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Date Lines: News from the Bay Area arts scene

News, notes and updates from the Bay Area arts and culture scene

Robert Hurwitt, Heidi Benson, Joel Selvin Published 4:00 am, Friday, January 16, 2009



Kim Komenich / The Chronicle

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Director Carey Perloff and playwright Philip Kan Gotanda go over script prior to dress rehearsal of ACT's production of "After the War," about SF's Japantown when the internees started returning from the camps ... [more](#)

Gotanda at work

Playwright and filmmaker Philip Kan Gotanda, artist-in-residence with UC Berkeley's Arts Research Center this spring, is taking advantage of his academic sojourn to revisit some of his past work. First, he's directing a bilingual reading of excerpts from "Yohen," his 1999 drama about a post-World War II romance between a divorced Japanese woman and an African American GI, at 4 p.m. Jan 29 in UC's Durham Studio Theater.

"Yohen" has been widely produced since its Los Angeles premiere, which starred Nobu McCarthy and Danny Glover, including an American Conservatory Theater staging in 2003, but this will be its first bilingual version.

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Meanwhile, Gotanda will also be working with UC students on "A Fist of Roses," a dramatic exploration of male violence against women that he created with **Campo Santo**. That project will culminate in a staged reading in April. Both readings are free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Tickets for the "Yohen" presentation can be reserved starting Thursday at www.tdps.berkeley.edu. - Robert Hurwitt

Best of PlayGround

Fresh from the successful world premiere of **Aaron Loeb's** "Abraham Lincoln's Big Gay Dance Party" with **SFPlayhouse**, the new-play development group that commissioned the script - not to mention Loeb's previous Playhouse hit, "First Person Shooter," and some 21 other plays since 2002 - has announced its next batch of works in the works.

That would be **PlayGround**, which calls itself "the incubator for the next generation of Bay Area playwrights." The company's 15th season of staged readings of short plays will culminate, as usual, in an annual Best of PlayGround Festival in May, at which selected shorts and readings of the five new full-length commissions will be staged.

The chosen projects include: "Postgrad (or the Odyssey Years)" by **Lauren Yee**, in which a youngest child leaves home, forcing his unemployed siblings to re-evaluate their lives; **DanielHeath's** "Accidents," about a woman who waits too long to tell her boyfriend she's pregnant; **TrevorAllen's** "Lolita Roadtrip," recounting the adventures of a grad student retracing Vladimir Nabokov's cross-country drive and the hitchhiker she picks up; **Brady Lea's** "Mushroom Boy," about a woman who becomes obsessed with organic produce, or perhaps with its vendor; and a play about the long-range aftereffects of seeing the first motion picture screening in Paris in 1895, "Terror, Astonishment, Love" by **Evelyn Jean Pine**. - Robert Hurwitt

Filmmaker nominated

Bay Area filmmaker Elizabeth Farnsworth has been nominated by the **Director's Guild of America** for its 2008 Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in the documentary category.

Farnsworth shares the nomination with her co-director, Chilean filmmaker **Patricio Lanfranco**, for their film "The Judge and the General," which premiered at the 51st San Francisco International Film Festival in May and aired on PBS in August. The winners will be announced Jan. 31 at the 61st Annual DGA Awards Dinner in Los Angeles.

- Heidi Benson

Fleetwood Mac tour

Fleetwood Mac will appear May 20-21 at Oracle Arena in Oakland, part of a second leg of the band's "Unleashed" tour. Tickets will go on sale at 10 a.m. Jan. 26 at www.livenation.com. The band's first tour in five years starts March 1 in Pittsburgh.

- Joel Selvin

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