

# Planet September Remember

PLANET PROCTOR | "It's better to be quoted than to be honest." ~ Tom Stoppard | SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

## How's this for openers?

**R**emember Antaeus founder **Dakin Mathews'** wonderful report last Planet about rehearsing for the re-opening of the smash Broadway musical **Waitress** under the cover of Covid? Well, here's the happy ending:

"As we had the night before, we played to a fully vaccinated, fully masked audience for our official 'Opening.' The theatre was full, and fully glad to be there. As you might have read, even the cellphone announcement, pre-taped and sung by **Sara Bareilles**, got a standing ovation; as did the raising of the piecrust curtain, and the first glimpse of the lady herself in a spotlight to the refrain of 'Sugar, Butter, Flour.'

"This was obviously an audience of superfans, who gave entrance applause to every principal actor at their (re)appearance, and extended ovations at the end of every song—especially the brilliant 11:00 o'clock number, 'She Used To Be Mine.'

"But it wasn't just familiarity with the show; it was an explosion of joy and relief at the re-opening of a musical on Broadway that started with the appropriate anthem 'Opening Up!' and closed with the finale 'Everything Changes!' It was almost as if the songs were written to celebrate coming out (however tentatively) of a 16-month pandemic hiatus.

"After the final call, as you might have read, the Company paid a sweet tribute to the late **Nick Cordero** (the original Earl) – first by dedicating a

pie to him on the menu board for this and all future productions of **Waitress** around the world (A Big Ol' Slice of Live Your Life Pie)— and then, with his wife **Amanda Kloots** joining us on stage, singing Nick's signature song 'Live Your Life' with the band. (You haven't lived till you watched this superannuated 80-year-old try to sing pop anthems while leaping about on aching knees.)

"A little champagne toast followed, a couple of



### A SLICE OF LIFE

Dakin, Charity Angél Dawson, Sara Bareilles  
and Hattie Cecelia Tutalo back in business.

short speeches, no party, no audience autographs, though we did have to fight our way through clumps of happy patrons crowding around the stage door; and for me, a short six-block walk home in the cool Manhattan air, as most of the sidewalk cafes were closing down along Restaurant Row and Ninth Avenue. Then a quick tumbler of Jameson's and a well-earned sleep in."

"The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off." ~Ted Lasso

## Remembering Ed

### 'ASNER IS THE ANSWER' - WHAT IS THE QUESTION?

"Name a brilliant long-lived multi award-winning character actor who won us over, with his ornery personality, great talent and even greater heart?"

That would be our dear departed **Edward Asner**, a native of Kansas City and self-proclaimed "Son of a Junkman," as revealed in his moving autobiography. [HERE](#)

THROUGHOUT THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING **DARK RED TYPE** OPENS A RELATED INTERNET LINK.

Ed played God in our very successful touring production of **God Help Us!** – a contemporary political comedy co-authored by my friend **Samuel Warren Joseph** and **me**, directed by **Mitch Levine**, and produced by his beloved

daughter **Liza** – right up to his final exit at 91.

Those of us of a certain age know Ed best as the irascible Lou Grant on "**The Mary Tyler Moore Show**," and then as Lou Grant again in the dramatic series of the same name. Fittingly, Ed is the only character actor to have ever received an Emmy for his performances in both best Comedy and Drama. That was Ed.

President of the Screen Actors Guild for many years, he was in real life and reel life, too, an outspoken champion of progressive causes, which may have led to the cancellation of the "Lou Grant" series.

I had the distinct pleasure of working with him on many live radio recreations over the years, and when we shared a candy bar together at our first rehearsal, it was love at first bite.

He had spunk. And he hated it.

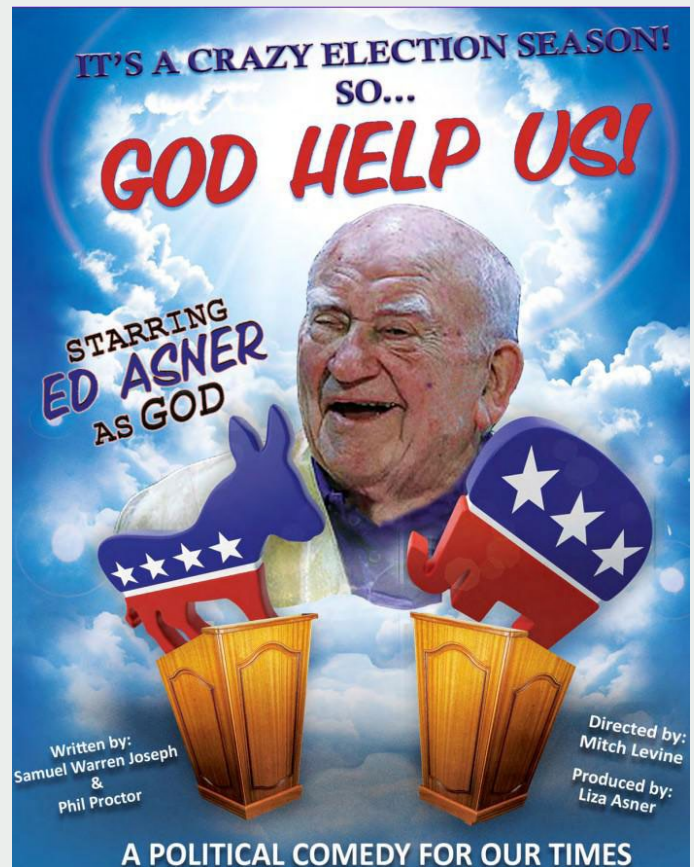
*"When it comes down to it, comedy is just rehearsed moaning." ~ UK comic **Sean Locke***

## Remember Gort?

**I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT OUR FAKE RADIO** performance of the 1954 Lux Radio Theatre's adaptation of **The Day The Earth Stood Still**, scheduled for September 18 in Portland, has been postponed due to the Delta variant.

Apparently, even vaccinated folks are not ready to gather together for a night of airborne laughter, and of course, we respect their hesitancy, so it is unfortunately now: "The Day the Show Stood Still."

Melinda and I were so looking forward to reuniting with creator **David Koff** and his zany troupe of imps, but he had to push the "Koff" button on the show, and the rest is silence – until we meet again, sooner than later, we hope.



*"The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day. A movement is only people moving."  
~ **Gloria Steinem***

## I remember mommy

**JACK WAKES UP WITH A HUGE HANGOVER** after attending his company's Christmas Party. Jack is not normally a drinker, but the punch carried a punch, and he had vague memories of being loud and obnoxious and screaming at his wife.

The next morning, Jack had to force himself to open his eyes, and the first thing he saw was a couple of aspirins next to a glass of water on the side table, and next to them, a single red rose! Jack sat up and saw his clothing at the foot of the bed, all clean and pressed. In fact, the whole room was in perfect order, spotlessly clean.

He stumbled into the bathroom to down the aspirins but cringed when he saw a huge black eye staring back at him in the mirror. Then he noticed a note hanging on the corner of the mirror written in red with little hearts on it and a kiss mark from his wife in lipstick:

*Honey, breakfast is on the stove, I left early to get groceries to make your favorite dinner tonight. I love you! Your darling wife, Jillian*

He shambles into the kitchen, and sure enough, he sees a hot breakfast, steaming hot

■ **CONTINUED**



coffee, and the morning newspaper all waiting for him. His son is at the table, so Jack asks, "Son, what happened last night?"

"Well," the lad says, thoughtfully, "Mom drove you home after 3 in the morning, drunk and out of your mind. You tripped over the coffee table and broke it, and then you puked in the hallway and got that black eye when you ran into the bedroom door."

Confused, Jack asked, "So, why is everything in such perfect order and so clean? I have a rose, and breakfast is on the table waiting for me?"

His son replies, "I don't know. The only other thing I remember is mom dragging you to the bedroom, and when she tried to take your pants off, you screamed, 'Take your hands off me! I'm married!'"

*"Of all the arts, the art of living is probably the most important." ~ Novelist **Debra Levy***

## And I remember Marlow

*A dear fan from Arizona, who writes:*

"You can just flat out get the job done. You are the real deal, studman! I bet you have a lot of fun doing those voices, huh, sir?"

Yes, **Marlow**, I do. But it's fans like you that make it all worthwhile. Thank you. And a postcard is on the way...

*"According to the new Supreme Court ruling, mission control in Houston can no longer say ABORT during future NASA launches." ~ **Danny Mann***

## Remember who you are

**A** BLOND WAS SPEEDING WHEN A POLICE officer pulled her over and walked up to the car. The officer was femail, and also happened to be blond. When asked for her license, the driver searched frantically in her purse for a while and finally said, "What does a driver's license look like?" Irritated, the cop said, "You dummy, it's got your face on it!"

The driver frantically searched her purse again and finally found a small compact mirror. She held it up to her face and said, "Aha! My face! This must be my driver's license!" and she handed it to the policewoman.

The blond cop looked in the mirror, handed it back to the driver and said, "You're free to go. If I had known you were a police officer, we could have avoided all of this."

*"I prefer dead writers because you don't run into them at parties." ~ **Fran Liebewitz***

## Remember the Cold War?

**W**ELL, IT'S HOT AGAIN! OUR AUDIO PROGRAM **Operation Cordelia** was released September 9 as an Audible Original series! I play the CIA boss of the Berlin operations, so **CHECK IT OUT**.

The show is free to all Audible subscribers, and you can even sign up for a 30-day free trial if you'd like to listen but are not a current member.

*"The CEO of IKEA was appointed Prime Minister of Sweden, but he's having trouble assembling his cabinet."  
~ from funny friend, **Jamie Alcroft***

## Remembering Fran

**W**E LOST AN IRREPLACEABLE MEMBER of our Antaeus Company this month. The indomitable **Fran Bennett**, who first started her career in theater before making her TV debut on the daytime soap opera, "Guiding Light," and then starring in "The Bold and the Beautiful," and "Sunset Beach." Fran later played guest roles in "Roots," "Dallas," "Falcon Crest" and "Lou Grant" with our beloved Ed.

The heartbreaking news was released by the CalArts School of Theater, where Fran served for 36 years on the Linklater Voice faculty.



**FRAN BENNETT**  
August 14, 1937 -  
September 12, 2021

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"Our hearts are heavy: Fran Bennett has passed... Fran's voice was unmistakable. She never shied away from using it. And she taught so many throughout the years to find and free their own," including many of us at Antaeus. I last worked with her as Teresias in *The Curse of Oedipus*. She will be more than missed.

"The finish line is for the ego;  
the journey is for the soul." ~ **Pattie Gonia**

## Remember me?

**A** 65-YEAR OLD WOMAN HAD A HEART ATTACK and was rushed to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience, and seeing God, she asked, "Is my time up?" And God answered, "No, you have another 33 years, 2 months and 8 days left to live."

Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color and brighten her teeth! Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital, but while crossing the street on her way home at last, she was struck and killed by an ambulance!

Arriving in front of God, she lamented, "I thought you said I had another 33 years? Why didn't you pull me out of the path of the Ambulance?" And God replied, "Sorry. I didn't recognize you..."

"Everything in excess is opposed to nature."  
~ **Hippocrates**

## Remember him?

**W**ELL, THERE'S A TERRIFIC AND TERRIBLY funny satirical movie out there telling the true story of how he got elected and yes, it's about the "Art of the Deal" – with the Devil!

Co-authored and directed by **Param Gill**, *Bad President* features **Jeff Rector**, **Eddie Griffin**, **Stormy Daniels** and me as TV mogul Robert Greenblatt.

It premiered this month at the Burbank Film Festival, but you can download it **HERE**.

See it before it's seized!

"Only those who can risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." ~ **TS Eliot**

## Remember'st thou?

**A**CTOR, AUTHOR AND PROFESSOR, **ARMIN Shimerman**, is best known as "Quark," the first Ferengi alien character in the TV series "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and "Deep Space Nine"; but you've also seen him on many TV shows including, "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer," "Boston Legal" and "Beauty and the Beast" and gamers know him from countless video games, including as **Dr. Nefarious** in "Ratchet and Clank."

But Armin is also an accomplished Shakespearean actor, a longtime colleague in the Antaeus Classical Theater Company and professor of the life and works of **William Shakespeare** at USC. He illuminates in 16th Century Shakespeare's career in not-so

■ **CONTINUED**

### PHILMED PHIL

A shot from a good comedy about a bad precedent called 'Bad President.' Now available!







## Armin Shimerman

"Merrie Olde England," where the average lifespan was only 22 years, and everything was dangerous. (Well, some things never change!)

Armin tells stories that will fascinate bardologists, mixologists and the uninitiated. Sword fight, anyone? Press "to play or not to play" now for some laughs and mind-stretching conversation! Go where no man has gone before at **SEXY BOOMER SHOW / SHIMERMAN**

"There is a light somewhere. It may not be much light, but it beats the darkness."

~ Charles Bukowski

## RE:MEMBERS

**M**ANY THANKS TO NOVA SCOTIAN James Nobe's "Nostalgia Talk"; Utah's Tony Toscano's "Screen Chatter" for some looming zooming interviews; and to Palm Springs' Steve Bluestein's "Let me Say This About That," available NOW at [www.stevebluestein.com](http://www.stevebluestein.com) (CLICK HERE), and to Planeteers Laura Campbell, Jamie Alcroft, Steve Zobel, Paul Magid and the gang of fellow loonies on 'Says You!' and to Baba-Mail for jokes and "The Week" for quotes. And a sad farewell to Norm "Ab-NORM-al" McDonald, whose comic chops informed a generation of satirists, like me.

And to the versatile Brad Zinn for casting me and Melinda in his dramatic online presentation of **The Maltese Falcon**, co-starring Lynda Day George, with David Ossman and Ivan Curry, adapted by Gregg Oppenheimer and directed by Ben Tyler.

On Saturday, September 18 at 5, go to [www.repsonline.org](http://www.repsonline.org) to register FREE for the pre-show chat, and post-show Q & A.

And finally, let's never forget 9/11

# PLANETCLICK

## RE:SEMBLERS

**CUDDLES**

**DANCE**

**STAND UP**

**HEARTMANN**

**SPERDVAC**

**NOT SO SUPER**

BRAD ZINN ENTERPRISES IN ASSOCIATION WITH RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND PRESENTS:



5:00 PM PT SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

## THE MALTESE FALCON

AN EVENING OF EXCITEMENT AND THRILLS:  
5:00 PM PT - PRE-PROGRAM INFORMAL CHAT  
6:00 PM PT - THE MALTESE FALCON  
7:00 PM PT - INTERVIEW - LYNDA DAY GEORGE  
8:00 PM PT - LIVE Q&A AND CHAT

FREE EVENT, REGISTRATION REQUIRED: [REPSONLINE.ORG](http://REPSONLINE.ORG)



"A people that values its privileges over its principles, soon loses both." ~ President Dwight D. Eisenhower

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