, 2004
= SPRAY written and performed by Mike Albo - examines the blurred "reality" of our contemporary culture, January 15-February 7, 2004
= FLAMING IGUANAS by Erika Lopez, based her graphic Lesbian bestseller, February 19-March 13, 2004
There will also be a final show TBA on April 1-24, 2004
= MARGA GOMEZ NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA with Doug Holsclaw on December 31, 2003
415-861-5079; www.therhino.org

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project's 10th Anniversary Season presented the 5th Annual **Dykedrama Festival** in July-Aug, 2003. Shows included:
= THE DRUM LESSON by Carolyn Gage
= P.A. by Dr. Shirlene Holmes

= WITCHHUNT by Trish Cole
= DESIRE AND THE DOLLA by Tatiana de la Tierra
= CLITTY CONVERSATION by Christie N.G. White
= BUTCH 2 BUTCH by Aleada Minton
415-863-2989; www.lunaseatheater.org

The 15th Anniversary Season for **Lambda Players of Sacramento CA** includes:
= TROLLING by Tom Swanner - a humorous look at Gay aging, September 18-October 18, 2003
= CINDERELLA: THE REAL TRUE STORY by Cheryl Moch and Holly Gewandter - Cinderella captures the heart of the princess not the prince! January 22, 2004-February 7, 2004
= THE COMING OUT PARTY by John Michael Caffey - a gay Pygmalion with hotter guys and tons of campy fun, April 1, 2004-May 1, 2004
= MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD by Paul Rudnick, Adam & Steve as well as Jane & Mabel, June 17-July 3, 2004
= Suzanne Westenhoefer appears on November 5, 2003
= Champagne Readers Theatre, March 4-6, 2004
= Laugh Out Loud Lesbian Laughfest Weekend May 7-8, 2004
916-484-4742; www.lambdaplayers.org

New Conservatory Theatre Center in San Francisco presents **Pride Season 9: Landscape of Desire**. It includes:
= KILT by Jonathan Wilson - a romantic comedy, August 13-October 12, 2003
= SALAM SHALOM, A TALE OF PASSION by Saleem - two men, a Palestinian and an Israeli fall in love, September 24-October 26, 2003
= YOU SHOULD BE SO LUCKY by Charles Busch, a screwball comedy, October 29, 2003-January 4, 2004
= BREAKFAST WITH SCOT - world premiere by Michael Downing based on his novel about a Gay couple who inherit an 11-year-old child who is a budding queen, January 14-February 29, 2004
= SEDUCTION by Jack Heifner - a world premiere Gay interpretation of LA RONDE, January 21-March 28, 2004
= A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE, a musical version of the 1994 film with book by Terrence McNally and music by Lynn Ahrens with lyrics by Stephen Flaherty, March 10-April 11, 2004
= DIRTY BLONDE by Claudia Shear - a touching story about two New York loners turned lovers who have a mutual obsession with Mae West, April 14-June 26, 2004
= SOUTHERN BAPTIST SISSIES by Del Shores - four gay Texas men raised in the church engage in a struggle for self-discovery, May 5-June 10, 2004
= SPANKED! with Ian Mackinnon and Aaron Hartzel, spanking as a metaphor exploring the two performers relationship, August 20-September 14, 2003
= MANLADY with George Weiss Vando, directed by Sue Hamilton, a new image of masculinity, August 20; September 7, 2003
= SON OF DRAKULA with David Drake - the performer embarks on a journey from his roots in Transylvania to the USA, October 10-November 2, 2003
= KINSEY SICKS: OY VEY IN A MANGER! - the group turns their talents to stamping out holiday cheer! November 19, 2003-January 3, 2004
415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Part of the International Latino Theatre Festival in Hollywood was **Latina Arts Celebration** hosted by the divine Monica

Palacios with a special appearance by Cherrie Moraga at The Ford Amphitheatre June 28, 2003. Maria Irene Fornes, cutting edge playwright received the first MACHA award from the Macha Theatre Company, which produced THE NUN AND THE COUNTESS by Odalys Nanin.

MACHA also did readings at Inside the Ford Theatre in May-June, 2003, which featured:

- = IS IT HOT IN HERE OR IS IT ME by Lina Gallegos
 - = FACADE by Tanya Martinez
 - = PLACEBOS by Victoria Vidal
 - = LOVE ME GENDER by Ana Castanon
 - = LOVE AND FIRE by Pat Alderete
 - = LA PERLA by Alicia Madrid
 - = THE NUN AND THE COUNTESS by Odalys Nanin
- www.machatheatre.org

Peeling Theatre Company presented **Under the Skin**, a one-act theatre festival in July at Pelican Studio Theater in NYC. Included were:

- = THE VIRGINITY MONOLOGUES by Aileen Cho
 - = SAY SOMETHING by Dan Bacalzo
 - = UNACCESSORIZED with Rich Kiamco
- 212-352-3101

The **Toronto Fringe Festival** was July 2-13, 2003 with 125 plays. www.fringetoronto.com

The **New York Theatre Workshop** includes in its current season:

- = FLESH AND BLOOD by Peter Gaitens - from the novel by Michael Cunningham and starring Cherry Jones
 - = VALHALIA by Paul Rudnick - about two 1940s Texas teenagers boys in love with each other; a New Work by Tony Kushner
 - = THE BEARD OF AVON by Amy Freed (an intriguing play about The Bard)
 - = THROW PITCHFORK with Alexander Thomas
 - = THE POLYGRAPH LOUNGE performed by musicians Rob Schwimmer and Mark Stewart
 - = THE ARCHITECTURE OF LOSS by Julia Cho, directed by Chay Yew
- 212-780-9037; www.nytw.org

During its 2003-2004 season **Theater J** in Washington DC will present:

- = HOMEBODY/KABUL by Tony Kushner
 - = PSYCHE IN LOVE/WELCOME TO MY RASH by Wendy Wasserstein
 - = PASSING THE LOVE OF WOMEN by Motti Lerner and Israel Zamir
- 202-777-3220; www.theaterj.org

In July 2003, South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, Calif. held its **Hispanic Playwrights Project** with four plays:

- = MIMESOPHOBIA by Carolos Murillo
 - = YEMAYA'S BELLY by Quiara Alegria Hudes
 - = WELCOME TO ARROYO by Kristoffer Diaz
 - = DIAZ and MARIELA IN THE DESERT by Karen Zacarias
- A new solo show with Luis Alfaro was performed
- 714-708-5555; www.scr.org

The **New York International Fringe Festival** was in August 2003. Hundreds of productions were presented. Among them:

- = PINAFORE! Mark Savage's delightful Gay adaptation of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta
- = THE DAVID DANCE by Don Scime - about the colorful and earnest relationship of a gay man and his older sister who decides to adopt
- = TOSOS II's production of Chris Weikel's hysterically funny PENNY PENNIWORTH; POSEIDON! AN UPSIDE-DOWN MUSICAL
- = From the Bailiwick in Chicago, THE NIGHT JULIE TAYMOR CRIED by Grimace Boyer - when an actor moves Julie Taymor to tears during an audition, the incident sets off a chain of events that affects the lives of two couples: one gay, one straight

A benefit for the Festival on August 4, 2003 was called "This or Prostitution" was held at The Belt Bar. 212-279-4488; www.fringenyc.org

Emergence, The First Annual Portland Women's Playwright Festival happened in July 2003. Included were:

- = SHAKESPEARE IN HEAT by Ravyn Jazper-Hawke
 - = TIME'S FOOL and CHAIN RESTAURANT by Ginny Foster
 - = RISING FROM THE SUGAR BOWL and OVERCOMING ART by Francesca Sanders
 - = MY ALAMO by the Purple Circuit playwright Sandra de Helen
- 503-502-8261

New Line Theatre in St. Louis announced its 2003-2004 season to include:

- = SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE by Stephen Sondheim October 9-November 1, 2003
 - = THE NERVOUS SET - jazz musical by Jay and Fran Landesman and Tommy Wolf
 - = REEFER MADNESS based on the cult film
- 314-773-6526; www.newlinetheatre.com

Conn Artist Performance Event's AD Marjorie Conn presented The **Provincetown Fringe Festival** June 23-August 31 with an added attraction I believe during Women's Week in October 2003. Presented were:

- = LORNEA HICKOK & ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: A LOVE STORY by Pat Bond
 - = EVERYWOMAN'S BECKETT; BECKETT'S WORDS, WOMEN'S VOICES
 - = THE HONEYMOON YEARS OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT & LORENA HICKOK
 - = sexy songs with Vicky McKee
 - = POP CULTURE PRINCESS with Elizabeth Whitney
 - = THE VISIONARY VINE OF THE AMAZON with Naomi Lake
 - = The Comedy Trio: Three Hysterical Women
 - = Queer Stories For Boys
 - = jazz singer KJ
 - = ALPHABET OF FLOWERS by Elyse Nass - a one-act play about two 60-year-old women who meet for a planned reunion having been lovers years ago
 - = OH BROTHER! by T.C. Murray - a comedy about a year in Catholic school
- 508-487-2666; www.ptownfringe.org

Performing Arts Productions Australia (PAPA) announces its new season after some notable recent productions including:

- = THE SINGING FOREST by Julia Britten about the men with the pink triangles

= an adaptation of **WOMEN IN LOVE** also by Julia Britten

Upcoming play readings:

= **SUNSET BBQ** by Mark Fletcher - a play exploring death, teenage sexuality, and the denial that can attend it, on November 29, 2003

= **THE MURDERER'S BARBEQUE** by Max B Richards - a young psychotic murderer who relives his past and issues of life, death, victims and justice, current rock bands, kinky sex and the death penalty

= **HOMME FATALE: THE FAST LIFE AND SLOW DEATH OF JOEY STEFANO** by Barry Lowe - as well as three other plays by Barry Lowe

= **ONE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHT STANDS: THE JOHN VINCENT STORY** adapted from the novel by Hope A. Carson

= **DRYCLEANING THE SHROUD OF TURIN** - a young street hustler and his young son on the run from Social Services

= **A CLASS APART**, adapted from the book of James Gardiner by soldier and architect Montague Glover performingartsproductions@hotmail.com

groups.yahoo.com/group/performingartsproductionsau

The **Public Theater** in NYC announced their 2003-2004 season includes:

= **CAROLINE OR CHANGE**, a musical with libretto by Tony Kushner and music by Jeanine Tesori - set in the early civil rights days in Louisiana

= **THE VISIT**, the newest musical collaboration of Terrence McNally, John Kander and Fred Ebb and starring Chita Rivera

= **WELL** by Lisa Kron - a controlling mother turns into a hilarious and poignant story of healing
212-260-2400

HERE Arts Center and Dixon Place presented **FUSE: The NYC Celebration Of Queer Culture** June 16-July 6, 2003.

There were a multitude of talented artists performing including: Jen Abrams, Janis Astor del Valle, Jeffrey Gordon Baker, Aileen Cho, Allison Farrow, Michael Freeman, Karen Jaiime, Glenn Kessler, Daniel Lang, Shelly Mars, Idris Muignott, Peter Morris, Brandon Olson, Francisco Rider Da Silva, Gabriel Shanks, Chris Tanner, Greg Walloch, and many more.

212-868-4444; www.fusefest.org

Richmond Triangle Players announces its 11th season to include:

= **PETE 'N' KEELY**, musical comedy by James Hindman - a story about reuniting America's singing sweethearts, September 17-October 11, 2003

= **TRU** by Jay Presson Allen, with Kirk Morton portraying Truman Capote, November 12-December 6, 2003

= **THE LAST SESSION** with lyrics and music by Steve Schlachlin and book by Jim Brochu - a dark comedy about a recording star suffering from AIDS who wants to make one more record, February 4-29, 2004

= **TELL TALE** by Erik Jackson - Edgar Allen Poe meets Carol Burnett in this high camp, low art show, April 7-May 2, 2004
804-346-8113

SNAP! FEST '03 was produced by SNAP! Productions in Omaha in June 2003. The 6th annual showcase of new plays included:

= **A DANCE LESSON** by David Wiltse - the boy next door returns and excites mother, father, and teenage son

= **THE MATINEE LADIES** by Kevin Brofsky - spans 25 years in the lives of three women who meet every year at a Greenwich Village cafe owned by one of the women's sons and his ex-lover

www.snapproductions.com

Vortex Repertory Company in Austin present the world premieres of five new plays in the **Bare Bones Festival- Plays of Trouble and Desire**, August 28-August 21, 2003.

= **EZEKIEL'S WHEELCHAIR** by Trav S.D. - can winning the match mean losing the prize?

= **FIGURES FROM GIACOMETTI** by George Freek - two guys a girl and a wedding and getting beneath the surface
= **THE NOVEMBER BOY** by Stephen Cone, an older Gay couple live out their days together, a visit from the November Boy helps them complete the circle

= **FUCKJOY (OR NECRO STIX)** by Chris Kelley - is a game of happiness, regret, sadness and philosophical inquiries

= **CRUELTY TO ANIMALS** by Ryan Michael Teller, an abnormal young man tries to maintain a facade of normalcy with no idea what that should be

512-478-5282; www.vortexrep.org

The 16th Annual **Directors Festival** at Bailiwick Repertory in Chicago will include two new Fests - With Music/Without Words in fall of 2003, and Kids of All Kinds in August 2004.

Other themes include Chicago Plays in January 2004, In Translation/Adaptation in the spring, and GLBT Briefs in June 2004. For details and applications from directors only:

www.bailiwick.org

Summer Shorts: Crossed Wires, The Isis Collective unearthed comedy, politics, and drama by examining remnants of an extinguished America. It took place at the Exit Mainstage in San Francisco on July 11-Aug 16, 2003.

Included:

= **ODD SCRAPS OF AN EXTINGUISHED AMERICA** by Anna Budd

= **MOUNTAIN LANGUAGE** by Harold Pinter

= **LIVING WITH THE SAVAGE** comedy by Dawson Moore

= **ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE** by PC playwright Tom W. Kelly - exploring the intense breakdown between long-term male lovers

= **TALK** by Aoise Stratford

= **EXCUSE ME, SIR** by Daniel Weiss

= **THOUGHT: CRIME** by Mike Ward, an Orwellian dark comedy of language

= **CONNECTING** by G. William Zorn

isisartsco@aol.com

Bend-It Extravaganza was described as the first ever, queer youth arts festival in Northwest. It took place in Seattle August 8-9, 2003 with a fashion show, drag performances, bands, films, GLBT poets and more.

www.queeryouthrights.org

AQT Vancouver and Interactive Male presented Terry Costa's **69 MOMENTS OF LIFE**, a solo show filled with truth, love and freedom after a man comes back to life 69 seconds after having flat-lined, at the Minnesota Fringe Festival in Minneapolis in August 2003. www.fringefestival.org

Also at the San Francisco Fringe Festival September 6-14, 2003

415-673-3847; www.sffringe.org

Icons with the sensational Jade Esteban Estrada gets around Festivals even in NYC appearing in August 2003 at HOWL! Festival of East Side Arts.

The Fabulous Monsters took their fantastic epic RAMAYANA to The Burning Man Festival in Black Rock Desert August 25-September 1, 2003. They had their own theme camp too Camp Hanumanville about the white monkey God Hanuman.

Trippin' Through the Dark Glass Film and Arts Festival took place in Hollywood in August 2003 at Qtopia. The fest combined intense alternative film and video with infamous live acts. www.throughthedarkglass.com

In NYC at HERE Arts Center, the 14th Annual **American Living Room** 2003, a summer festival featuring NYC's hottest emerging directors, performers, puppeteers, musicians, and video and visual arts. www.here.org

Applications for the 2004 **Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival** are available. Applications: fabact1@aol.com; www.cnglrf.com

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FILM / VIDEO / TELEVISION / RADIO

Moondance International Film Festival 2004 competition, held in Boulder Colorado, will open for entries on August 1, 2003 and have a final deadline of April 4, 2004. Included is a category for playwrights. www.moondancefilmfestival.com

Outfest in Los Angeles July 10-23, 2003 was a huge success. GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS featured Evie Harris, Coco Peru and Varla Jean Merman. "Mambo Italiano," based on a hit stage play in Montreal, was a hit as the closing night film. www.outfest.org

The L.A. Gay and Lesbian center's **Renberg Theatre** presented Dennis Hensley's Screening Party in August 2003 when Dennis Hensley and friends dished up films that shaped our lives.

Angels in America, Ton Kushner's epic finally comes to the TV screen in December on HBO. Directed by Mike Nichols, the cast includes Al Pacino, Meryl Streep, and Emma Thompson.

Michael Kearns play "Complications" has been turned into a film re-titled "**Nine Lives**." Directed by Dean Howells, it should be released soon.

Since 1995, L.A.'s **Hugo Au Go-Go Lending Library** has provided for free videos and CDs to AIDS groups. If you have any movies, music or money that you would like to donate, please call Hugh at 818-909-9522. Tell him Bill Kaiser and The Purple Circuit sent you.

Demian / Sweet Corn Productions

Current videos available:

"The Fight Before Christmas" (VHS)

www.buddybuddy.com/fight.html

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

"LEGGO" (both on DVD)

www.buddybuddy.com/dvd-1.html

Currently in production:

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

www.buddybuddy.com/kate.html

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

www.buddybuddy.com/g.html

"Director's Commentary" A comedy

www.buddybuddy.com/dc.html

Demian, Sweet Corn Productions, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109. 206-935-1206. demian@buddybuddy.com

Demian is director of

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

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LITERARY SCENE

On July 18, 2003 Robert Patrick shared his stories about Marilyn Monroe and other strange and wonderful tales of Hollywood history featured in his book on CD, FILM MOI at Skylight Books in Los Angeles. www.skylightbooks.com

The Haworth Press has some new titles of interest. They are:
= THE HYPE AND SELLING OF MALE BEAUTY IN MEDIA AND CULTURE by Edisol Wayne Dotson
= ACTS OF PASSION edited by Nina Rapi and Maya Chowdhry about Lesbian performance work
= FROM DRAGS TO RICHES: THE UNTOLD STORY OF CHARLES PIERCE, a memoir by John Wallraff
= BROADWAY'S PRIZE-WINNING MUSICALS, an annotated guide for libraries and audio collectors by Leo N. Miletich
www.haworthpress.com

The print version of TAKE MY OUT by Richard Greenberg is now available.

The TnT Classics catalog includes works by Jane Chambers, Doric Wilson, Robert Chesley, Arch Brown, and others. tntclassics@aol.com; 212-736-6279

The Purple Circuit will again be listed in The 2004 Dramatists Guild Resource Directory published by The Dramatists Guild. www.dramaguild.com

The fourth musical theatre book by New Line AD Scott Miller has been released by Heinemann Publishing - LET THE SUNSHINE IN: THE GENIUS OF HAIR.

Julia Willis' short story "One Moonshine Night" is part of THAT TAKES OVARIES! Bold Females and Their Brazen Acts, a collection edited by Rivka Solomon from Three Rivers Press: ISBN 0-609-80659-9

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MUSIC / OPERA / DANCE

The ten20 at the Wyndham Bel Age Hotel in West Hollywood will present a new cabaret and open mike show on Thursday nights beginning at 6:30 with scheduled singers and open mike at 9pm. Les Michaels will host the show which is similar to his Monday night cabaret show at Vermont restaurant in Los Feliz. 213-688-7222

The gay owned and operated award winning Francisco Martinez Dancetheatre (FMDT) of Southern California celebrated their 23rd anniversary on September 5, 2003 at The Ford Amphitheatre in L.A. with LOVE, LOSS, and LULLABIES, a concert of their finest works.

Sam Harris returned with his acclaimed cabaret show SAM to the Coronet Theatre in L.A. May-July 2003

Vox Femina, Los Angeles Women's Chorus season of concerts for 2003-2004 includes November 7-8, 2003; March 26-27, 2004 and June 25-26, 2004. All performances are at Zipper Concert Hall. Subscriptions: 310-391-2402; www.voxfeminala.org

TWEED Theatreworks presented the New York premiere of LYPSINKA! AS I LAY LIP-SYNCHING in August 2003 at Show nightclub.

In May 2003 the Boris Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg presented "Tchaikovsky: The Mystery of Life and Death" at The Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa, Calif.

Purple Moon Dance Project performed at the San Francisco LGBT Celebration Asian Pacific Islander Stage in June 2003. www.purplemoondance.org

Richard Skipper appeared at the Duplex in NYC with "An Evening with Carol Channing" June-July 2003. www.richardskipper.com

Jade Esteban Estrada performed in Allentown, Penn., then the Pride Fest in NYC then to Switzerland as well as NYC's Fresh Fruit Festival with his acclaimed ICONS show. He is spreading his Latino talent in all directions! Hopefully he will come west someday soon!

Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles' July concert was ROCKETMAN, The Music of Elton John at the Alex Theatre in Glendale Calif.

The Kinsey Sicks, a cappella singing, sharp satire and over the top drag group appeared at The Birchmere Music Hall in Alexandria VA in June 2003 as well as Heritage of Pride in Bryant Park NYC. www.kinseysicks.com

Heartland Men's Chorus, in Kansas City, Missouri, welcomed The Chicago Men's Chorus for a special concert in June 2003. Heartland reprised Naked Man with words by Philip Littell and music by Robert Seeley, which had been commissioned by The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. 816-931-3338 ext.4

PLAYWRIGHTS / PRODUCERS FORUM

Nominated for the AriZonis, Phoenix Theatre awards are Guillermo Reyes and his play PLACE TO TOUCH HIM in six categories. The awards will be chosen in late September 2003.

LIKE THAT (formerly JOHN R) a play by Frank Anthony Polito had a reading at Atlantic Theater Co Studios in June

2003. Best friends since 7th grade Jack and Brad discover they have more in common.

October 4, 2003 - 1-5 PM in the Atrium of University Hall, Loyola Marymount University, The Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights will present the 2003 Playwrights Expo. Already more than 70 theatre companies will be represented including The Purple Circuit's Celebration Theatre and others responsive to GLBT work. There will be two symposiums in the afternoon: "Short 'n' Sweet: Crafting the 10-minute Play" and "So I've Just Graduated from College and I Want to Be a Playwright." In the evening at 7pm, in the Ahmanson Auditorium, will be the 5th Annual ALAP Play Reading Festival featuring the best 10-minute plays of the year chosen by an award-winning panel of writers and directors. 323-512-5273; alapexpo@aol.com; www.laplaywrights.org

THE OTHER MAN by Darren Elms is a screwball comedy of the 30s based a bit on the Cary Grant-Randolph Scott beach house days. For further information on this fascinating subject, contact the playwright at darrenelms@yahoo.com or 310-435-9592.

Theatre Rhinoceros in San Francisco presented 3D - Dyke Drama Days, a studio play reading series in May 2003. The plays included:
= GIRLS ROOM by Lori Kaye
= TWO FOOLS by Terry Baum
= CHEAT by Julie Jensen
= BREAK UP NOTEBOOK by Patricia Cotter
www.therhino.org

There was a reading of FALLING AWAKE by Matthew Ethan Davis in July 2003 at Cap 21 Studios in NYC. The comedy deals with four young New Yorkers as they experience the collision of the afterlife and office life. For info contact the author at mednyc@aol.com or 212-330-7140.

En Avant Playwrights is a group of merging playwrights dedicated to producing their new work. They did a weekend called "Now You See' Em" in June 2003 at Hunter College. The plays presented:
= WOMEN BEHIND THE BUSH by Ed Valentine
= TAGGING APRIL by Chance Muehleck
= HOW THE MONA LISA GOT HER SMILE by Maz Troppe
= TOCKS IN THE BED by Kathleen Warnock
= APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE OFFSHORE by David Marrero
Reach them at enavantplaywrights@yahoo.com

Linda Eisenstein's comic take on Lesbian bar cruising PRETZELS & LONGING was featured at The Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Festival in June, 2003 and was coupled with BALANCING ACT at Short Girlie Productions in London in July. Her PIG PATTERN, a new comedy short where three teen girls plot ways to handle sexual innuendo from a popular boy premiered at Live Girls! Quickies Festival IV in Seattle in June 2003.

The rest of the summer had more of her works performed with A RUSTLE OF WINGS (a woman has a transforming encounter with an angel in a Lesbian bar) at Bailiwick's Directors Festival in Chicago in July; her short play HEART SMART was a winner at the Ten by Ten Festival in Carrboro NC, ACME TEMPORARY SERVICES, a comic rant about an

outrageous temp agency runs at Impact Theatre in Berkely through Sept 27, 2003. 510-464-4468.

Her musical with James Levin, DISCORDIA will premiere at The Cleveland Public Theatre in October-November 2003 and their new George Sand/Sarah Bernhardt musical BECOMING GEORGE will be featured at the Cleveland Playhouse's NextStage Festival this Fall as well. www.lindaeisenstein.com

TOSOS II's LISTEN UP - The Robert Chesley/Jane Chambers Playwright Project is a forum for playwrights to have their work read to an invited audience. In July 2003, they read ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES by Garet Scott, a searing romantic epic about deception, accidents, hysterical paralysis, parenting and multiple maids plus some Patsy Cline for good measure. tosos2@nyc.rr.com

RSA Events is seeking expressions of interest from playwrights who would like their scripts to be considered for a series of monthly play readings in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales Australia. Please forward script including a brief synopsis, a biography of the playwright and publicity photo to Eol-Scripts, P.O. Box 985, Lismore NSW 2480 Australia or email: glama_events@yahoo.com.au

THE ANASTASIA TRIALS IN THE COURT OF WOMEN by Carolyn Gage was produced by Venus Productions in Washington DC last Spring. The audience-interactive show was the "talk of the Town" and written up in The Washington Post "Style" section. Samuel French will be publishing it later this year. The show requires no set, costumes, props, or tech! It's a real actor's piece: nine women and ten folding chairs. Contact the playwright at: www.carolyngage.com

Entries are being accepted for Bailiwick Repertory's 2nd Annual **GLBT College/University Playwriting Contest**. Last year's winning one-act was TRUCK STOP LOVE OR DOES MARIA SHRIVER WANT A BLOW JOB? by Bixby Eliot and the full-length was IN ONE ROOM, based on a collection of interviews by GLBT persons under 25 assembled by Jimmy Maize.

Contest rules:

- = Two categories, full-length and one-Act
- = Deadline January 1, 2004
- = Playwrights must be enrolled in a post-high school institution of higher learning
- = All styles considered
- = Musicals should be accompanied by a complete CD of the score
- = Full length plays should be more than an hour
- = One-acts under one hour
- = No prior professional production
- = Adaptations of works published outside of the public domain should be accompanied by a letter of permission from the original author
- = Playwrights may submit more than one play
- = No e-mail submissions considered
- = Scripts must be typed and bound or stapled with numbered pages
- = Title page must list name, mailing address including zip code and apt number, email, phone and fax number if applicable
- = Include a SASE to have script returned or it will be kept in Bailiwick archives

= Label "Full Length" or "One-Act"

Send to: College/University Playwriting Contest, Bailiwick Repertory, 1229 W Belmont, Chicago, IL 60657 USA

Brad Fraser's latest hit play is COLD MEAT PARTY about a group of former friends, a Gay pop star, a feminist film-maker and a homophobic politicians and their partners, who meet for the funeral and reading of the will of a deceased college friend. The play was done at Manchester UK's Royal Exchange Theatre in March 2003. For rights contact Great North Artists Management Inc, Attn: Rena Zimmerman, 350 Dupont St., Toronto, Ontario M5R 1V9 Canada or 416-925-2051; renazimmerman@gnaminc.com

Sandra de Helen's play "Witch!" has been selected for presentation at the Women Playwrights International Conference in Manila, Philippines this November. She is actively fundraising for this trip. Deadlines for many potential grants have already passed, so she will have to foot most of the expense for her attendance herself. She needs to raise about \$2,500. You can contribute via www.paypal.com (which uses her email address: writer@portland.quik.com). Cash and checks are also welcome: Sandra de Helen, 5009 SE 63rd Ave., Portland, OR 97206.

Kudos to The NYC OOB winners TOSOS II for A PERFECT RELATIONSHIP and WHAT THE F**K? and Act Out Productions for MEMBERS OF THE TRIBE and NY International Fringe awardees Bailiwick's POSEIDON, Mark Savage /Celebration's PINAFORE and playwright Michael D Jackson for A TASTE OF HEAVEN.

Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles is planning a Holiday offering similar to last year's QUEER CHRISTMAS opening December 5, 2003. 323-957-1884

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TOURING

Carolyn Gage in her performance of THE SECOND COMING OF JOAN OF ARC has been accepted, by jury, into the directory of New England States Touring program. Non-profit theatres and organizations in the New England states interested in booking the show can apply for funding for half the fee! Information: carolyn@carolyngage.com

Greg Walloch is touring with WHITE DISABLED TALENT. He appeared all over NYC: Don't Tell Mama, The GLC Center Garden Party and HERE Arts Center this summer and in August 2003 was at the Vancouver International Comedy festival in The Pride Show with Marcy C. Matthews, The Oops Guys and the sketch comedy duo Glyph! www.gregwalloch.com

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WILDEANA

The Annual Oscar Wilde Birthday Celebration produced by The Purple Circuit will be called "A Wilde Parody Party" and held on October 11, 3-5pm at ONE Institute, 909 West Adams, L.A., Calif. This year's theme is having some fun with Oscar and him with us! Performers will include Singer Steven De Muth, and Actors Lily (Dolly Wilde) Sauvage, Kevin Dulude, Kevin Rettig and other surprise guests. An exhibit of

Wildeana will be on display in the building and after the performance tea and refreshments in the garden. The Celebration is a benefit for The Performing Arts Collection of ONE. Tickets: \$10. Information and Reservations: Purple Circuit Hotline 818-953-5072

Louis Edwards who wrote the new Wildean novel, OSCAR WILDE DISCOVERS AMERICA, a fictional account of his American tour through the eyes of his Black American valet, W.M. Traquair appeared at SummerStage in NYC in July 2003.

The OSCHOLARS, the online Wildean literary journal posted its 26th edition in June 2003. oscholars@netscape.net

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APPEALS / OPPORTUNITIES

AL-Phonsine (Il Traviato) — A New Rock Opera seeks Collaboration and Representation. Inspired by A. Dumas' novel & play, The Lady of the Camellias. It depicts the events during the last years of life of a young, sophisticated, flamboyant homosexual who was one of the first AIDS victims. The action takes place in NYC in the early 80s. Contact: Vittorio Furgeri, 353 W. 57th St., #2240, New York, NY 10019; 212-757-2717

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation

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

Production grants are available through 2004.

This year's writing competition is for *full-length fiction*. Submissions due by November 30, 2003.

For production or writing guidelines send a SASE:

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

Guidelines are also on the Web site:
www.aabbfoundation.org

**Columbus National Gay
and Lesbian Theatre Festival**



Applications for the 2004 Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival are available:
fabact1@aol.com; www.cngltf.com

How to Reach Us
The Purple Circuit

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