

Cabaret & Performance Conference



Michael Bush, Artistic Director

Cabaret & Performance Conference

Michael Bush most recently directed the Off-Broadway revival of *Cactus Flower* and Leslie Uggams' *Uptown Downtown* at the Pasadena Playhouse, which won the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for best solo performance. He won the 2009 New York Musical Theatre Festival Award for Excellence in Direction for the world premiere musical *Hurricane* produced in the 2009 New York Musical Theatre Festival. He is the former director of artistic production for the Manhattan Theatre Club in New York City. He was associated with MTC for over 25 years and helped artistically guide more than 150 new plays and musicals, including the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning *Proof*, *Doubt*, the Tony Award winning *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, *A Class Act* (Tony Nomination for Best Musical) and Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party*. At MTC he most recently directed *Based on a Totally True Story*. He was instrumental in the rebirth of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's Cabaret & Performance Conference, and has served as its Artistic Director since 2005. Under his guidance the Conference has developed over 60 new shows, revues, and intimate musicals including *[title of show]* and *The Story of My Life*, both of which were produced on Broadway.

Mr. Bush directed *Stormy Weather* for the Pasadena Playhouse in Los Angeles and *Murderers* for The Philadelphia Theatre Company, City Theatre in Pittsburgh, and the Emelin Theatre in New York, and the musicals *Pure Heaven: a Party with Kay Thompson* at the Emelin, and *The Story of My Life* at Toronto's CanStage. He also directed *Stormy Weather* for The Prince Music Theatre in Philadelphia. Mr. Bush directed the New York Music Theater Festival (NYMF) productions of *The Ballad of Bonnie and Clyde* (2005), and Grammy Award-winning songwriter Marcus Hummon's musicals *Warrior* (2006), and *The Piper* (2007). For the 2008 NYMF Festival he directed the Richard Rodgers Award winner musical *To Paint the Earth*. During his tenure as producing artistic director at Charlotte Repertory Theatre in Charlotte NC (2002-2004) he presented Hilary Swank in *The Miracle Worker*, Penny Fuller in *The Glass Menagerie*, and directed the 20th Anniversary production of *Pump Boys and Dinettes*. He also directed and co-wrote the book for the musical *Let Me Sing* which was co-produced with George Street Playhouse in New Jersey and Charlotte Repertory Theatre. He is currently the artistic director of Fidelity FutureStage in New York City; an education program that teaches playwriting to high school and middle school students and he directs their annual Broadway Finale event each spring.

Cabaret & Performance Conference Staff

Michael Bush, Artistic Director

Joel Silberman, Associate Artistic Director

PENNY FULLER, BARRY KLEINBORT	Artistic Associate/FELLOWS pROGRAM
DONNA TRINKOFF	Artistic Associate/Special Projects
BRUCE BARNES, BETH FALCONE,	Music Directors/Fellows Program
DAVID GAINES, PAUL GREENWOOD	
STEVEN RAY WATKINS	Music Director/Projects
BRAD SIMMONS	Music Director/Junior Fellows

Cabaret Guest Artists

MICHAEL AMAN	ALLAN HARRIS	LILLIAN MONTEVECCHI	GRETCHEN REINHAGEN
JACOB BRENT	PAT HARRIS	EUAN MORTON	SOARA-JOY ROSS
JONATHAN BRIELLE	RICHARD MALTBY JR	PAIGE PRICE	LILLIAS WHITE
ANDRE DESHIELDS	AMANDA MCBROOM	BRYAN REEDER,	MARK YORK
JIM DALE			

Artists listed are as of June 1, 2011; Cabaret Fellows will be named by June 30.

From the Artistic Director

SING FOR YOUR SUPPER *"Sing and you'll be fed"*

Every year I look to the great American Songbook to find a song to use as the theme of our conference. This year I turned to Rodgers and Hart's wonderful *Sing For Your Supper*. This song was originally written for their musical *The Boys From Syracuse* in 1938 during the height of the great depression, a time that unfortunately mirrors our own. But the song is a celebration of the human spirit and expresses an optimism that was and hopefully still is a part of the American dream. Its message of *"sing and you'll be fed"* refers not only to the artist's need for work, but it is also a metaphor for a greater need...the need to feed our souls.



I have always felt that music is the highest expression of human emotion, and here at the Cabaret & Performance Conference we use music and song to define ourselves. And that is what the art of "performance" is all about. We use songs to tell our own very personal stories and to express the truth of who we are.

So this year we are celebrating the art of performance. And we have some of the best performers in the business coming to sing for their supper. During this year's conference we will be presenting Broadway legends **Jim Dale, Liliac White, Penny Fuller**, and the extraordinary composer/songstress **Amanda McBroom**, in solo evenings that celebrate their own personal life stories thru the power of their songs. We will also be presenting our second annual **O'Neill Follies**, a two act powerhouse evening on Sunday, Aug. 7th that includes a dinner break where you can pre-order a picnic dinner and dine on the beautiful grounds of the O'Neill Theatre Center. This evening promises to be one of the highlights of the conference and will feature **Joel Silberman, Euan Morton, Allan Harris, Amanda McBroom, Andre DeShields, Gretchen Reinhausen**, and a very special appearance by the one and only **Lillian Montevecchi**.

Our Fellows program continues to grow with our **2011 Fellows Cabaret Evenings** on Saturday August 6th and Thursday August 11th. And our **Junior Fellows**, this year including local talent from southeast Connecticut, take the stage for their own concert on Friday Aug. 12th. We will also be working on two new small musicals that have their roots in Cabaret Theatre. **Cross That River** by Allan and Pat Harris and Michael Aman, a musical about black cowboys that began life here at the conference three years ago and will be fully produced in the summer of 2012 by the Aspen Theatre Festival in Aspen, Colorado. And a brand new piece called **40 Naked Women, a Monkey and Me** by Jonathan Brielle that is just about the best title I have ever come across.

Of course, most nights include our infamous open mic sessions hosted by yours truly and where we will again take no prisoners...so fasten your seat belts. And we end it all on Saturday August 13th with our **Grand Finale Cabaret** that has happily become one of the hot tickets of the summer. So check our calendar and make your plans now....come join us as we sing for our supper. It promises to be a smorgasbord.

Cabaret & Performance Conference

August 3 - 14, 2011



The Cabaret & Performance Conference was re-established in 2005 after a six year hiatus as a dynamic opportunity for performers to work on new projects with the guidance of an accomplished team of professional directors, music directors, and guest artists. The Conference reexamines, redefines and revitalizes the Cabaret art form for the 21st century using a definition of cabaret as "any kind of live performance in an intimate space that breaks the fourth wall." During its intense two-week period, this conference provides hands-on artistic guidance and instruction to a select group of participants chosen by application and invitation, as well as the development of special "Cabaret Theater" projects featuring some of the top names in theatre today.

The O'Neill provides a professional faculty (led by Artistic Director Michael Bush, Associate Artistic Director Joel Silberman, and Artistic Associates Penny Fuller, Barry Kleinbort, and Donna Trinkoff) and the resources to support the creation of new cabaret/theater performance pieces. The conference offers its artists individualized attention and the opportunity to interact with other artists who are developing new work, establishing support and camaraderie between participants, guest artists, and faculty.

The Fellows program is a select group of individuals who are provided with an intense course of study under the direction of Barry Kleinbort and Penny Fuller and the support of four music directors. With two classes daily, the Fellows prepare for three public performances during the conference, but are also encouraged to experiment and sing nightly at the conference's open mic sessions. In 2010 the Conference added a similar Junior Fellows Program for young people in their teens.

Over the last six summers, the Conference has presented over 60 performances including Broadway favorites Leslie Uggams, Brent Barrett, Gregg Edelman, Tony Roberts, Penny Fuller, Gretha Boston, Anita Gillette, Rita Gardner and recording artists such as Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's Ronnie Spector, Grammy Award winner Marcus Hummon, and country recording artist Sherrie Austin. The Conference has also developed intimate musicals including *[title of show]* and *The Story of My Life*, both of which were produced on Broadway.

Sing For Your Supper...



Cabaret Opening Ceremonies and Preview

Wednesday, August 3, 8pm

Michael Bush hosts the opening night of the 2011 Cabaret & Performance Conference with his annual keynote address and a special preview of guest artists. Admission is free!



Amanda McBroom

Thursday, August 4, 8pm

Music Director: Joel Silberman

...has been called "the greatest cabaret performer of her generation, an urban poet who writes like an angel and has a voice to match." Composer of the power ballad "The Rose" which became a number one hit the world over. A knock-out performer and a great songwriter.

Open Mic Follows the Show



Penny Fuller 'Lost and Found'

Friday, August 5, 8pm

Music Director: David Gaines - Conceived and Directed by Barry Kleinbort
The O'Neills resident diva returns for her seventh season in a musical evening about the joys and tribulations of traveling.

Open Mic Follows the Show



2011 Cabaret Fellows - Evening One

Saturday, August 6, 8pm

This year's Cabaret Fellows take the stage in their first official performance under the direction of Penny Fuller and Barry Kleinbort. **Open Mic Follows the Show**

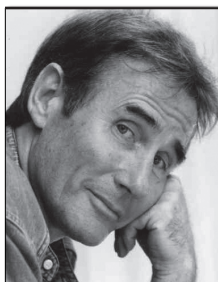


2nd Annual O'Neill Follies - An Evening in Two Acts

Sunday, August 7, 6pm

A two act evening featuring **Joel Silberman, Euan Morton, Allan Harris, Amanda McBroom, Andre DeSheilds, Gretchen Reinhagen**, and a very special appearance by the one and only **Lillian Montevecchi**.

Pre-order a picnic dinner and dine on the beautiful grounds of the O'Neill between the two acts.



Jim Dale 'Still Carrying On'

Tuesday, August 9, 8pm

Accompanied by: Mark York - Directed by Richard Maltby, Jr.
An evening filled with music and recollections that traces this Tony Award winner's unique career...from his origins in the great music halls of Great Britain, his triumphs on and Off-Broadway, to his becoming the voice of the *Harry Potter* audiobooks.

Open Mic Follows the Show



Lillias White

Wednesday, August 10, 8pm

A personal musical journey by one of the musical theatre's great ladies. She has been recognized on Broadway with the Tony Award®, Drama Desk Award®, Peoples Choice® Award and The Outer Critics Award® for Best Actress in a Musical -- Broadway's Prestigious Quadruple Crown -- for her 1997 role as Sonja in the *The Life*.

Open Mic Follows the Show



2011 Cabaret Fellows - Evening Two

Thursday, August 11, 8pm

Open Mic Follows the Show

In the afternoon, Special Workshop Presentation, Free Admission



Cross That River by Allan Harris, Pat Harris, and Michael Aman

Thursday, August 11, 2pm in the Rose Barn Theater - FREE

Musical Director Steven Ray Watkins - Directed by Michael Bush

A new musical about an escaped slave who heads west and becomes a cowboy.



2011 Cabaret Junior Fellows - In Concert

Friday, August 12, 8pm

-plus-

40 Naked Women, A Monkey, and Me A new musical in concert

The musical story of a songwriter and his quest for legitimacy on the Broadway stage, only to be side tracked by his success writing and producing Las Vegas industrials.

Music Director: Steven Ray Watkins - Directed by Michael Bush.

Open Mic Follows the Show

Grand Finale Cabaret

Saturday, August 13, 8pm

A final gala evening that features a little bit of everything and everybody...