

On The Purple Circuit

With Bill Kaiser

Volume 9, Number 3

THE WEBSITE ISSUE

WELCOME TO ON THE PURPLE CIRCUIT!

We exist to promote GLQBT theatre and performance throughout the world and invite you to join in that endeavor!

This is The Web site Issue. After much discussion and preparation, The Purple Circuit is launching its Web site thanks to the generosity of Demian and Sweet Corn Productions.

The Web site is www.buddybuddy.com/pc.html

The mission is to reach worldwide and the Web site is a way to achieve that goal. I have noticed that many of The Purple Circuit theatres, organizations, and individuals already have Web sites. The Web site will be updated regularly and there will be a PDF file of the Quarterly Newsletter as well as The Directory of Venues once we are fully operational. We will continue to print and mail a quarterly On The Purple Circuit and will be deciding how best to get OTPC to you by email in the future for those who want to receive it that way. Thanks to Demian, Jim Russell, and everyone for their cooperation in making this a reality!

It has been a busy summer and I expect fall for Theatre Activists as well as political ones. Our friend, Gay pioneer Massimo Consoli and many others in Italy as well as Michael Lombardi-Nash and Paul Nash in the USA, organized Celebration 2000: Karl Heinrich Ulrich's 175th Birth Anniversary in L'Aquila Italy on August 28, 2000. www.angelfire.com/f13/celebration2000/index.html

Our activist friends in San Francisco are fighting the destruction of the arts scene there due to artists' spaces being priced out of the rental market. A case in point is DancersGroup/Footwork whose studio rent went from \$3000 to \$15,000 a month! This studio has been occupied by dancers for over 50 years! Keith Hennessy, Holly Hughes and others have offered their support to artists there. In late August a group of artists and activists have occupied the studio at 3221 22nd St to demand it remain a community center for dance and that spaces remain available at low rates for artists! We should all join in solidarity for this issue!

www.sfbg.com/AandE/34/41/vanishing.html#contact

Other artists and activists have been in the streets during the republican and democratic conventions protesting many just causes such as corporate greed, GLQBT rights green issues and support for Ralph Nader. Bravo/a to them all for refusing to be silent even when LA turned into a police state.

Lesbian theatre visibility was evident in Los Angeles/West Hollywood in August too. Celebration Theatre and The Village are sponsoring Lesbian readings under the guidance of Mary Casey. They did a reading of the very funny play *The Break-Up Notebook* by Patricia Cotter. Also, The Ivy Theatre presented a fascinating reading of Joan Lipkins' Lesbian/Straight working class play, *SMALL DOMESTIC ACTS* with the playwright in attendance! LA may see a production of this oft done play in the near future. Joan Lipkin is also *The AD* of one of the theatres displaced by St. Marcus Church in St. Louis.

We have a brief article on that situation from Scott Miller of The New Line Theatre there which was also evicted with Uppity & CJ Productions. The Purple Circuit has had a supportive relationship with all of these groups over the years so our last issue was called the St. Louis Issue. I didn't want to honor St. Marcus and putting all 3 groups as a title was a bit too cumbersome. However I don't want to give the impression that these are the only producers in St. Louis doing Purple Circuit work. I have since learned that the Hothouse Theater does GL works as has Ragged Blade Productions under AD Jerry Rabushka. See www.raggedblade.com. I salute them all.

My contacts are limited so I ask all of OTPC readers to write or email me if they see or know about any productions or theatres in their areas that haven't been mentioned in OTPC.

The Purple Circuit Directory is being updated. As I mentioned, it will be available on our Web site or you may send a SASE and a contribution payable to Bill Kaiser to The Purple Circuit, 921 North Naomi St, Burbank CA 91505

Other items of note: Our pal and supporter of the arts, bookseller Richard Labonte, is leaving the helm of A Different Light in San Francisco. We wish him well and thank him for all the events he sponsored here and in Silver Lake! Eric Bentley, who is a marvel, celebrated his 84th birthday on Sept 14. He is still writing and going strong! Mark Savage curated an interesting series at Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles called *Queering the Classics* such as Noel Coward's *BLITHE SPIRIT*. Doric Wilson's website, www.doricwilson.com contains a reprint of his article on The Caffe Cino and Joe Cino who began the Off Off Broadway movement and also really Gay theatre as we came to know it. Robert Patrick has also written on the Cino and his wonderful novel *TEMPLE SLAVE* is based on his experiences there.

The Calendar for this autumn includes events for Gay and Lesbian History Month in October. There will be two cultural events at ONE Institute, 909 West Adams in Los Angeles near the USC campus. First The Purple Circuit/Wilde Week celebrates Oscar Wilde's Birthday (a day early) on Sunday, October 15, 2000 at 3 PM as a fundraiser for The Performing Arts Collection. Bite Ltd under Dennis Doph will present an adaptation of *De Profundis*, Wilde's moving prison letter by George Enell. There will be tours of the renovated building and tea and refreshments in the garden. Tickets are only \$10.00 and reservations can be made at The Purple Circuit Hotline 818-953-5072

The second event is a Celebration of Composer Aaron Copland's birth centennial on Sunday, Oct 29, 2000, 3 PM. Pianist Carl Matthes and others will present an all-Copland program. Tickets are \$10 for ONE's benefit, Reservations call 818-953-5072.

Shoshana Henri's Salon hosted by Dolly Wilde will present interesting guests on Oct 24-25, 2000 at The Gascon Theatre. 213-896-9493

Then there is our National holiday Halloween on October 31. On November 30, there will be events in London and elsewhere to honor the centennial of Oscar Wilde's death. In LA, The Purple Circuit and Kevin Rettig will host an event. Call The Purple Circuit Hotline at 818-953-5072. On World AIDS Day, Friday December 1 there will be 12-hours of Readings to honor those writers and playwrights who have died of AIDS as well as Quilt panels at Skylight Books, 1818 N Vermont Ave in Los Feliz organized by Michael Kearns with help from The Purple Circuit. 323-660-1175.

Thanks to all our Subscribers New and Renewing! Please if you receive a subscription notice respond to it. Our only source of income is from YOU! Thanks to: our columnists Tom W Kelly (happy to have you back!), Gerald Semas, Howard Casner, Barry Lowe, Eric Bentley, Linda Eisenstein, Joan Lipkin, Scott Miller, Shoshana Henri, Francine L. Trevens, Gabriel Shanks, Sue Hamilton, The Publicists and others for press releases, Demian for the website, and my Associate Editor Jim Russell and Sally Barron who make OTPC happen. Remember to see a GLQBT show tonight and when you travel!

Have A Creative Autumn and Be Political!

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.

Accidental Dancers by Stephen Ludwig, a married novelist discovers that coming out of the closet is only the beginning; Long Beach Playhouse, Long Beach, CA; June-July 2000.

All Loves Excelling by Terry Broughner, The Mother, The Son, His Lover, a searing drama of control and passion; Off The Wall Productions, Milwaukee; July 2000.

***And Baby Makes Seven** by Paula Vogel. Manbites Dog Theater, Durham, August; Theatre de Nesle, Paris, directed by Jordan Beswick; opens Sept. 26, 2000; +33 1 46 34 61 04.

Another American: Asking and Telling with Marc Wolf. The Little Theater, Lewes DE; July; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; August 2000.

Bare by Brian Kirst, a dramatic portrait of unrestricted passions with barebacking the issue; Bailiwick, Chicago; May-July 2000.

Bed & Breakfast by Joe Godfrey, a comedy set in Provincetown; ACTOUT, Lexington Ky; June-July 2000.

Big Dicks On Stage by Steven Dawson, the dilemma facing a writer in this feisty backstage comedy from Australia; Wings, NYC; June - July 2000.

***The Big Hoover** by Antay S. Bilgutay, a screwball comedy about Gay men, Bea Arthur and the quest for love; OutWard Spiral, Minneapolis; opens Nov. 17, 2000; 612-343-3390.

Box 27 by Michael Norman Mann, the award-winning play of 'don't ask, don't tell.' Wings, NYC; Aug.- Sept. 2000.

The Break Up Notebook by Patricia Cotter, a very funny comedy about dating and relationships; Celebration Theatre at The Village, Hollywood; a reading, Aug. 2000.

Buddha Blues with Ron Jones, a true story of one man growing up in San Francisco; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; July 2000.

***The Butch / Femme Chronicles** with Kimberly Dark; Bailiwick, Chicago, opens Sept. 22, 2000; 773-883-1090.

***Cafe At The End Of Time** by Sue Carroll Moore, seriocomic Gay romp in the Florida Keys; Out/Loud Productions, Ventura CA; opens Sept. 14, 2000.

***Can't Get Enough** explore life with Gay Goodenough; Third Stage, Burbank CA, ongoing; 323-664-9150.

***Cleopatra, The Musical!** by John Fisher; Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; opens Nov. 2, 2000; 415-861-5079.

Cool My Tongue by Tom Jacobson, delving into the world of conversion therapy; Celebration Theatre, Hollywood; Jun.-Jul. 2000.

Confessions of A Songbird Strangler by Gabriel Todd. Plays at the Jon Sims Center, San Francisco; July 2000.

***Corpus Christi** by Terrence McNally. New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF; opens Oct. 21, 2000 after previews; 415-861-8972.

***The Day I Kissed Mike Sanchez** by Craig Acosta Rowe, explores the growing borderlands of identity politics; at residency at Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, San Francisco; Sept. 15, Oct. 13, and Nov. 10, 2000; 415-554-0402.

***Debunking Love** by Prince Gomolvilas, a sparkling comedy looking for love in all the wrong races! New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF; previews Nov. 8, 2000 and opens Nov. 18, 2000; 415-861-8972.

Diva with Bennett Schneider, 4 Divine Women, 1 Goddess: channeled nightly; Highways, Santa Monica; July 2000.

Down South by Doug Field. A hit comedy; Flight Theatre, Hollywood; Apr.-July 2000.

Endless Air, Endless Water by Robert Shaffron, comedy, winner of the 1999 Playwrights' Center of San Francisco Festival, staged reading at HOT! Dixon Place, NYC; July 2000.

Endless Night, Sweet Delight by Howard Casner, this romantic drama has been called "engrossing" and "well-hung", Bailiwick, Chicago, June-July 2000.

***Enough About Me** with Diva Extraordinaire Varla Jean Merman, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, opens Sep. 30, 2000; 415-861-8972.

***Entertaining Mr. Sloane** by Joe Orton, South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa CA, opened Sept. 19, 2000; 714-708-5555.

Fairy Tales by Eric Lane Barnes, an extraordinary Gay musical revue, or that is redundant? Theatre New West, Houston; June-Aug. 2000.

Fantasy Men with book and lyrics by Chuck Cannon and music by Zack Emtom, a Gay musical comedy revue, Living End Theatre Company, Philadelphia; July-Aug. 2000.

The Fitting Room by Kathryn McCarty, a series of interconnected vignettes peeking inside a ladies dressing room, New Conservatory, San Francisco, Aug.-Sept. 2000.

***For Colored Boys...** by Marvin K White, a choreopoem with original music telling the stories of Gay African-American men, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; opens May 3, 2001; 415-861-5079.

Friends Of Dorothy with music and lyrics by Ruff Yeager and book by Ruff Yeager and John Martin, the musical story of coming out journey of Kansas City cowpoke Dorothy, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego; July-Sept. 2000.

Girl Meets Girl by Maddy Alexander and Sally Stover, a new comedy about falling in and out of love; St. Gensius, W Hollywood; June-Aug. 2000. Opening soon in San Diego, New York and San Francisco.

Glory Box with Tim Miller, his latest tour de force over the inequity of INS laws toward Gay binational couples, Institute for Contemporary Art, Mardi Gras Fest.; Quentin Crisp Theatre, San Diego, July 2000.

***A Gravity Fable** with Susan Maxwell, Jon Sims Center; San Francisco; May -July, 2000.

Handsome Men by Mike Dempsey, four different generations of Gay men with nothing in common except for one thing ... they all were very naughty; Diversionary Theatre, San Diego; June-July 2000.

Harold & The Nudist by Robert Coles, a new comedy about a novelist and his new roommate who is not Harold! The Vortex, NYC; Jul.-Aug. 2000.

Junior Blues with Rob Nash, the third installment of high school life with Rob playing all the parts; Don't Tell Mama's, NYC; July 2000; www.rob-nash.com

***The Laramie Project** conceived by Moises Kaufman and Tectonic Theater Project, a performance about the murder of Matthew Shepard through interviews with townspeople of Laramie, Denver Center Theater, Denver; Mar.-Apr.; & Union Square Theatre, NYC; ongoing; 212-505-0770.

Lavender Rose, book and lyrics by Fran Zell and music by Katharine Younger, a sexy love-filled Lesbian musical world premiere; Fraz/zled Productions, Madison; July 2000.

***Martin Yesterday** by Brad Fraser, another sizzling play by Canada's enfant terrible; New Conservatory Theatre Center, SF; previews Feb. 14, 2001; opens Feb. 24, 2001; 415-861-8972.

Members Of The Tribe by N. S. Heiden, a drama of a young Gay man who finds Judaism and a married Rabbi in this love story for the new millennium, Act Out Productions, Columbus, Ohio, July 2000.

MotherSON with Jeffrey Solomon, a solo playing the Gay man and his Jewish mother, Bailiwick Pride Series, Chicago, June-July, 2000.

***Naked Boys Singing** created by Robert Schrock. Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco; opened Sept. 9, 2000; 415-861-5079; Actors Playhouse, NYC; ongoing; 212-239-6200; BienVenue Theatre, Houston; ongoing; 713-426-2626.

***Nasty Little Secrets** by Lanie Robertson, the Orton and Halliwell story; Theatre/Theater, Hollywood; ongoing; 323-871-9433.

***The Night Salome Danced** by Doric Wilson. Flexible Deadlock Theatre Company, Glasgow, opens Nov. 29, 2000; +44, +141, 330 5522.

***Original Blessing** by Rico Hewson, a look at last year's Y2K craze; Jon Sims Center, San Francisco; Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, 2000; 415-554-0402.

***Oscar and Speranza** by C. Robert Holloway, a drama about Oscar Wilde and his mother who used the pen name Speranza in her youth; Trumpet Vine Theatre Company, Arlington VA; opens Oct. 27, 2000; 703-912-1649.

***The Other Side Of The Closet** by Edward Roy, theatre-in-education that teaches tolerance for Gay and Lesbian teens; New Conservatory, San Francisco; opens Sept. 20, 2000; 415-861-4914.

***Passages** by Rebecca Schultz, the experiences of being a young woman over 3 generations; Jon Sims Center, San Francisco; Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, 2000; 415-554-0402.

***Party** by David Dillon, an uplifting proud affirmation of Gay life and with the playwright in the cast too; Bailiwick, Chicago; ongoing; 773-883-1090.

***Preaching To The Perverted** with Holly Hughes, a tour of the dark side of democracy; Baltimore Theatre Project, Baltimore; Feb.-Mar. 2000; P.S. 122, NYC; Apr-May, 2000; Woolly Mammoth, Washington DC; opens Oct. 30, 2000; 202-393-3939.

The Prostitution Plays by John Roman Baker, the play explores the lives of young eastern European men working as prostitutes in Amsterdam; Aputheatre performed in Warsaw, Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Minsk, July-Aug 2000. www.aput.demon.nl

Relative Comfort by Gina Schien, a comedy about a bouncer, her ex-lover and her replacement and a redefinition of family; Bailiwick, Chicago; opened June-July 2000.

***Rhinceros** by Ionesco, a reworking of the absurdist classic; Theatre Rhinceros, San Francisco; opens Jan. 11, 2001; 415-861-5079.

The Secret Of The Old Queen by Timothy Cope, a spoof of the Hardy Boys mysteries; New Conservatory Theatre Center and Kaliyuga Arts, San Francisco; June-July 10, 2000.

***Seven Days** by Laura Black, a Lesbian comedy of five women on a journey of self-discovery in the wilderness; Hudson Avenue Theatre, Hollywood; opened Sept. 10, 2000; 323-666-6086.

Sir by Scott Lee Heckman, tracing the paths between Christian faith and the leather community; Bailiwick, Chicago; July-Sept. 2000.

***Snakebit** by David Marshall Grant, a clever, wise comedy and modern friendship put to the test, with Leigh Fortier; New Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco; previews start Jan. 24, 2001, and opens Feb. 3, 2001; 415-861-8972.

***So What Are You Wearing** by John Chaich, Dobama Theatre, Cleveland, opening for World AIDS Day in December.

***Speed Hedda** adapted by Robert Prior, a fabulous reconstruct by The Fabulous Monster of the Ibsen play; Evidence Room, Los Angeles; ongoing; 213-381-7118.

***Stop Kiss** by Diana Son, the acclaimed story of two women and the kiss that changed their lives; Theatre Rhinceros at Braval Center for the arts, San Francisco.

Strip! Barely Legal with Madame Dish and her hunks; Globe Playhouse, W Hollywood; opened Sept. 6, 2000; 310-289-2999.

Three The Hard Way by Linda Eisenstein, three very different sisters gather to give their gambler father a final send off; SNAP!, Omaha; July-Aug. 2000.

Torch Song Trilogy by Harvey Fierstein. New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; June-July 2000.

***The Velocity Of Gary (Not His Real Name)** by James Still, a naive young hustler tries to make it on the mean streets of Manhattan; New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; opened Sept. 6, 2000; 415-861-8972.

Visiting Mr. Green by Jeff Baron. New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco; Aug.-Sept. 2000.

***What's Wrong with Angry?** by Patrick Wilde. Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles; opens Sept. 22, 2000; 310-289-2999.

Winning by Michele Forsten, Susie's dead grandmother and mother still want to run her life and disprove of her Lesbianism; Love Creek Productions, NYC; July 2000.

Workout! by Russell Glidden and Ron Rigby, follows the hysterical exploits of Michael and Mac as they discover what it means to be Gay and 40; Bailiwick, Chicago; July-Sept. 2000.

You Look For Me by Paul Harris, about the 35 year friendship between two men; Upstart Theatre Company, NYC; June-July 2000.

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THEATRE BITS

by Bill Kaiser

Anchorage: Out North has received Anchorage MCCs annual Human Rights Award especially for their work with GLB and Questioning youth. New York video artist Jocelyn Taylor presented

an evening of her work as well as samples of video from DYKE-TV. email@outnorth.org

Austin: In August 2000 the Vortex Repertory Company presented new works for their Living Room Series. www.vortexrep.org

Australia: Barry Lowe reports lots of G/L shows down under this summer. In Adelaide: DRAPES by Stephen House about a boy discovering his sexuality at The Chapel. In Brisbane: CAR MAINTENANCE with Donna Jackson, GO BY NIGHT by Stephen House about a young Gay working class man, KISS OF THE SPIDERWOMAN by Manuel Puig, LESBIANS BLOOM, improv, and WHITE KING BLAK (sic) QUEEN with Clinton Nain, all at Powerhouse ; In Sydney: DEATH IN VENICE adapted by Bogdan Koska at Pilgrim Theatre, THE GREAT GATSBY, homoerotic adaptation by Barry Lowe, New Theatre, THE HAM FUNERAL by Patrick White, T. Williams' SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER, and VIEWING BLUE POLLS by Christos Tsiolkas, a gay security guard and bisexual male put out their hearts in front of Jackson Pollock masterpiece, all at Belvoir Theatre, LATER THAN SPRING by Barry Creyton, Marian Street Theatre, MATES by Peter Kenna, Valhalla Theatre, and WOLF BOY by Brad Fraser at Tap Gallery Theatre.

Los Angeles: Celebration Theatre has announced that their new Managing Artistic Director will be Derek Charles Livingston. We hope to have a brief interview with him in the next issue on his vision for Celebration's future. 323-957-1884

Montreal: OUT PRODUCTIONS and David Allan King are busy. He is doing an anthology of monologues called OUT OF PROVINCE which will be filmed and available on www.out.ca in late November. It's a series of coming out stories from every province and territory in Canada. OUT presented three short plays during Divers-cite (Gay Pride) in August with "We're No Angels (in Canada), Baroness Medea At The Gates Of Hell and Dancing With A Saint. They possibly will be co-producing with SIN 4 Productions R.M Vaughn's CAMERA, WOMAN based on the life of Hollywood director Dorothy Arzner. in@out.ca

New York: New York Theatre Workshop held a community day July 16, 2000. Claudia Shear of DIRTY BLONDE and the original cast of RENT appeared, and solo pieces were performed by Rob Nash and others. 212-780-9037

The Personality Inventory is every Tuesday night at Venue hosted by Greg Walloch and others. It has been called the most bizarre, eccentric, sexy engaging funny and thought-provoking show in NYC! 917-544-1894

Before the demolition of Judson House, a site of much creativity, there were four days of performance in July including Rite #55 (wonderwall elegy) by Funkopolis with text/direction by Tim Brown and Gabriel Shanks performed by Shannon Maddox..

Omaha: SNAP! received 31 nominations and 12 awards from the Theatre Arts Guild for productions of Walter's Big Adventure, The Last Session, and Elegies For Angels, Punks & Raging Queens and The Twilight Of The Golds and Empty Closets. Congratulations to SNAP!

Phoenix: The Essential Theatre in June presented Beating The odds: Tales Of Triumph at the Herberger Theatre Center, 408-897-6711

Rome: HOMME FATALE: LA Storia di Joey Stefano by Barry Lowe was performed at Teatro Colosseo in Rome May-June 2000.

According to our pals in Italy including Massimo Consoli, the World Pride Roma was a great success refusing to be blocked by the Vatican and the withdrawing of support from the city. Bravo!

St. Louis: Joan Lipkin's That Uppity Theatre Company was honored June 25 with Pride St. Louis's John Van Voris award for community service. This is ironic since the company is now homeless following their eviction from St. Marcus. Joan is interested in "stories that are now being told". Another diversity project of Uppity's has been the DisAbility Project drawing both disabled and non-disabled participants.

San Francisco: The Jon Sims Center has announced their Creating Queer Community Grants to unleash creative spirits of individual queer artists and community-based organizations. The grantees are Katie Szymanski, Lesbiansin The Visual Arts, Matt Bissinger, Frank Pietronigro, Dan Pillers, and Lisi DeHass & Gina Gold. www.jonsimsctr.org

Santa Monica: Highlights lately at Highways have been: David Schmader in STRAIGHT, Guitier Boy, Nancy Agabian, and Ann

Perich in a July 4th extravaganza, Bennett Schneider in DIVA, Phranc, QUEST (Queers United For Empowerment by Struggling Together) and Boys Night Out. Coming up are LIBERTY with Chris Wells Sept 28 -Oct 1, The 7th Annual Hot & Sticky Performance Extravaganza Oct 5-7, and THE TEN YEAR CHAT with David Rousseve Oct 26-28; 310-315-1459.

Sarasota: Garry Allan Breul is organizing a Quilt benefit in October 2000 for Bethesda House. He is also producing a Play reading Association with PWAs and is looking for good material for PWAs about PWAs. Contact via Purple Circuit or beargar@hotmail.com (Garry Breul).

Smithville TN: September 20-24 will be the IDAPALOOZA Fruit Jam at the Ida Queer Artists community in Smithville, Tenn. Come and share the stories, the music and the camaraderie. Bravo to our country cousins!

CHICAGO SCENE

by Howard Casner

Every rave is a party, but not every party is a rave, unless it's written by David Dillon and revived by Bailiwick Repertory as the coda to its annual Pride Series. Party (or as it's known in Mexico City, Fiesta) is the longest running gay play in Chicago history and is once more overflowing seats while raising the nostalgic question of "where were you when you first saw that naked guy do twenty jumping jacks"? As an adjunct to the production, Bailiwick hosted a symposium on contemporary gay theater titled "Gay Drama from Boys in the Band to Party and Beyond." John M. Clum, Professor of Drama and English at Duke University and editor of a new collection of gay plays to be published by Stage & Screen, hosted with the mosted, while the panel consisted of theater critic Lawrence Bommer, Party-animal David Dillon and Bailiwick AD David Zak. No one took off their clothes.

The polls are in and three productions of the Pride Series were extended as a result: Jeffrey Solomon's touching and autobiographical one-person show, MotherSON (which was also Jeff Recommended); Perry Layton Ojeda's The Trick, about a young man who can get laid, but can't get a relationship (we should all have such troubles); and Q, Martin and Biello's musical revue about gay life, love and a waiter who worships the man at table number three (you had to be there). In addition, the Pride series will oversee two solo efforts from the distaff and sword side of the sexes. Bailiwick's Lesbian Theatre Initiative will give us Kimberly Dark in her original show, The Butch/Femme Chronicles: Discussions With Women Who Are Not Like Me (And Some Who Are). While the ubiquitous David Dillon will direct a workshop production of Desperately Aloof, a one-man show by a hopefully un-proper Bostonian Craig Houk.

Coming up roses at Bailiwick for the new season: local transgendered legend Alexandra Billings will transform herself into the role of Mama in Laurents, Styne and Sondheim's Gypsy. Noel Coward's centenary will be recognized (one of the few local instances) with a production of Present Laughter, and Tennessee William's last play, Something Cloudy, Something Clear, will transport us back to the Provincetown of 1940; and which "brings us back to do", or in Bailiwick's case: Pride 2001.

It's summer, which means its sequel and revival time. About Face Theatre followed up their youth theater initiative of last year, First Breath, with the highly successful Raising Voices, their youth theatre initiative of this year. About Face also joined forces with the Goodman for a revival of Mary Zimmerman's Eleven Rooms of Proust, a guided tour of scenes and images inspired by that book, oh, you know the one. The Neo Futurists did their annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Edition of 30 queer plays in 60 minutes (sounds like a night at the baths), a benefit for a local nonprofit organization. Both Roadworks and Porchlight Productions revived (respectively) John C. Russell's Stupid Kids, a play surprisingly not about the Chicago school system, and Finn and Lapine's ballsy musical, Falsettos for the Chicago ParkDistrict's Theatre on the Lake Summer Series. And Rick Karlin's musical in a laundromat about a pre-Will and Grace gay man/straight woman friendship, Spin Cycle, was once again put through the ringer by Phoenix Ascending after first being produced umpteen years ago, then hung out to dry (sometimes I kill myself).

Also strutting their stuff: theatreQ continued its readings of new works with Nancy Wright's Blue Coyote Blues, a lesbian fantasy about the forces of nature, as well as doing a two-way with Great Beast Theatre Co., by doing a four way with Robert Patrick's Four One-Act Plays: Fog, Sit-Com, PoufPositive, Evan on Earth. Court Theatre explored A.E. Housman's unrequited passion for a fellow student in Tom Stoppard's The Invention of Love (with a more than welcome cameo by Oscar Wilde); About Face followed Tony Kushner to Russia in his drama Slavs; and Writer's Theatre made a fortune off of Joe Orton's Loot.

A CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE

Entertainment News
by Gerald Semas

- The wife of New York City Mayor **Rudolph Giuliani** canceled her plans to join the cast of The Vagina Monologues. No reasons were given for the cancellation though some say it was on the advice of her gynecologist. The play, by **Eve Ensler**, uses drama and comedy to examine subjects as sexual fantasy, orgasms, pelvic exams, and rape. WOW! Sounds like a fun evening for the entire family.
- Manhattan Theatre Club's production of **Charles Busch's The Tale of the Allergist's Wife**, will move to Broadway with all three original stars **Linda Lavin** (Alice), **Michele Lee** and **Tony Roberts**.
- The successful London production of The Graduate is heading to Broadway but without its star **Kathleen Turner**. The actress has plans to return to the one-woman show about Tallulah Bankhead this fall. This leaves Graduate producer **John Reid** needing two stars, one for the UK run and another for the Broadway run. Reid is **Elton John's** former lover and manager.
- The Duplex Cabaret Theatre in NYC's Greenwich Village became host to a hit with the Gay-themed musical revue Bed, Boys and Beyond. The show was set to end April 1 and had been extended through July. Portions of the show, by composer **Alfredo Alvarez** and lyricist-librettist **Jeff Dobbins**, were seen in the summer 1999 Y2-Gay hit.
- **Whoopi Goldberg** is joining forces with **Barbra Streisand** to produce an original movie for Lifetime called What Makes A Family. The project tells the story of a lesbian who fights her deceased partner's parents for custody of her and her partner's child and should air early next year.
- **Jeremy Davies** (Saving Private Ryan) has joined the cast of The 24th Day, a film version of the acclaimed stage play. The work tells the story of a man who holds a second man hostage because he is convinced that the other gave him HIV - trouble is the second man doesn't remember him since the supposed incident was over six years earlier.
- The Williamstown Theatre Festival, running through Aug. 27 has a number of interesting offerings in their 2000 edition. In addition to new plays by **Austin Pendleton** and **Frank Pugliese**, will be a staging of six of the ten one-acts that make up Noel Coward's Tonight at 8:30. Rent helmer **Michael Grief** and **Chicago** choreographer **Ann Reinking** will direct. Other revivals include **Lanford Wilson's The Hot L Baltimore**, directed by **Joe Mantello** (July 5-16); and Hedda Gabler, translated by **Jon Robin Baitz**.
- **Nathan Lane** has found his next paycheck in a revival of Neil Simon's comedy Laughter on the 23rd Floor. But this time it's not headed to Broadway but television. Showtime plans to film Simon's funny look at his early career writing for Sid Caesar's "Your Show or Shows." **Richard Benjamin** will direct a cast that includes **Peri Gilpin** (Fraser), **Victor Garber** (The First Wives Club), **Saul Rubinek** (And The Band Played On), **Dan Castellaneta** (The Simpsons) and Lane as the Caesar like character.

- San Francisco's New Conservatory Theatre has chosen a number of exciting works for their just announced Sixth annual Gay Pride season. Two notable works from the list include **Terrence McNally's** controversial Bible story, Corpus Christi and **Paul Rudnick's** comic Bible story, The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told. The season will also include the world premiere of **Prince Gomolivila's Debunking Love** and former star of ABC's Who's The Boss, **Danny Pintauro** in The Velocity of Gary (Not His Real Name). The season begins Aug. 10 with **Jeff Baron's** Off-Broadway hit, Visiting Mr. Green about a retired dry cleaner, **Dean Goodman**, who is almost killed by a young Gay executive. Many of you may remember Goodman as the mean Mr. Bennington in **Francis Ford Coppola's Tucker**. A Gay man, now in his 63rd year of acting, Goodman was once though briefly married to the daughter of **Marlena Deitrich** that was detailed in his book Marlene, Maria and Me.

- Chicago's **GayCo Productions** recently staged The Miseducation of Dr. Laura at Donny's Skybox Studio Theatre. The Windy City production was described as a sketch-comedy revue dealing with topics that affect the gay community: divisionism, the "Don't ask/don't tell" policy, and the 21st century plague known as **Dr. Laura Schlessinger**. Other shows scheduled for their season include a number of wonderfully titled works such as Whitney Houston, We Have a Problem!, Everyone's Coming Out, Rosie!, Don't Ask, Don't Teletubby, and Better than "Better Than Chocolate."

- Comic actress **Lily Tomlin**, is reviving her 1985 hit one-woman show Jane Wagner's The Search for Sign of Intelligent Life in the Universe as it returns Broadway for 10 weeks beginning November 11. Tomlin had a tryout for the upcoming run in 1999, when she toured a shorter concert version of the play to 30 cities.

- Dame Edna: The Royal Tour will start an 8 month North American tour in the fall, kicking off in Minneapolis (oofta oofta) on Oct. 24th. West Coast stops won't happen until next year when the incomparable **Dame Edna** reaches L.A.'s Shubert Theatre on May 15th. Since critics call the show a riot, maybe when she reaches L.A., the Lakers can carry her out on stage. Other performance dates for California will be added in the months ahead.

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THE CLOSING OF THE ST. MARCUS

by Scott Miller

That Uppity Theatre Company, CJ Productions and New Line Theatre all called the St. Marcus Theatre in St. Louis their home for years, and had enjoyed a freedom of expression unprecedented in St. Louis, as well as rent low enough to allow them and other local artists to take great artistic and commercial risks. All three companies have produced gay-themed work for years.

But they were told last fall that a local anonymous religious extremist had been saving press clippings for years about shows at the St. Marcus Theatre, and had sent copies to the local governing board of the United Church of Christ, of which the St. Marcus Church is a member. Reverend Dickson Beall was called before the UCC governing board to defend the theatre residing in their church basement. He offered Biblical and philosophical justification for the freedom of content practiced in the theatre, and the UCC board was satisfied with promises that the church board would look into the matter.

Though controversial shows had been produced in the St. Marcus Theatre since its creation eleven years ago, and though those shows sometimes contained nudity, Reverend Beall had always fiercely protected the theatre's complete artistic freedom. He had created the theatre because that area of the city had the highest concentration of HIV and AIDS. He knew the gay community needed a place to express itself, to find its voice and discuss its issues. He knew his church could be a place to bring people together and a place of healing.

Over the years, the theatre had played host to many world premieres, regional premieres, and St. Louis premieres. Original works by Lipkin, Jackson, Miller, and other local writers premiered there. That Uppity Theatre Company brought to St. Louis some of the world's top performances artists, including Tim Miller, Michael

Kearns, Holly Hughes, Quentin Crisp, and others. New Line produced shows there the St. Louis premieres of Songs for a New World, The Ballad of Little Mikey, Floyd Collins, Passion, and David Dillon's Party.

But trouble began last season, first with Jackson's musical South Beach, based loosely on Gianni Versacci's murder and full of extreme depictions of sexual violence. Right on the heels of South Beach -- and right in the middle of the Christmas season -- Jackson, the theatre manager, brought in a production of Terence McNally's gay-themed off-Broadway play Corpus Christi.

In January, the church decided to either shut the theatre down or change drastically the way it operated. Local theatre artist Julie George was named the theatre's new manager, but her appointment started a battle for control of the theatre that further angered church members. Suddenly and unexpectedly, Reverend Beall resigned (for reasons unrelated to the theatre).

Though many church members promised they would fight for the theatre, the congregation voted in February to shut the theatre down permanently at the end of June 2000, after the current season had ended. But before the dust settled, the theatre would be shut down at the end of March instead, after threats, harassment, and vandalism by church members against New Line Theatre's last show there, Out on Broadway 2000.

The internationally respected St. Marcus Theatre closed forever on April 1. The stage and technical booth were dismantled within days. A week after the theatre had closed, the church hung a giant banner on the front of the building which read "The NEW St. Marcus Church. Everyone Welcome." None of the three resident companies, That Uppity Theatre Company, CJ Productions, or New Line Theatre has yet found a new home.

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WAY OFF BROADWAY BY THE BAY

by Tom W. Kelly

NEWS:

Help Is on the Way VI, Cole Porter: A Musical Celebration raised money for the API Wellness Center, ARIS of Santa Clara County, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Center for AIDS Services, Continuum, Positive Resource Center and the Stop AIDS Project. 100% of the ticket sales goes directly to the charities.

SFSU's The S.A.F.E. Place and A.S. Women's Center co-production of **The Vagina Monologues**, an Obie Award-winning play by Eve Ensler, benefitted S.A.F.E. Place Peers at SFSU and The Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women.

This year's **National Queer Arts Festival** (presented by The Queer Cultural Center, The Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender Art & Culture, and The Harvey Milk Institute) mounted live stagings, street theater and performance art, including productions from B/GLAM. In the street theatre; Kate Bornstein and Barbara Carrellas; Veronica C. Combs; Electra; GAPA; and Luna Sea Women's Performance. The AXIS Dance Company presented new repertory works by Bill T. Jones and Joe Goode, Sonya Delwalde, and Johanna Haigood in **The Ground, the Air, and Places in Between**. AXIS Dance Company garnered national and int'l recognition for their artistic innovation with disabled and non-disabled dancers and choreographers. The **Queer Arts Festival** is a series of cultural events, exhibitions, performances and interpretative programs organized by The Queer Cultural Center and The Harvey Milk Institute.

Luna Sea Women's Performance, 2940 16th Street 216-C, SF; 415-863-2388; www.lunasea.org

Luna Sea produced the Dykedrama Festival: Short Plays by and about Dykes. Luna Sea Women's Performance is a multicultural, community-based women's arts organization that provides instruction and support for uncensored artistic and creative expression in the extended Bay Area. One of the only performance and gallery spaces in the country run by and featuring art of queer women of color and lesbians.

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

Viva Variety is an ongoing series of variety shows in the "old-style format" and highlights the very best in gay and "gay-friendly" entertainment in the Bay Area. Each show's proceeds benefit local organizations. The shows are a showcase for local celebrities, developing artists, new material, and old chestnuts alike. Hosted and produced by Steve Murray of "Make It So" Productions.

The show-tunes entertainment, **Broadway Ballbusters** (produced by TANTA Productions, in association with Theatre Rhino) returned to SF. The fast-paced revue's creators, Eric Brizee and Alan Fricke, have come up with a list of brilliantly written songs -- from tricked-out laments to rousing show-stoppers -- that musically express, in a comic to touching to raunchy way, the dilemmas and mixed bag of emotions that gay men experience in their search for romance.

Whatever Happened to Sister George? is a new comedy that pays tribute to the lesbian inhabitants of the Celluloid Closet. Director/writer F. Allen Sawyer explores what might have happened if the producers of *Ellen* had gotten their hands on a Donna Reed era TV show.

The world premier of Latin Hustle's **Hoodwink** featured the queer, brown comedy trio -- Jamie Cortez, Adriana Gordon and Al Lujan -- all Latino, queer, bilingual, political, raunchy, deranged, funny and unapologetic. **Hoodwink** slaughters several burning queer latino issues: fathers and sons, gay ageism, the glory of glory holes, the future of fashion, and growing up dirt poor.

Barebacking, A Sex Panic! Comedy by John Fisher is ultimately most concerned with the vagaries of gay theatre. Though the many disparate elements of the play result in a scattershot approach, the fun barrels along at top speed and there is never EVER a dull moment. Despite the title, there is no actual on-stage anal penetration, but there are loads of laughs instead.

Theatre Rhino Studio:

Kung Foo on the Donut features Pierre Vladimir Stroud's triple-threat abilities as a writer, actor, and musician. He uses his frenetic, stream-of-consciousness blending of these mediums to draw his audience into conversations about dog parks, reality-based television, credit cards, therapy, Starbucks coffee sizes, and the stressed-out life of the Pope.

Hard Candy by Joseph C. Wilson is the story of a young man, who is selected via a lottery to receive a highly publicized baboon bone marrow transplant in hopes of developing a cure for AIDS. But he begins to suspect that he was NOT randomly chosen.

First S(c)ene presented several g/l/b/t/q plays in their Season of New Works including *Two Days of Grace at Middleham* (juxtaposes the story of King Richard III and his wife Anne with a contemporary gay relationship) by Toni Press-Coffman, *Possible Lives* (2 SF couples, one straight and one gay, grapple with the conflicting demands of love, family and career) by Brad Erickson, and *Sweet Chariot* (improbable romance blooms between men -- one longing to fall into his humanity, the other frantically fleeing aliens) by Jeff Schwamberger.

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

UPCOMING:

NCT and Ron Jones presented Ron Jones' **Buddha Blues**, a one-man show of poetry, storytelling, and jazz written and performed by Ron Jones. The true story of one man growing up in SF encountering life's unpredictable tag game. An experimental theatre piece blending spoken word, jazz, and video.

NCT and Galeatean Players produced the SF premiere of **The Fitting Room**, written and directed by Kathryn G. McCarty. It contains a series of interconnected vignettes featuring a gay man and his friend, a widower and his young daughter in search of a first prom dress, an elderly couple trying to learn to play "by the rules," teenagers on a wild adventure, and an engaged couple facing the challenges of impending marriage.

The West Coast premiere of **Another American: Asking and Telling** (special event of 6th Pride Season), written and starring Marc Wolf takes the audience on a national tour of sexual politics, the American military, sanctioned discrimination and its human fallout. Distilled from over 200 interviews conducted with members of the military culture, including gay and lesbian officers and veterans, family members and the people who oppose their right to serve.

PAST:

Torch Song Trilogy by Harvey Fierstein chronicles Arnold Beckoff's search for love, respect, and tradition in a world that seems not especially made for him. Excellent ensemble and direction by Ed Decker.

NCT and Kaliyuga Arts presented **The Secret of the Old Queen** by Timothy Cope with music by Paul Boesing. Teen-age sleuths Frank and Joe Hardy guard a priceless "art object" as their girlfriends begin to wonder whether their relationships with the boys will ever get beyond the "friendship" stage.

NCT remounted **Beautiful Thing, an urban fairy tale** by Jonathan Harvey (hit of last year's *Pride Season*) is a heartfelt, joyful story of young love triumphant against all odds. Two teenage boys risk everything for happiness and love and win in this deliciously upbeat, spunky and unsentimental portrait of adolescent self-discovery.

Message to Michael written by Tim Pinckney and directed by Stephen Rupsch, follows two best friends who go to bars, pick up men and harbor only nominal anxieties about career, sex and the future. This West Coast Premiere offers some basic human truths add emotional weight to a whirlwind of lighter-than-air, witty one-liners.

The Rice Room: Scenes from a Bar presents the lives of gay Asian men collide in award-winning actor/writer Noel Alunit's solo show set in a trendy West Hollywood bar. Based on countless interviews and Noel's own work in the gay Asian community, **The Rice Room** tackles some of the most universal of themes: desire, survival, sex, fate, joy.

New York or Bust includes both familiar songs and never-before-seen material. Opportunities to see The Kinsey Sicks, America's Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet, are becoming few and far between before they become the burnt toast of New York.

IN CONCERT SERIES:

Side by Side by Sondheim had a sophisticated look (including tuxes!) and, of course, features some of the best music by one of America's best composers. Creative staging by director/choreographer Mike Ward.

NCT reprised **The Harvey Milk Show -- a Passion Play**, book and lyrics by Dan Pruitt and music by Patrick Hutchinson. This powerful and entertaining musical illuminates the passionate and political world of Harvey Milk, who, as a SF Supervisor, was California's first elected official to be openly gay.

Boy Meets Boy, by Bill Solly and Donald Ward, lovingly recreates the era of black and white movie musicals replete with witty lyrics, memorable melodies, and a book full of humor and wit.

EDUCATIONAL THEATRE TOLERANCE PROJECT FOR TEENS:

The Other Side of the Closet by Edward Roy is a theatre-in-education play that teaches tolerance of gays and lesbians and communicates vital info to teens grappling with many issues including homophobia. **The Other Side of the Closet** follows five hormonally driven teens as they deal with the emotional fallout when one of them is seen coming out of a gay bar.

NCT, in association with the Federal Centers for Disease--Atlanta, developed the nation's first HIV theatre-in-education theatre programs for youth. NCT's three age-appropriate theatre presentations became national and international models for AIDS education and have been seen by four million youth worldwide.

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

Three short plays comprised **Return to Caffè Cino: The Madness of Lady Bright** by Lanford Wilson (featuring Trauma Flintstone), *What Made Gilda's Hair Go Grey* by Tom Eyan and a scene from *Georgie Porgie* by George Birimisa.

JSC, with the Queer Cultural Center and the Harvey Milk Institute, initiated "Creating Queer Community Grants for Emerging Artists" which distributed \$6,650 in grant money to support six artists: Katie Szymanski, Lesbians in the Visual Arts, Matt Bissinger, Frank Pietronigro, Dan Pillers, and Lisi DeHass/Gina Gold.

At the 7th Note Showclub, **Miss Desmond Behind Bars** proved that "prison can be a real drag." This merry musical (music by Leo Salvalas, books and lyrics by Mark Goff and Erin Quigley) is campily cartoonish in its absolute suspension of (dis)belief. Picking up where

the film *Sunset Boulevard* left off, a crazed Miss Nora Desmond (uncannily created by Gregory Messer) mistakes her new home in a correctional facility for the set of her "comeback" movie. An evening of frantically frivolous, delightfully debauched and maniacally mindless entertainment.

The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St.; 415-826-5750

Erotic and oddly romantic, **The Dyke and the Porn Star**, written and directed by Bayla Travis, is a tale of obsessive, panting pursuit where neuroses, objectification and manipulation thrive. Highly recommended for its honesty, universality, and downright sensuality.

American Conservatory Theatre, 415 Geary St.; 415-749-2228; www.act-sfbay.org

Edward II is Christopher Marlowe's classic tragedy about the 14th century king whose love for a common man cost him his throne and his life. Featuring a feast of flesh, director Mark Lamos staged with sexual abandon!

The MFA Program produced the world premiere of **-14: An American Maul**, written and directed by Robert O'Hara, which poses the question: What if the U.S. decided to abolish the 14th Amendment and to return African Americans to slavery? O'Hara uses fantastic imagery and irreverent satire to explore issues of race, love, and friendship.

The New Plays Program of the Young Conservatory celebrated its tenth anniversary with Timothy Mason's new **The Less Than Human Club** where the central character replays the complexities of his relationships with a group of his peers, the crisis of sexual identity, and the search for moral purpose.

Magic Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D; 415-441-8822; www.magictheatre.org

The Magic Theatre staged premiere works by five lesbian dramatists in its first ever **Festival of Lesbian Playwrights**. The world premiere of Claire Chafee's **Five Women on a Hill in Spain** received a workshop production. Staged readings were presented of **Who Killed Yolanda Saldivar?** by Cherrie Moraga, **Kissing the Witch** by Emma Donoghue, **Damage and Desire** by Kate Moira Ryan, and **Catastrophe of Peace** by Bernadette Flagler. A panel discussion on *Lesbian Playwriting and Performance* was led by Professor Sue-Ellen Case.

At the **Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**, the Joe Goode Performance Group provided unrivaled dance performance characterized by a singular integration of high velocity dance, song, and the spoken word. Inspired by the life of legendary gay civil rights leader Harry Hay, **Undertaking Harry** further explores the issues surrounding gender construction presented in **Gender Heroes**.

Bet you've never seen a pregnant man! Unless you saw the reverse-gender outdoor (various Bay Area parks) production by Woman's Will of the Bard's thorny morality play, **Measure for Measure**. And in late October, Woman's Will presents **Hamlet (the melancholy dame)** at SF's Phoenix Theatre. www.womanswill.org

New Langton Arts Theatre, 1246 Folsom St., SF; 415-621-7797.

Micki's WORLD presented the world premiere of NY playwright Kenn Adams' original French farce **Les Masquerades**. **Les Masquerades**, set in Paris 1672, is a fast-moving comedy of errors; replete with farcical disguises, broken hearts, mistaken identities, and a disturbing priest. The Oscar Wilde Come-in-Costume Benefit commemorated the centennial of Wilde's death and raised funds for The Harvey Milk Institute.

Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy St., SF; 415-401-7421; www.sffringe.org

The Chameleon Theatre Company presented Keith Curran's moving play, **Walking the Dead**. Veronica/Homer is dead. Maya, her/his partner, has brought us together to share our memories of this woman/man that shared their lives and through her/his transformation taught them all something about love, relationships, gender, and stereotypes.

SF FRINGE FESTIVAL 2000, at various SF venues; www.sffringe.org

SF's 9th Annual Fringe Festival presented over 250 performances by over 52 local, national and international groups. Many of which were g/l/b/t/q such as **Counting the Ways** by Edward Albee, an amusing absurdist musing on marriage, protocol, botany, crème brulee, and the things we do for love (produced by Isis Arts and directed by Mike Ward).

Also in SF:

The 6th Annual **Working Women Festival** took place at il Teatro, 450 at 449 Powell St.; www.workingwomenfestival.org

Wit, a heartbreakingly funny play, features the indomitable Dr. Vivian Bearing (perfectly played by Judith Light) who struggles against ovarian cancer with intelligence, optimism, and an unwillingness to succumb. This is lesbian playwright Margaret Edson's first and only play, written after working in the cancer and AIDS inpatient unit of a major research hospital.

The Actors Theatre of SF presented Paula Vogel's **Mineola Twins**, Arthur Miller's **Broken Glass**, and Edward Albee's **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?**

At Marines Memorial, **Red, White, and Tuna** (written by and starring Joe Sears and Jaston Williams) presents 22 eccentric inhabitants of Tuna, Texas -- where the Lions Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies (the third and final gender-bending installment of the *Tuna Trilogy*).

Mark Huestis and the Castro Theatre presented **Ho-Down with Karen Black: A Summer Camp Spectacular**, a tribute to Karen Black, who appeared! Partial proceeds benefited A Different Light's Readers and Writers Conference.

42nd Street Moon produced a wonderful new version of Cole Porter's **Out of this World**, a comedy that puts libidinous Greek gods and Hollywood movie stars on the prowl in modern-day Athens. Charismatic cabaret artist Darlene Popovic was brilliant as Juno. Gay and lesbian liaisons abound!

OneHeart Productions, a new theater company, emerged on the SF theater scene with **The Shadow Box** by Michael Cristofer.

The Vacant Theatre Company debuted with **Wacky Pie** (written, produced, directed, and acted by Sarah McKereghan and Noah Kelly). Eavesdrop on the fetish girl and the momma's boy on a first date. Be a guest in the home of Ralph and Victoria, a 70 year old married couple. Watch Belinda start to crumble as she and her fly, Musca, tackle the tribulations of buying a new dress.

Also in the Bay Area, Act Now! presented Noel Coward's **Private Lives** at the Dean Lesher Center for the Arts in WalnutCreek

SF GAY CABARET:

Lush Lounge, corner of Post and Polk, SF, ongoing Wednesdays. Wayne Sutton and Barry Lloyd host the **Cabaret Showcase** every Wed. night at SF's cabaret hotspot, the Lush Lounge. Singers who pre-book will be allowed to do a 15-minute segment. A great opportunity to develop their act. Singers who want to appear should contact Wayne Sutton at 707-257-0408 or by email at suttongr@pacbell.net.

Martuni's, 4 Valencia St. at Market, San Francisco; 415-241-0205.

Ongoing Tuesdays and Fridays, 9pm-1am. No cover! Like fine Southern cooking, Shane's singing will feed your soul ... For more info on this "soulful songstress", e-mail S.Kelly at shanekelly@mindspring.com or visit www.shanekellysings.com

Also ongoing Sundays: Attention singers, songwriters, musicians, and music lovers! The Song Of The Month Club is a place where you are challenged to learn one new tune every month (and bring a second tune you already know) AND a place where you can meet, network and learn from fellow singers, songwriters and musicians.

Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret, 1686 Market St.; 415-863-3700

The Love & Liberace Show celebrates love and fabulousness with Matt Yee, Hawaii's favorite cabaret star. Join us as Matt Celebrates Pride 2000 with songs and insights that will warm your heart and make you laugh. His shows in Hawaii and the mainland feature fabulous costumes, lots of laughs, his signature original songs and medleys, and crazy characters. It's one magical lau lau!

The Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St., SF; 415-885-2800

Two Cabaret Concerts benefitted Shanti. The first featured the musical stylings of Shane Kelly and Willis Moore accompanied by their keyboard artist. And the second offered sizzling swing by Tim Hockenberry and his band. Danny Williams exceeded both.

New Conservatory Theatre 2000 - 2001 Season:

NCT's 6th Pride Season, entitled *Body and Soul*, will offer six productions and two special shows, Aug. 10, 2000-July 14, 2001.

Visiting Mr. Green by Jeff Baron (Aug. 19 to Sept. 10, 2000) *Special Event*. What starts out as a comedy about two men who do not want to be in the same room together, turns into a gripping and moving drama as they get to know and care for each other and open old wounds they have been hiding for years.

The Velocity of Gary (Not His Real Name) by James Still (Sept. 9-30, 2000) *Special Event*. Armed with his belief that things will work out for the best and wearing leopard print underwear, Gary dreams about kissing somebody. However, along the way, he finds himself in the Big Apple addicted to phone sex, attending memorial services for strangers, and passing out at the memory of Cream of Wheat boxes.

Corpus Christi by Terrence McNally (Oct. 21, 2000-Jan. 6, 2001) opens the NCT Pride Season. In **Corpus Christi**, McNally gives his own view of the story of Christ, and provides audiences with one of the most vivid and moving passion plays ever written.

Debunking Love by Prince Gomolvilas (Nov. 18, 2000-Jan. 6, 2001) is a sparkling new comedy. Start with a young Asian American novelist. Pour in crazy romantic entanglements. Add intense writer's block. And throw in a neurotic friend or two. Stir.

Snakebit by David Marshall Grant (Feb. 3-March 24, 2001) is a clever, funny and wise comedy of contemporary manners and a study of modern friendship when put to the test.

Martin Yesterday by Brad Fraser (Feb. 24-April 7, 2001) is a sizzling new work about sex and politics. At 30-something, Matt suddenly finds himself looking for more than reckless flings with younger partners. He wants maturity and commitment.

Cloud 9 by Caryl Churchill (May 5-June 23, 2001) is a biting, witty, satirical farce set in 1880 in "darkest," but British Africa and in present-day London. It riotously examines a cornucopia of sexual mores, from heterosexual adultery to bisexual incest, in a circus of carnal confusion and topsy-turvy theatrics.

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told by Paul Rudnick (May 19-July 14, 2001). Instead of Adam and Eve, our lead characters are Adam and Steve, and Jane and Mabel, a lesbian couple with whom they decide to start civilization. Original sin, irreverence, infidelity, and flashing repartee are offered up in this seriously silly and sexy farce.

THEATRE RHINOCEROS 2000 - 2001 SEASON:

An eclectic mix of musicals and plays, classics and new works, and unique co-productions highlight Theatre Rhinoceros' 23rd season.

The subscription season opens with an either/or choice for ticket holders. In association with Jonathan Reinas Presents, the SF premiere of the long-running NY musical **Naked Boys Singing!**, directed by F. Allen Sawyer, opens on the mainstage.

Simultaneously, Rhino will associate produce, with Reinas, playwright and monologist Eve Ensler's infamous **The Vagina Monologues** at Theatre on the Square.

In November, Rhino will re-stage John Fisher's **Cleopatra, the Musical!** Women play men, men play women, and Caesar is reincarnated as the obnoxious nine year old child, Caesarine, of Caesar and Cleopatra. The production is rife with exaggerated battle scenes, bawdy lyrics and salacious players. Premiered at UC Berkeley's Department of Dramatic Art/Center for Theater Arts.

In January, Rhino does **Rhinoceros**, a new interpretation of Ionesco's classic. Directed by Colman Domingo, Rhino relocates the play to current day SF where the absurdist allegory about the sweep of fascism in Europe takes on ironic and ominous overtones.

At the new BRAVA! Center for the Arts, Rhino associate produces **Stop Kiss**, the Bay Area premiere of Diana Son's acclaimed story of two women and the kiss that changes their lives forever. This marks a first-time partnership between Rhino and BRAVA!

Closing the season is a new musical theatre piece by former Afro Pomo Homo and award-winning performance poet Marvin K. White. **For Colored Boys** is a choreopoem, with original music, telling the stories of gay African-American men. Directed by Greg Getty.

Though not part of their subscription season, Rhino will also produce the following:

Robert Coffman will perform his annual Truman Capote holiday readings to benefit Rhino. For the 18th consecutive year, Coffman will interpret the Capote classics **The Thanksgiving Visitor** (Nov. 20th) and **A Christmas Memory** (Dec. 11th).

In another special benefit, lesbian comedy diva Suzanne Westenhoefer, well known for her live performances, comedy CDs and HBO specials will perform her show **I'm Not Cindy Brady!** for two performances only at the Victoria Theatre (April 27th and 28th).

MOST INFLUENTIAL GAY & LESBIAN PLAYS

The last Issue of OTPC asked for your suggestions toward compiling a list of 100 GL Plays that have changed our lives. Thanks to those of you who responded. You can continue to do so by email or writing. The "Most Influential" list is now posted on our Web site, or you can write me for a copy.

COMEDY

Comedy is thriving usually on Monday nights in San Francisco courtesy of QComedy at Piaf's; 415-541-5610. This Summer's lineup included among many others : Dan Rothenberg, Tom Ammiano, Scott Silverman, Scott Capurro, Bridget Schwartz, Erin Souza, Ken Miller, Scott Kennedy, Maureen Brownsey, Karen Ripley, Blake, Regina Stoops, Nick Leonard, Lisa Geduldig, Doug Holsclaw, and Danny Williams.

Jason Stuart appeared at the Montreal Comedy Festival: Just For Laughs again this July and in Aug he appeared at Main Street in Ogunquit Maine. His busy schedule includes flicks and TV too, and lots of touring. www.jasonstuart.com

FESTIVALS & SEASONS

Theatre on the Square has a full season in Indianapolis. Shows of special interest to Purple Circuit are: LOUISA MAY INCEST & THE SECOND COMING OF JOAN OF ARC by Carolyn Gage Nov. 3-19, 2000; DAVID by Tom O'Leary; Dec. 29,2000-Jan. 28, 2001; HUSH HUSH SWEET CHARLOTTE by Ron Spencer Feb. 2-25, 2001; WHEN PIGS FLY by Howard Crabtree June 1-July 1, 2001; and CORPUS CHRISTI by Terrance McNally, Sept. 22- Oct. 8, 2001. 317- 637-0302; www.tots.org

New Line Theatre in St. Louis begins its 10th season with A New Line Cabaret of songs from the theatre's biggest hits at Sheldon Concert Hall Sept. 18-19. 2000. CABARET runs Mar. 15-April 7, 2001 at Art Loft Theatre; Sondheim's ANYONE CAN WHISTLE is slated for June 14-30 also at Art Loft and there are tentative plans to reopen HAIR in July 2001; 314-773-6526; www.newlinetheatre.com

Dixon Place's HOT! The NYC Celebration of Queer Culture really sizzled this July with many friends of The Purple Circuit performing including: Reno and guests opening the Festival, ENDLESS AIR, ENDLESS WATER by Robert Shaffron, Emmett Foster, Moe Angelos, Greg Walloch, Marga Fomez, Perry Brass and director Peter McLeon in DEATH OF THE PEONIES, Ken Bullock, Jeff McMahon, Judith Schray, James "Tigger" Ferguson, Carmelita Tropicana, and so many more it dazzles the imagination! Bravo to Dixon Place! www.dixonplace.org

AfroSolo Arts Festival was August 5-27, 2000 in San Francisco was a celebration of African American artists. It began with a 4-hour forum of Black Artists on AIDS II. There were also many workshops and performances during the month. www.afrosolo.org

Conn Artist Performance Event Inc presented the Provincetown Fringe Festival! Congratulations to Marjorie Conn, the AD. Events included LORENA HICKOK & ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: A LOVE

STORY by Pat Bond, THE LETTERS OF ETHEL & JULIUS ROSENBERG with Marjorie Conn, and the season was extended until September to include IF YOU HEAR HER SNORE; THE MOTHERS OF US ALL. More to come from Provincetown! www.connartists.org

Wings Theatre in NYC announced its 2000/2001 Season to include the return of their hit musical COWBOYS book and lyrics by Clint Jefferies, music by Paul L. Johnson, Sept 21-Oct 21, 2000; SUMMERLAND by Brian Thorstenson Jan 4- Feb 3, 2001; TRAILER TRASH by Clint Jefferies, Apr 26- May 26, 2001; and CANDELABRAS & COCAINE a new comedy by Michael Murphy, July 26-Aug 25, 2001; www.brainlink.com/~cjaffer/

Richmond Triangle Players in Virginia's new season includes: THE SECRETARIES by The Five Lesbian Brothers, Sept 20-Oct 14, 2000; THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD by Paul Rudnick, Nov 1-25, 2000; BEAUTIFUL THING by Jonathan Harvey, Jan 31-Feb 24, 2001; and WHEN PIGS FLY by Howard Crabtree with sketches and lyrics by Mark Waldrop and music by Dick Gallagher, Apr 18- May 12, 2001; 804-346-8113.

The Theater Offensive in Boston presents OUT On The Edge 2000: Festival Of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Theater Sept 6-30. Events include Noel Alumin in THE RICE ROOM; Felice Shays in PSYCHOSEMITIC, Betsy Salkind in BETSY SALKIND ANNE FRANK SUPERSTAR; from Seattle Pulp Vixens, Latina comic Sandra Valls, Gabriel Q in GARDEN VARIETY SHOW, Tim Miller in GLORY BOX, Daniel Alexander Jones & Grisha Coleman in CAB & LENA, MIGHTY REAL by Djola Branner (a tribute to Sylvester), and True Colors Out Youth Theater Troupe in CLEAR THE FLOOR. www.thetheateroffensive.org

The Latina Playwrights Festival at WOW Cafe Theatre was held in June-July in NYC produced by Lioness Productions. 212) 777-4280; www.geocities.com/probe_wowgrl

Page To Stage, A Staged Reading Festival showcasing new writers was held at The Village in Hollywood July 21-30, 2000. Ten separate events were scheduled including OTHER FAMILY VALUES by John Fournier; THE OTHERWORLD by Tim Hennigan, Emerging Lesbian Playwrights session, OVER THE SHOULDER by Jonathan Brophy, EVE'S RIB by Jeff Nordrum, CHILD OF DARKNESS, CHILD OF LIGHT by Judith R Mayo, LUNATIC FRINGE by Niei Edwards, Ayofemi Folayan's Workshop Reading, THE REUNION by Sharon Noble and a new play by Louise Runge. Organized by Mary Casey; 323-860-7300.

Bailiwick Repertory in Chicago presented Pride 2000 May-Sept, 2000. Among the great productions were: NAKED WILL by Blair Fell, BARE by Brian Kirst; ANGELS INTO DUST by John Henri Damski, MOTHERSON by Jeffrey Solomon; RELATIVE COMFORT by Gina Schien, ENDLESS NIGHT, SWEET DELIGHT by Howard Casner; PREACHING TO THE PREVERTED by Holly Hughes; BRAVE SMILES by The Five Lesbian Brothers; A REAL READ IN JEOPARDY by Christopher McMorris; THE TRICK by Perry Laylon Ojeda; WORKOUT! by Russel Glidden & Ron Rigby, SIR by Scott Heckman; PATIENCE AND SARAH by Paula Kimper & Wende Parsons; Q by Dan Martin & Michael Biello; and PARTY by David Dillon (with the playwright in the cast!); 773-883-1090; www.bailiwick.org

Unity Fest 2000 was held at Bank Street Theatre in NYC presented 11 short plays in two separate programs in June, 2000. The plays were: LOVE ME OR LEASH ME by Jim Doyle; CROSSING THE RIVER by Amy Myrtls; FRANCO & JIMMY by Roland Tecs; THE DATE by Joan Lipkin; TEN MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER (no author given!); HAZEL HOFSTETTER LIVES HERE by Karen Mueller; RED CHERRIES by Gary Garrison, HIDING THE PINK by Mrinalini Kamath; SOMETHING AKIN TO A RESTORATION by Jim Fitzmorris; RED WAIT by Amy A Kirk; and TOO MUCH OF ME by James Magruder.

Pussycat Theatre Company and AD Susan Lev brought Queer theatre to Baltimore for the 4th time with Queer Cafe 2000, June 8-24 around the theme of "the future". The four plays produced included NINE ROOMS WORTH by James Magruder, THE END OF HUMAN FRAILTY by John C. Russell, JESSE'S HEAD by Michael Slade, and PROMENADE by Sarah Schulman. www.PussycatTheatreCo.com

Fierce Festival was held in Birmingham England in July. One highlight was the creation of an original Gay men's ensemble

performance piece with Tim Miller. Tim also performed GLORY BOX at the Institute for Contemporary Arts in London.

SNAP! Fest 2000!! concluded in Aug with BRIEFS: an evening of shorts by Dori Appel, Linda Eisenstein and Paula Kamen and THREE THE HARD WAY by Linda Eisenstein

Gay pride encore series at Washington Square Methodist Church in NYC included four staged readings of TORCH SONG TRILOGY, THE BOYS IN THE BAND, LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION!, and BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MAN (Julian Woolford), June 2000. 212-946-5625.

LITERARY SCENE

SPRING'S AWAKENING by Frank Wedekind has been restored and translated by Eric Bentley and published by Applause Theatre Books of New York. Performance rights are available from Samuel French in Hollywood or New York.

Jeff McMahon's essay "The Script of Sensation" was published by The New England Review, Summer 2000. The essay examines the place of text in the perception of visual art using the "Sensation" exhibit last year at the Brooklyn Museum as a focal point. www.middlebury.edu/~nereview

JERRYO, an adult Gay novel by J. Max Turner, is the sequel to his acclaimed WITHIN THE CIRCLE. A hot must read from Kalinke Books, www.kalinkebooks.com ISBN 1-891346-09-1 and now Max has turned it into a play. For rights to JERRYO and other J. Max Turner plays contact tahhill@juno.com

Bruce Ward's solo show "Fabulous Ride Into The Unknown" is featured in an article along with David Drake's film version of THE NIGHT LARRY KRAMER KISSED ME in the Aug. issue of POZ magazine.

The Asian American Writers' Workshop in New York will be publishing "Take Out: Queer Writings from Asian and Pacific America" in September 2000. www.aaww.org

Extreme Exposure is an anthology of Solo Performance texts from Luis Alfaro, Ann Magnuson, Brenda Wong Aoki, John Fleck, Dawn Akemi Saito, Heather Woodbury and Roger Guenveur Smith and edited by Jo Bonney.

Scott Miller has written "Deconstructing Harold Hill" displaying his passion for the musical theatre and another book is in the wings! Musical Theatre Lives!

MUSIC / OPERA / DANCE

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles gave a fabulous concert "Beyond Oz: The music of Harold Arlen" with Jason Graae and Lillas White at The Alex Theatre in Glendale in July. I want to thank the Chorus for a great evening that culminated the next week when I learned I won their raffle for a trip to Paris!! Merci GMCLA you are the greatest! 1-800-men-sing.

Vox Femina, the women's chorus of LA is remarkable too. In February they performed their second commissioned work "New Face" based on Alice Walker's poem with music by Janika Vandervelde. The work was jointly commissioned by Sound Circle of Boulder and Anna Crusis of Philadelphia and the 3 choruses performed it together at GALA Festival 2000 in San Jose. They also joined the men's chorus at "Let Freedom Ring: Songs Of Liberation & Freedom" a gospel music workshop sponsored by city of Los Angeles. www.voxfemina.org

The opera, PATIENCE AND SARAH based on the Isabel Miller classic was presented at Bailiwick Theatre in Chicago in August. The composer is Paula Kimper with libretto by Wende Persons. Other 2000 productions included the Denver Opera Company in June, and Opera House Arts in Stonington Maine in July. The world premiere had been at Lincoln Center. For rights contact Once In A Blue Moon Music Publishing Co.; 718-369-3475, PKimper@aol.com; www.patienceandsarah.com

Also at the Bailiwick in August is the new musical revue: Q by Dan Martin and Michael Biello who wrote last year's hit BREATHE. Q is a celebration of Martin and Biello's 25 years together as songwriters and life partners.

Gateway Men's Chorus in St. Louis performed "Swelegant Elegance: The Music Of Cole Porter" in July with the fascinating AD

of That Uppity Theatre Company, Joan Lipkin as narrator. What a great evening that must have been!

Composer Brian Gross and APOCRYPHO had their premiere live performance in Anaheim in June. www.b12x12.com

PLAYWRIGHTS / PRODUCERS FORUM

Michel Corbeil's plays, ABOVE THE CLOUDS, PARTNERS, THE OLDEST GAY IN AMERICA (all produced by Love Creek Productions) and THE COURT JESTER IS DEAD are in published form and available. Contact CORBEIL@aol.com

The July 13-27, 2000 issue of IN Step featured an interview with producer/director Dale Gutzman who has done such extraordinary work in Milwaukee. www.instepnews.com

Sharon Gless appeared this summer at Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago in Claudia Allen's wildly funny new play CAHOOTS as a Bisexual and her Xena Live was also a hit. Next season Julie Harris will appear in her new play FOSSILS.

Ted Williams plays are very Gay in content with universal themes. They include: MILTON'S WAY, a play for 8 actors of one-man's journey from 17-40 to discover the kind of Gay man he wants to be; and THE PERFECT SIX, a farce for six male actors lampooning ambition, greed, sexual fascism and religious and psychoanalytic extremism in this celebration of self-realization. Contact at 718-789-3025, PO Box 1568, NY, New York 10113, or Teejis8@aol.com

Playwright/actor Danielle Dresden of Tap It in Madison Wisconsin has received the Council for Wisconsin Writers Drama award for her play ATHENA, LIVE!, a reworking of Aeschylus' THE ORESTIA. In addition her new play CHANGING FACES, written in the new millennium had a reading at the 8th Annual Edward Albee Play Lab in Valdez Alaska in June. Donna Peckett the other Associate AD of Tap-It also traveled to Valdez as one of the readers of the play. tapit@mailbag.com

Joe Godfrey, a playwright living in Kentucky has had hit productions of his play BED & BREAKFAST in Provincetown and Lexington. His play SCROOGE & MARLEY - A QUEER CAROL was produced last December at the New Phoenix Theatre in Buffalo. Contact at JosephFGodfrey@aol.com

Linda Eisenstein's one-act THE NAMES OF THE BEAST and full-length THREE THE HARD WAY were presented by SNAP! in Omaha in July. Her comedy MARLA'S DEVOTION was done at Luna Sea Women's Dyke Drama Festival in San Francisco also in July while the short play REVELATION 24:12 was done at Stevens Point Wisconsin's Summer Shorts Festival. Contact herone@en.com

Paul Harris' new play YOU LIKE FOR ME garnered fine reviews in its initial New York run this June at HERE for The new Upstart Theatre Company. It's the story of two men's 35-year friendship. Contact the playwright for reading copies at PHARRIS825@aol.com or write to 305 West 45 St., #3-1, NY, New York 10036.

Naked Boys Singing! is having a phenomenal number of productions with Theatre Rhinoceros production having opened Aug 31, Bienvenue Theatre in Houston opened in July and future productions being organized around the world: London, South Africa, Australia, Oslo, Lisbon, Brazil, Holland, Berlin and Chicago, Portland and San Diego! Bravo to Bob Schrock. ShrockBob@aol.com

APPEALS / OPPORTUNITIES

Cultural Icons is seeking artists at the forefront of comedy, performance, improv, music, variety acts etc for live shows in New York. Contact Foster and Walloch at Cultural Icons Inc, 601 West 137 St #57, NY, New York 10031, 917-554-1894 or GREGWDT@ix.netcom.com with information and dates of upcoming performances.

Paul Bonin-Rodriguez is touring his new solo show MEMORY'S CARETAKER, a uniquely South Texas tale of multi-generational border crossings. Paul is also available for residencies and workshops including "Cooling Off The Melting Pot", a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic workshop. He is on a tour of college campuses and for

bookings. Contact Shelly Weiss at OUTmedia@msn.com; 718-789-1776; www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/8517/

The Artists-in-Residence Program in creative writing invites you at The Village at Ed Gould Plaza of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center in Hollywood. Call 323-860-7300 for registration information. Instructors include Ayofemi Folayan, Mary F. Casey and Sharyn C. Blumenthal.

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

The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation

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

The AaBB Foundation is also holding a full-length Fiction competition for 2000 with cash awards of \$1000. For production or writing guidelines send a SASE to our new address:

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

or see our website:
www.aabbfoundation.org

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