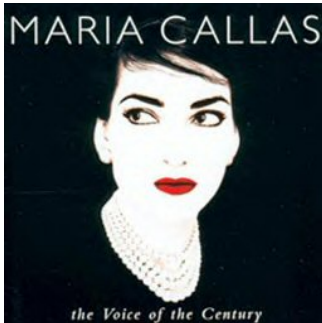


BACKSTAGE

Chatham Community Players Newsletter

November 2005

AUDITIONS FOR “MASTER CLASS”



Terrence McNally's Tony-winning drama, “*Master Class*,” is to be cast in two different locations as follows: on Monday, November 21, auditions will be held at Chatham United Methodist Church, 460 Main Street, Chatham; on Tuesday, November 22, at our Chatham

Playhouse, 23 North Passaic Avenue, Chatham. Hours both nights are 7 to 10 p.m. Popular director **Robert Pridham**, who directed “*Of Mice and Men*,” “*Proof*,” and other dramas for us, will lead this production. Pianist for the show will be

Constantine Kitsopoulos, who actually was in a master class of Maria Callas, and has just begun his own opera company. He directed our orchestra for “*West Side Story*” and led the music for several Gilbert & Sullivan summer productions in our Playhouse.

“*Master Class*” is the story of such an event led by legendary opera diva Maria Callas, in front of an audience. She was known world-wide for both her singing and her temperament, terrorized opera companies, had a long and passionate affair with Ari Onassis (pre-Jackie Kennedy), broke all the rules, and drove audiences into a frenzy. People either loved or hated her. In this play, we see her at the end of her career, remembering past glories. “*Master Class*” won the Tony award, the Outer Critics’ Circle award, and the Drama Desk Award. It’s a unique mixture of bravado, memory, ego, pathos, and humor. Performances begin on February 17, 2006.

Roles to be cast are:

MARIA...age 50, well past her prime, but in her mind just a moment or two from the peak of her career, known as “La Divina,” the most controversial, beloved, reviled, tempestuous soprano of the 20th century—she’s imperious, arrogant, merciless both with herself and her students. Essentially this “*Master Class*” is a full-fledged performance full of fury and emotional fire. She is the star—and knows it, and fascinates her audience with her dazzling performance.

FIRST SOPRANO (SOPHIE)...20’s, trembling, terrified, completely in the thrall of Callas, willing to give her all, which will not be nearly enough.

TENOR (TONY)...20’s, puffed up and very pleased with himself, broad of chest and voice.

SECOND SOPRANO (SHARON)...20's, sharp, smart, driven, generously gifted with a powerful vocal instrument, a strong natural performance sense, and finally, in temperament and potential, something of a real match for Callas.

STAGE HAND...matter-of-fact, a man of few words; he's seen it all in the lunatic world of opera; Maria means no more to him than a corned beef on rye.

Actors auditioning for Maria: please be prepared to read from the play "*Master Class*." You may choose and prepare your own selection from the play, or sides will be provided at the audition.

All auditioning for the three student roles: Please bring a monologue of your own choosing. It need not be memorized, but you should be prepared to perform it; two-minute limit. You should be prepared to sing a song which demonstrates your current singing range and capabilities. A song from a musical, or opera, or operetta is acceptable.

Chatham Players has an open casting policy. All roles are open, none are pre-cast, and anyone is encouraged to audition. Any questions? Call **Kristin Barber** at 732-208-4184, or e-mail casting@chathamplayers.org. For directions or additional information, visit www.chathamplayers.org.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone (and there are lots of you!) who worked so hard and long on our impressive production of "*Brighton Beach Memoirs*." In addition to all those listed in our program insert, an impromptu committee of **Ken Basmadjian, Jon DeAngelis, Joel Remde, and Bruce Duty**, helped move the rented furniture out for return. All in all, it was a shining example of Community Theater!

OPENING DECEMBER 2ND ... "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

Our beloved holiday offering returns, with a fresh and sparkling look and some dear familiar faces, plus some exciting newcomers. Featured this year will be MORE matinees

performances on Saturdays as well as our usual Sundays. Final performance is December 23rd. The cast will feature **Alan Semok** as Scrooge, **Steve Stubelt** as Charles Dickens, and **Matt Burns** as Bob Cratchit. **Ken Magos** will be Fezziwig, Christmas Present, and the Undertaker; **Maria Brodeur** returns as Mrs. Cratchit; **Joelle Bochner** will be Mrs. Dickens and the Laundress; and **Will Lampe** will be Jacob Marley, the Pawnbroker, and Nutley.

Barbi McGuire plays Mrs. Fezziwig and the Charwoman, and **Daniel Marconi** will be Tiny Tim and Scrooge as a child. The cast also includes **Frank Briamonte, Claire Chatinover, Joshua Dick, Jessica Douglass, Tom Drummer, Georgia Gleason, Michelle Grobert, Molly Kearns, Tom Kitsopoulos, Jessica Kundia, Erik Lampe, Michael Nitting, Julia Sickler, Jennifer Smith, and Santo Tiralosi**. "*Carol*" Director is **Susie Speidel**; Musical



Director is **Joe Elefante**. Public sale of tickets (\$20, adult; \$15, youth) begins November 15 through Ticket Leap on our website, www.chathamplayers.com. Box office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 a.m., and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Box office phone is 973-635-7363.

IN MEMORIAM

We send our condolences to the family of John Friday, former President of Chatham Community Players – 1961-63. Productions during his presidency include *The Teahouse of the August Moon*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *Seven Year Itch*, *Sabrina Fair*, *Call Me Madam* and *The Male Animal*

IT'S HOLIDAY PARTY TIME

The month of December is filled with performances of "A *Christmas Carol*," but following the matinee performance on December 11th, Chatham Community Players is throwing our annual Holiday Party. We invite you to join us at 6 p.m. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and BYOB. Non-alcoholic drinks and mixers provided. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

HERE AND THERE...

Mark Phelan ("*Jersey Voices*") is directing "*The Hollow*," a murder mystery, at Dover Little Theatre, opening November 4th, starring **Chess Langford** ("*To Kill a Mockingbird*," "*Jersey Voices*")...**Meghan Luckey** ("*Blood Brothers*," "*Pride and Prejudice*") performs in Montville Barn Theatre's upcoming "*Crazy For You*" ...also at Barn Theatre, **Jon DeAngelis** ("*A Christmas Carol*," "*Sweeney Todd*"), **Voltaire Balderrama** ("*...Carol*"), and **Rich Maloy** ("*To Kill a Mockingbird*," "*The Fantasticks*") all sang in "*Now It's Your Turn*" (aka "*Get Happy*")...**Rich Kline** ("*Desperate Hours*"), **Patrick Andrae** ("*A Little Night Music*"), and **Robin Joyce** ("*Rumors*") are performing in "*Chinatown*" at Villagers Theater...at the Playhouse, Summit, **Megan Guinan** ("*Enchanted April*") will be onstage in **Kate Schlesinger's** production of "*The Miracle Worker*," Kate has appeared in a number of our shows...**Ana Kalet** and **David Neal** (both in "*Jersey Voices*"), **Catherine Rowe** ("*Blithe Spirit*"), and **Paul Salvatoriello** ("*Fantasticks*"), were recently seen in Circle Players' "*Taming of the Shrew*."