



NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855-5364

FOREST ROBERTS THEATRE



April 22, 1987

Jackie DeShannon & Myla Lichtman
#23 Lee
Irvine, CA 92720

Dear Ms. De Shannon & Ms. Lichtman,

Allow me this opportunity to thank you for helping us celebrate the tenth year of the Forest A. Roberts/Shiras Institute Playwriting Award by entering **Midwestern Skies** in our competition! Almost 5000 scripts have been submitted over the past decade! It is because of folks like you that we initiated the competition and continue to exist. We are most grateful!

I am pleased to inform you that your play was one of a handful to be passed along to our Semi-Finals! Having said this makes it genuinely difficult for me to let you know that **Midwestern Skies** was not selected as a Finalist. I might mention in passing that all scripts receive at least two readings at the Preliminary and Semi-Final levels before they are advanced to the Finals or returned to the playwright. This should reassure you that your play was given our careful and thorough attention.

Naturally, we would be presumptuous to set ourselves up as the ultimate arbitrators of artistic quality. Our best judgment is just that and is no reflection upon you or your artistic talents. May I encourage you to submit your play elsewhere. After all, what may not be "right" for us could be just what somewhat else is looking for! (I hope you find the enclosed list helpful).

As a special "thank-you" for your participation, you will be acknowledged by name, city, and play title in our program. I will send along a copy for your files at that time (late November, 1987). If, for any reason, you do not wish to be listed, please let me know.

The production of our Playwriting Award Winner remains the most important show in our season. Thanks to playwrights like you, the cultural life of our students, the university, and the community has been immeasurably enriched! We are most grateful for your efforts and hope you will enter future works in our competition!

Cordially,


James A. Panowski, Ph.D.
Director, Forest Roberts Theatre

JAP:GST

MYLA LICHTMAN-FIELDS (PLAYWRIGHT) An award winning playwright, Myla is also teaching writing at UC Irvine. She has also been on the faculty of UCLA. She holds a Ph.D. in Communications/Drama from USC. A former staff writer for Universal Studios, she has written free-lance for both TV and films. A former PV resident, and charter member of the Nonnie Theatre Management Board, Myla founded the Play Discovery Project in 1983 and was its director for two seasons.

CHARLES GRUBER (JAKE) A professional actor living in Los Angeles, Charles' film credits include "The Kindred", "The Night Before", and "Pray for Death." He is represented by the Sanders Agency.

PATRICIA HIGGINS (NIKKI) Raised on the hill, and working now as a professional actress, Patricia holds an M.F.A. in Acting from USC. She has been seen frequently on the Norris stage and has taught drama at PV High. She is represented under the name Kate Wiley by Ray Cavaleri & Associates.

BOB MC CAMAN (RESTON) A founding member of CAP, the parent organization of the Norris Theatre, Bob has been involved in theatre and civic light opera for many years as a producer, director and actor. He has done both commercial and industrial voice over work. He is currently on the staff of California State Assemblyman Gerald Felando.

MURRAY RUBIN (SHEP) A well-known face to South Bay audiences and television viewers. Murray has been a long time friend of the Norris and combines the careers of automotive salesman and professional actor. He is represented by Sutton, Barth and Vennari.

PEGGY SAGE (ANITA) Recently graduated from USC with a B.F.A. in Acting. Peggy has performed a wide range of roles in student and stock shows. She is enthusiastically involved in NEW PLACE THEATRE, the Norris' resident Equity company. She is an accomplished violinist, has studied dance, and is a member of both SAG and Equity. She is currently seeking representation.

NCT

The logo for the Play Discovery Project is a circular emblem. It features the words "Play", "discovery", and "project" stacked vertically in a white, stylized, handwritten-style font against a black circular background. The word "discovery" is written in lowercase, while "Play" and "project" are in title case. The letters are slightly irregular and overlap, giving it a dynamic, artistic feel.

PRESENTS



A STAGED READING OF A NEW PLAY
by
Jackie De Shannon and Myle Lichtman
Directed by **Michael Putnam**

Charles Gruber
Patricia Higgins

**with
Peggy Goss**

Bob McCaman
Murray Rubin

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 8.30 p.m.

NORRIS COMMUNITY THEATRE

Crossfield Dr. & Indian Peak Rd.

Palos Verdes Peninsula

MIDWESTERN SKIES

ACT I SCENE 1

Anita Thorson's apartment in Manhattan.
Halloween night, 1986

Same setting, the next morning.

SCENE 2

Charles Reston's office at Reston Wiggins.
Later that day.

SCENE 3

A delicatessen operated by Shep Bernstein.
The afternoon of the same day.

SCENE 4

Reston's office. Afternoon, four days later.

SCENE 5

Anita's apartment. Evening of the next day.

SCENE 6

Anita's apartment. The following night.

INTERMISSION

ACT II SCENE 1

Anita's apartment. As we left it.

SCENE 2

Reston's office. Afternoon, one week later.

SCENE 3

Jake's loft apartment.
The afternoon, two days later.

SCENE 4

Reston's Connecticut vacation home.
Morning of Thanksgiving Day.

SCENE 5

Brentanos book store on Fifth Avenue.
Evening of December 18, 1986

CAST

ANITA THORSON.....PEGGY SAGE
NIKKI JOHNSON.....PATRICIA HIGGINS
JAKE ROTHMAN.....CHARLES GRUBER
CHARLES RESTON.....BOB MC CAMAN
SHEP BERNSTEINMURRAY RUBIN

DIRECTOR.....MICHAEL PUTNAM
TECHNICAL DIRECTION.....MARK PETRAK
PROGRAM DESIGN.....DAVID KNOLES

THE PLAY DISCOVERY PROJECT IS A COMMUNITY
OUTREACH PROGRAM OF THE NORRIS THEATRE NOW
IN ITS FOURTH YEAR OF PRESENTING NEW WORKS
BY NOVICE AND ESTABLISHED PLAYWRIGHTS IN
FREE TO THE PUBLIC PERFORMANCES.



ROGER MINOR, CHAIRMAN
MIMI WILSON
BOB WRIGHT
MICHAEL PUTNAM

JACKIE DESHANNON (PLAYWRIGHT) Kentucky born, she began her career in the 60's singing with such popular rock groups as the Byrds and the Searchers, and rose to stardom with hit recordings of "Put a Little Love in Your Life" and "What the World Needs Now is Love". Her talents turned toward writing in the 70's, and in 1981 she won a Grammy for the Kim Carnes hit, "Betty Davis Eyes," her newest song "Midwestern Skies" will soon be recorded. She has completed a play, "Farewell to the Last Drive-in" and is hard at work on a screenplay.