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All the World's (still) a Stage for **Laf-Frantics**

By Cathy Dausman



Former Laf-Frantics members gather for their annual holiday brunch at Terzetto in Moraga.

Photo Chris Nelson

fter 30 years in the Alimelight and an additional 26 consecutive years of cast reunions, Lafayette's own Laf-Frantics theater group is still getting together. Where once topics involved play deadlines and children, the talk now focuses on grandkids and travel. Recently, members responded to a Lamorinda Weekly request to list their New Year's resolutions for 2013, and proved they still have what it takes to keep 'em Laf-ing!

Cathy - - -

"To get back to photography." - Charles Jarrett

"I'm giving up men." - Dian Overly

"I need to run more." - Judy Lang

"To make it through 2013." - Jean Smith

"...me too!" - Dick Smith

"To listen to my doctor!" - Charlotte Azklar

"To keep on keeping on." - Jerry Compton "To finish LafFrantics binders for the Lafayette Historical Society." - Theron Nelson

"To live more..." - EdQuenzel

"To get back to my ceramics, playing guitar and piano and weaving..." - Karen Jarrett "To stop procrastinating." - Amy Duling

"To do more walking." - George Wasson

"To feel better in 2013." - Marge Stalker "To do everything right." - Betsey Young

"To try more activities." - Edy Compton

"To see Betty a lot." - Chris Nelson



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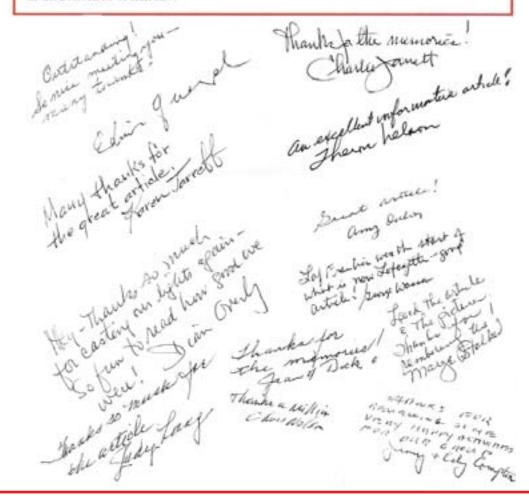
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Reporter Cathy Dausman received a nice thank you card from the Laf-Frantics. We liked it so much we thought we'd share it with our readers.



Laf-Frantics actor/dancers **Betsey Young** (front) and Jeri Burnside (rear) in costume for an entre-act skit

From some of the former cast and crew - - - Thank You for your article Laf-Frantics in the November 7, 2012 issue of the about the LAMORINDA WEEKLY.



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Shun Li and the Poet

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The movie shows how these two try to bridge their differences, understand each other, and share a little bit of humanity. "I wanted to present two things in this movie," explained Italian Director Andrea Segre for the Cannes Film Festival in 2010, "first translate realistically and metaphorically the relationship between people of different cultural background, and also speak of two places that are very important for me and very representative of today's Italy: the multi-ethnic suburbs of Rome and Venice, two Italian regions that recently became immigration regions be-

cause of economic growth."

The scenes in the little "osteria" where Shun Li works are realistic social depictions, characters are picturesque. The way some scenes are filmed makes it vivid and life-like with no romanticism. Alternating with these are scenes of poetry and beauty.

The setting, on the island of Chioggia, gives Segre the opportunity to create images of serene beauty. Tao Zhao's face (Shun changing Europe. Li) fits perfectly with the calm and luminosity of the Venetian lagoon. Segre filmed her with the sunset's light on her face, revealing the porcelain beauty of this 9060.

fine actress. Also interlaced in the film is the recurrent and metaphorical image of water and the little lights that Shun Li floats for the Chinese poet Qu Yuan.

Of particular note, too, is the soundtrack. Very modern, creative and melodic, the music fits the narrative well and helps to convey the emotion of the film.

The movie is an aesthetic treat as well as a cultural lesson on a

Shun Li and the Poet will be playing at the Orinda Theatre through the month of January. For information, call (925) 254-

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com