

# STAR TRACKS

Newsletter of the Willits Community Theatre

Fall 2003

## WCT's Festival of Hispanic Performances

The Willits Community Theatre celebrates Mexican Independence with a festival of Hispanic music and theater from September 6 through October 24. September 16 is the date Mexicans celebrate their country's independence from Spanish rule. Since more than 12 percent of the Willits population is of Mexican descent, and a great many other citizens are at least familiar with the Spanish language - it is an opportunity to celebrate the culture in a variety of ways.

### **William Morin** **Latino Singer & Guitarist**

The celebration begins September 6 with William Morin, a Puerto Rican troubadour, who brings original and classic music in Spanish and English to the Playhouse for Saturday evening and Sunday matinee performances.

Morin brings an extensive repertoire of memorable love songs and ballads, mostly in Spanish and English, such as "En Mi Viejo San Juan", as well as many original songs. His caressing voice will escort you on a sentimental journey of words and music that, whether familiar or new, will serenade your soul.

In the centuries old tradition of troubadours, Morin's original songs play homage to traditional themes of love and devotion. When

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### **Cloud Tectonics** **A Staged Reading**

Next up is a staged reading of Jose Rivera's *Cloud Tectonics* September 19 and 20.

Playwright Jose Rivera once said, "We are in a perpetual state of what is possible. Things don't ever actually become ... they are always in a state of becoming." In *Cloud Tectonics*, Rivera ties the possibility of subjective space-time to love and all its implications. *Cloud Tectonics* is a dreamy exploration of the nature of love and time. As Anibal puts it, "...love sometimes does that to you. It alters the physics around you in some way: changing the speed of light and the shape of space and how you experience time."

This reading is the directorial debut of Bryan Arnold. It contains adult subject matter and language. Tickets are \$5. Showtime is 8pm.

### **Give Me Time** **A Hispanic Musical**

Concluding the festival of Hispanic culture at The Willits Community Theatre is a romantic musical, *Give Me Time*. This is an original play, written in English by Fran Resendez and Carlin Diamond and directed by Ms. Diamond. It opens a 3-weekend run October 10.

*Give Me Time* is a light-hearted look at a Hispanic family in a time of transition. It revolves around the relationships between three couples. The play opens at a 10-year high school reunion in a small town. Celia Rivera (played by Carmen Matus), the main character, is about to turn 30, and is overwhelmed by her family commitments and her need to finally pursue her dreams of attending college, and pursuing a career in music. When in high

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## Barksdale Joins Board

WCT is delighted to announce that Bill Barksdale has joined the Board of Directors.

Bill cut his "theatrical teeth" in the late 60's and early 70's, in summer stock, and at New York's Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theatre, where he studied acting with Sanford Meisner and William Esper.

In 1994 he directed WCT's special-effects rich, *The Haunting of Hill House*. In 1999 Bill appeared as the "saloon singer" in WCT's sold out musical production of *Blues in the Night*, and followed in the same year as director and performer in the musical cabaret, *Takin' A Chance On Love*. In 2000 he directed and designed the set for WCT's popular season opener, *Barefoot in the Park*, and earlier this year directed *Shirley Valentine*.

"I'm very excited about joining the Board at this time of transition and growth in the theatre" says Bill. "I'm also very excited about our upcoming 2004 Season, which I think is one of the best ever."

Bill has also served as president of the Mendocino County Multiple Listing Service and is glad that he's kept his "day job" as a REALTOR® and co-owner of Pacific Properties here in Willits.

### Halloween special !! \$2 off

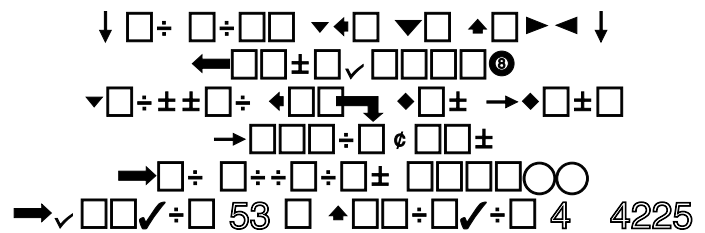
The price of admission  
Present this coupon when purchasing your ticket  
for Fly by night productions  
Halloween night performance Friday Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>.  
**Good for advance ticket sales only**

*Morin, continued from p. 1*

he sings, even if your aren't familiar with the language, you will sense the meaning and feel the emotion.

When he was six, Morin's father put a guitar in his hand and told him to "learn the classics". He often entertained guests at the family home on the Lower East Side of New York City, and by the time he was 16, William had his own choir at a local church. His early compositions were written in English, and it wasn't until he was in his early 20's that he began to learn Spanish. Now he says he almost exclusively composes in Spanish, although his repertoire includes songs in seven different languages.

This is a limited engagement; Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm and a Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm. Tickets are available at Goods Stamp Shoppe, 459-1363.



FLy By NiGHT and the Willits Community Theatre present Freddie Long's premier performance of "Under Elko" and on the same bill, Randy Rutherford's fun filled new show, "Randy's Riffs". These two artist-collaborators share only one weekend of performances so if you blink, you'll miss a great and entertaining show.

Earlier this year, Freddie amused and stirred audiences in San Francisco and here in Willits with the initial segments of her one-woman show *Under Elko*. This play dances dangerously and comically amid the antics of a whacky collection of characters to unearth buried treasures. Who and what is under Elko and why has Freddie returned to this Nevada wasteland? *Under Elko* is written and performed by Freddie Long, developed with Randy Rutherford, directed by Jenna Byrne, with lighting design by Joe Dowling and set design by Brian Weller.

Randy Rutherford, known and loved by local audiences for his two shows, *My Brother Sang Like Roy Orbison* and *Weaverville Waltz*, returns to the WCT stage with *Randy's Riffs* ... humorous stories and songs as well as excerpts from his next full evening show, *Alaska Stories* which will premier here early next year. A recent reviewer said of Randy "Randy Rutherford is a superb actor (with a great singing voice to boot.). He has the ability to make everything real and to pull you in to his world. An absolute must see." - The London Fringe Press.

Tickets are \$12 Friday & Saturday and \$6 on Sunday. Available at Goods' Stamp Shoppe 56 South Mains Street, Willits 459-1363 Information: 459-2281

*GMT continued from p. 1*

school, Celia had been a very talented singer / actor who performed in all the local stage and musical productions. In fact, she has agreed to sing a few songs as entertainment at the reunion. One of the musicians at the reunion is Anthony Campbell (Mark Hetherington), a shy, nerdy guy who had a bad crush on Celia all through school. The second couple consists of Celia's widowed father Oscar (Juan Crozco), and his companion Dehlia (Ana Araiza), - a relationship more serious than she realized. The third relationship between Celia's ex-husband Brad (Scott Gordon) and another former classmate, Kellie (Shawna Jeavons) blossoms under the spell of nostalgia.

The play is performed in English, but deals with a Hispanic family. Authors Resendez and Diamond wanted to portray the subtle differences in attitudes and values even in a family that has been in this country for a while. The women are particularly affected by changes in attitude toward parents, children, careers, and education, which can be different from the main stream.

Resendez's experiences growing up a Mexican American combine with Diamond's love of Hispanic culture and years of travel in Mexico to give the play an ethnic flavor. The two previously collaborated to produce the drama, *Finding the Blossom Before Winter*, also performed at WCT.

*Give Me Time* features original songs and on stage musical accompaniment with Kevin Moynahan on guitar, Jeff Crawford on drums, and Jack Power, percussion.

Celia is ably played by Carmen Matus. A newcomer to the WCT stage, Carmen has had extensive experience in Ukiah as a dancer and actress. She shares the lead with Mark Hetherington, best known to Willits audiences for his association with the Willits Shakespeare Company.

*Give Me Time* plays October 10<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>. Friday and Saturday performances begin an 8:00 pm (\$12), Thursday at 7:00 pm (\$6), and Sunday matinee at 2:00 pm (\$6). For further details call 459-2281 or see our website at [www.allaboutwct.org](http://www.allaboutwct.org). Visit Goods Stamp Shoppe for tickets 459-1363.

## Bertaud is Back!

After his dazzling North Coast debut at WCT this past spring, where he received four standing ovations, guitarist Philippe Bertaud returns to WCT for a very special performance on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM.

While he tours the world appearing at such events as The Montreal Jazz Festival, Euro San Francisco, Winter Festival, Rio De Janeiro and numerous others, it's venues like WCT that offer Philippe a more intimate experience with the audience.

Gifted with the universal language of music, Philippe speaks to his audience in a unique way, creating a collective soul with Philippe at its heart. Philippe welcomes back the wonderful acquaintances he met at his April performance and all those who have yet to experience his "music without borders..."

What's the critical buzz on Philippe ... "Guitaristic Wizardry... Michael Hedges spirit lives on between the hearts, hands, wood and steel of standard bearers like Bertaud. Philippe is easily that good." Montreal Jazz festival review by Michael Fagien, publisher, JAZZIZ magazine "Astonishing virtuosity...Dazzling technique...Great Philippe Bertaud!" says the Los Angeles Times review by Don Heckman. "Philippe Bertaud is an artist of true communication and his performances not only offer the audience a superior quality concert, but also, manage to envelope them in his music." Euro-San Francisco.

This show is part of the "World Class Guitar Series." Tickets can be purchased by calling Stephanie at the WCT office 459-0895, or by calling Kevin at Red Raven Music 456-1064.

### ***WCT Staff***

Managing Director	Beth Rosen
Production Mgr.	Stephanie Chatten
Administrative Asst.	Christina Hsieh
Facility Manager	Stephen Spleiss
Technical Coordinator	Al Rosen
Custodian	Robin Krauss

### ***Star Tracks Contributors***

Beth Rosen, Stephanie Chatten, Jay Gordon, Fran Resendez, Carlin Diamond, Christina Hsieh, Freddie Long, Al Rosen

### ***Board of Directors***

Jay Gordon, President, Tony Orth, Vice President, Diana Peart, Treasurer, Kyle Sickler, Secretary, Bill Barksdale, Stephanie Chatten, Marcia Hetherington, Kitty Norris

### ***Artistic Direction Committee***

Nancy Ellis-Bell, Chair, Bryan Arnold, Bob Brumback, Jay Gordon, Dennis Hall, Henry Shebitz, Charles Hurd

## WCT Scholarship Recipient Named

The Willits Community Theatre Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Kim Maas has been selected as the 2003 recipient of the Brooks Darrow Scholarship Fund. Kim will be using the \$500 award to pursue her college double major in Theatre Arts and British Literature at the University of London.

Kim is perhaps best remembered for her beautifully tragic role as Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Kim has appeared in a number of WCT productions including *Gypsy*, *Egad!*, *the Woman in White* and *Comedy of Errors* with the Willits Shakespeare Company.

The Brooks Darrow Scholarship was created in 2000 to promote education in the theatrical arts. Past recipients include Phaedra Kincaid (2002), Laurel Gregory (2001), and Wendy Norris (2000).

## Calendar 2003

### September

- 6, 7 **William Morin**, Latin Singer Guitarist  
in Spanish & English  
19, 20 **Cloud Tectonics** by Jose Rivera,  
a staged reading as part of our  
Spanish festival

### October

- 10 – 25 **Give Me Time**, by local authors  
Carlin Diamond & Fran Resendez  
15 **Steve Baughman**, Acoustic Guitarist  
specializing in Celtic music  
29 **Philippe Bertaud**, Acoustic Guitarist  
specializing in Jazz/Classical music  
31 **FLy By NiGHT Productions**  
*Original Works by Freddie Long  
and Randy Rutherford*

### November

- 1,2 **FBN Productions**, *Original Works  
by Freddie Long and Randy  
Rutherford*  
28,29,30 **Santaland Diaries**, a quirky look at  
the holiday season through the eyes  
of a Macy's Santaland Elf

### December

- 4.5.6 **Santaland Diaries**