



# Sketches

## June 2007 Newsletter

### Six Performances of "The Diary of Anne Frank" Showcase Local Talent

In the darkest of circumstances, Anne Frank held out hope for a better day: "*I can feel the suffering of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come out right... that peace and tranquility will return...*" In June, her message of joy and hope is coming to The Gualala Art Center Theater. Thirteen local actors will bring to life the touching story of the Frank family's time in hiding from the Nazis. Read on to meet the actors!

#### **Savannah Power (Anne Frank)**

"What inspires me about Anne Frank is, in the face of what Hitler did to the Jews and to millions of children, young women, men, and families, she still believed in spite of everything, that people really *are* good at heart."

**Joel Crockett (Otto Frank)** "I've known the story since I was in my teens – I was impressed with Anne; her story and her ability to paint a word picture of events around her. After becoming a father, I became more sensitive to Otto — especially his relationship with Anne – the anguish he must have felt throughout the ordeal, and particularly after it."

**Karel Metcalf (Edith Frank)** "Knowing I was going to try out for a role in "The Diary of Anne Frank," I was anxious to visit the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. during my trip in April. The experience was so intense, such a personal impact. Now, just reading the lines brings up an enormous wave of emotion."

**Ariel Majorana (Margot Frank)** "I wanted to play this role because Margot was completely innocent and did not deserve to suffer like she did. Anne and Margot both had potential to make a difference in the world but did not get the chance."

**Jane Simmonds (Mrs. Van Daan)** "I think it will be challenging to show the multiple layers of my character. In war, valuable lives are lost, and for what?"

**Jeff Pratt (Mr. Van Daan)** "Probably, the greatest tribute that the audience can give us as actors is total silence after the final curtain comes down. If we have given a powerful performance the audience should stay in their seats for a moment absorbing what they have just seen and remembering a time in our history that should never be repeated, but in actuality has been and will be repeated well beyond our lifetime."

The cast and crew are proud to bring "The Diary of Anne Frank" to the coast. It opens on Friday, June 15, with a Gala Champagne Reception at 6:30 and curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Opening night tickets are \$25 for adults; \$17 for youths. The show continues on June 16, 22 & 23 at 7:30 and June 17 & 24 with Sunday matinees at 2:30. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for youths and are available at the Dolphin Gallery and at the Gualala Arts office or by calling 884-1138.



#### **Arthur Niven (Peter Van Daan)**

"I hope the audience sees that a group of people who share the same ethnic, cultural, and religious background, are still each very unique individuals. While their culture affects them, it doesn't define who they are."

#### **Jim Littlejohn (Mr. Dussel)**

"I hope the audience will walk away with a sense of the tragic situation in which Mr. Dussel and the others were caught – as well as see the strength and endurance of the human spirit that each character displays."

**Sherry Pringle (Meip Geis)** "What makes these roles so challenging is that we are breathing life into roles of real people, not fictional characters. They were courageous and heroic. We need to do justice to their lives."

**Bob Pounds (Mr. Kraler)** "It excites me to play Mr. Kraler, because he risked everything to save these people and ultimately went to prison himself for his efforts."

**Tina Vasavada** plays a member of the *Green Police*, the Dutch collaborators with the Nazis. She will, also, be the *Language Consultant* and *Props Manager* for the show. She says, "Holland is my country of origin, so I have a special attachment to this play."

**Phil Atkins** plays a member of the *Green Police*, as well as being the *Production Stage Manager*, and leading the *Construction Crew*. "It's tough being married to the director!"

**David Skibbins**, is the *Assistant Director* and plays the *Nazi Officer*. "I only have four words – all in German. Yet I embody the perpetrators of the Holocaust. It is one of the scariest parts I have ever played."

**Lynne Atkins, (Director)** "This play cautions us never to forget how the spirit of one young girl survives to help give us hope for humanity."