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President

Frankie Little Hardin
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Newsletter 10 / October 2003

THE ELIZABETH RIVER THEATRE COMPANY

FOUNDED IN 2000

CALENDAR: THE SHAPE OF THINGS
November/December 2003
Specific Dates & Location TBA

M.C. ESCHER, Order and Chaos (lithograph, 1950)

As announced in our last newsletter (yes, the one from January), our immediate next show will be ***The Shape of Things*** by Neil LaBUTE, whose films include ***In the Company of Men, Your Friends and Neighbors, Nurse Betty***, and ***Possession.***
In ***The Shape of Things*** (premiered in 2001 and recently also turned into a movie), he asks:
What is art?
What are you permitted to do in its name?
How much can you mess with someone else's life?

Within a few weeks, you'll hear from us: Where and when exactly ***The Shape of Things*** hits Hampton Roads!

The Shape of Things will be directed by Natasha BUNNELL in her debut with the Elizabeth River Theatre Company; with sets by Jill SNAPP, costumes by Rose HENDERSON and lighting by Stephen MURPHY.
Again, we will announce the **dates and location shortly**.

(overleaf: We are proud to add another director to our artistic leadership: Frankie Little HARDIN)

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After an extended courtship (which culminated in Frankie playing the part of Daya in **Nathan the Wise** last fall), we are overjoyed that **Frankie LITTLE HARDIN** has finally agreed to become the "missing third" in the artistic lea-dership of the Elizabeth River Theatre Company. Frankie lives with her family in Norfolk, on what's left of an old farm on the Elizabeth River (no pun intended); she teaches theatre at ODU, produces the **PlayTime** series of children's theatre shows there, and - as she is proud to say - has been a local actor for the last twenty years.

We found there was no better way to introduce her and no maxim that we share more wholheartedly than the following thoughts...

GERALD SCHWARZ & JIM TURNER

I am not going anywhere

Recently I attended a workshop given by Danny Hoch, who's a New York native and one man powerhouse: actor, director, writer. He had come to town as a part of ODU's Literary Festival. Now, as we went around the room making introductions, one of our students said, "... and as soon as I graduate, I'll be heading off to New York!"

Danny didn't give that young student a big pat on the back or any kind of encouragement; instead, he asked her, "Why? Why should you come to New York to do theatre - and make no mistake about it, if you think you're gonna work, you're fooling yourself - why go there when you could stay here? Why don't you stay here and make theatre about your community? For your community?"

Why indeed?

Hampton Roads is my home, and I'm proud to call it so. It's a sad fact that some folks won't take you seriously unless you leave your homeplace behind, but I believe that a committed artist can make serious and relevant and entertaining and wonderful art wherever they find themselves, but especially in the place they know best. I won't be going anywhere.

And that's why I am also proud to be joining the Elizabeth River Theatre Company as a partner in creating serious and relevant and entertaining and wonderful art here, in Hampton Roads.

FRANKIE LITTLE HARDIN

Please stay on the lookout for our **next newsletter** - it will have everything about **The Shape of Things**, on the projects that are next in our pipeline (and by the way, the folks at the Generic Theatre beat us to Michael FRAYN's **Copenhagen** - but it IS a great play, and you should make sure you see it there early next year), and on the work on our **website**, as well as this:

We are very actively looking for a **space** to call our home - office, rehearsal, performance, storage space.

If you have any great ideas, leads, or even property - nudge, nudge, wink, wink - to share, please let us know: ERTCO@AOL.com