

# GOINGSON

NEWS, NOTES & NOTICES FOR TRC ALUMS & MEMBERS



Photo: The Rehearsal Club, 1953 • Charlotte Brooks for Look Magazine, Museum of the City of New York.

December 2022

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[www.rehearsalclubnyc.com](http://www.rehearsalclubnyc.com)

Kate West, Editor



**Denise Pence & Steve Boockvor  
Honored With Lifetime Achievement Award**

By Amanda Roberts



“I wanted to at least try.” And try she did – TRC Star **Denise Pence** took the big step out of her comfort zone in El Paso to the North Carolina School for the Arts, on to the Martha Graham School in NYC, an open call for dancers on Broadway, transitioning to television, through to her current project, a book of memoirs from The Rehearsal Club. Not only did she try, she also achieved.

Her efforts are now being recognized by Columbus State University in Georgia as they honor Denise and her husband Steve with their Lifetime Achievement Award in Dance. Although we all know that their achievements, while substantial in dance, also go beyond that to other fields – acting, producing, directing. Whatever comes their way, they continue to “want to at least try.”

And lest you think that “lifetime achievement” implies that either the life or the achievements are over, Denise and Steve are living proof to the contrary. They continue to thrive and contribute to the theatre industry through Boockvor Productions’ projects, *History Alive* and *Shakespeare Alive*, as well as to our beloved Rehearsal Club. In a one-page article in Southern View Magazine regarding the award, Denise managed to mention The Rehearsal Club four times and work in the names of our Emeritus Member Kathleen Conry as well as our current President, Gale Patron. Thanks, Denise, for the continued promoting!

To get to know Denise and Steve better, check out their websites at [denisevence.com](http://denisevence.com) and [historyaliveny.com](http://historyaliveny.com), and search them on LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. In addition, be sure to obtain a copy of *Cinderellas of West 53rd Street: Stories from the Legendary Rehearsal Club* as soon as it is published.

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# Tony Award-Winning Choreographer and Director Sergio Trujillo Pitches the Power of Authenticity to TRC Residents

by Andrea Frierson



Photo Credit: Francine Mancini

On a breathtakingly beautiful Saturday afternoon in November, TRC Residents were visited by Sergio Trujillo, our final Guest Speaker for 2022. If it weren't for his mile-long list of Broadway credits – or, the fact that he was just about to board a plane to the UK to audition actor/dancers for the upcoming London company of his Broadway show, *Ain't Too Proud* – one might assume he was just an ordinary Dad (he is), on a Saturday afternoon doing yard work. Humble, soft-spoken, and strikingly handsome in jeans and a plaid shirt, Sergio shared his unique brand of wisdom about the entertainment industry and about the artist's journey from performer to visionary, inspiring us all in the process. He was particularly insightful when several questions arose about how to increase one's confidence– as well as how to reclaim confidence we once had. His suggestion? Don't pursue aspects of the industry you're not really passionate about just because you *think* you should. But if there's something you know you *love* to do, pursue more training and learn as much as you can about your craft, as preparation is key to maintaining a competitive edge.

On behalf of TRC's Residency Program, Maria Elena and I would like to thank our speakers for sharing their time with us. If there was an over-arching theme this fall, it was this:

**BE TRUE TO YOURSELF**

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## TRC Residents Win Parade Tickets

TRC Residents **Chelsea Weaver** and **Sophie Sarnacki** were the lucky winners of VIP tickets to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade courtesy of The Webster. Congrats, Chelsea and Sophie, and we can't wait to see the pictures!

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## Exploring TRC Legacy



Photo Credit Francine Mancini

The Ellington Room set the mood for an inspiring and informative discussion of the legacy of TRC Alum Claire Adams, above right, in the period surrounding World War I. Kudos to producer/documentarian Heather Robinson, above left, visiting from Australia, and to Lee Kelley for creating a compelling evening with a lively reception by Cameron Taylor, as TRC's extraordinary history continues to unfold.

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## Breaking News of Our Celeb Alums



On November 15th, TRC Alum Kim Cattrall, arrived on the set of Mrs. American Pie (an Apple TV miniseries) to visit friends Laura Dern, Kristin Wiig and fellow TRC Alum, Carol Burnett. Carol plays the grande dame of Palm Beach high society. Mrs. American Pie is based on the 2018 novel by Juliet McDaniel.

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TRC Alum, **Melanie Mayron**, continues her directorial work for the new season of the smash hit HBO series Julia. TRC Honorary Board Member **Bebe Neuwirth** plays Avis De Vito, Julia’s best friend and acclaimed culinary editor. The Rehearsal Club is represented by two incredibly talented women in this exceptional series.



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On November 14, TRC Honorary Board Member **Chita Rivera** received the LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD from HOLA, presented by her friend, actress Sandra Santiago. Chita will be performing at the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa, CA on December 11, 2022 and the Lillian S. Wells Hall in Fort Lauderdale, FL, on January 29, 2023.

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## Alliance News

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### TRC Congratulates Viviana DeSantiago Winner of the Inaugural Ann Reinking Scholarship



Vivianna DeSantiago has just completed her first year in New York as the Inaugural Winner of the **Ann Reinking Scholarship**. This award is sponsored by Off The Lane, one of TRC’s Alliances. Please click [here](#) to read her blog about her growth and adventures over the past year. TRC salutes Viv for all that she has accomplished during her first year in Manhattan.

## JOIN OUR ALLIES ON MONDAY, 12/12/2022



Join our allies **Women In Media** and **The Women In The Media Arts and Media Coalition** for an inter-organizational Holiday cocktail party! This is a Holiday Party with a higher purpose, pairing two powerful organizations for a night of noshing and networking. Light bites will be served at this festive soiree. All are welcome.

Join us December 12, 2022

6:30 – 9:30 pm

at

3 Sheets Saloon, Lido Room

134 W 3rd St.

New York, NY 10012

### ART SHOW AND SPECIAL NETWORKING

There will be a special art show of paintings of early pioneering female filmmakers, and networking beyond the Season Of Sisterhood Soiree with a contact sheet of attendees to build your social and professional networks.

**TICKETS: \$15 Early Bird / \$25 Regular Admission (\$35 Day Of)**

Event Information on our [website](#),

Want to save even more? Use member discount code: **CoalitionSoiree**

[Buy Season of Sisterhood](#)

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## TRC IN THE REGIONS



TRC Member Sarah Burke (center) surrounded by TRC Alums Linda Cool and Dolores Gordon. This photo was taken after Sarah's stellar performance in "The Good Ship St. Louis" at the Upstream Theater in St. Louis.

For more information click on the following link:

<https://www.upstreamtheater.org>

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## A Timeless Holiday Gift For Friends and Family



TRC Alum **Charla Hayen** is now taking orders for two personalized holiday greeting cards: JOY (5" by 7") and CHRISTMAS (5 1/2" by 8 1/2"). Charla will hand-design in pen and ink your family name into her illustration of CHRISTMAS, as well as place individual members' names onto the packages underneath the tree.

JOY celebrates the 2023 New Year customized with your family name. Each card is also highlighted in colored pencil and signed by Charla. These original, customized art cards are perfect for framing as a lasting tribute to the special people in your life!

The cost is \$20, which includes sales tax and shipping cost, and Charla generously donates the proceeds on these beautiful cards to TRC. Please order by 12/15.

[charla1219@aol.com](mailto:charla1219@aol.com), or by text to 540-535-0515.



## Cinderellas of West 53rd St.



Ever since we submitted our "Cinderella" final, final, FINAL (which took so much longer than expected), we've felt like Disney's Cinderella – when all the magic is gone and she's back to doing what she used to do. We'll have to wait a little bit longer for publication. We just got word from our publisher, Bear Manor: *"We think January makes sense. Everyone wants Christmas, and the sales never equal the rush."*

Soooo . . . a very merry holiday season from all our Cinderellas! Watch for more details in your January Goings On!!

Contact [denise@denisepence.com](mailto:denise@denisepence.com) with any questions or concerns.

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*Coriolanus* wrapped in November, and we're toying with doing *Love Labors Lost* in January. We're on hiatus for the holidays. Page Clements continues to share her wisdom and talent with us on each play. We continue to maintain a "safe space" to work out as actors. We also work ensemble style, so we double roles when necessary. Company leads for one play might read stage directions the next.

To join our mailing list, contact [denise@denisepence.com](mailto:denise@denisepence.com). You're welcome to join us at any time.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**



TRC will present a Cabaret show featuring our current Residents.

## ***Don't Tell Mama***

3/5/23 at 4:00  
Details to follow

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# 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: 898 8427 3735

Passcode: 622586

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](#)



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make a difference in our support of our mission. Remember, that's [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com).

Please consider The Rehearsal Club in your estate planning. Gifts of this nature have long term tax benefits. Speak with your financial advisor.

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## Explore! Engage! Enjoy!

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

We had a really good turnout during our 2023 Membership drive through November 30. Many thanks to all. If you missed it or know someone who would like to become a member, we will always “throw up the sash” to welcome you in or back!

Thank you for your continued support of TRC.  
We can't do it without you.

[TRC Dues](#)

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Join our Facebook Group,  
follow and support TRC and our Sisters on social media.



The Rehearsal Club  
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