



FRIENDS OF
AMERICAN WRITERS
CHICAGO
BULLETIN

DECEMBER

2008 NO. 4

GREETINGS FROM THE
PRESIDENT

Help! Recently there have been problems with the luncheon reservations. Some members have become lax and tried making reservations after the deadline. Rosemary Crowley, Luncheon Chair, has had to tell people that it was too late and there's no more room. This is not fair to her and not fair to FAW which wants to please its members and fill the room.

Reservations are due on Sunday evening at 6 pm prior to the second Wednesday of the month. Chef John buys the food early on Monday. He is very insistent that he must have the correct number before he shops. We are guests of the club and must follow their rules. Let's be courteous!

The newsletter has been mailed very late the last two months which is also a problem. We will send it out sooner starting this month. If you want to see what's appearing ahead of time, check the pink yearbook or contact me for details.

Vivian Mortensen, President

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JANUARY 14
PROGRAM

"Theater in Chicago"

MICHAEL
HALBERSTAM

Artistic Director and Co-Founder
of the Writers' Theatre

*Now Playing
At the
Writers' Theatre*

"The Maids"
November 18, 2008 -
April 2, 2009

Jimmy McDermott, one of the city's most exciting young directors, brings his trademark edginess to this seminally rebellious play

ABOUT MICHAEL HALBERSTAM

Michael Halberstam is Artistic Director and Co-Founder of **Writers' Theatre**. Now in its seventeenth season, Writers' Theatre enjoys international acclaim, a \$3.5 million budget, 5,200 subscribers and is generally heralded as one of Chicago's most treasured artistic resources. For his theatre he has directed over twenty five productions including, *Not About Heroes* (starring Nicholas Pennell), *Private Lives*, *Look Back in Anger*, *Candida*, *Fallen Angels*, *Nixon's Nixon* (twice), *Spite for Spite*, *The Father*, *The Doctor's Dilemma*, *Seagull*, *The Uneasy Chair*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Othello* and the world premiere of *The Savannah Disputation*. Michael has appeared in many Writers' Theatre productions including, the title role in *Richard II*, *Loot* (directed by Gary Griffin) *Misalliance* and his annual one man performance of *A Christmas Carol*. Previously, he spent two years at The Stratford Festival in Ontario and performed in *Timon of Athens*, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* (title role), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It* and *Macbeth*. Halberstam's other Chicago acting credentials include productions with Wisdom Bridge, Court Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Elsewhere he directed: *Pledge of Allegiance* (American Theatre Company); *The Gamester* (Northlight Theatre); *A Man For All Seasons* (Peninsula Players Theatre); *Hamlet* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); *Candida* (Jean Cocteau Repertory in New York City, NY) *Ten Little Indians* (Drury Lane Oakbrook); *Enchanted April* and *State of the Union* (Milwaukee Repertory). Halberstam has received awards for excellence in theatre management and artistic achievement from The Chicago Drama League, The Arts & Business Council and the Chicago Lawyers for the Creative Arts. Last fall he directed a highly acclaimed production of *Crime and Punishment* at 59E59 Theaters in New York City, the Writers' Theatre off Broadway premiere. In April he directs the world premier of *A Minister's Wife*, an original musical adapted from Shaw's *Candida* by George Bernard Shaw with music by Josh Schmidt and lyrics by Jan Tranen.

WRITERS' THEATRE'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Old Glory

February 3 – March 29, 2009

Performed at 325 Tudor Court

Shrouded in mystery, the circumstances surrounding six ordinary people grappling with the emotional casualties of war unfold in the latest work from one of Chicago's hottest young playwrights

The Minister's Wife

May 19 – July 19, 2009

Performed at 325 Tudor Court

A poet, a preacher and his wife enter into a delicious conflict when a fantastical assumption turns an ordinary day topsy turvy

Nixon's Nixon

August 19 – October 25, 2009

Performed at 664 Vernon Avenue

Just in time for the elections, we bring back our critically acclaimed, award-winning production of NIXON'S NIXON

Picnic

September 16 – November 20, 2009

Performed at 325 Tudor Court

Frequently hilarious and profoundly moving, Inge's masterpiece chronicles the hopes and

JANUARY 14 RESERVATIONS

Happy New Year! Please join us for the January 14 luncheon and program at the Fortnightly of Chicago, 120 East Bellevue, at 12:00 noon. Complimentary coffee and tea service is available in the front parlor for early arrivals.

To reserve your seating at the January Luncheon call: Pat Adelberg at 847-588-0911 or Rosemary Crowley at 312-856-0009. Pat and / or Rosemary can answer any questions as well as take your reservations. **Please note: reservations as well as cancellations are due before 6:00 pm on the Sunday prior to the luncheon, January 11. *Email reservations are not accepted.*** Luncheons ordered but not served must be paid in full. Checks may be sent to Eileen McNulty, 4450 North Kostner, Chicago, IL 60630, phone 773-283-3369.

Seating arrangements in the dining room will be round tables seating eight people. The all-inclusive luncheon price is \$35.00. A vegetarian or fruit plate may be substituted if requested at the time the reservation is made.



WRITERS' THEATRE

In 1992, Artistic Director Michael Halberstam and Artistic Associate Marilyn Campbell founded Writers' Theatre to explore productions in which the word on the page and the artists that bring the word to life hold primary importance. Writers' Theatre began in a newly opened Glencoe bookstore and in 2003 moved to the Woman's Library Club of Glencoe at 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe. This inviting 108 seat performance space offers the company's trademark level of intimacy. With a reputation for consistent artistic excellence, innovative educational programming and strong ties to the community, Writers' Theatre has built an award-winning repertoire and today, serves as a vital and highly regarded company in the Chicago theatre community, offering more than 65 productions, including 10 world premiere adaptations. As a direct result of the consistent artistic quality of the work, the company has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades: 46 Joseph Jefferson Awards nominations, 9 Joseph Jefferson Awards and 12 After Dark Awards. Now in its 16th season, Writers' Theatre has enjoyed 15 seasons of operating in the black, playing to an average of 96% audience capacity and is pleased to be heralded as one of Chicago's most respected cultural treasures. In addition to the Tudor Court location, performances are also held at 664 Vernon Avenue, Glencoe. The Box Office is located at 376 Park, Glencoe, IL. Visit the website at www.writers-theatre.org or call 847-242-6000 for more information.



SAVE
THE
DATE

February 11, 2009
Program
“Keeping The House”
Ellen Baker, Author

***WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS***

Joan H. Mc Cracken
1255 North Sandburg Terrace
Chicago, IL 60610-8255

Lyn Ridgeway
1130 South Michigan, 2104
Chicago, IL 60605

Guests are always welcome at any meeting. Please remember that in accordance with the FAW “Standing Rules” number two (yearbook page 45): *“No resident of the metropolitan area shall be a guest at more than two meetings during the club year.”*

If you are receiving your Bulletin by US Mail and would like to receive it by email, please notify Vivian Mortensen at vmortens@comcast.net



LITERARY MOVIES

Several movies have recently opened that were made from books worth reading:

GEORGIANA: DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE by Amanda Foreman. A chronicle of the life of 18th century aristocrat Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, who was reviled for her extravagant political and personal life.

NIGHTS IN RODANTHE by Nicholas Sparks. A doctor who is traveling to see his estranged son sparks with an unhappily married woman at a North Carolina inn.

THE READER by Bernard Schlink. Nearly a decade after his affair with an older woman came to a mysterious end, law student Michael Burk re-encounters his former lover as she defends herself in a war-crime trial.

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD by Richard Yates. Yates incisive, moving, and often very funny 1961 novel portrays a suburban ‘50’s couple who seem perfect on the surface but are deeply troubled and unhappy.

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES by Sue Monk Kidd. After Rosaleen, a bold black woman, insults the biggest racists in town, young Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.