



ANPF STUDENT SPOTLIGHT 2009

A mentoring mashup of outstanding theatre professionals and the next generation

Monday, August 31, at 7 p.m. • Carpenter Hall

ANPF Student Spotlight is a collaborative project of the Ashland New Plays Festival and individuals from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF), who give their time and talent to mentor young playwrights, directors, actors, and techies in a theatrical production.

Hosted by Richard Elmore, ANPF Student Spotlight 2009 comprises four one-act plays, featuring *Thistles*, written by award-winning student playwright Bella Pribyl, and *Illyria*, written by OSF alumna Rebecca Wood. The project includes a student director, high school and Southern Oregon University actors, and an Ashland High technical crew – all mentored by OSF professionals.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival mentors include Cristofer Jean, Liisa Ivary, G Valmont Thomas, David Weberg, Karl Alphonso, and Ben Cobb. The event is produced by Elizabeth von Radics and Amanda Berkeley, with support from the ANPF Board of Directors and community volunteers.

Student actors include Orion Bradshaw, Aurelia Grierson, Tim Homsley, Blaine Johnston, Kade Pike, Bella Pribyl, Tay Smith, and Mariko Oyama Thomas, with technical support from Rocky Garcia-Flores, Jacob Roe-Bauer, and Ellie von Radics.

The plays are:

- *Thistles* by Bella Pribyl, directed by G. Valmont Thomas
- *Illyria* by Rebecca Wood, directed by Cristofer Jean
- *After You* by Steven Dietz, directed by Clementine von Radics
- *Post-Its (Notes on a Marriage)* by Paul Dooley and Winnie Holzman, directed by Liisa Ivary

Doors open at 7 p.m. for a wine, cheese, and dessert mixer; curtain is at 7:30. It's festival seating, and space is very limited! To reserve a seat, please send a \$15 (or more!) donation to:

ANPF Student Spotlight, PO Box 3314, Ashland, OR 97520

Please state your name(s) to be added to the guest list. Reservations will be taken in the order received. We appreciate your reserving seats in advance, as food and drink will be served. Any remaining seats will be available at the door.

ANPF Reprises *Song of Extinction*

Coming this October is a reprisal reading of E. M. Lewis's wonderful play *Song of Extinction*. In this smash hit of Ashland New Plays Festival 2008, Max, a musically gifted high school student, is falling off the edge of the world – and his biology teacher is the only one who's noticed. It's a play about the science of life and loss, the relationships between fathers and sons, the Cambodian killing fields, Bolivian rainforests, and grief. The play went on to full productions and won the 2009 Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award as well as first prize in the 2009 EcoDrama Festival in Eugene, Oregon. Lewis also won the 2008 Francesca Primus Prize for an emerging woman playwright. The play will be read by Cristofer Jean, Liisa Ivary, Jeff King, Brad Whitmore, and other members of the original ANPF cast, and the playwright will be in attendance.

GUMSHOE GOURMET MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

Join us Saturday, August 22, for a roaring '20s murder mystery, set in Ashland and written by local playwright Lyda Woods. The interactive murder mystery and gourmet meal is a fundraiser for the Ashland New Plays Festival, produced by Gumshoe Gourmet, LLC. Complete with a "murder," a victim, multiple suspects, suspense, and jolly good fun, the event will be held in a lovely private home and will include wine, a spectacular dinner, and fabulous desserts.

Rosie Babycakes Woods's husband died two weeks ago under mysterious circumstances, so she invites all the usual suspects to her party, along with Marlena Pinkerton, her private detective. On the surface she's celebrating the new flicker Jason Goldwin is making of Lane Grayson's latest cowboy novel, inviting local celebrities and Hollywood royalty along with local gang members who run liquor during Prohibition. A murder occurs, an investigation ensues, and everyone is suspect.

In attendance will be Rosie, a sultry proprietress with a secret or two; Timber Woods, a true jazz baby and tap dancer; Burt, the bartender with a police record; Squeazy Moogan, a railroad heiress and spiritualist; Reginald Moogan, her son, a financier and gambler; Chessley Moogan, a scriptwriter and Great War vet; Lana Turnbull, a struggling Hollywood actress; Roy DudeAmont, a train robber in hiding; Lane Grayson, a prolific novelist and womanizer; Jason Goldwin, a director with a nervous twitch; Dr. Stoddard, a world-renowned naturalist and hippopotamus expert; and members of the local rum-running mobs.

Cost is \$75 per person. The event is limited to 12 participants and commences at 7 p.m. on Saturday, August 22. To join the fun and reserve your seat at the table among this colorful cast of characters, e-mail info@AshlandNewPlays.org or call Jan Lofthouse at (541) 488-5044.

Backyard BBQ and Dessert Auction

This fundraiser event will feature a full-course traditional BBQ plus vegetarian alternatives, wine and other beverages, and dessert – all for a suggested donation of \$20 per person. Numerous fabulous desserts will also be offered at auction. There will be some surprises and special guests. Come enjoy the last, best BBQ of summer and support ANPF!

Saturday, September 26, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Ashland home of Mary Pat Power and Hollis Greenwood. Limited to 60 people; please RSVP to hollis@ashlandhome.net ASAP or call (541) 488-7995.

ATTENTION THEATRE LOVERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Your help is vitally needed! Financially, we are starting from scratch. This year our focus is on raising enough money to produce the Ashland New Plays Festival in 2010 in the traditional format. If you've been a supporter in the past, please make a contribution and join forces with us again. If you haven't been involved in the past, join us now! Energetic as we are, we can't do it alone – your ideas and energy are welcome!

PLAY SELECTION COMMITTEE NEEDS MEMBERS

Can you read? Do you love new plays? Do you want to join the team? Sign up *now* to be on the Play Selection Committee and help choose the plays for ANPF 2010. The committee will begin its task in October, and what fun you'll have being part of the process! In the meantime, we're hammering out the procedures for soliciting and reviewing plays. We welcome your involvement and enthusiasm! E-mail us at info@AshlandNewPlays.org or call (541) 488-7995.

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THE ASHLAND NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL IS BACK!

The *Ashland Daily Tidings* reported in February 2009: "The 17th annual [Ashland New Plays Festival] has been canceled due to lack of funding and volunteer support."

If you were disappointed when you heard that there would be no ANPF event this year, things are looking up! A group of new enthusiasts and former board members has established a brand-new Board of Directors and is working hard to revive this well-loved community event.

Because the 2009 ANPF event and call for scripts was canceled, it was too late to mount a full-scale national festival for 2009, but we are planning several locally based events to rebuild the treasury and, more importantly, to entertain *you!* We've let the world know we're back on track and will soon be accepting new scripts for a traditional festival in October 2010.

"We are focusing on local playwrights this year and will return to our traditional format of the nationwide search in the fall of 2010," said Fred Wright, ANPF president. "We have more than our share of playwrights right here in southern Oregon, and we'll be bringing you some new works in several different events in the months to come."

"We are starting out with absolutely no money," noted Dolores Marx, ANPF treasurer. "Our bank statement is a blank sheet. We urgently need the help of everyone who wants to see new plays, meet new playwrights, and help writers get their ideas up and talking."

Read on for our exciting lineup of fundraising events!

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