

AMERICAN STORY THEATER MEDIA RELEASE

From: Beth Hellman, American Story Theater

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www.americanstorytheater.org (photos and bios online)

Please call or email for interviews of artists.

For immediate release.

Date: 6/1/06

ARTICLE AND CALENDAR LISTING

Kill date 7/19/06

HEADLINE: Odd Wednesdays - American Story Theater @ AS220

Subhead: "Have a drink, hear a story, tell a lie."

The American Story Theater is pleased to announce the extension of its "Odd Wednesday" Story series with two new performances scheduled in June and July.

On June 14, Maine's Jackson Gillman and New Hampshire's Pat Spalding will share the stage, offering stories of "Fowl Play" and "From Ohio to Belize"

On July 19, world-famous storyteller Judith Black will present "The Fading Scent of a..." (A woman explores life after menopause).

Doors open at 7:30. Open mic begins at 8pm. Featured performers start at 9pm. Admission is \$10. Students, seniors and the under-employed are \$5. AS220 is near Trinity Rep at 115 Empire Street, Providence, RI.

"The audience response to stories targeted for grown-ups is phenomenal," said AST director Mark Binder. "People forget how much fun it is to listen to a great yarn. We just ordered another 50 chairs!"

More details...

(Images of all artists are available at <http://www.americanstorytheater.org/>)

Pat Spalding is a recovering puppeteer who subscribes to Utne Reader. After spending the last twenty-five years schlepping around with hand puppets, shadow figures, costume characters, staging, lights, props, and a husband, she has freed up her hands and her ring finger to return to unaccessorized storytelling. Pat now travels light with original stories, monologues, and poems. Are you approaching the big Five-Oh! without feeling particularly celebratory? Would you like to exchange surprise party plans for a plane ticket out of the country? Let Pat tell you how she did it as she navigates her way from Ohio to Belize. Unafraid to tell it like it is, like it was, and maybe will be. Pat's stories have been described as "honest, deep, moving," and "really funny." Her essays have been featured on N H Public Radio and her poems are now catching attention.

Visit her web site: <http://www.PatSpalding.com/>

Jackson Gillman's storytelling is very lively and fun, spiced up with interactive music and comedy. His visit will include a RI premiere of "Fowl Play", a barnyard murder mystery. Jackson is very adept at getting audience members to participate, WITHOUT embarrassing anyone.

"Stand-Up Chameleon" Jackson Gillman magically transforms himself into a wide array of eccentric characters through his many talents as mime, actor, songsmith and storyteller. His performance roots are in cabaret, but Jackson has made a name for himself in the storytelling world and was a Teller-In-Residence at the International Storytelling Center last summer. For two weeks each year he is also Rudyard-in-Residence at Kipling's historic Vermont home.

Jackson has thrice been a featured performer at the National Storytelling Festival in Tennessee, and has performed at festivals and schools throughout the country. For twenty years Jackson hosted a summer concert series of comedy, music and New Vaudeville on Mount Desert Island. Presenting a new thematic program each year, he set up comedy/music shop every summer and toured the rest of the year. Year-round he now brings his unique brand of one-man theater to diverse audiences across the nation. Whether performing on concert stages, at colleges, business functions, festivals, school assemblies or libraries, Jackson Gillman delights his audiences with his inventions while touching them with his personal warmth.

Judith Black writes "The working title for my piece is *The Fading Scent of Pussy*: A story teller explores life after menopause This might be a little, uh, inappropriate for your series." [Well, we did leave it off the poster, postcard and press release.... But the topic and issue are 100% dead-on.]

Judith Black is a professional storyteller with a national following. Last year she was inducted into the National Storytelling Network's (largest storytelling membership organization in the world) Circle of Excellence "For exceptional commitment and exemplary contribution to the art of storytelling." She also opened a new one-woman show "Retiring the Champ" which explores issues of aging and dying in America.

The Boston Phoenix: "Her sympathetic persona is a cross between Lily Tomlin and Woody Allen, the hard edge of feminist certitude cushioned by self-deprecating humor that never slides into self hatred."

The American Story Theater produces and presents an unmatched variety of story performances for all ages -- bringing America's history, heritage and cultures to life. American Story Theater Programs are inspiring, innovative and entertaining programs that promote community, learning, literacy, love of language, respect for diversity, and powerful communication.

For more information about The American Story Theater please visit www.americanstorytheater.com or call (401) 272-8707.