

BACKSTAGE

The Monthly Newsletter of STAGEBRIDGE Senior Theatre



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Stagebridge Singled Out as Model in National Publications

Like cream that rises to the top, the work that Stagebridge has been doing for the past thirty years continues to gain national prominence. Two recent publications feature our work. "*Creativity Matters: Arts and Aging in America*" is the latest monograph of Americans for the Arts. This 15 page article by Gay Hanna, Ph.D., provides an overview of how we have gone beyond bingo in providing serious arts experiences for older adults. [READ MORE](#)

Acclaimed Puppeteer to Teach at Performing Arts Camp

The slots are filling quickly for our 3rd Annual Performing Arts Camp for Adults 50+ July 20-24. Each summer campers have the opportunity to work with nationally known artists in a fun packed week of classes and performances. New to camp this year will be Liebe Wetzal, artistic director and founder of internationally acclaimed *Lunatique Fantastique*. Liebe will be teaching *Writing without Words – Live 3 D Animation Puppetry*. "Students will create scenes entirely from scratch using only the objects that you bring to class, preferably something smaller than the kitchen sink! You will reintroduce yourself to the fine art of silliness. [READ MORE](#)

Stagebridge Exhibit Takes Off at the Oakland International Airport

Check your bags, clear security and head toward *Oakland Onstage*, the Oakland Museum of California's exhibit featuring Stagebridge as one of only four local theatres. Join travelers walking the corridor between Terminal 1 and 2 to view the dramatic displays. The exhibit runs through July 24 at the Oakland International Airport.

30th Anniversary Showcase a Big Success

What a great way to celebrate our 30th Anniversary as the nation's oldest senior theatre company. We had 85 performers, four different programs, with lots of special guests, showing the full breath of what Stagebridge offers. A few highlights: monologist Josh Kornbluth ended the Saturday night Benefit with a huge bang performing a 30 minute selection from his hit show, "Love & Taxes" (now being filmed); BATS founder Barbara Scott did a star turn with musician Joshua Brody improvising a fantastic blues song . . .

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"Civil Rights Tales" for All Seasons

More than 200 students at Oakland's Emiliano Zapata Street Academy were awestruck with *Civil Rights Tales* as shared by Stagebridge veteran storytellers Charles Blue, Jean Gregory and emcee Tureeda Mikel. The February 27 event was part of the high school's annual celebration of Black History Month. Many Stagebridge storytellers have shared their stories tracing the struggle for justice from the pain of racism through the heady days of the Movement and its aftermath. They tell of Jim Crow laws, of pain and survival and triumph. [READ MORE](#)

From the Director's Desk

"What's age got to do, got to do with it?" Being a dancer, I'd like to think I could keep going and going and going. When I was in Buenos Aires last winter, many of the people at the tango milongas (dances) were over 60 and had obviously been dancing most of their lives. Yet, in this country, there isn't a lot of grey hair at tango, swing, salsa dances (outside of senior center dances). Then, I met Frankie in 2006. He was teaching all weekend at the Lake Merritt Dance Center. He had 200 of us packed in the ballroom in tight lines, men facing women, running us through the paces of the Lindy Hop. Demonstrating moves with his 30-something Swedish partner, Frankie starts each class by walking around looking at "all the beautiful ladies" and had all of us sweating and wanting more after an hour and a half – all the time he is cool, smooth, sexy, and right on the beat – and 92. [READ MORE](#)

Spare Change?

It doesn't take much to contribute to Stagebridge. Empty your pockets by [Clicking HERE to Donate Now](#). So, give a little!