



Kent Jackman
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A Friend In Need

(WEST LAS VEGAS Theatre)

Writer – Director – Teaching-Artist



Entertainment

Show to feature youths from arts camp

Program helps teens build character through music, dance and theater

By KRISTI JOURDAN

VIEW STAFF WRITER

Sounds of squeaky shoes echo throughout the studio as the dozen or so dancers practice their upcoming Asian hip-hop routine.

The music stops abruptly. Someone missed a step.

Choreographer Ed Downing sternly but gently advises where the mistake occurred and how to make sure it doesn't happen again.

After all, the show is one week away.

Someone hits the play button, and the music resumes. No one gives the error a second thought — everyone is family here at the West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

The teenage performers seem to learn quickly from their mistakes. They can build their skills only by trying. Most have an extensive theater background. Others have no experience.

Down the hall, more students at the Performing & Visual Arts Summer Camp form an African rhythm circle — beating large drums with their hands and sticks.

Next door is a full production studio where kids tinker around with computer software used to create professional music for performances. R&B artist Ne-Yo used to create in that studio.

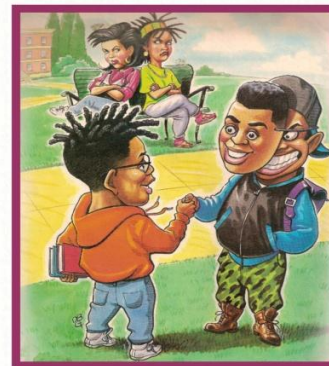
In another classroom, children ages 10 to 15 wildly clap and shout as they practice lines and learn character development for upcoming performances of Kent Jackman's "A Friend in Need."

The urban musical focuses on two public school students, Melissa and Kelly, who ignore homework and learn life lessons during a class trip to an amusement park.



KRISTI JOURDAN/VIEW

Performing & Visual Arts Summer Camp students practice an Asian hip-hop routine July 13 in the studio at the West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd., as they prepare for performances of the urban musical "A Friend in Need."



'A FRIEND IN NEED'



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Playwright Graphic Artist

The New York Times

Family Fare

Laurel Graeber

From Bones of the Past, A Body of Stories

When Kent Jackman learned that one of the teenagers in City Lights Youth Theater could build puppets as expressive as Jim Henson's Muppets, he was eager to use them in this season's play. But the dark, torturous and conflicted road that these puppets are to travel is nowhere near the neighborhood of Sesame Street.

The puppets, created by Ian Chin, will play roles in "Seeds of Bondage," City Lights' annual Origins Project. Now in its 11th year, the project pairs the 12- to 18-year-old participants in the company's summer program with a professional playwright — for the past several years, Mr. Jackman — to write and produce a work based on New York history. This year's inspiration is the exhibition "Slavery in New York" at the New-York Historical Society.

"Slavery is about individuals manipulating one another," Mr. Jackman said. "We were able to use Ian's puppets to dramatize slaves as property and also to dramatize the manipulation of politics." In one scene, for example, a puppeteer whose costume is decorated with symbols of money will operate a puppet representing a white judge.

But "Seeds of Bondage," opening today, also features actors. The teenagers portray characters like themselves — high school history students — and people who lived hundreds of years ago. The play, Mr. Jackman said, begins with the 1991 discovery of the African Burial Ground in Lower Manhattan and then goes far back in time to highlight the lives of slaves whose biographies are in the historical society's collection.

"The play is a series of episodes about what slaves went through to get their freedom," Mr. Jackman said. The climax is the 1741 New York anti-slavery revolt and the trial of its participants. Then the action returns to a contemporary classroom and the teenagers' reflections.

Although the play, directed by Katharine Connor, is based on the African-American experience, "this can happen regardless of ethnicity," Mr. Jackman said. "How slavery functions in contemporary times is part of the subtext as well."



Agusto Murrillo

Nelson Felix and Kate Krauss in City Lights' "Seeds of Bondage."

SEEDS of BONDAGE



TRIUNFAR! (i.e. “Winners!”) – Bogota, Colombia
Writer - Director



In Development

**Currently seeking Producing Associates and Sponsorship
to complete the scores for the following new musicals...**



*(A New Musical Fantasy)
By Kent Jackman*

*Be a witness as Mankind
stands trial
for crimes against Mother
Nature...*

It is *July fourth*, in the *much too near future*. *Mother Nature* is suffering from the abusive treatment mankind has inflicted upon her air, water, and earth - and has implored *Father Supreme* to discipline his last earthly creations. Father Supreme discovers that his *Man Animals* have evolved to an uncontrollable level of sophistication and are destroying themselves through greed, drugs, and ultimately — the B.O.M.B.

Although the world is abruptly destroyed by what is allegorically called "*the last forest fire*," Father Supreme has sacredly preserved the members of the Animal kingdom.

After rejoicing their new found freedom from years of oppression by Man Animals, the beasts surprisingly discover that Father Supreme has also chosen to preserve two younger man animals, a female and a male - in a final attempt to allow human-kind to learn how to protect Mother Nature's health. However, Father Supreme assures the beasts that "...if the human animals should fail during this trial," which he has asked the beasts to conduct, he will have no other choice but "to erase them from the earth, once and for all."

Will the Man Animals be convicted during this unusual trial?...

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A LONG WAY FROM HOME-LY



© KJ AQUARIUS

SYNOPSIS

SHERYL BRYANT has devoted some of the best years of her love life to her man **GREG**, a self-employed handy man - in need of roving eye repairs.

Their relationship is put to the ultimate test after Sheryl's girlfriend (**PAM**) gives her a seductive weekend makeover that launches this outrageous new musical of mistaken identity...spiced with deceptive deals, amorous alcoholics, barbershop sermons, and more!

What happens...when the grass that appeared "so much greener," was actually seeded in your *Own Garden*???

Find out in **A LONG WAY FROM HOME-LY**, a new musical comedy by (actor-director) Kent Jackman.

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SnapShots

(a new romantic dramedy)

Also available for future bookings

The problem with relationships today?...Most people FANTASIZE, but they fail to SCRUTINIZE!!!

On the eve of her tenth wedding anniversary Sharon Hawthorn takes us on a nostalgic (and occasionally neurotic) journey through the pages of her love life, as documented within the snapshots of her personal photo album...

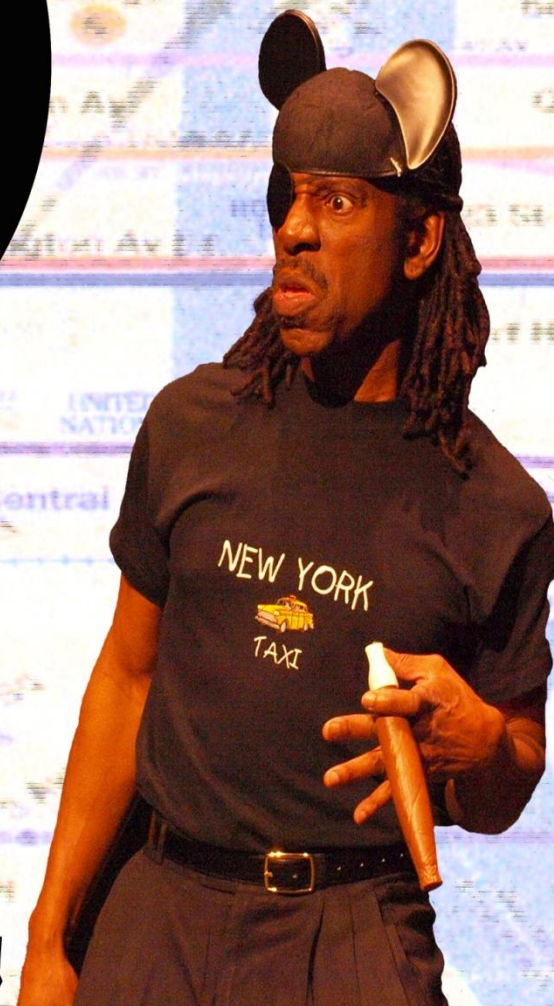
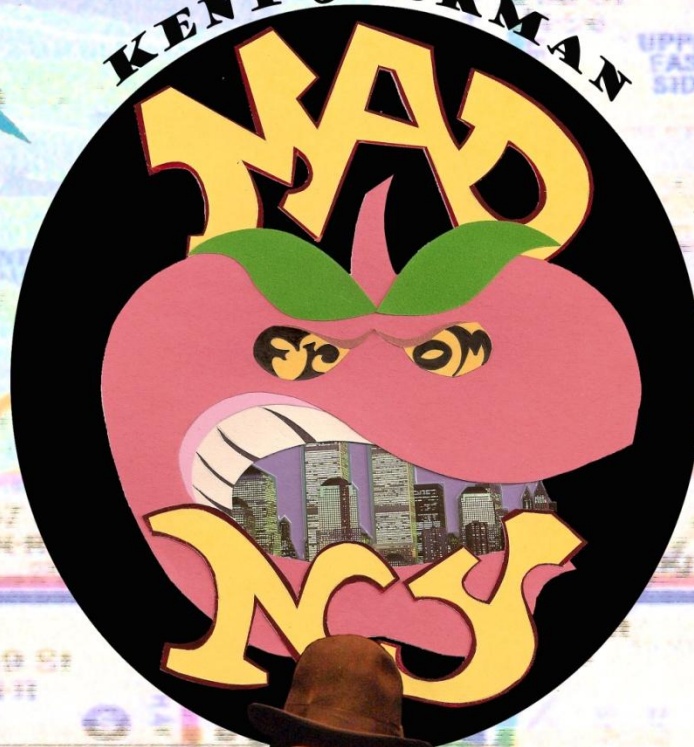
In the process she reveals the value of overcoming fears (from emotional seclusion to hereditary health issues), as well as *the importance of learning to forgive* - as a prerequisite to finding romantic fulfillment.

Discover the remedy for creating happiness in your love life, within the pages of the new romantic dramedy - **SnapShots.**

KJ Aquarius

**PRODUCTIONS
present...**

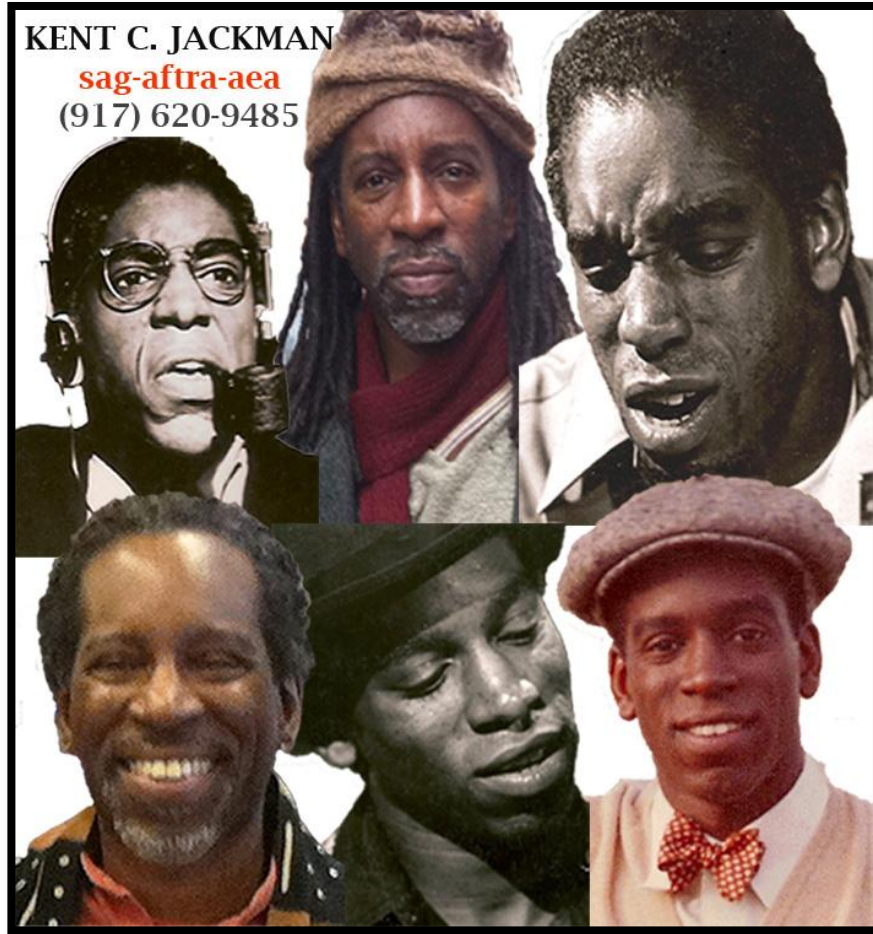
KENT JACKMAN



An Outrageous New Survival Showcase!

**As a Professional Actor
(SAG-AFTRA / AEA)**

my career includes numerous performances on stage and screen



[https://youtu.be/SYhg--
JyiWs](https://youtu.be/SYhg--JyiWs)

Thanks for your consideration - I look forward to our continued association