



# stage

**THE BLUES:** August Wilson's "MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM," set in a recording studio in Chicago in 1927,

plays June 30-Aug. 10 at the GOODMAN THEATRE, 200 S. Columbus Dr. 312-443-3800.

## Success becomes a challenge

### Bailiwick's Pride Series widens its view

**W**hen Bailiwick Repertory first got into the business of summer gay theater nine years ago, the very idea of gay theater seemed revolutionary.

Now, gay themes and subjects are commonplace, from off-Broadway experiments to Broadway blockbusters like "Angels in America" and the more modestly received "Love! Valour! Compassion!" — with frequent flesh shows tossed into the package.

That has left Bailiwick and its artistic director David Zak with an odd sense of victory and an ongoing challenge. How do they keep their own pioneer program, the Pride Series, fresh?

Because of the proliferation of light fare with nudity — "Party" a few years back, for instance, and "Making Porn" in a return visit to the Theatre Building next door this summer — Bailiwick sees the need to de-emphasize nudity and



Photo by Jennifer Girard

Jo Ann Oliver, Leanne Beauregard and Julia Fabris will star in Alexandra Billings' new comedy "Amanda and Eve," part of Bailiwick Repertory's Pride Series.

### spotlight

**Sid Smith**

pursue more thematic material.

"I think the audience has become more sophisticated in the last decade or so," says

Zak. "Of course, the first question people ask when they hear this is, 'Will there be no more plays with nudity?' There will be. That's something that the community is interested in.

"But there are other things, too, a much richer tapestry of diversity and viewpoints we hope to weave as part of the

offerings each year."

There are 10 selections spread out over the summer in an omnibus program schedule, designed, Zak says, to present shows more or less on an equal footing. "We don't like to suggest some shows are more important than others,"

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