



September 2024

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Kate West, Editor

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of The Rehearsal Club,

Lots of news to share as we launch a new fiscal year with a robust new board and abundant plans for the next year. We are proud to welcome five new members to the board for a total of fifteen. It's an honor to list them at the end of this newsletter, new members highlighted in red.

The Residency program welcomes new "rising stars" this fall, as the waiting list grows and grows, just through word of mouth. We have become the best kept secret in town, with all hands on deck to sustain our growth. Think of the lives we could change with greater funding.

A series of events in November during the week before Thanksgiving will highlight young and old talents in a revue, a membership lunch and life celebration of Judy Jenson. As always, thanks for your continued support. With enormous thanks and gratitude.



Gale Paton

Members In The News



Congratulations to TRC Charter Member, our beloved **Carol Burnett**, on her Emmy nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series. The Apple TV series is *Palm Royale*, with Carol in the role of Norma Dellacorte.

Carol's career has spanned six decades of television.

She is best known for her long-running TV variety series, *The Carol Burnett Show*. Her professional work has also included stage and film, where she has performed in both

dramatic and comedy roles. In a recent broadcast on *CBS News Sunday Morning*, Carol credited The Rehearsal Club for giving her a home in NYC at the beginning of her theater career. She also mentioned how TRC is continuing to provide housing and support to women in the performing arts.

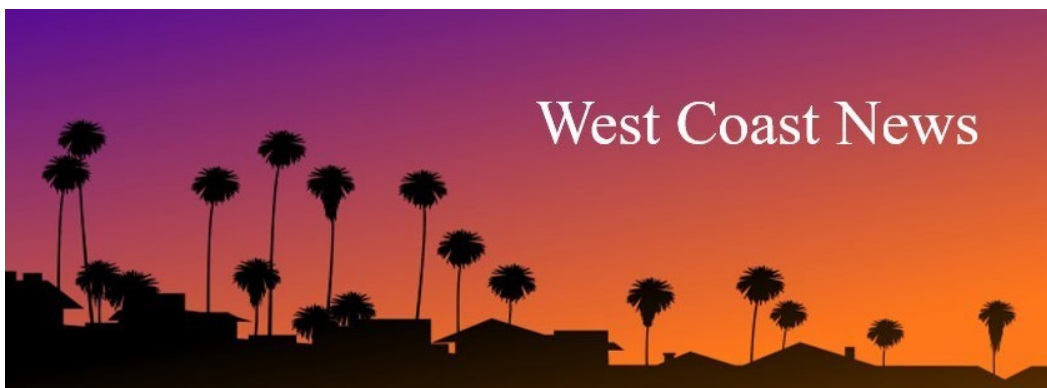
Thank you Carol Burnett for your continued outstanding support of The Rehearsal Club!

No U-Turns A.D. Reading



On July 20th there was a reading of the musical *NO U-TURNS A. D.*, written by TRC Alum Francine Mancini (left above) and presented by The Family Repertory Company. TRC member Michele "Maisey" Mais (right above) played the part of Kimberli, and Francine played the part of Angelique. The reading took place at TRC Alum Jean Blevin's 353 Studios, and we thank her for her support! The TRC sisterhood came out in support, which we truly appreciate. The room was filled mostly with TRC women. We had a very warm response. There were dramatic moments, and we also heard laughs. We are hoping to get it to the next level and will be mounting a production in the near future, so **STAY TUNED!**

TRC's own **Christopher Callen** was cited for her Outstanding Featured Performance as Avy in *Pang Spa* by *LAStageScene* out of over 100 theatrical productions reviewed! Proud and Grateful.



Melanie Mayron, TRC Charter alum and Honorary Board Member, never seems to stop! When she's not busy directing for television, including episodes of the Netflix original series *GLOW*, *SEAL Team*, *The Enemy Within*, the 2018 *Charmed* reboot, *Jane the Virgin*, and *Julia*, she might find time to attend a TRC Slumber



Party for a little fun.

DeBorah Sharpe-Taylor recently starred in a short film shown at the Chinese Theater in Hollywood as part of the Hollyshorts Film Festival & Assistance League Theater.



Annie O'Donnell will be on an episode of *Matlock* with Kathy Bates in the fall.

TRC BOARD GATHERS

“The only thing that makes life possible is permanent, intolerable uncertainty; not knowing what comes next.” This quote by author Ursula K. Le Guin seemed to sum up my feelings about possible rain, and a negative impact on our rooftop Board of Directors’ gathering at my home. Thankfully, William Shakespeare - not Ms. Le Guin- was ultimate predictor of the weather’s impact. The result? A delightful and joyous occasion indoors, in the cozy comfort of my living room. “All’s Well That Ends Well,” indeed!
-Andrea Frierson



Standing: Andrea Frierson, Allen Bomes, Janet Stilson,
Cheryl Daly, Margaret Strom
Seated: Cynthia Darlow, Francine Mancini, Gale Patron,
Cameron Taylor, Linda Cool, Ellen Zalk

TRC RESIDENT PROFILE

CHELSEA WEAVER



Since she was seven years old, Chelsea Weaver knew she wanted to pursue a career in musical theater and film in New York City. In July 2022, the dream became reality when she moved into The Rehearsal Club. A 2021 graduate of Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), majoring in Theater Performance with a minor in Creative Writing, she heard about The Rehearsal Club from college friends Kelsey Lepesko and Oksana Veres, who were then living at TRC. As an actor/singer/dancer/writer, Chelsea arrived in NYC with very impressive credentials. Her performance of Queen Tatiana in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at WCSU was named a candidate for an Irene Ryan Scholarship at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (2022).

Chelsea enthuses about what she likes best about TRC. “The workshops let us gain first-hand knowledge from people working in the field,” she says, “and the relationships I have made with other residents, sharing relatable experiences and supporting each other, is really great.” Workshops on writing styles and getting published, opportunities in audio books and voiceovers, and getting an agent are “invaluable” she says. She has performed in two of The Rehearsal Club showcases at Don't Tell Mama, and she also serves as a brand ambassador to Street Meet Productions, talking to visitors about Broadway plays including *Outsiders*, *Hell's Kitchen* and *Water for Elephants*, which keeps her up-to-date on the Broadway scene.



Celia Weston, born in Spartanburg, South Carolina, has had a fulfilling career on stage and screen. She studied at North Carolina School of the Arts and at the Bruford School in London. She then headed to the Big Apple, where she was introduced to The Rehearsal Club by her summer stock theatre colleague, Patricia Cody, a dancer and now attorney! After submitting a resume and reference letters, she auditioned and was immediately embraced by the ladies at the Club. Her first day in NYC, TRC member (and fellow NCSA alum), Joyce Reehling, introduced Celia to casting

agents. Three days later Celia got her first role in an Equity production of Woody Allen's *Play It Again, Sam*. In 1979 she was cast in her Broadway debut, *Loose Ends*,

starring Kevin Kline. Her next Broadway role was in Edward Albee's play *The Lady from Dubuque*, starring Irene Worth. In 1998 Celia received a Tony Award nomination for Alfred Uhry's play *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, as well as winning the Outer Critics Circle Award. Other nominations include the Drama Desk and Drama League Awards as Best Supporting Actress. She is proud to have been in the Broadway production of Sam Shepard's play *True West* in 2000, which starred Philip Seymour Hoffman and John C. Reilly. Her most recent Broadway appearance was in *Marvin's Room* at the Roundabout Theatre, where she also did Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke*.

For her performance in the multi-Oscar-nominated film *Dead Man Walking*, starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn, Celia received an Independent Spirit Award nomination. She was nominated for the Screen Actors Guild award for Best Acting Ensemble for *In the Bedroom*, with Sissy Spacek, Tom Wilkinson, and Marisa Tomei.

In television, Celia is known for the character Jolene Honeycutt on the CBS hit sitcom *Alice*, from 1981 to 1985; *Modern Family* (as Cam's mom), *Frasier*, *The Thing About Pam*, (as Renee Zellweger's mother), *American Horror Story*, *Hunters* and *Law & Order/SVU*.

Two upcoming films include a comedy due out in January starring Will Ferrell and Reese Witherspoon titled *You're Cordially Invited*, in which Celia plays Reese's mother, and *A Little Prayer*, a family drama with David Strathairn.

Celia's advice to young artists is to always be prepared for an opportunity to win the job. She will always be thankful for The Rehearsal Club! She calls it a halfway house for NICE girls!

Just Among Us

TRC's Membership Committee is pleased to announce the upcoming inaugural edition of *Just Among Us*, a special newsletter by and for all current Rehearsal Club Members only. Watch for it in October.

Submission of articles, news items, etc. is encouraged and welcome! Please submit to voicemargaret@verizon.net and place "Just Among Us" in the subject line.

News From Our Affiliates

From Our Friends At Off The Lane



As seen on TikTok, with over 1 Million Views on #OpenStay, and streaming on Spotify, with over 218k album streams, *Open, Stay* is a musical celebration of the human connection that we all crave.

Directed by Mindy Cooper, this five-character musical features interwoven stories that navigate love, loss, and friendship—all while capturing a day in the life of the Kismet Cafe, where private and public moments converge over coffee.

Sept.. 5, 2pm & 8 pm
Sept. 6th, 2pm

Meaux Space in NYC
305 7th Ave, 17th Floor

Tickets

New York Women in Film & Television is happy to share that six of our members have been nominated in a variety of categories for the 76th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards! The ceremony will air live on Sunday, September 15th, 2024 at 8:00 pm EST / 5:00 pm PST on ABC. It will also be available to stream on Hulu the following day.

OTHER NEWS

The **2024/25 Broadway season** is here at last, with many new productions set to arrive before the end of the year. If you don't live in New York City or frequent the Theater District, odds are you haven't seen Broadway's newest marquee! *Water For Elephants*, *Death Becomes Her*, *Moulin Rouge: The Musical*, and of course, *Suffs*, as mentioned previously in this Newsletter.

The **Betsye Kay Finch Foundation** will celebrate their 5th Anniversary of scholarship awards to talented high school graduates, featuring TRC Resident Kaylan Bradford as the keynote speaker. Dancer Betsye Kay, former TRC member, created the foundation and operated her dance schools throughout northern Florida for decades.

TRC has formed a partnership with **Audience Ticketing Services** for discounted tickets for Rehearsal Club members. Stay tuned for more information.



Our next wondrous PJ Party is scheduled on Thursday, September 5, from 6 pm to 7 pm EST. This is such a great opportunity for former residents of The Rehearsal Club to meet and explore that special time together. Old friends can reconnect and there are many new discoveries about the Club past and present. Please know all are welcome. A very fun time!

Meeting ID: 826 4846 4413

Passcode: 036123

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)



"If you can look into the seeds of time, and say which grain will grow and which will not, speak then to me." Macbeth

The Rehearsal Club grew out of an invitation to tea; Shakespeare Alive grew out of COVID isolation. Both have germinated beyond our wildest expectations. We are commencing our 5th and maybe final year of Shakespeare readings on September 9th. *Henry VI*, Parts 1, 2 (casting begins now) and 3 will take us into the holidays. We always welcome new players. More news by October, but casting is already finalized for Part 1. We could use someone to read stage directions. For anyone coming in new, it's a great way to see what we do.

Contact denise@denisepence.com for more information.

The Rehearsal Club

Truth



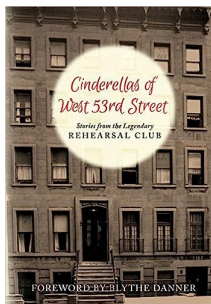
Or
Fiction

In the 1940's, an established professional in the theatre arts had to beg to be allowed into The Rehearsal Club as a resident. After pleading with the headmistress, she was admitted, but only if she arrived at night and stayed hidden!

TRUE! Anna Russell, who would become a world famous singer, lyricist, actress and composer, had been recently divorced and was

not considered suitable to be a resident of TRC. Happily she did gain entry and is a treasured part of our history.

Maria Mallman, TRC Historian Extraordinaire, was the source of this story. More information on Anna Russell will be available in a future newsletter!



Our Cinderella book will be available at Shakespeare & Co in New York City! The book contains the history of TRC as told by the original voices of *Stage Door*. Both the book and audiobooks are available online at Drama Books and Blackstone respectively. If you've already read it, drop a review on Amazon.com. Every little bit helps (and then tell Oprah!)

TRC Workshops



Meditation & Mindfulness

Hosted by RC Alum: Michele Mason
Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT

Highly recommended to reduce stress and help to bring you into a state of true Zen.

Meeting ID: 886 1780 8625
Passcode: 640152

Thank you, Michele, for sharing your amazing gift with us every week! This Workshop is a special place to collect, reflect and commune.

September Zoom Link

TRC Member and 2nd degree black belt **Deborah White** will hold a Self Defense

Workshop for TRC Residents on October 27th from 7 to 9 pm at Studio 353.

In Memoriam



SAVE THE DATE!
November 22, 2024
(Judy's Birthday!)
New York City - 6:00 - 9:00 pm



1941 - 2024

*Judy Jenson Memorial Fund and
official details to follow in October*

*We're Celebrating
The Life & Times of our
Sister, Judy Jenson*



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](#)

The Rehearsal Club Board of Directors 2024-2025

(New Members in Red)

Term Ends June 2025: Andrea Frierson, Dolores Gordon, Susan Steiger, Margaret Strom, **Mary Lou Barber**

Term Ends June 2026: Allen Bomes, Donna Inghima, Magda Katz, [Meredith Lynsey Schade](#), [Cheryl Daly](#)

Term Ends June 2027: Sheryl Foster, Gale Patron, Ellen Zalk, Janet Stilson, [Cameron Taylor](#), [Patrice Soriero Sambrovsky](#)

TRC MISSION STATEMENT

Dedicated to telling the story of The Rehearsal Club, preserving its legacy, inspiring and supporting future generations of young artists.

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 November issue is October 10, 2024.

Please note the new address for newsletter submissions: newslettersinfo@rehearsalclubnyc.com

The Rehearsal Club
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