

trodding the boards ...from 24

get the better of him. As an overachieving Asian who decides to achieve a little bit less, Joy C. Duke gave her best performance yet.

P.J. McKinnie was fine as a free-spirited sort who turns out to be smarter (and sneakier) than he appears, as well as an overdriven gay Dad. Angela Papale was a delight as the lisping daughter who tries to live up to said gay Dad's expectations.

Leslie Limberg shone in another stellar performance as the gentle, overlooked

terday.

In this history of the world, Wilder's style, in which characters talk to the audience and a dinosaur and woolly mammoth roam the stage, must have seemed ahead of its time. Wilder's anti-war substance, however, sadly, never goes out of fashion.

On Jeff Becker's sophisticated set, Jason Kirkpatrick and Janet Shea's extraordinary direction was like a symphony with big moments and smaller, quiet ones all given their due. If one could've wished for a pinch more poetry in the lines' deliv-

esque but with a personality all her own.

Victoria Sumrall's Gladys Antrobus was girly and girlish but ultimately achieved a hard-won maturity while, after the youthfulness of the first two acts, a heart-rending gravitas emerged from Austin Alleman's Henry Antrobus in the final act. Fine performances both.

Dan Zimmer's lighting was a character unto itself and special mention must be made of Erika Hoffman for her dinosaur and woolly mammoth costumes.

As I write this, I wish I could provide more details about this *Skin*, but it was so good that I wanted just to sit and watch it without taking notes so as to enjoy fully the experience of the show itself and, simultaneously, NOCCA's achievement in the doing of it so well. If I can imagine other interpretations of this classic play, this was as valid as any, and in its setting, scope and staging on par with something one might see at the National Theater in London. And all you had to do was go to the Marigny.

A Raisin in the Sun at the Anthony Bean Community Theater

Fifty years after its Broadway premiere, Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* still packs a wallop. Not so much for its basic tale of a black, inner city family and their aspirations to better themselves, but for its details and language and observations about human nature that Hansberry limned so incisively. As Brooks Atkinson wrote in his New York Times review, "You might, in fact, regard *A Raisin in the Sun* as a Negro *The Cherry Orchard*."

If one wonders what the reaction was fifty years ago to hearing black characters talk so candidly about whites, it is telling that while a white character tries to keep the Younger family "in their place", it is an unseen black character who inflicts the most harm on them by absconding with a large sum of their money he had been entrusted with. One can only imagine what Hansberry would make of the Obama presidency and the ongoing scourge of black-on-black violence.

Will Williams' production started off, not so much slowly, but rather, a bit unfocused;

it's hard to say if the director or his actors were to blame for this. Once the momentum started building, however, three hours passed very quickly. Williams nicely balanced Hansberry's humor and pathos and, some melodramatic moments aside, wonderfully shaped such memorable scenes as when the devastating loss of the money is discovered.

In the large cast, Pat McGuire Hill brought a quiet dignity and, in Atkinson's phrase, "a nobility of spirit" to matriarch Lena Younger who yearns for a better life for herself and her family. As her daughter who aspires to be a doctor, Nicole James-Francois started out a bit too flashy but eventually found the right balance between the character's comic, self-dramatizing aspects and Beneatha's seriousness of purpose. As the Nigerian student Joseph Asagai who shares his African culture and his heart with Beneatha, Donald Lewis was just right in a role he was meant to play.

Anthony Bean, as Lena's son who dreams the biggest of dreams, made Walter Lee quite the showboat and played up the "crazy" description of Walter so that, at times, he seemed more "loco" than "aspiring to things he's not likely to get." Walter certainly has to be bigger than life but you also have to believe he is grounded with enough business sense to manage the liquor store he plans to open; Bean's passion sometimes got the better of him. This was by no means a bad performance but it seemed to belong in another, more expressionistic production; I'd love to see him in Eugene O'Neill's *The Emperor Jones*.

You could feel the years of domestic work drudgery etched in Samantha Beaulieu's bones as well as the fear of another pregnancy; as Ruth, Walter's wife, hers was a very good performance as was Tyler Felix as their son. Harold X. Evans, TJ Toups and, especially Gwendolyne Foxworth as a nosy neighbor, all contributed fine cameos.

Chad Talkington's set well-captured the urban grittiness that the Youngers long to escape. That said, all of ABCT's highly realistic sets are beginning to look alike; perhaps it's time to bring a more abstract look to them. Talkington seemed to be going for a more expressionistic style with his lighting design but it was not done smoothly enough at the performance I saw.

Never mind the nitpicking, however. The whole of this *Raisin* was greater than the sum of its parts and we are to be thankful to ABCT for offering us this landmark drama.

After the War at the Candle Factory

In New Noise's *After the War*, three kids set off on an adventure from Pittsburgh in a post-war, barren landscape to try to make it to the coast. They travel south to the Mississippi River then west over mountains. It is not an easy journey.

Created by the five person ensemble (Phil Cramer, Rachel Lee, Selena Poznak, Austin Riotte, Joanna Russo), *After the War* was rough around the edges but a serious, valid effort responding to the way we are now. If the line "can't see the beginning and can't see where it ends" described the bleak terrain that's encountered;

[continued on 31]



Brian Peterson and Leslie Limberg in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

child of self-actualizing parents who nonetheless possesses academic drive. And Brian Peterson, out of drag but fully inhabiting the speller with the "magic foot", added touches of vulnerability to a nerdish pomposity that made him more lovable than the Broadway incarnation.

When Peterson and Limberg finally experienced a frisson of romantic (too strong a word but it will have to do) connection, awkwardly of course, it was as melting a moment as when any of Rodgers & Hammerstein's lovers from their great musicals finally come together. And that's saying a lot.

As the adults, Megan Sauzer Harms (a Sarah Palin look alike) and Kyle Daigrepoint hit just the right tone of nonsense caring for their charges, with Daigrepoint's twee persnickiness the perfect target for kids' snickers. Jermaine L. Keelen was excellent as a tough-loving comfort counselor and Papale's other, more flighty gay Dad.

Add in Jefferson Turner's always topnotch musical direction, great use of audience members, and Harms' sharp-edged ad libs and this was a production that was spelled S-U-P-E-R-L-A-T-I-V-E!

The Skin of Our Teeth at Lupin Hall/NOCCA

Over sixty years have passed since Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth* debuted on Broadway. Yet NOCCA's revivifying production made you think it was written yesterday.

ery, i.e. the poetry one finds in Beckett or Tennessee Williams, especially as when done by, say, Laurence Olivier or one of those other Sirs, such a lack is understandable and excusable given that these teenage actors have yet to acquire the critical life experiences that would likely engender it.

In a large cast, what may have appeared to be superficial, cartoony acting deceptively camouflaged well-thought out characterizations and emotional depth. As Mr. & Mrs. Antrobus, the everyman couple with ties to Adam & Eve and every other famous couple in history, Matthew Bolden was good though he had to endure some of Wilder's more prosaic lines while Celeste Cahn was first-rate, reminiscent of a young Meryl Streep effortlessly flipping between coquetry, bitchiness and maternal warmth.

As Sabina the maid, a role originated by Tallulah Bankhead, Anamarys Perez clearly delineated all the layers of the character—housemaid, former mistress, beauty queen, and the less-than-brilliant actress playing all these roles—making Sabina tartly human, Bette Midler-



Anamarys Perez in *The Skin of Our Teeth*

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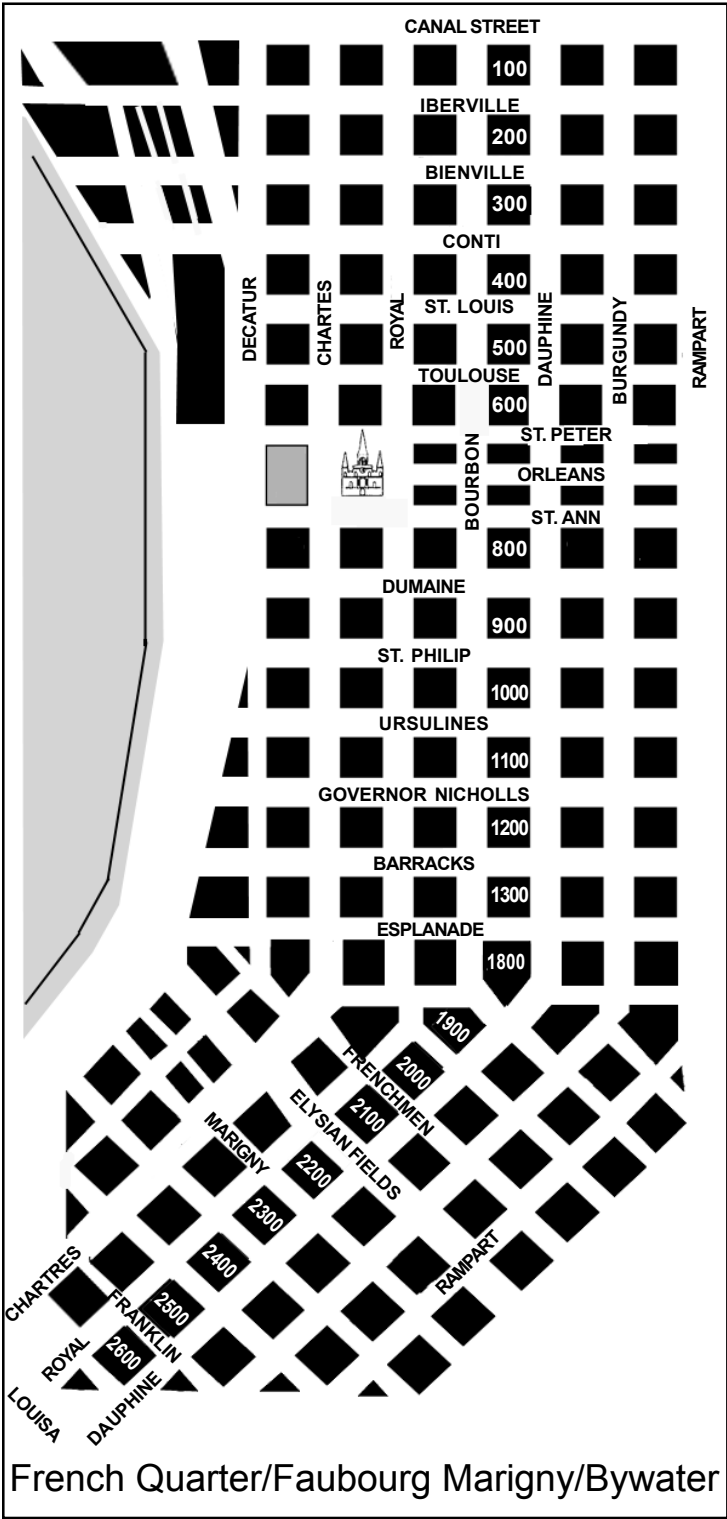
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GULF COAST TIDE, INC. www.GulfCoastTIDE.org; info@GulfCoastTIDE.org
Alexandria, LA [318]
CLASS [Central Louisiana AIDS Support Services], 103 Bolton Ave., 71301; 1.800.444.7993, 442.1010, FAX: 443.5216
Baton Rouge, LA [225]
AIDSLaw of Louisiana, 4560 North Boulevard, Suite 118, 302.5968, **AIDSLAW.org**
HAART (HIV/AIDS Alliance for Region Two), 4550 North Blvd., #250, 927.1269, Fax: 927.7367, haartinc.org, haartinc@aol.com
GBLSU [Gays, Bisexuals, Lesbians & Supporters United], glsapres@univl.sncc.edu, Kristy Price, President, 388.5160
KREWE OF APOLLO/BATON ROUGE, PO Box 3591, 70821; kreweapollobr.org
KREWE OF DIVAS, kreweofdivas.com, 343.0380
LAMBDA GROUP, 2937 Greenwood Dr., PO Box 82775, 70884-2775, 907.3665, www.lambdabr.org, info@lambdabr.org
METROPOLITANCOMMUNITYCHURCHOF

BATON ROUGE, 7747 Tom Drive, 70806, Worship Sunday, 11am, Bible Study Wednesday, 7pm, 225.248.0404, mccbr.org
PFLAG Baton Rouge, President Harold Truax, 225.218.8320
Lafayette, LA [337]
ACADIANA CARES [Concern for AIDS Relief, Education, and Support], PO Box 386, Lafayette, LA 70502; 203 W. 3rd St., 70501; 233.2437, FAX: 235.4178; 800.354.2437
KREWE OF APOLLO/LAFAYETTE, PO Box 53251, 70505
LEAGUE FOR EQUALITY, PO Box 53425, 70505
PFLAG/LAFAYETTE, PO Box 31078, 70503
ROYAL ORDER OF UNICORN, PO Box 3985, 70502
Monroe, LA [318]
GO CARE 2121 Justice, 71201, 325.1092
New Orleans, LA [504]
ACLU and ACLU Foundation of Louisiana, P.O. Box 56157, New Orleans, LA 70156, 504.522.0628 x25, Fax: 888.537.0384, **laaclu.org**
AIDS HOTLINE, 821.6050 in New Orleans, 1.800.99.AIDS[2437]-9 toll free statewide
AIDSLaw of Louisiana, 3801 Canal St., Suite 331, 568.1631, **AIDSLAW.org**
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, 828.3399
BELLE REVE NEW ORLEANS, AIDS Residence for Families, PO Box 3305, 70177; 945.9455
BIG EASY M.C.C. (Metropolitan Community Church of Greater New Orleans), Sunday 12:15pm Solumn Mass, 5pm Praise & Worship, at St Matthew's UCC, 1333 S. Carrollton Ave. at Willow. Fellowship after service. Mailing address: 1333 S. Carrollton Ave. New Orleans, LA, 70118; 213.4340, www.bigeasymcc.com, pastor@bigeasymcc.com
BROTHERHOOD, INC., To decrease the spread of AIDS and HIV among African Americans, 1661 Canal St., Suite 3230, 70112; 566.7955
CHURCH OF CHRIST THE LIBERATOR, Sun. 11am Service, 607 Marigny St. (behind The Friendly Bar), **ChristTheLiberator.ORG**
COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK, a project of the NO/AIDS Task Force which works with the gay community to implement HIV prevention activities, 507 Frenchmen St., 945.4000, noaidstaskforce.com
COPS 8 (Citizens' Organization for Police Support in the 8th District), 840 N. Rampart St., #51, 70116; 588.COPS (2677), cops8.org
FOOD FOR FRIENDS, 944.6028
FORUM FOR EQUALITY, 336 Lafayette, Suite 200, 70130; 947.2981, ForumForEquality.COM
FRIDAYNIGHT BEFORE MARDIGRAS (FNBMG), PO Box 791376, New Orleans, LA 70179-1376; 733.3311, **fridaynightbeforemardigras.com**, fnbmg@cox.net
GAY APPRECIATION AWARDS, 828-A Bourbon St., 70116-3137; 522.8049; **AmbushMag.COM/GAA**
GAY COUNSELING LINE, 833.1500
GLSEN [Gay Lesbian & Straight Education Network], 482.4081, Fax 595.8587, E-mail: glsenno@hotmail.com, glsenno.org
GULF GENDER ALLIANCE [GGA], Non-Profit Support Group for Transgender persons. Monthly meetings, socials and political activism. Privacy respected and expected. Interview required. Nondiscriminatory. Call 504.324.4035 or write PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836; gga.org, E-mail: info@gga.org
HALLOWEEN IN NEW ORLEANS, INC., PO Box 52171, 70152-2171; **halloweenneworleans.com/ambush**
HATE CRIMES HOTLINE, c/o Family Service of Greater New Orleans, 504.202.2131. The Hate Crimes Project offers to assist those who feel that they may have been a victim of a hate crime. The project provides advocacy for persons victimized due to race, religion, gender and gender identity, age, disability, and/or sexual orientation.
IN THIS TOGETHER, HIV/AIDS Case Management, 2511 Bayou Road, Suite B, 70119; Office: 504.962.3245, Fax: 504.962.3246;

962.3245, www.inthisitogetherinc.org, michael@itnola.org
KREWE OF ARMEINIUS, PO Box 56638, New Orleans, LA 70156-6638, cetubby@cox.net, **KreweOfArmeinius.ORG**
KREWE OF AMON RA, PO Box 7033, Metairie, LA 70010, **KreweOfAmonRa.COM**
KREWE OF MWINDO, PO Box 51031, 70156; 913.5791, **KreweOfMwindo.ORG**, krewe@kreweofmwindo.org
KREWE OF PETRONIUS, PO Box 71665, 70172, Pres.ArthurAlarcon 451.9507, Capt. Bill McCarthy 430.6695 <http://kreweofpetronius.tripod.com>
KREWE OF QUEENATEENAS/KINGCAKE QUEEN ROYALTY CLUB, 828-A Bourbon St., 70116-3137, 522.8049, **GayMardiGras.COM/KCQ**
LaCARP [Louisiana Community AIDS Research Program], 584.1971
LA-LIFT, Social Club for Lesbians, age 50+, who have fun together on weekends. E-mail: armyvvet20@webtv.net
LAMBDA CENTER, 831 Elysian Fields Ave., 70117
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ORLEANS, 234 Loyola, Suite 421, 70112; 581.9106
LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTER OF NEW ORLEANS, 2114 Decatur St., 70116-2013; 945.1103, Fax 945.1102, Email: info@lgccno.net
LORDS OF LEATHER, P.O. Box 770435, New Orleans, LA 70071-4035, **LordsOfLeather.COM**
LOUISIANA STATE GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (LSGRA), 915.3339, lance@lsgra.com, **LSGRA.COM**
MCLNO HOP Clinic, 136 S. Roman Street, 4th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112; Apts.: 504.903.6959, www.hopclinic.org
MYSTIC KREWE OF SATYRICON, 1021 Gov. Nicholls St., 70116, 525.4498, **MysticKreweOfSatyricon.COM**
NEW ORLEANS GAY MEN'S CHORUS, 322.7007, nogmc.com; nogmc@aol.com
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL, nojazzfest.com
NO/AIDS TASK FORCE, 2601 Tulane Ave., Suite 500, 70119; 821.2601; **NOAIDSTaskForce.COM**
N'R Peace, 3201 Gen. DeGaulle Dr., Suite 201, 70114, 364.1950
OFFICIAL GAY EASTER PARADE, 828-A Bourbon St., 70116-3137, 504.522.8049, info@gayeasterparade.com, **GayEasterParade.COM**
OFFICIAL GAY MARDI GRAS, 828-A Bourbon St., 70116-3137, 504.522.8049, **GayMardiGras.COM**
OFFICIAL GAY NEW ORLEANS, 828-A Bourbon St., 70116-3137, 504.522.8049, **GayNewOrleans.COM**
OFFICIAL SOUTHERN DECADENCE, 828-A Bourbon St., 70116-3137, 504.522.8049, **SouthernDecadence.COM**
PEOPLE OF SUBSTANCE, INC. (POS), 7210 Arbor Dr., 70126, 244.1920, posnola.com
PFLAG/NO [Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/ New Orleans], PO Box 15515, 70175; 895.3936, 392.0001, pflagno.org, info@pflagno.org
PROJECT LAZARUS, A Residence for PWAs, PO Box 3906, 70177-3906; 949.3609
REGIONAL AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK [RAIN], 523.3755
TAU HOUSE MINISTRIES, 1029 Governor Nicholls, 70116, roddyssnd@aol.com, 529.3569. Mass on Sunday 4:15pm; Vespers on Monday, Wednesday, Friday 6pm. Everyone is welcome!
VOLLEYBALL NEW ORLEANS, PO Box 13306, 70185-3306; volleyballneworleans.com, postmaster@volleyballneworleans.com
WILLIAM J. FANNING FOUNDATION [Buzzy's Boys & Girls], 2301 Chartres, 70117; 943.8929
Shreveport, LA [318]
KREWE OF APOLLO/SHREVEPORT, PO Box 4918, 71134
PHILADELPHIA CENTER, PO Box 44454, 71134-4454; 222.6633
YWCA AIDS MINORITY COMMUNITY OUT-REACH, 700 Pierre Ave., 71103; 226.8717

PETS

New Orleans, LA [504]
CHI-WA-WA GA-GA, 511 Dumaine; 581.4242; chiwawagaga.com
FRENCH QUARTER PET ASYLUM, 513 Dumaine St., 302.9845
DR. MIKE'S ANIMAL HOUSE, 1120 N. Rampart, 523.4455

PHARMACY

New Orleans, LA [504]
MUMFREY'S PHARMACY, 1021 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043, 504.279.6312

PHOTOGRAPHY

New Orleans, LA [504]
GRAHAM/STUDIO ONE NEW ORLEANS, by appointment, grahamstudioone.com

PLUMBERS

New Orleans, LA [504]
AVALON PLUMBING, residential & commercial repair & remodeling, call Michael 237.0888
RAMSEY PLUMBING, repairs, repipe, sewer & drain cleaning, water heaters, disposals, 296.6865

PRINTERS

New Orleans, LA [504]
SIR SPEEDY, 343 Carondelet, 586.9812

REAL ESTATE AGENTS

New Orleans, LA [504]
JUDY FISHER, INC. REALTORS, Agent Mary Lind, 874.4905, marylind2020@gmail.com
PRUDENTIAL GARDNER REALTORS, Agent Brett A. Rector, Cell: 453.2277, Office: 861.6400, brettinla@aol.com

RESTAURANTS

New Orleans, LA [504]
700 CLUB RESTAURANT, 700 Burgundy, 561.1095, 561.1098,
700ClubNewOrleans.COM
Bywater Restaurant, Deli & BBQ, 3162 Dauphine St., 944.4445
Cafe Amelie, 912 Royal St., 412.8965
Clover Grill, 900 Bourbon St., 598.1010, **CloverGrill.COM**
Country Club Restaurant, 634 Louisa St., **TheCountryClubNewOrleans.COM**, 945.0742
Embers Original Bourbon House, 700 Bourbon, 523.1485
Krystal, 116 Bourbon at Canal, 523.4030
La Peniche, 1940 Dauphine St., 943.1460
Louisiana Pizza Kitchen, 95 French Market Pl., 522.9500
Maximo's Italian Grill, 1117 Decatur St., 586.8883, **MaximosGrill.COM**
Mona Lisa Restaurant, 1212 Royal St., 522.6746
Orleans Grapevine Wine & Bar Bistro, 720 Orleans
The Pelican Club, 312 Exchange Alley, 523.1504, **PelicanClub.COM**
Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli, 1100 Bourbon St., 529.1416
Tiramisu 55 Restaurant & Bar, 123 Carondelet, 581.3288

RETAIL/shopping

New Orleans, LA [504]
ALTERNATIVES, 907 Bourbon St., 70116; 524.5222
BOURBON-STRIP TEASE, 205 Bourbon St., 70130; 581.6633, bourbontease.com
THE HERB IMPORT COMPANY, 711 St. Peter [in French Quarter], 525.4372; 5055 Canal St. [near City Park Ave.], 488.4889
LA MINA STERLING, 840 Royal St., 324.3423, laminasterling@gmail.com
PANDA BEAR, 415 Bourbon St., 529.8064