Revitalizing New Orleans theatre community: a report on an Arts Administration internship with DramaRama New Orleans, Louisiana, Summer and Fall, 1997

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REVITALIZING NEW ORLEANS' THEATRE COMMUNITY: A REPORT ON AN ARTS ADMINISTRATION INTERNSHIP WITH DRAMARAMA NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, SUMMER AND FALL, 1997

A Report

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the University of New Orleans in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Arts Administration

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INTRODUCTION

My personal investment in theatre can be traced to the mint-green cafeteria-cum-chapel of St. John's Day School in Laurel, Mississippi. For as long as anyone can recall, every Friday morning a different class has been obligated to present a performance at chapel meeting; fifteen-minute pageants of the states and harmless lampoons of school faculty and staff are commonplace. As my fourth grade classmates and I soon discovered, however, our teacher, Ms. Suzanne Pickering, was anything but common.

While reading through an issue of *McCall's* or perhaps *Redbook*, Ms. Pickering had come across a short playscript for *Hansel and Gretel*, one intended for young actors age ten or so. This struck her as a wonderful piece for our class, and auditions were shortly held. I was cast as Hansel.

I quickly learned I had an affinity for drama. I memorized my lines with ease—as well as those of the other players. I instinctively stood in 3/4 position. And I had an eye for staging. By the time we received a standing ovation for our one-time performance—at 40 minutes, the longest chapel presentation in recent memory—I knew I was hooked.

In high school and college, I continued to study drama. I received a Master's from Tulane in Dramatic Literature and Criticism, then went to New York University and did work toward a Ph.D. in the Department of Performance Studies. By the time I returned to New Orleans, I had been exposed to a wide range of theatre, both good and bad. I had also come to the conclusion that my talents lay less onstage than backstage. With this latter in mind, I began my work toward a Master's in Arts Administration.
When I finished my coursework for that degree and began to contemplate my internship, I of course turned my eyes back to New York. While I have certain reservations about New York—I do not, for example, believe it to be the only place in the world to find professional-quality theatre—it is impossible to deny the abundance of theatrical activity in the city. I made inquiries and was accepted to several development departments around Manhattan.

Before I committed to any particular project, however, I learned of DramaRama—a theatre festival held at New Orleans’ Contemporary Arts Center CAC that, as I recalled, hosted new work. I was intrigued by the possibility of assisting in the production of new plays in a town that is typically content to feeding upon the theatrical carcasses of the safe-and-sure—mostly musicals and the better-known works of Tennessee Williams. After discussing the matter with advisors and with DramaRama Board member Denise Chetta, I decided to take on the job.

Having now participated as Project Manager for both DramaRama 5 and 6, I can safely say that my feelings about the festival are mixed. On the one hand, I appreciate nearly every effort to make the theatre scene in New Orleans more vibrant, more dynamic, more engaging. This city had and could again have a community of theatergoers to rival its community of music- and visual arts-lovers. DramaRama works to foster that growth, and for that, I enjoy it.

On the other hand, DramaRama clearly has problems of long-term vision. There is no Artistic Director, hired to ensure the quality of each work and of the whole event. The works presented are often sloppy—artistically, technically, and intellectually. And there
seems to be no standard to which theatre artists can look for examples of what constitutes professional theatre. As I detail below, DramaRama will have to undergo significant changes over the next ten years if it is to become a home for the best that New Orleans theatre artists has to offer.

What follows is a play-by-play account of my work with DramaRama 5, followed by an explanation of my precise duties at the festival, my assessment of DramaRama 5, and my thoughts on the organization's future and what lessons I will take with me as I progress in my career.

A HISTORY OF DRAMARAMA, INC.

The Concept

In 1992, Jan Villarubia and Denise Chetta were puzzled: Why were there no theatre festivals in New Orleans? Why was there no place for theatre artists to show their new work and to view the work of others? New Orleans' music is known around the world, and the number of venues available for music performance of every variety is staggering. Similarly, the twentieth century has seen the development of a strong visual arts community here, with numerous museums and a growing number of art galleries. Why was the theatre community any less dynamic? New Orleans is a city built around performance, from the costumes of Mardi Gras to the highly polished rituals of fine dining; it seemed only logical that professional theatre should blossom here.

In truth, it once had. During the nineteenth and early twentieth century, New Orleans was a popular place for both opera and music halls. Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré is one of the oldest community theatres in the nation; as late as mid-century, it was hosting works by
outstanding directors like Richard Schechner. But by the 1990s, dinner theatre and poorly mounted musicals had become standard fare—what went wrong?

Above all, the problem Ms. Villarubia and Ms. Chetta identified was the lack of diversity in both audience and in the type of theatre to be found. They conceived of a theatre festival—DramaRama—that would counter both these obstacles. DramaRama was intended to give artists with limited access to performance venues the space to share their work with others. Similarly, by promoting the event as a festival—a concept with which New Orleanians are quite familiar—Ms. Villarubia and Ms. Chetta hoped to make the event more attractive to those who rarely attended theatre. Novice theatergoers would have the opportunity to enjoy a sampling of New Orleans’ theatre offerings without the coat-and-tie seriousness found at other theatre affairs.

**The First DramaRama**

Within a few months, Ms. Villarubia and Ms. Chetta had organized a small group of theatre-lovers and began to discuss the possibility of mounting such a festival at the Contemporary Arts Center. After more than a year’s worth of planning, DramaRama premiered September 10 and 11 of 1993. The attendance and enthusiasm were so overwhelming, that Ms. Villarubia and Ms. Chetta were encouraged to make DramaRama an annual event, and applied for 501(c) 3 status. Since that time, DramaRama has been held at the CAC the second weekend of every September.
Organization

Over the course of its brief history, DramaRama has remained a Board-run organization. Although part-time staff are hired for the specific purpose of mounting the event, the President of the Board is generally responsible for overseeing the project.

Funding

DramaRama is supported primarily through public funds and earned revenue. The Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) and the Arts Council of New Orleans Community Arts Grants, joined with revenue from ticket sales and proceeds from vendors at the event, make up the whole of DramaRama’s income.

THE INTERNSHIP

A Chronological History of Duties and Tasks

*Initial Contact with DramaRama*

My first exposure to the inner workings of DramaRama, Inc. came at a meeting with Denise Chetta, who was then the outgoing President of the Board of Directors. Over coffee, we discussed the history of the organization, its mission, its hopes for the future, and how, exactly, I might fit into its organizational scheme.

Before we finished our discussion, we had decided that I would participate in the upcoming DramaRama 5 as Intern Project Manager. I would work directly with Kenneth Raphael, incoming President of the Board, to coordinate the event. Since DramaRama is run solely by its Board, with neither paid nor unpaid staff, I understood that my responsibilities would be rather extensive.
Aside from me, Ms. Chetta explained, there would be one other staff person involved in the production of the event. The CAC would provide a "point person," someone with whom DramaRama could deal directly when matters concerning the CAC arose (e.g. insurance, food and beverage vendors, admissions, etc.). In addition to my other duties, Ms. Chetta explained I would also serve as a liaison between DramaRama and this CAC staff member.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ms. Chetta agreed to compose a sample job description, which she would present to me at the annual meeting of the Board of DramaRama, Inc. on April 8, 1997. From that point, I was, unofficially, an Intern with DramaRama, Inc.

**The Board Meeting**

Attending the annual Board meeting of DramaRama, Inc. was my next duty as Intern Project Manager. The meeting was well attended, giving me the immediate impression that the Board of Directors was very active and devoted to the organization and its mission. Sadly, that impression was not a lasting one.

At the meeting, I was introduced to the various members of the Board, who represented a cross-section of theatre artists, educators, and business professionals. The Board then approved Mr. Raphael as new Board President and began discussing old and new business. During the meeting, questions were raised about how DramaRama might widen its scope, perhaps including more educational and outreach programs, or attempting to draw more cultural tourists to the event. A general summary budget for the year was also presented.

Following the meeting, Ms. Chetta, Mr. Raphael, and I met to discuss the events scheduled to take place over the course of the summer. Ms. Chetta had drawn up a timeline, based on
her considerable experience as President of the Board for several years. The extensive list of things to do in preparation for DramaRama was broken down month by month. I was also given the aforementioned job description for the role of Intern Project Manager, as well as a contract for said position. After reading over the materials, I signed the contract, and Ms. Chetta, Mr. Raphael, and I discussed the timeline. Copies of these items are located in the appendix of this report.

My First Duty: Organizing Applications

Aside from the compilation of a current Board list (taken from information gathered at the April meeting), my first major duty as Intern Project Manager came to pass approximately one month later, as I culled DramaRama applications from their three holding locations. Because of DramaRama’s itinerant nature, applications could be brought or sent to any number of locations. Applications could be mailed to the DramaRama post office box (located in Metairie) or to Junebug Productions (a close ally of DramaRama, with several of their staff sitting on the DramaRama Board); they could also be hand-delivered to Junebug or to the CAC. On the deadline, May 15, 1997, I visited all three locations, gathering approximately 24 applications in all. I took the applications and supporting materials to my home, where I began to distill their contact information, the nature of the proposed performances, and, in preparation for my next major task, the artistic histories of the applicants.

The LDOA

My next priority was to complete LDOA Provider of Services forms for artists participating in DramaRama 1997. DramaRama receives a substantial Project Support grant from the LDOA, and the LDOA requires that organizations receiving such funds supply brief
resumés for artists as well as technical and administrative personnel contracted for such projects. Unfortunately, the LDOA's annual Project Support grant deadline of March 1 puts DramaRama in a slightly awkward position. Because the deadline for DramaRama applications falls in mid-May, the list of the actual participants in DramaRama cannot be completed until well after the LDOA deadline has passed. Luckily, DramaRama has an ongoing relationship with the LDOA, having been funded by the state-run organization for several years. The LDOA understands the situation posed by the conflicting application schedules and generously agrees to award funds on a provisional basis, pending submission of Provider of Services forms soon after the mid-May deadline. My first duty, therefore, was to quickly take the information provided on the DramaRama application forms and create brief artistic resumés suitable for the Provider of Services forms, which I then submitted directly to the LDOA. A sample of a completed Provider of Services form is included in the index of this report.

**Gathering Information for Stage Management and the Media**

Having completed the Provider of Services forms, I began to firm up a contact list for everyone involved in DramaRama 5 and to gather important information about the submitted proposals. A technical information sheet, for example, had to be completed for each artist or group in order to ascertain their technical needs; information was also required for the DramaRama 5 program and for press-related purposes.

I contacted artists by telephone, and I explained to them the structure of the evening in the hopes that, after gaining a sense of the event, they could better articulate their technical needs. With each artist, I went line-by-line through the technical information questionnaire, determining what they needed in the way of lighting, if they intended to use amplified sound,
whether their piece included profanity or nudity, and so on. I also explained that DramaRama should receive program information (e.g. a blurb about the piece, a sentence or two about the company or individual, a list of performers) and a photo for press purposes as soon as possible. A complete copy of the technical information questionnaire is included in the appendix of this report.

The Jurying Process (and the Mysteries of the CAC)

On May 24, 1997, Mr. Raphael and I met at the offices of the Arts Council of New Orleans to jury the DramaRama submissions. We had both had the opportunity to review the written submissions, as well as the supporting materials, which included photos, resumés, audiocassettes, and videotapes.

I proposed that for purposes of evaluation, we should divide the artists into three categories: theatre, dance, and performance art. There was, ultimately, a fourth category—children's theatre—but because there were so few entries in that category and because of the nature of DramaRama Jr. (which does not, as a rule, distinguish between featured and non-featured artists), we did not jury them. Mr. Raphael accepted my suggestion, and we began our critiques.

As we sifted through the entries category by category, we gave each a score from one to ten for the quality of the application, the quality of the piece (especially in relation to the other pieces in the category), the experience of the performers, and the originality of the work. Scores were added and averaged, and at the end of the evaluations, the three applicants with the highest mean scores in each category were chosen as featured artists for DramaRama 5.
Luckily, DramaRama has no full-time staff person, for if it had, letters announcing featured artists would have been immediately sent out, which would have been cause for serious alarm several days later. As it happened, I stopped by the CAC the following week in an attempt to retrieve any material pertaining to the previous year's event, DramaRama 4, that they might have had on hand. I called ahead to request that such information be left at the front desk. Upon asking a CAC staff member for the files, he gave me not only the documents in question, but also a box that contained other DramaRama-related information. In sum, the box contained approximately twenty additional applications for DramaRama 5 that had not been given to me when I originally retrieved applications on the submission deadline. Informing Kenneth of this dilemma, we both agreed it would be necessary to re-jury all of the entries, in light of the new-found applications.

Gathering More Information, Setting a Schedule, & Hiring Stage Managers

By the time we scored and tabulated the new applications, combined the results with those of the initial jurying session, and slated an amended list of ten featured artists, Mr. Raphael and I realized time was growing short; notification of acceptance to all DramaRama 5 participants had to be sent out immediately.

I began making phone calls to featured artists on the very evening after we had run the second jury, announcing the news and attempting to cull more technical information from the participants. Unfortunately, looming on the horizon was the obstacle of the program, a related and—as I knew from my experience at The Shakespeare Festival at Tulane—all-consuming job. I proposed to Mr. Raphael that the stage managers would not only be well-employed at gathering technical information, but it would also be more efficient, as they would ultimately be responsible for meeting the technical needs of performers. He agreed. In
order for the stage managers to effectively carry out that task, however, they would have to
know which performers would be performing in which spaces. I therefore turned my
attention to the creation of a tentative schedule for the evening.

By reviewing applications, taking into consideration the nature of each piece and the space
individuals or companies had requested, I was able to propose a roster of performers for
each performance space. Dancers, for example, inevitably required the large Freeport-
McMoran theater because of its floor—the only wood or sprung floor to be found at the
CAC and, therefore, often the only reasonable space in which dancers could perform
without risking injury. Given that the Freeport-McMoran theater is, of course, the stage of
choice for most DramaRama participants, divvying up the remainder of the performers was
not a particularly easy task.

At this point of pre-production, scheduling precise time-slots for performances was less
important than simply determining the space in which those performances were to take
place. Still, it seemed only logical to include a rough timetable for each stage; at the very
least, it assured Mr. Raphael and I that performances would comfortably fit in the same
space, given intermissions, set changes, and the like. Thus, I constructed a complete draft of
the evening's events.

In determining the slate of events for each space, priority or "hot spot" curtain times were
given to the entrants who had ranked highest in the jurying process. Thus, featured artists
would receive spots during DramaRama's peak hours (approximately 7:30 to 10:30 PM),
next-highest scores would merit spots in and around those prime times, and the lowest-
ranking performances were given very early or very late spots—though for some high-scoring
entrants, late spots (i.e. 10:30 PM to midnight) were preferable. Without stepping on too many toes, a schedule was at last created. A copy of the line-up is included in the appendix to this report.

Mr. Raphael distributed this schedule to the stage managers that he and the Production Stage Manager, Jonathan Taylor, had hired. Each stage manager was responsible for (a) contacting the performers scheduled for her/his site, (b) gathering the requisite technical information, and (c) stressing the need for program information as soon as possible. I then gave the technical information sheets I had so far collected to the respective stage managers.

The Program

With the formidable and time-consuming tasks of collecting technical information and acting as artist liaison appropriately dispersed among the numerous stage managers, I was free to begin amassing information for the program and sending it to DramaRama Board member Adriana Bate, who, along with the program designer, was responsible for organizing and printing the program. Though I did not undergo the trauma of actually designing the program, the process was, nonetheless, exhausting. Sending blurbs and cast lists via e-mail, hand-delivering photos and other information: putting together such a monstrous program with such a gigantic slate of performers is quite a bit of work. The posting of a useful "guide to artists," in which every individual performer is listed along with the time and location of the performance(s) in which s/he in taking part only add to the onus. Nevertheless, it is an admirable, if mammoth, undertaking. A copy of the final program for DramaRama 5 is included in the appendix to this report.
**Orientation**

One week before the event, an orientation for participating artists was held at the CAC. In the Freeport-McMoran Theater, Mr. Raphael, Elizabeth Gill, and I introduced ourselves and our role in DramaRama 5. Final performance schedules were given out, and Mr. Taylor introduced the various stage managers for the seven sites. Following a question-and-answer session in which artists were able to discuss any administrative concerns they might have had (e.g. complimentary tickets for friends, the disbursement of honoraria, etc.), participants were shown to their respective performance sites by the stage managers, where they were able to discuss one-on-one their needs for the event.

**The Event**

By the time of the actual event, the bulk of production work had been done: stage managers and performers alike were familiar with their spaces, CAC volunteers were in place taking tickets at the front door and checking in performers at the artists' entrance, vendors had set up their food and beverage tables. All-in-all, there was little for me to do on the day of the event except to oversee that everything went smoothly and to handle those few minor issues that arose. After green rooms had been equipped with ice and drinks and attendees began to arrive, my job was essentially done for the evening. I was able to appreciate the event not only as an organizer, but also as an attendee, which, I've learned, is the best way for arts administrators to experience the events they plan.

**Follow-Up**

After the event, my involvement with DramaRama was minimal. Most honoraria had been disbursed the night of the event, and Ms. Gill and Mr. Raphael had only to tidy up contracts. After a couple of weeks had passed and everyone associated with the event had sufficiently
recouped, I organized files, adding applications, copies of the program, press clippings and the like to the DramaRama files. I also began a mailing list of artists, directors, and everyone else who had been associated with the event for the previous two years. And that, as they say, was that, until March of 1998 when the call for submissions was put out once more and the process began anew.

Other Duties Associated with DramaRama

Development

For the last several years, DramaRama has relied heavily on funding from the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Arts Council of New Orleans. The largest grant comes from the aforementioned LDOA Project Support grant, with the exact amount of the award varying between $7,000 and $10,000 each year. These funds—combined with a Community Arts Grant, a Statewide Decentralized grant, earned revenue from ticket sales, and vendors' donation of a percentage of their food and beverage sales—are DramaRama's primary sources of income. They provide financial support for DramaRama's two project staff positions (i.e. Project Manager and CAC Event Coordinator), eight technical personnel, and honoraria for performers, as well as marketing and other organizational expenses.

Interestingly enough, DramaRama receives little or no support from individuals, private foundations, or corporations. My educated guess as to why this is so is perhaps because of DramaRama's close affiliation with Junebug Productions, a theatre organization that can justifiably be called "grassroots" and which tends to eschew the "schmoozier" sorts of fundraising that more traditional organizations undertake. At one Board meeting, for example, a Board member raised the possibility of organizing a gala to support DramaRama. Reaction to this suggestion was almost categorically negative. Perhaps given the highly
diverse crowd DramaRama attracts and the hit-and-miss quality of the art it produces, it is assumed DramaRama would have a difficult time finding an audience for a $50-per-ticket event. Given the exorbitant amount of time and energy required to mount a gala event, I tend not to question such logic.

But as I said, my duties were not related to fundraising or development. Apart from amassing and mailing in Provider of Services forms for DramaRama 5 participants—which, as noted above, the LDOA graciously allows DramaRama to submit after the application deadline—I had nothing to do with the development activities of DramaRama.

**Marketing**

The marketing of DramaRama has traditionally been handled by Jon Pult, Marketing Director of Junebug Productions. Since DramaRama and Junebug are so closely allied, with overlapping Boards of Directors, Mr. Pult has provided his services gratis, to the best of my understanding. He organizes the mailing of fliers that announce the event to thousands of people in the New Orleans area. He also coordinates press releases for the event. Along with Mr. Raphael, Mr. Pult is also responsible for securing the cover of the *Times-Picayune’s Lagniappe* on the Friday immediately before DramaRama. I was, therefore, given no duties pertaining to marketing.

**Accounting & Payroll**

As mentioned previously, DramaRama has no year-round staff members. Project managers, technical personnel, and the like, are contracted specifically for the event and are paid as contractual labor. Therefore, there is no payroll system of which to speak. Maintenance of the organization’s financial records and the disbursement of checks is handled exclusively by the President of the Board of DramaRama.
**Vendors & Volunteers**

The CAC has been in existence far longer than DramaRama, and the latter draws considerable benefit from the experience and contacts of the CAC. The CAC administrator chosen to coordinate DramaRama is responsible for overseeing the non-performance-related issues of the event, and lining up volunteers and food and beverage vendors is a large part of that job. I was involved in neither the contracting of vendors or the assignment of volunteer duties at DramaRama 5.

**AN ANALYSIS OF DRAMARAMA**

**Organizational Strengths**

*The Idea*

DramaRama is not only an admirable endeavor, but it is also a valuable cultural event for New Orleans' theatre community, much of which is itinerant. DramaRama was created to showcase the theatrical talent of the Crescent City, and it was originally intended to feature both new works from individuals and vignettes from plays produced by established local theatres. Thus, in its original conception, short pieces from Le Petit's upcoming productions would run alongside the work of performance artists and dancers who have no theatre of their own, putting the city's diverse array of theatre artists on equal social and artistic footing, if only for one evening.

Today, of course, DramaRama works slightly differently. The established local theatres have generally shunned DramaRama, leaving it to the so-called "amateurs." Not surprisingly, by and large, the events of DramaRama are more "alternative" than one might find at local theatres. Of course, that means that many of the works lack the polish and sophistication
that one might find at Southern Repertory Theatre, for example, but what they lack in style they make up in chutzpah.

In short, New Orleans needs DramaRama as a way to show off the city's non-traditional talent. The lion's share of theatre in New Orleans is conservative, to say the least—surprising, given New Orleans' notoriety as a ludic space, a "wild and crazy" town. DramaRama makes up for the endless renditions of Oklahoma, H.M.S. Pinafore, and A Streetcar Named Desire with which New Orleans theatre audiences are bombarded each year. While I do not question the quality of such works or production— for many are, indeed, very good--such conservatism ultimately dulls the audience and inhibits their growth and sophistication. DramaRama may not be the perfect answer to such problems, but it is the beginning of an antidote to the "Give 'em what they want" attitude typical of local theatre, which explains the dearth of new plays on local stages. With luck, the diligent efforts of DramaRama and other organizations will create a theatergoing public every bit as savvy and sophisticated as New Orleans' music and visual arts audiences.

The Stage Managers

In an event as sprawling as DramaRama, it is imperative that there be a clear chain of command. With scores of performers, technicians, volunteers, vendors, and the like, the situation would be practically unmanageable if left to the DramaRama President, the Project Manager, and the CAC staff person.

Ultimately, I found the most time-consuming duty to be artist relations. Having only one person to maintain contact with more than 50 artists is thoroughly inefficient. The seven stage managers, under the direction of the production stage manager, therefore, came in very
handy. Once an artist was assigned to specific performance spaces, s/he was introduced to the stage manager for that particular site; the stage manager then served as an artist liaison from that point forward. When artists had questions that the stage manager was unable to answer, the stage manager simply contacted someone higher up the chain of command. All in all, my workload was significantly reduced when the stage managers entered the picture. An organizational chart for DramaRama is included in the appendix.

The Self-Sufficiency of Presenting Artists

Personally, I enjoy working on events like Dramarama—"variety show" events, where dozens of artists come together for one evening to show off their work. The artists are responsible for their own rehearsals, their own props, their own technical needs—in sum, DramaRama provides the space, and the artists walk in fully prepared to do their piece. In such a situation, event organizers are left to focus their energies on logistical rather than artistic details, which ultimately results in a better-organized production.

The surface veneer of chaos at a DramaRama event is therefore deceptive. While audience members are running wildly about, scurrying from one performance to the next with only seconds to spare between curtain fallings and risings, the production staff is moderately calm. And when problems do arise, a sizeable phalanx of veteran CAC volunteers is ready to respond to those needs. In short, technical and administrative staff are well prepared for the event, as are the artists themselves, which makes DramaRama much less stressful than a theatrical production in which every position is dependent upon every other one. The dispersal of power and duties in such events as DramaRama is the key to their simplicity.
Organizational Weaknesses

The Blithe, Equal-Opportunity Acceptance Policy

DramaRama is an equal-opportunity event. In general, everyone who applies is accepted, and it is very rare that anyone is refused. While this may be good for morale, it does little to foster a level of professionalism among the performers.

DramaRama tries to compensate for this by designating some artists as "featured artists," with the hope that newcomers to the world of theatre, dance, and performance art will look to them as role models. Sadly, even these featured artists often lack the necessary level of professionalism that New Orleans needs to foster a sophisticated theatre community. That is, with few exceptions—except, perhaps, among dancers, who tend to be reasonably well trained—DramaRama performances often border on the amateurish, if not downright sloppy.

Something should change. The event could perhaps become smaller, more competitive, with only the best groups performing. That, however, would run contrary to DramaRama's festive, cacophonous vibe and its distinctive and highly ingrained sense of grassroots art. Perhaps a better solution to this problem is to extend the event over several evenings—say, Friday and Saturday night, with Saturday slots reserved for more professional groups. This would have several effects—not least of all to make DramaRama more audience-friendly (and there are, indeed, some audience members who want the event to become less frenetic). It would also allow more artists access to the "good" spaces; since performances would take place over two nights, twice as many performances could take place on the highly desirable Freeport-McMoran stage. And just as important, it would allow DramaRama to feature its featured artists more prominently, holding them up for more careful scrutiny. As things
currently stand, featured performances often get lost in the shuffle of the event, but a special
night devoted to the best of the city's independent theatre artists would perhaps provide
instruction by way of example to DramaRama's many burgeoning but as yet unskilled artists.

**Gathering of Technical and Biographical Information**

The process of gathering technical and biographical information is particularly time-
consuming and is a job in itself. For DramaRama 5, I had to contact each artist by phone in
order to explain the event's structure and to get a feel for the look and needs of their various
performances. Given that many artists left town for the summer, leaving me to communicate
only with their answering machines, there were quite a few artists with whom I did not speak
until quite late in the summer. This is part of the "artist liaison" responsibility that should be
divided among DramaRama's various site stage managers.

**Artist Relations in the Early Stages of DramaRama 5**

In addition to the gathering of technical and biographical information, DramaRama artists
need to be contacted simply to feel "in the loop." Because of DramaRama's itinerant status--
no central office, no phone line, performed at the CAC but not technically part of its
programming efforts—artists' connection to the organization can often feel tenuous at best.
It is important that regular contact is maintained with them—perhaps twice a month—from
the application deadline through the event itself. This feeling of unease could perhaps be
slightly alleviated by hosting an early orientation for participating artists shortly after works
have been juried. This would allow them to meet the administrative staff, the stage
managers, and to see first-hand the various performance spaces—all of which would
hopefully result in a more confident and well-informed group of participants.
Personal Experience

From my experience with DramaRama, I will take away several important bits of knowledge that will inform the decisions I make as an arts administrator. Above all, I have learned the seemingly obvious lesson that arts organizations must have active Boards of Directors. Of DramaRama’s fifteen Board members, Mr. Raphael and Ms. Bate were the only ones who participated in the mounting of DramaRama 5. I suspect that the lack of interest from other Board members stems from burnout associated with the festival’s early years. Whether or not this assessment is completely accurate, the fact remains that DramaRama’s Board is largely ineffective in its current form. Given DramaRama’s size—with an annual budget of approximately $30,000—hiring a year-round staff person to coordinate the event is unfeasible; Board participation is therefore crucial to the project’s execution. If even half the members had assisted with the production of the event, DramaRama 5 would have been a much simpler undertaking and much more pleasant for everyone involved.

On a related note, I also learned from my experiences that just as no man is an island, neither is any man an organization. Mr. Raphael was, for all intents and purposes, DramaRama incarnate. While he was certainly a dedicated, motivated, talented artist, his reluctance to assign duties has hindered the organization’s growth and development, and his recent passing has left DramaRama in a state of confusion and uncertainty. Mr. Raphael had nothing but the best intentions for the organization, and he was essential to the event in recent year, but if he had shared his duties with project staff and Board members, he would have insured the most important facet of such a promising arts event: its continuance.

Last, DramaRama has taught me the importance of artist relations. I often found myself so caught up in the planning of DramaRama that I overlooked the simple needs of artists—
foremost of which was the need to be informed. I held to the belief that participating artists should simply be glad that Mr. Raphael and I were going to the trouble of arranging the event in the first place; their queries and requests, therefore, took secondary importance on my never-ending "to do" list. I realize now, however, that they are the event, and that their comfort level is directly proportionate to the quality of work they produce and, therefore, the success of DramaRama.

CONCLUSION: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF DRAMARAMA, INC.

The future of DramaRama—and, I would say, of theatre in New Orleans—is dependent upon three factors. The most fundamental issues concern capital: where DramaRama is housed and what sort of physical presence it has in New Orleans. Currently, DramaRama exists in the minds of Board members and staff workers, and in one file cabinet at the offices of Junebug Productions. In order to grow, however, DramaRama must have a permanent, physical home; whether at the CAC, the Entergy Arts Business Center, or elsewhere, having a legitimate office is thoroughly important to DramaRama's corporate identity and its own sense of self-worth. Its current homeless state leaves it only a vague notion in the minds of performers, artists, stagehands, and audience members. In short, to explain itself to the community, it must be visible to the community.

Second, the community of artists who participate in DramaRama must take a sense of personal ownership in the project. They must help determine its course, they must spread word of its existence, and they must explain its benefits to the other artists with whom they come in contact. It must cease being a project carried out by one or two individuals and
become a valued resource for the city and the region. DramaRama is currently addressing this problem through a newly constituted Artist Advisory Board, which will hopefully provide much-needed input from local artists and encourage them to engage more fully with the project.

Finally, DramaRama's success—at least artistically—depends upon providing artistic "role models" (for lack of a better term) that other artists may look to for leadership. As noted several times above, DramaRama's featured artists are meant to serve in this capacity, but their performances are often lost in the free-for-all that is currently the DramaRama event.

Art is necessarily elitist; there must always be an audience of knowledgeable and critical art-lovers who recognize and promote what they consider “good” art. New Orleans has done well in establishing an elite within the local community of musicians and, to a lesser degree, visual artists. DramaRama must provide a similar sort of elite that might begin to set standards for artistic and intellectual excellence (e.g. intellectual rigor, preparedness, etc.) in theatre. Though these standards would, of course, be arbitrary, they would at least give some structure and guidance that the amateur and professional theatre artists who participate in the event might follow.

This issue is currently being addressed in two ways. First DramaRama is planning to split the event into two nights, with featured artists performing on Saturday. This will ensure that featured artists are seen—particularly by other theatre artists. Second, the CAC has begun to amend its performance format. In the fall of 1999, the CAC will begin bringing in more artists for residencies— theatre artists, musicians, dancers, and the like. In fact, the CAC hopes to host a number of participants in the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave
Festival— currently, the model towards which new works festival like DramaRama should aspire. These visiting artists will host special training sessions and present workshop productions of the pieces they intend to present at the Next Wave Festival in order that local artists might have a better idea of performance trends outside New Orleans and broaden their artistic horizons.

This concern is certainly a long-term issue and cannot hope to be addressed overnight. It is, however, crucial to the future of DramaRama. If the matter is properly met, it will result in higher-caliber performances, broader community/regional support and recognition, a more sophisticated theatre audience, and, ultimately, better theatre for New Orleans.
DramaRama Production Timeline
TIMELINES (3/26/97)

GENERAL:

Make sure someone is checking the post office box once or twice a week. Right now the p.o. box is in Lakeview. You may want to have it moved downtown for next year.

MARCH

LA Division of the Arts grant was sent in. Amy Smallwood assisted with that on a contract basis.

Call for Entries mailed to artist. Be sure to send one to Richard Dodds and ask him to run it in his column. Artists not on the mailing lists -- ours and CAC's -- will call for a copy.

Staff should now be in place. This year we will have a CAC administrative coordinator and a paid intern. All funds from Community Arts and Decentralized are for staff support.

Annual Meeting for the board is usually held during this month or early April.

APRIL

CAC will have our contracts ready to sign. This is late, but our dates are on their calendar. We also had two meetings late last fall to discuss a co-presentation agreement. Everything for that is in the works and will be reflected in the contract.

Begin planning a Saturday in May when proposals can be juried. In order to be considered for this process, proposals must meet the deadline. From all those that met the deadline, have intern or administrative coordinator screen them for originality, exceptional training and/or experience. This allows for emerging artists with innovative work to also be considered.

Preparations for filing grant applications for Decentralized Fund and Community Arts should begin. Applications for funding in '98 are due early next month.

Board solicitation should begin. This can be done in a letter or by telephone.

Board should be asked if they can assist with other fund-raising such as business contacts.

Other proposals should go out to funders.

MAY

LA Decentralized Fund and Community Arts grant applications due.

By mid-month, artists should be called to begin collecting basic technical information. There are forms that Gail Morgan prepared that help with this. This is a necessary step which must occur
before a schedule can be developed.

**MAY** (continued)

After jurying process, featured artists should be notified. They need to be reminded that we will need a photo and bio of them for the program.

Before school closes, contact various artists/teachers to ensure high school student involvement. Ray Vrael and Kathy Randels at NOCCA, Paul Werner at Ben Franklin, and others.

Make sure publicity and marketing coordinator/committee in place. This year I hope JoAnn Abbott of My Own Marketing is going to help out. In addition to print, radio and TV, now is the time to find a printer to donate invitation/announcement. Jo Ann said she might no one who would agree to donate invitation if we purchase printing for the program.

**JUNE**

Develop schedule. Use technical information sheets for each work and sheets prepared by Gail on each space. Certain things cannot work in certain spaces. Certain spaces have a sound system, for example, and others don’t. All this is on the sheets.

Update correspondence to artists to go out at the end of the month. This includes the date and time of performance, their contract (last year we mailed contracts later which made for less changes), a solicitation, etc. See files labeled correspondence with artists.

Check with CAC re: layout of space. Michael Batt pretty much knows how it should be set up unless you plan to change it. Be sure CAC has scheduled caterer, bar tenders, etc.

Schedule photographers -- video and still photography for the event.

Hire production stage manager and stage managers for each space.

Set up meeting with college teachers to recruit some theatre department participation. We’ve never been very successful in doing this, but I think it’s worth a try.

**JULY**

Begin discussing program design with Elyce Warzeski, 488-3651. I loved the way she did the schedule last year, and I vote for simplifying as much as possible.

Program deadline is set for the end of this month. Someone usually has to follow up with cast members’ names, etc. You can finalize the brief descriptions of each work.

Press release should be in preparation. First release can announce the basics. Call Richard.
Dodds.

Invitation should be prepared and printed.

AUGUST

Check-in with Richard Dodds to see if/what he will do.

Invitation mailed.

Major press release announcing featured artists goes out.

Coordinate story placement, interviews, PSAs etc.

Work with CAC on scheduling security, house manager, lining up volunteers.

Determine what rental equipment is needed such as long tables, café tables, folding chairs. Order from American Rental. Michael Batt can help with this.

Rent and borrow other theatrical equipment such as dimmer board, lights, sound, etc.

Recruit artists/teachers in community to evaluate work.

Coordinate with Whitney bank tellers, Angie and Betha to work that night. Get supplies for night deposit.

Make sure production stage managers and stage managers are ready prepared to conduct orientation meeting. They need to develop some kind of form for a rehearsal schedule during the week. Orientation is on Thursday night. CAC available for rehearsals on Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Closed Monday for Labor Day. CAC available for rehearsals Tuesday. Tech rehearsals on Wednesday and Thursday. Performance on Friday and Saturday. Note: last year we performed on one night only. Strike on Sunday morning at CAC. All rental equipment stored in back for pick-up on Monday. Note: DramaRama, Jr. on Saturday and Sunday is different, very minimal tech, although they do need a stage manager to coordinate with Marion Hodge at museum.

Program ready to go to printer at end of month or right after Labor Day. Needs to be printed by Friday.

Make sure all contracts are signed. Artists cannot perform unless we have a signed contract from the principal artist, submitting proposal, because this also releases DramaRama and CAC of any liability.
SEPTEMBER

Purchase tickets for food and drinks.

Volunteer staffs are in place.

Ushers oriented early in the evening.

Pay CAC remainder of rent.

Write checks to stage managers and crew.

Figure out all other expenses such as printing, photographers, etc. Then, figure out artists' honoraria on sliding fee scale.

OCTOBER

Artists evaluation meeting. Give out checks to those who are there and mail the rest.

NOVEMBER

Work on final reports for DOA, Decentralized and Community Arts.

Discuss future arrangements with CAC.

DECEMBER

Send in final reports before the holidays. File Form 941 and complete W-2s for 1997 employees.

JANUARY

Begin planning for next year: funding, budget, staff, etc.

Begin recruiting artists for steering committee, if you want one, and new board members.

FEBRUARY

Work on Call for Entries to mail out early next month.
Job Description, Intern Project Manager for DramaRama, Inc.
**Job Description: Intern Project Manager**

Contacts participating artists and completes technical information forms.

Assists board president in preparation of 1998 Louisiana Decentralized Arts Program and Community Arts Program, due in May.

Assists in setting up jurying process for artists’ proposals.

Notifies featured artists.

Works with president and administrative coordinator on schedule, including working with LA Children’s Museum.

Assists president in hiring of production staff -- production stage manager, stage managers for each space.

Assists production stage manager with orientation, rehearsal schedules, and other duties on as needed basis.

Responds promptly and sensitively to artists questions and problems.

Works with president and project administrative coordinator on developing copy for program.

Works with president with coordination of marketing and publicity. Note: there will be some assistance in this area from a small marketing firm.

Assists project administrative coordinator with large assignments such as mailing invitation, artists’ correspondence in late June, etc.

Follows-up with artists who have not sent in signed contracts, program information, etc.

Uses timelines to ensure project stays on timely track -- forecasting and preparing for tasks on the horizon as well as immediate needs.

Communicates regularly with president and project administrative coordinator.

Assists president with arranging for photographers -- vide and still -- and program evaluators.

Assists president with preparation of comp list including funders, government representatives, etc. If possible a separate mailing with note should be sent to them letting them know that we will hold comps at the door.

Works with production stage manager and project administrative coordinator in preparation of artists’ list for stage door.
Assists production stage manager with coordination of borrowed equipment.

Assists with coordination of strike.

Assists president with coordination of artists evaluation meeting.

Assists president with preparation of final reports for 1997 funding.
Contract Between DramaRama, Inc. and Intern Project Manager
DramaRama, Inc.
P.O. Box 70232
New Orleans, LA 70172-0232

Intern Project Manager Agreement

This is an agreement between DramaRama, Inc. and Richard Read who will serve as Intern Project Manager for DramaRama5 and DramaRama, Jr., presented by DramaRama, Inc. and the Contemporary Arts Center in association with the Louisiana Children's Museum. Events will take place at the Contemporary Arts Center, 900 Camp Street, September 6, 1997 and at the Louisiana Children's Museum, September 6 and 7, 1997.

This agreement runs from April 8, 1997 through September 8, 1997 and includes the responsibilities attached. Project remuneration shall be $350 per month, totaling $1750.

Richard Read will work under the direction of DramaRama President, Kenneth C. Raphael, with Project Administrative Coordinator, Elizabeth Gill and with Contemporary Arts Center staff.

INTERN PROJECT MANAGER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT ALL DETAILS FOR RESPONSIBILITIES LISTED.

A budget for the production has been provided by DramaRama, Inc.

I have read the above and agree to these terms.

[Signature]
Intern Project Manager

[Signature]
For DramaRama, Inc.

Date Signed

[Signature]

Address
New Orleans, LA 70117

City, State, Zip

Social Security Number

D 'CJDOGPO'NI'DIPMRR WPD
Louisiana Division of the Arts Provider of Services Form

(example)
PROVIDER OF SERVICES FORM [OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES]

Provide the following information if the proposed project includes contracted fees for outside services [budget expense lines 33 and/or 34 from page 3 of this application form]. Use a separate copy of this form for each person or group; and one for the project director.

47. Person or group to provide services (Please see contact information given below.)

Address

City. State Zip

Professional Fee $50 - $250 per performance Total Fee $8,000

48. Service(s) to be provided performance

49. Brief résumé of Person or Group listed above. Do not attach additional pages. Do not type outside margin guides.

Frank H. Brown
1237 St. Andrew, Apt. 1
New Orleans, LA 70130
(h) 504 522 8224
(w) 504 581 2012

Frank Brown has a Bachelor’s Degree in Theatre from Southeastern Louisiana University. As a dancer, he has performed in a variety of companies, including the Southeastern Dance Ensemble, the Fellom Ballet, the New Orleans Ballet Association, and Anne Rice’s Memnock Ball. As a choreographer, he has organized numerous jazz and modern performances, including one chosen for competition at the American College Dance Festival, 1990.
DramaRama Technical and Biographical Questionnaire
DRAMARAMA
TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Time assigned: ____________
Space assigned: ____________

Phone number: ____________
Space requested: ____________

Length of work: ____________

Adult language or nudity? __

1. __ Is the work site specific? If so, why? ________________

2. __ If you are a dancer, can you perform your work on a surface other than wood? Describe: ________________

3. __ Are you or any member of your company involved in another DramaRama piece? Other piece/performer: ________________

4. __ Are there any times on Fri. and/or Sat. you are absolutely unable to perform? Times: ________________

5. __ Is any sound amplified or unusually loud? Describe: ________________

6. __ SOUND: (All pre-recorded sound to be on cassette tape. Not all spaces will have a sound system.)
   Are you using a cassette tape? ________________
   Can you furnish a portable tape player and operator? ________________
   Do you need standing microphones? Number: ________________
   How will they be used? ________________
   Are you using live music? No. of musicians: ________________
   Instruments: ________________
   What equipment will they bring? ________________
   Other sound equipment: ________________
7. **LIGHTING:** (We provide simple stage lighting. Special requests considered on a case by case basis. Artist will need to submit a detailed cue sheet in advance and provide a stage manager to call cues.)

   __ Any special lighting needs: ________________________________
   
   __ Any special lighting cues: ________________________________
   
   __ Other lighting equipment: ________________________________

8. **SET:**

   __ Bringing any set pieces? List: ______________________________
   
   Chairs needed: ________ Small tables: _______
   Large tables: _______

9. __ Other technical equipment? List: ____________________________

10. __ Will you need to rig or hang any objects? Describe: \( \text{(WHAT + WEIGHT)} \)

11. __ Do you have anything that needs to be plugged in? List: __

12. __ Do you need to use any other section of the space besides the stage? Describe: ________________________________

13. __ Do you use fire or smoke in any way? _____________________

14. __ Do you plan to videotape? Who will film for you? ________

15. __ Do you have any photographs that can be used for publicity? ________________________________

**NOTES:**

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

**ANY OTHER TECHNICAL SPECIFICS NOT ON APPLICATION:**

-2-
Schedule of Performances, DramaRama 5
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Atrium</th>
<th>Freeport</th>
<th>Bank One</th>
<th>Lupin</th>
<th>Rehearsal</th>
<th>Garage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:45</td>
<td>N'kafu (10)</td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td>NOCCA mimes</td>
<td>Summer Stages/Luther (30)</td>
<td>Kalinov (30)</td>
<td>Loose Cannons (30)</td>
<td>Baron (30)</td>
<td>Pierce (30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Rovers</td>
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<td>Out of Our Minds (22)</td>
<td>Raisen (11)</td>
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<td>7:45</td>
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<td>Dillard (30)</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Simpson (30)</td>
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<td>Stelly (35)</td>
<td>Miceli (#1) (35)</td>
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<td>NOCCA mimes</td>
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<td>Zwerling (20)</td>
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<td>8:15</td>
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<td>Grey (#1) (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Rovers</td>
<td>Lula Elzy (30)</td>
<td>Bratcher/3rd Eye (30)</td>
<td>Gault (10)</td>
<td>Terry (25)</td>
<td>Summer Stages/Eat (30)</td>
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<td>Winnier (20)</td>
<td>McGovern (10)</td>
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<td>DiMaggio (10)</td>
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<td>Champagne (9)</td>
<td>Top (30)</td>
<td>Miceli (#2) (20)</td>
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<td>Cocktail (30)</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Rovers</td>
<td>Lewinter-Suskind (30)</td>
<td>Schmidt &amp; Bell (10)</td>
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<td>Frank Brown (5)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>NOCCA mimes</td>
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<td>Mulvehill (12)</td>
<td>Johnson (15)</td>
<td>Skantze (30)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Nicole Colbert (15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Rovers</td>
<td>Brewer (#1 &amp; #2) (8 &amp;8)</td>
<td>Aqueno (30)</td>
<td>Ivker (25)</td>
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Program, DramaRama 5
Photos Unavailable
Nicole Colbert Dance Theatre
C.L. Pierson and John Schwartz
DramaRama, Inc.
and
the Contemporary Arts Center
present

DramaRama in cooperation with the
Louisiana Children’s Museum

DramaRama Board of Directors
Kenneth C. Raphael, President
MK Wegmann, Vice President
Adriana M. Bate, Secretary-Treasurer
Denise Chetta, Marimna Curry, Barry Ivker, Gail Morgan, John O’Neal, Gary Smith & Jan Villarrubia

Artists’ Liaison Committee
Adella Gautier, Rose Bratcher, Mikko, Karen-Kaia Livers, Terence Rosemore

Jonathan Taylor
Production Stage Manager
Richard Read
Intern Project Manager

Elizabeth Gill
Project Administrative Coordinator
Michael Batt
Technical Director

Stage Managers/Running Crew
Kristin Santos, Glen Mehn, Amy Cahn, Donald Lewis, Doug Roper, Gabriele Michell, Philip Tracy, Caroline Williamson and Julien Artressa

Atrium Coordinator
Paige Phillips

Public Relations
Rose Bratcher, Chris Jones, Vatican Lokey, Jon Pult, Gloria Powers and Kenneth C. Raphael

DramaRama is supported in part by the Arts Council of New Orleans by a grant from the Louisiana State Arts Council through the Louisiana Division of the Arts and through a Community Arts grant made possible by the City of New Orleans and supplemented by the Freeport McMoRan Endowment.

DramaRama is also supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Louisiana State Arts Council, and the Division of the Arts, Office of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

MISSION STATEMENT
DramaRama is designed to showcase the greater New Orleans theatre scene by bringing together the community of artists and audiences for an annual performance and celebration. Committed to inspiring a proliferation of professional theatre artists in the area, DramaRama offers a nurturing environment for new artists and encourages mid-career and established artists in their search for new and innovative types of theatre. DramaRama is dedicated to increasing theatre audiences by providing a venue for performance as diverse as the community it serves.

Program subject to change without notice.
**PERFORMANCES**

**ANTIGONE**
A scene from Jean Anouilh's Antigone. Adapted to re-create the atmosphere of Nazi-occupied France. Starring and directed by Neil Terry. Also starring and translated by R. B. Barryclay. Rehearsal, 8:30 - 9:00

**BIRDS 'N Booze**

**THE BODY ECLECTIC: SCENES FROM A SOUTHERN LIFE**
The Southern experience is evoked through original poetry written by "Del" Hall, performed to music composed by Joel Simpson. Bank One, 7:40 - 8:10

**BOUNDARIES OF A LIFE**
A work that tracks the journey from grief to healing in the wake of the violent death of a loved one. It deals with the reality of pain and confirming feelings and, finally, offers the assurance that we will all be right in the end. Written and directed by Valentine Pierce. Starring Pierce, Lester Joshua Smith, and Zenza Melaina Smith. Garages, 8:45 - 9:15

**BREAKFAST AT THE LOCAL CAFE**
A comedy sketch about a middle-aged Southern couple engaged in convoluted conversation at the local cafe. Stars Debbi Wise, Bob Gauld, and Marilyn Murphy. Lupin, 10:35 - 10:50

**CO-DEPENDENTLY DEVOTED TO YOU: A TRAGI-COMIC FROCK OPERA**
Conceived and performed by Pamela Prew and Pippin Paul. Garages, 11:30 - 12:00

**A CONDOMINIUM AT A GOOD PRICE**
Max and Sylvia share coffee, cake, and, in whatever form they remember them, memories, in a condominium high above the blue waters and early-bird diners of Miami Beach. Featuring Neil Nadler and Tony Nadler. Written by Leslie Lawrence-Sukkind. Rehearsal, 9:00 - 9:15

**CUTTING UP: A DELINQUENT BALLET FOR GUITAR AND SAW**
Written and performed by Anthony Pavre. Garages, 10:15 - 10:30

**A DANCE JOURNEY TO THE CRUCIFIXION**
A look at the profound emotional content to be found in biblical tales, conveyed by the breathtaking movements of the Lula Elzy New Orleans Dance Theatre. Biblical readings by Dolores Marsala and Patricia Hill McGuire, music by Delfrey Marsala and Kent Jordan. Freeport, 8:45 - 9:15

**EPIPHANY**
A dramatic scene between two lovers that juxtaposes various media. Performed by Karlynn Khmirt and Tommy J. Bell. Bank One, 11:35 - 11:45

**EVIDENCE OF ACTION III**
An expansion of a work shown at previous Dramaramas. The piece is "performed" all night long as you, the audience, interact with this intriguing installation. Created by C. L. Pierson and John Schwartz. Ramp Gallery, all night long.

**GRANDMA'S GARAGE**
A selection from a larger work dealing with a New Orleans Italian-Catholic family on St. Joseph's day. Featuring Lisa Miceli, who also wrote and choreographed the piece. Directed by George Kelly. Garages, 7:00 - 7:20

**HAMLET OMELLETTE**
The 6.98-minute Hamlet—complete featuring Jeff Burnett, Peter Gabb, Lenny Feller and Randy Lader. Directed by Randy Lader. Written and co-directed by Ellim Rabin. Special thanks to Leslie Lawrence-Sukkind. Rehearsal, 9:00 - 9:05 (or less...)

**HEART TO HEART**
A wife, chock-full of to-die-for recipes, attempts culinary homicide against her unsuspecting husband. Her wild Epicurean plot initially shocks her religious neighbor until the wife reveals a personal secret. Starring Carol Sutton and Karen-Kaia Livers. Written by Kathleen Mulvihill. Lupin, 9:35 - 9:50

**HOW TO EAT LIKE A CHILD...AND OTHER LESSONS IN NOT BEING GROWN-UP**
A musical romp through the joys and sorrows of being a kid, including such "how-to" lessons as "How to torture your sister," and "How to beg for a dog." Starring 10 kids from 8 to 18 from all around town. Created by Delvis Ebroson, John Forster, and Judith Kahn. Presented by Summer Stages. Garages, 8:00 - 8:30

**HUSBAND TO SPARE**
The story of two Southern women, both victims of circumstance, trying to co-exist among lies, deceit, and the ugly truth. Written by David R. Garrett. Starring Stuieren Wilkins and Patsy Kay Turner. Rehearsal, 10:45 - 11:15

**IN A CITY BESIEGED BY THE DEAD**
A writer, dancer, and performance artist who has worked across the country with underground luminaries like Lydia Lunch and Esrene Cervenka explores the dramatic theories of Antonin Artaud in an effort to immerse the audience in an event of pure, shape-shifting spectacle. Created by Vanessa Skantze. Starring Skantze, Sall Mulaio, and Brent Newman. Garages, 10:45 - 11:15

**I INHERITED THE PICAYUNE**
A monologue about a man whose long-lost relative bequeaths him the Times-Picayune. Christian Champagne is about to make a few changes... Lupin, 10:00 - 10:15

**IN THE BLUE ROOM**

**NOTE:** There is brief full nudity at the end of this piece. Freeport, 7:45 - 8:00

**INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE**
The Educational India Foundation presents Sangeeta Aksani, who will perform traditional Indian dance in honor of India's independence. Bank One, 9:00 - 9:15

**JAPANESE DANCE**
The 30 members of the Japan Minyo Club present traditional folk dance and modern dance, as well as the Festival Drum Dance led by Marko Tingley. Atrium, 6:30 - 7:00

**LAST CONFESSION**
A lawyer experiences a midlife crisis and turns to the Catholicism of his youth, reliving experiences both comic and terrifying. Starring and written by Stuart Stelly. Rehearsal, 7:25 - 8:00

**LAUGH-A-RAMA AT DRAMArama**
A best-of collection of their original sketch comedy. Stop by and see some of the skits that have made Louis Cannons a favorite in the Crescent City. Featuring Rose Buncher and Eddie Francus. Lupin, 11:30 - 12:00

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LUPIN GALLERY

* 7:00 - 7:25, "Par" is a comedy about three women roommates/friends with three very different viewpoints concerning traditional values, casual sex, and religion. Presented by Out of Our Minds.

7:45 - 8:00, Kim Menter and Daniel Sampey perform Philip Zwerling's "Trick or Treat," a look at the shooting of a Japanese exchange student in Baton Rouge and the role of gone in our society.

8:10 - 8:20, "Sex at Midlife" Bob Gault relates the thoughts of a man contemplating his views on sex from youth to midlife.

8:30 - 9:00, "No Matter What" is Ginnie Wintzer's dramatic piece about two women and their longstanding friendship, which is threatened by the revelation of a long-hidden secret.


9:35 - 9:50, A wife, check-full of to-die-for recipes, attempts culinary homicide against her unsuspecting husband in Kathleen Mulvihill's "Heart to Heart."

10:00 - 10:15, "Inherited the Piano" is Christian Champagne's monologue about a man whose long-lost relative bequeathed him the Piano-Pianos. He's about to make a few changes...

10:35 - 10:50, Debbi Wint and Bob Gault present "Breakfast at the Local Cafe," a comedy sketch about a middle-aged Southern couple engaged in rambling conversation at the local cafe.

11:05 - 11:20, "A Short Delay" is Alarash Johnson's casual piece that shows how people often resort to anger to express any thought, no matter how absurd and trivial.

REHEARSAL HALL

7:00 - 7:15, Tandra Dykes presents monologues from Shakespeare to Sam Shepard to Tennessee Williams.

7:25 - 8:00. In Stuart Stello's "Lost Confession," a lawyer experiences a midlife crisis and turns to the Catholicism of his youth, reliving experiences both comic and terrifying.

8:10 - 8:25, One Minute Play Contest (Round I) — participants TBA.

8:35 - 9:00, Neil Terry directs and performs in a scene from Jean Anouilh's "Antigone." Adapted to re-create the atmosphere of Nazi-occupied France. Also starring and translated by R. B. Barclay.

9:10 - 9:15, "Hamlet Omlette" is the 4:48 minute Hamlet — complete! Written by Elliott Raisen.

9:25 - 9:40, One Minute Play Competition (Round II) — participants TBA.

9:50 - 10:00, Carol McGovern's piece, "Visions," deals with a suicidal man arguing with his subconscious.

11:30 - 12:00, Starling Illias Productions will present a dramatic improvisation in which audience members take part in the impro and provide topic and form.

GARAGE

7:00 - 7:20, A selection from Lisa Mocell's "Grandma's Garage," a piece dealing with a New Orleans Italian Catholic family on St. Joseph's Day.

7:25 - 7:40, "The Zone—Dont Look at Anything" is a surreal performance piece on the pressure of time. Written and directed by Kathleen Welch.

* 9:30 - 10:00. "Birds 'n' Beaux" is a thirty-minute, spoken-word debacle. A tragicomedy portraying the ascent and descent, tinted in pink. Presented by Cocktail Magazine.

10:15 - 10:30, "Cutting Up: A Delinquent Ballet for Guitar and Sax," written and performed by Anthony Favre.

11:30 - 12:00, "Dual Dependent Divorce: A Tragic-Comic Fake Opera," conceived and performed by Pintul Pete and Poppin Paul.
AFRICAN DANCE COMPANY
The story of Mahlt, a young woman who sacrifices her beauty and thereby the possibility of ever being loved, for the love of her dying sister. A monologue is performed by Gabrielle Pickard, staged and coached by Xenia Kostorokov. Written by Yuri Grigarovich.
Freeport, 8:15 - 8:25

LUTHER
The tale of a big and high school student who avoids responsibility at all costs. Starring New Orleans’ finest young actors. Conceived, loved, for the love of her daughter. A multimedia performance piece set in a mythical rose garden in Bulgaria: A young lady on a quest for truth is led by Sophia, the Goddess of Wisdom, and her three daughters to seek out the aged prophetess Baba Vanga. Written and directed by Vitaly Kalinov. Music by Randal Calhoun. Illustrations by James Stein. Performed by Alphonso Bodin, Stephen Dornbos, Robert Minnott, and Kalinov.
Bank One, 7:00 - 7:30

LEGEND OF LOVE
The story of Mahlt, a young woman who sacrifices her beauty and thereby the possibility of ever being loved, for the love of her dying sister. A monologue is performed by Gabrielle Pickard, staged and coached by Xenia Kostorokov. Written by Yuri Grigarovich.
Freeport, 8:15 - 8:25

NO DEEPER MEANING
A comedic piece about three women roommates/friends with very different viewpoints concerning traditional values, casual sex, and religion. Starring Rose Bianco, Alcida Clemons, Kim Patterson, and Stephen Thurber. Directed by Out of Our Minds Productions.
Lupin, 7:00 - 7:25

SAGA IN THE SAHARA
Freeport, 9:30 - 9:50

OFF THE WALL AND IN THE AIR
A revival of the new vaudeville, where the world of the circus meets the world of the theatre. A highly skilled display of the manipulation of objects. Misdoggling. Choreographed and performed by Michael Lee Williams. Special thanks to David Franklin, Xenia Goldsmith, Pamela James, Jeffrey Lavorio, and Raymond Vreze, Jr.
Freeport, 9:30 - 12:00

ONE MINUTE PLAY CONTEST (SECTION ONE)
TBA
Rehearsal, 8:10 - 8:25

ONE MINUTE PLAY CONTEST (SECTION TWO)
PSA
Rehearsal, 9:25 - 9:40

A comedy about three women roommates/friends with very different viewpoints concerning traditional values, casual sex, and religion. Starring Rose Bianco, Alcida Clemons, Kim Patterson, and Stephen Thurber. Directed by Out of Our Minds Productions.
Lupin, 7:00 - 7:25

THANK YOU FOR FLYING

THIRD WORLD AIRLINES
A politically incorrect play that puissance fun at people’s perceptions of the “Third World.” Written and performed by Monica Layton.
Bank One, 10:40 - 11:10

THIRTY MINUTES IN A KLINE BOTTLE
A Kline bottle is a geometric figure that appears to be three-dimensional but only has one surface. Similarly, the characters in this play attempt to get outside themselves, but find themselves in the end, more into themselves than they were before. Starring Daphia Roth and Lee Prest. Written by Barry Iker. directed by Naima Iker.
Rehearsal, 10:10 - 10:35

THUNDER IN THE INDEX
A humorous examination of racial antipathy that uses sharply humorous dialogue to heighten its confrontations between a Jewish psychiatrist and his young African American patient. Directed by Dillard senior theatre major Jamila Gorton Sterling. Presented by the University Theatre at Dillard University.
Bank One, 8:20 - 8:50

TO PROVOKE AND OFFEND
To PROVOKE: Frank Aquino presents Joe Saltelle’s controversial essay “Rejecting the Gay Brain (And Choosing Homosexuality),” followed by an OFFENSIVE assault on the heterosexist dictatorship from his own “Queen Flair.”
Bank One, 10:00 - 10:30

TRICK OR TREAT
A look at the shooting of a Japanese exchange student in Baton Rouge and the role of guns in our society.
Written by Philip Swedling.
Lupin, 7:40 - 8:00

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"VIOLATION" AND "WITHIN REACH"

The former dance deal with issues of women being touched, while the latter considers the joy of movement. Featuring Dana Brewer, Jeanne Laboureffer, Nicole Faubihnder, Lilian Gray, Stacie Dautrieve, and Lesley Kernan, and the music of Ray Lynch. Choreographed by Dana Brewer. Freeport, 10:25 - 10:40.

VOICES

A play about a suicidal man arguing with his subconscious. Performed by Bob Announ and Patty Elson. Written by Carol McGovern. Rehearsal Hall, 9:00 - 10:00.

ZAMBRA

Related in form to the flamenco tientos and tangos. "Zambra" draws from the Arabesque and was composed for the Aloua Dance Company by John Burr, Jr. and James Clark. Choreographed by Anne Burr, and performed by Christine Barona, Lauren Boudreauuu, Anne Burr, Camille Mouton and Gabe Pickard. Music by John Burr, Jr. and James Clark. Freeport, 10:00 - 11:00.

THE ZOO—DON'T LOOK AT ANYTHING!

A surreal performance piece on the pressure of time. Scarlet theories, swamp deer, leaf blowers, and stress-strung maracas make an appearance, as well as a ten-foot, organic clock. Written and directed by Kathleen Welch; performed by Welch and Alan Gillivery. Garage, 7:30 - 7:45.
Organizational Chart, DramaRama, Inc.
DramaRama, Inc.
Organizational Chart