



Behind the Scenes at CCT

Location: #18 Estate Orange Grove, Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI
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March 2011

Auditions Continue on March 28th



Auditions will be held on Monday, March 28, 2011, at 7 PM for *Pageant Play*. CCT still needs male actors for this wacky comedy written by Matthew Wilkas and Mark Setlock, and directed by Christine Thomas.

Pageant Play concerns the hilarious, terrifying and surreal world of child beauty pageants. When a newcomer to the pageant circuit starts grabbing all the glory, Pinky and her minions, Bob & Bobby, will do anything to make sure Pinky's little angel wins the title, Supreme Queen. Glitz. Glamour. Kidnapping. Money. Really small false teeth.

"Hilarious...a crowd pleaser...this endeavor seems assured of a long afterlife on the theater circuit."
TheaterMainia.com.

"A lot of silly fun." *CurtainUp*



Sarah & Addie – One More Weekend

Written by the late Anton C. Teytaud in Crucian dialect, *Sarah & Addie* is a collage of lustily entertaining vignettes centering on the island "market women" of the 40's and 50's who were looked to as important sources of humorous commentary, philosophy and the daily wisdom of the times. It has been said that in New York the best informed people are the taxi drivers. In other places it is the local barbers. In St. Croix, if you wanted to find out the latest gossip, you went to the market.

Sarah & Addie is directed by Oceana James and Eileen Bishop Des Jardins. Cast members include Glenderlyn "Beverly" David, Kia Griffith, Jose Maldonado, Karen McIntosh-Bruce, Elizabeth Meade, Shermira Mercado, Jamilah Moorehead, Carmen Simmonds, Khnuma "Kimmi" Simmonds, Venetia Velazquez, and Ethan Wyatt.

Remaining performance dates are Sunday, March 27, at 4 PM, Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2, at 8 PM, and Sunday, April 3, at 4 PM. Tickets are \$20 for adult non-members; \$18 for seniors (age 65+); \$15 for adult CCT members and college students w/ I.D.s; \$10 for children/students under age 18; and \$8 for member children/students under age 18. Not recommended for under age 8.

Mrs. Kemble's Tempest – One Night Only April 9, 2011 at 8 PM Saturday

Fanny Kemble was an early feminist, abolitionist, writer, and one of the most celebrated actresses to grace the 19th century American stage, inspiring Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* and Henry James' *Washington Square*. After her divorce in 1848, she gave dramatic readings of Shakespeare's plays in which she performed all the roles.

Mrs. Kemble's Tempest, by resident playwright Tom Ziegler, juxtaposes the tumultuous ups and downs of Fanny's life with the rapid reversals of fortune in Shakespeare's island fantasy, *The Tempest*. Jane Ridley will perform the role she originated to 5-star reviews, accompanied by actor/pianist Josh Harvey; the production is directed by Jere Hodgkin.



There will be just one performance of *Mrs. Kemble's Tempest*, on Saturday, April 9, at 8 PM. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults, \$23 for seniors, \$20 for college students (with a valid student ID), \$15 for children under age 18; discounts are available for CCT members.

Writer's Workshop – April 10 at 3 PM Sunday

CCT is offering a writers' workshop entitled "Making Virgin Islands History Come Alive—Writing the One Person Show" on Sunday, April 10 at 3 PM. The workshop is open to the public, free of charge. This program was made possible in part by a grant from the Virgin Islands Humanities Council, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council, an independent, nonprofit organization, makes grants in support of projects which help to broaden citizen understanding and appreciation of the humanities.

Members of the workshop panel are Tom Ziegler, resident of St. Croix; Jane Ridley, award-winning British/American actress and former head of the MFA acting program at Penn State University; Jere Hodgkin, Head of Acting and Directing at the University of Montana; and Josh Harvey, a composer who teaches music at Washington and Lee University in Virginia.

Message from the Playwright

When I first moved to the islands I thought how appropriate it would be to perform my play, *Mrs. Kemble's Tempest* here on St. Croix. The play begins with Mrs. Kemble, the celebrated 19th century British/American actress, reading Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, a play set on a beautiful tropical island in the Caribbean.



As the play unfolds, Fanny Kemble discovers, to her dismay, that her new husband owns huge slave plantations off the coast of Georgia on the island of St. Simons. Fanny visited the island in 1838 and kept a journal of the inhuman conditions that the slaves, particularly woman slaves, were forced to endure. Fanny's account of slavery on St. Simons Island closely parallels the conditions of the slaves on the island of St. Croix. *(continued on page 2)*

Fanny was proud of the fact that Great Britain had abolished slavery in the British West Indies during the 1830's, and that slavery came to an end in the Danish West Indies in 1848. So in 1863, in order to help bring an end to slavery in newly adopted America, she published her moving *Journal on a Georgia Plantation*.

On the afternoon following the performance, actress Jane Ridley, pianist Josh Harvey, director Jere Hodgkin, and I will lead a workshop entitled, "Making Virgin Islands History Come Alive." The four of us hope to illustrate how we came to create this historical play, and perhaps inspire other writers, established and novice, to bring their favorite historical figures to life, particularly figures associated with the Virgin Islands.—Tom Ziegler

Thanks for an Enchanted Evening!

CCT's FUNdraiser this season, an evening of songs by Carole Demas, who originated the role of "Sandy" in *Grease* on Broadway, took place on Saturday, March 12, 2011. Ms. Demas performed at CCT with her music director Ian Herman and guitarist Sean Harkness for one night only.

Many thanks to Carole Demas, husband Stuart Allyn (sound engineer) and friends for donating their time and talents to CCT. Thanks also to the businesses and individuals who donated items for our silent auction, made delicious desserts, attended this event and/or volunteered to help make this evening a successful one for CCT.

CCT's Production of Cabaret was Memorable

A big thank you to Director Ruby Des Jardins, Music Director Patrick Baron, Puppeteer Mike Oleon, and all the wonderful actors, actresses, dancers and singers who devoted so much time and energy to making the show a success.



Thanks also to *Cabaret's* sponsors: Christiansted Apothecary Hall; Charlie & Barbara Gachot, JKC Communications of the VI, Marshall & Sterling Insurance, Mustafa Mehmet Corporation, Ulla Neuburger; Fran and Jerry Tobin. *Cabaret* was also funded in part by a grant from The Virgin Islands Council on the Arts and The National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C.

CCT 2011 Schedule

Our schedule for March – July 2011 is listed below.

All performances are held at CCT's theater at #18 Estate Orange Grove in Christiansted, St. Croix. For more information about CCT, call 340-778-1983, email eileenccct@gmail.com, or visit our website www.cct.vi.



SARAH & ADDIE

Short West Indian Comedies by Anton C. Teytaud
Directors: Eileen Bishop Des Jardins & Oceana James
Show dates: March 25, 26, April 1 & 2, 2011
Fridays & Saturdays at 8 PM
March 27 & April 3, 2011 – 2 Sunday Matinees at 4 PM

MRS. KEMBLE'S TEMPEST

Written by Tom Ziegler; Director: Jere Hodgkin
Starring Jane Ridley, Josh Harvey
Show date: April 9, 2011 – Saturday at 8 PM

MAKING VIRGIN ISLANDS HISTORY COME ALIVE—WRITING THE ONE PERSON SHOW

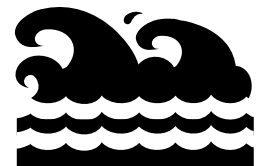
A Writer's Workshop moderated by Tom Ziegler, Jane Ridley, Josh Harvey and Jere Hodgkin
Workshop Date: April 10, 2011 – Sunday at 3 PM

PAGEANT PLAY

A Comedy by Matthew Wilkas & Mark Setlock
Director: Christine Thomas
Auditions: March 22 & 23, 28 & 29, 2011 at 7 PM
Show dates: May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 & 21, 2011
Fridays & Saturdays at 8 PM
May 15, 2011 – Sunday Matinee at 4 PM

THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB

A Comedy by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope & Jamie Wooten; Director: Sylvia Brady
Auditions: May 10 & 11, 2011 at 7 PM
Show dates: July 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 & 23, 2011
Fridays & Saturdays at 8 PM
July 17, 2011 – Sunday Matinee at 4 PM



Five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. *The Dixie Swim Club*, a hilarious and touching comedy, focuses on four of those weekends spanning a period of 33 years.

THE CALICO CAT COMPANY

Show date: May 29, 2011 – Sunday Matinee at 3 PM
Members of CCT's after-school children's theater program put on performances twice a year. Many thanks to teacher Lisa Vaughan, dance instructor Khnuma Simonds, and their able assistants Carisma Bishop, Stephanie Kelley, Xauskya Simmonds-Emmanuel, and Ethan Wyatt.



To sponsor a Calico Cat student, or for more info, contact Eileen.

Volunteer at CCT

CCT needs lots of help to make each season a successful one. If you are interested in (bartender, house manager, raffle ticket sales), please contact Eileen at 778-1983 or eileenccct@gmail.com.