

Yaddo

winter news 2010



Schiele Takes a Final Bow

After more than a decade, John Kelly's *Pass The Blutwurst, Bitte*, is back this month with a final series of performances at La MaMa ETC's The Ellen Stewart Theater running through December 19. This masterwork of dance, film, and music dramatically depicts the life of Viennese Expressionist Egon Schiele (1890-1918), whose erotic paintings once got him jailed for pornography.

Previous versions of the work were staged in 1983, 1984, 1986, and 1995, and it was listed by *The New York Times* as one of its Ten Best Theater Events of the Year in 1995. *Pass The Blutwurst, Bitte* has toured extensively nationally and internationally and it received an OBIE Award in 1987 and a 2010 National Endowment for the Arts Masterpiece Award (one of two Kelly received this year).

Kelly has had several working residencies

at Yaddo, beginning in 1994 and most recently in 2009, and has been active in helping to strengthen Yaddo's outreach to artists working in performance and media. He is a Director of The Corporation of Yaddo.

Kelly has been acclaimed by audiences and critics alike for his mixed media dance theater works, vocal concerts, and exhibitions. He has created more than 30 character-driven performance pieces, focused on historical figures ranging from Schiele, Caravaggio, Antonin Artaud, and Joni Mitchell, to Jean Cocteau, as well as topics such as the Berlin Wall, the Troubadours, the AIDS epidemic, gender blurring, and Expressionistic film. Varying degrees of autobiography also have infused his works.

Considering a performance about a visual artist – specifically Schiele – provides an actual character, with a specific story, a built-in procedural map with a tragic end, and rich source for dramatic depiction, Kelly has said. In creating *Pass The Blutwurst, Bitte*,

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In Memoriam Michael G. Sundell

The many contributions of former President Michael G. Sundell are being remembered as the



Yaddo family mourns his September 7, 2010 death in New York City.

Sundell, who served from 1992 until his retirement in 2000, enjoyed visiting with Yaddo's artist guests and hearing them talk about their work. Among his most cherished memories of his presidency was meeting the reclusive writer Patricia Highsmith, who left her entire estate to Yaddo during his tenure. At the time, it was the largest gift Yaddo had ever received, and Sundell was fond of recounting the eccentricities of his meeting in Switzerland with the unorthodox Highsmith and the subsequent negotiations with the Swiss government to settle the author's estate. He was perhaps most proud of overseeing the transfer of Yaddo's archives to The New York Public Library, which were the subject of a major exhibition at the Library in 2008-2009 and a book entitled *Yaddo: Making American Culture*. Sundell also is remembered for strengthening Yaddo's membership and Board, its ties to the Saratoga Springs community, and its support in

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New York City, and for his leadership in developing a long range plan and successful capital drive program for Yaddo.

Born in New York City in 1936, Sundell was the first member of his family to earn a university degree. He received a B.A. from Hamilton College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in English literature from Yale University. He met his wife of 52 years, Nina Castelli Sundell, in Paris while a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Montpelier.

A distinguished scholar and administrator in academia and the arts, Sundell began his career as a professor of English literature and taught at Hamilton College, Queens College CUNY, Case Western Reserve, and George Mason University. After serving as chair of George Mason's Department of English from 1973 to 1981, he moved into administration fulltime, first as the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Art and Science from 1981 to 1990, and then at Yaddo. At George Mason, he supervised the preservation and indexing of the archives of the Federal Theater Project of the WPA, which were on deposit from the Library of Congress.

Sundell wrote and lectured on 19th Century English literature, 20th Century American art, the history of photography, and relations among public policy, patronage, and the arts. *Mosaics in the Eternal City* – his book about late antique and medieval mosaics in Rome and the fruit of research conducted as a visiting scholar at the American Academy in Rome – was published to favorable review in 2007 by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

At a September meeting of the Board of Directors of The Corporation of Yaddo, Donald S. Rice spoke of Sundell's passion for travel, his zest for scholarship, and his love of the creative process and the work that goes on at Yaddo. He then read into Yaddo's permanent record a resolution paying tribute to Sundell.

Beverly Jablons, Ann Jonas, Wye Jamison "Wendy" Allanbrook, Susan E. Tift

Yaddo fondly recalls other members of our community who passed away in recent months: novelist, short story writer, and journalist Beverly Jablons (1980) of New



PICTURED: Susan E. Tift, with her husband and frequent collaborator Alex S. Jones.

York, New York; poet Ann Jonas (1968) of Louisville, Kentucky; musicologist Wye Jamison "Wendy" Allanbrook (1973, 1975, and 1985) of Oakland, California; and journalist, editor, and author Susan E. Tift (1996) of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

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SCHIELE TAKES A FINAL BOW continued from front cover

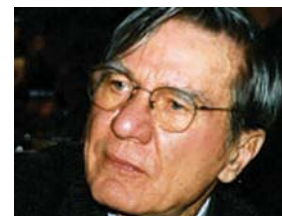
he devised ways of replicating Schiele's process of drawing and painting for live performance – chalk lines drawn on the floor, a film of painting on glass projected on the back wall, a painted panel revealed through a temporary layer of white. This work for five players includes Schiele's model and lover Valerie (Wally) Neuzil, his eventual wife Edith Harms, and 2 "Alter Egos" – essentially aspects of the Egon character that provide variety and dimension to a complex and charismatic legend.

In addition to the stage production, there is a concurrent solo exhibition of Kelly's visual artwork, "Schiele~Kelly," at La Galleria La MaMa. The show features a series of Kelly's photographic self-portraits based on Schiele's prolific body of work and turbulent personal life. Kelly created these new self-portraits after a 2009 retrospective at Alexander Gray Associates ("The Mirror Stages: Self-Portraits") inspired him to reconsider his relationship to visual art and the work of Schiele. Using his body as subject, with the camera as spectator, Kelly continues his investigation into self-portraiture and its relation to performance in his most recent work.

Performances of *Pass The Blutwurst, Bitte* continue through December 19. The exhibit "Schiele~Kelly" will remain on view through December 12 at La Galleria La MaMa, 6 East First Street, New York, New York. An accompanying catalogue contains a selection of Kelly's recent Schiele-influenced self-portraits as well as posters, film, and video still montages from several of his productions. For more information visit www.johnkellyperformance.org.

Kinnell Wins Wallace Stevens Award

Galway Kinnell recently received the 2010 Wallace Stevens Award



in recognition of his outstanding and proven mastery in the art of poetry. Kinnell first visited Yaddo as a guest artist in 1961 and has returned several times since then. He is also a longstanding Member of The Corporation of Yaddo.

Presented by the Academy of American Poets, the award includes a \$100,000 prize. Kinnell read from his work and was honored at a ceremony during the Academy's Poets Forum in New York City. About Kinnell's work, Academy Chancellor Sharon Olds said:

"With his music – the passion for consonants and the love of each vowel; with his poems' sense of being at home in the flesh, and in the woods, and in cities; with the high-wire daring and deep connectedness of his metaphor; with his devotion to justice, and his range of subjects, intimate and universal – Galway has given us a wide, dense, beautiful body of work, a rare store of pleasure and nourishment."

Kinnell, born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1927, served as a young man in the United States Navy and spent much of the 1960s involved in the Civil Rights Movement. He is the author of numerous books of poems, including *Body Rags* (1968); *The Book of Nightmares* (1971), a book-length poem concerned with the Vietnam War; *The Avenue Bearing the Initial of Christ into the New World* (1974), *Strong is Your Hold* (2006), and *Selected Poems* (1980), for which he received a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award. Kinnell's many honors include a MacArthur Fellowship, a Rockefeller Grant, the 1974 Shelby Prize of the Poetry Society of America, and the 1975 Medal of Merit from the National Institute of Arts and Letters. He served as a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets from 2001 to 2007 and divides his time between Vermont and New York City.

Yaddo on the Small Screen

Television viewers can catch the work of many artists who have been Yaddo residents, including these current listings:

New Orleans-based Tom Piazza, author of the nonfiction work *Why New Orleans Matters*, is again writing about his hometown as one of the scribes for the HBO drama "Tremé." The show takes its name from one of the city's oldest neighborhoods and chronicles an assortment of the district's working class inhabitants as they try to rebuild their homes and unique culture in the aftermath of 2005's Hurricane Katrina. "Tremé" was renewed for a second season within days of its debut earlier this year.

If you are a fan of HBO's vampire series "True Blood," then you have been listening to the music of composer Nathan Barr, who won a BMI Award for his original score for the show's second season and was just nominated for a

Hollywood in Music Media Award for the third season. "True Blood," starring Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer, is set to return in the summer of 2011, with more music by Barr, who also has scored more than 20 feature films, including *Shutter* and *The Dukes of Hazzard*.

Author and humorist Jonathan Ames is currently working on the third season of his Emmy-Award winning HBO comedy series "Bored to Death," which follows a quirky Brooklyn writer who moonlights as an unlicensed detective. Ted Danson,



Jason Schwartzman, and Zach Galifianakis star in the show that made its debut in September, 2009. "Bored to Death" is inspired by Ames' short story of the same name. He writes for the series and is its creator and executive producer.

AMC's "Mad Men," a drama focused on the world of Madison Avenue advertising in 1960s New York City, reportedly has been influenced by the writer John Cheever. Matthew Weiner, the show's creator and executive producer, has cited Cheever as an inspiration and claims to keep the author's books in his office. While they were together, the show's Don and Betty Draper (Jon Hamm and January Jones), the couple at the heart of "Mad Men," had a home in Ossining, New York, where Cheever lived for many years with his family. The Drapers lived on the fictional Bullet Park Road, named after the 1969 Cheever novel, and many of the show's prominent themes echo Cheever's fiction.



Making Strategy and Honoring Service

Members and Directors of The Corporation of Yaddo gathered for a photo during their fall annual meeting before breaking into two groups to consider topics of shared interest and strategic importance. One session discussed long-term revenue and expense projections, in order to establish priorities for expanding Yaddo's fundraising program. A second group considered how to build Yaddo's Board and ensure vibrancy and diversity in our programs. They also talked about how Yaddo defines itself and is seen by outside parties. Specific recommendations from each of the sessions were then presented to the entire gathering. Also at the meeting, four individuals with a long record of service to Yaddo were elected to lifetime membership: writer Gardner McFall and sculptor Jill Viney, both former guest artists and New York City residents; Nancy Lampton, Chairman and CEO of American Life and Accident Insurance Company of Louisville, Kentucky; and Geoffrey Movius of Cambridge, Massachusetts, formerly University Capital Giving Deputy Director at Harvard University. (Photo: Lynn Farenell)

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Yaddo must raise \$100,000 by December 31, 2010 in order to qualify for a \$50,000 challenge grant that will only be released if we meet our goal.

If you would like to make a special, year-end contribution, please use the enclosed remittance envelope or visit:

<http://yaddo.org/yaddo/support.asp>



Yaddo

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*S*OLIDAY GREETINGS
FROM YADDO!



Do the Crawl

More than 20 visual artists welcomed visitors to their Williamsburg, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Greenpoint, and Bushwick work spaces in Brooklyn, NY on a sunny October afternoon for the 2010 "Yaddo Open Studios Crawl!" Yaddo's New York City office organized this now annual event, with support and guidance from a committee consisting of Lisa Cortes, Kyle deCamp, James Siena, Barbara Toll, and Alexi Worth. An online interactive map served as a guide for guests to plot their own course through the four neighborhoods for an inside look at the creative process in a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, photography, and collage. Yaddo's Brooklyn adventure culminated with a lively evening of performance at Pierogi, introduced by President Elaina Richardson, with memorable presentations by Cynthia Hopkins (pictured at left), Mike Albo, and Mike Doughy.



APPLY ONLINE NOW

Yaddo is currently accepting applications for the

January 1, 2011 deadline in all disciplines through our online application portal: Yaddo.slideroom.com. We are no longer accepting paper applications.

Individual application information, professional resumes, and work samples (PDF files, visual images, video and MP3 files) may be uploaded to the online site. Sponsor letters may be sent either electronically or on paper. As in the past, artists who are reapplying or who have been to Yaddo recently should check with the office to confirm that current reference letters are on file. Applicants will be asked to pay the application fee by credit card, which includes Yaddo's \$30 base fee and an additional variable fee for media upload.

Please find instructions, information, and answers to the most frequently asked questions on our web site at www.yaddo.org.

STAY IN TOUCH

Subscribe now to our email list to receive up-to-date regional, national, and international news about Yaddo and its artist guests. When you enroll, we'll ask you to volunteer limited information to make sure you know about programs, artists, and events that fit your specific interests or take place in your area. Please know that you may unsubscribe at any time and that your information will not be shared with any third party. Sign up now at: <http://yaddo.org/yaddo/signup.asp>.