



TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

AUGUST 11 - 17, 1989

Local theater excellence to be recognized

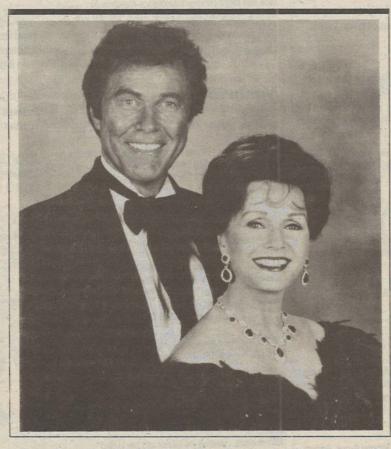
from STAFF REPORTS

"Recognizing excellence in the Nashville theater community," is the aim of the first *Dare* Theatre Awards, announced today.

"We're hoping to give recognition to the women and men whose performances have entertained local audiences during the past season," said editor Jeff Ellis. "We're very excited about this chance to let our readers, and the theater-going public as a whole, show their appreciation to the actors and productions which have made this past season such an exciting one."

The season, under the rules of the awards competition, began August 1, 1988. Nominees include representatives of Actor's Playhouse, Chaffin's Barn, Circle Players, Nashville Public Theatre, Nashville Shakespeare Festival, Rave Revues, Tennessee Repertory Theatre and TRT's Second Stage.

Nashville Academy Theatre was not asked to participate, Ellis said, because their productions are •continued on page 3



Harve Presnell and Debbie Reynolds will reprise their film roles in the 25th anniversary stage production of the Meredith Wilson musical, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, which will be a part of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's 1989-90 Broadway series. The series opens in September with the Stephen Sondheim/James Lapine musical, *Into the Woods.*—PHOTO COURTESY TENNESSEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Nashville theaters ready '89-'90 season

'Steel Magnolias', 'Into the Woods', 'Bubblin' Brown Sugar' in the wings

by JEFF ELLIS

Theater audiences throughout Nashville and middle Tennessee will be treated to a wide range of offerings during the 1989-90 season, including touring Broadway productions and mid-south premieres of several off-Broadway successes.

Nunsense, the rollicking off-Broadway musical about a convent of wacky nuns in Hoboken, officially kicked off the 1989-90 season at Chaffin's Barn dinner theatre. Upcoming at that venue is the production of Neil Simon's Biloxi Blues, which continues his semi-autobiographical "BB" trilogy which includes Brighton Beach Memoirs and Broadway Bound. Biloxi Blues opens September 5.

The musical story of Tevye and his family, Fiddler On The Roof, holds forth at Chaffin's Barn during October. The award-winning show features such standards as "If I Were A Rich Man" and "Tradition." November's show will be announced at a later date, but in December, the comedy Wife Begins at 40 opens.

Rave Revues, which calls the Backstage at the Barn area home, opens its new musical revue, *Hooray for Hollywood*, a re-creation of magical movie moments from Chaplin to *Flashdance*, Friday, August 11.

September brings Round II of the Avante Garage (Round III comes in November) and promises shows "crammed full of parodies of contemporary people, places and things. In October, Lullaby of Broadway,

three acts of Broadway muscial favorites will be presented and, in December, Seasoned Greetings 1989, an update of last year's holiday offering, will be staged.

Circle Players this year celebrates its 40th anniversary season of community theatre. Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I*, presented in July was the company's official season opener.

Upcoming for Circle Players, which calls the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's (TPAC) Johnson Theatre home, is the Lerner and Loewe musical *Brigadoon*, about the mythical Scottish village that comes to life every hundred years. It opens September 15.

Wait Until Dark, the chilling Frederick Knott mystery, opens October 27, followed by The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 which starts the 1990 portion of the season on January 5. Other productions slated for 1990 are: Bubbling Brown Sugar, a raucous black musical revue, set for a February 9 opening; Michael Christopher's award-winning drama, The Shadow Box, opening March 16; and the Tim Rice-Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Tennessee Repertory Theatre, Nashville's professional theatre troupe in residence in TPAC's 1050-seat Polk Theatre, opens its 1989-90 season with the Fats Waller musical, *Ain't Misbehavin'* running September 7-23.

•continued on page 5

Heartstrings gala set

AIDS benefit features touring performers

by JEFF ELLIS

Editor

Memphis and Nashville next month will both host gala benefit performances of *Heart Strings: The National Tour*, a Broadway-style musical review designed to raise funds for AIDS education and direct care services.

Vincent deFrank Hall of Ellis Auditorium will play host to the show during its Memphis performance, Monday, September 25 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for the performance; \$75, which includes the show and a cast party afterwards; and \$250, which includes the show, a Sunday brunch and parties before and after the performance, according to Rita Underhill of the Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC).

The Nashville show, which is set for the Polk Theatre of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC) on Thursday, September 28, will begin with a 6 p.m. black tie cocktail buffet before the show, with the curtain to rise promptly at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for the performance alone; \$50 for the show and cast party afterwards; and \$100 for the show and pre- and post-performance parties, according to Mary Donnet, who is handling public relations for the gala.

Heart Strings is a project of the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA). The goals of the tour

- To mobilize all sectors of the community in the fight against AIDS.
- To raise \$4 million across the country for preventive education and direct care services.
- To develop lasting fund-raising skills in local communities.
 - To encourage volunteerism.
- To raise public awareness of the AIDS epidemic.

Benefitting from the Nashville performance of *Heart Strings*:

- Minority AIDS Outreach (MAO), an all-volunteer organization which focuses on preventive education, especially with IV drug users on site in the community
- Nashville CARES, a communitybased United Way Agency which provides social services to people with AIDS, ARC and HIV
- Vanderbilt AIDS Project (VAP), an organization which features preventive education and consulting and provides assistance for medical research.

Heart Strings will visit 30 cities across the country, opening in Atlanta on September 17. Memphis and Nashville are the third and fourth stops, respectively, on the national tour that will take the cast from Atlanta to Dallas, from Denver to San Francisco, eventually concluding in New York City next spring.

The show's two acts are comprised of a series of narratives, •continued on page 3

Dare this week

Dure this week

TPAC premieres a new musical, A Rock Wedding. Centerstage, page 6



1



Theater they'll be talking about: Rave Revues, page 9.

Here's your chance: The First *Dare* Theatre Awards Ballot, page 12.



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People to turn to.

Chattanooga CARES
Chattanooga Council on AIDS Resources, Education and Services (Chattanooga CARES) Box 8402, Chattanooga, TN 37411 call (615) 266-2422

> aids Response Knoxville aids Response Knoxville (aRK) Box 3932, Knoxville, TN 37927 (615) 523-AIDS

> > Aids to End AIDS

Aids to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC) Box 40389, Memphis, TN 38174 M-F 3:30 pm - 11 pm Sat, Sun 7:30 pm - 11 pm call (901) 458-AIDS Answering service 24 hours call (901) 762-8401

Mashville CARES

Nashville Council on AIDS Resources Education and Services (Nashville CARES) Box 25107, Nashville, TN 37202 Education call (615) 385-AIDS For information on individual or group counseling, call (615) 385-1510

this ad appears as a public service of Dare.

Just like clockwork

Chattanooga

Sundays

Metropolitan Community Church Worship service, Unitarian Church, 7:30pm.

Mondays

Chattanooga CARES Closed support group, 6:30pm. Info 615 266-2422.

Thursdays

Gay/Lesbian AA Open meeting. Unitarian Church. 8pm.

Johnson City

Sundays

Metropolitan Community Church Worship service, 7pm. Holston Valley Unitarian Church. Info 615 926-4393.

Knoxville

Sundays

Metropolitan Community Church Worship service, 6pm. Corner Weisgarber & Lonas. Info 615 521-6546.

aids Response Knoxville PWA Support Group, 7-8:30pm. Info 615 523-AIDS.

aids Response Knoxville Circle of Love family and friends support group, 8pm. Info 615 523-AIDS.

Gay and Lesbian Student Union/UTK Weekly meeting. 8pm. Info Gay Helpline 615 521-6546. Knoxville's Ten Percent Monthly meeting, 2nd Tuesday only, 8pm. 1320 N. Central. Info 615 521-6546.

Wednesdays

aids Response Knoxville HIV+ Support Group, 6:30pm. Into 615 523-AIDS.

Memphis

Mondays

Gay Alternative Hour Radio show, WEVL-FM 90.6-

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

Tuesdays

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30 and 8pm. Info 901 272-9549

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Support group. St. John's Episcopal Church, 322 S Greer. 1st Thursday only. Info 901 761-1444. Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30pm. Info 901 272-9549. Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting, Memphis Lambda Center, 8pm, Info 901 276-7379.

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30 and 10pm. Info 901 272-9549.

Seriously Sober (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

Twisted Sisters (ACOA) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. Noon. Info 901 276-7379. Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

Agape New Life Church Sunday School, 9:30am. Worship service, 11am. Info 901 276-1872. Holy Trinity Community Church Worship service, 11am. 1216 Forrest Ave. Info 901 726-9443. Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting, Memphis Lambda Center, Noon, Info 901 276-

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

Nashville

Mondays

Nashville CARES ARC/AIDS Support Group. 6:30pm. Info 615 385-1510

Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm. MAGNET (Married and Gay Network) Support group for married gay men. 1st & 3rd Mondays only. MCC. 7:30pm. Info 615 320-0288

Tuesdays

Nashville CARES HIV+ Support Group. 6pm. Info 615 385-1510

Al-Anon Closed meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.

Nashville Women's Alliance: Meeting, at the Book Oasis, 2824 Dogwood Pl. 7:30pm Info 615 292-7100. P-FLAG Meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 4th Tuesday only. Unitarian Church. 7:30pm. Info 615 662-0332

Sober Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, MCC. 8pm.

Wednesdays

Sex Addicts Anonymous Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC, 5:6 pm.

hville CARES Newcomers Group. 6pm. Info 615

Affirmation Meeting for lesbian and gay United Methodists. 4th Wednesday only. 7pm. Info 615 366-6448. Gay Parents Support Group Meeting, MCC. 1st Wednesday only. 7pm. Info 615 831-2941 or 615 320-

Gay / Lesbian Addictions Anonymous Meeting, Belmont United Methodist Church. 8pm.

Thursdays

Incest Survivors Anonymous Closed women's meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd, 6:30pm. Nashville CARES Visualization Group, 7:15pm. Info 615 385-1510

Alternatives (Alcoholics Anonymous) Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.

Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)

Sexaholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group
Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30 pm.

Saturdays

Incest Survivors Anonymous Open meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd, 5:30pm. Metropolitan Community Church Community Dinner, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5. Info 615 320-0288.

Meeting. 8pm. Info 615 385-4776.

Sundays

Metropolitan Community Church Worship services, 11am and 7pm. Info 615 320-0288. Incest Survivors Anonymous Closed meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd, 6pm.

Big Events

Saturday, August 12

Picnic Panther Creek State Park, Morristown. Sponsored by Metropolitan Community Churches of Tri-Cities and Knoxville. Free. Info 615 521-6546.

Sunday, August 13

Feminist Book Circle Discussion of Sister Gin, by June Arnold. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. Free. 5-7pm.

Saturday, August 19

Potluck Dinner Sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Memphis. 7pm. Info 726-1461.

Saturday and Sunday, August 19 and 20 Camping Trip Sponsored by Knoxville's Ten Percent. Info 615 521-6546.

Monday, August 21

Consciousness Raising Being Black in a White Man's Arms. Sponsored by Black and White Men Together/ Memphis. 7:30pm. Info 726-1461.



Wednesday, August 23

Ice Cream on the Lawn Vanderbilt Lambda dessert social. Peabody President's House, 1801 Edgehill, Nashville. Bring your favorite dessert. Free. 7pm. Info 615 297-5352.

Saturday, August 26

Seminar AIDS 101. aids Response Knoxville seminar for buddies and friends of PWAs. \$15 registration, scholarships available. 9am-5pm. Registration and info 615

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in Dates. Write to Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or phone 615 327-Dare and leave a message. Please include information about time, location, cost, sponsor, and a contact person's name with address and/or phone number for verification. Deadline noon Tuesday for publication next Friday.

...Dare theater awards continued from page 1

directed toward a younger audience than the newspaper's readership includes.

Nashville Playhouse refused to participate in the balloting, citing the paper's lesbian and gay focus as "unsuitable for a Christian-, family-oriented operation," according to artistic director Marianne Clark.

Awards will be presented in ten categories: best musical, best play, best actress in a musical, best actors in a play, best actor in a musical, best actor in a play, best supporting actress in a musical, best supporting actress in a play, best supporting actor in a musical and best supporting actor in a play.

A ballot can be found on page 12 of this issue of *Dare*, or may be picked up at any of the theater companies participating in the competition.

Ballots must be received by August 28 and the five finalists in each category will be announced in the September 8 issue of *Dare*.

In addition, three special awards will be presented, Ellis said. The gala awards ceremony has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 17, with negotiations continuing for time and location.

"We expect to announce the venue for the ceremony in two weeks," Ellis said. "We've already begun work on the program, which will include performances from some of the most talented people in Music City."

The theme for the awards ceremony is "First Night," a tribute to all the first nights—and first nighters—that have made Nashville theater among the best in the Southeast, Ellis said. Local artist Rusel Brown, who designed the Dare logo, has been commissioned to create a unique design for the award.

In addition, several local artists have been asked to create special "First Night" posters for the event, proceeds from which will go to Nashville CARES, an AIDS services organization.

...Heart Strings benefit in Tennessee

•continued from page 1

followed by appropriate music and dance. A

core group of professional performers and musicians make up the cast of *Heart Strings* and local performers will also take part in the show, Donnet said, including the Nashville Ballet and Grand Ole Opry star and Country Music Hall of Fame member Minnie Pearl.

In Nashville, Michael Corzine and Iris Buhl are chairing the local steering committee, and Dudley and Peggy Richter are chairing the host committee. Among members of the Nashville host

committee are John Seigenthaler, publisher of *The Tennessean*; Irby Simpkins, publisher of the *Nashville Banner*, and Stuart Bivin, publisher of *Dare*.

Volunteers are needed to help out with all facets of the benefit, Donnet said.

More information about the show is available by calling Corzine at (615) 385-0140 or Buhl at (615) 297-5425.



B B I E F S

from STAFF REPORTS

Nashville CARES receives \$1,000 grant

NASHVILLE CARES, an AIDS services organization, was the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from a New York-based philanthropic group.

Broadway Cares, a group comprised of members of the New York theater community, in June announced that the local organization would share in the \$100,000 in grants awarded.

Celebrities, including Colleen Dewhurst, Gwen Verdon, Jerome Robbins, Helen Hayes and George Segal are among many in the New York theater community who have given their time and talent help people living with AIDS. Broadway Cares, an organization of 38 guilds, unions and association which make up the industry, has raised more than a half million dollars during the past year. Funds are granted throughout the year to community-based organizations across the nation that provide direct care and service for those with AIDS.

An auction of the mask worn by Michael Crawford in The Phantom of the Opera raised \$17,000. One of the most unusual fund-raising efforts is a ticket service enabling theater-goers to get seats to hit shows by making a tax-deductible contribution to Broadway Cares equal to the cost of the tickets they are buying. Known as "CareTix," anyone can use the service by calling (212) 974-7500.

Nashville Ballet selected to tour

NASHVILLE BALLET HAS BEEN SELECTED to participate on the 1990-91 Southern Arts Touring Program roster.

Serving nine southeastern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee), the Southern Arts Federation's mission is "to preserve and promote the arts of the region."

Touring fee support enables artists to achieve greater exposure in the region. The program enables prospective presenters to make a broad spectrum of the arts available to the public in the seven-state area.

Nashville Ballet is one of 28 regional performing arts groups to have been selected from among the more than 100 applicants.

"Inclusion on the Southern Arts Federation's touring program roster offers Nashville Ballet increase exposure and work opportunities," said Dane LaFontsee, artistic director of the troupe. "Touring is the life's blood of many ballet companies, both in terms of earned income and numerous diversified performances for the dancers."

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Announcements

- · All welcome to attend a Christian service of healing. First meeting in early September. Focus on Jesus as savior, healer, lover and friend. All in a crisis or not. David, 4306 Bloomington Ave, Mpls, MN 55407.
- Do you remember the first time you read Radclyffe Hall's The Well of Loneliness? Dare is looking for your impressions and recollections for a Radclyffe Hall anniversary story. Phone us at 615 327-Dare, and either tell your anecdote or leave your name and number for an interview.
- TWO BEANS TEE SHIRTS Fun designs! Write for free catalog: 2391 Forrest Avenue #3, Memphis, TN
- . Dare is now in Knoxv ille! Look for us at the Carousel, the Peppertree, Traditions, Metropolitan Community Church/Knoxville and Davis-Kidd Booksellers. Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly
- WANTED: Reliable, hardworking self-starters in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis for commissioned ad sales. Great part-time, high-pay work for students, etc. 615 327-Dare.
- WANTED: Reliable and energetic people to help deliver Dare in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. Write Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615 327-Dare.

• LONG HOURS. HARD WORK. LOW PAY. Dare is accepting applications from writers in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, the Tri-cities and around Tennessee. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615 327-Dare.

Travel

• TIMBERFELL LODGE, DISCREET HIDEAWAY. Bed & breakfast inn. 250 acres country elegance, deluxe rooms & food, sauna, jacuzzi & hiking. Clothes optional. The South's finest gay men's resort. Rte 11, Box 94-A, attn: DAR, Greeneville, TN 37743. 615-

Homes

- •GWM seeks M/F roommate to share 3 bdrm house. No smoker/pets. \$200 plus utils. 615-883-6507
- GWM seeking roommate. I'm young, prof., educated. You are too. \$230 + utils. No smokers/drugs. 615-360-9764.

Personal

•GWM, 27, Br/Blue honest, sincere, romantic, careeroriented. In search of self-confident GWM age 21-30 who enjoys dining, dancing, romancing, music and conversation. Will answer all inquiries. DARE DRAWER

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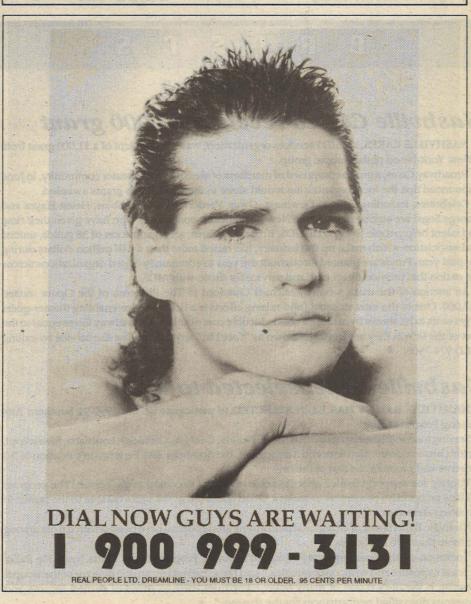
The Gay and Lesbian

touch with us: GLSU / UTK University of Tennessee Box 8529 Knoxville, TN 37996 or phone the Gay Helpline (615) 521-6546, 7 - 11 p.m.

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.. Nashville theater season

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TRT presents its adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy Romeo and Juliet October 26-November 12, followed by a reprise of the troupe's original holiday musical, Christmas Memories. With a score of traditional holiday favorites and original material

by TRT artistic director Mac Pirkle and musical director Stan Tucker, the show is quickly becoming a Nashville holiday tradition and is set for a December 7-23 run.

Lerner and Loewe's My Fair Lady, which features "I Could Have Danced All Night," "On the Street Where You Live" and "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face," is set for a March 15-31 run.

Perhaps the most eagerly-awaited production in TRT's season is the Nashville

premiere of Robert Harling's endearing Southern comedy *Steel Magnolias*. An Outer Critics Circle Award nominee, *Steel Magnolias* has been staged in major American cities, Australia and Puerto Rico. Scheduled for May 10-26, 1990, the stage production will be preceded by the December release of the film version starring Shirley McClaine, Dolly Parton, Darryl Hannah and Olympia Dukakis.

Just 30 miles down I-24, Murfreesboro Little Theatre will get the jump on TRT when it premieres *Steel Magnolias* for an early-November run. Set in a beauty shop in a small Lousiana town, the play features six endearing

characters. It's set for a November 3-11 run at MLT.

Other productions scheduled for MLT include the season-opening musical, Godspell, which runs September 8-17. Christopher Frye's verse play, The Lady's Not for Burning is set for a February 23-March 3 stand.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice internationally-acclaimed opera Evita concludes the season April 20-28.

April 20-28.

The story of the late

Argentine First Lady Eva Perón, Evita features the international hit "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina"

Actors Playhouse of Nashville, Inc., continuing its tradition of innovation and risk-taking, will feature Nashville premieres of several off-Broadway dramas and comedies throughout the coming season. Now a non-profit entity, Actors Playhouse just recently elected its first board of directors.

Nashville Public Theatre will present the musical, Quilters, September 28-October 15, at the Z. Alexander Looby Center on Metro Center Boulevard. The musical tells of the collective experience of the pioneer women who stitched their lives into intricate designs.

Bringing the best of Broadway, partnered

with some of show business' brightest stars, TPAC promises a season that will delight ticket holders.

Opening the season on September 19 is the imaginative Tony Award-winning musical *Into the Woods*. Created by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, this fairy-tale adaptation

presents time-honored stories in an entertaining new fashion.

Opening October 17 will be Julie Harris and Brock Peters in the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama. Driving Miss Daisy. Set in Atlanta, the drama focuses on the sometimes hilarious and often touching changes experienced by an eccentric Southern Jewish woman and her black chauffeur, following them from 1948 to 1973.

Neil Simon's Ru-

mors, starring Jamie Farr, takes the Jackson Theatre stage on February 27. Simon's latest hit, Rumors takes place at a dinner party among three couples and explores the comedic question of what happens when rumors start to fly.

Dates have yet to be announced for the Nashville performance of the quintessential Cole Porter musical Anything Goes, starring Mitzi Gaynor in the role of evangelist cum chanteuse Reno Sweeney. Set aboard a tripletiered ocean liner, this zany plot-twister features scads of Porter songs including "I Get a Kick Out of You," "Friendship," and, of course,

"Anything Goes."

Debbie Reynolds and Harve Presnell reprise their film roles in the 25th anniversary production of the Meredith Wilson musical The Unsinkable Molly Brown. Performance dates have not been set for the revival which features some of Wilson's most enduring tunes, including, "I Ain't Down Yet," "Belly Up to The Bar, Boys," and "I'll Never Say No."

TPAC also has scheduled an encore Nashville run of *Les*

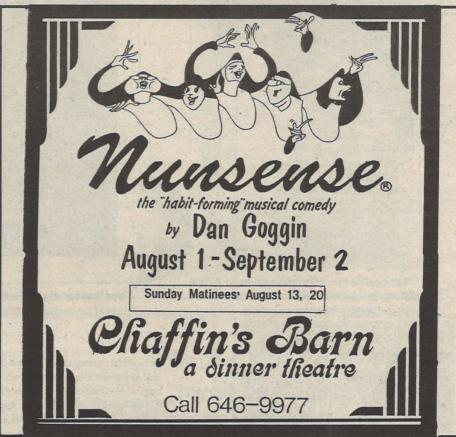
Miserables, the captivating story of Jean Valican.

The production played before sold-out audiences in Nashville last May.

"Les Miserables is a timeless story captured in 19th century France," said Warren Sumners, TPAC Managing Director. "Brought to life with an astounding musical score, technically superb set and tremendously talented cast and company, it's easy to see why our audiences were so enthralled. Bringing it back to Nashville will give Les Miz fans a chance to experience it again, as well as afford the opportunity to those who missed it the first time."

Dates have yet to be announced, but it is speculated that *Les Miz* will make its second Nashville appearance in spring, 1990.





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Sunday 25¢ draft 4 pm – 8 pm

Tuesday is Movie Night 25¢ draft 8 pm – 11 pm

Beer Bust \$3 All you can drink Wednesday 7 pm – 11 pm Saturday 2 pm – 6 pm

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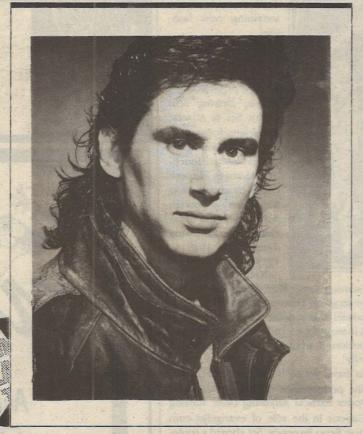


C E N T E R S T A C Staging a Rock Wedding





Jan Scarbrough, playwright/composer of A Rock Wedding, and Mark Medoff, artistic consultant. — Photo courtesy tennessee performing arts center



Brad Kuykendali plays Paul, a soap opera actor Kuykendali describes as "sleazy and slimy." — photo courtesy tennessee performing arts center



Lari White plays rockstar Jackie Howard, whose trip home for her sister's was is the plot for A Rock Wedding. — PHOTO COURTESY TENNESSEE PERFORMING ARTS

hen the house lights go down and the stage lights go up in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's (TPAC) Johnson Theatre next Thursday night, theater history will be made in Nashville with the production of A Rock Wedding.

The musical, written by Jan Scarbrough, is an "old-fashioned love story," according to the Nashville playwright/composer, with such contemporary twists as fantasy sequences which were filmed to intersperse with the live action onstage. The entire cast and company of A Rock Wedding has a definite Nashville flavor, with the exception of

hen the house director/choreographer Derek Wolshonak and artistic consultant Mark Medoff, author of Children of a Lesser God.

The world premiere of A Rock Wedding, is being produced and mounted by TPAC, in hopes of an ultimate trip to Broadway. Several New York producers and financiers have been invited to Music City for the show in hopes of securing their backing for a possible Broadway production.

Choosing Nashville as the site for the show's world premiere is a natural, according to TPAC's managing director Warren Sumners: "Nashville has such a wealth of musical and acting talent. We wanted to cast from Nashville so that local artists could take advantage of this wonderful opportunity — a pre-Broadway production. This way, it is truly a Nashville effort."

HE WORKSHOP METHOD of preparing shows for possible production on Broadway is becoming a more common avenue for would-be playwrights and composers. A budget of \$8-10 million would be needed to mount the production for a Broadway opening, but for TPAC's opening, a budget of \$155,000 will cover the production costs.

"People just aren't willing to risk that

much money on a show that may or may not make it on Broadway," Scarbrough said. "That's why regional theaters, such as TPAC, have taken on the responsibility of producing new works."

Scarbrough's "old-fashioned love story" is set to original music and state-of-the-art video wizardry and is centered on rock star Jackie Howard (played by Lari White, seen locally in Rave Revues' Almost a Midsummer Night's Dream and Nashville Public Theatre's The Cavedwellers) and music journalist Marshall Brenner (local actor David Lakey, who has had roles in Grease and Hamlet).

"Lari is absolutely perfect. She has the same intensity that a lot of rock and rollers have," Scarbrough said. "We're thrilled with the entire cast."

Jackie and Marshall meet when he is assigned to do a story about her for *Music Scene Magazine*, Jackie invites Marshall to accompany her home for her sister's wedding which offers him a glimpse of the "real" Jackie Howard.

The idea behind A Rock Wedding came from Scarbrough's own trip home for her brother's wedding several years ago.

"After my brother's wedding, I thought weddings were so boring, that they needed some rock music to liven them up," she says.

From that experience, the idea for A

Rock Wedding came to be and for the past six years Scarbrough has been working on the show.

"I must be demented to have decided to do a musical," she confesses.

During that time, the show was workshopped at New Mexico State University, where Scarbrough, under Medoff's guidance, re-wrote and fine-tuned the book and score.

OR SCARBROUGH, writing the book for a musical and composing its score comes naturally.

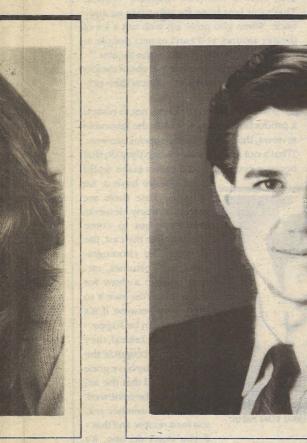
"I grew up thinking I was going to be a poet," she says. "But when I was 16 or 17 someone taught me to play the guitar and that changed my direction. Then when I took a playwriting course under Mark Medoff, I began to consider that influenced me."

Now, Scarbrough is ready to unveil her first full-length musical for scrutiny by the public and the critics.

"Everyone hopes their show will be a success and go on to Broadway. This one has as good a chance, maybe even better, as anything," she says.

Actor Brad Kuykendall, who plays
Jackie's boyfriend Paul in the show, says
A Rock Wedding "has great possibilities"
to become a bonafide hit.

G E



David Lakey plays music journalist Marshall Brenner, who falls in love with the subject of the story. — Photo courtesy tennessee performing arts center

"I don't think Jan could have made this show any more different from anything you've seen before," he says. "It's definitely going to work."

FORMING ARTS CENTER

The filmed scenes, which do everything from showing character's fantasies to progressing the plot, are perhaps the most innovative parts of the production. The show includes 52 video vignettes, amounting to a total of 30 minutes of edited material. The video segments were shot on film, then transferred to video disc. Selection of the Johnson Theatre, which will seat only 200 for A Rock Wedding, will enable the audience to have a more personal reaction to the show, Scarbrough and Kuykendall said.

"There are a lot of funny characters in this show," Kuykendall said. "And Jan's story really works. There's a cohesiveness in this company that's not always found when doing something like this."

Among those funny characters will probably be the one played by Kuykendall: soap opera star Paul, Jackie's boyfriend. Described by Kuykendall as a "sleazy, slimy egomaniac from L.A."

"Paul thinks the world revolves around him," Kuykendall explains. "He and Jackie have been dating for a couple of years and mainly goes home with her for her sister's wedding because he thinks it would be good for him to be seen with a big rock star."

Fairly early in the play's action, however, Paul becomes bored with the wedding preparations and is affronted by being kicked out of his hotel and being forced to sleep on the floor.

The role of Paul comes easily for Kuykendall who just moved to Nashville two months ago from Los Angeles to pursue a career in country music.

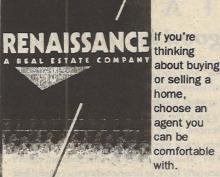
"A friend told me I should check into this new show they're doing at TPAC. I told him I wasn't interested because I didn't want to act anymore, I was a singer and a songwriter," he says. "But I became intrigued with how they were going to put it all together."

For Scarbrough the most difficult roles to cast were the parts of Jackie's father and mother and the eccentric Uncle Bill.

"We ended up casting actors much younger than I had written it for, but in the end, it turned out that everyone we cast were in the right age range," she said.

Radio personality Patrick Reilly will play Jackie's estranged father; Karen Taylor-Good her mother; and Rob Daniel was cast as Uncle Bill. Denice Hicks will play Jackie's sister Ally, the bride-to-be.

Set design is by Brian Laczko; costumes by Cindy Russell; and make-up and hair design by Roberta Samet. Musical director is Scott Jarrett and Randy Hale is video producer.



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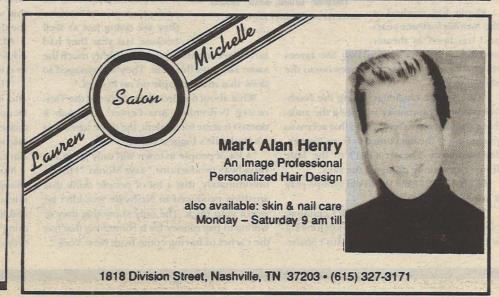
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STATE OF THE ART

How good is Nashville theatre? The critics speak

by LAURA TEK Contributing Writer

THE PERFORMING ARTS in Nashville. Is there really such a thing?

Yes, indeed, according to Beth Monin of the Nashville Banner, Clara Heironymous of The Tennessean and Angela Wibking of The Nashville Business journal. The three of them, along with Dare's leff Ellis, comprise the membership of one of the city's most exclusive clubs — theater critics for the city's newspapers.

Just what is currently the state of the theater in Nashville? That was the question put to Monin, Heironymous and Wibking.

Wibking has worked at the Business Journal for about 18 months. She grew up in Nashville, but moved away more than 10 years ago to experience New York and Los Angeles. What are her perceptions of Nashville theater now?

"Theater here is basically very good. Over the past three to four years. I've seen a real growth of theater groups that are providing ongoing theater. But as far as the audiences go, I think that's grown at a much slower pace than those groups would like to see happen," she says. "This is because we don't have a heritage of going to the theater in this part of the country. It's not just Nashville, it's all over the state and all over the southeast. We just don't have a history of our parents taking us to the theater. I personally did not see a professional production until I was in college and I think that's what's happened to a lot of us growing up in Tennessee.

Heironymous has been an arts critic for The Tennessean for some 33 years. Ask her

to elaborate on any piece of theatrical history in Nashville and she'll tell you just what she thinks.

"There is a lot of theater here, very good theater. The problem with the theaters not getting the audiences is not because of lack of advertising. We advertise everything. The problem is that Nashville has not ever become a strong theater city. It has always been that way," she says.

the Banner for three years and has been its theater

and dance critic for the past two. She agrees that it's hard to get the audiences out to the shows

"The biggest challenge facing the Nashville theater community is getting the audience out to see the shows. And that seems to plague every theater company from Tennessee Repertory Theater (TRT) to the little fringe community groups," she says.

DO NASHVILLE'S theatrical groups play it safe?

"Yes," says Heironymous. "TRT certainly plays it safe to some extent. I was just looking at their shows for next season, Ain't Misbe-

bavin', My Fair Lady, Romeo and Juliet. These are all shows that will obviously have community appeal. Circle Players does the same thing. They pick the shows that are likely to attract audiences, ones that are tried and true, with proven track records."

"TRT about to enter its fifth season didn't particularly have as financially a successful last season as they had hoped," Wibking says. "Part of it was because of the shows they picked. Prates of Penzance was an operetta, and it scared off audiences a little bit. It was maybe too high brow for them."

Monin agrees: "Yes, a lot of companies here have to play it safe, they have to, or nobody comes. But every one in a while, some will do something a little bit daring and it's refreshing."

"Actors' Playhouse is one of the few theaters in Nashville that have done some risky, experimental and controversial things," Heironymous offers

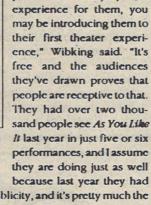
"Their production of The Marriage of Bette and Boo, a play by Christopher Durang, was great. It really stretched your imagination," Monin adds. "It was something that hadn't been seen here in Nashville as far as I know. It was theater that really pushes the boundaries."

Heironymous says, "I would hope that more theaters could do that, but they can't get people to come and buy tickets. They unfortunately are taking foolish risks."

However, Monin says, "some just refuse to worry about money, like the Nashville Shakespeare Festival (NSF) that performs for free in Centennial Park. They do things on a shoestring. Last year's production, As You Like It, was a very good show, yet it initially got very little support from the parks."

"I applaud the NSF. It's done in a beautiful park, it's centrally located. A lot of people who

> may not have access to a theater otherwise, such as lower economic groups, ethnic groups, they go to the park and if you can provide a free play and



no budget or publicity, and it's pretty much the same situation this year. They've managed to draw that many people on no budget."

What about the Broadway Series at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center? Although it doesn't feature local talent, the three agree that it's Nashville's biggest draw.

"A lot of people in town will only go to see Broadway productions," says Monin. "I think, unfortunately, that a lot of people think that anything produced in Nashville wouldn't be worth your buck. The only show that they're willing to pay money for is something that has the cachet of having come from New York."

Wibking agrees: "Audiences like to go to something that they've heard of, so they are going to go to see performances of actors who have most likely appeared on Broadway. They are going to see the names, the glitzy costumes, the fancy sets, etc. To them it's an insurance, they want to get their money's worth "

Why won't Nashvillians attend more locallyproduced theater?

"The main reason? Television " answers Heironymous. "It's had a big impact on the community. Videos, too. It's a lot easier to sit a home in your own living room and be enter-

"But I still feel cheered and somewhat optimistic at the number of companies here that are hanging on and trying to come up with good theater. I think we're seeing a lot of good performances. I'm really encouraged by what's available to cast a show."

Heironymous is still the critic most sharply critical of local audiences

"I don't think that Nashville audiences are the best in the world. Sometimes I find myself reviewing the audience. I think it's because when people are not

in the habit of going to the theater, they act more like audiences at rock concerts. I really get my back up with the way they respond. They emit little yips and yelps, especially the women, as if to say, 'look, I'm reacting, I'm enjoying it. I want you to know this.' But I hate it, it's very distracting to those who really want to enjoy the performance. You don't have to act that way to respond to a production."

"I see many different audiences in Nashville," Wibking observes. "The one that attends the Broadway series has never been inside Actors' Playhouse. The one that goes to Chaffin's Barn has never been inside TPAC. I think the challenge among all the theater groups is to tap into the different audiences that are there and not take them away from that theater but show them that it's enjoyable to see a Sam Shepard play as well. Not everyone is going to cross over to that, but I think that there are some audience members of each group who could be lured into another situation but that would take a lot of cooperation among all the theater groups."

ALL THREE CRITICS believe that the remedy for this audience's lack of sophistication is to educate children about theater.

"There should be more interest in the theater and in the visual arts in the public schools," Heironymous suggests. "There should be trained teachers so they can in turn communicate not only what the theater is, but how you can enjoy it, and how you should behave."

Monin agrees, "I think what's going to change the Nashville theater audiences' minds is teaching children to enjoy theater. Teaching children that going to the theater is not something weird, or expensive, something that you only do when you go to New York. But that it

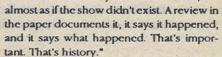
is an alternative to going to the movies. And there are groups in Nashville working on that, such as Nashville Academy Theatre. That's our best hope for educating an audience. When you grow up with not a lot of theater around, you can't expect people to suddenly say, 'oh, let's go to the theater."

How do the three critics feel about theater groups asking them not to review their pro-

When a company asks me not to review a production, or to print only the favorable reviews, that's sad," Heironymous answers. "That's not really theater when they do that because even the best theaters in the world

can't always have a hit show because there are always so many elements that have got to come together like the cast, the director, the choreographer, the costumes, etc. You critique a show for the actors. You owe it to the actors because if it's fine, they can be happy.

"And if it's critical, they can maybe recognize the things that may have gone wrong. I find that the actors want to be reviewed. Also there's another reason for a review and that's if you don't do one. it's



Theater critic Angela Wibking —

NASHVILLE BUSINESS JOURNAL STAFF PHOTO

ALL IN ALL, how do the critics judge the health of the performing arts in Nashville?

Heironymous sums it up this way, "I think, all things considered, theater here is fairly healthy. Almost a Midsummer Night's Dream at Backstage at the Barn was selling out at the end of its run. Actors' Playhouse has just begun a late-night series in addition to its main production."

"In the last five months there has been a real upsurge in the number of performances in Nashville," Monin says. "Now that renaissance, that boom, may be dead in two months, but for right now there are no signs of collapse. We do seem to have major theater that really seems viable."

"Theater is important to people," Heironymous adds. "The resurgence of the community theaters in and around Nashville evidence that. Like the fabulous invalid, theater always manages somehow to live."

"We are hoping that this boom right now isn't just an oddity," Wibking says. "By the end of this summer, there will have been over 20 productions in Nashville, last summer there were maybe 10. No one seems to know why, but we hope it continues. I think it looks real good for theater in Nashville to continue to offer a lot of different choices every month and I think that what's going to make the difference is showing the audience all of the possible choices, because there are a lot of different audiences out there and that's how theater will grow and hang on, by offering Nashville a choice." •





Theater critic Beth Monin -Monin has worked at NASHVILLE BANNER STAFF PHOTO

Drawing rave reviews with Rave Revues

RAVE REVUES IS AN appropriate name for one of the few theater ventures that can really live up to its advance billing.

Like no other theater company in Nashville, this troupe's acclaim can be attributed to artistic co-directors Michael Bouson and Katie Gladfelter, who are the primary reasons for the company's decidedly different approach.

Rave Revue's hallmarks are the company's high energy and predilection for mounting

original shows - many written by members of the company itself, and often with music commissioned by the com-

But the real beginnings for the troupe were in the 1984 Theatre Express original production of Everything's Peachy in Kiddie Land at the old JohnGalt West End Theatre (now Actors' Playhouse).

Capitol Park Inn's management staff, asked him to put to-

gether an improvisational piece to run as the late show at the Inn's Patchwork Theatre.

Avante Garage was born an instant hit, running successfully until management decided to close the less-successful main stage.

The same core group which helped to create the generally-recognized lunacy that Avante Garage was noted for then played at the Elliston Place nightclub Exit/In during the summer of 1985 until the club changed to an all-music format and then closed.

Bouson and Gladfelter joined forces when she was appearing as part of the pop/jazz quartet SRO at the Metro Dinner Theatre at the World's End restaurant

Bouson, in the time-honored theater tradition of show doctor, helped the group finetune their show, which then played to sold-out houses. The group broke up after its run at the Metro, but management so liked the show, Bouson said, that he was asked to stage another show at the theater.

Rave Revues opened its run at the Metro with Music of the Night, a revue of Tim Rice/ Andrew Lloyd Webber pieces, and continued with Seasoned Greetings, a holiday musical comedy variety show and Stompin' with Savov. another musical revue

When plans were made earlier this year to convert the Metro into the video club Midnight Sun. Bouson said Rave Reviews began discussions with the management at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre about creating the Backstage at the Barn space for Rave Revues

Thanks for the Memories, which had originally been planned for the Metro, instead opened at Backstage, where the company has also presented the criti-

cally-acclaimed Southern Exposures, the All-New Avante Garage, and Almost a Midsummer Night's Dream

Hooray for Hollywood, a revue of movie musicals which Bouson describes as "fluff but fun — a great show," opens tonight.

The fast-paced show will recreate magical moments of movie history from Charlie Chaplin to A Chorus Line - The Movie.

The show features Rave Revues stalwarts. soprano Su Hyatt and alto Martha Gabel, along with tenor Robert Whorton and baritone Michael Lee. Rave Revues is in negotiations with a cruise line to mount a production of Hooray for Hollywood on board cruise ships. If a deal is struck, Bouson says, he and Gladfelter will cast the show locally and send the production



Michael Bouson, artistic co-director of Rave Bouson explained, then Revues. — PHOTO © 1988 HARRY BUTLER

...theater books

continued from page 11

theater, actors and playwrights are hard to come by. Little has been written, and some of the most useful information is in books now out of print. Three books are currently available that shed some light on lesbian and gay

- We Can Always Call Them Bulgarians: The Emergence of Lesbians and Gay Men on the American Stage by Kaier Curtain. Boston: Alyson Publications, 1988. 342 pages, \$18.95,
- · An Analysis of the Treatment of the Homosexual Character in Dramas Produced in the New York Theater from 1950-1968 by Donald L. Loeffler. Salem, NH: Ayer Company Publishers. 1975, \$17,00.
- · Carry On, Understudies: Theatre and Sexual Politics by Michelene Wandor. New York: Routledge, Chapman and Hall, 1986. 224 pages, \$9.95 paper.

Biographies of gay or lesbian figures from theatre frequently overlook or hide their subject's sexuality. Those that do address the issue may sensationalize or condemn it. A few books, all of which deal with men, are of particular interest:

· Charles Laughton: A Difficult Actor by Simon Callow. New York: Grove Press, 1988/89.

336 pages, \$18.95, \$8.95 paper.

Callow traces Laughton's career from early theatre successes in London to Hollywood

- · Oscar Wilde by Richard Ellmann. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988. 576 pages,
- · Coward the Playwright by John Lahr. New York: Avon, 1983. 200 pages, \$3.95 paper.

Noël Coward epitomized the beauty and glamor of youth, becoming the spokesman for the "bright young things" of the 1920s.

By the 1950s, new wave theatre, taken with disillusionment and disenchantment, replaced Coward's style of charm and sophistica-

Coward replied: "I don't care for the present trends in literature or the theatre...Subtlety, discretion, restraint, finesse, charm, intelligence, good manners, talent and glamour still enchant me.'

• A Chorus Line and the Musicals of Michael Bennett by Ken Mandelbaum. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989. \$19.95.

A Chorus Line, the longest-running show in Broadway history, is the masterpiece of Michael Bennett, whose brilliant career as a choreographer was cut short when he died of

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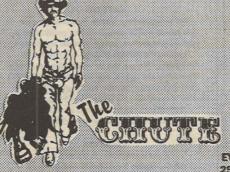
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The Redthroats

The Redthroats. David Cale. New York: Vintage, 1989. 101 pages. \$6.95. reviewed by JOE MAROHL Staff Writer

THE BEST WRITING TAKES chances. The New York. same principle applies to the theater and the other arts. The same principle applies, I suppose, to life, also.

The Redthroats is a collection of dramatic performance pieces by the English artist David Cale. Actually, the book contains two complete programs, "The Redthroats," a fragment of which Cale performed on Bette Midler's Mondo Beyondo show on HBO last year, and

For the last decade, Cale has resided in New York where he performs his pieces at places

like The Kitchen and Performance Space 122. His work is a hybrid of SoHo hipster and English music hall, with strong flavorings jazz music and Wordsworthian reminiscence. Pretty chancy combinations, these, and they don't always succeed.

As a presence, he's a tall and balding wide-eyed child, who speaks with all the throaty urgency of young Hayley Mills. A sense of all this courses through his writing.

The subject of the semi-autobiographical "The Redthroats" is a family called the Weirds, particularly the son, Steven, a boy criticized by his parents for wanting to emulate Judy Garland ("It's not healthy, an eleven-year-old boy listening to a dead woman sing!"). Steven later divides his time hustling masochists at the cartoon cinema and wrangling the child actors in a production of Annie.

The piece begins with a recollection of catching redthroat minnows in a shallow pond near his home and ends with a dramatization of his flight over the Atlantic when he moves to chance on love."

"Smooch Music" is less strictly narrative, less strictly realistic, and explores the tenuous nature of contemporary sexual relationships. In this piece, the speaker's sexuality is more ambiguous, sometimes bisexual, sometimes more ambiguous than even that.

The most inventive and provocative parts are when gender is irrelevant. For instance, at one point Cale imagines himself as a microbe entering his lover's body in search of his lover's heart, only to find himself hopelessly lost. Without food or an escape route, the microbe

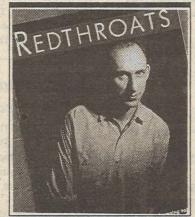
begins to feed on the lover's internal flesh, thus weakening and presumably destroying the lover.

Undoubtedly, as with most dramatic works, something is lost by reading The Redthroats as a book instead of seeing it performed on stage. The monologues are less like the Jane Wagner/ Lily Tomlin collaboration in The Search for Intelligent Life in the Universe than like Sandra Bernhard's Without You I'm Nothing.

Cale is more sentimental and winsome than Bernhard, however, and his optimistic outlook is more like Wagner's, guardedly hopeful yet

Cale's work lacks the brilliance of either Wagner's or Bernhard's comedy, but it is still literate and entertaining.

From Cale's perspective, love doesn't make sense and is probably unhealthy too. As the musical refrains in "Smooth Music" repeat, "Don't let your lover make a mess of you," but always be ready, nevertheless, to be "Taking a



Gay and lesbian theater books abound

by SHERRE DRYDEN

Book Editor

From Mart Crowley's landmark The Boys in the Band to the 1989 edition of Jane Chambers' Late Snow to Albert Innaurato's black comedy The Transformation of Benno Blimpie, a surprisingly large number of plays with lesbian or gay characters or themes are available from American publishers.

- · Gay Plays. Edited by Michael Wilcox. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1984-1987. Volume 1: 128 pages, \$6.95 paper; volume 2: 160 pages, \$8.95 paper; volume 3: 128 pages,
- · Gay Plays: First Collection. Edited by William H. Hoffman. New York: Avon Books. \$4.95 paper.

In addition to Hoffman's introduction, which provides historical information, this collection includes Late Snow by Jane Chambers, The Queen's Governor by William Hoffman and Anthony Holland, The Killing of Sister George by Frank Marcus, Confessions of a Female Disorder by Susan Miller, Entertaining Mr. Sloaneby Joe Orton, T-shirts by Robert

Patrick, Boy Meets Boyby Bill Solly and Donald Ward and The Madness of Lady Bright by Lanford Wilson.

· Gay Theatre Alliance Directory of Gay Plays. Edited by Terry Helbing. New York: J.H. Press, 1979. 144 pages, \$5.95 paper.

An alphabetical list of over 400 plays, with plot and character summaries and information

· Places, Please! The First Anthology of Lesbian Plays. Edited by Kate McDermott. San Francisco: Spinsters/Aunt Lute, 1986. 220

Plays with lesbian or gay characters or themes include Howard Brenton's Romans in Britain, A Taste of Honey by Shelagh Delaney, Butley by Simon Gray, Christopher Hampton's Total Eclipse, The Children's Hour by Lillian Hellman, A Patriot for Me by John Osborne, Streamers by David Rabe and Tennessee Williams' Small Craft Warnings.

Sources on the history of gay and lesbian continued on page 9

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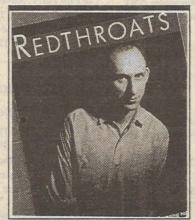
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> Undoubtedly, as with most dramatic works, something is lost by reading The Redthroats as a book instead of seeing it performed on stage. The monologues are less like the Jane Wagner/ Lily Tomlin collaboration in The Search for Intelligent Life in the Universe than like Sandra Bernhard's Without You I'm Nothing.

Cale is more sentimental and winsome than Bernhard, however, and his optimistic outlook is more like Wagner's, guardedly hopeful yet

Cale's work lacks the brilliance of either Wagner's or Bernhard's comedy, but it is still literate and entertaining.

From Cale's perspective, love doesn't make sense and is probably unhealthy too. As the musical refrains in "Smooth Music" repeat, "Don't let your lover make a mess of you," but always be ready, nevertheless, to be "Taking a chance on love."



Gay and lesbian theater books abound

by SHERRE DRYDEN

From Mart Crowley's landmark The Boys in the Band to the 1989 edition of Jane Chambers' Late Snow to Albert Innaurato's black comedy The Transformation of Benno Blimpie, a surprisingly large number of plays with lesbian or gay characters or themes are available from American publishers.

- · Gay Plays. Edited by Michael Wilcox. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1984-1987. Volume 1: 128 pages, \$6.95 paper; volume 2: 160 pages, \$8.95 paper; volume 3: 128 pages,
- · Gay Plays: First Collection. Edited by William H. Hoffman. New York: Avon Books. \$4.95 paper.

In addition to Hoffman's introduction, which provides historical information, this collection includes Late Snow by Jane Chambers, The Queen's Governor by William Hoffman and Anthony Holland, The Killing of Sister George by Frank Marcus, Confessions of a Female Disorder by Susan Miller, Entertaining Mr. Sloane by Joe Orton, T-shirts by Robert

Patrick, Boy Meets Boyby Bill Solly and Donald Ward and The Madness of Lady Bright by Lanford Wilson.

· Gay Theatre Alliance Directory of Gay Plays. Edited by Terry Helbing. New York: J.H. Press, 1979. 144 pages, \$5.95 paper.

An alphabetical list of over 400 plays, with plot and character summaries and information

· Places, Please! The First Anthology of Lesbian Plays. Edited by Kate McDermott. San Francisco: Spinsters/Aunt Lute, 1986. 220

Plays with lesbian or gay characters or themes include Howard Brenton's Romans in Britain, A Taste of Honey by Shelagh Delaney, Butley by Simon Gray, Christopher Hampton's Total Eclipse, The Children's Hour by Lillian Hellman, A Patriot for Me by John Osborne, Streamers by David Rabe and Tennessee Williams' Small Craft Warnings.

Sources on the history of gay and lesbian

continued on page 9



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Best Musical

- A...My Name is Alice, CP
- ☐ All New Avante Garage, RR
- ☐ Almost A Midsummer Night's Dream,RR
- ☐ Christmas Memories, TRT
- ☐ Evita, TRT
- ☐ Frivolities, CP
- The King and I, CP
- Pippin, CP
- ☐ Pirates of Penzance, TRT
- ☐ Seasoned Greetings, RR
- ☐ Southern Exposures, RR
- ☐ Stompin' With Savoy, RR The Unsinkable Molly Brown, CP
- ☐ Working, AP
- ☐ Thanks for the Memories, RR

Best Play

- Adventures of Pericles, NSF
- D Rent AP
- ☐ The Blood Knot, SS
- The Butler Did It, AP
- ☐ The Cave Dwellers, NPT
- ☐ Curse of the Starving Class, AP
- Dracula, CP
- God's Favorite, Barn
- God, AP
- ☐ It Had To Be You, AP
- ☐ Lone Star, AP
- The Mousetrap, CP
- ☐ 'Night Mother, SS
- On Golden Pond, Barn
- ☐ Sexual Perversity in Chicago, AP Social Security, AP
- Sorrows of Stephen, AP
- ☐ Table Settings, AP
- ☐ Taming of the Shrew, TRT
- ☐ Transformations, NPT
- The Unexpected Guest, Barn
- Women Behind Bars, AP
- You Can't Take it With You, TRT

Best Actress in a musical

- Adele Akin, A...My Name is Alice, CP
- ☐ Sharon Farmer, Frivolities, CP
- Martha Gabel, Almost A Midsummer Night's Dream, RR
- Martha Gabel, The Unsinkable Molly Brown, CP
- ☐ Katie Gladfelter, Southern Exposures, RR
- ☐ Nan Gurley, Christmas Memories, TRT ☐ Margaret Houston, A...My Name is Alice,
- ☐ Su Hyatt, Seasoned Greetings, RR
- ☐ Su Hyatt, All-New Avante Garage, RR
- Trish Jackson, A...My Name is Alice, CP Terri Lynn, Southern Exposures, RR
- ☐ Elizabeth Moses, Seasoned Greetings, RR
- ☐ Karen Mueller, The King and I, CP
- Lisa Mulvaney, A...My Name is Alice, CP
- Ginger Newman, Evita, TRT
- ☐ Ginger Newman, Pirates of Penzance, TRT
- ☐ Suzette Telli, Pippin, CP
- Patty Weyen, A...My Name is Alice, AP

Best Actress in a play

- Peg Allen, Cave Dwellers, NPT ☐ Virginia Burke, Sexual Perversity in Chi-
- cago, AP ☐ Virginia Burke, Adventures of Pericles, NSE
- ☐ Ellen Caron, Transformations, NPT
- ☐ Janet Claire, P.S. Your Cat Is Dead, AP
- ☐ Janet Claire, It Had To Be You, AP
- Rita Frizzell, Social Security, AP
- Mary Jane Harvill, 'Night Mother, SS
- Lisa Hayes, Women Behind Bars, AP
- Dorothy Marie, 'Night Mother, SS
- ☐ Barbara Morrison, The Butler Did It, AP
- ☐ Karen Mundy, Table Settings, AP
- ☐ Karen Mundy, Sorrows of Stephen, AP
- Dorothy Marie Robinson, Transformations, NPT
- Siri, Women Behind Bars, AP
- ☐ Sandra Terry, Curse of the Starving Class,
- ☐ Ellen Thomas, The Mousetrap, CP
- ☐ Anne Tonelson, Table Settings, AP
- ☐ Lari White, Cave Dwellers, NPT

Best Supporting Actress in a musical

- ☐ Vicky Branton, Unsinkable Molly Brown,
- Nancy Clymer, Pippin, CP
- Sherri L. Edelen, Working, AP
- Ginna Fleshood, Frivolities, CP
- ☐ Vicki Wonders Foltz, Frivolities, CP
- Martha Gabel, Pippin, CP ☐ Valerie Green, Almost A Midsummer
- Night's Dream, RR
- ☐ Betty Ann Grove, Pirates of Penzance, TRT
- ☐ Nan Gurley, Pirates of Penzance, TRT ☐ Shelean Newman, Evita, TRT
- Shelean Newman, Pirates of Penzance,
- ☐ Jennifer Stuckey, The King and I, CP
- Lisa Taylor, The King and I, CP
- ☐ Karen Thomas, Working, AP ☐ Tackie Welch Christmas Memories TRT
- Lari White, Almost A Midsummer Night's Dream, RR

Best Supporting Actress in a play

- Melissa Bedinger, Dracula, CP
- ☐ Vickie Wonders Foltz, Adventures of Pericles. NSF
- Denice Hicks, You Can't Take it With You,
- ☐ Margaret Houston, Social Security, AP Leslee Lacey, Curse of the Starving Class,
- ☐ Elizabeth Moses Mahowald, On Golden Pond, CB
- Risë Nachman, Table Settings, AP Shelean Newman, You Can't Take it With
- You, TRT ☐ Nelda Pope, Social Security, AP
- ☐ Keli Sims, The Butler Did It, AP
- ☐ Mary Louise Smith, The Mousetrap, CP

Best Actor in a musical

- ☐ Michael Bouson, Almost A Midsummer
- Night's Dream, RR ☐ Michael Bouson, Southern Exposures, RR
- ☐ James Brantley, Pippin, CP
- Gregg Colson, Stompin' With the Savoy,
- ☐ Joe Correll, Seasoned Greetings, RR ☐ Joe Correll, Southern Exposures, RR
- ☐ Anthony Dickens, The King and I, CP
- ☐ Joseph R. Mahowald, Christmas Memories,
- Brian Mathis, Unsinkable Molly Brown, CP
- ☐ Myke Mueller, Evita, TRT
- Myke Mueller, Pirates of Penzance, TRT
- ☐ Frank Preston, Frivolities, CP
- Rick Seay, Stompin' With the Savoy, RR

Best Actor in a play

- ☐ Jim Conrad, Bent, AP
- Rob Daniel, Cave Dwellers, NPT
- Anthony Dickens, Dracula, CP Dennis Ewing, P.S. Your Cat Is Dead, AP
- Dennis Ewing, It Had To Be You, AP
- Dennis Ewing, Table Settings, AP
- ☐ Thomas Greer, Cave Dwellers, NPT
- Rick Harrell, Bent, AP
- Rick Harrell, Lone Star, AP
- Rick Harrell, Sexual Perversity in Chicago, AP
- Tim Holder, Social Security, AP
- ☐ Joe Keenan, On Golden Pond, Barn Tommy Kohl, Sorrows of Stephen, AP
- ☐ Tommy Kohl, Transformations, NPT
- David Lee, Transformations, NPT J. Leon Miller, Adventures of Pericles, NSF
- Scott Moreno, Lone Star, AP
- ☐ Myke Mueller, The Blood Knot, TRT Second Stage
- Phil Perry, Curse of the Starving Class,
- ☐ Phil Perry, Adventures of Pericles, NSF
- ☐ Frank Preston, The Mousetrap, CP
- ☐ Barry Scott, The Blood Knot, SS Neal Sullivan, The Butler Did It, AP

Best Supporting Actor in a musical

- ☐ Thom Byrum, The King and I, CP
- ☐ Gregg Colson, Frivolities, CP
- Rob Daniel, Pippin, CP ☐ Bill Hood, Unsinkable Molly Brown, CP
- W. Dennis Hunt, Pirates of Penzance,
- ☐ Mike Norman, Almost A Midsummer
- Night's Dream, RR Mike Norman, Working, AP
- Ricky Russell, Evita, TRT
- Randy Seay, Frivolities, CP Rick Seay, Frivolities, CP
- ☐ Barry Scott, Christmas Memories, TRT ☐ Barry Scott, Pirates of Penzance, TRT

Best Supporting Actor in a play

- ☐ Jim Busby, Dracula, CP ☐ Kevin Coffey, Adventures of Pericles,
- ☐ Dennis Ewing, Sexual Perversity in
- Chicago, AP Dennis Ewing, The Butler Did It, AP
- Grant Houston, Social Security, AP ☐ Jesse James Lorcorriere, Table Settings,
- Scott Moreno, The Butler Did It, AP Myke Mueller, You Can't Take it With
- YOU TRT
- Scott Orr, It Had To Be You, AP G. Scott Osten, Bent, AP
- Phil Perry, Dracula, CP ☐ Mel Toombs, Bent, AP
- ☐ Mel Toombs, Lone Star, AP

□ Vote for your favorite (only one) in each category. Write-ins are permitted in the space at the end of each category. Ballots must be signed and include your address for verification, and must be postmarked by midnight, Monday, August 28, 1989. One ballot per person, please. Send entire ballot (a photocopy is acceptable) to Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422.

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