

# The Register

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## Acting out of a job

Springsteen helps launch the tour of a special play

By HILDY WILS FONTAINE

The Register

ASBURY PARK — With the closing of Lady Beth, they lost their jobs. Maybe some lost their pride, too.

Lady Beth is the nickname workers gave to the Bethlehem Steel Co. plant where they forged careers through years of hard work, only to see their livelihood disintegrate when the Huntington

**The TheaterWorker's Project will perform "Lady Beth" at 8 p.m. Sunday at the Stone Pony in Asbury Park. Tickets are \$7.**

Park, Calif., facility shut down some three years ago.

Now, "Lady Beth," a drama of the plight of unemployed steelworkers, has given some of them jobs and a new sense of pride for work of a different nature: theater.

Through the help of Bruce Springsteen — whose efforts to help unemployed workers surfaced in Freehold when he participated in a benefit concert for workers at a closing 3M plant — the

TheaterWorker's Project is bringing "Lady Beth" here for an 8 p.m. performance Sunday at the Stone Pony.

Tickets, at \$7 each, are being sold through Ticketron and some are available from members of the Oil, Atomic and Chemical Workers Union, a co-sponsor of the show. The group also will perform "Lady Beth" at 10 a.m. Monday at Freehold Borough High School for students.

"Lady Beth," with a cast of 10, is a story that follows loosely the closing of the California plant, according to Lee Mrowicki. Mrowicki is managing director of Jersey Artists for Mankind, J.A.M. '86, which also is co-sponsoring the performances.

The play was written within the last year, and six months ago had its first performance. Its staging here is part of a tour that began Sept. 13 in Chicago, and will end Oct. 11 in Detroit.

Bruce Springsteen poses with the cast of "Lady Beth"