



May 2025  
©TRC  
[www.rehearsalclubnyc.com](http://www.rehearsalclubnyc.com)  
Kate West, Editor

---

## President's Message

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

### Breaking News!

Dear Members and Friends of The Rehearsal Club,

### Miracles are happening!

TRC has its own home as of May 1<sup>st</sup> - a 5-floor brownstone, with an option to buy, in a lovely, renovated area of the Upper West Side on a sunny, tree-lined block. Once again, talented aspiring artists will climb the old stairs to the parlor of a sanctuary of peace and fellowship in their journey to succeed in the toughest career of them all.

This move ensures our future, keeping The Rehearsal Club alive for generations to come in the cultural capital of the world. **You** made this happen! Please take a very deep bow!

And now, with your sustained help and support, we shall once again be in the driver's seat to build a cultural impact with deserving rising stars in the arts.

My deepest thanks to each of you.

*Gale*





47 W. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street



148 W. 132<sup>nd</sup> Street

## MOVING DAY – APRIL 30, 2025!



---

## ALUMS IN ACTION



Charter Alum **Sandy Duncan**, will be the focus of an exclusive Drama Desk interview/audience Q&A program that will feature video clips of some of her greatest performances. The event will take place on Tuesday, May 13, at 7 pm in the Laurie Beechman Theatre at the West Bank Café, 407 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, and will be moderated by long-time Drama Desk member Michael Portantieri.

---

Charter Alum **Francine Mancini** presented her musical *No U Turns A.D.*, directed by TRC Alum Jennifer

Gelfer and starring TRC Member Michele Mais, on March 21 and 22 at St. Christopher's Lutheran Church in Greenwich Village.



---

Charter Alum **Annie O'Donnell** recently appeared in an episode of the NBC sitcom *St. Denis Medical* and guests on the reboot of *Night Court*, also on NBC. Click the button below to read an interview with Annie about her experience on *Night Court*, reprising a character she played 40 years ago!



*NIGHT COURT* — "A Few Good Hens" Episode 311  
Pictured: (l-r) Brent Spiner as Bob Wheeler, Annie O'Donnell as June Wheeler, John Larroquette as Dan Fielding, Gary Anthony Williams as Flobert —  
(Photo by: Nicole Weingart/NBC)

---

### Annie O'Donnell Interview

---

Founding Benefactor **Carol Burnett** was featured in a recent episode of MAX's award winning comedy series *Hacks*. Carol plays herself in a wonderful scene with Jean Smart.

Charter Alum **Donna Couteau** has been busy. January saw her at Theater Row for *Please Don't Touch the Indians* by Joseph A. Dandurand. She spoke on a panel at Roundabout Theater for *Sneaky*, a play by the late William S. Yellow Robe Jr., a playwright she knew well, and at the Palace Theater in Stratford, Connecticut for the Symphony Space Global Arts program.

Charter Alum **Cynthia Darlow** appears in the upcoming Episode 507 of *Law and Order: Organized Crime* on Peacock and Apple TV. She is also working on the Performing Artists Legacy project for the Entertainment Community Fund, and two independent feature films.

Charter Alum **Michele Nezwazky-Smith** continues her costuming skills. She created 13 romantic tutus for the dancers of the Gulf Coast Dancenter

Charter Alum **Maybin Sherman** was pictured on *CBS Sunday Morning*, in a segment featuring her brilliant daughter Amy Sherman Palladino's new series *Etoile*, combining comedy and ballet.

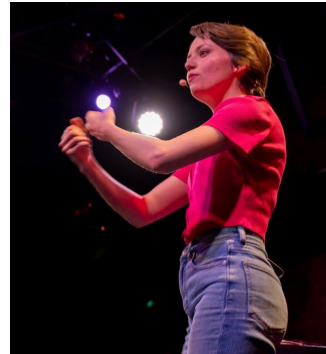


Alum **Kelsey Lepesko** has been diving into training with Actor Therapy, Broadway Dance Center, and private voice lessons, while auditioning as a proud client of Bloc Agency. She's thrilled to be hitting the stage at 54 Below this July with Actor Therapy!

---

## Residents In Action

Standing ovations with a wonderful encore - all draped in pure joy - surrounded **Alyssa Payne's** one woman show *Extra Crispy* April 30th at the Public.



Resident **Faith Olson** is graduating from Circle in the Square Theatre School on June 9th!

New Resident **Emma Harrison** was welcomed to The Rehearsal Club.

---

## News From Our Alliances

Thank you to the many TRC women who joined EAG at their recent New Member Reception! **Mary Lou Barber** and **Diane Findlay** immediately jumped in with both feet, volunteering to help screen plays submitted to EAG's upcoming Short Summer Play Festival (see below) in July. Mary Lou said of the EAG New Member Reception:



"I had no idea how many programs EAG does and was further surprised and delighted to unexpectedly see so many talented performers."

Up Next at EAG:

### SUMMER SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL - July 20 - 27

Currently accepting short play submissions - [DEADLINE MAY 23](#)  
Click on the link to fill out the Google Form for submissions. Note: **NON-UNION** actors only. Equity only allows not-for-profit organizations to use their Theater Authority Contract twice annually, therefore, EAG members lose out, but TRC Residency Gals WIN!! Contact [denise@denisepence.com](mailto:denise@denisepence.com) for more info.

---

# *The Rehearsal Club*

*Truth*



*Or  
Fiction*

In 1965, **Charla Hayen** and **Kathy Fitch** were roommates on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of The Rehearsal Club. Their room faced the CBS building and was directly across from a floor of lit up offices, illuminated night and day. Charla and Kathy could watch all the activity and felt a connection to the people working across the street. They decorated their window for all the seasons and holidays, just for the CBS office workers. Each week they would dress up in various costumes - cowgirls, clowns or gypsies - run down the steps to the front of the building and wave up to their friends above. The friends would wave back. Then Charla and Kathy would walk over in costume to Central Park to ride the merry-go-round.

Summer arrived, and Charla and Kathy were leaving for summer theatre jobs. They put a sign in their window telling their CBS friends good bye. The friends made their own sign asking if they would like to go to lunch. Charla and Kathy wrote back a “No Thank You.”

Is that Truth or Fiction? Did they refuse to go to lunch with their CBS friends? Yep, sadly true. They decided it might ruin the magic of the distant friendships across the street. However, Charla sometimes regrets that decision!

---

## The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual AIDS Walk New York Is Rapidly Approaching



We encourage TRC's women to walk in support of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Pictured above are **Dottie Belle** and Denise Pence, holding the first TRC logo poster, created by TRC Charter Member **Judith Curcio**, who happened to be working at ABC at the time. Judith gently coerced them to create a poster for us from Terry Baughan's whimsical design of our brownstone.

That poster is long gone, and many of our Charter Members are now virtual walkers, but TRC women continue to support BC/EFA with passion and respect for its

leadership, which follows our own Carol Burnett's motto to "Pay It Forward."

More info at the following link:

[https://gmhc.org/gmhc\\_events/aids-walk-new-york-2025/](https://gmhc.org/gmhc_events/aids-walk-new-york-2025/)



*Timon of Athens* is currently casting for May 19 and 26 readings.

Contact [denise@denisepence.com](mailto:denise@denisepence.com) for more info.

This is our final play reading prior to our summer break. TRC members are invited to read for free through the end of 2025.

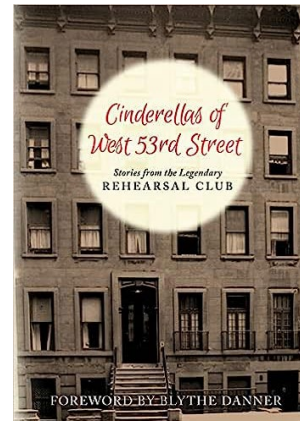
Company members will be reading the major roles. However, we welcome other

actors seeking to challenge their cold-reading ability with Shakespeare's heightened text. Page Clements continues to give us a wealth of information and insight during her Overview prior to each play reading.

Meanwhile, enjoy Erika Rolfsrud's off-the-wall rendition of Goddess Diana in *Pericles: Prince of Tyre*.

### Pericles: Prince of Tyre

Our Cinderella book is available at Shakespeare & Co. in New York City. The Book contains the history of TRC as told by many of the original voices. Both the book and audiobook are available online at Drama Books and Blackstone, and at Audible.com. If you've already read it, or listened to it, drop a review on Amazon.com or Audible.com. Every little bit helps (and then tell Oprah)!





Join **One Hope Wine** on their mission to give back to local and global organizations with 10% of every purchase donated directly to a cause of your choice. With over \$9 million donated to date, they continue to change the world one glass at a time.

Check out One Hope at the link below. You can designate TRC as the recipient of 10% of your purchase by clicking the link at the top of the home page.

**One Hope Wine**

---

## **Become a TRC Member!**

For those working or retired from the performing or fine arts, a \$50 annual fee to this historic organization supports young artists and sustains our nationally recognized legacy.

### **Benefits of TRC Membership:**

- Monthly & Members-only Newsletters
- Invitations to Members' occasions & public events
- Extraordinary networking amongst like-minded spirits
- Workshops and seminars

### **Through TRC Alliances:**

- Discount tickets to performances in NYC and other major cities.
- Special prices on hotels, airfares, rental cars.
- Special invitations to events

For arts lovers and believers in our mission, a \$100 annual fee as a TRC **SUSTAINER** provides most benefits of General Membership and supports our 110-year history of excellence.

For further information, please write to: [info@rehearsalclubnyc.com](mailto:info@rehearsalclubnyc.com)

Go to: [www.rehearsalclubnyc.com](http://www.rehearsalclubnyc.com).

The Rehearsal Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit; all contributions are tax deductible

---

## *Goings On Is Now Bi-Monthly*

Text submissions should be Microsoft Word documents,  
150 words or fewer, and include photos, links and pertinent information.  
The deadline for the July issue is June 10, 2025.

Please note the new address for newsletter  
submissions: [info@rehearsalclubnyc.com](mailto:info@rehearsalclubnyc.com)

The Rehearsal Club  
2350 Broadway - Suite 934  
New York, NY 10024  
Email not displaying correctly?  
[View it in your browser](#)  
[Unsubscribe](#)