

# Stages

May 2015

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The Newsletter of The Acting Company

MARGOT HARLEY, Producer

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## MARGOT HARLEY: A LEGACY OF 43 YEARS



Since The Acting Company's first performance in July 1972 at Saratoga Springs, **Margot Harley** has overseen 139 productions attended by over four million people. An indomitable champion of developing young classical actors, building a diverse audience for the theater and engaging students, Margot will leave behind a legion of grateful actors and audiences when she steps down as Producer of The Acting Company on December 31.

In addition to 42 national tours to 48 states and 10 foreign countries for The Acting Company, Margot produced the Broadway productions of **Alfred Uhry's** *The Robber Bridegroom* and *The Curse of an Aching Heart* starring Faye Dunaway. She also produced John Houseman's celebrated revival of **Marc Blitzstein's** musical play *The Cradle Will Rock* in New York and at the Old Vic Theatre in London.

Margot's Off-Broadway productions include *Ten by Tennessee*, a two evening retrospective of Tennessee Williams' one-act plays, which was directed by **Michael Kahn**, the New York premiere of **Eric Overmyer's** *On the Verge*, directed by **Garland Wright**, **Lynn Nottage's** *Mud, River, Stone*, **Rebecca Gilman's** adaptation of Carson McCullers' *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* directed by **Doug Hughes** and *Love's Fire*, a

play directed by **Mark Lamos** based on Shakespeare Sonnets adapted for The Acting Company by **Wendy Wasserstein**, **William Finn**, **Tony Kushner**, **John Guare**, **Eric Bogosian**, **Ntozake Shange** and **Marsha Norman**. Her last production for The Acting Company will be the world premiere of *Desire*, for which she has commissioned **John Guare**, **Beth Henley**, **Rebecca Gilman**, **Elizabeth Egloff**, **David Grimm** and **Marcus Gardley** to adapt six Tennessee Williams short stories. It will open at the 59E59 Theaters in September under **Michael Wilson's** direction.

Previous to The Acting Company, Margot was Administrator of Juilliard's Drama Division for its first twelve years, from 1968 to 1980. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, she attended LAMDA on a Fulbright Scholarship.

## PATTI LUPONE AND BOBBY CANNAVALE ELECTRIFY THE ROSE TATTOO

April 27 was one of those rare nights on Broadway where the stars are literally aligned and the audience lingers long after the curtain call. **Doug Hughes** directed a cast of 22 superb NY performers and the wonderful **Mary Lou Rosato** who came in from L.A. – plus a live goat – in a one-night, sold-out Acting Company benefit of Tennessee Williams' *The Rose Tattoo*. Tour de force would be understatement for the magnificent performances of **Patti LuPone** and **Bobby Cannavale** – our gratitude is boundless for them, Doug Hughes, the entire cast and **Paula Wagner** who made the evening possible.



## MORE STAFF CHANGES AHEAD

With Margot Harley stepping down as Producer, a national search for an Executive Director is underway by Management Consultants for the Arts. Along with this change comes a new organizational structure. As the Executive Director will have responsibility for fundraising and marketing, the position of Director of Development and Communications has been eliminated and **Gerry Cornez** will be leaving The Acting Company on June 30. In his 15 years with the Company, Gerry oversaw almost 80 special events including the celebrations of the Company's 30th and 40th Anniversary years as well as developing new institutional funding, social media and electronic fundraising programs. Prior to The Acting Company, Gerry was Executive Director of Waif, the international adoption organization founded by Jane Russell, and Director of Chapter Development of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America.

## NEW BOARD DIRECTORS

At its February meeting, The Acting Company Board elected **Rufus Collins** and **Theodore (Ted) Feder**. An actor and philanthropist, **Rufus Collins'** Broadway credits include *The Royal Family*, *To Be or Not To Be*, *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, *An Ideal Husband* and *The Homecoming*. He has worked extensively regionally, Off-Broadway, in film and on television. He is the President of the Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund, a private foundation supporting the arts, education, cultural institutions, medical research and the basic necessities of New Yorkers in need. Rufus was educated at Dalton, Columbia (BA) and the Central School of Speech and Drama (MFA). **Ted Feder** is the Founder and President of both Art Resource and Artists Rights Society. Art Resource is an art historical photo archive serving as the rights and permission bureau for major U.S. and foreign museums. Artists Rights Society represents the intellectual property rights of most prominent 20th and 21st century artists or their estates. Ted has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia and lectured in Art History at several New York-based colleges. His theatrical experience includes writing and directing at Manhattan Theatre Club and the National Shakespeare Company. He has published and spoken extensively and studied at NYU (BA), University of Paris, Harvard, Columbia (Ph.D.) and Rutgers Law School.

## ALUMNI UPDATE

**Justin Adams** in *Don Juan* at the Pearl ... **Matt Amendt, Kelley Curran, Philip Goodwin** and **Derek Smith** recently in *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* at the Duke ... **Lisa Banes** in *NCIS* ... **Georgia Cohen** was in *Underland* at 59E59 ... **Bryan Cogman** is a producer and writer of *Game of Thrones* ... **Frances Conroy** continues in *American Horror Story* and upcoming in *No Pay, Nudity* and *Welcome to Happiness* ... **Paul Cosentino** on *The Blacklist* ... **Keith David** in TEN films – announced, pre and post production and recently completed plus narrating Ken Burns' *Jackie Robinson* ... **Stephen DeRosa** in *On the Town*, directed by **John Rando** (Tony nomination) ... **Zachary Fine** won the Helen Hayes Award for *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* at the Folger ... Lortel Awards to **Andy Grotelueschen** and **Jacob Ming-Trent** ... **Harriet Harris** in Broadway's *It Shoulda Been You* ... **Tom Hewitt** in *Amazing Grace* following *Dr. Zhivago* ... **Kevin Kline** filming *Beauty and the Beast* and soon-to-be released *Ricki and the Flash* and *Dean* ... **Patti LuPone** upcoming in Lincoln Center's *Shows for Days* ... **David Manis** in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* ... **Dakin Matthews** in *The Audience* ... **Jesse L. Martin's** new series is *The Flash* ... **Joe McGrath** is Artistic Director of Tucson's Rogue Theater ... **Cristin Milioti** joins cast of *Fargo* ... **Kathleen Mulligan** working in Pakistan on a theater project based on Partition of 1947 survivor stories ... **Angela Pierce** in the Roundabout's *Consent* ... **Grant Fletcher Prewitt** in *Stage Kiss* at the Guthrie ... **Katherine Puma** and **Matt Steiner** off to Lumberton, NM to teach Shakespeare in one of the poorest school in America ... **Tom Robbins** in *Man of La Mancha* at Barrington Stage where **David Schramm** appears in *Butler*... **Maggie Reed** touring in *Vanya and Sonia*, et al ... **Liv Rooth** in *Nice Girl* at the Labyrinth ... **John Skelley** in *And a Nightingale Sang* at Westport where **Brian Reddy** just appeared in *The Liar* ... **Sid Solomon** elected to Actors' Equity Association Counsel as an Eastern Region Principal Councillor ... **Henry Stram** in *The Elephant Man* on Broadway, now in London ... **Moritz von Stuelpnagel** Tony nominated Director of *Hand to God* ... **Matt Sullivan** in *The Royal Family* at NJ Shakes ... **Richard Topol** in *Fish in the Dark* ... **Lorraine Toussaint** costars in *Forever*... **Jeffrey Wright** in *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay-Part 2* and new series *Westworld*.

GERRY CORNEZ, Editor  
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