

THEATRE WEST  
2017/2018

## GOVERNING BOARD

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SPIKE DOLOMITE WARD  
Executive Director

**Membership forms are being sent out with the February dues invoices. Please fill out and return to the office with your dues payment.**

**THE UGLY DUCKLING now playing**  
**COMPANY AUDITIONS February 3rd**  
**LOVE LETTERS TO LEE February 10th**  
**WE SAY GOODBYE TO LONGTIME MEMBER CONNIE SAWYER**



## \*\*\*ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\*

We are proud to announce that Spike Dolomite Ward has been named Executive Director of Theatre West following a unanimous vote by your Board of Directors. After a six month interim period, Spike has not only helped to guide us through one of the theatre's most tumultuous periods, but has shown keen insight into our operations and the many goals we have set for ourselves as a theatre company. Most importantly, however, over these last six months, Spike has expressed a vision for Theatre West that goes well beyond "just keeping our doors open." She'd like to see our company not only embrace the future, but grow into a far-reaching, powerful, theatrical voice - and not just in Los Angeles, but nationwide - an idea I'm sure we can ALL get behind.

So - welcome Spike, and we hope you'll be a part of our bright future for many years to come.

*The Theatre West Board of Directors*

## PRODUCTION NEWS



### THEATRE WEST'S 55TH YEAR!

As we celebrate, we honor our longtime member and America's sweetheart... **Lee Meriwether!**

Join Us for an Evening of Fun, Tributes & Entertainment we are calling....

## Love Letters To Lee Meriwether

**FEBRUARY 10TH, 2018**

6pm: Silent Auction with Hors D'oeuvres, Wine & Refreshments  
8pm: Show

Included in the evening...a retrospective of the remarkable life and career of Ms. Meriwether. Testimonials -Songs-Dance-Performances-Tributes (Live & On Screen). Entertainment provided by Company Members and Lee's long list of friends and artistic colleagues.

This is also a chance to give Lee your written personal greetings. Bring your letter with you to be presented to Lee in large baskets of "love." Unable to attend? Email your "Love Letter" to Lee at (iecasting@socal.rr.com) or snail mail to Theatre West by February 5th.

**A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENING!**

**TICKETS: \$55 (includes Food & Refreshments). Seating Limited. Advance Purchase Recommended.**

# WORKSHOP NEWS

## MONDAY NIGHT WORKSHOP:

Moderators: Arden Lewis, Don Moore

## TUESDAY NIGHT WRITERS WORKSHOP:

Moderators: Chris DiGiovanni and Doug Haverty

BELLA - Amy Simon

### WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE - 8 PLAYS:

THE VACANCY - Elayne Heilveil with Tammy Taylor, Andrew Villareal

REUNION - Clara Rodriguez with Steve Nevil, Jill Jones

MEMORIAL - Nalsey Tinberg with Dianne Travis, Maria Kress, Don Moore

THIS WAY LOOKS NICE - Lloyd Schwartz with Barbara Mallory, Jeanine Anderson, Jean Claude

REMEMBER YOUR TOOLS - Linda Rand with Johnny Ferretti, George Tovar, Ursula Burton

SCALENE - Garry Kluger with Deanna Gandy, Riley Baker, Andrew James

THE NEIGHBORS - Tom Walla with Julia Silverman, Jan Lashley

HANDS BENEATH THE TABLE - Michael Van Duzer with Bill Sehres, Michael Van Duzer

KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY - Judith Allen with Don Moss, Sarah Clawson, David Mingrino, Shae Popovich

DISCONTENTS - James Cox, Alan Shack, Doug Haverty Suzanne Collins

THURSDAY IN THE MUSEUM - Michael Van Duzer with Michael Van Duzer or Dina M for Italian V.O.

RIGOPIANO - Doug Haverty with James Cox, Sheila Shaw, Saratoga Ballantine

MAUSOLEUM - Dina Morrone with Harris Shore, Connie Mellors, Alyse Becker

FRACTURED - Chris DiGiovanni with Tatum Shank, Ashley Robinson

THE PROPOSAL - Tom Walla with Andrew James, Jan Lashley

COFFEE AND COMMISERATION - Michael Van Duzer with Andrew Villareal, Anne Leyden

## WEDNESDAY SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOP:

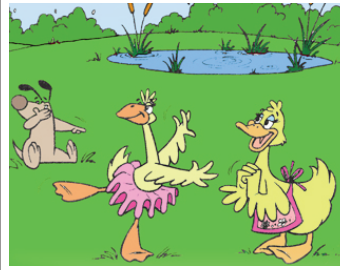
Moderator: Nick McDow 6-8 PM

## WEDNESDAY MUSICAL WORKSHOP:

Moderator: Anthony Gruppuso Accompanist: Paul Cady 8PM

Hey TW members. When you go into the theatre take note of the beautiful new seat covers on the seats in the front row. They didn't just appear. They were made by the wonderfully talented **Tammy Taylor** for us. THANK YOU, TAMMY!!

# PRODUCTION NEWS



Storybook Theatre presents

## THE UGLY DUCKLING

Saturdays at 1PM  
until March 3rd

## Night Forlorn, or Waitin' on Godsford

Mid-March Opening

Director Arden T. Lewis

Good News. Steve Nevil and other outside contributors who earmarked their funds for this show have put together a modest budget to go forward with a production of the Best of Workshop selection *A Night Forlorn*.

The entire production team has agreed to work for gratis or deferred fees, pending a profit. The goal is box office success enough to create monies going forward towards our Writers in Residence production of *The Man Who Saved Everything*.

## Needed for Love Letters to Lee Meriwether...

BASKETS (to house the love letters to Lee)

CLEAR GLASS VASES( to host roses for our Miss America)

STRINGS OF WHITE LIGHTS ( battery operated would be awesome but will take electric. ) ( not tubes and not Icicle style) think cafes etc...( to provide elegant lighting)

BATTERY PILLAR CANDLES(to illuminate the yummy food and silent auction items)

-Anne Leyden

To all of the GENEROUS, LOVELY, LOVING TW MEMBERS who have committed to donating for the Silent Auction for Lee's Evening, and for those of you who are thinking of it and realized there is something you can donate, or who know someone who may have a service, etc. - or are contemplating donating something to the Silent Auction, please get those items or gift certificates to me by February 1. If you need more time, just let me know. And feel free to contact me with ANY questions - at all!

-Kathie Barnes

# AUDITIONS

## "Friends and Family" Company Auditions

We are excited to announce that we will be holding a "Friends and Family" audition on February 3 for new company members. This means that we are limiting our considerations to theatre artists whose work you either know personally, or whom you have met through the various artistic communities with whom you are, or have been associated.

One need only glance at our wonderful membership to realize it does not mirror the diverse human landscape outside our doors. We MUST make the EXTRA EFFORT to bring in new members who embody what we lack. It's time to truly embrace multiculturalism, not merely talk about it. Then our company can proudly move forward, invigorated by a diverse group of dedicated artists whose complexion truly reflects Los Angeles and the greater Global Community. I want that for us. Do you?

**URGENT AND IMPORTANT:** We need to fill the age range gaps in our company, age groups from YOUNG ACTORS up to and including people OF ALL GENDERS AND ETHNICITIES in their late 40s/early 50s.

I know that our company has wanted this for a long time and that our (dearly missed) member and ex-board member Karen Regan-George made a concerted effort to accomplish this some time ago. I truly believe that this effort will have a greater chance of bearing fruit if it is cultivated through in-house personal networking and personal invitation.

Do you know a WRITER, DIRECTOR, STAGE MANAGER, OR PRODUCER who represents the above profile, and who might want to join Theatre West? (Check with a Board member about the requirements for non-performer members.)

Do you have a relationship with a high profile actor or personality who might want to come on board? We'd love to approach them.

The auditions will take place in the theatre on Saturday, February 3rd from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm. Performers interested in auditioning can send a pic and resume to michael.vanduzer@gmail.com Please use "TW Auditions" for the subject line. They will receive an audition time and instructions on what to prepare.

Current members who would like to judge the auditions should express their interest by contacting Michael Van Duzer at the above email address.

Thank you all for participating in this new adventure!

*Harris Shore and Michael Van Duzer*

## NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I'm very excited to be hired on as your permanent executive director and I look forward to moving ahead. We've already got so many great things in place and we have a board that is willing to take on A LOT. With some really creative, out of the box thinking on programming and fundraising, we're not only going to be OK, we'll be a creative force to reckon with! I'm very open to feedback on how I and the board are doing and I want to hear your ideas. I will be holding periodic "office hours" to make sure the door is open to you and I am always available via email. Bear with me if I don't get back to you right away because my time will be limited for awhile until we're in better financial shape. For now, we have not accrued any new debt and we're managing well in spite of the many cuts that had to be made. Volunteers have really made the difference so thank you!

We'll be offering monthly, one time workshops as a perk to your membership. January's was an introspective writing workshop.

Onward!!

*Spike Dolomite Ward, Executive Director*



Rest in Peace

Connie Sawyer

1912-2018



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of one of our dearest (and oldest) members, Connie Sawyer. If you would like to post a remembrance on our website, please send it to Charlie Mount at [charliemount@me.com](mailto:charliemount@me.com). There is no memorial date set as of yet, we will let you know as soon as we hear.

Actress **Connie Sawyer** died peacefully at the age of 105 at her in Woodland Hills, CA. With more than 140 TV and film credits to her name, Sawyer was known as Hollywood's oldest working actress who worked through late 2017.

Sawyer was born on November 27, 1912, in Pueblo, Colo. Her career in entertainment began at the age of eight when she won a talent contest in Oakland. At 18 years old, she landed her first Vaudeville show in Santa Cruz.

Legendary singer, comedian, and actress Sophie Tucker became Sawyer's mentor before she went on to Broadway where she played Miss Wexler in *A Hole in the Head*. She would later take the same role in the film adaptation starring Frank Sinatra. Her other film credits include *The Way West*, *Ada* and *The Man in the Glass Booth*.

To many, she is recognized as the lady in *Dumb and Dumber* who stole Jim Carrey's character's wallet. She also appeared in *The Pineapple Express*, as well as *When Harry Met Sally*.

She has numerous TV credits which span six decades. This includes *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *Dynasty*, *Murder, She Wrote*, *Archie Bunker's Place*, *Home Improvement*, *Seinfeld*, *Will & Grace*, *ER*, *The Office*, and *How I Met Your Mother*. Most recently she appeared in Showtime's *Ray Donovan* as James Woods' mother.

In addition to her being highlighted in the documentaries *Showfolk* and *Troupers*, she published her autobiography, *I Never Wanted To Be a Star – And I Wasn't*.

Sawyer is survived by her two daughters Lisa Dudley, Julie Watkins, four grandchildren Hannah Stubblefield, Sam Dudley, Emily and Carrie Watkins and three great-grandchildren, Sebastian, Adam and Maya.