



**PRESENT**  
their  
**First Staged Reading of**  
**NEW WORKS**

by

J. Michael Beech, Heather Boggs,  
Darryl Freedman, Phil Lowden, Nicole Noel,  
Lydia Sbityakov, and Laurel M. Wetzork

June 7, 2008, 3:00 p.m.,  
Herbert Young Community Center, Cary, NC

thanks to the Town of Cary and the Cary Players  
for their support and sponsorship!

## Moderator's Notes

Linda Depo, Lydia Sbityakov, and I discussed the formation of the Cary Playwrights Forum after meeting last year during the Cary Player's production of *Twain by the Tracks*. After discussions and meetings, we started the Cary Playwrights' Forum in early 2008 with a group of writers. We hoped to provide local and aspiring playwrights with the opportunity to hone their craft in a supportive and educational environment, build relationships with the talented acting and theatrical community, and, one of the most fun parts of writing a play -- see local playwrights' works performed. After months of writing and rewriting, we are delighted to share our resultant one-act plays and selected scenes from full-length plays with you, our audience. Seventeen talented actors have spent time and study to help bring our words to life.

Writing is hard work. The words and scenes come to life for the playwright only with the assistance of actors, directors, and an audience. Is there laughter where there should be laughter? Are there tears where there should be tears? These are all important insights that the playwright gains when their words, often written in a silent lonely room, come to life.

Why write plays? Plays and their stories reflect the range of human experience. We all need, as humans, to hear this range of stories. We need stories to help us make sense of our world, its past and present, its trials, and our humanity. We need stories so that we can make our way into the future. There is a strong need in all writers to communicate and bind others in that storytelling experience -- into a sense of community -- so the audience becomes community -- a family. And with a history thousands of years old and theater still an important part of so many people's lives, it is important to nurture the writers, actors, and directors in our midst. We hope to continue the forum in the Fall, and to build in the community a strong storytelling tradition for the future. We are delighted that you have come to share in the excitement of our first staged reading, and hope that you will return again in the late fall for our next!

Laurel M. Wetzork, moderator

**Cary Playwrights Forum**  
1<sup>st</sup> Staged Reading of New Works  
June 7, 2008

directed by Laurel M. Wetzork  
assistant director Phil Lowden  
camera by Darryl Freedman  
thanks to Linda Depo

Ruby Red and the Secret Pelican.....by Phil Lowden

Tip and Change.....by Lydia Sbityakov

The Guest Room.....by Darryl Freedman

Irish Mists.....by Laurel M. Wetzork

The Happy Prince.....by J. Michael Beech

INTERMISSION  
(15 minutes)

Ratbirds.....by Nicole Noel

Concert Date.....by Heather Boggs

Fishing.....by Lydia Sbityakov

Kitchen Theatre.....by Laurel M. Wetzork

This is Your Stop.....by Phil Lowden

Please take the time to give us your impressions  
in the intermission handout. Thank you!

## CAST and SYNOPSIS

### Ruby Red and the Secret Pelican

by Phil Lowden

The death of cantankerous old Lloyd Dobbs lands the Wells and Dobbs families in trouble. Instead of leaving his sought-after land to his own children, Lloyd has left secret instructions to his neighbor and friend, Anne Wells, to dispose of his property as she sees fit. Anne's husband Jack, sure the Dobbs' land will go to the Dobbs' children, has secret plans of his own. Colorful characters with colorful secrets add to the confusion as the Wells' marriage is strained to the breaking point.  
(drama, scene from full-length play by Phil Lowden)

Narrator.....	Mary Ann Freedman
Anne Wells.....	Colleen Ann Guest
Jack Wells.....	John Wetzork
Bridget Dobbs.....	Angela Lowden
Royce Llewellyn.....	Jerry Ziemann
Abby Rose Hankins.....	Alison Davis
Marshall "Poke" Hankins.....	Del Flack
Millie Vanderberg.....	Joyce Davis
Hollis Dobbs.....	Jaret Preston
Chris Williams.....	K. Sridhar
Jamie Youngblood.....	Kimberly Morris

### Tip and Change

by Lydia Sbityakov

When MFA student Mary Walker and her fiancé, Mark Davis, begin a celebratory dinner at a small restaurant, they run into more than they bargain for -- a waitress with an attitude, a mysterious stranger at the bar, and the challenging question -- how much are you willing to give up for love? (comedy, short one-act play)

Narrator.....	Annah Michaux
Mary "Scout" Walker.....	Noelle Barnard
Mark Davis.....	Jaret Preston
Rev. Eli Jeremiah Walker.....	Del Flack
Thelma Starr, waitress.....	Dot Boulia

**The Guest Room**  
by Darryl Freedman

Hy and Lil have an uneasy peace after fifty-five years of marriage. They've moved into a smaller condo and Hy, who promised to get rid of his 'stuff,' must defend himself against Lil's constant nagging. Lil's memory isn't the best and her fears come to the surface when their son Rich arrives for a visit. In this poignant, slice-of-life scene -- life, stuff, family, and the past as viewed through a semi-rosy lens are all examined. (short one-act play)

Narrator.....	Colleen Ann Guest
Hy.....	Jerry Zieman
Lil.....	Annah Michaux
Rich, their son.....	John Wetzork

**Irish Mists**  
by Laurel M. Wetzork

At the urging of her beloved step-father, outspoken underground rock singer Pearl O'Conner returns to Ireland to reconcile with her mother and make peace with her sisters -- only Pearl returns to find her step-father dead, her mother seriously confused, and her sisters entrenched in denial. The family struggles to keep their unique web of reality intact as deeply held secrets surface, and the mists surrounding their hidden past are revealed. (mature themes, selection from the full-length play)

Narrator.....	Jeri McKee
Pearl O'Connell.....	Noelle Barnard
Eileen O'Connell.....	Nicola Lefler
Kay (O'Connell) Murray.....	Colleen Ann Guest
Tom Murray.....	Del Flack
Mary (O'Connell) Pierce.....	Angela Lowden
Eamon Pierce.....	Phil Lowden
Brendan O'Neill.....	John Wetzork

**The Happy Prince**  
by J. Michael Beech

Are things what they seem? Swaying reeds, statues that come to life, birds that fly, serious and not-so-serious students speak, as romance and much more occur in this whimsical scene. An imaginative journey that transports one to another world.  
(based on the short stories of Oscar Wilde)

Narrator.....	Phil Lowden
Player 1 (also Swallow).....	Noelle Barnard
Player 2.....	Alison Davis
Player 3.....	Angela Lowden
Player 4.....	Dot Boulia
Player 5 (also Mother).....	Nicola Lefler
Player 6 (also Statue/Prince).....	Jaret Preston
Player 7 (also Little Boy).....	K. Sridhar
Player 8 (also beautiful Girl).....	Kimberly Morris
Player 9 (also Lover).....	Joyce Davis
Player 10.....	Jeri McKee

INTERMISSION  
(15 minutes)

**Ratbirds**  
by Nicole Noel

After the sudden and inexplicable drowning of their mother, estranged Jameson siblings, Sarah, Jamie, and Jaci, meet after the funeral to decide the fate of their youngest and possibly autistic sibling, Jack. Long-time neighbors and family friends join them, raising questions about their mother's death, and then their father's suicide years before. Secrets and lies bubble to the surface in this dramatic selection from Nicole Noel's full-length play. (drama, mature themes)

Narrator.....	Nicola Lefler
Jaci Jameson.....	Alison Davis
Jamie Jameson.....	John Wetzork
Jack Jameson.....	Jaret Preston
Sarah Jones.....	Jeri McKee
David Jones.....	Phil Lowden
Mrs. Mary Lewis.....	Mary Ann Freedman
Mr. Edgar Lewis.....	Jerry Ziemann
Richard Parks.....	K. Sridhar

**Concert Date**  
by Heather Boggs

In this tangled bedroom scene from the full-length play, beautiful young Torry hides her insecurities in place with a fragile barrier of confidence and an inability to not tell the truth about her feelings and thoughts. She's just broken up with her boyfriend, and, after a wild concert and too much booze, wakes up to find herself with Nick. Nick, a slightly incoherent bumbler, is a romantic at heart. It's not clear whether the young couple will survive their own personalities in their search for love and romance in this bittersweet and at times caustic scene. (mature themes)

Narrator.....Dot Boulia  
Torry.....Noelle Barnard  
Nick.....Jaret Preston

**Fishing**  
by Lydia Sbityakov

Avid fisherman Bob refuses to attend an award ceremony for his wife of forty years, Helen, as he'd much rather go fishing with his friend, Joe, instead. The disappointed Helen attend the ceremony alone and drinks entirely too much. Later that night, Bob sees Helen returned to their home by a strange man who arranges the passed-out Helen suggestively on a chair. Helen looks, to say the least, as if she's had quite a busy night. The selected scene takes place the next morning. (dramedy, selected scene from full-length play)

Narrator.....Kimberly Morris  
Helen.....Dot Boulia  
Bob.....Jerry Zieman  
Joe.....Del Flack

**Kitchen Theatre**

by Laurel M. Wetzork

Futuristic dark-comedy. While on the air, agoraphobic Chef Alan Fieder discovers that his once popular cooking show "Kitchen Theatre" has been cancelled and replaced by two new reality shows, "Death by Motorcycle Crashes," and "Russian Roulette Live!!" In the scene to be performed, Alan faces a crucial decision after being tempted by TV network executives -- life or death. (Futuristic dark-comedy, mature themes, selection from full-length play)

Narrator.....	Mary Ann Freedman
Alan Feider.....	Del Flack
Gabrielle.....	Kimberly Morris
Enforcer One.....	Angela Lowden
Enforcer Two.....	Alison Davis
Medic One.....	K. Sridhar
Medic Two.....	Jeri McKee
News Announcer 6.....	K. Sridhar
News Announcer 5.....	Nicola Lefler
News Announcer 4.....	Joyce Davis
Speed Announcer.....	Colleen Ann Guest
Rebel News Announcer.....	Annah Michaux

**This is Your Stop**

by Phil Lowden

On a lonely industrial street, at a rarely used bus stop, two men who are apparently strangers meet. Francis awaits someone who's bringing him his new car while Chris . . . it's not clear what Chris wants, or is doing, or what will happen in this dramatic yet satisfyingly funny scene. (short one-act)

Narrator.....	Joyce Davis
Chris.....	John Wetzork
Francis.....	Jaret Preston

**THE CAST BIOGRAPHIES**  
**(alphabetical)**

**Noelle Barnard** is excited to be involved in the Cary Playwrights Forum 1st staged reading. Noelle has performed in many local productions and in over four shows with the Cary Players.

**Dot Boulia** is delighted to be participating in her first Cary Playwrights Forum production sponsored in part by the Cary Players. She'd glad to have lots of lines this time. She's pleased to be working with such a creative and talented bunch of people and is having loads of fun doing it. Dot lives in Cary with her wonderfully supportive husband, Larry, and her merry band of golden retrievers. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Alison Davis** is excited about being a part of the Cary Playwrights Forum first Staged Readings. This is a venue that allows the actor and playwright to work together. Also this forum provides an actor with several different roles to play. Alison has been involved with the Winston-Salem Little Theatre as well as Cary Players. She enjoys creating the characters and bringing them to life for others to see what life is like from someone else's window on the world.

**Joyce Davis** is thrilled to help give voice and presence to characters in these new plays. She knows many of the actors from doing performances and classes, has seen several in various plays, and is delighted to get to meet and work with the gifted actors who are new to her. This is a wonderful opportunity for both actors and playwrights and she commends the Cary Playwrights Forum for creating this venue.

**Del Flack** has been acting off and on for the past thirteen years and here locally for the past six. Most recently he was seen in The Cary Players production of *Don't Drink the Water*. Other credits include: *Epic Proportions*, *The Full Monty*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *1776*, *Into The Woods*, *Hello Dolly*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and more.

**Mary Ann Freedman** performed in Cary Players' *Love Bits and Bites 2008 -- Third Times the Charm*. Over the years she's played mothers, grandmothers, and frustrated maiden ladies. She sings with Durham Savoyards and entertains seniors with Chapel Hill's Village Revue. But her first role is that of wife of Darryl Freedman, making his playwriting debut today.

**Colleen Ann Guest** (Talent One) studied professional acting with Ellen Shepard (City of Oaks School of the Arts) and has a variety of credits which include stage, TV, film, corporate, print, and voice over. Stage credits include: *Love Bits & Love Bites 2006, 2007 & 2008, Red Herring, Acting Up and Down* (Cary Players), *The Odd Couple - female version* (Stillwater Theater), and *John Lennon and Me* (Raleigh Little Theater). Film credits include: *Pray and Pray 2: The Woods* (Cross Shadows Productions), and *6 Degrees of Desperation* (Josh Johnson). She also enjoys sharing her talents with the music and drama ministries at Providence Baptist Church. All credit goes to Jesus Christ, through whom all things are possible. Ephesians 1:16-19.

**Nicola Lefler** became interested in theatre, both onstage and off, in high school. She sensibly chose a college without a theatre major, but has not worked in her field of study anyway. Nicola then took off twenty years for good behavior before getting involved with Cary Players. She has enjoyed working on many of the Cary Players shows over the past five years.

**Angela Lowden** has been involved with Cary Players Community Theatre Company since 2005. She enjoys acting, taking photographs, artistic pursuits, and being around creative people. Thanks and love to Phil, Emily and Kelsey.

**Phil Lowden** (see playwrights also) has performed with the Cary Players after wondering what his wife was up to during 2005. He's enjoyed working with the Cary Players and is glad to have the chance to perform some of the new works showcased today.

**Jeri McKee** has most recently studied under Carnessa Ottelin, a dramatic teacher, through the Town of Cary's programs. Film experience includes work for Providence Baptist Church and Focus on the Family. She sings soprano in her church choir, has read for the Triangle Radio Reading Service, and had a puppet team for twelve years. Many thanks to Colleen for her constant encouragement and husband Bill for his support.

**Annah Michaux** returned to her native North Carolina six years ago, after living in Alabama and Georgia for forty years. Annah's previous acting experience has been with the Birmingham Festival Theater and The Birmingham Corporate Community Theater. Annah also served as Marketing Director (Birmingham Festival Theater) and was a founding members of the Birmingham Corporate Theater. She has portrayed Gertrude, Queen of Denmark in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Ethel P. Savage in *The Curious Savage*, and Evangeline Harcourt in *Anything Goes*.

**Kimberly Morris** was last seen in Cary Player's production of *Don't Drink the Water*. She is very excited to be a part of this wonderful project!

**Jaret Preston** can often be seen participating in Cary Players' productions. Most recently he was involved back stage during *Don't Drink the Water* and on stage with *Love Bits and Bites: Third Time's the Charm*. He does, however, share his attention with other companies as well doing shows such as *Urinetown* and *The Fully Monty* with Raleigh Little Theatre. Jaret was also a member of the 25th anniversary ensemble for Raleigh Ensemble Players. He would like to remind everyone to come see Cary Players' first musical EVER this fall, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown!* More information at [www.caryplayers.org](http://www.caryplayers.org).

**K. Sridhar** is delighted to be a part of this first ever reading of the Cary Playwrights and wishes them stupendous success and eternal springs of creativity.

**John Mark Wetzork** learned all about acting by watching the Monty Python "Gumbies" and sitting through countless engineering meetings. Seriously, he's had experience in film, theater, and the arts and would like to thank his wife Laurel for her love and support.

**Jerry Zieman** has appeared over the years in such various roles as Sidney in *Death Trap*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Rooster in *Annie*, Max in *The Sound of Music*, Ellyot in *Private Lives*, Animal in *Stalag 17*, and Alonso in *The Tempest*. Most recently he appeared as The Record Keeper and others in Jacob Marley's *Christmas Carol* with Actors Comedy Lab and as Samuel in *A Little Something for the Ducks* with the Cary Players.

**PLAYWRIGHTS BIOGRAPHIES**  
**(alphabetical)**

**Heather A. Boggs** (*Concert Date*) is the proud mother of two wonderful and busy daughters, Alissa (8) and Abby (4). She lives in Cary, NC and works full-time in the RTP as a Clinical Data Manager in the pharmaceutical business, writing during some of her rare free time. She has lived in the Raleigh area since 1977. Heather took creative writing courses as an undergraduate psychology student at UNC-Ch taught by Jill McCorkle and by Doris Betts and enjoyed them both immensely. Writing plays is new to Heather but she is enjoying the challenge and is thrilled to have fallen into Laurel's excellent tutelage.

**J. Michael Beech** (*The Happy Prince*) is no newcomer to the field of theatre. His plays have been seen recently at Wakefield High School, where he taught Theatre Arts for the past three years. He is taking a sabbatical from teaching to finish a commissioned Oscar Wilde project for the Raleigh Little Theatre Teens Onstage program. The finished play will be seen on the Raleigh Little Theatre stage in 2010. Other works include a modern adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, several Musical Revues, four screenplays, and seven other in-the-works projects. As an actor, J. Michael has appeared locally in shows at North Carolina Theatre, Raleigh Little Theatre, and Theatre in the Park. He's directed productions of *The Women*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Good Times are Killing Me*, *If They Could See Me Now*, and two years of *30 by 60* for Wakefield Theatre Company. As a choreographer, he's just won the North Carolina Theatre Capital Award "Best Choreography" for *Damn Yankees* at Wakefield High School. He is disappointed he can't be here to see the reading of his scene, as he is currently in Tallahassee, Florida choreographing a production of *Guys and Dolls* for Tallahassee Little Theatre. He wishes everyone the best in today's performance.

**Darryl Freedman** (*The Guest Room*) is an electronic engineer who is currently developing and selling animation software. Although he has been writing essays and producing community videos for a number of years, *The Guest Room* is his first foray into playwriting.

**Phil Lowden** (*Ruby Red and the Secret Pelican, This is Your Stop*) is a native of Kokomo, Indiana, and came to Cary with wife Angela and daughters Emily and Kelsey in 1998. He works for Cisco Systems in RTP as an engineer, has college degrees in English and computer science and engineering, and is an Air Force veteran. His first play, *Too Good To Be True*, debuted in the Cary Players *Love Bits and Bites: Third Times the Charm* production in 2008. He looks forward to being a part of future Triangle theatrical productions, and is grateful to the generous actors, playwrights, and moderators of the Cary Playwrights Forum.

**Nicole Noel** (*Ratbirds*) credits her interest in storytelling to growing up in a small Kansas town where everyone knows everything about everyone else and secrets are rarely kept. She graduated from Washburn University with degrees in journalism and political science, and has served in both the US Army and Navy. Ms. Noel has a teenage daughter, so consequently, she is keenly aware that none of her clothes are fashionable. Ms. Noel works as a technical writer. *Ratbirds* is her first full-length play.

**Lydia Sbityakov** (*Tip and Change, Fishing*) would like to thank the Town of Cary and Cary Players for supporting the Playwrights' Forum. Thanks to Dan for his support at home!

**Laurel Wetzork** (moderator) (*Irish Mists, Kitchen Theatre*) graduated from University of Southern California where she learned that lack of sleep was a prerequisite for film production majors. Laurel has produced, directed, and written theatrical plays, a feature film, many short films, and taught film production, film history, and screenwriting at the university level in California. She's coached actors, taught cold-reading techniques, and also acted in plays herself. Her artwork, plays, acting roles, and screenplays have won awards. Laurel is grateful for the support of Cary Players and the Town of Cary, and especially the talented actors and playwrights who are assisting with the 1<sup>st</sup> staged reading of the Cary Playwrights Forum. She lives outside of Raleigh with her best friend and husband, John, and a one-eyed girl cat nicknamed fierce chompy-biter (for the toys she attacks, not people).

## SUPPORT TEAM

**Linda Depo** has been involved with the Cary Players and is a founding member of Cary Playwrights Forum. Her schedule and some events prevented her from contributing a play this round, but hopes to see her words performed in the fall of this year. She's provided administrative support, guidance, and some excellent chocolate and cookies. Thank you Linda!

**Sarah Bunch**, Town of Cary. Sarah assisted us with room reservations, printing, encouragement, a wonderfully positive attitude and more. We are so very grateful for everything you do for the arts! Thanks!

## MORE THANKS

Deborah Grannan

Thom Haynes

Lyman Collins

Thank you for sharing in the First Staged Reading of New Works by the Cary Playwrights Forum. We do hope that you give us your comments and any feedback. Please also note our dates for the fall and send us an email if you'd like to be involved -- as an actor, director, writer, or volunteer.

FALL DATES beginning 9/9/08

The first meeting will be held at the Page-Walker Center in Cary, Monday evening September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Meetings after that are Monday evenings, usually every week, until the second week of December. Visit our website in mid-summer for all the dates, times, and locations. Email us to register if you're a writer, actor, director, or simply interested in receiving news about our 2<sup>nd</sup> staged reading in Late 2008 or early 2009. [register@caryplaywrightsforum.org](mailto:register@caryplaywrightsforum.org). Phone: 919-738-4167

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR COMING!



website: [www.caryplaywrightsforum.org](http://www.caryplaywrightsforum.org)  
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