

LA STAGE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ARTS MAGAZINE

ISSUE 26 JULY / AUGUST 2005 \$2.95



**THE HONOUR OF
SUSAN SULLIVAN**

**FOUNTAIN FAMILY
ACME COMEDY
NOW AT REDCAT**



CONTENTS

LA STAGE ISSUE NUMBER 26 JULY / AUGUST 2005

FROM THE EDITOR 4

STAGE WHISPERS

LASA NEWS 6

CONNIE CHATS 10

MAINSTAGE

SUSAN SULLIVAN 12

JOE STERN 16

REDCAT'S NOW FESTIVAL 17

FOUNTAIN THEATRE 18

NORMAN LEAR REMARKS 22

ACME COMEDY THEATRE 24

STAGE CALL


NOW PLAYING 26

OFF STAGE

DINING OUT 28

BACKSTAGE

THE NEW GUY 30

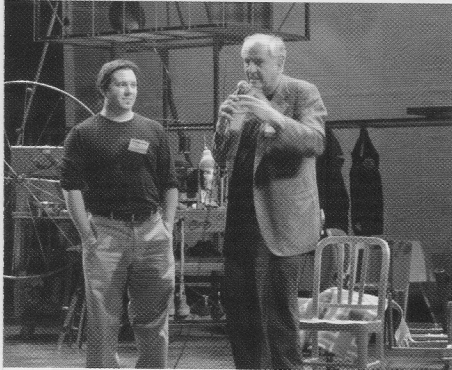


SIMONE FORTI will be part of REDCAT's New Original Works (NOW) Festival with her creation, *Unbuttoned Sleeve*. Her book, *Oh, Tongue*, was published by Beyond Baroque Books and in 2004 she received the Lester Horton Lifetime Achievement Award. For further information on the NOW Festival, go to www.redcat.org or check page 17 in this issue.

PHOTO: STEVE GUNTHER

DIRECTORS ON DIRECTORS

In April, a letter arrived at my desk inviting me to attend Directors Lab West in May. Funded by the SDCF (Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation, Inc.) and hosted by the Pasadena Playhouse and The Theatre @ Boston Court, the Lab professed to be "a prodigious program that has brought theatre artists together from around the world to discuss, workshop and exchange ideas on theatre."



DIRECTORS LAB WEST (04) ALUMNUS LARRY SOUSA (LEFT) WITH GARRY MARSHALL (RIGHT)

Unaware, I attended the first session of the seven day lab. The Directors Lab

Steering Committee (Ernest Figueroa, Kappy Kilburn, Nick D'Bruzzo and Andrew Sachs) challenged me and 40 other artists to make the lab what we wanted, to attend every session and to gather in a room with fellow artists and "see what happens."

What happened? I was inspired. With a roster jam-packed with sessions from artists such as Geoffrey Johnson, Gordon Davidson, Dakin Matthews, Garry Marshall, Mary

Overlie, Ken Roht and leaders of many Southern California performing arts organizations, each session offered me diverse jewels of wisdom.

Established in April 2000, Directors Lab West is an extension of the Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab, a series of workshops, seminars, readings and productions enabling participants to learn and grow as artists and working professionals. I'm a firm believer in community, exploration and education. Through this lab, directors take a week-long sabbatical returning to their creativity, refueling their hearts and expanding their thoughts. When the steering committee accepts applications in January don't walk; RUN. Run to be involved. Run to connect. Run to commune. www.DirectorsLabWest.com

THE NEW POWER LUNCH

BY KATE KOUNTZMAN

With the rising heat of summer and the ever-increasing pressures of the workplace, the people of LA are hungry for a break. More and more, many are finding the solution in TheatrExpresso. Considered "the lunchtime cure for the nine-to-five blues," this non-profit theatre organization offers a combination of a gourmet lunch and a 22 minute comedic play—all in one hour. Inexpensive and quick, this experience provides a unique form of entertainment to which many Angelinos are flocking every Thursday.

Inspired by Arthur Kraft's one-act play entitled *The Matchmaker*, TheatrExpresso's newest production is *A Match Made in Hell*. This romantic comedy runs at the historic Pacific Center downtown through Aug. 25. According to George Shohet, TheatrExpresso's founder and Managing Director, he was initially inspired to create this group after a road trip through Ireland. When Shohet arrived in Dublin, he was impressed by the afternoon theatrical performances in pubs and decided to attempt a similar endeavor in LA. Why only comedies? Unlike the Irish pub dramas, Administrative Director Victor Trevino believes, "There is enough stress and tragedy in the typical work day so producing more [drama] seems unlikely for our audiences." The end result has had a favorable response from the working community.

Will TheatrExpresso successfully shake up LA's theatre and lunchtime experience? Shohet anticipates the location will help fulfill his vision, for there is "a need and an energy to revitalize downtown as a center of culture and the arts." Also, he hopes TheatrExpresso's untraditional nature will attract a more diverse audience. With its sitcom-style structured humor and farcical characters, TheatrExpresso embodies LA's newest alternative to the power lunch. Where else can you enjoy live theatre during lunchtime?

A MATCH MADE IN HELL

Continues Thurs., 12 pm & 1:15 pm; ends Aug. 25

Tickets for play: \$10 advance or \$15 at the door;

Optional gourmet lunch: \$8

The Pacific Center

523 W. Sixth St., Los Angeles

310.452.5567 or www.TheatrExpresso.com

"...LA's #1 Girls' night Out!!!"
Menopause
The MusicalTM

The Hilarious Celebration of Women and The Change!



"YOU'LL LOVE IT. IT'S HILARIOUS.

GO SEE IT!"

- Joy Behar, *The View*

CORONET THEATRE • 310-657-7377

Ticketmaster 213-480-3232 • 366 N La Cienega Blvd • www.menopausethemusical.com