

# Seattle Arts

Vol. 5 No. 9, May, 1982

## Artists-in-Residence selected for 1982

### Playwrights, choreographers and composers

The Seattle Arts Commission approved proposals from five Seattle professional creative artists working together with local arts organizations to produce original creative works in dance, music and literature. In its second year, the SAC program, "Artists-in-Residence," focuses on the work of playwrights, choreographers, composers and creative writers in 1982 which will be produced by Seattle theatres and performing companies in 1982 and 1983.

The selected artists were chosen by a jury of professionals in each of the disciplines. The jury recommendations were approved by the Artists-in-Residence committee and then approved by the full Seattle Arts Commission at its regular April meeting.

#### DANCE

Lee Anne Hartley will collaborate with Co-Motion Dance on a project to create a choreographic work for two dancers. According to Hartley, the work is "comprised of a suite of four dances. Each of the four sections will explore a different aspect of the same theme: the relationship between two people as seen over a period of time."

These four dances will be presented together as a continuous suite of dances in a full evening concert. Or, different sections will be interspersed throughout the concert, each section appearing at intervals. Each section will view the dual relationship from a different moment in time, tracing its gradual evolution from a raw kinetic level to introspective moments in which the relationship is revealed through private conversations held in one's mind." Hartley's choreography pieces include "Hokousi Water-Scape" (Spring 1981) and "A Desert Place" (Winter 1982) through Danceworks Northwest.

#### MUSIC

Esther Sugat describes her project as a composition in five sections for voice, instruments, and electronic tape. The vocal text will be poems by Andre Breton (1896-1966), French surrealist poet. The instruments will include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trombones (2), and percussion. The voice part will include sung and spoken parts. Sound sources for the tape will be the instruments of the ensemble and electronic synthesizer. One section of the piece will be for tape solo. The duration of the composition will be 60-90 minutes and a total of seven performers will be used. The tape will be realized at Soundwork.

The Composition will be performed in the Fall, 1983 at the Nippon Kan Theatre in Seattle. For the premiere performance, dancer Fumi Murakami will choreograph and perform a solo dance. Murakami will perform on the stage while the musicians, including the singer, will perform on the floor in front of the stage.

Sugat has a masters degree in music composition from the University of Utah. Her works have been performed in New York, Utah and Oregon.

#### LITERARY ARTS

Randy Paris will develop and write an original 60-minute teleplay tentatively titled "Hold at the Bus Office" drawing on the professional resources of KCTS-9. "By utilizing that medium's ability to tell a story through shifting focus, controlling time, and manipulating the immediate environment," says Paris. "This five character teleplay will explore the stories and characters of three women and two men working at staff and volunteers in a community theatre's ticket office. The teleplay will take much of its



Composer Hub Miller's original score for Intiman Theatre's production of *Antigone*. Shown here, Creon, King of Thebes, defies his royal order to leave her brother's body. The play is a Greek tragedy on the conflict between private conscience

flavor and some of its meaning from that community theatre's revival production of William Saroyan's classically American play *The Time of Your Life*.

Broadcast of the produced script will be provided through the resources of CABLEARN. It currently provides over 100,000 regular viewers in Seattle and Puget Sound with scheduled and promoted programming on cable television's education and public access channels. A video tape cassette will be available for rental at a cost of \$5.00 per tape.

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## TV Spotlight on QA Playwright

What Randy Paris had imagined as "a simple, staged reading" has materialized into a full-length television drama that will appear on local channels during the next week.

Paris, who lives on lower Queen Anne, is the writer/producer/co-director of the new work, *Life Times*, which will air at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 23 on Group W. Cable television (channel 29) and on Sunday, April 1 at 1 p.m. on KCTS (channel 9).

His play tells the story of Mary, a woman whose young-adult choice to abandon a promising stage career "for the love of a good, simple man," is re-evaluated after 30 years of marriage, when her husband suddenly dies.

The efforts of her children to get her to carry on a life without him end up taking her back to the theatre, but this time as a volunteer ticket-seller for a community ensemble. Here she encounters the ghost of her past and a young man who is facing a similar decision to the one she faced 30 years earlier.

That's the synopsis provided by the Seattle Arts Commission, which funded the work under its Artists-in-Residence program. Paris

was selected by the Commission early last year based on his excellence in playwriting.

He is familiar as writer of the award-winning KING-TV production of *Southern Cross*. His plays have appeared on Seattle stages — Intimas and PONCHO Theatres — and have been done by Portland's Actors Repertory Theatre and Northern Kentucky University.

And they have been finalists in national competitions, such as the Towngate Theatre Festival and have earned Paris spots in the Padua Hills Workshop and New Plays program of A.C.T. in San Francisco.

*Life Times*, Paris explains, grew out of characters in *The Time of Your Life*. He asked himself, "What if?" and took the character who played Kitty Duvall in *Time of Your Life* and looked at her life several years later. Those familiar with the William Saroyan play will recognize a symmetry in the characters the playwright said. "I tried to mix the two together and see what kind of reaction I'd get," he added, "to find some kind of affirmation of life."

Paris said he originally hoped to find someone local to produce *Life Times*, but

after searching, found out that, "in order to do it, I had to do it myself."

Originally, he had imagined *Life Times* as staged reading. Then director/associate producer Roberts Levitow suggested staging some key scenes.

After assembling a production crew and investing hours working out scenes on a storyboard, *Life Times* took on a full-blown dramatic life of its own.

Shooting took about a month late last summer, in locations all over Seattle, including the Salon in the Square, Continental Plaza Coffee Shop, Seattle Opera, Leilani Lanet, Group W, offices, private homes and the Glenn Hughes Theatre. These location scenes were a pleasant surprise for Paris, who was "amazed" at peoples' interest and cooperation.

Local theatre professionals and actors donated their time to the project. Ross Kuring (in the group theatre's *Getting Out and Nuts*), plays Mary. Robert Burgess (Seattle Children's Theatre, *Brant Ring* and *Snoqualmie Falls Theatres*) portrays the young man, Willie.

Shirley Robertson (who headed the Theatre Department at Highline Community College from 1962-1974) plays Elsie. Other cast members are Rob Alrd, Bess Douthit, Jack Dum, Suzy Huss, Anne O'Connell (seen in *Magnolia* last year as *Fanny Kemble*) John

## ENTERTAINMENT



A scene from the filming of "Life Times," with director Roberts Levitow; camera and sound operator and lighting designer Steve Winiger, and writer/producer/co-director Randy Paris of Queen Anne. The drama will air March 23 and April 1 on local TV stations.

Pendleton and Stephanie Shine.

Paris is a Seattle native (Lincoln High School, University of Washington for bachelor's and master's degrees) who has stayed in this area because, "so far, I've been able to do what I want to do here. But it's not easy, it's constant scratching to make a living."

On the other hand, in Southern California or New York, he'd probably end up a go-ftr, "carrying water" for someone, he joked.

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## LIFE TIMES New Television Play

- by Daphne Enslow Bell

Randy Paris has written and produced a full-length screenplay for television, **LIFE TIMES**, combining a great script, donated locations and equipment, and the enthusiastic participation of numerous talented actors, video technicians, and a skilled director and production manager. Paris's **LIFE TIMES** will air Friday, March 23 at 8p.m. on Group W Cable television (Channel 29) and April 1 at 2 p.m. on KCTS television (Channel 9). **LIFE TIMES** was not produced on the proverbial "shoestring" — this production came about with a mere "thread" of funding and a lot of commitment, talent and goodwill.

A Seattle Arts Commission jury of stage-writing professionals selected Paris for SAC's 1983 Artists-in-Residence program early in the year. The Artists-in-Residence committee and then the full Arts Commission approved the recommendation in February. Paris proposed writing a script for a teleplay entitled *Hold at Box Office*, to be given as a staged



## Artists-in-Residence Selected

The Seattle Arts Commission approved proposals from five Seattle professional creative artists writing and composing original creative works. The 1984 SAC "Artists-in-Residence" program focuses on the work of a script writer, a prose writer, a poet, a composer and a choreographer. These artists will produce original works which will be presented by Seattle professional arts organizations or will be presented by the artists themselves in 1984 and 1985.

The following artists will collaborate with the listed organizations or will produce their own new works:

Script Writing: Rebecca Wells - New play for the Empty Space Theatre.

Choreography: Jesse Jaramillo - Dance performance with Mexican-American themes.

Prose: Brenda S. Peterson - Fiction reading of book-length work.

Poetry: Linda Bierds - Poetry readings with Northwest themes through Seattle Public Library.