

## Upcoming REP Productions!

### Glory Box

a special appearance by performance artist Tim Miller

Aug. 12 - 15, Provincetown Town Hall

### Playing Burton

featuring Brian Mallon in a one-man play about the turbulent life of legendary actor Richard Burton

Aug. 16 - 25, Whaler's Wharf Theater

### Don Juan in Hell

a dramatic reading starring Gore Vidal, Norman Mailer and Norris Church Mailer

Sept. 28, Provincetown Town Hall

**Whaler's Wharf Theater & Box Office**  
237 Commercial Street • Provincetown  
508.487.7999

**Provincetown Repertory Theatre**  
PO Box 812 • Provincetown  
508.487.0600

*This program compliments of  
Donald Winter & Richard DiFrummola*

Provincetown Repertory Theatre  
presents

# SUMMER SHORTS

Three one-act plays by New York playwright Steve Monroe

- Dopes
- First Night
- The Confession

Artistic Director  
Norris Church Mailer

Set Designer  
Dave Fortuna

Costume Designer  
Leanne Robinson

Lighting Designer  
Scott Borowka

Sound Designer  
Greta Holman

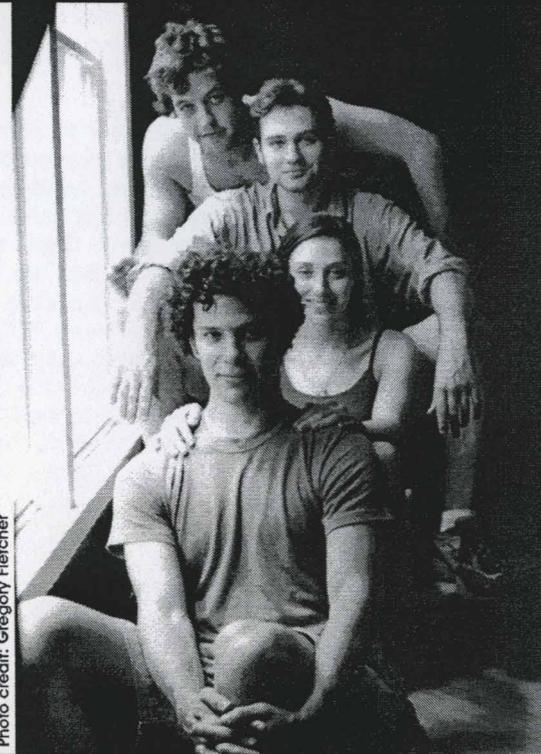
Stage Manager  
Gregory Fletcher \*

Company Manager  
Kate Berry

Production Assistant  
Craig Daniels

REP

Photo credit: Gregory Fletcher



Starring Peter Cambor \*, John Buffalo Mailer \* and Alexis Raben \*  
from New York City's Back House Productions. Directed by Thomas Kail.

July 19 - 28 at 8pm (except Mondays)  
2pm matinee on both Saturdays and Sundays

Tickets \$25 daily 4 - 10pm at Whaler's Wharf Box Office  
second floor, 237 Commercial St. 508-487-7999

\* Member of Actors Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

#### **STEVE MONROE**

Steve Monroe - "Dopes," "First Night" and "The Confession" were first performed at The Actors Studio, while Steve was a member of the Playwrights/Directors unit. "Dopes" also received productions at The Oddfellows Playhouse in East Hampton, Ensemble Studio West in Los Angeles and PSNBC in New York. "The Confession" traveled to Los Angeles as part of the Hudson's Shorts at the Hudson Guild Theater. It was then adapted into a short film, which premiered at the US Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen. The film played in over twenty-five festivals winning the Lumiere Award (New Orleans Film Festival), Best Short (New York Film and Video Festival), and the Audience Award (Chicago Underground Film Festival), among others. Los Angeles is also where his two full-length plays premiered. "A Kind Man and A Good Lover" opened at The Complex Theater. It won seven Dramalogue Awards and received Ovation and LA Weekly Award nominations. "Serious Games" enjoyed a critically acclaimed, nine month run at Theatre/Theater. Steve's latest work includes two short plays, "Vintage" and "Gangster Love," and a screenplay, "Sometimes You Get Lucky." Steve would like to thank Norris Mailer for bringing his plays to Provincetown.

#### **JOHN BUFFALO MAILER**

John Buffalo Mailer, a founding member of Back House Productions (resident company of The Arthur Seelen Theatre at The Drama Book Shop in NYC), is a graduate of Phillips Academy Andover, class of '96, and Wesleyan University, class of 2000. His New York stage credits include "Julie Johnson" and "The Practitioner" (The Actor's Studio), "Feiffer's People," "Praying for Rain," "Thirty Years of Treason" and "Jails, Hospitals and Hip-Hop" (The Arthur Seelen Theatre). His film credits include "Black and White" (Bigel/Mailer Films), "Lonesome" (Elk Productions), "Up to the Roof" (Back House Productions) and "The Water Cycle" (Long Fellow Pictures). He has published one novella, "Hello Herman," in The Reading Room, volume one (Great Marsh Press). His full-length play of the same title was produced at the Grove Street Playhouse in New York City, November of 2001. His short film, "Up to the Roof," is currently in production.

John is a member of Actors Equity Association, the Dramatists Guild of America and the Playwright/Director's unit of The Actor's Studio. He dedicates this performance to his grandfather, James Davis.

#### **PETER CAMBOR**

Peter Cambor is thrilled to be working with the Provincetown Repertory Theatre this summer. Recent New York theater credits include "Feiffer's People" (Huey) and "Hello Herman" (Mr. Phelps). Independent films include "Up on the Roof" (Alexander), "The J2 Project" (Jesus), "Paracite" (Subway Man), and "Imaging Cleveland" (Grant). Peter would like to send special thanks to Richard, Donald, Anthony, Andy King, Carlos, Kate, and, as always, his mother and father for their support.

#### **ALEXIS RABEN**

Alexis Raben is thrilled to be a part of Provincetown Repertory Theatre's 2002 season. Alex has acted in numerous Back House productions, such as "Feiffer's People," "Hello Herman" and "Sure Thing." She was also seen in an Off-Broadway adaptation of "The Idiot," and a Baroque drama "Vanishing Point." Alex's film work includes a lead role in a Back House short film "Up to the Roof," as well as independent films "Water Cycle" and "Someday." Upon return to NYC, Alex is slated to act in one-act plays "The Taste" and "Bigger and Better," and an independent feature

"Love from the Machine." Alex is a graduate of Wesleyan University where she studied film and wrote and directed an award-winning short, "Maybe Not."

Many thanks go to Norris Church Mailer, Mike Lennon and the Provincetown Repertory Theatre team for this opportunity and their hospitality.

#### **THOMAS KAIL (Director)**

Thomas Kail is delighted to be working with the Provincetown Repertory Theatre. Thomas is a founding member of Back House Productions, the resident theatre company of New York City's Arthur Seelen Theatre, located in The Drama Book Shop. Recent New York Directing Credits include "Feiffer's People," John Buffalo Mailer's "Hello Herman," as well as readings of new work by Robert Lewis Vaughan. Other credits include work by Tom Stoppard, David Ives and Chris Durang. In August, Thomas will be work-shopping a new musical, "In the Heights," slated for production in 2003. Thomas is the former Associate Artistic Director of the American Stage Co., a professional Equity company in Teaneck, NJ. Thanks go to Norris Church Mailer, Mike Lennon and the entire PRT staff for their dedication and support.

#### **GREGORY FLETCHER (Stage Manager)**

Gregory Fletcher's most recent credits include guest directing "Summer and Smoke" at Cal. State University at Northridge, stage managing "The Odyssey" Off-Broadway, and having a short play selected to participate at the Edward Albee Last Frontier Theater Conference in Alaska. Off-Broadway stage management credits include "My Night With Reg," "Grace and Glorie," "After-Play," "Durang Durang," "One Shoe Off" and "Ruthless--The Musical!" Regional credits include Actors Theater of Louisville, Paper Mill Playhouse, Dallas Theater Center and the national tour of "Three Tall Women." For further information, please visit [www.gregoryfletcher.com](http://www.gregoryfletcher.com).

#### **LEANNE ROBINSON (Costume Designer)**

Leanne Robinson is very excited to be working with the Provincetown Repertory Theatre. Some of Leanne's past costume designs have been for productions of "Hamletmachine," "The Colored Museum" and her own adaptation of "The Metamorphosis." However, Leanne's true love is for the stage and as an actress audiences have seen Leanne perform as the Emcee in "Cabaret," Lady Bracknell in "The Importance of Being Earnest" and the Baker's Wife in "Into the Woods." Leanne has a BA in Theatre from the University of Notre Dame and she will receive her MFA in theatre from Ohio University next year.

#### **SCOTT BOROWKA (Lighting Designer)**

Scott Borowka is very pleased to be working with the Provincetown Repertory Theatre. Scott is a newcomer to the theatre scene in Provincetown. He lives on Long Island, New York, and has designed all over the Northeast region. Past design credits include "South Pacific," "Oliver," "Deathtrap," "Sleuth," "Nonsense," "You Can't Take It With You," "Landscape of the Body" and "Several Evenings of Dance." Scott received his BFA in theatre design from SUNY Purchase.

#### **GRETA HOLMAN (Sound Designer)**

Greta Holman graduated from Marquette University with degrees in electronic communications. Greta is a veteran of both commercial and public access television and radio, and she's the President of WomanSoundProductions, Inc.

# Rep back with 'Summer Shorts'

## THEATER REVIEW

By Deborah Minsky

BANNER CORRESPONDENT

Opening night of "Summer Shorts," a program of three one-act plays written by New Yorker Steve Monroe, was yet another chapter in the continuing saga of the Provincetown Repertory Theatre looking for a place to play. In this instance, Whaler's Wharf Theater provides a fine venue for the Rep's first performance in two years. Playing to a full and appreciative house, New York's Backhouse Production group, under the able direction of Thomas Kail, includes the gifted ensemble of Peter Cambor, John Buffalo Mailer and Alexis Raben. They alternately amuse, sadden and startle the audience with a trio of separate yet complementary pieces.

The first offering, "Dopes," shares a manic interlude in the lives of three roommates desperate to score some marijuana. The audience is greeted by two 20-something men, Mickey and Gary, rifling through a personal phone list, trying to locate a source to help them through their unstoned day. They are down to their few contacts in the Ts through Zs and getting nowhere rapidly. With Mickey, Mailer offers a wired, close-to-the-edge persona who has trouble dealing

messages unreturned. His buddy Gary, as presented by Cambor, is the perfect foil: suitably goofy, less stressed but equally in need. He is the idea man whose suggestions can't ever please Mickey.

The scene almost shifts to a more serious mood when the two decide to share the last shreds of the last stub of their absent friend's last joint. They know it would be wrong to smoke Therese's stuff without her, but she's at work, "the man" is bound to come through before she comes home and...

Of course she gets home much earlier than anticipated, and there is trouble to pay. Therese has had a lousy day and is in such a foul mood that she "could just maim somebody and take [her] time." Her low-key seething balances the abject apologies of Mickey and Gary. Although she is dwarfed by her much taller friends, Therese is, clearly, in charge. We will save the details for your own viewing; suffice it to say, the plot thickens, action accelerates, humor ripples across the stage. All three actors make much of subtle changes in facial expression and shifts in body language. The three actors play off each other extremely well.

"First Night" is a briefer, more sobering piece about a homeless woman trying to complicate the life of a basically kind but preoccupied bartender. He wants to close up for the night, but she has other

not a farce about seduction; it is a scatter shot look at someone else's pain. Unfortunately, despite skillful character rendering, the scene is too brief for the audience to be sufficiently pulled into the moment.

"The Confession," the most compelling of the three pieces, anchors the evening. Cambor and Mailer have a grand opportunity to demonstrate their skill at getting into character. It is quite amazing what a simple change in hairstyle or the merest addition of dark-rimmed glasses can do to transform a persona. Here we see an ego-tripping priest deal mercilessly with a hapless, terrified adulterer. The humor is delicious yet scathing, the timing nearly perfect.

Technical support for this production deserves high commendation. The unsung backstage heroes provide minimalist yet creative settings which enhance the small stage surface without overwhelming it. Costumes are true to character; the lighting exquisite, the sound effects well-timed. From front to back you know you are in the hands of a professional troupe.

"Summer Shorts" is an auspicious return for the Rep.

"Summer Shorts" is being performed at 8 p.m. nightly at the Whaler's Wharf Theater, 237 Commercial Street, through July 28 (except Mondays). There is a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets may be reserved at the box office or by calling (508) 487-



(Peter Cambor, Alexis Raben and John Buffalo Mailer (clockwise from top left) in a scene from the Provincetown Rep production, "Summer Shorts.")

# P'town actors fine, but plays mediocre

By **DEBBIE FORMAN**  
FEATURES EDITOR

**PROVINCETOWN** – After a period of transition that brought on a new artistic director, the Provincetown Repertory Theatre launched its summer season Friday with a trio of one-act plays by Steve Monroe.

When artistic director Ken Hoyt left the company, the board named Norris Church Mailer, writer, actor and painter, as the new head. Her experience should be an asset.

For the first production under her tutelage, she has assembled a fine group of actors, which includes her son, John Buffalo Mailer. John Mailer, Peter Cambor and Alexis Raben, who have New York acting credits, are skillful and robust. They deserve better than these Monroe plays, which were first performed at the Actors Studio in New York.

"The Confession," the best of the three, is a satiric look at a confession with a sadistic priest and an unassuming confessor. Cambor is gleefully sinister as the fire-and-brimstone priest who is out to scare the hell out of the young man who comes to him

for forgiveness. Mailer captures the naiveté of the sinner who wants relief from his guilty conscience. But the priest is not about to let him off easily. Their dialogue offers some amusing ironies, and there's even a little miracle at the end.

"Dopes," is a well-chosen title at least. The three characters are not only desperate for some dope, they are depicted as, yes, "dopes."

So why bother? Here are three young people living for their next high. They are portrayed as foolish and. We hardly care. We can't fault the three actors who give credible portrayals, but the play has little value. If Monroe is trying to show us how asinine these characters are, he's succeeded. But there has to be something more to make it worth putting on stage.

"First Night," the shortest of the three (which total about an hour and 20 minutes), gives us a glimpse of a homeless woman seeking refuge in a bar. Cambor is the bartender looking to close, and Raben is the pathetic woman desperate for a place to spend the night.

## On Stage

- **What:** "Dopes," "First Night" and "The Confession"
- **Presented by:** Provincetown Repertory Theatre
- **Written by:** Steve Monroe
- **When:** 8 p.m. Friday, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
- **Where:** Whaler's Wharf, 237 Commercial St., Provincetown
- **Tickets:** \$25
- **Reservations:** 508-487-0600

In this brief scenario, Monroe shows how society dismisses the homeless as an annoyance and doesn't care to help. But the play lacks any depth, although the two actors do their best to evoke your empathy.

The Whaler's Wharf theater is small and has no pitch, so the view of the stage is obstructed if you are behind the first row. Director Thomas Kail didn't consider this when he staged the plays. It was particularly difficult in "Dopes," where the actors sat in low lawn chairs below the viewpoint of most of the audience.

Under Hoyt's direction the theatre built a strong reputation for fine drama. It was known for doing works in the great American tradition of Eugene O'Neill, whose career was launched in Provincetown. We hope it can once again revive that light by choosing literate plays that will illuminate our theatrical experience.

