

ENSEMBLE STUDIO THEATRE -
THE LA PROJECT

and



Annie Albrecht Bob Read Steve Kaplan
Executive Producers

PRESENT:

"BEST OF THE FEST"

Winners of the MCI Jury Award at the 1997
US Comedy Arts Festival

Executive Producers
Risa Bramon Garcia & Debra Stricklin

Producers
Sarah Halley Finn, Kate Baggott,
James Dumont, James Eckhouse

FRIENDLY GREETING written and directed by David Rasche
Ann: Mimi Lieber
David: Ben Siegler
Time: Present Place: A Home

YARN written by Nadia Dajani
directed by Risa Bramon Garcia
Mary: Nadia Dajani
Molly: Lisa Edelstein
Time: Present Day Place: New York City

TWO HETEROSEXUAL MEN GET READY TO GO OUT
(ONE HAS A GIRLFRIEND)written by Sally Fairman
directed by Jerry Levine
Jack: Joseph Lyle Taylor
Tom: Jay Thomas
Time: Present Day Place: Tom's New York City Apartment

ENGLISH (IT'S WHERE THE WORDS ARE) written by Peter Basch
directed by Susann Brinkley
Joey: Joseph Lyle Taylor
Suzy: Stephanie Cannon
Time: October 1, 1955 Place: Bensonhurst, Brooklyn

MISS YOUwritten by David Auburn
directed by Barbara Tarbuck
Man: Jerry Levine
Woman: Lisa Edelstein

NEGOTIATION..... written by Billy Aronson
directed by James Eckhouse
Employer: Paul McCrane
Freelancer: Kelly Connell
Time: Whenever Place: Wherever

JUDGEMENT CALL written by Frederick Stoppel
directed by Jenny O'Hara
Harvey: Jay Thomas
Frank: Ben Siegler
Time: Spring Training Place: A Baseball Field, Florida



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"BEST OF THE FEST"

PROGRAM NOTES

Letter from the Artistic Directors

The plays presented this evening are the outcome of a process that began six months ago, with a nationwide search for new comedy one-acts. To read the nearly 800 plays that were received, a play selection committee of 20 dedicated theatre professionals met every Saturday at the HBO Workspace for two months. Their passion for the theatre, commitment and humor drove the selection process, as each play was discussed and evaluated and the most promising plays then read aloud. Ultimately, nine comedy one-act plays were chosen for the US Comedy Arts Festival.

The outstanding plays were combined with equally gifted actors and directors, and the programs were a smashing success in Aspen, playing to packed houses and critical acclaim. This unprecedented debut for Ensemble Studio Theatre - The LA Project at the Comedy Arts Festival brought the additional honor of winning the First MCI Jury Award for Outstanding Performance at the Festival.

Ensemble Studio Theatre is no stranger to success, celebrating its Twenty-fifth season in New York under the Artistic Direction of Curt Dempster. The Obie Award-winning company of 500 established itself in Los Angeles just five years ago, with artists from the New York membership who have settled in L.A. The now 100 members of Ensemble Studio Theatre - The LA Project continue to build upon the company's original mission by discovering, developing and presenting the best new American plays.

We are thrilled to be working with HBO Workspace to bring back selections from our Aspen programs for the Los Angeles audience. Enjoy.

Risa Bramon Garcia, Debra Stricklin, Kate Baggott, Jenny O'Hara, Sally Halley Finn

Play Selection Committee:

Peter Basch, Jay Patterson, Garrett Brown, Tracy Poust, Jane Crawley, Michelle Remsen, John Capodice, Laura Jane Salvato, Bill Duffy, Ann Talman, James Eckhouse, Barbara Tarbuck, Amy Edin, Kristie Transeau, Mickey Kaufman, Nick Ullett, Susan Knight, Marsha Waterburym, Michael Koopman, Maia Winters, Barry Kramer, Art Wolff, Bob Lessor, Geoff Tarson

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