

SUMMARIES and PLAYWRIGHTS



DO THEY SERVE COFFEE IN HELL?

STARRING: Jennifer Potocnik as Ana; Adam Guss as Daman;
Cynthia Riebesell as Asia; AND Andrew Loraff as Thomas;
DIRECTED BY: Michaella Crnkovic

This play is dedicated to the memory of Tyler Clementi

Enter any local coffee shop and take a look around at the people sitting at their tables; whispering, giggling and oblivious to the fact you are watching them. Truth be told, you don't really know their stories; their secrets, their lies. What if the couple sitting next to you is not as sweet and innocent as they would have us all believe? What if...?

WRITTEN by t.d. barna of Eagle Lake, MN

t.d.barna is not Shakespeare. Never-the-less, he writes. And writes. To date he has authored three musicals, seven full length plays and dozens of short plays. He also pretends to be a lyricist. His current projects include a new full-length comedy and his fourth musical later this year. In the last two years he has had 10 works performed on stage.

TABLE FOR FOUR

STARRING: Noelle Lawton as Celia; Travis Carpenter as Coleman;
Carol Rath as Evelyn; AND Sherman Rupe as Frank
DIRECTED BY: Travis Carpenter

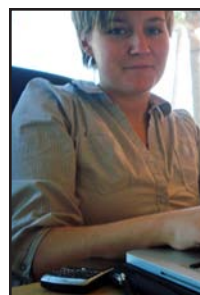


Table for Four follows two very different couples in two very different points in their lives. As the two pairs come together at a possibly critical moment in their lives, Coleman, Celia, Evelyn, and Frank must choose to reconcile their differences - or decidedly not. In a generational clash of epic proportions, the two couples fight for dominance in a seemingly innocuous environment.

WRITTEN by KENDALL SHERWOOD of Chicago, IL

Kendall Sherwood is a playwright/screenwriter who currently works with the writers on TNT's hit crime series "The Closer." Her play "Devil May Care" received a professional reading at the Goodman Theatre in 2011. Kendall's "Wade and Women" was produced in Santa Clarita, CA in May 2009. Her play "This Side Up" was named a finalist in KCACTF's John Cauble Short Play Competition (Region IV, 2010). Kendall's 10-minute plays have received readings and productions as part of the Chicago Dramatists' Saturday Series (2009, 2010, and 2011), Northwestern's MasterClash 2010, and Joria Productions Wine and Words Series in NYC. She has an MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage at Northwestern University, where she also taught Foundations of Screenwriting.

GAYBY'S PLAYDATE

STARRING: Amy Scruggs as Suri; AND Launa Helder as Melissa
DIRECTED BY: Molly Smith



It is Playdate Day for the "Under One's" at a community activity center. Suri and Melissa, two 10-month-old girls who are strangers to one another, have been assigned to the same playpen. Their discovery of vastly different attitudes, opinions and family lifestyles makes for a comic and sometimes harrowing encounter..

WRITTEN by JAN O'CONNOR of North Hollywood, CA

The LA production of Jan's comedy The Girl Who Would Be King in Hollywood was named small venue Best Play of 2010 in LA by Ventura County Star and Backstage critic's pick for 2010 in Playwriting. Garden of Ashes was the first-place winner in LA's FirstStage One-Act Contest. Her comedy Taken for a Ride was produced in LA, at Midway Festival of Plays in Kentucky, at San Diego's North Park Playwright Festival and at San Francisco's Pan Theater Play Festival. The Intersection was produced at 3Roses Players in LA, Crustacean Island played at New York's 13th Street Rep Company. The Daylight Zone was a winner in the Chester Horn Short Play Festival in New York City. Gayby's Playdate was a winner in LA's Lesbian & Gay Playwriting Festival and produced at Festival of 10 at Suny, NY, Brockport in March.

Minnesota Shorts Play Festival



7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9

The Silence
by Connie Schindewolf

Exit Interview

by Gigi Jensen

Alternate Bass Strum

by Larry Greenstein

Fear of Zombies

by Craig Jessen

The Future of Hawaii

by Sam Graber

Boxing

by Brendon Etter

Fighting Mr. Right

by Barbara Lindsay

Do They Serve Coffee in Hell?

by t.d. barna

Table for Four

by Kendall Sherwood

Gayby's Playdate

by Jan O'Connor

OUR SPONSORS:



THE ACCUSING

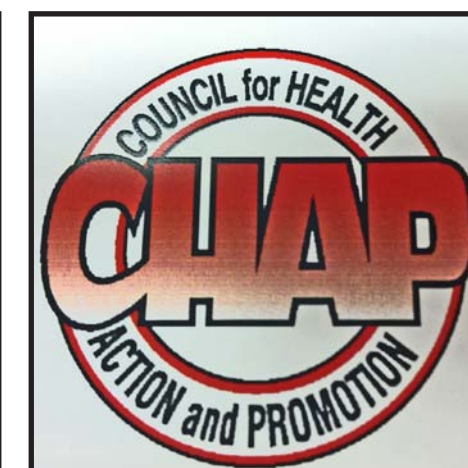
PARLOR

SEPT 16-18

& SEPT 23-24

Lincoln

Community Theater



Don't miss the 4Playwrights/Merely Players production of "The Accusing Parlor," a hilarious murder mystery where everyone has a motive, but only one person can figure it out.



Thanks to the 4Playwrights Project for their help with this festival.
Also to KMSQ for promoting theater in the Playhouse Off 90 series.

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THE SILENCE

STARRING: Emma Ottoson as Carla; Anthony DePoto as Jim;
Sam Stoll as Man; AND Tylinn Fahrni as Woman
DIRECTED BY: Meredith Larson

Carla, a sleep deprived young mother suffering from postpartum psychosis, struggles with mixed emotions about her responsibilities of motherhood and marriage. Hallucinations are a result of this struggle, and silence is the enemy.

WRITTEN by CONNIE SCHINDEWOLF of Bradenton, FL

Connie Schindewolf, an award-winning playwright in the Sarasota/Bradenton, Florida area, lives with her husband, Ray, and her daughter, Jamie. She received a BSE in Theatre Education from Truman State University and a MFA from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. After teaching drama, including playwriting, for 25 years in the St. Louis area, she moved to Bradenton where she has more time to write. Her "Tide Line of July 15th" was produced by Sarasota's Theatre Odyssey in 2008, and in 2010 her "The Silence" won their "Best Play" Award. In 2010 she was one of the winning playwrights in Colorado's 6 Women Playwriting Festival, and she has twice been a participant in Brockport, NY's Festival of Ten. Connie has had productions across the United States and in Brisbane, Australia. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, and when she's not writing, she's saving sea turtles.



EXIT INTERVIEW

STARRING: Colleen Barrett as Edie; AND Candy Simmons as Danielle

Inspired by an article in a supermarket tabloid magazine, Exit Interview tells the stories of Edie and Danielle through interweaving monologues. One is about to embark on the adventure of her life, the other looking forward to a successful career. But one ill-fated event shatters these well laid plans --an illustration of how one woman's prince can be another woman's frog.

WRITTEN and DIRECTED by GIGI JENSEN of St. Paul, MN

Gigi Jensen is a writer, actor and voiceover talent who lives in St. Paul. She is a Core Alumni Member of the Playwrights' Center where her plays "The Empress Hotel" and "Virgin and a Half" were featured in two Hothouse Festivals. Her plays have been produced from coast to coast, including "People Can Be So Small Minded" and "Welcome Home, Daddy" for the Atlantis Playmakers Festival in Billerica, MA, "All My Love" for the Stormy Weather Players in Stratford-On-Hudson, NY, and "Heart and Soul" and "Bar Noir" were performed for Thirst Theater in Minneapolis. "Exit Interview" was a finalist for the Humana Festival at the Actor's Theater of Louisville, and was produced at the Actor's Theater in Santa Rosa, CA, and by Spanish Ladies Theater Company for the Minneapolis Fringe Festival.

ALTERNATE BASS STRUM

STARRING: Larry Greenstein as Lenny AND Brendon Etter as Adam

Lenny, a retired social worker, awakens from a heart attack at a radio station in Heaven. He is shocked to learn he is supposed to be a successful singer/songwriter.

WRITTEN and DIRECTED by LARRY GREENSTEIN of Minneapolis, MN

Larry is former Jerome Foundation Resident Playwright with the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis. He has had plays produced in the Twin Cities and most recently at the Very Short Play Festival in Northfield. To fill his retirement, he works in the Development Department at the Guthrie Theater and performs regularly on fiddle and guitar at area nursing homes and senior centers. Larry, wife Jodi and daughter Hannah live in North Minneapolis.



**THANKS TO HY-VEE & PEPSI FOR
TICKETING, SODA AND COOKIE SALES**

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FEAR OF ZOMBIES

STARRING: Carolyn Strauss as Grace; Christian LaBissoniere as Chase;
Delilah Effinger as Zoe AND Lars Nisswandt as Todd
DIRECTED BY: Benjamin Wagner

Two weeks after Halloween, married couple Grace and Chase are once again playing matchmaker for their friend Zoe – an incorrigible bachelorette who views a long term relationship as a station just below death. But when Todd arrives and spins a story about a one night stand with a zombie, he may just prove to be the man for Zoe.

WRITTEN by CRAIG JESSEN of Los Angeles, CA

Craig Jessen is an emerging American playwright based in the West Coast. Productions include Pylon, Alice Through the Looking Glass, Chasm, and Unstable Octet. Learn more at www.craigjessen.com.



THE FUTURE OF HAWAII

STARRING: David Middlecamp as Paul; AND Melanie Wehrmacher as Melanie
DIRECTED BY: Dionne Laviolette

The lives of two political operatives are wrapped up in Tea Party politics, where history erases history.

WRITTEN by SAM GRABER of Minneapolis, MN

Sam Graber is one of the nation's skinniest playwrights. His 2009 book and score for "FISH! The Musical!" was taken to Las Vegas for production, and in 2010 his "Field Guide To Mating" received both domestic and international stagings. His work has been developed by Box Wine Theater, Venture Theater, Cluj Theater Company, and the New Mystics Theater Company and has been published by Dramatic Publishing. He currently lives in Minneapolis, with a wife, two kids and a goldfish which means that he is, at best, the fifth most important person in his house. His mother wants him to eat more.



BOXING

STARRING: Brendon Etter as Dwight; AND Shari Setchell as Person in the Box

A man is curious about a box he sees in a local park. The box is large, and no one else is paying any attention to it. He decides to take a peek inside.

WRITTEN & DIRECTED by Brendon Etter of Northfield, MN

Brendon Etter writes and acts for fun while living in Northfield, MN. He lives in Northfield for fun as well, but also because his wife and children live there, and they would be a bit perplexed were he to not live with them. He mostly writes short plays, but acts in plays of all lengths. Sometimes he writes poetry, but only to laugh at how bad his poetry is. When he's not writing, acting or watching funny things with his daughters, he runs and mows his lawn, even in the winter.



FIGHTING MR. RIGHT

STARRING: Rebekah Kreger as Marla; AND DW Surine as Joel
DIRECTED BY: Jan Arford

It was a good first date. Terrific even. So why all this fighting?

WRITTEN by BARBARA LINDSAY of Shoreline, WA

Barbara Lindsay's first full length play, FREE, won the NY Drama League's 1989 Playwriting Competition and was given its premiere production in London in 1991. Since then there have been almost 200 national and international productions of her plays and monologues. Her full length play I-2195 won the Women in the Arts Award at UM St. Louis and was produced there in Nov. 2005. Her short play HERE TO SERVE YOU won the 2008 Goshen Peace Play Prize. Babs is a fifth generation Californian living in Seattle, WA, married to an amazing man, and ridiculously happy.



THE SURVEY

This festival is made possible by a grant provided by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on Nov. 4, 2008.

ZIP CODE _____ Male Female

1. Please rate today's show with 5 being excellent and 1 being poor

1 (poor) 2 3 (average) 4 5 (excellent)

2. This is our third annual festival of all original plays. Would you like to see this continue as an annual event?

YES NO

3. How did you hear about today's show?

Poster/Postcard Friend Newspaper Radio TV Facebook/Web
 Free Press KTOE KEYC
 Reporter KMSU CCTV

4. Arts help the economy. Circle if you ate at a restaurant before the show, plan to go to a pub after the show or are from out of town and stayed at a hotel.

Restaurant Pub Hotel/Motel

5. Was the \$10 ticket price (\$9 in advance or \$7 per night for 2-day pass) fair?

YES NO I BOUGHT A 2-DAY PASS

THE BEST OF THE FEST

CIRCLE YOUR TOP PLAY OF THE EVENING. The play receiving the most votes will get a \$100 Best of the Fest prize. Rank the rest 1-5, with 1 being poor, 3 average and 5 excellent.

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Exit Interview

by Gigi Jensen

Alternate Bass Strum

by Larry Greenstein

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Gayby's Playdate

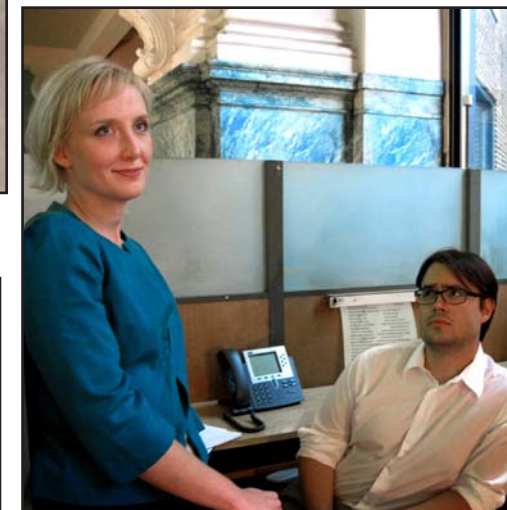
by Jan O'Connor



Gayby's Playdate stars Amy Scruggs and Launa Helder



Fighting Mr. Right stars DW Surine and Rebekah Kreger



The Future of Hawaii stars Melanie Wehrmacher and David Middlecamp



Do They Serve Coffee in Hell? (above) stars Andrew Loraff, Cynthia Riebesell, Jen Potocnik and Adam Guss



Boxing stars Brendon Etter and Shari Setchell



Exit Interview stars Colleen Barrett and Candy Simmons



The Silence (right) stars Emma Ottoson, Tylinn Fahri, Sam Stoll and Anthony DePoto



Fear of Zombies stars Carolyn Strauss, Christian LaBissoniere, Delilah Effinger and Lars Nisswandt