

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

★★★★ THE BEVERLY HILLS COURIER ★★★★★

## Mother, Daughter Authors—With Showbiz Stories and Business Advice— To Be At Book Fair

Donalie Scherer and her daughter, popular local realtor Valerie Fitzgerald, will both be at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books next week. Both will be discussing and signing copies of their latest books—two different stories, yet woven with common threads of life choices (choices in men) and single motherhood.

Scherer's story, *If You Fall Down, Pick Yourself Up Like A Lady* (advice from her grandmother), weaves her showbiz experiences—she was in at the birth of rock 'n' roll TV on shows like KHJ-TV's *9th Street West*—with a love story. The love of her life, Clarence Fitzgerald, known as singer Buddy Young, died at a young age and she eventually married her best friend from high school 54 years later at age 72.

"I wish my mother had written a book like this," said Scherer, who dedicates the book to her children and grandchildren.

Scherer's story of "a woman's search for love and who she met along the way" features encounters with the many famous names she met as a producer and talent booker. For *Hollywood A Go-Go* she had those "beer-squirting boys" the Rolling Stones on U.S. TV for the first time; and for *Malibu U* she had to deal with an MIA Jim Morrison, apparently upset over the show's no-champagne rule, when *The Doors* appeared.

There are also tales of neighbors like Moe Howard of *The Three Stooges*, a friend of her son John Scott; her toddler daughter Kellie Elizabeth knocking on playwright William Inge's door and even her relationship with a former Beverly Hills mayor.

Scherer doesn't just drop names though. She peppers the book with asides—often mentioning a name and then explaining the person's fate, whether it was early death, a future career or unknown.

The two worked independently, of course, but shared the creative process: Fitzgerald sent her mother chapters as she finished them and opens her book with the poem *After a While* by Veronica A. Shoffstall, given to her by her mother.

Scherer is proud of her daughter who left home at 17 to pursue a modeling career in New York, and she figures in her mom's book—getting grass stains on the dress her mother wore on *The Dating Game* while holding court at Hollywood High, and as a dancer at the



Donalie Scherer and her daughter Valerie Fitzgerald.

Palladium for one of her mother's pioneering teen music shows.

Fitzgerald's book is the result of an interview she did on a TV show about inspiring women. "Your story would make a good book," her editor told her and *Heart And Sold* is the result.

The story of a woman who went from an abusive relationship to struggling single motherhood to a multi-million-dollar real-estate career has garnered numerous rave reviews on Amazon.

"I wrote the book to empower women," said Fitzgerald who gets hundreds of "me too" e-mails a week. "I think I'm someone people can believe. Often people think, 'I'm the only one and no one knows my problems,'" Fitzgerald said.

"The book is an open account of how to raise a business and a baby. I did them side by side, with heart, and sold a lot of properties."

Fitzgerald follows her story with a "primer" on creating not only a successful real estate business, but any business, getting past the excuses, and living a balanced life.

Scherer and Fitzgerald will be at the Book Publicists of Southern California Booth #143 from 10 a.m.-noon, April 24-25 on the UCLA campus, 405 Hilgard Ave.

—Steve Simmons

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## Youth Orchestra Makes Saban Its New Home

The Los Angeles Youth Orchestra, conducted by Russell Steinberg, Ph.D., will present its inaugural Saban performance, "Variations," at 4 p.m., Sunday, in its new home at Temple of the Arts at the historic art deco Saban Theater, 8840 Wilshire Blvd.

The orchestra will perform Brahms' *Variations On A Theme by Haydn*, Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, Haydn's *Symphony No. 3*, Beethoven's *Symphony N. 5, Finale*, Verdi's *Nabucco Overture*, Lopez' *Fiesta Topical* and as a finale, Steinberg's own *The Net of Indra*, performed by 100 musicians.

Los Angeles Youth Orchestra is an Emeritus Youth Orchestra Partner of the L.A. Phil and has performed at Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, UCLA Schoenberg Hall, and Zipper Hall at the Colburn School.

Recently featured on KCAL-CBS News, the orchestra represents more than 60 L.A.-area schools with members ranging from 8-18 with a wide array of socio-economic, cultural, racial and religious backgrounds, making it a truly diverse institution.

The orchestra helps bridge the gap for youth to participate in a music experience that may no



Conductor Russell Steinberg and the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra.

longer exist in their schools. Many of the orchestra's alumni have gone on to continue their music education with scholarships and awards in such schools as Juilliard, Cornell University, Berklee College of Music, UCLA and more.

Tickets with credit card are available at: [www.losangelesyouthorchestra.org](http://www.losangelesyouthorchestra.org) or at the door by cash or check: adults, \$20, children 18 and under \$1

For more information, call 310- 571-LAYO.

## Hyrchanus The Legend Of Rabbi Eliezer: An Inter-generational Production At Temple Emanuel

Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills will present an inter-generational production of the full-length original musical *Hyrchanus: The Legend Of Rabbi Eliezer*, written and directed by Rabbi Jonathan Aaron, at 7 p.m., April 24 and 2 p.m., April 25 in the Weinberg Auditorium, 8844 Burton Way.

The play tells the Talmudic

story about the origins of one of the most controversial rabbis of the Talmud, Eliezer ben Hyrchanus. As a 21-year-old, Eliezer abandoned his farming family to study in Jerusalem with the great Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai. Three years later, at the urging of Eliezer's siblings, his father traveled to Jerusalem to disinherit his son.

Rabbi Aaron has used the arts to impart Judaism into the lives of congregants since he arrived at Temple Emanuel in 1996. Aaron said, "There have been two constants in Judaism: music and stories. Music has been a part of prayer since the first Temple period, and stories, well, who are we without them? Judaism has always used

stories to express life, and theater is a great way to tell those stories."

The production involves more than 40 congregants ranging in age from 3 to 90, who have been working together over the last three months to mount the production.

*Hyrchanus* marks the return of Temple Emanuel's inter-generational play tradition that has been dark for the last four years. Over the years, the productions have brought hundreds of Emanuel congregants to the stage to sing, dance and act together with their families and friends.

For tickets, call Penelope Rosenberg, 310-288-3737, ext. 223.

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