



**WORKING  
THEATER**

**29th SEASON ANNUAL REPORT  
2013-14**

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**Working Theater** is dedicated to  
producing new plays  
*for and about* working people.\*

Our 29<sup>th</sup> Season ran from January to June 2014 and featured the development and production of several new plays, as well as other events aimed specifically at reaching our audience of working men and women.

\* working people refers to the wage and salaried workers of modest means working in factories, stores, offices, hospitals, classrooms, and other workplaces throughout America

# Letter from the PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

It's been another great year for Working Theater! Before we dive headlong into our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season this is a good time to take a quick look back at the accomplishments of our 29<sup>th</sup> year.

Our two productions this year were thematically linked, both exploring what poverty looks like in America. *Mercy Killers* produced in January/February with Harold Clurman Lab Theater of Stella Adler Studio told the story of a "true-blue" American whose life is upended when his wife gets sick and loses her insurance. Under the direction of Tom Oppenheim, actor Mike Milligan blew audiences away every night with a gut-wrenching performance that will remain with me forever. With *Mercy Killers*, we were able to continue our initiative of bringing theater directly to communities where working people live. Following a four-week run in Manhattan, we spent a week at the Bronx UFT in the Parkchester section of the Bronx and a week in Flushing, Queens at the headquarters of Local 3 IBEW. Thank you once again to our hosts José Vargas and Chris Erikson and everyone who works at both venues for making us feel at home! In the spring, we presented *Cherry Smoke* at Urban Stages in midtown Manhattan for a four-week run. *Cherry Smoke* by James McManus is a lyrical and tragic love story centering on four young people, Fish, Cherry, Bug, and Duffy, living on the farthest edges of society. Director Tamilla Woodard did an outstanding job, aided by some of the finest acting and design work in Working Theater's history, bringing Jim's tough but beautiful play to life.

In between the two productions, we were thrilled to honor Peter Ward, President of the Hotel and Motel Trades Council, and Joseph Berardo, President and CEO of MagnaCare, at our Annual Awards Ceremony held on April 7<sup>th</sup> at Sardi's Restaurant. Thanks to the draw of our genuinely deserving honorees it was one of our most successful events to date.

Throughout the year we also ran three semesters of our TheaterWorks! program at 32BJ SEIU (Building Service Workers) and DC 37 (Municipal Employees). TheaterWorks! is a 16-week class in which students learn to write and perform in their own short plays. In the final three classes the students are joined by professional actors and directors who act as mentors to the student playwrights as their plays are rehearsed for the final event: a staged reading style performance at an off-Broadway theater. I am extremely proud of the work our new playwrights did this year. Each performance night was filled with some of the most unique and effective plays this program has produced to date, thanks to the fantastic leadership of our teaching artists, Joe Roland and Joe White.

None of the work we accomplished this year would have happened without the outstanding support of our Board of Directors, sponsors, donors, audience members, and amazing team of artists! Thanks to all of you for your dedication to a company for, about, and by working people!



Mark Plesent  
Producing Artistic Director



# MERCY KILLERS

written and performed by Michael Milligan  
directed by Tom Oppenheim

**JANUARY 7 - FEBRUARY 16, 2014**

**MANHATTAN**

**JANUARY 7 - FEBRUARY 2**

**STELLADLER**  
STUDIO OF ACTING

31 West 27th Street, Floor 2

**BRONX**

**FEBRUARY 5 - 9**

**UFT Bronx**

2500 Halsey Street, Bronx, NY 10461

**QUEENS**

**FEBRUARY 11 - 16**

**Local 3 IBEW**

158-11 Jewel Avenue, Flushing, NY 11365

# MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

the off-Broadway premiere of the 2013 Edinburgh Festival Fringe First Award-winning

# MERCY KILLERS

written and performed by **Michael Milligan**, directed by **Tom Oppenheim**

*a co-production with the Harold Clurman Lab Theater*

Joe loves apple pie, Rush Limbaugh and his wife, Jane. He is blue-collar, made in the USA and proud, but when his wife gets sick and loses her insurance, his patriotic feelings are turned upside down. In ***Mercy Killers***, a new one-man play, Joe struggles with the uniquely American experience of losing your health in the land of plenty.



Production Stage Manager: Michael Aaron Jones  
Lighting Designer and Production Manager: Libby Jensen  
Supervising Producer: J. Steven White  
Board Operator: Victoria Bausch

SPECIAL THANKS to our presenting partners:  
Jose Vargas, Nicholas Cruz, Janet Guevarra, Elliot Vigo, Gil Rivera, and everyone at the Bronx UFT.  
Christopher Erikson, Michael Yee, Jodi Grace, Joe Doceti, and everyone at Local 3 IBEW and the JIBEI



above photos by Lia Chang



above, from L to R: Michael Milligan and Tom Oppenheim; Mike with Katie, Josh, and Meir from HealthCareNow!-NYC; Mike with Andre De Shields, Ester, and WI Board President Bill Henning. Photos by Caroline Voagen Nelson, from the opening night reception



below, from L to R: Mark Plesent, Mike Milligan, and State Assemblyman Richard Gottfried (75th Assembly District); Hon. Gottfried greeting Mercy Killers patrons after a performance and talk-back





*DONTCHA WANNA BE PART OF SOMETHING BIG?*

# cherry smoke

BY JAMES McMANUS

DIRECTED BY TAMILLA WOODARD



with (l to r) **Julie Jesneck**, **Vayu O'Donnell**, **Molly Carden**, and **Patrick Carroll**

**APRIL 22 - MAY 18**

**MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION**

# cherry smoke

by **James McManus**, directed by **Tamilla Woodard**

Poverty, first kisses, boxing, and irrational hope combine in a brutal love story about four young people trying to grasp the American Dream. In this Princess Grace Award-winning play, James McManus captures the devastated remnants of the steel towns of his youth, channeling the frustrations of a working class without work. A combustion of the magical and the mundane, **Cherry Smoke** takes you to a world rarely seen on the New York stage.

with Molly Carden, Patrick Carroll, Julie Jesneck, and Vayu O'Donnell

Set Design: Mikiko Suzuki MacAdams | Costume Design: Emily DeAngelis | Lighting Design: Solomon Weisbard  
Sound Design: Sam Kusnetz | Props Design: Claire Kavanah | Fight Choreographer: Rick Sordelet

Production Stage Manager: Megan Schwarz Dickert / Terri Kohler | Assistant Stage Manager: Kelly Hardy  
Production Manager: Libby Jensen | Casting Director: Stephanie Klapper | Press Representation: Dan Demello  
Assistant Director: Dina Vovsi | Graphic Design: Rodger Belknap



photo by Michael Blase



**Cherry Smoke** by James McManus, directed by Tamilla Woodard. With Molly Carden, Patrick Carroll, Julie Jesneck, and Yayu O'Donnell.  
Set Design by Mikiko Suzuki MacAdams, Costume Design by Emily DeAngelis, Lighting Design by Solomon Weisbard, Sound Design by Sam Kusnetz, Props Design by Claire Kavanah



photo by Owen Walz



photo by Michael Blase



Cherry Smoke  
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photo by Owen Walz



photo by Owen Walz



photo by Owen Walz

Opening Night photos of the designers, cast, and crew of **Cherry Smoke**. Photos by Bobby Blasencia





# THEATERWORKS!

For our 29<sup>th</sup> Season, we hosted two sessions of our 16-week playwriting and performance class. One session was taught by playwright Joe Roland at 32BJ SEIU and the other session by director Joe White at DC37. The classes culminated in free, staged reading style performances where the students were joined by professional actors and directors. This season's performances were all held at Urban Stages, 259 West 30th Street, New York, NY

## 32BJ TheaterWorks!

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 7.00pm

***Joe's First Day (Ever)***

by Carlos Cotto

***Reunion***

by Peter Mergel

***Rewards of Our Sins***

by Emmanuel Sefa

***Apt. 5***

by Julian Pimiento

***World's Sexiest Handyman***

by Michael D. O'Hara

***Spared Change***

by Carlos Cotto

***Player of the Week***

by Peter Mergel

***One Evening***

by Martha Galphin

***The New Golden Age***

by Michael D. O'Hara

Directed by **Joe Roland**

with **David King, Rachel Zeiger-Haag, and Johnny Zito**

Stage Manager: **Sarah Levine**



The actors and playwrights of 32BJ TheaterWorks! (above) and DC37 TheaterWorks! Group B (below)



## DC37 TheaterWorks!

### GROUP A

Monday, June 9, 2014 at 7.00pm

***The Move***

by Theodocia Haley

***Sacrifice***

by Susan Decker

***Miranda and the Monster***

by Nick Bruzese

***Dusk 2 Dawn***

by Debora Welch

***Foreign Service***

by Emily Garcia

***The Elevator***

by Millie Cupeles-Currier

***Works in Progress***

by Guy E. Nichols

***Watching You***

by deb Spicciatie

***The Auction***

by Janet Connor

### GROUP B

Monday, June 16, 2014 at 7.00pm

***A Second Chance***

by Michael Henschel

***Marlene's Dilemma***

by Pat Ward

***Win, Study, Stretch***

by Sheena Holland

***Storm***

by Claire Reeve

***The Way We Were***

by Bella Yarmolnik

***Lotto***

by Clothilda Higgs

***Craig and Claire***

by Craig Joshua

***Who Do You Love***

by Shennita Jeter

Directed by **Joe White** and **David Smilow**

with **Carlo Alban, Benton Greene,**

**Nedra McClyde, and Marilyn Torres**

Stage Manager: **Sarah Haber**

# Working Theater's 2014 ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

honored **Joseph Berardo, Jr.**, CEO and President, MagnaCare  
and **Peter Ward**, President, New York Hotel Trades Council  
for bridging the gap between the arts, labor, and community

on **Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014** at **Sardi's Restaurant**  
and featured cocktails, dinner, dessert, a Silent Auction,  
and a special performance of excerpts from *Pump Boys and Dinettes*

## VIP Tables

Allied Trades Union Local 1	
Local 6, UNITE-HERE	Empire BlueCross BlueShield
New York Hotel Trades Council	OPEIU & Local 153
Belluck and Fox	Pitta & Giblin LLP

## Patron Tables

Armao LLP	Newmark Grubb Knight Frank
IBEW Local 3	ULLICO Management Company
Joseph Berardo	

## Tickets and Ads

Administrative Services Only, Inc. • Allied Printing Trades Council • Aria Insurance Brokerage, Inc. • Association of Benefit Administrators • Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers (ATPAM) • BALCONY • Bill Henning • Bob Arcaro • Cement and Concrete Workers Local 20 • Connie Grappo • Construction & General Building Laborers' Local 79 • Council of School Supervisors and Administrators • CWA Local 1104 • DC 37 • DC9, IUPAT • Durkin & Durkin LLP • Eleanor Tilson • Elizabeth Tejada • Ernst and Young • Hotel Association of NYC, Inc. • IUOE Local 14-14B • IUOE Local 68 • IUOE Local Union 94 • Jonathan Kay • JP Morgan • Kane Kessler, P.C. • Levy Ratner, P.C. • Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW • Local 372, NYC Board of Education Employees • Local 802 AFM • M.D. Sass Associates, Inc. • M3 Technology • Marco Consulting Group • Marvin and Evelyn Jones Rich • Ma-Yi Theater Company • Michael Lagalante • Morgan Stanley • National Labor and Management Conference • New York State Iron Workers District Council • Norman and Sandy Reisman • Pat Harris • Peter Bernstein • Rampart Group • Robert Lichterman • SEIU Local 32B/J • Sheet Metal Workers Local 137 • Sheet Metal Workers Local 25 • Sony Salvador • SSEU Local 371 • Stacey Braun Associates, Inc • Stanley and Gloria Plesent • Teamsters Local 210 • Teamsters Local 237 • Teamsters Local 701 • UWVA Local 1-2 • Willig, Williams & Davidson

## Silent Auction Donors

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Above, left: 2014 Annual Awards Ceremony honors Peter Ward (left) and Joseph Berardo, Jr. (right)  
Photos by Bobby Plasencia



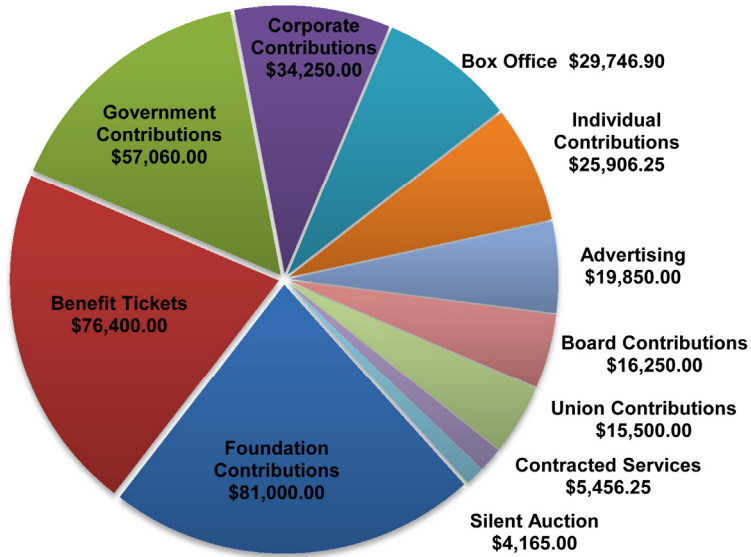


# FINANCES

## The Working Theatre Co., Inc. July 2013 to June 2014

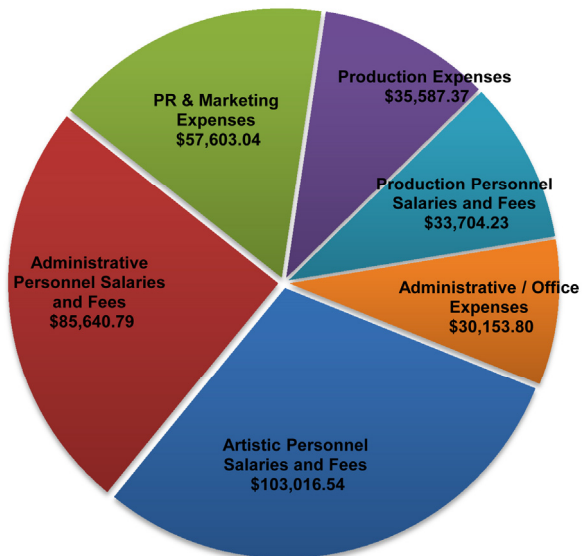
### INCOME

Foundation Contributions	\$81,000.00
Benefit Tickets	\$76,400.00
Government Contributions	\$57,060.00
Corporate Contributions	\$34,250.00
Box Office	\$29,746.90
Individual Contributions	\$25,906.25
Advertising	\$19,850.00
Board Contributions	\$16,250.00
Union Contributions	\$15,500.00
Contracted Services	\$5,456.25
Silent Auction	\$4,165.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$365,584.40</b>



### EXPENSES

Artistic Personnel Salaries & Fees	\$103,016.54
Administrative Personnel Salaries and Fees	\$85,640.79
Production Personnel Salaries & Fees	\$33,704.23
PR & Marketing Expenses	\$57,603.04
Production Expenses	\$35,587.37
Administrative / Office Expenses	\$30,153.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$345,705.77</b>



# SUPPORTERS

**Working Theater is extremely grateful to all of the individuals, foundations,  
and companies that have supported our 29th Season!**

List for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

## Platinum Sponsor

MagnaCare

## Gold Sponsors

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21st Century ILGWU Heritage Fund

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## Angels (\$2500+)

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William Diederich	Thelma L. Markowitz	and Joan F. Duddy	Stefanie Zdravec
Nancy Doyle	Anthony Marzani	Judith Sloan	



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Jordan Fox  
Arthur French  
Frank Goldsmith

Connie Grappo  
Pat Judah Harris  
Lavender Rouzier  
Eleanor Tilson  
José Vargas  
Roslyn Yasser

## Working Theater STAFF

**Mark Plesent:** Producing Artistic Director

**Nicholas Betito:** General Manager

**Adam Thompson:** Development Consultant

**Joe Roland and Joseph White:** Educational Program Directors

**Rebecca Martinez, Dina Vovsi, & Nicole Watson:** Directors Salon Curators

## SPECIAL THANKS

to our friends and volunteers who donated their time and resources this season:

**Cheryl Asher, Rodger Belknap, Sarah Levine, Rebecca Martinez,  
Zack Moody, Laura Carbonell Smith, Dina Vovsi, and Susan Wilson**

Working Theater is a member of the **Alliance of Resident Theatres / New York**,  
the service organization for New York City's non-profit off- and off-off-Broadway theaters,  
and **Theatre Communications Group**

Working Theater's programs are sponsored in part by public funds from  
**the New York State Council on the Arts**,  
with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature  
and **the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs**,  
in partnership with the City Council



Major institutional funding provided by  
**the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New York Theater Program**,  
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the **Shubert Foundation**,  
and the **21<sup>st</sup> Century ILGWU Heritage Fund**.



2014 subsidized rehearsal studio space provided by  
the **A.R.T. / New York Creative Space Grant**,  
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State of the Arts





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