



**BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, January 12, 2005
7:00 p.m., Franklin Park Conservatory Library**

January Meeting – CYMBIDIUMS

Thursday, January 20, 2005

7:30 p.m., Franklin Park Conservatory Classrooms

7:30 – 8:00 p.m., Beginners' Corner in the Library

Encore, encore! Last March, Dr. Larry Sanford visited and spoke to us about Odonts and their relatives. We all knew immediately that his talk was a great success because the questions and answers continued on and on after his talk. Larry told us that he had spoken to the Cincinnati group in January last year at the peak of his Cymbidium season so we signed him up on the spot for our January 2005 meeting.

Now, I know most of you have invitations to the Inaugural Ball in Washington for that evening, but let me suggest that you select in favor of our meeting on January 20th. Cymbidiums are a priority, don't you think? Everyone with a greenhouse or an enclosed porch should grow a few cymbidiums; they're showy and long-lasting when cut and are an alternative to cattleyas as a corsage orchid. Larry's talk will help you survey the genus to select a favorite or two and provide you with the know-how to grow them well.

Weather permitting, we'll try to get a very few cymbidiums shipped in for you to browse and purchase. Beyond that, the January meeting is another Members' Plant Sale night.

Steve Helbling drove in with Larry for the meeting last March and filled in for Ken with the Beginner's Corner. At this writing, we don't know if Steve can accompany Larry again for the January meeting, but if he can he'll join Ken for an interesting session. As usual, we will be taking our speaker out for dinner before the meeting, if you're interested, join us around 6-ish for something to eat at the nearby Bag O' Nails restaurant.

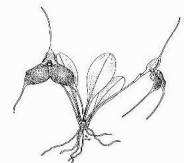
Stay away from the flu and we'll see you all on the 20th.

- Tom Franczak

Hospitality - The following people have volunteered to bring something for the hospitality table for the January meeting: Tom James, David and Barbara Sayer, and Susan Allison. Thank you in advance!

Membership - Two important announcements about our membership. First, please welcome the following new members to the Central Ohio Orchid Society who have joined recently:

Geraldine Zwyer J. Jeffrey McNealey John Bostwick
Julia & Ralph Wisniewski David Riepenhoff



Secondly, it is now time to renew your COOS membership. Dues per year are \$15/individual and \$20/family. Those people who joined after October 1, 2004 are considered paid through 2005. Please send checks to: Tom James, 865 Francis Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43209. Also, let Tom James know if you have a new address, phone number or e-mail address. If anyone has an old membership form, please cross out Jean King's name and address and put Tom's in its place. Thank you, Tom James, Membership Chair.

YOU CAN SEND THE ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SLIP ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO TOM JAMES. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY.

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| Membership | Tom James | 614-231-9046 |
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| Guest Speaker/Programs | Tom Franczak | 614-868-5636 |

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT !

Our president, Tom Lochner, has offered to serve as chairperson for our annual AOS show. This will be held in early June, 2005. We still need volunteers to help out by serving as chairs for a number of committees that will help coordinate this event. Tasks include contacting vendors and judges, organizing awards, coordinating hospitality for the judges and vendors, etc. The more people we have volunteer, the less work each person will have to do – your help, a little or a lot, will help make this a successful event. Contact Tom Lochner to let him know of your interest in helping out.

COLD GROWERS' CORNER

December 12, 2004 (when it was still a tad warmer)

For people trying to initiate flowering in the really tough standard Cymbidiums, a cautionary note. Most of mine not yet in spike are still out under plastic. But due to other concerns I hadn't done a proper cold frame tie down. Over Thanksgiving, the covers blew off, and it went into the mid to low 20's (my thermometer also ran over with the plastic into my fruit trees and was a write off). Although my plants are on slotted plastic storage stands that let cold air drain down, I had neglected to move my pop bottle contingent onto the black plastic under them when I moved them under my eaves against my south facing brick wall in a hustle the day before I decided to run out of town for turkey day. I moved them the night before I decided to go from the more secure frame I had in a more exposed spot.

Although most took it, a few on the outer side, which had newer growths, were cold damaged. And irritatingly, the ones I left most exposed to hussle into bloom since they were the real toughies to get to bloom took it on the nose in the new growth.

For absent-minded types who had similar problems, you shouldn't do much more than curse like I did. I doubt I have LOST any plants totally. I may have even jolted my tough yellows into bloom for the first time in a couple of years, but the foliage will take a year to recover, and I lost growth and energy over that bit of carelessness.

What I will be doing when I haul them inside will be to crank up air circulation, keep it cooler to start out than I should have and to absolutely SOUSE them with systemic fungicide. I may cut off a few squishy pseudo bulbs, but a sharp razor blade and care will probably preclude me

losing any plants. I tug new growths when I pull this; the rot sometimes is hidden but a gentle tug can tell if something is wrong even if the leaf looks healthy. Messy intergenerics and Miltonias I accidentally dose to excess are getting tugged now; again when I blew it it comes out neatly and the basal leaves grow cleanly and usually that stops problems before it goes further.

Anyone having Miniken or Sussex crosses from me should get a sharp eye out; the early ones have spikes coming up like no tomorrow. Pepita should be about 2 foot by now and in bloom for Christmas. Minikin and Sussex will be fully out by year end. The stupid things curl about light fixtures and make it impossible to move them without snapping them off; you need about three people to deal with them to remove bulbs and plants at one time. They never recover to show – only for cut flowers.

Cymbidiums can grow a foot while your back is turned. The flowers do not like the heat put off as they curl around the tubes.

Naila Caruso, the absent minded bug cop.

Well, Naila. I can empathize with you. Among the Cymbidiums I left out for the cool weather was a nicely grown *Cymbidium aloifolium*, which is one of the warmer growing species. After I brought everything in, a number of leaves took on a sickly translucent yellow (sort of the color of a ripe pear). These, I instinctively pulled – and off they came; same with a couple of pseudobulbs. The plant will likely live, but it will take a couple of years to regain its strength I fear. Live and learn. But I do have a number of Cymbidiums in spike for the first time!

Tom Bell-Games

Hobbyists and taxonomists alike are forever interested in uncommon color forms of orchids. The following article presents some basic concepts with respect to albescence and then goes into more detail regarding the genetics of these traits with an emphasis on *Cymbidiums*. This article was originally published in the CSA Journal, vol. 3 (1), pp. 6-11, Jan-Feb 2003, and is reprinted here by permission of the author, Greig Russell, Western Cape, Republic of South Africa.

SOME THOUGHTS ON ALBESCENT CYMBIDIUMS. – Greig Russell

Cymbidiums which are genetically incapable of normal anthocyanin pigment production have been the source of much interest and attraction; particularly in the last few decades. The question of a suitable name for plants of this type has been long debated and there are many suggestions. **Albescent** and **Albinistic** refer to plants which show a significant degree of reduction in normal anthocyanin production. I tend to use the former term, but not exclusively. **Albino** is often used for anthocyanin-free plants, but to me this term means plants incapable of producing chlorophyll; that is those with white leaves. A selfing of *Cymbidium suavisimum* has given me about 25% of seedlings of this type, not something I have attempted to maintain in cultivation; the normal green seedlings being difficult enough. **Alba** is a useful term for anthocyanin-free plants, especially where cattleyas are concerned; most **alba** cattleyas being white. Unfortunately many **alba** *cymbidiums* are green. I still find this the term of choice for plants which have no anthocyanin. **Pure-colour** is currently the most popular term to describe anthocyanin-free *cymbidiums*. Nice clean pinks with no browning seem to fit better with this name, in my opinion. **Concolor** refers to plants having the lip similarly coloured to the sepals and are not necessarily anthocyanin deficient. A **Tinted Alba**, by my definition, is a plant which contains a highly reduced anthocyanin concentration, but is not completely anthocyanin-free. I would like a useful term like **Ananthocyanic** to exist, but it really does sound rather pedantic.

Gregor Mendel was the father of genetics, but he died before his child could be born. Sixteen years after his death, his work was rediscovered. The year was 1900, and for two or three years before this, an Englishman, C.C. Hurst, had been studying the inheritance of flower colour in *Cattleya*. When Mendel's hypotheses surfaced, Hurst was in a position to become the first person to view the genetics of orchids with a scientific eye. He did much work on the alba clones of *Cattleya* and his C and R lists have become well-known to generations of orchid people, but he did not work on the genus *Cymbidium* to any extent. The first person to look at the genetics of *Cymbidium* in any depth appears to have been Gustav Mehlquist, who published the landmark article "The Ancestors of our Present-day *Cymbidiums*" in the Missouri Botanical Gardens Bulletin, vol. 34, pp. 1-26, in 1946. (This article is more readily accessible to *cymbidium* growers as a reprint published in The Orchid Advocate, vol. 8(1), pp. 13-18 and vol. 8(2), pp. 48-52 in 1981.) In this article, Mehlquist started the list of albescent *Cymbidium* hybrids. He went on to do critical work on the cytogenetics of *cymbidiums*, establishing the existence of polyploidy in *Cymbidium* and is thus one of the fathers of the polyploid revolution in *cymbidium* breeding; Donald Wimber being the other.

Lee Lenz and Donald Wimber, contributing the chapter on "Hybridization and Inheritance" in Carl Withner's 1959 book

The Orchids - A Scientific Survey, expanded Mehlquist's list. Up to this point, these albescent clones of *Cymbidium* were known as "concolors". Don Wimber went on to do the very important work of doubling chromosome numbers with colchicine, giving us new polyploid studs with which to breed.

Paul Gripp also addressed albescent *cymbidiums*, in one of a remarkable flurry of articles mostly concerning *cymbidiums*, published in the American Orchid Society Bulletin from 1964 onwards and only slowing down after 1970. His article "Concolor and Recessive-colored *Cymbidiums*" appeared in the A.O.S. Bulletin, vol. 37, pp. 192-199, of 1968. In this article, Paul divided the albescent plants that he knew at the time into three groups. Aside from those plants mentioned above, and others which had passed through his hands as a foremost grower, he included those brought to his attention by Alvin Bryant, then working dedicatedly on alba *cymbidiums* in Australia. The first of Paul's categories was "Concolors" (lip devoid of marking or suffusion) and included some true alba clones. The second category was "Suspected recessively marked lips or albino *cymbidiums*" and included, of interest with regard to this article, *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* 'Concolor' and *Cym. eburneum*. The third category was "Concolors in miniature *cymbidiums*".

From 1972, Alvin Bryant wrote articles on the Australian experience of albescent *cymbidiums*. While previous students of alba *cymbidiums* had only made presumptions with regard to the genetics of this group (based on Hurst's work with cattleyas), Alvin laid a good scientific groundwork. Although one thinks of the "Sleeping" series of *Cymbidium* hybrids as an invention of Valley Orchids, the first few plants with this name were in fact registered by Alvin Bryant. Alvin's terms for alba *cymbidiums* were "non-staining" and "albino". The term "pure-colour" appears to have been the invention of either Bob Vandyke or Merv Dunn, both associated with Valley Orchids of Australia, dating back to 1970.

In the *Cymbidium* Society News, vol. 27, pp.140-146 from 1972, Jim Burkey catalogued the alba clones in an article "A Listing of Alba *Cymbidiums*". He repeated Paul Gripp's assertion that *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* 'Concolor' and *Cym. eburneum* were alba clones but qualified the latter with "pure white form". Jim also addressed the question of how these clones should be defined and named.

Andy Easton has also briefly covered albescent *cymbidiums* on many occasions. In his article "About Albas and Allotetraploids" published in the Orchid Advocate, vol. 1(6), pp.212-214 (1975) Andy says the following; "Although it is periodically debated, an alba form of *C. eburneum* definitely exists. There is an interesting hybrid of *Gottianum* with Durham Castle that produced some albas that were also concolors. They resembled

C. eburneum in form and spike habit and were pure white all over. Charming! And *C. Alexanderi* 'Album' FCC RHS from the 1911 crossing of Eburneo-lowianum 'Concolor' with *C. insigne* 'Westonbirt', a concolor carrying an alba gene, shows strong evidence of an alba *eburneum* grandparent."

Having read everything I could get my hands on regarding cymbidiums, I was at one point quite satisfied that *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* 'Concolor' was an alba and that there was an alba form of *Cym. eburneum*. Checking the award citation for the FCC/RHS that *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* 'Concolor' received on March 24, 1903, however, clouded the situation. It said the following: "Flowers large, yellowish cream colour, with purplish markings on the front of the lip." (Journal R.H.S., vol. 28, p. lxxxi). In the same journal (vol. 26, p. 922), *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* 'Mureauense' was described as follows; "Raised by M. C. Vive of Mureaux (Seine et Oise), France, out of *Cym. lowianum* 'Concolor' by *Cym. eburneum*. Segments of the flowers cream-white, lip narrowly margined with purple; the peculiar yellow tint of the flower recalls that of *Cym. lowianum* 'Concolor'." So, in fact, these early *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* plants were not albas, but were distinct from the original plants made with normal *Cym. lowianum*. It is not impossible that the

early albescent *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* was selfed or sib-pollinated, giving rise to true alba plants which survived well into the twentieth century. I must also mention at this point, that it is probable that *Cym. Veitchii* is the correct name for *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum*, as it has precedence. I will, however, be using the latter name as it is the one more commonly used. (P.S. The International Orchid Registrar has informed me that in the case of horticultural plant names, precedence is not absolute, and more widely used names can be accepted, with the earlier names being "suppressed".)

Being interested more in cymbidiums exhibiting the charm of the species, rather than those producing great, big heaps of floral tissue, I have remade many primary hybrids including both versions of *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum*, and those made with *Cym. lowianum* 'Concolor' are distinct. My photo of the two versions together shows the differences in tepal colour, as well as the striking differences in lip-pigmentation. The 'Concolor' version has less lip area pigmented, the markings being a distinct light orange-brown, and this pigment fades rapidly in our hot, bright spring. Within two weeks the lip appears to be "concolor". From this pair of plants alone it is rather difficult to explain what is going on here, from a genetic point of view.



Two clones of *Cymbidium Eburneo-lowianum* from two different crosses. The spike on the left comes from the cross *Cymbidium lowianum* 'Concolor' x *Cymbidium eburneum* 'Santa Barbara'; that on the right is a cross between a normal, anthocyanin-containing *Cymbidium lowianum* x *C. eburneum*.



Another picture of the albescent *Cymbidium Eburneo-lowianum*, showing more clearly the trace of orange-brown pigment present in the lips and under the columns of newly-opened flowers.

I have, however, been extremely fortunate to bloom another cross which has helped me better understand the genetics involved. A cross between *Cym. Cooperi* 'Plush' (a plant I believe to be nothing more than an excellent, perhaps slightly introgressed form of *Cym. insigne*, and about which I will write in the future) and a *Cym. eburneum* has recently started flowering for me. These *Cym. "Gottianum"* plants fall into two groups. The first group has light pink flowers with the lip marked with medium-purple dots and dashes. Plants of the

second group open pure white and the lip-markings are of a noticeably paler colour, but still exhibit some anthocyanin colouration. The latter I call my "tinted-alba Gottianums". Knowing from previous experience that *Cym. Cooperi* 'Plush' carries an alba gene, something that has been reported in the *Orchid Advocate* a while ago (see vol. 18(2) pp. 58-59 of 1992), an explanation for these two groups of progeny can be suggested. I have included a photo showing the flowers of one plant of each group.



Two clones from the cross *Cymbidium Cooperi* 'Plush' x *Cymbidium eburneum* 'Santa Barbara', that on the left having normal colour, while the right-hand one has a reduced anthocyanin content.

It seems clear to me that more than two different alleles exist for the alba gene in *Cymbidium*. In the article "Floral Pigments in *Cymbidium*" (CSN vol. 27(4) pp.170-171) the authors Strauss & Arditti use the letter **c** to refer to genes at this locus and **c** is classically the letter used throughout genetics for genes related to pigment deficiency. So here I will define my three alleles as:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| C (upper case) | the dominant normal (coloured) gene |
| c (lower case) | the recessive alba gene |
| c^t | an allele allowing limited pigment expression |

The latter could also be called a "tinted alba" gene and it is dominant to alba and recessive to normal. The three parent plants whose genetic constitution we are considering here are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Cym. lowianum</i> 'Concolor' | c c (a true alba clone) |
| <i>Cym. eburneum</i> | c^tc^t (a tinted alba) |
| <i>Cym. Cooperi</i> 'Plush' | C c (normal coloured carrying alba) |

The *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* 'Concolor' cross is **c c** x **c^tc^t** and all the progeny are **c c^t**. Because the tinted alba gene is dominant to the alba gene; all the progeny appear as tinted albas.

The *Cym. "Gottianum"* cross is **C c** x **c^tc^t** and half the progeny are **C c^t** and are of normal colour, whereas the other half are **c c^t** and appear to be tinted albas.

It is interesting to consider the distribution of the **c^t** tinted alba gene. It does not appear that the entire population of *Cymbidium eburneum* is homozygous for this gene. The particular clone that I used in this work came from Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, and was immaculately white - and would have been called var. *philbrickianum* in the past. The formerly recognized *Cym. eburneum* var. *dayi* had more colour on the lip, perhaps because it carried a **C** gene. The interesting clones of *Cym. eburneum* seen and photographed by Dr. Cribb in China, published in the *Orchid Review* (vol. 105, pp.155-157 for 1997) show characteristics of var. *dayi* as well as those of the pink archaic variety *williamsianum* and may also carry the **C** gene. This

article is well worth looking at for its illustrations. The three Chinese clones of *Cym. eburneum* illustrated, show the typical, undivided, saddle-shaped callus of the species, but show other atypical characteristics, such as pink colouration and lip-markings going far back into the lip, suggesting to me some introgression with possibly *Cym. hookerianum* (*grandiflorum*), which probably grows in the area where these *Cym. eburneum* plants were collected. The plant in this article referred to as *Cym. lowianum* var. *iansonii* resembles more closely *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* than the *Cym. i'ansonii* with which I am familiar. The only characteristic which does not satisfy is the flower-count, which at ten to twelve is a bit high for *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum*. The illustration of the full plant greatly resembles early twentieth century photos of specimens of *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* (see plate 6 in James O'Brien's book **Orchids** in the "Present-day Gardening" series, undated but about 1911), and the close-up is also almost a dead ringer for the *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* in the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, Orchid of the Day archive on the web <http://www.sborchid.com/OrchidOfTheDay/Cym-Eburneo-Lowianum.htm>. I believe that the plant discussed by Dr. Cribb

represents a plant of *Cym. lowianum* heavily introgressed with *Cym. eburneum* or the natural hybrid "*Cym. x eburneo-*

lowianum", "(*Cym. x veitchii*)".



Cymbidium Eburneo-lowianum - plate 6 in James O'Brien's book **Orchids**. This photograph was taken of a plant from the Westonbirt Collection of Sir George Holford (grower, Mr. H. G. Alexander).

The peculiar lip-colour of the *Cym. i'ansonii* seen in cultivation does not appear to be caused by a gene that would be an allele in this series; based on the fact that a hybrid of this species with *Cym. Cooperi* 'Plush' did not segregate into two colour populations; all plants having normal lip colouration.

Of the other Subgenus *Cyperorchis* species, it is probable that *Cym. mastersii* carries predominantly the tinted alba gene (except for plants which belong to the formerly recognized var. *affine*, which exhibits good lip colour), and it is possible that *Cym. roseum* and even *Cym. elegans* could do so as well.

Amongst the miniature species, *Cym. floribundum* (*pumilum*) var. *album* is definitely a tinted alba, but as the genome of this species is not particularly homologous with that of the large species, it is difficult to state categorically that the same allele, namely *c*^t, is involved. The alba clones of *Cym. ensifolium* and *Cym. sinense* appear to be true albas, based on breeding results, but once again non-homology clouds the issue. *Cymbidium madidum* is another species which exhibits albescence and warrants examination.

Plants like *Cym. Balkis* 'Solent Queen', *Cym. Nadina* 'Concolor', *Cym. Amy Stewart* 'Zita' etc. with small, concolor lips, represent hybrids exhibiting the *c*^t gene phenotypically, and you will find *Cym. eburneum* on both sides in their ancestry. Suffusions on a clear lip, such as may be seen in *Cym. Mem. S.G. Alexander*

FCC and *Cym. Narela* 'Jennifer Gail' may represent phenotypic *c*^t lips on top of a contribution by *Cym. sanderae*. The complexity of the genetics of lip-markings is probably a huge subject and when one considers tetraploids with four genes at each locus, the complexity compounds considerably.

Additionally, it is quite possible that more than three alleles may exist in the alba series in *Cymbidium*. In the domestic cat, the albino series of alleles, also denoted by the letter *c*, includes five alleles; normal colour, burmese, siamese, blue-eyed albino and pink-eyed albino.

As far as I am aware, this is the first time that "tinted alba" has been considered from a genetic point of view and the first time that the idea of a third allele in the alba series in *Cymbidium* has been entertained. We are on the verge of knowing about the DNA of cymbidiums when we barely have any concept of what genes our beloved flowers hide beneath their elegant surfaces. Grow, observe and ponder over your cymbidiums, particularly species and species hybrids and help to reveal a little about their genetics. Every small contribution, like this one, will help us to understand our plants more.

P.S. Notes on the use of names in reference to albescent clones of orchids can be found in the article "The Difference Between Alba, Alba Form, and White", by Dr. Kenneth S. Wilson, in the AOS Bulletin, vol. 49 (8), pp. 863-867, August 1980.

NOVEMBER POTLUCK, FOLLOW-UP

Per request, here is a recipe for *one* of the chicken broccoli casseroles that appeared at our fall potluck:

CHICKEN BROCCOLI CASSEROLE

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|--|--|
| 1 pound fresh broccoli | 1 tsp salt |
| 1/2 cup butter or margarine | 1 tsp pepper |
| 2 cups celery, diced | 1 tsp garlic salt or 2-3 big cloves of fresh garlic |
| 1 cup onion, chopped/diced (1 large onion will do) | 1 1/4 pounds chicken breast, cooked (boiled) and cubed |
| 1 medium green bell pepper, diced | 16 ounces cream cheese (Phila. low fat is good) |
| 2 cups fresh mushrooms (I use portabella's, chopped) | |

Cut the buds from the broccoli stems (you can use the stems if you want), cut into 1/2-inch pieces. Steam until tender. Sauté celery, onion, green pepper, mushrooms AND the slightly steamed broccoli in butter or margarine until tender. Add the seasonings *Add the garlic cloves finely chopped or minced **first** and sauté with the onions, then add the rest. Lastly, add the chicken and cream cheese. Cut the cream cheese into pieces so it melts quickly.

Pour the whole mixture into a buttered 9x13 casserole dish and place into a preheated oven (350°F) for 35 minutes; top should be golden brown. You can garnish the top with a few portabella slices. Also, make sure you drain your steamed vegetables and melt the 1/2 butter stick prior to adding garlic and onion. Serve with salad, french bread, and white Zinfandel. Recipe compliments of Ruth Cavanaugh

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Upcoming meetings: | Thursday, February 17 | Thursday, May 19 |
| | Thursday, March 17 | Thursday, June 16 |
| | Thursday, April 21 | |

ORCHIDELIRIUM Hits Columbus

WOMEN AT PLAY, a theatre group in Columbus, who often offer site-specific productions will offer Canadian playwright Dave Carley's ORCHIDELIRIUM at the Franklin Park Conservatory in their beautiful Palm House at 1777 East Broad Street, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, April 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, all performances at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for ORCHIDELIRIUM are \$20, \$15 for students/seniors, and members of the Conservatory.

Although ORCHIDELIRIUM has been performed in Canada (2003) and in New York (2004), WOMEN AT PLAY are offering a premiere of a newly published, updated version of the drama. After their success last season with Carley's adaptation of Margaret Atwood's THE EDIBLE WOMAN, the group is excited about working with the playwright once more. He will be joining them the second week of the production and will participate in talkbacks after the performances on April 14 and 17th.

The play explores the passion for orchids of two couples in two different time periods, the Victorian and the present, interweaving their stories and their times in very imaginative ways (one is reminded a bit of Tom Stoppard's ARCADIA in this respect).

Since the orchid collection at issue is housed in Pittsburgh at a university, contemporary questions about universities, pharmaceutical companies, and politics have impact on the couples the playwright depicts. In the play, one of the main characters, a university professor, is conducting research sponsored by a pharmaceutical company - research that provides evidence of the medicinal properties of orchids, evidence the company seeks to destroy.

Emily Bach, the actress who played the lead in THE EDIBLE WOMAN, will play the contemporary, swearing professor, Frances. The missionary, Mike, who procures orchids for her in distant realms, will be played by Nicholas Longnofsky, recently seen as the lead in the musical, BAT BOY. Megan Cooper, who recently played Adriana in Actor's Theatre of Columbus' COMEDY OF ERRORS, will play Alice, the Victorian woman whose father gave her the orchid collection to keep her busy, and Malcolm Callan, who recently appeared in Red Herring's BURN THIS, will play Arthur, who supplies her with orchids from a collection in England. Fereshteh Rastompour will design and Katherine Burkman and Jane Cottrell will co-direct.

Seating is limited, so get your tickets for this special event early! For tickets/information, call (614)-457-6580.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: Please contact Tom Bell-Games at: tbellgames@burnip.com if you want to contribute an article to the newsletter or have an announcement to be included in the newsletter.

THE CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY
c/o TOM BELL-GAMES
1615 ANDOVER ROAD
COLUMBUS, OH 43212



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