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Roseann Sheridan
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The Lambs'

Script



A publication of The Lambs®
America's first professional theatrical club, established in 1874.

Summer-Fall 2013



Randy
'Mascot' of The Lambs

Editor : **David Dow Bentley, III**Associate Editor : **Marc Baron**

Contributors:

Davida Rothberg, Peter Kingsley, Scott Glascock, Terry Wells, Lee Moore and Gerry Ruth.

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At times it strikes me that our cherished club is a kind of collective organism with a life of its own that is full of all the usual ups and downs we might experience ourselves. In the present period we share the sense of loss as our devoted and hardworking Shepherd, **Randy Phillips**, has found it necessary to retire as Shepherd and focus on full recovery of his health. At the same time we offer our best wishes and support to **Marc Baron** as he has stepped up with hard work and enthusiasm in his challenging new role as Shepherd. **Scott Glascock** has replaced him as the Boy. We wish Randy well, and in this issue **Peter Kingsley** supplies an affectionate look back at the Shepherd's life and career. And speaking of Peter, don't miss our report in these pages on his recent very successful return to the New York stage.

We regret the passing of one of our Contributing Editors, journalist, novelist and playwright, **Don Flynn**. Another of our dependable contributors is our Historian, **Gerry Ruth**, who is recovering from a recent illness and looks forward to the return of her *News of The Lambs* column in our next issue. Speaking of contributors, Mr. Glascock supplies his *Welcome to the Fold* celebrating our new members, and **Terry Wells** offers some interesting details about former Shepherds, as well as information on our Lambs Library. **Lee Moore** delights us with memories of a laughing bed, and **Davida Rothberg** not only supplies her regular *In the Fold* column but also a wonderful report on the recent very successful Lambs Wash.

We report on **Kelli Estes'** tribute to Cole Porter in Texas, and speaking of the Lone Star State, our cover story unveils a gift to The Lambs from Texans, Jerry Williams & Paulie McDade following their recent visit to the Club. Our new 'Mascot' of The Lambs has been named Randy in honor of the retiring Shepherd (see page 8).

Floreat Agni, David Dow Bentley III

October 18th for a fun-filled and crowded evening. On October 25th **Billie Stewart** hosted her usual Trick-or-Treat Halloween Night. November 1 - **Rian Keating** served as emcee.

As we go to press the forthcoming Low Jinks schedule includes: November 8 - **Joan Scafarello** will hold court; November 15 - Elvis Presley is in the house along with **Roseann Sheridan**; November 22 - **Kathy Kelleher** will be the lady in charge. Big thanks goes to them all.

Then it's Turkey Time and 3 West will be closed on Friday, November 29th. 3 West will also be closed for Christmas on both December 24th and 25th.

Meanwhile, the space on the Fifth Floor has been very active with play readings. Shepherd **Marc Baron** conducted a program to get us acquainted with social media. He did so well with the small but eager crowd, that I even became a Facebook and LinkedIn follower.

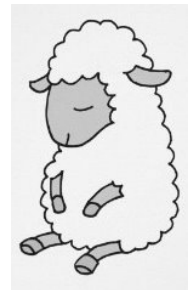
We send our Best Wishes for a rapid recovery to our dear friends **Gerri Ruth, Joyce Randolph, and Robert Dewar**, one of our new Lamb members, **Catherine Kelly** and . Special get-well wish goes out to **Randy Phillips** and Sheila Smith, and to **Gini Dustin** and **Abe Vigoda**.

Well that's about all for this issue. Remember our Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December the 13th. (Do not fear! This party will be lucky for you! Shepherd Baron has surprises planned, such as rebranding our holiday party to also be our anniversary celebration. The Lambs was found just before Christmas! Stay well, and keep coming to The Lambs and supporting our events.

Hugs to you all, and let us keep you, *In the Fold*.

In Memoriam

We sadly mark the passing of **Wynne Miller**. Wynne was an accomplished singer and niece to Big Band leader, Glenn Miller.



In the Fold
by *Davida Rothberg*



I can't believe that after a beautiful summer full of hot days and summertime fun, autumn is here and winter is just around the corner. Unfortunately, I have been away most of the summer on Low Jinks nights. (How about doing Low Jinks on Thursday nights next summer? Let us know what you think.)

Meanwhile, just as there's a change in the weather, there's been a big change in the Lambs Shepherd, Boy and Treasurer. **Randy Phillips**, our former Shepherd, resigned for health reasons. Our new Shepherd is now **Marc Baron**, formerly the Boy for almost nine years. The job of Boy is now in the capable hands of **Scott Glascock**. Eleanor Carney turned in her spreadsheets resigning as Treasurer, and the Council appointed **John Bowes** as Treasurer. Note, all officers positions will be up for election at our Annual Meeting set for January 17th, 2014. Marc has been very active, and as you know is a very important fixture in our Club. Scott has been a great help as well, and I feel they will be a strong team.

Here is the team of summer Collies that have served us well in the past months: July 12 - **Roseann Sheridan**, July 19 **Camille Savitz**, July 26 - **Scott Glascock**, August 2 - **Gini Dustin**, August 9 - **Helen Klass**, August 16 - **Kathy Kelleher**, August 23 - **Roseann Sheridan**, August 30 - **Eleanor Carney**; September 6th - **Scott Glascock** hosted the pre-Wash show. September 8th was the actual Wash program for the Actors' Home (see related article in this issue of Script); September 13 - **Peter Dizozza**; September 20 - **Peter Kingsley**; September 27 - **Scott Glascock**.

For a theme night, on October 4th **Peter Dizozza** hosted a program of musical memories of THE Rat Pack members, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr.

Our old friend **Stuart Chamberlain** presided over the October 11th Low Jinks and I came back into the fold to host on

The Night the Bed Laughed
by *Lee Moore*

We were mid-way through our 1958 season with Leonard Altobel's Summer Stock Company in Arden, Delaware. The weather was mercilessly hot and humid. Air conditioning had yet to find its way to Arden, but we were young, full of vinegar and vigor, totally indestructible. That evening's performance was *Room Service*. I played the Hotel Manager and our talented Lamb, **Frank Torren** (then known as Frank Torregiante), portrayed the harried writer. All went well until Act Two. As the manager I am trying to evict the whole troublesome group. To fool me, and delay eviction, they have schemed to have the writer (played by Frank) play dead. He is stretched out on the bed under a sheet with a large mourning wreath on his chest. An unpredictable actor named Ray played one of the supporting roles. He frequently went dry, and due to a slight speech impediment he often mispronounced. A few minutes into the scene he started to sweat, a signal to all of us that he was, as usual, going south. Somehow this triggered a giggling situation with one of my colleagues and it soon spread to others. I gritted my teeth, focused on the calm, steady body of Frank, and delivered my lines flawlessly. However, the effort to avoid laughter was killing me, tears welled in my eyes and my abdomen ached. Ray had to deliver a line at the foot of the bed over the supposed dead body, a low and solemn "Requiescat in Pacem." The shaken Ray was in no shape for anything let alone Latin. I said a fervent prayer, and fixed again on steady, dependable Frank.

Ray's terrified face dripped sweat as he blurted out, "Rekwee ass shit in parkem." A sound like that of escaping gas swept across the stage as four actors lost it in one fell swoop. I still held firm. I said to myself, "Steady, Lee, keep your eye on Frank." I did so, but, alas, the bed was shaking and the wreath jumping up and down as our hitherto resolute Frank was convulsed with laughter beneath the sheet. That did it. "Farewell content, farewell the tranquil mind." I joined he gigglers.

The scene concluded and a merciful curtain fell. As we staggered backstage, a blubbing gaggle of incoherent actors, Leonard confronted us. He was incensed. It was my third season with this wonderful director. I was his leading man. He depended on me. I was his rock. He snapped, "My God, Lee, you of all people." I dried my tears, struggled to suppress the residual giggles and stammered, "I couldn't help it, Leonard. I was

alright until the bed laughed.” His mouth twitched as he tried disparately to respond to this excuse and failed. He turned on his heel and left. I am sure he never checked further to learn if the bed really DID laugh.



(Above: Shirley Ballard, Frank Torren and Lee More in Anna Lucasta)

The rest of the season flourished without any serious flaws. In August we produced a smash hit, *Say Darling*, starring our favorite Lamb, **Joyce Randolph**. I was fortunate to share the stage with her as did Frank, now happily free of the sheet and wreath. As for our nemeses Ray, he steeled himself and was ALMOST line perfect. The magical aurora that radiated from Joyce enveloped, blessed and healed us all.



for the Winter/Spring 2010 *Script*, “**J I L T E D** – LEFT AT THE LAMBS.” Members may also recall his fine “Memorial Day Reflections” (Fall/Winter *Script* 2010-2011) that celebrated the contributions and sacrifices of our American military.

A novelist as well, Don used his newsroom experience to develop his murder mysteries about a New York City reporter named Ed Fitzgerald. *The New York Times* called the series, “...sophisticated, lively, and as fast-moving as hurdlers off the starting block!”

A few years ago I obtained a copy of his book, “Murder Isn’t Enough,” from Amazon.com. Don was kind enough to inscribe it: “To Dow Bentley – The only nice critic I know.”

The Union-Pedigreed Fold

Did you know...The Lambs was involved in the formation of Screen Actors Guild (SAG) in 1933? The meetings to form SAG were held at the Masquers’ Club of Los Angeles, often referred to as the West Coast Lambs. Of the 17 original founders, 9 were Lambs. The first four presidents of SAG were Lambs, including **Eddie Cantor**, who became the first President of AFRA....which later became AFTRA. Lamb **Beth Holland** served as a NY President of AFTRA

In 2012 those two unions merged into one (SAG-AFTRA) and, again, Lambs were involved. Both **leslie Shreve** and **Marc Baron** serve on the Board of the new union and were very involved in the merger. SAG-AFTRA is the largest entertainment union in the world with over 165,000 members; Labor Secretary Thomas Perez called SAG-AFTRA the most visible union in the world at the first National Convention (Los Angeles, September 25-29, 2013), which was also addressed by Richard Tromka, the president of the AFL-CIO, and by Vice-President Joe Biden. In attendance as both board members and delegates were Lambs - leslie Shreve (now a Council member of The Lambs) and Shepherd Marc Baron.



(Pictured: leslie at the National Convention)

Randy who would then call the flock together to tell them the smorgasbord table was officially open -- and my, how we all would dive in! Shepherd Phillips always made sure that Christmas music would be provided by the Club members themselves, as he entrusted the planning and musical direction to talented Shelia. Under her merrily waving baton the plaster walls of the old ballroom would tremble with the life and good will that filled the room.

Shepherd Phillips resigned as Shepherd on July 1st of 2013 because of a stroke from which he is slowly recovering. He wishes us all the best for the future and now leaves the Club even better prepared to face the vicissitudes of fate than he found it as the new Shepherd in 2008. We miss his presence at the Friday Low Jinks, and hope that someday soon we'll enjoy his larger than life presence once more, back *in the fold* where he belongs.

Remembering Don Flynn *by David Dow Bentley III*

As Editor of *The Script*, I joined in the sadness of so many fellow Lambs on learning of the passing of member Don Flynn. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family. I was fortunate to have his occasional help as a contributing *Script* editor, and more fortunate still to call him friend. I have fond memories of pleasant Friday evenings of conversation at Sardis' Bar with **Peter Kingsley**, Don, and his very good friend, **Wayne Coleman**. When it was time to depart for Low Jinks, Don would sometimes pile us into his little old car that was parked conveniently nearby on a midtown street by virtue of the privileges of a long-retained parking credential from Don's days as a newspaper reporter with the *New York Daily News*. Prior to that he had worked with the *Kansas City Star*, the *Chicago Daily News*, and the *New York Herald Tribune*.

In addition to his work with the Fourth Estate, Don was also an accomplished playwright with a list of titles that included, *Pull the Covers Over My Head*, *The Petition*, *Something That Matters*, *The Man Who Raped Kansas*, *The Pilgrims Just Landed Down the Road*, and *Around the Corner From the White House*. His principal television scripts included *Room Nine*; *One of the Boys: Too Young or Too Old*; *His Old Flame*; and *Street Cop*. Most recently members may recall his musicals, *Jilted* (2011), and *Faithful to the Fleet* (2012) which had successful tryouts at The Lambs and were also discussed in Don's story

Tidbits



Joann Yeoman's short play, *The Courting Candle*, won a competition and was given a staged reading in Colorado in early May. The play was also selected for a full production presented in Durango, CO last September. Yeoman's talents have been further rewarded as she has been named co-recipient of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation's First FDC *George C. Wolfe Fellowship Award* which offers professional directors and choreographers the

chance to explore an area of interest outside of their existing skill set. Yeoman will explore the effects that period costumes and accessories have on the physical and psychological aspect of actors and singers. Joann is an adjunct Professor of Musical Theater at Pace University, Dyson Campus in lower Manhattan. **Don Pippin** and **Marc Baron** sponsored her Lambs membership.

One-time Lamb, **Jonathan Winters**, was described by *Tonight Show* host Jack Paar as "pound for pound, the funniest man alive." A comedian whose freeform work with multiple voices and personalities presaged the antics of comics such as Robin Williams, Winters died of natural causes at the age of 87 on April 11, 2013 in Montecito, Calif.

Ready for the Christmas holidays? Remember that actor **Henry Travers**, who was a member of The Lambs, played the angel, Clarence Oddbody, in the well-known film, *It's a Wonderful Life!* We'll do a screening of the film in our 5th floor on Tuesday, December 17th, along with commentary of this classic film.

Many thanks to Angela and **Daniel Ruiz-Isasi** for their generous donations to The Lambs Foundation, including a framed signed photograph of founder **Henry Montague**, and a framed signed letter from Lamb **John Golden** to Lamb **Joe Laurie, Jr.**, and a generous monetary contribution, too. These are wonderful additions!

It has been suggested that when convenient, Lambs who prepare fliers or announcement cards for their local performances in cabaret etc, should consider mentioning in biographical information that they are: *A proud member of America's Oldest Theatrical Club, The Lambs, Inc.* and include our web site www.The-Lambs.org.

In January 2014 **Annette Hunt** will be playing opposite Austin Pendleton in *The Seagull* (he will be Dr. Dorn and she will be Polina.)

Says Annette "Should be fun. I adored working on stage with Austin in *Ivanov*."



As we go to press **Frank Torren's** show, *Moment to Moment* is about to open at Don't Tell Mama for four November performances.

Rosa Antonelli (pictured here) is not only a Lamb, but a Steinway Artist doing concerts all over the world. Fanfare Magazine gave rave reviews for Rosa's latest CD, *Remembranza*, calling her "...a leading exponent of Spanish and Latin American music" ... "Antonelli understands and conveys the intrinsic ebb and flow of this music deftly." Rosa has recently been interviewed on NY1 and CNN.

The Lambs Library
by Terry Wells

The Lambs' Library consists of a collection of plays, scripts, books and ephemera, most of which are not yet catalogued. There is a partial catalogue (on computer) that includes many of the scripts in this collection. Members are encouraged to avail themselves of the material therein. For access to this catalogue, get in touch with Gerry Ruth (Historian/Librarian), Gini Dustin (our *Lambs' Script* Associate Editor), or Terry Wells (our Curator*). In time we hope to offer a searchable database of library contents in the Members' Only section of our web site. The Lambs' Library accepts donations of material on theatre, and material by or about Lambs. All material catalogued has a sticker placed inside which, if known, credits the donor.

Following is a table of all Lambs Shepherds indicating their age when elected as Shepherd.

#	Name	Birth/Death	Elected	Term as Shepherd	Artwork	Age
1	Henry Montague	1840-1878	1874	1874-1878	409(FA87), 217(FA24), 23	34
21	Fred Waring	1900-1984	1929	1939-1942	384(FA82), 326	39
3	Harry Beckett	1839-1880	1874	1879-1880	415(FA31)	40
7	Clay M. Greene	1850-1933	1887	1891-1898, 1902-1906	167(FA25)	41
6	Edmund M. Holland	1848-1913	1875	1890-1891	459(FA32)	42
9	DeWolf Hopper	1858-1936	1887	1900-1902	66(FA90), 23(FA00), 77	42
20	William Gaxton	1893-1963	1923	1936-1939, 1952-1953, 1956-1961	111(FA69), 113, 100, 309	43

Shepherd Randy Phillips
by Peter Kingsley

Randy Phillips was born a Manhattanite by the name of Rudolph Schmidt at Misericordia Hospital in New York City. I know this because I once had the opportunity to help restore his birth certificate, a giant crumbling role of parchment, by taking it to the Archive Restoration department of the Bobst Library at New York University. Here, amidst strange looking presses, earnest young faces, and pots of glue and special roles of linen, the old certificate was pieced back together, and the beauty of the old script once more revealed.

Born in 1926, Mr. Schmidt attended Stuyvesant High School on 15th Street; war service found him in the army in Italy -- at one point guarding a group of German war prisoners. Luckily for Rudolph, his first language was German. Sometime after his service years he attended the Juilliard School in Manhattan to study voice, and soon a career in show business blossomed under his new name, Randy Phillips.

From *Pajama Game* to *Hello Dolly* his career blossomed. Then he met Sheila Smith and love blossomed as well. "She" (as he calls her), and Randy have been together now for 45 years, even working together at times. Catch their duet from *Gigi* on YouTube for a taste of their professional partnership. Though often appearing in the same shows, except for *Mame* they never actually played in the same show *at the same time*. But it is not the careers of either of these two that this article is really concerned with, but rather the service Shepherd Phillips devoted himself to in the name of our Club.

Starting as Recording Secretary, then Entertainment Committee Chair, Shepherd Phillips served some 15 years as a Club Officer. During this time he brought in such notables as Peter Howard, Sean Malone, Rick Mckay, Ted Chapin, Peter Filichia and Don Pippin to address Club Members at Shepherd's Luncheons to present their personal additions to the many stories of the theatrical traditions of the American Stage which enrich our Club life. As Shepherd he negotiated a more favorable lease for the Club to help us in an era of deep recession. Aside from his annual gifts of money, he donated much time and energy to seeing many a staged reading and presentation given on the 5th Floor.

I recall with great fondness the Xmas Parties he presided over for many years, and the joy and sharing of those get togethers. Pocket calendars, pens and refrigerator magnets would be supplied by Santa


Patti Dey shares this:

What a delightful read this latest Script was! The Gillette story was great and that castle is on my trip list. Peter's account of Sandy was a harrowing tale. I suffered Sandy, as well, but he was undone, horribly, and I feel terrible for him. On Staten Island, Sandy still makes troubles for the injured and mistreated. New York leaders let us down. Hope to see you soon. Patti

Have you been carded?

Next year The Lambs will introduce new membership cards. The new design makes it easier for Recording Secretary **Kay Arnold** to create cards as members join. Each member will receive their new card when 2014 dues payments are received, delivered by hand during Low Jinks or by sent mail. The new cards feature more information such as the year you originally joined and your membership class.

Please carry this card whenever you visit the Clubhouse and present if requested. This card is not transferrable. The signee is responsible for all house charges.



Signature _____

Member Name _____ House Acct # _____

Membership Class _____ Year Joined _____

Above: One side of the newly designed membership card

#	Name	Birth/Death	Elected	Term as Shepherd	Artwork	Age
13	William Cortleigh	1869-1930	1899	1913-1917	68, 449(FA52)	44
16	Thomas Meighan	1879-1936	1906	1924-1926	190(FA68)	45
14	R. H. Burnside	1870-1952	1897	1918-1921	588(FA14)	48
15	Albert O. Brown	1872-1945	1903	1921-1924, 1930-1932	171(FA27)	49
8	Thomas B. Clarke	1848-1931	1880	1898-1900	446(FA21)	50
11	Augustus Thomas	1857-1934	1889	1907-1910	218(FA26)	50
30	Tom Dillon	1918-2006	1951	1969-1986	228(FA70), 50, 316	50
4	William J. Florence	1831-1891	1877	1882-1884	454(FA30)	51
19	Frank Crumit	1881-1943	1920	1932-1936	116(FA80)	51
25	Walter Greaza	1897-1973	1929	1953-1956	395(FA75)	56
35	Marc Baron	1956-.....	1982	2013-.....		56
2	J. Lester Wallack	1820-1888	1875	1878-1879, 1880-1882, 1884-1888	41(FA29), 653(FA2)	58
12	Joseph R. Grismer	1849-1922	1893	1910-1913, 1917-1918	186(FA22)	61
17	Thomas Wise	1865-1928	1899	1926-1928	94(FA59)	61
31	Richard L. Charles	1925-1997	1953	1986-1997	54(FA66), 237	61
24	Bert Lytell	1885-1954	1916	1947-1952	226(FA74)	62
18	Fritz Williams	1865-1930	1891	1928-1930	453(FA04)	63
33	Bruce Brown	1935-.....	1970	2001-2007	656	66
5	John r. Brady	1821-1891	1887	1888-1890	31(FA54)	67
22	John Golden	1874-1955	1893	1942-1945	363(FA39)	68
23	Raymond Peck	1876-1950	1949	1945-1947	266, 419(FA12)	69
29	Jack Waldron	1898-1969	1949	1969	216(FA71), 410, 303, 447(FA53)	71
26	Frank M. Thomas, Sr.	1889-1989	1916	1961-1963	343(FA86)	72
32	A.J. Pocock	1922-2012	1953	1997-2001	654	75
28	Harry Hershfield	1885-1974	1942	1966-1969	223(FA72), 121(FA00A)	81
34	Randy Phillips	1926-.....	1972	2007-2013		81

**The Lambs Foundation, which owns all of our artwork, has titled Terry Wells as its Curator.*



Lamb **Gary Russo** sang for the opening of the New York City Marathon on November 3rd, and was a featured guest on Fox-TV's *Good Day NY* on November 1st. Pictured above is Mayor Michael Bloomberg, along with Ami Russell and Gary.

A Special 'Mascot' for The Lambs
by David Dow Bentley III

It was a festive night all around at the Low Jinks of July 12th. In the Pub that evening your editor had the pleasure of hosting two wonderful friends from The Lone Star State, my sweet Texas neighbor, Paulie McDade, and her good friend, Jerry Williams, an actor, college theatre instructor, and longtime scenic designer in the Houston area. The couple spent several days at 3 West, and Jerry was thrilled to be visiting the historic Lambs. The pair had royal treatment from our new Shepherd, as Marc Baron kindly toured them around the art collection.

Then it was on to Low Jinks and dinner at a boisterous table filled with such fun seekers as **Peter Kingsley**, Ex-Shepherd **Bruce Brown**, and such familiar faces as my brother Niles, sister Sally and good friend Margaret Shaheen. A good time was had by all, but that was not the end of the story.



(Above: L-r: Peter Kingsley, Bruce Brown, Jerry Williams, & Paulie McDade (standing))

A few weeks later a mystery box from Texas arrived at my New York home. I had no idea what it was, but when I opened it up I discovered a very unique gift from Jerry. He has a flair for assembling interesting antiques and collectibles in his beautiful home. He acquired one special item from his mother's collection, and because he so

Eileen Geis Lacy writes:

"Being a Lamb has added so much to my life. Yesterday's Wash at the Actors Fund Home was delightful. Everyone there was so appreciative and many asked when we were coming back. Another wonderful thing about The Lambs is the perk of being able to use the space for rehearsal. I recently used it for the one-act play I am currently working on. Thanks to The Lambs, and thanks, especially, to **Shepherd Marc Baron** for helping make the arrangements."

Lee Moore writes your editor:

Dear Dow,

I enjoyed the Winter/Spring SCRIPT issue tremendously. I was very young, and never knew much about Joe Laurie Jr. beyond his appearances on *CAN YOU TOP THIS* on radio. I can still remember his sign off. I'd like to read more about him.

I recently wrapped a SAG Low Budget film titled *ANY DAY NOW*. I played an undertaker, comical fellow. I molded him on another radio idol of mine, Digger O'Dell, your friendly undertaker. Don't you just love this business? Where, in what other field, may an aged soul dare to dream and create tears and laughter with such rewarding abandon?

Thank you for your terrific work with The Lambs Script. Bravi tutti.

Best wishes. --- Lee Moore

And from Scott Glascock:

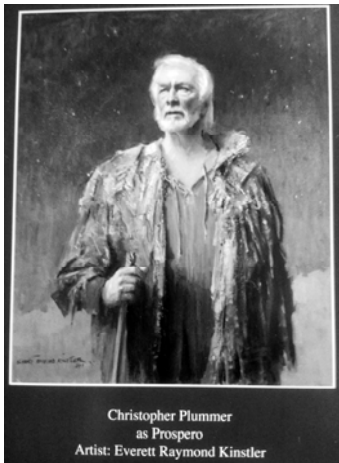
Hi Dow -

The current issue of the *Script* arrived in my mailbox today, and I promptly devoured it. Congratulations on a very fine issue, one of your best. I noticed only one minor error - The *Music From The Lambs* event reported on page 13 took place in 2013, not 2012. Apart from that minor typo, everything was great - rewarding, entertaining and interesting. Thanks for all of your hard work on this.

Best, Scott



Lamb, **Scott Glascock** (above at left) is shown with fellow *Break A Leg Productions* cast members for a reading of *After-Play* that was directed by Gerald van Heerden and presented at the Episcopal Actors Guild on September 28th. *After-Play* was the playwriting debut of Anne Meara, and in its original production had already been honored with an Outer Critics' Circle Award for its funny/dark, and slightly mystical look at two show-biz couples meeting at a trendy Manhattan restaurant after viewing the latest must-see play on Broadway. *Break a Leg Productions* is one of the many theater groups that benefit from The Lambs Foundation, which supports works of theater by allowing organizations access to our 5th Floor space for readings and meetings.



Bleating's of The Lambs

Following our last issue, renowned artist and Lamb, **Everett Raymond Kinstler**, sent a lovely art card print of his painting, "Christopher Plummer as Prospero in *The Tempest*," pictured left. The card is inscribed: "Thank you for the full page in current Lambs' Script. All the Best – Ray"

appreciated the warm reception at The Lambs, he had decided to send that gift as a Thank-You. It is a charming piece of American folk art, a beautifully sculpted Lamb made entirely of tin. With a special Texas touch, the Lamb was presented wearing a pretty western-style red bandana tied around its neck. It was unveiled for the Council at a recent meeting, and soon our Curator, **Terry Wells**, will be installing it with the collections in the glass display case on the fifth floor.



(Above: Jerry, Paulie, Margaret and Dow)

Just one question remained. What would we name our generously donated new mascot? That was an easy one. In recognition of the countless contributions of our retired Shepherd **Randy Phillips**, the Lamb will be known now, and forevermore, as Randy!

Pay Pals?

Shepherd Baron and new Treasurer **John Bowes** have set-up PayPal accounts for The Lambs and The Lambs Foundation. Persons may make donations at the Foundation web site – www.TheLambsFoundation.org – using PayPal accounts or credit cards. The Foundation received over \$600 in donations online in the first 36 hours of operation!

In 2014 members may have the option of paying dues online with PayPal/credit cards, but the online payment will include the service fees in addition to your dues charge. Checks are the preferred method of payment; however those who travel often may appreciate the convenience of online payments. A section will be created in the Members-Only section of The Lambs' web site indicating the dues amount with the fee added.

A Very Choice "HOBSON" at Shetler Theatre 54

by David Dow Bentley III

www.ThePeoplesCritic.com

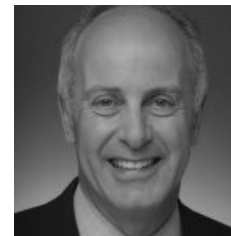
[EDITOR'S NOTE: Following other pursuits since his long ago performance in the original Broadway production of *Amadeus*, we celebrate this summer's return to the New York stage by Lamb, **Peter Kingsley**, in the title role of *Hobson's Choice*. The review below was featured on the *BroadwayStars.com* website as well as my own. - DDB]

For theatergoers who could move quickly last summer there was a rare and limited opportunity at the Shetler Theatre just off Broadway. The play in question, Harold Brighouse's comedy, *Hobson's Choice*, was presented very close to the 100th anniversary of its premiere at the Princess Theatre here in New York on November 11, 1915. The Internet Broadway Database apologizes that the credits for that long ago production "...have not yet been completed or verified," but suggests a possible total of 135 performances at that time. Some of those early 20th Century performances were reportedly at New York's Comedy Theatre before the play moved on to open in London (for wartime matinees only) on June 22, 1916, during World War I. Now, at last, after that near hundred year hiatus on the stage, James Price, (in association with The Acting Studio, Inc., New York, & the Chelsea Repertory Company), presented this limited run of a Performance Workshop Production of *Hobson's Choice*. Shrewdly directed by John Grabowski, the play claimed a wonderful cast of talented players, even including Actors Equity performers, Madalyn McKay and Peter Kingsley. But the star power was in no way limited to the Equity players.

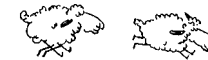
The play opens with a decidedly Dickensian atmosphere as the well-conceived scenic design of Arnold Bueso quickly transports us to the smoke filled and gritty late-nineteenth century industrial world of Salford, England. Shadowy lighting (Christina Watanabe, designer), and occasional brief and merry incidental music (Sound designer, Joseph Sebring) complement the atmosphere. We find ourselves in the shabby shop of struggling shoe manufacturer, Mr. Hobson (Kingsley), where the dust and grime of this mill and manufacturing town casts the scene in variations on a theme of grimy gray, only punctuated a bit by the gentle twinkle of the oil lamps. As to the "struggling" there, perhaps it is more accurate to ascribe those efforts to his three grown daughters who

Whistling Away The Dark. Shana has appeared in several productions by NYGASP and the Village Light Opera Group, and has many regional theatre and concert credits. Originally from Missouri, she holds a BM/Voice Performance from Boston University and is a member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA. In addition to her talent as a performing artist, she is also an experienced designer with her own line of jewelry.

LAURA ARCHER was elected a Junior Theatrical member on 30 August 2013. (Sponsored by Gene O'Donovan and Marc Baron). Laura is a Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude graduate of Stony Brook University with a B.A. in Theater Arts/History. She has extensive experience as a theatre and film director, assistant director and stage manager. She has also worked in a technical capacity on several Broadway and Off-Broadway productions.



Former Lambs, **JOSEPH BENINCASA** (left) & **CARL VITELLI, JR.** (right) have both been reinstated.



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Be sure to notify **Kay Arnold**, Recording Secretary, of any changes of address, phone number or email.



SUSAN B. LAUBACH - was elected a Theatrical member on 3 May 2013; sponsored by Scott Glascock and Marc Baron. Susan is a playwright and actor, and is a longtime member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA, the Dramatists Guild and the League of Professional Theatre Women. She is also a member of The Players. Susan has a B.A. in Theatre from the College of Notre Dame, and holds a M.Ed/Ph.D in Research Methodology from the University of Virginia. She is the author of seven books, has taught in prep schools and universities, and spent fifteen years in the investment business. Her plays have been performed in New York, Baltimore and Cleveland, and she has appeared in theatre, television, film and commercials.



VIRGIL M. PRICE II - was elected a Theatrical member on 3 May 2013; sponsored by Toni Maloney and Marc Baron. Virgil has an extensive business background, and is a producer with credits that include a feature film and several projects for HBO. He lives in Westchester, and we look forward to seeing him frequently at the Club.

LESLIE SILVERMAN - was elected a Non-Theatrical member on 3 May 2013; sponsored by Linda Fields and Joyce Randolph. Leslie is a retired public school teacher and member of the UFT. He is developing his talent as a cabaret performer, which he demonstrated successfully at a recent Low Jinks and in a one-man show at *Don't Tell Mama*.



SHANA FARR - was elected a Theatrical member on 3 May 2013; sponsored by Lee Moore and Scott Glascock. Shana is the 2012 Julie Wilson Award Winner, and released her debut album, *Out of the Shadows*, in November 2012. As a cabaret artist, she has appeared at Feinstein's, the Metropolitan Room, The Players, Birdland, the Laurie Beechman Theatre, the Tudor City Greens Concert Series, Jazz at Lincoln Center and several other venues. She appeared most recently for a week at Crazy Coqs in London performing her new solo show about Julie Andrews entitled



(Above: Peter Kinglsey and Katia Thomas)

oversee the running of the shop. A masterful performance from Katia Thomas as the eldest of these, gives us a thirty year-old Maggie who is fiercely determined to rise above what is essentially the slave labor of her and the two more timid sisters (Vergell Bastien as Alice, and Alicia Brayboy as Vickey). Meanwhile, their pompous and rosy-nosed father prefers to drink more ale than is good for him with chums like Jim Heeler (John Zion) at the nearby Moonraker Pub, and before play's end Hobson will be consulting with local physician, Dr. MacFarlane (Mark Coulter).

Talented Mr. Kingsley arrives on the scene as the deliciously pseudo-grand authoritarian, Hobson, who takes great pleasure in barking the daily orders at his girls before heading off to the pubs. Dressed in one of the show's many fine Victorian costumes (again, the designs of Mr. Bueso), Hobson is attired in pretentious fine style with his top hat, greatcoat, silk cravat and gold watch chain announcing his longed-for grandeur. Kingsley clearly enjoys capturing this persona, and does so with the great acting skill that some may recall from his performance in the original Broadway production of *Amadeus*. The amusing plot takes

its first interesting turn with the arrival at the shop of wealthy and haughty Mrs. Hepworth (grandly played by Miss McKay). She is beside herself with delight over a pair of boots she had earlier acquired there, and demands to know the identity of the skilled craftsmen responsible. That, it turns out, is the humble but sweet dullard, Will Mossop (Chris Chiridon), who is always relegated to working in the shop's basement with fellow dusty worker, Timothy "Tubby" Wadlow (Gregory Cohan). Mr. Chiridon's sensitive portrayal of the kindly, but clearly mentally challenged Will, is a many dimensional success as Will's shoe-crafting talent enables him to begin escaping what director Grabowski's program notes aptly describe as, "...the tenement class, struggling to keep its grip on the bottom rung of the ladder." Will does not by any means achieve his success alone. Maggie, who has always been the business-minded brains behind the success of the shop, cleverly engineers Will's rise, by first convincing him to abandon his wild-eyed and whimpering girl friend, Ada (Jessica Greenwald) and to marry her instead. Realizing his eldest daughter is a central element of the shop's success, Hobson is furious at the notion of Maggie's marriage to this suddenly significant underling. Miss Thomas is nothing short of brilliant in the unwavering intensity she brings to Maggie's shrewd planning for both her new life with Will, and her parallel quest of husbands for her sisters. The latter problem is solved with the arrival of young attorney, Albert Prosser (Andy Reyes) to marry Alice, and local merchant, Fred Beenstock (Brooks Russell), to wed Vickey.

The clashes that follow between Hobson, his rebellious daughters and their newfound spouses would seem to make this play timely for every generation. Explosive rants from the increasingly agitated Hobson are perfectly paired with the coolly determined machinations of Maggie, while the audience can sit back and enjoy the sparks flying between such acting pros as the ever-focused Miss Thomas and the booming full-voiced Mr. Kingsley. One might contrast that with the many touching moments in the production when tenderness between the various players might bring a tear to the eye. Plot twists would abound, and for those lucky enough to capture one of the limited tickets, it was well worth the trip to the small twelfth floor theatre just a few steps from Broadway.

Welcome to the Fold
by Scott Glascock
Chair, Admissions Committee

We are happy to report that since last March, we have brought in 7 new members: 3 Theatrical members, 1 Junior Theatrical, and 3 Non-Theatrical.



ROBER B.K. DEWAR - was elected a Non-Theatrical member on 5 April 2013; sponsored by Martha Stine and Peter Kingsley. Robert lives in Vermont, but is frequently in New York. He was born in England and received his early education there. He immigrated to the United States in 1959 and earned a BS and a PhD in chemistry from the University of Chicago in the 1960's. A career in academia, most of it in computer sciences, followed at the Illinois Institute of Technology and then at New York University. At NYU, Robert was a full professor, chaired the Department of Computer Science and served as the Director of Graduate Studies and the Director of Undergraduate Studies. He published and consulted extensively, and founded Ada Core Technologies, of which he is currently President and CEO. Robert's performing experience began in his college days and has continued to the present. He has studied and played bassoon, organ and recorder, directed and conducted musical theatre, opera and operetta, and appeared in principal parts with the Village Light Opera Group, Utopia Unlimited and Amore Opera as well as sung with the Berkshire Choral Society for twelve seasons.



PHYLLIS CONLEY - was elected a Non-Theatrical member on 3 May 2013; sponsored by Linda Fields and Joyce Randolph. Phyllis has enjoyed a long and successful career in fundraising for nonprofit charitable organizations. She started singing and studying cabaret technique not long ago, and gave a fine performance at a recent Low Jinks. Phyllis is a gregarious individual and lives near the Fold, so we expect to see her often.

With the effervescent Miss Estes hosting the evening, the group offered a sumptuous smorgasbord of Porter tunes. In addition to Estes, the talented vocalists included Sarah Brindley, Kelley Kimball and Hal Spencer, with Grant Martin on percussion and dazzling pianist, Joseph Li, presiding on the eighty-eight. With a variety of solos, duets and even quartets, the audience was treated to such Porter hits as "Too Darn Hot," "Down in the Depths," "I Hate Men," "Night and Day," "I Am Loved," "What Is This Thing Called Love," "You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To," "C'est Magnifique," "So In Love," and "I've Got You Under My Skin."

The show featured an amusing anecdote about the origination of Porter's black comedy number, "Miss Otis Regrets," nicely sung here by Brindley. Reportedly, Porter created that song on the dare of a friend who challenged him to write a song about the next thing overheard in the restaurant where they were having lunch. Tunes that delighted the audience after intermission included, "Easy to Love," (great work from Mr. Li), "Let's Do It, Let's Fall In Love," and an audience sing-a-long of, "Don't Fence Me In," led by Mr. Spencer while spicing things up on his harmonica. The musical fun continued with, "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," "Love For Sale," "Get Out of Town," "Always True to You In My Fashion," "I Get A Kick Out of You," and an "In the Still of the Night," that featured some solid drums from Mr. Martin.

The singers joined forces for a sparkling finale of, "Anything Goes," that brought cheers from the smiling crowd. It seemed Miss Estes was correct when during her introduction she mentioned a quip attributed to the late Bob Hope: "You don't throw around the word *genius* very often, but I think it lands mighty close to Mr. Porter!"



Cole Porter
Photo courtesy of the
Library of Congress

The Wash
September 8, 2013
by Davida Rothberg

On a humid September Sunday, my husband Dick and I parked the car and walked up to the lovely grounds of the Lillian Booth Actors' Home of The Actors Fund in Englewood, New Jersey. I found myself a bit excited to be back after a long absence since last doing "The Wash" there. As we reached one of the entrances, we saw a woman sitting on a bench with a cat at her feet! Being a cat lover and being friendly, I said, "Hello, who is your friend?" (Meaning the cat) As she looked at me intently, she replied, "I know you!" I was very surprised upon hearing this declaration, and so was Dick. So I asked her name and she replied, "Shari Becker, Sandy Becker's wife, and you worked at Channel 5 Metro Media many years ago!" I almost fell over! She was correct. I was 19 when I started working there and we hadn't seen each other since a reunion in the 80s! Wow, what a memory she had! We became instant friends again, and she apologized for all the teasing I had gotten from her talented husband Sandy, and all the other children's TV hosts. (Those were great days for us all!)

Enough about my past. We walked together into a wonderful space where the smell of good things cooking and a group of friendly familiar Lamb faces greeted us. The barbeque was delicious, with many great food choices and wonderful soft apple pie-flavored ice cream cones for dessert. It was the perfect ending for a warm day and a lovely meal.

Lots of pictures were taken, and I got to visit with my pal, **Lewis Hardee**, as well as **Joyce Randolph** (and her delightful son, Randy), along with many other wonderful Lambs who came out to support the event. Pianist Paul Chamlin was there with his lovely wife as he provided the fine musical accompaniment. Then it was on with the show as the residents and guests filled the attractive performance room. As the show began, Emcee (and now Boy of The Lambs), **Scott Glascock**, gave us a grand introduction with his usual professional grace. New Lamb, **Phyllis Conley**, started the show with a rousing and fitting "The Best of Times," followed by the super couple, **Bill & Anita Brown**, who sang a delightful duet of "It's Never Too Late." From one of my favorite shows, *The King and I*, the lovely **Annette Hunt** sang "Something Wonderful" (and she was!). Next came **Eileen Lacy** who really let the guys have it with her rendition of "Goody, Goody." **Donna Elliot** followed with the

beautiful song, "If I Had You." I continued the show with a song that tells it all about our cabaret nights and how important they are. I sang the song that fits most musicals, "Cabaret." **Billie Stewart** provided us with some fine comic moments when she sang "Cecilia," complete with accompaniment on a whistle. **Eleanor Carney** proved she still, "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man," and **Kay Arnold** sang us the story of "Lili Marlene."

One of our divas, **Beth Holland**, danced and wowed the room singing "I Wanna Cha, Cha, Cha!" **Rita Hammer**, one of our famous belters, did it again with the song, "Shine On Your Shoes." Then the room suddenly became very British when new member, **Robert Dewar**, sang "A More Humane Mikado," followed by a nice rendition of "Something Very Strange," by **Roseann Sheridan**. **Jacqueline Kroschell** sang the haunting and beautiful "Mira" from *Carnival*. Shepherd, **Marc Baron**, gave us a rousing song about, "Josephine," and then Vivienne Gilbert cooled things down with "In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening." And speaking of "cool," we ended our show with a performance from our very cool diva, **Helen Klass**, who wowed the crowd singing, "I'm Living Alone, And I Like It!"

Following a big hand from an appreciative crowd, pictures were taken and congratulations were given to all for their fine performances. The best review of all was when a resident of the Actors' Home asked me, "Can you come back and do it again tomorrow?"

Let's hope that a new show will be planned for them in the near future. ENCORE! The cast is pictured here.



A Lamb Celebrates the Music of Cole Porter by David Dow Bentley III

[Editor's Note: Below is an abridged version of my review of *Lamb*, Kelli Estes, and her Lone Star Lyric Company's recent tribute to Cole Porter in Houston. The full review appeared on *BroadwayStars.com* and is available at www.ThePeoplesCritic.com.]

Clearly the word had gotten around the city of Houston that Cole Porter was back in town, and better still he was in the capable hands of the ever-more popular *Lone Star Lyric Company* on the opening night of its fall Cabaret Series last Friday. The show was aptly titled *Perfectly Porter*, and the venue was Houston's trendy, intimate and multi-tiered nightclub, *Ovations*. Many in the SRO audience were part of LSL's growing fan base during the 8 years of its successful operation presenting opera, musical theatre and operetta. Adding to the popularity is the group's Cabaret Series of the past two years, and it did not hurt at all that radio host, Ben Stevenson featured LSL Founder/Artistic Director, **Kelli Estes** and members of her current cast with a Porter preview last week on his popular show, *The Front Row*. (Broadcast on Houston's classical music station, KUHA 91.7).



(Above: *Lamb* Kelli Estes, center, kicks up her heels in performance with cast members of her Lone Star Lyric Company in Houston.)