



Welcome!

Hello writers, actors and lovers of all things thespian! The Old Pueblo Playwrights' newsletter brings you news and inspiration from our friendly group of scribes and notable theatrical tidbits from around Tucson.



Richard Chomping at the Bit!

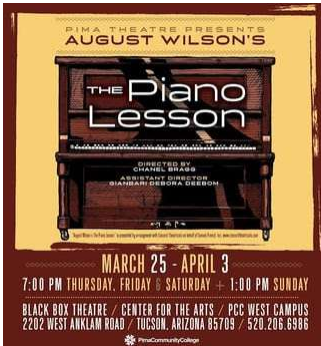
We start this month's newsletter with exciting news from one of OPP's reader/actors, Richard 'Chomps' Thompson. Richard recently received a dollar baby license from Stephen King to adapt, write, and film *The Man Who Would Not Shake Hands*. Richard has adapted the story's core elements into a short-film adaptation as a 'Southwest Folk Tale',

and employed a widespread cast of talented members from the local community - including another OPP actor, Courteny Pulitzer.

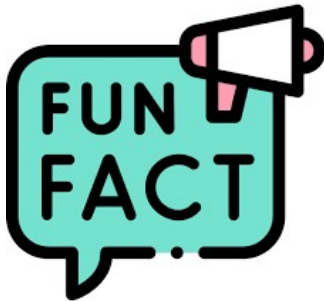


The film is a slow burn tale of PTSD and war in a post-civil-war southwestern town that regales a heartbreaking story of solitude and trauma, while maintaining the supernatural and chilling atmosphere normally associated with Stephen King. There is a special screening of the film as a part of the Southern

Arizona Chapter (GSAAC) of the Buffalo Soldiers National Convention 159th Anniversary Reunion. The **Loft Cinema** will host the event on **Weds July 23rd at 3pm**. Thompson adds: "The film's run includes the upcoming Tombstone Film Festival, plus a number of larger, more challenging festivals including the Cannes Short Film Festival. Richard is a Hearst poet at heart and has locally produced stage performances of original manuscripts including *Last Call* and *The GRANDest Pageant* at the Tucson Fringe (**2026 submissions are now open btw**) which became a Sundance documentary film fund consideration. He's directed both stage and film including Winding Road's 8-by-10's, *God Learns of the Death of Harambe* and his stage performances include Mark in the TAZ production of *People, Places, and Things*, and Boy Willie in Pima Community College's *The Piano Lesson*. Richard seeks to tell stories that use surreal, supernatural, or subtle elements as a mask over social realities that subtly disrupt audience perspective while telling a great tale in the vein of Jorden Peele or Alfred Hitchcock. He can next be seen at OPP with Robin Carson reading Adrian Cory's *The Knight of Malta* on August 18.



Congrats to our very own David Zinke who has landed a spot as an actor in the upcoming Scoundrel and Scamp 24/7 play festival. The dates are August 15 & 16. It's a bit of a departure for 'Zink' who has been one of seven playwrights for the last two years. Knock 'em dead, Zink!



Contrary to popular belief, 'Off-Broadway' is not geographical, it's based on seat numbers. Officially, Broadway theatres have 500+ seats, Off-Broadway theatres offer 100-500 seats and Off-Off-Broadway theatres have less than 100.



Got a playwriting tip or experience to share?

Send your playwriting experiences or any hard-earned advice to the [editor](#) for inclusion in the OPP newsletter.



Anyone can watch our Monday readings.

Just click on this [ZOOM](#) link and enjoy the show!

Next Up:

7/21 *Belle and the Beast* Sarah Wetzel 7/28 *TBC* Kevin Chess

8/4 *Does An Orchestra Really Need a Bassoon?* 8/11 *Screwed* Mel Hector



Joe L. Smith

Trained at the prestigious American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. 30+ years



David Zinke

ZINK is an actor with "gobs" of stage time. His career spans over six decades. He is

OPP Actor Pool

Get your personal profile up on the [OPP website](#) and get noticed. A photo and a bit of background helps our playwrights enormously when it comes to selecting a crew to read.



Save the Dates!

We're back at the Temple of Music & Art for our 37th New Play Festival.

From March 3rd to 8th, OPP will be showcasing its annual collection of carefully curated readings. The record turnout for our 2025 plays proved how this popular event is going from strength to strength. Stay tuned folks!

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The performing arts are a crucial part of our community's
cultural health and economic vitality.
As a small non-profit, OPP relies on donations to keep our
humble contribution to this community going.
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