



## Starting Out With a Bang

Stagebridge's year begins in the summer, and this summer was a record-setter in the quality of our programs and in recognition received by major foundations.

During this summer's Performing Arts Camp, our building was full of life – with more than eighty seniors doing British comedy, musical theatre, mime, body music, storytelling, vaudeville and dancing. Besides the classes, there were great performances by Word for Word, Shotgun Players, magician Fred Casto and juggler extraordinaire Dan Holzman. You can share in the camp spirit by going to an article in [www.examiner.com](http://www.examiner.com). [CLICK HERE](#) to read the article. One first-time teacher at camp, Terrance Kelly, is the dynamic director of the renowned Oakland Interfaith Gospel Chorus. His class in barbershop and gospel music was a huge success.

### Stagebridge Stars Shine Bright

This summer was also a time for Stagebridge performers to shine on stage. One of them, Joanne Grimm, appeared in the cover article of the September/October issue of the AARP magazine. Joanne also co-starred this summer with another Stagebridger, Ket Watters, in Moliere's *Tartuffe* in San Francisco. Artistic Director Josiah Polhemus was featured in the three plays that make up *The Norman Conquests*, staged by the Shotgun Players in Berkeley. Four company members – Cindy Carrico, Miyoko Sakatani, Carol Jan Lee, Charmaine Hitchcox and John Hutchinson – were featured in the premiere of *Sex Tapes for Seniors* at the Victoria Theatre in San Francisco. Stagebridge Board president Tom Flynn has been rehearsing the role of Franklin Roosevelt for the Leshner Theater's fall production of *Annie* in Walnut Creek. At the San Francisco Theatre Festival at Yerba Buena Gardens, the Antic Witties and the *Never Too Late* troupe played to enthusiastic audiences.

David Sturdevant and John Stafford (Right), popular Stagebridge musicians, conducted an East Coast tour.



### Ring the Bell for Stagebridge Supporters!

Stagebridge received its first grant ever from the prestigious James Irvine Foundation. The Irvine Foundation joins the National Endowment for the Arts and the San Francisco Foundation in underwriting our path-breaking Performing Arts Training Institute. The Walter & Elise Haas Fund provided vital support for the Storybridge program in the Oakland elementary schools and the Nelson Fund at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation is funding outreach to Bay Area Asian American seniors. The True North Foundation renewed its significant backing for *TimeSlips* storytelling workshops for elders with dementia and several other foundations renewed their essential support, including the Bernard Osher, Lowell Berry Foundation and the West Davis & Bergard Foundation.

*Back to School*  
Issue:

Backstage  
Vol. 3, Issue 1

- [Starting Out with a Bang](#)
- [Summer Memories](#)
- [THE GREENROOM: Interview with Mel Terry](#)
- [From the Director](#)
- [Save the Dates: Coming Attractions](#)
- [Spare Change](#)

**Summer Memories with a Fall Preview**

Stagebridge thrived this summer with an amazing 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Performing Arts Camp. More than 80 students were treated to incredible classes ranging from British Humour – Monty Python, to a musical theatre class featuring selections from *Gypsy*. There were new offerings as part of this year’s Vaudeville theme including Performing Magic, Mime and Movement in Storytelling. Barbershop Chorus taught by Terrance Kelly, was so popular we had to make room for it in our fall class schedule under the new title of: Chorus – gospel, barbershop and more!

This fall class offerings at Stagebridge are the most ambitious ever – 15 classes! Added to that are special lunch time Q & A sessions with...drum roll please...BILL IRWIN! JAMES CARPENTER! CHARLES DEAN! These special events will be happening every month in our trimester schedule. Classes are already filling up so register now at [www.stagebridge.org](http://www.stagebridge.org).

Participate in the beginning acting class in which students will create Radio Plays. Join the fun in this year’s musical theatre workshop’s version of *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum* and try Joan Mankin’s Art of Comedy class. Also, this fall enjoy: Advanced Acting with guest artist Joy Carlin, Improv with Barbara Scott and Mime with Kirk Waller. Back by popular demand is Playback Theater with Martin Holtz. Create your own dance rhythm with and a new dance offering: Dance with Greacian Goeke.

Glad summer vacation is over! Now we can really start playing!

*Josiah Polhemus, Artistic Director*

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**From the GREENROOM**

*(A series of profiles on company members who reflect the energy, enthusiasm and great variety of talent at Stagebridge)*

**Being a “triple threat” can move an audience to tears**

In the competitive world of musical theatre a “triple threat” is someone who acts, sings and dances. Mel Terry has become a seriously, fun-times, chance-taking “threat.”



At a recent performance of *West Side Stories*, Stagebridge’s musical theatre class’s version of the popular musical, Mel was moved by one of the audience members who shared his experiences with the cast. “He commented on Leonard Bernstein’s taking on difficult social issues of the day and was moved to tears several times during our performance which he thought was one of the best he had seen,” Mel said. Before taking a show on the road to venues like Monarch Place Retirement Residence where the audience members are the same age or older than the performers, there are a few steps to get to be a “triple threat” like Mel.

Mel moved from Boston to Central California with the Air Force in 1970. At that point he had taken no acting lessons, briefly tried jazz dance and enjoyed singing. He first heard of Stagebridge 20 years ago, but it took the promise of being in *South Pacific* at our Performing Arts Summer Camp for Adults 50+ to get him involved. “My mother gave me a box set of *South Pacific* when I was nine. I had the music in my head and always liked singing it,” he said. He has since been in Stagebridge showcase productions of *South Pacific*, *Chorus Line* and *West Side Stories* at the Ashby Stage in Berkeley. His class credits include: mime, British humour, Brazilian dance, vocal impersonation, vaudeville and of course, musical theatre.

“The classes are an incredible amount of fun, welcoming and friendly while learning performing skills that help you in general life,” he added. “It was challenging to combine singing, dancing and acting,” Mel said. “It has given me a lot of confidence to “stretch” and learn a comedy monologue and sing for an audition. He is a licensed physical therapist, semi-retired, which gives him time to pursue his interests in the performing arts. Mel has also been singing with the Oakland-East Bay Men’s Chorus for three years and also serves on the board of directors.

*Maryann Maslan, Marketing Director*

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## From the Director's Desk

This past weekend I had an experience that reminded me how lucky I was to be working as the managing director of Stagebridge. I was waiting in the lobby of the Ashby Stage during a show and as the sets were being changed I began to talk with a couple from the New York area. They are starting to spend several months a year in the Bay Area to be with their daughter, her husband and two young grandchildren. When they said that they would be regularly here for the months of July and August, I told them about the Stagebridge Performing Arts Camp in July. They were thrilled at the opportunities the camp offers and were ready to sign up. It was clear that they had nothing like this in their area.

Many people have worked together to make Stagebridge an important resource here in the Bay Area. These include Stuart Kandell, Stagebridge's founder and leader for more than thirty years, the other members of the board, the Stagebridge staff, and participants in the company, as well as all the many people who support our programs with donations of time or money.

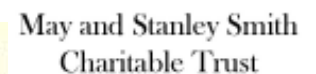
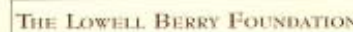
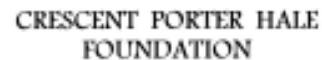
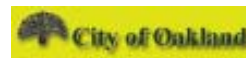
Since April, Stagebridge staff and board members have begun to plan how to expand and underpin the work of our company. We have been assisted by the Taproot Foundation, which is providing technical expertise and meeting facilitation that would cost tens of thousands of dollars if we had to purchase these services. We are at an early stage in the strategic planning process, but it is clear that one of the questions we will be considering is how to make the best use of the talents of graduates of our new two-year certificate program for seniors called the Performing Arts Training Institute (PATI). We now have students in the second year of the program. They will be mentored by outside professionals, and they will use their skills to help newer students at Stagebridge improve the quality of our performances and strengthen our teaching programs for seniors and schoolchildren. As the lead articles mentions, the PATI program is supported by several leading philanthropic organizations. Grants from these foundations underwrite the training and the work of the PATI certificate program participants, and they are a tribute to the dedication and hard work of these participants.

Gary Osteraas, Managing Director

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**STAGEBRIDGE programs are made possible through the generous support of the following organizations**



... and supporters like you!



## SAVE THE DATES!

**September 13** – First Day of Classes

**September 13-17** – ORIENTATION WEEK –  
Visit a new class for free! Register

**October 5**, Tuesday, noon – Bill Irwin

**November 1** – Monday, noon – James Carpenter

Student Showcases at the Ashby Stage. 1901 Ashby Ave.,  
Berkeley. Mondays, 6:30 p.m., **December 6 & 13**

See our stars shine:

**September 11** – Grandparents' Day Storytelling Celebration  
at Barnes & Noble, Emeryville – Saturday at 1 p.m.

**September 5-19** – **Jeanne Haynes'** new show *A Bed for All Seasons*, is a bit of life history. Her storytelling performance is part of CITY SOLO a fresh series featuring a rotating cast of Bay Area solo stars at the Off-Market theater in San Francisco. For more information call: 917.363.9646 or visit <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/122542>

### A chance to see two great musical groups:

**September 24**, Friday, 6-7:30 p.m. – *Never Too Late* kicks off our fall season with a public performance of the popular musical variety show which recently played at the San Francisco Theater Festival. As a special added attraction, **Dave Sturdevant & John Stafford** will play jazz, blues and more 6-6:30 p.m. followed by NTL at 6:45 p.m.. Come to the open house (with refreshments!) at AgeSong, 1440 - 40<sup>th</sup> St., Emeryville. FREE!

## Spare Change?

### Help Stagebridge, Help Spread the Fun

Please check your garage or attic. Your “almost ready to discard” possession can help us bring theatre and storytelling to seniors and children throughout the Bay Area.

#### 1. We need:

- a. Van for transporting performers
- b. Flat screen monitor
- c. Small flat screen TV
- d. LCD projector
- e. Portable sound system
- f. Recent model laptops
- g. New cordless mikes (up to 10)

**2. Volunteer Organizers** – We are looking for someone to help organize “interest circles.” These are groups of people connected to Stagebridge who would get together to share common interests, such as, reading plays, watching films, or going out together to plays (group discounts!). We also need people to help with mailings, productions and outreach events. Contact: Jim in the office at 510-444-4755 ext.114 or email [jim@stagebridge.org](mailto:jim@stagebridge.org).

**3. Donate online or by mail** or help us secure matching funds. 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 St, Oakland 94612. If you or your relatives know of corporate programs to match individual donations, please ask for Michael at 510-444-4755, ext. 0, or email him at: [grants@stagebridge.org](mailto:grants@stagebridge.org)

**4. Host a House Party** – Help us celebrate our 32nd 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 Gary Osteraas at [director@stagebridge.org](mailto:director@stagebridge.org) for more info.

