



May 2024

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Kate West, Editor

Dear Members and Friends of The Rehearsal Club,

Spring has hopefully sprung wherever you are ... And, wherever you might be Tuesday, May 7th, please JOIN the Cinderella's of West 53rd Street for a one-night cabaret celebrating generations of Rehearsal Club talent and friends.

Hats off to Boockvor Productions for producing the book of memoirs of many Rehearsal Club women who were lucky enough to live in the venerated old boarding house before it closed in 1979.

Now that TRC has reopened, this event demonstrates words from alum Carol Burnett, "When you've got a dream that big, you have to go for it!"

Rehearsal Club vintage pros will be proudly "strutting their stuff" live and through "streaming" nationwide at The Green Room 42 at the Yotel Hotel at Times Square on 5/7 at 7pm, Tickets: Seats and for live streaming start at about \$26 at [The Green Room.venuetix.com](http://TheGreenRoom.venuetix.com)

Wherever you are -- Don't miss this memorable night!





Gale Patron, President

Cabaret Crowd Thrilled by TRC Residents' Gifted Performances

Ten Residents of The Rehearsal Club wowed the crowd during a cabaret show held at Don't Tell Mama in New York on April 7th. Attendees commented after the show that, in addition to the outstanding talent on display, they were taken with how the performers prefaced their performances with thoughts and reminiscences about women who impacted their lives and art. That fit right into the event's theme, "It's a Woman's World." It bridged the gap between Women's History Month (March) and Mother's Day.

The show was artfully co-directed by Francine Mancini and Michelle Mais, who provided some personal anecdotes of their own about important women in their lives.

Things went electric when the performers made their way from the back of the crowd to the stage with the opening number "I Am Woman," with musical director Clare Cooper tickling the piano keys for that performance as well as most of the others. The tune also provided a grand finale to the show.

The audience was treated to a dance number from supple-limbed Kaylan Bradford, and two songs composed and performed by Alyssa Payne. Other performances included Shawnee Fierros Casas Richberger singing "It Won't Be Long Now;" Jaimee Lee Gaston, "Better;" Abiageal Mangum, "Angie Baby;" Sophie Sarnacki, "No More Fear;" Oksana Veres, "I Will Survive/Flowers;" Chelsea Dee Weaver, "A Terrible Ride;" and Genevieve Wisdom, "Harper Valley PTA."

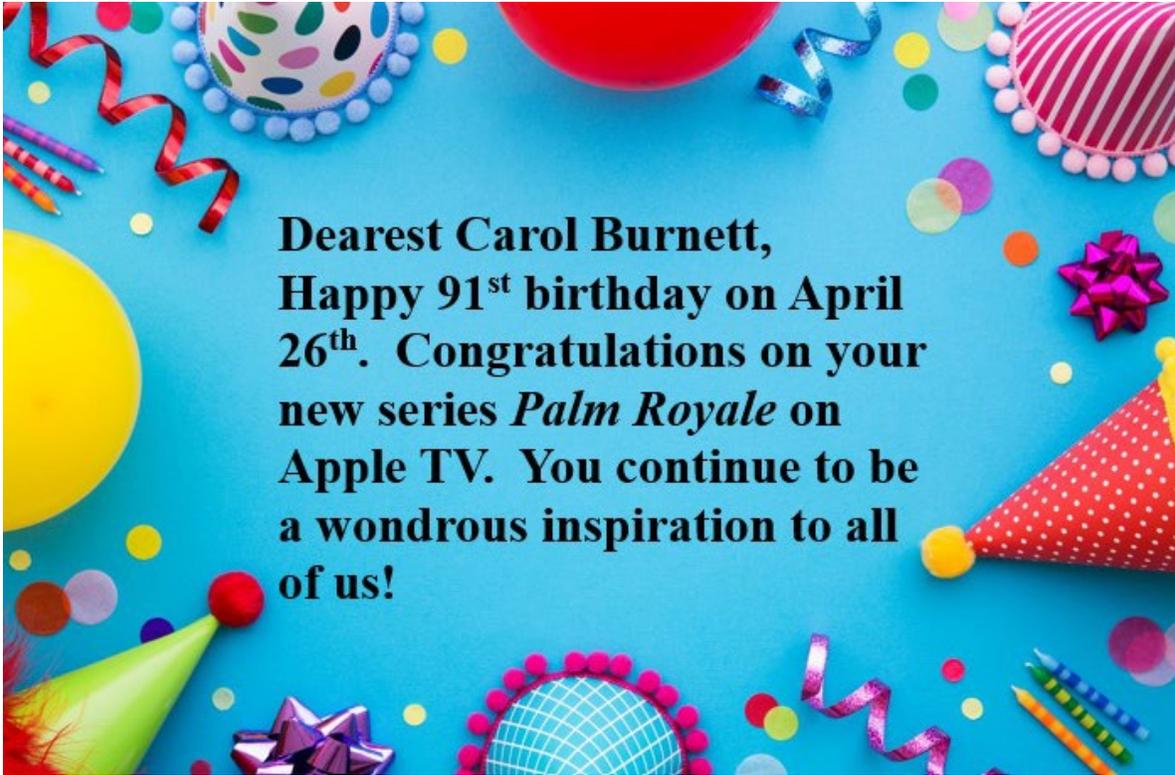
Guests included several TRC Alumnae and Board members, who clearly enjoyed the nostalgic nature of many of the tunes performed. Also on hand was James Dawson, Executive Director of the Professional Children's School, which generously sponsored the event. Another notable was John Hoffman, a filmmaker whose documentary short film, *The Barber of Little Rock*, was nominated for a 2024 Oscar.

Enjoy highlights from the show by clicking the link below.

[The Rehearsal Club at Don't Tell Mama](#)



Happy Birthday To Our Founding Benefactor!



Our TRC spotlight falls on
current Resident Kaylan Bradford.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Kaylan has a rich background in training and performance. She has trained with The Kirov Academy of Washington DC, Nutmeg Conservatory, and The Governor School for the Arts, among other programs. On a full scholarship, she earned a BFA in Dance from George Mason University in Virginia, where she studied Ballet, Modern and Contemporary Dance and Choreography. Kaylan has worked with Ranardo-Domeico Grays in Visions Contemporary Ballet Company and Will Ervin,



Guest Choreographer with Accent Dance. The free workshops that TRC provides help Kaylan continue with her training. She is very appreciative of The Rehearsal Club's professional mentors, among them Broadway's Andrea Frierson, who has served as a guide through the complex world of Musical Theater. As a professional performance artist, Kaylan is forever grateful to The Rehearsal Club and the help she is receiving to continue her career. In Kaylan's words: "Can't wait to see what the Big Apple has in store."

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to our TRC Residents Grace Ingves, Karina Pomales and Zoe Smith on graduating from Circle in the Square Theatre School. Continuing The Rehearsal Club's traditional connection, Alum Sara Louise Lazarus, Chair of Musical Theatre at Circle in the Square Theatre School, is a strong mentor for all.



Left to right above: Zoe Smith, Karina Pomales, Grace Ingves



Maybin Hewes Sherman

Charter Alum Maybin Hewes Sherman is a whirlwind of talent! She began her journey in the 1930's, when her mother signed her up for the local dance school, transferring her to one in New York at age fifteen. This led to Maybin living in Carnegie Hall, in a room with a cot and hotplate, listening to the practicing pianists during the night and attending classes during the day from 9 am to 7 pm.

After college graduation, Maybin headed back to the stage in New York and became part of The Rehearsal Club in 1951, when a friend of hers on *The Bob Hope Show* told her about the club and she was accepted.

Maybin appeared in many Broadway shows in 1952, including *Pal Joey*, which was a huge hit that she stayed with for a year and a half. Then she created a nightclub act that she performed every weekend.

This gave her the opportunity to work with Sammy Davis Jr. She choreographed *The Rehearsal Club Revue* with Carol Burnett in 1955.

Maybin's life changed as she found herself in California, married and with a little baby girl. When her daughter was six years old, Maybin began teaching her dancing. This grew to include the neighborhood children and ultimately morphed into a long-running children's theater. It gave her daughter, Amy, her start in the business. Today, Amy Sherman-Palladino is known as the Emmy Award winning writer, director and producer of *Gilmore Girls*, *Bunheads* and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.

When she turned 70, Maybin wasn't about to stop. Her production of *Still Strutting*, which she performed on stage at the age of 88, is still available on You Tube. In 2020, at 89 years old, she took on rap. She wrote it into her show and performed it with 12 year old hip hop artist Amara Rose. She followed this with a production called *This Joint is Jumpin'*.

Maybin is currently working on her memoir, so keep an eye out for it. Check out her 2023 performance, at age 92, here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJghR8_PBM4

You can also follow her on Facebook@Maybin.Sherman, where she has more wonderful videos to watch!



By Robert M. Rosenthal

My God, but it's a small world! I received your book, *Cinderellas of West 53rd Street*, and brought it home to read over the weekend. Sunday night we had another couple over for dinner. As we sat down in the living room before dinner, with cocktails in hand, Roger saw your book. "The Rehearsal Club!" he exclaimed and looked at me, "How the hell do you know the Rehearsal Club?"... and we were off and running, leaving our wives gasping in amazement. Well, actually getting refills on the drinks.

Memories bounded forth and, not surprisingly, we could only remember a couple of names each, but a few of the pictures brought

forth memories of women we didn't marry or, for that matter, get engaged to.

I think every man who lived in NYC in the '60s and considered himself a reliable bachelor and man-about-town wouldn't think his life was complete without having periodically dated from The Rehearsal Club.

You know, in those days there was a hierarchy of dating from the Broadway scene. The following is not politically correct, but I'm talking about the '60s, and the '60s were a hell of a lot of fun! Probably because political correctness didn't involve dating. Floating above them all for general fun and intelligence were the Rehearsal Club denizens. As Roger and I looked back, we realized that nearly all of The Rehearsal Club ladies we knew were just plain fun. They may have been career obsessed, but they would love an evening at Palisades Amusement Park (long gone, Google it!). During the summer I would take a few TRC ladies up to my beach club in Mamaroneck for swimming and dinner, and I was never sorry I did so.

Just for the memory quotient, my standard upscale date in those days was dinner at Romeo Salta's on West 56th Street and then on to Eddie Condon's on West 54th Street for Dixieland jazz.

My time enjoying your fellow clubites was the late '50s and early '60s, senior year at Penn and the summer before I entered active military duty for two years. For nearly a year of my active duty tour I was stationed at the Army Pictorial Center in Long Island City. I remember giving a tour of the APC to a few of The Rehearsal Club gals, and lunch was included, along with a few panting enlisted men.

When I returned in the mid-'60s, I was starting my own business and then moved to Hollywood to produce a movie for Paramount. I consider my contributions to the modern Rehearsal Club as penance for my days as a man-about-town. That, and a memory jogger of a decade in the long-past time that was just marvelous. I truly think that as I review my life in the '60s, the women of The Rehearsal Club played a very important part in my maturity and sophistication.

Please keep me on your list of Stage Door Johnnies who remember their jaded youth.

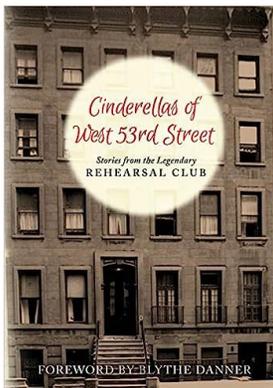
The Rehearsal Club

Truth



Or
Fiction

It is said in some sources that Edna Ferber pretended she was an aspiring actress to stay at The Rehearsal Club “incognito.” She was able to gather first hand information on the Club for her play *Stage Door*, produced in 1936, co-written with George S. Kaufman and of course based on The Rehearsal Club. The play was later made into a film starring Katherine Hepburn and Ginger Rogers. Soooo...TRC historians... did Edna Ferber live at The Rehearsal Club?



Circle of Cinderella Friends Cabaret

Seize the Day!
If not now . . .
when??



Join us in celebration at The Greenroom 42 on May 7, 2024 at 7:00pm for an evening of insider Broadway stories and surprise guest appearances. Bring your Cinderella Book and collect autographs from many of our Rehearsal Club women in attendance.

Just as *A Chorus Line* celebrated the anonymous Broadway dancers backing up the stars, this Cinderella Book celebrates the many unknown women who walked through The Rehearsal Club doors in pursuit of a dream. Were those dreams realized? Not always. The connecting thread, however, is it's never too late. We are ALL still creating! Laura Duffy is designing book covers – and created the cover for our Cinderella Book. Charla Hayen creates inspiring theatrical cards – and created our Match the Memoir Game with her design. Terry Baughan, too, leaves her

legacy by branding our Rehearsal Club image in our Cinderella Book and on all our early memorabilia.

We are now celebrating embracing the day! Join us in the room on May 7 when we will make more magic happen! Just click the link below for tickets.

[The Green Room.venuetix.com](https://TheGreenRoom.venuetix.com)

IN MEMORIAM



The Rehearsal Club deeply mourns the tragic loss of Leslie Shreve, our friend, member, colleague, collaborator and champion of positivity in all the challenges of forging success in the performing arts. Her joyful spirit touched each of us in

profound and special ways, leaving a legacy of impact at SAG-AFTRA and with all the companies she worked with. Leslie was on the board of Women in the Arts & Media Coalition, having served as a Past President and a Special Advisor. Leslie was an Emmy-winning makeup artist and member of IATSE. We extend our deepest sorrow to her beloved family and huge circle of devoted friends.



Membership News

The Membership Committee of TRC is eager to bring news of what's going on with our membership today. To that end we are asking that any and all members drop us a line with a short update on where you are and what you're doing. We will provide cameos in the newsletter. Please email information to:

Membershipdirector@rehearsalclubnyc.com

It's Never Too Late to Pay Your TRC Dues!

Just click the button below.

[Pay TRC Dues](#)



Join us May 2!!

March 6 saw our third PJ Party of the year. What fun to see a few new attendees and reminisce about our time at the Rehearsal Club.

Denise Pence, Karla Fleck, Amanda Roberts, Margaret Strom, Susan Garvey and Dolores Gordon attended.

Guess everyone ate too many chocolate eggs, as only Linda Cool and Dolores Gordon attended April 4 PJ Party. However, we had a nice visit.

Meeting ID: 826 4846 4413

Passcode: 036123

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

TRC Workshops

Meditation and Mindfulness



**Hosted by Charter 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: 828 2872 1098

Passcode: 834111

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

May Zoom Link

Healthy Bones at Any Age

May is Osteoporosis Awareness Month. Join us for these special programs focused on protecting your bones through good food, exercise, and activity. The May 9th class is free, and Linda Rose Iennaco is teaching the May 15th class.

WED, MAY 15 @ 3:15 PM – 4:45 PM
To receive 30% off the Public Fee of \$25
use the TRC discount code WELLBEING30

Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment in Men + Women | Thu, May 9
Functional Fitness for Bone Health + Injury Prevention | Wed, May 15
Eating for Bone Health | Thu, May 23

Register Now



What a year this has been for our motley band of players! We had the most fun thus far this year having wrapped one of our BEST readings to date for *Troilus & Cressida*. Next reading will be the

comedy, *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*. One challenge at a time! After our summer hiatus, we will continue our readings with 10 plays left! In September, we'll start the 3-part series for *Henry VI*.

Check our [Boockvor Productions website](#) for photos and videos from past productions; and contact Denise@denisepence.com for more info on joining Shakespeare Alive!

RAISE A GLASS TO THE REHEARSAL CLUB!



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

**Click below to Make a Donation to TRC,
and Thank You!**

Donate to TRC

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, 2024.

Please send to trc.newslettersubmissions@gmail.com

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