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## Ex-steelworkers to present drama

### Celebrities supporting play's tour

Press Staff Report

**A** drama performed by former Bethlehem Steel Co. workers and supported by Bruce Springsteen will be presented at Freehold Boro High School and at the Stone Pony in Asbury Park as part of a month-long tour of Midwest and Northeast states.

The drama, "Lady Beth," is scheduled for production Sept. 28 at the Stone Pony and Sept. 29 at Freehold Boro. It focuses on the plight of unemployed steelworkers.

Profits from the tour will benefit the unemployed workers.

A list of more than three dozen members of the "Lady Beth" Support Committee, provided by producer Susan Franklin Tanner of the Theatre Worker's Project of Los Angeles, includes the names of Springsteen and his wife, actress Julianne Phillips.

Ms. Tanner, an actress concerned about the workers' problems, started the Theatre Worker's Project to help



Singer Bruce Springsteen is surrounded by members of the cast of "Lady Beth," a drama about the plight of unemployed steelworkers. The play will be performed at two sites in Monmouth County later this month.

them. The California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts helped fund the project.

According to a release from Ms. Tanner, financial support for the "Lady Beth" tour was initiated by Springsteen. Other celebrities named on the support committee list include actors Ed Asner,

Paul Winfield, Mike Farrell, Robert Foxworth, Judd Nelson, Ally Sheedy and Joe Spano.

The list also includes actors Rene Auberjonois, Shelley Fabares, Amy Madigan, Michael Ontkean and Robert Hooks, filmmakers Martin Ritt and Haskell Wexler, Los Angeles Lakers

coach Pat Riley, the rock groups X and The Blasters, the comedy group Fire-sign Theatre, and rock critic Dave Marsh, author of the Springsteen biography "Born to Run."

The "Lady Beth" tour begins Saturday in Chicago and proceeds to Minnesota, Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Philadelphia before arriving in Monmouth County. After the local performances, the tour will continue in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, with stops in Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Detroit among other cities.

"They asked us if they could perform here," said Lee Mrowicki, an employee of the Stone Pony. "They wanted to do it in Springsteen's backyard. But this is kind of unique because this is the only nightclub they're performing in."

Churches, high schools, union halls and public theaters are among the other sites where the play will be presented.

Mrowicki said he was heading to Chicago today to help iron out the details of the local performances, including ticket prices.

"I think we'll have that straightened out by Monday," he said.

Mrowicki said he is working with the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union Local 8-760 to promote the local shows. Local 8-760 represents the

Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. (3M) workers who lost their jobs during the past year when 3M began phasing out operations at its facilities in Freehold Township.

Mrowicki is the managing director of Jersey Artists for Mankind (JAM), an aggregate of local musicians and bands that has performed charity concerts and recorded songs to benefit community food banks. JAM also staged a marathon benefit concert for the local 3M workers at the Stone Pony in January, at which Springsteen performed.

Springsteen, who was born in Freehold, sang about a textile mill closing down in "My Hometown," one of the songs on his most recent album, "Born in the U.S.A." He provided financial and moral support to community food banks and unemployed workers' groups throughout his lengthy "Born in the U.S.A." concert tour, often soliciting donations from the stage.

Springsteen also supported the local 3M workers in their unsuccessful drive to have their jobs restored. And he gave the Theatre Worker's Project permission to use his music, including "My Hometown," in "Lady Beth."

Mrowicki said "Lady Beth" doesn't have a conventional dramatic script.

"It's really the different personal experiences of the cast, as related to the audience," he explained.



**WALLY  
PATRICK**

### 'MNF' better with less talk

**A**nd then there were two. With the ghosts of the departed Howard Cosell, Don Meredith, O.J. Simpson and Joe Namath hovering in the booth, ABC's streamlined "Monday Night Football" returned to the air this week.

Gone is the three-man announcing team pioneered by ABC and typified for so many years by the combination of Cosell, Meredith and Frank Gifford.

In its place for the 17th "Monday Night" season (and possibly the last on ABC) is a two-man team composed of 16-year veteran Gifford and newcomer Al Michaels. The two made their official debut Monday after handling three pre-season contests together. Significantly for ABC, both the game and the coverage exceeded expectations.

On the scoreboard, Dallas was the winner, edging the Giants 31-28 in a see-saw, down-to-the-wire battle. But in