

**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 *Centrallia* 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](mailto: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*.

**BRIAN VOELCKER** (Carlo) NYC and regional credits include: Off-Broadway - *Richard III* and *Richard II* Theatre for a New Audience, also - *The Lion*, *The Witch* and *The Wardrobe* with the Lincoln Center Institute, *Pineapple* and *Henry* with The Workshop Theater, *The Dancing Fox*, *Stone Monkey Banished*, *Psyche* and *The Little Engine That Could* with Mettawee River Theatre Co., *Speakeasy* Kingston Rep., *Two Gentlemen of Verona* Theatre 10-10, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Tulsa Rep, *Romeo and Juliet* Heights Players, *Peter Pan* theatreworks usa, and the *Caught in the Act* Festival (Obie award winner 1998). Television and film include: *Unsolved Mysteries*, *Puppetry - Worlds of Imagination*, NYC2012 - olympic promo. Brian holds a BA from Muhlenberg College and his MFA in acting from Brandeis University.

**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.

La MaMa etc.  
presents

# SISTER



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

**Sister**  
by Mario Fratti

Directed by Pamela Billig  
Set design by Eugene Brogyányi  
Costume design by Debra Stein  
Lighting design by Paul Jones

Cast of *Sister*

Mother.....Eleanor Ruth  
Son (Carlo).....Brian Voelcker  
Daughter (Rosanna).....Shân Willis

Takes place in Milan in the mid 1960's.

The actors appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

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Production Stage Manager.....Susan Manikas  
Lightboard Operator.....David Bonilla  
Assistant Costume Designer.....Eugene Nicks  
Electricians.....Lucky Dave and Raven, Wavetek Productions  
Technical Director.....Russell Stevens  
Post card design.....Eugene Brogyanyi and Steven Espinoza  
Post card image.....Amedeo Modigliani  
Props.....Brad Melamed and Russell Stevens  
Dresser.....Eugene Nicks

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Fred Clapper, Susan Moon, Andrew Gugler, Mike Baden, Hal Spitzer, Erin Joy Swank of the  
Stage Managers Association

Pamela Billig thanks the LaMama administrative staff for welcoming this production: Denise,  
Nicky, Kiku, Michael, Blu and Annie. We are very grateful to Mark Tambella. Special thanks  
to Bev Petty and Gretchen Green for making us feel like part of the family.

**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 Brogyanyi. 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 Páskándi'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 BROGYANYI** (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.