

Player's Circle Finds a Home

By Bill Kaufman

THE PLAYER'S Circle Theater Company, a repertory group that originated during the Queens Festival in 1984, has found itself a new home at LaGuardia Community College, where it will premiere a production of "Talley's Folly" on Nov. 5.

Since it debuted with a production of "Fascinatin' Gershwin" at the now-shuttered Theater in the Park, the company has performed the musical revue based on George Gershwin's tunes for the past two years throughout the metropolitan area, including a lengthy engagement at Don't Tell Mama in Manhattan.

The group's re-emergence in Queens has been aided by several agencies, including the Flushing Council on the Arts, which awarded it a grant of \$8,000, and the Central Astoria Development Coalition, which kicked in about \$1,000 worth of goods and services.

Robert Cacioppo, artistic director of the group, said recently that he wants to present a variety of productions "that are hopefully a little more adventurous and creative than the standard local theater fare." Cacioppo said that the new company's performers are a blend of both Equity and non-union members.

The Player's Circle Theater Company is essentially an outgrowth of the CTC Theater Company, a repertory group formed by Cacioppo in 1982 and consisting primarily of former Queens College students.

Cacioppo, who once drove a radio cab in Queens between theater assignments, first got involved in the theater working for Edward Greenberg, director of the St. Louis Municipal Opera House and a drama professor at Queens College. One of Cacioppo's early productions was "Hair," which was staged at the Theater in the Park early in 1982.

Cacioppo said the lineup for the new season begins with "Talley's Folly," Lanford Wilson's play about an unlikely romance between a Jewish accountant and a Missouri spinster, running Nov. 5-8, 12-15 and 19-22. The company's hallmark show, "Fascinatin' Gershwin," will be performed Jan. 20-24, and the musical satire "Hannah Senesh" hits the boards March 24-28.

The shows will be staged at the 220-seat theater of LaGuardia Community College, 31-10 Thomson Ave., Long Island City. Tickets are \$10. Call (718) 626-8744. //

IN SHORT

Arts Career Panel at Hofstra

A DAY-LONG symposium for young people interested in entertainment careers will be held at Hofstra University Saturday at 9:30 a.m., featuring professionals from various areas of the entertainment industry. Among them are screenwriter Marshall Brickman, songwriter La La, RCA Records executive Rick Dobbis and talent agency chief **Norby Walters**.

Registration for the symposium is \$20 in advance or \$30 at the door. Call (516) 560-5670.

New 'Dramatists Bible' Is Out

"The Dramatists Bible," a 362-page directory, has just been published by the International Society of Dramatists. The annual publication contains details about scriptwriting and gives submission guidelines for theaters and producing organizations in America, Canada and Britain. The \$29.95 book is aimed at both novice and professional playwrights. For information, write to the International Society of Dramatists, Box 1310, Miami, Fla. 33153. //

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