

Spring Newsletter

April-May-June 2014

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1st Vice PresidentAnne La Rose
Administrator R.J Muehlhausen
Recording Secretary..... Marje Cates
Corresponding Secretary.....Charlyn d’Anconia
Treasurer.....Eric Johns

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Ross Clark Jaclyn Palmer

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Newsletter Staff: Ellen Bailey, Ross Clark,
Bridget Furiga

Remember the Pasadena Playhouse Alumni
& Associates in your Estate Planning

PPA&A CONTACTS

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PPA&A Newsletter
Newsletter@ppa-a.org

PPA&A Website
www.ppa-a.org and
www.pasadenaplayhousealumniandassociates.org

Henry & Joyce Sumid Scholarship
www.Sumidscholarship.com

Pasadena Playhouse Archives
archives@pasadenaplayhouse

Playhouse Website:
www.pasadenaplayhouse.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

By now you have each received the paperwork regarding the revision to the constitution. And yes, the net effect of this revision is a dramatic change to how our organization is managed. As our administrator R.J Muehlhausen described in his cover letter, we have reached the point where in order to maintain a legally viable 501c(3) organization, we must make some big changes in how the business of the PPA&A is run. We have a decreasing membership and very soon, the amount of people available to fill seats on the board as determined by our present by-laws will be too few to meet our needs and operate properly.

In anticipation of this changing landscape, we hired and consulted with attorneys who specialize in non-profit organizations. We worked with these lawyers on the revision to our constitution, line by line. Each board member then offered their thoughts and concerns and edits. The result of several months of this collaboration is the document before you, and I think it is important to underscore that this final

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President's Message
continued from page 1.

version was accepted and agreed to unanimously by your board.

The PPA&A is facing the proverbial 'fork in the road'. Our organization is shrinking and yet a wonderful opportunity is on the horizon. *GREENHOUSE* at the Playhouse, the new program in conjunction with the drama department at USC, has brought theatre students to learn their craft at our theatre. (Please see Pete Parkin's article about this program in this newsletter). Do we begin plans to close up shop, or do we find a way to continue to operate while we see how *GREENHOUSE* develops?

The mere possibility of an educational component becoming a permanent part of the Playhouse is the reason to want to keep the PPA&A alive. This new constitution will allow us to keep functioning while we work to support the growth of *GREENHOUSE*, and perhaps then future alumni and members of the Pasadena Playhouse Alumni & Associates.

Best,

Valerie

***GREENHOUSE* at the Playhouse**

The *GREENHOUSE* at the Playhouse program is a new pilot program in partnership with the University of Southern California's School of Dramatic Arts for the 2013-2014 academic year.



Last fall, 3 USC graduate students participated in a dramaturgical project based on a Playhouse *HOTHOUSE* play. That work was integrated into a required course at USC, Studies in Dramatic Analysis. At the same time, the students were writing their own original plays at USC for Studies in Playwriting I, using the process they observed at the Playhouse with the *HOTHOUSE* play.

And now this spring, through their coursework in Studies in Playwriting II, those students will be given a staged reading of their works in the Carrie Hamilton Theatre. The Playhouse is providing an AEA stage manager and four AEA actors. USC will provide 4 graduate level actors, as well as graduate directors and the three writers. Auditions for these student works were held at the Playhouse rehearsal space at the end of March. The plays are now in rehearsal and each play

GREENHOUSE at the Playhouse continued

will have one “performance” at the end of April. Following the performances there will be a ‘talk back’ with the writers, directors and three dramaturges to discuss the plays and their experiences in this program.

Ultimately, what this means is that there are theatre students studying and working at the Playhouse once again! At the end of the semester, the PPA&A will host a reception for the students, the USC professors and all concerned. During the reception, they will receive a guided tour of the Playhouse with an emphasis on the History of the Theatre and the Alumni Association. The students will then be given memberships to the PPA&A.

To encourage the continuation of this academic program at the Playhouse, the PPA&A has planned to give a donation to the Playhouse specifically to help cover the expenses incurred by the *GREENHOUSE* program.

Pete Parkin



WHAT THE ALUMNI ARE DOING

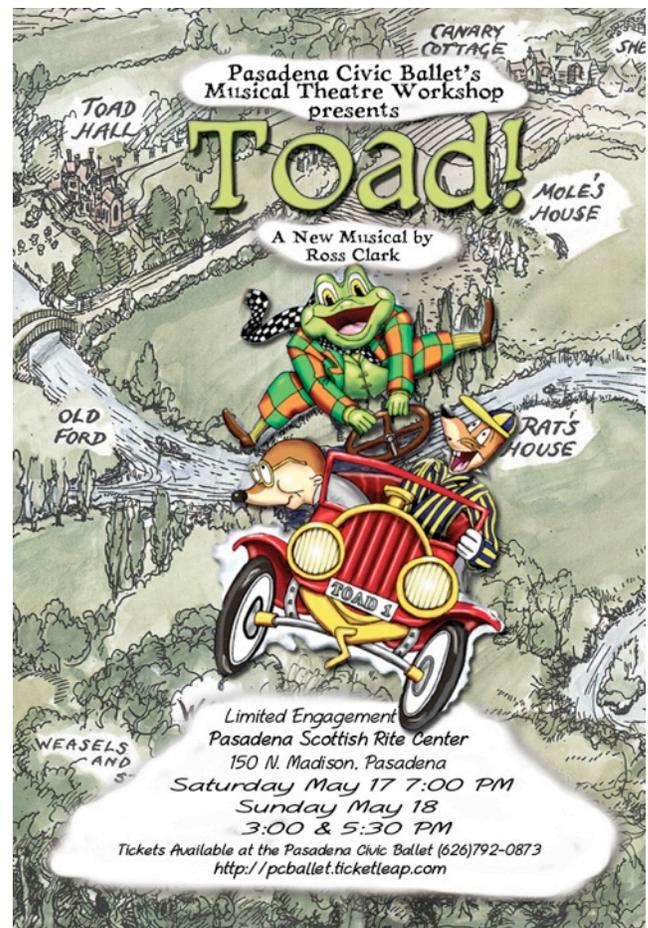
AN ALUMNI DROPS BY TO SEE *A SONG AT TWILIGHT*

Lorin O'Neil, who was in the summer session in 1960, was thrilled to see the show and be back at The Pasadena Playhouse.

Lorin was sent to learn acting by the First Cultural Exchange with the Soviet Union and USA. He was in the Ice Capades and the Exchange wanted him to expand his acting ability before performing in Russia.

He can be reached at 2850-C Oakcreek Drive Ontario CA 91761 or email:101-chjoc@aol.com

Ross Clark '69-Ross' new children's musical *Toad!* opens at the Pasadena Scottish Rite Center on Saturday May 17. For information go to www.playhousechildrenstheatre.com



THANK YOU - THANK YOU

Heartfelt thanks to our generous members who made donations to the PPA&A - Dr. Frederick Ricci, Stuart Margolin, Michael Layne, Tom Hatten, Rudy Behlmer, Maryan French Stephens, and Carrotte.

And thanks also to these members who have renewed their membership dues - Harris Ault, Ronald Steen, Carrotte, Anne Olson, Tony Miratti, Henry Young, Cliff Emmich, Minta Curtis Dietrich, Bernard Weisen, Maryan French Stephens, Michelle Savitz, Jack Fitzgerald, Naomi Connors, Peter Perry, Rudy Behlmer, Bob Beecher, Lonie Blackman Ward, Anthony Williams, Jeanette Hartunian and Donald Yarbrough.

And welcome to new member Michael Keller, '55!

WE GET LETTERS

Jaime Delgado ('52) writes:

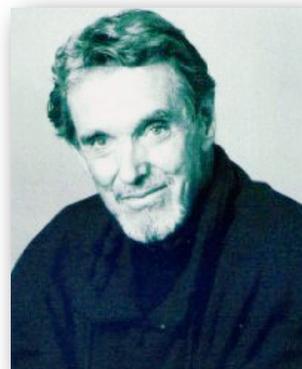
I have just received the Pasadena Playhouse's Winter issue and want to wish Ellen the happiest 90th birthday!!! I was a student at the Playhouse during 1951-1952 and I am not sure whether she remembers me. Anyway, may the good Lord bless you and keep you always in the best of health!

Jaime Delgado
Cali, Colombia

Please send your alumni doings and letters to:
newsletter@ppa-a.org
so we can keep everyone up to date!

FINAL CURTAIN

Martin Clark Tippens '55



April 18, 1936 -
February 26, 2014

Film and stage actor Martin Clark Tippens passed away peacefully at Glendale Memorial hospital on February 26, 2014. He attended New Trier High School in Winnetka, IL, where he met his

wife Joyce Skarda (1937-2013). He attended the Pasadena Playhouse College of Theatre Arts, class of 1955. His many stage, television and film performances included "Not Necessarily the News", "Rap Master Ronnie", "Alfred Hitchcock Presents", "Quantum Leap", and "Gods And Generals".

What Hidden Gems Do You Have?

Our archive workers have completed digitizing every program from the Playhouse little theatres through 1969...every program we are aware of, that is. That's where you come in. Unlike Mainstage, there is no master chronological listing of plays performed in the small theatres, so we only know of missing plays because they have been referenced somewhere. To complete our records we are hoping that someone out there has a program or photo of one or more of our missing items and that they will donate the original or at least a copy of their treasure.

Records in the 60's were not very complete, so we will start there. Below is a list of known plays that we have no archival record of from the Prickett and Huxley theatres.

Huxley

Improptu	4/29/ 1964
2nd Year Showcase	6/10/1964

Prickett

2nd Year Showcase	6/10/1964
Spreading the News	1/26/1965
Portrait of a Madonna	1/26/1965
Undercurrent	1/26/1965
Coffee, Tea or Milk	5/15/1968
Present Future	5/15/1968
Tell Me, Dinky	5/15/1968

Those are the ones we know about. Obviously, the ones we don't know about we can't list. However, if you really want to help, send a list of what you have to archives@pasadenaplayhouse.org and I will let you know what we need.

In upcoming newsletter issues we will print missing programs from East, West and Patio theatres. Remember, you may have something we are not even aware of. What a great find that would be!!

Please, Don't Throw Away Any Playhouse Item Until You Know We Have It In Our Collection!!

Ellen Bailey

Pasadena Playhouse Archivist

AND NOW A THANK YOU!

In the last few months my jaw has kept dropping open repeatedly! First, at the wonderful surprise 90th birthday party at The Playhouse. Then at my brother's generous donation. And since The Playhouse requested contributions to match my brother's gift, your donations keep coming in. Not that we're anywhere near \$25,000, but every little bit helps.

So I want to thank all of you who answered the call. I am really astounded by your generosity and appreciate your ready response. Thank you, thank you all. This money is going toward the badly needed new seats to be installed in the theatre sometime during this summer. All the money is not raised yet, but we're getting there.

In case you would still like to make a donation and weren't aware of it, contributions can also be made by credit card on the Playhouse website. Just be sure to fill in the note section saying that the money is at my request and is to go toward the new seats.

One more surprised and grateful thank you.

Ellen Bailey

BOARD MINUTES

Minutes of meeting March 31, 2014

Treasurer's report

\$2700 remitted to attorney for contracted work on new constitution

President's statement

\$1500 proposed to accommodate memorial for Jack Scott

Ralphs Market fundraiser plan has contributed \$93 to PPA&A

Administrative

Ballot regarding new constitution (approved by the board) will be ready to mail out to membership before the end of April – at least 45 days before the end of May. An issue of the Newsletter should go out prior to the ballots

Greenhouse Welcoming Committee

Greenhouse reception is scheduled for May 3, 2014 – 11 am to 1 pm Will include Playhouse, Greenhouse, and USC representatives

Newsletter - eNewsletter

Ross has sufficient info for @ 4 pages

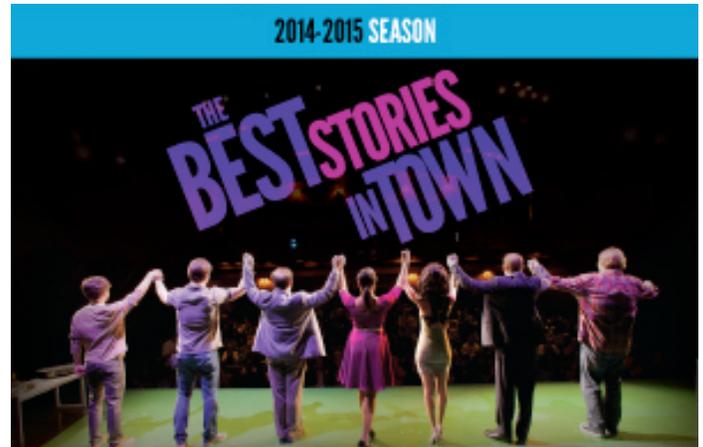
Sumid Scholarship

Apps close April 30, 2014 - More than 70 have been started at this time

Old/New Business

RE: the Gala – PPA&A to donate \$1500

**NEXT MEETING
APRIL 28, 2014 - 7 PM**



NEW SEASON AT THE PASADENA PLAYHOUSE

The Cole Porter Broadway musical *KISS ME, KATE*, directed by Sheldon Epps, will open the 2014-2015 Season and run from September 16-October 12, 2014

The season also includes the critically acclaimed *STOP KISS* (November 4-30, 2014) by Diana Son features The Pasadena Playhouse's Associate Artistic Director Seema Sueko as she makes her directorial debut at The Playhouse. William Gibson's rarely produced *TWO FOR THE SEESAW* (January 27-February 22, 2015). A new production of George Bernard Shaw's *PYGMALION* (March 17-April 12, 2015). And an Artistic Director's Choice to be announced at a later date.

Panto at The Playhouse returns with Lythgoe Family Productions' special musical twist on the classic tale *SLEEPING BEAUTY* (December 10, 2014-January 4, 2015), which will be the third production of the 2014-2015 Season.

SUNDAY MAY 4, 2014



NEXT AT THE PASADENA PLAYHOUSE



**The Playhouse Mainstage
June 3 - 29, 2014**

STONEFACE:

The Rise and Fall and Rise of Buster Keaton

By Vanessa Claire Stewart
Starring French Stewart
Directed by Jaime Robledo

Chronicled through the lens of his own silent films, STONEFACE recreates some of Buster Keaton's most memorable gags live on stage, capturing the legend of a bygone era and telling the tale of the redemption of one of Hollywood's greatest performers.