



AFFILIATES



Issue 1 – September 2020

Dear Affiliates,

I hope you have been filling the long summer days developing your talents, learning a new skill, mastering Zoom meetings and most importantly, staying connected with family and friends.

Theatre Notes is the newly developed Affiliates newsletter, designed to keep you informed, entertained, challenged, and connected to CTG-A and the arts. This premiere issue offers a peek into what is ahead...

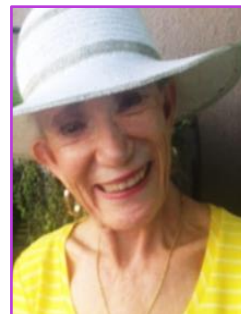
Thank you to Roberta Haft and our stellar Theatre Notes team for sharing their vision and talent. A special thank you to Rita Lee for our fabulous Theatre Notes logo design

Sending virtual hugs,

Marsha

Editors

and Contributors



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RITA LEE

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Profiles in "Art"

by Linda Goldman

Interview with Edward Goldman

Art Critic Emeritus, KCRW
Art Matters, Weekly e-Newsletter

What was your first exposure to the arts?

I had the good luck to be born in St. Petersburg, which was then known as Leningrad. The Russian emperor, Peter the Great, was enamored with European culture. After visiting Amsterdam at the end of the 17th Century, he invited Dutch architects to build the new city of St. Petersburg. (Amsterdam was bursting with energy and new ideas, like New York in the 20th century.) St. Petersburg, thanks to its numerous canals and bridges, became known as Venice of the North. In St. Petersburg you have an echo of Venice and of Amsterdam, so it became for Russians like a window into Europe.

We lived in a communal apartment 2 blocks away from the Mariinsky Theatre. My mother took me at 4 or 5 years old to see the ballet. I loved it. That's how I was exposed to music, theatre, movement. My family thought I had an ear for music. I learned to play piano at age 6 with a private teacher. I could read a musical score before I could read books. At 7, my mother's friend gave me the book, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, which I brought with me from Russia. I still have it. That's how America entered my life. After WWII we were exposed to American movies. How did this happen? During the war, the Russian Army found copies of American movies in Europe and brought them to Russia. My parents took baby Edward to see Tarzan. It was fabulous.

Tell me about playing the piano.

When I was 7 years old, my music teacher took me to a musical conservatoire where I started attending classes, including theory of music, until I was 14 years old. My parents wanted me to be seriously involved in music, but I discovered the Hermitage and fell in love with art. I refused to go to music school after that. I joined a special club for school children at the Hermitage, where we met once a week. The museum curators would give us a special tour of the museum collections and take us to the storage facilities. It was like going to a restaurant, and after experiencing a fabulous dinner, being invited by the chef to the kitchen, to smell, to taste. I became crazy about art. Instead of sitting in a dark room looking at slides, we looked at Rembrandt, at Leonardo, at Raphael...we touched sculptures and looked at actual masterpieces.

It sounds like your parents were encouraging. Did they ever try to discourage you?

Yes and no...In St. Petersburg, like in Paris or Venice, people go for a walk, just to enjoy the stroll. Once, when I was 4 years old, they took me for a walk. All of a sudden it started to rain cats and dogs and we ran into the nearest building, which happened to be the entrance to the Hermitage museum. My parents weren't the type to take a little boy to a museum. But because of the rain, we stayed there for a few hours. A few weeks later my mom said, "Edward, you've been a good boy lately. Do you want to choose where we go for a walk today?" **"Yes," I said, "Let's go to the place where naked men and women are standing."** At 4 years old, that's how you refer to statues of Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. That's how I got connected with the magic of Art.

At 16, I was invited to join the Hermitage archaeological expedition in the south of Russia, on the Crimean Peninsula to excavate 6th century B.C. Greek settlements. I was extremely lucky to have this unique experience in the Soviet Union. My parents couldn't have arranged it for millions of dollars. That became my foundation, my love of the art. After university, I started to work in the educational department of the Hermitage as a lecturer and tour guide for 8 years. Then I hit the glass ceiling. As a Jew, I would never be allowed to become the curator of the museum, which was my dream.

When did you come to the United States?

When I came to the U.S in 1978, I was not planning to stay in Los Angeles, but I fell in love with the city from day one. It was unlike anywhere else – everything was fresh and new. Nothing reminded me of Europe. People were so open-minded...Americans were so kind. New people kept introducing me to their friends. The Jewish Federation arranged for my family to come to L.A. and to help us get settled. One of my advisors arranged for me to meet with an architect, a friend of his, with good connections to the art world. He introduced me to curators at the L.A. County Museum. Years later, I found out that this architect happened to be Frank Gehry. (Back then even Frank Gehry didn't know he was Frank Gehry.) This is the City of Angels. The angels have been taking care of me since day one."

THIS IS THE CITY OF ANGELS...
"The Angels have been taking care of me since day one"

CONTINUED... In the December issue of *Theatre Notes*

Go to **EDWARDGOLDMAN.COM** to sign up for his outstanding Newsletter "Art Matters"

This Month Starring...

ROBERTA HAFT

Where were you born, raised and go to school? Born in Chicago, raised in Granada Hills, CA and went to USC undergraduate and UCLA for my MBA in Finance. Out of university, I worked in banking, as a Management Consultant and then as a stockbroker in Beverly Hills and London.

What brought you to Los Angeles? In 1954, we drove across country when my mother and father, a medical doctor, found the Chicago weather physically challenging.

Who or what encouraged you to join CTGA? I moved to London to marry David Haft and lived there for several years. When I moved from London to BH in 1974, Eunice Forester introduced me to CTGA. I joined 46 years ago and served as President, chaired Membership, Fundraising, Programs, and quite often Cleanup. I love making beautiful table décor for our luncheons and fundraisers.

What is your favorite theatre show and why? I love musicals! They make me feel good and I also enjoy serious drama - they make me aware of man's challenges in the world.

Have you ever been on stage as a performer? I was Anna in my high school's Anna and the King of Siam (The King and I). I wanted to become an actress.

What do most people not know about you? Before I moved to the flats of BH, we had a small zoo in the home where my children grew up. My most, most favorite pet was "Lollipop" our beautiful, big, brown-eyed llama. My kids had bunnies, pheasants, chickens, ducks, Barkley, the English sheepdog, cats, their own exotic birds, emus, an aviary with fancy chocolate brown Jacobean pigeons, 3 parrots, and 13 peacocks.

Where is your favorite place in the world? Right here in Los Angeles...with my Howard, my home and my 2 adult children Derrek and Amanda and granddaughter Alexis.

What is the best advice you have ever received? Be kind always. Listen more than you speak and, Just Keep Going..... No Matter What.

What forms of on-screen entertainment have you enjoyed during recent months? Preferring live entertainment, I haven't watched on-screen entertainment during recent months.



What are your hopes for the future of Theatre?

I look forward to enjoying all of the Arts and Theatre here in LA, New York and, when possible, London.

Roberta Haft
Member since 1974

This Month Starring...

RITA LEE

Interview by Linda Goldman

Where were you born, raised and go to school? My physical place of birth was the Indian Ocean although my technical place of birth was Italy, as I was born on an Italian ocean liner in international waters. According to the U.S. Immigration Office, my “official” place of birth was “At Sea”. The ship was named the S.S. Asia and I was baptized Rita Asia.

I lived in Sri Lanka until I was seven, which was part of the British Raj English system. My family moved to Hong Kong for four years, also under the British, where I went to an American school. I picked up Cantonese there, which I can still manage. After four years we moved back to Sri Lanka.

What brought you to Los Angeles? When Civil War broke out in Sri Lanka, I was 16 and my father moved us to Los Angeles. I attended Schurr High School in Montebello. After that, I went on to university at Cal State. Los Angeles is my home!

Who or what encouraged you to join CTGA? My first introduction to CTGA is when I made an Angel for Angel’s Night in 2013. The Angel was also imprinted in the dessert. Tobé Karns brought me in to the group.

What is your favorite theatre show and why? Wicked. It was very clever and the tie-in with the Wizard of Oz was well done. I also loved The Lieutenant of Inishmore. It was funny and dark.

Have you ever been on stage as a performer? No, I haven’t.

What do most people not know about you? I played classical piano from age 4 to 16. It was never a true passion. When we moved to Los Angeles it was a brand-new life and I stopped playing piano at that time.

Where is your favorite place in the world? I love Hong Kong, the people, the mixture of east and west. It is very dynamic. I especially love Repulse Bay, where the British repulsed the Chinese. We didn’t live there but not too far away in an area called Happy Valley. My sister went back to Hong Kong as an adult and lived in Repulse Bay, so I spent a lot of time there.

What is the best advice you have ever received? Things always change, nothing stays the same.

What forms of on-screen entertainment have you enjoyed during recent months I don’t watch Netflix. I clean the house and enjoy listening to different kinds of music, ranging from opera to disco -- music from the ‘70’s. I have also had lots of time to paint.

My typical themes are fashion and sports, I have several projects going right now without the pressure of deadlines – which is nice!



What are your hopes for the future of Theatre?

That the virus will go down, we will have a vaccine, and we’ll feel safe to go back to the theatre again.

Rita Lee

Member since 2014



AFFILIATES

DO YOU KNOW? Answers
1. c 2. b 3. a 4. b 5. c

CTG-A Education Connection

Dating back to 1971, CTG took the lead in producing programs to fill the space left vacant by the diminishing Arts Education in Southern California Schools, reaching thousands of young people each year.

The Affiliates became an integral partner when funding reached a critical low. Angels' Night was launched to fill the void and raised over \$4 million dollars in support of CTG's Education Programs.

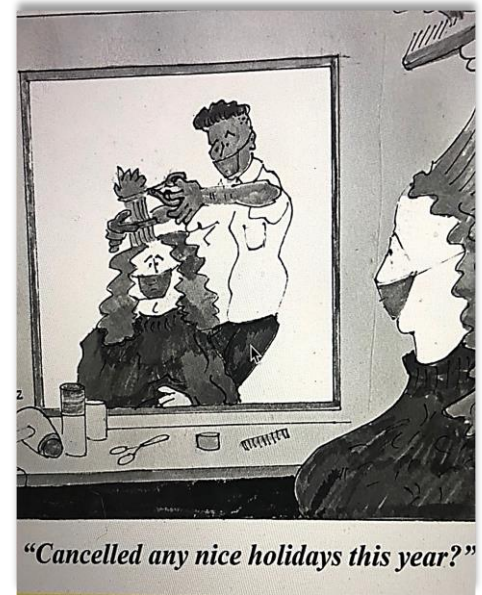
CTG has once again made news, during the COVID-19 shut down. The Education and Community Partnership Department quickly shifted programming to the Virtual space to reach students, young adults, and educators.

Meet interim CTG Education Director

Camille Schenkan

Guest Speaker at our October 13th General Meeting

Via Zoom



Cooking with TOBÉ

It is cooking time! (what else have we all got to do?)

Being as there is a heat wave upon us, I thought that soup would be the perfect thing to make! Ha! But on a hot day, soup will help you to cool down. So here goes...

Minestrone alla Romagnola

In a large pot, put ½ cup olive oil, 3 T butter, and 1 C finely sliced onion. At medium low, cook until wilted and pale gold. Add 1C diced carrots and cook for 2-3 minutes. Add 1 C diced celery. Stir and cook for 2-3 minutes. Add 2 C diced potatoes. Stir and cook for 2-3 minutes. Add 1 C green beans diced, stir, and cook 2-3 minutes. Now add 1 lb. zucchini diced. Stir and cook 2-3 minutes. Add 3 C shredded Savoy cabbage. Stir and cook 5-6 minutes.

Add 2 C beef broth and 4 C water, a rind of parmesan cheese, 2/3 C canned imported Italian plum tomatoes with juice, and a sprinkling of salt. Cover put on a low simmer for 2 ½ hours.

Add 2 cans cannellini beans, stir, and cook 30 minutes more.

The soup should be dense. Not watery.

Remove cheese rind, add 1/3 C parmesan cheese. Stir. Add S&P. This soup will taste better the next day, and the next. It will keep for a week in the fridge!

This recipe comes from **Marcella Hazan's Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking.**

She was an amazing cook.

The Process....



The Results...



Voilà

DO YOU KNOW?

Test your Theatre Knowledge

1. What is the cost of mounting a Musical performance?
a. \$2.5(M) b. \$10(M) c. \$5(M)
2. How many students have had a theatrical experience through CTG-A auspices in 2020?
a. 7,500 b. 6,400 c. 5,800
3. What is the highest total grossing Broadway show of all time?
a. *Lion King* b. *Wicked* c. *Cats*
4. Which Broadway show broke the record for the most expensive tickets ever?
a. *Hello Dolly* b. *Hamilton* c. *Dear Evan Hansen*
5. What is Broadway's longest running show having been performed for 22 consecutive years?
a. *Chicago* b. *Mamma Mia* c. *Phantom of the Opera*

Questions and Research by:
Marjie Bender and Christine Harte

Answers at top of page

