

REPartee

A Publication of the Ferndale Repertory Theatre

OCTOBER 2007

VOL. XII, No. 2



ENGAGE • EDUCATE • EXCITE

**FERNDALE
REPERTORY
THEATRE**

Three Performances Only!
October 19, 20, 21

Holmes & Watson

Live from London!

Direct from 221B Baker Street, London (home of the Sherlock Holmes Museum), Stewart Quentin Holmes and John Barrett Watson bring to life the great detective, Sherlock Holmes, and his indispensable assistant, Dr. Watson, more than 100 years after they were created by the mystery writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Arguably the most famous literary detective of all time, Sherlock Holmes was known for his intellectual prowess and use of strict deductive reasoning. The character is thought to be based upon Dr. Joseph Bell, one of Conan Doyle's professors at the University of Edinburgh, while the character of Dr. Watson was likely based upon Conan Doyle himself.

Some sixty stories feature the Holmes and Watson duo, from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" to "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons."

This modern Holmes & Watson have been portraying the famous duo for many years at the official Sherlock Holmes Museum. Their encyclopedic knowledge of the Holmes literature allows them to steep their audience in the Holmes legend and in the Victorian age in which it is set. Be sure to join us for an "Elementary!" evening.

For tickets, call the box office at 786-5483.

Art From The Hart Gallery

Features the Work of

Karen Merry

September 24 - November 11

Karen Merry's eclectic watercolor and pen & ink drawings include a mix of flower, wildlife, tide pool, "junkyard" paintings and more, in a variety of styles.

Saturday, Nov. 3



Earl Thomas and the True Gospel Singers

With one of the most expressive and original voices in contemporary music, award winning singer, songwriter, and recording artist, Earl Thomas presents *The Gospel According...* a concert celebrating his roots in southern gospel music on Saturday, November 3, at 8 p.m. at The Ferndale Repertory Theatre in downtown Ferndale. With vocal trio, The True Gospel Singers, and bay area guitarist Anthony Paule, Earl Thomas will debut what he calls "the most important music of my career."

For more than a decade Earl Thomas has remained a unique and authentic performer, exploring fresh musical avenues that have taken him from the simplicity of acoustic-driven Delta Blues to the embrace of Rock, Soul, Rhythm & Blues and Jazz. But his latest recorded work *Plantation Gospel* is a collection of Old Negro Spirituals "recorded with instruments one would have actually found on the plantation" representing not only his musical roots but also his deep connection to his ancestry.

Earl Thomas on stage at the Rep is always SRO. Call the box office today to reserve your tickets!

• ANNUAL MEETING •

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

6:00pm at the Ferndale Rep

Please note meeting time. It was incorrectly published in the last issue of REPartee

The Ferndale Repertory Theatre will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at the theatre, 447 Main Street in Ferndale. Please plan on joining us for this important meeting.

EDitorial Comments

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First may I say, “Thank you” to all those who expressed their sympathy to me for the loss of my father. I so appreciate your kind words and it is because of your friendship and compassion that I take heart and am able to focus on the things that need to be done.

The 2007-2008 season has begun and I am so excited about the new things that are happening at the Rep. How do you like the showcase idea? It is a new venture for us, and we’re hoping that you will like having several innovative and entertaining shows to pick from to highlight your fall’s viewing pleasure. Jeff DeMark is a wonderful story teller and we are thinking of having him back with another one of his shows on renovating an old Victorian. It is supposed to be hilarious! Camera Shrapnel is so new and also exciting. Their multi-media show, combining film and live theatre, is fascinating and I can’t wait to see it. The Holmes and Watson weekend should also be one of a kind. One of our Board members was able to see their performance in London and said they were great, so, being a mystery person myself, I look forward to catching their act! Our collaboration with KHUM for the live radio broadcast on Halloween may really take hold and we’ll continue through the year with several more. Actors like radio dramas because of the smaller commitment level, and, of course there’s no memorization! And, it’s fun to watch how the radio foley artists did it and to be a part of the live “studio” audience. And then there is Earl Thomas—what a performer he is! If you have not seen this man on stage, this is a definite! This time he is bringing with him three singers from the Interfaith Gospel Choir as a backup for his gospel set. He says his show will be a mixture this year... “...a little bit of everything.”

We close ‘07 with *Charlotte’s Web*, a touching story of friendship and love – perfect family fare for the holidays. I hope you’ll plan to see it with your loved ones and friends. I will write about the upcoming ‘08 shows

later.

We have also done some remodeling. Have you noticed the new paint job for the front of the theatre? Pretty spiffy! The gallery has a new look too; check out the wonderful artists who grace our gallery for each show. And our Board President, Carolyn Jones and Matt Knowles of Aesthetic Design have made remarkable progress on our web site. If you haven’t seen it, go to www.ferndale-rep.org and take a peak. There’s lots of information on display in a user-friendly format. The web renovation is still going on, so bookmark the site and check it often for new things and answers to your questions!

If you are familiar with the upstairs sound and light booth, you will not recognize it! Gary Franklin (Technical Director) and Jim Berry (new Board member) have collaborated and remodeled the booth. With donations of cabinets and work tables from Open Door Community Health Centers, the booth now sports a new paint job with cleaned and organized technical equipment. We have also moved into the digital sound arena...no more CDs or tapes, which means, faster and accurate sound bytes for our shows!

Last, but certainly, not least, is a new position at the theatre...something I have been searching for since I took this job 11 years ago! As you may realize, this theatre runs on volunteers! We couldn’t make it with out them. Nanette Heidtman and Board VP, Trisha Stanley, are the new Volunteer Coordinators! They have so many great ideas for our worthy volunteers, including training orientations, Theatre Talks following the first matinees throughout the season that will be Q&As with cast, crew, director, and designers, and recognition awards for volunteer services. They will also be taking a load off the staffs’ hands by finding and connecting with new and long-time volunteers for ushering, ticket taking, house managing, and concessions. It is such a big job and these women are on top of it!

I think I have to stop now as I’m sure I am running out of room! Isn’t it exciting though? There is still time to get your season tickets and see the showcases and the many great things lined up for you this season. It is definitely *Entertainment Worth Experiencing!* See you at the Rep!

MARILYN MCCORMICK

RepFest 2008! Planning Committee At Work for March 2008 Event!

The Planning Committee for the next RepFest is already meeting and beginning to look for sub-committees to work on the many aspects of this exciting event. The theme is Broadway Bound, and once again Celebrity Waiters will be leading the charge. Curley’s is catering and ticket orders are beginning to come in. If you are interested in being a part of RepFest, please call Trish at 764-3901 or the Rep at 786-5483.

Board of Directors

Carolyn Jones, *President* • Patricia Stanley, *Vice President*
Isobel Berry, *Secretary* • Vikki Young, *Treasurer*
Jim Berry • Kay Cohn • Renee Grinnell
Bruce Keller • Jenny Oaks • Dorothy Swendeman

HALLOWEEN NIGHT DRACULA

Live Radio Show on stage at the Rep!

What better way to celebrate Halloween than with a classic thriller featuring the Prince of Darkness? Join us at the Ferndale Rep as we recreate the Dracula tale for live broadcast on KHUM Radio on Halloween night, October 31st, starting at 7:30pm. We will use Orson Welles' adaptation of the Bram Stoker classic *Dracula*, broadcast in July 1938 as the first show produced by the Mercury Theatre of the Air. For reservations to join our LIVE studio audience, call (707) 786-5483. Ticket price is \$5.00 and costumes are encouraged!

The Rep's production director, Gary Franklin, has created a vivid, intense broadcast of Orson Welles' Mercury Theatre production. Franklin's conception remains close to the style and spirit of the Bram Stoker novel, "Dracula", and to the radio adaptation created by Welles. The show chronicles the vampire's journey from Transylvania to London where he seeks the human blood that he needs to remain alive, while Dr. Seward and Dr. Van Helsing struggle to destroy him and free the world of his horrific power.

Performing in the mode of the Golden Age of live radio, the players stand in front of microphones on a stage, flanked by sound-effects specialists. The cast includes: Victor Howard as Seward, Jim Berry as Harker, Dracula is Jim Buschmann, Van Helsing is Nikolai Kossatkin, Lucy is Shari Damron-Billy, Mina is played by Queena DeLany and Gary Franklin takes on the minor roles of the Announcer, Drivers, and Sea Captain.

Why come to the theatre when you can stay home and listen on the radio? In this production, since we are using the classic techniques of radio theatre, they are fun to watch! Watch our foley artist, Daniel L. Lawrence, use strange everyday objects to make the sounds that you hear in the radio show. Watch the director and sound technician work with the actors to put the show together in real time.

For more information and tickets, please call the Rep at (707) 786-5483.

SEASON TICKETS & FLEX PASSES

**Make Fabulous Gifts!
Shop at the Rep and Save
While Supporting the Arts
in your community!**

JACK MAYS CARDS NOW ON SALE AT THE REP

The Rep is pleased to announce that Ferndale artist Jack Mays has joined the many fine artists whose greeting and gift cards are available at the Art from the Hart Gallery. Jack is known for his colored pencil depictions of Ferndale's architectural delights.

Other artists whose work may be found at the Gallery include: Julia Bednar • Elaine Benjamin • Douglas Blair Diane Caudillo • Leslie Ferguson • Susan Fox • Libby George • Kay Harden • Carolyn Jones • Tom Jones • Joyce Jonte • Yvonne Kern • Matt Knowles • Karen Merry • Claire Iris Schencke • Patricia Sennott • Dorothy Swendeman • Dan Tubbs

Meet our Volunteer Coordinator

We have exciting news to report! In our last newsletter, we noted that one of the Board's goals for the coming year was to improve how we work with our volunteers—to do a better job of outlining what we need, matching individuals to the right roles, and providing resources and training so that everyone has a good time while helping The Rep.

We have taken a quantum leap in this direction with the appointment of Nanette Heidtman as our new Volunteer Coordinator, ably assisted by Patricia Stanley, our Vice President. Some of you will remember Nanette from *The Sound of Music*. Well, she has graciously agreed to trade in her habit for this new role. She will be organizing the front of house volunteers starting with *Holmes and Watson*, and will be investigating other ways to match volunteers to The Rep's needs.

One of her first projects was to hold an orientation session on Saturday, October 13th. Intended for new volunteers, but equally helpful to those who have been with us for years. Nanette will outline the different front of house job duties, and—very importantly—go over safety and emergency procedures for the theatre (do you know where the fire extinguishers are located? Do you know where all of the emergency exits are?). These orientation sessions, which will take place on a scheduled Saturday morning before the opening of each production (check out the calendar on our website for exact dates), will also be an opportunity for veteran volunteers to share their knowledge about the types of problems that come up, and how to solve them (What do you do when two patrons have the same seat? Or that reserved sign was misplaced? Or someone shows up with tickets for the wrong performance? Or that infant in the second row center won't stop crying? Or someone wants information about volunteering or auditioning?... you get the idea!).

Special thanks to Nanette and Patricia for taking on this monumental project.

Wish List

Last issue we published an abbreviated list of those items which we use often or that we need to keep it all going. Here is a more comprehensive list:

- **For the Scene Shop & Technical Booth •**

- 9V batteries for headsets • Lumber
- 4'x8' plywood sheets

- **For the Costume Department •**

- Hat blocks • Irons • Plastic Storage Bins
- Sewing supplies • Heavy brocade fabrics
- Quality sewing scissors • Laundry supplies
- Dryel for non-washable fabrics • Plastic hangers
- High quality vintage clothing (1950s or earlier)
 - Exotic or period costumes
 - New, unused tights, socks, pantyhose
 - Free-standing full-figure mannequins
 - Help with costume management

- **For the Office •**

- Copy paper, color or white, letter or 11x17 size
 - Office supplies: pens, post-it notes, etc.
- Good quality paper cutter • Folding machine
 - Large bulletin boards • A fax machine
 - External hard drive (100GB or larger)
 - Help with office work

- **For the Actors Dressing Room •**

- Wall Mounted First Aid Kit • Padded folding chairs
 - * Installation of a shower • Electric space heater
 - * Home style coffee maker • Toiletries
 - Sturdy portable clothes rack

- **For the Concessions Area •**

- Baked goods to sell • 8oz paper cups
- Help with concessions set-up and sales

- **For the Lobby & House •**

- Fresh Flowers & Arrangements
- Industrial-quality upright vacuum cleaner
- Brochure display stands • Self-stick Velcro
 - * Foamcore sheets for lobby displays
- * Volunteer to pick up our recyclables each week

- **For the Gallery •**

- Carpet cleaning

and a New Toilet for the men's bathroom

Please remember that the Rep is a non-profit arts organization and donations are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax codes. And thank you for your donations and support!

GOT COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

Email us at therep@humboldt1.com
We look forward to community input!

The Situation Room

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend of The Rep,

It has been a very busy month here at The Rep. As our long term patrons will recognize, this fall season has been rather unusual. Instead of one main production (which had to be cancelled because the director was unable to do the show), we scheduled a series of showcases, mostly one night only, hoping that a variety of shows would attract a range of different interests in our audience. It has been an interesting experiment, but not a particularly successful one.

We started out with the Wild Rivers Film Fest, which showcased a series of short films by northern California filmmakers. Then we hosted well-known local writer/actor Jeff DeMark, backed up by a great band and opened by Jerry Lee Wallace, for a family show about baseball. This was followed by the Los Angeles based Camera Shrapnel, an innovative and very funny group that combines film, theatre, improv and slam poetry. I saw all three shows. Each was of high quality. Each combined entertainment with worthwhile content—the artists had something to say about life and the human condition. I thoroughly enjoyed each of the shows, and they couldn't have been more different.

Unfortunately, very few people saw each of these shows. So, now, our job is to figure out why. Is it because there were too many other things going on (we do have a very rich arts community)? Is it because information about the shows didn't get out to the people who would be interested in them? Is it because the shows simply didn't appeal to anyone? Or is it that we didn't describe the shows well enough to convince you that you might enjoy them? If one or more of these shows were included in a season package, would you have been more likely to attend? Do you have any ideas about how we could do a better job in this area? We'd certainly like to hear them.

Of course, you still have 3 opportunities to see one (or more!) of our fall showcases. Coming this weekend, of course, is *Holmes & Watson*. Then, on Halloween Night, will be our performance of the Dracula Radio Show, to be broadcast live on KHUM. And, of course, Earl Thomas will be back on Nov 3 [this one reliably sells out, so get your tickets now!].

Hope to see you at all three! Thank you for your support of The Rep.

Carolyn Jones

DOWNWIND OF UPSTAGE Assorted Rep Rap

THE REP'S STAFF IS NETWORKING! Thanks to Ezequiel Sandoval, owner of Infinite Consulting Services in Eureka, we have all our computers on a network, enabling staff to use any of the five work stations now available. And did we mention two new printers? Wow! We've got color! We've got a printer you don't have to hand feed one page at a time! And we can print to either one from any computer. IT is happening at the Rep!

PHONE HOME Need to get in touch with Gary in the scene shop? How about Vikki in the costume department? What if there is someone backstage we need to contact? No problem! With telephones donated by Open Door Community Health Centers and installation by Stewart Communications, everyone is connected. EGAD! There's nowhere to hide!

NEW AT THE REP! Theatre Talks...

After each performance of *Holmes and Watson*, and after the Second Sunday matinee of each show in our 2007-8 season, Volunteer Coordinator Nanette Heidtman will host a theatre talk where members of the audience have an opportunity to meet members of the cast, crew and design team for the show, to learn more about the process of making theatre, and about the wonderful group of people that are involved. The talks are free, and should be very interesting! Check the website calendar for exact dates.



**GET
DRESSED
THIS HALLOWEEN
AT THE REP!**

**Costume Rentals at
Reasonable Rates!
Call for appointment!**

Look Great and Support the Arts!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Oct. 19-21

Holmes & Watson

Direct from London comes the world's most famous literary detective and his indispensable assistant to share three of Arthur Conan Doyle's classic tales.

Included in your Season Ticket!

See page one for details

Halloween! October 31

DRACULA RADIO SHOW

Be part of the studio audience as KHUM broadcasts live from the Rep!

Nov. 3 • 8pm Curtain

The Incomparable

Earl Thomas

and The True Gospel Singers

Nov. 15 - Dec. 16

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

E.B. White's Classic Tale of Love and Friendship

Dec. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 • 10am

The Party

The Mad Hatter gives a Tea Party and learns some manners along the way!

Included in your Season Ticket!

Repartee is Published by
Ferndale Repertory Theatre
447 Main St. • P.O. Box 892
Ferndale, CA 95536 • (707) 786-5483
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Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 22
Ferndale, CA 95536

Holmes & Watson
Oct. 19-21 • 3 Shows only!



WHAT'S INSIDE?



October 19-21 • Three Performances!

HOLMES & WATSON

Live from London!

• Art from the Hart Gallery •

ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 24

• **Assorted Rep Rap** •

• **COMING ATTRACTIONS** •

Earl Thomas at the Rep
Volunteer Coordinator
RepFest 08
and more!