

# STAGES

**CAPITAL**★  
**REPERTORY** theatre  
managed by PROCTORS

**SISTERS ROSENSWEIG** Edition  
Jan 20 – Feb 19

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT GORGEOUS

Dr. Gorgeous Teitelbaum, that is. What a name – what a character! It's the role played by Madeline Kahn at Lincoln Center in the early nineties, and it won her a Tony Award. Later, the role was played (some say to even greater acclaim) by Linda Lavin.

Madeline Kahn was once quoted as saying, "It's acceptable for men to act the fool. When women try, they're considered aggressive and opinionated." One can see why Ms. Kahn was attracted to the part. All of the women in Wendy Wasserstein's play *The Sisters Rosensweig* are multi-faceted, and Gorgeous is certainly no exception. At times feisty, loud and passionate, she is alternatively astute, practical, and downright smart. Proud one moment, and self deprecating the next, it's too easy to call Gorgeous an enigma because it belittles the fact that most real women are too complicated to nail down to a simple adjective or two. That's the joy and the challenge of a role like Gorgeous. It's the kind of part, sadly all too rare, that actor's consider a real gift. . . because she's not a one-note joke. Even if she is damn funny most of the time.

What you may not know is that all of the characters in *The Sisters Rosensweig* are loosely based on actual people in the life of playwright Wendy Wasserstein. It is often cited as her most autobiographical work. As you may expect, the names have been changed. All, that is, except the most outrageous one: Gorgeous. In real life, there was Sandra, Gorgeous and Wendy. In *The Sisters Rosensweig* we meet Sara, Gorgeous and Pfeni. In the play, we learn how Pfeni got her odd name, but the only reference to Gorgeous' name comes when the sisters are wondering aloud how their mother could have done such a lousy job with them:

*GORGEOUS: Well, it's not daddy's fault. He called me Gorgeous.*

Ms. Wasserstein's real mother, Lola, was a Jewish woman who grew up in Brooklyn after emigrating from Poland as a young child. She married a man named George, and had two children, Sandra and Abner. When George died suddenly of appendicitis, Lola soon married George's brother, Morris. Her first child with Morris was named Georgette, after her first husband. The story goes that when Morris first saw his baby daughter Georgette, he exclaimed, "She's gorgeous!" and the name stuck.

Gorgeous Wasserstein married a doctor, while Gorgeous Teitelbaum married a lawyer. Either



Sister Gorgeous (Yvonne Perry) bemoans that one little nut is so fattening in Wendy Wasserstein's romantic comedy, *THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG*  
Photo by Joe Schuyler

way, this must have made their Jewish mothers proud. The real Gorgeous now goes by her given name, Georgette, and she and her husband Albert run the Wilburton Inn in Manchester, VT. Yes, close enough to come see Capital Rep's production this season. Word is, they're planning on it. How wonderful is that?

In life, Wendy was 14 years younger than her half sister Sandra. In the play, the character Pfeni is also 14 years junior to her older sister Sara. In the middle of both fact and fiction, there is Gorgeous.

Locally based professional actress Yvonne Perry will be playing the role of Gorgeous Teitelbaum in Capital Rep's upcoming production of *The Sisters Rosensweig*. She has previously been seen on the Cap Rep stage in *Intimate Apparel*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and *A Christmas Story*. Yvonne also often works in television, film and corporate narration, and has been an adjunct professor at UAlbany for 12 years.

Following her insights through the rehearsal process on Capital Rep's FACEBOOK page! Be our friend!

## BEHIND-THE-SCENES WITH MAGGIE & SPECIAL GUEST GEORGETTE 'GORGEOUS' LEVIS

For this production we are fortunate enough to have Georgette 'Gorgeous' Levis, the last surviving sibling of the Wasserstein family as a special guest. This is happening Sunday, February 12th starting promptly at 12:30pm.



Georgette 'Gorgeous' Levis and Yvonne Perry

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## SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG

**OPENING NIGHT** will be in the lobby of Capital Repertory Theatre. The pre-show entertainment will be Jazz Guitarist and singer Bobbie Vandetta. As usual, we will have post-show desserts and champagne in the café where you'll get a chance to meet the cast and crew.

**NEW SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT** - On Wednesday January 25th we will have a special press night where we will be announcing the 2012-2013 Season.

**CHEF'S TABLE** is on Tuesday, January 31st with pre-show music in the lobby with Bobbie Vandetta and complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Chef's Table is hosted by the Bayou Cafe.

**POST-SHOW DISCUSSION NIGHTS** with cast and Artistic Director is happening Wednesday February 1st and Wednesday February 8th.

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## BOX OFFICE NEWS & NOTEWORTHY

**Box Office Hours:** The Capital Rep Box Office at 111 North Pearl Street is currently only open 2 hours before each performance. **Tickets also may be purchased three ways through our partner - Tickets by Proctors:**

- 1. On the phone**, by calling 518-445-SHOW: Monday through Friday 10am – 6pm Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm
- 2. In person** at the Proctors Box Office 432 State Street Schenectady: Monday through Friday 10 am – 6pm Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm
- 3. Online** 24 hours a day at capitalrep.org

Please note for credit card purchases, your statement now will show a charge to Proctors (our management partner).



## OPEN YOUR MIND (AND OTHERS)

The arts are an invasion of the senses and mind through words, movement, light and music. At Capital Rep, we do just that by offering outstanding productions and strong educational programs for area schools that are accessible to everyone.

To produce professional theatre costs much more than what is generated in our ticket sales alone. Nearly 40% of the budget is funded directly by individual gifts, sponsorships and grants. Without your annual support, there would be no Capital Repertory Theatre.

## BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Thank you for letting us into your head and heart. Thank you in advance for helping us to promote theatre, creativity and thoughtfulness in the Capital District.

## IT PAYS TO BE A STUDENT – \$16 TICKETS TO OUR SHOWS

It's important that every student has a chance to experience live theatre, especially shows that are locally produced. At Capital Rep, there is something for everyone, no matter what your interests are. We feel that the longevity of Capital Rep involves everyone and it's for that reason that we have student tickets for all of our performances. They are \$16 and all they have to do is let the box office representative know that they are a student.

## OUR PRODUCTION OF THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED TRUSTEE MIRIAM NETTER

Miriam Netter – known to us as "Mimi" – loved life, art, education, law and most of all, her family. As a member of the Board of Trustees at Capital Rep for six years, Mimi championed the value of arts education and helped craft the theatre's education mission, "to increase critical thinking skills and develop responsive citizens through experiences in theatre arts."

When Mimi passed away in 2010 after a brave fight with ovarian cancer, our lights dimmed. True to her spirit, she provided Capital Rep with a generous bequest in support of our education work. We now honor all of her work on our behalf, her generosity and great heart by dedicating this production to our Mimi. Indeed, she is a hard act to follow!



## DREAM RAFFLE RESULTS!

The support of *MAN OF LA MANCHA* audiences & Capital Rep board members was outstanding with a final total of \$11,075! Congratulations to our three Impossible Dream Raffle winners:

- 1st : Bill Blain from Clifton Park won the Cafe Capriccio Dinner
- 2nd: Fred Burdeck from Delmar won the Jersey Boys tickets
- 3rd: Karen McDonald from Clifton Park won the Wine & Dine for the Arts tickets

