

ANPF

ASHLAND NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL

VOL. 5 NO. 3

FALL 2013

THE ANPF 2013 WINNING PLAYS

SLEEPING DOGS by Robert John Ford

Directed by Robynn Rodriguez

Two mothers are trying to uncover the facts surrounding a car accident that has left one woman's son dead and the other woman's son comatose. Their investigation, which leads to surprising and disturbing revelations about the circumstances leading up to and immediately after the accident, ultimately forces the mothers to re-examine the identities of both themselves and the sons they thought they knew so well. Loosely based on a true story, the play examines the complex and very personal reasons why some people are content to accept matters as they appear to be while others are compelled to seek the truth at any cost.

OTHER THAN HONORABLE by Jamie Pachino

Directed by Kimberly Scott

Grace Rattigan is a former military officer who resigned her commission under sealed terms and now works in a high-profile DC law firm. A new client arrives at her office—AWOL after stabbing her commanding officer—reopening Grace's old wounds. As Grace pursues the client's case, the layers of her own experience with the same CO (about to be promoted to a post he should never have) leaves Grace at a crossroads. She can come forward and tell the truth about her past, or stay AWOL from that part of her life. Touching on hot-button issues in the news right now, this is the story of one woman confronting the real meaning of the military's codes of honor, courage, and loyalty.

A QUESTION OF WORDS by Richard Manley

Directed by Ken Albers

Ending years of self-exile following the death of his wife, poet Derby Wright quietly accepts a house-sitting invitation for a Manhattan co-op. Wanting to inconspicuously slip back into society at his own pace, Derby is repeatedly thwarted by an inquisitive female neighbor, her pushy mother, snobby members of the co-op board, and a lawyer determined to have him thrown out for his murky past. His hopes for privacy fail miserably, but one romantic exception forces the overly intellectual Derby to recognize that when it comes to understanding happiness, real life is very much a question of words.

THE BOATWRIGHT by Bo Wilson

Directed by Catherine Lynn Davis

Ben Calloway can't seem to get his bearings in his own home anymore. Fifty-seven years old, recently widowed, childless, and retired, he's adrift. And even though he's never seen the ocean, he decides to build a boat and sail across the Atlantic. He doesn't particularly want any part of his young neighbor Jaime's problems: he's been suspended from film school, and his father's out of patience with him. But when Ben allows Jaime to make a movie about his boat-building project, the two men—generations apart and lonely in very different ways—force one another to confront the isolation in their own lives.

GALA KICKS OFF FESTIVAL WEEK

ANPF 2013 hits the ground running on Monday, October 21, with the **Kickoff Gala** at the Schneider Museum of Art from 5 to 7 p.m. Come meet the playwrights, mingle with other ANPF participants, and dance to the hot jazz of the Bathtub Gin Serenaders. Admission to the gala is free. RSVP to linda@ashlandnewplays.org.

The **readings** of the winning plays at the Unitarian Center begin Wednesday, October 23, at 8 p.m. and run through the Sunday matinée. There will also be free **Theatre Talk** interviews at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday between the matinée and evening performances.

The two playwriting **Events for Local Writers** at the OLLI space at SOU are on Friday and Saturday mornings. RSVP to gray@ashlandnewplays.org.

See inside for the Ticket Presale Order Form.

Tickets to the readings will be available at Paddington Station and Music Coop on September 27.

For more information and to print the full **schedule** of all Festival Week events, visit www.ashlandnewplays.org.

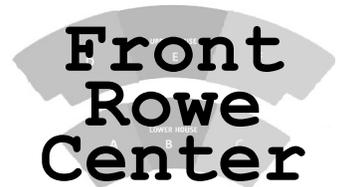
See you at the festival!

Imagine yourself in a grocery store, choosing from more than 200 peaches. You have very important people coming for dinner who have requested that you bake your famous peach pie, and you have to pick what you think are the four best peaches of the 200 that are just sitting there! True, some of them are a bit soft, some are discolored, and some are pretty hard—but most of them are pretty good. But you have to select what you think are the cream of the crop.

This happens to me every year at ANPF: choosing the four best plays—and you all are coming for dinner. This was a tough year—in a good sense, mind you. There were several really edible peaches, so while the decision was tougher, the end result is pretty wonderful. Having done this for several years, I think it is safe to say that this year has been the best. Thanks again to the 50-plus readers who sorted this batch and gave me their top choices!

One of the plays deals with an extremely important issue that we as a society must come to grips with and do something to rectify. Another play I was going to be able to read only the first act because I had an audition for a film; I canceled the audition because after the first act ended, I had to read the second act immediately. (They did ask me back the next day, and I got the job.) Another play is a delightful comedy by one of our previous winners—no mean feat because the selection process is blind and to be selected out of 200+ plays two years in a row is pretty impressive. The fourth play is an example of how positively we can affect others who are having a difficult time.

I hope you don't miss any of the performances this year. We have four extremely skilled directors: Ken Albers, Catherine Lynn Davis, Robynn Rodriguez, and Kimberly Scott. And thanks to Ashland's abundance of talent, the plays will be executed brilliantly. I have a year to recover from my worrisome trip to the grocery store. And yes, I will invite you for dinner again next year.



Douglas Rowe, Artistic Director

Order Tickets in Advance for Savings and a Guaranteed Seat

Take advantage of the Festival Ticket Package for \$50 when you purchase one ticket for each of the four readings. You choose your preferred dates and times. Use the order form below for both the \$50 Festival Ticket Package and the \$15 individual tickets. Advance tickets will also be available for \$15 at **Paddington Station**, 125 E Main Street, and **Music Coop**, 268 E Main Street, after September 27. Tickets will be available at the door and are sold first come, first served. We recommend advance purchases. All performances are at the Unitarian Center, 87 4th Street in Ashland. **Questions?** Call (541) 488-7995.

ANPF 2013 Ticket Presale Order Form

Your order must be received by Wednesday, October 9, for discounted ticket prices to apply.

name _____ e-mail _____

address _____ city _____ state _____ ZIP _____

home phone _____ mobile phone _____

Each Festival Ticket Package includes one reading of each play.

Other Than Honorable by Jamie Pachino
Directed by Kimberly Scott

Wednesday, 10/23, 8 p.m.
No. of tickets _____

Friday, 10/25, 8 p.m.
No. of tickets _____

Sleeping Dogs by Robert John Ford
Directed by Robynn Rodriguez

Thursday, 10/24, 1:30 p.m.
No. of tickets _____

Sunday, 10/27, 1:30 p.m.
No. of tickets _____

A Question of Words by Richard Manley
Directed by Ken Albers

Thursday, 10/24, 8 p.m.
No. of tickets _____

Saturday, 10/26, 1:30 p.m.
No. of tickets _____

The Boatwright by Bo Wilson
Directed by Catherine Lynn Davis

Friday, 10/25, 1:30 p.m.
No. of tickets _____

Saturday, 10/26, 8 p.m.
No. of tickets _____

Number of Festival Ticket Packages at \$50 each _____ Total tickets _____ Total cost _____

Number of individual play tickets at \$15 each _____ Total cost _____

Your tax-deductible donation _____

To submit via e-mail: Print, scan, and send to tickets@ashlandnewplays.org

To submit via US mail: Ashland New Plays Festival
PO Box 3314
Ashland, OR 97520

Total enclosed _____

Please make check payable to ANPF

To qualify for this discounted pricing, your order must be received by Wednesday, October 9, 2013.

Admission to the Events for Local Writers on Friday and Saturday mornings at OLLI/SOU is \$10 and payable at the door. Admission to the Theatre Talk interviews between the matinée and evening performances at the Unitarian Center is free.

ANPF NEEDS YOU

As a nonprofit organization run by volunteers, ANPF relies on contributions from people like you. Whether your gift is large or small, it is *you*—our members—who make it possible for us to continue bringing new works to the stage. During the magic moments of rehearsals, readings, and discussions, a playwright can 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. Check out our membership levels at AshlandNewPlays.org. All gifts are significant and tax-deductible, and every little bit helps. We appreciate your ongoing support!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE WINNING PLAYWRIGHTS

Get to know two new playwrights and get reacquainted with two others

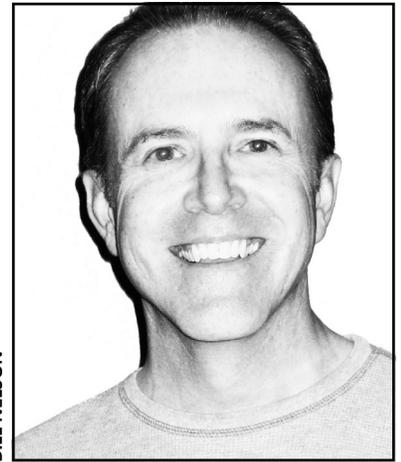
BØ WILSON # I've been asked to write a "getting to know the playwright" piece. If only I knew what you'd like to know! I recently turned 51. I have a grown son and a grown daughter. ("Grown" is what they would claim, and I am not going to embarrass them in public.) I also have a beautiful, talented wife, also grown. I've been writing since the fourth grade, when I rewrote the end of a Hardy Boys book, sending Frank, Joe, and their stout pal Chet over a cliff in their roadster. I went on writing darkly cataclysmic short stories while preparing to be a biologist. In the nick of time, I fell in with the wrong crowd, aka theatre folk. They said that if I wrote things and they liked them, they would do them. That sounded like a fair deal to me. I love telling stories and hearing stories. I love working with amazing people, thrilling to the ways that each of us has a unique understanding of some particular piece of this story, knowing that only when we pool what we know does the story get its best possible telling. I think ANPF and its supporters have given me a rare privilege, and I thank you.



NORA WILSON

ROBERT JOHN FORD # Having lived on both coasts as well as in the Midwest, I know that ANPF's reputation for being a major player in the development of new works and playwrights has reached all corners of the country. It is a great honor to be selected to take part in this year's festival. From the moment I received notice, everyone involved in the organization has

welcomed me with open arms, giving me the "star" treatment! It doesn't surprise me that such a professional and nurturing organization took root in Ashland—when I first visited in the midnineties, I was immediately impressed with the community and the remarkable number of savvy and supportive theatre patrons. Not only am I excited to return to Ashland in the fall, I'm looking forward to spending an *entire week* in one locale! I'm currently traveling weekly between NYC, where I'm developing a new musical in the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, and my home state of Iowa, where I'm developing several projects for next summer. It's going to be a busy year for me, and I can't think of a better way to kick it off than at ANPF 2013!



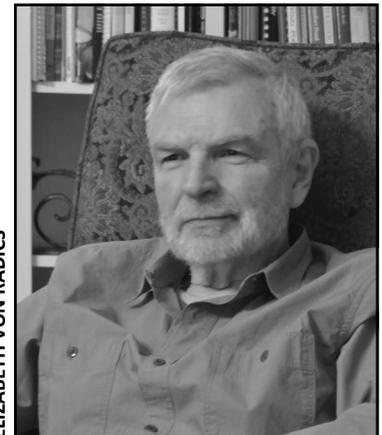
BILL NELSON

JAMIE PACHINØ # I was born and raised in Baltimore, then moved into Chicago after graduating from Northwestern University. (As I say: I grew up in Baltimore, but I *grew up* in Chicago.) Originally trained as an actress, my playwriting career was fostered by Chicago's amazing and supportive community of artists. My first play was written there (on a bet), then produced, after which my actor friends started asking "write me one." A dozen full-length plays later, I'm living in Los Angeles, still writing plays—balancing them with writing for TV (series for TNT and USA; movies for Hallmark Hall of Fame, Lifetime, and UP), features (Disney, DreamWorks, Walden Media, and more)—and being a mom to the world's two best children. I am so grateful to have supported myself as a writer for more than a dozen years and am so very thankful to be back in Ashland with my new play—my third time at ANPF in this marvelous town.



MAIA ROSENFELD

RICHARD MANLEY # I write full-time, usually in cafés within walking distance of our Union Square apartment in New York. The background sound and human vitality of that atmosphere, somewhat oxymoronically, keeps me focused on my work. This will be my third time back to Ashland in the past year. I was fortunate enough to win last year; and this past spring ANPF used one of my other plays as a fundraiser. Although my wife and I live in New York, all of my in-laws are on the West Coast, so I usually try to coordinate my time in Ashland with a visit to Southern California. An extenuating circumstance—and possible ulterior motive—is that I keep my motorcycle stored in Long Beach. Any trip to the West Coast generally involves a lot of time on the bike. The roads, the weather, and the scenery are so much more conducive to riding than those in the East, especially if your starting point is Manhattan. My wife says that I look 10 years younger the moment I get on the bike. I don't think that can be documented, but I wouldn't bet against it.



ELIZABETH VON RADICS

SAVE THE DATES

**Theatre Talk with Michael Elich
and Robin Goodrin Nordli**

Tuesday, October 1 # 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Ashland Springs Hotel

ANPF 2013 Festival Week

October 21 through 27 # Unitarian Center

Kickoff Gala

Monday, October 21 # 5 to 7 p.m.
Schneider Museum of Art

**Playwriting Workshop: Creating Character
and Building the Dramatic Scene**

Friday, October 25 # 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Ask the Playwrights: A Panel Discussion
with the ANPF 2013 Winning Playwrights**

Saturday, October 26 # 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol

December 4 and 18 # Ashland Springs Hotel

Snail mail or e-mail? In our efforts to be green, we prefer to deliver this newsletter via e-mail. Let us know if you concur! info@ashlandnewplays.org.

Check Out This Stellar Casting for ANPF 2013

We are thrilled at the lineup of actors who will grace our stage at the Unitarian Center. A couple roles are yet to be filled, but so far we have cast the following actors: Ken Albers, Brandy Carson, Catherine Lynn Davis, Al Espinosa, Robert Vincent Frank, Nell Geisslinger, Mauro Hantman, Bakesta King, Miriam Laube, Geoff Riley, Robynn Rodriguez, Douglas Rowe, Kimberly Scott, Vilma Silva, Sabina Zuniga Varela, Joe Wegner, Brad Whitmore, David Wood, and Noah Yaconelli.

Want to Help Choose the Winning Plays for ANPF 2014?

ANPF is seeking volunteer readers for the Reading Committee to assist in the selection of finalists for ANPF 2014.

It's a big commitment: between December and June, each reader will read 50 to 60 plays. It's also a lot of fun—we offer social opportunities galore, from large parties to intimate discussion groups.

Never done anything like this before? Not to worry; we offer several training sessions to bring you up to speed on the process.

ANPF's readers are the very heart and soul of our organization. We expect to receive 300 or more submissions this year, and it is our readers' diligent efforts that reduce that pile to a list of 12 finalists from which Artistic Director Doug Rowe will select the final four to program the ANPF 2014 season.

If you'd like to join in this exciting venture, contact Gray McKee (gray@ashlandnewplays.org) or Sunny Anderson (sunny@ashlandnewplays.org).

**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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