



Tradewinds

April 2008

Monthly Newsletter

INTERVIEW WITH KEO WOOLFORD *Conducted by Roy Liebman, Publications Chair*

At the A/PGF movie night in February filmmaker Edward Gunawan screened two of his Asian-cast gay-themed short films, the Planet Out prize-winner *Just and Laundromat*, which was publicly previewed for the first time. Both co-starred handsome up-and-coming actor Keo Woolford, who has chalked up some impressive credits including a long run in *The King and I* in London and one-man shows in Los Angeles. He is also a talented hula performer.



RL: I understand you grew up in Hawai'i. What was it like to grow up there?

KW: Wow, where do I begin with that question? Hawai'i will always be my home. There are so many things unique to Hawai'i, especially because it's part of the United States. It's the place that has the most mixed marriages and mixed-race people on Earth. It has pristine beaches and lush green rain forests, and it also has skyscrapers, crime and homelessness. I could go on forever about Hawai'i and what it is like there, but the main thing is that it follows me wherever I go.

RL: I assume you live in the L.A. area now. Did you leave Hawaii for career reasons?

KW: Yes, I left Hawai'i initially to pursue a solo pop music career. Throughout the years I have returned to live in Hawai'i for years or months at a time. I go back home for work a lot, especially after my solo career pursuit fell through on the mainland. I moved back and joined the Hawaiian boy band *Brownskin* for a couple of years. I also spent a lot of time there working as a co-producer and as part of the subject matter in the documentary, *Na Kamalei: Men of Hula*, and recently did a tour of my one-man show *I Land* there. I'll eventually retire back in Hawai'i, but right now the work that I do kind of requires me to be away from home.

RL: At what point in your life did you become interested in the hula and Hawaiian music and decide to study them in depth? Talk about the significance of these in your life.

KW: I started dancing hula in high school thinking it was going to be an easy credit. Boy, was I wrong! It was so intense and required lots of studying, discipline and hard work. When I saw my cousins dancing hula (the real hula) for the first time when I was a kid, I couldn't explain what happened to me. It was visceral and spiritual and mind-blowing. Hawaiian music was always a part of my life as a kid. My uncles and aunts would sing at backyard lu'au, or it was on the radio, or I would go to Hawaiian music concerts.

It's been ingrained in my being and I am a better person for going through what I did and the lessons I learned from dancing hula. It was that discipline and respect that I believe made me better able to do close to 400 shows as *the King in the King and I* in London's West End and only missing one

single show.

RL: How did you get into acting? Was it always a goal or did you set out to do something else?

KW: Acting sort of fell into my lap; I never thought I would ever be an actor. When I was growing up I rarely even watched movies and never went to theater. I never even understood why there was a drama class in our high school; I was so disconnected from the whole thing. When I moved to Los Angeles most of the friends I made were actors, good ones, and people would think I was an actor, too. When my music contract fell through, a friend of mine suggested taking an acting class to get me out of my depression. I resisted but he told me it would be good for me and I finally relented.

It was a short summer intensive with Howard Fine and I loved it! I still didn't think that it was something I wanted to do, though I did some commercials and print modeling and a little of bit of theater, but still wanted to do music. It wasn't until after I had moved back to Hawai'i and took a break from being in the boy band that I booked the King and I gig in London and that changed my life. That's when acting became my passion. I moved to New York after London and studied with William Esper who taught me a true respect for the craft. While I was living part time in New York and Los Angeles I began studying with Ivana Chubbuck who taught me a whole new side of acting. And now acting is the only thing I can see myself doing.

RL: You have already had some distinguished credits, such as your run in The King and I and your one-man shows. Please talk about these and other accomplishments.

KW: I was very lucky to have booked the lead in the King and I with such little acting experience in such a prestigious venue and for so long a run. It was the longest-running Rodgers and Hammerstein revival in history. I don't take these things for granted. I think that it's part of how my one-man show came about: the dearth of work for actors who look like me. I am fortunate to have met Roberta Uno who really pushed me to do a one-man show. Again, this was something that I resisted, but after taking on the task it has been such a blessing in my life.

It had a great run at East-West Players here in L.A., another great run off-Broadway with Ma-Yi theater company, and now it's on tour. I was nominated for an Ovation Award and the response has been incredible. Another highlight in my career was being a part of the recording team from Hawai'i that wrote and produced the Island Warriors CD that was nominated for a Grammy Award. I have continued writing songs for artists in Hawai'i and Japan. Again, I feel so blessed to be doing what I love and am passionate about.

RL: What are your ultimate career plans?

KW: I have so many things that I want to do in my career. I have had such a wonderful run in theater and music and would like to see what I can do in film and even TV. I love independent films. I have learned from doing my one-man show to so many people in so many places, and also the reaction to the documentary I co-produced. With the projects that I have a hand in creating I want to say something meaningful and want to break boundaries and push the envelope.

RL: What advice would you have for young actors just starting out?

KW: I am the last person who should be giving advice to young actors because I still don't know what I'm doing myself! I just don't think about it, I just do it. So I guess that would be my advice: Just do it. See, I told you I shouldn't be giving out advice. That just sounds like a Nike commercial.

A LITTLE HOLLYWOOD HISTORY - ANSWERS *Submitted by Jon Longworth*

The answers to last months "A little Hollywood History" quiz are all the same: Marlon Brando.

Congratulations to Roy L. & Stephen H. who answered the questions correctly. Source of the questions were: Brando Unzipped by Darwin Porter still available at Amazon.com

Brando, of course was an amazing actor and probably one of the best all around, although he mumbled a lot. He liked to get into his characters. Before he made the movie "The Men" which was about military paraplegics he checked himself into a hospital ward and unknown to any of the others pretended to be a patient and nearly blew his cover the first day by scratching his crotch. One of the men asked if he had feeling down there. Marlon replied "Old habits die hard."



Brando was both a top and a bottom when it came to gay sex. When asked if he had ever f**ked Rock Hudson, he answered, "No, but Rock f**ked me. If there's one thing more delectable than my noble tool, it's my rosebud."

He had sex with many of Hollywood's top female stars as well, even Mae West who was many years his senior. He had sex many times with much older men and women saying that they were "Mercy f**ks."

Marlon's dad, Marlon Sr, denounced his son for his "nonstop screwing."

Marlon's life long buddy and frequent sex partner actor Wally Cox died in 1973. Marlon talked his widow out of Wally ashes and kept them in his Mulholland Drive home. Often he would placed the urn of ashes on the dinning table and had Wally to talk to during dinner. When Marlon himself died and was cremated, as per his wished, Wally's and his ashes were mixed and taken to Death Valley where half the ashes were scattered. The other half were scattered on his South Pacific Shangri-La Tetiaroa.

Marlon was fond of darker skinned folks. Surely he sampled young Asian men while on location making "The Ugly American" in Bangkok; and " Sayonara & Tea House of the August Moon" in Japan.

What an amazing talent and person who took full advantage of life and all its sexual pleasures.

A FUN TIME IN BERLIN *submitted by William Tom*



Many A/PGF members are finalizing their plans for the IFW-ICON convention in Berlin. Some would like to just spend the time in the City, while others are planning to go as far as Oslo.

Best advice is to keep your plans flexible. After you arrive, you can still make changes to your itinerary. One common question I'm

asked is about transportation--train or fly. Although inter-Europe flight are rather inexpensive, one should consider the trains. Europe, as in Germany, has a very extensive system of high speed trains, which are all interconnected, so you can easily travel seamlessly between the countries. Another advantage is that you go direct from city center to city center, thus avoiding the rides to and from the airports.

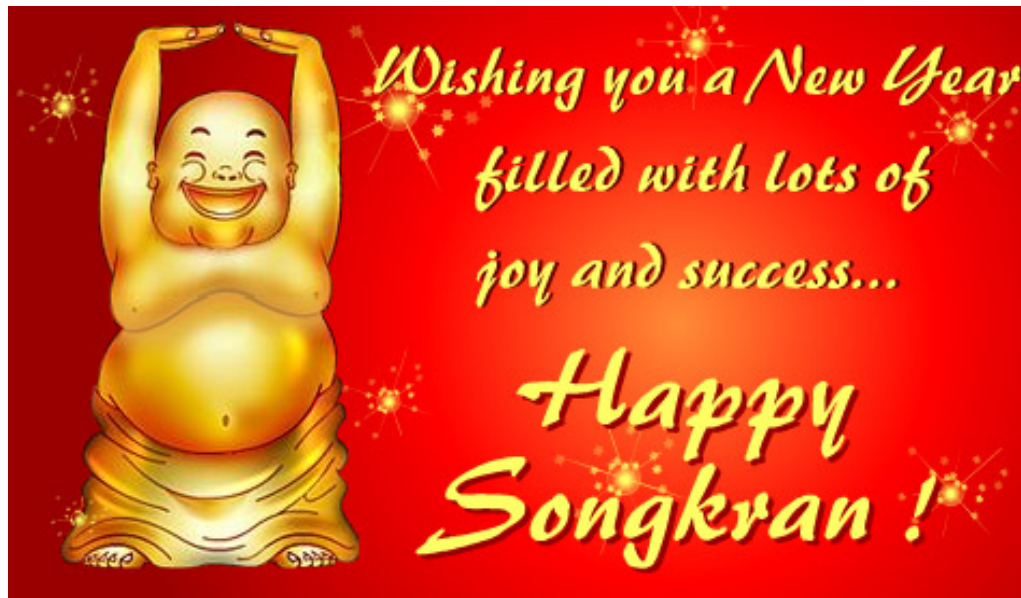
The convention itself is 4 days long; you will have adequate time to visit other tourist attractions during your stay. Berlin has a very extensive gay scene, mainly located near the Nollendorf subway station. For more details and maps, pick up one of the many free gay publications when you get into town. You will also notice posters throughout the city advertising the parade and festivals.

Plan to spend the whole day, Saturday, for the pride parade. The event starts at Noon and continues on as street fair at the victory monument. The parade weaves its way through town, so there will be plenty of places to view the procession. You will see many varied costumes and themes, a la Halloween. It's difficult to walk the whole route, but you can hop on the underground (the S-bahn and U-bahn) to speed you to various parts of the parade, such as to the Brandenburg Gate or to the victory monument.

For further information go to: www.longyangclub.org, and look over the convention schedule. You do not have to join a club or be a member of any group; just a desire to travel with people of similar interest. The planners have negotiated a hotel that is conveniently located to all the action. Here is your chance to visit Germany before the Euro goes up again.

"PRESIDENTS THAI" RETURNS IN APRIL

Join us for our monthly Dining With Friends on Thursday, April 10th at 7:30 PM at the Presidents Thai Cuisine located at 498 S Rosemead Blvd in Pasadena. This has been an all time favorite for A/PGF members. Bring a friend and enjoy a night out with friends. If you are planning to attending, please RSVP to rsvp@apgf.org To view their menu, click [here](#)



Member benefit meal on Sunday, April 6th at the West Hollywood Community Center beginning at 2:30 PM. **Members Eat For FREE!!**
[RSVP is required.](#) For more information, please visit our [website](#)

HOSTS NEEDED: Can you open your home to host an event? If so, please write to webmaster@apgf.org . We NEED your help!!!

Check our Event Calendar on our website www.apgf.org for complete details on any of our events

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