

Publicity and Technical Co-Director **Mark Thompson Leonard's** resume in theater covers playwrighting to stage managing and all points in between. Leonard's theatrical accomplishments include a Theater Arts M.F.A. from the University of Mississippi, Oxford, and certification from the University of California, Los Angeles in both Professional Screenwriting and Novel Writing. He is an active member of the California Scriptwriters Association and the Dramatists Guild, and a published novelist and short story writer.

Charles Montgomery, Technical Co-Director, first found his way into theater when he heckled an actor's rehearsal performance, and was instantly tapped by the director to fill the role. Montgomery soon found his niche behind the scenes, while continuing to act and performing stand up. Montgomery's technical theatre credits include "Fences" at the Shreveport Little Theater and "A Raisin in the Sun" and "Five Women in the Same Dress" at LSU Shreveport.

Diane McCarthy, the Company's front of house manager, opened an Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Lake Charles in the 1980s, through which she trained a generation in the art of ballroom and social dance. She is an actor/administrator with Lake Charles' ACTS Theatre group, and president of the SWLA Historical Association.

Allegra Kaough is our administrator, associate publicist, and problem-solver. **Kitty Schweitzer** and **Waverlyn Bayard** built our costumes. **Courtney Hebert's** Judith Shakespeare Designs created our website and our Louisiana Women logo. **Austin Blalock**, **Alex Warnken**, and **Brooke Woosley** designed our print materials. **Tesa Pace** created materials enabling teachers to use "Louisiana Women" in the classroom. **Liza Battestin** is our box office assistant.

For this Fringe Festival production we've partnered with the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, as Clementine Hunter's and Clyde Connell's works are in the Museum's permanent collection. Those pieces are on display in the Fourth Floor Gallery. AlterEgo Productions is grateful for the assistance of the Ogden and its staff members who have been instrumental in bringing this production to the Museum's extraordinary libraries. We especially want to thank Education Coordinator Kate Barron, who initiated the project, Co-Director & Chief Curator David Houston, Production Manager & Curator of Southern Music Libra LaGrone, Public Relations Director Sue Strachan and Retail Manager Elizabeth Bowie.

AlterEgo Productions in association with Mahogany Ensemble Theatre

presents

"Clementine" and "Clyde"

by Carolyn Woosley

Act I

"Clementine" Angelique Feaster

15 minute intermission

Act II

"Clyde"Carol Anne Gayle

"Clementine" and "Clyde" are two of Carolyn Woosley's "**Louisiana Women**," a cycle of 12 one-woman plays exploring the lives of extraordinary women in extraordinary times. Six of these plays toured Louisiana this Fall, in two separate companies: The "Originals" performed Clementine Hunter, Marie Thérèse Coincoin and Nellie Lutchter. The "Visionaries" toured Clyde Connell, Caroline Dormon and Kate Chopin.

Clementine Hunter was born into a life of manual labor, first picking cotton, and later working as maid and cook at Melrose Plantation. But she ended up as a well-known and highly regarded primitive painter whose distinctive works are so numerous, collectible, and valuable, that they've spawned a small industry of alleged forgers, some of whom are currently under indictment by the federal government. One reason for Hunter's popularity as an artist is her subject matter: Her memories of the minutiae and activities of daily life in a rural community informed all her paintings, which are rare visual records of driving cotton to the gin and other long-gone types of farm work. She was a woman of faith, frequently painting images of angels and the religious ritual of baptism, one of her most popular subjects.

Clementine Hunter is portrayed by **Angelique Feaster**, artistic director of the Doyline-based Mahogany Ensemble Theatre, which co-produced "Clementine," and founder of Shreveport's bi-annual Southern Black Theatre Festival. She directed "Waiting to be Invited," "CROWNS," "The Drum and Indigo Blues" by Judi Ann Mason, "Ritual Murder" by Thomas Dent, and a staged reading of "For Colored Girls" by Ntozake Shange. Feaster's acting credits

include a co-starring role on Lifetime TV's *The Division*, industrials and regional and local commercials; her stage roles include "CROWNS," "Frankenstein," "Having Our Say," and "The Women." Feaster is a State-certified creative educator and a motivational speaker and is a Centenary College graduate with a B.A. in Speech and Theater, and a Masters in Education Administration.

Clyde Connell, the Presbyterian Women's leader, civil rights activist, and abstract expressionist painter and sculptor, ended her years at Lake Bistineau, creating arresting works that expressed her feelings about social and civic concerns, especially the division of the races in Churches and in public life. Connell's discovery and love of abstract expressionism was born during her annual pilgrimages to Presbyterian Church Women's council meetings in New York City, and grew with her emergence as a highly regarded artist in the field. Connell's fame came quite late in her life; she was in her 70s when she had her first show in Dallas, and in her 80s when she had her first New York show. Today her work is found in the collections of many discerning art buyers, public buildings, and museums.

Clyde Connell is portrayed by **Carol Anne Gayle**, artist and actor, originally from Cape Cod, where she learned her craft at the Provincetown Playhouse, and later, in New York, in the company of luminaries such as Diane Keaton, from Sanford Meisner at the Neighborhood Playhouse school of acting. After moving to Lake Charles, Gayle became a fixture on the area's theatre scene, acting, directing, and creating works of passion and substance for the Lake Charles Little Theatre and others. Gayle's work includes numerous film credits, as an actor, artist and scenic designer, and at present, she works as Exhibit and Program Specialist for Lake Charles' Historic City Hall Museum. Lake Charles Little Theatre and Gayle produced "Clyde," under the direction of Adley Cormier in 2001.

Carolyn Woosley, retired financial planner and Lake Charles-based playwright, is also an activist involved in environmental, educational, inner city, and cultural nonprofit work. Her efforts helped return public radio KRVS to Southwest Louisiana's airwaves, restored the 75-acre rustic campus of Camp Fire SWLA's Camp Wi-Ta-Wentin, and were instrumental in forming the Music Museum of SWLA, which is currently archiving the region's music. She works to raise awareness

of coastal erosion issues of SWLA's Chenier Plain. Her one-actor one-act plays have been produced at the Lake Charles Little Theatre and several full-length plays have been workshopped by The Readers' Theatre. "Fanny," her screenplay about Felix Mendelssohn's older sister, is optioned. She is currently revising her previously-produced one-act play "Walking On Air" as a full-length screenplay. Woosley thanks Beverly Hills-based autograph authenticator **Sara Willen**, for her work as editor of the "Clementine" script prior to its 1999 production.

Marie Anne Chiment has created sets and costumes for hundreds of productions across America for opera, theatre and dance, including for [Santa Fe Opera](#), [Chicago Lyric Opera](#), Kennedy Center, Wolftrap Opera and [Broadway's Minskoff Theatre](#). She has designed national tours of "Grease" and "Carousel," as well as the GLAMA award-winning world premiere of "Patience & Sarah" for the [Lincoln Center Festival](#). Chiment received her MFA in 1981 from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, winning the J.S. Seidman Award for design excellence. She is the Theater Department Chair of Temple University in Philadelphia.

Adley Cormier designed the sets for "Clementine" and "Clyde" and, with his artist wife **Melinda Antoon Cormier**, built the sets and props. Cormier, a Breaux Bridge native, avid Southwest Louisiana historian, and a longtime champion of his adopted city, serves as Chair of the Lake Charles Downtown Development Association. His directing credits span 40 years, 35 of them as Lake Charles Little Theatre's principal director and designer. He directed the LCLT's and Carol Anne Gayle's production of "Clyde" in 2001. **Philip Gould's** photograph of a Louisiana live oak tree forms the backdrop to all "Louisiana Women" performances.

Producer **Leslie Berman**, principal of AlterEgo Productions, is an attorney focusing her practice on arts and entertainment transactions and criminal defense. Berman has produced, directed, programmed and publicized concerts, music festivals and theatre projects for more than 40 years. A former music critic for such publications as *Rolling Stone*, *The Village Voice*, and *New York Newsday*, Berman writes a biweekly music column for Lake Charles' *The Jambalaya News*.

