



Stage Write

The Newsletter of **ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE**

Volume 17, Number 4

January 2008

A San Diego premiere at OnStage

by Teri Brown

OnStage Playhouse is proud to present the San Diego premiere of Nancy Gilsenan's stage adaptation of *Ordinary People*, based on the book by Judith Guest. The book was previously made famous by Robert Redford's 1980 film, starring such luminary actors as Mary Tyler Moore, Donald Sutherland, and a brilliant young Timothy Hutton. The film won Best Picture at the Oscars and garnered Academy Awards for Redford's direction, Alvin Sargent's screenplay, and Timothy Hutton's portrayal of Conrad Jarrett, the guilt-ridden son left behind.

Ordinary People explores the aftermath of a son's accidental death and the emotional damage it inflicts upon the remaining family members. Conrad Jarrett had an older brother named Buck, and now Buck is gone. What's left of young Conrad's family, with his successful well-intentioned father and his beautiful, organized and remote mother, is in terrible jeopardy, as is Conrad himself. They are all "ordinary people" and each is fighting a hard battle. This play goes to the essence of a young man, his friends and family, their relationships and survival.

OnStage Playhouse is pleased to welcome back multi award-winning director Jay Mower for the first time since he directed the highly successful *An Inspector Calls*. The cast includes Michael Dean Grulli as Conrad, with Sharon Lawson as his mother Beth, Peter Frankland as the father Cal, and Thomas McCaverly in the role of Doctor Berger. Rounding out the cast will be Bob Christiansen, Jimmy Christiansen, Nicole Hagemeyer, Kevin Hoelscher and Jessica Parsell.

Ticket prices are \$15.00 general admission, \$13.00 students/seniors/military. Special group rates are available for ten or more by contacting Betsy Keller via the theatre phone. Curtain times are Thursdays-Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. *Ordinary People* contains adult themes and situations and is not recommended for those under 17 years of age. The production is produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company.

For reservations, please call OnStage Playhouse's box office at 619-422-RSVP (7787) or visit our website: www.onstageplayhouse.org.



Cal, Beth, and Conrad Jarrett have difficulty dealing with the loss of Conrad's brother. Peter Frankland, Sharon Lawson, and Michael Dean Grulli portray the Jarrett family.

photo by Tony Eisenbower

Another special show coming to OnStage to benefit local charities

by Teri Brown

For the past two years, OnStage Playhouse has presented *The Vagina Monologues* in February, with all ticket income going to support Casa Seguras, a local organization supporting families that have suffered from physical abuse.

This February OnStage will again be presenting *The Vagina Monologues (TVM)*, one performance only, on Friday, February 22. On the following Saturday night, we will present a reading of a new work by Eve Ensler (author of *TVM*) entitled *A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant, and a Prayer*. Ticket sales from both nights will be donated to local charities.

Returning from last year's TVM will be Teri Brown, Julie Sachs, Lori Pennington, Kaly McKenna, Carla Nell, and Kym Pappas. Joining them for the first time will be Holly Stephenson, Elizabeth Mander-Wilson, and Kate Hewitt. All these talented ladies have appeared in one or more of our main stage productions, except Ms. Nell, who has directed here twice.

Joining the ladies for the Feb. 23 performance will be Jonathan Sachs and Kirk Irvine.

Reservations can be made on the OnStage web site or by calling our reservation line, 619-422-7787. Payment in advance will be necessary to guarantee a seat for either of these two performances.

Please come and enjoy these unique live performances as together we support those in our community who are in need.

Christmas Toy Donations

Thanks to all the generous people who brought toys or money to the OnStage Playhouse production of *A Christmas Story*. The toys were taken to the Third Avenue Salvation Army for distribution to the families in the South Bay and they were very much appreciated.

New Board Members, Other Board News

The OnStage Board of Directors is pleased to announce two new members of our Board.

New Technical Director. Filling the position of Technical Director will be Christopher DeArmond. Chris is also currently Vice President of the A.C.T. San Diego Board. His day job is with an audio/visual company, and we are grateful for the wealth of technical expertise he brings to the Board. Chris replaces Gary Brengle, who recently moved to the St. Louis area.

New Secretary. Also appointed to the Board and accepting the important position of Secretary is Holly Stephenson. Holly is a veteran actress who has appeared on our stage several times, most recently as Hannah Jelkes in *The Night of the Iguana*. She will be filling the remaining term of Jane Russell, who resigned.

Looking for a good Treasurer. In other moves, Dan Zisko has stepped down as Treasurer, but remains an active member of the Board. We are grateful to Sheila Mura, who will wear both the Vice President's and the Treasurer's hat until elections next June. The Board would be grateful to learn of anyone interested in filling the Treasurer position. In our small theatre, the Treasurer is responsible for bookkeeping tasks like paying bills and making payments to the IRS. This position has quite a bit of responsibility and, like most every job at our theatre, is a volunteer position. We are hoping to find a capable person with a love of theatre, but knowledge of the artistic aspects of theatre is not required.

Advisory Committee Forming. Finally, the Board is forming an Advisory Committee to plan the future of OnStage Playhouse, especially with regard to facilities. We invite persons experienced in real estate, fund raising, building, and related fields who wish to impact the Arts and Culture of the South Bay to inquire about this important activity. Please contact a Board member or leave your information on our phone answering machine (619-422-7787).

This issue of *Stage Write* was produced by the volunteer efforts of Janis Vanderford, Bob Christiansen, Teri Brown, and Bruce Wilde.

President's Corner

By Bruce Wilde

To the many people who enjoyed our holiday presentation of A CHRISTMAS STORY, *thank you*. Thank You for being such a gracious audience and bringing toys for the needy, Thank You for being such generous actors, ushers, decorators and technicians, and a personal *thank you* for 1) letting me join you all on stage the first weekend and 2) for Dan sitting in on the second weekend when I had no voice. ALL of us had such a good time that we will stage a holiday offering again next year.

In the spirit of the season, allow me to wish everyone best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. May you experience great joy, deep love and be granted the peace that we all need as we travel through this life.

ORDINARY PEOPLE explores that journey and allows us to learn what love and loss can mean to those left to cope with the unimaginable: the sudden death of a son, a brother and mother's favorite. From the novel by Judith Guest and later the Oscar winning motion picture, this powerful family drama is a must see.

Volunteer Opportunities at Chula Vista's Live Theatre

There is no question that we would not have a theatre if it weren't for the dedicated effort of our many volunteers. Trouble is, it seems we never have enough. Please consider making 2008 the year when you or someone you know really plays a part in bringing quality performing arts to the South Bay. Get involved!

There are many areas that we need help with. We list here just a few that you may not have thought of:

- People with business experience
- Producer, Assistant Producer
- Set Decoration
- Costumer, Costuming Assistant
- Clerical Assistance
- Ushering

If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information, please call our theatre at (619) 422-7787. There is also a form in our lobby that explains these different areas in more detail. Please fill it out and turn it in when you visit our theatre.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE AUDITION NOTICE

Bleacher Bums

Drama by Joe Mantegna and the Organic Theater Company
Directed by Bruce Wilde
Produced by Betsy Keller and Marge Hale

Auditions will be held at OnStage Playhouse at 291 Third Ave. at 7:00 pm on Sunday, January 13 and Monday, January 14, 2008. No appointment is necessary.

Roles are available for five men, two women, two adult actors (who can be either), and one child.

Audition will be by cold reading from the script. Scripts/sides will be available for use at the audition only. The 1998 version of the script is being used for this production. Please bring a head shot and a theater resume.

The show runs from March 7 through April 5, 2008. Performances are Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 2 pm

A description of characters and further details may be found on the theatre web site, www.onstageplayhouse.org. For more information, you may contact director, Bruce Wilde by email at onstageplayhouse@excite.com or leave a message on the theater answering machine at (619) 422-7787.

Around the County

We encourage you to support other community theatre companies in the county. Here are some of the upcoming shows being offered by our sister theatre groups in San Diego County.

The Cemetery Club

PowPAC
January 18 -
February 10
Call (858) 679-8085

Sweet Charity

Coronado Playhouse
January 18 -
February 17
Call (619) 435-4856

As Bees in Honey Drown

Scripps Ranch Theatre
February 15 - March 15
Call (858) 578-7728

Henrik Ibsen's Hedda Gabler

Patio Playhouse,
Escondido
February 22 - March 22
Call (760) 746-6669

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ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE



ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

Office Staff: Michael Turk Woodbury
Facilities Manager: Charley Miller

Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	Bruce Wilde
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<i>Secretary</i>	Holly Stephenson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sheila Mura
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Lynne Batchelor	Charles Nichols
Bob Christiansen	Janis Vanderford
Rosemary King	Dan Zisko
Lisa Moctezuma	
<i>Past President</i>	Betsy Keller

Theater telephone: (619) 422-7787
Visit us on the web at
<http://www.onstageplayhouse.org>
email: OnStagePlayhouse@excite.com

PLAYING AT ONSTAGE. . .

Ordinary People

Dramatised by Nancy Gilsean

Directed by Jay Mower

January 11 - February 9, 2008

Bleacher Bums

Drama by Joe Mantegna and the Organic Theater Company

Directed by Bruce Wilde

March 7 - April 5, 2008

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at
8:00 pm and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm.

OUR THEATER IS LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN CHULA VISTA AT 291
THIRD AVENUE, NEAR F STREET. LOOK FOR THE GREEN AWNING.

OnStage Playhouse is supported in part by a grant from Supervisor
Greg Cox and the County Board of Supervisors.
Theatre renovation was made possible by a grant from the Colonel
Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation.
The 2007-2008 Student Intern Program is funded in part by a grant
from the Chula Vista Office of Arts and Culture.

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