



THE GROUP (Theatre Workshop)
436 Hawthorne #2
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 522-2204

TIMELINE-THE GROUP (Theatre Workshop)

1983-Diversity Theatre formed by John Etheridge and Joe Watts, and began producing quality gay and lesbian theater at The Pink Elephant (Houston's oldest gay bar). Opening production was an all male PRIVATE LIVES by Noel Coward, which was held over several times. A benefit performance for Anne Wheeler's campaign for city office was held at A Place in the Sun (a gay bar in Montrose).

1983-THE BOYS IN THE BAND, was the second production of Diversity Theatre, directed by Joe Watts, who also played the lead role of Michael.

1984-STREET THEATRE by Doric Wilson (a mapcap accounting of that historic night at the Stonewall Inn in 1969), was presented by Diversity Theatre as the first "official ^{theater} night of Gay Pride Week.

1985-STREET THEATRE was brought back to life at Kindred Spirits, as a benefit for Proposition 2, regarding hiring of gays and lesbians in city government.

1985-John Etheridge left Houston and Joe Watts founded The Group (Theatre Workshop), which met for almost a year at Dignity Center, as a theater workshop, meeting weekly.

1985-The Group presented it's first production, ONE, a one man play about a person with AIDS. It was first presented in the fall of 1985 as a benefit for the newly formed AIDS Foundation of Houston, and repeated in the spring of 1986 as a benefit for AID for AIDS.

1985-The Group's production of ONE was included in the "TEN BEST" of theater productions for 1985 by the Houston Post.

1986-88-The Group presented a series of gay and lesbian plays and musicals at Marion Coleman's Kindred Spirits.

1986-96-The Group continues to present a production each year for Gay & Lesbian or Lesbian & Gay Pride Week.

1988-The Group produces A DANCE AGAINST DARKNESS, a heartfelt musical about people living with AIDS at Main Street Theater during ART AGAINST AIDS MONTH.

1993-The Group produces the world premiere of FAY & RAY at Kuumba House Repertory Theatre. The play dealt with a gay man and a lesbian having a baby.

1996-The Group presented TEN PERCENT REVUE at OVATIONS. "Ten Percent" was an Off-Broadway success that dealt with "that" 10 % of our population that is gay and lesbian.



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1997-The Group presents END OF THE WORLD ^{PARTY} at Main Street Theatre.
A performance was donated as a benefit for Annise Parker's
campaign for City Council.

BIOGRAPHY - JOE LEE WATTS (Miguel)

Mr. Watts first set foot on the golden ladder to stardom at the awkward age of eight, and it has been down hill ever since. His debut was wearing a fox tail, and reciting the Lord's Prayer as Grandfather Chipmunk in a Thanksgiving play. He went on to shine in the much sought after role of Miss America 19--, in the annual Cub Scout talent show. Following a ten year hiatus, searching for just the right role, Joe was type cast as the village idiot in a six month run of "The Drunkard". From there he has gone on to almost total obscurity and poverty in many varied and illustrious roles. Everything from Queenie in "Fortune in Men's Eyes" to Paris in "Tiger at the Gates". Being on the cusp of Aquarius and Pisces, Joe is a strange and moody, yet wonderful person. Also, one of his finer qualities is an incurable lack of modesty. Among many outside interests are: writing poetry, the art of gorging (being past president of Pigs, Inc, a now defunct gourmet club) and spending time with his pet ulcer.

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Joe Watts

From: JOE WATTS [joeleewatts@att.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 8:38 AM
To: Joe Watts
Subject: Writing

Joe Watts
Writing Accomplishments

Accepted into the Edward Albee Play-writing Class/Workshop at the University of Houston.

Accepted into the Stuart Ostrow Musical Theater Class/Workshop at the University of Houston.

Original dialogue for "Billie Holiday: Colors of My Soul"-one woman musical
Theater Critic for Houston Forum, Montrose Voice and This Week in Texas

Reviewed Theater, Film, Dance and Restaurants for KRBE-FM
(even though I was the Business Manager/Controller/Accounts for 25 years for several radio stations, I also wrote some commercial spots from time to time)

Official Gay Pride Song in Houston, 2 years in a row

"Matthew's Flame"-song used in production of "The Laramie Project"

"Make Something Pretty"-song used in "ONE", first play in Houston dealing with AIDS.

"Sweet Prince"-Harvey Milk poem-written and delivered on the steps of Houston's City Hall, November 27, 1988, ten years to the day of his death.

One Act Plays chosen for Scriptwriters Houston Annual Play-writing Series, two different years

One Act chosen for the first annual Frenetic Fringe Fest

One-Act plays and monologues produced by several theater companies in Houston

Poems used in "Closets: a Stonewall Celebration"

Poems published, and some part of Poetry Jams

Rap Song "Think About It" - pre-curtain for
The Light - Reindeer Monologues

Joe Watts

Writing Accomplishments

Cathedral of Hope Annual Play-writing Series

10 Ten Minute Plays written by staff, church members, and members of the Theater Ministry Roster, led by Joe Watts

“Guild to Writing Your 10 Minute Play”, a one night workshop will be held.

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Writing Your Monologue

First of all don't wait till the last minute!

I would like to have the monologues memorized.

Write out early on what you want to ask and what you want to share.

I woke up this morning and thought of several great things I just have to tell him.

I wrote them down so I wouldn't forget.

Tools to Use in memorizing: the old fashion way, go over and over and over, study them when your driving and/or in traffic or on the bus (for some youths). Go over and over, maybe before bed, record them and play back again and again, And finally go over them with a friend, with them "holding book", (meaning your monologue"), and if you go what's called "up on your lines" (forget the next word or sentence), ask for a cue (meaning what is the next word or words to get you back on track.)

Getting use to what 5 minutes is: find an article or something on the internet you think may be at least 5 minutes long, read it out loud and time for 5 minutes.

I realize there are certain options that I will have to allow:

If you have to miss a Wed. night and feel you need to catch, come another night, if you don't think you need to catch up just back on track the next time. If you feel that after the next two workshops you have the info you need, then you will only need to come when we have the whole group and do a run through of the production.

Finding a good open and close:

For example I may start with (open), "the first thing I thought was, what was I like when I was his age." and end with (close), he helped me see things in a different light". Try not to use too many clieque; be more original than that.

To careful not to make too much of it serious, find humor wherever you can.

I'm sure all of us will look for and find similarities, may be none, some, a lot, but when you talk about those don't fall into a trap and "go off on yourself" too much, remember it's about him or her, and your story will come from them.

Help in writing-Youths-if you need help writing your monologue talk with me and/or your partner. This can apply to seniors as well, in coming to me if you need to.

If any of you need to talk to me about anything to do with this project, and to make it better, I'm here for you, and unlike most directors, I'm even open to suggestions, but as I tell my cast, when I'm directing a play: "if I like it, I'll use it, if not I won't. That's why I'm called the director.

Joe Watts opened Theatre New West with the critically acclaimed FAIRY TALES followed by the phenomenally successful DIRTY LITTLE SHOWTUNES and the hilarious KEY WEST. He has been strongly involved in Houston's theatrical circle for over thirty five years, as actor, director, writer, producer and critic.

Joe has directed over 60 productions and acted in over 75. He has taught acting privately and at an acting studio for over 25 years, and was a theater critic for three publications and for KRBE-FM. He has directed successful productions of END OF THE WORLD PARTY at Main Street Theater, TEN PERCENT REVUE at Ovations, and DOS LESBOS at the Lovett Inn. He conceived and directed an original production of CLOSETS: A STONEWALL CELEBRATION. He also directed and wrote original dialogue for BILLIE HOLLIDAY: COLORS OF MY SOUL, presented at Rockefellers, which was later revived at Theatre New West.

He was named "Best Director" of the season by Kuumba House Repertory Theatre for his production of DUTCHMAN, and a Diana Award for his contribution to gay theater. The Houston Post dubbed Joe, the "Father of Gay Theatre of Houston", having been the first to produce and direct mostly gay themed productions since 1983. It remains a title he carries with a great deal of pride.

His many other directorial credits include, A DANCE AGAINST DARKNESS, FAY & RAY, SEX IS MY RELIGION, SOUL SURVIVOR, FRUIT COCKTAIL, ONE TIT A DYKE AND GIN, and JERKER, just to name a few. He also directed and played the role of Michael in THE BOYS IN THE BAND. In 1985 Joe produced and directed ONE, the first theater piece in Houston dealing with AIDS, and was the first "theater" benefit for the newly formed AIDS Foundation. ONE was named in the Top 10 Best Productions that year by the Houston Post. Over the years he has held benefits for most all HIV/AIDS and GLBT related groups and organizations.

THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD, which had a three month run in the 2001/2002 season, was Joe's most successful production in twenty years. The Houston Press named it BEST GAY-THEMED SHOW of 2002.

Joe was accepted into both the Edward Albee Playwriting Workshop and the Stuart Ostrow Musical Theater Workshop (as director), both at the University of Houston. Two of his short plays were selected and produced by Scriptwriters/Houston for their annual 10 X 10. Two other short plays were selected for Houston's first "Fringe Fest", and "Queer Fest", he also directed all three plays. He is currently working on 3 one acts to be produced under the title: "Happy Birthday Your Positive-an AIDS Trilogy".

In 2004 and 2005 he produced and directed BENT at Holocaust Museum Houston, as well as THE NORMAL HEART in 2006, both received some of the best reviews of his career. In 2008, Joe directed THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES with a transgender cast, which had sold out houses and received great reviews. He returned to Holocaust Museum Houston in 2009 with a production of "THE TIMEKEEPERS", which like BENT, has a Holocaust theme. In 2010 Joe was proud to have presented THE LARAMIE PROJECT again at Holocaust Museum Houston, attended by both Matthew Shepard's Mother, Judy Shepard, and Houston Mayor, Annise Parker.

In 2010 and 2011 he presented benefit staged readings of THE NORMAL HEART for World AIDS Day (December 1st), at Stages Repertory Theatre, 2010 for GLBT Community Center, and 2011 for the GLBT Student organization at the University of Houston.

Joe relocated in Dallas in early 2012. In June of 2013 he directed "The Timekeepers" presented at the Dallas Holocaust Museum. Joe's most recent production was "Men on the Verge of a His-panic Breakdown", presented in August, 2013 at Teatro Dallas. Playwright Guillermo Reyes came in from Arizona to attend several performances on his play. He directed another Staged Reading of "The Normal Heart" for World AIDS Day 2013, presented in January 2014 at Theatre Three, which was a benefit for AIDS Arms. In October, 2013 Joe joined the staff of Theatre Three as their Accountant.