

SUSAN GUZZETTA

PROFESSIONAL SPEAKERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS



LUKE YANKEE **JUST OUTSIDE THE SPOTLIGHT**

Luke Yankee is a speaker, author, coach, producer, actor, director, teacher and playwright. He has served as artistic director of two regional theatres, including the Long Beach Civic Light Opera, one of the largest musical theatres in the country. He has acted and directed extensively throughout the U.S. and abroad and has assistant directed six Broadway shows. He is the author of the critically acclaimed book, *JUST OUTSIDE THE SPOTLIGHT: Growing Up With Eileen Heckart*. He has been touring the country to sold-out houses for the past three years with *DIVA DISH*, his one-man show about growing up as a showbiz kid.

Mr. Yankee has worked as a motivational coach, speaker and teacher at Northwestern University, The American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Dension University, University of New Mexico, Long Beach City College, AMDA, The William Inge Theatre Festival, and at the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen, Germany. Mr. Yankee speaks with warmth, humor and insight using the performing arts and show business as a metaphor for:

- Living each day to the fullest
- Finding your own true, authentic voice
- Acknowledging each individual for their unique contribution
- Striving for excellence in a world of mediocrity
- Teamwork, leadership and making a difference
- The transformative power of love

Luke Yankee is an artist sought after in many fields. This powerful, funny and sensitive speaker would be an asset to any presentation.

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TOPICS

"Diva Dish"

Luke Yankee presents excerpts from his acclaimed one-man show about growing up as a showbiz kid. As the son of Academy Award winning actress Eileen Heckart, Luke got up close and personal with some of the biggest stars of all time. Whether it was Ether Merman teaching him how to make a martini at age ten, Paul Newman giving him acting lessons in his parent's living room or fielding calls from reporters as his mom won the Oscar, these hilarious and heartfelt stories are sure to entertain, enlighten and enliven!

"Just Outside the Spotlight"

Actor, director and author Luke Yankee shares excerpts from his critically acclaimed book about growing up as the son of Oscar, Emmy and Tony winning actress, Eileen Heckart. With a foreword by Mary Tyler Moore, Rex Reed calls it "a sensitively remembered memoir... the candid writing makes you a willing participant in an extraordinary adventure." Yankee will share remembrances from his starstruck upbringing from Marilyn Monroe to LBJ to Ellen Degeneres and how his mother used show business as a metaphor to teach him profound life lessons.

Hollywood Legends

The son of an Oscar winner shares inside stories about Paul Newman, Marlene Dietrich, Bette Davis, Marilyn Monroe, Joan Crawford, Debbie Reynolds, the Academy Awards... and a whole lot more!

Backstage on Broadway

Behind-the-scenes with Ethel Merman, Carol Channing, Arthur Miller, Elia Kazan, George Abbott, Joanne Woodward and many others.

TV Divas

A glimpse at some intimate moments with Lucille Ball, Mary Tyler Moore, Ellen Degeneres, Vivian Vance, Barbara Eden, Jayne Meadows and many others...from someone who was there.

My Mother, The Star

The son of actress Eileen Heckart (who, in the course of her fifty year career won an Oscar, a Tony, 2 Emmys, a Golden Globe and was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame) tells what it was really like growing up a showbiz kid.

Diva Dish Deluxe

Entertainment insider Luke Yankee will provide you with a list of 25 of the greatest Hollywood and Broadway stars of all time. Shout out a name and he'll give you "the dish" on them!

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PACKAGES

The Classic Film Package

Eileen Heckart co-starred in more than fifteen classic Hollywood movies, including *Bus Stop* (with Marilyn Monroe), *The Bad Seed* (for which she won a Golden Globe), *Butterflies Are Free* (Academy Award winner, Best Supporting Actress) *The First Wives Club* (with Diane Keaton), *Heller in Pink Tights* (with Sophia Loren, directed by George Cukor), *No Way To Treat A Lady* (with Rod Steiger and George Siegel) and *The Hiding Place* (with Julie Harris). In conjunction with a local revival movie house or Department of Cinema Studies, Luke Yankee will share behind-the-scenes stories about his mother's experiences making these films and her relationships with many of the greatest Hollywood stars of all time.

The Golden Age of Broadway Package

Eileen Heckart was one of the most respected actresses from the Golden age of Broadway. With a career onstage spanning more than fifty years, she is a member of the Theatre Hall of Fame and a Tony Award Recipient for Lifetime Achievement. She had leading roles in some of the most groundbreaking plays in the American theatre, including *A View From the Bridge*, *Picnic* and *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*. When she performed in Kenneth Lonergan's *The Waverly Gallery* at age 81, Ms. Heckart received more awards for a single performance in a single season than any actress in theatre history. Luke Yankee will share some of the secrets of her acting craft as well as never-before-heard reminiscences about Arthur Miller, Maureen Stapleton, Jason Robards, Joanne Woodward, Elia Kazan, Carol Channing, Joshua Logan and many other luminaries in the theatre. This program is ideally suited for drama departments, community theatre programs, or anyone who loves Broadway.

The Literary Package

Luke Yankee's memoir, *Just Outside The Spotlight: Growing up with Eileen Heckart* (Back Stage Books, 2006) has been praised as "One of the most compassionate, illuminating showbiz books ever written." (Michael Musto, *The Village Voice*.) It has received rave reviews across the country from such critics as Rex Reed, Liz Smith and *The Kirkus Review of Books*. Mr. Yankee is also the co-author of the play, *A Place at Forest Lawn* (Dramatists Play Service, 2007) and is currently working on his next book, *My Brush with Celebrity*. Here, he will read excerpts from his memoir and discuss the nature of writing a deeply personal and private book. If desired, he can also share exercises with the participants on how to get in touch with their "inner voice" as a writer so they can begin writing their own stories. Perfect for book clubs, libraries, literary groups and literature or creative writing classes of any kind.

The Master Class Package

Luke Yankee has directed on and off Broadway and served as the artistic director of two regional theatres, working with such luminaries as Harold Prince, Stephen Sondheim, Sir Rex Harrison, Frances Sternhagen, Alec Baldwin and Marcia Cross, to name a few. He has served on the faculty of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Northwestern, AMDA and has guest directed and taught at universities and conservatories around the world. In this program, Mr. Yankee will work in conjunction with your local theatre group or drama department and present master classes in monologue and scene study, audition techniques, speech and dialects or The Alexander Technique. People will learn in a "hands-on" method from a theatre professional with more than thirty years experience.

The Vintage Television Package

Eileen Heckart's career in television began in the pioneering days of live television, on such shows as *Playhouse 90* and spanned all the way up to *The Ellen Degeneres Show*. With seven Emmy nominations and two wins, she worked with many of the greatest stars of the small screen, including Bill Cosby, Lucille Ball, Jackie Gleason, Tim Allen, David Jansen, Doris Roberts, Michael Douglas and many others...on scores of memorable shows. She is best known Aunt Flo, the wisecracking newspaper reporter on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. Luke Yankee will share rare television clips and unforgettable stories about the Golden Age of Television. This program is ideal for anyone interested in the history of "the tube."

The "Get to Know the Stars" Package

What made Marilyn Monroe so special? Why was Elia Kazan such a great director? What was unique and timely about the plays of William Inge? What was it like working with actors of color on tour in the forties and fifties? Who was Christopher Plummer? What was Julie Harris' magic onstage? Why was Marlene Dietrich so revered...and feared? For younger audiences who might not be as familiar with some of these show business celebrities of yesteryear, Luke Yankee offers a chance to get to know the stars from a personal and intimate vantage point. In addition to articles, unpublished photographs and film clips, Mr. Yankee will share his mother's private stories (plus a few of his own) about these unique individuals, bringing them to life for people who may have never seen them on stage or screen. A master class in the past fifty years of show business history, this is perfectly suited to theatre and film students of all ages.

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CLIENT LIST

American General Contractors Association
Ohio State University
Celebrity Cruise Lines
Women's Club of Hollywood
Princess Cruise Lines
Rotary Club - Long Beach, CA
William Inge Theatre Festival
Roundtable West - Beverly Wilshire Hotel
Joslyn Senior Center
College of the Desert
Laguna Gay & Lesbian Outreach
Long Beach City College

LUKE YANKEE

TESTIMONIALS

Here's what audiences are saying about Luke Yankee...

"A great tribute to a great lady that is touching, hilarious and completely enthralling! Luke Yankee is such a marvelous storyteller that you'll want to hear the stories he tells again and again!"

Rex Reed
syndicated columnist

"Fun...fascinating...a real trip through showbiz history... Luke Yankee is absolutely marvelous!"

Jan Wahl
KRON TV

"INFORMAL, UNIQUE AND BRILLIANT...the audience was deeply moved by the simple fact that here was a son who sincerely felt his mother's legacy has not yet been played out. Luke Yankee's brilliant skill at storytelling hints at his thespian genes, but no actor can deliver such love across the footlights without feeling it with every cell of his body as this son does. Every time he imitated her voice, related her whispers, shared his own reactions, a palpable heartbeat resonated through my skin. 'DIVA DISH' IS A CUTTING-EDGE THEATRICAL EXPRESSION...IT'S WORTH TEN TIMES THE TICKET PRICE!"

Marc Thompson
Desert Post Weekly

"Watch all the E! True Hollywood Stories and A&E Biographies you can get your hands on - you still won't hear half of what Luke Yankee knows about the biggest names in showbiz history!"

Melinda Casillas
Palo Alto Weekly

"In Diva Dish, Luke Yankee charmingly reminisces about his mother, Eileen Heckart, and all her star buddies. As he rattles off stories about the likes of Marlene Dietrich, Ethel Merman and Vivian Vance, he is a real life Patrick Dennis out of Auntie Mame."

David Noh
The New York Blade

"Luke Yankee, the son of the late Eileen Heckart and a theatrical producer and raconteur in his own right, is doing a new one-man show called 'Diva Dish'. Yankee talks warmly and candidly about his encounters with various celebs over the years."

Robert Osborne
The Hollywood Reporter

"An evening with Luke and the divas is the next best thing to being there!"

Rebecca Redshaw
Notes From Hollywood

"My readers in Europe are always looking for real American experiences when they read about events in New York. 'Diva Dish' is a real American experience, a trip though the golden years of showbiz, hand in hand with the most memorable divas. And Luke Yankee makes it all sound so easy, as if he had just invited the audience into his living room to talk about old friends."

Andrew Visconti
L'Espresso Magazine