



Spring 2011 **E-Newsletter** Volume XIII No. 2
www.DIArts.org

From Liz Sully OP DIA Board Chair . . .

Stage Presence, A Spirituality of Theater, an article by Rob Weinert-Kendt in the May 2-9, 2011 America caught my eye. He writes, "*Theater is an arena where narrative is incarnated. When a story is made flesh before us on stage, by actual people with whom we share breathing space, it is no longer just information, mere plot points. It is metaphor with the sweat and spit of life in it, and that makes all the difference.*"

The six of us living at 719 Penn in Atlanta usher at the Alliance Theater as a service and as an opportunity to take in performances. The most recent play was *August: Osage County*. The lead, Brenda Bynum, came out of retirement just to play the part of Violet Weston.

The play was intense. I recall a particular moment when I experienced the entire audience of 650 in a trance with no one breathing. I broke from it. Sitting in the available wheel chair section I was able to survey the whole audience, gripped and focused. It was a powerful shared moment of profound silence and connection. Words became flesh.

Peter Sellars, we await you!

Dominican Institute for the Arts 15th Annual Gathering July 27 – 30, 2011 Springfield, OH

Dominican Institute for the Arts brings you

Peter Sellars

Renowned theater, opera, and festival director Peter Sellars is one of the most innovative and powerful forces in the performing arts in America and abroad. A visionary artist, Sellars is known for groundbreaking interpretations of classic works. Whether it is Mozart, Handel, Shakespeare, Sophocles, or the 16th-century Chinese playwright Tang Xianzu, Peter Sellars strikes a universal chord with audiences, engaging contemporary social and political issues.

Wednesday, July 27

7:00 pm Opening with Peter Sellars

Thursday, July 28

9am-12pm Presentation, Q and A and Dialogue with Peter Sellars (includes break)

Suggested Ticket Donation

All events \$25.00
Student \$20.00

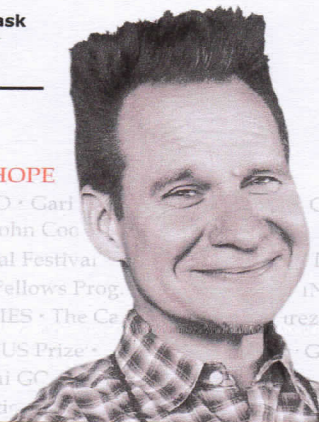
Wednesday Evening Only \$10.00
Thursday Morning \$20.00

**Sacred Heart Convent
1225 W. Monroe St.
Springfield, IL**

Call 217-787-0481 and ask for information on Peter Sellars for more details

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E Opera • Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART • ERASMUS Prize
ldge ADAMS • Mahamat Saleh HAROUN • Nikolai GO
RIC Opera of Chicago • SAN FRANCISCO Internatio



Poster inviting the public to attend Sellars' presentations to the DIA

From the Planning Commission 2011

Planning Commission 2011

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Information

The info for the 2011 DIA Gathering in Springfield, IL can be found in the Dec/Jan and March 2011 Newsletters found at www.diarts.org The Gathering Packet 2011 with registration can also be accessed via email at <ftp://ftp.spdom.org/dia-conference.pdf>. If you wish to receive a packet yet by snail mail, please contact Mary Fran Gorman OP at dia.preach@yahoo.com or call her at 217-787-0481 or 217-299-6471.

A Little Photographic Help, Please

This year we will not be having an official photographer taking pictures throughout the event. Therefore, we are relying on you to take photos of the events you attend and share them with the planning commission.

Swimming Too??? Though our schedule is full there may be those of you who enjoy a dip in the pool. If so, bring your bathing suit!

Trip to Jubilee Farm You may wish to bring a hat as well as lotion with you as we will be spending time at Jubilee Farm. We don't want folks to be uncomfortable on a warm, sunny day.

Your Involvement

Be part of the market place, live gallery, silent auction, raffle, etc. Your involvement is and will make this the best Gathering ever!

By July 1 -

Market Place needs/info to Kathy Rhody OPL, at: 602-663-1054 or RhodyKathy@aol.com

By July 24 -

If sending through the mail, the following must arrive by July 24th:
Market Place items, Gallery art work submissions, Silent Auction items, Raffle items to Margaret Therese Herbert OP at Sacred Heart Convent, 1237 W. Monroe St., Springfield, IL 62704

New Board Members To Be Elected

The board has requested the services of Antonetta Martinka OP to direct a nominations committee for the upcoming board elections. Two new board members will be elected at that time. Nominated members must be present at the 2011 Gathering in order to remain in nomination.

MUSICIANS AND VOCALISTS TO BE HIGHLIGHTED AT GATHERING 2011

Part of the Gathering's Gala evening will be a concert performed by those 'noted' individuals below. So, be it solo or duet of the instrument of vocal melody, it will prove to be an evening of musical creativity and more.



Constance Klamroth OP holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music, with a major in Church Music, from Redlands School of Music in CA and a Master of Arts in Education from the University of San Diego. She has taught classroom music and has directed both children and adult choirs serving as Minister of Music in several parishes in Illinois. Constance has been the Pianist/Liturgist at the Motherhouses of the Springfield, IL and the Akron, OH Dominican Sisters. Currently, Sister is semi-retired and continues to serve as one of the Liturgists at the Springfield Dominican Motherhouse.

She has played with orchestras and in recitals throughout the Midwest.



Magdalena Ezoe OP, a native of Tokyo, Japan, is an Associate Professor Emeritus of Music at Siena Heights University, Adrian, Michigan. A graduate of Siena Heights, she holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan in piano. As a member of the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Magdalena has been composing many musical settings for the liturgy since 1970. The complete Mass setting for St. Catherine of Siena and one for All Saints, as well as several Psalm settings, hymns and keyboard solos have been published by the Alliance Publications, Inc. Sinsinawa, WI. One of Magdalena's favorite musical activities is to present lecture-recitals on music performance, aesthetics and appreciation. In 1991 Magdalena visited Poland, the native land of composer Fryderyk Chopin. He has been her favorite piano composer since her childhood.



Marjorie Delaplane OP, formerly on the piano faculty at South Suburban College, teaches piano and harpsichord privately, at the Sherwood Conservatory of Music and in her private studio at Regina Dominican High School. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from Siena Heights College in Adrian, MI and her Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan. She pursued a doctorate at Indiana University School of Music where she was an Associate Instructor of piano. There she studied piano under the international concert pianist, Jorge Bolet and minored in harpsichord under Marie Zorn, a student of Wanda Landowska, the artist responsible for the revival of the harpsichord in this century. Marjorie also holds a piano certificate from the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria where she studied with Heinz Scholz.



Melissa Blankestyn OP holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois and a Masters in Music Education from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. Prior to joining the Dominican Sisters of Springfield in 2006, Melissa was the orchestra director and assistant band director at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School in

Bradley, IL. She also taught junior high school band in Steger, IL and several of her students have gone on to pursue music. Joining the faculty at Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights in 2009, Melissa assists with the band, teaches Freshman Theology classes and mentors Dominican Preachers, a group of seniors who attend the Dominican High Schools' Preaching Conference and are involved in the many faith aspects of life. Melissa has played clarinet for 25 years, performing with the Kankakee Symphony Orchestra and the Kankakee Valley Theater. She has also played regularly in the parishes of which she has been a part. For the DIA 2011 Gathering, she will be playing a duet with Constance Klamroth OP.



Soprano, Anita Smisek OP, enjoys using her gift of music as a singer nurtured by a singing mother. She grew up hearing her mother's beautiful voice for 60 years and studied piano for 12 years. Becoming an organist and choir director were just part of the preparation for becoming a church musician. Singing in parts was nurtured from the time she was a little one — in second grade she was singing a good second part to her sister's soprano. The Smisek Sisters Trio was a fun family experience until she entered the convent. In adulthood, she began to take voice lessons to better understand how to teach others and to model a good use of her vocal abilities. She has enjoyed growing into her voice over the years and using it to present programs of Czech classical and folksong, Sacred Solo Programs and for being a soloist at Church weddings, funerals and anniversary celebrations. Anita holds a Masters Degree in Music History and Liturgy from the University of Minnesota. She currently publishes the music of over 250

composers through Alliance Publications, Inc. and ministers as organist/choir director for St. Patrick's Church in Benton, WI.



Michael Burke OP, familiar to DIA regulars for his gentle piano background accompaniment for performers at many annual Gatherings and known as the Piano-Playing Priest, is a member of the Southern Dominican Province. He has been a pianist and musician since boyhood and music is the focus of his ministry. He holds a Doctorate in Ministry in Clinical Studies and Preaching from Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Newton Center, MA. Several years ago, he began to integrate his music with his preaching and played piano meditation music after giving presentations. Over time, he has developed a very unique style of interpreting the preached word with music. For ten years, Michael hosted a TV program in the diocese of Raleigh, NC titled "Windows: Catholic Religion and Spirituality" which joined preaching and piano music to accompany scenery of nature in North Carolina.



OFF TO CUSCO, PERU!!

The DIA board is pleased to announce that Carol O'Connor OPA has received the offered stipend to attend **III PREDICARTE** the Dominican Family Artists' meeting in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event is held every three years. This year CODALC meets September 11-18, 2011 in Cusco, Peru. Thank you for representing the DIA in Peru, Carol!

ARTIST AS PREACHER

Dominic DeLay, OP

We use the phrase "contemplative cinema" in Mud Puddle Films' mission statement. I've been surprised to hear the word "contemplative" used by a few film critics recently. And not in a religious context.

Breath

So what is contemplative cinema? My favorite examples of this kind of cinema have a lot less dialogue than most films: **The Sweet Hereafter**, **Talk to Her**, **Red, Blue, Lost in Translation**, **35 Shots of Rum**. Less dialogue, more opportunity to chew over what's going on. Certainly contemplative prayer is about letting go of words and just being with God. Mud Puddle Films' recent feature project, **Zola Jumped In**, may not have any words at all except for occasionally sung, ritual words. Lots of b r e a t h I n g room.

Similarly, contemplative cinema gives us breathing room with a slower pace: less incident, less cutting from shot to shot. The video Catechism project I'm working on has been a real challenge because we're trying to balance conceptual information with visual and musical delight. And we're trying to balance the stereotypical assumption that we all like fast-paced videos with the desire to invite people into a contemplative space.

Immersion

A wonderful film from this year is **Meek's Cutoff**, about a small group of lost Oregon pioneers. Contemplative cinema is often designed for the big screen, even if **Meek's Cutoff** noticeably eschews the popular wide shape of the big screen and uses a 4:3 aspect ratio - i.e., the nearly square shape of very old movies and not-so-old TVs.

Contemplative films use the big screen to immerse us into an experience. This can be with wide shots that have several things going on at once, left and right, top and bottom, foreground and background. Or it can be done with close-ups that give us communion with characters such as the terrific actress Michelle Williams, the central character of **Meek's Cutoff**. The creators of this film use the big screen to immerse us in the journey of Oregon pioneers, but unlike the typical (widescreen) western, it cuts off the periphery, just like those pioneer women's bonnets, inciting our hearts to wonder about the mystery of what else is out there.



Michelle Williams in a scene from Meek's Cutoff

Mystery

Mystery is an important aspect of contemplative cinema. Whether we watch contemplative cinema on the big screen or large screen, it draws us in. It seduces rather than assaults. It asks questions more than gives answers. It allows us to participate. Mud Puddle Films' mission statement also expresses the desire to "open minds to mystery." **Meek's Cutoff** has plenty of quiet mystery, including an ambiguous ending that will leave you frustrated, tantalized, or both.

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Call for Creative Consideration

We've heard about celebrating 500 years of Dominican history in the Western Hemisphere. For an excellent historical background, you may wish to read *Seeing, Touching and Speaking the Truth: The First Dominicans in the Americas* by Brian Pierce OP. Copy and paste the website below for the full text:

http://www.dominicanvocations.com/docs/First_Dominicans_in_the_Americas.pdf

What are we doing, as Dominican Artists, to cherish this celebration and bring it to the fore? Perhaps this could be a great discussion starter at the Gathering . . .

Call for Logo Design

The planners for the first general convocation of the Dominican Sisters Conference are sending out a call for artwork in the form of a logo. The convocation is to be held in Chicago in October 2012.

The theme chosen by the Coordinating Committee is "**Edgewalkers: Unfolding the Fertile Unknown**". You may wish to Google "Edgewalkers" for background and inspiration.

Things to keep in mind:

- If interested, please contact Judy Brunell OP by June 17, 2011
- The logo design is to include the theme in some manner
- You may use up to three (3) colors on white
- The logo must be clear even when reproduced in grayscale
- The logo will be used on event folders, nametags, agenda, mailings, websites – all advertising materials as well as items used at the event
- All submissions will be acknowledged once the selection has been made

Please send your design by October 1, 2011 to:
Judy Brunell, OP

jbrunell@ophope.org

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