



The Summit Playhouse

Green Room Notes

The Summit Playhouse is a community theatre formed to encourage and practice theatre arts. The proceeds of its performances not required for the support and extension of its activities will be devoted to educational or charitable purposes. Established in 1918

JANUARY 2007

“LIVING OUT” IS CAST AND REHEARSALS ARE UNDERWAY

Director Mike Driscoll and Producer Nina Deutz are pleased to announce the “Living Out” cast including newcomers to the Playhouse stage and some favorite members you will remember from previous roles here.

THE NANNIES: Ana – Carla Francischetti
Sandra – Phoenix Ximenez
Zoila – Marguerite Wurtz

THE MOMS: Nancy – Beth Painter
Wallace – Cara Talty
Linda – Lilli Markey

THE HUSBANDS: Bobby – James Lopez
Richard – Paul Zeller



The backstage will be in the capable hands of Stage Managers Frank Hawrusik and Linn Smith. Roy Pancirov (designer) and Jim Mayfield (construction head) have teamed up to provide a creative, innovative set and Bill Roome will do his usual magic with sound and lights. Jo Ray is in charge of costumes and Pam Steiner and Devon Moore will manage props. Theresa Turner will be handling the publicity so be sure to watch your local publications for her releases. Contact Nina at 973-457-4324 or nina.deutz@patmedia.net or drop by the theatre and offer your assistance to her and Mike – there is a spot waiting for you as a part of this production team!

“Living Out” is an exciting play that addresses many issues of our contemporary society in a humorous but thought-provoking way. It chronicles the relationships between the nannies and the moms who employ them, the nannies with each other, and husbands with wives. The author, Lisa Loomer, is emerging as a playwright of note in American theatre and we are proud to present the New Jersey premiere of her award winning play.

Rehearsals are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and opening night is Friday, February 23. Make sure your reservations are secured – we are expecting a “SELL-OUT”. The production runs through March 10. Our ACCESS matinee is on Sunday, March 4 at 2 PM. This performance will be audio described, signed and assistive listening devices and large print programs are available. To reserve, please call 908-273-2192 or go online to www.summitplayhouse.org.



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Director/Producer Vincent J. Balzano wishes to thank all those who came out for our spring musical, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. It was a tremendous turnout and he regrets that he could not cast all of the talented people who auditioned. The musical, which opens on May 4th, is a non-stop laugh-fest in which a crafty slave struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan for his young master in exchange for freedom. With its unforgettable characters, sexy courtesans, engaging score and perfectly constructed book, *Forum* is sure to be a crowd pleaser and a hot ticket in Summit this spring. To get a jump on additional tickets **now** for friends and family before it is sold out, email us at Afunnything07@aol.com.

Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope, our theater for young people, has chosen *Godspell, Jr.* for its summer production. Performance and audition dates will be in the next newsletter.

Manley-Winser Helps the Playhouse

Grants Chairman Nancy Boucher has announced that the Playhouse received a grant from the Manley-Winser Foundation to install a sidewalk from the porch next to the auditorium door on Tulip Street out to the road. This has been needed for a long time so that that door can be safely used in emergencies, during intermissions, and for exiting the theater at the end of performances.

The Playhouse occupies the original Summit Public Library building (1891) that was constructed on land donated by the Manley Family. The Foundation gave us money to make our theatre accessible a few years ago, and we appreciate their willingness to help with a construction project in 2007.

Education Workshops Keep Playhouse Board Members Informed

Union County Cultural and Heritage Affairs workshops on “Finding Funding” and “Preserving Family Archives and Historical Materials” were recently attended by Director of Development John Bauer, and Grants and Fundraising Chairman Nancy Boucher.

The panelists in the funding program, moderated by Nina Stack, President of the Council of New Jersey Grant Makers, represented the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Fred C. Rummel Foundation, Verizon, PSE&G, and Commerce Bank. They discussed the types of support they provide, how to approach them,

what they expect from potential grantees, and what attracts them in a proposal and what turns them off. None of these Grant Makers offers funding for capital improvement, but the Playhouse could apply for other assistance, such as help with Access projects and equipment.

Mimi Bowling, a consulting archivist, spoke at the “Preserving Family Archives and Historical Material” workshop. She explained how to store and handle historic materials such as books, unbound papers, newsprint, pamphlets, scrapbooks, and photographs. These techniques will help us preserve our materials that will soon be housed at the Carter House.

Harvard Arts Medal for Christopher Durang

Christopher Durang, a Playhouse alumnus, recently received the Harvard Arts Medal, the first playwright to be so honored. Playhouse members Nancy Boucher, John Bauer, Geraldine Zoccoli and others attended an interview with Durang at the Harvard Club in NYC on January 11th. He thanked the Playhouse for his start in show business with his two high school musicals that his mother arranged to have produced on the stage of the Playhouse. He talked of performing at The Playhouse and mentioned writing several drama reviews for The Independent Press. “I was happy to return to Summit a few years ago to appear in a benefit for the theater.” Christopher’s new musical, *Adrift in Macao* will play at Primary Stages in NYC from January 23d to March 4. Several Playhouse members plan to attend.

Wanted: One Refrigerator

We are looking for a small refrigerator (no larger than 28wX62hX24d) for downstairs. If you have one and would be willing to donate it to the Playhouse (it would be a tax deduction), call Nancy Boucher at 973-377-9058.

Funding has been made possible in part through a capital preservation grant from the NJ Cultural Trust, administered through the NJ Historic trust.

If you would like to receive future Green Room Notes on email, please email that request to Ed Johnson, our Business Manager, at GEJ1936@aol.com.

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