



Stage Write

The Newsletter of ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

Volume 15, Number 3

October 2005

OnStage Playhouse presents the West Coast Premier of Robin Hawdon's *Birthday Suite*

by *Jeanne Danis*

Prim and proper exports like tea, cashmeres and cheddar cheese may be England's best known products, but boisterous, homegrown farces, like *Noises Off* and *No Sex, Please, We're British* have kept the world laughing hilariously for years.

Currently adding to the wild side, Robin Hawdon's *Birthday Suite* opens its West Coast premiere on November 4 at OnStage Playhouse. Mixing up a British civil servant, a shy, divorced psychiatrist, two luscious young ladies and a flamboyant Italian room-service waiter all poured into adjoining hotel suites, Hawdon has created a cocktail of chaos and laughter.

With actors Jerry Young, Michael C. Burgess, Carolyn Wheat Koenig, Charley Miller and Karina Montgomery, *Birthday Suite* will play through December 4, with performances Thursday through Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$12 and \$14. Please note: there will be no performance on November 24 (Thanksgiving) nor on Friday, December 2 (Holiday parade).

Ticket requests may be made on the theatre's web site, www.onstageplayhouse.org, or call the box office at (619) 422-7787.



Charley Miller plays Tony, the outgoing Italian room-service waiter.
photo by Tony Eisenhower

Getting Ready for the Holidays?

Let OnStage Playhouse help you with gift giving. For only \$75 (an \$84 value) you can give your special person(s) six seats to any of our remaining three shows this season in 2006 OR they can choose to use all six seats for one show. The choice is theirs. They only need to call in their reservation and bring their "Card" with them the night of the performance. Don't be afraid to add some culture to their lives!

If interested, call Betsy Keller at work for further details. You won't be sorry. (619) 205-4113.

Farewell to a Long Time Friend of OnStage Playhouse

By Betsy Keller

Barbara Scott has been connected with OnStage Playhouse for nearly two decades. She served us well in our theatre community. Unfortunately for the people that knew her and loved her, she passed away in September. Barbara was born in Illinois and was a graduate of Northeastern University School of Speech and Drama. She enjoyed a career in radio and television news broadcasting along with her husband.

At OnStage, she acted and designed costumes. She helped in marketing the theatre. She represented us at Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Business Association meetings. She sat long hours at the Chula Vista Festivals to encourage and educate people about our theatre. We presented her with the Barbara Silva Award, which is the highest recognition our theatre can honor someone with.

Perhaps the newcomers to the theatre will remember her for her enthusiasm in producing the "Grand Opening Night Galas." It always amazed me that Barbara took the time to read each script and then plan a corresponding theme for the "Gala." At first, I thought she was a bit crazy, but then I realized that Barbara was a true lover and supporter of theatre. Everything had to be perfect! She was a professional!

Our friendship continued to grow throughout the years that I have been affiliated with OnStage Playhouse. Prior to her passing, we were very close. I developed a wonderful relationship with her sons, Don and Jim, and with Barbara's daughter-in-law, Emily. (By-the-way, Barbara always considered Emily a daughter..) It was truly an honor and a gift to have known Barbara. She was a character and I loved her.

Although it has only been a short time since her passing, OnStage misses her. We want to extend our condolences to her family and all those who knew her.

Barbara's family recognized the dedication she had for OnStage Playhouse and so, in her honor and memory, they donated a generous gift to the theatre so we can continue her "Grand Opening Night Galas" with the importance and pride she put into them. Thank you Don, Jim, and Emily.

As a final thought, I want to thank all of you who took the time to read this article and get a glimpse of who Barbara was...a Grand Lady of our Theatre.

"OnStage" Ticket Policies

ORDERING TICKETS ONLINE: We encourage you to try our web site. On the home page you will find a button "REQUEST A RESERVATION." Click on this button to request a new reservation for any upcoming performances. Making reservations via the web site will make our reservation process more accurate and efficient. The reservationist will notify you to confirm your reservation. If you wish to change or cancel a reservation, you will still have to call the theatre. Our web site is at www.onstageplayhouse.org.

PREPAID TICKET POLICIES: Reservations for 5-9 persons need to be paid by cash or check, by mail or in person, ideally one week before the performance. Late in the run reservations, or those made close to a performance date, may be paid in person at our box office no later than six p.m. (or 1 p.m. for our matinees) on the day of the performance if prior arrangements are made with one of our reservationists. Please contact our box office for details.

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS: You are welcome to change the date you attend the show if you need to. Just remember to give us a minimum of 48 hours notice. The earlier you request to change dates, the more likely we will be able to seat you in, or close to, the area you normally sit when you attend a performance.

UNPAID TICKETS: We hold reservations until fifteen minutes prior to show time for those with unpaid general admission reservations. Season Ticket reservations are held until ten minutes prior to show time. Please plan on arriving at the theatre by thirty minutes before show time to give time for you to check in and/or pay for your tickets. Remember our reservationist is on duty at five thirty o'clock Thursday through Saturday. You are welcome to drop by and pay for your tickets.

GROUP RATE DISCOUNTS: Groups of ten to nineteen persons pay just eleven dollars per seat, while groups of twenty to forty persons pay just ten dollars per seat. Discounts are available for Thursday or Friday performances. *Reservations and payment in full must be made prior to the performance date.* Please contact our box office for more details.

This issue of *Stage Write* was produced by the VOLUNTEER efforts of Janis Vanderford, Bob Christiansen, Jeanne Danis, and Betsy Keller.

President's Corner

By Betsy Keller

For those of you who took the opportunity to see the *The Crucible*, I think you would agree that the performances were outstanding. Our director did an awesome job, and I hope Marjorie will consider coming back next year.

There were nights when I would go to the theatre and sit in the lobby during the performances. Each time, you could hear a pin drop. Everyone, from juniors in high school to our senior patrons, was caught up in the action of this drama. For me, it was an exciting observation. "Kudos" to all who participated in this production.

Since I have your attention, I would like to talk to you about our policy regarding "latecomers" to our performances. Our shows do start on time. If you are not in the theatre by 8 pm or 2 pm for matinees, we will not seat you after the show has started. This policy also applies to our season ticket holders. It is not that we want to be mean. You need to realize that our theatre and stage are small, and it is very distracting to the actors, as well as the audience, to have people moving about during the performance. Please plan ahead and allow yourself enough time to come and find parking.

Our next show, *The Birthday Suite*, is an enjoyable farce which you do not want to miss either. It's light and fun....see you all then.

Looking for a Fundraiser?

Is your organization looking for an easy fundraiser? Why not buy out our theatre on Wednesday, November 30 for \$600? This would amount to \$10 per seat and you could set your own price to your group. We added an extra show to replace the cancelled Thanksgiving Day show. We are hoping a group will take advantage of this opportunity.

Contact Betsy Keller at work - (619) 205-4113.

16 Theatre Seat Donors

Donations are still being accepted in the amount of \$100 per seat. Donors will be recognized with their name on a plaque in the lobby. You too could join our elite group of sixteen donors. Please specify that your donation is for the purchase of the theatre seats.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE AUDITION NOTICE

Prelude to a Kiss

comedy by Craig Lucas

directed by Daniel Zisko

Sun, Nov. 6 and Mon, Nov. 7 at 7:00 pm

A quirky comedy about the marriage of a young couple and a magical kiss which the bride bestows upon an old man who wanders into the wedding reception. This results in unexpected challenges.

Roles are available for eight men and four women from mid 20s to late 70s. Auditions are held at the theater and appointments are not necessary. For a description of roles and further information about the auditions, please log on to our web site, www.onstageplayhouse.org. You may also leave a message on the theater phone at (619) 422-7787.

Around the County

We encourage you to support other community theatre companies in the county. Here are some of the upcoming shows being offered by our sister theatre groups in San Diego County.

Lips Together, Teeth Apart

PowPAC
Oct 21 - Nov 13
Call (858) 679-8085

My Three Angels

Coronado Playhouse
Nov. 11 - Dec. 18
Call (619) 435-4856

Taking Leave

Lamplighters Community Theatre, La Mesa
Nov. 11 - Dec. 4
Call (619) 464-4598

Book of Days

Patio Playhouse, Escondido
Nov. 11 - Dec. 4
Call (760) 746-6669

Sylvia

Scripps Ranch Theater
Nov. 18 - Dec. 17
Call (858) 578-7728

Holiday Show

PowPAC
Dec. 2 thru 11
Call (858) 679-8085

Stage Write



ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

P. O. Box 120044
Chula Vista, CA 91912

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

Office Staff: Kimberly Garland, Jane Russell
Technical Director: Dan Zisko
Facilities Manager: Chad Oakley

Board of Directors

<i>Presiden</i>	Betsy Keller
<i>Past President</i>	Paul Schaeffer
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<i>Secretary</i>	Lynne Batchelor
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<i>Members at Large:</i>	
Bob Christiansen	Charles Nichols
Rosemary King	Janis Vanderford
Lisa Moctezuma	Dan Zisko

Theater telephone: (619) 422-7787

Visit us on the web at

<http://www.onstageplayhouse.org>
email: OnStagePlayhouse@excite.com

PLAYING AT ONSTAGE. . .

Birthday Suite

by Robin Hawdon Directed by Bob Christiansen
November 4 - December 4, 2005

Prelude to a Kiss

by Craig Lucas Directed by Daniel Zisko
January 13 - February 11, 2006

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at
8:00 pm and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm

OUR THEATER IS LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN CHULA
VISTA AT 291 THIRD AVENUE, NEAR F STREET.
LOOK FOR THE GREEN AWNING.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION.

OnStage Playhouse is supported in part by a grant from
Supervisor Greg Cox and the County Board of Supervisors.
Theatre renovation was made possible by a grant from
the Colonel Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund at
The San Diego Foundation.