

ANPF

ASHLAND NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL

VOL. 2 NO. 1

SPRING 2010

ANPF ANNOUNCES 2010 FESTIVAL PLAY SELECTION SCHEDULE

The recently reorganized Ashland New Plays Festival is pleased to announce the resumption in 2010 of its historical annual production of new plays for the delight of playgoers from the Rogue Valley and points beyond.

ANPF solicits previously unproduced plays from playwrights throughout the United States by means of our Web site, word of mouth, and advertisements in play-related publications. Submitted scripts undergo an extensive review before being winnowed down to a final four plays that will each be presented in two public readings by professional actors, with a facilitated playwright feedback session after the reading. This year's festival is October 20 through 24 at the First Congregational Church of Christ in Ashland.

ANPF 2010

The selection process for ANPF 2010 began in November 2009 with the distribution of 190 submitted scripts to a Play Selection Committee comprising 40 volunteer readers. This talented group includes local playwrights, professional actors, other theater professionals, and theater lovers (see sidebar). Each of the plays was read, evaluated, and scored by a minimum of three readers and was discussed in a small group comprising eight readers.

The readers completed the first round of the selection process on March 1 and selected the 31 highest-rated scripts for further consideration. Each of these was then redistributed for a second round of reviews and scoring by the full committee; this stage of the process will be completed by May 15. On May 22 the small groups will reconvene to select eight semifinalists for final review.

On May 23 the semifinal scripts will be presented to Douglas Rowe, the artistic director for ANPF 2010 (see related feature on page 2), for his review. Doug will then name four professional directors, each of whom will read all eight of the semifinal scripts and select the one that he or she wishes to cast and direct. The four scripts selected by the directors will be the finalists for production at the festival in October 2010.

ANPF SALUTES OUR ANPF 2010 PLAY SELECTION COMMITTEE

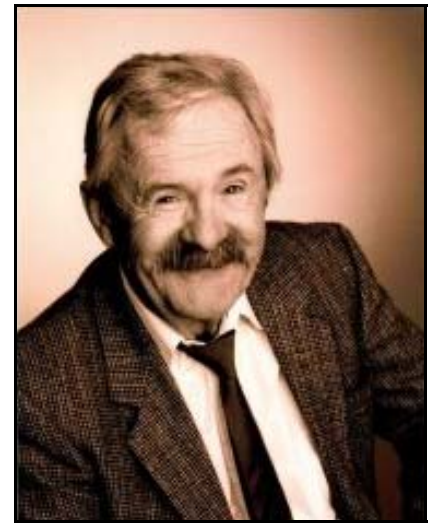
ANPF extends our warm thanks to the following volunteer script readers without whom the festival would not be possible:

Bert Anderson
Sunny Anderson
Lorraine Anderson
Terry Ansnes
Lia Beeson
Barbara Bobes
Ralph Bowman
Melissa Brown
Caren Caldwell
Brandy Carson
Candice Chapman
Carole Florian
David Florian
Beth Geismar
Hollis Greenwood
Dave Hill
Bob Holbrook
Polly Hodges
Saj Kirkland
Margita LaGrotta
Mike LeTourneau
Jan Lofthouse
Jeanne Marinak
Barbara Mathieson
Gray McKee
Sherri Morgan
Fran Nikas
Carolyn Peake
Mary Pat Power
Patt Rao
Janet Rodkey
Barbara Rosen
Judith Rosen
Julia Sommer
Anne Spillar
John Stadelman
Ann Stein
Carol Sunahara
Vivian Weston
Norma Wright

ASHLAND NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL NAMES DOUG ROWE AS ITS ANPF 2010 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Board of Directors of the Ashland New Plays Festival is proud to announce that Douglas Rowe, an iconic figure on both the Ashland and national theater scenes, has signed on to be the artistic director for the 2010 festival.

Doug was the artistic/executive director of the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach, California, for 20 years. He also directed plays at the Pasadena Playhouse and the Century Theatre. Among many productions, Doug directed Harrison Ford in his debut role at the Laguna Playhouse, and Bette Davis produced a play that Doug directed at the Pasadena Playhouse. In 1997 the Rowe family came to Ashland for Doug to play Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and they decided to stay. It was the Rogue Valley's coup and southern California's loss.



Dear ANPF SUPPORTER,

You know by now that the Ashland New Plays Festival came very close to shutting its doors in 2009, but a group of enthusiasts banded together to reestablish what we consider to be one of Ashland's finest artistic gems. This well-established volunteer organization has traditionally chosen four scripts from submissions from playwrights across the country, to be read during a weeklong festival in the fall. For 17 years these unstaged readings featuring Oregon Shakespeare Festival and community theatre actors have constituted a unique and much-loved annual event. During festival week, guest playwrights look to our sophisticated audiences for responses to their work as it evolves from the page to the stage. In those magic moments of discussion, our comments may well help turn a very good play into a masterpiece. Perhaps our feedback will encourage a playwright to continue his or her efforts in the challenging endeavor of bringing a new work to the public.

During these days of economic downturn, support of the arts is more important than ever. In the world of theatre, stories are written to preserve our individual and collective histories of good times and bad. Last year was a whirlwind of energy and activity, with four events, which in the true spirit of ANPF raised funds and brought unique theatre experiences to the community in the form of new works. These fundraisers and the generous contributions from many of our patrons were the gifts of life to the Ashland New Plays Festival. The work and the need go on. It is our goal that ANPF 2010 be the best ever and that this organization continues to inspire playwrights and the artistic and theatre-going community for years to come.

We hope you will join us in making a contribution!

Please consider a membership contribution:

- SPONSOR MEMBER: \$500+
to sponsor a fundraising event or a single reading for ANPF 2010
- BENEFACTOR MEMBER: \$250 to \$499
- CONTRIBUTING MEMBER: \$100 TO \$249
- PARTNER MEMBER: \$25 TO \$99
- FESTIVAL MEMBER: \$10 TO \$24

Remit to: ANPF, P.O. Box 3314, Ashland, OR 97520

In his 50-year career as an actor, Doug has played in 23 films, more than 50 television programs (including recurring roles in two), and numerous plays on Broadway, off-Broadway, in regional theaters, and at OSF. His recent film roles are Skeeter in *Calvin Marshall* (2007), which will be featured in the 2010 Ashland Independent Film Festival, the professor in *Babysitter Wanted* (2007), and Harry in *Conversations with God* (2006). His television credits include *Gilmore Girls*; *Providence*; *Fired Up*; *Legend*; *ER*; *Wings*; *Northern Exposure*; *Murder, She Wrote*; *Star Trek: The Next Generation*; *Knots Landing*; *Newhart*; *Hill Street Blues*; *St. Elsewhere*; *M*A*S*H**; *Emergency!*; *Nanny and the Professor*; *Room 222*; *The Wild West*; and *Get Smart*.

In accepting the position of artistic director, Doug stated, "As a professional actor for more than 50 years, I have long realized that the most important element in an actor's career is the writing, and I have always done everything in my power to enable the process. Upon moving to town, what a bonus it was to learn of the Ashland New Plays Festival and its nurturing efforts. I enlisted immediately and am proud to be the artistic director for ANPF's 2010 season."

The ANPF Board of Directors welcomes Doug and is confident that under his direction ANPF productions will achieve an unprecedented level of artistic excellence.



Spotlight on *God's Man in Texas*

"a wealth of both drama and comedy in the struggle for power"
—*Los Angeles Times*

"the pick of the litter of all the works at the Humana Festival"
—*Providence Journal*

"deeply satisfying"
—*In Theatre*

Camelot Theatre Company and the Ashland New Plays Festival will co-produce a reading of David Rambo's play *God's Man in Texas* at the Camelot Theatre in Talent, Oregon, on Monday, May 10, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., followed by a post-play discussion with the playwright and a reception for all in the theater lobby. Mark your calendars now – it's an evening you will not want to miss!

David Rambo and ANPF have a long history of mutual cooperation. David's play *Speaky, Spikey, Spokey* was one of the new plays selected by ANPF for production in 1995. It was a rousing success, and David departed with the memorable comment "I came here as a Realtor who wrote plays. I leave knowing that I am a playwright who sells real estate."

Currently, David is a writer and a producer of the most widely viewed television shows in the world, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*. His one-woman play, *The Lady with All the Answers*, recently opened off-Broadway at the Cherry Lane Theatre, starring Judith Ivey. David's other plays include *The Ice Breaker*, *The Spin Cycle*, a new adaptation of Sinclair Lewis's novel *Babbitt*, and an all-new book for the classic Lerner and Loewe musical *Paint Your Wagon*.

David's plays have been widely produced across the country, including productions at Oregon Cabaret Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Geffen Playhouse, the Old Globe, Denver Center Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Northlight Theatre, the Magic Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, and the Florida Stage.

David has also adapted several classic screenplays for live performance, including *All About Eve*, *Casablanca*, and *Adam's Rib*. His adaptation of the *Sunset Boulevard* screenplay was performed at the Hollywood Bowl, accompanied by the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra playing Franz Waxman's original film score. David is currently preparing a one-man show about Ronald Reagan for a 2010 Broadway opening.

In the three-man play *God's Man in Texas*, industrialized religion is alive and well at Houston's Rock Baptist Church, which includes ministries for every imaginable segment of humanity as well as media programs, an elementary school, a high school, a college, a bowling alley, a dinner theater, a multiscreen cinema, swimming pools, and retail stores. A search committee seeks a replacement for the patriarch of the church, eighty-one-year-old minister Philip Gottschall (played by Doug Rowe).

To fend off being completely replaced, Gottschall has named the scholarly Dr. Jeremiah Mears as a young co-pastor. Hugo Taney, a reformed sinner and the church's soundman, is taken into the confidence of each of the ministers and becomes the church's best source of information. When Mears and Taney discover amazing links from their earlier lives, Gottschall is haunted by fears of their alliance and the looming fate of his kingdom. According to the Dramatists Play Service, Inc., "The Biblical struggle among this trinity of men climaxes during Rock's spectacular annual electrical Christmas parade; there is a sacrifice, a resurrection and, finally, salvation as God whispers to a listening heart."

Jerry Kraft, a reviewer for *Aisle Say Seattle*, observes, *God's Man in Texas* is "a serious play filled with comedic insight. David Rambo's play balances the external temptations of worldly success, empire building, personal ambition and scriptural politics with the inner motivations of true faith and individual character."

Join ANPF and Camelot Theatre in the first production of ANPF's 2010 season.

Tickets to the reading of *God's Man in Texas* Monday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m., at Camelot Theatre are \$20 each and are available through the Camelot Theatre Company box office by calling (541) 535-5250.

Seating is limited, so reserve your tickets now!

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ASHLAND
NEW
PLAYS
FESTIVAL

save the dates!

Monday, May 10 7:30 p.m. David Rambo's
God's Man in Texas
Camelot Theatre

October 20-24 ANPF 2010
First Congregational
Church of Christ, Ashland

NEWS BITES...

- ◆ PDF or paper? In our efforts to "go green," we are also delivering this newsletter via e-mail on request. If you'd prefer to receive it in your inbox rather than your mailbox, please contact us at (541) 488-7995 or info@AshlandNewPlays.org.
- ◆ ANPF is now officially tax-exempt. Your donation to us is completely tax-deductible, according to the IRS. Now is the time!
- ◆ ANPF salutes the following B&Bs for graciously agreeing to host our ANPF 2010 visiting playwrights: Albion Inn, Arden Forest Inn, Iris Inn, and Oak Street Station.
- ◆ Congratulations to our ANPF 2010 Playwright-in-Residence E.M. Lewis, who recently received the Hodder Fellowship for Playwriting!
- ◆ Look for more news on ANPF 2010 and some exciting summer fundraising events in our next newsletter.

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OUR
MISSION

Ashland New Plays Festival assists playwrights in the development of new works through public readings and offers an educational forum to the community through discussions and workshops.

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We're also on facebook—
become a fan and stay in touch!