



Newsletter

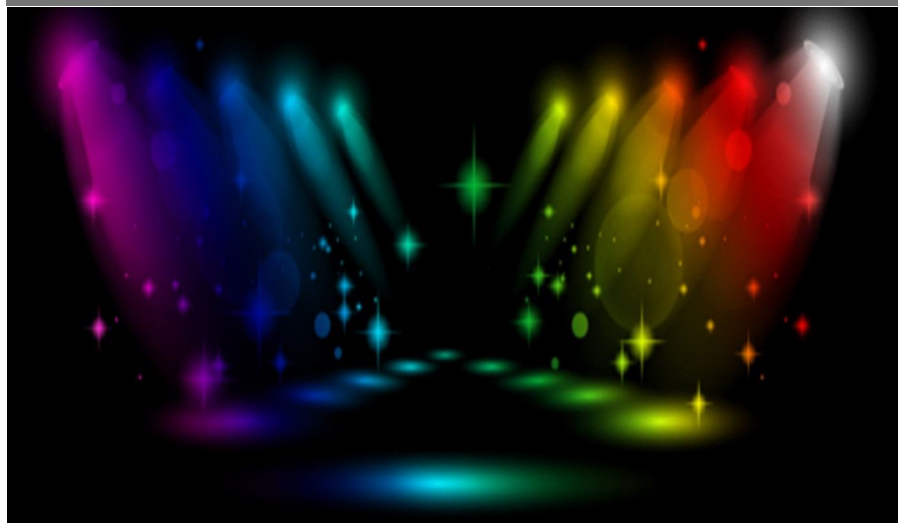
March 2023



Rachana Pandey
Newsletter Co-Editor

Kim Sender (Duvall)
Newsletter Co-Editor

Theatre and Queer



From ICWP Newsletter Editor **Rachana Pandey**

Performance is an empowering act. Theatre gives a platform to various identities and experiences. Theatre pushes the boundaries of normative, socially constructed and exclusive structures and creates a space for all. Theatre is for everyone. Theatre often bridges the gap and creates an understanding and a sense of acceptance through dialogue. The present issue of the ICWP Newsletter focuses on "Theatre and Queer" and takes privilege in showcasing the works and performances of a number of talented artists, theatre practitioners, and members of ICWP who have worked to break gender stereotypes and power politics and established identities through theatre with a humanistic approach.

Happy reading!

I N T I M A T E A C T S

eight contemporary lesbian plays



Terry Baum

Nancy Dean

Janis Astor del Valle

Harriet Malinowitz

Rosemary McLaughlin

Renée

Sarah Schulman

Beverly Thompson

Introduction by Adele Prandini
Artistic Director, Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco

From **Rosemary McLaughlin**

Horsefeathers

My one-act comedy, “Horsefeathers,” premiered at Chicago Cooperative Stage, in 1986, making it one of the early LGBTQ plays performed in Chicago. Inspired in part by the legendary Café Cino, birthplace of off-off-Broadway and out queer theatre, “Horsefeathers” marked my professional debut. Two women finally have the financial wherewithal to buy the bed of their dreams after ten years of struggle and disastrous mattresses. With this anniversary goal achieved, will they still have something to look forward to?

The play was a train wreck. Even though reviews were kind, perhaps out of loyalty to the theatre, audience reaction ranged from heads thrown back in shock that these two “nice girls” were a couple to some laughs when the director’s blocking worked with the script. My just-ex girlfriend of 10 years flew to Chicago to be

with me for this, and that was a sweet, if painful, denouement for our relationship.

The takeaway was that I learned the importance of director-proofing a play. I revised the hell out of it, made it funnier, and increased the stakes. The New York premiere at Wings Theatre on Christopher Street, in the heart of queer New York, went much, much better.

From **Sandra de Helen**

Queer Theatre

In 1977, my friend and collaborator Kate Kasten and I founded Actors' Theatre, a women's theatre company. 100% of its members identified as lesbian at the time. (Labels can be fluid, as we all know.) It was the only women's theatre company in Kansas City, Missouri, and wildly popular. We offered childcare, women-only nights, and inexpensive tickets.

In 1981, I founded the Portland Women's Theatre company in Portland, Oregon. Again, most of us were lesbian. This company lasted 12 years and included men at the end.

In 2007, I founded Penplay Theatre Company, a multi-cultural queer company. We didn't last long, but we produced three shows. One of the plays was a gender queer play called Boxes.

Queer theatre is important for all of us, regardless of sex or gender. It offers one of the only places to see works that reflect the LGBTQIA+ community and can be joyful, educational, provocative, and meaningful. It is important for queer people to see themselves represented on stage, just as it is for all of us, regardless of ethnicity, gender, or religion.

From **Ronni Sanlo**

Theater and Queer

Theater teaches. It reaches populations that are now being disenfranchised. Classes are being removed and books are being taken from school and community libraries. LGBTQ people have a long, rich history. We didn't just jump out of a bar last Thursday night! Many came before us, paving the way for our freedom, though they likely weren't aware of that. Our history informs us about who we are, from where we came, and perhaps to where we're going. Theater teaches this history. It offers hidden stories never learned or being taken away in schools. And it acknowledges that the LGBTQ community is far more diverse than we ever imagined. Through theater, our LGBTQ heroes and sheroes and they-roes call to us to remember. Theater teaches.

Development Grant Winners

We are pleased to announce the successful grant applicants for the 2022-2023

ICWP BIPOC Grant, and a special grant for playwrights with disabilities -- the Amy Oestreicher Grant for Women Playwrights. Details of the playwrights' projects will be published soon on the ICWP website.

Amy Oestreicher Development Fund Grantees

Tanya Perez

Patty Kim Hamilton

Cheyenne Wyzard-Jones

Avery Grace

BIPOC Grant Awardees

Janice Liddell

Juley-Ann Smith

M.J. Kang

In Remembrance



It was with great sadness that we learned about the death of **Carole Clement**. Carole was one of the founding members of ICWP in the 1990s. She was the first Treasurer. She was age 84 and passed away October 20, 2022. She was born in Cleveland, Ohio on December 22, 1937. Carole received her BA from Fenn College (now Cleveland State) and her MA from Lake Erie College. She worked as an English teacher at Mentor High School in the 1960s and later as a tutor. She was also instrumental in the creation of AP Products in Painesville, Ohio. A fuller dedication and memorial article will appear on the ICWP website.

Podcast and Social Media



The ICWP Podcast features interviews with playwrights, dramatists, and theatre professionals as well as readings of play scripts. Listen [here](#) now.

Join Us on Social Media

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

Welcome to New Members



Helen Alexander
Valetta Anderson
Beverly Andrews
Sherre Bishop
Katie Casebolt
Louise Casini Hollis
Christine Foster
Susan Goodell
Lesley Greene
Melissa Grey
Kathleen Marie Jackson
Laura Jones
M.J. Kang
Madge Kaplan
Tanya Perez
Chalethia Williams

ICWP Board News

The ICWP Annual Meeting will be held 24 March.

Are you interested in becoming an ICWP Board Member? If so, please contact the [Board President](#) or [Operations Manager](#) for more information about open positions.

ICWP is a 501-c-3 Non Profit Organization, incorporated in the state of Ohio, USA

For general questions, contact Margaret McSeveney, Operations Manager:

admin@womenplaywrights.org

For the Board of Directors, contact Board President:

board@womenplaywrights.org

[Facebook](#) • [Twitter](#) • [LinkedIn](#)