

SEASON FINALE!

The Studio@620 WMNF Radio Theatre Project



SPRING 2014



RTP LIVE!

ENDS SEASON FIVE...

**PLEASE COME BACK FOR MORE FUN
WHEN SEASON SIX HAS BEGUN!**

**CELEBRATING THE STUDIO@620 WMNF
RADIO THEATRE PROJECT
SEASON 5 FINALE / MONDAY MAY 19, 2014**



THE RTP LIVE STORY

The Studio@620 WMNF Radio Theatre Project performed its first Live Broadcast November 22, 2009 at The Studio @ 620 in St Petersburg featuring St Pete's Poet Laureate Peter Meinke's "The Piano Tuner" and "The Cranes" and a Screen Actors Guild radio script of "Arsenic and Old Lace". The premiere of the Radio Theatre Project exemplified the mission of the project to broadcast classic and modern scripts and feature Florida writers and topics with a professional company in front of a live audience. Mimi Rice went to Bob Devin Jones with the idea of a radio theatre troupe in the summer of 2009, and as the answer is always "Yes" at Studio@620, together they formed an Ensemble of professional actors, directors and theatre administrators, and joined forces with WMNF Soundstage producer and playwright Matt Cowley and WMNF studios to form the RTP.

RTPLive! is typically performed at Studio@620, but has traveled to The Tampa History Museum, The Ritz Theatre in Ybor City, and The Palladium in St. Petersburg. In 2010 Carol Downing, from Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf, joined the Ensemble, and continues to sign every show. St. Pete's favorite piano man and Ensemble member, Paul Wilborn, provides musical accompaniment. He also leads sing-alongs at the holiday shows.

After five full seasons of monthly shows from October-May, the sixth season of RTP Live! performances and broadcasts is being planned.

Last year invitations went out for submissions from playwrights nationwide, providing a rich season of programming, and Literary Manager Jim Wicker and Richard Rice continue to read through selections for next season. "The Continuing Adventures of Noel Berlin, Cabaret Detective", written by Paul Wilborn and Matt Cowley, debuted in 2012, and remains an audience favorite. It will return to skewer local events and politics next season.

Thanks to the loyal studio audiences, who make each performance an intimate and lively event, and to The Florida Humanities Council, whose generous grant underwrote two previous seasons, and made expansion possible.

Performance podcasts can be found at www.radiosoundstage.com, and air during the Soundstage program Sundays at 9 PM on WMNF 88.5 HD3.



THE RTP LIVE ENSEMBLE

Bonnie Agan, *Artistic Coordinator*

Mimi Rice, *Community Outreach Director*

Eugenie Bondurant, *Company Coordinator*

Matt Cowley, *Foley*

Sheila Cowley, *WMNF Soundstage*

Mark Perfetti, *Sound Technician*

Maggie Romigh, *Stage Manager*

Jim Wicker, *Literary Manager*

Carol Downing, *Interpreter for Hearing Impaired*

Nancy Cole

TJ Gill

Bob Heitman

Leroy Mitchell

Richard Rice

Ron Satlof

Jim Sorenson

Dave Waterman

Paul Wilborn

Bob Devin Jones, *Artistic Director*



THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

“The Blackout” by Karin Fazio Littlefield

Sylvia, alone and pregnant in the Manhattan high-rise she shares with her husband Noah, awaits her husband and a dinner guest, Mr. Swanson. In spite of the blackout, Swanson arrives and engages Sylvia in a disturbing conversation. When Noah gets home, though, Swanson vanishes. As the night continues, sights and sounds become even stranger and more ominous. Are they Sylvia's hallucinations, or is the danger real?

Karin Fazio Littlefield has a varied background, from genetics and philosophy to art and film. Her plays have been produced across the US and Canada by companies including the American Globe, Manhattan Repertory, She Speaks, Last Frontier, and Sign Post Forest Theatres, as well as The Disreputables in Washington, D.C.

“One Three Two” by Michael Weems

A man who can't handle the overload of information in modern society decides to drop out. He begins by forgetting all the numbers in his life. Can his concerned wife talk him down?

Michael Weems is a Houston based, award-winning playwright, actor and founding member of Cone Man Running Productions. Michael's plays have been seen across the US and other countries- totaling over 80 productions to date. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

“The Continuing Adventures of Noel Berlin,

Cabaret Detective #7”

by Matt Cowley and Paul Wilborn



A NOTE FROM BOB

As with many of the programs at 620, the Radio Theatre Project started as an idea, a really delicious one, proposed by Mimi Rice. Mimi is a highly regarded member of the Tampa Bay acting community. The growth and popularity of RTP and the incredible diversity of the plays would not have been possible without the constancy and intrepid leadership of Mimi Rice. For five extraordinary seasons Mimi has been the continuous hero in this journey; five wonderful seasons of intrigue, heritage, mayhem, history and laughter. Thank you Mimi from the Board of Trustees of the Studio@620 and me, we are deeply grateful... Bob Devin Jones

A MESSAGE FROM MIMI

I've always loved listening to the radio. My earliest memory is as a very young girl very sick with measles, pneumonia and whooping cough lying over an overturned easy chair with her head beside the gold cloth speakers of a floor model Zenith radio and her butt in the air listening to Let's Pretend! I used to listen to the unique voice of Margaret O'Brian reading stories like Billy Goats Gruff, and recordings of Peter and the Wolf and Tommy(?) in Orchestraville too. A little older it was being scared by The Creaking Door or listening to stories on Lux Radio Theatre on my own radio. I love listening to stories too – ghost stories around the campfire as a kid and now Garrison Keeler and audio books while on he road.

Years ago, TJ Gill and I came up with the idea for The Retro Radio Players that he made popular doing shows like The Shadow at The Reader's Festival held at Eckerd College. (The Retro Radio Players donated many of their Foley effects to RTP Live! last year and TJ is a member of our Ensemble)

So it was no surprise that when American Theatre Magazine published a story on radio theatre "Lend Me Your Ears. Suddenly, audio drama is easier, cheaper, more popular – and podcastable" in its May/June 2008 issue, that my ears perked up. Being an actress of a "certain age" and stage roles being few and far between, radio had even more appeal to me. I went straightaway to Bob Devin Jones at Studio@620 and said we should start a Radio Theatre. His answer is always YES and within weeks a group of professional actors, theatre artists and playwrights met in Bob Devin's home with Matt Cowley from WMNF. Bob Devin had worked with Matt and WMNF on an earlier recording project and the groundwork for RTP Live! was laid.

That was six years ago. We planned that we would form a group – a la the Group Theatre –to perform radio plays live. With WMNF staff help and equipment, we were able to combine live performance and recording for broadcast at Studio@620. I wrote to the National Audio Theatre Festivals.Inc and purchased "The Well-Tempered Audio Dramatist, A Guide to the Production of Audio Plays in Twenty-First Century American", to learn everything I could about radio theatre from management to script to Foley to production. It was a start.

The rest is history. Studio@620 WMNF Radio Theatre Project (RTP Live! for short) had its first performance in November 22, 2009. We started from scratch- actors getting microphone training from WMNF's Dave Waterman (now an Ensemble member), draping towels over our music stands to deaden the paper noise, (photo available), wearing sneakers or just our socks to make no extraneous noise, asking friends and colleagues for scripts and searching old time radio theatre websites for scripts in public domain since we had no funds for royalties. Our first season exemplified our mission to perform classic radio plays, introduce new radio scripts, and feature Florida playwrights and Florida themes. That first season we performed to audiences ranging from 30-40 people

We've come a long way from that ambitious beginning five years ago. We have dressed up our stage at our Studio@620 home where we've performed 65 plays in five seasons to audiences

ranging from 60-115 people! We've broadcast and podcast 47 plays (so far) on our broadcast home on Soundstage at WMNF Community Radio. The Ensemble has a Literary Manager, Company Coordinator, Stage Manager, Foley Artist, and In Studio Signer for Deaf as well as Artistic Coordinator and Artistic Director. We're looking good in our matching t-shirts too.

I still love listening to the radio and listening/telling stories. Even more so now that I have five years experience with The Radio Theatre Project. I've gotten to play mad mothers, Russian mail order brides and Marjorie Keenan Rawlings (with her lawyer's nephew in the audience). I have an ongoing character in RTP Live!'s own series The Continuing Adventures of Noel Berlin, Cabaret Detective. I've tried my hand at directing. I've learned how to put together a Silent Auction, manage a grant, use a microphone, organize a cast of characters talented in multiple disciplines and best of all to listen – to the radio, to actors, to the story.

It is with great pride that I pass the mike as Artistic Coordinator to Bonnie Agan, a consummate theatre artist and member of the Ensemble since the very beginning. I'm excited about having the time to explore, expand and enhance RTP Live!'s opportunities to be heard, to be supported, and to be promoted as the newly named Audience Development Manager!

There is a classic story of a little girl who, when asked whether she preferred television to radio, answered, "I prefer radio". "Why?" "Because the pictures are better". (from Well-Tempered Dramatist). I think so too! RTP Live! can be seen as well as heard. Aren't we lucky! -- Mimi

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MANY MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS!

If you would like information on becoming a member or would like to learn about our corporate sponsorship opportunities don't be shy just ask! Talk to us after the show or call our office during business hours 727-895-6620.

**From Grandma's Hands to Project GenYes,
The Studio@620 has evolved over the past 10 years
into a true community powerhouse!**



We're excited to continue our mission as a 'YES' in the community and carry the ball forward for another 10 years! Please join us now and be a part of our 10th Anniversary celebration! All new and renewing members will receive a variety of benefits including tickets to upcoming events, a special edition lapel pin, and of course our continued gratitude. Join in person at one of our upcoming events, by phone at 727-895-6620, online at www.studio620.org, or email us at membership@studio620.org.

Membership Rates:

Individual	\$75 / Senior \$50 / Student \$40
Family	\$145 / Senior Family \$95
Patron	\$620
Red Circle	\$6200



the studio
@620

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