

# THEATER NEWS

August 2011

## Another Successful Playwright's Express

We'd like to thank all the writers, actors and directors who made our 2011 Playwright's Express a success. In four days we stage read over 50 plays. And for the first time, we had the audience vote for their favorites:

Best of the Festival  
"Air" by Lilly Thomassian

Best Comedy  
"Brooklyn Y"  
by Josh Lazar

Best Drama  
"The Day Aaron Smith  
Replaced John Lennon"  
by Don Corban-Smith

Runner-Up Comedy  
"Traveling to Syracuse"  
by Karen Ilene Frank

Runner-Up Drama  
"Hollow" by Gene DeJoie

Congratulations winners! Next year's festival will be here before you know it, so start writing now!



*The cast of Tom Misuraca's Death Rockers*

## Up Next! The One-Act Play Contest!

FirstStage is now accepting submissions for our annual One-Act Contest. Plays must be unproduced and can be any genre with a running time of up to 30 minutes. There is an entry fee of \$10. Both members and non-members are invited to submit.

The three finalists, selected by our literary committee, will be given a staged reading at our theater on December 6th. That night our distinguished judges will choose the winner. Winners will be awarded a cash prize: \$100 for first place, \$50 for second, \$25 for third.

Send your scripts to:  
Attn: One-Act Contest  
FirstStage, P.O. Box 38280  
Los Angeles, CA 90038

Deadline November 18, 2011!

## Member News

Dan Roth recently returned from Lompoc, California where he watched the opening night of the Lompoc Civic Theatres production of his play "And...Action!" The play is published by the One Act Play Depot, [www.oneactplays.net](http://www.oneactplays.net), and was a winner in the Eclectic Theatres 2005 Hurricane Season One Act Festival. The Eclectic production starred First Stage Members Helen Duffy and Gary Rubenstein and was directed by Bennett Cohon.

Anita Borcia's film, "The Gram Scheme of Things", was shown at the FeelGood Film Festival in August. She also performed in Tom Misuraca's monologue, Penance, at MonoSlam produced by The Secret Rose Theatre.

Last April, Helen Duffy and Diana

Kyle shot a web soap opera parody, "Edge of Forever" directed by T.R. Wilkinson which can be accessed on vimeo.

Marcie Lynn Ross just shot an episode of "Bucket & Skinner's Epic Adventures" for Nickelodeon.

Jacque Lynn Colton is appearing through September 10 in the First Look Festival at the Open Fist Theatre Company in "Life On this Couch" by Laura Richardson and directed by Benjamin Burdick. This comedy is a tale of two sisters who find each other again through the destruction of the beloved couch.

Herman Poppe had a very successful staged reading of his new play "The Case of the Lost Virginity" directed by Bennett Cohon at Write Act Repertory and is now busy completely rewriting it.

*(Continued on reverse)*

## Member News

(Continued from reverse)

Roy Abramsohn is currently a recurring character on Showtime's series "Weeds" and was recently on "CSI" (with Ted Danson) and "Happily Divorced" with Fran Drescher...played David O. Selznick in "Moonlight and Magnolias" at the Colony Theater this past year. Directed a reading ("Everyday Miracles") at Firststage last year, with the help of Dennis Saffren.

Roberta Bassin will be performing her highly acclaimed one woman



Roberta Bassin as Ameila Earhart

show, "Amelia Earhart In Her Own Words". When: Saturday September 24, 2011. Where: The Buena Vista Library, 300 Buena Vista Street. Burbank 91505. Time: 2:00pm - 3:00pm. Appropriate for all ages. Free Event. Enjoy TV interview and learn more about Roberta Bassin, the show and Amelia Earhart go to: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=puhtrOQEjLw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puhtrOQEjLw)

Felix Racelis is working on a new full-length dramedy (still untitled) through the FirstStage workshop concerning a young actor typecast in vampire roles who attempts to reinvent himself by producing and starring in a reality TV show about the homeless.

Richard Nathan recently had a very successful run of his Shakespeare horror parody, "Hamlet, Prince of Darkness" at Zombie Joe's Underground Theatre in NoHo. The show garnered rave reviews

from several publications including the LA TIMES and was extended. His Macbeth parody, "Scots on the Rocks", had a production at the Randall Theatre in Medford, OR. A parody of Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol titled: "A Halloween Carol" is in the works and is also expected to be produced at ZJU.

Pavel Cerny was invited for 2 weeks in November to teach Acting for Camera at a Bangkok film academy. He also has an assignment to write a screenplay for a Bulgarian producer.

Felix's "House of Sticks" recently won second place in the Writer Speaks '11, Evening 15 at ThreeRoses Players, and will be performed again (date tba). He will be participating in the October 9 Secret Rose PlayAthon in North Hollywood and is also working on the team producing a new documentary on Audrey Hepburn for PBS, for broadcast in 2012.

In the past three months, Tom Misuraca has had 9 short plays produced all over the world. Among them was "Camp Soggy Lake", which won third place audience favorite at Youth Education on Stage. He also directed a staged reading of his play, "The Art of Stopping", at Drama West Fest.

Terry McFadden's new 10 minute play entitled "Al n' Moni" just finished a full run in NY with TurtleShell Productions "Summer Shorts" Festival from July 29th to August 10th. "Al n' Moni" was also produced by Avatar Repertory theatre this past April and, also in April and May enjoyed a staged reading at Three of a Kind Theatre in North Hollywood. Terry's short

play entitled "30 Love" had a full production at Still Speaking Theatre in San Marino, CA, in May and a reading at 3 of a Kind Theatre in North Hollywood in March and April. Terry's new 10 minute play "Switching Sides" has just been published by Lambda Literary in a volume called "Off the Rocks, Volume 15" and will be in bookstores September 2011.

Bennett Cohon is directing a table read of a new verse play by Graham Barnard entitled "King Richard" which deals with the Nixon Administration. He is also directing a play in an evening of plays for the Visceral Company entitled "Mute" which has been adapted from a short story by Stephen King. And he is preparing a staged reading at First Stage of the latest revision of Murray Wolfe's play "Latkes & Grits".

## Remember Ralph's

Ralph's rewards FirstStage with a percentage of the monies Ralph's Rewards Members spend at their store. In order for First Stage to benefit, please make sure you re-register for their new term, beginning September 1, 2011. Here's how:

1. All of your members who are currently enrolled in the Ralph's Community Contribution Program will remain active until August 31, 2011.
2. Participants will be required to register or re-register for the new term at [www.Ralphs.com](http://www.Ralphs.com) or by using the scanbar letter at the register starting September 1, 2011.
3. If you received a scanbar letter last year, it is still good and can be used this year.
4. Even if your participants registered as recently as June or July 2011, they will be required to register again, on or after September 1, 2011.
5. Your organization does NOT need to re-register, only your participants.
6. This notice does not apply to participants of the Food 4 Less/Foods Co Community Rewards program.