



177 State Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Tickets: 866-811-4111 • Information: (203) 333-3666 • www.playhouseonthegreen.org

Contact: Matt Schicker
203-333-3666, matt@playhouseonthegreen.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: October 2008

**PLAYHOUSE ON THE GREEN PRESENTS STAGED READING
OF “ANN RICHARDS: BACKWARDS AND IN HIGH HEELS”
BY CONNECTICUT PLAYWRIGHT JOAN BURKE
AS PART OF “PAGE TO STAGE” NEW PLAY READING SERIES
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 7PM**

Mark S. Graham of Trumbull directs actress E. Katherine Kerr in reading of one-woman show.

BRIDGEPORT, CT - Playhouse on the Green, a 54-year-old not-for-profit theater company in residence at a beautiful 228-seat jewel-box theater in the heart of downtown Bridgeport, presents a staged reading of *Ann Richards: Backwards and in High Heels*, a new one-woman play by Joan Burke, on Sunday, October 26 at 7PM. The reading is part of the “Page to Stage” New Play Reading Series, an ongoing Playhouse program that supports Connecticut playwrights and introduces audiences to their latest creations. An audience talkback with Burke moderated by “Page to Stage” Series curator Mark S. Graham takes place following the reading.

Backwards and in High Heels tells the story of former Texas Governor Ann Richards. Accomplished actress E. Katherine Kerr portrays Governor Richards. Graham directs the reading.

This is a free reading, with a suggested contribution of \$10. Seating is on a first come, first served basis; no reservations necessary. Playhouse on the Green is located at 177 State Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut, 06604. Free parking is nearby. For information, please visit the newly redesigned website www.playhouseonthegreen.org.

The next entry in the “Page to Stage” Series takes place on Sunday, November 23 at 7PM when E. Katherine Kerr’s play about a woman who decides to create a soap opera based on her life, *The Edge of Chaos*, will receive a staged reading.

MORE

CONTINUED

JOAN BURKE began writing plays after a 20 year career in broadcast news. She was an awarding-winning writer/producer at CBS News, NBC News, and cable's Arts & Entertainment Network. In 1999, she helped develop Women's eNews – an Internet wire service covering women's issues. She also is the author of *CIVIL RIGHTS: a Current Guide to People, Organizations and Events*, published in 1974. Most recently, her plays have been produced in Toronto at the Wellesley Theatre for Theatre Studies, and Playhouse on the Green in Bridgeport, Connecticut, along with staged readings at the Players Club in New York City. She is also a founding member of the Players Creative Workshop.

E. KATHERINE KERR is an actress, writer, teacher, director and workshop leader. She won an Obie, a Village citation, and a Drama Desk nomination for her portrayals of three characters in *Cloud 9*. A second Drama Desk nomination followed for her portrayals of the women in Christopher Durang's *Laughing Wild*. On Broadway, she appeared opposite Frank Langella in *Passion*. She played Tess in Keith Bunin's *The Credeaux Canvas*, and two characters who argued with each other in *She Stoops to Comedy* both at Playwright's Horizons. Her featured roles in films include Harriet Tollman in *Songcatcher*, the Attorney General in *The Siege*, Congresswoman Grace Comisky in *Suspect*, Gilda Schultz in *Silkwood*. She has appeared many times on *Law and Order* and had recurring roles on *Guiding Light*, *One Life to Live*, and *All My Children*. Her own play, *Juno's Swans*, a comedy about sisters, was produced at Second Stage. Her one-woman show, *On the Zip-Line* was performed in Ct, at the Harold Clurman Theatre, and in Canada at Queen's College. She has directed workshops of her own plays as well as directing and appearing as Arkadina in a workshop production of *The Seagull* with Joe Namath as a memorable Dr. Dorn. Kerr has taught acting at Sarah Lawrence, Yale, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Playwright's Horizons Theatre School, and privately. Expanding on the four principles Kerr developed as she taught acting, she originated *The Creative Explosion*, a two-day workshop that applies these same principles to creativity and life. The workshop has been ongoing four or five times a year in CT for the last 20 years. She has also conducted this powerful workshop with the skillful co leadership of dolphins at the Dolphin Research Center in Marathon Key, Florida. Her book, *The Four Principles*, explains how both actors and non actors can use these powerful precepts to empower them to follow their path to their heart's desires. Her website is www.EKatherineKerr.com.

MARK S. GRAHAM is a board member of Playhouse on the Green and curator of the "Page to Stage" series. He has directed over 75 plays and musicals including John O'Hern's *Rooster in the Henhouse* on Theater Row and Elizabeth Fuller's *Me and Jezebel* at The Actor's Playhouse in New York City. He staged productions of *Rooster* at The Fairfield Theater Co. and The Public Theater in Maine. He has produced and directed *Me and Jezebel* in productions across the country including a production in Florida starring Jim Bailey. He has directed and produced with Scott Robbins Stan Lachow's *Harry and Thelma in The Woods* in readings with Rue McClanahan in New York City, and productions at The New Jersey Rep and the Hollywood Playhouse in Florida. He staged a musical version of *Dark of the Moon* narrated by Werner Klemperer at The Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. At the Quick Center at Fairfield University, he directed Barbara Schottenfeld's *Schottensongs* and *The Kindness of Strangers*, an evening of Tennessee Williams one-act plays and writings with music that was developed at the Theater Artist's Workshop. At Playhouse on the Green he directed two musical revues - *100 Years of Broadway* and *Home for the Holidays* – as well as John O'Hern's comedy *Sweetspot*. For 10 years he was partners with the late Tony Award winning producer Lester Osterman. He was general manager of Lucille Lortel's White Barn Theater in Westport, CT. Mark has an MFA in directing from the University of Connecticut and is a former board member of Westport Country Playhouse and current president of the Theater Artist's Workshop. He is founder and managing director of graygraham, a Westport based relationship marketing and advertising group.

###