

ANPF

ASHLAND NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL

VOL. 2 NO. 2

SUMMER 2010

DEATH OF A SALESMAN REUNITES OSF'S STAR-STUDED 1997 CAST

Through the gracious cooperation of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's 1997 cast members and OSF Artistic Director Bill Rauch, ANPF is proud to present a dramatic reading of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* on Labor Day, September 6, at 8 p.m. at Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Black Swan Theatre.

The production will reunite OSF's impressive original lineup, which includes Tony DeBruno, Michael Elich, Bill Geisslinger, Kirsten Giroux, David Kelly, Dee Maaske, U. Jonathan Toppo, and Douglas Rowe. Rowe, ANPF's artistic director, originally came to Ashland to perform the role of Willy Loman in OSF's 1997 production.

"There are moments in a lifetime when the stars seem to align and everything seems perfect. Playing Willy Loman was such a moment for me," says Rowe. "Appearing at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, being brilliantly directed and surrounded by an equally brilliant cast, was the highlight of my career. I will always be tremendously grateful for such a singular opportunity."

Said Kirsten Giroux, who plays The Woman, "It was a privilege to be part of the extraordinary 1997 production of *Death of a Salesman*. In this country of unlimited opportunity, the stories of ordinary men and women are the source of many great plays. Because *Death of a Salesman* is the American play, I believe the audience in each of our performances recognized something of themselves and were touched to the very core."

Miller's Masterpiece
Arthur Miller wrote *Death of a Salesman* in 1949. It won the Pulitzer Prize and propelled him to national prominence as a playwright. Many critics described *Death of a Salesman* as the first great American tragedy, and Miller gained eminence as a man who

continued inside

The envelope please...

ANNOUNCING THE ANPF 2010 WINNING PLAYWRIGHTS

Jami Brandli: *Technicolor Life*

Jami Brandli's play *The Sinker* had its world premiere at HotCity Theatre in St. Louis in May 2010, and she was recently a visiting playwright at the 2010 WordBridge Playwrights Lab. Jami lives in Pasadena with her husband, Brian Polak, where she's at work on scripts for both stage and screen as well as writing a novel. At her day job, she teaches writing at Lesley University's MFA program in Boston.

Robert Clyman: *The Exceptionals*

Robert Clyman's works have been produced across the nation at leading repertory theatres from California to New York. His awards include a Eugene O'Neill Summer Conference Fellowship, an Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award, an Edward Albee Foundation Fellowship, and a nomination for an Outer Circle Critics Award for best script in 2008.

Harlene Goodrich:

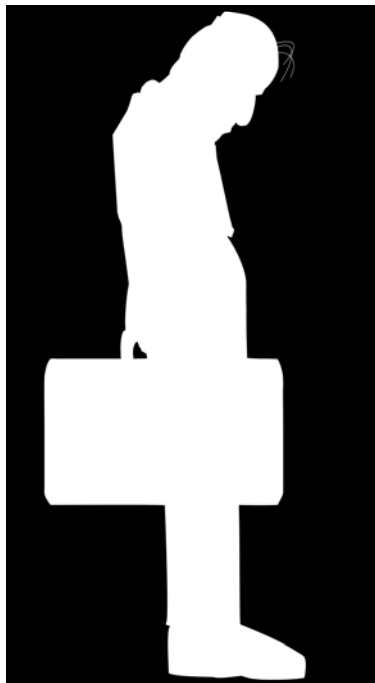
A Gold Star in the Window

Harlene Goodrich is a late bloomer, having returned to the University of Southern California at age 50 to earn a master's degree in professional writing. Since graduating she has won playwrighting competitions in California, Iowa, and New York. Her short play *Picture Perfect* was published by Samuel French in the Best of Off-On Broadway series for 2006. She filled six journals extolling the beauty of the California coastline when she and her husband walked from the Mexican border to Oregon in 2005.

David Hilder:

The Insidious Impact of Anton

David Hilder's short play *Just Exactly Like* was a finalist for the 2010 Heideman Award. His other plays and musicals have been produced in New York by Raw Impressions, theAtrain-plays, Ensemble Theater, and many more. David is also a director and a recovering actor.



Artwork by Christopher Marotta

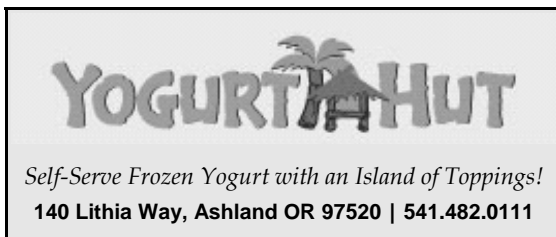
Tickets for *Death of a Salesman* are available online through the ShowTix4U link at www.AshlandNewPlays.org by calling (541) 488-7995 or at Paddington Station after August 6

ANPF 2010 OCTOBER 20-24

TUESDAY, JULY 27, IS ANPF DAY AT YOGURT HUT

Yogurt Hut has once again offered to give ANPF a percentage of its sales on Tuesday, July 27. The support of this community business in helping us raise the much-needed funds for the 2010 festival is very much appreciated! Please stop in and sample the wonderful variety of frozen yogurt and toppings. In fact, stop by several times that day – they'll be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Bring your family and friends – and be sure to tell them ANPF sent you!

Yogurt Hut is located in downtown Ashland at 140 Lithia Way. It offers 10 flavors of self-serve frozen yogurt with an island of toppings.



Dear ANPF SUPPORTER,

Fifteen years ago David Rambo was selected as one of the winning playwrights of the Ashland New Plays Festival. Since then David has been a vital presence in our organization, making substantial financial contributions as well as giving tirelessly of his time and remarkable talents. To honor him and to recognize other significant donors, we have established the David Rambo Playwright Circle to commemorate supporters who have made a cumulative donation of \$3,000 or more over a five-year period. These major donors will be listed in our playbills in perpetuity to permanently recognize their role as key supporters of ANPF.

Whether your gift is large or small, it is *you*—our members—who make it possible for us to continue to bring new plays to the stage. These fresh works tell the stories of people's lives—their moments of joy and tragedy, their failures and triumphs—stories that come to life through the voices of professional actors on our Ashland stage. During the magic moments of rehearsals, readings, and discussions, a playwright may very well discover new insights to refine a good script into a masterpiece. You can help make this happen by becoming a member of ANPF—one of the premier new plays festivals in the country. All gifts are significant and tax-deductible, and every little bit helps. ANPF is a §501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

We appreciate your ongoing support.

Please consider a membership contribution:

- DAVID RAMBO PLAYWRIGHT CIRCLE: \$3,000+
Our major donors are recognized in perpetuity
- SPONSOR MEMBER: \$500+
Sponsor a fundraising event or a single reading for ANPF 2010
- BENEFACTOR MEMBER: \$250 to \$499
- CONTRIBUTING MEMBER: \$100 to \$249
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- FESTIVAL MEMBER: \$10 to \$24 **AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** _____

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

DEATH OF A SALESMAN

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understood the deep essence of the United States.

Death of a Salesman addresses the painful conflicts within one family, but it also tackles larger issues regarding American values. The play examines the cost of blind faith in the American Dream. Miller charges America with selling a false myth constructed around a capitalist materialism nurtured by the postwar economy, a materialism that obscured the personal truth and the moral vision of the original American Dream described by the country's founders.

"He's a man way out
there in the blue,
riding on a smile
and a shoeshine...
A salesman is got
to dream, boy."

—Charley in
Death of a Salesman

The basis for the dramatic conflict in *Death of a Salesman* lies in Arthur Miller's conflicted relationship with his uncle, Manny Newman, also a salesman. Newman imagined a continuous competition between his son and Miller. Newman refused to accept failure and demanded the appearance of utmost confidence in his household.

In his youth, Miller had written a short story about an unsuccessful salesman. His relationship with Manny revived his interest in the abandoned manuscript. He transformed the story into one of the most successful dramas in the history of the American stage. In expressing the emotions that Manny Newman inspired through the fictional character of Willy Loman, Miller managed to touch deep chords within the national psyche.

Six decades after it was written, *Death of a Salesman* remains a powerful drama for its indictment of fundamental American values.

Source: www.sparknotes.com



SPOTLIGHT ON ANPF'S PAST WINNING PLAYWRIGHTS



*We dug into our archives and compiled this list of
the winning plays from the past 18 years.*

1993

Cutlasses by Susan diRende
The Oregon Trail Play by Doris Baizley
The Last Hanging in Pike County
by Janice Kennedy
Only the Dead Know Burbank
by Peter Lefcourt
Smith of Wooten Major
by Jeff Richardson and Hal Ferdig
Stolen from Gypsies by Noble Smith
Mary Todd Lincoln by Warren Carlson

1994

Alice in Panto-Land by Jim Giancarlo
and Darcy Danielson
Circles by S. Michele McFadden
Under Yelena by Buffy Sedlachek
Faded Glory by Tim Burns
Werewolf Blues by Vanessa Nowitsky
When God Came to Babylon
by Dori Appel

1995

Shooting Stars by Peter Saldamando
The Real, Real Thing by Frank Higgins
Miss Coffin and Mrs. Blood
by Sandy Diamond
The Magic Fire
by Lillian Garrett-Groag
The Magic Stone by Michael Mish
Kingdom of Crump by Dori Appel
Dear Katherine by Judith Montague

1996

Pictures at an Exhibition
by Mark Berman
Voices from Black Canyon
by Toby Armour
The Washington-Sarajevo Talks
by Carla Seaquist
One Glorious Afternoon
by Alexander Steele
A Paradise of Fools
by Michael E. Wolfson
The Yellow Room by Terry Baum
Ink by Tony Foster
Orwell in Orlando by Lee Patton

1997

Freud's Girls by Dori Appel
The Man Who Ran the World
by Leonard Gross
Oscar Wilde's Wife by Rhonda Spinak
Speaky-Spikey-Spokey by David Rambo
The Famous Tuscan Springs
by Byron Burruss and Joe Hilsee

1998

A Festival of Lights
by James S. Henerson
Cupid's Bones by Steve Muray
Everyday People by Ignacio Zulueta
Portratis by Colleen Pickett

1999

Invasion of Privacy by Larry Parr
St. Colm's Inch by Robert Koon
The Sins of Sor Juana by Karen Zacarias
Return to Morality by Jamie Pachino

2000

The Memoirs of JFK by Leonard Gross
Cyber Serenade by Mia McCullough
Kate and Kafka by Carla Seaquist
SWM by Gregory Foote

2001

Knowing Cairo by Andrea Stolowitz
Betty Thorpe by James Armstrong
Peanut Butter and Jelly by James Wall
Daedalus by David Davalos

2002

Eat and Run by Karl Tiedemann
Freak Show by John Giblin
Countess and Chicago May
by Raymond Hardie
The Linden Tree by Lois Roisman

2003

Alas, Poor Yorick by Gary Seger
Legerdemain by Michael Wolfson
Maternal Spirits by James Caputo
Luke's Dad by Robert Barnett

2004

Solomon's Blade by Lisa Beth Allen
By Moonlight by Ann Noble
Drop Everything by Phyllis Purscell
Reckoning Angel by Robert Barnett

2005

Splitting Infinity by Jamie Pachino
Odin's Horse by Robert Koon
Darlin by Charlotte Samples
Leonardo by John Fiorillo
Desert Sailing by Jerry Evans

2006

The Garden of Dromore (now Dusk)
by James McLindon
Why'd Ya Make Me Wear This, Joe?
by Vanda
At the Heart of Art by Lydia Bruce
and Andrew S. Burns
Exit Polls by Daniel C. Beck

2007

The Language of Trees
by Steven Levenson
Saving Grace by James McLindon
Acceptable Risk by Paula Fell
Such Moments by Drew Katzman

2008

A Death Defying Act by Barbara Lindsay
Loyalties by Tony Pasqualini
Mystery Spot by Steven Lyons
Song of Extinction by E. M. Lewis

2010

A Gold Star in the Window
by Harlene Goodrich
The Exceptionals by Bob Clyman
The Insidious Impact of Anton
by David Hilder
Technicolor Life by Jami Brandli

We welcome your comments! Do you have corrections to this list or memories of any of these wonderful plays? We'd love to hear about them! Please write to us at info@ashlandnewplays.org.

ASHLAND NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL

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Ashland, OR 97520

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In our efforts to be green, we are also delivering this newsletter via e-mail on request.

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save THE DATES!

Tuesday, July 27
noon–10 p.m.

Monday, September 6
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday–Sunday
October 20–24

ANPF Day at Yogurt Hut
140 Lithia Way, downtown Ashland

Death of a Salesman
Black Swan Theatre
Corner of N. Main and Pioneer Streets
Oregon Shakespeare Festival campus

ANPF 2010
First Congregational Church
717 Siskiyou Boulevard, Ashland

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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ANPF