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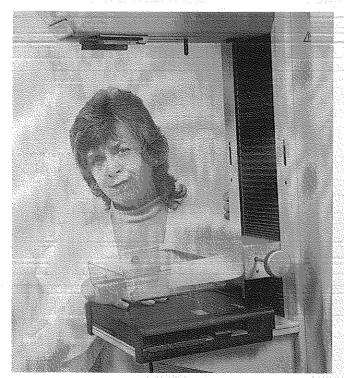
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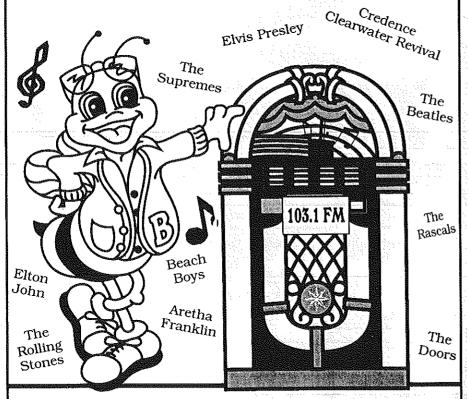


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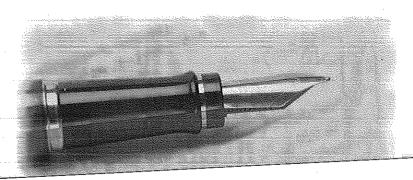
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Letter From The Producer

Welcome to the 48th season at Gateway Playhouse! Theater has certainly changed since my grandfather, Harry Pomeran, started putting on shows here in the 1950's. Audiences have become more sophisticated; they expect more if they are to be entertained. New Broadway shows like The Lion King, Jekyll and Hyde and High Society have refined technical stagecraft into a true art form. One day these shows will close on Broadway, but how many local theaters will be able to stage them? Even revivals of well-loved musicals must keep up. It is no longer enough to suggest a setting, like we did with the back end of a ship with a little paddlewheel in our production of Showboat in the 1970's. Audiences now expect crashing chandeliers, like we created for our last show, *Phantom*, explosions, pyrotechnics and other special effects.

Here at Gateway, we make every effort to bring you spectacular entertainment. In our next production, State Fair, we will be fitting the actual Broadway set to our stage, requiring the professional expertise of both actors and technicians to maximize its effect. There are drops, flying pieces, wagons, and houses that require timing and skill to use properly. Later in the season we will offer Singin' In The Rain, and our technical wizards will actually make it rain on stage for you. We are making plans for the holidays too, designing an exciting variety show with holiday elements much like the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular. It will run from Thanksgiving through early January with special children's matinees.

We pride ourselves on being "Broadway In Your Backyard" and feel we are the only theater on Long Island that can even attempt to stage the creative new Broadway shows to full effect. It's exciting to be able to continue the tradition my

grandfather started. Though the scope of the operation has changed, we feel we have the professional resources and know-how to continue to bring complicated shows to Long Island for many years to come. Thank you for your patronage,

and enjoy the show.

Paul Allan



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JAMES GERTH _=

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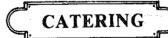
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THE CAST

In order of appearance

Prologus, an actor The Proteans	JAMES GERTH*PATRICK T. CLAYTONJOEY PANEK
	CHUCK RAGSDALE
Hero, son of Senex and Domina	CHRISTOPHER MATTHEW*
- Philia, a virgin	ALET OURY*
Senex, a citizen of Rome	DIMITRI CHRISTY*
Domina, his wife	CAYTE THORPE*
Hysterium, slave to Senex and Domina	WAYNE SCHERZER*
Lycus, a buyer and seller of courtesans	DARIN DePAUL*
Pseudolus, slave to Hero	JAMFS GERTH*
Tintinabula	MOLLY BETH WILDE
Panacea	AMY ELERS
Vibrata	LILI CALAHAN
Gymnasia	JODI WETZEL
The Geminae, courtesans	
Erronius, a citizen of Rome	DICK DECAREAU*
Miles Gloriosus, a warrior	

Time: Two hundred years before the Christian era, a day in spring.

Place: A street in Rome in front of the houses of Erronius, Senex, and Lycus.

UNDERSTUDIES

(Understudies are never substituted for listed players unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.)



*Actors employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The Musicians employed in this production are members of the American Federation of Musicians.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} SSdc & Directors employed in this production are members of The Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc. \\ \end{tabular}$

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GATEWAY HISTORY

25 Years Ago At Gateway

ack in 1973 Gateway Playhouse was more than a theater offering Broadway quality shows, it was also a training around for performers. Actresses like Wendy Malick of HBO's Dream On and NBC's Just Shoot Mel series, spent the summers in Bellport learning their craft as apprentices.

Executive Producer Ruth Allan remembers

"we had three divisions: students 13-17. actors-in-training age 18 and up who had no experience so they paid for classes and room and board, and apprentices who had to audition and paid room and board, but received free training." The students came for four or eight week sessions and had their own shows in the Barn Theater, but actors-in-training and apprentices would get the chance to work on Main Stage productions.

"The apprentices were talented. they had some training from college, and really wanted experience of getting on the boards. We were doing mostly musicals then. I remember when Wendy first came out. she was in Zorba, which was the last show I did on the Main Stage, and she was in Anything Goes" said Allan.

About ten apprentices and ten



(I to r) Ruth Allan, Craig Brooks and Wendy Malick

actors-in-training were accepted each summer. They would live on Gateway's grounds, and took classes in acting. improvisation, speech, movement, and makeup. They even learned something about sewing costumes! Throughout this process they accumulated credits toward Equity status. Then, as today, Main Stage shows featured professional Equity actors in the lead roles, and this also offered an opportunity for apprentices to pick up pointers.

"It was more of a training center, then, but the shows were still wonderful things," said Allan, who still hears from past apprentices like Marcia McCabe and Ken Howard in notes and via email. "Beyond their training they all say the same thing, they will never forget their years at Gateway where they felt

like a family."



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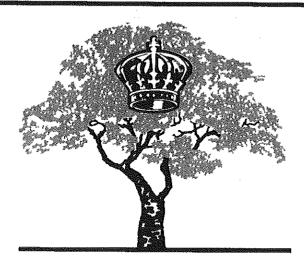
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Lovely	Philia, Hero
Pretty Little Picture	
Everybody Ought To Have A Maid	Senex, Pseudolus, Hysterium, Lycus
I'm Calm	Hysterium
Impossible	Senex, Hero
Bring Me My Bride	

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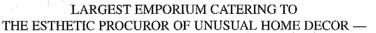
ACT II

That Dirty Old Man	Domina
That'll Show Him	Philia
Lovely reprise	
Funeral	
Comedy Tonight - Finale	

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WHO'S WHO (in alphabetical order)

DIMITRI CHRISTY (Senex) recently played Everett Baker in CRAZY FOR YOU in Switzerland, Herr Schultz in CABARET at the Forum Theatre in New Jersey, and The Duke in Shakespeare's MEASURE FOR MEASURE for the Worth Street Theatre Company in NYC. Other recent roles include King Saul in a new play, DAVID DANCES and The Bia Man on Hester Street in ITALIAN FUNERALS AND OTHER FESTIVE OCCASIONS. He was also Tevye in FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, Max Detweller in THE SOUND OF MUSIC and Mr. Mushnik in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, Favorite roles for Dimitri include Zorba in ZORBA-THE MUSICAL Tito Merelli in LEND ME A TENOR, Mr. Velasco in BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, Joe in GOD'S FAVORITE and The Detective in MURDERED BY THE MOB. Dimitri is very pleased to be a part of this production and thanks God for all the blessings and opportunities.

LILI CALAHAN (Vibrata) Lilli is happy to return to Gateway where you may have seen her in TOMMY, CABARET, and WEST SIDE STORY. Some of her credits include the National Tours of A CHORUS LINE and EVITA and a European tour of JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR. Regionally she has enjoyed working at Papermill Playhouse, Downtown, Cabaret Theatre, and The Westchester Broadway Theatre. Lilli has also performed stand-up in New York City at Caroline's Stand-Up New York, Don't Tell Mama's, and at The Comic Strip Live.

PATRICK T. CLAYTON (Protean) FORUM marks Patrick's debut at Gateway Playhouse. His other credits include: Frank/Andy Lee understudy in 42ND STREET (National Tour), Cosmo in SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (Artpark), and COLE PORTER'S ALADDIN (Asian tour.) He recently played the

in Gaieway

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was "Yonkers," and the lure of New York City beckoned two young men to enjoy the high life of Broadway. Add our most beloved matchmaker Dolly Levi making everything magical and a score including "Before the Parade Passes By," "Put On Your Sunday Clothes," and of course the classic "Hello Dolly," and you've got a gem of a show.

It's the Golden Age of Hollywood from Silent Films to Grand Musicals

September 9 - September 26

The all-time favorite movie musical that featured Gene Kelly and Donald O'Connor, comes alive on stage, capturing the fun and excitement of the early days in tinsel town. The delightful musical journey of a young starlet who emerges as the toast of Hollywood. It was the dawn of the modern musical with songs you love, like "Good Morning," "You Are My Lucky Star," and of course, "SINGIN' IN THE RAIN." If you're seated in the first few rows bring an umbrella, only kidding!

Top Rated Comedy in the Audience Favorite Poll!



September 30 - October 11

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WHO'S WHO (continued)

role of Tobias Raga in an Faulty Showcase production of SWEENEY TODD in New York. Patrick was the recipient of a Theatre Arts Scholarship from the Maryland State College Scholarship Board. He would like to thank his family and friends for their unending love and support.

DICK DECAREAU (Erronius and Pseudolus / Prologus understudy) was last seen on this stage playing the befuddled Mayor Shinn in THE MUSIC MAN last season, Broadway credits include GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES, and RAGGEDY ANN. Off-Broadway productions include, MADEMOSIELLE COLOMBE, HURRY HURRY HOLLYWOOD, and JIMMY VALENTINE, On the road he played 1,200 performances of ANNIE! Not the orohan, but Rooster and other savory characters. Other favorite shows include performances throughout the country: Parchester in ME AND MY GIRL. Dexter in SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, Max in THE SOUND OF MUSIC, Brian in LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR. Mr. Spencer in MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG. directed by James Lapine, Bert in 42ND STREET. Albin in LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, and Moonface in ANYTHING GOES. Television and film credits include numerous commercials, work on the soap LOVING on ABC, and the film, WHISPERS OF WHITE. The BLONDES cast album is on DGR Records. This fall Dick starts rehearsing the new musical, CAPTAIN'S COURAGEOUS, opening at the Manhattan Theatre Club in October. directed by Lynn Meadow.

DARIN DePAUL (Lycus) was seen last year in Gateway's MAN OF LA MANCHA and ME AND MY GIRL. Other theater credits include the national tour of FUNNY GIRL with Debbie Gibson, PHANTON OF THE OPERA, OLYMPUS ON MY MIND, and GOOD EVENING. Television appearances include MIAMI VICE, SCI-FI BUZZ, recurring roles on USA UP ALL NIGHT with Gilbert Gottfried and Nickelodeon's WELCOME FRESHMEN and commercials for the Florida

Lottery and Bell South Mobility, Darin also spent two years at Walt Disney World's ADVENTURERS CLUB and was one of the creative minds behind New York's JEKYLL AND HYDE CLUB

AMY FLERS (Panacea) is pleased to be returning to Gateway Playhouse after appearing in last season's JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT and DRACULA: A ROCK OPERA at Gateway's Candlewood Playhouse. Last summer she danced in the world premiere of Disnev's HERCULES and then toured Australia as a quest artist with the Gateway Ballet of St. Louis. She has also toured Europe extensively with MY FAIR LADY starring Richard Chamberlain and with JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR. Other credits include: Dream Laurey in OKLAHOMA!, Graziella in WEST SIDE STORY, Snow White and Cinderella in Tokyo Disneviand's ONE MAN'S DREAM and national tours of THE WIZARD OF OZ and THE BEST OF BROADWAY, IIYEE

CHRISTOPHER GARBRECHT (Miles Gioriosus) was most recently seen as Miles Gloriosus in A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM at the Drury Lane-Oakbrook theatre. He has also appeared as Bill Svikes on OLIVER! Joe in THE MOST HAPPY FELLA, Magaldi in EVITA and Joe Hardy in DAMN YANKEES all at the Drury Lane-Oakbrook. He played Count Carl-Magnus in A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC at the Milwaukee Skylight Opera Theatre, the Phantom in the Yeston/Kopit PHANTOM at the Candleliaht Dinner Theatre in Chicago and in Westchester, NY and the Policeman in BOOK OF THE NIGHT at the Goodman Theatre. A resident of Chicago, Christopher has also worked with such Chicago companies as Steppenwolf, Remains Theatre and The Body Politic.

JAMES GERTH (Pseudolus / Prologus) has been a professional actor for over 25 years. He performed on Broadway in Lincoln Center's MY FAVORITE YEAR where he was understudy to Tim



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WHO'S WHO (continued)

Curry, James starred Off-Broadway in ON THE AIR and MADISON AVENUE. His title roles include THE KING AND I MAN OF LA MANCHA. SCAPINO, PALLIOFY, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR. and THE MUSIC MAN in which he played Harold Hill for this theatre's production this past season. He has starred as the Pirate Kina in PIRATES OF PENZANCE, Henry Higgins in MY FAIR LADY and the First Comic in SUGAR BABIES. He has toured the United States and Japan in MY FAIR LADY and the US and Canada as Don Quixote in MAN OF LA MANCHA, Mr. Gerth's picture banas in the Gallery of Stars at the National Arts Center of Canada in Ottawa at the request of its Director General, James tours tri-state area schools with his educational presentation of MARK TWAIN, James and Karen have just celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary and a happy fifth birthday for their son. Michael.

ERIN HUNTER (Geminae) is just back from playing Kristine on the National Tour of A CHORUS LINE, and is happy to be here at Gateway Playhouse. Erin has performed with dance companies and in musical theatre productions in NYC and across the US. Favorite roles include Louise in CAROUSEL, Tiger Lily in PETER PAN, and Dream Laurey in OKLAHOMA. Between shows Erin is pursuing a masters

degree in dance at NYU. Thanks to family and Chip for love and support.

FAITH HUNTER (Geminae) currently dances with the Young Soon Kim White Wave Dance Company and teaches dance in a public school in New York City. She is excited to appear in FORUM with her twin sister after a long break from doing shows together. Favorite theater credits include Cassie and Kristine/Judy in A CHORUS LINE, Maggie in BRIGADOON, Lorraine in 42ND STREET and the Satin Doll in SOPHISTICATED LADIES. Love and thanks to friends family and her figncé

CHRISTOPHER MATTHEW (Hero) is really glad to be back at Gateway Playhouse this season. He was last seen in Gateway's Candlewood Playhouse fall premiere production of DRACULA: A ROCK OPERA, as well as THE MUSIC MAN (Oliver Hix) and JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT (Zebulam and understudy for Joseph). Christopher spent the winter studying at Playwright's Horizons with James Calleri and workshopping a new play by Buddy Thomas after premieting his last play THE CRUMBLE ZONE last year. Special thanks to Liz for all her support.



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ALET OURY (Philla) most recently appeared as Denise Miller in Gershwin's TIPTOES of Carneale Hall, Other Carneale credits include LOUISIANA PURCHASE and IRA GERSHWIN AT 100. Other New York credits: THE BAKER'S WIFE at the Mint Theatre: THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME at the American Place: and L'IL ABNER, THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE, SWEET ADELINE and ONE TOUCH OF VENUS at Encores! City Center. Regional: THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, PASSION, FUNNY GIRL THE FANTASTICKS, CITY OF ANGELS, STOP THE WORLD.... PETER PAN IN TROUSERS. FALSETTOLAND, SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE and THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD. She can be heard on the following recordings: LOUISIANA PURCHASE and THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE, both for DRG, as well as SONDHEIM AT THE MOVIES CINDERELLA, PETER PAN BURT BACHARACH'S FAVORITES. LOST IN BOSTON IV. UNSUNG MUSICAL III. PRIME TIME MUSICALS. NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (Varese Sarabande) and DRATI, THE CAT, For my family.

JOEY PANEK (Protean) comes to FORUM having just come off the national tour of THE GOODBYE GIRL. Very enthusiastic about his return to Gateway and Candlewood, he appeared as a brother in last fall's JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT. Originally from Syracuse, NY, Joey has enjoyed such roles as Motel in FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. Mark in A CHORUS LINE, Erik in GRAND HOTEL, Mordred in CAMELOT, Eugene in BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS and Peter in JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, Big thanks must go out to Christopher and Michelle, and always to Bob.

CHUCK RAGSDALE (Protean) returns to Gateway in FORUM after just completing the North American tour of BYE BYE BIRDIE with Trov Donahue, where he performed the role of Albert Peterson 90 times. He was pretty busy last season fighting off vampires (DRACULA) and ripping up dreamcoats (JOSEPH...) and looks forward to the serious dramatic challenge that

FORIM is certain to offer Chuck is a North Carolina native and a musical theater alumni of the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music ('96), As always, he thanks his family for giving him money and his friends for letting him sleep on their floors

WAYNE SCHERZER (Hysterium) made his Broadway debut in LES MISERABLES. He was cast by Terrence McNally and John Tillinger to standby for Nathan Lane in the Mark Taper Forum production of THE LISBON TRAVIATA. He created the role of Scott in the L.A. premiere of the hit Boby Boomer musical THE WONDER YEARS, and appeared in over 1000 performances of Hall Princes's record breaking Los Angeles production of EVITA. A two time Drama-Loque Award winner. Wayne has also starred in the L.A. premieres of Albert Inpurato's GEMINI as Herschel, Peter Parnell's THE RISE AND RISE OF DANIEL ROCKET, as Daniel, and Tom Stoppard's: ON THE RAZZLE, as Hupfer, In stock his favorite roles include Nathan, in GUYS AND DOLLS, Finch. in HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS... and Cocky... in ROAR OF THE GREASEPAINT.... Wayne was a vocal soloist at Radio City Music Hall and has performed extensively Off-Broadway. On television, he has been a guest on LAW & ORDER, FALCON CREST, THE GREATEST AMERICAN HERO, GAVILAN, THE DOCTORS, SANTA BARBARA and is a veteran of many commercials. Wayne's voice characterizations are featured in the animated film POUND PUPPIES.

CAYTE THORPE (Domina) trained and toured with the National Shakespeare Company, played Aunt Rose in the Off-Broadway production of TONY 'N TINA'S WEDDING, appeared with Deborah Gibson in the national tour of FUNNY GIRL and is the proud winner of the United States Post Office's Ethel Merman sound-a-like contest. She was last seen as Lusitania Lucy in the New York premiere of JUST US BOYS.

WHO'S WHO (continued)

JODI WETZEL (Gymnasia) is very excited to be Joining her fellow cast and crew members on this run of FORUM. Hailing from Michigan, she now calls New York City home. Jodi has been seen in the mid-west doing THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES. down south for ISLAND HOLIDAY, and across the Pacific dancing aboard the M.S. Asuka last summer, touring Japan, Hong Kong and Russia. Most recently she played the role of Tintingbula In the Ossining Performing Arts production of FORUM. Big thanks to Jimmy Gerth and everyone at Gateway. And one more special thanks to her very best friend. Jim.

MOLLY BETH WILDE (Tintingbulg / Choreographer / Dance Captain) is thrilled to be back at Candlewood and Gateway after previously performing in CAROUSEL. She has been seen in such productions as BARRY MANILOW PRESENTS. COPACABANA THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES, SOME LIKE IT HOT, GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDS, MY ONE AND ONLY and SLIGAR BABIES. National tour credits include A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM, DAMN YANKEES, and a European tour of OKLAHOMA!. In addition to theatre. Mally models and has been seen in commercials, Thanks P.B. Love (LRob.

PAUL ALLAN and JOHN HODGE (Producers) have been theatrical partners since 1982. Between them, they have over 40 years of experience, ranging from Broadway and Off-Broadway to Regional Theatre and the last 20 vears of Gateway productions. Paul and John worked on the New York City productions of GROUCHO, DIAMONDS, JUST SO, and PACIFIC OVERTURES. They have produced National and International tours of SHENANDOAH, SWEET CHARITY, ANYTHING GOFS, SONG AND DANCE, CAMELOT, A CHORUS LINE, AIN'T MISBEHAVIN', SOUTH PACIFIC, 42ND STREET, OLIVER and last vear's highly acclaimed ME AND MY GIRL. Paul and John had the distinguished honor of bringing the first American-produced musical to Singapore with their touring production of THE SOUND OF MUSIC. They operate a successful theatrical set rental business with over thirty-five shows in inventory and for the last five years have been operating Gateway's Candlewood Playhouse in New Fairfield Connecticut Uncoming endeavors include a remount by popular demand, of the national tour of ME AND MY GIRL and a national tour of their original HOUDAY ON ICE SPECTACULAR.

ROBERT ENNIS TUROFF (Director) has directed more than 500 musicals and plays during his dynamic theatrical career. He has directed such top stars as Morgan Fairchild. Van Johnson. Dale Robertson, Dick Van Dyke, Chita Rivera, Bill Haves, Betty White, Frankie Laine, and opera stars Dorothy Kirsten, Robert Merill and Richard Tucker. At the City Centre in New York, he directed the world premiere of the Jerome Moross minstrel-opera GENTLEMEN BE SEATED. and off-Broadway, he guided the revival of the award-winning GOLDEN APPLE and the Jerry Herman musical MADAME APHRODITE. He served as resident director of the Theatre Under the Stars, Atlanta; National Opera, Raleigh, NC. for four years: Ford Foundation Opera, New York City: Pocono (PA) Playhouse and Casa Manana Musicals Et Worth He is author of the musical HELLO SUCKER and in 1980, he wrote CHEERFUL LITTLE EARFUL, a musical review of the sonas of Harry Warren. He is a member of Actor's Equity Association, and a charter member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and of the American Dinner Theatre Institute. He has directed four World Premiere productions. In 1971, he founded and has served to date as executive director of the Golden Apple Dinner Theatre in Sarasota, Florida, on Faulty theatre that has presented 230 productions. He is president of Coastal Theatre Production, Inc., the producing arm of the Golden Apple.

WILLIAM FOSTER McDANIEL (Musical Director) first performed at the Gateway Playhouse as the stride planist in Eats Waller's rollicking

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WHO'S WHO (continued)

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN', For Gateway/ Candlewood he has since served as Musical Director for ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF NUNSENSE IL and GUYS AND DOLLS. Recently Mr. McDaniel toured the country in back to back productions of AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' featuring The Pointer Sisters and Martha Reeves and the Vandellas Mr. McDaniel began his career in musical theatre as planist-conductor off-Broadway's lona-runnina FANTASTICKS. He has since conducted for Broadway and National Touring companies of TIMBUKTU, BUBBLING BROWN SUGAR and a European production of SOPHISTICATED LADIES. Mr. McDaniel's own compositions have received performances by the Philharmonia of Greensboro, the Savannah Symphony Orchestra, the Mozart Society Orchestra at Harvard and the Brooklyn Philharmonic. He is a araduate of Capital University and Boston University, and was a Fulbright Scholar in Paris.

GAIL EVE MALATESTA (Production Stage Manager) is pleased to be back in Bellport after just finishing her fourth season at Orlando Shakespeare Festival. Her New York credits include: W.P.A. Theatre, Harburg Foundation, American Jewish Theatre, Manhattan Class Co., Musical Theatre Works, Gertrude Stein Repertory, Opening Doors Theatre and Theatre Guild. Her



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regional credits include: Philadelphia Drama Guild, Huntington Theatre Company, Downtown Cabaret Theatre, Two River Theatre Company, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Cambridge Back Alley; Music Theatre North, New London Barn, and Theatre-By-The-Sea, Gail holds a B.F.A. in stage management from Boston University.

ROBIN JOY ALLAN (Casting Director) spent her childhood performing at Gateway-Playhouse and after directing teaching and some producina, began castina in Manhattan in 1985. She worked with several Off-Broadway companies and then spent five years in Los Angeles, where she had the pleasure of working with Ron Howard, Rob Reiner, and Jerry Zucker as the Associate Castina Director on the films PARENTHOOD, WHEN HARRY MET SALLY and GHOST. She led the search for unknowns. discovering Balthazar Getty for the remake of LORD OF THE FLIES. She cast the television pilot of PARENTHOOD in 1989, giving Leonardo DiCaprio his first series-regular role. Ms. Allan now heads up the Gateway Acting School in Bellport and continues her freelance castina career.

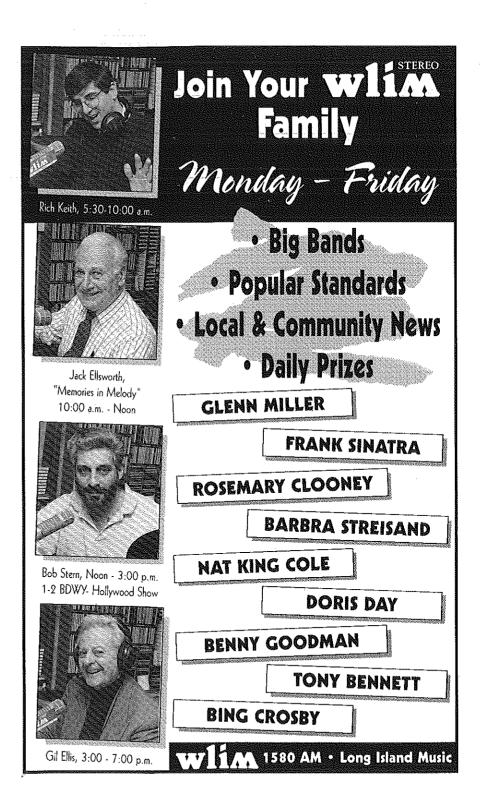
ALAN KEEN (Lighting Designer) is happy to return to Gateway after debuting as lighting designer for THE MUSIC MAN, and the HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR ON ICE this past season. Recently, Alan was the Liahting Director for the Hartford Ballet, where he worked on the premiers of RITE OF SPRING, SLEEPING BEAUTY and THE AMERICAN NUTCRACKER. Off Broadway design credits: A BRIEF HISTORY OF WHITE MUSIC and METEOR GIRL. Other credits include: THE TALES OF HOFFMAN for UConn Opera, THE THREE MUSKETEERS, THREE SISTERS, A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT, at Connecticut Repertory Theatre, SISTERS ROSENSWEIG, NUNSENSE II, THE MIKADO. LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, and CALIFORNIA SUITE at the Forestburah Playhouse.



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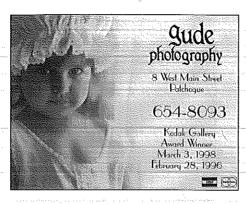
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(Pseudolus)
and Gateway
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long had a mutual
admiration society.
Over the years,
Gerth has
appeared at
Gateway as the



James Gerth in Biloxi Blues

King in *The King And I,* Sergeant Toomey in *Biloxi Blues,* the Top Banana in *Sugar Bables* and Harold Hill in *The Music Man*

"I think I have played all my favorite roles at Gateway," said Gerth, "There is always so much fun here, always a great cast, you always have good people and a quality product. You work with people you just love." Gerth lona admired Gateway's technical staff, since he has experience himself as production stage manager for a presentation of Singin' In The Rain in Elmsford, "It ain't easy to make it rain onstage and make it go away," he said, "We always had a problem there. But these auvs at Gateway came up with a great set that worked grandly," Gateway is producing Singin' In The Rain again this season, from September 9th - 26th.

When he's not in Bellport, Gerth renovates his home, and travels with

his one-man show Mark Twain, which he puts on for tristate area schools through Visage, his own production company, and has developed more one-man shows on Bobby Kennedy

and FDR, "I don't like to travel too much now because of my son, who will turn five during the run of Forum." he said, "I nearly gave up theater entirely just before I did Music Man for Gateway, but that production made me ask myself 'how can I give this up'?" Gerth met his wife Karen, an actress, when they worked on a show together in Thomaston, Connecticut: even their cat Rookie is theatrical: while he was appearing in My Favorite Year on Broadway at Lincoln Center, Ivricist Lynne Ahrens' cat had a litter. Coincidentally, he appeared in Mv Favorite Year with Josh Mostel, whose father Zero originated the role of Pseudolus on Broadway.

Gerth's latest project is to put together a theater ten minutes from his home. "But I don't know how I'm going to tell my partner that I need eight weeks off each summer to appear in more Gateway shows," he laughed.



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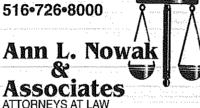
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Spotlight on... Casting

asting a role is more than making sure an actor has the right look or can sing or dance. There must be chemistry with the other actors. there must be stage presence for the audience. The castina director, who oversees the choice of actor for each role, must be something of an alchemist and magician in order to blend various sinale elements into aold.

Where do these actors come from. anvwav?

Usually, Gateway's Casting Director Robin Joy Allan, casts a show from the ground up with Actor's Equity members (Actor's Equity is the professional actor's union) from New York.

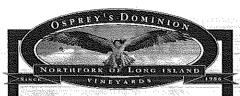
Actor's Equity requires a chorus call for dance shows and an Equity audition for principal roles. On another day, agent submissions are seen, 30 or 40 agents submit hundreds of photos to Allan based on her breakdown: the script is "broken down" into a list of descriptions of the individual roles, their characteristics, age, what part they have in the story and a brief synopsis of the plot and this resulting "breakdown" is sent to the agents who submit a packet from their stable of actors to the casting director. There is also an open call for non-Equity actors but agent submissions are cast in the leads most often. "We go into the non-Equity auditions with an open mind, because every now and then there are new. very talented people who haven't had time to get an agent vet, but we usually find our leads from agents," explains Allan. This talent pool is the same one that Broadway theaters pull from: currently there are several Gateway alumni featured Broadway's Titanic, and Christopher Monteleone had just finished a run in Broadway's Beauty And The Beast when he starred in Gateway's Phantom.

The casting director then pulls out

photo/resumes of actors who are the right type for the role and have the right credits, and auditions them. These auditions take place over a week and are usually attended by the Castina Director, the Director, and the Musical Director who work together to choose the final cast from a series of "callbacks" where they ask actors they like to return so they can see if there is chemistry with the other actors. "Sometimes vou like someone but there is just something missing. You have to know what you need to see, and help the actors bring out what you want, to see if it is really there," said Allan

That's the way it is usually done. However, a funny thing happened with A Funny Thina Happened On The Way To The Forum! Gateway's producers had planned to bring the show intact from Chicago's Drury Lane Theater Then, more than half of the cast ended up not coming. It was too late to advertise in Backstage and too late for auditions. There was no director or musical director giving their input. It is in emergency situations like this that Allan's years of experience in Los Angeles casting films such as When Harry Met Sally, Lord Of The Flies and Ghost comes to the fore, "Basically, I cast the show myself out of my filling cabinet," Allan said, referring to a comprehensive archive she keeps of all the actors she has seen over the years at auditions.

Critics from Newsday and the News-Times have praised Allan's castina. She thinks her success is due to a number of factors; a lifetime saturated in theater. intuition, experience; she remembers X-Files creator Chris Carter, with whom she worked on Rovina Eve, calling her the "Psychic Castina Director." Perhaps most important though, she laughed, "A casting director has to have a very good memory."



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Listed below are some common sense tips to help make this a more pleasurable experience for you and your fellow theatregoers.

- Please arrive before the scheduled curtain time. This gives you time to park and get to your seats before the show begins. It also allows the show to begin on time. If you do arrive late, you will be asked to stand or sit in the rear of the theatre until there is an appropriate time for you to be seated in your correct seats.
- Please sit only in your assigned seats and remove any hats or accessories that may interfere with the vision of the person sitting behind you.
- Please refrain from talking during the show so as not to disturb your neighbors.
- Please open all candy wrappers before the show begins. The noise from the cellophane is extremely disturbing, not only to your neighbors, but also to the performers on stage.
- Please show the performers the courtesy and respect they deserve by remaining at your seats until the house lights come up. Trying to "beat the traffic" by leaving before the completion of the curtain call is rude and disturbing to those around you enjoying the final moments of the performance.

We sincerely hope this will help you and those around you have a more fulfilling theatre-going experience. Enjoy!

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