**BILL BALDINI**
(born 1943) was a reporter for NBC 10 News from 1964 - 2006, the longest working television reporter in the city of Philadelphia. In 1968, he documented the crowded conditions at Pennhurst State Hospital in a five-night exposé that shocked and angered the public. He was chosen as “Man of the Year” by both the Main Line Chamber of Commerce and the Ken-Crest organization. In 2005, the Philadelphia City Council declared March 17 “Bill Baldini Day” to honor Baldini’s 40 years of accurate news reporting, and in 2006 he was inducted into the “Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia Hall of Fame.” (from broadcastpioneers.com).

In the play *A Fierce Kind of Love*, Bill Baldini is played by Brian Anthony Wilson.

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**DR. GUNNAR DYBWAD**
(1909-2001) is credited with being one of the first professionals to frame mental disability as an issue of civil rights, rather than as a medical or social work problem. Dr. Dybwad had a role in more than a dozen lawsuits in federal courts advocating civil rights for people with mental disabilities. Two of the cases (Pennhurst State School v. Halderman, 1981; and Board of Education v. Rowley, 1982) went to the Supreme Court, and in both the court handed down decisions that affirmed the right to treatment and education of developmentally disabled children. (from the Social Welfare History Project)

In the play *A Fierce Kind of Love*, Dr. Gunnar Dybwad is played by Charlie Delmarcelle.

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**ELEANOR ELKIN**
(born 1916) was a Philadelphian and pioneering parent advocate for disability rights. She and her husband Philip Elkin adopted their son Richard in 1948. She was one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded and Handicapped Children (now the Association for Retarded Citizens of Pennsylvania), which played a pivotal role in the 1954 law permitting public schools to provide classes for kids with under-50 IQs. She was the President of National Association for Retarded Citizens from 1967-68. SpARC services awards the Eleanor Elkin Award for Excellence to an advocate each year. (from the Philadelphia Inquirer, 2011)

In the play *A Fierce Kind of Love*, Eleanor Elkin is played by Cathy Simpson.

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**ROLAND JOHNSON**
(1946-1994) was a nationally recognized advocate for people with disabilities. From 1986 to 1990, Johnson served as president of Speaking for Ourselves, a Philadelphia-based organization which enables people with disabilities to support each other, advocate their rights and to win acceptance into the community. In 1992, Johnson was elected vice president of Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered, and was the keynote speaker at the National Association of State Mental Retardation Directors’ conference. He served on the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Retardation's Planning Advisory Committee and Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. His autobiography describes his years as a resident of the Pennhurst Center and is titled, “Lost in a Desert World.” (from the Philadelphia Inquirer, 1994)

In the play *A Fierce Kind of Love*, Roland Johnson is played by Shawn Aleong.