

PRESS RELEASE

New Fiction Series Offers Unique Insight into the Lives of Broadway's Gypsies

(Broadway, N.Y.) – “Butterflies” don’t even begin to describe the way Mally Winthrop feels when she steps onto the stage to audition for the big time – a role in a national tour of a Broadway show.

“I know I can do this,” she thinks to herself as the music begins to play and she glides onto the stage.

The line glistened and heaved like a giant serpent bending, twisting, sliding and coiling. All around there was heavy breathing, moisture flying, muscles tensing, and adrenaline in high gear... as her group sweated and steamed, kicked and turned.”

A short time later, the main character in “Gypsy Nights” by retired Broadway dancer Christine Fournier, learns she has been cast in her first original Broadway show. Mally quickly learns there’s a different set of rules for the gypsies who travel from show to show, making their living in the high energy, sometimes perversely political world of theatrical stage.

“The books are based on a very important part of my life,” said Fournier. “My first big break as a professional dancer and subsequent opportunities with some of the most respected director-choreographers of my generation.” Fournier was just 22 years old when world famous choreographer Bob Fosse cast her in the second national tour of “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” which played 22 cities in 1963 and 1964. Fournier says the meat of her books is based on fact, yet the story had to be fictionalized for obvious reasons.

“Gypsy Nights” begins with Mally Winthrop and Patricia Byrne meeting backstage as they wait to audition. Mally, like the author, is the only child of a single mother who lives in Minnesota. Patricia is an Irish-American from the Bronx who has a twin brother, Patrick, and two older siblings.

“The way the book begins is based on my first audition and meeting my best friend who is still my best friend 50 years later. The two young women meet, get cast in a show and then become roommates. That’s where the similarities end,” said Fournier.

During the yearlong tour depicted in the book, Mally and Patricia cover each other’s backs and find love, each falling for a significant member of the company. “Gypsy City” picks up where “Gypsy Nights” left off. The characters have come off the road and been cast in an original Broadway show by Director Owen Matthews. Fournier points out any similarities to the actual production are not factual.

Mally and Pat are the main characters in the books. Others featured include the quintessential gay male dancers, the one in the company who is a troublemaker and Owen Matthews, the handsome director-choreographer who is a skirt chaser

The “Gypsy” series has received numerous positive reviews on Amazon.com.

“It has been my pleasure getting to know each of the wonderful characters. I had a great time on tour. Thank you for backstage pass — can't wait for the next book,” said Tammy Belting.

“Well done. Bravo and break a leg to the author. Check out this series people,” said Charles Pekala.

“Gypsy Nights” and “Gypsy City” are available for purchase online through Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com. The books are available in printed form for \$9.95 and as ebooks for \$4.95 each. Book Three, “Gypsy World,” is coming soon.

To receive review copies of “Gypsy Nights” and “Gypsy City,” and/or arrange an interview with author Christine Fournier, contact Rachel M. Anderson, Publicist, RMA Publicity at 952-240-2513 or via e-mail: rachel@rmapublicity.com.



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WHAT READERS ARE SAYING

"Hot and Steamy! Great writing style, sexy, smart and a fun journey into the world of theater."

-Tammy Belting

"This book has it all! From the long, draining audition process to the not so glamorous travels across the country to the steamy, sexy relationships that form on tour...by the books end, Gypsy Nights will have you pleading for more."

- Danielle Nelson

"WELL DONE, BRAVO and BREAK A LEG to the author!!! Check this one out people!"

- Charles Pekala

"Gypsy Nights is HOT, HOT, HOT!"

- Jennifer Carpenter

"An easy read, with descriptions so intense one can almost smell the smells and taste the cuisine. It's a great insight into the world of Broadway dancers."

- Mavis Edwards

"Sassy, sexy romp! I had so much fun reading this book! It's a fantastic look into the lives of dancers on a Broadway National tour in the 60s"

- Tracie Hodgson

"Erotica like 'Lady Chatterley's 'Lover' and 'Fear of Flying' is back, and 'Gypsy Nights' leads the way."

- Sarah Bartlett

To arrange an interview with Christine Fournier, contact Rachel M. Anderson, Publicist, at 952-240-2513 or via email: rachel@rmapublicity.com.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Christine Fournier has been a performer all her life. She grew up in the 1940s and 1950s, watching the great MGM movie musicals, learning the choreography, lip-synching to the original soundtracks and studying the stars of such films as “Singin’ In the Rain” and “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.”

After attending the University of Minnesota with a Theatre major and Dance minor, she went on to perform on the University’s original Centennial Showboat, The General John Netwon, for two summer productions. In the fall of 1962 she moved to New York City where she was cast in two national tours and the Broadway closing of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

An international company of “West Side Story,” directed by Jerome Robbins, followed, then she returned to New York and was cast in the original production of “Sweet Charity,” starring Broadway legend Gwen Verdon and directed by Bob Fosse.

Fournier returned home to the Twin Cities in 1967 and became the first choreographer for the Chanhassen Dinner Theater and a member of the original company. She has also performed at the renowned Friar’s Dinner Theater in Minneapolis and directed several musicals, including “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to The Forum” and “West Side Story.” In 1987 she returned to the Twin Cities after working and living in Washington, D.C., Detroit and Chicago and began 1-on-1 coaching for actors and workshops for audition preparation.

In addition to her interest in theater and performance arts, she also enjoys writing. In 2002, Beaver’s Pond Press released her memoir about the Alzheimer’s Journey she had traveled with her mother, Helen Winter LaCaze. The book chronicles what it was like to watch a woman who was once so vivacious lose her sense of self and purpose. It is the author’s hope that sharing her story will help and inspire others facing the disease.

In 2012, 4 Square Books released her second book, the novel “Gypsy Nights,” which explores the lives of Broadway performers as they make their way from city to city on tour. The continuation of the series, “Gypsy City,” is scheduled for release in Spring 2013. The books are fiction, but based on the author’s experiences in the 1960s as she traveled with the national company of “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” and performed on Broadway in the original production of “Sweet Charity.”

Christine Fournier and her husband, Paul, live in New Brighton, Minnesota.

To arrange an interview with Christine Fournier, contact Rachel M. Anderson, Publicist, RMA Publicity at 952-240-2513 or via e-mail: rachel@rmapublicity.com



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SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Ask Christine Fournier, author “Gypsy Nights” and “Gypsy City”



1. How did you come up with the idea for the Gypsy series of books?
2. Why would someone who is not into the theater want to read “Gypsy Nights” and “Gypsy City?”
3. What was it like to be on tour?
4. What was your favorite part of show life?
5. Who is your favorite character in the book?

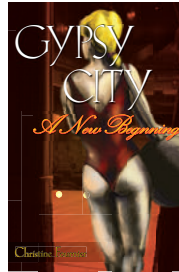
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FEATURE ARTICLE

Retired Dancer Takes Readers Behind the Scenes of a Broadway Show in New Fiction Series

By Rachel M. Anderson



(Broadway, N.Y.) – Ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes of those wonderfully performed Broadway shows? Are the dancer/actors really the best of friends, or are members of the cast constantly at each other’s throats? What is the environment like? Can you really feel the electricity in the air when you are on stage?

Readers get some insight in the new fiction series by retired Broadway dancer Christine Fournier. “Gypsy Nights” and “Gypsy City” are purely fiction, but based on Fournier’s participation during the 1960s in the national tour of “How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying” and the Broadway production of “Sweet Charity.”

“The series was born a few years ago when I was going through my papers one day and found in a scrapbook I had kept of my career a route sheet which was of the original ‘How to Succeed in Business’ national tour,” says Fournier. “I pulled it out and it was like this wonderful wash of memories came over me. I thought this would make an interesting story.”

So, after 50 years in show business, she decided it was time to share with others an insider’s view of the work and lifestyle of ‘gypsies,’ dancers who go from show to show. To do this Fournier took out a notepad and started to make notes about what she remembered about each stop on the tour, then she started to write.

The first book in the series, “Gypsy Nights,” is the story of Mally Winthrop, an ambitious young dancer from Minnesota who wants more than anything else in the world to dance on Broadway. When she finally gets her chance, she wows the choreographer and is cast in “Bravo Business,” a hit show that is scheduled to be remounted as a national tour.

Patricia Byrne, a young woman she met at the audition, is cast as well, and the two quickly become friends and roommates. “My character, Mally, is based on me, being brought up by a single mother in Minnesota. Patricia is based on my best friend of 50 years, but that is where the similarities end,” says Fournier.

All of the other characters are made up, and based on experiences Fournier had while on tour. In addition to delving into personal relationships between the characters, Fournier also describes the technical aspects of putting on a show.

Readers have a front row seat as the tracks are laid down and the sets are rolled out, lights set up and the speakers put into place. Then, when it's time to move to the next city, everything is taken down and packed back into the trucks. There is also plenty of detail of what it was like to live out of a trunk and travel from city to city by plane, train and bus.

In book two, "Gypsy City," the cast returns to New York and many earn a spot in "Centipede," a show directed by famed choreographer Owen Matthews. Those who've read the series compare it to E.L. James' "Fifty Shades of Grey," complete with great character development and titillating sex.

Fournier has dedicated the book series to her mother, Helen Winter LaCaze, who saw her talent, enthusiasm and passion for performing at a young age and encouraged her to follow her dreams. In the book's acknowledgements, she also thanks all the performing artists, mentors, friends and family who supported and inspired her during her career. She singled out the late director and choreographer, Bob Fosse, saying his talent inspired her and his mentorship shaped her talent.

"Gypsy Nights" and "Gypsy City" will take you on an adventure. I hope in some way to entice you, excite you, and take you to a world that is truly unique and seldom experienced by the general public," says Fournier.

"Gypsy Nights" and "Gypsy City" are both available for purchase online through Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com. The books are available in printed form for \$9.95 and as an ebook for \$4.95.

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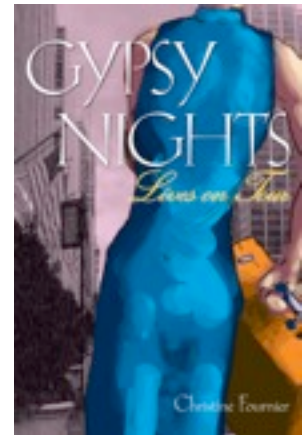
EDITOR'S NOTE: This article and its accompanying photography are being offered to you cost free and copyright free. Rachel M. Anderson is a freelance writer who has written professionally for the Minneapolis Star Tribune and Tampa Tribune newspapers.

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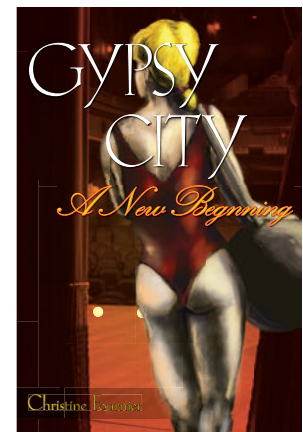


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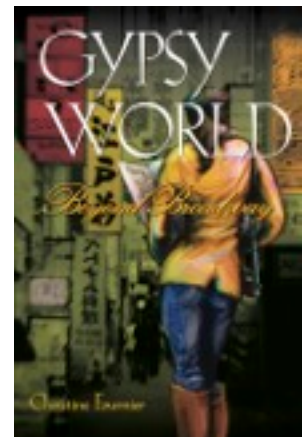
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