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Monday, November 30, 2009

Marin Focus: Actor (& storyteller) Phil Sheridan



By Joan Lisetor-

He falls to the ground, victim of a heart attack. The medics arrive.

"Good God, get him to a hospital, quick..."

There are helicopters overhead, sirens, flashing lights, breaking glass.

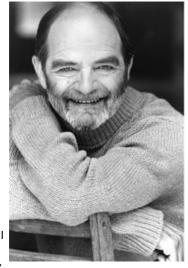
It's all in a day's work for actor Phil Sheridan. The 74-year-old began acting in college and has been at it ever since. Being practical, he got a degree in library science from U.C., Berkeley, in the mid 1960s.

"The ink was still wet on my degree, and I high tailed it over to the Marin Civic Center library and asked for a job," he said. "They asked if I could start the next day."

That was the beginning of a career that has taken the Southern California transplant to San Quentin as a librarian. Then there was the book store he owned in Ross and the years he worked as a diamond broker.

While he still works as a fill in reference librarian for the county, nothing has suited him nor pleased him more than his current life's work: telling stories to children. He tells stories two mornings a week at the library in Mill Valley, his home town for more than 40 years, once a week at the Sausalito library and the Hunter's Point YMCA and at children's birthday parties. His dream is to tell stories to children on television.

"The next Mr. Rogers," he says shrugging.
"Although there is nothing like a real live
person telling stories, acting out the parts. I
love to roar and bellow. A little boy the
other day asked me, 'Are you really crying?"



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The actor/storyteller is the voice of Grandpa on the very popular video game, Sim City. And, he is the real life grandpa of two and the father of four. He met his wife, Linda, in 1969 in an acting class at U.C. Berkeley.

The above mentioned heart attack scene will take place Monday, Nov. 30, at 9 p.m. on the NBC series *Trauma*. The episode is called "The Blue Balloon."

"Don't worry if you miss it," he said, "it will replay on http://www.nbc.com/trauma/ and you can fast forward to my scene." And, he will post it to his website www.philsheridan.com.

Sheridan appeared in many episodes of the late series, "Nash Bridges." He recalled fondly working with actor Cheech Marin. Working on *Trauma*, he said, reminded him of the fun.

"You do a shoot; you break for lunch; you do another shoot, and you break for dinner, and all that money."

But, there is nothing like seeing a little girl holding her hands to her mouth and gasping in surprise while you are reading to her, Sheridan said.

Joan is the president of <u>Lisetor Communications</u> and a producer for <u>Life Stories DVD</u>, a video production company. Previously, Joan was a reporter for the Marin IJ, a columnist for The News Marin and Assistant to the President for Public Information at College of Marin. She received her BA in Journalism at San Francisco State University.

Joan's longtime commitment to the community ranges from organizations such as the Marin County Board of Education to the Marin

Shakespeare Festival. She currently serves as an adviser to the San Quentin News and is on the board of directors of Marin Shakespeare Company, Bridge Rail Foundation and the Golden Gate Tall Ship. Joan has one son, Scott, a lighting director who lives in Honolulu.

Posted by Pam Gould at 11:19 AM in Marin Focus, MoreMarin Feature! | Permalink ShareThis

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Congrats Phil 'Rogers'

Posted by: Sandy | Monday, December 07, 2009 at 10:43 AM

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