The Future is Now!
Schwartz and Gleason Among 2006 New Haven Convention Highlights
by Tim Fitzgerald,
2006 Convention Advisor/ Awards Chairperson

Mark your calendars now for the 2006 New England Theatre Conference annual convention. The dates are November 16–19, and the place is Omni New Haven Hotel in the heart of one of the nation’s most exciting theatre cities—and just an hour from the Big Apple itself! This promises to be a true extravaganza, with workshops and interviews by some of the leading personalities of current American theatre, working today to create the theatre of tomorrow. The Future is Now!

NETC Gassner Competition
a Global Event

April 15th wasn’t just income tax day—it was also the deadline for mailing submissions for NETC’s John Gassner Memorial Playwrighting Award. The award was established in 1967 in memory of John Gassner, critic, editor and teacher. More than 300 scripts were submitted—about a five-fold increase from previous years—following an extensive promotional campaign.

We read tragedies, melodramas, verse dramas, biographies, farces—everything. Some have that particular sort of detail that shows that they’re autobiographical, and others are utterly fantastic.

“This year’s submissions really show that the Gassner Award has become one of the major playwriting awards,” said the Gassner Committee Chairman, Steve Capra. “It isn’t a regional contest—more than 80% of the scripts came from outside New England. And we received scripts from seven foreign countries.” The Gassner committee considers full-length non-musical plays. Unlike most awards in its class, it puts no other restraints on either the playwright or on the script—other than that the script must not have been produced or published. The competition is open to all playwrights everywhere, and to plays on any subject or theme, in any form.

“That’s what makes it so exciting to read these scripts,” said Mr. Capra. “We read tragedies, melodramas, verse dramas, biographies, farces—everything. Some have that particular sort of detail that shows that they’re autobiographical, and others are utterly fantastic. Some of my favorites have been ghost stories.”

Past winners of the award have gone on to be published—and to be produced across the country and internationally.

The latest winner, from 2004, was The Dogs of Pripyat, by Leah Napolin. The play is a fable about the effects of...
New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) and the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) announce the launch of MatchBook.org, a comprehensive online cultural marketplace designed to bring together New England’s performing artists and the people and organizations wishing to present them. This free website uses some of today’s most innovative technology to stimulate New England’s burgeoning arts economy by serving the region’s performing artists and the people and places that hire them.

**This is a truly revolutionary tool that demonstrates both the tremendous wealth of performing arts in New England, and the role that technology can play in helping these artists connect with audiences and enrich our lives.**

Historically, NEFA and the state arts agencies in New England have helped broker opportunities between artists and presenting organizations by using traditional communication methods such as conferences and published artist rosters. With the launch of MatchBook.org, technology promises to revolutionize these methods by breaking geographic and communication barriers, ideally leading to increased visibility for artists and more efficient business transactions within the arts community.

MatchBook.org functions as a comprehensive, user-friendly directory of New England’s performance spaces, artists and organizations, containing tools and resources that help match artists with the theatres, event planners, community centers, libraries, schools, galleries, clubs and coffeehouses that hire or book them to perform.

“We are thrilled to officially introduce MatchBook.org to New England’s performing arts community,” remarked Rebecca Blunk, Executive Director of NEFA. “This is a truly revolutionary tool that demonstrates both the tremendous wealth of performing arts in New England, and the role that technology can play in helping these artists connect with audiences and enrich our lives. Over time, MatchBook.org will expand opportunities for countless communities.”

For performing artists, whose broad category includes music, dance, theater and the spoken word, the site offers free access to high-quality online marketing. Artists can create a profile, including background information, photos, fees and references that can be retrieved using the site’s search functionality. Additionally, a suite of tools enables artists to post and maintain online portfolios featuring video and audio streaming technology, which is typically cost-prohibitive for self-employed artists.

Presenters, who can be defined as any person or venue that hires an artist, include an enormous range of possibilities from a 2,000-seat theater to a Parent-Teacher Organization. For this group, the site acts as a management resource for discovering appropriate artists, viewing work samples, scheduling acts, tracking bookings and creating and negotiating contracts.

For both performers and presenters, MatchBook.org offers the latest news on grants and professional development opportunities, including workshops, conferences and artist showcases happening throughout New England. Facility managers can also use the site to market their venues for rental for private events or other uses.

Initiated and administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, in partnership with the state arts agencies of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, construction on the site began in the summer of 2004. At launch, MatchBook.org features profiles on over 800 artists from NEFA’s New England States Touring roster, as well as a growing volume of performance spaces. The site is open to any New England-based performing artist or presenter, all of whom are encouraged to register at no cost and create their online profile in order to expand the online marketplace throughout the region. To register and create a free profile, artists and presenters should visit www.matchbook.org.

New England Foundation for the Arts creatively supports the movement of people, ideas and resources in the arts within New England and beyond, makes vital connections between artists and audiences, and builds the strength, knowledge and leadership of the region’s creative sector. NEFA is a 501c3 that operates with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England state arts agencies, and from corporations, foundations and individuals.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council promotes excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences, in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.
in the original production of Into The Woods. She also received Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations for her role as Muriel in the Broadway musical hit, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. Her other Broadway credits include I Love My Wife (for which she received the Theatre World Award), The Real Thing, Joe Egg (Tony nomination), Social Security (Drama Desk Award), The Normal Heart, It's Only A Play (Drama Desk Award), Eleemosynary and A Hell Of A Town. She met her husband, actor Chris Sarandon, while appearing in Nick and Nora.

We also are very excited to have Broadway actor Gregory Jbara, who originated the role of Andre in the current Broadway musical hit, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, alongside fellow honoree Joanna Gleason. Jbara received the Backstage West Garland 2000 Award for his performance in the West Coast Premiere of George Furtth’s Precious Sons with Nora Dunn. Other recent stage credits include: ‘Vinnie’ in the Geffen Playhouse Premiere of Neil Simon’s Felix & Oscar, ‘Ike/Bess Truman’ in the West Coast Premiere of Michael John LaChuisa’s First Lady Suite, ‘Clark Gable’ in The Blank Theatre Company’s, Mr. Shute Goes To Hollywood, ‘Chick Clark’ in Wonderful Town for City Center Encore!, and ‘Billy Flynn’ in the Tony Award winning revival of Chicago. He originated the role of ‘Squash Bernstein’ in the Broadway musical Victor/Victoria, and played the dimwitted catcher, ‘Sohovik’ in the Broadway revival of Damn Yankees! His other stage credits include the Broadway revival of Born Yesterday, Serious Money, Privates on Parade, Forever Plaid, Das Barbecue and Have I Got a Girl for You!

Both Jbara and Gleason have graciously offered to present workshops, topics TBA.

Rounding out our list of Special Award Recipients is filmmaker/writer Rick McKay. Rick is also the sole owner and proprietor of Second Act Productions, the production company that produced the feature film Broadway: The Golden Age, by the Legends Who Were There. Broadway: The Golden Age has won over 15 film festival awards, and is on 17 critics’ year-end lists of their Top Ten Films of 2004 and was a hit in theatres around the country. The DVD is best seller as a Sony/BMG release and the film premiered on PBS television television in March 2006. Two sequels to the film are already in production. McKay’s documentary, Fay Wray: A Life is due out in late 2006. In a special seminar session, McKay will be talking about his Broadway: The Golden Age film, as well giving sneak clips of the upcoming sequel, Broadway: The Next Generation.

Massachusetts native Jamie McGonnigal will receive a Regional Award. McGonnigal, is best known for his work as a producer and director with his World AIDS Day Concert productions of Pippin (starring Rosie O’Donnell and Ben Vereen), Children of Eden and The Secret Garden (Named in Top Ten Theatre Events of 2005 by Playbill.com and TheaterMania.com). He has also produced and/or directed benefit concerts for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (Standing Ovations I, II & III), The Matthew Shepard Foundation (Embrace! 2004, 2005, 2006), God’s Love We Deliver (Miracle Concerts), the Joey DiPaolo AIDS Foundation (FLOPZ, FLOPZ 2, CUTZ), Parkinsons Resource Organization (Broadway PROs) and victims of Hurricane Katrina (With Love, From Broadway to the Bayou). His first benefit, NEO for the York Theatre Company is currently available on Jay Records. In his concert work, he has had the honor of working with such luminaries as Betty Buckley, Chita Rivera, Alan King, Robert Altman, Jennifer Holliday, Mike Nichols, Helen Gurley Brown and Tammy Grimes. McGonnigal will also be conducting a workshop with more information to follow.

Following the awards ceremony on Saturday evening, a small cabaret will be presented featuring McGonnigal, yours truly and hopefully a couple of surprise performances.

Somehow, the planners will find the time to schedule the familiar events that NETC members have grown to expect over the years. Teenagers are invited to the invigorating Theatre Olympiad on Friday, and throughout the weekend all members can expect a full schedule of challenging panels, workshops and presentations on topics to appeal to every category of theatre work—educational, community and professional. Our conveniently located exhibit hall will give members a chance to discover the latest in theatre technology, materials and literature. College representatives will be on hand to spread the word about academic theatre offerings in regional higher education.

This year’s convention promises to be an event that will be talked about for years to come and one that should not be missed. For further information contact me directly at disneytim@msn.com or call the NETC office at 617-851-8535. And watch your mailboxes for registration brochures later this summer. See you in New Haven!
New Hampshire’s New Community Theater Group

Best Foot Forward Productions:

Theater For Youth, About Youth—The Theater Out Of The Box!

NETC welcomes a new community theatre group in New Hampshire! After a year or so in the planning, Best Foot Forward is ready for its debut season in Stevens Town Hall, Chester, NH on the corner of Route 102 and 121. The premiere season will open with a production of *Bye Bye, Birdie*, November 10 through 19, followed by *Oliver*, April 6 through 15, 2007. Other productions—non-musicals, student-directed one-acts, etc.—are also being planned.

The mission of Best Foot Forward Productions is threefold: First, to provide youth with the opportunity to learn about all aspects of theater (both on and off stage). Next, to accomplish this through producing all types of theatrical productions and mentoring youth in directing, lighting, sound, acting etc. And finally, to provide the community with easily accessible and affordable quality theatrical entertainment.

The theatre component is two-tiered, addressing training and educational needs of both children and adults through opportunities for on-the-job training in theatre craft, as well as open auditions.

A unique aspect of the BFF board is that while the officers are all legal adults, many of the other Board members are teenagers.

**Best Foot Forward Board of Directors 2006–2007**

*President:* Christine Frydenborg; *Vice-President in charge of budget, PR and membership:* Timothy Dargon; *Vice-President in charge of play selection and house/facilities:* Rachael Canavan; *Secretary:* Cheryl Stancik; *Assistant Secretary:* Lexi Deschene; *Treasurer:* Scott Deschene; *Directors:* Mike Soares, Alisha Buyck, Maryann Stancik, Sarah Tyrrell, Amanda Stancik, Dan Mullins, Erin Murphy and Olivia Papp

BFF is a member of AACT and NHCTA. BFF can reached at bffproductions@comcast.net or 603-641-6066. The address is 40 Castle Drive Hooksett, NH 03106. Home page is www.bestfootforwardproductions.org.

If you don’t see your name in print here, maybe we haven’t heard from you.

Deadline for Fall issue of NETC NEWS is August 15!

Send us news of your season line-up and your summer triumphs.

Send all items (Word text—jpeg photos) to ashea@worcester.edu

Keeping in mind that there may be as much as a six-week turnaround between deadline and actual publication, please prepare time-sensitive material accordingly.
Scripts Sought: Havemeyer Short Play Reading

The Acting Company of Greenwich (CT) is pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Havemeyer Playwright Competition. We invite playwrights to submit their unpublished short plays of 15 minutes or less.

All submissions must be postmarked by Friday, July 7, 2006. For full details, rules and forms go to www.tacog.org/playwrightcompetition.html or go to The Acting Company of Greenwich home page (www.tacog.org) and click the “competition” button on the left hand side.

The finals will be held in Greenwich, CT, on Thursday, September 28, 2006. The evening will feature staged readings of approximately 8 short plays chosen as finalists with a winner to be selected by a distinguished panel of judges. Last year's finalists were performed by an outstanding group of professional actors including Broadway/Film/TV stars Daniel Gerroll, Neal Huff, Patricia Kalember, and Brett Somers. The winner will receive $50 and a specially designed Baccarat crystal award.

The competition is a benefit for the Havemeyer Arts Center building fund. The Havemeyer building is a beautiful old school built in 1892 located in downtown Greenwich. The plan is to convert the now run down 44,000 sq. ft. building into a state-of-the-art Arts Center which will be a wonderful place for the arts community to come together. The center will be renovated solely by private donations. All proceeds from The Havemeyer Playwright Competition go to the Havemeyer building fund.

Coming Soon At Leddy Center: Summer Camp!

Leddy Center School is pleased to announce the 2006 summer camp schedule! Sing Out I! Singing Camp with Mary Gatchell for ages 7 to 11 will run from June 19 through June 23; Sing Out II! Singing Camp with Mary Gatchell for ages 12 to 16 will run from June 26 through June 30; Musical Theater Summer Camp with Elaine Gatchell, Mary Gatchell and Brandon Mallard, for ages 9 to 16, will run from July 3 through July 14; Half-Pint Musical Theater Camp with Jennifer Cardin for ages 5 to 8 will run from July 31 through August 4. In addition, LJ Tufts will be offering private voice lessons on Wednesdays and Thursday and Chris Thurston will be offering private drum lessons on Fridays. For more information, go to www.leddycenter.org and click on LEDDY SCHOOL or SUMMER CAMPS or call 603-679-2781.

Leddy Center's office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Leddy Center is a non-profit New Hampshire Arts & Education organization.

WANTED: Visiting Professor in Acting, Movement, & Voice

The Suffolk University Theatre Department seeks resumes for a half-time visiting professor in acting, movement, and voice for September, 2006–May, 2007. The professor will teach courses in the aforementioned areas; attend planning and staff meetings; participate in special projects; and advise students during regular office hours. A minimum MA or equivalent as well as teaching experience in a university setting is required. A resume with three references and an introductory cover letter must be received no later than June 30, 2006. Please send these materials to Jim Kaufman, fax: 617-742-5024; jkaufman@suffolk.edu or (preferred) hard copy to Suffolk University Theatre Department, 41 Temple Street, Boston, MA 02114. No calls, please. Suffolk University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Junior High notes from Acton—Job Opening and Set Pieces!

J. Grey Junior High School seeks a director for its spring musical to be performed in March, 2007. The successful candidate will be able to choose the script. This is a large show with much school and community support. $2000.00 stipend. For inquiries, please contact Linda Potter PotterLL@aol.com or send resume to: Craig Hardomon, Principal, R. J. Grey Junior High School, 16 Charter Road, Acton MA 01720.

Also: Are you doing 42nd Street? We have beautiful large 10’ dimes for the “Money” set as well as 9 dimes to dance on for sale. Reasonable. Contact Linda Potter at PotterLL@aol.com.
IRNE Awards 2006

The Independent Reviewers of New England (IRNE) Awards were presented this year at the Hotel Lenox on Monday, March 27, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

The Keith A. Macdonald Award for A Life in the Theatre was presented to Jon Kimball, of the North Shore Music Theatre (2005 NETC honoree).

Design awards were given to Eugene Lee (Best Set Design, Small Company) for Top Dog/Underdog at New Repertory Theatre and Trinity Repertory Theatre. In the category of Set Design for Large Companies the winner was Alexander Dodge for The Rivals at Huntington Theatre Company.

Best Lighting Design/Small Company was given to John Malinowski for Kiss of The Spider Woman at Speakeasy Stage Company. The lighting honors for a large company went to Chris Parry for 36 Views at Huntington Theatre Company.

Best Costume Design/Small Company was won by Nancy Leary for Into The Woods at New Repertory Theatre. Michael Krass won the large company award for his design of The Rivals at Huntington Theatre Company.

Best Sound Design/Small Company went to Matt O’Hare (Kiss Of The Spider Woman, Speakeasy Stage) and Laurie Anderson for Far Side Of The Moon at American Repertory Theatre (Large Company).

In the performance categories, voters apparently had an embarrassment of riches to choose from, as many categories resulted in ties. For best solo performance/small company, Mike Albo (My Price Point at Theatre Offensive) tied with Paula Plum for her work in Dressed Up/Wigged Out at Blackbird Productions and DUWO Sister Partnership. Jefferson Mays took the large company prize for I Am My Own Wife (Broadway in Boston at the Wilbur).

Best Supporting Actress/Small Company was also a tie between Ramona Alexander for 103 Within The Veil at Company One and Michelle Dowd for Story at Zeitgeist Stage Company.

And yet again another tie for the the same category in a large company, as Mireille Enos in Who’s Afraid Of Virginia Woolf? (Broadway in Boston) shared the honor with Debra Offner in The Sisters Rosensweig at The Huntington Theatre Company.

Best Supporting Actor/Small Company was won by Christopher Brophy in Take Me Out at Speakeasy Stage/Boston Theatre Works. Will LeBow walked away with the award for large company for his work in The Rivals at the Huntington Theatre.

Honors for Best Actress in a small company were shared between Mariela Lopez-Ponce (Living Out, Lyric Stage) and Sandra Shipley (Long Day’s Journey Into Night, Gloucester Stage Company), while Debra Monk was recognized in the large company category for Laughing Wild at the Huntington.


Best Ensemble Playing recognition went to Take Me Out at Speakeasy Stage/Boston Theatre Works (Small Company) and Crazy For You at Reagle Players (Large Company).

Paul Daigneault was recognized as Best Director Small Company for Take Me Out at Speakeasy Stage/Boston Theatre Works, and Nicholas Martin for The Rivals and The Sisters Rosensweig at The Huntington Theatre Company (Large Company).

103 Within The Veil by Kirsten Greenidge at Company One tied with Permanent Whole Life by Zayd Dorn at Boston Playwrights’ Theatre for Best New Play from a small company. Large company honors went to Culture Clash In America by Culture Clash at The Huntington Theatre Company.

Best Production (Drama/Comedy) from a small company was awarded to Take Me Out (Speakeasy Stage/Boston Theatre Works). Who’s Afraid Of Virginia Woolf? at Broadway In Boston’s Wilbur Theatre won the large company category.

In the world of musicals, choreography honors went to Josie Bray for Promises, Promises, at Animus Ensemble, who tied with Ilyse Robbins, for Urinetown, at Lyric Stage Company of Boston (Small Company). Large company choreographic recognition went to Eileen Grace for Crazy For You at the Reagle Players.

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The 24th Annual Elliot Norton Awards

The 24th annual Elliot Norton Awards were presented on May 22, 2006, at the Cutler Majestic Theatre in Boston. Presented by Boston Theater Critics Association and Emerson College, the awards honored the season’s best work in Boston’s theaters (from April 2, 2005 to March 30, 2006).

For the first time in the history of the Elliot Norton Awards, nominations for each category were announced in advance. Nominees and Elliot Norton Award recipients (in bold) and are listed below. In addition, special awards were given to William Finn (Lifetime Achievement), Boston Conservatory (Special Citation), and Spiro Veloudos (Norton Award for Sustained Excellence).

The Selection Committee was comprised of Terry Byrne, Carolyn Clay, Iris Fanger, Joyce Kulhawik, Jon Lehman, Bill Marx, Ed Siegel, and Caldwell Titcomb.

OUTSTANDING DESIGN
Janie E. Howland, Urinetown (Lyric Stage Company), True West (New Repertory Theatre), Five By Tenn (SpeakEasy Stage Company), Talley’s Folly (Lyric Stage Company)
Eric Levenson, Take Me Out (SpeakEasy Stage Company and Boston Theatre Works)
Adam Stockhausen, The Hopper Collection (Huntington Theatre Company)

OUTSTANDING DIRECTOR, Small/Midsized Company
Diego Arciniegas, Arcadia (Publick Theatre)
Scott Edmiston, Five by Tenn (SpeakEasy Stage Company)
Sandra Shipley, Long Day’s Journey Into Night (Gloucester Stage Company)

OUTSTANDING DIRECTOR, Large Company
Brian McEleney, Hamlet (Trinity Repertory Company)
Jerry Mouawad, No Exit (American Repertory Theatre)
Robert Woodruff, Olly’s Prison (American Repertory Theatre)

OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE
Billy Crystal, 700 Sundays (Broadway in Boston)
Aidan Dooley, Tom Crean, Antarctic Explorer (Súgán Theatre Company)
Jefferson Mays, I Am My Own Wife (Broadway in Boston)

OUTSTANDING ACTOR, Large Company
Bill Camp, Olly’s Prison (American Repertory Theatre)
Jeremiah Kissel, Hamlet (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company), The Sisters Rosensweig (Huntington Theatre Company)
Will Lyman, Hamlet (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company)

OUTSTANDING ACTOR, Midsized Company
Allyn Burrows, The Homecoming (Merrimack Repertory Theatre), King Lear (Actors’ Shakespeare Project), Five by Tenn (SpeakEasy Stage Company)
Alvin Epstein, King Lear (Actors’ Shakespeare Project)
Jonathan Epstein & Tony Molina, Othello (Boston Theatre Works)

OUTSTANDING ACTRESS, Large Company
Leslie Lyles, The Hopper Collection (Huntington Theatre Company)
Karen McDonald, Olly’s Prison; No Exit (American Repertory Theatre)
Molly Ward, Three Sisters (American Repertory Theatre)

OUTSTANDING ACTRESS, Midsized Company
Veronica J. Kuehn, Into the Woods (New Repertory Theatre), Urinetown (Lyric Stage Company)
Paula Plum, The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia? (Lyric Stage Company)

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION by a Local Fringe Company
My Heart and My Flesh (Coyote Theatre)
P.S. Page Me Later (Alarm Clock Theatre Company)
The Possibilities (Whistler in the Dark)

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION by a Large Resident Company
Hamlet (Trinity Repertory Company)
No Exit (American Repertory Theatre)
Olly’s Prison (American Repertory Theatre)

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION by a Midsized Resident Company
Five By Tenn (SpeakEasy Stage Company)
The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia? (Lyric Stage Company)

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION by a Small Resident Company
Arcadia (Publick Theatre)
Gagarin Way (Súgán Theatre Company)

OUTSTANDING VISITING PRODUCTION
Forbidden Broadway: Special Victims Unit (Huntington Theatre Company)
Monty Python’s Spamalot (Broadway in Boston)
700 Sundays (Broadway in Boston)
Outstanding Musical Production
Falsettos (Huntington Theatre Company)
On the Twentieth Century (Overture Productions)
Urinetown (Lyric Stage Company)
The Ko Festival of Performance Announces 15th Season Lineup

To celebrate its 15th summer season of innovative theatre in Amherst, MA the Ko Festival of Performance will host artists from the Festival’s first fourteen years, sharing their latest works. Under the artistic direction of Sabrina Hamilton, the caliber of performances, workshops, lobby displays, discussions and artist retreats comprising the Festival, has led it to be named one of the top 60 festivals in Lisa Mulcahy’s recent book THEATER FESTIVALS: Best Worldwide Venues for New Works.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Friday July 14 at 8 p.m.
VALENTYNE AND ORSON
Ralph Lee’s Mettawee River Company
of New York City
A new production based on a sprawling medieval French folk tale that incorporate live music and a variety of masks, puppets and other visual elements, Ralph Lee designs and directs, with costumes by Casey Compton.

An all-ages event, outdoors on the Amherst College Observatory Lawn off of Snell Street. Bring blankets, lawn chairs and insect repellant, but leave the pets at home. Adults $7.00, Children $5.00. No reservations necessary.

Saturday, July 15 at 8 p.m.
THE KO KABARET, a special anniversary gala cabaret featuring a surprise roster of artists from the first fourteen years of Ko Festival.

Sunday, July 16 at 8 p.m.
HOUSE/BOY
Conceived and performed by Nicky Paraiso
Directed by Ralph Peña, the concluding his autobiographical trilogy with an evening-length solo that is a sweet, poignant and musical look at parental legacies, and the enduring theme of what “home” means to Filipino-Americans.

Friday–Sunday, July 21–23 at 8 p.m.
N (Bonaparte)
By Laura Harrington of Cambridge, MA.
Performed by Pilgrim Theatre of Ashfield and Boston, MA, with Ko Festival favorite, Kermit Dunkelberg as the Little Emperor. Exiled to an island on the edge of nowhere, plagued by rats, haunted by Joan of Arc, and seduced by fame, one small politician prepares to conquer the world.

Friday–Sunday, July 28–30 at 8 p.m.
VERONICA’S FOLD: Take 1
by Wendy Woodson and Present Company of Amherst, MA.
A video and performance piece featuring 5 characters lost and found in an off kilter world. Joining Woodson are New York and Western Mass artists Peter Schmitz, Marina Libel, Lisa Biggs, Candice Salyers and Tom Vacanti. Kathy Couch is set and lighting designer.

Friday–Sunday, August 4–6 at 8 p.m.
A COMIC STRIP
Created and performed by Touchstone Theatre of Bethlehem, PA, directed by Daniel Stein, of the Dell’Arte Company of Blue Lake, CA
In Touchstone’s dark and funny work, the life of a seasoned, successful, and world famous comic-strip artist begins to violently unravel. WARNING: Viewer Discretion Advised! This piece contains adult themes, graphic language, and strong sexual content. Think Looney Tunes meets David Lynch. So keep the kids with a babysitter.

The Box Office for all productions opens July 10 (413-542-2277). All performances, except for Valentyne and Orson, take place at the accessible and air-conditioned Holden Theater on the Amherst College Campus.Tickets for VALENTYNE AND ORSON are $7.00 for adults and $5.00 for children. For information prior to the opening of the box office call 413-427-6147 or visit www.kofest.com.

WORKSHOPS

July 10–15
SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING:
Designing from Non-Traditional and Found Materials
with Justin Townsend and Shannon Scrofano of Boston’s TENT Ensemble
Using inexpensive, non-traditional and found materials, the workshop will culminate with an actual design and installation for a live performance—the Ko Festival’s 15th Anniversary Gala: THE KO KABARET. Open to all theater makers.

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IRNE Awards continued from page 6

Best Supporting Actress in a small company was Veronica J. Kuehn (*Urinetown*). Cheryl McMahon won the award for large company in *Carousel and Crazy for You* at Reagle Players.

Todd Alan Johnson won Best Supporting Actor In A Musical/Small Company *Into The Woods* at New Repertory Theatre. Large company choices resulted again a tie between David Coffee for *Camelot* at North Shore Music Theatre at Shubert Theatre, and Scott Mikita for *Crazy For You* at Reagle Players.

Best Actress in a Musical (Small Company) went to Leigh Barrett in both *Into The Woods* at New Repertory Theatre and *Pal Joey* at Stoneham Theatre. Sarah Pfisterer won in the large company category for her work in *Carousel and Sound Of Music* at Reagle Players.

John King in *Kiss Of The Spider Woman* at Speakeasy Stage Company (Small Company) and Kirby Ward in *Crazy For You* at Reagle Players (Large Company) won awards for best actor in a musical.

Directing awards went to Spiro Veloudis (*Urinetown*) and to Kirby Ward (*Crazy for You*). Todd Gordon was recognized for musical direction of *Into the Woods* at New Rep, as was Jennifer Honen Galea for *Crazy for You*.

*Urinetown* at the Lyric Stage won as Best Musical (Small Company) and yet again another tie came up for the large company category, resulting in Huntington’s *Falsettos* sharing honors with North Shore Music Theatre’s *The Full Monty*.

Best Visiting Production/Small Company was Frogz (Imago Theatre at Zero Arrow Theatre), and in the large company category, *Far Side Of The Moon*, Yves Jacques at American Repertory Theatre.

NETC extends the warmest congratulations to all winners and nominees!

*Our thanks to Theatre Mirror for assistance in this report.*
Enchanted April in Arlington

“To those who appreciate wisteria and sunshine. Small castle on the Mediterranean, Northern Italy to be let for the month of April. Cook, gardens, ocean view. Reply Box Eleven.”

Under the direction of Kevin Mark Kline Arlington Friends of the Drama’s will stage Enchanted April, Elizabeth Von Armin’s popular story of four unacquainted Englishwomen, who meet by coincidence and circumstance, and are driven to escape their dreary lives and stagnant marriages. In the dramatic adaptation by Matthew Barber, Lee Carter Browne will play Lotty Wilton, and Shelley Brown will play Rose Arnott. Lissa Giose as Caroline Bramble and Grace Butler as Mrs. Graves make up the quartet who decide to share the cost of renting an Italian villa. Met by Constanza, their Italian maid for the month (played by Amy DeMarco), they embark on a “blossoming” journey that will change their lives forever. During their enchanted month in the Ligurian villa, the ladies fall under the spell of their idyllic, sun-drenched surroundings. There, amid the wisteria blossoms, they rediscover laughter, learn new truths about themselves and find just the romance they need...though perhaps not the romance we—or they—expect to find. The romantic potentials include Tom Lawrence (Mellersh Wilton), Frank Hildebrand (as Frederick Arnott) and Andrew Defresne and Antony Wilding.

Performance Schedule is: June 9–11 and 16–18, 2006; Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

Arlington Friends of the Drama, a handicap accessible theatre, is located at 22 Academy Street, Arlington MA.

Tickets $15. Order online at www.afdtheatre.org, or call 781 646-5922.

Catalyst Theatre Company’s “Thumbs Up! Showcase” to be Featured on Hallmark Channel Series

Catalyst Theatre Company, in conjunction with University of Vermont’s Department of Theatre and Vermont’s Summer Special Olympics, presents the 11th Annual THUMBS UP SHOWCASE—Celebrating the Talents of Very Special Performers. The showcase runs Thursday, June 1 at 7 p.m. and Friday, June 2 at 3 p.m. in UVM’s Royall Tyler Theatre (fully accessible). Tickets are available at the door for $5 general admission, with a special rate of $3 for Howard Community Services community and Vermont Special Olympics participants.

This year, the Hallmark Channel’s weekday program, “New Morning” will be filming the showcase for an upcoming segment. “New Morning” airs weekday mornings from 7 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

THUMBS UP! features the joyous performance talents of community members with developmental disabilities, their service providers and area performance artists. Now in its 11th year, THUMBS UP! has played before large and enthusiastic audiences, and has received a Burlington City Arts special recognition for its work to “Enlighten, Entertain, and Educate.”

Catalyst solicits, develops and works with agencies and individuals on creative sessions specially focused for people with developmental disabilities, each directed by local artists and culminating in the production. Many of the pieces are a joyous diversity of performers of all ages, with and without special needs. “It’s about ability!” according to Veronica Lopez, Catalyst producing artistic director. THUMBS UP! was inspired by her little sister, BeBe.

For further information, contact Veronica Lopez at catalyst@gmavt.net.

Please visit NETC on the web at www.NETConline.org to find out how you can get more involved in your community!
Reading Community Theater
Trades in Its 76 Trombones for Hearts and Pajamas

2006–2007 Season Includes “King of Hearts” and “The Pajama Game,” and special performances of “A… My Name Is Alice”

The Colonial Chorus Players of Reading, MA, recently wrapped production on its 45th anniversary production of Meredith Wilson’s The Music Man. The community theater group presents several large-scale musical productions each year and other recent productions have ranged from well-known classics such as Cinderella and Anything Goes, to contemporary pieces such as Working and Once on This Island.

Colonial Chorus Players’ 2006–2007 season will include both a lesser-known show, King of Hearts, and a well-known favorite, The Pajama Game.

King of Hearts, with score by Peter Link, lyrics by Jacob Brackman and book by Steve Tesich, is based on the French film by Philippe de Broca. Set in 1918, in Dutemps, a village in France that houses an insane asylum, the plot concerns the timeless paradox of the madness of war.

The Pajama Game, which was made into a film featuring Doris Day and John Raitt, is currently enjoying a hugely successful Broadway revival starring Harry Connick, Jr. and Kelli O’Hara (both of whom, along with Megan Lawrence, were recently nominated for 2006 Tony Awards for the production). The crowd-pleaser features such favorite songs as “Steam Heat,” “Hernando’s Hideaway,” and “Hey There.”

King of Hearts will be presented by Colonial Chorus Players this fall and Pajama Game will enter production in the spring. In addition, as a special event this summer, the group will present the musical review, A—My Name Is Alice on September 8, 9, and 10 at the First Congregational Church located at 25 Woburn St. in Reading, MA. For more information, visit their website: www.colonichorus.com or call 781-944-9780.

Stowe Theatre Guild
Announces Summer/Fall Lineup

Theatre is alive and well in Stowe, VT, with an exciting and varied menu of offerings by the Stowe Theatre Guild.

Titanic, the Musical
The Vermont premiere of the multiple Tony awards winner of 1997, with musical vignettes of the greed, hope, and the redemption of coming together in the face of disaster.
June 21–24, June 28–July 1, July 5–8

Bye Bye, Birdie
Rock and roll idols, teens, and parent’s reactions in the late 50’s. Filled with energetic music, dance and side splitting family humor!
July 19–22, July 26–29, August 2–5

Smokey Joe’s Café
The longest-running musical review in Broadway history, features rock ‘n roll hits by the legendary Leiber & Stoller. Tales of love, life, love lost and reminiscence portrayed within the songs. Strong vocals, tight harmonies, and high energy Motown style motion.
August 16–19, August 23–26, August 30–September 2

Morning’s at Seven
Gibbs’ sisters, the “desperate housewives” of the 1930’s, dish up a double dose of nostalgic pleasure.
September 27–30, October 4–7, October 11–14

Curtain for all performances is at 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Theatre in Stowe (air conditioned and handicap accessible).

Reserve tickets by calling 802-253-3961 or email info@stowetheatre.com. Tickets must be reserved before 3:00 p.m. on the date of the show.

For more info visit www.StoweTheatre.com.

Deadline for Fall issue of NETC NEWS is August 15!

Send all items (Word text—jpeg photos) to ashea@ worcester.edu
Harwich Junior Theatre Presents Classics & Contemporary
55th Summer Season

Harwich Junior Theatre on Cape Cod, MA announce their 55th summer season featuring adaptations from the classics and a contemporary musical. All shows premiere on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., with subsequent weeks Monday thru Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Sunday matinees are at 4 p.m.

The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe, dramatized by Joseph Robinette, from the C.S. Lewis novel, running from June 27 through July 13, 2006, will be directed by Lisa Canto. All the memorable episodes from the story of Narnia are represented in this exciting dramatization. This story of love, faith, courage and giving, with its triumph of good over evil, is a true celebration of life.

Treasure Island, dramatized by Aurand Harris, from the R. L. Stevenson novel, running from July 18 through August 3, 2006, will be directed by Rob Zapple. Young audiences will thrill to the lightning adventure, exotic settings, sea chanteys, and the salty pirate dialogue that makes this dramatization of Jim Hawkins’ adventures irresistible in the hands of Aurand Harris, America’s master playwright for young people.

Snow White, in a new adaptation by Sandy McGinn, will be designed and directed by James P. Byrne. The production runs August 8 through August 25, and on selected weekends at 8 p.m. The classic fairytale is narrated from the point of view of the Heroic Huntsman, who can see goodness at a glance and makes the vital choice to free Snow White from the clutches of the Evil Queen.

Songs for a New World, by Jason Robert Brown, directed by Noel Carmichael, with musical direction by Robert Wilder, will run Friday and Saturday evenings July 21, 22, 28, 29, Aug 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 and Sept 1, 2, and Sunday, Sept 3 at 8 p.m. A striking musical revue with a blend of savvy showmanship and exciting contemporary sound.

HJT offer a special event—Shakespeare on the Cape, with Romeo and Juliet on Aug. 27 and 30 at 7:30 p.m.; and As You Like It on Aug. 28 and 31 at 7:30 p.m. This innovative new company’s entire summer season was chosen as “Top Theater Picks for 2005” by the Cape Cod Times.

Performance schedules are subject to change. Please check with the HJT box office for updates. Tickets may be ordered by phone anytime at 508-432-2002 ext. 4. Prices are: $18 general admission, $16 for Seniors 65 and over, and $12 for youth under 21. Inquire about group rates.

HJT is wheelchair accessible. Assisted listening devices are available.

For further information, please go to Web Site www.hjtcapecod.org.

Shakespeare & Company Summer Season

Savor a taste of Italy, an abundance of laughter and new-found intimacy with Shakespeare & Company’s season opener Enchanted April.

Directed by long-time company member Normi Noël with a cast of seasoned actors including Corinna May, Elizabeth Ingram, Malcolm Ingram, Diane Prusha, Tod Randolph and newcomers Seth Powers and Rachel Siegel, Enchanted April runs in Founders’ Theatre (70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA) May 26–September 2.

The play unfolds in dreary postwar London in 1922, where two rain-soaked housewives Lotty Wilson (Prusha) and Rose Arnott (Randolph) join a glamorous socialite and a lonely widow in a rented castle in Italy for the month of April. As the women succumb to the beauty of the Italian castle they have escaped to, they discover new relationships, beauty, a relaxation of social mores, and a new outlook on life.

For further information on the summer season, which includes productions of Hamlet and Merry Wives of Windsor, or to purchase tickets online, visit the company's new website (designed by Studio Two) at www.shakespeare.org. The Box Office can be reached by telephone at 413-637-3353.
Opportunities

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Upcoming Events

The Garrison Players of Rollinsford (NH) will hold a Children’s Summer Theatre Camp program at the Garrison Players Arts Center, Monday–Friday, July 5–August 7, 2006 from 9 a.m.–noon for children aged 8 and older. Any child interested in acting or any phase of theatre production is encouraged to attend. This summer program will culminate with performance of Charlotte’s Web in August. Cost is $300 per child, or $250 per child for 2 or more children from the same family. A non-refundable registration fee of $50 per child is due by June 1. Make checks payable to Garrison Players and mail to P.O. Box 127, Dover, NH 03821. For more information, call 603-516-4919 and leave a message with child’s name and parents’ phone number for a return call.

Garrison Players Children’s Summer Theatre Camp

Garrison Players is a nonprofit, volunteer-based community theatre group dedicated to enriching the cultural life of the area by presenting high-quality theatrical performances geared for family audiences. Established in 1953, the players encourage people of all ages to enjoy and participate in the many facets of the performing arts, and to help maintain the new Garrison Players Community Arts Center. For more information about Garrison Players, call 603-516-4919 or e-mail info@garrisonplayers.org. Visit the website at www.garrisonplayers.org.

Cast of Garrison Players latest production of *Quilters*, by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek, included (seated front) Carolyn Harriman and Danica Carlson; (center) Tinka Finley, Sarah McKendree Bonham; (standing) Cary Davis, Carol Seely, Autumn Allen and Meredith LaMothe. The production was staged in May, under the direction of Alexis Dascoulias, with musical direction by Kathy Fink.
SUMMER THEATRE EVENTS

Ain’t Misbehavin’
May 30–June 18, 2006   Tickets: $70–$35
Tony Award-winning musical revue showcasing the music of Thomas “Fats” Waller, who rose to fame during the Golden Age of the Cotton Club and the honky-tonk dives along Lenox Avenue in Harlem. Plays: Tue–Thurs at 7:30 p.m., Fri & Sat at 8 p.m., matinees Wed at 1:30 p.m., Sat and Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets: www.nsmt.org, 978-232-7200, or in person at 62 Dunham Rd. Beverly, MA 01915. Related free events: 6/6: Meet the Theatre, post show audience discussion with the artists; 6/11: Spotlight on History, a free pre-show discussion focusing on historical issues related to the performance; 6/15: Out at the North Shore, an evening for the Gay and Lesbian Community with a post show reception; 6/17: Meet the Theatre after the 2 p.m. performance, post-show audience discussion with the artists.

Singin’ in the Rain
July 4–30, 2006   Tickets: $70–$35
The technical staff at NSMT will work their theatrical magic to help audiences experience all the glitz and glamour of Hollywood’s golden age and make a big splash with this high energy musical comedy’s singin’ and dancin’ and, of course, real rain, live on stage. Plays: Tue–Thurs at 7:30 p.m., Fri & Sat at 8 p.m., matinees Wed at 1:30 p.m., Sat and Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets: www.nsmt.org, 978-232-7200, or in person at 62 Dunham Rd. Beverly, MA 01915. Related free events: 7/11: Meet the Theatre, post show audience discussion with the artists; 7/16: Spotlight on History, a free pre-show discussion focusing on historical issues related to the performance; 7/20: Out at the North Shore, an evening for the Gay and Lesbian Community with a post show reception; 7/22: Meet the Theatre after the 2 p.m. performance, post-show audience discussion with the artists.

THEATRE FOR CHILDREN

Charlotte’s Web
June 23 & 24, 2006 at 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Tickets: $15–$10
E. B. White’s classic children’s story of courage, love and the true meaning of friendship.

Super Scientific Circus
July 7, 2006 at 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Tickets: $15–$10
Starring Mr. Fish and Trent the Mime, proving that science can be fun and funny.

Russian American Kids Circus
July 14, 2006 at 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Tickets: $15–$10
SPECTACULAR! The air will be filled with a blur of spangles, dazzling you with juggling, acrobatics, unicycles, clowning and other exciting skills!

Dinorock—Dinosaur Babies
July 21, 2006 at 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Tickets: $15–$10
An exciting and educational interactive show featuring Doris the Stegosaurus and all her dinosaur friends.

Parachute Express
July 28, 2006 at 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Tickets: $15–$10
Family entertainment at its best! A blend of songwriting, sophisticated harmonies, and high quality, kid-friendly production style.

CONCERTS


Steve Tyrell
June 25, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.   Tickets: $45 & $37
Jazz recording artist brings standards sung with Texas soul to the NSMT stage.

George Carlin
July 23, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.   Tickets: $60 & $50
Adult stand-up comedy legend.
The University of New Hampshire's Theatre Resources for You is currently booking tours for The Little Red Wagon theatre troupe. Performances will be held June 13 through August 11, 2006. The theatre troupe frequently performs for children and family audiences at schools, libraries, festivals, fairs, banquets, hospitals, recreation centers, state parks, camps, and churches. The Little Red Wagon presents two new shows.

Arrgh, It's A Pirate's Life For Me, conceived by Sarah Marschner, is geared toward children (PK–4th grades). Through story drama, puppets, songs, and involvement theatre activity with the audience, the Little Red Wagon cast, audience, and talking monkey will voyage upon a 3-masted sailing ship in search for pirate's gold! The entire audience will participate as members of the ship's crew. Come on and join us in a Pirate's Life . . . the fun will be long remembered!

Treasure Island, by Steve and Kathy Hotchner, is based on the book by Robert Louis Stevenson and produced by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing. This exciting tale of pirates and a talking parrot features young Jim Hawkins' adventures as he searches for the buried treasure that belongs to the evil Captain Flint. The fun increases as the audience joins the actors to create a storm at sea, a mosquito-infested jungle, and a treasure cave, while five brave young souls from the audience come aboard to become crew mates. Family audiences and young people, grades 4 and up, are sure to be captivated with this comical pirate adventure on the high seas.

The Little Red Wagon is the longest running non-profit, children's theatre tour in the U.S. Since 1971, the Wagon has performed throughout New England at more than 70 locations every summer. The Little Red Wagon, a grass-roots model program for the State of New Hampshire, was instrumental to the introduction of Theatre Education into the public school system as a supportive tool for reading and learning. The Little Red Wagon provides continuous performing arts, outreach, and community enrichment to young audiences and is supported solely by donations. The Little Red Wagon is a TRY program. TRY (Theatre Resources for You) is a non-profit outreach division of the University of New Hampshire Theatre and Dance Department.

Contact: To schedule The Little Red Wagon or for more information, contact 603-862-2150; kay.staten@unh.edu; or www.unh.edu/theatre-dance/wagon.html.
Who’s Who at NETC

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Jim Quinn, President and Clerk of the Corporation,
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Jeffrey Watts, Executive Vice President,
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Annual Theatre Auditions
Joseph Juliano, Jr., Hamden Public Schools, retired

NETC/New England Theatre Journal
Stuart Hecht, Boston College

Long Range Strategic Plan
TBD

College of Fellows, Dean
Sigurd Jensen, Southern CT State University, retired

Annual Excellence in Theatre Awards
Tim Fitzgerald

Moss Hart Awards
Maureen Doucette, Hopkinton Middle High School, NH

John Gassner Memorial Playwriting Award
Steven Capra

Aurand Harris Memorial Playwriting Award
Jay DiPrima

Marie Phillips Service to NETC Award
Bevie Lord, Orpheum Theatre

Leonidas A. Nickole Theatre Educator
of the Year Award
Luke Sutherland, Community College of Rhode Island

Constitution and By-Laws
Sigurd Jensen, Southern CT State University, retired

NETC Newsletter
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AACT Liaison
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