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*-Fraser Coffeen, Audience & Donor Services Manager*



## Remy Bumpo Newsletter - think Theatre

Greetings!

Happy New Year! We hope the holiday season treated you well. Here at Remy Bumpo we had a busy season with the very successful close of *The Philadelphia Story*, the Chicago premiere of *Dickens in America*, and much more. Thank you for all your help in making 2007 a successful and memorable year for the company.

As we move on to the new year, we look forward to a number of exciting upcoming programs. In this newsletter we feature Remy Bumpo's thinkTank, including all the details on this year's program, as well as thoughts on this year's topic from Associate Artistic Director and thinkTank Producer Shawn Douglass.

Don't forget also that tickets are now on sale for our special fourth mainstage show this season - Eric Overmyer's *On the Verge*, or the *Geography of Yearning*. This companion piece to *Brontë* will run May 15 through June 1. If you have not already purchased tickets, be sure to do so soon, as this is a short run and tickets are limited. Tickets are available by calling 773-871-3000.

### Announcing thinkTank 2008



This spring, we are pleased to present the 2nd edition of Remy Bumpo's thinkTank. Join us March 6-30 in the downstairs studio at the Victory Gardens Greenhouse Theater, as we present *The InSecurity Blanket: National Security vs. Individual Freedom*.

This year thinkTank will be staged as a festival with three theater companies and a solo performer contributing a mix of classic and new work.

Remy Bumpo will present Harold Pinter's *One for the Road* and Samuel Beckett's *Catastrophe*, two short plays that investigate the nature of unchecked political power. In *One for the Road*, three members of a family are detained unjustly and interrogated by a mysterious government official. *Catastrophe* explores absolute power in a theater, in which an autocratic director attempts to wield complete control over his actor.

Rasaka Theatre Company This company of South Asian American artists will be performing two new works: *Two Sides of Suicide* by Gitanjali Kapila, in which a South Asian activist lawyer and her brother debate the wisdom of her decision to dress up as a suicide bomber on Halloween, and *Terror Act* by Cassandra Lewis, in which an actor is detained in an airport and interrogated about his role in a film that questions detainment practices at Guantanamo.

Teatro Vista, Theatre with a View will present *Freedom, NY* by Jennifer Barclay, an

allegory of Mexican and American border relations in which the residents in a small town must weigh the worth of confining themselves to their side of the fence.

Solo performer Usman Ally uses slam poetry, dance, beat boxing and music to tell the story of one young man living his life in today's America - as a Muslim, Pakistani and Hip Hop Head.

On each night, two different companies will present their pieces. Visit our website for the complete schedule. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 7:00 pm, Saturdays at 8:00 pm, and Sundays at 3:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for students) and are on sale now at 773-871-3000.

Remy Bumppo's thinkTank 08 is sponsored in part by The McCormick Tribune Foundation.

## Thinkpiece: A Culture of Civil Liberties

Thoughts on thinkTank 2008 by Shawn Douglass

As the already interminable Presidential nomination process heats up, there is surprisingly little rhetoric from the majority of candidates about the potential and actual perils of the Patriot Act and other increased security measures on our daily lives. What freedoms have we given up in order to protect our nation? How do we live in a country where we are encouraged to be vigilant about our neighbor's actions? How has technology altered the way we interact with our government? I am interested in these questions and in keeping the conversation alive in the national discourse (or at least the local discourse). With the help of our arts partners we hope to provoke renewed discussion about these and other questions from a variety of perspectives.

As I looked for background material on these issues, I came across Geoffrey R. Stone's clear and compelling short history of U.S. civil liberties in wartime. Following is an excerpt that speaks to the tension between national security and individual liberty that is the focus of Remy Bumppo's thinkTank '08.

A CULTURE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES by Geoffrey R. Stone

As Justice Robert Jackson observed more than half a century ago, "it is easy, by giving way to passion, intolerance and suspicions of wartime, to reduce our liberties to a shadow, often in answer to exaggerated claims of security." The United States has a long and unfortunate history of overreacting to the dangers of wartime. Time and again, we have allowed fear to get the better of us. Some measure of fear, of course, is inevitable - even healthy - in time of war. Without fear, it would be difficult for a nation to make the sacrifices war demands. An essential challenge to democracy is to channel fear so it plays a constructive rather than a destructive role.

...

As we grow fearful, we naturally insist that our leaders protect us, and elected officials, often distressed themselves, quickly respond. It is logical to seek safety in the face of danger, especially when we can mitigate the threat to ourselves by disadvantaging others. This enables us both to secure our own safety and vent our anger at those we may already loathe. If we have to put some secessionists or anarchists or Japs or Reds in jail in order to increase our sense of security, so be it. Indeed, all the better. This is not theory. It is the unimpeachable lesson of history.

In light of the inevitable pressures of wartime, is there anything we can do to prevent the recurrence of such excesses in the future? Are we doomed to repeat this pattern over and

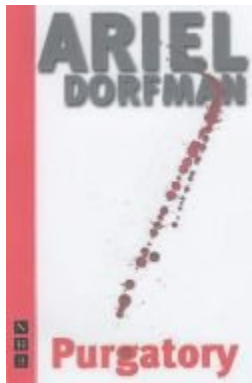
over again?

...

It is often argued that given the sacrifices we ask citizens (especially soldiers) to make in time of war, it is a small price to ask others to surrender some part of their peacetime liberties to help win a war. As the Supreme Court argued in *Korematsu*, "hardships are part of war, and war is an aggregation of hardships." This is a seductive but dangerous argument. To fight a war successfully, it is necessary for soldiers to risk their lives. But it is not necessarily "necessary" for others to surrender their freedoms. That necessity must be demonstrated, not merely presumed. And this is especially true when, as is almost always the case, the individuals whose rights are sacrificed are not those who make the laws, but minorities, dissenters, and noncitizens. In those circumstances, "we" are making a decision to sacrifice "their" rights - not a very prudent way to balance the competing interests.

Reprinted with permission from *War and Liberty: An American Dilemma: 1790 to the Present* by Geoffrey R. Stone. Mr. Stone is a professor at The Law School of The University of Chicago. He has written a number of books, including *Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime from the Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism*, which received the 2005 Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, and the 2004 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for best book in the field of history. He is currently working on a new book, *Sexing the Constitution*. Mr. Stone will be a guest speaker after the performance of thinkTank on Friday, March 7.

## Purgatorio Play Reading: Sunday, February 10



On Sunday, February 10, Remy Bumpo presents the third production in our 2007/08 play reading series.

PURGATORIO  
by Ariel Dorfman  
Sunday, February 10  
6:30 pm  
Victory Gardens Greenhouse Theater  
FREE

*Purgatorio*, by award winning playwright Ariel Dorfman (*Death and the Maiden*), tells the story of A Man and A Woman trapped in a seemingly endless series of interrogations. As these characters struggle to find redemption for the events of their lives, Dorfman presents the audience with difficult questions. Can there be forgiveness and reconciliation if we have committed monstrous deeds? And how can we be expected to repent of those deeds without destroying our own identity, the bedrock of our past which made us who we are today? We hope you will join us for this rich and complex show.

The Remy Bumpo play reading series is a chance to see possible future Remy Bumpo productions before they reach the main stage. This is a unique chance to see these shows early, discuss your thoughts with the company, and help us shape our season.

Light refreshments will also be served.

*Purgatorio* is a free event for our subscribers and donors. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 773-244-8119. Deadline for RSVPs is Thursday, Feb. 7.

Special offer for subscribers - extend this invitation to your friends! Bring friends who are not currently subscribers, and those friends get in for free as well. There is no limit to how many guests you can bring. This is another great way to help introduce your friends to

Remy Bumppo.

The reading of Purgatorio is generously sponsored by Jean Bystedt, Linda Garrison, Leah Goldman, Chris Hauri, Mary Nelson, and Betsy Schmidt.

## Brontë First Rehearsal Reception: Wednesday, February 27



Join us on Wednesday, February 27 as we present the 3rd show in our mainstage season - Polly Teale's Brontë.

BRONTË  
First Rehearsal Reception  
Wednesday, February 27  
6:30 pm - Check in  
7:00 pm - Program begins  
Remy Bumppo Rehearsal Studio  
3717 N. Ravenswood, Suite 245  
FREE

Director James Bohnen discusses this fascinating work before leading the cast through a working rehearsal. This show presents a unique view of the lives of the Brontë sisters, and this event is a great way to learn more about the script and our upcoming production.

In addition to the presentation, the First Rehearsal Reception also includes a light cocktail reception and an opportunity to discuss Brontë with the artists behind its creation. Check-in for the event begins at 6:30 and the presentation begins at 7:00.

This intimate event is free to our subscribers, however seating is limited and reservations are required. Please note, previous First Rehearsal Receptions have sold out, so make your reservations early to guarantee your place. RSVP by calling 773-244-8119. Deadline to RSVP is Monday, February 25.

The Brontë First Rehearsal Reception is generously sponsored by Neale Miller.

## Brain Buster



Q: What one Senator opposed the USA Patriot Act of 2001?

Call Fraser at 773-244-8119 with your answer by March 1 for a chance to win two tickets to Remy Bumppo's thinkTank along with copies of One for the Road and Catastrophe signed by the artists. One winner will be selected from the correct answers and will be announced in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to Lois Hobart for the correct answer to our last trivia question. In 1919 while attending Yale, The Philadelphia Story playwright Philip Barry won a competition for new one act plays. What was the name of his winning play? The answer: Autonomy. Barry wrote the play in collaboration with his friends Vincent Benet and John Farrar. It was performed in April 1919 in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Taft, and was very well received. Barry himself later described it as a "fearful farce". Lois is the winner of a bottle of champagne signed by the cast of The Philadelphia Story.

## Annual Benefit: think No Limits, Friday, May 16

Save the Date!

On Friday, May 16 Remy Bumpo presents our annual benefit. This year's think No Limits benefit focuses on the limitlessness to our growth as an arts organization and to the role you can play.

We hope you will be one of the 300 VIP guests that join us to enjoy the wonderful live and silent auctions, raffle, and a gourmet three-course dinner. The benefit will be held at the historic Germania Place at 108 West Germania Place in the heart of Chicago's Gold Coast.

Help us chart our future by playing a part in the 2008 benefit on Friday, May 16.

Sincerely,

Terri Abruzzo and Randy Nogel  
Benefit Co-Chairs

## Get More Involved

Have you ever thought about being more involved with Remy Bumpo? Ever wanted to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes? We have a number of great opportunities for you to contribute your time and expertise to the company:

**Administrative Volunteers** - Become a volunteer and help keep our thought-provoking theatre company thriving! Volunteers are needed to assist with administrative duties such as mailings, staffing special events, and helping with promotions. Contact Business & Operations Manager Jackie Aicher at 773-244-8119 for more information.

**Board Prospects** - We're looking for a few talented and conscientious volunteer board members to lead and strengthen our organization. If you can contribute your time and leadership one evening a month, and are interested in exploring this opportunity, call Managing Director, Kristin Larsen at 773-244-8119 to find out whether this volunteer opportunity is right for you. We're especially looking for folks with corporate connections with an appreciation for theatre, or those who come from diverse communities or are under 40 years of age.

**Office Space Redesign** - Help us with this Special Project! We are looking for an individual with corporate interior design experience to help revision and plan for expanding Remy Bumpo's administration facility. Contact Managing Director Kristin Larsen at 773-244-8119 for more information.

## Thank you for your support!

Thank you to everyone who supported us in our year end campaign! You truly gave us a happy New Year. Your help is essential to Remy Bumpo, and we are indebted to you for making our work possible. Prior to the campaign, several of our Founder's Circle members came forward to support *On the Verge*, a play aptly named as we venture into our second decade of growth. Many of you followed their lead by making generous gifts to fund our expansion. Thanks to you, we are happy to report that we have reached our goal for the

campaign!

Last season, you saw the addition of the socially charged Remy Bumppo's thinkTank. This season, we added our holiday production of Dickens in America along with the upcoming On the Verge. This growth is made possible through the generous support of patrons like you.

Remy Bumppo is exceedingly grateful for all that you do to assist us in presenting think theatre.

## Remy Recommends

This spring, Artistic Associates David Darlow and Nick Sandys will be appearing together in Chicago Shakespeare Theater's production of Othello. The show runs February 3 through April 6.

Annabel Armour will be going to the lovely Cleveland Playhouse at the end of February to play Lady Catherine de Bourgh and Mrs. Reynolds in their production of Pride and Prejudice.

Remy Bumppo  
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