

# NETC News

volume 11 number 3 spring/summer 2002

A Quarterly  
Publication of the  
New England Theater  
Conference, Inc.

## Young Writers Take the Stage

### Student plays get the professional touch

*Burlington, VT*— Twenty-six student playwrights will get their world premieres at the Vermont Young Playwrights Festival May 13 and 14 at UVM's Royall Tyler Theatre. When they do, these young writers will see their work presented by the pros.

"We think we've found a magic formula," says festival founder Dana Yeaton. "You offer students a chance to write a play and right from the start you surround them with experience. First they work with a professional playwright, then move on to a professional director and actors; finally they get to see their play with a real audience."

**"For students, Vermont Young Playwrights breaks the rules about what's cool. Suddenly, writing well makes you a celebrity."**

—Candace Burkle

Sponsored by the Vermont Stage Company, professional theatre in residence at Burlington's Flynn Center, this year's festival will feature workshops and performances by nationally acclaimed writers including National Poetry Slam Champion Aaron Jafferis. Jafferis grew up in New Haven, Connecticut, where his experience as the lone white boy in an African American high school became the impetus for his one-man, hip-hop play entitled "No Lie." "No Lie," which has toured throughout New England and New York, will be presented with live music for the general public on Tuesday, May 14 at 11PM.

Over 350 students and teachers from around the state will attend the 2002 Festival, the largest group ever. Four lucky students will have the opportunity to work with guest artists from North Shore Music Theatre in

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## On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

The annual Boston Marathon is one of the city's most celebrated events. Thanks to flashy jackets on the runners and splashy advertising by sponsors, it is an impossible event to ignore. Those who can't watch the race from a sidewalk find a moment on Marathon Monday to tune in and hear how the race is turning out. But each year, on the Sunday before thousands of feet pound pavement, a different marathon runs its course: one that demands similarly intense preparation and results in an equally interested crowd tuning in to theatre.

The Fourth Annual Boston Theatre Marathon is held by the Boston Playwrights' Theatre on Boston University's campus. For the past three years, the event was comprised

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## The Trial of Anthony Burns

Theatre Espresso explores the contradiction between human law and moral principal in a compelling original drama.

Massachusetts was at the center of the abolitionist movement in pre-Civil War America. But escaping from slavery was illegal, and state judges were compelled by the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 to return runaway slaves to their owners in the South. Anthony Burns, a slave, escaped to Boston where he lived as a free man until he was captured and placed on trial in 1854. Before the trial, local residents descended upon Faneuil Hall for a freedom rally that erupted into a violent riot outside the courthouse. Judge Edward G. Loring's decision to return Burns to his Southern master galvanized abolitionists and converted conservative citizens into militant freedom fighters. In 1858, a partisan Massachusetts Legislature voted to remove Loring as judge of probate for his unpopular verdict in the Burns case.

In collaboration with the James D. St. Clair Court Public Education Project, Theatre Espresso reenacts this critical moment in our nation's history. Twice a month at the Moakley U.S. District Courthouse in Boston, students become active participants in a complex dilemma. In roles as State Senators in 1858, they interview characters

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### Special Feature:

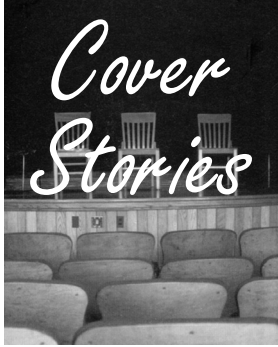
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**NETC**  
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## Young Writers Take the Stage continued from page 1

Beverly, Massachusetts who will help them transform their plays into musicals.

Throughout the day, students can attend workshops that focus on particular aspects of dramatic writing such as “The Nuts and Bolts of Structure,” “Building Stories From Visual Images,” or “Let’s You and Him Fight—Finding and Sustaining Conflict.” Other workshops are designed to broaden students’ ideas of the possibilities: “Writing for Puppet Theatre,” “Improvisation for Writers,” and “Creating a Song for Your Play.”

Unlike the state’s one-act drama festival, Vermont Young Playwrights is not a competition. “It’s a showcase,” says Yeaton, “a chance to celebrate new talent. No one goes home a loser.”

“For students,” says participating teacher Candace Burkle of the Hannaford Career Center, “Vermont Young Playwrights breaks the rules about what’s cool. Suddenly, writing well makes you a celebrity.”

The Vermont Young Playwrights Festival runs Monday and Tuesday, May 13 and 14 at the Royall Tyler Theatre on the UVM Campus. Shows are at 2PM and 8PM each day. All shows, including the Jafferis performance of “No Lie,” are \$6 at the door. For information call Vermont Stage Company at 862-1497.

## Updated Directory

Are you a student, counselor, or theatre department looking for information about theatre programs at colleges and universities? *The Directory of Theatre Training Programs*, Eighth Edition is a newly updated and valuable resource available which profiles 468 theatre programs, ranging from small liberal arts colleges with academic-orientated degrees to large universities with professional training and advanced degrees in all areas of theatre. In addition, the new edition features contact information of all the summer theatre listings and summer training program listings from *Summer Theatre Directory*, plus updated 2002 Combined Audition logistics to provide direction in theatre arts education and training for all ages. *The Directory of Theatre Training Programs* is available at performing arts bookstores or by mail for \$34.50 plus \$3 shipping. Write to Theatre Directories, P.O. Box 510, Dorset, VT 05251 or call 802-867-2223; fax 802-867-0144; [www.theatredirectories.com](http://www.theatredirectories.com)

## On Your Mark, Get Set, Go! continued from page 1

of 40 ten-minute plays performed back to back, but this year’s Marathon showcased an additional 10 productions. The Marathon aims to represent and display Boston’s theatrical community in all its color and breadth. With 50 plays representing 51 New England playwrights and 50 New England theatre companies (including their actors and stage crews), the 2002 admirably accomplished its goal. The Boston Theatre Marathon provides a venue for prestigious writers, directors, and actors, and it also offers a unique opportunity in which unknowns can make a proud debut.

## The Boston Theatre Marathon provides a venue for prestigious writers, directors, and actors, and it also offers a unique opportunity in which unknowns can make a proud debut.

Boston Playwrights’ Theatre was established at Boston University by Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, and is dedicated to writing and producing new work for the theatre. It is also the home of the graduate playwriting program at Boston University. At the 2000 Elliot Norton Awards, the Theatre Marathon was praised for “enlivening local theatre,” and this year proved no exception. The day offered five ten-minute plays each hour, and allowed only 1 minute for each play to be both set up and cleared. Amazingly, the marathon finished only 6 minutes behind schedule with 700 people in attendance. All-day passes were only \$20 and net proceeds were donated to the Children’s AIDS Program at the Boston Medical Center, a non-profit organization providing living assistance and educational programs for children with HIV/AIDS. This year’s theatre marathon raised \$16,500!

So next year, when you finish your training for the Boston Marathon, and sneaker signs pop up all over town, exercise your dramatic side at the Annual Boston Theatre Marathon and relax before the race.

## The Trial of Anthony Burns continued from page 1

from the past, debate the issues, and render their own judgment on Loring’s actions during the trial. After each performance, a federal judge leads students in a discussion about constitutional issues raised in the drama. This unique program transforms courtrooms into classrooms, and gives students an opportunity to experience history as it unfolds.

new england

**NETC**

theatre conference

## **New England Theatre Conference Convention 2002**

*“Starting Here, Starting Now”  
Celebrating the Genesis of  
Theatrical Creativity*

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**November 1,2,3 at the Wayfarer Inn, Bedford, NH (Manchester, NH area)**

This exciting event honors the start of NETC's next fifty years by focusing on new beginnings. Every play, every career, every design, every theatrical innovation was launched by the spark and energy of a new start. The 2002 Convention seeks to include workshops, panel discussions, forums, performances and paper presentations in such areas as:

- Training: where actors, designers, directors and practitioners of all ages embark on the process of becoming theatre artists;
- New England Summer Stock: Where many launched their professional careers;
- Undergraduate and Graduate Programs: Where young theatre artists cultivate their craft;
- Theatre for Young Audiences and Youth Theatre: Where the audiences and artists of tomorrow have their first taste of theatre;
  - Playwriting: The starting point for most theatrical endeavors;
  - Technology: New ideas and innovations!

Bring the same spirit, energy and excitement to the Convention that you bring to the start of all your creative projects, by submitting a proposal to be a presenter. We will fill as many as seventy ninety-minute sessions!

**POSTMARK DEADLINE FOR PROPSALS: JUNE 1, 2002**

Even if you can't present, please make sure to reserve November 1, 2 and 3—it promises to be a weekend not-to-be-missed! Special room rates available.

Contact David Kaye, Co-Chair, NETC 2002, at [djk@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:djk@cisunix.unh.edu). Call (603) 862-0667 or (617) 424-9275 for more details. Proposal forms at [www.netconline.org](http://www.netconline.org).



## Attention Playwrights!

Every playwright wants to see her words journey from the page to the stage. But in order to do that, a playwright needs to first find a theatrical outlet willing to take a chance on a new script. There are two main venues that help playwrights' make their debut: writer's circles and new work festivals. At a writer's circle, a playwright will get the chance to have her work read and critiqued by other writers. Many of these "circles" and other non-profit theatre groups then will hold new work festivals where the playwright can finally see her play performed in front of a live audience. As originally listed in *Stage Source's* "Marquee," the following resources are invaluable to any playwright trying to gain momentum in this competitive industry. Playwrights can find other helpful information, outlets, and get weekly E-Hotlines through StageSource at [www.stagesource.org](http://www.stagesource.org).

**African American Theatre Festival:** Produced annually in January by Our Place Theatre. Contact: 617.320.8978

**Boston Theatre Works:** BTW UNBOUND, an annual new works festival held in June, features full-length and short plays that experiment with form and function, tell stories in innovative ways, and push the boundaries of traditional narrative form. Contact: 617.728.4321

**Boston Playwrights' Theatre:** Produces new plays and home of the *Boston Theatre Marathon*, an annual festival in April of fifty 10-minute plays. Contact: 617.353.5443

**Centastage:** Dedicated to producing new works: produces the annual "Women on Top Festival" with Underground Railway Theatre. Contact: 617.536.5981

**Hovey Players:** Produces annual festival of new plays; based in Waltham. Contact: 781.893.9171

**New Opera and Musical Theatre Initiative:** Fosters the development of new musicals, including weekly workshops on writing musicals. Co-produces the annual Open Call Festival with North Shore Music Theatre. Contact: 617.524.9742

**Playwrights' Platform:** Workshop readings of new plays every Sunday (October to May), with festival of new plays in June. Contact: 617.630.9704

**Perishable Theatre:** Season includes series of new plays and Annual Women's Playwriting Festival; located in Rhode Island. Contact: 401.331.2695

**Shadowboxing:** Dedicated to developing and presenting new works and to providing a forum for artistic collaboration among Boston area actors, writers, and directors. Contact: [sboxing-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:sboxing-owner@yahoo.com)

**StoryFoundry.com:** Free website for playwrights, including a section to post your bio, describe plays, and get news on festivals and competitions. Contact: [www.storyfoundry.com](http://www.storyfoundry.com), [rmattson@storyfoundry.com](mailto:rmattson@storyfoundry.com)

**Theatre Cooperative at the Peabody House:** Produces a New Works series. Contact: 617.625.1300

**Write On:** Playwrights meet monthly to read and respond to one another's work. Interested playwrights are welcome. Contact: Joe Byers, 617.371.3361, [joe.byers@forum.com](mailto:joe.byers@forum.com)

## "Starting Here, Starting Now"

The Wayfarer Inn in Bedford, NH (near Manchester) will host the 2002 NETC Convention November 1, 2 and 3. The event is shaping up to be a very exciting weekend for everyone—especially students—under the leadership of Co-Chairs David Ramsey, David Kaye, and Deborah Kinghorn. This year, the Convention will focus on the young artist and how to develop her/his craft, whether it be acting, directing, or technical theater. The theme is "Starting Here, Starting Now: Celebrating the Genesis of Theatrical Creativity."

Friday is traditionally the day set aside for high school thespians and this year is no exception. A full day of round table discussions and workshops is planned for young Conventioneers. Saturday will be another full day for College and University students. Fear not, the conference committee has not forgotten those of you who have finished your formal education—the Convention will offer opportunities to celebrate the never-ending process of learning about theatre. Save the dates! Contact NETC or email [djk@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:djk@cisunix.unh.edu) for more information.

### CALL FOR ARTICLES!

September NETC News  
deadline is August 1.

Email submissions to  
[pmarsh0613@aol.com](mailto:pmarsh0613@aol.com)

## Publishers' Showcase Highlights Exciting Works

At the November, 2001 Convention, NETC hosted a Publishers' Showcase, featuring some of the region's best high school theatre programs and highlighting both new and revival works featured by their publishers. The six participating schools came to NETC from five states, and their productions illuminated works that are particularly exciting and appropriate for high school theatres.

This year's schools and publishers were as follows: The Crystal Theatre Company of Norwalk, CT directed by Cheryl Kemeny presenting *The Snow Queen* by Ms. Kemeny, published by Crystal Theatre Publishing, Norwalk; Classical High School of Providence, RI directed by Denise Caron presenting *The Ransom of Red Chief* by Burton Bumgarner, published by Eldridge Publishing Company, Venice, FL; "Stage 40" Mill River Union High School of North Clarendon, VT directed by Peter Marsh presenting *Carousel* by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, published by Rodgers & Hammerstein Theatre Library; Wellesley High School of Wellesley, MA directed by Sophi Sagall presenting *Gunplay* by Frank Higgins, published by Baker's Plays; John Stark Regional High School of Weare, NH directed by Nancy Brennan presenting *Baba Yaga* and *the Black Sunflower* by Carol Korty, published by Anchorage Press; and The Patricia A. Hannaford Center's Addison Repertory Theater of Middlebury, VT directed by Steve Small presenting *The Emerald Circle* by Max Bush, published by The Dramatic Publishing Company.

The 2002 NETC Convention will be held in Bedford, NH, November 1-3. Contact David Kaye at [djk@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:djk@cisunix.unh.edu) for more information.

### Upcoming Event: NERF '02

NH Community Theatre Association (NHCTA) will host the New England Festival of Community Theatre (NERF) September 20-22 at the Civic Auditorium in Concord, New Hampshire. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this major theatre event. See the Best of Community Theatre, meet people from all around New England, attend the workshops, and party every evening. That's what a Festival is all about! For information, contact Jerry White, co-chair at (603)673-1691 or by e-mail at [patandjw@aol.com](mailto:patandjw@aol.com).

## Delicious Dissembling

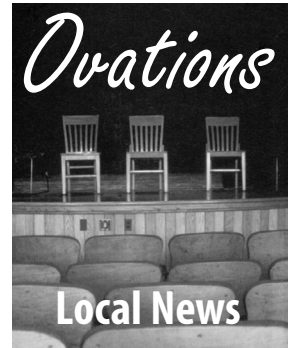
This August, watch for NETC Member Suzanne Ramczyk's new book *Delicious Dissembling: A Compleat Guide to Performing Restoration Comedy*. This textbook/handbook for educators, directors, actors, and other theatre professionals provides a comprehensive guide to all facets of performing Restoration comedy. The book presents a historic overview of the period, the plays, and the theatre; script, textual, and language analysis; techniques for the vocal interpretation of these texts; acting considerations, including how to wed contemporary acting theory and style with performing this genre; the fashion of the era; a thorough discussion of the manners and deportment of the time; and movement considerations, as well as how to create a character's physical life. *Delicious Dissembling* is being published by Heinemann, a long-standing NETC member and convention vendor. To order a copy, visit [www.heinemann-drama.com](http://www.heinemann-drama.com). Prior to 2001, Suzanne was chair of the College and University Division for two-and-a-half terms. She is now a member of the College of Fellows and she is the new chair of the Long Range Planning Committee.

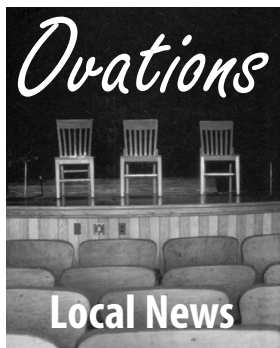
## New England Drama Festival Held in RI

Nancy Vitulli, a theater teacher at Cranston High School West, and her students hosted some of the best high school theater talent in New England for the annual New England Drama Festival. The festival comes to Rhode Island only once every six years, and it is not a competition but rather an exhibition of the best high school theater throughout the region. Over the course of the weekend, April 18, 19 and 20, two high schools from each state performed a one-act play.

"Six years goes by real quickly," said Joyce Hindle-Koutsogiane, president of the Rhode Island Theater Association. "But it is a real treat for the [hosting] school system to highlight their students, program, and facility." The performing high schools were the winners of their state drama festival competitions. This year's winners from Rhode Island are St. Raphael Academy's performance of "Seuss on the Loose" and Barrington High School's "The Brick and the Rose."

The public was invited to the festival, and Koutsogiane said people were, "amazed at how polished the performances were."





## Youths Speak to Peers

Theatrical youths made their mark once again with the touring production of *Pressure Quest: "Who Am I,"* part of a continuing series of award winning productions produced by the All Childrens Theatre out of East Providence, Rhode Island. The production toured state youth centers and middle schools and had a target audience of over 7000 youths. The educational intent of the play was to provide students with the ability to review their own personal choices and attitudes towards life, and to review how peer environments influence and respond to those choices and attitudes.

All Children's Theatre Ensemble, founded in 1987 by Artistic Director Wren Goodrum, is a nonprofit young people's company, which produces quality theatre for, by, and with children in an environment that encourages personal development and fosters self-esteem. Not only does this ensemble focus on performing, but also offers year-round acting classes, statewide outreach programs, a summer theatre academy, touring educational productions to elementary, middle and high schools and an annual playwriting competition and festival for Rhode Island teenagers.

For a listing of upcoming events and programming, see the NETC calendar for the upcoming summer months.

## Hole in the Wall Wins in CT

*April 20*— At the Connecticut State Festival of Community Theatre, The Hole in the Wall Theatre of New Britain was selected to perform at the New England Regional Festival (NERF) of Community Theatre. NERF will be held in Concord, NH, September 20–22, and will showcase several one-hour community theatre productions. One play will be chosen at the Festival to represent New England at the National AACT/Fest in June of 2003.

The Hole in the Wall Theatre joins two New Hampshire Community Theatres as entrants in the Regional Festival. Eastern Massachusetts will select entrants at the EMACT Festival May 31–June 2, Western MA will select theirs at the CTA Festival June 14–16, and Maine and Vermont may also enter productions. More information about these events is available from the following sources. EMACT Festival: lewis\_blair@dome.com (781)861-6866; CTA Festival: cheskacat@aol.com (413)737-1519; New England Regional Festival: patandjw@aol.com (603)673-1691.

## College Festival Highlights Standouts

Keene State College in New Hampshire was the host site for the highly successful Region 1 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival XXXIV the last week of January. The 5-day festival hosted 566 students and 30 faculty from all over the New England region. In addition to the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship competition, main-stage productions, ten-minute play festival and design exhibits, the festival featured many workshops hosted by New England academics and professionals from across the country.

Congratulations go to Boston University's Boston Playwright's Theatre, whose *The Lepers of Baile Baiste* was recognized for design excellence, and Ronan Noone's script was a regional finalist that was selected for presentation at the Washington D.C. Kennedy Center Terrace Theatre in April. Other winners included Amber Knight and Justin Grace, Fitchburg State College students who swept first and second place at the Irene Ryan Acting Awards, and Joshua McVay (lighting), Dane Grillo (scenic design), Joel Barnhurst (sound design), Jen Barton (costume), Kate Marder (costume), Leticia Williams (costume), Victoria Welch (National Critics Institute Scholarship finalist), Patricia McKay (playwriting) who were all accorded top honors.

The region is looking forward to another festival at Keene State January 29, 30, 31, Feb 1 & 2, 2003. Thanks to CO-hosts Dan Patterson and Ron Spangler for an invigorating week of the best in college theatre in the region!

## Friendship

The new musical, "Friendship of the Seas," recently appeared in a Theater for Young Audiences version on the main stage of the North Shore Music Theater. With music by Michael Wartofsky and book and lyric by Kathleen Cahill, this production recently toured elementary schools across Massachusetts. The drama is set on the high seas in 1812, and is a fresh take on the experiences of Richard Downing, a merchant sailor on the *Friendship* and an author in his own right. Isaac Watson is a young man transformed by his travel adventures with Downing, and it is through Watson's narration that the show unfolds. For more information, email Michael Wartofsky at [mwartofsky@aol.com](mailto:mwartofsky@aol.com).

# Upcoming Events Calendar

## May 2002

All Childrens Theatre Ensemble (ACT) presents Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" set in 1969. Performances will be at the Vartan Gregorian School Theatre in Providence, RI. May 10,11,17,18 @ 7pm and May 19 @ 3pm. Tickets \$6 children / \$8 adults. Info: (401) 435-5300 / ACTinRI@aol.com / www.ACTinRI.org

The Pell Awards for Excellence in the Arts will be held May 17th at the Rhode Island Convention Center. There will be a 7pm cocktail convention followed by a black tie dinner and awards ceremony at 8pm. Tickets \$250; patrons \$500; sponsor tables \$2500 & \$5000. Info and reservations: Chira DelSesto (401) 521-1100 x235.

Robert Redford will be honored with the Pell Lifetime Achievement Award.  
Julie Harris will be honored with the New England Pell Award

Speakeasy Stage Company presents "Passion" at the Boston Center for the Arts. April 26–May 18. Performance times vary/tickets range from \$23.50–\$29.50. Info: Jim Torres (617) 529-1670. Box Office: (617) 426-ARTS

**Puppet Show Place Theatre**  
Performances in Brookline, MA.  
**Adult audiences only** May 18th @ 8pm. "The Ventriloquist", "Nosferata", "African Dreams", "The Box" and "Labyrinth". Admission prices vary.  
**Preschool audiences:** May 1&2 "Trickster Tales"/ May 4&5 "The Flea Circus"/ May 8&9 "Funny Bone Tales"/ May 11 "Bingo the Circus Dog"/ May 15&16 "The Singing Turtle"/ May 18&19 "The Magic Trunk"/ May 22&23 "Three Pigs and Other Tales"/ May 25&26 "Raven and the Village Without Daylight"/ May 29&30 "Peter Rabbit"  
Reservations: (617) 731-6400

20th Annual Elliot Norton Awards will be held at the Stuart St. Playhouse, Radisson Hotel, Boston MA. May 20th @ 6pm to honor theatrical achievements in Greater Boston. Tickets \$30 if reserved by 5/6; \$40 thereafter. Info: (617) 542-9155

Radcliffe's Agassiz Theatre presents "Les Phys" by Peter J. Dong. Performances will be in Cambridge, MA on May 9,10,11 @ 8pm (May 11 @ 2pm also). Ticket prices TBA. Info: (617) 496-2222

Market Theatre presents the North American premiere of "Family Stories" by Serbian Playwright Biljana Srbljanovic. Performances will be held in Harvard Square in Cambridge, MA. April 20–May 19. Performance times vary. Tickets \$30 gen./ \$25 sen. & WGBH members/ \$10 student rush. Info: (617) 576-0808 / tgill@markettheatre.org / www.markettheatre.org

NEA/ TCG Theatre Residency Program for Playwrights. Intent to Apply Card due by May 31st; Application due by June 14th. Contact: Michael Francis @ (212) 697-5230 / grants@tcg.org / www.tcg.org

Eastern Massachusetts Community Theatre State Festival in Waltham, MA. May 29–June 2. Contact: (781) 861-6866 / lewis\_blair@dome.com

Harwich Junior Theatre presents "Honk!" Performances will be in West Harwich, MA. May 17–June 9 @ 8pm with Sunday matinee @ 2pm. Tickets \$10 stud. & children/ \$12 sen./ \$14 adults. Info: (508) 432-0934 / hjt@capecod.net / www.hjtcapecod.org

The Huntington Theatre Company is pleased to announce five of the six plays that are planned for the 2002–2003 Season: "A Month in the Country," "Breath, Boom" (Boston Premiere), "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" (Boston Premiere), "Blue Demon" (World Premiere), "Springtime for Henry." For more information visit www.huntingtontheatre.org.

SHAKESPEARE AND COMPANY in Lenox, MA announces its summer schedule:  
"Golda's Balcony", May 3–August 25,  
"The Valley of Decision", May 24–September 1,  
"Macbeth", June 12–August 31,  
"The Wharton One-Acts" (Edith Wharton's "Roman Fever" & "The Other Two"),  
July 4– September 1,  
"The Henry IV Chronicles; in two parts",  
June 18–August 24,  
"Henry V", July 18–September 1,  
"Wharton Centennial Celebration" (Edith Wharton's "Ethan Frome", "Summer", "The Fiery Rain"),  
July 16–Aug. 1. For information regarding performance times and ticket prices call (413) 637-3353 / boxoffice@shakespeare.org or visit www.shakespeare.org.





## Upcoming Events Calendar, continued

### June 2002

Puppet Showplace Theatre presents "Rumpelstiltskin". Performances in Brookline, MA on June 1&2 @ 1&3pm. Tickets \$8/ \$7 members. Info: (617) 731-6400

Summer Institute for Arts Management (Arts Extension Service) presents a program called "Change in Community: making new connections" June 27-29 at Smith College in Northhampton, MA. Info: (413) 545-2360 / aes@admin.umass.edu / www.umass.edu/aes

American Association of Community Theatre presents their 2002 Convention in Minneapolis, MN. Hosted by Minnesota Association of Community Theatres. June 27-30/ Board Meeting on June 26th. Info: (763) 521-5692 / mactfactor@aol.com / www.mact.net

The Crossroads Arts Council of Rutland, VT presents the production of Stephania de Kennessey's comic children's opera "The Monster Bed," scheduled for performance at the theater at Mill River Union High School on June 28th and 29th. For more information contact Peter Marsh at pmarsh0613@aol.com

Annual AACT Membership meeting will be held June 30th in Minnesota. For information contact the AACT office: (512) 267-0711 / info@aacr.org

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A HOST FOR THE NATIONAL AACT FESTIVAL SUMMER 2005? If so, send a letter of interest to Kathie Maldonado, Festival Committee Chair, by July 31st. (512) 267-0711.

Texas Non-profit Theatres Youth Conference in College Station, TX. June 6-9. Info: (817) 731-2238 / tnt@texastheatres.org

THEATRE STUDENTS interested in being part of the Prague Quadrennial, June 12-29 2003 should contact the US Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) web site; www.usitt.org or call (800) 93-USITT

Williamstown Theatre Festival presents : "Where's Charley?" June 19-30, "Under the Blue Sky" June 12-23, "Moving Picture" June 26-July 7, "Cabaret" June 27-29. For show times and ticket pricing call: (413) 597-3399 / www.WTFestival.org

MOBIUS, "Boston's Center for Experimental Work in All Media" presents: "Significant Others: Jews and Poland", June 10th @ 7pm, free admission. "Gullah Jack's Bag", June 7&8 @ 8pm (Sunday matinee @ 2pm), tickets \$10/ \$8. Info: (617) 542-7416 / www.mobius.org

Harwich Junior Theatre presents "James and the Giant Peach" June 25-July 11 @ 8pm weeknights and @ 2pm Sun. Box office: (508) 432-2002 / hjt@capecod.net / www.hjtcapecod.org

Shakespeare and Company invites you to "party like an Elizabethan" on June 29th for its Silver Season Gala! Lenox, MA. Information: (413) 637-1199 x113.

Lakes Region Summer Theatre in New Hampshire opens with "Evita," June 25 through July 7. "Pippin" runs from July 9 until July 21. "Chorus Line" plays from July 23 until August 4, then "Guys and Dolls" plays from August 6 until August 18. The season will close with "Annie" from August 20 through September 1.

### July 2002

North Shore Music Theatre is offering its Summer Stages Program 2002: Arts and Education for students ages 4-17. Offering programs from June-August. For information call:

Double Edge Theatre presents a Summer Training Session Intensive from July 21-August 12. For an application call (413) 628-0277 / office@doubleedgetheatre.org / www.doubleedgetheatre.org

Children's Theatre Workshop 2002 Summer Theatre Session from July 15th-26th from 10am-2pm in Quincy, MA. Cost: \$330. Info: (617) 472-9233 / fluffatoo@aol.com

Lites 2000 Stage & Television Summer School will take place in Ireland from July 15-26 to offer a stage and screen acting course. Contact: Stage and Television Summer School 113 Broadhurst Gardens London NW6 3BJ / www.lites2000.com / principal@lites2000.com

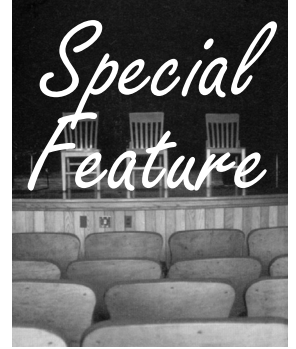
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# E-Interview with Blair Hundertmark

by Jay DiPrima

*Chair of NETC's Aurand Harris Playwriting Competition*



Blair Hundertmark is Producing Director, actor, and artist-in-residence for the New Hampshire Theatre Project (NHTP). He has been a reader for NETC's Aurand Harris Playwriting Competition since its inception in 1997. Blair is also currently the professional Emcee for First's International Robotics Competitions and Production Developer at First Place in Manchester, NH.

JAY: Perhaps you can tell us a bit about NHTP and how this collaboration with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard helps to forward its mission?

BH: NHTP is a nonprofit arts cooperative based in Portsmouth, NH. Utilizing the creative talent of professional theater, music, and dance artists, NHTP has been providing theater education in schools and summer theater camps both locally and regionally through the NH State Council on the Arts Artist-In-Residence program for over twenty years. Touching the lives of well over 60,000 students and educators yearly, NHTP is well known and respected throughout the region, though perhaps less-so locally due to its lack of a "home" performance space. After many years of producing professional touring events in a variety of local and regional theaters, schools, and community halls, NHTP is excited about the unlimited potential that a permanent performance space provides, and thankful for the opportunity to increase arts and cultural opportunities locally, for the community where it has been nurtured for over 20 years.

At the Shipyard, NHTP will continue its primary mission of providing educational theater programs to children, families, and communities while enhancing this mainstage component with second-stage adult professional theater programming. The John Paul Jones play is planned as the cornerstone of the NHTP residency at the Shipyard.

JAY: I remember being part of a staged reading of several James Patrick Kelly's one-acts at NHTP several years back. It was an intriguing mix of science fiction and dramatic form — expressing some very wild concepts in an engaging fashion. Perhaps you can tell us more about Kelly's work in the genre of sci-fi and why he has chosen to tackle, or should I say, "Shanghai" John Paul Jones?

BH: Jim is an amazing guy! He has been nominated for both the Hugo and Nebula award (the Tony's of the sci-fi world) every year for at least the last 5 years, and won a Hugo award just a few years ago. His writing makes you think. It challenges your world/universe view and pushes you to consider new ways of thinking and alternatives to the everyday existence that surrounds us. His books have been translated into 14 languages, he's had radio plays produced for SeeingEar Theater (a Sci-Fi Channel website) starring the likes of Brian Dennehy, and some of his work has made it onto television in the Outer Limits series. Like I said, he's amazing!

**It's rewarding to breathe life into a script that has only lived in the mind of the playwright and production team; to place a historical figure (and history) into context and recreate the reality of the person and place — that is to make it real!**

Jim and I met 8 or so years ago at an arts conference on the Isles of Shoals, 7 miles off of Portsmouth, where we took the same workshop in filmmaking by Huey, of Portland, ME. Ironically, we both wrote and acted in a film in which we played pirates on the high seas. We would have been hard-pressed to foresee another high seas collaboration in the future!

At the conference, Jim mentioned that he had adapted some of his sci-fi short stories into one-act plays. I asked to read them, and the next thing you know I had cast the plays with some of my actor friends and we were doing readings in my living room. The experience of hearing actors say his words for the first time thrilled Jim. He was hooked! The readings moved into a public venue (of which you speak), and then I produced and directed two of

**continues on page 10**



## E-Interview with Blair Hundertmark continued from page 9

Jim's play in my Arts & Science Series at FIRST in Manchester, NH.

Jim accepted the JPJ challenge for a number of reasons: he wanted to work on the craft of playwriting, he wanted to stretch outside of the science fiction genre, and he loves the process of collaboration that theater offers- a welcome change from the vacuum a writer often works in. And I must say, he's done a bang-up job. He has written a terrific new script that cleverly balances the traits that made JPJ so strong: passion, ambition, vision, bravery, and honesty, with JPJ's less dignified characteristics of egotism, insecurity, and bitterness. Not an easy task!

JAY: What are some of the high points and challenges of directing this upcoming show?

BH: I find that the rewards of directing a new work usually outpace the challenges! It's rewarding to breathe life into a script that has only lived in the mind of the playwright and production team; to place a historical figure (and history) into context and recreate the reality of the person and place — that is to make it real!

Other highpoints around this project include our collaboration with the US Navy, the groundswell of support from the seacoast NH maritime and history communities, and discovering what lies under the surface of this old town by the sea and reemphasizing how vital this area was to the war of independence.

In this piece we have the challenge to get our audience to care about the struggles and adventures of an egotistical, fairly unlikable man. That will be the

easy part compared to staging two horrifically brutal naval battles onstage! We have been very alert in keeping the play historically accurate. Loose historical interpretation cannot only be a distraction to the historical community, but it can water down the essence of the real story. JPS's life needs no embellishment!

In addition to the challenges we've had with 9.11, there are always the challenges of funding, and we have the added challenge of creating this production in one space (The Music Hall), yet designing it to have a future in another space (SS-22.)

"I Have Not Yet Begun To Fight!" will certainly make a huge impact on May 30 & 31 and beyond. The school matinees are sold-out with over 1600 students and educators coming, the evening performance has become the center of a maritime history weekend in Portsmouth with pre-show receptions and post-show discussion panels, and the requests for "personal appearances" by JPJ have begun to roll in. It feels great to be at the forefront of a maritime renaissance in our community and to be using the power of theater to ignite the charge.

For tickets or more information see The Music Hall website ([www.themusichall.org](http://www.themusichall.org)) or call the box office at 603.436-2400.

Jay: Thank-you for taking the time to respond thoughtfully to my questions. I look forward to seeing this play and I hope that this collaboration will continue to bear more fruit for the New Hampshire Theatre Project in its own community.

BH: My pleasure. See you at the show!

*Jay DiPrima is Chair of NETC's Armand Harris Playwriting Competition*

## Upcoming Events Calendar, continued from page 8

### July 2002, continued

#### Williamstown Theatre Festival presents:

"One in a Lifetime" July 3-14, "Loot" July 3-14, "Birdie Blue" July 10-21, "The Red Angel" July 24-August 4 and "God of Vengeance" July 31-August 11. For show times and ticket pricing call: (413) 458-3200 / [www.WTFestival.org](http://www.WTFestival.org). "Cabaret" will be presented July 11-13 at the Williams College Goodrich Hall @ 11pm / 11:30pm on Sat. \$17.

Harwich Junior Theatre presents "Anne of Green Gables" July 16-August 1 @ 8pm/ 2pm on Sunday. Box office: (508) 432-2002 / [hjt@capecod.net](mailto:hjt@capecod.net) / [www.hjtcapecod.org](http://www.hjtcapecod.org)

#### New Bedford Festival Theatre presents:

"Chicago," July 12 - 21 and "Peter Pan," August 2-11. Call the Zeiterion Box Office at (508) 994-2900 or visit the theater at 684 Purchase St., New Bedford. Prices for both shows range from \$17 to \$23 with discounts offered to seniors, students, children, and groups. For more information contact Armand Marchand at (508) 991-5212.

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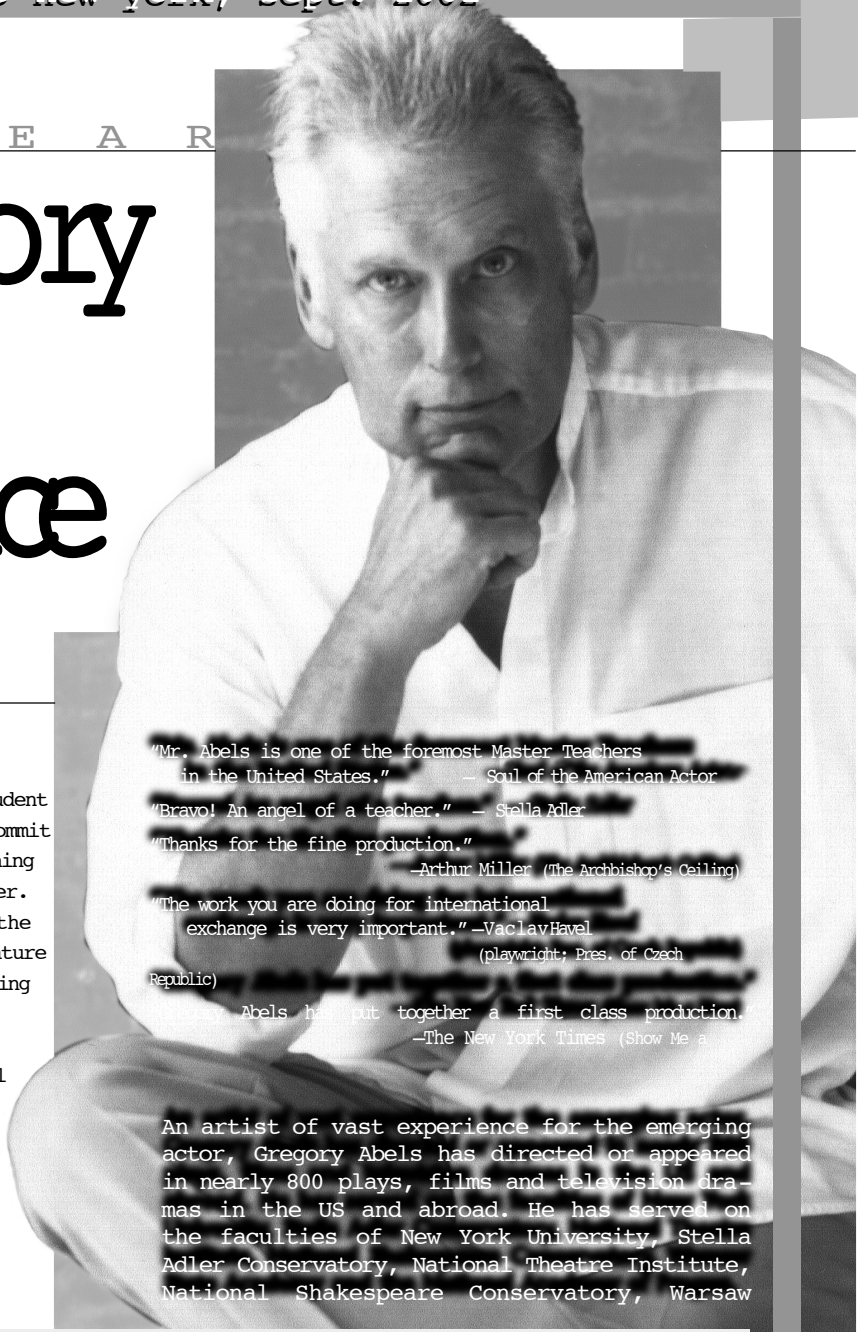
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—Arthur Miller (*The Archbishop's Ceiling*)

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—Vaclav Havel (playwright, Pres. of Czech Republic)

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