

Bainbridge Performing Arts 2009-2010 Season

News from Bainbridge Performing Arts

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Contact: Sally Jo Martine, Public Relations Director

Phone: 206.842.8578

Fax: 206.842.0195

Web: www.bainbridgeperformingarts.org

Email: smartine@bainbridgeperformingarts.org

**One Act Fest ~ Directed and Presented by Dinah Manoff
January 22 & 23 at Bainbridge Performing Arts (BPA)
Friday & Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.**

Film, television, and stage actress **Dinah Manoff** presents a **One Act Fest** — a selection of innovative and challenging one act plays and scenes from playwrights, familiar and obscure — this January at Bainbridge Performing Arts. Showcasing the very best talent Bainbridge has to offer, the entertaining lineup includes *Judgment Call* by Frederick Stroppe; *Check Please* by Jonathan Rand; *Little Miss Fresno* by Ara Watson and Mary Gallagher; *The Fool* (or *The Retired Captain*) by Anton Chekov, and *This Property is Condemned* by Tennessee Williams.

Judgment Call takes an ironic look into the world of baseball umpires by a New York-based playwright. It won the Jury Prize at the 1997 Aspen Comedy Festival. *Check Please* follows a series of blind dinner dates that couldn't get any worse — until they do. *Little Miss Fresno* deals hilariously with two very competitive mothers whose daughters are in the semi-finals of a local moppet beauty contest. *The Fool* is a short piece between a man and the matchmaker he employs to find a wife. Written in 1946, *This Property is Condemned* was expanded into the film of the same name starring Natalie Wood and Robert Redford in 1966.

Manoff's primary aim in staging the One Act Fest was to gather together as many talented and motivated performers as possible, getting them out of class and onto the stage for an exhibit of entertaining and diverse material. Choosing both classical and contemporary works for the event, Manoff says that "despite their disparate ways, these pieces fit together somehow...like a great crazy quilt." Manoff was particularly inspired to include *This Property is Condemned*: "It's always been one of my favorite plays," she says. "It was the material I used at my very first audition and the one that got me accepted to the Actors Studio."

The cast for the five works showcased in the January One Act Fest includes Michelle Allen, Jim Anderson, Dylan Arnold, Christy Capps, Robert Craighead, Tim Davidson, Bronsyn Foster Springer, Greer Gibbens, Chloe Hosterman, Arthur Mortell, Steve Nagle, Shaun Pearson, Shannon Sheehan, Kristine Tibbs, Bob Tull, Ruth Urbach, Sue Ellen Van Duyne, Dylan Wilson, and Nathan Marx.

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Born in New York City to actress Lee Grant and writer Arnold Manoff, **Dinah Manoff** won both Theater World and Tony Award as Best Featured Actress for her performance in the Broadway production of Neil Simon's *I Ought To Be In Pictures*, and she reprised the role in the motion picture of the same title.

Manoff's numerous theater credits include Broadway's *Leader of the Pack*, *Alfred and Victoria* at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, *Kingdom of Earth* at Theatre West, and *Gifted Children* at the JRT off Broadway. She won a Dramalogue Award (Best Director of the Year, 1993) for directing *Telegrams From Heaven*, a play — which she co-wrote with Dennis Bailey — based on her late father's novel.

On television, Manoff was a series regular on *Soap*, and is best known for her portrayal as Richard Mulligan's daughter "Carol Weston" the character she played for seven years on *Empty Nest*. Her feature film credits include *Bloodhounds of Broadway*, *Child's Play*, *Staying Together*, *Backfire*, *Ordinary People*, *Grease*, *I Ought To Be In Pictures*, *Welcome Home*, *Roxy Carmichael*, and *Bart Got a Room*, which was released last spring.

Manoff has directed for television, including episodes of *Sister Sister*, *Empty Nest*, *Brothers*, and *Movie Stars*. She currently resides on Bainbridge with her husband Arthur Mortell. When she is not busy being mom to Dashiell, Desi and Oliver, she writes and teaches acting.

Join Dinah Manoff and BPA for a **One Act Fest** January 22 and 23, with shows Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Tickets, \$10 per person, may be purchased online at www.bainbridgeperformingarts.org, by phone at 206.842.8569 or in person at BPA, 200 Madison Avenue North, Bainbridge Island. BPA Box Office hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and one hour prior to each performance. Each play is between 10 and 20 minutes long, most are comedies, and they are for mature audiences (teenagers and above).

The One Act Fest is funded in part by a Project Support Program grant from the Washington State Arts Commission. BPA is supported, in part, by the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council and the City of Bainbridge Island.

Find out more about BPA at www.bainbridgeperformingarts.org. Check online for the latest on theatre and symphony auditions, complete theatre school and adult class offerings, performance listings, tickets, cast lists, video promos, posters, press, and more. Click on "Join Mailing List" to receive electronic performance announcements and behind-the-scenes news.

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