



PERFORMING ARTS CAMP PROVIDES NEEDED OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY



Play is vital to the survival of the species. Watch any dog or cat play with their young offspring teaching them how to hunt, eat, and relate. Why is it then that

as the human species we stop playing around the end of elementary school? We still have the need to play – to have fun with others, take risks, learn new skills – at all ages. That is why Stagebridge created the Performing Arts Camp for Adults 50+.

What began as a simple idea – how can we create a summer camp environment for older adults to play hard? – has grown over three years into a major success story. “I had the time of my life” is a common expression from campers who range in age from 50-95. Initially campers came from the immediate area with many from Stagebridge. Now, the Bensons from New Jersey have already registered to return this coming year. Campers come from all walks of life. Camp became so popular in the first two years it had to be moved last summer from the church where Stagebridge is based to the adjoining middle school to accommodate the numbers.

What draws people is the opportunity to learn and play with some of the finest artists in the Bay Area and the nation, and to try a smorgasbord of classes.

This fourth year is no exception. At “Vaudeville comes to Camp 2010,” there will be classes in acting,

storytelling, mime, improv, body music, dance, musical theatre, vaudeville sketches, magic, makeup and barbershop chorus singing. Each day will feature a different theme, every afternoon will feature guest performances and interviews with noted artists, all leading up to the “Big Show” and celebration on Friday afternoon. And yes, each afternoon campers will gather around the fire and sing “Kumbaya” and camp songs they have written in workshops.

The 4th Annual Performing Arts Camp will be held July 19-23. Registration is now open by clicking here or call (510) 444-4755 for more information. Each year sells out, so don't wait.

Stagebridge Receives Major Grants

Stagebridge recently received a prestigious Strategic Planning Prep grant from the **Taproot Foundation** that is valued at \$70,000 in consulting services. Taproot is the nation's largest non-profit consulting firm. Their motto is “Do it Pro Bono.” Taproot recruits highly experienced business volunteers to assist non-profits in marketing, strategy development and HR areas. The Stagebridge grant will enable the company to begin a very thorough strategic planning process that will provide important information for creating a Strategic Plan next fall.

The **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation** awarded Stagebridge \$40,000 in second year support of our diversity outreach programs. These funds will enable us to expand our outreach to the Latino community and Asian communities in the coming year. At a time when foundations are cutting back funding due to investment losses during the recession, these grants are most appreciated.

Breaking news: We thought it might be an April Fool's joke, but it's not. Stagebridge has just received its largest grant ever from the **National Endowment for the Arts** to support the award winning Performing Arts Training Institute. The grant of \$30,000 is one of the most generous grants to any theatre company in the nation

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Sylvia: The Making of a Musical

(This is the final article of a four-part series by Maryann Maslan on the process of creating an original musical.)



"Please extend the show!"
"Where are you playing next?"
"Is there a CD/DVD?"

The ambitious project of turning Nicole Hollander's books and comic strip "Sylvia" into a musical closed February 21 after playing to a standing-room-only audience for three weeks.

Sylvia's Advice on How to Age Gracefully on the Planet Denial was an undeniable success by all accounts. The calls, comments, notes and email keep coming in as the cast and crew move on to new adventures and Stagebridge gears up for its spring show *City Green* (link to Web) a musical adaptation of Diane DiSalvo's children's book.

After almost two years in the planning, months of rehearsals and trusting through it all that the aging process can be funny on stage, *Sylvia's Advice...* is part of Stagebridge history. But before it is archived here are a few behind-the-scenes memories:

Cindy Carrico (Sally): During my BIG singing number I was supposed to drape myself across the back of the sofa as I sang, "lie naked on the beach, irresistibly swank . . ." On the last Friday I stretched out and gently slid off the back onto the floor and out of sight. I kept on singing but I felt like a turtle flipped over on its back. I had to right myself and come around to scream "I don't care". The audience thought it was part of the show.

Joan Mankin (Sylvia): When Sara (Lassie the Wonder Cat) took the phone away from someone in the first row when it rang during our scene.

Bill Liebman (Fred): The first image that comes to mind is watching the cast prepare physically before each show. Kris doing yoga on Ashby Stage seat cushions, Franklin practicing boxing moves, Joan stretching and walking up the aisles, Sara kneeling, bending, and stretching facial muscles, Cindy and Linda rehearsing hand movements choreographed by Bruce, JB giving hugs, and (stage managers) Dorothy and Chokwadi rushing around with dishes. I sat at the bar!

Scrumby Koldewyn (Composer/Music Director): When Cindy was singing "I Wanna Be Bad" then rolled off onto the floor in back of the couch, looking like it was planned. No one in the cast could keep a straight face for the next fully three minutes.

Sara Moore (Lassie the Wonder Cat): My most vivid thoughts have to do with my hair, actually – trying to figure out how to create the suggestion of a cat's ears. I went through more angst over this! It was cut to create pony-tail "ears" – a real "Sideshow Bob" hairdo. It's a great haircut for a clown so I think I'll keep it!

The theatre is dark, the laughter and applause have faded but the memories will last a lifetime. Thanks everyone for making Stagebridge's wildest dream come true.

Maryann Maslan, Marketing Director

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NEW SPRING CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF APRIL 5

Spring is the time to find your character, polish your performance skills, laugh through yoga and leave them laughing with a vaudeville skit. Toss in a few sassy tango moves and work with some of the best performing artists and teachers in the Bay Area. Spring quarter classes begin the week of April 5 until June 18. Start the week with **Joan Mankin**, actor/clown/director and recent star of Stagebridge's production "*Sylvia's Advice...*" in a fast and furiously funny exploration of [Vaudeville & Sketch Comedy](#). Explore comic timing and rhythm where each word and every pause has meaning.

Rhythm and timing with no partner necessary? **Dyana Foldvary**, dance coach/teacher makes the beauty, romance and passion of [Tango](#) clear, simple and fun. Take a lunch break with Dyana or try another noon-time offering – [Laughter Yoga](#). **Liz Nichols**, storyteller/teacher, will lead a gentle and fun combination of breathing, clapping, stretching and...*laughing!* Immediate benefits for mind, body and spirit. No fee for this class. Thank you Liz!

Experienced actors and storytellers join the pros and perfect your skills. **Joy Carlin**, director/actress, will coach the [Advanced Acting](#) class in scene study plus coaching exercises in the language of communication between actor and director.

Storytellers, expand your range of [Character Voices](#) and improve your vocal stamina with **Lisa Anne Porter**, a designated Linklater voice instructor and acting/voice/dialect and text professor.

And, share the gift of your family's story in our new [Immigration Stories](#) workshop, an evening class at La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley with **Nina Serrano**, teacher/performer/poet. Learn to craft the story of your heritage to share with the next generation. It's your gift of history. [Click here to register](#)



Spare Change?

Six ways to help Stagebridge:

1. Fulfill our “Wish List” – we need:

- a. Flat Screen Monitor
- b. Small flat screen TV
- c. LCD projector
- d. Portable Sound System
- e. Recent model laptops (2)
- f. New cordless mikes (10)

Student Showcases at the Ashby Stage,
1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley.
Suggested donation \$15 (Pay what you can)

Monday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. *Improv!* –
Features the Improv Class followed by the
Antic Witties Stagebridge’s touring improv
troupe with Barbara Scott and music by Daniel
Savio.

**Monday, April 12, 6:00 p.m. – *An Evening
of Short Tales*** (from the Storytelling Classes)
and *12 Angry Jurors* (performed by the Acting
Class)

Grandparent Tales – Saturday, April 17, 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 5604 Bay Street,
Emeryville. FREE!
Features winning students from our
Storybridge elementary school classrooms
telling their grandparent stories

City Green – World Premiere Musical based on the
children’s book by Diane DiSalvo. A fun time
for all ages. Meet the author at the Ice Cream
Social. **Saturday, May 8 & Sunday, May 9,
3:30 p.m.** – First Presbyterian Church , 2619
Broadway, Oakland (on site parking). \$15/
general \$5/children.
[Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

2. Donate online or by mail – It’s never been easier
to make a donation to your favorite charity. You can
donate safely through Network for Good by clicking
[here](#). You can always send us a check at 2501
Harrison, Oakland 94612.

3. Host a House Party – Help us celebrate our 31st
Season by throwing a house party. It’s simple: you
invite your friends, we provide the entertainment, and
people are encouraged to make a donation to this
wonderful organization. Contact Stuart Kandell at
director@stagebridge.org for more info.

4. Write a Review of Stagebridge – You can help
more people learn about and donate to Stagebridge by
writing a short review on the company at Guidestar/
Great Non Profits

<http://www.greatnonprofits.org/reviews/profile2/stagebridge>

5. Use E-Scrip. You can donate to Stagebridge every
time you shop or eat at a wide variety of stores. There
are no fees!!! Just go to <http://www.escrrip.com> Sign up
and type “Stagebridge”.

6. Volunteer – We always need people to help out
with mailings, the library, productions, outreach events,
etc. We also would like to have someone to coordinate
our monthly social events. Contact: Jim in the office by
phone at 510-444-4755 ext.114 or email Jim at
jim@stagebridge.org.

