

J. O'Reilly Productions Newsletter
Issue III

Fall, 2003

"To get the best out of life we need to take ourselves lightly and take our work seriously. We need to listen closely to what's being asked of us, look fear in the face, speak from our hearts and reach beyond what we know. And then we need to ask questions and be willing to truly hear the answers. For me, peace of mind begins with knowing I did all I could and then some. Let us practice peace and good will in this holiday season and always."

-Jamie

NEWS in this issue

- Website contributes to expanding client roster, new programs, and links to great info
- This fall's bright star, the "Magi" returns, (see calender, CD release, program pages)
- Jamie's new project with youth on the Spanish Civil War (www.freestreet.org)
- Patricia Monaghan's "Homefront" poetry project (www.patriciamonaghan.com).
- Highlights of the Year *including causes to live work and fight for*
- Jamie's message of peace

A Note from Jamie O'Reilly

Performer, Producer, Activist, Consultant, Writer, Friend.
November 2003

Dear Friends:

Once again, I have written the *J. O'Reilly Productions 2003 year in review*, which follows.

An additional focus has happened to my work this year, as I have more clients to work with (some found through our website), and I am acting as a consultant and teacher more and more regularly. This is a GIFT in my life. Please consider consulting with me as well. I keep a networking roster of folks whose work I recommend and/or hire for my projects. Speaking of gifts! The new "Michael Smith's Gift of the Magi" CD is a real triumph for us! We employed the talents of stellar musicians. Michael wrote and performed primo songs and arrangements. I had a great time singing and producing, and we believe we produced a 'Holiday classic" of great quality and very entertaining. None of which would be possible without the generous support of co-

executive producer Judith Svalander and our outstanding engineer Craig Williams.

One of my joys is that I still sing tributes and celebrations, and then I can pass on news to you. Since last you heard from me, I sang at the birthday tributes to Charlie Ehret, Scientist (80) and brother Beau O'Reilly (50). We celebrated the marriages of Miriam Sturm and Pat Fleming ("The Gift of the Magi" CD) and my niece Katrina ("Pasiones" "Gift of the Magi" CDs) to Brian Greene. We saw the sad passing of Tom Glazer (father of Peter "Pasiones"), Roseanne Swenson (mother of Peter "The Way the Heart is Sculpted"), Katie Ingle, teacher (wife of Rich "La Guerra Civil"), Jim Oleson, teacher and nature lover, (father of Nanci, host of "MOMbo on MPR) and John Rossen, Spanish Civil War veteran and activist.

Tragically man's inhumanity to man still exists in perverse proportions, and we see, and continue to hear of, the senseless killings in Iraq, Israel and worldwide. Good or bad this was a year of many causes for me to sing about! In this time of worldwide-misplaced anger, abusive greed and just plain arrogance, let's practice peace with one another and in our hearts. Grateful for the peaceful moments and for the gift I DO have in your support and love,

-JAMIE

PS. The newly released "America's Mom", Rick Kogan's book on Ann Landers (William Morrow), includes a little story I contributed about meeting the great lady at one of my gigs! You'll find my story two entries before Hugh Hefner's.

The Year in Review, 2003

* I created www.jamieoreilly.com with gifted designer Louise Amandes (www.weezieworld.com). This website is dedicated to cultural arts and artists, providing networking and consulting services to free lance artists and organizations and boasting a full roster of celebrated cultural arts programs and recordings. Also on the site are downloadable guides geared toward the freelance artist and venues.

*I sang in the "Not in Our Name" Antiwar event presented by poets and theater folks at the Apollo Theater: Included Mary Zimmerman, Studs Terkel, Oscar Brown, Jr., Frank Galati, Dennis Zacek, Mark Strand, Jenny Magnus, Beau O'Reilly (February, '03)

*I created "Heart of a Woman" for Columbia College Chicago's Hokin Gallery Series *Strong Women, Riveting Art*. This program of Celtic songs reflects a woman's view of life, love and the horror of war. Michael Smith accompanied.

*I produced, co-wrote, directed and hosted the program "Forever Activists for Truth and Justice": Remembering the Lincoln Brigade's Struggle for Democratic Spain, at Ganz Hall, Roosevelt University, Chicago Friends of Abraham Lincoln Brigade

*I sang with my daughters Meg (guitar) and Nia (percussion) and niece Sarah (clarinet) using the Shulamite women's lyrics ("Flowering Henna") and peace songs. This was a benefit for peace activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Kathy Kelly: *Voices in the Wilderness*, at Steppenwolf Studio with Studs Terkel and others. (June, 2003)

*I hosted a "Fiesta Mujeres for Creative Women" evening and added several more artistic souls, from a jewelry maker and masseuse, to a ceramicist and life coach, to my networking roster. (Names and contacts upon request.)

*I performed in the new play, "Caravan" about Palestinian Women in Chicago, directed by Jenny Magnus, produced by Stillpoint Theater Ministry and written by Iraqi playwright Melysha Sargis Meraee for the Rhinoceros Theater Festival of New Work. (September, 2003)

Current Projects:

*Producing, performing and promoting the late November release of the new Christmas compact disc "Michael Smith's The Gift of the Magi" an Americana ballet, with Vaudeville style string ensemble and includes Hot Club of Paris-style swing arrangements. I produced the CD and perform on many of its 15 tracks. This is a collaboration and commission with choreographers Judith Svalander and Greg Begley A concert series for Christmas will be presented and includes a Woodstock Opera House premiere on November, 28th, a WFMT radio broadcast on December 13th, and FitzGerald's on December 21. (See "MAGI" order the CD, book the program.)

*I spearheaded an effort to create a community project of breathe and educational potential, and now act as musical director and consultant for, "La Guerra Civil" a community-wide youth theater piece on the Spanish Civil War and its effect on war and peace in this, and the last centuries. The project is supported in large part by a grant from the Office of Community Arts Partners (OCAP) at

Columbia College in collaboration with Free St. Theater, Music Theater Workshop, Proyecto haCE, Chicago Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and ALBA, the leading national Spanish Civil War history organization. www.freestreet.org (November '02- January '04)

*I am collaborating with prolific author Patricia Monaghan (Ph.D., DePaul University) in developing Pat's recent award-winning collection of "Homefront" poems and prose into a theater piece on the theme of Soldier's Heart, the effect of war on veterans and their families. This project is supported by a DePaul Humanities Fellowship. (www.patriciamonaghan.com). (November '03-March '04)

AND for potential clients:

*I teach voice with a method of study I developed called "Singing from the Center."

*I act as a coach and consultant to creative individuals, with a focus on self-producing, as well as provide arts consulting on specific projects for cultural arts organizations, through my Ravenswood studio and office. (*See arts consulting pages.*)