

Chrissy Anderson Book Signing

The Basil Leaf Café, Danville
Sept. 19th, 4-7pm

Portland author, Chrissy Anderson, is coming home to sign the first installment of her five-star rated romance, *The Life List*. Join Anderson for a chat and a sneak peek at the rest of *The List Trilogy* in the city where her chaotic love story began.

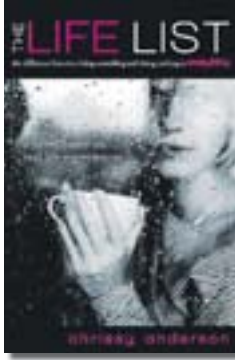
"Show me one woman who cannot identify with something Chrissy went through in this book, and I'll show you a woman who is either very young, very much in denial, or the very luckiest woman on earth."
- *A Blue Million Books*

"St. Mary's...The Round Up...The Reservoir...Set in the backdrop of my hometown, flashbacks of my own past are swirling thru my mind. Hilarious, raw, and sad... 5 million stars! I'm devouring this trilogy!" - *Amazon*

www.askchrissy.net

http://www.amazon.com/dp/B009OMK4EC

The Life List • The Unexpected List • The Hope List



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First Ever Tri-town Community Picnic Tomorrow

Neighbors without borders

By Cathy Tyson



Local kids join in a hearty game of tug of war at the Moraga Commons.

Photo courtesy Jay Ingram

Up for tug of war or a water balloon toss? Tomorrow, Aug. 15, all of Lamorinda is invited to the first-ever Community Picnic at the Moraga Commons. Thanks to Lamorinda Presents – a new organization geared toward bringing our trio of towns together to collaborate on events – organizers banded together to bring the

makings of a night to remember.

Community togetherness kicks off at 4 p.m. with a free-for-all; the Parks and Recreation directors of all three municipalities are bringing footballs, Frisbees and all kinds of sporting equipment for residents to play park games at their leisure to get the party started.

Then around 5:30 p.m., Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram will organize old-fashioned games like tug of war, a water balloon toss, a three-legged race, a water melon eating contest and more, similar to the Fourth of July celebration held at the same location. The Park Foundation will begin serving food at that time, but folks with a BYO picnic basket are welcome to dig in at any time. Unlike most parks, the Moraga Commons allows alcohol, but strongly discourages glass containers; thirsty patrons are welcome to responsibly enjoy adult beverages.

At 6:30 p.m., it's time to settle down a bit and enjoy Zebop, a fantastic Santana cover band. Does it get much better than small town togetherness, a paper cup of wine and children playing on the grass? Commenting on the event, Ingram said, "It's a great opportunity to bring the three communities together and connect with neighbors."

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"Lady Windermere's Fan" at Cal Shakes

Inside Scoop discussion offers glimpse into creative process

By Lou Fancher



Stacy Ross (Mrs. Erlynne), Emily Kitchens (Lady Windermere), and Aldo Billingslea (Lord Windermere) in Cal Shakes' production of "Lady Windermere's Fan" by Oscar Wilde, directed by Christopher Liam Moore. Photo Kevin

Playwright Oscar Wilde was a master of secrets and a maestro extraordinaire when it came to timing their release. In "Lady Windermere's Fan," subtitled "A Play about a Good Woman," telling (and not telling) tells all about late 1800 society's absurd-to-deadly-serious fixation with appearances, morality, socio-economic class, and the like.

As the play opens, the title character is preparing for a party and learning of her husband's infidelities. Inexplicably – from Lady Windermere's vantage point – her husband insists on inviting Mrs. Erlynne, his lover, to the evening's ball. During the course of the four-act comedy, betrayals and birthing truths (Mrs. Erlynne is, in fact, Lady Windermere's mother) lead to a misplaced fan, a heroic "rescue" in the form of multiple lies, and professions of undying marital love, if not honesty.

For actress Emily Kitchens (Lady Windermere), it's a plum role. For Cal Shakes artistic director Jon Moscone, it's a chance to invite Christopher Liam Moore, fresh from Oregon Shakespeare Festival, to apply what Moscone says is Moore's "acute psychology" to directing a classic. For set designer Annie Smart, it's an opportunity to expand upon French artist James Tissot's "Too Early," a painting

in which guests who've arrived awkwardly early at a party, gather in embarrassed, coifed clusters.

Dramaturg Philippa Kelly led off a July 29 Inside Scoop discussion – one of the theater troupe's free preview panels held at the Orinda Library a few weeks before each Cal Shakes production begins – by asking Kitchens what attracted her to the role.

"This woman has an incredible heart," Kitchens answered. "Over the 24 hours of the play, she has to re-evaluate what it means to have a good heart. It's growing up in 24 hours."

Kitchens said Moore refers to the play as "heaven on a stick," perhaps causing Kelly to provide an example of paradisiacal casting: "Danny Scheie plays the Duchess of Berwick and one other female role. That's going to be a treat," she laughed. The Bay Area favorite is familiar to most audiences for his comic portrayals, which often culminate in a unique hybrid: alternative, gender-blending, hilarious-tragic characters.

The set model on display was all angles: black, reflective flooring etched with grid patterning; ins-and-outs amplified by multiple doorways; crystal chandelier with cut glass throwing shards of light on the cast. The Bruns amphitheater is 80 feet

wide and creating intimacy is a challenge: Smart's flat-panel set dissects the vast space and creates perfect hidey-holes for secret encounters and liaisons. Decorative flourishes on the walls mask the harshness; much like the Victorian-era dress on display from costume designer Meg Neville that will camouflage the determination of the play's steely female characters.

"We backed up from the triangular skirts, big sleeves and flat hats of 1882, the year the play was written," Smart said, demonstrating how the big skirts were gathered and pulled back to form a "flirtatious backside with a lot of booty." You can flirt like nobody's business, she suggested, saying, "It's a peacock kind of thing – for women."

Moscone said the cast's work on the text is a collaborative, ongoing venture. Kelly and vocal coaches help the actors with pronunciation and Wilde's "wordy, endless" sentences. "The goal is not to cut the sentences, but to structure them so they sound natural," he explained.

American actors tend to stress most words in a sentence ("That makes it sound like molasses," Moscone said), but the British stress two words in each sentence and throw the rest away. ... continued on page B5

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