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Kate West, Editor



Happy Labor Day!

Labor Day history is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when activists pushed to recognize the contributions made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being by individuals.

Let us celebrate achievements from this past year and look forward with excitement to what we can do together in the coming year! On this day we celebrate YOU!

"Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work." "Follow your passion, be prepared to work hard and sacrifice, and, above all, don't let anyone limit your dreams."

SAG-AFTRA CELEBRATES THE REHEARSAL CLUB!

This article appeared in the "SAG-AFTRA" Summer 2022 Edition.

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Local Celebrates The Rehearsal Club

On May 12, SAG-AFTRA leaders and staff celebrated the history of The Rehearsal Club, an organization founded in 1913 to establish a safe haven for young women embarking on performing arts careers in New York City.

The Rehearsal Club received a commemorative plaque in the West 53rd Street branch of the New York Public Library to celebrate its former location. The plaque installation was followed by a reception at the

Museum of Modern Art.

The Rehearsal Club is currently located in the Webster Apartments on West 34th Street and continues its original mission to be a true home for young women who aspire to careers across the entertainment industry, including acting in theater, television and film, plus writers, composers, directors, choreographers, designers, stage managers and production assistants. ●

New York

N.Y. Local Board members Sarah Seeds, Marc Baron, Leslie Shreve, and Avis Boone and SAG-AFTRA members and staff with attendees of The Rehearsal Club's plaque dedication at the New York Public Library.



CONNECT WITH TRC's SOCIAL MEDIA



Shawnee Fierros
Casas Richberger,
TRC Resident
Social Media Guru

TRC's social media is getting a makeover! We are going to start regularly posting interviews with former residents... that's you! We want to talk to as many TRC members as possible to share the unique experiences that were had in those two adjoining brownstones– every one of you has a story and that story deserves to be shared. For more information, please email info@rehearsalclubnyc.com with the subject line "Social Media Interview" and our social media manager will get back to you as soon as possible!

Spotlight on TRC Resident Jett Kwong

By Andrea Frierson



Recently, I had the pleasure of seeing singer, songwriter, instrumentalist Jett Kwong perform at *Berlin*, a club in the East Village. She “wowed” us all, and it made me want to know more about her. Here’s what I learned, from our recent conversation :

Jett is originally from Denver, Co. Growing up, she sang in choirs for a while, and by the time she was eleven years old she had some awareness that she wasn’t the same as other kids. I suspect it was the seriousness and thoughtfulness



**Andrea Frierson, Residency Program Chair, Jett Kwong
and Maria Elena de la Noval, Residency Program Coordinator**

with which she approached her interest in music. Her loving grandparents were a big influence on her and were huge supporters of her talent for singing. As luck would have it, a CD-Rom game they'd bought her of the Disney film, *Mulan*, had a sing-along portion which included the powerhouse ballad "Reflection". She sang it for them—repeatedly! One day while singing in the shower, her dad overheard her (and the undeniable talent she possessed) and immediately found a voice teacher for her. The rest was history or, perhaps, destiny.

Jett went on to graduate early from a performing arts high school, then attended California Institute of the Arts, where she focused on vocal performance and independent study, her curious mind shifting into over-drive and soon leading to burn-out. However, a wonderful thing happened in her last year: she was inspired to learn a traditional Chinese instrument, the *Guzheng*, which she had first heard while attending a contemporary Chinese opera with her family in Germany as a young teen.

Jett found a teacher of the instrument, and from the start of her first lesson she knew that this was something she wanted to further pursue. She immersed herself fully in the study and saw that not only could the *Guzheng* accompany her voice, but it could also be a wonderful composition tool. Yet she was determined to approach her use of the instrument with as much integrity as possible; never using the instrument like a prop or a gimmick as she'd seen some musicians do. For a look at Jett playing the *Guzheng*, click the link below.

Jett Playing the



Jett was good-humored about some of the unique challenges the instrument poses. For instance, there are only a few places in the world to get resources and materials. “When I need strings, I can’t just go to ‘The Guitar Center!’ Also, using the *Guzheng* in the context of western music requires a lot of planning, as the instrument has a completely different notating system.”

I asked her how she finds her way into the songs she writes. “Once I know what I’m trying to convey, I create the music and lyrics all together. I’m inspired by fantasy, and the desire to give the listener some sense of transcendence. I think there are also a lot of themes around identity and belonging in my work.”

Finally, I asked her to tell us about her upcoming project, “*When the Blossom Passes, What Remains?*” at The Cell in New York City. The piece is described as “a reflection and pondering on nature and climate change”. It’s Performative Storytelling through Dance and Movement, and Jett is composing the music and enjoying the collaborative process enormously. **Previews start on September 9th, and performances run from September 13th through October 2nd.** Click the link below for tickets.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thecelltheatre/742002>

Jett is also interested in on-camera acting and would love to be a “regular” on a tv series, and maybe tour and record while she’s on hiatus. She loves both the East and West coast and will go wherever opportunity presents itself!



CALLING ALL ALUMS!

The Boockvor Productions TRC Project, *Cinderellas of West 53rd Street: Stories from the Legendary Rehearsal Club*, dedicated to all the hard-working, aspiring young women who dream to create a life in the arts, has been submitted to Bear Manor Media for copyright and publication – hopefully by December 2022.

As many of you know, a memoir book project has been in development since we all gathered in 2006. **Denise Pence** has been leading the charge as an Officer and/or Chair of The Rehearsal Club these many years. With TRC's Incorporation, a new **Publishing Writer's Committee** was formed with Golden Girl & Texas Alum **Olyve Abbott**, **Terry Baughan**, **Diane Findlay**, Virginia Alum **Charla Hayen**, Los Angeles Alum **Patricia Hill** and published writer **Joanne Yeoman**. **Kathy Conry**, **Michele Mason** and **Melinda Tanner** weigh in on everything as Consultants. The Rehearsal Club will be receiving almost half our writer's royalties, which will be an ongoing source of revenue for the organization after our finite group of alums passes on.

All our writers are beyond proud to have fulfilled some part of our early mission, "Telling the story of The Rehearsal Club, preserving its legacy...", which, in many ways, is all of us!

Working Women Photo Gallery

Meanwhile, **Patricia Hill** came up with an idea to showcase many more of our alums in a "Working TRC Women" Photo Gallery. Patricia learned that many of our alums all did the various companies of *Godspell*, so we now have a whole page dedicated to *Godspell*. We welcome any and all photos YOU, as an alum, may have in your scrapbooks, from Theater – Broadway/National/Regional Companies – Film or Television, whatever would be fun for the reader and showcase you as an artist, whether back then or today. We are collecting personal photos you have the right to publish, or photos for which you have permission and/or proper credits in place.

Contact denise@denispence.com with any questions or concerns.

Breaking News of Our Celeb Alums



TRC's own Cynthia Darlow is featured in the new Netflix streaming comedy *Uncoupled*, starring Neil Patrick Harris. Cynthia plays the main character's somewhat disapproving neighbor, Diane.



TRC's Own Maybin Hewes Sherman Interviewed on *The Libby Show: Lunch With The Ladies* from *Suzee Behind the Scenes* on You Tube

TRC's very own Energizer Bunny, Maybin Hewes Sherman, was interviewed recently on *The Libby Show: Lunch With The Ladies* on You Tube, talking about her early life in New York, living at The Rehearsal Club. Watch the interview at the link below.

[Maybin on Lunch With The](#)



In Memoriam

In the June issue of *Goings On*, we mourned the passing of TRC Alum Joanne "Lilith" Cincotta. Recently, TRC received a generous donation in memory of dear Lilith from Johanna Muller of Bonita Springs, Florida. Lilith was devoted to our mission of supporting young aspiring talent and brought her dry and witty sense of humor to her gifts of service to the organization.

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: 893 6127 2456

Passcode: 984289

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](#)



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computer and name The Rehearsal Club as your charity of choice! Those small amounts add up! You shop – TRC benefits! If we all sign up, we can make a difference in our support of our mission.

Explore! Engage! Enjoy!

Visit the TRC Website – Click: www.rehearsalclubnyc.com

If you haven't already done so, pay your
2022 TRC Dues by clicking the button below.

[TRC Dues](#)

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