Get Your Tickets Early for A Walk in the Woods

If you haven’t yet gotten your tickets, we suggest you do! The Mountain Avenue Theatre is our biggest venue yet, and we’re working to fill all 422 seats. Mike Farrell of M*A*S*H fame is coming to Ashland to be reunited onstage with ANPF Artistic Director Douglas Rowe for a reading of Lee Blessing’s 1988 play A Walk in the Woods on Saturday, August 13, at 7:30 p.m.

The theatre will be divided into two sections, with separate doors for premium and general seating. Your ticket is for a section, as opposed to a specific seat, so plan to arrive early. Doors open at 7, and refreshments are available.

The New York production of A Walk in the Woods opened at the Booth Theater on February 28, 1988, ran for 137 performances, and was nominated for the 1988 Tony Award for Best Play. Sam Waterston re-created his stage role in the filmed production as did Robert Prosky, who also was nominated for the 1988 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Play.

A Walk in the Woods by Lee Blessing

Saturday, August 13
7:30 p.m.

AHS Mountain Avenue Theatre
201 South Mountain Avenue, Ashland

$25 for premium seats
$20 for general admission

Tickets are available at ShowTix4U.com and by e-mailing tickets@AshlandNewPlays.org, calling (541) 488-7995, or visiting Paddington Station at 125 East Main Street.

The Envelope Please...

And We Have Our Winners!

After a painstaking selection process, we are delighted to announce the winning plays to be featured at ANPF 2011 from October 19 to 23. Congratulations to Gary Dontzig of New Mexico for Couples; Steven Haworth of New York for Fernando; Thomas W. Stephens of Washington, DC, for Countdown to the Happy Day; and Carol Verburg of San Francisco for Spin, or Twilight of the Bohemians.

All four playwrights will travel to Ashland for the festival, for a week of workshops, readings, and playwright appreciation as we celebrate new works for the stage.

Our fall newsletter will feature full bios of the playwrights and synopses of the winning plays.

Lewis Glad to Reprise Host Playwright Role

Preparations are well under way for ANPF 2011, and EM Lewis is excited to be returning as our host playwright.

“I’m delighted to be returning to Oregon for this year’s Ashland New Plays Festival!” says Lewis, who was an ANPF 2008 winner with her play Song of Extinction. “I’ve been busy since I was last in Ashland, adjusting to life on the East Coast (which included snow shoveling!) and working on a big new play set in Antarctica. Princeton is a lovely little town, the university is amazing, and it’s an easy train ride to all the theater that New York City has to offer. I’ve decided to stay on in Princeton for a while, but there’s no place like home!

“Congratulations to this year’s winning playwrights! And all you ANPF supporters — get your tickets early! I look forward to seeing you in October. Let’s make this the best festival ever!”
ANPF thanks the innkeepers—past and present—who host our winning dramatists at their distinctive B&Bs, providing a unique Ashland experience.

“All of our innkeepers are enthusiastic supporters of theater and are very knowledgeable about all of the OSF productions and activities,” says Bill Faiia, ANPF board member and co-owner with Corbet Unmack of Arden Forest Inn. Bill and Corbet have done the housing coordination for ANPF since 1997. “It is very gratifying to live in a community that eats, breathes, and lives theater,” says Bill.

Through the years many bed-and-breakfasts have provided housing for ANPF playwrights. Oak Street Station has hosted multiple times, and its owners, Sue and John Blaize, are big ANPF supporters. They housed a guest playwright last year, as did Vicki and Greg Capp of Iris Inn. This is the second year that Albion Inn has provided housing for ANPF. “Cyd and Gary Ropp are very enthusiastic ANPF supporters,” says Bill, “and it’s great to have them providing a wonderful environment for one of our playwrights.”

Ann Hathaway’s B&B and Cottages is hosting this year for the first time. Innkeepers Deedie and David Runkel are excited to be involved, and we welcome them aboard!

This is also the first year for Ashland’s Tudor House. Innkeepers Raliegh and Julie Oda had offered to host last year, and we’ve held them to it!

“We’ve had regular guests returning for ANPF for as long as we’ve been involved with the organization,” says Bill. “At times the entire inn has been filled with ANPF supporters. We also have a number of guests on a waitlist who want to be here for ANPF. We’re looking forward to meeting this year’s winners, and I know it will be a positive experience for everyone.”

September 27 Is ANPF Day at Yogurt Hut

For the third year in a row, Yogurt Hut has offered to give ANPF a percentage of its sales, this time on Tuesday, September 27. The support of this community-minded business in helping us raise the much-needed funds for producing the 2011 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 noon to 9 p.m. Bring your family and friends—and be sure to tell them ANPF sent you!

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

Arden Forest Inn
261 West Hersey Street
Bill Faia and Corbet Unmack, Innkeepers
info@afinn.com
www.afinn.com
(541) 488-1496 • (800) 460-3912

Albion Inn
34 Union Street
Cyd and Gary Ropp, Innkeepers
info@albion-inn.com
www.albion-inn.com
(541) 488-3905 • (888) 246-8310

Anne Hathaway’s B&B and Cottages
586, 637 & 649 East Main Street
Deedie and David Runkel, Innkeepers
annehathaway@ashlandbandb.com
http://ashlandbandb.com
(541) 488-1050 • (800) 643-4434

Ashland’s Tudor House
271 Beach Street
Raliegh and Julie Grantham, Innkeepers
innkeeper@ashlandbb.com
www.ashlandbb.com
(541) 488-4428 • (800) 760-4428

“Being surrounded by guests who come from all walks of life but are all here for the same reason—theater—is not only enriching but enormous fun.”
—Bill Faiia
More than 30 of this year’s 39 dedicated readers are already gearing up to be a part of the play selection process for ANPF 2012. “We’d like to see as many as 50 readers participating next year,” says Gray McKee, co-chair of the Reading Committee. “We welcome anyone interested in joining us and encourage them to sign up by October 25, 2011.”

Scripts submitted for ANPF 2012 will be accepted beginning August 21, 2011; the deadline is January 15, 2012. In January five discussion groups will be organized and scripts will be distributed. Each group will meet approximately once a month through April to share opinions about the plays they’ve read. Toward the end of May, all readers will meet to choose the finalists, from which the four winning scripts for ANPF 2012 will be selected by ANPF’s artistic team.

Follow Spot on Penny Mikesell

Of all of ANPF’s dedicated volunteers, one of the most indispensable is Penny Mikesell. Her first task is to open the mail from all 200-plus submitting playwrights; she registers their names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Then, after blinding each of the scripts (eliminating names to guarantee anonymity and assigning each a number), she records thousands of scores from members of the Reading Committee, answers questions, changes scores when a reader has rethought his or her evaluation of a play, and finally tabulates and communicates the results of the scoring to everyone involved in the process.

This is all accomplished with extraordinary patience, grace, and unerring accuracy. For more than five months, this remarkable, unassuming woman works behind the scenes to make Ashland New Plays Festival the success it is. We salute you, Penny, and all you contribute to ANPF!
ANPF 2011 runs October 19 through 23

Saturday, August 13 • 7:30 p.m.
A Walk in the Woods
AHS Mountain Avenue Theatre
201 South Mountain Avenue, Ashland

Tuesday, September 27 • 11 a.m.–10 p.m.
ANPF Day at Yogurt Hut
140 Lithia Way, Ashland

Wednesday–Sunday • October 19–23
ANPF 2011
Unitarian Church
87 4th Street, Ashland

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.

Visit Us Online at AshlandNewPlays.org
We’re also on Facebook. “Like” our page and stay in touch!

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