

# Planet Marry May

PLANET PROCTOR • MAY 2022

## Trippy

**M**y darling wife Melinda was going to Manhattan to help our longtime friend Charlie Moed ready his eastside penthouse garden for summer. This year, I tagged along to test my mobility for travel, and I am pleased to say that it was a great success.

We saw five plays in five days, got together with good friends, ate great food, and enjoyed another stay at our favorite hotel, The W on Times Square. We first saw a revival of *American Buffalo* by David Mamet in a mind-boggling thrust-stage staging starring Laurence Fishburne, Sam Rockwell and Darren Criss. It was a superb, raunchy and thrilling production and had us rolling with laughter! I had to hold onto my cane to keep from falling out of my seat.

Next was a re-imagination of *Company*, by the late Stephen Sondheim and George Furth, starring the delectable Katrina Lenk in the previously male role of Bobbie and the indomitable Patti Lupone singing "The Ladies who Lunch." Adapting this powerhouse musical to conform with modern culture is perfect and the scenic design of light-lined

sets, unexpectedly rolling and rising from the stage, was breathtaking.

We followed that with a matinee of two charming plays by J.M. Synge at the Irish Rep Company, with an evening performance of *The Hangmen* by Martin McDonagh, author of *The Cripple of Inishman* in which I last performed at Antaeus. It's another of his laugh-out-loud dark comedies, packed with surprises, both visually and viscerally.



**YALE YALE**  
Minutes spent with Austin

And finally, we caught a matinee of Tracy Lett's newest American comic nightmare, *The Minutes*, featuring our beloved Yale Dramat mate, the immortal Austin Pendleton, who as the oldest member of the city council meeting where the play unfolds, regularly stops the proceedings (and show) trying to remember what's going on!

Later, he joined us at the nearby Cosmic Café and had a strawberry soda between shows.

And we'll be back again after I attend my Yale 60th Reunion in early June.

"The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture past them into the impossible." ~ Arthur C. Clarke

## The Marry Month of May

**AND MY DARING WIFE, Melinda**, just celebrated 30 tears of happily shredded blitz on May 28 with our traditional ceremony – grilled hamburgers and movies on TCM. Ironically, we were enjoined in a joyous outdoor ceremony in the herb garden of our favorite restaurant in Ojai, by Universal church matchbook Reverend **David Ossman**.

And now, fellow Hoosiers, **Richard Fish** and **Tony Brewer** joined me *og min elskede dotter*, **Kristin**, to attend the magical wedding of Whidbey Island's **Orson Ossman** and North Carolina Belle **Katie Hendrix** at the magical Houdini estate in Laurel Canyon. What a blast!!

As for the new couple, Katie is a member of the brilliant "Upright Citizens Brigade"



### THE LONG KISS HELLO

Melinda and Phil, 1992 ...Katie and Orson, 2022

improv group and met her now husband Orson in 2015 at a film festival that featured *The Phoenix Project*, one of the many screenplays he has produced, written, directed and starred in. Then, Katie was the executive producer of Orson's directorial feature film debut, *Five Grand*, guest starring **Eric Roberts**. And in the spring of 2019, Katie produced and starred as the titular character in *A Tribute to Doug* at the Hollywood Fringe Festival; a live-action adaptation of the pilot episode of the beloved Nickelodeon cartoon character. And of courses, David and his talented wife, **Judith**, were there along with their younger son, **Preston**, who is off to Boston in pursuit of a career in law.

*"We love because it's the only true adventure."*  
~ **Nikki Giovanni**



### NEST OF KIN

At left, top, David and Judith, and below: Preston and his friend Juliet



## Catty remarks

### WHAT IS A CAT? CATS DO WHAT THEY WANT.

They rarely listen to you. They're totally unpredictable. They whine when they are not happy. When you want to play, they want to be alone. When you want to be alone, they want to play. They expect you to cater to their every whim. They're moody. They leave hair everywhere. They drive you nuts and cost an arm and a leg.

Conclusion: They're tiny little women in cheap fur coats!!

*"Just watching my cats can make me happy."*

*- Paula Cole*

## Keep 'em flyin'

### A CROWDED FLIGHT WAS CANCELED BECAUSE

of bad weather, and a single agent was re-booking a long line of inconvenienced travelers, when suddenly, an angry passenger pushed his way to the desk.

He slapped his ticket on the counter and said, "I HAVE to be on this flight, and it has to be FIRST CLASS." The agent replied, "I'm sorry, sir. I'll be happy to help you, but I've got to help these folks first; and then I'm sure we'll be able to work something out."

The passenger was unimpressed, and he exclaimed loudly, "DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM!?" Without hesitating, the agent smiled and grabbed her public address microphone. "May I have your attention, please?" she began, her voice heard clearly throughout the terminal.

"We have a passenger here WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HE IS. If anyone can help him with his identity, please come to Gate 14."

With the folks behind him in line laughing hysterically, the man glared at the agent, gritted his teeth, and said, "F\*\*\* YOU!" Without flinching, she smiled and said, "I'm sorry sir, you'll have to get in line for that, too."

*"Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain." ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

## Making it big

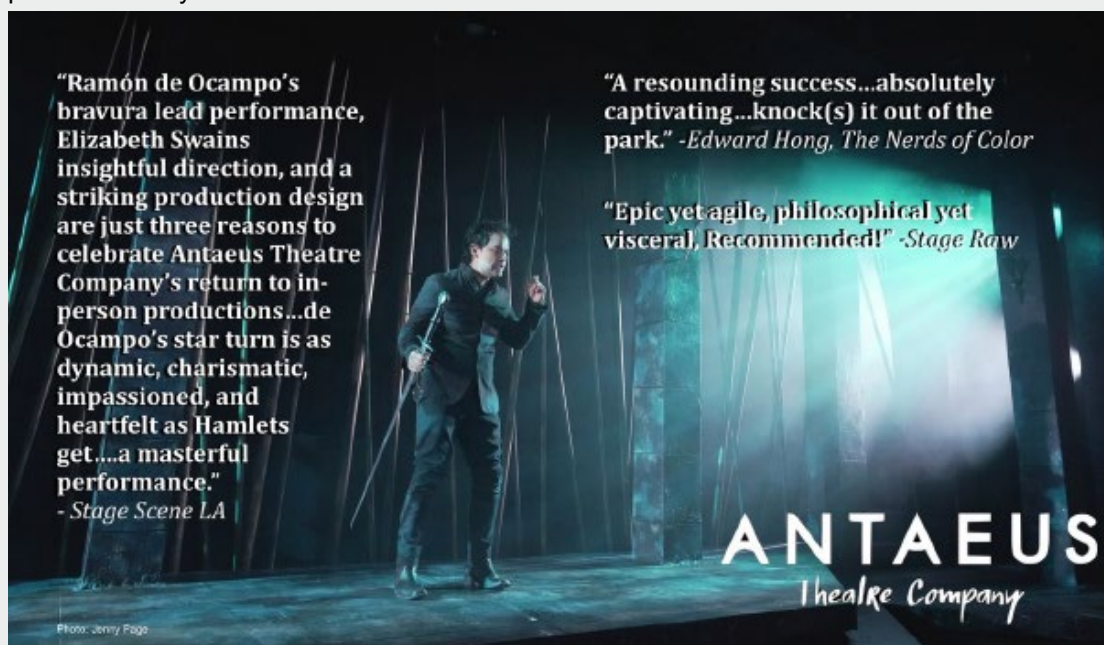
*From my friend, **Mack Dryden**, formerly of "Mack and Jamie," with his partner Jamie Alcroft...*

### WHEN I WAS GETTING AN MA IN CREATIVE

Writing at the U of Southern Mississippi 143 years ago, I wrote a short essay on the uses of the phrase 'make up' and have probably forgotten half of them. But I think it's another quirk in our language that you can make up a bed, put on makeup, kiss and make up, make up a story, a batch of margaritas, for 'lost time,' and take a makeup test. If take-off is delayed, a pilot tries to make up some time; and with a few good shots, a golfer can make up some ground on the leaders."

*"To be or not to be' is not about suicide, it's about action." ~ Director Elizabeth Swain*

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



## A very moving 'Hamlet'

**O**UR BELOVED THEATRE COMPANY, ANTAEUS, is back! And the first production of our new season is a remarkable fast-moving and emotionally moving —and FUNNY! — re-imagining of the Shakespeare classic, directed by **Elizabeth Swain** and performed with gusto by an outstanding diverse cast, including the subtle and silly **Peter Van Norden** as Polonius, in our beautiful new theater on Broadway (!) in Glendale.

And the lead role is impeccably and masterfully acted by

■ **CONTINUED**

the irreplaceable **Ramon de Ocampo**, who says:

"I can't believe I get to do this. Of all the bucket list parts to play as an actor, this is the big one - one I never thought I'd get to play, and I'm really happy to say I'm proud of the work. I'm dying to share it with you. It's a taut, exciting, streamlined production, and the first reviews have been very flattering. "It's an enormous honor to be playing

this part, even though it may be trying to kill me... or drive me insane. Come see us at Antaeus Theatre Company take on this beast. There are precious few performances, so get your tickets soon **RIGHT HERE**

"We are more often frightened than hurt, and we suffer more in imagination than reality." ~ **Seneca**

## Planeteers

**D**r. Thomas Hanscom, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Bruce Snyder, Magic Mike Beer, Kurt Mc Canon, and a farewell to the wonderful actor **Ray Liotta**, and closer to home, **Bianca Carrillo** passed on. She helped for at lease two decades to keep our house tidy and became a close friend. Our condolences to her dear children, with whom we still joyfully collaborate. And this quote below is dedicated to her...

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." ~ **Arthur Ashe**

## Demonry

*In High Places Thug Culture  
got the best of us  
it's broken out...  
Thuggary runs in the DC Avenues  
among the stony treasures of Revolution & Depression  
Demonry gets inside  
gets past inside inside  
where it can show itself yes  
we've seen those movies  
with their bloody Halloween teeth  
all about Things to be Afraid Of kid, son, sir, m'am  
hey you!  
Hands up!  
Cue knives and violins  
And out of a Texas Black Lagoon it steps  
Gosh!  
WTF??  
Did we vote for this? Sure, sir, ma'am, kid!  
Some Thugs got a majority in South Jerrymander  
And we're all theirs Thugs in bad suits  
Didn't the miles of dead bison along the tracks  
tell us something about getting out of the way?  
Don't the Righteous Coppers in oily Arabia  
tell us something about Ohio, Missouri, Iowa?  
Solitary punishments for made-up crimes and  
Orwell's Super State language inescapable as  
Peace Became War  
Deafening campaigns turning Free Speech  
into cash cash to power power  
to fear and you bet they got me!  
Thug Culture  
joins genres  
Apocalypse's the vogue plus all that recycled gore  
Channels of Thuggary airhammering imagery  
Flashcards of doom  
Cartoon action actors selling Heroes who  
(believe it!) never will  
ever exist  
to save us from the Thugs to whom  
we are too many bison and so  
we gotta go  
Thugs don't have a vote you know  
It's a Block Grant.*

(Birthday Poem 6/12/14 – 78rpm by David Ossman)

"The curse of Totalitarian is that is that they  
kill people for telling the truth, Do that enough times,  
and you end up with a nation of liars."  
~ **David Von Drehle**

**PLANETCLICK**

**ALL OUR FEARS**

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SITE 4 SORE EYES  
BAD BIBLE!  
NO DUMMY  
MAGA LAND**

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