

Funders

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DIVAfest 2007

DIVAfest is dedicated to creating new work by women writers. On other stages this year we are pleased to present our mainstage premiere of *Crystal Daze* by Deborah Eubanks and workshop readings of four plays-in-progress: *Human Hands* by Kerry Reid; *Obsessed* by Maria Rokas; *An Affair of Honor* by Lee Kiszonas; and *The Other Choice* by Carrie Kartman and Jennifer Berry. Diane di Prima will read from her *Alchemical Fragments*, and we will present the art of DIVAfest visual artist Kirsten Tradowsky.

For 2008 our playwrights-in-residence Alissa Mortenson and Claytie Mason are developing a new play: *Medea Knows Best*, a darkly funny adaptation of the Greek tragedy *Medea*, set in the 1950s, at the dawn of feminism, exploring some of the same themes that were so explosive in ancient Greece. DIVAfest will also feature workshops of plays-in-progress and other work by women writers.

Between January 1 and February 14, 2008 we will be soliciting proposals for new plays by women writers to be developed for DIVAfest 2009.

DIVAfest 2007 is produced by EXIT Theatre, www.theexit.org
Box office manager: Tony Santos

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Special thanks to Original Joe's Restaurant for hosting us in the Cabaret Room.

Sassy & Seductive

A Diva Cabaret of New Songs
by Women Writers

Sassy & Seductive

<i>One-Way ATM.</i>	. . . . .	. Janet Roitz*
<i>New Lipstick In Town.</i>	. . . . .	. Amy Tobin
<i>If I Loved You</i>	. . . . .	. Alison Bloomfield
<i>Nothing You Can Give Me</i>	. . . . .	. Lua Hadar
<i>Daisy Chains.</i>	. . . . .	. Pireeni Sundaralingam
<i>Tell Me</i>	. . . . .	. Alison Bloomfield
<i>Kiss Me As If (A Bossa Nova For Christopher)</i>	. . . . .	. Lua Hadar
<i>Screen Play</i>	. . . . .	. Pireeni Sundaralingam
<i>Smooth As Glass</i>	. . . . .	. Janet Roitz*
<i>You Don't Love Me Yet</i>	. . . . .	. Alison Bloomfield
<i>Revolving Door</i>	. . . . .	. Lua Hadar, Alison Bloomfield, Janet Roitz, and Amy Tobin

* On April 28 and May 5 Amy Tobin will sing "One Way ATM" and Lua Hadar will sing "Smooth As Glass."
Piano: Don Seaver. Drums: Otto Huber.

Lyrics to all songs are available at <http://donseaver.com/divacabaret07>

All music by
Don Seaver

Hosted by
Sean Owens

Lyrics by
Mia Paschal

except "New Lipstick In Town" and "Smooth As Glass," by

Diane Valory

and "Daisy Chains" and "Screen Play," by

Pireeni Sundaralingam

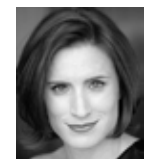
Lighting design by Curtis Overacre. Production management by Amanda Ortmayer.

The Artists



DON SEAVER started songwriting with a country/western band in Dallas in 1982, then wrote a very bad musical before moving to San Francisco in 1983. There he composed a ballet score for the Paul Taylor Dance Company in 1990, then began 15 years in the theater with original scores and sound design. He can currently be heard at Theatre Rhino's world premiere of Nicky Silver's *Past Perfect*; he recently scored *The God of Hell* and *The Sweetest Swing in Baseball* at the Magic Theatre, and composed and performed in *Sex & Mayhem* at the New Conservatory Theatre with Donald Currie. He has worked with a number of Bay Area theaters, including San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Marin Theatre Company, Theatre Rhinoceros, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Aurora Theatre, Encore Theatre, EXIT Theatre, Phoenix II Theatre, Shotgun Players, and Genesis. In addition, he has composed scores for cable TV, videogames, and ballet, and is working on an opera about Leonard Bernstein. He has been nominated for several Bay Area Theater Critics' Circle awards for best score/sound design, and won in 1999 for his jazz score for *Mere Mortals* and in 2004 for *Southern Lights* (with Julie Jackson). He is still holding out a secret hope to write a Celine Dion song someday... donseaver.com

SEAN OWENS is the author of some forty-odd (very odd) plays, and a veritable slew of songs, mostly composed by the inimitable Don Seaver. He performed his play *Naught But Pirates* in FRIGID New York in March and will bring it to EXIT Theatre in June. He may frequently be seen at the Dark Room, in roles as various as Cora Values, proprietress of the Gas 'N' Gulp, and Wadsworth, the butler in *Clue: The Play* this July. (www.darkroomsf.com) Sean was named Best Comic Playwright by the *SF Weekly* in 2006, and may never live it down. This play is dedicated with affection to his dear friend Dorothy Actis, who is off on the greatest journey of them all.



ALISON BLOOMFIELD worships at the altar of composer Don Seaver and writer Sean Owens. While not in worship, she has appeared at TheatreWorks, ACT, and 42nd Street Moon. Favorite roles include Lucy in *Jekyll & Hyde* (Elly Award for Best Actress in a Musical), Mother in *Ragtime*, Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha* and Rose in *Aspects of Love*.



LUA HADAR is a native New Yorker from a musical family and has performed as an actor and singer all of her life in New York and San Francisco and on tour in Europe, the USA, and Canada. She moves from stage to cabaret to jazz club with effervescent ease, switching vocal genres or languages just as easily. Lua received her training in New York at the State University, at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre and in master classes at the Metropolitan Opera. After a five-year theatre residency in Italy where she developed her loony comedy style, Lua formed her own company, New Performance Group, and began producing original material and cabaret. In San Francisco in 2001 she co-founded girl trio The Kitchenettes (described as "The Andrews Sisters on acid"), and recorded three CD's, most recently her solo CD *It's About Time*. Her solo cabaret show *It's About Time, Already!* received critical acclaim not only at San Francisco's Plush Room ("10+ Best Shows of 2006"—*SF Bay Times*), but also in Hollywood at the legendary club The Gardenia. Lua performs in musical theater with companies such as San Francisco's 42nd Street Moon (this year in *Pardon My English* and *Plain & Fancy*) and appeared in the premiere cast of Candace Forest's original musical *Viva Concha*. Her love for the Great American Songbook combines with the international flavors of her life's experience, so her jazz club audiences get a performance and song list that range from the familiar to the exotic, but always with Lua's unique spin. Recently featured live on KGO Radio, and following her sold-out East Bay success, Lua brings her "Jazz Without Borders" to Jazz at Pearl's on May 17 with the Jason Martineau Quartet—sexy Italian ballads, funk à la *Français*, and the Great American Songbook backed by Jason Martineau on piano, Mario Suracci on bass, Randy Odell on drums and Tony Malfatti on reeds. Thursday, May 17, 2 shows: 8 pm (\$20) and 10 pm (\$15). For tickets call 1-800-838-3006 or go to www.jazzatpearls.com. Jazz at Pearl's, 256 Columbus Ave at Pacific, San Francisco. www.luahadar.com

OTTO HUBER started playing drums at the age of 14, learning rock beats in the back of a mom & pop music store before moving on to jazz music and the Jazz Showcase, which was then in the Blackstone Hotel in downtown Chicago. He studied orchestral percussion and then received a Bachelor of Music from Northern Illinois University. After graduating from N.I.U., he played in the Unison Quartet (James Falzone, Jeff Hill, Marty Metzger) and the Unheard Music Quartet (Ken Vandermark, Jeb Bishop, Tod Margasak, Mike Hagedorn) before moving to the Bay Area in 1998. He has played with Cody Anderson, Dana Atherton, Will Blades, Christian Boyd, Brenda Boykin, Gary Brown, Michael Coleman, Delta Wires, Lorenzo Farrel, Ben Fajen, Ben Flint, Evan



Francis, Herb Geller, Aaron Germain, Jim Grantham, Rev. Johnathan Green, Gerry Groz, Henry Hung, Sasha Jacobson, Saul Kaye, Art Khu, Mark Little, Damien Masterson, Paul Mausavi, Matt Morrish, Len & Ellen Patterson, Fred Randolph, Brad Russel, John Santos, Naim Satchia, Don Seaver, Dana Stevens, Adam Shulman, Yancy Taylor, Dani Thompson, Dave Yudolph. Since the fall of 2003 he has also been playing at the Second Baptist Church in Redwood City, California.

MIA PASCHAL is the founder and artistic director of chaotic heart Productions and Heroes Theatre Company. Mia moved to San Francisco from Milan, Italy to study with Ed Hooks. As an undergraduate at Harvard, Mia studied acting with David Wheeler; she later studied with Bill Hickey at the HB Studio in New York. In Paris, Stockholm, Helsinki and Milan, she appeared in a number of independent films and video projects. In San Francisco, she also studied with Bruce Williams and other teachers at A.C.T. Mia has performed in a number of plays and independent films in the Bay Area. She produced and performed in Heroes Theatre Company's *St. Valentine's Day Massacre*, a collection of comedic and dramatic scenes about dysfunctional relationships. She produced, directed and acted in *After the Fall* by Arthur Miller (Maggie), Harold Pinter's *The Lover*, and *Antony and Cleopatra* (Cleopatra). One of her most personally gratifying theatrical experiences was performing in *A Loud Little Handful*, Greg Beuthin's site-specific production of works dealing with the aftermath of war and violence, directed by Emily Koch. She also wrote, produced, and directed the digital feature *The Art of Etiolation* which premiered at the EXIT Theatre's DIVAfest in May 2004. In September 2004, her show *some life*, directed by Emily Koch, won the Best Female Solo Performance award at the San Francisco Fringe Festival. Her latest work, *This Lily Was (Fontana)*, received the Best of the Fringe—Best Female Dramatic Solo Award at the 2006 San Francisco Fringe Festival, and was performed at the Marsh in San Francisco, as part of the Marsh Rising series in January 2007, and at the 2007 Rogue Performance Festival in Fresno, where the Fresno Bee selected it as a Top Five pick of the Rogue. Mia is currently developing three new solo performance projects.

JANET ROITZ is happy to return to the Exit for her third year as a Diva. As an actor, she has performed with ACT, The Magic, Art Street, and FoolsFury. She currently travels around with her cabaret show, *Fabulous Forgotten Film Songs of the 30's, 40's, and 50's*. You can check out some music at her website, www.janetroitz.com.



PIREENI SUNDARALINGAM is a PEN USA Rosenthal Fellow and was recently named as "One of America's Emerging Writers" by the literary journal *Ploughshares*. As a Sri Lankan writer, her poetry addresses the issues of civil war and exile and has been broadcast on radio in numerous countries, including England, Ireland, Sweden and the US. Her poetry is featured in journals and anthologies internationally, including *The Progressive* (USA), *The Guardian* newspaper (UK) and *The May Anthology of Oxford and Cambridge Poetry* as well as in MFA college texts such as *Three Genres* (Prentice Hall, 8th edition), and is currently featured in the International Museum of Women. Additionally, she has worked collaboratively with celebrated musicians from a host of different traditions, exploring the links between poetry and flamenco, jazz and Celtic music, and her new album *Bridge Across the Blue* was recently chosen as "one of the ten best recordings of poetry and music" by the editors of *About.com*. For more info: www.wordandviolin.com

AMY TOBIN is a singer-songwriter who performs in many configurations—lo-fi, hi-fi, all alone, with a six-piece band, with a sampler, acoustic, electronic, as rock and as cabaret theater. She started out singing her songs unaccompanied in San Francisco bars and bathhouses, and self-released the EP *4 Choices* in 2003. A graduate of the Experimental Theatre Wing at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Amy created and performs *The Esther Show*, a cabaret rock opera and modern interpretation of the biblical Book of Esther, and is one half of the band A Little Friction, which released its debut CD *When Sparks Fly* in early 2006. Other projects include co-writing and composing the music for *Lilith*, an original musical; working with the San Francisco band The Beanweevils; and performing as a member of the intercultural spoken-word collective Dhaia Tribe. www.amytobin.com www.alittlefriction.com



DIANE VALORY was born in Southern California and grew up in Hollywood where her father worked in the television industry making commercials for shows such as *Bonanza*, *Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, *Get Smart*, *Bewitched* and *Perry Mason* and her mother worked for CBS producer Harry Ackerman. Her mother took her to see Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones in the 7th grade, greatly influencing her love for lyrics as a child. She wrote the vocal harmonies on two songs on Steve Miller's fifth record and then wrote the lyrics for the title tracks of Journey's first and second records and then "Wheel in the Sky" on the *Infinity* album. As part of Journey she toured with many bands—The Grateful Dead, The Tubes, Aerosmith, Cheap Trick, Styx, Def Leopard and The Rolling Stones. Bill Graham and Chet Helms have had a great influence in her life. Currently she has an interest in singing and believes the best is yet to come.