



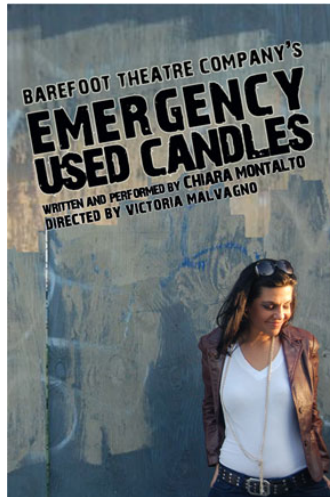
Janette Dolores

Welcome to my blog! Here I discuss family, spirituality, and the craft of writing. I appreciate you adding to the discussion by leaving a comment. I publish on the 10th, 20th and 30th, sometimes in between if I have news to share. Enjoy!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2010

Presenting an Interview with Chiara Montalto, the Star of Emergency Used Candles, an Off-Broadway One-Woman Show Currently Running at the Cherry Lane Studio Theatre.

A twenty-year-old college student moves in with her eighty-five-year-old grandfather to care for him shortly after the death of his wife—her grandmother. Ten years pass, and a poignant story about discovery, love and loss emerges. Set in Brooklyn and based on her own experiences, writer/actress Chiara Montalto stars in *Emergency Used Candles*, a one-woman off-Broadway show and tribute to her late grandfather, “Pop.” Playing herself as well as her grandfather, Montalto invites the audience to meet Pop and learn a little about a once predominantly Italian Brooklyn, and a lot about the wisdom Pop imparted to Montalto at the closing of his life and the beginning of hers. All with some laughs and tugging of the heartstrings along the way. For anyone who has ever cared for an elderly relative, Montalto brings to life the pendulum of emotions and everyday experiences such a responsibility entails. I got the chance to have Chiara take a break from her busy production schedule, and answer some questions about her one-woman tour de force.



Give us a quick sense of the person your grandfather was. If you had to describe him in a couple of words, what words would you choose?

My grandfather was an extraordinary man. He was always open to life and eager, and interested in learning.

Not only do you play a (not much) younger version of yourself in your show, but you also play your grandfather. Through your interpretations, what do you hope audience members take away from the impact you and your grandfather had on each other?

I really hope that people will come away from my show seeing that friendships can come from the most unexpected places. In my story (and my life) not only was my grandfather my family member, he became my best friend, the person who could know what I was thinking without any need for words. That is actually a line in the play, and it was true--he just knew me, better than anyone else. So that's what's important to me, that people are open and that we let each other in, really get to know and accept each other as human beings. I guess in the technology age, that's not so common--that and, everyone in this world experiences love and loss, so though my story is a Brooklyn Italian one, it is also universal.

Coming from a family of immigrants myself—many of them elderly—I can only imagine the generational and cultural clashes you must have experienced with your grandfather throughout the ten years you lived

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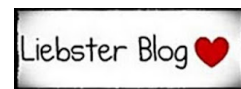
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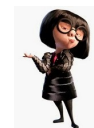
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ABOUT ME



Janette Dolores

I am a Christian, a mom, a wife, a writer, and a crime-fighter. I find inspiration for my writing in everyday experiences. If you like what you see, please follow. It is my practice to follow anyone who is kind enough to follow me. Thank you for stopping by!

with him. Yet he seems to have been your dearest friend during that time period. What do you think helped to bridge the gaps between you and him?

I think what bridged the gaps was that we learned to see and know each other as human beings, as individuals. Despite the list of things that separate us, whether age, race, creed, religion, political views, we all have far more in common than we allow ourselves to believe.

You chose an intriguing name for your show. How does that name relate to the story?

That answer viewers can see for themselves in my play. But I will say that candles and light figure into the play a lot. It is my metaphor for his guiding my life.

Your performance is a touching tribute to your grandfather. I believe he is in Heaven smiling down, watching your show night after night, front row center. What is his review?

I hope and pray that he is proud of me. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of him. I hope I have done him proud!! JD

Emergency Used Candles is scheduled to run through November 20, 2010. Performances are Wednesday through Friday at 7 pm, and Saturday at 3 pm and 7 pm, at Cherry Lane Studio Theatre, 38 Commerce Street, New York, N.Y. Tickets are \$35; \$25 for students and seniors. To purchase tickets, call Telecharge at (800) 432-7250 or visit <http://www.telecharge.com/BehindTheCurtain.aspx?prodid=8333>.

Chiara Montalto is a member of the Barefoot Theatre Company, and has appeared in "Does a Tiger Wear a Necktie?," "Metropolitan Operas," and "Balm in Gilead," among other productions. She also appeared in an Italian language production of Pirandello's "La Giara/The Jar," and "Always Anastasia" at the Strawberry One Act Festival. Chiara has appeared in the films "One to One" and "Saturday." Currently, she is directing the documentary "Something Special."

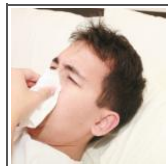
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Posted by [Janette Dolores](#) at 4:58 PM

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Debbie Maxwell Allen November 15, 2010 at 9:27 AM

What a wonderful interview! Chiara and I grew up on the same street in Brooklyn (I think I babysat for her family a few times). My parents just went to see the play, and raved about it. I wish I was close enough to go myself!

~Debbie

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Janette Dolores November 15, 2010 at 10:19 AM

Hi, Debbie! Indeed, Chiara was a wonderful interviewee, and her answers to my questions about her play tugged at my heartstrings. Wish I had met Pop, myself. Thanks for stopping by and commenting. Your blog rocks, btw. So much info!

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Missed Periods November 18, 2010 at 2:06 AM

Pretty amazing that she played herself and her grandfather. Very talented.

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Janette Dolores November 18, 2010 at 10:58 AM

She is pretty fierce, indeed. Thanks for stopping by. Love the cleverness of your blog, btw, and that you tie some of your points in with celebrities! Grabs my attention immediately. Always a fun read.

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