

THE LAUGHTER OF CHILDREN filled the theatre. Adults swayed their arms and sang along with the family dog, Stonewall. Boys, girls, moms and dads all had a chance to become a Daddy during the show. Our first show of 2008 was the rousing world premiere of the family-friendly *The Daddy Machine*. Commissioned by Diversionary, Patricia Loughrey adapted the children's book by Johnny Valentine, and Rayme Sciaroni added bounciness and heartfelt music and lyrics. Rayme and Siobhan Sullivan co-directed, **Family Matters** was our community partner, and the show toured to the Theatre of the World Festival at San Diego State University and to California State University Long Beach. We also performed on Rosie O'Donnell's R Family Vacations Cruise, exposing hundreds more people to Diversionary's work and possibilities. The show had a second production at Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles in the fall of 2008.

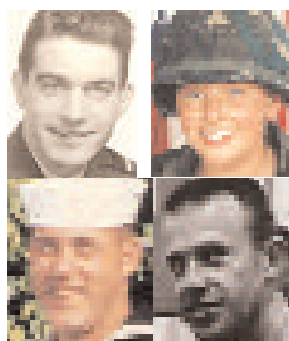


It takes a family of creative artists to stage a world premiere musical

Moxie Theatre joined with us to co-produce *Bluebonnet Court* by Zsa Zsa Gershick, directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg. Carol Davis of San Diego Jewish World wrote "Gershick, who is both Jewish and a lesbian, told me she was thrilled to be able to have her show presented by such an outstanding cast. Kudos as well for the directness, humor and pathos that was brought to the fore through these characters from the imagination of their creator. Every detail from period clothing (Jennifer Brawn Gittings) to the choice of music (Rachel LeVine) to the lighting (Mia Bane Jacobs and Jason Bieber) to the run down looking Blue Bonnet Court (adaptation of Joel Daavid original) is a plus for both Diversionary and Moxie."

Religious protesters showed up (after the final performance!) of Terrence McNally's *Corpus Christi*. Jeff Smith of the San Diego Reader wrote, "*Corpus Christi*, among other things, is about persecution. The original cast was all male. Director Nic Arzen got the playwright's permission to include women, which expands the theme exponentially."

Who could resist a musical called *Yank!*? Our summer offering was the West Coast Premiere of David and Joe Zelnik's WWII musical. Directed by Igor Goldin, the 12-member cast tore up the stage with numbers like "Click," "Polishing Shoes" and "Remembering You." This was the second full production of the show after premiering at the Gallery



Players in Brooklyn in 2007, and kicked off our 2008-2009 season. We were proud to once again be an official event of **San Diego LGBT Pride**. An Off-

At Your Service

Pictured (clockwise, starting top left): Peter Jarman (1951), Donna Plourd, (1987), Dennis Howard (1964), Robert Leyh (1997)

Broadway production is being planned for the spring of 2009 at the York Theatre in New York City.

During the run of *Yank!*, we created an art exhibition of photos of local LGBT people who served in the Armed Forces. "At Your Service" allowed us to honor dozens of local LGBT veterans and current servicemembers.

We continued the new season with a production of Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialist play *No Exit*, directed by Esther Emery. *Scrooge in Rouge-A British Music Hall Christmas Carol*, directed by Rayme Sciaroni, took to the boards in November - this was the second full production and West Coast Premiere of the show that premiered at La Chat Noir in New Orleans last Christmas season.

THE YEAR AHEAD

We're already in the process of reviewing dozens of plays and musicals in order to put together a great 2009-2010 season. And before you know it, our 25th anniversary year will be here in 2010-2011! In the meantime, the current season will play out with three additional productions: Paul Oakley Stovall's family comedy *As Much As You Can* takes the stage in January. Directed by Antonio T.J. Johnson, the show is done in collaboration with the **San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre**. In March, Carol Lynn Pearson's drama *Facing East* opens, directed by Marybeth Bielawski-DeLeo. And the season closes in May with Douglas Carter Beane's biting comedy *The Little Dog Laughed*, directed by Robert Barry Fleming.

The **James Irvine Foundation New Connections Fund** continues to play an important role in helping develop new work at Diversionary, funding in part the creation of *The Daddy Machine* and our



The bronze bust of Harvey Milk in San Francisco's City Hall

Queer Theatre program

(readings this past winter of *The Summer Before the Summer of Love* by Scot Augustson and *Stage Directions* by L. Trey Wilson). This spring the Foundation will help fund two special world premiere events: in February dance artist Peter G. Kalivas brings together six local choreographers to interpret six past Diversionary productions through dance in *Dance/Theatre*. And Diversionary commissioned playwright Patricia Loughrey to write a new play to celebrate Harvey Milk and his legacy - *Dear Harvey* takes the stage in April, directed by Dan Kirsch.

WHAT GHOST UP

A line that gets its share of groans in *Scrooge in Rouge* is "what ghost up must come down!" As owners of the building that houses the theatre, we had our share of groans and uplifting moments during the year - our wheelchair lift stopped working in March, triggering a revision of our strategic plan for the building. Getting the wheelchair lift up and running is a priority for our Board and Staff so that we can provide access to the hundreds of patrons who need the Lift during the course of a year. A \$300,000

continued %

DIVERSIONARY

Annual Report THEATRE

December 2008

Diversionary Theatre

*The Nation's 3rd
Oldest LGBT Theatre*

4545 Park Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92116

Administrative:

619.220.6830

Box Office:

619.220.0097

www.diversionary.org



The cast of As Much As You Can

campaign was launched in order to bring the property up to current building codes and ADA standards. Lead grants from **Las Patronas** and **The Parker Foundation** led the early fundraising, and hundreds of patrons pitched in during the fall "Give Us A Lift" campaign. An anonymous challenge grant of \$25,000 was received in the late fall and fundraising for this project continues. Construction is underway and a new Lift should be installed by the end of January. More that \$157,000 has been given or pledged for the project as of mid-

December, and additional donations are still needed, welcomed and appreciated. Special thanks to former San Diego District 3 City Councilmember Toni Atkins, the Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust, the Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Foundation and the Blachford-Cooper Foundation for their early support of this project.

WITH GRATITUDE

Jim Ziegler provided a lead gift which allowed us to open a permanent endowment fund at **The San Diego Foundation** this past year. Diversionary is honored to receive major financial support from the **City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture**. Other generous support this past year came from: Gene Burkard, California Institute for Contemporary Arts, Joann Clark, Gay & Lesbian Times, The James Irvine Foundation, Philip m Katcher, Price-Galinson Collaborative Fund and Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust.

Special thanks to the playwrights, directors, actors, musicians and designers who provided such an inspiring year of plays. Finally, a standing ovation for our donors, subscribers and volunteers! Join us in 2009 for another year of celebration of our community.

Your annual donation is critical.
An annual gift allows Diversionary to continue to tell our stories and expand our reach within our community as a center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender arts and culture.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Mary L. Stockton, *President*
 Bill McClain, *Vice President*
 Victoria Person, *Secretary*
 Douglas Bradley, *Treasurer*
 Joseph H. Brooks
 Vicki Estrada
 Nancy Rodriguez
 Matthew Thomason
 Lois Webster

Thank you to other Board and community committee members who served during the past year:
 Dawn Bentley, Peter Dennehy, John A. Grah, Carlos Legaspy and Krista Page. Special thanks to graphic designer Barron Henzel, volunteer Dennis Howard, and playwright Patricia Loughrey.

DIVERSIONARY STAFF

- Dan Kirsch
Executive & Artistic Director
 Bret Young
Managing Director
 Travis Guss
Patron Services Manager

TAXES & CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS

Financial support from the community is critical at this time to all of our arts and LGBT organizations as we continue to face new challenges and funding cuts.

Consider giving a gift of appreciated securities. These gifts allow you to leverage your gift to Diversionary, to avoid capital gains tax, and, in essence, to give more at a lower cost.

In addition to the standard charitable deductions normally allowed, legislation extended through 2009 allows those over 70-1/2 years of age to directly transfer up to \$100,000 from a qualified pension or IRA fund per year - regardless of whether they itemize their deductions - to an organization such as Diversionary. The benefit is that you may avoid any tax liability on those funds and you can make a significant contribution to the community by your gift. In fact, such a transfer could count as part of your minimum required distribution this year and next year.

Always please check with you tax advisor to determine how these kinds of gifts may apply to your situation prior to making a gift.

Diversionary Theatre Productions, Inc. Statements of Activities - Fiscal Year Ending June 30

	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006	2004-2005
Income				
Ticket Sales	\$214,808	\$210,080	\$231,934	\$110,271
Contributions	\$133,738	\$124,214	\$132,703	\$104,792
Grants	\$96,455	\$82,297	\$71,341	\$52,243
Rental Income	\$40,878	\$34,176	\$0	\$0
Other/Investments/Special Events	\$49,682	\$58,025	\$40,674	\$2,355
Total Income	\$535,561	\$508,792	\$476,652	\$269,661
Expenses				
Production	\$376,953	\$362,640	\$314,448	\$264,259
General/Admin/Fundraising	\$115,735	\$98,216	\$60,784	\$38,750
Other (Building, Special Events)	\$60,035	\$56,230	\$11,507	\$0
Total Expenses	\$552,723	\$517,086	\$386,739	\$303,009
Surplus (Deficit) from Operating	(\$17,162)	(\$8,294)	\$89,913	(\$33,348)

Extraordinary Income

In January 2007, Diversionary was honored to be the beneficiary of the estate of Dr. Fritz Klein. Fritz loved the arts and served on the Diversionary Theatre Board of Trustees from 2000-2006. Diversionary was the beneficiary of three gifts from his estate: a gift of \$250,000, restricted to a permanent endowment fund; a gift of the building which houses the Theatre at 4545 Park Boulevard (the building currently has a \$583,000 mortgage); and a gift from Dr. Klein's Charitable Remainder Trust. In the same fiscal year, we also received a \$100,000 gift from the estate of Barbara Ramsey and Sherry Henderson.

During the 2007-2008 fiscal year we began a fund drive to replace the wheelchair lift, resulting in gifts of \$38,300. Additional information about the estate gifts and the fund drive can be found on our website at www.diversionary.org.

Notes about our current fiscal year (2008-2009)

On July 1 we started with a similar budget to the prior year, but are now projecting a 10-15% drop in revenue, primarily due to lower annual contributions, investment income and special event income. Operating expenses are being cut to reflect this reality. We estimate the wheelchair lift fund drive is will raise \$130,000 in grants and contributions this fiscal year, which is restricted to the construction project to replace the lift.

Annual financial statements prepared by Leaf & Cole, LLP, Certified Public Accountants.
 A full copy of the statements are available at Diversionary.

Learn more about us at
www.diversionary.org