

the vestige group presents

## MUSES III: MEMORIES OF A HOUSE

directed by Susie Gidseg, Jen Brown,  
Will Hollis Snider & Aaron Black

Spilled Mijk Bastion Carboni--Directed by Jen Brown  
Lauren: Sarah Granger / Lane: Natalie Navar

Span by Kristin Harrison--Directed by Jen Brown  
Woman: Michelle Ward

Bloody Mary by Jenny Keto-- Directed by Jen Brown  
Anne: Kimberly Mead

Swallowing Gum by Charles Eichman--Directed by Jen Brown  
Woman: Alexandra Kirkilis/ Man: Chris Higgins

Wet by Sarah Saltwick--Directed by Will Hollis Snider  
Wren: Jen Brown/ Brun:Gabe Smith

poolside by Marshall Ryan Maresca- Directed by Aaron Black  
Louisa: Christa Haxthausen/Greg: Phillip Emmanuel

A Little Beethoven by Max Langert-- Directed by Susie Gidseg  
Patricia: Tracy Medberry

Brownies by Trey Deason- Directed by Susie Gidseg  
Shana: Michele Goodson Burnett

Wherein we tell our secrets to strangers by Susie Gidseg-- Directed by  
Susie Gidseg  
woman: Yvonne Young

Buried by Martha Lynn Coon--Directed by Susie Gidseg  
Lou Ann: Liz Watts

Portraits by Barry Pineo-- Directed by Susie Gidseg  
Woman: Evelyn Lalonde

Guides: Susie Gidseg, Carol Higgins, Dawn Humphrey and Benjamin Wright

"Every house has a story..."

When we began our first house project several years ago at Helen Robert's home, we had no idea what we would be embarking on. A bunch of actors, a zillion pieces, a beautiful home filled with audience members yearning for something different. It was our second show as a company, and we had no idea how it would be received. The overwhelming response amazed us. Our next Muses production, at the wonderful artistic home of Bobby Pearl, brought even more amazement. It was clear we had begun a tradition.

In our original mission statement, written in one of our first production meetings over two years ago, we stated that we wanted to "push theatre back into the mainstream, making it just as desirable for the everyday person to pop into a play rather than see a movie." With the creation of Muses, we have accomplished this goal.

We will continue to make our Muses project an annual tradition. We want to go as many places as we can in Austin, create both a new work of art, and a new community of theatre goers. For the first time, we have used only local playwrights, and we gave everyone a quote to motivate them, "Only the ephemeral is of lasting value."

Thanks to Pam and Phil Friday for inspiring us with their lovely home (and their family for sharing it with us,) and the 11 playwrights, 18 actors, 4 directors and several company members who worked so hard to make this possible

So come, schmooze, wonder, delight, have a drink, mingle with the actors...allow the theatrical wall to dissolve. Actually experience theatre instead of simply watching it. Become a character yourself without even knowing it.

This house has a story to tell, I hope you are listening.

Enjoy the show.

Susie Gidseg

Director

## A Word from Pam and Phil Friday, Homeowners

We love our home and sharing it with others. Before we got married we were looking for a place that would meet all our family needs, along with daily living--a costuming space, a place to reflect on the day's events, a big ole kitchen and a place to entertain--we host all kinds of soccer events, gatherings of Mayan scholars during "the long workshop" at U.T., teacher gatherings, Vortex Reparatory company gatherings and now a MUSES project!

Our home was built in the 70's and when we bought the house it was a symphony of cream colors. With the help of architect --Tom Hatch, and interior designer--Janet McCalister and tons of fabrics from my Collections, we have a home to show off our eclectic gatherings from our travels and flea market hunts!

My costumes have most recently been seen in SWEENEY TODD and UTILE SHOP OF HORRORS at the Long Center and next up with EVIL DEAD, THE MUSICAL coming this October to the Salvage Vanguard Theatre space AND the fall show at Hill Country Middle School where I teach theatre.

My studio is also becoming a workspace for daughter Mary's new line, Baby Baubles, selling origami fabric flower pins and headbands!

Phil can be seen playing soccer or splashing with his grandson when not practicing family law with his son or running the hike and bike trail with his daughter!

T.c. can be seen playing soccer, building sets and serving as a teen teacher at Westlake high.

## Director Bios

Aaron Black (Director/Actor/Writer: Bad Things) was born in Norman, OK. He studied acting at The University of Oklahoma and The Actors Studio Drama School at New School University in New York City. One day he hopes to own his own theatre company and also teach theatre, either privately or at the college level. He would like to thank his family, and the many teachers who have influenced him, including Elizabeth Kemp, Susan Aston, and Arthur Penn in New York, Dr. Betsy Ballard and Randy Hemphill in Norman, and Peggy Black, his mother..

Jen Brown (Director/ Actress: Wet) majored in acting with a minor in sound design at The University of Oklahoma. She founded the vestige group with Susie Gidseg after moving to Austin. Selected acting credits include: No Exit (Inez), Gorilla Man (Mom), A Matter of Taste (Sadie), Stop Kiss (Sara - B. Iden Payne Nomination), Brilliant Traces (Rosannah), Anton In Show Business (Joby), Fat Pig (Jeannie), Muses Memories of a House (Bridget), Frontera Fest 2007 Best of Fest Selections "Bliss" & "My Name Is Art". Jen was also involved in The Austin Shakespeare Festival's production of Suzan Lori Parks 365 Days 365 Plays and Zachary Scott Theatre's Project Interact. Aside from acting, Jen is a director and sound designer and has designed such shows as The Heidi Chronicles, Stop Kiss, Brilliant Traces, Lion in the Streets, The Laramie Project and more. Jen is thrilled to also be directing in this 3rd installment and wants to thank all of her actors as well as the rest of the cast and crew for another amazing Muses experience!

Susie Gidseg (Director/ Writer: where we tell our secrets to strangers) is a BFA Dramaturgy graduate from the University of Oklahoma. Susie has taught children's theatre through the Dougherty Arts Center, Rude Mechanical's "Griff" Action, Kids Acting and The Theatre at The J, the Austin Children's Theatre and the Star Charter School. Favorite credits include: Dramaturgy: Anton In Show Business, The Laramie Project, Urinetown, Direction: Halfway to Beautiful, Cloud Tectonics, "Autobahn, Fat Pig (regional premiere), The Muses: Memories of a House I & II (world premiere), My Name is Art (Best of Fest Frontera Fest 2007), Anton In Show Business, Brilliant Traces, The New Jersey Book of the Dead, Marisol, Gorilla Man, TOUCH and di(vergence): an original play with songs for Elan Productions (ArtS park 2008). Susie was also the guest director for City Theatre's Heidi Chronicles. Susie is the co-founder of Orasi Productions in Norman, OK and the co-founder & co-artistic director of the vestige group. Susie is currently the Social Media Director for Austin Circle of Theatres and a member of the B. Iden Payne Nominating Committee. She wants to thank Pam and Phil for loaning their home, and all of her talented playwright and actor friends for making Muses the lovely time it always is!

Will Hollis Snider (Director: Wet) is a freelance director residing in Austin, TX. He is the Producing Director of Cambiare Productions, a writer, producer, photographer, graphic artist, and web designer. Some of his past directing credits include The Nina Variations (GobotrickTheatre Company), Sonata Escondida (HBMG

Foundation), , Intermission (GobotrickTheatre Company), , Elektra (Gobotrick Theatre Company), , Searching ... (ArtSpark Festival) Autobahn (FronteraFest), , Equus (Texas State University), and most recently, Orestes (Cambiare Productions). Will is also the Programming Director for the HBMG Foundation, promoting creativity in the arts, business and technology.

## Playwrights Bios

Barry Pineo (Portraits) has been acting, directing, writing and producing for live theatre in the Austin area since 1986. He also is the author of Acting That Matters, a book about acting technique, and the leader of the Austin Acting Workshop. He is probably best known nowadays as an arts writer for the Austin Chronicle. If you'd like to know more about Barry, visit his website at [www.barrypineo.com](http://www.barrypineo.com).

Bastion Carboni (Spilled Milk) gets a tattoo for every play he's written. Look for "Do what the rock says" coming soon to his bicep. Oh, also of note: he will produce his play "A Matter of Taste" through his company, Poison Apple Initiative, in November at the Off Center.

Charles Eichman (Swallowing Gum) is a veteran of the stage, having performed, directed or acted in such productions as Deathtrap, Death of a Salesman, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, Victor Gialenella's Frankenstein and Moliere's The Bungler. His published/performed works include: Medea in Black and White, The Clouds, Hope and Bullets (all available through Brooklyn Publishers [www.brookpub.com]), Agent 152, Where Have All the Flowers Gone?, Bad Salsa and Gilgamesh and the Bull of Texas. His one act play, Seduction Is a Method was a featured selection in the 2003 Last Frontier Play Lab at Valdez, Alaska. His poems, observations, rants and works in progress can be found at [www.charleseichman.com](http://www.charleseichman.com). Charles himself can be contacted at [ceichman@hotmail.com](mailto:ceichman@hotmail.com) (but only if you approach carefully, and offer small pieces of bread).

Jenny Keto (Bloody Mary) This will be Jenny Keto's playwriting debut to the Austin theatre scene. Having graduated from the UT Theatre Department in May of 2008, Jenny focused on both acting and playwriting. Starring in roles such as Fefu in "Fefu and Her Friends" and Camille in "Aisle 7" on UT's mainstage, Jenny Keto also produced her writing in the "CoOp presents the David Mark Cohen New Works Festival at UT" with a play called freakLOVE, about the infamous photographer, Diane Arbus, and the enigmatic characters captured by her photographs. After graduating, Jenny decided to focus on her acting career, appearing in plays by the Vestige Group, "Muses II: The Memories of a House" and "Marisol: The City Theatre, "Alice in Wonderland"; and Poison Apple Initiative, "A Matter of Taste" as well as a smattering of films both short and feature length. After a long overdue sojourn, Jenny Keto is ecstatic about coming back to her creativity with the written word. Ms. Keto would like to thank The Vestige Group for giving her the motivation to write this piece in the first place, her love, John Edwards, her always supportive parents, and her mentor, Mona Lee, for their constant encouragement to just keep

writing.

Kristin Harrison (Span) likes to make things up. She learned more about this in inaugural class of the Performance as Public Practice Program at the University of Texas at Austin, where she really liked to help develop new plays as a director and dramaturg. Making things up has helped her sell things as a professional, including aluminum siding, theatre subscriptions, and money. Kristin is currently finishing her first full length play about some of the problems with selling money (sub-prime mortgages.) Her shorter and more experimental pieces have been produced at various guerilla-type venues in Baltimore, Maryland and at Frontera Fest in Austin.

Marshall Ryan Maresca (Poolside) is a science-fiction and fantasy novelist as well as a playwright. He was, at one time, an actor, as well as the second-fastest short-order cook in Pennsylvania. He is also a husband and father, and is constantly supported by his wonderful family.

Martha Lynn Coon (Buried) is a native of Alabama who now resides in Austin, Texas. Her work has been produced in conjunction with Hyde Park Theatre's Frontera Fest, the David Mark Cohen New Works Festival at the University of Texas in Austin, the Ft. Worth Community Arts Center's ACT Festival, Refraction Arts! Fuse Box Festival (Austin, 2005) and Vortex Repertory's 2006 Season. She is co-founder and co-director of the Youthbridge Initiative, a nonprofit organization that promotes peace education in the Balkans. Martha Lynn is a current member of Austin Script Works and a former member of the Playwrights' Forum in Washington D.C. She recently returned to Austin from Berlin, Germany where she lived and worked as a freelance translator and writer, collaborating with media artist Amy Patton on a multi-media project call "Performance" at Theaterhaus Mitte. Martha Lynn received an MFA in Theatre from UT Austin and holds a BA in English Literature from the University of the South (Sewanee).

Max Langert (A Little Beethoven) Max's plays have been produced in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Dallas and elsewhere. He's made Best of the Fest at Frontera Fest a few times and won a couple of other regional honors. His parents are both phenomenal pianists.

Sarah Saltwick (Wet) is young playwright relatively new to the Austin theatre scene. Her latest produced work is Worse Girls and will be presented at The Long Center as part of Are You Alive, produced by Debutate and Vagabonds. Her work has been selected for FronteraFest Best of Week: She Creatures: Mythic Women (2009) and Parents are People (2008, ASW Commission). She took part in Loaded Gun Theory's 24 hour playfestival Slapdash FlimFlam (2008). Her play Cecilia was nominated for Best New Play 2008 by Austin Critic's Table and was originally created for ASW's out of ink festival. She is a graduate of Hampshire College. She has worked as a barista, crew member at Trader Joes and high school creative writing teacher... She now works as a booking agent at Holden & Arts Associates

and always seems to have more ideas than time.

Trey Deason (Brownies) appeared in last years Muses as an actor and returns this season as a playwright. He holds a BFA in theatre from Southwestern University where two of his one-act plays, Dominatrix and Rape and Human Sketches were produced, and earlier this year, an expanded full length production of Human Sketches premiered at Sam Bass Community Theatre. As an actor he was most recently seen in An Inspector Calls, Faster Than the Speed of Light, and The Secret Lives of the Inbetweens.

## Actor Bios

Alexandra Kirkiis (Swallowing Gum) is a composer, singer, actress, dancer, and graphic designer. She graduated in 2007 from Denison University with a bachelor's degree in music composition and theory. Plays include Aristophanes' Oresteia, Gogol's The Inspector General, two productions of Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues, one of which was part of Austin's 2008 V-Day, and several student-written and directed plays and TV internet shows, such as A Midsummer Camp and Notes from Undergrad. She has also starred at The VORTEX in numerous performances of ROMPI, the award-winning family show written by Reppy. Her musical compositions have been featured on CD compilations, have won several competitions, and have been choreographed to by Austin's Tapestry Dance Company for performances at The Paramount Theatre. Last year Alexandra appeared in the Vestige Group's Muses II: Memories of a House.

Chris Higgins (Swallowing Gum): Most recently Chris has been chasing his dream by delving into film. Look for him on screen at film festivals this fall in "Depth of Phil" and "Shady, TX". He can also be seen singing and acting on a weekly live webcast at [www.promiselandchurch.net](http://www.promiselandchurch.net). He is a "Best of Fest" award winner for his performance in Brain Big at Frontera Fest. Some of his stage credits include: Giles Ralston in The Mousetrap, Jonathan Harker in Dracula, Shepherd Henderson in Bell, Book and Candle, Joshua Bradley in Bright Ideas, Thomas Jefferson in 1776 and multiple roles in The Laramie Project. He is also known for his voice work with ULL. Other film and TV credits include GSD&M industrial commercial, Friday Night Lights and The Awakening. After growing up in Indiana, Chris moved to San Antonio where he studied theater while traveling with The Shining Lights Acting Company. He has held numerous roles dating back longer than he cares to remember. One of his favorite quotes is, "Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today." Chris would like to say.... thank you Carol.

Christa Haxthausen (Louisa Hanson) is thrilled to be a part of the cast and creative wonder that is Muses III in her first role delivered while treading water. Other credits include: Theater: The Heidi Chronicles (City Theatre), Whisper (ArtSpark Festival, actor/co-writer/producer), Daisy Chain (Columbia University), Our Town (Fordham University), To Kill a Mockingbird. Film: Shorts, Drawing Closer, Stop-Loss. Roles behind the curtain include: Broadway: Assistant to composer Frank

Wildhorn (Jekyll and Hyde, The Scarlet Pimpernel), album co-coordinator of The Scarlet Pimpernel Broadway Cast Album (Atlantic Records). Off-Broadway: longstanding backstage crew member at The American Place Theater (Defying Gravity, Stonewall Jackson's House) and Daryl Roth Theater (De la Guarda). Musical Director, A Winter's Tale (Columbia Univ.). Other credits include: Proud National Anthem singer for the Austin Ice Bats hockey team and MVP Award Recipient of NYC's Upper West Side APA pool division. Christa is represented by The Atherton Group and is an alumna of Barnard College (Columbia University) and Berklee College of Music.

Evelyn Lalonde (Portraits) Originally from Michigan, Evelyn attended Rollins College in Winter Park, FL where she graduated with a BA in Theatre Arts. She then moved to NYC to audition and take classes at Broadway Dance Center and Michael Howard Studios. This will be her fourth year in Austin. Evelyn participated in the ArtSpark festival where she helped develop and perform an original musical Di(verse). She has appeared in Vampyress and Hamlet at The Vortex and TexArts' productions of Carousel and Music Man at the Paramount. She performed and produced a three woman cabaret in north Austin. Evelyn was most recently seen as Serena in the vestige groups production of TOUCH. Evelyn works in sales at Dell in her spare time.

Gabriel Newton Smith (Wet) is thrilled to be part of such a fantastic and innovative project! Here in Austin, he has appeared in "The Heidi Chronicles," "Crimes of the Heart," "The Shape of Things," and "The Laramie Project" at City Theatre. He has also been seen in "Kafka's Dick," (Coda Theatre) "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge," (Different Stages) and Vestige Group's original production of "Muses." He is eternally grateful for the love and support from his family and friends. A special thanks goes to Mindy for continuing to light the way.

Kimberley Mead (Bloody Mary) is deliriously happy to be working with the Vestige Group in MUSES III. Kimberley most recently appeared in the Vortex Repertory Theatre productions OCEANA as Chalchihuitlicue, the Goddess who made it rain, and last year as Andromache in TROADES: THE STORY OF THE TROJAN WOMEN. In addition to the Vortex, Kimberley has also appeared in numerous productions at Arts on Real, her favorite role being the starlet Bettina Barnes in PSYCHO BEACH PARTY. While not performing on stage she can often be found photographing theatrical performances, designing, writing papers for her masters degree, enjoying life with the most amazing and loving group of friends, or walking her dog Gus.

Liz Watts (Lou Ann) is making her Vestige group debut in Muses III and would like to thank the company for this opportunity, and letting me have some fun with Lou Ann! I would also like to thank you, the audience for sharing your time and evening with us! I hope you enjoy the show, and Thank you for being here! Some of my work includes Don Jon in Much Ado About Nothing, Stephanie in Frame 312, Samantha in Intermission, and Bailey in the upcoming San Antonio Feature

Cup of Joe.

Michele Goodson-Burnett (Brownies) has performed in NYC in THE CRADLEWILL ROCK (Jean Cocteau Repertory Theatre), and in multiple performances for New York's Ballet for Young Audiences. Regionally, she has appeared in productions for the Lincoln Amphitheatre and Huntington Outdoor Theatre (GUYS AND DOLLS (Sarah), OKLAHOMA! (Ado Annie)). Austin productions include THE CONSTANT WIFE (Martha), Lunch Hour (Nora), and HAMLET (Polonius). Michele is a founding member of the Marshall Theatre of the Air, and has directed and performed in the National Broadcasting Society and Marconi award winning radio productions of GAFFE'S TRAIL and MURDER IN REALITY. She is a recognized actor/combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors. Originally from Huntington, West Virginia, Michele currently resides in Austin, Texas with her husband, Steven.

Michelle Ward (Span) is returning to the theatre after a 9-year and 5 state hiatus. She likes warm towels right out of the dryer. She dislikes rude people who cut in line at the grocery store. Seen in Madison, WI at Broom Street Theatre (2 seasons; "I am Star Trek" and "Men Suck, a Musical"), MATC Theatre (Mina Harker in "Dracula" and Belinda Blair/Flavia Brent in "Noises Off"), American Players Theatre in Spring Green, WI (2 seasons; Antigone in "Oedipus Rex" and Miranda in "The Tempest")  
Thanks to my Monster.

Natalie Navar (Spilled Milk) actress, bird, dancer, lightning enthusiast. She sends love to her palacians, alex, aerial, and all of the pigeons in the world.

Phillip Emmanuel (Poolside) Theatrically trained with a B.A. in Arts from The University of Texas, Phillip has been performing since the tender age of 4. This young man's professionalism and work habits will impress even the most stringent critiques. His theatrical work stems from Shakespeare to drama to comedy. Phillip is a truly talented actor who's up for any challenge presented to him.

Sarah Granger (Spilled Milk) graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BFA in theatre, acting emphasis. Some of her favorite productions included Anna in Closer, Mother Hen in Crusades, and Kate in Dancing at Lughnasa. This is her first production with the Vestige Group and she is excited to have such a memorable and creative first production to be a part of! Since moving to Austin she has also done some film work with Twitchy Dolphin Flix. Thanks to her friends and family for supporting her in everything she does!

Tracy Medberry (A Little Beethoven) has been acting in various shows across various states for over 15 years. She is very excited to be doing her second show with The Vestige Group. Tracy has learned through this role that small things are sometimes more life altering than big things, and she would like to thank Susie and the rest of the Vestige crew for the experience.

Yvonne Young (wherein we tell our secrets to strangers) is finally returning to

theatre after 12 years. Yvonne studied theatre at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She has played various roles in the past from singing and dancing in the chorus to the smallest silent supportive actress to loud and boisterous leading roles and has proved her versatility with every role. She has always lingered around the creative arts whether it be writing poetry or short stories, painting or drawing, singing for a crowd or simply in the shower, learning new dances, or acting. She always strives to be the best at whatever creative outlet before her. After 12 years of seeking a muse in other venues, she is eager to return to the stage.

Directors Note

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*LonestaJ; Texas: A Popcorn Throwing*

*Rock Country Musical*

by Benjamin Wright

Coming November 2009

*LonestaJ; Texas Fundraiser*

October 23, 2009

Come join us for a rip-roaring good time at the U.S. Art Authority

Circle of Theaters

- thevestigegroup [p@hotmail.com](mailto:p@hotmail.com)

- [www.vestigegroup.org](http://www.vestigegroup.org)

- [www.myspace.com/thevestigegroup](http://www.myspace.com/thevestigegroup)

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Directors: Susie Gidseg, and Jen Brown

Production Manager: Dawn Humphrey

Technical Director: Courtney Deginder

Company Members: Benjamin Wright and Andrew Varenhorst

The vestige group is a sponsored project of Austin Circle of Theaters. This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.