



Pardee Home Museum Newsletter

Summer 1995

Volume 2 Issue 1

Upcoming Event

“Growing Up Invisible”

Pardee Home Museum collaborates with Oakland's award-winning Augustino Dance Theater

Augustino Dance Theater of Oakland has developed an exciting, site-specific performance series to debut this August at the Pardee Home Museum. The series, entitled “Growing Up Invisible” will address the experience of the Gateway neighborhood and its relationship to the historic Pardee home through dance, pantomime, music, and storytelling. These intimate performances will take place in the Pardee carriage house.

Slobodan Dan Paich, Augustino's artistic director and the esteemed Oakland arts community leader, describes the performance as an “archeology of dreams”—where the artists search their memories for glimpses of history. This airing of forgotten or suppressed folkloric roots feeds the contemporary and timeless themes that are Augustino's trademark. They have performed site specific work at a wide range of historic sites including a Moorish Castle in Gaucin, Spain, at the terrace of La Palazza, Italy, with the audience seated in the salon of a 14th-century house, at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico at a reconstruction of a Native American Long House, at the garden of the 18th-century house in England owned by musicians Pink Floyd and in San Francisco in a project entitled “Windflowers” which was inspired by festivals of many countries.” The script is narrated by Marijo, a well-known Oakland storyteller and actress, whose role will be of a teacher, and a nurturing mother to her own adopted and neighboring children. The character of her son is played by Augusto Ferriols, the 1994 *Oakland Business in the Arts* individual artist award recipient from the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Another son returns from World War One, shell-shocked and injured, whom the family nurses back to life. The son's spirit and physical well-being are restored through the historical narrative of his mother.

A performance video will capture the post-performance reactions and oral histories of local residents and this footage will be used in a video to be shown in schools and other forums to examine the ways in which we record and play-back historical narratives. The performance series is a way that the museum staff can reassess the history of the house in a way that is more broad and includes the local community and their voices.

The collaboration between Pardee and Augustino began because—while traditionally on opposite ends of the cultural arts field—both share a strong common ideology. Both organizations are working towards interpreting the history of the Oakland and this historic city landmark in a vastly more inclusive way than is the traditional practice of historic house museums. The collaboration is viewed by the Augustino Dance Theater as a natural coming together. However, in the historic house field, this is a very unique and progressive project of interpreting history.

Augustino Dance Theater explores contemporary issues through keeping creative links to history. “Growing Up Invisible” offers an opportunity of interpreting larger issues of global, American, and local history through envisioning the people growing up behind “the big house.” The house is actually a relatively modest urban residence in comparison to more grandiose Bay Area mansions such as Oakland's Dunsmuir House & Gardens

(con't page four)



PARDEE HOME
MUSEUM
672 ELEVENTH
STREET
OAKLAND, CA 94607
(510) 444-2187

Saturday evenings August 12, 19, 26, Sept. 2 @ 7:00 p.m. (Opening night reception Aug 12, 6:15 p.m.)

Sunday matinees August 13, 20, 27, Sept. 3 @ 2:00

Advance Tickets on sale beginning June 1: \$10.00 adults, \$7.00 seniors & students

Call (510) 444-2187 ext. #206 for advance reservation & ticket information and information on security parking during performance. Post performance refreshments included in ticket price.

Oral Histories

Stan Stidham, Museum Trustee

How often I recount the many memories I've had of the Pardee family.

As a small child I rode with the Governor in his automobile, sometimes to his yacht, La Ola. It was his non-communicative way by which he directed his car that I committed the time-worn sin of asking him where we passengers were heading. He invoked the historical retort, "we are going to the fat woman's house." Was I to fall into the same clinches that his daughters had fallen many times before and ask "where does the fat woman live?" To be answered "next to the lean woman" and then to ask again "where does the lean woman live?" To be yet answered "next to the fat woman." No indeed—I rather asked "where does the husky lady live?" The next thing I knew we were quickly parked with the Governor's hearty laughter taking over. I gave up in wonder—what was so funny?

I also remember when Helen Pardee gave me several directions on how to play the Gilbert & Sullivan's "Pinafore" on the art nouveau phonograph together with other musical gems during the time Mrs. Helen Pardee needed someone to be a companion in the last years of her life. This happened during my summer school vacation. I still remember hearing the lunch chimes, sitting in the tall dining chair and using the electric buzzer to bring Elizabeth, the cook, in to assist our needs—and what a good cook she was!

One time my mother handed me a broom and dust cloth—we both marched to the carriage house to clean up the second floor. Actually, clouds of dust arose from years of quietly coming to rest on all the many framed pictures and other objects that crowded into this storage space. Our unasked-for reward was to have the Pardees give

us oil paintings, photos, a mirror, and a framed Magna Carta for my high school graduation present, which I still cherish. Boy, it was worth all that dust!

In later years it was part of my life to come down to see the sisters almost every Saturday or Sunday and we would have lunch or go out to lunch and either go through all the many items, repositioning them and/or identifying them—so we enjoyed this vast searching or otherwise, we would use my car to take short trips all around. One of our traditions was to go out on Mother's Day, Father's Day and Memorial Day to all our relatives grave sites and Helen would relate to me the stories of all the other interesting grave sites and their historical participation in Oakland history. Oh, yes, we took flowers from the Pardee residence gardens to decorate. It was always a privilege to be with Helen Pardee. I enjoyed this part of my life very much.

"Clouds of dust arose from years of quietly coming to rest on all the many framed pictures and objects that crowded into this storage space."

Work Committees Added to the Board

Opportunities for members of Friends of the Pardee Home

Do you like meeting new people? Do you like organizing events and helping to support culture in a very substantial way? Do you enjoy gardening? If so, you'll want to consider the opportunity to become involved with one of the museum's new committees.

The PHF Board of Trustees recently voted to institute the following committees to support the work of museum staff. Members of the museum's support group, "Friends of the Pardee Home" are welcome to apply for a position on any of these committees. (This newsletter contains more information on membership.) All committees work closely with museum board and staff.

Program Committee: Plans public events including special tours and lectures, fundraisers, and the annual meeting. Looking for organized individuals with creative ideas!

Committee Chair: Open

Membership Committee: Works with the program committee on increasing the membership of the Friends of the Pardee Home including planning an annual membership drive. Looking for people who want to introduce others to this important historic resource.

Committee Chair: Open

House & Collections Committee: Sets policy for the use of the house and the collections. Oversees and recommends to the board new policies on loans, accessions, deaccessions, and maintenance. Looking for people interested in museum objects and historic structures and learning about their appropriate care and preservation, looking for teachers interested in helping to formulate school tour policies and procedures.

Committee Chair: Missy Nelson

Gardening Committee: Assists staff person in maintaining the historic Pardee landscape, .7 acre area, including tree trimming, rose tending, and helping to develop the flower garden. Looking for "hands-on" individuals or gardening clubs.

Committee Chair: David Nicolai

Pardee Home Foundation Board of Trustees

Ron Pardee Nielson, <i>Chairman</i>	Stan Stidham, <i>Secretary</i>
Marion R. Reich, <i>Treasurer</i>	Augusta Pardee Nielson
Shirley Smith	Michael Fink
Jeanne White	Missy Nelson
E.N. Brandt	

Pardee Home Museum Staff

Melissa Rosengard, *Director*
David Nicolai, *Assistant Curator / Caretaker*

Volunteers: Yanie Chaumette, Cherie Donahue, Dave Donovan, Dennis Evanosky, Jean Gregory, Theresa Helms, Joanne Hickox, Mary Jenevein, Susan King, Bert & Betty Johnson, Cayren King, Jane Lewis, Betty Parfitt, Judith Pence, Jeanne Pollak, Joan Roberts, Barbara Shepard, Anne Shordon-Ong, Betty Thomas, Don Tyler

