



Amphibian Stage Productions
Presents reading of *Full Gallop*

For press information:
Melissa Mitchell 817-923-3012
melissa@amphibianproductions.org

Amphibian Stage Productions will launch its ninth season of readings and performances on Sunday, February 10 at noon and Monday, February 11 at 7 p.m. with *Full Gallop* by Mark Hampton & Mary Louise Wilson at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell Street.

The reading is free with a suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. For more information, call 817-923-3012 or visit www.amphibianproductions.org. On Monday evening, Amphibian offers live music and a cash bar in the lobby from 6 to 7 pm.

FULL GALLOP is based on the life of Diana Vreeland, who stood at the center of American style for five decades. As editor of Harper's Bazaar and Vogue magazines, and as a member of the International Cafe Society, she chronicled the extraordinary people and events of her time. FULL GALLOP is a portrait of this remarkable woman at a turning point in her life. Vreeland has just returned home to New York after four months in Europe--a trip she took after being fired from Vogue magazine. She throws an impromptu dinner party in the hope that a wealthy friend who is invited will bankroll her in starting a magazine of her own. Other friends, however, attempt to persuade her to take a job at the famed Metropolitan Museum of Art. In her distinctive style, once she decides in which direction her life will move, she goes at it "full gallop."

Bios for *Full Gallop*

JV Mercanti (Director) For Amphibian: *Bach at Leipzig* (staged reading), *Icarus, Matt & Ben*, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (staged reading), and *Julia Pastrana, the Ugliest Woman in the World*. At Mason Gross School of the Arts: *Therese Raquin*, *As Bees in Honey Drown*, *Other People*, and *Hello Out There*. Resident Director of the National Tour of *Cabaret* (directors: Rob Marshall and Sam Mendes). Broadway and off-Broadway Assistant Director credits include: *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* (revival), *Little Me* (starring Martin Short), *You Never Can Tell* (Roundabout Theater Company). JV has also worked on new play development for the New Harmony Theater Project. He has worked as a Casting Associate on numerous Broadway and off-Broadway shows for Roundabout Theatre Company. Currently he works as a Producing Associate dedicated to developing new works for the theater. JV was recently Casting Director of *Cyrano de Bergerac* on Broadway starring Kevin Kline and Jennifer Garner.

Anne-Lynn Kettles (*Diana Vreeland*) For Amphibian: *Icarus, A Room of One's Own*. Representative Regional Credits: *A Christmas Carol*; Hartford Stage Co., Hartford CT. Hot L Baltimore; Connecticut Repertory Co; *A Room of One's Own*, Hartford, CT. *Prides Crossing*, Stage West, Ft. Worth TX; *Broken Glass*, Theatre Three, Dallas, TX. *Three Tall Women*, Circle Theatre, Ft. Worth, *Master Class*, Stage West, Ft. Worth. Other professional credits: *Sister Mary Ignatios, Tea and Sympathy*, Miami, FL. *Toys in the Attic*, Center Stage, Baltimore, MD. *The Royal Family*. Alliance Theater, Atlanta GA. *Lettice and Louage, A Delicate Balance*, Ft. Worth. N.Y. credits: *Six Characters in Search of an Author, A Clearing in the Woods, Silent Night, Lonely Night*. TV/Radio/Commercials: *BL Stryker, Miami Vice, Voice of America, PBS Great Performance: All Over*. Training: Uta Hagen, HB Studios NY.

Mary Louise Wilson (*Playwright*) won a Tony Award, and was nominated for Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Lortel awards and was honored by the Drama League for her performance in *Grey Gardens*. She starred in *Full Gallop*, a play about the legendary Diana Vreeland co-authored by Ms. Wilson with Mark Hampton. Her performance won both an Obie and a Drama Desk Award, and the play has since been produced across the country as well as in London, Australia, South Africa, South America, France, Italy and Uruguay. She was nominated for a Tony Award for her performance as Fraulein Schneider in the Broadway revival of *Cabaret*, and her many other Broadway credits include *Show Boat; Fools; Prelude to a Kiss; Alice in Wonderland; The Philadelphia Story; The Royal Family; Gypsy; The Women;* and *Flora, the Red Menace*. Off-Broadway credits include NYTW's *The Beard of Avon* (Drama Desk nomination), Signature's *Bosoms and Neglect* and both *Flaubert's Latest* and *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You* at Playwrights Horizons. Films include *Stepmom, Huck Finn, Green Card, Everybody Wins, She-Devil, Pet Cemetery, Zelig, The Money Pit, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, King of the Gypsies* and *Klute*. Television includes "The Sopranos," "Frasier" and "Cosby."

Mark Hampton (*Playwright*) co-authored *Full Gallop* with Mary Louise Wilson. With Barbara J. Zitwer he wrote *Paper Dolls*, which premiered in 2001 at the Public Theatre in Pittsburgh.

Amphibian is generously sponsored by the Arts Council of Fort Worth & Tarrant County, Amon G. Carter Foundation, Bank of America, the Pangburn Foundation, Pier 1, Hobbs Charitable Trust/Wells Fargo Bank - trustee, Tobin Theatre Arts Fund, Webb-Maddox Trust/JP Morgan – trustee, Worth Bank, and Ms. Ann L. Rhodes, among others.