

Charlotte's New Year's Newsletter



CNN

FROM THE HEART OF MANHATTAN

JANUARY 2006

The Newsletter Returns

I am dedicating this issue to my dear friend and former boss, "Literary Agent to the Stars" Al Lowman, founder of Authors and Artists Group, who passed away last summer. I think he would be pleased to be the catalyst for my writing again.

Return Engagement of *Marriage Play*

I had the chance to play Gillian again in Edward Albee's *Marriage Play* with Michael Horowitz once again playing my husband. We revived it for a weekend in Philadelphia at The Triangle Theatre before taking it on to the Deertrees Theatre in Maine (this time directed by Jane Stojak). It's a fabulous role that I love playing, including a knock-down-drag-out fight that required the services of a professional fight coordinator. The Philadelphia critics who were so kind to us when we did it two years ago when Ed Chemaly directed, welcomed us back to town and urged people to see it if they missed it the first time. It was a lovely way to return.



Michael Horowitz and moi at Deertrees in Maine

Then the experience at Deertrees Theatre was a dream come true – a wonderful old 300-seat barn-like theatre that was built in the 1930s and where theatre legends like Ethel Barrymore, Tallulah Bankhead and Ruth Gordon played. I felt the comforting presence of their ghosts hovering in the wings cheering us on. The theatre is in the Lakes Region of Maine and we stayed at Bogey Land, a delightful lodge right on one of the lakes, replete with hammocks and a dock where we hung out every night after the show. It's the kind of experience you wish could last for months. I'm so grateful to the producer Thomas Sullivan for bringing us to Maine. I'm also grateful that Jane Stojak brought us back to The Triangle in Philly where she has created a beautiful, welcoming space for actors and audiences alike. She's an extraordinary woman who continues to inspire me.

Other acting jobs included an industrial film, a voice-over, two NYU films and a booking in November on Saturday Night Live. It was a thrill to be a part of such a great institution as SNL. Another highlight was getting a call back for Stephen Shainberg (director of *Secretary*) for a role in Nicole Kidman's yet-to-be-released movie *Fur* in which she plays the brilliant photographer Diane Arbus. Luckily there was a spectacular exhibition of Arbus' work at the Metropolitan Museum, which made my research so much easier.

George DiCenzo's Master Class

For the last four years I have been very fortunate to be a part of an amazing Master Acting Class with George DiCenzo. He's a very demanding teacher who loves actors which is a fabulous combination – I'm constantly challenged and nurtured at the same time. My classmates are all superbly talented so every Monday night I see some fabulous work. It's very inspiring. I think of it as an actor's gym – a great place to work out and stay in "fighting shape" and the results are showing up in my auditions.

The Gates

One of the major highlights of 2005 was definitely *The Gates* in Central Park last winter. Ever since I saw the documentary on Christo and Jeanne-Claude's *Running Fence* in Marin County, I have been fascinated by their work and was thrilled that New York would be the scene of their next piece. I was not disappointed. It was so joyous to walk all over the park seeing the beautiful saffron color punctuating the winter landscape and to see great crowds of people in the usually deserted park at that time of year, all with huge smiles on their faces. Since people came from all over the world to see *The Gates* I felt extremely fortunate to be able to walk to see it, which I did on many occasions and took over 80 photographs. This is one of my favorites.



The Gates by the Plaza

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Many of my friends did very well last year too: **Ed Chemaly** was named one of the best actors of the season in Philadelphia for his work in *Moolah* and starred in a couple of wonderful independent movies. **Victoria Clark** won the Tony for her amazing performance in *The Light in the Piazza* which I've seen three times. Besides turning sweet sixteen, **Shana Dowdeswell** was highlighted in the New York Times for her performance in *Finding Claire*, she had a great part on *Law & Order* and is currently playing Anne Frank at The Papermill Playhouse. **Barbara Fasano** was stunning in her Arlen show at Danny's. **Steve Lutvak** wowed audiences with his shows at the Duplex, a reading of his musical *The Campaign of the Century* and the title song he wrote for the sleeper hit *Mad Hot Ballroom*. **Barbara Brussell** had a big hit with her show *Lerner in Love* at Danny's and then we celebrated the release of her CD at West Bank Café. **Randahl Hoey** received rave reviews for his direction of *Tosca* and *La Boheme* at Michigan Opera Theatre in Detroit.

Conclusion

The year started off with one of the worst blizzards we've ever had and ended with a transit strike. In between there were the treasured New York staples like the Philharmonic and Shakespeare in the Park, street fairs and people-watching at sidewalk cafes with friends.

I believe one should take risks and do something really scary every so often and in that vein, I just signed up for a stand-up comedy writing course. I'll keep you posted.

I wish you happiness, success, good health and many delicious moments in 2006!

*All good things,
Charlotte*