

Amphibian Productions
Presents reading of *A Nervous Smile*

For press information:
Lisa Taylor, 214-943-1099
lisatmp@swbell.net

Amphibian Productions, the theater company founded by TCU graduates in 2000, will continue its eighth season of readings and performances on Monday, April 2 at 7 p.m. with [A Nervous Smile by John Belluso](#) at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell St.

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. Come early to enjoy live jazz and a cash bar in the lobby from 6 to 7 pm. Amphibian is sponsored by the Arts Council of Fort Worth & Tarrant County, The City of Fort Worth, Pier 1, The Tobin Foundation, and The Scott Foundation among others.

Monday, April 2

[A Nervous Smile](#)

By John Belluso

A look at the psychological cost and physical burdens endured by parents caring for the severely disabled. Writing so compassionate and funny, you almost forget that this story is based on the true-life story of a couple that abandoned its cerebral-palsied daughter in a hospital emergency room.

Director:

[Harry Parker](#)

Cast:

[Connie DeVeer](#)

[Elizabeth Kopitke](#)

[Evan Mueller](#)

[Susan Schuldt](#)

BIOGRAPHIES:

[Harry Parker](#)

Dr. Harry B. Parker is the Chair of the Department of Theatre at Texas Christian University, a position he accepted in 2003. A native of Oklahoma City, Harry received a B.F.A. (magna cum laude) in Theatre from TCU, and from the University of Kansas in Lawrence he earned an M.A. in Theatre

(Acting/Directing), and a Ph.D. in Theatre and Film. He has also served on the faculty of Westmar College in Iowa, and spent eleven years as the Director of Theatre at Emporia State University in Kansas. For seven summers Harry worked professionally as the Assistant Artistic Director at Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, where he assisted in staging over 30 major musicals. He has directed more than 60 professional, community and academic theatre productions across the country including Emporia State University's production of *The Car*, which performed at the 1997 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Regional Festival. Harry has directed professionally at the Kennedy Center (Washington D.C.); Stages Repertory Theatre (Houston); American Heartland Theatre (Kansas City); Lyric Theatre (Oklahoma City), and Circle Theatre (Fort Worth, TX). His directing credits include *Holiday*, *Antigone*, *South Pacific*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Extremities*, *Godspell*, *The Miser*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Marvin's Room*, *The King and I*, *The Matchmaker*, *The Laramie Project* and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

At TCU, Harry has directed *Ellis Island*, *The Dream of America* at Bass performance Hall, *You Can't Take It With You* which re-opened the newly dedicated Jerita Foley Buschman Theatre, and [Bus Stop](#), a co-production with Circle Theatre in Sundance Square in downtown Fort Worth.

Harry has written four original musical revues, featuring the music of Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, and others. He served a three-year term as the Chair of an 8-state Region for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and is currently serving as a member-at-large on their National Committee. He is an Associate Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, and serves on the Board of the Live Theatre League of Tarrant County. Harry is married to Karen Parker, and they live in Fort Worth with their two children. He is exceptionally proud of his current and former students, and their impressive accomplishments.

[Connie DeVeer](#)

Connie de Veer received her BFA in Acting from Texas Christian University in 1979 and her MFA in Acting from the University of Texas at Austin in 1988. She is an Assistant Professor of Theatre, teaching Acting and Voice/Text, in addition to directing TCU's fall 2006 production of Seamus Heaney's [The Burial at Thebes](#).

Connie is a former Associate professor of Theatre at Illinois State University, where she taught Acting, Voice, and Movement to undergraduate and graduate Acting majors. She directed *Così fan tutte*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Rover*, *Company* and *Riders to the Sea* at Illinois State. As a 1992 recipient of the College of Fine Arts Faculty Initiative grant, she studied voice and text with Jane Boston and David Carey from the Central School of Speech and Drama.

She has also studied the Linklater voice technique with Diane Timmerman at Indiana Repertory Theatre. She served as staff movement coach and choreographer for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival for several seasons, on such productions as *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, the world premiere of *The Falcon's Pitch*, *Pericles*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and many others.

She is a member of Actor's Equity Association and her representative acting credits include *Greetings*, *How I Got That Story*, and *Berlin to Broadway* at Heartland Theatre Company; *Chicago* and *Hansel and Gretel* at Theatre Three; *Fiddler on the Roof* with Mel and Katy Dacus at Casa Manana; *Kismet* at Darien Dinner Theatre; *The King and I* with Beth Fowler at the Westchester Broadway Theater; and numerous roles as a company member with both the Light Opera of Manhattan and the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players. Connie received her certification in the Alexander Technique from the Urbana Center for the Alexander Technique, under Joan and Alex Murray.

Elizabeth Kopitke

Amphibian credits include *A Buyer's Market* and *Bash*. Elizabeth currently lives in New York City, though she is a DFW native where she attended TCU undergraduate, continuing on to receive her MFA from Rutgers University. Other roles include Debra in *Black*, Ann in *1940's Radio Hour*, Marianne in *Tartuffe*, Lady Mortimer in *Henry IV*, Daisy Hannigan in *Biloxi Blues*, Barbara in *Gingham Dog*.

Evan Mueller

Originally from Chicago, Evan currently lives in New York City where he teaches Acting and Voice & Speech at NYU. Amphibian credits: Hanrahan in *Below the Belt*, Lent in *...Julia Pastrana...the Ugliest Woman in the World*, and Andrew in *A Leopard Complains of Its Spots*. Evan wrote *Hot Season*, which was in Amphibian's reading series in 2004. He directed the reading of *Eye of God* in Amphibian's 2006 reading series. Outside of Amphibian, Evan has worked as an actor or director with Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Hamptons Shakespeare Festival, The Warehouse Theatre, Public Theatre of Maine, Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Programs, Sweet William Collective, New Phoenix Theater Company, and the Wendell Theater Group, of which Evan was a co-founder and artistic director. Television: *All My Children*. Evan is a member of AEA, AFTRA, and the Voice and Speech Trainers Association. He received his B.A. from Duke University and his M.F.A. from Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts.

Susan Schuld

Regional Credits; *Damn Yankees* with Colonial Theater, Pittsfield MA; *Brownstone* and *HMS Pinafore* with the Berkshire Theatre Festival, MA; *Bailiwick Theater Company*, *Women's Theater Alliance*, Chicago; *Western Illinois Theater Company*, IL; *Rocky Mountain Repertory*, CO.; *Childsplay Inc.* and *TheaterWorks*, AZ. 1996 Arizoni for best actor in a musical for *Mary* in

Merrily We Roll Along. NY acting credits: Wrecked and Waltz of Elementary Particles with Theatre Lila where she is a founding member. Henry V, NYO Theatre; Shakespeare's Women Under the Corset, Wake up Artists. 2003-2004 Director in residence at Shakespeare's Globe, London for Mason Gross School of the Arts and is continuing to serve on the faculty at Rutgers University teaching voice, speech, and dialects in the B.F.A. program. She has also served on faculties with Circle and the Square, CAP 21 NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Professional Performing Arts Highschool, and Wingspan's Arts Program. Currently enrolled in the Linklater teacher designation program with Kristin Linklater and Andrea Haring. M.F.A. Acting Rutgers University.