



November 2021  
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## Latest TRC News

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### NEW TRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are delighted to introduce the new TRC Board of Directors, who will serve through June 30, 2022. Please welcome the new Directors of TRC with your support. With an expanded board and new committees, there are many ways you can be involved. Please continue with us on our exciting journey. We need every one of you to be part of the TRC miracle.

**Ivy Barnes**

**Dottie Belle**

**Allen Bomes, Treasurer, Chair-Finance**

**Linda Cool**

**Judith Curcio**

**Cynthia Darlow, Chair-Residency**

**Margaret Darlow**

**Chair-Outreach & Communication**

**Dolores Gordon**

**Chair-Fundraising & Development**

**Francine Mancini**

**Vice President, Chair-Strategic Projects**

**Gale Patron**

**President, Chair-Membership**

**Susan Steiger**

**Ellen Zalk, Secretary, Chair-Governance**

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## Exciting News About The Rehearsal Club Residency Program

We are so happy to report that we are in the final Callback stages, with some very strong candidates for the Residency Program. A few slots remain pending, so please spread the word to friends and colleagues to direct applicants to [trcredidency NYC.com](http://trcredidency NYC.com) for the last openings while they are still available.

This extraordinary opportunity will change lives and build careers for some very lucky girls. These ladies will also carry the revived banner of The Rehearsal Club for this generation and beyond. We can't think of anything better for our legacy or these aspiring talents who deserve our support more than ever.

Cynthia Darlow & Andrea Frierson  
Co-Chairs, TRC Residency Program

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## In Memoriam TRC Golden Girl Betty Lynn

According to Centennial Chair, Lee Kelley, who had several phone interviews with Betty Lynn, she lived at The Rehearsal Club briefly in 1942, while in New York for her orientation to the USO. She returned to the Club after V-J Day, in August, 1945. She lived at the Club until 1948, when she left for Hollywood.



*The New York Times*  
Oct. 19, 2021

By Richard Sandomir

Betty Lynn, who portrayed Thelma Lou, the patient girlfriend of Barney Fife, the bumbling deputy sheriff of the homespun town of Mayberry in the long-running

1960s sitcom [“The Andy Griffith Show,”](#) died on Saturday in Mount Airy, N.C. She was 95.

Ms. Lynn joined the cast of the show in 1961, late in the first season, for an episode in which Sheriff Andy Taylor ([Mr. Griffith](#)) plays matchmaker between Barney and Thelma Lou.

Ms. Lynn moved from West Hollywood to a retirement community in Mount Airy in 2007. Ms. Lynn became a nostalgic lure to tourists, who would stand in line once a month to get her autograph, to give her a kiss or to chat about the series. “I think God’s blessed me,” she told The Associated Press in 2015. “He brought me to a sweet town, wonderful people, and just said, ‘Now, that’s for you, Betty.”

Elizabeth Ann Theresa Lynn was born on Aug. 29, 1926, in Kansas City, Mo. Her mother, Elizabeth, was a singer, organist and church choir director who raised Betty with her parents. By 14, Betty was singing in local supper clubs, and at 18 she began performing in U.S.O. shows. After the war, she had small roles in the Broadway musicals “Park Avenue” and “Oklahoma!”

She appeared in films like “Sitting Pretty” and “June Bride” in 1948 and “Cheaper By the Dozen” in 1950. On television, she acted in anthology series, westerns and sitcoms, including “Family Affair” and “My Three Sons.” In 1986, she played Mr. Griffith’s secretary on four episodes of his dramatic series, “Matlock,” in which he played a lawyer.

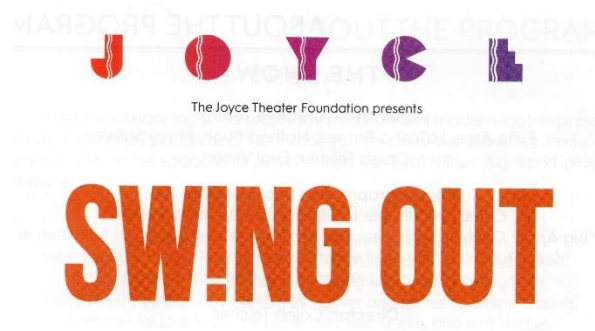
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## Other News

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### **As Live Theater Returns**

By New TRC Member Nanci Lanza



Tonight, I went to my first in-person show since Covid. The show, at the Joyce Theater, was entitled *SWING OUT*. Big band sound with lots of Lindy-hoppers – right up my alley.

When the lights went down and the announcement came, “Welcome back to the Joyce,” the crowd roared. I got tears in my eyes. It was so exhilarating to be among people who adore the performing arts and who missed it as much as I did.

Then the curtain went up. The orchestra hit that first note. I got teary-eyed again, and when they started to dance, I practically bawled. You could feel the joy emanating from the stage. They were as happy to be back performing as we were to be watching. Now I was really blowing my nose, and this is not easy to do wearing a mask.

It was a fabulous show. High energy, talented dancers, incredibly spectacular jazz musicians and a vocalist straight out of the 1940’s. When she sang, it was like sugar pouring out of those lungs.

These kids could do every move and then some. There were some comedic dances, boys with boys – just like in the 40’s when the soldier boys danced together – and girls with girls – just like every big ethnic wedding in Cleveland. You never knew who was going to dance with whom – they would pair them up with names out of a hat. They even had a tap dance which, as you well know, sent me to the moon (as if I weren’t already there).

It was such an emotional experience. I didn’t even realize how much I had missed it until I was sitting there watching it. What a privilege. After 18 months of zoom-watching, this was manna from heaven.

As apropos as it would have been, I didn’t take the A train home.

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# VINTAGE TRC

Another piece from our TRC archives, provided by Charlie Siedenbug, TRC Publicist, proving some things never change! Who are those Alums from 1964?

# Houseful of Hopefuls



Rehearsal Club's bulletin board is checked daily for casting calls, auditions and special notices.

Each year on some small off-Broadway stage, the curtain goes up on a diligently-rehearsed variety revue that is destined to run for only one night.

The show plays to a select audience of critics, agents, stage and TV directors and "just about anyone who can give a girl a break in show business."

Nine years ago, singer-comedienne Carol Burnett produced and starred in the show. Then, on and on, each member of the all-girl cast lives at Rehearsal Club—a four-story brownstone that provides low-cost housing for straggling young performers.

Rehearsal Club is located several blocks away from where Miss Burnett's name is blazoned in lights on a Broadway theater marquee. But the

glow of these lights pervades the entire brownstone.

The girls live two to a room and take two meals daily in the dining room. A large rehearsal room equipped with piano, tape recorder and record player and full-length mirror is maintained for them. The club also provides phone message service and a bulletin board where casting calls, auditions and job openings are posted.

More than 10,000 starry-eyed young actresses have lived in the club since it was founded in 1913. A few have gone on to stardom, some have achieved a small measure of show business success, many more have not. But each of the girls living there now is sure her name will someday be so on a theater marquee in lights—just like Carol Burnett's.



Perfecting dance routines, recitals and her former practice in Club's rehearsal room.



Spirit of cooperation has in part of Rehearsal Club. Girls help each other with hair, make-up and dress styling.



Aspiring actresses team up for exercises in one of Club's 10 bedrooms.



Agent talks with her first big opportunity. She can't believe it really happened.



Drama grants is part of life at Rehearsal Club. Aspiring actresses audition for each other.



Youthful self-reliance is the mark of maturity in an actress. Rehearsal Club's tape recorder gets actress heavy work.

This Month's PICTURE (left) by AP Staff Photographer Robin Collins.



**The following article is from The Evening News, Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, November 2, 1964. Pictures by AP Staff Photographer Ruben Goldberg.**

Each year on some small off-Broadway stage, the curtain goes up on a diligently rehearsed variety revue that is destined to run for only one night. The show plays to a select audience of critics, agents, stage and TV directors and "just about anyone who can give a girl a break in show business." Nine years ago, singer-comedienne Carol Burnett produced and starred in the show. Then, as now, each member of the all-girl cast lives at The Rehearsal Club—a four-story brownstone that provides low-cost housing for struggling young performers.

The Rehearsal Club is located several blocks away from where Miss Burnett's name is blazoned in lights on a Broadway theater marquee. But the glow of those lights pervades the entire household. The girls live two to a room and take two meals daily in the dining room. A large rehearsal room equipped with piano, tape recorder and record player and full-length mirror is maintained for them. The club also provides phone message service and a bulletin board where casting calls, auditions and job openings are posted.

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## **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.***

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**November 30 is Giving Tuesday  
Please keep TRC in mind**

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## **TRC Workshops**

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**New Tai Chi Fitness Series available to TRC Members  
Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm EST for 30 minutes.**



**New TRC Tai Chi Workshop Series  
Continues every Wednesday Through November**

Our very own Alum Dolores Gordon is a certified Tai Chi instructor in the first Tai Chi form: SHIBASHI. It consists of 18 movements and focuses on deep breathing and shifting of the weight, both very important components needed to advance to Tai Chi forms that incorporate more movements across the floor. Classes run for 8 weeks, insuring Tai Chi attendees can memorize the movements of the SHIBASHI.

**All Members are welcome.**

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## 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: 853 8752 4460  
Passcode: 878114

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

[November Zoom Link](#)

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**From Our Friends at Off The Lane**

OFF THE LANE'S SECOND ANNUAL

# EMPOWER ARTISTS GALA 2021

Nov. 8th | 7:30pm ET  
Streamed via Zoom



FEATURING  
**BRENDA  
BRAXTON**



HOSTED BY  
**MARILU  
HENNER**



FEATURING  
**BIANCA  
MARROQUIN**

## TICKET PRICES

**\$30 VIRTUAL**  
ZOOM ENTRY  
LIVESTREAM OF EVENT  
SILENT AUCTION

**\$95 VIRTUAL + ANNIE'S JOY CANDLE**  
ZOOM ENTRY  
LIVESTREAM OF EVENT  
SILENT AUCTION

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



## OUR SPONSORS



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MUSTARD/LANE

Flawless



**Explore! Engage! Enjoy!**

Visit the New TRC Website – Click: [www.rehearsalclubnyc.com](http://www.rehearsalclubnyc.com)

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

Welcome Returning Alumnae  
and  
Welcome New TRC Members!

Olyve Abbott, Sarah Jane Burton, Pamela Campbell, Michelle Churchhill,  
Carolyn Dutra, Barbara Evans, Andrea Frierson, Beth Fritz, Magda Katz,  
Nanci Lanza, Francine Mancini, Maria Mallman, Dottie Belle Meymann,  
Karen Montanaro, Denise Pence, Michelle Smith, Margaret Strom,  
Cameron Taylor, Virginia Wing, Michelle Churchhill, Susan Steiger

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## Shakespeare Alive!

Produced by Denise Pence

Shakespeare Alive! is casting The Scottish Play. Readings begin November 2, 2021. I'm behind on my Brush Up videos at this point, but hope to catch up over the holidays. We plan to suspend readings for the holidays, reconvening in January.

If interested in participating in Shakespeare Alive! in the new year, contact: [denise@denisepence.com](mailto:denise@denisepence.com)

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Join our Facebook Group,  
follow and support TRC and our Sisters on social media,  
and shop online at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://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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