

# On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

Volume 8, Number 1

THE MANBITES DOG THEATER ISSUE

## WELCOME TO ON THE PURPLE CIRCUIT!

Welcome to the first issue of our 8th year of On The Purple Circuit. It has been my honor and pleasure to report on the phenomenon of Gay, Lesbian, Queer, Bi and Trans theatre, and performance to you from across the US and around the world. It seems strange to me that while so many pundits and Gay playwrights who have made it in the mainstream say there is no such thing or that it is past (or is it post) that more is happening than ever before!

I am dedicating this issue to Manbites Dog Theater in Durham, North Carolina. I am so proud of these folks in Jesse Helms backyard who produce great works of art and succeed at it! They have just opened their own theatre space after raising funds for 3 years. Bravo to Jeff Storer and Edward Hunt, their Board of Directors, Volunteers and Supporters! To support their work, contribute to Manbites Dog Theater, PO Box 402, Durham, NC 27702, 919- 220-6779.

In this issue we have columns by Tom W Kelly, Gerald Semas, and David Dillon whom I would like to thank. First and foremost I would like to thank Dr. Fritz Klein and The California Institute of Contemporary Arts for their generous ongoing financial support. I would also like to thank all of you who responded to my call to subscribe or renew your subscription. Starting this year I will not be able to carry OTPC as I have in the past so your funds are urgently needed!

I would also like to thank everyone who sent materials for this issue especially all the emails. I plan to expand online this year and once I move will be updating The Directory. I have received requests for the update that I will honor once it happens hopefully by June 1999. Also this year I will be increasing my involvement as Performing Arts Collection Director at ONE/International Gay and Lesbian Archives. Thanks too to Moe Angelos, Sara Hardy, Margaret Smith, John Clum, David King, T. J. Norris, Linda Eisenstein, Ric Drapou, Sally Barron, and Jim Russell.

Dialogus Play Service and Publishing closed Oct 15, 1998. John Dunn and company in Dallas served Gay playwrights so what can be done now? Professor John Clum poses the question, "do former Dialogus playwrights want to create a clearinghouse for their work?" Comments to Jmclum@aol.com or to The Purple Circuit on this and any other comments you have at Purplecir@aol.com

The Ivy Theatre under AD Marian Jones and Literary Manager Mary Casey and their Board have brought us another important gem of Lesbian theatre with THE RAPE OF DJUNA BARNES by Dee Jae Cox. Under the direction of Ovation winner Pamela Forrest, we experience the Lesbian literary salon figures of '30s Paris, including Dolly Wilde! Kudos to all involved including Lucki Wheating, Patricia Place, Kristine Oller, Rebecca Tilney, Kathy Bell Denton, Pam Raines, Marika Becz, Darin Singleton, Shosana Henri and Melanie Lora and designers Andrew Rosen, Jennifer Swiatek, and Goerge Barker. Production was made possible by the support of The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation, City of West Hollywood and ONE Institute/The International Gay and Lesbian Archives. Brava to all! The Ivy is LA's first Lesbian Theatre Company and needs your support. Join The Ivy League by contributing to 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #138, W. Hollywood CA 90046, 323-939-4947.

Another worthy organization is Artists For A Hate Free America. They have a hotline at 1-800-3what-2do. In these times they are doing something about the hate in America. Contact them at 244 Madison Ave, Ste. 353, NY, NY 10016.

The 9th Annual AIDS Theater Festival will be held during the 11th National HIV/AIDS Update Conference in San Francisco Mar 23-26, 1999. In addition the 6th Latino/a AIDS Theater Festival will take place at the same time. Congratulations to the participants and to the man that has made it all happen, AD Hank Tavera! For info on events call 415-554-8436 or fax 415-554-8444.

I am very concerned about the Bruce Mirkin case that many of you may have read about in The Village Voice or elsewhere. Bruce is a San Francisco journalist who has worked on issues of importance to our community for a long time including that of Gay youth. He communicated online with a supposedly Gay teenager and set up a meeting to investigate the story when he stumbled into a Sacramento police sting operation. I had no doubt that Bruce is totally innocent and that will be proven. However with cases like this there are enormous legal costs to clear his name. Bruce has done a lot for us so I am asking you all to contribute to The Bruce Mirkin Legal Defense Fund at once at PO Box 14954, San Francisco, CA 94114. Send checks today!

As you know I consider myself a theatre activist and sometimes just an activist. I want to tell you the good, the bad, and the ugly about GLAAD. First our hardworking theatre committee under the direction of Jim Talbot ended its session for the 10th Annual Media Awards. There were some surprises and the nominees are "A Gay Christmas Carol," "Burning Blue," "Heaven and Home," "The Last Session," and "Thorn." Kudos to the nominated productions. I must say that I felt that Celebration Theatre's shows "Naked Boys Singing," and "Clean" were first-rate productions and should have been nominated as well.

The ugly news is that GLAAD has accepted money from COORS. The Boycott Committee has rightly deplored this action. It denies the fact that despite any insignificant steps the Coors company has taken in their employment policies the principal owners are pouring large amounts of Coors profits into the hands of people who hate us and want to kill us. If GLAAD and the other groups that accept this blood money don't realize this, they are indeed shortsighted or greedy. If Coors gets into the Gay bar business there will be millions in profits that will end up in the hands of our enemies.

I strongly urge Joan M. Garry and GLAAD to return this money and to change their policies and become the watchdog for our community that they once were. Write to GLAAD and tell them to return the money at Executive Director Joan M. Garry, 150 W 26 St., Ste. 503, NY, NY 10001, 212-807-1700 or fax 212-807-1806 or in Los Angeles at 8455 Beverly Blvd, Suite 305, LA CA 90048, 323-658-6775.

Have A Creative 1999.  
**Bill Kaiser**, editor

## ON THE BOARDS

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

**A Gay Christmas Carol** by Claudia Allen, a world premiere of a delightful adaptation with Gays and Lesbians galore, Hudson Ave, Hollywood, Dec 1998- Jan. 1999.

**All About Steve** by Steve Silverman, a parody of the classic film, Hudson Avenue Theatre, Hollywood, Jan.-Feb. 1999.

**All This for a Wedding** by Jason Roland, bringing your Gay lover and Lesbian wife home to meet the family? The Complex, Hollywood; Jan.-Feb. 1999.

**Alone with Robby** by Robert Coles, David is someone who hangs on to his lovers even after they're ex-lovers but Robby was the wrong person to hang on to; Vortex Theater Company, NYC, Dec. 1998-Jan. 1999.

**\*Angels in America** by Tony Kushner, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, Aug.-Sept. 1999; 619-220-0097.

**The Apocalytes** by Electronic Planet Ensemble, Vortex Theater Repertory, live performance with sexy science fiction video, Austin, Feb. 1999.

**Arthur & Nadine** by Claire Cox, a friendship from the 4th grade on between a Gay boy and Lesbian girl, Old Globe, San Diego; Nov. 1998.

**\*Attitudes and the Dance** by C. Stephen Foster, a sexy steamy outrageous reflection on the changing lives of Gay men from the '70s to the '90s, Hudson Avenue Theatre, Hollywood, opened Feb. 25, 1999; 323-856-4200.

**Ballistic Femme** with Marie Cartier, 6 @Penn Studio, San Diego, Jan.-Feb. 1999.

**Beautiful Thing** by Jonathan Harvey, the New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, Nov. 1998-Jan. 1999.

**\*Beyond Therapy** by Christopher Durang, SNAP! Omaha, June 4-20, 1999; 402-342-9053.

**\*Burning Desires** by Joan Schenkar, 1957, Seattle, this time it's far too wet to burn her, the story of Joan of Arc (sort of), Amadeus Company, Los Angeles, opened Feb. 5, 1999; 323-660-8587.

**\*Cabaret** by Kander and Ebb, Wilshire Theatre, Beverly Hills, opened Feb. 23, 1999; 213-365-3500.

**\*Camelot** by Lerner & Lowe, emphasizing the Gay subtext, New Line Theatre, St. Louis, Mar. 11-27, 1999; 314-534-1111.

**\*Can't get Enough** with Gay Goodenough, the comedy that starts with the deepest human craving—chocolate and, progresses to sex, Third Stage, Burbank, ongoing; 323- 664-9150.

**Change at Babylon** by Brian-Paul Mendoza, Hudson Mainstage, Hollywood

**Christmas, Remember** with Charley Geary, musical look at Xmas with guest voices Charles Pierce and Laura Pallas, Ruby Theatre, LA, Dec. 1998-Jan. 1999.

**\*The Clue in the Old Birdbath** by Sandra de Helen and Kate Kasten, Little Apple Productions, Eugene, opens in April 1999.

**\*Cyberqueer** by Tom Jacobson, an erotic comedy taking a wild ride on the Internet, Diversionary theatre, San Diego, Aug.-Sept. 1999. 619-220-0097.

**\*Deathtrap** by Ira Levin, Knightsbridge Theatre, Pasadena, opened Jan. 16, 1999; 626-440—0821.

**Deporting the Divas** by Guillermo Reyes. The Miracle Theatre Group, Portland; Jan.-Feb. 1999.

**Dinner and Drinks** by T. Rusty Randolph, a simple evening of dinner and drinks, is anything ever simple? Glaxa Studios, Los Angeles, Oct.-Dec. 1998.

**Dinner At Eightish** by Steve Salinaro, the lighter side of gratuitous sex, and curried couscous, Wings, NYC, Dec. 1998-Jan. 1999.

**\*Dirt** with John Fleck, a mudslinging spectacle in naughty 3-D, Luna Park, West Hollywood, opened Jan. 31, 199; 310-652-0611.

**Dirty Laundry** by Jorge Albertella, gay and gray -- a heterosexual man has a mid-life sexual identity crisis, LA Jewish Theatre, Long Beach, Jan.-Feb. 1999.

**The Dyke and the Porn Star** by Bayla Travis, based on one Lesbian's rendezvous with porn star Jeanna Fine, 6 @Penn Studios, San Diego, Jan.-Feb. 1999.

**Freeze!** by Arch Brown, a comedy of bad manners, New Phoenix Theatre On The Park, Buffalo, Dec. 1998.

**From the Hip - Siamese Twin Variations** by Blair Fell, traces the journey of Sissy and Sassy Sheraton, Siamese twins who are talented 1950's songbirds, The New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, Nov. 1998-Jan. 1999.

**The Guilt and the Innocence of Citizen Zed** by Vid Enblom, a zany romp through darkness, dementia and light in a tale of a plague and the relentless quest to overcome it, performed by Voices Acting Ensemble at The Fountain Theatre, Hollywood, Dec. 1998.

**The Harvey Milk Show: A Passion Play** by Dan Pruitt and Patrick Hutchinson, an elegant musical concert version, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, Feb. 24-Mar. 7, 1999.

**\*Heaven & Earth** by Barbara Kahn, a Lesbian love story set against the rise of fascism in 1937 in the tradition of "Casablanca," and "Watch On The Rhine." Theater for the New City, NYC; opened Feb. 18, 1999; 212-254-1109.

**Holiday Ham** with Varla Jean Merman and the Lounge-o-Leers, Josies, San Francisco, Dec. 1998.

**\*Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time** by Sean Michael, a new dark comedy starring you know who baring it all, St. Genesius, West Hollywood, Nov. 1998-Jan. 1999. And 16th St. Victoria Theatre, San Francisco; opened Feb. 11, 1999; 415-392-4400.

**\*Jest a Second** by James Sherman, the sequel to "Beau Jest" about the Goldman family where Joel has to tell his parents that his new girlfriend is not a nice Jewish pediatrician but a boy one!, Long Beach Playhouse, Long Beach, CA, opens March 12, 1999; 562-494-1616.

**\*Just Say No!** by Larry Kramer, world premiere of this revised comedy to begin the Pride '99 Series, Bailiwick, Chicago, opens May 29, 1999; 773-883-1090.

**\*Key West** by Jack Heifner, a comic sexy romp probes the generation gap between older and younger Gay men, New Conservatory Theatre center, San Francisco; opens June 5, 1999; 415-861-8972.

**Kinsey Sicks: Greatestits**, harmonics, delight, comedy and a dose of debauchery, New Conservatory Theatre center, San Francisco, Jan.-Feb. 1999.

**The Land of Mystery** by Jennifer Allen and Drew Pissarra, a new performance concoction, Dixon Place, NYC; Dec. 1998.

**The Last Session** by Steve Schalchlin and Jim Brochu, the hit musical, Tiffany Theatre, West Hollywood, Nov. 98-Mar. 99.

**\*Lesbian Affairs** by Judith Schray, a live soap opera of love, lust and longing, WOW Cafe Theater, NYC; opens Mar. 4, 1999; 212-673-6026.

**\*The Lisbon Traviata** by Terrence McNally, Studio Theatre, Long Beach, LA; opens Oct. 15, 1999; 562-494-1616; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; Jan.-Mar. 1999; 415-861-8972.

**Lonely Planet** by Steven Dietz; Richmond Triangle Players, Richmond; Feb. 1999.

**Ma** by Roy and Tree Washburne, a feel good Xmas comedy, Gene Bua Theatre, Burbank, Dec. 1998-Jan. 1999.

**Making Porn** by Ronnie Larson, starring Ryan Idol, Tiffany Theatre, West Hollywood, Nov.-Dec. 1998, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego, Jan.-Feb. 1999.

**Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown** by Guillermo Reyes, Highways, Santa Monica, Dec. 98-Jan. 99.

**Menopausal Gentleman** with Peggy Shaw, a gender bending journey through the eyes of a butch Lesbian who has passed as a man all her life whether she's wanted to or not, Hag Theatre at Hallwalls, Buffalo, Dec. 1998.

**\*Mistress Ecstasy's Erotic Circus** by Marjorie Conn, Collective Unconscious, NYC; Mondays through Mar. 1999; 212-582-0774.

**\*Naked Boys Singing**, the musical revue still going strong with new boys, Celebration Theatre, Hollywood; 310-289-2999.

**\*The Nanjing Race** by Reggie Cheong-Leen, A gay Japanese-American metals trader in Asia for the first time; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; opens March 26, 1999; 415-861-8972.

**\*Oh My Goodness!** With Sherry Glaser, Highways, Santa Monica, Feb. 18-Mar. 14, 1999; 310-315-1459.

**Once In A Blue Moon 2: My Gay Son's Wedding** by Jeffrey Kagan-McCann, a very funny and astute look at gay relationships in the '90s, Northwest Actors' Studio, Seattle, Feb. 1999.

**Our Gay Apparel** by Robert Joseph, a fun holiday romp, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego; Dec. 1998-Jan. 1999.

**Park Slope Sauna** by Kevin Brofsky, comedy/drama about two men who meet in a Brooklyn sauna and become entangled in each other's lives, Sage Productions at the Sage Theater, NYC, Nov. 1998.

**\*Party** by David dillon, Arts Theatre, London, opened Nov. 1998; and KCmet Theatre Group, Kansas City, MO; opening April 5 1999; 816-756-1784.

**\*The Presentment** by D. Paul Thomas, world premiere of an explosive drama between father and son in a religious background, Pasadena Playhouse, opens March 12, 1999; 626-356-PLAY.

**PURE polyESTHER** by John Thomas and Abe Rybeck, a biblical burlesque, a queer re-telling of the Book of Esther, Theatre Offensive, Boston, opened Feb. 26, 1999.

\***Queer Teenage Heaven** with Poet Barnes, Highways, Santa Monica; Mar. 26-27, Apr. 2-3, 1999; 310-315-1459.

\***Randy's House** by John M. Clum, Theatre on the Square, Indianapolis; opens April 2, 1999.

\***The Rape of Djuna Barnes** by Dee Jae Cox, Paris; the 30's, rewriting the wrongs, a world premiere, The Ivy Theatre at St. Genesius Theatre, West Hollywood; opened Feb. 5, 1999; 323-939-4967.

\***Rent** by Jonathan Larson, Schubert Theatre, Los Angeles, ongoing; 800-497-7400, NYC, and around the world.

**Riga** by William M. Hoffman, a world premiere of your normal gay interracial holocaust play; (Inside) the Ford, Hollywood; Jan.-Feb. 1999.

\***The Rocky Horror Show** by Richard O'Brien, starring David Arquette, Tiffany Theatre, West Hollywood; opened Jan. 29, 1999; 310-289-2999; and Diversionsary Theatre, San Diego; June-Aug. 1999; 619-220-0097.

\***The Shadow Box** by Michael Christofer, SNAP! Omaha; April 8-19, 1999; 402-342-9053.

**Shirts & Skins** with Tim Miller, our performance artist extraordinaire takes us on a journey through the last decades of the millennium; Jump Start, San Antonio; Feb. 1999.

**Shopping & Fucking** by Mark Ravehill, Theater Lab Houston, Houston, Jan.-Feb. 1999.

\***Single Black Female** by Lisa B. Thompson, a series of rapid fire vignettes by a new voice of San Francisco women; Theatre Rhinoceros; opens Mar. 11, 1999; 415-861-5079.

\***The Sin of the Angels** by Myles Weber, a Pride month premiere of an exciting new play; Kaliyuga Arts at EXIT, San Francisco; opening June 7 after a preview June 5, 1999. John Sowle directs with Steven Patterson leading the cast, Don't miss it! 415-431-8423.

**The Solar Anus** with Ron Athey. Action Space Studios, LA; Dec. 1998; after premieres in Slovenia, Milan, and NYC.

\***Streamers** by David Rabe, don't ask, don't tell; Hudson Backstage Theatre, Hollywood; opened Jan. 16, 1999; 323-856-4200.

**Strip Barely Legal** with Madame Dish and the boys. Created by Steven J. McCarthy. Globe Playhouse, West Hollywood; Dec. 31, 1998.

**Tainted Blood** by Tom Jacobson, a thriller with Oscar Wilde, Bram Stoker, Arthur Conan Doyle and a vampire, The Road Theatre, North Hollywood, Sept. 1998-Jan. 1999.

**T-Cells & Sympathy** by Michael Kearns, moving AIDS monologues, a special presentation on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 1998, Silver Lake, CA.

**Ten Naked Men** by Ronnie Larson, a sexy new play about capitalism and the Hollywood hustle; Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; Jan.-Feb. 1999.

\***Too Old for the Chorus** by Mark Winkler, Marie Cain and Shelly Markham, a musical pastiche taking a comic look at aging; Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles; ongoing; 310-289-2999.

\***Triptych** by Richard Willett, finds the romantic entwined with the ridiculous until you're unable to tell the two apart; New Directions Theater, NYC; Feb.-Mar. 1999; 212-229-7500.

**Tru** by Jay Presson Allen. Manbites Dog Theater, Durham; Dec. 1998.

**Truth and Standards** with Chris McFadden; a love story of Chris and his life partner; Sanford Meisner, NYC; Oct.-Nov. 1998.

**12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Family** with Rob Nash, a hilarious 1-man, 3-generation, 6-character family tragi-comedy; Solo Arts, NYC; Jan. 1999.

**Two Fools** by Terry Baum, Lesbians in love: one Costa Rican, the other American transcending all boundaries; Wings, NYC; Jan.-Feb. 1999, and Rome, Oct. 1998.

**Untold Decades** by Robert Patrick, the '20s, '40s, '60s and '80s, of this landmark work; Dance Theatre Coalition, Salt Lake City; Nov. 1998.

**War, Sex and Dream** with Jean-Claude Van Itallie. Highways; Jan. 1999; Café La Mama, NYC, later in 1999.

\***We are One** with Syd Rushing, directed by Michael Kearns, a socio-political psycho trip, stomping where many black men fear to tread; Highways, Santa Monica; Mar. 21; 310-315-1459.

\***What the Butler Saw** by Joe Orton, A Noise Within, Glendale, CA; opens March 12, 1999; 818-546-1924.

\***Why We have a Body** by Claire Chaffee, a comedy, location to be announced, Honolulu, Mar. 8-14, 1999; 808-540-1223.

\***Wild Nights with Emily** by Madeleine Olnek, an irreverent comedy about Emily Dickinson, Amherst's sexiest Lesbian poet babe; WOW Café, NYC; June 10-26, 1999; 212-777-4280.

**With Friends Like These** by Paul VanderRoest, a gay comedy in two acts; The Village, Los Angeles; Dec. 1998.

\***Women Behind Bars** by Tom Eyen; Diversionsary Theatre, San Diego; opened Feb. 19, 1999; 619-220-0097.

**The X & Y Trilogy**, by Ethos, 3 cybernetic operas in a sci-fi fantasy world; Vortex Repertory, Austin; Jan. 1999.

## THEATRE BITS

by Bill Kaiser

**Arizona:** Arizona Theatre Company presented a staged reading of Guillermo Reyes' "A Southern Christmas;" Jan. 22, 1999 in Tucson and Jan. 23, 1999 in Tempe; 520-884-8210.

**Brooklyn:** The Gowanus Arts Exchange presented "Women's Words", part of their Women to Women/Lesbian Music and Performance series, in Jan. It was a powerful evening of poetry curated by Cheryl Boyce Taylor.

**Buffalo:** The 6th Bi-Annual Ways In Being Gay Festival was held at Hallwalls, UC Buffalo and other venues in the city highlighting film and video, literature, art and performance from Nov 1-Dec 5, 1998. Included was an evening with Tony Kushner on World AIDS Day. HAG Theatre is based at Hallways under AD Margaret Smith and presented "Gertrude Stein And A Companion" by Win Wells, "Amanda And Eve by Alexandra Billings, "An Evidence Of Letters" by Alexis DeVeaux and Renee Armstrong, "Menopausal Gentleman" with Peggy Shaw and the upcoming "My Castle's Rockin' " by Rhodessa Jones. (716) 835-7362

**Chapel Hill:** Laurie Wolf performed her signature piece "In The Outfield" at the National Youth Advisory Coalition conference in Jan. 1999 at the University Of North Carolina. LDWolf@aol.com

**Chicago:** Bailiwick Theater After an intense snowstorm cancelled performance at the Bailiwick, smoke arose from the alley between the theatre. Only the snow accumulated on the wooden roof saved the building from burning down like the townhouse behind it. No damage and the Bailiwick continues its important artistic work. Thank you St.Genesius!

Save the Date - May 17! I want to alert you to a BIG event that is coming up on May 17th (a Monday night). Yes, it's a fundraiser for the Bailiwick, but it's also going to be quite an extraordinary event at the Bella Vista restaurant (near Belmont and Sheffield). They finalized arrangements to include some very special guests.

In attendance that night will be Greg Louganis (Olympic diving champ), Alexandra Billings (actress/singer), and Larry Kramer (activist/writer). The event will be called, "A Diva, a Diver, and a Dissident" and will raise funds for Bailiwick Theater.

There will be all kinds of food and an open bar provided by Bella Vista and several other area restaurants. Ticket prices will be \$75 and \$150 -- for the higher price, you also get tickets to Kramer's show, "Just Say No," in which both Alexandra and Greg will be featured performers as well as special seating near the guests.

They're firming up all the plans and will share the details with you if you're interested. It's going to be their best event ever and should be great fun with some cabaret singing by Alexandra and a few words from Greg and Larry -- among others. Hope you can save the date and join them!

Performing at the Bailiwick is AHA, the Gay and Lesbian comedy troupe with "The New Show".

**Durham:** Manbites Dog Theater's season included "Somewhere In The Pacific" by Neil Bell, the world premiere of a dark fantasy about men at war. Their Other Voices series presents Holly Hughes Mar. 4-7, 1999, and in May-June 1999 is the 6th Annual "Don't Ask, Don't Tell Festival of Gay and Lesbian Theater; 919- 220-6779.

**Honolulu:** The Honolulu Gay & Lesbian Cultural Foundation holds the Tenth Annual Adam Baran Film Festival May 27-June 1999 as well as the Honolulu Gay & Lesbian Cultural Festival; 808-941-0424; hawaiiiscen.com/HGLCF

**Los Angeles:** Michael Kohl, composer, and a former AD of Celebration Theatre, is organizing musical salons. First up was A Tribute to Marshall Barer on Feb. 28, 1999 at the Beverly Hills Library featuring stars like Bea Arthur and Hal Linden. Contact him at 323-934-6749 for upcoming events.

Speaking of Celebration Theatre I caught "Naked Boys Singing" again with the new cast and they were great too. The show has been extended into March so don't miss seeing it again and bring your friends. Celebration Theatre and Bob Schrock have brought some quality entertainment here with a positive message too! Call 310-289-2999.

The Taper will present Paula Vogel's "How I Learned To Drive" with Brian Kerwin and Molly Ringwald; Feb. 13-Apr. 4, 1999; 213-628-2772.

Cherry Jones headed the cast of Ellen McLaughlin's "Tongues of a Bird" at the Mark Taper Forum in Jan.-Feb. 1999. The Playwrights Arena presented a new work by The Fabulous Monsters called "The Demented Slave," a romp through the desert of 10th century Arabia directed by Robert Pryor.

December 1998 marked the return to the cabaret scene of Hal and David, the popular "husband and husband" singing/comedy team to the Cinegrill in Hollywood.

Also in Dec. 1998, The New Work Festival'98 at the Falcon Theatre, sponsored by the Taper, ASK Theater Projects and DreamWorks. Included in the readings and workshop productions was Chay Yew's "Wonderland."

**Montreal:** Les Productions OUT/OUT Productions won their battle for charitable status with the revenue dept. Bravo! Their current planned productions are "Bathory" by Maynan King, the story of the Hungarian countess who bathed in the blood of virgins and "Oscar Wilde: Sacrifice" by Douglas Fowley Jr. (en francais). in@out.ca; www.out.ca

**Nashville:** Since 1994 Masque Theatre has been raising awareness pertaining to HIV/AIDS, homophobia and racism. Under AD Michael H. Arve their current season includes "Nonsense A-Men!" by Dan Goggin; "Lisbon Traviata" by Terrence McNally; "Subject To Change" by Jules Tasca; "Murder Among Friends" and "When Pigs Fly" by Howard Crabtree. BRAVO Michael!

**New York:** Events at Dixon Place included: "Armchair America", Tom Bondi and Mark Holt's comic look at furniture; "Blood Type: Ragu" with Frank Giano Ingrassciotta; "The Transparency Of Val" by Stephen Belber as part of the New Play reading series curated by Andrew J. Mellen and Micah Schraft; "Queer Stories For Boys", sagas from the Gay Men's Storytelling Workshop with Mitch Allen, David Fergusson, Greg Gevas, Ronald Gold, Derek Gullino, Doug McKeown, Michael O'Connor, Jim Piazza, David Robinson, and Harry Schulz.

Literary events included "Writers on the Ledge" with Guillermo Castro and Ron Drummond; "Homotext" with Ali Liebegot and Daniel Paley-Ellison and "From New, to New York" with Jerome Joseph Gestes and others.

Other events included "Survivors" by Tom Bondi, a humorous look at how people cope with death, Idris Mignott, Arnie Lawrence Mass, and "Eat God and Let God Eat You" with Laura Bean.

Dixon Place presents a Series of new commissioned works in 1999 by NYC's hottest women artists including: Jennifer Miller's

"Morphadike," Mar. 5-20; Cathy Weis' "Lizards, Monitors," April 9-24; Stanya Kahn's "Rank Strangers," May 7-22; Kate Moira Ryan's "The Worgelt Study," May 14-29; the New Wondertwins' "The New Wondertwins Show," June 4-19, and Holly Hughes' "Preaching to the Converted," July 9-31, 1999; 212-219-3088.

The Five Lesbian Brothers are planning a 10th anniversary production of their hit show "Brave Smiles" for New York in the late Spring and in London's Drill Hall in May and returning to extend the run in NYC. Watch for it!

P.S.122 had Toast 2, 3 days of performance with appearances by Holly Hughes, Sherry Vine, Jackie Beaaand Deb Margolin, among many others; 212-477-5288.

Paul Rudnick and Wendy Wasserstein appeared at an event at The Center in Feb. 1999 sponsored by the NY Advertising & Communications Network.

The Parlour presents "Living Room Live", with Greg Walloch - Writer/Performer & an ensemble member of Living Room Live, A Brand New Show Every Tuesday at 7:30PM, The Parlour, 250 West 86th St. at Broadway. No Cover, No Drink Minimum. www.livingroomlive.com

**Omaha:** SNAP! Productions' mission is to provide educational and humanistic support of AIDS related programs and to promote understanding and acceptance of all members of the community through artistic expression. Their current season includes "Falsettos," "The Shadow Box," and "Beyond Therapy." 402-342-9053.

**Pasadena:** The Knightsbridge Theatre is a Gay-friendly venue that produced many classic plays including "Amadeus," "Cyrano De Bergerac," and "The House Of The Seven Gables" by Nathaniel Hawthorne. 626-440-0821.

**Phoenix:** The Essential Theatre presented "Playback Theatre: Love Stories" on Feb. 14, 1999. The Essential is based in Tempe. 602-897-6711.

**Richmond:** The Triangle Players season includes: "Times Square Angel" by Charles Busch; "Pageant" by Bill Russell, Frank Kelly and Albert Evans; "Lonely Planet" by Steven Dietz in Mar.-Apr. 1999; and "Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show" by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney, May 1999; 804-346-8113.

**St. Louis:** New Line Theatre announced that its June show will now be "Into the Woods" by Stephen Sondheim. Running June 10-26, 1999 and transforming the entire St. Marcus Theatre into a forest. 314-773-6526.

**Salem:** Playwright William S. Gregory's play "Mary Tudor" had a run Jan.-Feb. 1999; 505-295-3593.

**San Antonio:** Kudos to Jump Start performance Company celebrating their 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Jan. 1999. Their last show was "Latins Anonymous." 210-227-JUMP.

Esperanza Center, The Gay and Lesbian Media Project and VAN have sued the City after their arts funding was cut from the 1998 city budget due to homophobic and racist attacks. In retaliation the City cancelled future funding as well. Join the nationwide support for Esperanza. Get info on censorship from NCFE (National Campaign for Freedom of Expression) at 918 F St. Washington DC 20004; ncfef@ncfe.net; www.ncfe.net

**San Francisco:** Cultural Odyssey' Rhodesia Jones and Idris Ackamoor are two of the city's most exciting artists. Cultural Odyssey has many ongoing projects including the African American Performance Festival in Aug. 1999. 762 Fulton St. Suite 306, San Francisco, CA 94102; 415-292-1850; fax 415-346-9163; ackamoor@aol.com; www.culturalodyssey.org

Kaliyuga Arts presents "Subject To Fits", a response to Dostoevsky's "The Idiot" as part of the Absurdist Series at Exit Theatre. The show is directed by John Sowle with Dramaturgy by Steven Patterson, in Feb. 1999.



**Santa Monica:** Congratulations to Highways Performance Space on ten year's of bringing important artists to Southern California! Join AD Tim Miller, Administrator Mary Milelzcik, Co-Chair Danielle J. Brazell and many others in supporting Highways with your attendance and financial support. 310-453-1755.

**Smithville, Tenn:** Our faery friends at IDA are making it through their 5th winter as a community in their "homo holler". The Eggplant Faery Players have been creative touring their show "Next Year in Sodom" and two new ones "Smoke Signals," and "Cirque du Surreal." Events in 1999 are a Queer Activists Gathering May 28-31, Cyclists Weekend June 18-21, Beer and Winemaking July 9-11.

Health and Beauty weekend Aug 14-15 and The Artland Festival Sept 18-27. They welcome visitors at any time and need our help. Send fabric, costumes, makeup, art supplies, video equipment, gardening tools and cash to IDA, PO Box 874, Smithville, TN 37166-0874; 615- 597-4409; tryburn@dekalb.net. Greetings to MaxZine, Spree and the gang!

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### A GAY AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHT IN LONDON Party, 1998 — by David Dillon

There are three great milestones in every play's life – opening in New York, Los Angeles, and London. 1995 brought me the first two but it was the last which proved, just recently, to be the sweetest.

As an American playwright going to London for the rehearsals and opening of my play, *Party*, I had apprehensions. I wondered how the script would translate to an UK audience. Many of the references are decidedly American, and we needed to "localize" it for a British crowd. Our director, Andrew Neil, began his homework early by lunching in London with American musical star Donna McKechnie who went through the script with him to identify references he didn't understand ("Jenny Craig?"). Then, Andrew and I phoned and faxed until we came up with an initial working script. It's funny that changes I thought were *musts* weren't at all. I'd added Elaine Paige to a list of gay goddesses of the stage and screen and was adamantly vetoed by the cast. They claimed that Miss Paige would *never* be considered a stage goddess by any tasteful London fag, but Petula Clark *had* to be included. Who knew? During rehearsals, I would do rewrites over fish and chips in pubs in Covent Garden near our rehearsal hall. I could have stayed forever.

We were set for a limited run of seven weeks at the Arts Theatre in the West End where *Waiting for Godot* was originally produced and Peter Hall began the experimental wing of the RSC. It was wonderful to be surrounded by such history. I loved the cast instantly. I was terrified that there would be some I felt were totally wrong, but there wasn't one I'd have chosen differently. My biggest concern is always the character of Ray, the priest. The danger always exists that the actor will wear a neon sign on his forehead shouting "child molester" – my greatest fear. I was thrilled to see that the director had understood the line one needs to walk with that character and had chosen brilliantly. Each and every one of them was a gem – both as actors and as people. I loved that cast and never wanted to leave.

The producer was a dream (and I don't think those words have ever come out of my mouth before). A disgustingly young man, Andrew Christian will be a major driving force in gay theatre in London. He was honest, did everything right and was a total delight. Andrew Neil was as caring a director as one could wish for. He treated the play with respect and cared that the vision he created was the vision I intended. I wonder why every experience we have can't be as perfect as this one was.

Some reviews were mixed, but the box office boomed whether a notice was positive or negative. Of particularly sleazy note is the fact that the openly gay critic for the *Evening Standard* tore us to shreds and then brought a group of friends to have a rollicking good time a couple of weeks later. As is so often the case in gay theatre, much was made of the nudity. Homophobic journalists put it down while wetting themselves over Nicole Kidman in *The Blue Room* blocks away. Audiences loved it and the consensus was that it didn't feel

like an American play in London; it felt local and timely. A tribute to the collective efforts of all concerned.

Before the run ended, *Party* had become the most successful play at the Arts since "Godot." There are plans now for a twelve-city UK tour to begin in the spring with a return to the West End in the fall. Now, if every experience could just be this good.

[David Dillon may be reached at: [daviddillon@usa.net](mailto:daviddillon@usa.net)]

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### A CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE Entertainment News by Gerald Semas

- Nathan Lane will reprise his role in the film version of Robin Baitz's play, "Mizlansky/Zilinsky" for director Joe Mantello who previously directed Lane in the stage version of *Love! Valour! Compassion!*
- David Drake (*The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*) directed Eric Bernat's one-man show *Starstruck* last December at Manhattan's Theatre Off Park. Bernat previously appeared in the Off-Broadway production of *Party* and will be seen in the *Tori Spelling* movie *Tricks*.
- Sir Ian McKellen spent December and January in a production of Noel Coward's *Present Laughter* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds, U.K. The actor moved on to the company's production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* from late January-February.
- Stephen Sondheim's first show, *Saturday Night* is expected to make it's U.S. premiere this spring. Written in 1954, this was Sondheim's first professional effort as a composer-lyricist for librettists Julius and Philip Epstein. The story comes from the novel *Front Porch in Flatbush* about the adventures of brazen Brooklyn kids who crash debutante parties and try to break into the stock market. The planned Broadway revival of Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* has been pushed ahead to fall.
- April brings the Broadway opening of Frank Wildhorn's (*The Scarlet Pimpernel*) new musical *The Civil War*. The show draws it' material from original Civil War documents, Walt Whitman poetry and other correspondence of the era.
- A West End production of Patrick Marber's award-winning play *Closer*, featuring Rupert Graves (*Maurice*), is aiming for Broadway this spring.
- The new life of Peter Allen musical, *The Boy from OZ*, moves from a successful run down under to Broadway in the Fall.
- Playwright/actor Harvey Fierstein has written an original animated special for HBO called *The Sissy Duckling*. Character voices will be provided by Ellen Degeneres, Anne Heche, Melissa Etheridge and Dan Butler. Harvey joins Molly Ringwald in the upcoming independent film *Jump*.
- Jonathan Harvey's *Beautiful Thing* arrived at NY's Cherry Lane Theatre in February for an open end run.
- Paul Rudnick's latest hit, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, re-opened at New York's Minetta Lane Theatre on Jan. 29th. The play takes a new approach to biblical stories offering the tales of Adam and Steve, as well as Jane and Mabel.
- Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre's offers the world premiere of Oscar Wilde's *Lover* March 30 - April 11. Directed and written by Will Stutts, the play centers on Wilde's self-destructive relationship with Lord Alfred Douglas.

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### WAY OFF BROADWAY BY THE BAY by Tom W. Kelly

NEWS:

The Theatre Bay Area raised almost \$3,000 during Lemonade Fund Week in September and October of 1998 to benefit "members of the theatre community who are battling life-threatening illnesses." And the Artful Circle Theatre donated to the Mary Mason Memorial \$1.00 per ticket from their run of **Christmas with the Crawfords**.

**Victoria Theatre**, 2961 - 16th St., 415-478-BASS.

Fasten your chastity belts -- it's **Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time** by Sean Michael, produced by Stryker Productions in association with John Travis. The promos promise "on the inside, it's not your back you have to watch, it's your butt" AND "contains nudity, strong language & sexual situations." I bet it'll be sold-out every night! Feb. 11-March 7.

**Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts**, 1519 Mission St., 415-554-0402; director@jonsimsctr.org; www.jonsimsctr.org

AIRspace "is an incubator for new work from queer artists, artists exploring same-sex themes, and/or exploring gender as a societal construct." Alternating every Friday night at 8:30pm through March 1999: Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, Timothy Kuster, David Baker and Purple Moon Dance Project.

Also at the Sims Center, queer housing activist Tommi Avicoli Mecca world premiered his newest play, *La Madonna Nera*. A misguided priest clashes with a young woman having visions of a black Madonna. Directed by Nello Carlini.

**New Conservatory Theatre**, 25 Van Ness Ave., 415-861-8972.

NCTC presented "an elegant musical concert version" of **The Harvey Milk Show: A Passion Play** with books and lyrics by Dan Pruitt and music by Patrick Hutchison. "The show is inspired by and honors the life and legacy of Harvey Milk." Feb. 24-March 7.

**The Lisbon Traviata** by Terrence McNally received a 10th anniversary revival production (directed by Arturo Catricala)." This sizzling plot line veers from high comedy to stark tragedy as it follows the troubled course of a gay relationship."

Also, the multi-talented dragapella Kinsey Sicks returned with their **Greatest Tits: A Different Travesty Every Night**. More than just a quartet of well-stuff pastel gowns, these guys can sing and wring a laugh out of some wickedly satirical lyrics.

The HIT of NCTC's Pride Season was **Beautiful Thing, an urban fairy tale** by Jonathan Harvey (the original stage version of the movie by same name). Funny and sensitive script, great cast, and insightful direction by Ed Decker. Two lower class English boys discover in each other solace and eventually love. Extended!

NCTC's Pride Season also included **From the Hip: Siamese Twin Variations** by Blair Fell, music and lyrics by Maggie Moore, and directed by Stephen Rupsch. This silly musical romp involves star-struck Siamese twins with BIG wigs and even larger libidos. The modest cast of four recklessly tackles the screwball script -- and triumphs! Fell touches on the difficulty of living in a world where all that are different are freaks in a tight, economic script.

**Theatre Rhinoceros**, 2926 16th St., 415-861-5079.

**Ten Naked Men** by Ronnie Larsen (author of "Making Porn") believes in truth in titles -- there are 10 naked men onstage and that includes the playwright. "A play about hustling and Hollywood and all that implies -- actors, agents, hustlers and whores all battle for love and the ultimate deal."

Three short comedies about the insanity of the entertainment industry collectively titled **Industry Standards** (written by Robert C. Reinhart, Charles Busch/Kenneth Elliott, and Doug Holsclaw) were presented with Pamela Forrest's heart-warming and award-winning **Valsetz**. In sweetly upbeat and satisfying "Valsetz," a sophisticated businesswoman (Claudia Rosa) discovers she has much to learn from an older countrywoman (June Stoddart) who clearly

comprehends how all of life's "pieces fit together." All shows directed by Adele Prandini.

#### ALSO IN SF:

The **Actors Theatre of San Francisco** presented Tennessee Williams' **The Glass Menagerie**, directed by legendary actress and director Gene Shelton. And through February, Sandra Bernhard returned to SF's **Theatre on the Square** with her one-woman show **I'm Still Here ...Damn It!**

#### ALSO IN THE BAY AREA:

Check out Marin's newest lesbian/gay bar, **Lunacee**, at 815 Francisco Blvd., San Rafael, (415) 459-6079), for Queer Open Mic every Wednesday at 7:30pm. Cal Performances hosted **Sightlines: Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo**, the "all-male burlesque ballet company's intelligent and loving send-ups" of well-known ballets. The **American Musical Theatre of San Jose** produced a sumptuous **La Cage aux Folles** by Jerry Herman (music) and Harvey Fierstein (book). On opening night, free boas were distributed to all willing audience members. AMTSJ always presents FIRST RATE musical entertainment. And Noel Coward's **Present Laughter** received a first-rate production at South Bay's fabulous TheatreWorks.

#### AND ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY:

**Ashland, Oregon** - The Oregon Shakespeare Festival's annual fundraiser for people living with HIV/AIDS, known as the Daedalus Project, collected \$62,111. "We all look forward to the day when the need for this kind of benefit no longer exists," said OSF Executive Director Paul Nicholson. "But until then, we will continue to raise funds and awareness with all of our friends in the Rogue Valley and beyond." The proceeds were amassed from a variety of events, including a reading of Luis Alfaro's *Straight as a Line*, the Daedalus Project Run, a silent auction, and an evening variety performance. Local, regional and national HIV/AIDS programs will receive these funds.

**Alley Theatre**, 615 Texas Ave., Houston, TX 77002-2795; 713-228-8421; www.alleytheatre.com

In February 1999, Houston's Alley Theatre will produce on Broadway, in conjunction with the Royal National Theatre and Moving Theatre, an early work by Tennessee Williams titled **Not About Nightingales**. The Alley also recently mounted the Southwest Premiere of Paula Vogel's **How I Learned to Drive** and in April 1999 will present **Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde** by Moises Kaufman.

#### ART

Visual Aid presented the 5th Annual Big Deal, a benefit art show and sale Nov. 21, 1998 in San Francisco. Visual Aid encourages artists with life threatening illnesses to continue their creative work by providing a diverse core of direct services. 415-777-8242.

#### DANCE

As part of Manbites Dog Theater's Other Voices Series in January, 1999, The Ways And Means Dance Co presented "Contents Under Pressure" by Barbara Dickinson and Ava Lavonne Vinesett and "Courage Under Fire" by L. D. Burris and Carol Childs, in Durham.

San Francisco's Anne Blumenthal and dancers presented "Yucatan Blue" and other dances Feb. 5-7, 1999 with a reception for The Breast Cancer Fund.

The Purple Moon Dance Project in San Francisco presents "Airspace" at Jon Sims Center Mar 26, 1999 at 8:30 PM. Coming in June at SOMArts "Conceptions" a full-length piece celebrating the experience of Lesbian mothers and families. 415-552-1105.

At Highways in Santa Monica SWEAT! Festival of Contemporary Dance opens April 8-10, 1999 with Full Frontal Enigma. 310-315-1459.

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## MUSIC

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual S. T. A. G. E. (Southland Theatre Artists Goodwill Event) was Feb 26-28, 1999. It honored Richard Adler, Jerry Bock, and Cy Coleman's work and featured many famed singers and actors and was staged by David Galligan with musical direction by Ron Abel and chaired by Naomi Caryl, Betty Garrett and Michael Kearns. Bravos to all involved!!

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles began their 20<sup>th</sup> season with a gala concert featuring Angela Lansbury, Jerry Herman and others which helped generate \$100,000 toward their 1999 tour to Russia and the Baltic. They will be the first openly Gay chorus to perform in Moscow. They also presented The Prom We Never Had, a dance for Gays and Lesbians, in West Hollywood on Feb. 13, 1999.

Vox Femina Los Angeles performed "Love In The Afternoon", a concert of love songs on Feb. 13, 1999 in West Hollywood. They are a Women's choral ensemble dedicated to performing quality music for Women's voices with an emphasis on music by Women composers. 310- 559-1017; voxfem@aol.com

CAMP! California Association of Musical Personalities is a new monthly salon for music composers and new music aficionados. Their inaugural event was in Jan. 1999 at Brian Gross' home. For info contact: 562- 495-8228; CAMusicalP@aol.com

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## PLAYRIGHTS / PRODUCER'S FORUM

Arch Brown's "Freeze!" winner of the 1998 Eric Bentley New Play Competition had its third production in buffalo this past Dec. Previously it had been produced in Phoenix and at 30<sup>th</sup> St. Theatre in New York City. "Freeze!" is a comedy of bad manners featuring a fledgling flasher, a paramour parent, a repugnant redneck, and a virtuoso virgin icebound in a cabin with a murderous misfit.

About Face is Chicago's only self-producing resident Gay and Lesbian theatre. They are interested in new play submissions. However do not send unsolicited scripts, send a query letter with synopsis and cast list, resume, first ten pages and SASE for response to About Face Theatre, Attn: Carl Hippensteel, Literary Manager, 3212 North Broadway, Chicago, IL 60657. Response time is 3 months.

Richard Willett's play "Triptych" was awarded a grant from the Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation to support its production in Feb, 1999 by New Directions Theater at the HomeGrown theater in New York City. "Triptych" is a kind of Gay fever dream drawn from the Ivy League nude posture photo scandal. For further info contact the playwright at 430 East 83 St. #1B, NY, NY 10028; 212-628-6186. The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation funds gay-positive arts projects inspired from historic subjects.

Dave Williams' exciting new play "P. K. Orange" enjoyed a warm reception at an Alliance of L. A. Playwrights Staged Reading in October 1998. It is a timely and powerful story of Jon, a gay son and his conflicts with his fundamentalist minister parents who pressure him into an "ex-gay" ministry. When the counselor desires a secret affair, Jon challenges him to an out and loving relationship. Available for production. Contact the author: PO Box 2086, Redlands, CA 92373-0661; 909-798-9278; pkorange@hotmail.com; www.geocities.com/broadway/Balcony/9278/index.html

Playwrights Ink is offering two plays by the fabulous Tom Jacobson ("Beloved Disciple," "Cyberqueer," "Tainted Blood")

"Cool My Tongue" about 5 Gay men in a Christian "change" program and "Stereopticon" which spans thirty years following the life-paths of a woman who must decide whether to marry her fiancée after she finds out he's slept with men. This is a palindrome play with two endings and two beginnings. For scripts write to Playwrights Ink, 6230 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1776, Los Angeles, CA 90048; 213-382-5236; fax 323-222-4774.

New Arts Theatre is seeking submissions for their Fresh Ink Reading Series. Scripts should be bound, unproduced, and unpublished. Other scripts not meeting that criteria can be sent for regular season consideration. New Arts is devoted to presenting plays that educate, entertain, and challenge audiences. Send to New Arts Theatre, PO Box 81, Bristol TN 37621.

New York Theatre Workshop has Monday readings. Recently done was "Aunt Pieces" by Rosemary Moore, directed by Tony Kushner, and "The Naked Man Piece" by Dominique Dibbell; directed by Vivian Sorenson. 212- 780-9037.

Scott Miller has written two Gay musicals. "Attempting the Absurd" is a musical comedy about a man who has figured out he doesn't exist and is only a character in a musical comedy and is persecuted in various ways. His best friend Chaz is a gay man who accompanies him on his adventures ending in a double wedding with 3 grooms. "In The Blood " is a romantic Gay vampire musical about an HIV+ hematologist and a vampire that fall in love. Both shows have been produced at The New Line Theatre in St. Louis. Contact the playwright: 3649 Dunnica Ave., Ste 2, St. Louis, MO 63116; 314-773-6526.

FirstStage in Hollywood is celebrating its 16th year of helping playwrights develop their work. Recently "Looking for Chola, Baby" by G. Bruce Smith, a death from AIDS sends a man into the real and unreal world of the Chicana in LA. Can you read a 15-minute play before Mar. 20? If so their Playwrights Express is for you; Mar. 20-28, 1999. Call 323-850-6271 for submission info.

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation announces a Playwriting Competition for the Foundation's 1999 writing grants. All plays must present the gay and lesbian lifestyle in a positive manner, and be based on or directly inspired by an historic person or event. Plays selected by the judges will be announced in April 2000 at the annual Lambda Literary Awards. The Foundation also offers grants to Production companies to offset expenses in producing plays based on the above criteria. Competitions for Novelists and Short Story Writers will be repeated in 2000 and 2001. For guidelines for any of the grants send a SASE to The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation, 31855 Date Palm Drive, Box 3-503, Cathedral City, CA 92234.

Script submissions for A.S.K. Theater Projects Fall reading series is June 1, 1999. Their Common Ground Festival is also in June 1999 at UCLA and is free. Contact: 310-478-3200; info@askplay.org; www.askplay.org

Composer James Johnson has penned "The Key West Funnies" AKA "Isle Of Iniquity", a tale of passion, intrigue and accountability. For information on this musical comedy-satire contact the playwright at PO Box 4838, Key West, FL 33041; 305-292-1933.

"Workout!" by Ronald G. Rigby, a comedy in two acts follows eight gay men as they explore life and love while pursuing men and muscles at their local gym. A staged reading was held at Bailiwick in Chicago. Contact the playwright: 773-769-0806; ronald.g.rigby@ac.com

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## TOURING

Authors on Tour, producers Charles Lago and Chip Snell are active on The Purple Circuit. Their latest production is Guillermo Reyes' "Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown." They also represent Annie Sprinkle, Sherry Glaser ("Family Secrets," "Oh My Goddess!")



and Quentin Crisp. Call them at 619-688-9210 for information about their exciting theatre projects.

After 50 sold-out performances in Los Angeles, Jeff Stryker's year-long tour went to San Francisco's 16<sup>th</sup> Street Victoria Theatre in Sean Michael's "Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time." The tour's next US stops include Miami, Boston, New York, and Chicago. Then it's on to Europe and Australia. For further information call 800-542-2131.

Robert Schrock will be leaving Celebration Theatre as AD to tour the hit show "Naked Boys Singing." First stop is NYC opening tentatively in May at The Actors Playhouse and then around the US and the World! Bravo Bob!

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**WILDEANA**

Milwaukee was the place to be this February for Wildeans!

It was the site for the American premiere of Lowell Liebermann's opera "The Picture Of Dorian Gray. The Opera was the cornerstone event for Milwaukee's second annual International Arts Festival which is focusing on Irish heritage and Oscar Wilde in particular. There were many Wilde events including a lecture by Merlin Holland, Oscar's grandson. I had the honor of interviewing Mr. Holland while he was in Los Angeles researching for a new book on his grandfather that he is writing. I plan to present excerpts from that interview in the next issue of OTPC.

The Clark Library in Los Angeles, which is operated by UCLA, is having a series of conferences on Wilde with the one in early March centering on Wilde Stages.

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**OPPORTUNITIES**

Help an Artist and save money on your phone bill. Call Gregory O'Neill, an Independent agent for Excel, at 310-671-4321. He's earning a production budget for his latest project, a Queer Public Access Cable show "Over the Rainbow." Talent is needed! - actors, writers, musicians, drag queens, hustlers, skinheads, functioning addicts.

Women Playwrights and Theatre Artists: Women Playwrights International -- an alliance of Women in Theatre holds the 5th International Women Playwrights Conference in Athens in 2000. Their newsletter has announcements and opportunities listings contact Sara Hardy in Australia at hard@melbpc.org.au

Theater Offensive in Boston is looking for an experienced Managing Director for New England's premier presenter of lesbian/gay performance. Offering fulltime, competitive salary, and benefits. Send resume and cover letter to: The Theater Offensive, Human Resources, 539 Tremont St. #408, Boston, MA 02116.

Bob Schrock is leaving Celebration Theatre in LA to tour "Naked Boys Singing." There is a paid position that probably will be filled locally. Send resume and recommendations to Celebration Theatre, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 109, W. Hollywood, CA 90046.

That Uppity Theatre Company AC/DC Series is looking for work by women or men. Joan Lipkin is interested in producing prepackaged shows for a high profile weekend run. Inquiries: 325 Debaliviere, Box 165, St. Louis, MO 63112; 314-534-1453; uppityco@aolcom

Conn Artist Performing Event (C.A.P.E.) Inc, a non-profit theatre company specializing in Gay and Lesbian theatre, welcomes actors, playwrights, musicians, performance artists, poets, etc to participate in the first Provincetown Fringe Festival. CAPE has a small venue at the Provincetown Inn from June 28-Sept. 11,1999. The theatre runs seven nights a week with 2-4 shows a night. Housing cannot be provided. For further info call Marjorie Conn at 212-582-3533; connartist@hotmail.com or marjconn@gis.net

Purple Moon Dance Project: Please help them by participating in a dialogue about the journeys traveled by lesbians in considering motherhood, being mothers, grandmothers, choosing not to mother. They believe that parts of these journeys are unique to Lesbians because of the homophobia, legal, and social restraints that are still so present in our culture.

The dialogue is being incorporated into their new full-length production "Conceptions" which will celebrate these experiences - they want to hear from you! If the questions don't relate to you, but you have friends who could contribute, please pass this posting on to them. They will continue to add responses/questions/thoughts they receive to this posting and hope to continue it over the next three months as they develop and ready "Conceptions" for its premiere performances.

Their first questions are: "have you ever conceived of being a mother since coming out?" "What were those conceptions?"

For more on "Conceptions" come to "Airspace" - informal performance/dialogue/snacks: February 26 and March 26, 1999, 8:30 PM, Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St., (11th St.), San Francisco. For more info: 415-552-1105

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**How to Reach Us  
The Purple Circuit**

Attn: 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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