

Los Angeles Poverty Department
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LAPD

“When a gift is given, an obligation is incurred.”

Roman Pattison, author “Coercion:
Psychological Regression,
Techniques in Advertising.”



The Los Angeles Poverty Department
RECENT PAST / RECENT PRESENT / NEAR FUTURE

On November 8, 1999 LAPD received an Ovation Award from the Los Angeles Theater Alliance for outstanding Community Outreach. A tape of *Hit and Run*, a production at the Skirball Cultural Center was viewed by the panel in deliberating on the award. You can view this same tape which will be shown on the internet on New Year's Eve as part of The Franklin Furnace's "History of the Future" broadcast series (www.franklinfurnace.org). Franklin Furnace, based in New York and Cyberspace, has been a leading international presenter and purveyor of new performance for twenty years. This is a far better, cheaper, safer and saner way to welcome the Millennium than say a trip to Tahiti. But if you decide to go to Tahiti or Paris or otherwise forget us on New Year's eve, you can get info about LAPD and of our colleagues making art nationwide at the website (www.communityarts.net). Neighborhood, national, international, cyberspace LAPD continues to leap tall social barriers at a single bound. In March 1999, LAPD produced two free original performances in the neighborhood: "Will They Fare Better or Worse", a humorous, serious, street-wise performance about the effects of welfare reform on skid row; directed by company members Sonya Mims and Emmanuel Deleage and "Artifacts", directed by David Halenda. In June 1999, the company produced (w/ Theater Arts of Cal-State Los Angeles and the Service Cultural, Los Angeles of the French government), a roof top / dazzling production of writer / director Pascal Rambert's, "Race". While this production was brewing, Artistic Director, John Malpede, was enjoying a sabbatical in Oaxaca Mexico, (learning Spanish), courtesy of the Durfee Foundation's unique sabbatical program that recognizes leaders of LA's non-profit sector. In January - Feb. of 99 Malpede engaged in another international collaboration, directing a show in Amsterdam with a cast of 20 refugees, from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Macedonia, Bosnia, Congo and Algeria, all of whom were waiting, waiting, and more waiting, while seeking political asylum in the Netherlands. Another collaboration featuring the legendary French septuagenarian, writer / director / film maker Armand Gatti, is in the works and should take place near the end of year 2000. Meantime the company is developing a new production, based on the story of Kurosawa's epic film "Red Beard". Los Angeles performances will take place around March. In August LAPD will again hold "Change / Exchange", it's summer intensive workshop in community based art making. (Partnering again with SRO Housing, Inc.). During this workshop, artists students, professors, live and study performance on skid row with our company. Graduates have gone on to do startling things. Important activity continues in our ongoing theater workshops with men's and women's drug recovery programs, run by community partners Volunteers of America and The Salvation Army's Safe Harbor.