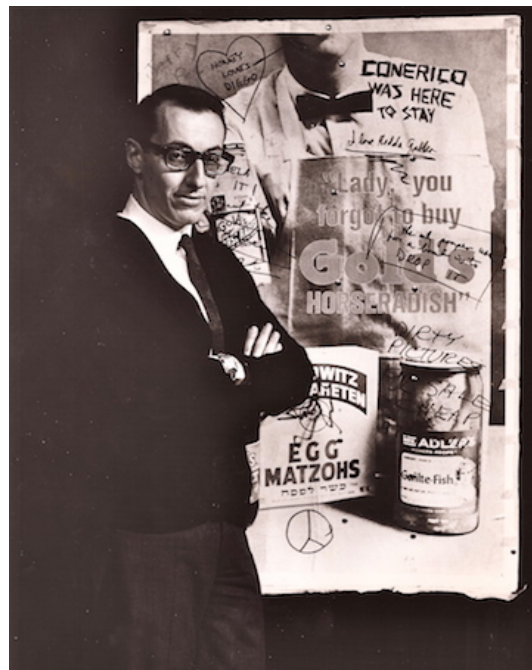


# ***BIOGRAPHY***



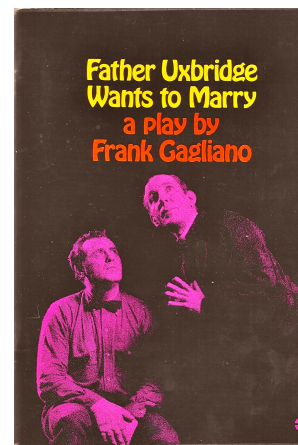
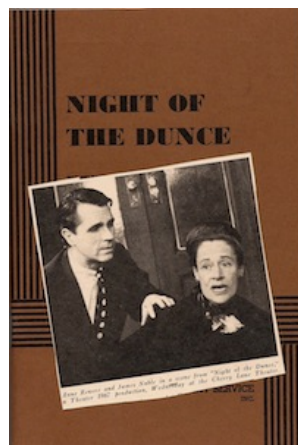
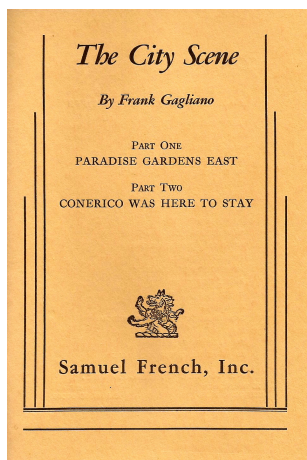
# CAREER

**Frank Gagliano was part of the 1960's group of Off-Broadway playwrights that revitalized American drama.**



**Gagliano's Off-Broadway plays include:** *“Conerico Was Here To Stay”* (at NY’s Cherry Lane Theatre, Melvin Bernhardt, director — Barr/Wilder/Albee, producers; *“Night Of The Dunce,”* produced in New York at The Cherry Lane Theatre, Joseph Hardy, director — Barr/Wilder/Albee, producers (first produced as *The Library Raid*, at

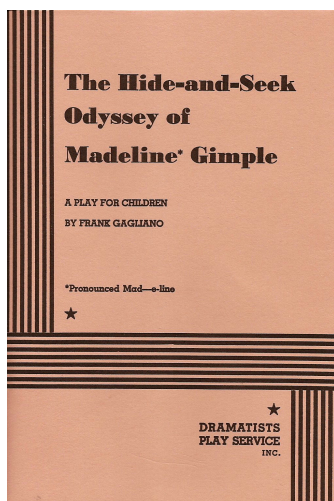
Houston's Alley Theatre, directed by Nina Vance); *“Father Uxbridge Wants To Marry”* (first developed at the O'Neill Theatre Center, directed by Melvin Bernhardt), produced at New York's American Place Theatre (Melvin Bernhardt, director), starring Olympia Dukakis, and later televised on New York's WNET-TV, starring Roy Scheider; *“The City Scene”* (*“Conerico Was Here To Stay”* and *“Paradise Gardens East”*), first developed at the Barr/Edward Albee/Wilder Workshop, the double bill (with *Paradise*, now a one-act musical one-act musical—lyrics by Gagliano, music by Mildred Kayden— was later produced Off-Broadway, at The Fortune Theatre (Neil Israel, director; Simon Saltzman, producer).



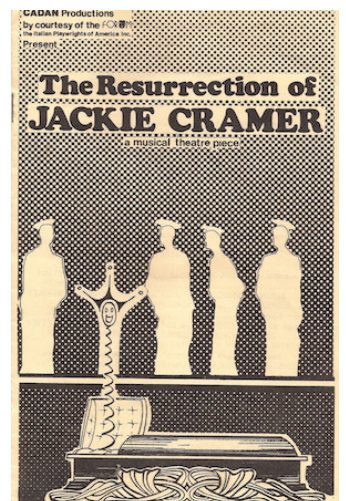
***“In The Voodoo Parlour Of Marie Laveau”* was first developed at The O'Neill Theatre Center**, showcased in New York's Phoenix Theatre Sideshow Series (directed by Michael Montel) and at The Neighborhood Group Theatre (also in New York), directed by Frank Gagliano. *“In The Voodoo Parlour of Marie Laveau”* had its West Coast premiere at L.A.'s Ensemble Studio

Theatre on 11 June 1986, produced by Christine Beato and Brent Hedgecock, in association with Videosyncracy and directed by Larry Peters.

**Other plays have been produced in Regional Theaters and Universities throughout the country — including:** *“The Hide-And-Seek-Odyssey Of Madeleine Gimple”* (a children's play, first commissioned by The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center and which starred Raul Julia and Barbara Mackenzie Wood, directed by Lloyd Richards); *“The Prince of Peasantmania,”* first developed at The O'Neill Theatre Center, Michael Schultz, director (World Premiere, The Milwaukee Repertory Theater, starring John Glover, directed by Eugene Lesser); *“Congo Square”* (a musical, with Broadway composer Claibe Richardson, first produced at the University of Rhode Island's Professional Season of Plays, directed by J Ranelli); *“The Resurrection of Jackie Cramer,”* a Rock Opera with composer Raymond Benson (first incarnation in the E.P. Conkle Workshop, University of Texas, J Ranelli, director — then further development at The New Dramatists, J Ranelli, director — then a full production at The New Dramatists (J Ranelli directing again) — then a full NY Off-Broadway showcase production at the American Theatre of Actors, Raymond Benson directing (and at the piano).

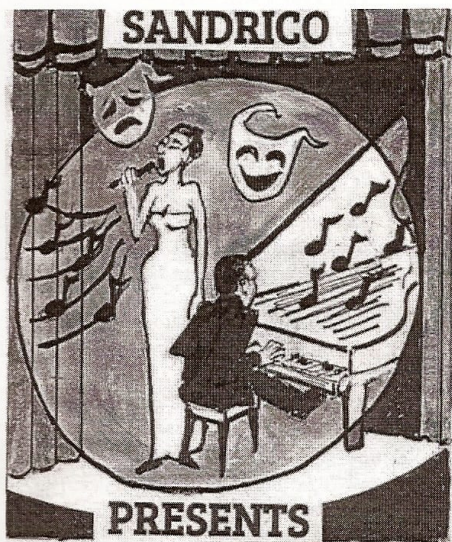


**The Prince  
Of Peasantmania**





**“Big Sur”** (first produced as an original television play on the NBC network, starring Billy Dee Williams, the late James Coco and Daniel Sullivan; **“San Ysidro”**, a cantata with composer James Reichert (written in memory of those who were massacred at a MacDonald's restaurant in San Ysidro, California, on July 8, 1984) — and **“The Total Immersion of Madeleine Favorini,”** produced at The University of Las Vegas, Frank Gagliano directing.



Artwork by Richard Price

**“FROM THE BODONI COUNTY  
SONGBOOK ANTHOLOGY”  
A Musical Revue  
(of sorts)**

Book and Lyrics by Frank Gagliano  
Music by Claibe Richardson

Free Staged Reading  
Produced by John Keating

Monday, April 24, 2017  
7:30 pm - Carnegie Stage  
(Off The Wall Productions)  
Carnegie, Pa

Gagliano's musical revue—of sorts (original book and lyrics), **“From The Bodoni County Songbook Anthology,”** with a score by the late Claibe Richardson, was developed at the 1989 O'Neill Theatre Center Musical Theatre Conference, and inaugurated the new Musical Lab productions at New York's Vineyard Theatre, Spring of 1991 (Andre Ernotte, director). Its revised text, was showcased by Pittsburgh's Pyramid Productions, August 1995, directed by Ted Hoover. A further revised, **“From The Bodoni County Songbook Anthology,”** was given a staged reading at Carnegie Stage with top Pittsburgh musical theatre artists, April 2017. Director, Melissa Martin

His two theater pieces, "*Hanna*," (for solo dancer, narrator and percussion) and his monologue play for male performer, "*My Chekhov Light*," were performed at The Birmingham Lofts, Pittsburgh (1991); The New Dramatists, NYC (1992); A Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Shepherdstown, WV (1992); Primary Stages in New York City (May, 199



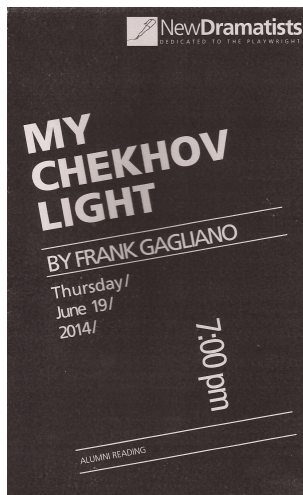
My Chekhov Light



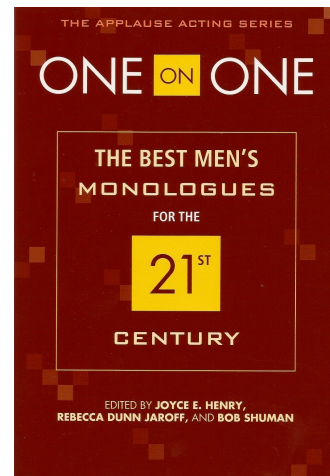
Hanna

At the above-listed venues, Gagliano gave the reading/ performances of "*My Chekhov Light*." Gagliano also has given reading-performances of *My Chekhov Light* in other venues here and abroad —at: The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center (2004); New York's Cherry Lane Theatre (2004); Kirovograd, Ukraine (2005); Dancer Stage of Amsterdam (2005), and at The E.T.A. Hoffman Theatre in Bamberg,

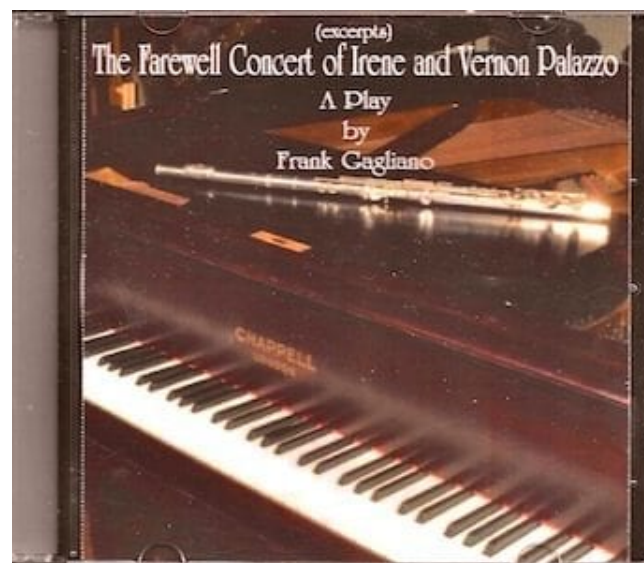
Germany. This was followed by the world premiere production of *“My Chekhov Light”* (German translation by the late Jurgen Schlunk), on 28 November 1998, at the E.T.A. Hoffmann’s Studio Theatre, starring Ernst Hofstetter, directed by Georg Immelmann (1998). Gagliano also gave a reading/performance of *“My Chekhov Light”* at The Beijing Institute of World Theatre and Film (2007).



A section of Gagliano’s, *“My Chekhov Light,”* was printed in *“One on One: The Best Men’s Monologues for the 21st Century.”* 2008



Gagliano’s latest play in the Bodoni Cycle, *“The Farewell Concert of Irene and Vernon Palazzo,”* was workshopped in the 1995 Carnegie Mellon Showcase of New Plays, directed by





Michael Montel, featuring Rita Gardner (the original “girl” in *The Fantasticks*) and Bill Young, of the NY cabaret group, Shake, Wilder & Young, with original music by Mr. Young—who acted and played piano throughout), followed by a New Dramatists’ reading with the same cast, that same year.

**Gagliano's theatre piece, “Eulogy For My Mother”**, was included in The New York Primary Stages’ Legacy Project (Oct., 1994).

**Gagliano conceptualized** (along with director Robert Brewer and choreographer Rick Pessagno) *“And The Angels Sing: The Songs of Johnny Mercer,”* which premiered at UNLV in Las Vegas (Jan, 1996), and, soon after, at the Odyssey Theatre in Los Angeles (Feb, 1996). He wrote the book for a new musical, *“Piano Bar (At The Chateau De La Mer),”* with composer/lyricist Gene Nordan, which had its world premiere at the Vivian Davis Theatre in Morgantown, WV (1998), directed by Michael Montel.

**[Gagliano wrote Broadway-bound musical books that never made it to Broadway: “Quasimodo.” Music and lyrics by Lionel Bart. Lorin Price Producer (1972). “Anyway The Wind Blows,” Cyma Rubin, Producer (1976)]**

**Mr. Gagliano is a member** of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP); The New Dramatists (alumnus); The Dramatists Guild; The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center (founding playwright), the Musical Theatre Artists of Pittsburgh (MTAP). He has served on the Board of Directors of The Theatre Association of Pennsylvania (TAP); and was a panelist on the PEW Trust's Philadelphia Theatre Initiative. Gagliano has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in playwriting, two Rockefeller Foundation playwriting grants, an O'Neill Theatre Center/Wesleyan University grant, a 1989 Pennsylvania Arts Council Playwrights Fellowship—and was awarded the grand



prize in the 1999 International Ernest Hemingway Playwriting competition for his play, "*The Total Immersion of Madeleine Favorini.*" On 20 May 2013, Gagliano was nominated to be inducted as a Fellow in the College Of Fellows of the American Theatre. The induction ceremonies took place at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C., Sunday, 20 April 2014.



**Gagliano helped found Carnegie Mellon Drama's, "*Showcase of New Plays*" (1986), and was the Showcase's Artistic Director from 1986 to 1998.** (<http://www.gaglianoriff.com/page/showcase>) Gagliano was also Artistic Director of the University of Michigan's *Festival of New Works* (A professional developmental showcase for New Dramatic Writing; plays, screenplays, musicals). His first Festival season was in the Spring of 1999, in

Ann Arbor, Michigan—where he established the Arthur Miller Award For Dramatic Writing, with Mr. Miller attending. In both the Showcase of New Plays and The Festival of New Works, playwrights Douglas Wright, Nilo Cruz, Willy Holtzman, Lisa Loomer, Victor Bumbalo, Jack Gilhooley, David Grimm, Julie Jensen, Dave Carley and 75 others, had new plays developed.

Gagliano’s **“*The Commedia World Of Lafcadio B*”** (inspired by a play of Luigi Pirandello), was presented in the Play Labs of the 2005 Last Frontier Theatre Conference, Valdez, Alaska. There, Gagliano also gave a tribute to Arthur Miller (**“*Why I Broke Down When Arthur Miller Died*”**)—and again, in Beijing, China, In 2018. The Miller essay was published in the **Arthur Miller Journal**, Fall, 2018.



Gagliano’s stage version of **“*Big Sur*”** was performed at the Beijing Institute of World Theatre and Film at Peking University in May, 2007 (directed by, and starring, Joseph

Graves). At PKU, Gagliano also taught a playwriting class to Chinese English major students — a first in China.

In its 2011 season, the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company presented the entire **“*VOODOO*”**



**TRILOGY"** (musical *"Congo Square"* (directed by Marci Woodruff), *"In The Voodoo Parlour Of Marie Laveau"* (directed by Kim El) and *"The Commedia World Of Lafcadio Beau"* (directed by Frank Gagliano) — with all three Voodoo pieces being performed in one marathon evening on Fat Tuesday of that year.

The Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Presents:


PLAYWRIGHT'S NARRATIVE:

**THE VOODOO TRILOGY**  
by FRANK GAGLIANO



IN THE VOODOO PARLOUR OF MARIE LAVEAU

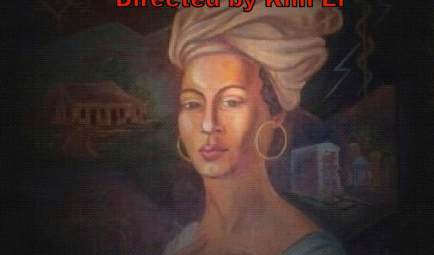
THE COMMEDIA WORLD OF LAFCADIO B





FEBRUARY 10TH - MARCH 8TH  
pghplaywrights.com  
Tickets: (412) 394 3353

The Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Presents:

**In The Voodoo Parlour of Marie Laveau**  
an Unsung Voodoo Chamber Opera  
by Frank Gagliano  
Directed by Kim El



Starring  
Omya Award-Winning Actress  
**Chrystal Bates**  
and Featuring  
Jennifer Tober and  
Mark C. Thompson



**February 25th - March 8th**  
Thursday and Sunday Performances are Buy One, Get One  
pghplaywrights.com Tickets: (412) 394 3353

The Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Presents:

**CONGO SQUARE**  
(THE MUSICAL)  
by Frank Gagliano



Music by Claibe Richardson  
Lyrics by Frank Gagliano  
Directed by Marci Woodruff  
Musical Direction by Ed Tarzia

**FEBRUARY 10TH - 27TH**  
AND MARCH 8 (FAT TUESDAY) 2011



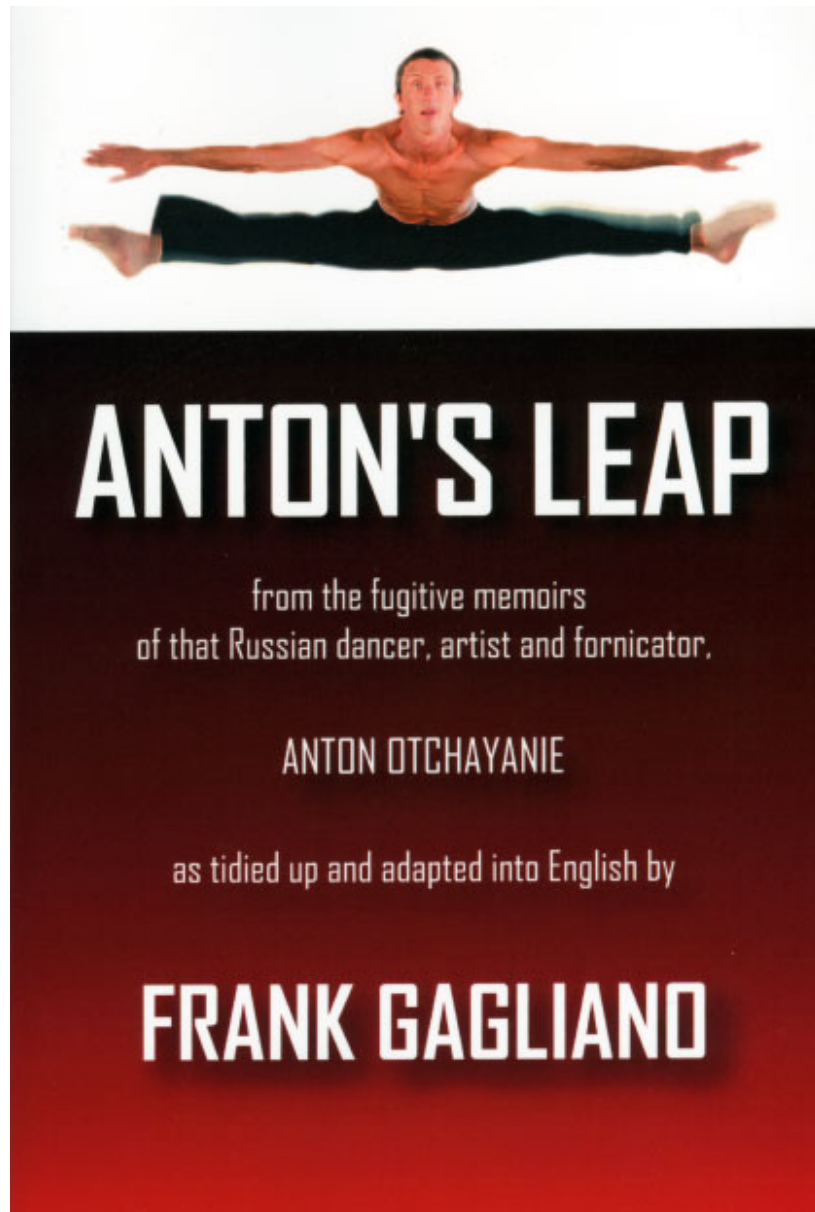
pghplaywrights.com Tickets: (412) 394 3353

In April, 2012, Gagliano delivered the **keynote speech at the annual Anton Chekhov Conference in Yalta, Ukraine**, also gave a reading/performance of his play, **"My Chekhov Light."**

Gagliano, deepening his interest and passion for The Great American Songbook and the American genius songwriter **Johnny Mercer** in particular, taught two in-depth courses on the subjects at Carnegie Mellon's Osher Institute in 2010 and 2012.



"Gagliano's novel, "**ANTON'S LEAP**," was published in 2008 and is available on Amazon and Kindle.







***On May 26, 2015, Gagliano's newly surfaced (never produced) television play, "The Private Eye Of Hiram Bodoni," was given its first reading at The New Dramatists in NYC.***

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**Frank Gagliano's Degrees:**

University of Iowa, BA / Columbia University MFA.

**Gagliano's Academic Institutions  
& Residencies:**

On 2nd Rockefeller Grant, The Royal Shakespeare Company, 1967 (observing director Peter Brook, directing the controversial "US"); Hunter College NYC, Adult Ed, Dramatic Lit , 1968 (substituting for John Lahr, at John Lahr's request); . . Florida State University, Tallahassee, Assistant Professor of Drama, Playwright-In-Residence, and Director of Contemporary Playwright's Center, 1969-73; . . . University of Texas at Austin, Lecturer In Playwriting and Director, "E.P. Conkle Workshop for Playwrights," 1973-75; . . . Distinguished Visiting Alumni Professor, University of Rhode Island, 1975. . . . UNLV residency while in production for his play, "*The Total Immersion Of Madeleine Favorini*," 1980. . . . Artistic Director, Carnegie Mellon's "*Showcase of New Plays*," 1987-1998. . . . Artistic Director, University of Michigan's "*Festival of New Works*," 1999-2001. . . . Peking University, Beijing, China, (2007) teaching playwriting to PKU students of English and adult classes, while on sabbatical and in production of his play, "*Big Sur*" (Beijing Institute of World Drama and Film). . . . Benedum Professor of Playwriting, West Virginia University, 1976-2010.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Frank Gagliano** was born in Brooklyn, NY. He is married to former Opera singer Sandra Gordon Gagliano. Their son Rico is an award-winning Podcaster in LA. Frank and Sandy Gagliano now live in Pittsburgh.

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**NEW GAGLIANO PROJECTS  
AT VARIOUS STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT  
(As of 2021)**

***“The Painted Lady On Gene Kelly Street,”*** A Play

***“Humongus Toe Rides Again,”*** A Play

***“Georg: Or The Black Box Murders,”*** A Novel

***“Journeying Past Susannah,”*** A Theatre Piece (Jazz artist  
Susannah McCorkle’s musical journey to suicide).

***“The Endgame Procession,”*** A Theatre Piece, in seven stops  
along the way to **there** . . .

***“Tales Of Thelonious P. Bascomb,”*** (In which the world goes  
dark and Thelonious Bascomb comes to the rescue) A Dr. Seuss-  
like, Wagnerian-like Götterdämmerung Fakaktaville Saga. . .For  
narrator, acting-singing-dancing ensemble—and Multi Media.