

DESIGN SOUND PRODUCTIONS

Phone: 519-351-3824

Email: dspaudio@cogeco.ca

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

NEW YORK AND CHICAGO BASED PRODUCTION COMPANY IN ASSOCIATION WITH DESIGN SOUND PRODUCTIONS TO RECORD RADIO DRAMA PILOTS IN CHATHAM

CHATHAM, ON – January 02, 2009: Design Sound Productions Chatham, in association with RZM Creative New York and Chicago, team up to produce and record two audio drama pilots ‘Shadow of the Shapeshifters’ (Sci-Fi) and ‘My Three Grandmothers’ (Comedy/Farce) for radio broadcast and the audio drama market.

David Farquhar, the Executive Producer of Design Sound Productions says “The weekend of January 16th and 17th 2009 will be a beehive of activity at the Park Street Centre for the Arts in Chatham as the Centre will be transformed into a fully operational production studio in preparation for the audio drama recordings.” Farquhar notes “this is truly an exciting time for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent as some of the top international names in audio theatre and the stage are coming to Chatham to work alongside our local actors.”

Included are George Zarr, an award winning New York Writer/Director/Producer/Composer who was recently the Senior Producer at the SCI- FI Channel’s Seeing Ear Theatre ‘Tales from the Crypt’ involved in more than 40 audio drama programs directing such stars as Tony Danza, John Ritter and Brian Dennehy. Barbara Rosenblat is a multi award winning audio book narrator, voice over artist, film, TV and Broadway actor who performed in the Tony-Award winning musical ‘The Secret Garden’. Marssie Mencotti (Chicago) is a voiceover artist on national commercials and has many years of acting experience in plays, film, and commercials (most recently of which was Wrigley Eclipse Gum TV and Radio campaign) along with improv at Second City in Chicago.

The Canadian cast members include Noelle Dupuis of Huntsville, Oliver Georgiou of Toronto, Laura Van Veen of Guelph, Keith Burnett, Pat Gough, Jan Holt, Norm McLeod, Alexandra Poole and Alex Tomaszewski all of Chatham.

“Since George who penned the scripts is such a brilliant visual writer” says Farquhar ‘plans are in the works to pitch ‘Shadow of the Shapeshifters’ and ‘My Three Grandmothers’ for either TV or film development.’ It is rewarding for all involved to know that Chatham is building an international reputation for producing quality audio drama programming.”

For further information contact David Farquhar at 519-351-3824 or email: dspaudio@cogeco.ca

BARBARA ROSENBLAT is one of the most sought-after narrators of audio books with fans worldwide. She has been honoured with five coveted *Audie Awards* and twenty-seven *Earphone Awards*. Barbara was named one of the 'Golden Voices' and a 'Voice of the Twentieth Century'. *Billboard Magazine* said, "Rosenblat is spoken of with the same respect and affection that the music industry holds for Frank Sinatra and the Beatles." She has appeared on Broadway in the *Tony-Award*-winning musical 'The Secret Garden' as well as shows in London's West End. Barbara recently appeared on Broadway in 'Talk Radio' starring *Tony-Nominated* actor Liev Schreiber and the off Broadway show '27 Rue de Fleurus'.

MARSSIE MENCOTTI has a background of nearly 20 years in marketing, new business development, promotions and media sales, mainly in Chicago radio with WFYR-FM, WKQX-FM, WJMK-FM and as Creative Director for Clear Channel Chicago's Marketing arm, Chancellor Marketing. She is a tenured faculty member in the Radio Department at Columbia College Chicago. She is a voiceover artist on national commercials and has many years of acting experience in plays, film, and commercials (most recently of which was Wrigley Eclipse Gum TV and Radio campaign) along with improv at Second City in Chicago. Marssie is currently in Caffeine Theatre's production of T. S. Elliott's, 'The Cocktail Party' as Julia Shuttlethwaite.

GEORGE ZARR is an award winning Writer/Producer/Director/Composer based out of New York. He was most recently at Sirius Satellite Radio, where he was Manager of Spoken Word Programming/Executive Producer. For the SCI- FI Channel Seeing Ear Theatre 'Tales from the Crypt' he was the Senior Producer involved in more than 40 audio drama programs directing such stars as Tony Danza, John Ritter and Brian Dennehy just to name a few. He was also Co-Writer/Producer/Director of the National Public Radio/Dove Audio-distributed comedy series 'Visit New Grimston, Anyway' and the international award-winning 'Little Chills' horror series both in the collection of The Museum of Television and Radio in New York City. George wrote, composed and directed the Off Broadway sketch comedy 'Mind Floss' and directed the chamber opera 'Who's on Faust?' for the American Chamber Opera Company.

DAVID FARQUHAR is the Executive Producer of Design Sound Productions an independent audio production and sound design company and the recently created audio theatre performance and production company Voices in the Wind Audio Theatre. He has worked with noted actors, writers and directors from New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto, Windsor, Huntsville and Chatham. Not only have his radio programs been broadcast on both public and commercial radio stations, they have also been released on CD and cassette. His fully equipped production studio is located in Chatham, Ontario. Farquhar was most recently the Workshop Leader and Producer of the Audio Theatre Production and Performance Workshop funded in part by the Ontario Arts Council and the National Audio Theatre Festivals (New York).

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