



March 2011

Dear Friend of the WorkShop,

Whether you've been in our audience, made a donation, or both, we are grateful for your past support. As the WorkShop Theater Company's new Managing Director, I'm writing to urge you to renew that support now with a tax-deductible donation. Every gift, no matter how small, helps us cover our costs and demonstrates the community support that is so important to our foundation, government and corporate appeals.

Like all not-for-profit arts organizations, we are struggling to meet the challenges of today's economy and the growing competition for your philanthropic dollars. Why give to the WorkShop when there are so many other worthy appeals facing you?

The WorkShop can point with justifiable pride to its seventeen-year history of maintaining a stable, affordable home, not only for its own artists, but for many other companies as well. But we are also aware that without constant self-evaluation, improvement, and new initiatives, we risk stagnation. The time to move to a new level is long overdue... and has finally arrived! I'm proud to share with you the enclosed summary of our activities over the past year

We're also gratified by the significant jumps in attendance we've seen as a result of new marketing initiatives, including online ticketing. We're encouraged by growth in both the volume and amounts of donations, thanks to more targeted appeals due to computerized tracking of our audience base. Revisions to our organizational structure have resulted in more effective use of personnel. Significantly, we ended 2010 with a small surplus that will be used to help fund salaries for a few long unpaid positions on our administrative staff, and to make modest increases in the small stipends we are able to offer our talented artists.

Most importantly, the *work* at the WorkShop is more varied, energized, and exciting than ever before. That's what it is all about, and that's why I believe we are earning your continued support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David M. Mead
Managing Director

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WILL YOU SUPPORT THE WORKSHOP NOW?

Please help us keep the lights on at two of the busiest stages in New York!

From the wildly varied **Sundays@Six** and **Three-Day Staged Readings** to **Plays in Process** productions; from the monthly hilarity of **Bobby, the Middle Aged Celebrity** and **Loren Dunn's Sketch Comedy Improv** to our annual **COLD SNAPS Festival**, the **WorkShop Theater Company** is rarely dark. When we're not in production ourselves, our reasonable rental rates provide a vital service to other companies not fortunate enough to have their own home.

WHERE DO YOUR CONTRIBUTION DOLLARS GO?

First and foremost, toward the development of new American plays...

Our process begins with **Monday Night Writers' Meetings**, where playwrights explore new ideas. The results are seen across the country and around the world. Recently, for example, Bob Ost's **Breeders** won the 2010 New Works of Merit Playwriting Competition. Glenn Alterman's **The Pain In The Poetry** was published in Great Short Plays: Volume 8.

In the past year we have given our audiences:

MISS LULU BETT by Zona Gale, the first Pulitzer Prize-winning play by a woman, on our Main Stage in March, was a magnificent revival hailed as "...engrossing...an unvarnished portrait of an American family..." (CurtainUp.com) and "...a little-known gem..." (NYTheatre.com). It proved one of the most popular productions in years.

THE NAVIGATOR, by Eddie Antar, took an hilarious look at our dependency on high tech devices by telling the story of a down-on-his-luck man whose problems are all solved by his car's GPS system. Its modest Jewel Box production was so well received that it will be given a full Main Stage production in 2012.

INTERCHANGE, by Ken Jaworowski, opened on our Main Stage in October to rave reviews. The New York Times praised **INTERCHANGE** as "...taut and well constructed...brisk direction...provides the dramatic conflict that brings characters to life..." And Show Business Weekly called it "...decidedly relevant...deft and clear..."

MOLIÈRE'S TARTUFFE, in a new translation by Paul Weidner, premiered in January 2011. This contemporary version of the great French classic drew delighted laughs and positive critical response: "...the most exciting piece of Indie Theater seen in recent memory." (Bloomberg Radio) "...everything in and about this production fits..." (Town and Village NYC).



THE NAVIGATOR in our Jewel Box Theater



TARTUFFE on the Main Stage

And we revitalized our Musical Theatre Wing!

It Takes Two!, our Valentine's Cabaret, and **Merry Minced Madness**, a Holiday Revue, both played to packed houses, and there's more to come as the year goes on!

Our educational and community outreach programs have also expanded:

We offer weekly classes in Shakespeare, Musical Theater, and Energy Alignment and Balance, as well as post-performance discussions and special celebrations. This March, we commemorated Women's History Month with **SHE'S THE BOSS** - an event that presented staged readings of two new plays - **The Silver Fox** by Donna de Matteo and **Beat Chick** by Joanne Joseph and Prudence Wright Holmes - followed by a production of **Lizzie Borden at 8 O'Clock**, by guest playwright Mitch Giannunzio.

Next up on our Main Stage:

FABULOUS DARSHAN, a new full-length comedy by **BOB STEWART** - Opening in June
AND

BENEATH THE HUSH, A WHISPER, an exciting new drama by **ABIGAIL SOMMA** - Opening in September

Next up in our Jewel Box Theater:

THEY THAT HAVE BORNE THE BATTLE - a month-long tribute to our men and women in the armed Services - in May:

The Fatwa of Corpsman Johnny Jones by Greg Oliver Bodine

Breakfast with Charlie by Bob Manus

Air Force 525 by Marylee Martin Terrano

Nine Hundred Ninety-Eight Yards by Scott C. Sickles

On the Old Advice of an Old Friend by David M. Mead

Bethesda by Bob Stewart

Bowed and Vowed by Rich Orloff

Plus concert readings of **Army Royalty** by David M. Mead,

The Dishonorable Discharge of Private Pitts by Daniel Damiano

AND a new translation of **The Persians** by Aeschylus

For complete details and to order tickets online, go to our website, www.workshoptheater.org.

Your gift, in ANY amount, makes the WorkShop WORK!!

Please detach and return in envelope provided with your check made payable to WorkShop Theater Company:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$1- \$49 FRIENDS	Name(s) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50-\$99 WORKMATES	(as you would like it to appear in our programs)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100-4249 APPRENTICES	Address: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250-\$499 JOURNEYMEN	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500-\$999 CRAFTSMEN	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000-\$2,499 ARTISANS	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 - \$4,999 ARTISTS	<input type="checkbox"/> My fully tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ is enclosed
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 to \$9,999 MASTERS	<input type="checkbox"/> I will submit the paperwork for my company's matching gift
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 to \$14,999 CREATORS	<input type="checkbox"/> Please save the cost of postage. No thank you is necessary.
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000+ ANGELS	<input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to receive the WorkShop's e-mail newsletter, "What's Up?"

Donations of \$50 or more will be listed in our programs

(please print e-mail address *clearly*)

WorkShop Theater Company is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.