

THE NINE MUSES

AN EVENING OF DOWNTOWN ALL-STARS HOSTED BY TOM X. CHAO
Surf Reality, Monday, January 13, 2003, 8 pm

The Muses—in Greek religion and mythology, patron goddesses of the arts, daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne. Originally only three, they were later considered as nine. Calliope was the Muse of epic poetry and eloquence; Euterpe, of music or of lyric poetry; Erato, of the poetry of love; Polyhymnia (or Polymnia), of oratory or sacred poetry; Clio, of history; Melpomene, of tragedy; Thalia, of comedy; Terpsichore, of choral song and dance; Urania, of astronomy. (The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition.)

PETER BLOMQUIST and JEFF WIENS. Peter Blomquist has collaborated with Jeff Wiens on numerous short films, including "I Am Going To Cut Your Face Off," "The Disease Factory," and "Blomquist Attacks Wiens." He has been developing his new play, *Franco & Billy*, for the last 4 years. Jeff Wiens has collaborated with Peter Blomquist on numerous short films, including "Please Leave Me Alone, Peter." "Leave Some Skin, Please." and "I'm Serious, Can Somebody Please Help Me Get Away From Peter Blomquist." He has worked with Blomquist on the play, *Franco & Billy*, for the last 4 years.

MICHELE CARLO is a native New Yorker and a natural redhead. She has performed her character-based comedy at downtown venues such as Surf Reality, P.S. 122 and PSNBC@HERE, as well as uptown at CAROLINES. Besides being the "mujer" behind SURF REALITY'S monthly cult fave THE CARMEN MOFONGO SHOW, Michele is also the author/performer of the solo shows MY RED BUSH & OTHER STORIES and the upcoming THE SEARCH FOR MY INNER LATINA. As part of the HA! Comedy Festival, The Comedy LAB @ the Horse Trade Theater Group will present a FREE workshop performance of THE SEARCH FOR MY INNER LATINA on Tuesday, January 21, 7pm, at The Red Room, 85 East 4th Street.

A MY EISNER lives way down the Lower East Side in Baltimore.

SETH MADEJ has collaborated with Tom X. Chao for eight years on a dozen different productions, but this is Seth's first performance on stage. In his spare time, Seth is a Writer/Producer in radio, online media, and television, currently working for Noggin/The N, the educational television and Internet network. He lives in Pittsburgh, PA.

MORT MILDER has written and performed with the Rumble in the Red Room, Rubber Feet and The Writers Group. His one-man show, The Samuel Beckett Radio Hour and Other Pieces was performed at PS-NBC at HERE. With co-writer David Manis, Mort wrote and performed WHITE WHINES, a two-man revue which played in New York and San Diego. As a corporate shill, Mort has devoted years to developing innovative and theatrical ways to sell computers and drugs.

FAITH PILGER (AKA Faith Fearliss) is a graduate of the Juilliard School and a past winner of the Princess Grace Award/grant for modern dance. As a host, Faith creates an environment which appeals to both professional and underground artists as well as the rambunctious LES crowd. Faith performs more and talks less. Her minimalist "guerilla hosting" approach to introducing acts includes her own wild and diverse appearances throughout the show. Faith has become infamous for her sexy, visually stimulating costumes and hand-painted cardboard signs. Her own VIM performances range from political shadow plays to spoken word/rap, punk dance theatre, radical clowning, collaborations with bands/solo musicians, provocative stories and midget accordion melodies—plus audience participation pieces and the making/serving of seasonal cocktails/food, unique handmade programs, electric bass guitar riffs, disco dances on roller skates and laser light shows.

NOELLE ROMANO and BECKY POOLE are UG Drama graduates of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. They met at a show in the Fringe Festival. Together they produced and hosted the long-running *HERsterical* comedy show in Park Slope,

Brooklyn, where they refined their duo comedy act. They have appeared together and individually at many downtown comedy venues. They will return to the *Eating It* show at Luna Lounge on February 24 (eatingit.net). Their next full-length show will be entitled *Investigating The Bucket*. Becky is also a member of the all-female comedy group Meat (funnymeat.com).

Look for **MICHAEL SCHWARTZ'S** highly acclaimed seven-character one-man play *In The Shadow of The Third Rail*, which he wrote, composed, directed, and performs. This past fall he originated the role of "Nuttinger" in Laurie Shapiro's *Inventing Color* at the New York International Fringe Festival. Schwartz was seen on the big screen at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, on PBS, and at film festivals around the country, starting as the rabbi in the award-winning independent film comedy *The Rabbi's Dilemma*. He also played the title role of Constantin Stanislavsky in the independent dramatic film *Talking to Stan*. Schwartz earned a double MFA in Acting and Playwriting from the Actors Studio Drama School in New York City, and was a member of Arena Stage's social outreach theatre, Living Stage, in Washington, DC.

JEFF WARD has written comedy for NBC, NPR, Modern Humorist and his comedy group Euphobia, as well as an extensive range of junk mail and porn. He is the author of three children's books and the originator of several choke holds commonly used in law enforcement. Previously seen at Surf Reality as Polonius in Jeff Eyres' *HAMLET: SATANIC SENTINEL OF THE SUBURBS*, Jeff is currently understudying the role of Dream Laurie in the Broadway revival of *OKLAHOMA*.

TOM X. CHAO is a Resident Artist of the Horse Trade Theater Group and recently workshoped his new musical comedy, *The Relationship Expert*, at The St. Marks Theater. He has written, directed, and performed works at Dixon Place, HERE, The Knitting



Factory, P.S.122, on WBAI-FM, at the D.U.M.B.O. Art Under The Bridge, Pure Pop, American Living Room, and FringeNYC festivals. He regularly appears at variety shows including Timsloft, The Carmen Mofongo Show, The Shark Show, and Modern Humorist Live. Presently, Tom is readying his comedic science-fiction radio play, *The Scientists*, for broadcast on WBAI-FM and is producing a video of an original song. He also reviews theater and film for Offfocoff.com. He resides a short distance from this theater.

Please visit tomxchao.com or e-mail tomxchao@hotmail.com for more information.

CREW

Tech: Mike Urdaneta. Assistant: Jessica Lusk. Thanks: Robert Prichard.
Illustration: Jeff Wong

Mild epithet! Please add me to the TXC mailing list, but quick!

Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Remove & hand to Tom, or e-mail info to tomxchao@hotmail.com.