

How Time Flies

"We are all born mad. Some remain so."
~ Samuel Beckett

Is it just me, or is this year speeding by like a rocket? Since the last orbit, **Melinda** and **I** have performed together at the inaugural **Hear Now Festival** in Kansas City, where I had a totally unexpected reunion with Yale Professor of Music **Willy Ruff**, whom I'd last seen when we travelled with the **Yale Russian Chorus** in 1959. A member of the **Mitchell/Ruff Duo**, they were the first jazz musicians to play in the Soviet Union since the end of WW2, and we had an amazing and very moving catch up. I also got to perform there with the incredible players of **Right Between the Ears**, an award-winning sketch comedy show, broadcast every week on **Sirius-XM** and on **Kansas Public Radio** stations, which I can best describe as SNL for the ears.

I then returned to a spurt of work for **Pixar** and **Final Fantasy 13**, closed **The Crucible**, appeared in a **Classicsfest** reading of **Ibsen's The Master Builder** and was interviewed about my role in **A Time for Singing** by our friend **Gary Hollis** who hosts '**Saturday Morning on Broadway**' on **K-Mozart**.

■ *continued*



LIFT OFF: A LEO BLOOMS
"Here is an early me being read to
by my mom in Goshen. I think it's
Ulysses by James Joyce."

But even more exciting, was seeing **Melinda** at the **LA Downtown Film Festival** in the world premier of the thoughtful political comedy *I'm Harry Clark* as Harry's despicable mother. She is hysterical in the film, and you can get a taste of her outrageous performance in the **TRAILER**.



We will next be performing together in *Charity*, a film about bullying by **Alexander Haney**, and are planning to visit friends and relatives out of town for our upcoming **Leo** birthday celebrations. We also gave ourselves the gift of

more classes at the **Beverly Hills Lingual Institute**: Mellie in Italian and me in Spanish. *Adios y Ciao!*

"A story that lives is a story that's told." ~ **Madalina Gulerez**

I'M HARRY CLARK'S MOTHER
Melinda in the film 'I'm Harry Clark' (left)
and in the lobby for the world premier.



MORE WEIGHT

Joao Maria de Souza and his wife, **Leni** were sleeping at home in the Brazilian town of Caratinga when a 3,000-pound cow, which had apparently wandered off from a nearby farm, crashed through their corrugated roof, falling eight feet onto their bed, reports *The Telegraph*.

His wife and the bovine were fine, but de Souza suffered a fractured leg and was transported to a hospital, where unattended for hours, the 45-year-old died from internal bleeding.

"Being crushed by a cow in your bed is the last way you expect to leave this earth," de Souza's brother told the newspaper *Hoje em Dia*, "But in my view it wasn't the cow that killed our Joao, it was the unacceptable time

he spent waiting to be examined."

De Souza's mother, **Maria**, told *SuperCanal* "I

didn't bring my son up to be killed by a falling cow. He nearly died when he was 2 and got meningitis, but I worked hard to buy medicines for him and he survived. And now he's lying in his bed and gets crushed to death by a cow. There's no justice in the world."

They definitely have a beef with the cow's owner and may milk him for damages.

"A writer who waits for ideal conditions under which to work will die without putting a word on paper."

~ **Kurt Vonnegut**



COW, HIDE!
Though it was no help to Mr. de Souza in his living room, motorists near Democrat Hot Springs, California, have been warned.

LESS WEIGHT

"I wanted to thank you for introducing me to Antaeus," writes **Arden Thomas**, the talented young lady who recently stage-managed **Dan Duling's** radio-style dramatization of **TESLA**, featuring **French Stewart**, at the **Pasadena Playhouse** fundraiser for **CalTech**.

"I saw **The Crucible** last night and was absolutely nailed to my seat from the very first few seconds" she continues. "This was by far the best acting I've seen since I moved to California – I know I've missed a lot, but for me it was truly astonishing. And I was literally weeping at the end – not just tears, but shoulders shaking, trying to pull myself together – I was rocked!"

"I thought I hated **The Crucible** but I realized I had never 'seen' or 'heard' this play before. The details, the complexities, the brilliance of the writing were so clear and so deep in this production... And what lovely people I met after the show! The actors I spoke with were all so kind and generous.

"I cannot wait to see every production that comes out of Antaeus from now on! Thanks, Arden." Well, **Giles Corey** may be no more; but he obviously lives on! Thank you, Arden.

*"There is a light at the end of every tunnel.
Some tunnels just happen to be longer than others."
~ Author Ada Adams*

IS MARRIED MERRIER?

Planeteer **Lawrence Budd** informs us that the archbishop of the Philippines has declared that a lesbian is free to marry a gay guy so – "Problem solved!" And **William Field** notes, "What's the big deal with same-sex marriage? Once you're married it's all the same sex." To which **Dale Pitman** adds, "I support same sex couples' right to be as miserable in marriage as straight folks."

Then, ancient **Egyptians** believed that upon death they would be asked two questions, and their answer would determine whether they could continue their journey in the afterlife.

The first question was "Did you bring joy." The second was, "Did you find joy?" My question is, "Who is Joy?"

*"Some Filipinos want to change the name of their country to the Tagalog term 'Maharlika', but they cannot agree on what it means."
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*



TESLA, A RADIO PLAY FOR THE STAGE
French Stewart, right, and I, in the Caltech Experimental Performance Laboratory's reading of the new play by Dan Duling.

THE GREAT WALMART OF CHINA

A Chinese guy goes into a Jewish-owned establishment to buy a black bra, size 38. The Jewish storekeeper, known for his skills as a businessman, says that black bras are rare and that he is finding it very difficult to get them from his suppliers, so he has to charge \$50 for them.

The Chinese guy buys 25 and returns a few days later to order 50, at which time the owner says they've become even harder to get and charges him \$60 apiece.

Then, the Chinese guy returns a month later and buys the store's remaining stock of 50 – this time for \$75 each. The Jewish owner is somewhat puzzled by the large demand for black size-38 bras and asks the Chinese guy, "Please tell me – What do you do with all these black bras?"

"I cut them in half," he answers, "and sell them as skull caps to Jewish men for \$200 each."

And this is why today, the Chinese own us!

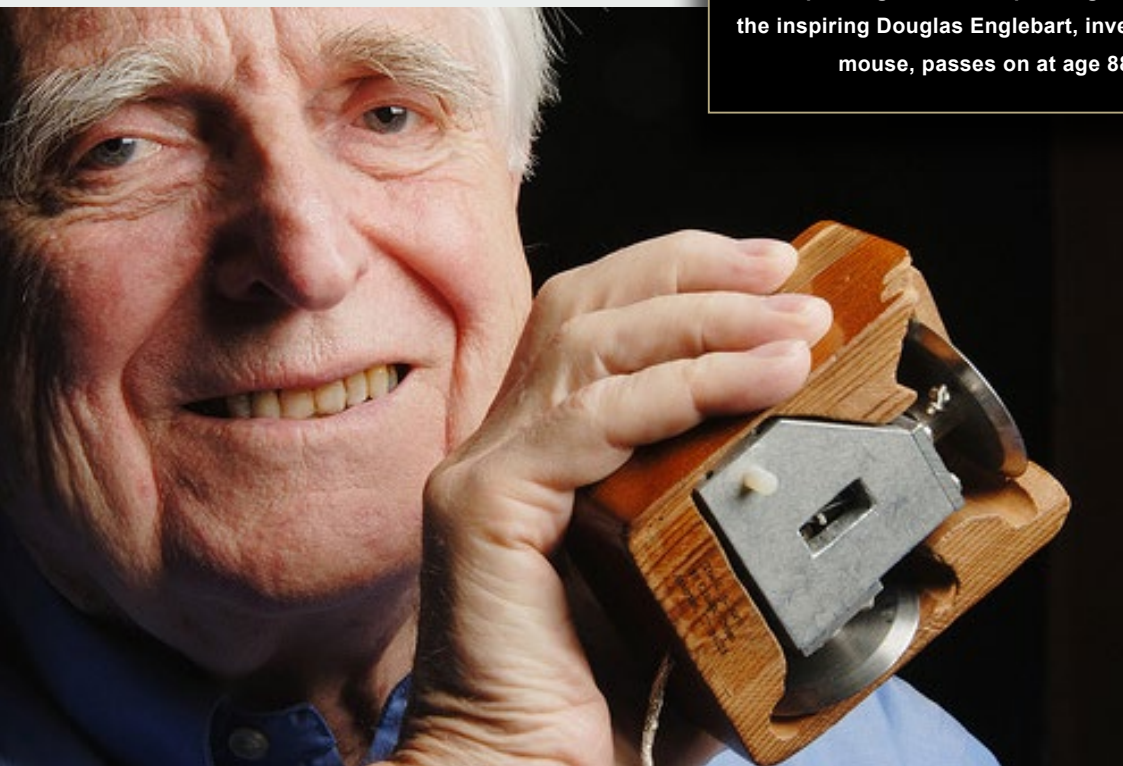
"Superman is a super Jew. His name, Kal-El, means 'Vessel of God,' and like Moses, he was sent adrift and adopted by gentiles."
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

"You are all geniuses, and you are all beautiful. You don't need anyone to tell you who you are. You are what you are. Get out there and get peace, think peace, live peace, and breath peace, and you'll get it as soon as you like."
~ John Lennon

ANOTHER BOZO BITES THE DUST

In 1971, the **Firesign Theatre** released its third concept album, which predicted among other things, the rise of the computer as a social and technological meme. Only a few years earlier, **Douglas Engelbart**, who just passed at the age of 88, delivered a presentation to fellow futurists in San Francisco about word-processing, video-conferencing, and the marvels that would result from linking powerful processors.

Thirteen years before **IBM** introduced their business computers and 15 years before the advent of the **Macintosh**, his ideas, like Firesign's, inspired a young visionary named **Steve Jobs**; and in 1983, Jobs acquired the patent for the first "mouse," invented a year before by Englebart, as a small wooden box with wheels and a tail.



ENGLEBART HAS LEFT THE MOUSE

After passing on mind-expanding technology, the inspiring Douglas Englebart, inventor of the mouse, passes on at age 88.

Although Douglas never made a cent on his innovations, he continued to write about International problem-solving in books such as *Tools for Thought: The History and Future of Mind-Expanding Technology*. "He also raised ducks, earthworms, and bees," concludes his *LA Times* obituary.

So he probably had bees in his head like the real inventor of Television, **Philo Farnsworth**.

I'M ALL EARS

After a young man moved from home to his first apartment, all on his own, he went proudly down to the lobby to put his name on his mailbox. While there, a stunning young lady came out of the apartment next to the mailboxes, wearing only a robe.

The boy smiled at the young woman and she started up a conversation with him. As they talked, her robe slipped open, and it was obvious that she had nothing else on. The poor kid broke into a sweat trying to maintain eye contact, and after a few minutes, she placed her hand on his arm and said, "Let's go to my apartment. I hear someone coming."

In a daze, he followed her in and she closed the door and leaned against it, allowing her robe to fall off completely. Now totally nude, she purred at him, "What would you say is my best feature?" Flustered and embarrassed, he finally squeaked, "It's got to be your ears."

Astounded and a little hurt she asked, "My ears? Look at these breasts; they are a full 38 inches and 100% natural. I work out every day and my ass is firm and solid. I have a 28-inch waist! And look at my skin - not a blemish anywhere. How can you think that the best part

of my body is my ears?"

Clearing his throat, he stammered, "Outside, when you said you heard someone coming? That was me."

"I no longer get the girl, but I get the part."
~ Michael Caine in AAR's 'What I Know Now'



*"If God had intended us to fly,
he would have made it easier to get to the airport."
~ Jonathan Winters*

TWISTED

A little old lady sold pretzels on a street corner for a dollar apiece. Every day, a young man would leave his office building at lunchtime, and as he passed the pretzel stand, he would leave her a dollar but never take a pretzel in return. This

offering went on every workday for more than three years!

The two of them never spoke, but one day as he left his dollar as usual, the old pretzel lady suddenly spoke to him for the first time ever.

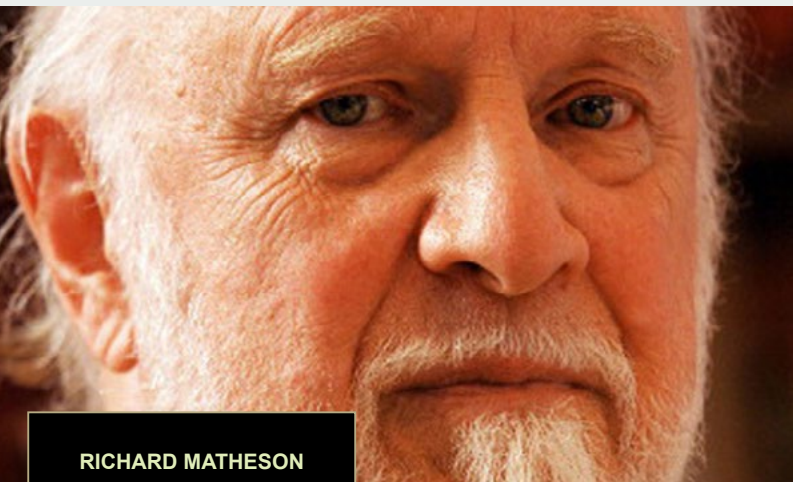
Without blinking an eye, she said, "They're a dollar and a quarter now."

*"We are here on earth to do good unto others.
What the others are here for, I have no idea."
~ W.H. Auden*

"After the game, the King and the pawn go into the same box." ~ Italian proverb

HE WAS LEGEND

The great science fiction, horror and fantasy writer **Richard Matheson** wrote his final chapter at the age of 87, leaving behind such masterpieces as *I Am Legend* and *Born of Man and Woman*. But he is best known for films based on his works and for more than a dozen "Twilight Zone" scripts, including the classic "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet" starring **William Shatner** and later **John Lithgow**.



RICHARD MATHESON

When I came out to Hollywood with the musical *The Amorous Flea*, in 1965, I met my idol **Ray Bradbury** for the first time at a party at producer **David Axelrod**'s apartment above the Sunset Strip; but the first person to greet me that night was **Grant Williams**, who said, "Hello, I'm the incredible shrinking man."

Matheson wrote that story -- as well as *The Duel*, our friend **Steven Spielberg**'s first TV movie and later *Somewhere in Time* and *What Dreams May Come*, for which I supplied voices. "I don't believe in the supernatural," Matheson wrote. "I believe in the supernormal...If it seems incomprehensible, it's only because we haven't been able to understand it yet."

And finally, farewell to the gorgeous **Santa Monica Civic Center**, once the site of concerts by **Clapton**, **Sinatra**, **Prince**, **Brubeck**, **Fitzgerald**, **Dylan** and -- the **Firesign Theatre**. May you rust in piece.

END OF FILM

The **Writers Guild of America's Film Society** was initiated by **Ray Bradbury** and **Norman Corwin** among others, to allow members inexpensive access to new studio releases. I have been a member for over four decades, and now it appears that it may soon end. The theatre on Doheny will be closed for several months for a complete renovation, and upon its reopening, all future screenings will be free and open to all Guild members, in an apparent effort to attract more and younger writers to participate. If you have a strong opinion about this, please visit **THIS WEBSITE**.

And although I missed quite a few films recently due to my work in *The Crucible*, here are my opinions about the ones I caught, such as *The Lone Ranger*, which we actually enjoyed, even though it's overly long and gets muddled at times. Nonetheless, if you remember the original and keep your tongue in your cheek, you'll admire a witty script and some memorable performances, as well as a goofy, bang-up finale. I give it 3 silver bullets.

The Way, Way Back is brilliant. Just go see it. *The Heat* has the best vagina jokes ever and **Melissa McCarthy**'s physical comedy had us gasping with laughter. And finally, Woody Allen's *Blue Jasmine* is one of his best ever: heart-breaking, contemporary, and thought-provoking with beautiful acting, led by **Kate Blanchett**'s sexy, desperate Academy Award-worthy performance.

Now, I've got a lot of catching up to do. See you at the movies...

"Be kind; everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."
~ Ian Maclaren

SEEKERS

Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., **Kent McCaman**, **Gary Hollis**, **Magic Mike Berger**, **Victor Kopcewich**, **Roger Olsen**, **Alan Sharpe**, **Ron Vernon**, **Austin Tichenor**, **Joan Allemand**, **Betsey Brubaker-Strom**, **Jim Reynolds** and *The Week* magazine. And a special shout out to Timothy "**Lonesome Hank**" **Osburn**, for showing us the real Kansas City.

"I'm basically just a 260-pound Woody Allen."
~ the late **James Gandolfini**

"I like to pay taxes. With them, I buy civilization." ~ **Oliver Wendell Holmes**

BEARWHIZ BEER <http://www.eagletshirts.com>

FUNNY TIMES: <http://www.funnytimes.com>

FST: <http://www.FiresignTheatre.com>

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