PAUL JONES (lighting design) is glad to be back working with the talented and fun bunch he met at the Obie-winning Caught in the Act festival in 1996. Paul Jones is founder of Wavetek Productions, a lighting design and electrics crew company for theater, dance, video, and events, and is proud that Caught in the Act at HERE Theater was Wavetek's first client, and one of his most enjoyable projects. Other favorite projects are the improv groups Centrailia and Burn Manhattan and the best Rock Puppet extravaganza ever - Uncle Jimmy's Dirty Basement. You can reach Paul at Wavetek Productions: pjwavetek@aol.com 917.783.1829

THE CAST

ELEANOR RUTH (Mother) is pleased to be collaborating with Pamela Billig again, having previously worked with her in NYC productions of Steinway Grand, Cruma, No Conductor, Mario Fratti’s Our Family and Diderot’s Wicked Philanthropy, as well as dozens of staged readings. Other New York credits include Brave New World Repertory Theatre's site-specific To Kill a Mockingbird, Ladies at Play (Michael Rupert, director), Dubliners and several performance art pieces with choreographers Linda Kohl and Roni Gross. Extensive regional credits include The House of Blue Leaves (Bananas), How the Other Half Loves (Fiona), Little Mary Sunshine (Mme. Ernestine), Once Upon a Mattress (Aggravain), Hamlet (Gertrude), King Lear (Goneril) and Lady Macbeth. An accomplished puppeteer, Eleanor has also toured extensively with Starry Night Puppet Theatre and Robert Rogers Puppet Company. With Pamela Billig, Eleanor toured to three cities in Hungary, and served as Festival Coordinator for Caught in the Act.


SHÂN WILLIS (Rosanna) Broadway: ‘Gertrude’in The Fifteen Minute Hamlet; ‘Mrs. Drudge’ in The Real Inspector Hound. Off-Broadway and beyond: ‘Eliza’in Pygmalion; ‘Charlotte Corday’ in Marat/Sade; ‘Rosalind’ in As You Like It; ‘Susan’ in Plenty; ‘Masha’ in The Three Sisters; ‘Portia’ in Julius Caesar; ‘Connie’ in Habeas Corpus; ‘Carmen’ in The Balcony; ‘Snake Handler’ in Talking With... and the 83-year-old ‘Henny’ in Bosoms and Neglect. (Shân graduated from NYU and has studied with Rina Yerushalmi, Anne Bogart, Michael Kahn, Joseph Chaikin, Terry Schreiber, Patsy Rodenberg, and Patrick Tucker, among others.) Shân is also a director, editor, copy editor, ghostwriter, proofreader, animal lover, thrift shoppe sojourner, and motorcyclist.

by MARIO FRATTI
Directed by PAMELA BILLIG

The First Floor at La MaMa
74A East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
May 18 thru June 4, 2006
Thursday & Saturday @ 8PM & Sunday @ 2:30PM & 8PM
MARIO FRATTI (author) is a playwright and drama critic who was born in Italy (L'Aquila) but has lived in New York since 1963. His remarkable body of work (over 80 plays) includes such noteworthy plays as The Cage, The Victim, Suicide, Return, Che Guevara, Eleonora Duse, Seducers and Refrigerators. His previous La MaMa productions include Refrigerators, Madame Senator, Passionate Women and Erotic Adventures in Venice. Fratti's plays, including Refusal, Academy, Young Wife, Birthday, Mothers and Daughters, Mafia, The Gift, Races, Bridge, Lovers, Friends, Encounter, A.I.D.S., Porno, Two Centuries, Dolls No More, Family, and Leningrad, have been published and performed in 19 languages in over 600 theaters. Broadway audiences know him as author of the adaptation of Fellini's film “8½” that became “Nine,” a Broadway musical that won the O'Neill Selection Award, the Richard Rodgers Award, the Outer-Critics Circle Award, the Leone di San Marco Literary Award, the Heritage and Cultural Award, eight Drama Desk Awards and seven Tony Awards.

PAMELA BILLIG (director) directed stage and video versions of Mario Fratti's Toys and Our Family which toured to NYC public schools. She is Artistic Director of the Threshold Theater Company, which she co-founded with Eugene Brogyáni. The company is dedicated to presenting international drama hitherto never or rarely available to American readers and audiences. Its credits include the English-language premiere of Diderot's Est-il bon? Est-il méchant?, a three-city tour of Hungary with Géza Pászkádi's No Conductor, and four seasons of the OBIE Award winning Caught in the Act Festival of modern international one-act plays at HERE, featuring works translated from more than a dozen languages.

DEBRA STEIN (Costume Designer) was the costume designer for the original production of Forever Plaid in New York City in May 1990, and most "Plaids" since then with national and international productions, as well as productions of Plaid Tidings at Pasadena Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, and Studio Arena in Buffalo. Ms. Stein was costume designer for NBC's Another World; PBS's A Marriage:O'Keefe and Stieglitz (with Jane Alexander and Christopher Plummer); and was the associate designer for CBS's At Mother's Request (a mini-series with Stefanie Powers and Frances Sternhagen ). In New York she was the costume designer for many productions at Primary Stages including The Old Settler (with Leslie Uggams); This Lime Tree Bower (written by Conor McPherson; directed by Harris Yullin ); When They Speak of Rita (written by Daisy Foote, directed by Horton Foote); Nasty Little Secrets: The High Life and Brutality of Fact (written by Keith Reddin, and directed by Casey Childs). Ms. Stein was privileged to design Echoes of the War with Frances Sternhagen and Richard Easton at the Mint Theatre. She also designed Still Life by Ferenc Molnar for Ms. Billig in the Caught in the Act festival.

EUGENE BROGYÁNI (set design) was resident designer for the Caught in the Act festival’s 1996 and 1997 seasons. He has designed scenery on two continents for plays by Lanford Wilson, Geza Paskandi, Ferenc Molnar, Oscar Wilde, and other European and American playwrights.

SUSAN MANIKAS (stage manager). In New York, Susan has stage managed Dream Play at the Henry Street Settlement, I'm Gonna Kill the President at PS122, The Love Talker in the NYC Fringe, Unlonely Planet at Theater for the New City, A Beginner’s Guide to Deicide with the Vampire Cowboys, A Midsummer Night’s Dream with Honk Bark, Full Bloom at Vital Theatre, and a variety of musicals for children for Vital Children's Theatre.