

# One-act plays headed to

By Brenda Wilder

In June, Clinton's Olde Towne Depot sponsored a competition for one-act play submissions whose performances could be done with limited characters and minimum props; and the response was so overwhelming that five plays were chosen, all submitted by writers who are new at playwriting, directing and acting.

The plays include *Workin It With Wanda* by C.C. Henley, *Here Comes Mama* by Chris Moore, and *The Night Shift* by John Lowe.

*Workin It* is a one-act ten-minute comedy about a radio host that advises her audience on how to get a man, preferably a rich one. The director is Keni Bounds, and the play stars Cheryl Abernathy as Wanda and Allie Bennett as Loulah.

Henley is the author of *Ladies Who Lunch* and *Southern Belles, Do Tell*, one of which was produced and the other featured in a New York City workshop at the American Theatre of Actors in Manhattan. Henley has staged readings of these plays and directed two excerpts of *Southern Belles, Do Tell* at Fondren Theatre Workshop in Jackson. An eve-

ning of readings from a collection of Henley's plays was featured in Fondren Theatre Workshop's Playwright



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C.C. Henley

Night. Henley had a sold-out two-night run of a staged reading from *Ladies Who Lunch at Dinner* and

*Dialogues* in the Millsaps district. She directed a staged production of her one-act play *Sterling Candabra Social Club* at The Black Rose Theatre in Brandon.

Having served as a guest playwriting teacher at Rosa Scott Middle School College Day, Henley has also lectured and performed readings of her works at Hinds Community College's Mississippi Arts Week. She is an essayist and a contributor in *A Year In Mississippi with The Determined Debutante*, published by University Press. She enjoys performing readings of her works and those of Southern authors in staged readings around the state.

Henley is a master's level graduate of Ole Miss and a Jackson native.

"My mother, Lydy Becker Caldwell, was an actress and performed in the theatre in Jackson and [in] movies and television filmed in Mississippi and was one of the founders of New Stage Theatre," said Henley. "I grew up in the theatre and remember helping her with her lines when I was growing up."

*Here Comes Mama* is a comedy

written and directed by Chris Moore.

"The story centers around a young woman whose estranged, narciss-



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Chris Moore

sistic mother pops in and says she wants to live with her as she's trying to get ready for an important date,"

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