

THEATER NEWS

December 2011



*Marcie Lynn Ross and Helen Duffy
in Latkes and Grits*

Latkes and Grits

On Monday November 21st, we had a wonderful reading of Murray Wolfe's funny future in-law comedy, LATKES AND GRITS. It starred our own Helen Duffy and Marcie Lynn Ross, along with Redetha Deason and Roger Weiss. It was directed by Bennett Cohon with stage directions read by Dan Roth. We had a good audience who gave some great feedback to Murray during the Q & A session that followed.

This was our last staged reading of 2011. We look forward to having more staged readings in 2012.



*Helen Duffy ready
for her close up*

Ed Asner Lifts Us Up!

On August 29th, FirstStage welcomed Ed Asner back to our stage for a reading of two plays by Joe Estevez ("Hobos" and "Pizza Man"). The show was a sell out! And Ed was kind enough to sign some Disney promotional material, including some swag from his Pixar film, "Up", donated to us by friend of FirstStage, Bruce Aguilar. Ed even helped us raffle them off! As well as being kind enough to chat with all our members and take some pictures with them.



Ed Asner



*Joe Estevez and Ed Asner
in "Hobos"*

It was a fun night, with two great plays and two fine actors.



Friend of FirstStage Bruce Aguilar, Ed Asner, President Tom Misuraca, and prize winner Angela Weitzman

Member News

The Stanley Dyrector show has been picked up for another season. The show will be airing on Channel 36 (LA36) in LA on Time/Warner, and can be seen simultaneously on the web at www.la36.org.

Helen Duffy is the new face for the Spiriva advertising campaign in print and on-line. Look for her with the elephant sitting on her chest.

(Lots more member news on the reverse side.)

One-Act Play Contest Finalists Announced!

We are excited to announce the three plays that our literary committee selected as finalists for our Annual On- Act Contest. They are:

- "The Imaginary Orange"
by Hal Corley
- "Bang, Bang, Pop, Pop!"
by Mervyn Douglas Kaufman
- "The Knitting Club"
by Sean O'Connor

The three plays will be stage read on Monday December 5. A winner will be voted that night by our celebrity judges:

- Writer/Producer/Director and Long Beach State faculty member
Tom Blomquist
Playwright/Actor
Joe Estevez
Emmy and Writers Guild of America Award Winning Writer
David Isaacs
Actor/Peer Governor at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
Peter Kwong

Member News

Roy Abramsohn recently appeared on "CSI Las Vegas" and "Happily Divorced"...he is also in the revival of the 1985 Obie Award winning Play "As Is" at the McCadden Place Theatre, produced by the New American Theatre Company (formerly Circus Theatricals). It runs Fridays and Saturdays until Dec. 17th at 8:00 p.m.

Dan Roth's play "China Cup" will be published by One Act Play Depot www.oneactplays.net; OAPD currently publishes 7 other Dan Roth plays: "And...Action," "Big Wow," "Exit Right," "He Shoots He Scores," "Hitler Was A House Painter," "Incredible Rumo" and "The Scrapbook". Recent productions include "And...Action" at Lompoc Civic Theatre and "Bill & Coo" at Tehachapi Community Theatre's Playwright's Festival. "Chenille", "China Cup" and "Snowmen" received staged readings at Actors Workout Studio, North Hollywood, CA.

Marcia Rudin's ten-minute comedy "Waiting For Wilma" will be performed at the 8Tens@8 Festival sponsored by the Actors' Theatre of Santa Cruz, California, 1001 Center Street, in January 2012. Dates of performances are Jan. 6 through January 29th. For further information contact Actors' Theatre at 831-479-8108.

Pavel Cerny was invited to teach a two-week class in Acting for Camera in Bangkok, Thailand. The planned November trip got postponed until February, due to the floods in Thailand.

Tom Misuraca recently won audience favorite comedy at The Secret Rose Theatre's MonoSlam for his monologue, "For Whom the Speed Dating Bell Tolls." His play, "No Problem" also won first place audience favorite at the Third Annual Playwright's Festival in Tehachapi (his third consecutive audience favorite win). And in

March 2012, his full-length musical, "Geeks!" will be produced at Write Act Repertory Theatre. It will be directed by fellow FirstStage member, Bennett Cohon.

Dan Davis hosted the Big Band Holiday Bash at the Madrid on December 3 & 4.

Herman Poppe is excited to announce that his play "Waiting For the Tow" has officially been included in the upcoming production of The Car Plays, part of the Off Center Festival at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California on January 14-15 and 20-21, 2012. Per Paul Stein, creator of The Car Plays, they are "short plays simultaneously performed inside of parked cars with actors and patrons sitting side by side in the front or back seats." "Waiting For The Tow" was previously produced in June, 2011, as one of The Car Plays: L.A. Stories presented by Moving Arts at RADAR L.A., an International Festival of Contemporary Theatre.

Jacque Lynn Colton has been garnishing great reviews as Aunt Rose Comfort in an adaptation of Tennessee Williams' "Baby Doll" at The Lillian Theatre.

Terry McFadden's award winning ten minute play, "30 Love," (Best of the Best at Carrboro) has been chosen to be part of the Fifth Annual Universal Theatre Play Festival in Provincetown, MA, to be performed on Jan 19-23, 2012. Concurrently, and on the other side of the world, "30 Love" hits the boards as part of the Short and Sweet Festival opening in January, 2012, in Sydney, Australia.

Christine Rosensteel's one-act, "Cherry Pie," was stage read at the National Adult Protective Services Annual Conference in Buffalo New York. The first scene of "Faith, Hope, and Trickery" was performed as a staged reading at the L. A. County District Attorney Elder Abuse Symposium in Alhambra.

Felix Racelis was among the writers participating in "Guerilla Playfare - A Teleplay in a Day" which took place Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011. Produced by the Secret Rose Theatre, this fun event brought together writers via UStream, each of whom was assigned specific props, actors and a location. The writers had 3 hours to write a play seven to ten pages in length. The plays were then handed off to directors who were given a location to rehearse with actors. At 7:00pm the plays were streamed live.

Felix's full-length play, "Death 'N Texaz," which received a Monday night FirstStage reading at the Missing Piece Theatre on Valentine's Day in 2011, was selected for a February 13, 2012 play reading in NYC hosted by Arlene Dahl and sponsored by the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The NYC reading will be directed by Peggy Howard Chane, who also directed the FirstStage reading.

Earlier this year, for workshop regular, John "Cork" Corcoran, a new video identity was born--the semi-bombastic and partially ept "Old Coot with a Camera". Using only a tiny HD FlipCam and iMovie software, Cork has and continues to create a series of comic video vignettes, essays, and features available on Vimeo and YouTube (Video Blog "under construction"). You might start with "Facebook for Old Farts" <http://vimeo.com/30768653> or perhaps "Road Trip" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmGaKIM3khU&feature=related>.

Actress Roberta Bassin is currently appearing in the Clint Eastwood directed biopic, "J. Edgar," opposite Leonardo DiCaprio. (You can even see her in the trailer: <http://www.imdb.com/video/imdb/vi1849990169/>) Ms. Bassin is the Guest Speaker at the Brandeis University Film Society on December 6. Roberta will describe the actor's journey from script to filming.