

THE RUBY SUNRISE

by Rinne Groff

Directed by Michael Jaeger

**pacific
stages**

presents The Salon Staged Readings

Producer
Jeryll W Adler

Artistic Advisors
Brendon Fox & Michael Jaeger

Associate Producer
Jelayne Miles

Cast of Characters
in order of appearance

Ruby/Elizabeth Hunter Megan Austin Oberle
Henry/Paul Benjamin..... Russell Soder
Lois/Ethel Reed Sandy Martin
Lulu Linnea Pyne
Tad Rose Speed Weed
Martin Marcus Joe Spano
Suzie Tyrone Rebecca Mozo

Sandy Martin was a founding member of the WPA and Perry St Theatre. As an invited director to the Academy of Dramatic Arts/LA she formed the Hothouse Stage Co.. Their production *Of Welcome To Andromeda* ran off-B'way and at the Matrix. Other work at Hothouse includes *The Killing Of Sister George* which won Best Revival / L.A Weekly Awards. *High Times: Prairie Ave.* with Ed Harris, Ensemble Studio Theatre/NYC/LA. *Joan & The Zulu's* opposite Grace Zebriskie at the Cast Theatre. Award winning, *Hothouse* by Megan Terry - Matrix Theatre. *The Juiceman Commeth*, The Showtime One-Acts at the Met. *Rinoceros* at the Odyssey. TV and Film credits include *Southern Comfort*, *CSI NY*, *Nip/Tuck*, *Desperate Housewives*, Tom Hanks's new film, *The Great Buck Howard*, and indie megahit *Napoleon Dynamite*. As an Associate Producer, Sandy enjoyed a 10 yr. relationship with Mocesuma Esparza & Bob Katz during their renowned productions of *Milagro Bean Field Wars*, *Gettysburg* and *Selena*, and she recently spent four years as the President of Edward James Olmos' Co. at ABC.

Megan Austin Oberle recently played Lydia Lubey in *All My Sons* at the Geffen Theatre. Regional theatre credits include: the roles of Kit and Shona in *Top Girls*, Nora in *Sixteen Wounded* and Julia in *Pack of Lies* with LA Theatre Works, and various plays with The Company Rep; Taper Too; Berkeley Rep., Baltimore's Center Stage; Milwaukee Rep., Appletree Theatre, Lifeline Theatre and the St. Croix Festival Theatre. Television and film credits include *E.R.*, *Six Feet Under*, *Sex, Love & Secrets*, *the 70's*, *Ping* and *Ball Lightning*.

Linnea Pyne is an MFA graduate of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Linnea began her acting career working in various Shakespeare Festivals on both coasts; her favorite roles including Juliet in *R&J* at The California Shakespeare Festival and Titania in *A Midsummer Nights Dream* for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. She has appeared in many national commercials as well as Off-Off Broadway, Off-Broadway and Fringe Festival shows here and abroad and has a penchant for theatre that is a little left of center. She and her husband of nine years, director Michael Jaeger, have joyfully created two successful productions together and hope to continue their working relationship when their two wonderful daughters enter the fast paced world of kindergarten.

Rebecca Mozo is from Warren, NJ and graduated with a BFA from Rutgers University. She recently played Anya in *The Cherry Orchard* opposite Annette Bening and Alfred Molina and played Cassandra in the American Premiere of *I Capture the Castle* directed by Cameron Watson. She stars in the new comedy *Zerophilia* that will be in theatres October 20th and is thrilled to be a part of this reading of this wonderful play.

Russell Soder is a member of the Antaeus company. He is happy to be a guest artist at Pacific Stages. His recent appearances are as Robin in *Prince Poupon Needs a Wife* directed by Brendon Fox, Bobby in *American Buffalo* with Tony Amendola and Joe Spano, Father Kieran O'Reilly in Dakin Matthews award winning play *Prince of L.A.* and Jack McCall in *True History and Real Adventures* directed by Michael Mayer. His recent television credits include Trey Hinton in *Without a Trace*, PVT Berg in *ER* and Jeff in *Medical Investigation*.

Joe Spano* starred for 7 years, and won the Emmy, for his role as Lt. Henry Goldblume on the television series *Hill Street Blues*. He has also starred on the series *Mercy Point*, *Amazing Grace*, *Murder One* and *NYPD Blue*, in 20 made for TV films and guest-starred on 37 TV series. For three years he has played FBI Agent Tobias Fornell on *Navy:NCIS*. Joe has also appeared in 27 feature films, including *Hart's War*, *Apollo Thirteen* and the just released *Hollywoodland*. A native of San Francisco, and a graduate of the University of California, he is a classically trained stage actor with experience in improvisational comedy. He debuted on Broadway in the Roundabout Theatre revival of Arthur Miller's *The Price*, nominated for a Tony for Best Revival. West Coast credits include David Mamet's *American Buffalo*, for which he was awarded an LA Drama Critics Circle Award. He and Joan Zerrien are the parents of 11 year old Liana Clare Xiaohe Spano and 7 year old Meili Qing Spano.

Speed Weed is a playwright and television writer. His play *Errorism* was a finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in 2003. He most recently wrote for the TNT paramedic drama *Saved*.

Actors appear courtesy of Actor's Equity Association - * Member of Pacific Stages Artists Company.



The Salon Series

September 24th, 2006
El Segundo High School Recital Hall

The Event Committee
Jeryll W. Adler, Executive Director, Pacific Stages
Karen & Tom Ackland
Sherry & Ian Kramer
Kelly McDowell, Mayor of El Segundo
Jelayne Miles, Associate Producer
Mim Eichler Rivas
Karol & Greg Shrodes
Cindy & John Smet
Melinda & John Watson
April & Gary Wayland

Our September Salon will feature **THE RUBY SUNRISE** by Rinne Groff. Set against the birth and promise of television, this is the story of a young woman named Ruby, who in 1927 struggles to realize her dream of inventing and perfecting the first all-electrical television system. Twenty-five years later during the Golden Age of television, her daughter faces similar battles of will and crises of faith as she works to get Ruby's story told on network TV.

With a World Premiere produced by Trinity Rep and the Actors Theatre of Louisville for the 2004 Humana Festival of New American Plays, this eloquent and whimsical story of struggle, moral crisis and triumph was commissioned by Playwrights Horizons with funds provided by the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Commissioning Program and developed with assistance from the Sundance Institute. The work had its New York Premiere at The Public Theatre in November of 2005.

Rinne Groff is a playwright and performer. Her plays, including **JIMMY CARTER WAS A DEMOCRAT**, **ORANGE LEMON EGG CANARY**, **INKY**, **THE FIVE HYSTERICAL GIRLS THEOREM**, and **THE RUBY SUNRISE**, have been produced by the Public Theater, Trinity Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, PS122, Target Margin, Clubbed Thumb, and Andy's Summer Playhouse, among others. Ms. Groff is a founding member of Elevator Repair Service Theater Company and has been a part of the writing, staging, and performing of their shows, both in the US and on European tour, since the company's inception in 1991. A recipient of the Whiting Writers Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship, Ms. Groff was trained at Yale University and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts

Our director, Michael Jaeger directed Laura Shamas' **MOLIERE IN LOVE** for Pacific Stages last spring, and is currently directing **MANSFIELD PARK** at USC. Recent credits include workshops of Dan O'Brien's **THE DEAD DEPORTEE** and **KEY WEST** at the Black Dahlia Theatre in Los Angeles, and staged readings of Ian McCrudden's **MAN OF THE HOUSE** at Ars Nova in New York (with Tony winner Blair Brown) and at the Old Globe in San Diego. Michael also directed the second national tour of Broadway's **JEKYLL & HYDE**, Circle X's Ovation Award-nominated world premiere of **FATHERS AND SONS** in LA, Shaw's **THE PHILANDERER** in NYC, and regional productions of **BETRAYAL** and **AMERICAN BUFFALO**, among others, and spent three summers directing at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. He has worked as an associate director for Jack O'Brien, Nicholas Martin, Mark Brokaw, David Warren, and John Tillinger on and off-Broadway and is also an occasional screenwriter/story consultant and a graduate of Yale University.

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A very special thanks to all who have donated their hard work and heart to this Salon series, and to the wonderful actors and directors who have so graciously shared their talent.
We applaud your vision and generosity.

We also thank Melanie & Richard Lundquist, and Continental Development Corporation. You are home to our dreams, and an exceptional example of the best our community has to offer.

We welcome you all.

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