

CREW:

Producer: Cara Russell
Assistant to Producer: Leah Jensen
Set Construction: Doug Bechtel, Cara Russell,
Tom Fiscus, Gillian Smith, Lily Ryder
Lighting and Sound: Connie Luerkens, James Wolf
House Manager: Cara Russell, Chris Dolen
Stage Crew: Lily Ryder, Roland Hachee, Alice Hachee,
Brandon Naffin, Leah Jensen
Hair and Make-up: Carol Whitbeck

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to: Michael Armenia , Rainbow Services, Orcas Lions, Lin McNulty, Patty Monaco, and Frank & Lori Gates for their valuable help in making this production possible.

What's Next for Actors Theater?

I don't know. Attendance at the last two plays I've directed has been disappointing. I've talked to dozens of people. I came away from these discussions wondering if we are doing too much theater. Are we wearing out our audiences?

The actors still look forward to acting, the production crews still look forward to building sets and sewing costumes and I am still excited about producing and directing plays. But, to spend five months on a play (from starting hard work on the script to closing night) and end up making a few hundred dollars is disappointing. The good news is that we continue to make money: None of our local productions has EVER lost money although some have come very close. We have raised ticket prices from \$5 to \$10 for this year's PlayFest because audiences have dropped off to the point where we can't make ends meet at \$5.

So, what's next? The truth is that I don't know. Maybe we'll do some readers theater, maybe a small play in the fall, maybe some training programs. If you have any ideas or suggestions, I'd like to hear them.

*For additional information on Actors Theater:
Doug Bechtel at 317-5601 or visit www.orcasactors.com*

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THE
ACTORS THEATER
OF ORCAS ISLAND
Presents

9th Annual PlayFest

Featuring Seven
Local Playwrights

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays,
April 25 – May 4,
7:30 p.m.
at the Orcas Grange

9th Annual PlayFest Tonight's Plays

Hammerfest Date Night by Cara Russell

Directed by Creighton Hofeditz

Starring Cele Westlake and Larry Coddington

It is virtual date night for two romantics who can't afford to travel, but love to dream about it.

Mephisto Waltz #1 by Brigid Ehrmantraut

Directed by Cara Russell

Starring Vanessa Moriarty and Kelly Toombs

Margot has just gotten the operatic role of a lifetime, however her own story echoes the plot of the opera a little too closely for comfort.

A Dish Served Cold by Tom Fiscus

Directed by Kristen Wilson

Starring Robert Hall and Eric Eagan

Things may not always be what they seem in this tale of revenge and double-cross served up for your examination.

Night Lights by Rick Markov

Directed by Lin McNulty

Starring Maura O'Neill, Tom Fiscus, and Vanessa Moriarty

A visit to a psychologist takes an unanticipated and bizarre turn.

Intermission

Main Course by Michèle Griskey

Directed by Gillian Smith

Starring Aimee Johnson, Brian Richard, and Adam Thomas

When house hunting goes terribly wrong.

Prelude to Notoriety by Rebecca Herman

Directed by Ron Herman

Starring Alison Calhoun and Kelly Toombs

When faced with a life-changing decision who do you turn to?

Four Christmases by James Wolf

Directed by Cara Russell

Starring Elane Phipps

An elderly widow rides the bus home and is reminded of several Christmases in her long life.

Playwright Notes

Hammerfest Date Night

—Cara Russell

This started out as a 'slice of life' piece after a real night of what was mostly drinking wine, messing around with Google Maps, and dealing with an unpredictable cordless speaker. Thank you Larry, Cele, and Creighton for really doing a wonderful job.

Mephisto Waltz

—Brigid Ehrmantraut

This is the result of my passion for classical music in general, opera in particular, and a wonderful performance of Faust I watched a little over a year ago. It was also a great excuse to explore my love of 16th-19th century history and literature. After all, the story of selling one's soul for personal gain is hardly new, but in the end just how much is success really worth?

A Dish Served Cold

—Tom Fiscus

Initially inspired by Bill Bryson's book "A Short History of Nearly Everything" and his telling of the genesis of some of history's great discoveries and inventions, I felt that a tale of discovery would be a good vehicle to explore as well the nature of friendship and collaboration and the consequences of betrayal. Experience has taught me that things are rarely what they seem. Appearances very often mask the actual basis for an action or condition. I hope you enjoy this attempt to tie these elements together in our story.

Night Lights

—Rick Markov

This script was inspired by a writer's comment regarding a play performed last year, that all she had to do was listen to casual conversations and the story could write itself. I live on Orcas Island, at a location from which I can almost see all of Entrance Mountain.

Main Course

—Michèle Griskey

We can blame James Wolf for this play . . . well, not really. James did share an exercise with our playwright group (something about characters in an abandoned house . . .). Ralph and Jason showed up first. Then, from someplace in my psyche, Octavia slipped out from the shadows.

Prelude to Notoriety

—Rebecca Herman

It is none other than freedom of choice which is the most important factor in shaping a person's fate or destiny. I have always been curious about the moments in a person's life right before they became unravelled. Might someone have changed their path? That is what "Prelude to Notoriety" is about- Those hours just before.

Four Christmases

—James Wolf

You know how sometimes you find yourself seated with a large number of people, maybe in a restaurant or on a bus or in a small community theater – some of the people you may know but most you don't – and you wonder about them and their lives, what they've done, what experiences they've gone through, how they've come to be there?