

November/December 2019



## *Under The Radar*

*Fred Rohan-Vargas*

### *Wendy's Naughty but Nice Pets Go Musical*



*Creator Wendy Ann Gardner*

While Chicken Heedley seems to be uneasy taking her photo, her creator, Wendy Ann Gardner, throws a bright smile as if to say, "bring it." Working from home, Gardner has created numerous animal characters, based on her pets, into cuddly toys. The demand for her sales was so great that she had to have a manufacturer provide the supply. Eventually, it led to licensing and then to a series of books and finally to broadcasting "*The Naughty Naughty Pets*" which aired on Cartoon Network, CBC Canada, BBC UK, NHK Japan and syndicated worldwide. Gardner wasn't only an artist but a successful entrepreneur until the recession hit her in 2009. The licensing and animation companies she worked with finally closed.

Riding that hurdle wasn't easy but Gardner managed by focusing her efforts into creating a family musical based on her anthropomorphic animal characters. By 2015, she was able to bring "*Windywoo and Her Naughty Naughty Pets*" to life when she was accepted into the New York Musical Theatre Festival.

Now, she is trying, with the earnest support of her director, Jonathan Stuart Cerullo and their creative team, to raise enough capital to present a two-day industry reading scheduled for November 23rd and 24th at the Alliance of Resident Theatres, also known as ART New York Theatres. Gardner welcomes children with their parents to attend. After all, it is a family musical and how best to know she's on the pulse than the reaction of children as part of her audience. Besides, it's a good way to begin the holidays that are closely approaching.

The 29 Hour Lab Reading will be presented in conjunction with AMAS Music Theatre. For more information, click [here](#).

*Fred Rohan-Vargas*