

THE EAGLET

The Episcopal Actors' Guild | Est. 1923 | For All Faiths and None



THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES


"I got a lot more from the Episcopal Actors' Guild than I ever anticipated, and I continue to benefit."

"I'm not as a rule sentimental, but I have to say that most of all – I've found a family."

"I've met many wonderful people, some whom I'm sure will be friends for a lifetime."

"Not only am I amazed at all we do for performers to meet their needs, but I am having a great time."

"I stay at EAG to help EAG actors: the creme de la creme of NYC."



"Great, diverse, interesting, fun folks at EAG. Love it!"

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click on the title of a story below to be taken to the corresponding page.

- 3 **Little Column** *Karen Lehman Foster*
- 4-7 **Why Did You Become a Member of EAG?** *Members Share Their Stories*
- 8 **The Annual Memorial Service** *EAG Remembers Those We've Lost Over the Past Year*
 - 4 **This Year's Memorial Service Speaker** *Anthony Newfield*
 - 10-11 **The 2023 Annual Memorial List**
 - 12 **The 100th Anniversary Gala Invitation**
 - 13 **Coming Soon** *EAG's Events Calendar*
 - 14 **DIY DEI** *Chris Chinn*
 - The Archives** *Eric Stamm*
 - Beyond the Fourth Wall** *Mervyn Kaufman*
 - Two on the Aisle** *Jerry Vermilye*
 - 15 **Turnley's Turns** *EAG Members Appear on Stage & Screen*
 - 16 **Welcome, New Members!**





In our last issue we wrote about 100 years of Guild Hall memories. I concluded that Guild Hall is not just 4 walls, but the spirit of the people that belong to this space. And that is why I am glad that this issue is dedicated to **our membership**.

EAG members comprise folks belonging to the performing arts community and people who support it. But they have been so much more: generous, friendly, lively, passionate, and dedicated. Some of them have been members for over 50 years, and some joined just yesterday. Whatever the case, **all are welcome here**.

Any membership organization that has been around for a long time is deeply steeped in traditions. Our longest tradition is that of honoring those in our profession who have passed away. Our **Annual Memorial Service**, will feature a reading of the names and one final standing ovation. I hope you will join us on Sunday, November 12th at 3:00 pm in the Little Church. Our president, **Anthony Newfield**, will deliver the memorial address, and it is sure to be a very special occasion.

Another tradition that happened

in the olden days were **tea parties** held in Guild Hall. This tradition was celebrated earlier this fall when the **Archives committee** showed some of our memorable items and served our visitors tea.

There are also newer traditions that have brought members together. I am a big fan of EAG's **Broadway Book Club**, which discusses fictional works about the performing arts. On December 11th, the club will be reading its 42nd pick—"Tom Lake," by Ann Patchett. If you are a reader, join us.

If books aren't your thing, we have an amazing **Actors Night** to work on scenes (hosted by **Peter Von Berg**), the **Intentional Artist** support group (currently hosted by **Shauntay Williams**), and an **Open Mic** coming in 2024.

Finally, on major milestones like this one, our members gather together to celebrate! I am thrilled that we will be celebrating with a truly special **100th Anniversary Gala**. We will be welcoming 100 people to an intimate party at the House of the Redeemer. And for those who cannot make it in person, we will be streaming it out to hundreds more of you at home. So if you happen to love great performances please join us on **Monday, December 4th** for our centennial celebration.

Karen Lehman Foster
Executive Director



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WHY DID YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF EAG?

When I lived and worked in Manhattan, I'd certainly heard about the EAG, but I really knew very little with respect to what went on there.

Recently, when I was able to return to the area from the southwest, **Anthony Newfield** called and said I should join the EAG. (I had the pleasure of working with Tony for several summers at the Forestburgh Playhouse in the Catskills.)

He offered an astonishing rundown of what the EAG represents and what it contributes to the community: from providing emergency aid to offering member classes; from having an amazing history to making today's history; from encouraging identity awareness to producing original scripts. WOW! Count me in.

I've had such good years since I joined, and I've learned a lot from members who have been active and generous with their time for many seasons before me. I'm not as a rule sentimental, but I have to say that most of all — I've found a family.

—**JoAnn Yeoman Tongret**



Jim Dale and JoAnn Yeoman Tongret



My clearest early introduction to the Guild came from **Mart Hulswit**, EAG's former Executive Director. I'd worked with him on *Guiding Light*. Mart put out an invitation to the EAG "community" to spend Passover Seder at the Guild. I jumped at the chance. My husband, being Jewish, loved that I embraced their traditions. That Seder was the biggest, most beautiful table I'd ever experienced. Then **leslie Shreve** encouraged me to become a Life Member. At the time, I was working and had the extra bucks so I decided to use some of them to support Mart and all he did for the Guild.



Over time and my involvement as Chair for The Rehearsal Club, (TRC) I realized how intrinsically entwined the two organizations were in their history. The late **Arthur Anderson** and **Alice Middleton Anderson** were active members of EAG—and Alice had lived at TRC. I learned that the Deaconess of The Guild (formerly under a different name) had been the "guiding light" for the creation of TRC. How could I NOT get more involved! Whenever TRC created an event, we gave a platform for The Guild to share what they do—because of everything EAG continues to do for our theatrical community.



Karen Lehman Foster and The Intentional Artists group at The Guild helped me personally get through Covid just by reading *The Artist's Way*. Since then we've read several books together via Zoom, connecting me to a special group of spiritual artists I never would have met...unless they might have lived at TRC!!

A very Happy 100th Anniversary, EAG. May we continue to chart many new creative horizons in our futures.

—**Denise Pence**



Denise Pence and Mart Hulswit



I got a lot more from the Episcopal Actors' Guild than I ever anticipated, and I continue to benefit. My first awareness was when I ran into an actor colleague who was also an EAG member (**Laura Fay Lewis**) at a nearby restaurant. She had just completed a show, singing at EAG. I asked how rock and roll related to being an Episcopalian. It didn't, nor needed to, as I would find out.

I soon became a member, intrigued by the EAG mission to help the acting community with many services. I joined the Finance Committee and attended group meetings and classes, like *The Artist's Way* and Actors Night, making many more friends and nurturing my interests. I then put on a one-hour virtual variety show, *Judging People Unfairly*, co-hosted by my daughter **Kelly Sisco** and starring more than twenty-five participants. It covered scenes, songs, prayers, and stories about DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) and prejudice. That led to more personal growth for myself, and awareness of the importance of DEI in particular. Participating in the DEI talks, "Sustainable Conversations" led to my writing an original play called *It's an Italian Thing! No, It's a Black Thing*, and I performed a scene from my autobiographical play *Once a Boy* that deals with gender transitioning and enhanced self-expression for 2023's *Small Plates*.

I've met many wonderful people, some of whom will be friends for a lifetime.

—**Fran Sisco**



Fran Sisco

In the 1960s I was working on Broadway in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Somehow, I got an audition for **Ray Heatherton**, who was, I think, President of EAG. The audition was to work in PROJECT R.E.A.C.H. (Regional Educational Advancement of Cultural Horizons), a federal program under the Nixon administration that sent professional actors and musicians into public schools.

That's when I met and worked with **Lon Clark**. Lon, Viki Vola, Trish Vandervere (who was married to George C. Scott), and I would get on a train early in the morning to go out to Long Island schools and perform for students. That was very early in the morning for me because I was working on Broadway and not getting to sleep until very late, since the shows then came down at 11pm. Lon would read the financial papers on our commute. He was the head of EAG for many years and managed its finances, and I believe, seriously increased its portfolio by his investments in the stock market.

It may have been **Mart Hulswit** who told me that Lon also volunteered to help actors who came into SAG [Relief Fund] in the hope of receiving assistance. And, one day, he excused himself to go into the hallway, take money out of his own wallet, and give it to an actor in need. That was Lon Clark, who had been a radio star back in the day, playing, among many other parts, the titular role in *The Shadow*.

—**Robert Aberdeen**

I am so fortunate to have a friend in **Sarah Ann Rodgers**. We both are members of another Protestant church, so I was surprised when she told me she was active in the Episcopal Actors' Guild. As I was informed, EAG is for "all religions and none." She thought I would enjoy EAG and what it has to offer, and she encouraged me to become a member.

When I found out the mission of Episcopal Actors' Guild is to help performers in their times of need, I was immediately impressed. So I joined. (So inexpensive!) Not only am I amazed at all we do for performers to meet their needs, but I am having a great time.

Sarah Ann was Chairperson of the Reception Committee, which served wine and goodies after performances, so that was my first "helping out" job. I didn't realize what other wonderful opportunities there are at EAG. I participate in Actors Night, a free safe haven to do whatever one wants to work on— monologues, scenes, poetry, tunes, etc. under the guidance of **Peter Von Berg**, who also happens to be one the vice presidents of The Guild. I am also on the Events Committee and enjoy helping plan amazing events that EAG puts on. I attend free Pilates classes often, two days a week conducted by expert-in-the-field and member **Marla Altberg**, and I participate in Sustainable Conversations, a safe Zoom meeting founded by **Helena-Joyce Wright** to address DEI. (There are other amazing things going on at EAG.)

I also attend wonderful shows at EAG produced by members. I am so pleased that entrance to functions is frequently pay-what-you-will. And, that my entrance fee goes toward helping performers who need it. How's that for a win-win situation!

Great, diverse, interesting, fun folks at EAG. Love it!

—**Betsy Ross**

I joined the guild as a lifetime member. I worked on *A Perfect Analysis Given By A Parrot* by Tennessee Williams with **Annette Hunt**, who may have introduced me to EAG. I still have film interviews with EAG members from a cruise around Manhattan.

In 2004, I moved to L.A. for seven years after retiring from the NYCDOE as a speech teacher. I led my peers in monologue and scene study classes for the SAG-AFTRA Conservatories in L.A. and NYC since the 1990s, until the pandemic. I stay at EAG to help EAG actors: the creme de la creme of NYC.

—**Ann Richardson aka Aan Steele**



Betsy Ross (far left) with Sarah Ann Rodgers (far right) and other volunteers at Guild Hall





PRESENTS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



2023 ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Help us give a final standing ovation to honor the lives and work of performing artists and Guild members who we lost in the past year.

Sunday, November 12 at 3:00pm

The Church of the Transfiguration

aka the Little Church around the Corner, 1 E. 29th Street, NYC 10016

FREE and Open To ALL

Those of all faiths and none are welcome.

Watch the live broadcast online at www.facebook.com/LittleChurchNYC or www.youtube.com/churchofthetransfigurationlittlechurchnyc



Anthony Newfield preparing to read names from the Episcopal Actors' Guild's Memorial List at the Church of the Transfiguration

featuring a memorial address
by director, Broadway actor, and
EAG President **Anthony Newfield**

music by
Claudia Dumschat and
the **Transfiguration Choir
of Men and Boys and Girls**

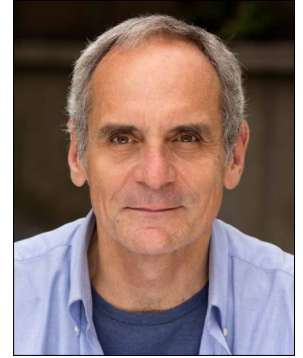
traditional Evensong service led by
Father John David Van Dooren

*In lieu of a collection, please consider
making a donation to the Episcopal Actors' Guild's
Florence James Children's Holiday Fund,
providing supplementary cash assistance to
actors-in-need with children to address holiday needs.*

www.actorsguild.org/donate

RSVP at
ticketstripe.com/eag-ams-2023

“ ***The memorial service is a beautiful and powerful celebration of actors and actors' lives. I see it as a direct connection to Joseph Jefferson, George Holland, and Fr. Houghton.*** —Anthony Newfield



Anthony Newfield is an actor, director, writer, and book editor. Originally from Northern California, he graduated from the University of California, Berkeley (PBK), with a degree in Romance Languages. He studied at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco and received his MFA in acting from Carnegie Mellon University in conjunction with the Moscow Art Theatre.

He spent six months in Russia, studying and playing Jim Casy in *The Grapes of Wrath*. His article about his time in Russia, “After the Orchard,” was published in *American Theatre* magazine.

Newfield's Broadway credits: *1984, The Father, The Winslow Boy, The Columnist, The Royal Family, Waiting for Godot, Tartuffe*. Off-Broadway credits: *Ivanov* (with Ethan Hawke and Joely Richardson), *Susan and God, The Bad Infinity, Lady Windermere's Fan*, etc. Regional theatre credits: Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird, Pride and Prejudice, An Enemy of the People, A Woman of No Importance, Orson's Shadow, Love's Labour's Lost, Arcadia, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Bent* (Carbonell Award, Best Supporting Actor), etc.

Theatres around the country where he's worked include Yale Rep, the Shakespeare Theatre of Washington, D.C., the Huntington (Boston), the Alliance (Atlanta), the Coconut Grove (Miami), TheatreWorks (Palo Alto), etc.

International credits: invited to Ireland, he played Ned Weeks in the Irish premiere of *The Normal Heart* in Dublin and on its Irish National Tour. He later played T. S. Eliot in *Tom and Viv* for the Rough Magic Theatre Company and appeared in Patrick Mason's production of *Peer Gynt* for the Gate Theatre, both in Dublin. In Tangier, Morocco, he was invited to play Giles Corey in a benefit reading of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, with Kenneth Branagh, Derek Jacobi, and Marisa Berenson, directed by Rob Ashford.

Television appearances include guest-starring roles on *Diagnosis Murder, All My Children, One Life to Live*, etc.; film work includes *I Melt with You* (with Rob Lowe and Jeremy Piven), *Diminished Chords, Miss Bertram's Awakening*, etc.

He is artistic director of Poetry for Peace and of I Fabbristi, the theatrical company of New York's landmark Edith Fabbri House / House of the Redeemer, for whom he has adapted and presented *The Iliad, Gilgamesh, Beowulf*, many play readings, and twenty-five years of Christmas programs. He has been a regular participant at the Steinbeck Institute in Monterey, California, and at the annual Steinbeck Festival at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, California.

Helping to develop playwright Richard Alleman's *The Bunner Sisters*, adapted from Edith Wharton's novella, he recently directed a reading of the Italian translation of the play in San Francisco, with an eye to a production in Pisa, Italy, next year.

He is president of the Episcopal Actors' Guild (EAG), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing emergency aid and support to professional performers of all faiths and none who are undergoing financial crises. The EAG is also dedicated to helping emerging artists advance their careers through scholarships, awards, and performance opportunities.

The 2023 Annual Memorial List

As part of EAG's legacy of celebrating the life and work of performing artists, we invite you to our **Annual Memorial Service** which honors performing artists who have passed away (or whose passing we learned about) in the previous year, with music and reflection. The Annual Memorial Service will be happening in person at the Church of the Transfiguration (aka The Little Church Around the Corner, 1 East 29th Street, NYC 10016) and airing on the Little Church's YouTube channel and Facebook page on **Sunday, November 12, at 3:00 pm.**

Jerry Abbitt	Josephine Chaplin	Rose Gregorio
Sharon Acker	Walter Charles	Stephen Greif
Viola Alkire Benzenberg Varble	Marlene Clark	Haydn Gwynne
Kirstie Allie	Angus Cloud	Preston B. Handy *
Ed Ames	Phyllis Coates	Carol Harbich
John Aniston	Judy Cole	Sheldon Harnick
Alan Arkin	Kevin Conroy	Virginia Reily Hendrickson *
Burt Bacharach	Carole Cook	Mari Lyn Henry *
Julian Barry	Marianne Cullinan *	Jay Hickerson *
Keith Baxter	Ronald Dennis	Peggy Hickey
Harry Belafonte	Henry DeSheilds Fisher *	Betsy Howie
Tony Bennett	John Deyle	Charles Hull
Helmut Berger	Melinda Dillon	Barry "Dame Edna" Humphries
Jane Birkin	Larry Dorn	Annette Hunt *
Stephanie Bissonnette	Craig Dudley *	Glenda Jackson
Pamela Blair	Joyce Dwyer	Donnel W. Johnson
June Blair	David English	Ron Cephas Jones
Robert Blake	Robert Faber	Joanne Joseph *
Earl Boen	Michael Feingold	Adrienne Jubilee *
Stephen "tWitch" Boss	Shirley Jo Finney	Jean Kates
Barbara Bosson	Joseph Foronda	Gary Kent
Brad Bradley *	Frederic Forrest	Susan Kikuchi
Alvin Brandt *	Jason David Frank	Charles Kimbrough
Nashawn Breedlove	Budd Friedman	Richard Korthaze
Jim Brown	Frank Galati	Micky Kuhn
Charles Samuel Brown *	Michael Gambon	Michael Lamont
Barbara Bryne	Kate Gaudio *	Milt Larsen
Jimmy Buffett	Robert Gentry	Piper Laurie
Barbara Byrne	Paul Geoffrey	Deborah Lawlor
Sergio Calderón	Clarence Gilyard, Jr.	Quentin Oliver Lee
Irene Cara	Carlin Glynn	Michael Lerner
Jeffrey Carlson	Mark Goddard	Lola Louis
Gerald Castillo	Len Goodman	Wilhelm Lewis *
Freddie Chandler	Joanna Greer	Ben Lipitz

Gina Lollobrigida
Ruth Madoc
Graeme Malcom
Richard Maren *
Mark Margolis
David McCallum
Leslie McCarthy
Rita McClaughlin
Michael John McGann
Julia McLaughlin *
J. Patrick McNamara
Murray Melvin
Joanna Merlin
Lawrence Merritt *
Billy Miller
Sal Mistretta
Richard Moll
Zia Mohyeddin
Armond Morales
Barry Newman
Sinead O'Connor
Paul O'Grady
Jill Ober *
Clifton Oliver
Frank Owens
Jansen Panettiere
Lara Parker
Elizabeth "Betsy" Parrish *
Joan Peer
Chris Peluso
Matthew Perry
Gordon Pinsent
Ron Pullen
Everett Quinton
Gary Ramsey
Lance Reddick
Quinn Redeker
Paul Reubens
Leandro De Niro Rodriguez

Joaquin Romaguera
Freddie Roman
Richard Roundtree
Jennifer Sagan
Julian Sands
Sam Schacht
John Victor Schmidt
William Schneider *
Sandra Seacat
O'Shae Sibley
Barbara Siman Strouse
Helen Slayton-Hughes
Dean Smith
Gus Solomons Jr.
Suzanne Somers
Arlene Sorkin
Jerry Springer
Betta St. John
Stella Stevens
Ray Stevenson
Inga Swenson
Sylvia Syms
Sven-Bertil Taube
Chiam Topol
Dorothy Tristan
Tina Turner
Frank Vallelonga, Jr.
Cynthia Weil
Raquel Welch
Terry Wells *
Annie Wersching
Paxton Whitehead
Jim Wilhelm
Cindy Williams
Treat Williams
Burt Young

**Our sincerest
condolences to all who
have lost someone
in the past year.**

*If you have any corrections to
this list or would like to add the
name of a performer or Guild
member to be read at this
year's service, please email the
name to office@actorsguild.org*

***no later than Wednesday,
November 8, 2023.***

***member of EAG**

You are invited to
The Episcopal Actors' Guild's
**100th
Anniversary
Gala**

Hosted by Jim Dale

Monday, December 4, 2023

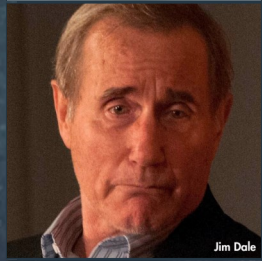
6:00 PM Cocktails, 8:00 PM Performance
at House of the Redeemer, 7 East 95th Street, NYC
and online on Zoom

Tickets (\$25-\$750) available at
[ticketstripe.com/eag100gala](https://www.ticketstripe.com/eag100gala)

The evening will feature performances by
Charles Busch, Jennifer Fouché, Antwayn Hopper,
Daniel H. Jenkins, Mary Beth Peil, Tonya Pinkins, A. J. Shively,
and more under the musical direction of Mark York.



Charles Busch



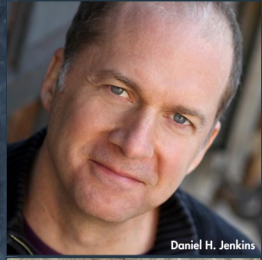
Jim Dale



Jennifer Fouché



Antwayn Hopper



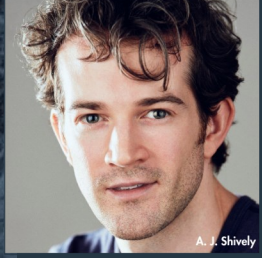
Daniel H. Jenkins



Mary Beth Peil



Tonya Pinkins



A. J. Shively

NO MORE

STARVING

ARTISTS

actorsguild.org

Give a nonperishable food item to EAG's Actors Pantry, the only food bank specific to NYC's performing arts community!

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to order an item from our Amazon registry.



COMING SOON TO EAG

Go to the link listed to purchase tickets/register/RSVP.

More info at actorsguild.org/calendar
reservations@actorsguild.org
212-685-2927

DON'T MISS THESE FREE RECURRING EVENTS AT EAG!

Actors Night

Third Tuesday of the Month (November 21, December 19, January 16)
at 7:00pm ET in Guild Hall

Register for each month's FREE class at ticketstripe.com/eag-actors-night

Actors Night with **Peter Von Berg** is a judgment-free zone, where EAG members can work on monologues, scenes, commercial copy, cold readings, their own material—anything!—before a group of supportive and talented fellow artists. “Whether or not you get constructive feedback is up to you.”

Sustainable Conversations

Mondays, November 27 and January 29 at 7:00pm ET on Zoom

Register for each month's FREE forum at ticketstripe.com/eag-sustainable-conversations

Author/actress/EAG Member **Helena-Joyce Wright** and members, staff, and friends of EAG are continuing our monthly Zoom discussions centered around race and racism in America and in the arts. (We will not be meeting in December.)

Yoga Mondays

Every Monday | 1:00pm ET on Zoom

Register for this FREE weekly class by emailing reservations@actorsguild.org

Stretch, strengthen, and start your week right with some soul-soothing yoga with **Rebecca Ambrose**. (45 minutes)

Pilates with Marla

Tuesdays at 10:30am ET + Thursdays at 2:30pm ET on Zoom

Register for these FREE classes by emailing reservations@actorsguild.org

Stretch, work that core, and have fun with certified personal trainer **Marla Altberg**. This class combines traditional mat Pilates moves with isometrics, calisthenics, and barre exercises. (45 minutes)

I cry a lot. Plays, movies, watching the clouds, a sunrise, seeing an elderly couple hold hands...I'm a crier. Tears don't scare me.

So I found myself sobbing on the 6 train in the Bronx the other day, returning from St. Raymond's Cemetery after scattering the last of Frankie's ashes among the graves of his sister Linda and father William. Now Frankie, too, will be forever in the Bronx. But I wasn't sobbing because of my sojourn to the Bronx—I was sobbing because I had just listened to a voicemail message left by a co-worker who I had not seen in nearly ten years. A beautiful, lovely, heartfelt message from someone who I do not even consider a close friend. He had no need to call me, except to let me know that he had only recently heard of Frankie's passing and was sending his deepest condolences. He could've texted me, emailed me, or commented on Facebook—he didn't have to call. I was touched by his humanity.

Humanity: the quality or condition of being human. Empathy; the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. These two words have been at the fore of my thoughts this past year. In my deepest most darkest hours, I have learned--and lived--what I have always believed to be true: the people who truly love you show up when you need them most. They show up!

I am so very lucky, so blessed to have so many dear, dear friends who have helped me navigate my way through my grief: My friends. My EAG "Ohana." So to hear from someone outside my circle--this former coworker who "showed up"--touched me greatly. And it has stayed with me. His kindness, his humanity, has burrowed its way deep into my heart, where it will remain. Amazing, isn't it? How much we affect one another? How a simple act of kindness or empathy or humanity stays with us? It is what EAG does, has done for 100 years, and continues to do.

Dedicated with much Love & Aloha to Jimbo for his kindness and humanity.

In response to being asked how I became part of the Guild, the answer is my early love of Old Time Radio. While administering the AIDS Initiative Program at The Actors' Fund, I found out that **Lon Clark**, who administered both the Guild and the SAG Relief Fund at the time, was a veteran of the Golden Age of Radio—the voice of Nick Carter, Detective. This led to Lon and me getting to know each other. At one point, having found out I owned a van, Lon asked me to help him transport trash from an apartment he was preparing for sale to the dump. While I agreed, I refused his offer to pay me. When he sent me a check anyway I made a donation to the Guild in the same amount and he made me a life member.

Within the year I was on Council and met a number of other Councilors who had worked in radio—stories galore! Turns out the Guild has a long relationship with radio. The first show I found documentation of in the Archives aired in 1927. Not bad considering commercial radio only began in November 1920.

Several of our Presidents had careers in radio—Staats Cotsworth comes to mind—and to date, I have located in the archive records of three radio shows the Guild was involved in. Most notable was *Great Scenes From Great Plays* which aired from 1948 to 1949. The Guild recruited actors for the show including Jane Cowl, Basil Rathbone, Celeste Holm, Walter Abel, Boris Karloff, Gene Tierney, Gertrude Lawrence, Raymond Massey, Henry Fonda, Walter Pidgeon, Jessica Tandy, Ingrid Bergman and Peggy Wood, among others.

In 2000 we gave the 16-inch transcriptions to the NYC Public Library and in return were provided with CD copies. So it was radio that brought me to the Guild, where radio has been a part of the history since its early years. Perhaps some night we can meet in Guild Hall and listen to some of these recordings.

Beyond the Fourth Wall | Mervyn Kaufman

I remember the occasion. My wife, Nancy, and I were invited to a holiday party hosted by an old friend. One of the actors there took a seat beside me, and we began to chat. Though I'd never been an actor, I explained, after a long career in book and magazine publishing, I'd recently ventured into playwriting.

"That's great!" he said. "Not so," I lamented. "By now I've developed a sizable body of work but have never seen any of my plays on its feet."

"So why don't you join EAG," he suggested. "Really?" I said, shaking my head. "I don't think I can qualify. I'm not an actor or an Episcopalian." "Not a problem—believe me," he insisted.

So a few days later, I decided to join the Guild and...well, just see what would happen. And something did happen, of course. I attended an event and fell in love with the place and the people I met there. I would learn very quickly that as a member, I'd become part of an irresistibly engaging non-judgmental community. When it was suggested that I help edit *The Eaglet*, I accepted the challenge readily. Time passed, and I later saw two of my one-acts included in evenings of *Small Plates* presented in Guild Hall. I felt really fulfilled!

Happy Anniversary to EAG and its diverse body of members. I am delighted to be part of its long and distinguished history.

Two on the Aisle | Jerry Vermilye

As assistant stage manager at the Berkshire Playhouse in Stockbridge, MA, in the mid-fifties, an aspiring young actor enjoyed the rare excitement of working with somewhat faded stars from Hollywood's Golden Age, as well as those who supported them.

With only a week to rehearse each play, most of those celebrities were hard-working pros. At 63, Ruth Chatterton would climb ladders and resurrect abandoned footlights with surprise-pink gels on dress rehearsal day. Richard Arlen welcomed a lobby display of vintage movie stills from his youth, but vinegary Sylvia Sidney evinced her displeasure with a fan's comment, "I'll never forget you in *An American Tragedy*," with the retort, "That was a very long time ago!"

Fussy Edward Everett Horton, a favorite of the matinee ladies, proved less lovable backstage, complaining loudly about his quick-change booth and relentlessly humiliating his leading lady in rehearsal. Margaret Hamilton, typecast by Hollywood in unpleasant film characters, displayed her naturally warm and kindly self, revealing her versatility. But Betty Field, cast as a grim and stoic character, allowed hovering playwright-husband Elmer Rice to offer counterproductive private direction that altered the play, resulting in a dress rehearsal that erupted into a war of words.

Turnley's Turns...EAG Members Appear on Stage and Screen | Rebecca Lovett

JUNE 2023...

Claudia Dumschat conducted *A Spring Concert: Music of W.A. Mozart and Howard Goodall* including Goodall's *Eternal Light: A Requiem* on June 9 at The Church of the Transfiguration.

Mike Roche played Meathead, a longshoreman, in the American premiere of Arthur Miller's *The Hook* at the Waterfront Museum in Red Hook, Brooklyn. The production ran June 9 through June 25.

Jenny Green appeared in the "naughty new short play" *A Rose By Any Other Name* performed on June 10, 18, and 22 as a part of the Chain Theatre's Summer One Act Festival.

Cynthia Shaw brought her solo show *Velvet Determination* to The Artist on City Island on June 10-11 and Klavierhaus on July 30.

2023 MAC Award-winner **Rian Keating** brought his show *Rian Keating Sings Jacques Brel* (musical director, **Darryl Curry**) to Don't Tell Mama on June 19 and June 24.

Eve Sorel was a part of the cast of Break A Leg Productions' (**Teri Black**, Artistic Director) staged reading of the comedy *Lunch at the Mohawk Arms*, presented at Guild Hall on June 23 and 24.

JULY 2023...

Zazel-Chavah O'Garra performed in the Disability Unite Festival at the Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park on July 16.

Jo Yang was a part of the powerhouse cast in the Williamstown Theatre Festival's staged reading of *The Three Sisters* presented on July 29 and 30 as part of their Main Stage Reading Series.

AUGUST 2023...

Paul Bedard co-directed *The Nobodies Who Were Everybody*, which ran August 3-20 at the Jalopy Theatre in Red Hook, Brooklyn. You can check out the terrific write-up they got in TDF Magazine online at www.tdf.org/on-stage/tdf-stages/why-a-play-about-the-federal-theatre-project-is-so-urgent-right-now/.

Eric Kuzmuk played Dmitri Shostakovich in *Shostakovich in New York*, presented at The Amateur Comedy Club August 17-19. He also appeared in *Masks: A Dialogue* as a part of their evening of poetry on August 24. He and Sam Fortenbaugh appeared in ACC's production of *Dinner with the Devil* on September 7 and 8.

SEPTEMBER 2023...

Nancy Simpson performed with the Actors' Chapel singers in *Broadway Shines*—a cabaret night celebrating the new Broadway season—on September 18 at St. Malachy's.

Mary Goggin's *Runaway Princess* was at the Rochester Fringe September 18-22, The Artist on City Island on October 14 and 15, and at An Beal Bocht in the Bronx on October 21 and 22.

Paul Bedard joined Bread and Puppet Theater on tour at various points throughout the fall, including when he performed in *The Heart of the Matter Circus* at Old Stone House in Brooklyn's Washington Park on September 8.

Amy Losi's new play *To Feed the Roses* ran at the American Theatre of Actors September 22-29.

OCTOBER 2023...

Cynthia Shaw appeared in the short play *Copy and Paste* as part of the Short Play Festival: Bool at Players Theatre October 5-8. She will be singing in the C4 (The Choral Composer/Conductor Collective) concert, *The Seventh Self*, at Lincoln Center Auditorium on November 9, at St. Luke in the Fields on November 10, and in Jersey City on December 3.

Juan Roman Jr. was part of the cast of The Skeleton Rep's fall salon series reading of *Mud Season* on Zoom on October 18.

Richarda Abrams is currently appearing as Jessie Fauset in New Federal Theatre's production of *Telling Tales Out of School* at ASP/Castillo Theatre. The show opened October 18 and runs through November 12. Tickets available at newfederaltheatre.com.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Golden Doo Scholarship Funda and help raise money, **Rian Keating** performed his new show *Woman Songs* (musical director, **Darryl Curry**) to Don't Tell Mama on October 24 and 28, and November 5.

Sandra Benee brought her brand-new cabaret show *Love, Life, and Cha Cha Cha* to the historic Players Club on October 26.

Steve Hayes brought *This, That, & Some Other Things* to Pangea on October 29. The show is a comic potpourri of imitations, anecdotes, monologues, some rumors, a bit of gossip and assorted innuendos. In other words, a light bit of fun from the comic also known as the "Tired Old Queen at The Movies"

Susan Richard was among the cast of Break A Leg Productions' (**Teri Black**, Artistic Director) *Fright Fest*, showcasing five horror themed short plays, presented at Guild Hall on October 29.

NOVEMBER 2023...

Gael Schaefer will be a part of the cast of The Skeleton Rep's fall salon series reading of *St. John of Suburbia* on Zoom on November 1.

Active Actors (Jackie Deschamps and **Aan Steele**, producers) are bringing the France USA International Film Festival to Guild Hall on November 4 and 5. Some tickets are still available. Please visit www.mmprgroup.com/franceusaintfilmfestival for details.

Leslie Middlebrook is a part of the ensemble in The Blue Hill Troupe presentation of *Anything Goes* at The Theatre at St. Jeans. Tickets are available at bht.org/events/anything-goes. Proceeds will go to the benefit of Young People's Chorus of New York City.

Leviathan Lab (**Ariel Estrada**, Artistic Director), in association with Theatre Resources Unlimited's TRU Diversity (**Bob Ost**, Executive Director), is presenting a benefit reading of the new play *Marianas Trench* at Houghton Hall Arts Center on November 6 at 7:00 PM. Fund raised will go to support Leviathan Lab's production of the piece scheduled for the spring of 2024. Tickets are available at events.humanitix.com/marianas-trench-reading.

STREAMING NOW...

Jo Yang was cast in Season 3, episodes 5 and 7 of *Awkwafina, Nora from Queens*. Says Jo, "Episode 5, *Bad Grandma* is a hoot, if I do say so myself." All episodes are now available to binge watch on Comedy Central and Max. Jo also appeared in a fun Adobe Acrobat ad that is available to watch on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKGK0udq8i8.

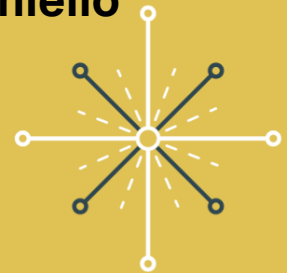
Send your Turns to rebecca@actorsguild.org to be listed in our next issue!

Welcome, New Members!

Derrick Damions
Claro de los Reyes
Carl DiModugno
Tom Foley
Terry Gibson
Jessie Heesacker
Veda Kumarjiguda
Robin Reseen



Isabella Jane Schiller
Mark Solari
Linda Terminiello



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