

*Out of the Mouths of Poets:*  
*A Creative Journey*

**LAB THEATER PROJECT**  
**At The Silver Meteor Gallery**  
**Presents**



**Out of the  
Mouths of  
Poets**

By

**Peter A.  
Balaskas**

Directed by

**Owen Robertson**

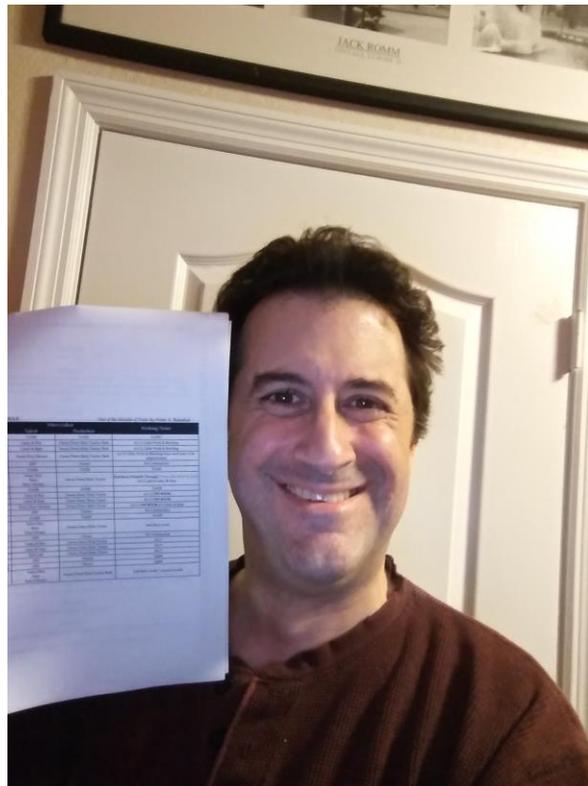
**Feb 8 thru Feb 24, 2019**

**Evening Shows (F/Sa) 8:00 PM**

**Matinees (Sun) at 2:00 PM**

**Tickets \$15.00**

On September 18, 2018, I was notified that my full-length play (the third that I have written so far), “Out of the Mouths of Poets,” was accepted to be part of Lab Theater Project’s 2018/2019 Season. My first full production! Let’s take a little stroll on this creative journey.



**Top: At the Lab Theater Project (Silver Meteor Gallery) in Ybor, preparing for the first read thru. Bottom: My first rehearsal schedule.**



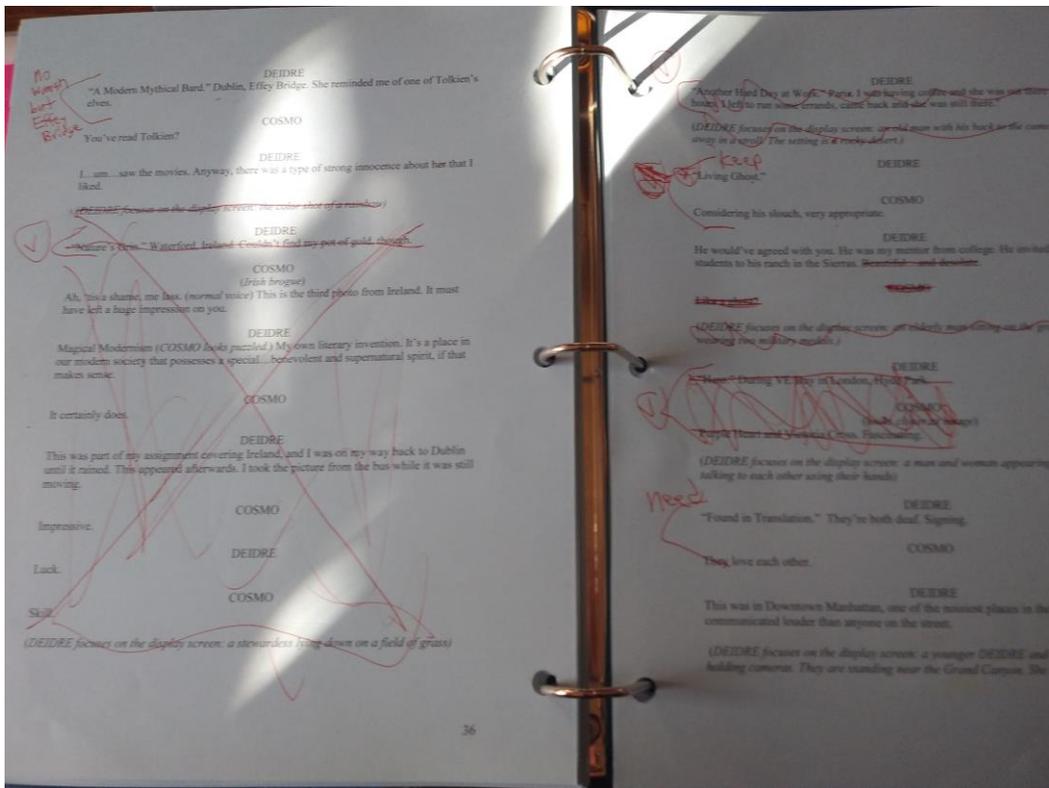
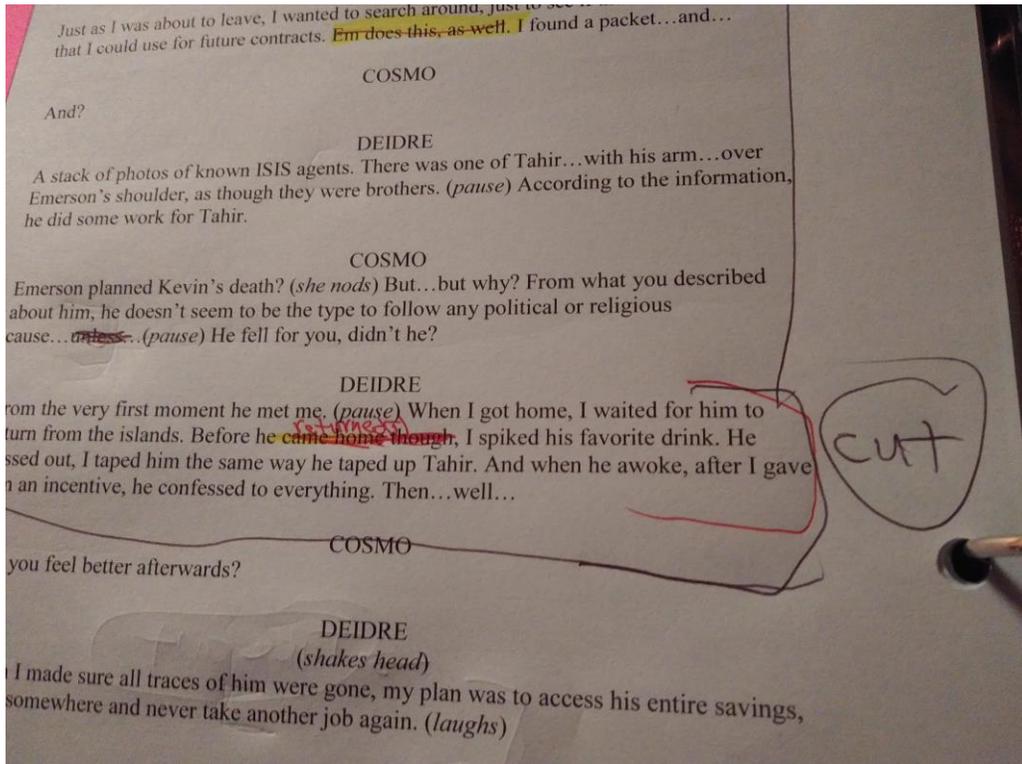
**Top: Our first read-thru**

**Bottom: Blocking Act 1 with Roz Potenza (Tosca) and Larry Corwin (Cosmo)**



**Top: Blocking Act 2 with Larry and Suzy Duic (Deidre/Calliope)**

**Bottom: Blocking Act 3 with Roz, Owen Robertson (Kerwin) and Monica Tellez-Daly (Ysabel), who is giving me the “Don’t screw with me’ I’m Ysabel” look.**



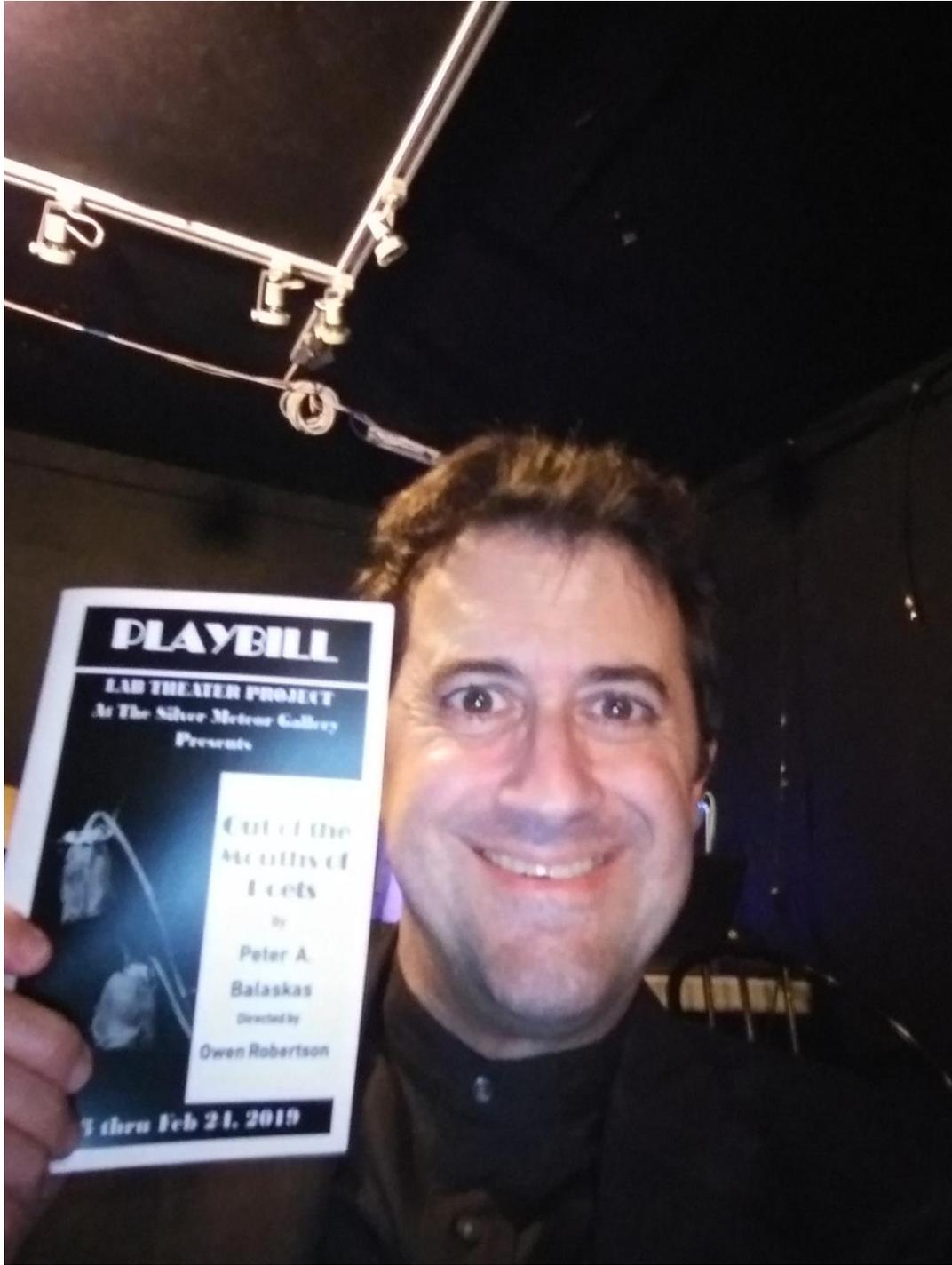
And now, the revisions begin...lots and lots of revisions...about 12 pages cut.



**There is nothing so heartwarming than seeing a copy of my script in one of the actresses' purses. SHE HAS MY SCRIPT IN HER PURSE!!!**



**OPENING NIGHT! DINNER AT COLUMBIA RESTAURANT WITH MY PARENTS. A TRIPLE TOAST WITH OUR RESPECTIVE BEVERAGES!!**



**OPENING NIGHT. I'M ON A PLAYBILL AS A PLAYWRIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME!!!**



**THE SHOW BEGINS!** (production photos taken by Isabel Natera. Visit her website – [www.isabelnatera.com](http://www.isabelnatera.com)). Top: Act 1 - The Safe House

**Bottom: Good morning between soul mates.**



**Top: Enjoying cookies.**

**Bottom: Their last poem together.**



**Top: Final farewell**

**Bottom: Act 2 – Welcome to the Orange County Morgue, Deidre.**



**Top: Breaking the ice**

**Bottom: Sharing and hiding secrets**



**Top: Confronting fears**

**Bottom: Secrets revealed**



**Top: A moment of redemption**

**Bottom: Welcome home, Cosmo**



**Top: Waiting for judgment**

**Bottom: Act 3 – A moment between Tosca and Ysabel at Elegant Exotics Café**



**Top: Meet Laurence “Butch” Kerwin. “Wanna play, Tosca?”**

**Bottom: “Don’t mess with me, boss. I’m Puerto Rican!”**



**Top: Offering words of wisdom as the spirits of Cosmo and Calliope reunite**

**Bottom: Calliope giving him courage**



**Top: A poetry reading as Cosmo comforts Tosca**

**Bottom: All's Well that Ends Well**



**Top: A talk back after Opening Night**

**Bottom: My first review**

**A review from Joseph Parra, - Stage, TV, and Cinema Art & Artist**

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF POETS: Diverse And Meaningful Lives and Lines. A review by Joseph Parra of Lab Theater Project's introductory production of Peter A. Balaskas' new play. Plays through Feb. 24 at Silver Meteor Gallery.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF POETS- interesting choice of words, that. There is Ralph Taylor's legendary poem "Out of the Mouths of Babes" and also Molly Cooper's same name beauty. There is Diane Hines' "Out of the Mouths of Machines" tale. There is the great horror tale teller Robert Bloch's "Out of the Mouths of Graves" collection of beauties. Nestled comfortably in here is now Peter A. Balaskas' OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF POETS, a somewhere between light and slightly dark 3 act tale that unravels almost like 3 separate one act plays with characters threading each play-- nice and very hard to achieve and for the most part, Mr. Balaskas does just this-- like all new plays, this needs a slight "blue pencil", i.e. editing, but there is nothing that is too told or too overstated-- again, just slight editing. That being said, this is a beautiful heartfelt ode to life and love as seen through the eyes of a handful people, both dead and alive, that we come to meet. Mr. Balaskas' style is never in doubt and his clear love for his characters propels his tale of life beyond death, no matter how one wishes to take that. His characters are very clear and his definitive mise en scene per act is to be

commended as this helps his narrative also in ways beyond what may seem obvious. We learn of a dying poet and his wife who is a States' Attorney trying a case against mobsters, having to hole up in a 'safehouse' watched by FBI and how their final days/moments together are beyond precious. We then hear from the dead poet in a morgue talking to a person who may have had more influence in the last few years of his life than anyone could ever have realized. We learn in the final act of the survivors and how they just may bond together or at least be in synch.

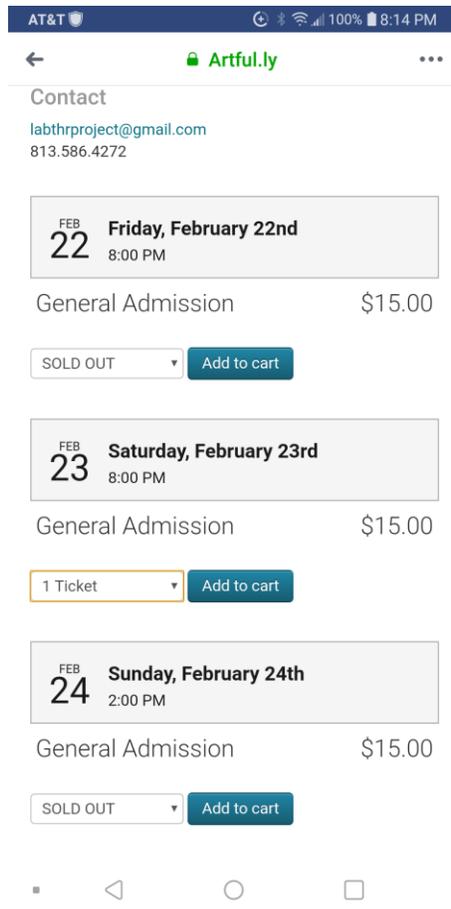
DIRECTOR OWEN ROBERTSON, WHO also was our set designer as well as our lighting and sound designer and co-producer (whew!), has marvelously sewn this tapestry with a delicate silk thread that never lets us linger too long nor pulls us too soon, and always keeps us focused in one direction-- well done, sir! His set is slight but remarkable in it's versatility as walls from Act One become the morgue drawers for Act Two and a curtain kept up in Act One reveals a whole adorable little cafe' for Act Three. Fine lighting and sound compliment wonderfully. BETH TEPE-ROBERTSON, co-producer, costumer, set dressing, and Production Stage Manager provided not only a beautifully and wisely dressed set, but one that proves remarkably versatile as well. Her costumes were spot on and kept all but telling, never tipping us by garb to what we do not see immediately. Add to these folks, Assistant Director/Light & Sound Board operator RICK FERNANDEZ-- always an asset to any production-- Crew folks Taylor Cooper (who also served as Rehearsal Stage Manager), Emma Hurlburt, and an entire 'Mission: Impossible' staff is formed.

ROZ POTENZA once again proves why she is one of Tampa Bay's leading actors. Her Toscana 'Tosca' Cosmopolis is beyond clear and precise and also manages to show us this person's professional attorney side while playing caregiver and wife as well-- a far from easy task. LARRY CORWIN is our poet Constantine 'Cosmo' Cosmopolis and manages to convey a dying artist as well as a dead one with great aplomb. SUZY DUIC is a very new face on the horizon and does a delicious job with Deidre, an all at once vivacious yet deadly personality, in more ways than one. MONICA DALY is Ysabel, a savvy and when needed wiseacre waitress at the cafe in Act Three, and is much fun here. Last but not least, OWEN ROBERTSON, who filled in as the person cast had to leave the production, is a hoot as Lawrence 'Butch' Kerwin, an unassuming billionaire friend with issues of his own. All of these folks weave quite an interesting tale to tell. WHAT DOES IT MEAN? From out of the mouths of poets come sonnets and come limericks and somewhere in between, comes humanity. Enjoy!!!



**My co-workers coming to see my show!**

**YOU GUYS ROCK!!! THANK YOU!!**



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**SOLD OUT**

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**Things that a playwright likes to see: tickets selling out for my show. During the last 2 weekends, the show did sell out. 😊 YES!!!**



**My first marquee**



**Me with local singer/performer Ron Carmichael and his wife, Georgia. Come visit his website and check out his music---<http://carmichaelmusic.info/>**



**Closing Day on Poets**



**That's all, folks!**



### **A Wonderful Cast & Crew**

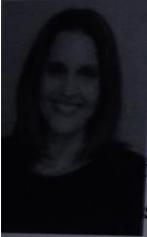
**Top (left to right): Emma Hurlburt (Stage Crew), Owen Robertson (Director, Producer, Set and Sound Designer, Publicity, Kerwin), Rick Fernandez (Assistant Director, Light & Sound Operator), Monica Daly (Ysabel), Larry Corwin (Cosmo), Suzy Duic (Deidre/Calliope), and Beth Tepe-Robertson (Producer, Costumer, Production Stage Manager, Set Dresser)**

**Bottom (left to right): Roz Potenza (Tosca) and some guy who wrote the play.**

**Thank you all very much for a wonderful experience. And thank God for His support and for guiding me down this path. Deo Gratias!**

## EPILOGUE

you to Amy Ragg for getting me back on stage. I want to thank all the people and thank you to Henry for understanding how much this means to her. Henry is so sweet.



**SUZY BLOCK** is excited to be back at CWP and working with this talented cast. She was last seen wearing jeans, a red vest and boots as “Deidre” at Lab Theater Project’s debut production of *Out of the Mouths of Poets*. You may have also seen her in a Burberry dress last fall at Early Bird Dinner Theater as “Mary Smith” in *Run for Your Wife*. Other favorite outfits include a waitress uniform as “Grace” in *Bus Stop*, a blouse and long skirt as “Germaine” in the staged reading of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Edwardian garb as “Mrs. Squires” in *The Music Man* and hosiery and cross garters as “Viola” (Cesario) in *Twelfth Night*. Suzy loves the stage no matter what she’s wearing and she still has the cowboy shirt she wore as a child when she played “Justine” in the tv mini-series “Family Reunion.” Suzy can most often be seen wearing black and/or jeans and a sweatshirt. Thanks to Amy for the opportunity to be in this amazing show and a special thanks to Peter and her family and friends for all their continued support.

**Three months later, the first time an actor lists my play as part of her theatrical background. And the legend of the “Poets” production continues. 😊**