



8/26/10 UPDATED AND REVISED RELEASE TO INCLUDE  
CHARITY BENEFIT FOR PET CARE (MPTF)  
AND  
COSTUME DESIGNER GUILD GALA PRESS OPENING

SUSAN CLAASSEN STARS IN



*An Evening of Wit, Wisdom and a Whisper of Gossip!*

AT EL PORTAL FORUM THEATRE  
September 23 – October 24, 2010

Special Performance Benefitting  
Pet Care Program



September 30 at 8pm

Costume Designers Guild Gala Press Opening



October 1 at 8pm

Off the Aisle Productions in association with Invisible Theatre proudly presents **A CONVERSATION WITH EDITH HEAD** starring Susan Claassen and written by Paddy Calistro and Susan Claassen, opening with previews September 23 - September 30 with the **Costume Designers Guild** Gala Press Opening on Friday, October 1 at the historic El Portal Forum Theatre in North Hollywood, California. A special performance benefitting the **MPTF's Pet Care Program** will be September 30.

## **"My best friends are animals - always have been." -Edith Head**

MPTF's Pet Care Program was created to help seniors living on low and fixed incomes keep their companion pets by offering assistance with the purchase of pet food, pet supplies, veterinary care, grooming, and with boarding if the pet owner experiences a temporary medical condition requiring hospitalization. The Pet Care Program helps to alleviate the stress and worry experienced by many seniors who wonder, "How can I continue to pay for my pet's needs?" Or, even the more dire choices like "Do I buy medication for myself, or do I buy food for my Best Friend?" Companion pets provide a sense of well-being, motivation, companionship and joy to seniors. *MPTF helps them stay together!*

On October 1, the **Costume Designer's Guild** will host a CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION after the performance to honor Ms. Claassen for keeping this iconic Costume Designer in the public eye.

The COSTUME DESIGNERS Guild (CDG) is Local 892 of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees (I.A.T.S.E.). The Guild represents COSTUME DESIGNERS, ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNERS and COSTUME at the highest levels of skill and expertise in motion pictures, television and commercials. The CDG promotes and protects the economic status of its members while improving working conditions and raising standards for the craft.

Actress Susan Claassen was inspired to write and star in A CONVERSATION WITH EDITH HEAD while watching a TV biography of Ms. Head. Susan Claassen said: "Not only do I bear a striking resemblance to Edith, but we share the same love for clothes and fashion. She stitched Dorothy Lamour into her sarong; put Bob Hope and Bing Crosby in kilts in "The Road to Bali"; created Bette Davis' glamorous Margo Channing; made teenage girls swoon over Elizabeth Taylor's white ball gown in "A Place in the Sun"; dressed Ingrid Bergman in "Notorious", Grace Kelly in "To Catch A Thief", Kim Novak in "Vertigo", Gloria Swanson in "Sunset Boulevard" and Sean Connery in "The Man Who Would Be King". There are many myths about her but she was a discreet, tenacious personality. She knew whose hips needed clever disguising and made sure those legendary stars always looked the part. Our show gives the inside scoop on Edith and the Golden Age of Hollywood.

**A CONVERSATION WITH EDITH HEAD** premiered in Tucson, Arizona in 2002 and was subsequently presented in Chicago, Key West, at the American Film Institute in Silver Spring, MD, Hartford, San Francisco, Nantucket, San Diego, Houston, Austin, and Scottsdale, as well as in Tbilisi in the Republic of Georgia, London's West End and a 'sold out' engagement at the 2007 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Co-author Paddy Calistro is one of the leading authorities on the life and work of Edith Head and is the coauthor of Edith Head's posthumous autobiography, EDITH HEAD'S HOLLYWOOD. She was selected as Ms. Head's official biographer based on her experience as a fashion journalist. A former fashion and beauty writer for the Los Angeles Times, Paddy wrote the weekly "Looks" column in the LA Times Magazine for four years. She was the West Coast reporter for Allure and has written for Glamour, Mademoiselle, House Beautiful, Elle, Four Seasons Magazine, Fitness and Los Angeles Magazine. For more than a decade Paddy was the lead interior design writer for LA Magazine, and was also the editor of

American Style, a bilingual fashion magazine sold in Mexico and South America. The co-founder of Angel City Press, an independent book publishing company based in Santa Monica, she currently serves as its Publisher and Editor-in-chief. The 25th anniversary edition of EDITH HEAD'S HOLLYWOOD has recently been reissued and will be available for purchase at all performances of A CONVERSATION WITH EDITH HEAD.

**El Portal Theatre** is a historic landmark in the San Fernando Valley located in the heart of Ho Arts District. The theatre, originally built as a vaudeville house in 1926, sits across Lankershim Blvd from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and the Art Institute of California-Hollywood.



**“There’s nothing like a row of Oscars® for putting the fear of God into an actress who thinks she knows everything about dress designing.”**

***-Edith Head***

**THE HEIRESS, 1949**

**SAMSON AND DELILAH, 1950**

**ALL ABOUT EVE, 1950**

**A PLACE IN THE SUN, 1951**

**ROMAN HOLIDAY, 1953**

**SABRINA, 1954**

**THE FACTS OF LIFE, 1960**

**THE STING, 1973**

**“Edith Head comes to life in a way that’s so perfectly accurate...”**

*- The New York Times*

**“You can just tell from Claassen's high quality of acting, she is capturing Head's essence with her every crafted move. She actually becomes her. A great evening of old-school glamour and wonderful recollections.”**

*- Emma Barnett -The Stage – London*

**“ One honestly does feel they have met the truly inspirational woman that was Edith Head and what a privilege it is.”**

*The British Theatre Guide*

**“Head and shoulders above the rest! Hollywood costume designer Edith Head lives!”**

*- The Chicago Sun Times*

**“ It’s a winning production! Susan Claassen’s portrayal of Edith Head is a tour de force ... “**

*Celebrate-Key West, Florida*

**“It’s a moving, seamless, beautifully played portrayal.”**

*The List - Edinburgh*

## **CALENDAR**

Off the Aisle Productions in association with Invisible Theatre presents  
**A Conversation With Edith Head**

Starring Susan Claassen  
Written by Paddy Calistro and Susan Claassen

**DATES:** September 23 – October 24

### **SHOWTIMES:**

#### **Previews:**

Thursday Sept 23, and Friday Sept 24, NO PERFORMANCE  
Continuing Sept 25, Sunday Sept 26 &

#### **Special Performance Benefitting MPTF's Pet Care Program:**

Thursday, September 30 at 8pm

#### **Costume Designers Guild Gala Press Opening:**

Friday, October 1 at 8 P.M.

**Press is invited October 1, 2 or 3**

**Closes:** Sunday, October 24 at 3PM

#### **Regular Schedule:**

Thursday – Saturday at 8pm  
Saturday & Sunday Matinees at 3PM

#### **TICKETS:**

\$25 & \$35

#### **For Tickets call:**

818-508-4200

866-811-4111

**Or order online:** [www.elportaltheatre.com](http://www.elportaltheatre.com)

For Press Seats please contact:

Forrest & Associates

Pegge Forrest - Jay Irwin

Phone 818-508-0281/818-693-0964