

P. A. P. A. / Provincetown Theatre Company  
presents

## PROVINCETOWN PREMIERS

an evening of one acts



# KEEPERS

a modern drama by  
**Candace Perry**  
directed by  
**Barbara Dennis**

# LARRY QUEEN OF SCOTS

a bawdy romp by  
**Norman R. Allen**  
directed by  
**Michael Prevulsky**



**August 31 - September 17 at 8:00 pm**  
**Thursday - Sunday, \$10.**

**Provincetown Inn, One Commercial Street**  
For Reservations call 487-3466/1847

Provincetown Inn offers Full Dinner Specials  
From 6 pm. \$10.95 in the Harborview Dining Room

*Funded in part by the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities.*

# KEEPERS

by  
Candace Perry

Directed  
by  
Barbara Dennis

Produced  
by  
Kevin Shenk  
and  
Michael Prevulsky

## CAST

Darlene Colton .....	Sandy McGinn
Ray Colton .....	Barney Howard

Scene 1: The Colton kitchen in Midland, Texas;  
evening.

Scene 2: The next morning.

*15 Minute intermission*

Scene 3: Three weeks later.

The audience is invited to an open discussion of  
this work in progress immediately following the  
performance.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Candace Perry: *"You never go skating with us", whines 9 year old Dov. "All you ever do is go to play rehearsal", sighs 11 year old Ben. " So, after March 4 we're back to normal", asks 42 year old Preston, hopefully. With the support of her loving family, 41 year old Candace makes her playwrighting debut with KEEPERS.*

Barbara Dennis *My plants need watering - meals are sparse - the dog is howling for her walks, but what fun working with a Wellfleet playwright, a lovely actress, and a man who thankfully appeared on cue.*

Sandy McGinn *"So Mom", said my sons, "who're ya gonna be this time?" remembering the last time when their mother played a prostitute named Bertha who was dying of syphilis in a brothel. "Well this time", says I, "I'm perfectly typecast. I'm a country singer".*

Barney Howard *I was walking down a long, dark hall in the Provincetown Inn when I was accosted by a daemon and a wraith. The daemon said, "Are you an actor." I said, "No." And here I am.*

# KEEPERS

by  
Candace Perry

Directed  
by  
Barbara Dennis

Produced  
by  
Kevin Shenk  
and  
Michael Prevulsky

## CAST

Darlene Colton .....	Sandy McGinn
Ray Colton .....	Barney Howard

Scene 1: The Colton kitchen in Midland, Texas;  
evening.

Scene 2: The next morning.

*15 Minute intermission*

Scene 3: Three weeks later.

The audience is invited to an open discussion of this work in progress immediately following the performance.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Candace Perry: *"You never go skating with us", whines 9 year old Dov. "All you ever do is go to play rehearsal", sighs 11 year old Ben. " So, after March 4 we're back to normal", asks 42 year old Preston, hopefully. With the support of her loving family, 41 year old Candace makes her playwrighting debut with KEEPERS.*

Barbara Dennis *My plants need watering - meals are sparse - the dog is howling for her walks, but what fun working with a Wellfleet playwright, a lovely actress, and a man who thankfully appeared on cue.*

Sandy McGinn *"So Mom", said my sons, "who're ya gonna be this time?" remembering the last time when their mother played a prostitute named Bertha who was dying of syphilis in a brothel. "Well this time", says I, "I'm perfectly typecast. I'm a country singer".*

Barney Howard *I was walking down a long, dark hall in the Provincetown Inn when I was accosted by a daemon and a wraith. The daemon said, "Are you an actor." I said, "No." And here I am.*

## PRODUCTION

Stage Manager.....Robert Barker  
Set Design for "Keepers".....Tim Bright  
Set Design for "Larry, Queen of Scots:....Anthony Jackman  
Lighting Design.....Michael Prevulsky  
Costumes and Properties.....Anna Duarte  
Set Construction.....Anthony Jackman and Tim Bright  
Technical Supervisor.....Tim Bright  
Drummer.....Jesse McGinn  
Hair and Make-up.....Jo Francis Johnson

This production has been made possible in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities and the Cape Cod Arts Foundation.

### Special Thanks to All Who Have Helped:

Brook and Evan Evans of the Provincetown Inn, WOMR, Scotti's Florists, Kent Isham, Barney Howard, Roger McCord, Roger Beatty, Nick Viatty, F. Ronald Fowler, Little Shop of Horrors, Denny Powers, Cinda Lawrence, Dona Masi, Michael Ferraro, North Truro Camping Area, Eutch Francis, Peter Shenk, James Forrest, Marybeth Weston-Bergman, Frits Fairhurst, Finders Keepers, Douglas Freeman

### Directors' Notes

Thank you for coming out to see new, unknown theatre. Provincetown audiences have been attending premiere productions since 1915 when Eugene O'Neill, Susan Glaspel, and Neith Boyce, among others, wrote for the Provincetown Players. New playwrights have always been an endangered species. Since the beginning of time, directors have hunted them for sport, as well as plumage. Broadway has relegated them to little more than an afterthought in this age of mega-musicals. Luckily a few stalwart "Shakespeares" have sought refuge in regional theatres.

Through the Provincetown Theatre Company Workshop, new playwrights are able to meet weekly to discuss their works and through the "Workshop Originals" staged reading series they're seeing their plays come to life. With PROVINCETOWN PREMIERES we are delighted to share with Provincetown the bright, fresh, and always challenging work of Candace Perry and Norman R. Allen.

## WHO'S WHO

**SANDY McGinn** (Darlene Colton/Jane Kennedy) has worked with several theatre companies on the Cape, but considers the Provincetown Theatre Company her home. Some of her favorite roles with the PTC have been as Linda Christy in Woody Allen's PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM, Mrs. Hale in Susan Glaspell's TRIFLES, Bertha in Tennessee Williams' HELLO FROM BERTHA, and most recently as Belinda/Flavia in Michael Frayn's NOISES OFF. When not seen on the stage, Sandy can be heard on radio station WOMR on Thursday evening as a D.J. on her show, "Jazz Suite".

**VINCENT PHILIP** (Ray Colton/Guard) usually teaches and acts in New York City, but summer has seduced him to Provincetown. As a Member of the Cocteau Repertory Co. on the Bowery, he performed in THE RIVALS, THE DUCHESS OF MALFI, OF MICE AND MEN, and as Plato in SOCRATES, THE THEATRE OF LIFE. Off Broadway, he played the part of "Dad" in THE LAST TANGO IN POMPEII. Vincent's stock performances include: THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, and the "beast" in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. He has enriched the PTC this summer with his performances in NOISES OFF and SEASCAPE.

**KEVIN SHENK** (Mary, Queen of Scotland) has "trod the boards" since the age of 6. Her credits include over 800 live T.V. performances of Kraft Playhouse "Studio One" and a long running role on "A Brighter Day". She made her Broadway debut in the original production of INHERIT THE WIND. After a 22 year hiatus to raise her family, the smell of grease paint once again called and the PTC was fortunate to have her perform in A THURBER CARNIVAL, LA RONDE, THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA, THE DINING ROOM, and THREE BY TENNESSEE. This winter she played Schmidt in the Provincetown Theatreworks' production of EXECUTION OF JUSTICE and most recently she played Mrs. Clackett in the PTC's first summer production, NOISES OFF. Her theatrical contributions also include the presidency of the P.A.P.A./Provincetown Theatre Company Board of Directors for the past two years.

**ANTHONY JACKMAN** (Lawrence Styles) also began his acting career at the age of 6. His film credits include ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW and OLIVER!. Since coming to Provincetown from his native England, "Tony" has provided invaluable technical assistance on a number of PTC productions, founded and produced the AIDS benefit CLOSE TO HOME, and has played such diverse roles as Eronius in A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM, Nick in WHAT THE BUTLER SAW, St. Michael in JENNY ST. JOAN, and "a lovely old coot called 'Selsdon'" in NOISES OFF.

KEEPERS  
by Candace Perry  
Directed by Barbara Dennis

THE CAST

Darlene Colton.....Sandy McGinn  
Ray Colton.....Vincent Philip

THE ACTION

Scene One: Evening in Midland, Texas  
Scene Two: The Next morning  
Scene Three: Many weeks later

There will be a fifteen minute intermission

LARRY, QUEEN OF SCOTS  
a bawdy romp  
by Norman R. Allen  
Directed by Michael Prevulsky

THE CAST  
(In order of appearance)

Jane Kennedy, a lady-in-waiting.....Sandy McGinn  
Mary, Queen of Scotland.....Kevin Shenk  
Lawrence Styles, a servant.....Anthony Jackman  
Bill, a guard.....Vincent Philip

THE ACTION

Scene One: A chamber in Fotheringhay Castle, early December, 1586  
Scene Two: The same, two months later  
Scene Three: The same, February 8, 1587

Historic Note:

Imprisoned by Elizabeth I for twenty years, Mary Stuart was accused of complicity in the murder of her second husband, Henry Darnley. The play opens as Mary arrives at her final prison.

BARBARA DENNIS (Director, KEEPERS) has been an actress and director with the PTC since the beginning of the company. Some of her directing credits include A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, THE GLASS MENAGERIE, and Pinter's THE COLLECTION. This summer, she directed TENNESSEE WILLIAMS REMEMBERED, a benefit for the Fine Arts Work Center. Tonight she is delighted to be working with material that has never been produced before.

MICHAEL PREVULSKY (Director, LARRY, QUEEN OF SCOTS) is Artistic Director of the Provincetown Theatre Company as well as a member of its Board of Directors. Earlier this year, he founded the "Workshop Originals" staged reading series with his production of Norman R. Allen's JENNY ST. JOAN. In the spring, he directed the critically acclaimed production of Tom Stoppard's THE REAL THING, and this summer, the hit farce, NOISES OFF. Michael has worked extensively in regional theatre, including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and the Great Lakes Theatre Festival in Ohio, as well as for the Joffrey Ballet Company in both New York and Los Angeles. His most recent Broadway credit was as Production Stage Manager and Assistant to George Abbott for the revival of BROADWAY. He is currently dividing his time between Provincetown and New York, where his is assisting Mr. Abbott once again on a new musical version of FRANKENSTEIN.

CANDACE PERRY (Author, KEEPERS) is a writer, psychotherapist, activist, and chauffeur (of course she's a parent). She and her family live year round in Wellfleet. She is a member of the Provincetown Theatre Workshop, where she first introduced KEEPERS and received a staged reading of the play in March of this year. Her other short fiction has appeared in MS. MAGAZINE, THE ROANOKE REVIEW, THE SUN and the CAPE COD REVIEW.

NORMAN R. ALLEN (Author, LARRY, QUEEN OF SCOTS) is a free-lance writer living in Provincetown. His play, JENNEY ST. JOAN, opened the "Workshop Originals" series in January. His work has appeared in OAK SQUARE QUARTERLY, MINDPRINT REVIEW, HORIZON, MUSICAL AMERICA and ...DOG FANCY. His collaboration with contemporary composer Mark McLaren had its premiere with the Harvard Square Chorale in December.

# P.A.P.A./PROVINCETOWN THEATRE COMPANY

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

PROVINCETOWN PREMIERES PRESENTS TWO NEW ONE-ACTS,

"LARRY, QUEEN OF SCOTS" AND "KEEPERS", AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 17

The Provincetown Theatre Company concludes its summer season with PROVINCETOWN PREMIERES, the first full production of two new one-act plays, Larry, Queen of Scots by Norman R. Allen and Keepers by Candace Perry. Performances will run Thursdays through Sundays, August 31 to September 17 at 8:00 p.m. in the Pilgrim Room of the Provincetown Inn, One Commercial Street. Tickets are \$10, \$12 opening night, and can be purchased at the box office or by calling the theatre company at 487-3466 or 487-1847.

Larry, Queen of Scots, a bawdy farce set in Elizabethan England, concerns the last few months in the life of Mary, Queen of Scots. Playwright Norman R. Allen, whose Jenny St. Joan opened the Provincetown Theatre Company's "Workshop Originals" series early this year, takes a bold and imaginative look at a queen whose passions reigned her lovers and whose spirit conquered even her enemies. Larry, Queen of Scots is directed by Michael Prevulsky, who earlier this summer directed the highly successful Noises Off for the Provincetown Theatre Company.

Keepers, the other play on the bill of PROVINCETOWN PREMIERES, is a modern drama that takes place in the heart of Texas. Darlene Colton wants to be a country-western singer. Her husband Ray wants to keep her home and his. Candace Perry brings together in one act the powerful conflicts of love and ambition, of losers and keepers. Keepers is directed by Barbara Dennis, one of the founders of the Provincetown Theatre Company, who also directed the staged reading of Keepers last March.

The ensemble company of actors for PROVINCETOWN PREMIERES will feature Sandy McGinn and Vincent Philip in Keepers along with Anthony Jackman and Kevin Shenk in Larry, Queen of Scots. The actors most recently worked together in Noises Off and Philip, who acts and teaches in New York, was also seen in Seascapes. The playwrights, Norman R. Allen and Candace Perry, are members of the Provincetown Theatre Company's ongoing Provincetown Theatre Workshop for playwrights, directors and actors.

# Love in the #1 slot

*P'town play discovers the humanity—  
and the camp—component in a historical great lady*

by F. Ron Fowler

Provincetown gets a fresh look at one of history's favorite romantic heroines when Norman R. Allen's one-act play "Larry, Queen of Scots" opens at the Provincetown Theatre Company on August 31.

Described as "a sexual farce" about the last days of Mary, Queen of Scots, "Larry" tells the story of Mary Stuart's reunion with her late husband's male lover.

Mary's second husband, Henry Darnley, was in fact bisexual. Allen has created the character of Darnley's lover, who, in the play, reappears late in Mary's life. Enemies at first, they soon find themselves comparing notes on Darnley's sexual inadequacies. By the end of the play they are procuring men-at-arms for each other.

In a recent interview, Allen readily admitted the unlikeliness of this scenario.

"Well, of course it's ridiculous! I'm not Lady Antonia Fraser writing a biography. Still, everything that happens in 'Larry, Queen of Scots' is rooted in history. More important than the fact of Darnley's bisexuality is the pattern in Mary's life of putting love and romance before politics. That's what finally led to her execution. I've taken that character trait, blown it out of proportion and used it as the basis for a rather ridiculous comedy. What's exciting is that much of the historic truth of her character remains. There is still a sense of tragedy in the midst of the bawdiness."

The production, which stars Anthony Jackson, Sandy McGinn, Vincent Philip and Mary Kevin Shenk, has become raunchier during its rehearsal period.

"The play came out of the company's theatre workshop," Allen said. "I'd made a lot of changes, especially in the structure of the piece, but it wasn't until we were in rehearsals that all the staging possibilities really became evident. The actors are having so much fun with it. New ideas keep flying, each one a little more off-color than the one before. For a new author to have such a creative cast is a dream come true."

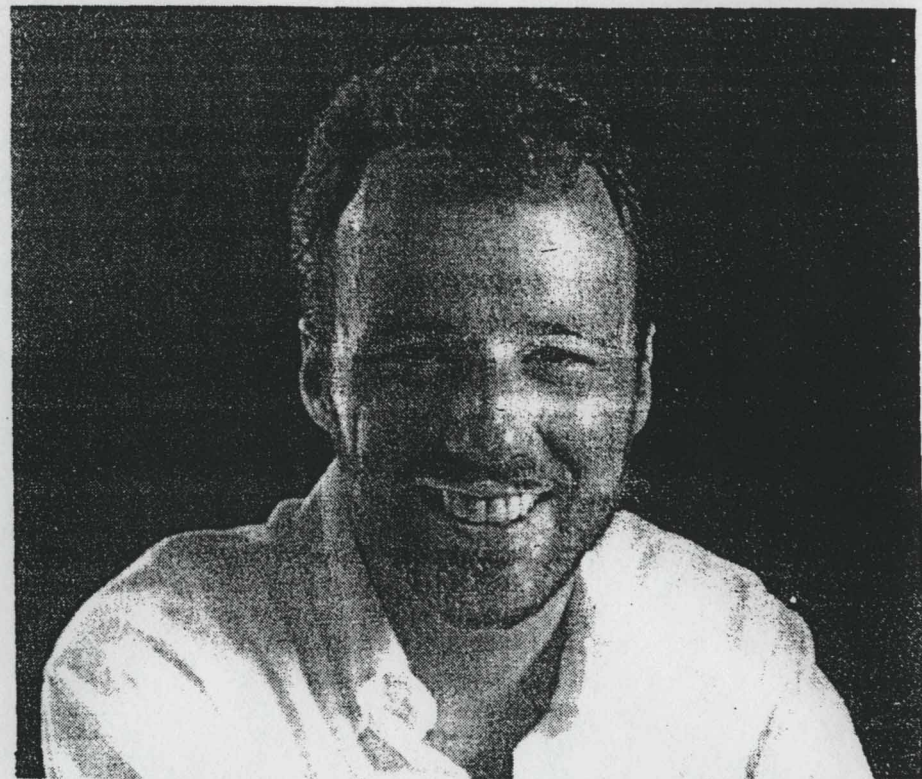
## Professional polish

Directing "Larry," is P. T. C.'s artistic director Michael Prevulsky. Prevulsky brings a professional polish to the proceedings, having worked with such legendary figures as Hal Prince and George Abbott.

"He keeps everything in line," Allen explained. "He keeps it from going over the edge and he makes sure the moments of tenderness aren't lost among the jokes. We couldn't have a better director."

Under the title *Provincetown Premieres*, "Larry, Queen of Scots" is paired with Candace Perry's one-act "Keepers," a modern drama that takes place in Texas and tells the story of a housewife who dreams of becoming a country-western star, despite her husband's disapproval.

"You couldn't find two more different



P'town playwright Norman Allen. Photo: F. Ron Fowler

plays but they work together beautifully," Allen said. "Both have tenderness and vulnerability at their center. And they illustrate the wide range of talent thriving in Provincetown."

Earlier this year the Provincetown Theatre Company produced Allen's *Jenny Saint Joan*, another play that brings a larger-than-life figure down to a human level. Allen's *Saint Joan* was an adolescent girl faced with heartbreaking decisions, choosing between home and public glory. *Saint Michael*, usually a voice from the heavens, was portrayed as a close friend, a confidant with a sense of humor.

Allen spoke of his attraction to historic figures.

"I think it's important, and fun, to remember that these were real people. They

told jokes, they had bad days, they were even horny sometimes! We can learn much more from history if we look at the characters as people instead of icons."

As with *Jenny Saint Joan*, the central theme in "Larry, Queen of Scots" is the strength of friendship. Knowing already that they have Darnley's bed in common, Mary and Larry learn that they share much more. Eventually they learn to trust and care for each other.

"I don't want to put a lot of weight on what is really just a fun comedy," Allen said. "There is a message here though and it's that friendship, true friendship, is the strongest bond between two people."

When asked how he thinks audiences will react to the liberties he's taken with historic fact, Allen replied, "Don Quixote said it best. 'Facts are the enemy of truth.'" ▼



# Self-esteem is common thread in Perry-Ribnick's art and career

By DAVID COLEMAN

“Write about what you know” is the advice often given to struggling writers. For Candace Perry-Ribnick, the characters in the fiction she writes reflect struggles she understands, as a woman and as a psychiatric social worker.

As a part-time writer of fiction, Perry-Ribnick has had limited success; *Ms* magazine published a story by her in 1984. But she has continued to write, lately for the stage. In two weeks, the public will have the chance to see her one-act play entitled “Keepers.”

The play is about a middle-aged woman's struggle to become a country-western singer. Performed by Sandy McGinn and Barney Howard, and directed by Barbara Dennis, the play explores the marriage of

Please turn to page 28



**CANDACE PERRY-RIBNICK**, by training a therapist, by avocation a writer and playwright, uses her psychological insight to develop her fictional characters.  
*(Staff photo by David Coleman)*

# Career

Continued from page 1

Darlene and Ray Colton, she 40 years old, he 60 years old. "It's about the politics of marriage, the power relationships, how the two people support one another and hinder each other. Without giving away the ending to the play," she explained, "it's about a woman who's not very sure of herself, someone who needs a lot of outside verification that what she's doing is good."

Perry-Ribnick said the performance will include audience criticism and reaction to the material. The staged reading is on March 4 at the Provincetown Inn at 8 p.m. "When you write fiction," she said, "you can keep sending it out, hoping it will be published. A play requires people willing to act, to direct." The play is part of her involvement in Provincetown Theater Workshop on theater writing.

Perry-Ribnick qualifies as a social activist as a member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and as a director of Independence House, the women's shelter in Hyannis. "I see myself as a feminist," she said by way of characterizing herself, "in the purest form of feminism, that men and women deserve a fair shake. In 'Keepers,' both Ray and Darlene are hurt by the sexual stereotypes each has. That is a problem. It is an issue that concerns me, it's a problem I

---

**“  
No one really  
cares whether I'm  
a writer...I don't  
expect to make  
much money at it.  
But if it's  
important to you,  
that balances out  
the time you  
spend.”**

Candace Perry-Ribnick

---

sense in the minds of many people.”

She agrees that the “sexual revolution” and feminism have produced mixed results for women. “A lot of feminists hoped that the feminist perspective would change the workplace, but I don't see that happening. What tends to happen more is that in order for women to succeed, they must adapt to the workplace.” That adaptation, in Perry-Ribnick's view, forces women to assume some of the views of the corporate ethic and suffer the same problems of self-justification as men. Women have the added burden, she explained, of finding and affording child care, balancing the needs of the child with the

demands of the career.

That loss of family time is a problem women share with men, Perry-Ribnick said. That ability of men to acknowledge the need for an emotional life was not “unexpected by the feminist movement,” she remarked.

As a psychiatrist social worker, Perry-Ribnick said, “the need for verification, for self-esteem, is a central issue in the lives of both men and women in our society. Many people have difficulty with that, the need to be verified by an outside source. Some people are uncertain of themselves, that what they do is good enough, worthwhile enough, so they need other people to tell them that it is.” The roots of that self-doubt have many sources, among them emotionally dysfunctional families and, in her view, television.

Perry-Ribnick understands Doreen's self-doubt. “I need a lot of that verification, too. No one really cares whether I'm a writer; my husband Preston is very supportive and my two kids, Benjamin and Dov, think it's neat, but I don't expect to make much money at it. But if it's important to you, that balances out the time you spend.”

Learning self-assurance and acquiring self-esteem is a “long, arduous process,” she said. “You have to first accept and love yourself among all the bad messages. That's what self-esteem is.”