



December 2021
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THE REHEARSAL CLUB



The Webster - Home of TRC's Residency Program, opening January 1, 2022

www.rehearsalclubnyc.com

Dear Friends –

As the year draws to a close we look back with joy at the accomplishments of the past twelve months. Thanks to you. And then we look forward with great anticipation for the opening of The Rehearsal Club sanctuary for young, aspiring talent on January 1, 2022.

You will soon meet our first fleet of enormously talented ladies with huge potential for a performing arts career -- thanks to your support. These girls come from around the nation - with their dreams and ambitions, trusting in the TRC legacy for excellency and reputation.

We are changing the lives of some very deserving women who have worked hard to come to NYC and become residents of TRC. You are providing their "shot" at success!

We hope you are as excited as we are!
The Rehearsal Club
Board of Directors

Latest TRC News

TRC Welcomes First Residency Program Coordinator!



Susan Serrell, Development;
Maria Elena De La Noval, TRC Residency Coordinator;
Gale Patron, President

I am honored to be the first Residency Program Coordinator for The Rehearsal Club as it makes its historic return. Like many who have performed since an early age, love musical theatre, and yearn to live that dream in New York City, this opportunity is a win-win for the women in the program, The Rehearsal Club and for me.

As an advertising producer for over 3 decades, a bilingual voice-over talent and currently Producer of a musical "Waiting for Snow in Havana" which is in its creative development, I am thrilled to be able to mentor and guide this new group of talented women who aspire to a career in theatre arts.

As one matures and maps out a career path, we long for opportunities that will nurture our growth and expose us to those challenges that will make us better artists. This is that opportunity for these aspiring women. For me it is the ultimate moment to give back to them.

Maria Elena de la Noval
TRC Residency Program Coordinator

Images From TRC's Annual General Meeting - Oct. 17, 2021

All photos by Francine Mancini



Gale Patron, President of TRC, leading us into 2022 at the Annual General Meeting

Alumnae Cameron Taylor and Sunny Keyser having fun and networking at the Annual General Meeting

Rising Star Julia Adams with Alumna Amanda Trees on keys performing for members at the Annual General Meeting

In Memoriam TRC Alum Lenka Peterson



TRC Alum **Lenka Peterson** – actor, author, teacher, mentor and inspiration to so many – has died. She was 95. A professional actor for over 70 years, she starred in a dozen Broadway productions including *QUILTERS*, for which she received a Tony nomination. Lenka made her film debut in 1950 in Elia Kazan's *PANIC IN THE STREETS* and went on to appear in many other films. She also appeared in over one thousand television films and series.

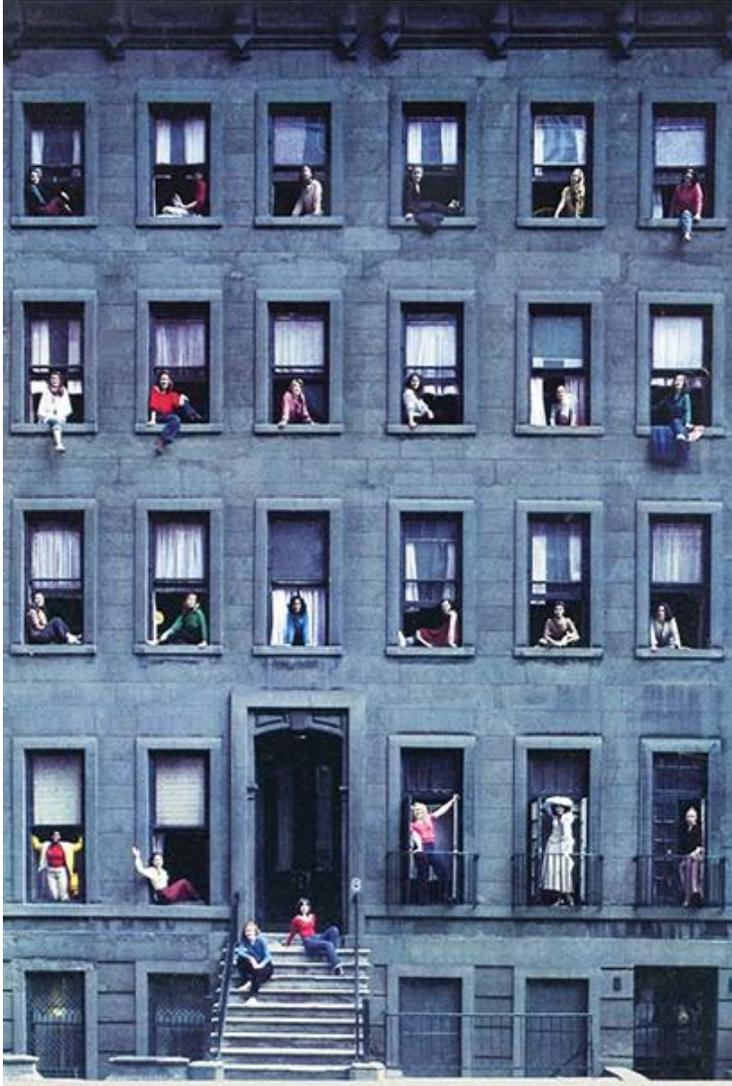
Lenka directed and taught acting for five years at the Metropolitan Opera Studio. She was a charter member of The Actor's Studio, and studied with Lee Strasberg, Arthur Penn, and Robert Lewis.

Other News

VINTAGE TRC

The Final Days

By TRC Alums Karen Montanaro and Michelle Churchhill



The previous TRC residence on 53rd St., as featured in Life Magazine shortly before closing in 1979

The Final Days

The Rehearsal Club has a special place in our hearts. Meeting in those hallowed halls in the summer of 1978, we had no idea we would become a part of a history ending the next summer. Karen, an aspiring ballerina, and Michelle, an actress and singer, were innocent young women from distant small towns. Landing in New York City truly on our own was intoxicating. There was no way to know what was before us, but we knew that TRC offered a safe haven from the crowded, bustling streets of New York City.

Two brownstones joined together, one housemother, one housekeeper, one security guard, and 44 young actresses, dancers, and singers living and

dining together, rehearsing in the basement, and scouring the pages of BACKSTAGE for auditions. Two phone booths on the ground floor served the needs of all 44 young girls. Imagine – today we carry our lives in our pockets; in 1978 those 2 phones were the only tie to the world beyond TRC.

We did everything together. After the 5:30 dinner was devoured in the basement cafeteria, we joined other girls on the dining room stairs, bubbling with chatter and making lifelong friends. Weekends promised the cook's famous Johnnycakes for breakfast and lazy days studying, rehearsing and writing home.

When December rolled around, the girls gathered in the living room to decorate for Christmas, despite rumors that TRC was closing. The old house was in great disrepair; many rooms had no hot water or heat. One of those rooms was ours. When the closing of The Rehearsal Club was confirmed on June 1, we all scrambled to find new places to live. We had 30 days to find a new life.

Karen became a professional ballet dancer, performing to this day. Michelle owns a New York real estate brokerage and attends the theater as often as possible. We have remained lifelong friends. When Michelle finally met the love of her life, Karen officiated at the wedding in 2017. Andrea Evans, another TRC friend, was the matron of honor. Others are still in our lives. Some of the women on the LIFE cover, like Patricia Angelin and Jan Fort, are still in touch in real life and on social media.

The TRC chapter of our lives closed over 42 years ago, but the memories are alive and well! TRC gave us lifelong friends, vivid memories, and a sense of belonging to the mystery and the magic of the performing arts that still brings young women to New York to find their own path to the stars.

Four decades later, we are overjoyed with the return of The Rehearsal Club sanctuary at The Webster Apartments! This amazing gateway offers a new generation of aspiring young women our same opportunity to follow their own dreams.

Karen Montanaro, TRC 78-79
karenHM@maine.rr.com

Michelle Churchhill TRC 78-79
michelle.churchhill@gmail.com

FLORENCE DANCE COMPANY

Gale Patron, President, and **Francine Mancini, VP,** were lucky enough to witness a rehearsal of The Florence Dance Company in Florence, Italy, with Keith Ferrone, cousin of our Board Member, and Residency Program Chair, **Cynthia Darlow.**

All photos by Francine Mancini



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: 885 1886 5753

Passcode: 587528

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

[December Zoom Link](#)

Explore! Engage! Enjoy!

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

If you are an Alum or Member, click Login for Members–only access.

Welcome Returning Alumnae
and
Welcome New TRC Members!

Carol Angert, Pamela Campbell, Maria Elena De La Noval,
Billie McBride, Karen Montanaro

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

TRC Dues

Shakespeare Alive!

Produced by Denise Pence

We wrapped Macbeth in November -- following is a little "fun" w/the witches as a "teaser" to the eventual Brush Up Your Shakespeare videos I plan to do -- eventually.

Macbeth Teaser: Witch/Apparition Excerpt:

<https://youtu.be/XJcBpAGgjhQ>

Happy holidays to all our Sisters, new Members and Friends of TRC!

If interested in participating in Shakespeare Alive! in the new year,
contact: denise@denisepence.com

Volunteers Day is Sunday, December 5

*The Rehearsal Club sends a shout out to all our volunteers,
supporters, and donors for their generosity and support.*

Join our Facebook Group,
follow and support TRC and our Sisters on social media,
and shop online at www.smile.amazon.com to benefit TRC,
all at no cost to you and much benefit to TRC.



The Rehearsal Club
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