

"To love or to have loved is enough. Don't ask for anything more." ~ Victor Hugo

PLANET PROCTOR

FEBRUARY 2019

PLANET valentine

BROKEN NEWS

In a rare show of bipartisanship and unusual solidarity with their fellow furloughed government workers, the Congress voted unanimously to forego their own pay, which helped to bring a temporary end to Trump's government shutdown, adding: "It's only fair, isn't it?"

Wait, um, sorry, I am now being told that was totally FAKE news and that vote didn't happen. In fact, scientists say that such a vote, while possible in theory, would not occur in a million, billion years, adding: "As if..."

We now return you to your regularly scheduled reality, already not in progress.

Welcome to the Planet!

"A reporter is a man with nothing on his mind and the power to express it." ~ Russell Baker

Shuffling on

DEAR PLANETEERS AND FACEBOOK FRIENDS: If you've noticed my absence online recently, you can blame it on my immersion in rehearsals for our wonderful production of the darkly funny and moving *The Cripple of Inishmaan* by **Martin McDonagh** (author of *Three Billboards*), deftly directed by fellow Yalie **Steven Robman**, which opened on January 25.

It's been an absolute joy to work once again with a talented gang of new and old cohorts at my beloved Antaeus Company, resulting in two distinctly unique casts.

And in the caption at right are the remaining dates you can catch me as "Dr. McSharry" at the Kiki & David Gindler Performing Arts Center, located at 110 E. Broadway in Glendale. Tickets can be purchased at **WWW.ANTAEUS.ORG** and my cast is called "The Frippe Frapples" (come and see why...)

Our first reviews: **BROADWAY WORLD** and **STAGE SCENE**.

"Art is anything you can get away with."
~ **Marshall McLuhan**

Oh, shoot!

ONE OF THE MATRONS OF OUR CHURCH WAS cooking a pot of her famous beans for the annual potluck, when her young son, Little Johnny, came running through the house with a BB gun in one hand and a handful of BBs in the other. He tripped – and the BBs, naturally, went right into the pot of beans! Thinking it over, Little Johnny could think of no reason why he should risk punishment, so he said nothing.

The dinner went well, and, as usual, the beans were one of the favorite dishes, but the next day the church secretary, Mary, called Little Johnny's mother

and said, "Jane, your beans were delicious as usual, but what did you put in them this time?" Jane replied, "Nothing new, why do you ask?"

"Well," said Mary, "this morning I bent over to feed the cat and shot the canary!"

"All one can do is keep working and ignore the idiots."
~ **Brian Garfield**, author of "Death Wish"



MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ...

FEBRUARY: 1 • 3 (2 p.m.) • 9 • 11 • 15 • 17 (2 p.m.) • 23 • 25

MARCH: 1 • 9 • 11 (Closing)

(Matthew Grondin and me, photo by Geoffrey Wade)

A feline fable for you

A CAT USES UP HIS NINE LIVES AND GOES to Heaven. God meets him at the gate and says, "You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you desire is yours, all you have to do is ask." So, the cat says, "Well, I lived all my life with a poor family on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors." God says, "Say no more," and instantly, a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, six mice are killed in a tragic accident, and they go to Heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer that He made the cat. The mice said, "All our lives we've had to run. Cats, dogs and even women with brooms have chased us. If we could only have a pair of roller skates, we wouldn't have to run anymore." God says, "Say no more," and instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

About a week later, God decides to check and see how

THROUGHOUT THE
'PLANET,' CLICKING
**BOLD, DARK
RED TYPE**
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■ **CONTINUED**

I Love Lucy: a funny thing happened on the way to the sitcom

by Gregg
Oppenheimer



A funny thing is happening ...

GREGG OPPENHEIMER'S *I LOVE LUCY: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Sitcom* will get a one-night-only live "radio-style" presentation March 2 at the **Writers Guild Theater** in Beverly Hills, starring **Sarah Drew** ("Grey's Anatomy") and **Oscar Nuñez** ("The Office"). Presented as a benefit for The Actors Fund, the cast will also feature **Seamus Dever** ("Castle") as head writer Jess Oppenheimer, **Abigail Marks** as Vivian Vance, **Matthew Floyd Miller** as Don Sharpe, Lucy and Desi's agent, **Phil Proctor** as CBS chief Hubbell Robinson, Tony Award-winner **John Rubinstein** as William Frawley and CBS Chairman William S. Paley, and **Nick Toren** as CBS executive Harry Ackerman.

The L.A. TheatreWorks production premiered last year to sold-out houses at UCLA's James Bridges Theater and has been broadcast nationwide on public radio. It is largely based on **Jess Oppenheimer's** memoir, *Laughs, Luck... and Lucy*, which Gregg co-authored with his father.

Join us for the evening's performance as well as a post-show "Desi Amaz Birthday Celebration" reception with the cast. Tickets are now on sale at ACTORSFUND.ORG/LUCY.

"I've been in love with the same woman for 49 years.
If my wife ever finds out, she'll kill me!"
~ Just Saying

the cat is doing. The cat is sound asleep on his new pillow, so God gently wakes him and asks, "How are you doing? Are you happy here?"

The cat yawns and stretches and says, "Oh, I've never been happier in my life. And those Meals on Wheels you've been sending over are the best!"

"The fear of God is not the beginning of wisdom.
The fear of God is the death of wisdom."
~ Clarence Darrow

God help you ...

DEAR BOZOS, IF YOU MISS ONE OF THESE upcoming performances of our political comedy, *God Help Us*, co-authored by **Samuel Joseph** and starring the legendary **Ed Asner** as God (of course).

This month's shows are at the Robert S. Wentz Theater, 600 Irvine Ave in Newport Beach on Friday, February 22 and Saturday, February 23.

Tickets are \$40 adults/\$75 VIP and \$25 students at WWW.NHSDRAMA.COM

As of now, we are booked across the country until October, and I will keep you alerted when it plays IN YOUR AREA.

Join Us at Fundraiser for the Robert S. Wentz Theater
at Newport Harbor High School

SICK OF POLITICS?
THEN ...
GOD HELP US!

STARRING
ED ASNER
AS GOD

Directed by:
Mitch Levine

Produced by:
Liza Asner

Written by:
Phil Proctor and
Samuel Warren Joseph

A POLITICAL COMEDY FOR OUR TIMES
Maybe only the Lord can bring us together in this hilarious and insightful play. GOD is a wise, cantankerous and wildly funny deity who confronts two political pundits with a romantic history and He is not at all pleased with their politics - or what we've done with his Creation.

Friday, February 22 (7pm) and Saturday, February 23 (2:00pm & 7:00pm)
Tickets and Information: www.nhhdrama.com
600 Irvine Avenue • Newport Beach, CA 92663

"If you are praying for snow, please stop"
~ Knox Presbyterian Church sign

■ CONTINUED

Timing

AFTER HIS EXAM, THE DOCTOR SAID TO THE elderly man, “You appear to be in good health. Do you have any medical concerns you would like to ask me about?”

“In fact, I do,” said the old man. “After I make love to my wife, the first time I am usually hot and sweaty, and then after we make love the second time, I am usually cold and chilly.”

After examining his elderly wife, the doctor said, “Everything appears to be fine. Do you have any medical concerns that you would like to discuss with me?” The lady replied that she had no questions or concerns. The doctor then said to her, “Well, your husband had an unusual concern. He claims that he is usually hot and sweaty after making love with you the first time, and then cold and chilly after the second time. Do you know why?”

“Oh, that crazy old fart,” she replied. “That’s because the first time is usually in August, and the second time is in January!”

“Before clocks were common, people relied on bells to know it was happy hour.” ~ Chris Erskine

A mighty hot dog is our lord

TWO IRISH NUNS HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN THE USA and one says to the other, “I hear that the people in this country actually eat dogs.”

“Odd,” her companion replies, “but if we shall live in America, we might as well do as the Americans do.” Nodding emphatically, the mother superior points to a hot dog vendor and they both walk towards the cart.

“Two dogs, please,” says one. The vendor is only too pleased to oblige, and he wraps both hot dogs in foil and hands them over the counter.

Excited, the nuns hurry over to a bench and begin to unwrap their “dogs.” The mother superior is first to open hers. She begins to blush and then, staring at it for a moment, leans over to the other nun and whispers cautiously: “Which part did you get?”

“May the saddest day of your future be no worse than the happiest day of your life.” ~ Irish toast

THANKIES

Liza Asner, Allison Barenbrug, Joan Allemand, Eric Boardman, Bruce Laks, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Michael C. Gwynne, Ba-ba mail, and Melinda’s sister, Marjorie Bender, who informed us of the loss of the historic Stratford Shakespeare Theatre in Connecticut, destroyed by a massive fire.

And don’t forget, you can read my memoir, *Where’s My Fortune Cookie?* co-authored by Brad Schreiber, at [AMAZON](#), and hear it read by me at [SUEMEDIAPRODUCTIONS.COM](#)

*“You can’t stop the waves, but you can learn to surf.”
~ Fortune Cookie*

LINKIES

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[SING ALONG](#)

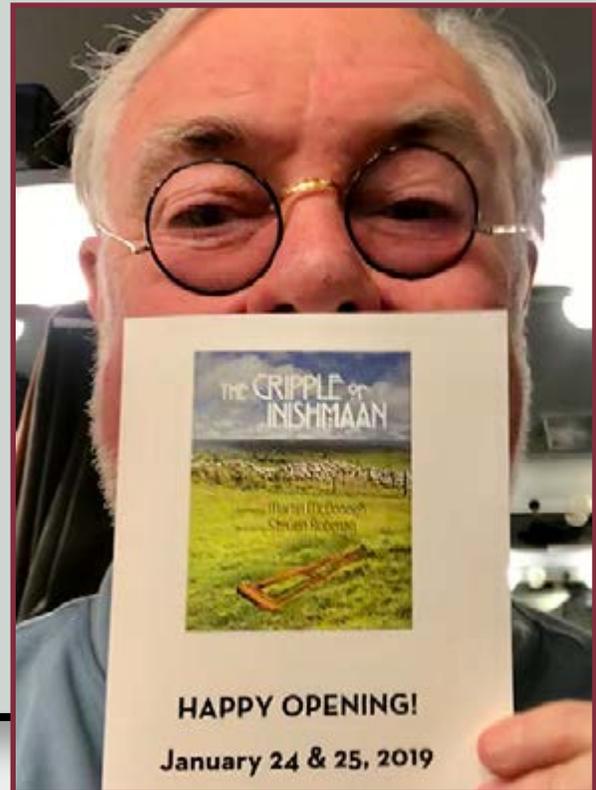
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[BOO](#)

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“All media exist to invest our lives with artificial perceptions and artificial values.” ~ Marshall McLuhan

VISIT THE NEW FIRESITE AND THE OLD BOOMERS