

Whether they are 'Doggies or Divas,' best friends matter

By **Peggie Miller / performing arts columnist** | Posted: **Thursday, September 8, 2011 2:57 pm**

It's a longtime given that dogs are our best friends; now it's turnabout time.

The favor will be sent back to the four-legged set when social event "Doggies and Divas" comes to April Sound Country Club Oct. 8 at 11:30 a.m.

Beneficiary is the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, with an office on South Loop 336-W, and a division known as Pet Snap of Montgomery County, a nonprofit whose volunteers are dedicated to no-kill animal rescue.

"Our mission is to rescue abandoned, abused or neglected animals, nurture them to health, find a foster family, and ultimately loving homes for them," said Marie Underdown, one of the organizers.

A style show featuring canines and companions will take place, and there also are raffles, a luncheon, and auctions of both, the live and silent, varieties.

An added fillip is this year's theme, "Masquerade Parade," where the doggie models are dressed as pirates, fairy princesses, cowboys, lions, butterflies, and possibly some whimsical disguises never before seen.

All the dogs are adopted, or current candidates for permanent adoption while living in foster homes. Bark Avenue Salon provides the canine fashions.

Human escorts will be wearing the latest styles from Diva, Cha Cha's, Hoopla, She She's, as well as chic classics from Doncaster by Angela Graves.

The luncheon fare from April Sound executive chef Paul Elliott includes mushroom-stuffed Chicken Wellington, with grilled garden veggies, preceded by a crisp salad with caramelized pecans, cherry tomatoes, and feta crumbles. Dessert is trendy chocolate cupcakes with vanilla frosting and strawberry garnish.

Anne Marie Ricci will complement the run way strolls with her peerless piano styling.

Auctioneer Lyn Hawthorne Howard is to preside over the live auction. Up for the highest bids are a Biker Chick Ride through a nearby National Forest, complete with lunch and Patriotic Guard Bikers; custom pool table accessories; a tree and engraved garden stone in Memory Park near Montgomery Library; golf, and spa packages.

Tickets cost \$50 each. To reserve, mail a check payable to SPCA to Delores Morse, 115 Dawn's Edge, Montgomery, 77356, but don't tarry, because a limited number is available. Each table top in the Lakeside Room accommodates 10, and those reserving may specify table partners. More information is available by calling 936-447-6285. Learn more about animal rescue at spcaofmc.com.

After a long time in the planning, world premiere of comedy "Mama Won't Fly" materializes tonight at downtown Conroe's Crighton Theatre. Presented by Stage Right of Texas, "Mama Won't Fly" is the product of playwrights Jessie Jones, Nicolas Hope, and Jamie Wooten.

Stage Right also produced in the Crighton an earlier comedy titled "Southern Hospitality," by the trio.

The writers selected Stage Right for this world premiere after a family member attended a SR show and relayed a testimonial about the troupe, as well as a salute to the grand old dame of Main Street.

Another Jones, Hope, Wooten comedy, "Christmas Belles," was the very first show that Stage Right offered in the iconic theatre when SR launched in 2008.

The playwrights are known for their prolific works that have been mounted worldwide.

During their first five years of collaboration, more than 1,000 performances of their works were presented in Canada, Australia, England, Denmark, and throughout the U. S., bearing intriguing titles such as "Til Beth Do Us Part" and "Red Velvet Cake Wars."

The three began their careers in community theater so there's a natural proclivity in that direction. Hope and Jones started out in Texas, with Wooten being a native of North Carolina. All have professional writing, producing, or acting experience in show biz, as well as with casting.

They emphasized that their objective is to "write family and budget friendly comedies that appeal to community theatres and their audiences."

Ms. Jones said the partnership is democratic, with the majority prevailing, and "this has served us very well."

The three agreed that their definition of humor is the "recognition of one's own life in a situation. We strive to make the topics in our characters' lives relevant to our audience's experiences.