

On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

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

Welcome to On the Purple Circuit!

Our informal network exists to encourage, promote, and celebrate GLBQT Theatre and Performance throughout the world!

This is the Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival Issue. That is a mouthful but I wanted to give credit to an exciting new undertaking in a part of the arts community that we haven't heard much about until now! Kudos to the driving force, Frank Barnhart and all his volunteers and sponsors. I actually will be attending the last part of the Festival, which runs September 12-21, 2002. Appearing will be nationally known performers like Jade Esteban Estrada, Karen Williams and Chris Steele and theatre groups from all over the U.S. and Canada. Call 614-263-9448 for reservations or go to www.cnglft.com

As I prepared this issue, I was astounded by all the festivals that are occurring around the country, Columbus being the newest. I was also impressed with the seasons that are coming up and the anniversaries being celebrated: 25th for Theatre Rhinoceros in San Francisco; 20th for Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles and Bailiwick Repertory in Chicago; and full and diverse seasons at Lambda Players in Sacramento; Buddies In Bad Times in Toronto, Diversionary in San Diego and Richmond Triangle Players to name a few. I am proud of the companies that have grown and matured over the Purple Circuit years.

One issue that is of great importance to me: the relationship between art and activism. I believe that our communities contribute much to that from activist playwrights like Tony Kushner and Carolyn Gage to performers like Tim Miller or Beto Araiza. I believe that plays, performance, music, dance, and comedy can advance progressive ideas of equality, peace, and justice. So I am proud too to know many of these activist artists and of course it is great to be entertained also!

The issue of getting plays produced is an ongoing one for playwrights and producers alike. John Clum has mentioned that published plays have a better chance of being produced. Yet Francine L. Trevens tells me of the closing of small bookstores due to e-business like Amazon taking the sales. Incidentally, her publishing firm T'n'T Classics sells directly and through Gay bookstores only and yet those bookstores will not even order with special discounts.

World AIDS Day is approaching December 1st and the AIDS pandemic which took a generation of our cultural world is still with us and wrecking havoc in Africa, Asia and around the world. David Reid's project AIDSWATCH lists the names to be remembered on a silent cable screen throughout the 24 hours of World AIDS Day. To submit names, go to www.aidswatch.org

OUT Productions and The Pink Network in Canada are proposing the 1st Annual Gay and Lesbian Performing Arts Forum to be held during the Gay Games in Montreal in 2006. The event will be an opportunity for artistic directors and artists from around the globe to discuss issues surrounding Gay and Lesbian performing arts, showcase new and established Canadian work and provide better networking opportunities around the world. If you have topics of interest to suggest or would like to get involved please contact: in@out.ca or fax 403-266-0207 and visit www.out.ca

It is with a great sense of loss that I report that Activist Betty Rottger died May 21, 2002. In addition to being a passionately committed fighter for social justice, she was the mother and strong supporter of playwright Robert Chesley.

I also note the premature death of Portraitist Robert Giard on July 16, 2002. This extraordinary man photographed more than 500 Lesbian and Gay writers over his career.

Join The Oscar Wilde Celebration at ONE Institute in LA on October 12, 2002; 818-953-5072.

For current news and opportunities as well as the expanded version of our newsletter, please check out our Web site at www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html. Due to the rising costs our printed version is an abridged one. If you would like to be a volunteer columnist, I need people in the South, New York and San Francisco, as well as other parts of U.S. and abroad. Please send subscriptions and renewals payable to "Bill Kaiser," 921 N. Naomi St., Burbank, CA 91505. We need your financial support now more than ever.

Thanks to Frank Barnhart, Doric Wilson, Nina Gooch, our columnists: Tom O'Neil, Nathaniel Grey, Steven LaVigne, Michael Van Kerckhove and John Clum, Francine L Trevens, David Reid, Jason Stuart, David King; to all other individuals, publicists and theatres that sent materials, and to you the Subscribers! Special thanks to Jim Russell, Demian, and Sally Barron for getting one more issue out!

In these times when our civil liberties and freedom of expression are at great risk we need to continue to speak out and create!

**Break Legs and Wage Peace,
Bill Kaiser
Editor**

Wilde's Impressions of America at ONE Institute
October 12, 2002, at 3pm
Cast: Shoshana Henri, Travis Holder, and Kevin Rettig.
To benefit for the Performing Arts Collection.
Reservations: 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.

A to B by Ricardo A Bracho, conversation turns lyrical as two men express passion for each other, Intar, NYC, June, 2002
All The World's A Stage by Donna Stearns, a gay-friendly musical farce adapted from As You Like It, Theatre L, NYC, August, 2002

***Amnesia** by John Fisher, a music critic loses his Gay identity, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, opens Jan 16, 2003, 415-861-5079

And Baby Makes Seven by Paula Vogel, Red Stitch Actors Theatre, Melbourne, August 7-September 1, 2002

***Baptizing Adam** by David Allyn, a born again Christian connects with a sexy Jewish actor, Phil Bosakowski Theatre, NYC, opened Aug 22, 2002, 212-206-1515

B4t (Before Testosterone) with Imani Henry, what's it like to be a Black butch Lesbian? WOW Cafe, NYC, July 2002

Bochenski's Brain by Gabriel Shanks and Tim Brown, a mind-bending journey inside an artist's mind, Funkopolis at HERE, NYC, July 2002

***Body Blows** with Tim Miller, his latest tour-de-force about being Gay in America, continued on tour in June at Open Circle Theater in Seattle and Diversionary Theatre in San Diego and New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opening September 19, 2002, 415-861-8972; PS 122, NYC, November 21-December 1, 2002, 212-477-5288

***The Bombay Trunk** by Felice Picano, mystery comedy, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opening October 30, 2002, 415-861-8972

***Boy Meets Boy** by Bill Solly and Donald Ward, Lambda Players, Sacramento, opens January 10, 2003, 916-336-3904

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

***Burning Blue** by D.M.W. Greer, Navy pilots romance against the policy of don't ask don't tell, with Chad Lowe, Samuel Beckett Theater, NYC, opens in October 2002

Busted Jesus Comix by David Johnson, a poisonous comedy pitting youthful freedom of expression against an outraged uptight public, reading at Moving Arts, LA, August 2002

By the Short Hairs by Joe D'Aquino, a sleazy marriage counselor twisted in a romantic triangle gets some unexpected help from a gay gigolo, Third Street Theatre, LA, July-Aug, 2002

***Carved In Stone** by Jeffrey Hartgraves, a new comedy with Quentin Crisp, Oscar Wilde, Truman Capote, and Tennessee Williams at the ultimate AfterParty, Eureka Theatre, SF, opened August 9, 2002, 415-778-4077

Cleansed by Sarah Kane, part mental hospital, part concentration camp, this is an arena for continual atrocities, Rude Guerrilla Theatre Company, Santa Ana, CA, June 2002

Clit Notes by Holly Hughes, Lambda Players, Sacramento, January-February, 2002

Cologne with Tony Abatemarco, the ways evil enters the world, NYC, June-July 2002

Commencing by Jane Shepard, the blind date from hell, Red Hen Productions, Cleveland, July-August 2002

Confessions of a Mormon Boy with Steven Fales, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, August 2002
***The Crumple Zone** by Buddy Thomas, an hilarious comedy about dating and love, Hudson Ave Theater, Los Angeles (after six months at Rattlestick Theater, NYC), opened August 25, 2002, 323-856-4200

***C*S*: 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 no less! Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, opens May 8, 2003, 415-861-5079

Cute Boys in their Underpants versus the Wicked Queen by Robert Coles, Vortex Theater, NYC, May-June 2002

***David's Redhaired Death** by Sherry Kramer, a girl meets girl story, St. Mark's Theatre, NYC, opened August 29, 2002, 212-206-1515

***Death in Venice** by Thomas Mann adapted by Robert David MacDonald, Manhattan Ensemble Company, NYC, opened in June 2002, 212-925-1900

***Deporting the Divas** by Guillermo Reyes, an unlikely relationship between a Mexican-American INS officer and an illegal immigrant, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, opens March 29, 2003, 619-220-0097

***Detour: The Musical** by Scott Alan, nontraditional love triangle, Blank Slate Theater at The Complex, Hollywood, opens September 5, 2002, 323-822-4272

A Different Man by Robert Coles, a mystery of three Americans in Mexico, Vortex Theater, NYC, August-September 2002

***Doing Judy** by Dan Evans, a serial killer is doing in all the Judy impersonators, Alcazar Theatre, SF, previews October 4, opening October 8, 2002, 415-441-4042, www.doingjudy.com

***Edward II** by Christopher Marlowe, Living End Theatre Company, Philadelphia, opening November 2002

Elle by Jean Genet, Alan Cummings adaptation also starring Stephen Spinella and Anson Mount, The Zipper, NYC, July 2002

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

Emmy Gay's Tea Party by Emmy Gay, three one-acts, six women, some guys and one in a dress, Dixon Place, NYC, August 2002

***End of the World Party** by Chuck Ranberg, a hit comedy set on Fire Island, Buffalo United Artists, Buffalo, May-June 2002; Reality Theatre, Columbus, June 2002; Bailiwick Rep., Chicago, ongoing, 773-883-1090

***Endless Night, Sweet Delight** by Howard Casner, a young man nearing the brink finds solace in the arms of a gentle stranger only he can see! Wings, NYC, opened August 8, 2002, 212-627-2961

Facing the Calm by Jim Lunsford, The Knightsbridge Theatre, LA, April-June 2002

Fairy Tale Engineers by Brian Howrey, an endearing story of Lesbian love, and an unfinished new fairy tale, Theatre of Note, Hollywood, July-August 2002

***Fallen Guardian Angels** by Edward D. Padilla, six dancers are in turmoil when they learn their choreographer is HIV+, The Complex, Hollywood, opened August 22, 2002, 562-233-1255

Fifth of July by Lanford Wilson, Diversionsary Theatre, San Diego, June-July, 2002

***The Food Chain** by Nicky Silver, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opens November 6, 2002, 415-861-8972

Fucking our Fathers by Scott Capurro, two best friends traverse San Francisco seeking a hot and salty muscle daddy, Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, June 2002

***Girl Meets Girl** by Craig Fox and Sally Stover, six women searching for love in the new millennium, The Theater Building, Chicago, May-June, 2002; Lambda Players, Sacramento, opens April 4, 2003, 916-336-3904

Glory Box with Tim Miller, retells his struggles to keep his Australian partner Alistair McCartney in the US and the inequities of the marriage laws, University Of Wisconsin, Madison, April 2002; Woolly Mammoth Theater at The Source Theater, Washington DC, July 2002; Provincetown Repertory Theater, August 2002; and elsewhere

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

***Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde** by Moises Kaufman, Diversionsary Theatre, San Diego, opens January 18, 2003, 619-220-0097

Gumsimao by Jean Colonosmos, 1974 NYC, Chinatown, a boy's soul trapped in a girl's body, Playwrights Arena, June-July 2002

***Hairstory** by Doug Holsclaw and Johari Jabir, a new musical review about people and their hair, Theatre Rhinoceros, SF, opened September 5, 2002, 415-861-5079

***Halsted Street, Chicago: A Few Tales from Boystown** by Howard Casner, a very entertaining and literate evening of one-acts, Halsted Street Productions at Moving Arts, LA, May-June 2002; Korbett Kompany at Masonic Hall, San Diego, opens October 11, 2002, 619-291-6353

Head Games by Scott Miller, Hill Street Theatre, Edinburgh, hit at the Fringe about censorship of nudity on stage, August 2002

***Honey, I'm Home** by Paul Vanderoest and Bruce Hart a gay screwball comedy about Hollywood, Knightsbridge Theatre, LA, opened August 2, 2002, 818-440-0821

***Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly** by Howard Crabtree and Mark Waldrop with music by Dick Gallagher, New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF, opens May 7, 2003, 415-861-8972

***Hungry Women: A Mexican Medea** by Cherrie Moraga, a retelling of the classic, Celebration Theatre, LA, opens October 11, 2002, 323-957-1884

Ice/Age by Robert Canning, a new breed of comedy dealing with gay seniors, Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, July-Aug 2002

In September, the Light Changes conceived by Randy Gener from two Fire Island tales by Andrew Holleran, Dixon Place HOT! Festival, NYC, July 2002

***In the Garden** by Norman Allen, erotic drama, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opens January 22, 2003, 415-861-8972

In the Outfield with Laurie Wolf, the coming out of a NY Jew/Southern Dyke, Don't Ask, Don't Tell 2002 at Manbites Dog Theater, Durham, May 2002

***I Think I Like Girls** by Leigh Fondakowski, another version of growing up gay in America by a LARAMIE PROJECT veteran about lesbian life story, LaJolla Playhouse, LaJolla, CA, opened September 3, 2002, 858-550-1010

***Judy and Me** by Charles Tolliver, coming out story in small minded Long Island and delving into Judy's enduring appeal, Rose's Turn, opened January 2002

Jump Rope by John Kuntz, a Killer New Love Story, The Theatre Offensive, Boston, August 2002

Just Us Boys by Frank Stancati, the fortunes of five chorus boys in the musical "Depression" in this wildly funny play, The Genesis Guild, NYC, June 2002

Kate's Chink-O-Rama with Kate Rigg, madcap review of character comedy of Asian stereotypes, Brava Theater Center, SF, June 2002

The Ken and Andy Show by Ken Taylor and Andrew Barrett, a metaphysical comedy, New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF, July-August 2002

***The Killing of Sister George** by Frank Marcus, Diversionsary Theatre, San Diego, opened August 24, 2002, 619-220-0097 or www.diversionsary.org

Kiss of the Spiderwoman by Kander and Ebb with book by Terrence McNally, Richmond Triangle Players, Richmond, April-May, 2002 & Sinergia Grupo De Teatro, Los Angeles, July-August 2002

The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman and the members of Tectonic Theater Project, The Colony Theatre Company, Burbank CA, June 2002; (Mostly) Harmless Theatre, St. Louis, June 2002; Olney Theatre Center, Washington DC, July-August 2002

Lament for the Moths adapted from Tennessee Williams' lost poems by Jack Heller and Michael Clark Haney, Laurelgrove Theatre, Studio City CA, July-August 2002

***The Last Session** by Steve Schalchlin and Jim Brochu, a composer living with AIDS turns his story into a life-affirming musical, The Uptown Players, Dallas, opened September 6, 2002, www.uptownplayers.org

A Layman's Guide to Safe Sex by Jeff Hagedorn, a revival for The Pride Series, Bailiwick Theatre, Chicago, June 2002

***Lesbiradas** converged by Tongues Magazine, emerging artists of Queer women of color sensibility, Highways, Santa Monica, September 2002

***Let's Talk about Me**, three one-acts: BEHIND THE CANDELABRA-MY LIFE WITH LIBERACE by Jennifer Blowdryer, SIMPLY STUNNING -THE DORIS FISH STORY by Philip R. Ford and WHITE TRASH DEBUTANTE by Jennifer Blowdryer and Alvin Orloff, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, opened August 29, 2002, 415-861-5079

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

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

***Love in a Cubicle** by Steven Dawson, Australia's enfant terrible, two schoolboys fall in love and catch up years later during a hilarious night at a sex club: Gasworks Theatre, Melbourne, September 10-21, 2002; 9305 5333 or Ticketek 132 849. Then on tour to Perth Festival of Pride, September 25-October 5, 2002; 089227 7005; Feast Festival, Adelaide, November 9-16, 2002

The Madness of Esme and Shaz by Sarah Daniels, a tale set in modern London between a deeply religious 65-year-old who takes in her lesbian niece who has spent 13 years institutionalized for committing a horrific crime, Celebration Theatre, LA, June-July 2002

***Manlady** with George Weiss Vando, The Village, LA, opened September 6, 2002, 323-860-7300

Mandy's Yearbook by Jeff Ham, a comedy send-up of teen suspense drama with lesbians and more! Met Theatre, LA, June 2002

Mark and Barbara Frog by Glenn Hopkins, a Green Musical, Mootney Co Studio, Venice CA, June 2002

Massage Therapy by Joseph F Godfrey, couldn't you use a little massage therapy about now? Key West Theatre Festival, June 2002

***Masters of the (Miss) Universe** with Noel Alunit, provocative statement about race, sexuality and art, Highways, Santa Monica, September 12-13, 2002, 310-315-1459; New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF, opens October 6, 2002; 415-861-8972

***The Men from the Boys** by Mart Crowley, the sequel, New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF, opens October 16, 2002, 415-861-8972

Menopausal Gentleman with Peggy Shaw, Highways, Santa Monica, September 2002

***My Dinner with Lunatique Fantastique** performed by Lunatique Fantastique Ensemble directed by Liebe Wetzell, New Conservatory Theatre Center, opened August 21, 2002, SF, 415-861-8972

My Name is Winona and I'm a Shoplifter by Michael Kearns, starring Rex Lee, Zephyr Theatre and Studio A, LA, July-August 2002

***Mysterious Skin** by Prince Gomolvilas, New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF, opens April 3, 2003, 415-861-8972

***The Mystery of Irma Vep** by Charles Ludlum, Diversionsary Theatre, San Diego, opens October 31, 2002, 619-220-0097

***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 The Actors' Theatre, Washington, DC, opening October 2002 and more productions planned worldwide!

***The Neo-Dandy Cabaret** instigated by Keith Hennessy, New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF, opens December 5, 2002, 415-861-8972

Off White Party Weekend conceived by John Morage, The Half-Baked Players at Theatre Rhinoceros, SF, August 2002

***The Other Side of the Closet** by Edward Roy, about a teenage boy grappling with homophobia written especially for teenagers, SourceWorks YouthReach program directed by Mark Cannistraro, Chasham, NYC, September 10-26, 2002, 212-206-1515 or www.sourceworks.org

Pageant book and lyrics by Bill Russell and Frank Kelly, music by Albert Evans, Theatre on the Square, Indianapolis, June-July 2002

A Pair of Hands: Deaf Gay Monologues by Raymond Luczak, Queer@HERE Theater Festival, NYC, June 2002

***Paperclip Messiah** by Matthew Burlingame, a priest and a young hired man fall in love, Lambda Players, Sacramento, opens September 29, 2002, 916-336-3904

***Party** by David Dillon, the uplifting and affirming celebration of gay life hit with the playwright in the cast too! , Central Stage Theatre, St. Petersburg, opened August 9, 2002, 727-327-PLAY

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

Pigmalion adapted by Sam Schwartz Jr. and Jeff Keenan, The Actors' Theatre, Washington DC, June-July 2002

***Pins** by Jim Provenzano, adaptation of his novel about a gay high school wrestler, New Conservatory Theatre, SF, opened August 24, 2002, 415-861-8972

***Places to Touch Him** by Guillermo Reyes, a new comedy-drama tells the story of Cesar, a rising Latino politician whose relationship with Domingo, a young man from the barrio places his career in jeopardy, Teatro Bravo, Phoenix, 480-460-1267

***Post-Matinee Tristesse** by Felix Racelis, a May/Dec romance between an erudite professor and a delectable youth, Playwrights Stew Festival at Theatre Rhinoceros, SF, August 2002

***Princess in Training** by Cheryl Ann Costa, an evening of transgendered plays, Outlanta, Atlanta, opens September 27, 2002, 404-371-0212

***The Q Stands for Queer** with Kimberley Q, a woman's quest for a meaningful lesbian relationship, First Annual Harlem International Fringe Festival, NYC, August 2002

***A Queer Carol** by Joe Godfrey, contemporary version of the classic with a gay Scrooge, Theatre OUTlanta, Atlanta, opens December 13, 2002, 404-371-0212

***Queer Soul** with Monica Palacios, 20 years of fierce performance, Highways, Santa Monica, September 20-28, 2002, 310-315-1459

Queery? with Robert Pryor of The Fabulous Monsters, delving into the gay past, present and future, Highways, Santa Monica, August 2002

***Quietly Overwhelmed** by Corrina Hodgson, Cassandra a young graffiti artist grieving over death of her lover deals with art and relationships, Teatro Berdache, Calgary, opens October 6, 2002

Real Girls with Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon, when true love comes, will you be single? A hit comedy, Lambda Players produced, Sacramento, August 2002

Rhapsody in Seth with Seth Rudetsky, Broadway's favorite musical theatre guru, Ars Nova Theater, NYC, July-August 2002

The Ritz by Terrence McNally, Lambda Players, Sacramento March 2002; New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF May-June 2002

***The Rocky Horror Picture Show**, New Line Theatre at Art Loft Theatre, St. Louis, opening October 10, 2002, 314-473-6526

Romeo & Juliet: Love and Sex at Holy Cross High with Rob Nash, a brilliant tragicomedy, Theatre New West, Houston, July-August 2002

Safari adapted by Ruben Amavizo, a hilarious comedy about an infamous bar and group of women and men in Mexico City, 1968, Singeria, LA, May-July 2002

***The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe** by Jane Wagner starring Lily Tomlin, Ahmanson Theatre, LA, May 17-July 6, 2003

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

***Show Ho** with Sara Moore, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, opens November 7, 2002, 415-861-5079

Sick with Lust conceived by Randy Gener from "Fire Island Tales" by Andrew Holleran, Judy's Chelsea, NYC, August 2002

***Single Wet Female** with Carmelita Tropicana and Marga Gomez, a low rent thriller about perverted roommates, PS. 122, NYC, opens October 3, 2002, 212-477-5288

Sleeping with Straight Men by Ronnie Larsen, the master is back with a play loosely based on the Jenny Jones murder

case in 1995, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco, June-August 2002

***Son of Drakula**, a new solo work by David Drake, Theatre Project, Baltimore, May 2002 & Dance Theatre, NYC, will open October 2002, then tour to Alaska in Winter of 2003

***Strangers in Paradise** by Kate Bronstein, the true story of Casey and The Kidd, Theatre Rhinoceros, SF, opens March 13, 2003, 415-861-5079

Street Stories by Paula Cizmar, a sleepless night in Hollywood where everyone is alone, surviving and ultimately connecting, Playwrights' Arena, LA, May-June 2002

Sunset Bbq by Mark Fletcher, a powerful sexy Australian love story, Riant Theatre's International Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival, NYC, August 2002

Sweet Bitter Same-Gender Love with Leo Garcia, Le Van Hawkins, Viet Le, and Alex Penn, dishing up sweet sagas and the bitter end of their love affairs, Highways, Santa Monica, August 2002

***Take Me Out** by Richard Greenberg, a young baseball star's coming out sparks a national debate, Donmar Warehouse, London, June-August 2002, co-production moved to The Public Theatre, NYC, opening September 5, 2002

Ten Unknowns by Jon Robin Baitz, provocative questions about whether and how artists go out of fashion and what it's like to be left behind, Ensemble Theatre, Kirribilli, Australia, July-August 2002

Tennessee in the Summer by Joe Besecker, inspired by the life of Tennessee Williams, Laurelgrove Theatre, Studio City CA, June-August 2002

***That Day in September** with Artie Van Why, a gay man's story who was at WTC, Celebration Theatre, LA, opens September 21, 2002, 323-957-1884

The Theban Warriors adapted by director James Eric of the short story by Lonnie Coleman of four sailor buddies in 1954 one of which is openly gay, Greenway Arts Alliance, LA, May-June 2002

***Thief River** by Lee Blessing, New Conservatory theatre Center, San Francisco, opens January 8, 2003, 415-861-8972

Three Grooms and a Bride by Gary Goldstein, Coast Playhouse, West Hollywood, June-August 2002

Trevor by John Bowen, a British farce about a young lesbian couple attempting to straighten up for a parental visit, Theatre OUTlanta, Atlanta, July 2002

Twelve Stops to a More Dysfunctional Family with Rob Nash, part three of the "Dysfunctional Family Trilogy," Vortex Repertory, Austin, June 2002

***Twilight of the Golds** by Jonathan Tolins, Lambda Players, Sacramento, opens June 13, 2003, 916-336-3904

Under a Mantle of Stars by Manuel Puig, a sexy, funny and wicked dream that is never ending, Wings Theatre, NYC, July-August 2002

Us with Tim Miller, a new work-in-progress funny, sassy and pissed off exploration of our most American contradictions, LA Theatre Center, June 2002

Vagina Dialogues: A Queer Review by Hag Theatre directed by Margaret Smith, defining lesbian sexuality in a liberated landscape of the body through 14 diverse voices, Toronto Fringe Festival, July 2002

The Very Worst of Varla Jean Merman with Jeffrey Roberson, the Diva is back, New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF, April-May 2002; Soho Theatre, London, June 2002

Victory Dance by Jessica Litwak, seven soulful characters tear at your heart, The Davidson/Valentini Theatre at Gay & Lesbian Center, LA, June 2002

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

Well of Horniness by Holly Hughes, Lambda Players, Sacramento, June-July 2002

Williams and Wood by Max Wilk, a conversation with Tennessee Williams and Audrey Wood, Action Reaction Theater Company, North Hollywood CA, July-August 2002

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

Writing Hollywood Lesbian, 1963 by James Napoli, step into the world of real pulp fiction novel, The Jewel Box Theatre Center, Hollywood, June-July 2002

Zanna, Don't by Tim Acito, a new musical about a hip matchmaker with a few magical powers, ATA Theatre, NYC, June 2002

THEATRE BITS
by Bill Kaiser

Austin: Vortex Rep presented Cabaret of Darkness in May 2002 performed by Johnny Rey. They held their second annual Vortex Carnival in July 2002, and also have a Summer Youth Theatre. www.vortexrep.org

Cedar Rapids: Legion Arts presented Work-Shift, an industrial on-site performance event on the oral histories of workers past and present in July 2002.

Cleveland: check out the controversy around the latest art for Art Action AIDS social marketing campaign at www.clevescene.com and look for the column by Laura Putre on the home page.

June 29, 2002 the Cotton Crotch Productions of John Chaich presented a benefit for AIDS charities in the area in a tribute the rock odyssey, HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH in a night of rock, rouge, film, and fun; www.madstonetheaters.com/gethed

Denver: Dr. Therese Jones (SHARING THE DELIRIUM) recently directed VAGINA MONOLOGUES at U. of Denver's Medical School. Kudos to Therese for bringing humanity about AIDS and more to medical students!

Durham: Manbites Dog Theater presented their brain-bending adventure PUZZLEHUNT 2002 in downtown Durham Central Park in May 2002.

Edinburgh: Scott Miller brought his play HEAD GAMES to The Fringe Festival causing quite a stir in the debate about nudity and art which actually is the theme of the play. Another play there was TELLING WILDE TALES, a reworking of Oscar's fairy tales.

Los Angeles: In July Luis Alfaro read some of his work at Spoken Interludes, a monthly salon at Skirball Cultural Center. 310-827-0889 or www.ticketweb.com

The Museum of Contemporary Art hosted "Andy Warhol Retrospective", a grand celebration and a serious look at his work, May-August 2002

About Productions presented THE HAND OF THE FATHER by Theresa Chavez, Eric Gutierrez and Rose Portillo dramatizing the 20th century experience of the Mexican-American father, in July at The Luckman Fine Arts Complex.

In addition to presenting queer plays, The Knightsbridge Theatres in LA and Pasadena present the classics sometimes traditionally and many times not. Recent work includes Oedipus Rex, The Winter's Tale, Antigone, and Hamlet in the Flesh; 626-440-0821, www.knightsbridgetheatre.com

West Coast Ensemble presented EPIC PROPORTIONS by Larry Coen and David Crane about the shooting of a DW Griffith type epic in the Arizona desert. Great fun even if it wasn't gay! Directed by Richard Israel (former AD of Celebration Theatre); 323-525-0022

The fabulous Margaret Cho appeared at The Village in NOTORIOUS C.H.O. in June 2002. And more great shows are planned for this lovely venue in the months to come. 323-860-7300

October is Gay and Lesbian History Month. There will be an Arts Open House at ONE Institute in Los Angeles on October 5, The Wilde Birthday Celebration on October 12 and Wilde Birthday at Writers Series on October 20. Call 213-741-0094. In addition on Sunday, October 27 at 2pm at The Green party office, 2809 Pico Bl in Santa Monica, The GLBT Green Caucus of Los Angeles will feature John O'Brien, activist and Stonewall veteran on our history as well as presenting buttons and artifacts from his extensive collection. Call for details: 818-953-5072.

New York: Much happened at Dixon Place in August and Sept with Emmy Gay's Tea Party, a twisted sister's view of history, politics and identity by new funny lady Emmy Gay; Laboratory Theater presented Cabaret Sings Heinrich and Elsa. On September 11 "Afterimages," a marathon of reflective performance with 34 artists including Montana Miller in "Strength through Peace," "Penny Arcade," and many more; also "Y'All," and Ryan Kelly.

PS 122 received the Ross Wetzsteon Memorial Award at the 2002 Obie Awards. The award is granted to an institution for outstanding commitment to the Off-Broadway Theatre Community. Bravo to PS 122!

Much also happens at The Duplex. Recent shows were Friends of Barbra from Australia, RUM AND VODKA by Conor McPhearson, Courtney Love's Comedy with Courtney Knowles, and MEN ARE LIKE PIGS BUT I LIKE PORK with Diane Bearden and Itanza Wooden 212-255-5428

Ovett MS: Always happy to hear from our friends at Camp Sister Spirit with Wanda and Brenda Henson and friends celebrating their 9th year. The Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival and Circle Celebration were in the Spring and other Circle Celebration of earth based spirituality is planned for October 25-27, 2002. Send help to our sisters at PO Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464, or www.campsisterspirit.com

Portland: triangle productions! presented GREATER TUNA starring Darrin Murrell and Michael Teufel; 503-239-5919

San Diego: award winning writer and actor. Pat Launier has joined the Gay and Lesbian Times as their new theatre critic.

San Francisco: Theatre Rhinoceros celebrates its 25th anniversary with an art project "25 Rhinos." Artist Daniel Hauck has designed the rhino sculpture and 25 local activists, artists and celebrities have been invited to decorate, paint, dress or drag the rhinos which will be displayed throughout the city and then auctioned off to help Theatre Rhinoceros. For further information contact Associate Artistic Director Duca Knezevic at 415-552-4100, or duca@therhino.org

Kaliyuga Arts has a production slated for mid-October, 2002 in SF under the umbrella title HYSTERICIS. One solo is the narrative portion of Dan Carbone's UP FROM THE GROUND and the other is the US premiere of X: THE RISE & FALL OF AN ASYLUM STAR by Jill Dowse. Kaliyuga Arts under the care of John Sowle and Steven Patterson has been "rendering Oddities with Grace and Insight since 1986" www.kaliyuga.com

Santa Ana: Rude Guerrilla Theater Company is making waves in conservative Orange County. Probably their least controversial offering has been Christopher Durang's SISTER MARY IGNATIUS EXPLAINS IT ALL FOR YOU plus THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE in July-August 2002. 714-547-4688

Santa Barbara: Phranc performed at the opening reception of OUT OF TRUE art exhibit in July 2002. On October 11, 2002 there will be a juried art exhibit called Gay Identity and October 12, 2002 is their Pride Festival. www.sbpride.org

Sarasota: Sarasota AIDS Theatre Project will present 2nd Annual Night of Alternative Theatre, September 30, 2002 at Golden Apple Dinner Theatre. They will perform excerpts from a work in progress based on AND THE BAND PLAYED ON and THE LARAMIE PROJECT as well as musical selections from WHEN PIGS FLY. For information call 941-365-6348. Kudos to Project Director Garry Allan Breul!

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CHICAGO SCENE
by Michael Van Kerckhove

Pride 14: It's summer, it's Pride, its Bailiwick Repertory's 14th Annual Pride Series. It's also a leaner roster than in past years, a choice made to focus more energy on fewer productions (plus those singing *Naked Boys* are still taking up one of the stages.) Here's a run down of this year's offerings.

Scott Capurro's *Fucking Our Fathers* kicks off the series. The play follows two 40-year-old men as they journey from their younger party boy selves into the realm of mature father figure types. They still want their muscle daddies, but realize that's a role meant for them now. (Through June 30)

Robert Canning's *Ice/Age* makes its world premiere. Written for the Stonewall Generation, it's the story of Frank and Wes (who have been together 27 years) and their friends as they

play poker, dish, and discuss life, love, and the inevitable end. (Through August 4)

Nifty, developed by Scott Lee Heckman, features staged readings of erotic gay stories. (Through August 25)

Del Shores' *Southern Baptist Sissies* makes its Chicago premiere after successful runs in LA and Dallas. A coming-of-age story about growing up gay and Baptist in the deep South. (Through September 1.)

20, developed by Stephen Rader, was inspired by his visit to the Chicago display of the AIDS Quilt. He set out to fill the absence of modern HIV/AIDS plays by asking a diverse group of gay men 20 questions about love, sex, Bea Arthur, and more. (Through September 8)

Chuck Ranberg's Off-Broadway hit, *End of the World Party* makes its Chicago premiere. The play follows a group of men who spend their summers on Fire Island. Instead of the wild abandon of summers past, this year, they focus on love and friends — the ones they are with and the ones they've lost. (Through September 8) bailiwick.org

Girls' Turn: The Theatre Building presented the Chicago premiere of *Girl Meets Girl* by California based playwrights, Craig Fox and Sally Stover. The comedy follows San Francisco gal Anita, a 35-year-old fed up with her job, and her group of friends as they search for love and sex in the 21st century. This production follows acclaimed runs in LA, San Francisco, Atlanta, Denver, Detroit, and Seattle. theatrebuilding.org

They said "Uranus" (he he): GayCo, Chicago's premiere gay comedy troupe, presents their latest creation this summer, *GayCo Behind Bars*, a quick-witted revue skewering the gay life style. The show takes place at Club Uranus, a take on be seen cruisy clubs, and starts with a group of posers eyeing the crowd with their song, "We Pass Judgment." From there, it takes shots at Harry Potter, a futuristic world where all the heterosexuals are wiped out by a meteor strike, and much more. Check out gayco.net

A Youthful Bow: About Face Theatre closed its current season July 28 with the 4th installment from the About Face Youth Theatre: *Inside Out*. Each year, a group of 14 to 20-year-olds puts together a show based on their experiences. This show included a bit on the anxiety over public restrooms, the story of a Jamaican boy seeking asylum, and the poetry of a fabulous Latina lesbian in black leather pants. Funny, touching, and extremely honest, Ernie and I wanted to adopt them all.

The show is also the last in their current home, the Jane Addams Center. The Center was purchased by a developer and will most likely be torn down. The theatre has in the past housed Bailiwick, Famous Door, and Steppenwolf, among others. Gary Sinise, Laurie Metcalf, John Malkovich, and David Schwimmer have all graced its stage. About Face will be itinerant for at least the next two seasons before the planned residency at the new GLBT community center on Halsted that is now in development. aboutfacetheatre.com

Working up a Sweat: On June 20, The NewTown Writers presented *Working Stiffs ... stories and songs about queers on the job...* The show was presented in the un-AC'd loft

space of the Bailiwick — but the turn out was amazing. I performed my monologue, "The Two Turns of Table 12: A Waiter's Tale." I went first — so no one was deliriously hot yet. The group also presents *Off the Rocks* celebrating 20 years of Chicago's gay literary tradition. newtownwriters.org

A Beautiful Night: Famous Door Theatre Company has remounted its award winning production of Jonathan Harvey's *Beautiful Thing* (which later ran Off-Broadway). The original cast was back for a weekend run at Theatre on the Lake (a wonderful summer-in-Chicago institution.) In the final scene, when Ste and Jamie slow dance to "Dream a Little Dream," I particularly missed Ernie, who's teaching in Michigan this summer. The production runs for a limited engagement at the Center for the Performing Arts through August 25. famousdoortheatre.org

Porchlight Music Theatre Company produced the Chicago premiere of William Finn's (Tony winner for *Falsettos*) 1998 show, *A New Brain*. The show was inspired by Finn's own experiences with a brain tumor diagnosis. Like Finn, the lead character, Gordan (Stephen Rader) feared that all the songs he has yet to write would be locked away inside his brain if he died or his surgery would render him without motor skills. The show is an upbeat and life-affirming reminder. Savor it all before it's taken away from us (possibly quite suddenly!)

Well, that's all for me. Enjoy the waning days of summer and the approaching cool autumnal winds. A new full theatre season is upon us!

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

SODOM EAST: NEW YORK

On the Great Purple Way

by Tom O'Neil

The Pride of Pride Shows: "Lesbian Pulp-O-Rama"

"Lesbian Pulp-O-Rama" is now officially a hit-o-rama poised to become a gay classic. The cheeky spoof of those 1950s paperbacks that depicted dykes as bug-eyed deviants hell-bent on seducing innocent maidens returned to the Queer@Here Festival for Gay Pride month slightly tweaked and retooled after its acclaimed debut last year.

The reasons it still generates deafening bravos and huzzahs: (1) it's so smartly written that it appeals to highbrow critics, (2) so hilariously campy that it's cheered by homos and str8s alike (imagine skits titled "Reformatory Girls" and "Sondra Stingray: Girl Gumshoe") and (3) so cheap to stage (minimal costumes and virtually no set) that it's a blessing-o-rama to producers. To inquire about licensing productions, contact creator Heather de Michelle via email onthevergetheatrenyc@hotmail.com or her press rep Karen Greco karengreco@rcn.com

Other highlights of the June festival included: solo video/theater work "Touchscape" by James Scruggs (about the promiscuous sex life of gay men), "A Pair of Hands: Deaf Gay Monologues" by Raymond Leczak (vignettes set in

Manhattan, 1975 to today), and "The Mystique of Fly" by Leslie Duprey (poetry by lesbians of color). A knee-slapping treat was "Cornholed!" by Daniel Nardicio about the inhabitants of a trailer park who enter a beauty pageant in order to win a lifetime supply of government cheese. For further info, check Here's Web site www.here.org or contact exec director Kristin Martin at Kristin@here.org or 212-647-0202.

Once again the Genesis Guild unveiled a new comedy for Pride -- this year "Just Us Boys" by Frank Stancati, about five bitchy lads who share a dressing room while dancing in a Broadway tuner, "Depression," that looks like a real downer but ends up sweeping the Tonys. The backstage backstabbing depicted are based on the true experiences of its author, who hoofed it in "Sugar Babies," "Annie" and "42nd Street." More info at www.genesiussquild.org

Fans of playwright Sidney Morris celebrated Pride by attending a selection of his theater works, "Hot Mamas and Gay Boys," on June 17 at the Aurora on West 57th Street.

Preposterous but true: There actually existed a provocative play -- with a prominent gay subplot -- by str8 super-writer John O'Hara that was never produced. The Peccadillo Theater Company corrected that outrage by staging "Veronique," about rot gut-swilling, sex-crazed bohemians in 1920s Greenwich Village. The plot is absurd by today's standards (a writer gives up a fortune because he doesn't want to be "tainted") and the portrayal of gays is offensive (so much swishing it whips up a windstorm in the theater), but the dialog glows like a treasured chestnut. Bank Street Theater July 14-August 4, 2002.

Other notable productions:

"A Letter from Ethel Kennedy" — In May, the MCC Theater staged this a play-within-a-play about a middle-aged TV exec, who tries to reconcile with his parents before he dies of AIDS. It was penned by Christopher Gorman, who died in 2001. Curiously, a str8 role was played by "Queer as Folk" star Randy Harrison.

"Boys and Girls" — A new play by Tom Donaghy about two lesbians who ask their best friend — a dysfunctional gay man who pines to reconnect with his alcoholic ex-lover — to move in with them and be a father figure to their infant boy. Presented by Playwrights Horizons at the Duke Theater in May and June.

"Tales Told" — Two non-gay one-acts "with a gay subtext" staged by TOSOS II, including "Penny Penniworth," about a third-rung British theater company presenting a "lost" Charles Dickens work. Performed in June at the West End Theater at the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew.

"Cute Boys in Their Underpants Versus the Wicked Queen" — Robert Cole's sixth play featuring fruity boys in their Fruit-of-the-Looms is set in a parallel universe ruled by a real bitch. Sanford Meisner Theater. 212-206-1764

"SEaMEN! The Sailor Musical" - A naughty nautical musical revue about a young chap who has a penchant for fellas in uniform while riding the waves and blowin' in the wind. Conceived and directed by Hugh Hysell. July-August at Fez/Time Café.

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

MINNEAPOLIS SCENE by Steven LaVigne

Discovering the roots of today's composers and lyricists is a genuine treat, especially with such talents as Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens. Before they set Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, and captured the music within E. L. Doctorow's masterpiece, RAGTIME, this duo created a musical based on Michael Butterworth's novel, "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo." This spring, The Minneapolis Musical Theatre offered the area premiere of the delightful, LUCKY STIFF at Bryant Lake Bowl.

The plot's a familiar one: a nebbish stands to inherit a million dollars if he escorts his late uncle's corpse to the European capital for one final spree. The conflict, of course, is that, if he fails, the funds go to an animal shelter, and complications include a box of stolen jewels and an angry, cheating redhead. Most recently, this plot was used for the movie, WEEKEND AT BERNIE'S. The difference, of course, is that the musical is better written, it feels surprisingly fresh and as performed by this outstanding and generally enthusiastic cast, who keeps the spirit of the show truly entertaining, this show is such a treat!

Ahrens' clever and smart lyrics capture the highlights of Butterworth's story, even when her libretto weighs down things a bit, because the exposition takes a while to jell. (After all, this adventure takes place in one day!) Flaherty's score helps to maintain the lively pace and style. It all works if you don't think too much, because it's also a mixed bag of anachronisms.

To begin with, we're never sure exactly what period is this. It should be the 1930s, but it could be the 1950s. The costumes and props are all from different eras. The show demands a delicious Ernest Lubitsch style, as in such films as "To Be or Not to Be," or "Ninotchka." However, director Steven J. Meerkink fails to capture this style and doesn't demand much from anyone, so it's up to the actors to make it work.

And work they do: Jeffrey Cloninger is delightful as the nebbish, Harry Witherspoon, while Tina Miller as Annabel Glick, the love interest is great, because she has one of those musical comedy voices audiences thrill to hear.

Greta Grosch is having a ball as Rita La Porta, the cheating redhead, while Kevin Hansen has found a pleasurable character as her brother, Vinnie. Marlin Rothe, Windy Merrill, Gregg Peterson, Laurie Etchen, Paul Reyburn and Arnie Roos are also excellent.

LUCKY STIFF is the last show the Minneapolis Musical Theatre will perform at Bryant Lake Bowl. They're moving to a larger venue next season. Catch LUCKY STIFF before it leaves, because, as stated above, it's a genuine treat!

There were good reasons to visit the Loring Playhouse during Pride events. Gaydar Productions, the ensemble who

brought us the area premiere of David Dillon's Party, presented a pair of shows worthy of attention. One was better than the other, and neither are standouts against the great works of gay theatre, but they were both pleasant summer theatre diversions.

Billed as a "romantic gay comedy," the area premiere of Steve Kluger's After Dark was sharply written and beautifully acted. The author appears to be telling us that we live in a technologically advanced society and it's placed gay men in a unique position. With gay history so available on the "information superhighway," there's no excuse for any gay man under 40 to confuse Ethel Merman with Esther Williams, which one character does within five minutes of the play's start. Kluger takes a lot of gay clichés to task, including Minnesota's own Judy Garland, and All about Eve.

After Dark is set in an empty, shabby LA diner at 3am, "five days before Christmas," where Ryan, a stuffy lawyer, is working on a case, and drinking warmed-over coffee. The silence is broken when Craig, a boisterous, horny, pseudo-hustler/actor, walks in, talking a mile a minute as he attempts to seduce Ryan. It's an immediate clash of wills as these two men from different gay cultures toss back witticisms galore. (There are a lot of gay references that unfamiliar audiences will miss or won't understand.) At one point, Ryan tells Craig that his gay idealism has "set an entire movement back 75 years."

Recently fired from Disneyland for being caught in a sexual situation with the actor playing "Dopey," Craig's a character similar to Judy Maxwell, Barbara Streisand's character in "What's Up Doc?" He's loaded with lots of useless information which lends the script something of a "gay man's guide to growing up" tone.

Act two takes place five years later, and the two have switched roles. Craig's now a political speechwriter, while Brian is a successful playwright. Their relationship has failed, in part, because, while they know one another, they don't really seem to know one another. As the second act unravels, there's a lot of useless dialogue, and for a while, we wonder if this is what the playwright intended.

Sometimes, the dialogue takes on a Woody Allen-esque tone, too. We learn that the affair fizzled when each man cheated on the other. Then, Ryan reveals that he's HIV+ and this sharp romantic comedy turns into yet another AIDS drama.

As stated above, however, this was still sharply written and beautifully acted. In spite of its numerous flaws, Jairus Abts as Craig and Galway McCullough as Brian, played the material briskly and director Rick Anderson keeps things moving for 90 minutes.

After Dark was paired with the world premiere of This Queer Life, an adaptation of Michael Thomas Ford's gay humor pieces, which have been published in four different volumes. Ford's a difficult writer to enjoy, mostly because his writing is often second-rate. To be fair, This Queer Life was basically a by-the-numbers revue minus much music, that sometimes became refreshingly entertaining, partly because Ford's writing seems better suited to the stage. Among the winning sequences were: "Confessions of A Don't Bee," an hilarious piece on the dark side of Romper Room; "Just One of the

Girls," a comparison of gay male and lesbian pride dances, and; "Queer Cinema," a mini-lesson that dates gay cinema from Bette Davis' appearance in 1935's Dangerous to the video revolution, as it celebrated gay cinematic icons, and "A Better Moustrap," which took on the Christian Right and their attempts to spoil Disney's coffers during the release of Hercules.

When John Flannagan took the lead in "Too much of a Good Thing," his character, Jonathan, became a demented, cross-eyed devotee of Martha Stewart. When he lost his job, he needed to join a self-help group. The sad thing about this piece is that, in spite of the sincerity in which was played, there are people like this. Sometimes tedious, often joyous, This Queer Life was very much a mixed bag.

There was a top ten list, and (rather tedious) pieces on gay dating, and gays vs. straights. Some of this material was overlong, and director Anderson relied on his ensemble to enliven the dead spots. If there was a major flaw here, it was that the voices that were really speaking Ford's words were often lost or unrecognizable. It would be advisable to cut the "Dyke the Halls" piece because it's derivative, and only Andrav's poses, more hilarious than the moves or RuPaul, kept this dreary thing moving. Furthermore, it needed more moments like "Changes in My Life" when Andrav opened up to sing. There needed to be more moments to showcase the ensemble's individual talents. While Dan Averitt sometimes had articulation problems and Michael Snyder needed more dimension of character, the ensemble, including Eli Dwyer (who resembles gay comic, Elvira Kurt), John Flannagan, Janet Paone, Tammy Shanley, Averitt, Snyder and the remarkable Andrav, made This Queer Life a pleasant, if unremarkable evening of summer theatre.

There are 14 productions with "Queer Content" scheduled for the Minnesota Fringe Festival, August 2-11 in Minneapolis. The Bryant-Lake Bowl, Hey City Theatre and Dunn Brothers Coffee House and Intermedia Arts are all new venues for the Fringe this year. Among the returning production companies are the Marvel Ann Theatre presenting ALL ABOUT STEVE; Rhino Productions presenting Mic Weinblatt's NO SMOKING, NO PETS, NO LOUD SEX; and Ministry of Cultural Warfare's SLAUGHTER HOUSE WARMING. Among the more curious titles are COLOR ME NAKED, MUFFY VON MUNCHAUSEN AND THE FEMININE MISTAKE, THE ONCE AND FUTURE WHORE and SCREWED 3.

The Outward Spiral Theatre will follow up their smash hit, HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH with BRAVE SMILES, ANOTHER LESBIAN TRAGEDY, which is billed as "a comedy by The Five Lesbian Brothers." Directed by Laurie Attea, it plays September 6-21 at the Loring Playhouse. Theatre in the Round Players has included to queer playwrights in their 51st season: Scott McPherson's MARVIN'S ROOM and Lanford Wilson's BOOK OF DAYS are scheduled this winter.

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COMEDY

Qcomedy is going strong in San Francisco and The Bay Area. Special performances on Mondays in June for the Queer Arts Festival and subsequent Mondays at the SF LGBT Center. Appearing have been Doug Holsclaw, Janis

Lipton.Blake, Adam Sandel, Johnny Holiday, David Guiney, Bridget Schwartz, Lisa Geduldig, Lee Levine, Ronn Vigh, Chantal, James Judd, Dana Cory, Jane Barbone, Pippi Lovestocking, Kate Rigg, Heather Gold, Maggie Dolan, Erin Souza, Bob Douglas, Simone Alexander, Melanie Borba, Marti Mac Gibbon, Nick Leonard., Shari Vasseghi, Maureen Brownsey, Regina Stoops, Karen Ripley, comedy troupe Laughingstock and from New York Greg Walloch. I didn't realize San Francisco was so funny, but it is so. Tickets 415-865-5633.

Qcomedy also produced Scott Capurro's Erect in San Francisco show in July 2002 at the Eureka Theatre. Also in July at Cobb's was the Swallow My Pride Comedy Festival.

Comedians Mark Davis and Bob Smith appeared in June, 2002 in Los Angeles at the Celebrity Caven Theater at Casita del Campo in Silverlake.

The wonderful Karen Williams appeared we are told at the Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club in Oakland, CA, June 28, 2002.

The funny Suzanne Westenhoefer will be appearing in Columbus on November 16, 2002 at the Southern Theatre. After Party and select seats available at 614-460-3000. All other seating at 614-431-3600 or www.ticketmaster.com

In New York on June 25, 2000 was a benefit for Trevor Helpline for Gay youth at Caroline's Comedy Club. Appearing were Kate Clinton, James Lecesne, Suzanne Westenhoefer, and more.

Those Meddling Kids, a hilarious comedy troupe, have returned to The GL Center's Village the 2nd Monday of each month through October 2002. Call 323-860-7300.

Comic Jason Stuart had a showcase for "the industry" Sept 5, 2002 at the Second City Theatre in West Hollywood He has film, video, and tour dates galore. Check out www.jasonstuart.com

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FESTIVALS & SEASONS

The Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre

Festival — September 12-21, 2002, Columbus, Ohio.

AD Frank Barnhart has assembled theatre companies and performances from all over the US and Canada. The line-up:

- AIDEN'S BED starring Chris Steele, Naughty Austin Productions (Austin)
- AN EVENING OF GAY AND LESBIAN STORIES, Playback Theatre (Columbus)
- BLADE PARADE, Recycle Rep. (NY)
- DOS LESBOS, Red-Headed GRRRLS Theatre, (Wash., DC)
- EX POST PAPA: LIFE AS A FREELANCE DYKE DAD, BEAR (Amherst, MA)
- HANDS UP MY BOTTOM, The Puppet Queers (Columbus)
- HERE I AM: A MUSICAL PERSONAL AD, with David Sisco, Jill Brunnelle, Piano (NY)
- HOST ORGANIZATION, Act Out Productions (Columbus)
- I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD COOK, 2CO's Cabaret (Columbus)
- ICONS: THE LESBIAN AND GAY HISTORY OF THE WORLD w/ Jade Esteban Estrada (NY)

- JUST ANOTHER TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE MEAT RACK, Village Scene Prod.s (Montreal)
 - KAREN WILLIAMS: COMIC SUPERBITCH, HaHa Institute (Cleveland)
 - LORENA HICKOK and ELEANOR ROOSEVELT starring Marjorie Conn (Provincetown)
 - MOTHER/SON starring Jeffrey Solomon (Philadelphia)
 - MOVING VEHICLES starring Paul Ricciardi (Provincetown)
 - POWERFUL MAGICS & SSSSEXY HOT PANTS, Hit The Ground Running (Columbus)
 - QUESTIONABLE ORIGINS, TAPIT (Madison)
 - RULALENSKA.COM, Ragged Blade Productions (St. Louis)
 - SANTA CLAUS IS COMING OUT starring Jeffrey Solomon (Philadelphia)
 - STUPID KIDS, Theatre Entrophy (Chicago)
 - THAT'S MISTER FAGGOT TO YOU! Laughlin Artz (Pittsburgh)
 - THE BIRTH OF CASPER G. SCHMIDT, Sky Gilbert and The Cabaret Company (Toronto)
 - THE BOY NEXT DOOR, C.J. Productions (St. Louis)
 - THE BRIAN AND MAL SHOW starring Brian Jewell and Karen Malme (Dorchester, MA)
 - THE TRAVELING COMPANION by Tennessee Williams, DRAMA! (New Orleans)
 - TRAVELOGUE starring Chris Burnside (Richmond)
- Note: Schedule Subject to Change, for a schedule or reservations contact 614-263-9448 or go to www.cnglft.com

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, **Bailiwick Repertory** in Chicago's Pride 2002 included ICE/AGE by Robert Canning, NIFTY by Scott Heckman, SOUTHERN BAPTIST SISSIES by Del Shores, END OF THE WORLD PARTY by Chuck Ranberg, 20 by Stephen Rader and Ensemble and NAKED BOYS SINGING is still running too! 773-883-1090, www.bailiwick.org

The 2003 and 6th season for **Rude Guerrilla** in Santa Ana Calif. with rights pending includes WALKING THE DEAD by Keith Curran, SOME EXPLICIT POLAROIDs by Mark Ravenhill, LIBERATION by Steve Patterson, ROAD (a great show!) by Jim Cartwright, DISAPPEARED by Phyllis Nagy, THE NEW JERSEY TRILOGY by Ken Urban, ENDGAME by Samuel Beckett, SWEENEY TODD by Christopher Bond, and PENETRATOR by Anthony Neilson.

TOSOS members Erik Haagensen and David Zellnik have had works selected for the **International Festival of Musical Theatre** in Cardiff Wales in November 2002. Erik's show is SUMMER and David's show is CITY OF DREAMS. In addition England's Richard Free and Peter Shrubshall's GAY POETS IN MUD will be presented. 020-7434 1944 or sarah@thesmp.com

The **2002 Fall Festival at the Furniture Factory** in Detroit includes Los Angeles' Poverty Department's AGENTS AND ASSETS, and Walk & Squawk's DIRTY LITTLE STORIES2.

Richmond Triangle Players, Virginia's gay and lesbian theatre celebrates its tenth anniversary season with EULA MAE'S BEAUTY, BAIT AND TACKLE by Frank Blocker and Chuck Richards (opening September 10, 2002), THE CRUMPLE ZONE by Buddy Thomas (opening November 12, 2002), VITA & VIRGINIA (opening 5, 2003) by Eileen Atkins and RUTHLESS! by Joey Paley and Marvin Laird (opening April 9, 2003). Additional bonus is MY LEFT BREAST by

Susan Miller (opening October 16 for two weeks during Breast cancer month as a benefit for Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation). 804-346-8113

Laurelgrove Theatre in Studio City Calif. held a **Tennessee Williams Summer Festival**. Included: TENNESSEE IN THE SUMMER by Joe Besecker, LAMENT FOR THE MOTHS: THE LOST POEMS OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS and WILLIAMS NOIR: A Series of Tennessee Williams one-act plays featuring an all-Black ensemble cast. 818-760-8368

The **Gay Games in Sydney** will feature a **Cultural Festival** November 2-9, 2002. There will be all sorts of performing arts to see. Details: www.sydney2002.org.au

The Riant Theatre in NYC presented **The First Annual International Lesbian and Gay Theatre Festival** Aug 2-18, 2002 at The Producer's Club. Shows include LITTLE COWPOKE by Warren Raboy, COCKTAIL CONVERSATION by Andrew Biss, 11:55 by Patric McGrath, MAMA WAS AN ANDALUSIAN JET SKIER or HOW TO BREED HETROSEXUALS by Robin Reese, Jade Estaban Estrada's Friday Night Music Jam. ONE MORE WITH FEELING by Bob Quinn, CONTRIBUTION TO DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE by Robert Shaffron, SOMEBODY SOMEWHERE, NAKED DAISIES, THE PERSONALS, and SIGN RIGHT HERE, all by Suzanne McCoy, and SUNSET BBQ by Mark Fletcher. 646-623-3488 or therianttheatre@aol.com

Provincetown Fringe Festival presented by Conn Artist Performance Event from June 23-Sept 1 and Women's Week Oct 12-20, 2002 in Provincetown. Shows included LORENA HICKOK & ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: A LOVE STORY by Pat Bond performed by Marjorie Conn; #999316 DEATH ROW TEXAS: GETTING TO KNOW YOU by Larry D Davis and Marjorie Conn; DEVIANT WOMEN by Carolyn Gage also Singers Pavia and Vicky McKee, SO I KILLED A FEW PEOPLE by Gary Ruderman and David Summers, the magician Comas, and THE HONEYMOON YEARS OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT & LORENA HICKOK, MISS LIZZIE A. BORDEN INVITES YOU TO TEA, and MISTRESS ECTASY'S EROTIC CIRCUS all written and performed by Marjorie Conn. 508-487-2666

A.S.K. Theater Projects Common Ground Festival was held in June 2002, as it is every year at UCLA. Included was san Diego's Sledgehammer Theater's production of THE WORLD IS ROUND adapted by Scott Feldsher from a short story by Gertrude Stein. A.S.K. events: 310-478-9ASK

NativeAliens Theatre Collective presented their **4th Annual Short Play Festival: SHORT STORIES IV** at their Flatiron Playhouse in NYC in June 2002. The plays included AVATAR by Anthony Pennino, WHAT'S GOING ON IN ROOM 610? by Tyler Jason Ferreira, FATHERS' DAY by Matt Heftler, THE DRIVE by Lindsay Price, MY FATHER'S SON by Jennie Contuzzi, MANLY MEN DOING MANLY THINGS by Scott Sickles, and CHA-CHA-CHA by Garth Wingfield. 212-726-726-8891

The **National Queer Arts Festival in San Francisco** in June, 2002 has grown to 60 events including comedy, poetry, live performances and more in the last five years. Among the events were MIGHTY REAL that chronicles the life of disco legend Sylvester by Djola Branner of Pomo Afro

Homos fame, NY performer Reno in REBEL WITHOUT A PAUSE, Comedian Elvira Kurt, and much more.

The **6th Annual Queer@Here Festival** ran at the HERE Arts Center in NYC June 17-30, 2002. Included were diva Veronica Klaus, Tigger, A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BODY dance by Jeremy Kucholtz, LESBIAN PULP-O-RAMA with the Sassmasters and A PAIR OF HANDS: DEAF GAY MONOLOGUES by Raymond Luczak and more. 212-647-0202 or www.here.org

HOT! The **10th Annual NYC Celebration of Queer Culture** sizzled as it does every July. This year's roster included Janis Aster dek Valle, John Fleck, Jim Grimsley, Holly Hughes, Lisa Kron, Rob Nash, Greg Walloch and many more. 212-532-1546 or www.dixonplace.org

The first **Annual HomoGENIUS Festival** was presented at Manhattan Theatre Source in June-July 2002, which is a companion festival to their EstroGENIUS festival for women. They produced ten new plays during the festival.

Manbites Dog Theater in Durham presented **Don't Ask Don't Tell 2002**, A Festival Of Queer Theatre & Performance in May-June, with IN THE OUTFIELD with Laurie Wolf and A LETTER TO HARVEY MILK by Leslea Newman performed by Yaron Schweizer. 919-682-3343 or www.manbitesdogtheater.org

FirstStage in Hollywood produced their **16th Annual Playwrights Express** with 124 short plays over two weekends! They are accepting submissions for their One-Act Play Contest. For info call 323-6271 or firststgela@aol.com

Toronto's Buddies In Bad Times produced **Sexy Pride** in June, 2002 with Strange Sisters, Tallulah's Sleazy Cabaret, THEATRE LIFE by Sky Gilbert, Faster B-Girlz, FORTUNE AND MEN'S EYES by John Herbert, KINGdom, Cheeky and Homo Night in Canada events. Their 2002-2003 season includes: HOMAGE by James Harkness (Oct 1-20,2002) ; HENRY AND PIERRE by Damien Atkins (Nov 14-15,2002) ; FRANKIE with Mary Ellen Maclean (Nov-Dec 15, 2002; The 25th Rhubarb! Festival of new works curated by Festival Director Naomi Campbell (February 5-23, 2003); Danny Grossman Dance Company (March 4-9, 2003); TIME AFTER TIME: THE CHET BAKER PROJECT produced by Crow's Theatre (March 13-April 6, 2003); and STEM with House Of Slacks and Les Vaches. May 11-June 8, 2003. 416-975-8555 or buddiesinbadtimestheatre.com

The Ida Community in Tennessee is having their annual **Idapalooza Fruit Jam** September 16-22, 2002. It sounds like great fun with concerts and the great outdoors too! 615-559-4409, www.planetida.com

Theatre Rhinoceros in San Francisco had its **6th Annual Playwright's Stew of New Works** in August 2002. Playwrights represented included Felix Racelis, Aoise Stratford, Trevor and Claudia Barr and more. www.therhino.org/studio.htm

The Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts in San Francisco announced its **Fall 2002 AIRspace Artists In Residence** who will be presenting their works there Sept-November 2002. They are Saun-Toy Latifa Trotter, Heather

Gold,brOTHERS, and ADEO. Call for information at 415-554-0402 or director@jonsimsctr.org

TeAda Works: New Performance Development Lab brought **Live Mutant Art**, a Festival of boundary-breaking performance August 22-25, 2002 at Angel's Gate Cultural Center in the San Pedro area of Los Angeles. Included were BLUTOH by Pat Payne, WELCOME TO LSL: Lao as a 2nd language by Ova Saopeng, MISS CHINATOWN 2ND RUNNER UP by Kristina Sheryl Wong. www.teada.org

OUT ON THE EDGE: 11th Annual Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Theater is presented by The Theater Offensive in Boston, Sept 4-28, 2002 at the Boston Center for the Arts. Included are BY TOOTH or BY TONGUE by Lucy Newman-Williams, a rich, erotically charged Lesbian romance; D.R.E.D.- Daring Reality Every Day with Dred Gerestant, NYC's hottest gender illusionist; DIRTY STUFF with Jonny McGovern, shockingly un-PC humor; AROUND THE WORLD WITH MISS THANG with Alison C. Wright; UNITARD: NOW MORE THAN EVER, NYC's comic threesome of Mike Albo, Nora Burns and David Ilku; RESIDENT ALIEN by Quentin Crisp adapted by Tim Fountain and performed by Bette Bourne. 617-426-2787

New Conservatory Theatre Center in San Francisco's current and upcoming season includes: CONFESSIONS OF A MORMON BOY with Steve Fales, PINS by Jim Provenzano, THE KEN AND ANDY SHOW with Ken Taylor and Andrew Barrett, MY DINNER WITH LUNATIQUE FANTASTIQUE, THE MEN FROM THE BOYS by Mart Crowley, THE BOMBAY TRUNK by Felice Picano, THIEF RIVER by Lee Blessing, IN THE GARDEN by Norman Allen, MYSTERIOUS SKIN by Prince Gomolvilas, BODY BLOWS with Tim Miller, MASTER OF THE (MISS) UNIVERSE with Noel Alunit, THE FOOD CHAIN by Nicky Silver, The Neo-Dandy Cabaret directed by Keith Hennessy; and HOWARD CRABTREE'S WHEN PIGS FLY by Howard Crabtree, Mark Waldrop and Dick Gallagher. 415-861-8972 or www.nctcsf.org/new_season.html

Diversionsary Theatre in San Diego announced its 2002-2003 season to include: THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE by Frank Marcus, THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP by Charles Ludlum, GROSS INDECENCY by Moises Kaufman, DEPORTING THE DIVAS by Guillermo Reyes, and TBA musical. 619-220-0097 or www.diversionary.org

San Francisco's **Theatre Rhinocero's** 25th Anniversary Season includes HAIRSTORY by Johari Jabir and Doug Holsclaw, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU NEED A LAUGH with Kate Clinton, SHOW HO with Sara Moore, AMNESIA by John Fisher, STRANGERS IN PARADOX by Kate Bornstein, and C*S*: A LOVE STORY by Ronnie Larsen. 415-861-5079

Lambda Players in Sacramento's 14th season includes REAL GIRLS with Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon, PAPERCLIP MESSIAH by Matthew Burlingame, BOY MEETS BOY by Bill Solly, Festival of Gay Plays, GIRL MEETS GIRL by Maddy Alexander and Sally Stover, Lesbian Laugh Festival, and TWILIGHT OF THE GOLDS by Jonathan Tolins. 916-366-3904 or www.lambdaplayers.org

AfroSolo Arts Festival celebrating African-American voices was held in August 2002 in SF. There were visual arts, an outdoor, jazz concert, performance art, an AIDS community

forum, comedy and more. 415-771-AFRO or www.afrosolo.org

Ecce Lesbo/Ecce Hom Festival continues at Highways in Santa Monica through September 2002 with Monica Palacios, Peggy Shaw, Noel Alunit and more. 310-315-1459 or www.highwayperformance.org

FILM / VIDEO / TELEVISION / RADIO

The film version of Del Shores' **Sordid Lives** has had quite a life of its own still playing at the Regent Showcase in Palm Springs and had an extended run in Los Angeles. Del is also now producing and writing for Queer as Folk!

Jason Stuart and Michael Gallant won the Best Picture Award at the Barcelona GL Film Festival for their film **10 Attitudes** in July. The romantic comedy also co-stars Alexandra Paul, Judy Tenuta, David Faustino, Sean Kanan, Lydia Nicole, Sheila Kay, Mitch Hara, Scott Kennedy, and Jim J. Bullock. www.10attitudes.com

The 20th anniversary of **Out Fest**, The LA gay/lesbian film festival was a huge success in July 2002. The opening featured the Out Fest Achievement Award to Strand Releasing, there was a gala screening of The Cockettes and the closing was Lan Yu directed by Stanley Kwan. www.outfest.org

Moondance International Film Festival promotes and encourages non-violent conflict resolution in film, depiction of women and girls in a positive manner, lead roles for women actors over 40 and appreciation of diversity. Moondance 2003 will be held in Boulder, Colorado's Chautauqua Park May 29-June 1, 2003. Submission deadline is October 1, 2002 and there is a category for stage plays and other medium. More entry info available at www.moondancefilmfestival.com

Out North in Anchorage featured in its **Pride Film Series** Tasha Oldham's THE SMITH FAMILY about the turmoil in a Mormon family when the husband is HIV+ and their Youth Media program presented the documentary of last year's Gay Pride Parade as well as THROUGH THEIR EYES: STORIES OF GAYS AND LESBIANS IN THE MOUNTAINS produced by youth in Appalachian Media Institute of Appalshop in Whitesburg, Kentucky. email@outhnorth.org

Don't miss Margaret Cho in **Notorious C.H.O. The Movie** that opened in June-July, 2002 directed by Lorene Machado. www.margaretocho.com

Film Fatale at Highways in Santa Monica celebrated its 5th year at Highways presenting a queer arts forum showcasing LA and San Francisco artists and filmmakers. filmfatale007@aol.com

Jon Sims Center in San Francisco celebrated **The Cockettes** documentary with an archival photography exhibit "Catching up with the Cockettes" that ran May 31-July 31, 2002. www.jonsimsctr.org

F*ck The Disabled is a new concert/documentary film by Eli Kabillo on Greg Walloch's live show, **White Disabled Talent**. The film also stars Stephen Baldwin, Anne Meara, Jerry

Stiller, Paul Borghese, Michael Musto and Deborah Yates from Picture This! www.gregwalloch.com

Demian's current videos in distribution include:

- "The Fight Before Christmas"
A musical comedy about same-sex couples and family values (VHS)
www.buddybuddy.com/fight.html
- "Gertie Takes A Trip To The Moon & A Man Recycles," and "LEGGO"
Animations (two shorts on a compilation DVD)
www.buddybuddy.com/dvd-1.html

The following videos by Demian are currently being produced:

- "Scaredy-Kate & the Monsters -or- How to Pay the Rent"
A marionette opera (music by Joseph Haydn)
www.buddybuddy.com/kate.html
- "Gilgamesh & Enkidu: The Oldest Love Story Ever Written"
www.buddybuddy.com/g.html
- "Director's Commentary"
A short comedy
www.buddybuddy.com/dc.html

Demian is director of Partners Task Force for Gay & Lesbian Couples and can be reached at, Sweet Corn Productions, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109, 206-935-1206, demian@buddybuddy.com
www.buddybuddy.com/sweet.html

LITERARY SCENE

ANOTHER AMERICAN, ASKING & TELLING by Marc Wolfe has been published in the anthology, "Political Stages: Plays That Shaped A Century" edited by Emily Mann and David Roessel by Applause Books. Other entries include Tony Kushner, Emily Mann, Jon Robin Baitz, Tennessee Williams, and Langston Hughes. info@applausepub.com

Francine L. Trevens of T'n't Classics has been voted President of the Greater New York Independent Publishers Association and the only member publishing Gay material too! Kudos Francine! shelleyft@aol.com

Three of Marjorie Conn's one-acts have been published in LOST LESBIAN LIVES including THE HONEYMOON YEARS OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT & LORENA HICKOK, MISS LIZZIE A. BORDEN INVITES YOU TO TEA and THAR SHE BLOWS! DISGUISED AS A BOY SHE WENT A-WHALING. You can get a discounted copy for \$10 plus \$1.50 per book by sending mail orders to Marjorie Conn, 476 Commercial St., Provincetown MA 02657. I highly recommend that you get this book! Producers take note!

Mike Bolin and Joe Watts and Theatre New West in Houston presented Poetry Jam during Pride Week 2002 in June. Appearing were Mike Bolin, Thomas Blanton, Aaron Coleman, Sarah Crowder Holtzmann, Michael Locke, and Joe Watts. 713-394-0464

The Purple Circuit will again be listed in the Dramatists Guild Resources Directory, which is mailed to all of their members.

Our NYC columnist Tom O'Neil covers all the award shows for E! He has a great Web site that even the nominees follow at GoldDerby.com, and writes for Rosie's magazine too!

Patricia Nell Warren spoke in August at the Writers Series at ONE Institute in LA that Mark Haile is curating. It meets the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2pm with a big daylong gathering, Saturday, October 5, 2002, which is LA County Arts Open House Day. 213-741-0094 or www.oneinstitute.org

Tim Miller's new book is BODY BLOWS, a collection of his solo performance pieces from University of Wisconsin Press.

MUSIC / OPERA / DANCE

"Dead Divas" an evening of music made famous by the likes of Garland, Dietrich, Shore, Lynde, Tucker, Liberace and more happened at Duplex in NYC in June with a ten member cast.

The AIDS benefit "Help Is On The Way VIII" happened July 29, 2002 in San Francisco featuring the Music of Johnny Mercer, with a great cast of celebrities directed by David Galligan with musical director Ron Abel.
www.helpisontheway.org

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles had another gala concert called "Jerry's Boys!" featuring the music of Jerry Herman with the composer and Nancy Dussault appearing at the Alex Theatre in Glendale in July. The rest of their season is "Come Home for the Holidays," December 20-22, 2002; "The American Prism" March 28-30, 2003; and "Rocket Man: The Music of Elton John" July 11-13, 2003, 800-Men-Sing.

You can order some great recording from Duce Lee Recordings like Naked Boys Singing, The Big Strappin' Fag Show with Lee Lucas, There's No Place Like Hollywood and more. www.ducylee.com

Tom Wilson Weinberg is performing at benefits for the Center in Philadelphia and did a gig in Provincetown in August 2002 with Jon Arterton (a former Flirt).

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a year-long celebration that kicked off with a concert "We're an American Band," June 18 at Bethany United Methodist Church.

Pat Carpenter hosted a night at Coconut Teaszer in West Hollywood, June 30, 2002, called "elixir" featuring The Uplifters, Aaron Kaplan, and Nos. www.the2ndlevel.com

New Conservatory Theatre Center continued their in-concert series with "The World Goes 'Round: The Songs of Kander & Ebb" in June-July, 2002 in San Francisco.

There will be many dance and music events at Dixon Place in NYC in September 2002. The biggest will be AfterImages on September 11, 2002, which will be a marathon of artists from all disciplines dealing with this event that changed our personal and artistic lives. Call 212-532-1546 for a complete schedule of events at Dixon Place. www.dixonplace.org

PLAYWRIGHTS / PRODUCERS FORUM

A new show by Steve Schalchlin and Jim Brochu (THE LAST SESSION) had a reading at The Laguna Playhouse in August. Called THE BIG VOICE it is a musical comedy with two men testing God and finding Ethel Merman at the end of their spiritual search.

Pioneer playwright Sidney Morris is now represented by agent Francine L Trevens. For a catalogue of his available plays and others by Michael Devereaux and Linda Reynolds contact: fax 212-695-3219, 350 West 36 St. #2NW, NY, NY 10018-6412, tntclassics@aol.com. This is a golden opportunity for producers!

Jeff Hagedorn's A LAYMEN'S GUIDE TO SAFE SEX had a good outing at the Bailiwick Pride Series this summer and there appears to be a company in Germany doing CLOWNS IN THE KITCHEN. For info and rights about Jeff Hagedorn's plays contact his literary executor and father, at 104278 W. Harvest Lane, Milwaukee WI 53225.

There is a U.K Playwriting competition, Newham's Writing Out Award for the best stage or screenplay on lesbian and gay themes. Under the directorship of Phil Willmott they are accepting scripts through December 1, 2002. Details: Administrator, Writing Out Awards, The Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Rd, London SW10 9ED; www.writingout.com

The winners of The Robert Chesley Foundation awards for 2002 are Christopher Shinn and Sheila Callaghan. Foundation head Victor Bumbalo's play WHAT ARE TUESDAYS LIKE? was produced in Sweden last Spring by Fishbag Productions.

Jerry Rabushka's new play HE'S A REAL BOY NOW, a comedy turned drama is available for production. It's about a young man's first experiences at love and sex at the advanced age of 23. Contact the playwright at chawlyder@aol.com

The International Lesbian and Gay Theatre Festival for 2003 is soliciting scripts which will be read beginning in November 2002. Send one hard copy of the script with a cover letter: The Riant Theatre, PO Box 1902, NY, NY 10013, Attn: ILGTF 2003/New Plays. Their 2002 Festival was held in August 2002.

The South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, CA held its 17th Annual Hispanic Playwrights Project July-August 2002. 5 playwrights including Luis Alfaro reprised their short plays of last summer under the title "California Scenarios." In addition there was a reading of Alfaro's ELECTRICIDAD, a twist on Sophocles' ELECTRA.

At Highways in Santa Monica, there was a reading of four works in progress by writing class of Pamela Forrest. One, called PETS, featured Shoshana (Dolly Wilde) Henri who was also in a reading of a screenplay about Edith Piaf playing her best girlfriend.

There was an insightful article in the LA Times, July 21, 2002 by Jan Breslauer on the issues of minority playwright voices not getting productions of their own works done on

mainstream stages so they are adapting classics. A case in point was gifted playwright Chay Yew who adapted Lorca's THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA for the Mark Taper Forum in LA heightening the sexuality and class differences.

"Queer Cafe" an annual mini-festival by Pussycat Theatre Company in Baltimore is seeking submissions of new works by lesbian and gay playwrights for its 2002 productions. Looking for short pieces (15-40 min.) and for full-length plays and musicals. Deadline is September 30, 2002 with production in January 2003 at Axis Theatre. Contact person is Susan Lev, PO Box 5605, Baltimore, MD 21210, 443-540-2331, susanlev2002@aol.com, www.pussycattheatreco.com

Carol Polcovar's New Village Productions presented a reading in honor of Gay Pride Month in June of DANCING STRAIGHT by Kevin Brofsky about a chorus boy from a hit Broadway show getting a contract in paranoid 1947 Hollywood, and ARTISTS & ANGLERS by Dominic Orlando, Judge "Raging" Cager meets his match in Raven, the transgender artist longs to destroy - or - is she secretly a kindred spirit? cigri@rcn.com

All Outs Arts, a non-profit organization committed to building a home for "Out-Arts Movement" is sponsoring the Purple Circle Playwrights which will be a group of 7-10 playwrights who had had at least one play produced, meeting on the first Monday of each month beginning in October, 2002 in New York. For further information and informal interview contact Kevin Brofsky: 646-234-8137, kevinbroadway@nyc.rr.com www.alloutarts.org

We have listed the works of some playwrights including Gary L. Day under Playwrights on our Web site. Check out www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

Bailiwick Repertory and PerformInk newspaper hosted Theatre Dish: Zero-to-Sixty, the second seminar of theatre discussion in Chicago focusing on area theatres that have risen to achieve noteworthy publicity, audiences and funding in June, 2002. The next session will be September 30, 2002. www.bailiwick.org or www.performink.com

The Fort Lauderdale Predators and the GLCC presented An Evening of Outrageous Theatre in August and early September of two Robert Patrick hit plays: BILL BATCHELOR ROAD and EVAN ON EARTH as a benefit to send their softball team to the Gay Games in Sydney.

The 8th annual OOB 2002 awards in New York included of interest to Purple Circuit readers: LESBIAN PULP-O-RAMA by The Sassmasters of on The Verge Theater Company, TANGO MASCULINO by Clint Jeffries and Paul L. Johnson at Wings Theatre Company, and EVERGREEN at Frank Polito's The Fourth Unity. www.oobr.com

Producers looking for lesbian-theme plays should contact Atlanta playwright Shirlene Holmes at sholmes188@aol.com or 404-893-9931.

Glenn Hopkins of The Venice Mootney Theatre in Venice have a number of Gay or Bi themed plays for your consideration including MEAT, the story of Saul, Jon and David, for which they received a grant from The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation, MARK AND BARBARA FROG, an

environmental play and ROBIN HOOD featuring taped narration by Quentin Crisp. 310-586-0114, www.mootney.org

TOSOS II in association with Emerging Arts Theater and Out Professionals presented Chris Weikel's TALES TOLD, two demented fables: GARETH & LYNETTE and PENNY PENNIWORTH in June 2002 at West End Theater in NYC.

Raymond Luczak's A PAIR OF HANDS: DEAF GAY MONOLOGUES was performed at Queer@ HERE Festival in New York in June 2002. The monologues were adapted from his book, MEN WITH THEIR HANDS. www.raymondluczak.com/silence. He has a new book out called SILENCE IS A FOUR-LETTER WORD: ON ART & DEAFNESS which is a call to arms for deaf artists everywhere available from The Tactile Mind: www.thetactilemind.com

TOURING

REAL GIRLS, a comedy with Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon sold out recently at Lambda Players in Sacramento. Contact them at www.realgirlsontheweb.com

PARTY by David Dillon is on tour in Florida and doing smashing business in Tampa/St. Pete. For further info on their schedule or booking contact nicarnzen@aol.com.

ALTERED EGO, Will Clark's one-man show was workshopped in March at Wings in NYC and did very well. The show runs about 90 minutes and Will Clark is interested in touring throughout the U.S. Contact Will via Wings Theatre: jcorrick@wingstheatre.com

WILDEANA

Oscar Wilde's birthday is October 16 during Gay and Lesbian History Month. My annual Celebration for the benefit of Performing Arts Collection at ONE Institute & Archives will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at 3 PM at 909 W Adams in Los Angeles. Tickets are only \$10.00. 818-953-5072

A Man of No Importance based on the Albert Finney film opens on October 10 at Mitzi E. Newhouse Theatre in NYC. Cast includes Roger Rees and Faith Prince and the musical is by composer Stephen Flaherty, with lyrics by Lynn Ahrens and book by Terrence McNally and directed by Joe Mantell.

The second Oscar Wilde Symposium at Magdalen College, Oxford will be September 20-21, 2002. Rags and Feathers will present an adaptation of Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Bindon Russell will present a recitation of some of the Wilde fairytales.

A Noise Within in Glendale CA will present A WILDE HOLIDAY: Fairy Tales By Oscar Wilde adapted by Sabin Epstein, December 13-22, 2002, 818-240-0910

APPEALS / OPPORTUNITIES

HAG Theatre in Buffalo continues to grow. They were recently invited to the Toronto Fringe Festival. Help this

important voice in women's theatre with financial help at 306 Bryant St, Buffalo NY 14222. www.hagtheatre.org

About Productions in Los Angeles has inaugurated an Educational Outreach for students in East Los Angeles. To help them send checks payable to About Productions, 3108 Los Feliz Blvd, LA, CA 90039

Manbites Dog Theater thanks supporters and welcomes your continued help to bring alternative theatre to Durham. Send checks payable to Manbites Dog, PO Box 402, Durham, NC 27702

How to Reach Us The Purple Circuit

Bill Kaiser
921 N. Naomi St. Burbank, CA 91505
Office: 818-953-5096
Hotline: 818-953-5072
purplecir@aol.com
www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

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fabact1@aol.com

www.geocities.com/actoutproductions

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation

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

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

For production or writing guidelines send a SASE to: Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation, PMB 503, 31855 Date Palm Drive, Suite 3, Cathedral City, CA 92234

Purple Circuit Newsletter

Subscriptions only: \$20 / year
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