



Nancy Manocherian's the cell presents:

# THE BISCUIT CLUB

by Marianne Driscoll  
directed by Kira Simring



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the cell presents the World Premiere of  
THE BISCUIT CLUB, Marianne Driscoll's  
canine comedy inspired by  
*The Breakfast Club*. Directed by Kira Simring.



Ever wonder what goes on in a kennel when people aren't around? THE BISCUIT CLUB gives audiences a behind-the-bars peek into Bradley's Bed & Biscuit, a boarding house for dogs. When an aging Bulldog, a jumpy Beagle, a glamorous Shih Tzu, a grumpy Pit Bull, a champion Airedale Terrier and a wide-eyed Labrador pup are locked together for the night, a doggone good time is in store for all.



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## THE BISCUIT CLUB

### Performance Dates

April 2015						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26

April 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat : 7pm  
Sat and Sun : 3pm

(The play runs approx. one hour and ten minutes)

General Admission

Tickets \$18

To purchase tickets go to:  
[www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)  
or click on link below

[Click here to buy tickets](#)

The theater is 10 blocks from Penn Station with many great bars and restaurants!

The High Line is right up the street with an entrance on 23rd and 10th. Come early and take a stroll before the show!

All shows are **SOLD OUT**.  
BUT often tickets become available on the day of performance. Please check with the theater for availability!



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## Praise for *The Biscuit Club*

"a **delightful** experience for every kind of dog lover, and **will leave you barking with laughter** long after the dogs go home."

-[Charged.fm](#) (Double click reviewer to read article)

"Do you find it impossible to walk by a pet store without stopping to ooh and aah at the puppies in the window?...If so, you will likely get a big kick out of *The Biscuit Club*, a **shaggy charmer of a play** at The Cell."

-[Talkin' Broadway](#)

"**funny** and **touching...**"

-[Hi! Drama](#)

Read an [interview](#) with Marianne Driscoll about her writing process in *The New York Times*.

Check out websit of [McGoldrick's Thread](#), a musical by Marianne Driscoll that premiered as part of the 1st Irish Festival in 2013 **winning top awards!!**.



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# In New York, Everywhere a Writing Nook



Share full article



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The playwright Sharon Bridgforth in a common area at the New Dramatists building.  
Todd Heisler/The New York Times

By **Erik Piepenburg**

April 9, 2015

WORK and leisure don't have to be enemies. The writing life is proof of it. New York's coffee shops would be deserted if it weren't for people scribbling and typing the day away. But when every seat is taken, the Wi-Fi is down and the only muffin left is bran, there are alternatives to being cooped up in the home office, and the

park. I write by hand sometimes so it's conducive to that. I usually go by the huge lake on the south side. I'll walk until I find an empty area in the sun. Sometimes I bring my cat. Yes I'm that crazy person.



From left: Kristoffer Diaz, Marianne Driscoll and Dan Lauria. From Left: Steve Mack/Getty Images, Sherry Burbes, Annie I. Bang/Invision/AP

## Kristoffer Diaz

‘The Upstairs Concierge’

*Goodman Theater (Chicago)*

*Through April 26*

When I was single I used to write in bars a lot. Writing is lonely. Being in a bar made it feel a little less lonely sometimes. Now I'm married and I have a 3-year-old and I don't write at night anymore. I spent a lot of time writing and rewriting at the [Farm on Adderley](#) [in Ditmas Park, Brooklyn]. Before the evening rush it's usually a pretty nice, quiet, relaxing place to work. They wouldn't kick you out. They have something called chocolate bread, which is this bread with chocolate baked through, and sea salt on top. It's a good thing to be eating while you're beating yourself up for not being better at writing.

## **Marianne Driscoll**

‘The Biscuit Club’

*Cell Theater*

*338 West 23rd Street, Chelsea*

*Through April 25*

My play takes place in a doggy boardinghouse. It’s comedy inspired by “The Breakfast Club.” It’s about what happens when dogs who don’t know each other are locked up alone in a boardinghouse overnight. I started hanging out at a dog park in [Tompkins Square Park](#). We’d go down with the cast and I’d say, “You are such a poodle!” I started seeing people as the dog they would be. I had my own dog and I would bring him there and sit with my laptop.

## **Dan Lauria**

‘Dinner With the Boys’

*Acorn Theater*

*410 West 42nd Street, Clinton*

*Opens May 4*

All the rewrites on my play were done sitting at the [Westway Diner](#) in a booth late at night. It’s 24 hours. I get all the coffee I want. I’m always at the Westway for a roll and egg and bacon in the morning. I write very blue collar people. There are mostly blue collar people in that diner.



Hi! Drama

April 21, 2015 · 🌐



## EVA HEINEMANN REVIEWS THE BISCUIT CLUB

Written by Marianne Driscoll

Directed by Kira Simring

Marianne Driscoll's "The Biscuit Club" is about a disparate gang of doggies left at Bradley's Bed and Biscuit: Dolly (Judy Rosenblatt) is the only female and knows how to use her doggy charms to her advantage. Champ (Paul Nugent) is an award winning Airedale Terrier and never tires of showing off his show dog medal. Jiggs (Stephane Duret) is a military mutt with a strong sense of discipline and structure. Sparky (John McLaughlin) is the adorable puppy who is forced to dress up by his miserable masters. Chester (Jack O'Connell) whose master runs the place takes pity on the pooches and tries to make their lives easier, even for the dreaded fighting pit bull Whiskey (Bob Jaffe) who has seen his share of abuse.

The acting was superb and I really thought I was in the company of curs. Each character had a story to tell that made me love them all the more. Kira Simring did a great job directing with the help of Gertjan Houben's set to create a place where I really felt these dogs were in there own little world.

This is funny and touching and even though I am a cat person I really cared about these motley mongrels and there future.

HAPPY FACE

CLOSES APRIL 25TH

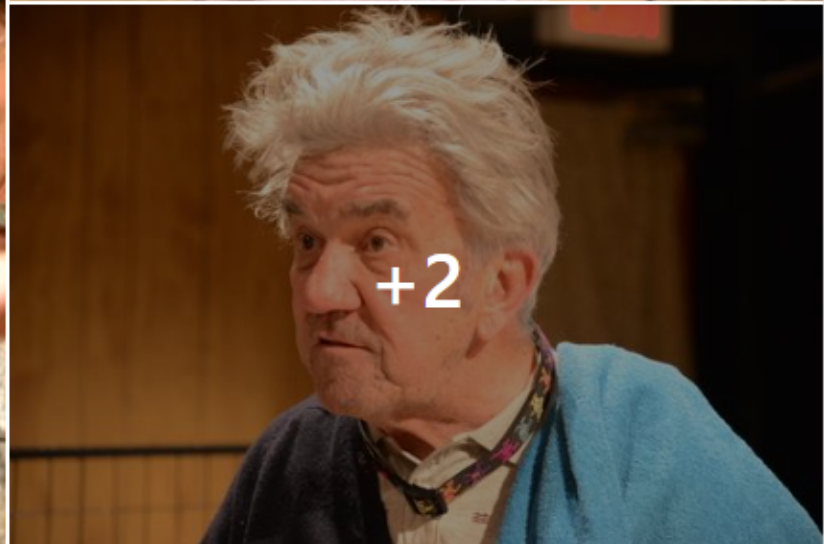
PERFORMING SCHEDULE: Thursday - Saturday at 7pm

the cell

338 W 23rd St, between 8th & 9th Avenues

800-838-3006

[www.thecelltheatre.org](http://www.thecelltheatre.org).



## Off Broadway Reviews

### The Biscuit Club

Theatre Review by [Howard Miller](#)

Do you find it impossible to walk by a pet store without stopping to ooh and aah at the puppies in the window? Do you look forward to Broadway Barks more to hang out with the dogs that are up for adoption than to spend time in the company of Bernadette Peters and the other celebrity participants? If so, you will likely get a big kick out of *The Biscuit Club*, a shaggy charmer of a play at The Cell.

Running a brisk 60-minutes, the play, written by Marianne Driscoll, takes its inspiration from the popular 1985 film *The Breakfast Club*. Like its predecessor, *The Biscuit Club* brings together a disparate group of characters who start out snarling and yipping at one another, but who gradually form a bond of friendship as they spend the night together in Bradley's Bed & Biscuit, a boarding kennel whose owner is nowhere to be seen.

The cast of six experienced Equity actors, under Kira Simring's direction, does an impressive job embodying the canines—from Champ (Paul Nugent), the snooty purebred Airedale Terrier, to Sparky (John Charles McLaughlin), the bouncy Labrador pup, to Whiskey (Bob Jaffe), the belligerent pit bull. Rounding out the pack are Jiggs, the nervous beagle (Stephane Duret), Dolly, the flirty and sassy Shih Tzu (Judy Rosenblatt), and Chester (Jack O'Connell), the aging bulldog who minds the kennel in his owner's absence.

At the start, four of the dogs are in varying stages of settling into their separate cages (Chester is asleep on the floor, and Whiskey is in the basement, where he is kept apart from the other dogs lest he attack them). Jiggs, who is used to a regimented and consistent routine, is growing increasingly anxious about being locked up and barks loudly to wake Chester. Eventually, it is Dolly who is able to charm the old bulldog into opening the cages, and the rest of the play is about their individual stories and their interactions with one another. Even Whiskey, when he makes an appearance, turns out to be more bark than bite, and it all ends in a lovely group hug.

So, yes, *The Biscuit Club* tells a sweet, sometimes sappy bedtime story, but it tells it well, with a group of actors who fully sink their teeth into portraying their canine selves. Still, if the thought of all this dogginess doesn't thrill you, cheer up. It has been widely rumored that Broadway will soon see a return visit by *Cats*.



Stephane Duret, John Charles McLaughlin, and Paul Nugent  
Photo by Howard Schnapp.



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## The Team

Marianne Driscoll	Playwright
Kira Simring	Director
Gertjan Houben	Production Designer
Brian Reager	Assistant Director
Mackenzie Meeks	Production Stage Manager
Sienna Zoe Allen	Costume Designer
Charles Mueller	Sound Designer

### Marianne Driscoll, Writer

Marianne is a resident artist at **the cell**. Her last play, *McGoldrick's Thread* played to sold out performances at St. Mark's Theatre 80 in the East Village. *McGoldrick's Thread* was part of the 1st Irish Theatre Festival and won top honors including Best Production, Best Director (Kira Simring) and Best Choreography. Marianne has been creating images and stories her entire life, running her own portrait studio, as well as documenting numerous events on film, both in the U.S and abroad.

### Kira Simring, Script Development and Director

Kira is the Artistic Director of the cell. A professional director for over 15 years, Kira has worked closely with writers to develop and realize their work. Most recently, she directed the New York Times Critic's Pick *Hard Times*, An American Musical by Larry Kirwan. Outside of the cell, Kira's direction has been seen in venues throughout NYC, including The New Theatre Row Theatres, City Center's VOX at NYU's Skirball Theatre, The Thalia Theatre at Symphony Space and 80 St. Mark's Theatre. Regional venues include CenterStage in Baltimore, New Village Arts in San Diego, and The Connecticut Grand Opera

### Nancy Manocherian, Founding Artistic Director

Nancy is a lyricist, playwright and producer. Writing credit include: *Hey Jude*, Urban Stages. *Sin!*; *Rio*, a Brazilian musical novella (Theatre for the New City); and *Dinner and Delusion*, an opera co-written with composer Michael Sahl (The Center for Contemporary Opera/New York city Opera's VOX Festival) Her passion is for the arts and her dream is the cell, a 21st century salon.

### the cell

**the cell**, A Twenty First Century Salon (Nancy Manocherian, Founding Artistic Director and Kira Simring, Artistic Director) is dedicated to creating works to mine the mind, pierce the heart, and awaken the soul. the cell is a not-for-profit collective for artists to incubate and present new work.



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# THE CAST

All actors appear courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

Chester	Jack O'Connell
Dolly	Judy Rosenblatt
Jiggs	Stephane Duret
Champ	Paul Nugent
Sparky	John Charles McLaughlin
Whiskey	Bob Jaffe



## Jack O'Connell

Theatre: Duke Bonkowski in Yanks 3 Detroit O, top of 7th. W.R. Hearst in The Cats Meow. Joe Keller, All My Sons. Mountain McClintock in Requiem For a Heavyweight. Johnny Friendly, On The Waterfront. Nunzio Over The River Through the Woods. Uncle Tommy in Kiss The Blarney Stone. Lou Cohn in 1940s Radio Hour. Our Town, Stage Manager. Film: "DOUBT", "BIG NIGHT", "THE PAPER!", "REQUIEM FOR A DREAM", "DIGGERS", "THE YARDS", "JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE", "INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS". TV: Mad Men, Louie CK, Bored to Death, Nurse Jackie, and others.



## Judy Rosenblatt

Judy Rosenblatt: FILM/TV: The Cobbler (Tom McCarthy, Dir.) with Adam Sandler and Dustin Hoffman; Taxi Brooklyn (Web series); The Sopranos (TV series.) NY THEATRE: Understudied Roberta Maxwell and Marcia Rodd in Hellman v. McCarthy with Dick Cavett, Abingdon Theatre, (Jan Buttram, Dir.), Moses, the Author - 2014 Fringe Encore (Amy Wright, Dir.); The Pinter Connection - HB Playwrights Theatre (Austin Pendleton & Chris Martin, Dirs.); Woman Before A Glass - Abingdon Theatre & United Solo Festival (Austin Pendleton, Dir.); TRAINING: Cornell University, Central School of Speech and Dramatic Art (London), Joseph Balfour, William Esper, Sanford Meisner, Austin Pendleton and Uta Hagen. mitzvahzoe@aol.com.



## Stephane Duret

Cell Theatre credits include HARD TIMES (Thomas Jefferson). Off-Broadway: THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE, The Public Theatre (Male Swing); International: PARADE (Jerusalem, Israel), ZORRO (Shanghai, China); Regional: VIOLET (Flick), AIDA, HOT MIKADO, RAGTIME, CABARET, CURTAINS, SWEET CHARITY, THE PRODUCERS. Stephane started training at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, Fl. He holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from the Chicago College of Performing Arts. Proud member of A.E.A.



## Paul Nugent

A Resident Artist at the cell, Paul appeared most recently as Victor McGowan in the award-winning The McGowan Trilogy. He's delighted to work on Marianne Driscoll's new play, following playing William in her sold-out hit musical, McGoldrick's Thread. Credits include The Field (Irish Rep), Ladies & Gents (Irish Arts Center) and on TV, "The Blacklist" (NBC). Paul is Co-Artistic Director of the theatre company AboutFACE Ireland and creator/co-producer of the annual NEWvember New Plays Festival. paulnugent.net



## John Charles McLaughlin

John McLaughlin Originally from Hammond, IN, John is a resident artist at the cell theatre in New York City. He has performed in their productions of McGoldrick's Thread, Peter/Wendy and Hard Times: An American Musical, and was recently seen in their readings of Honor Molloy's Crackskull Row and Nancy Manocherian's Blue Skies. He has also performed as a member of the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players and AEA. jcmclaughlin.com



## Bob Jaffee

Stage: At the cell: Willy Holtzman's The Real McGonagall; also, performer/adapter of ...and then you go on. An Anthology of the Works of SAMUEL BECKETT; An American Family Takes a Lover. Other Stage: Ensemble Studio Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, HERE, Theater for a New City, La MaMa E.T.C., Amios, FringeNYC, Trinity Repertory, Providence Black Repertory and Perishable Theatre, others. Film/TV: Showtime's Brotherhood, Law & Order: SVU, many independent films, including award-winners Imagine I'm Beautiful, Water Dogs and The Offering. Ensemble Artist of Ensemble Studio Theatre, Artist-in-Residence at the cell.

