



department of theatre college of the arts



Vaudeville is one of the department's New Works



Metaphor and Irony 2 presents a look at contemporary Czech theatre design



Robert Redford is one of several guest artists and scholars to enrich faculty and students

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends of OSU Theatre,

Looking back on the 2004-2005 year—my last year as Chair of the Department of Theatre—I am amazed at all our achievements. We produced another ambitious season, continued our commitment to collaboration, and were again recognized by the university for our accomplishments. Two major university awards came our way this year: Bruce Hermann was presented with the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching and the department was given the Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Award. Our students continue to be recognized for their excellence, as you will see in the pages that follow.

In September 2004 we launched the OSU/Port Clinton Performing Arts Festival, which was the outcome of the Excellence in Engagement Grant we were awarded last year. And we ended the year in early June with our annual AIDS benefit, Back Stage Live!, a tradition that began when I joined the department.

Highlights of the year included the Royal Court Theatre Writing Workshop in October, the continued creation of new works with three undergraduate honors performance projects and the MFA actors' performance of *Vaudeville*. The commission of a new play for the school tour, our first, is also an important development. We co-sponsored two major exhibits: *Metaphor and Irony 2*, which opened in various on-campus sites in the fall and *Designs for the American Stage: Treasures from The Ohio State University's Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute*, which was featured at Ohio Art's Council's Riffe Gallery in the Winter.

Our international efforts continue with our London Theatre Program, our Czech guest artists, and the beginning of our exchange program with Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria, South Africa. OSU Theatre alumni continue to return to Drake to talk to our students and reconfirm our commitment to training theatre scholars and artists for the future.

We celebrated our relationship with Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee by producing *Inherit the Wind*, in a 50th anniversary production. Our Symposium on Theatre and the Law created a real buzz of discussion and interest amongst the fascinating panelists and students and faculty alike. We greatly appreciated Deborah Robison's visit to the production where she announced prior to a performance the gift from Jerome Lawrence, funds that will ensure the legacy of these two Ohio playwrights.

I want to conclude by thanking all the many people—students, faculty, staff, fellow chairs, the Columbus community—who have helped me and the department over the last eight years during my time as chair. I look forward to becoming what I call a 'normal' professor, returning my focus to teaching and research. I wish Mark Shanda well in his new role as Chair of the Department of Theatre and I know he will continue in the important and forward-looking work of OSU Theatre.

Sincerely,

Lesley K. Ferris

P.S. I stepped down as chair on July 1, 2005. After completing my stint as resident director for the London Theatre Program (August 3-September 6), I will be on sabbatical for the 2005-2006 academic year.



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encore

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theatre.osu.edu

2004–05 season in review

Four with Two – four plays, two characters "A" Series

I Dream Before I Take the Stand
By Arlene Hutton. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by Robin Post. Scenic Design by Hannah Rosner. Costume Design by Jacqueline M. Seals. Lighting Design by Dan Matthews. Sound Design by Sarah Gilmore and Kristan Oelbracht. Stage Manager Betsy Pandora. Oct 27- Nov 13, 2004.

David's Redhaired Death

By Sherry Kramer. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by Jason Hedden. Scenic Design by Hannah Rosner. Costume Design by Jacqueline M. Seals. Lighting Design by Sonia Baidya. Sound Design by Sarah Gilmore and Kristan Oelbracht. Stage Manager Betsy Pandora. Oct 27- Nov 13, 2004.

"B" Series

Your Handsome Captain

By Simone Schwarz-Bart. Translated by Jessica Harris and Catherine Temerson. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by Adrian Brown. Scenic Design by Hannah Rosner. Costume Design by Jacqueline M. Seals. Lighting Design by Dan Matthews. Sound Design by Sarah Gilmore and Kristan Oelbracht. Stage Manager Betsy Pandora. Oct 28- Nov 12, 2004.

Stuff

By Coco Fusco and Nao Bustamante. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by Beth Kattleman. Scenic Design by Hannah Rosner. Costume Design by Jacqueline M. Seals. Lighting Design by Dan Matthews. Sound Design by Sarah Gilmore and Kristan Oelbracht. Stage Manager Betsy Pandora. Oct 28- Nov 12, 2004.

Measure for Measure

By William Shakespeare. Thurber Theatre. Directed by Bruce Hermann. Scenic Design by Mandy Hart. Costume Design by Judy Chesnut. Lighting Design by Anjeanette Stokes. Sound Design by Daniel E. Nash. Stage Manager Nikki Heinlein. Nov 10-19, 2004.

Another Part of the House

By Migdalia Cruz. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by Jeanine Thompson. Scenic Design by Jacqueline M. Seals. Costume Design by Mary Elizabeth Yaw. Lighting Design by Anjeanette Stokes. Sound Design by Katie Whitlock. Stage Manager Johnny Ko. Feb 9-26, 2005.

Two Planks and a Passion

By Anthony Minghella. Directed by Maureen Ryan. Scenic Design by Dan Matthews. Costume Design by Kristine Kearney. Lighting Design by Russ Blain. Sound Design by Sarah Gilmore. Stage Manager Nikki Heinlein. Feb 23- March 5, 2005.

Vaudeville

A new work by directed by Robert Post, Jeanine Thompson, and created by the 2003-2006 Masters of Fine Arts Acting Class. Roy Bowen Theatre. Scenic Design by Hannah Rosner. Costume Design by Mary Elizabeth Yaw. Lighting Design by Sonia Baidya and Mandy Hart. Sound Design by Sarah Gilmore. Stage Manager Emily Thiel. April 13-30, 2005.

Inherit the Wind

By Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. Thurber Theatre. Directed by Alan Woods. Scenic Design by Betsy Cutler. Costume Design by Jacqueline M. Seals. Lighting Design by Russ Blain. Sound Design by Kristan Oelbracht. Stage Manager Betsy Pandora. May 11-21, 2005.



















AfterWords

This year the following individuals shared their knowledge and insights at our post-performance discussions.

Four with Two - four plays, two characters

I Dream Before I Take the Stand and David's Redhaired Neath

Dr. Debra Moddelmog, Associate Dean, College of Humanities Dr. Rebecca Wanzo, Department of Women's Studies and African and African American Studies

Your Handsome Captain and Stuff

Dr. Luz Calvo, Department of Comparative Studies
Dr. John Conteh-Morgan, Department of African and African
American Studies and French and Italian

Measure for Measure

Dr. Christopher Highley, Department of English

Another Part of the House

Dr. Ruby Tapia, Department of Women's Studies

Two Planks and A Passion

Dr. Karen Winstead, Department of English
PhD candidate James Bennett, Department of History

Vaudeville

Dr. John B. Schmor, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Oregon

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50th Anniversary of **Inherit the Wind**

2005 marked the 50th anniversary of Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's classic dramatization of the 1925 Scopes monkey trial, *Inherit the Wind*. OSU Theatre commemorated the occasion with a spring production of the play in Thurber Theatre, a Symposium on Theatre and the Law entitled *The Legacy of Lawrence and Lee*, and with a reception celebrating a generous gift of over a million dollars to the Theatre Research Institute's Endowment Fund from the estate of Jerome Lawrence. The gift was presented by Deborah Robison, Jerome Lawrence's niece, and the executor of the estate.

Considered one of the best loved American dramas, *Inherit the Wind* centers on the need to protect freedom of speech, and though the play is based on the Scopes monkey trial, it never directly references the 1925 case. The Department of Theatre's production resonated with its contemporary audience as this year saw a number of controversial arguments in the media about "intelligent design" and evolution. The production emphasized that the issues presented in *Inherit the Wind* are still very much with us today. Director Alan Woods commented, "In the middle of the first decade of the twenty-first century, our freedom of speech is again threatened. We have decided, therefore, to present *Inherit the Wind* without its realistic trappings, focusing on the conflict rather the details of the actual trial." Woods also decided to "cast the production without regard for gender and ethnicity," aiming to concentrate on the ideas of the play rather than on the historical setting.



From the right, Joe Branin, Director of University Libraries, acknowledges the gift from the Jerome Lawrence estate, with Karen Bell, Dean of the College of the Arts, Alan Woods, Deborah Robison, niece of Lawrence, and Nena Couch. Cast members of *Inherit the Wind* look on behind.

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In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of *Inherit the Wind*, the Department of Theatre organized a symposium on *Theatre and the Law, The Legacy of Lawrence and Lee*. The discussion, presented on May 17, 2005, at the Wexner Center, took up a number of issues in the play, such as the perception of fundamentalism and the protection of free speech in our current world.

Symposium on Theatre and the Law: The Legacy of Lawrence and Lee

Nena Couch, Curator of the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute

Tanya Erzen, Assistant Professor in the Department of Comparative Studies at Ohio State

Larry Garvin, Professor of the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State

Douglas Whaley, Professor Emeritus of the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State

Alan Woods, Director of the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute.



Nena Couch, Douglas Whaley, Alan Woods, Tanya Erzen, and Larry Garvin head up the Symposium on *Theatre and the Law: The Legacy of Lawrence and Lee*.



Spring 2005 Symposium on *Theatre and the Law: The Legacy of Lawrence and Lee* held in honor of the 50th Anniversary of *Inherit the Wind*.



Mark Shanda and the Director of the $50^{\rm th}$ Anniversary production of *Inherit the Wind*, Alan Woods, chat at the *Inherit the Wind* bequests reception.



Emeritus Professors of Theatre, George Crepeau and Firman H. "Bo" Brown, Jr. chatting at the *Inherit the Wind* bequests reception.

New Works

New Works continue to be an important part of our program. In the Winter Quarter, Lesley Ferris directed the world premiere of Catherine Filloux's *Escuela del Mundo* and two of our undergraduate honors students, Jonathan Barnes and Aiyana Marcus, performed their original solo pieces. The year concluded in Spring Quarter with honor student Joe Maloney premiering his new musical, Jenny Stoesnner presenting an original puppetry piece, Lise Evans winning first place for her submission to the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, and the MFA actors presenting *Vaudeville* on which they began researching Fall Quarter 2004.

In January, Jonathan Barnes took the stage with *Get Off My Porch*, and toured it to the Columbus Fringe Festival. In February, Aiyana Marcus performed *Bitter Bitchings of a Black Actress*. In May, Joe Maloney staged a reading of his original musical *I'm Ready*. This piece will be submitted for the New York Musical Theatre festival in the fall.

Jenny Stoessner's puppetry piece, *Held Together with Glue and Tape*, premiered in May with several graduate students performing as puppeteers.

Play on a Battleground, a play by Lise Evans, was the first place selection for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) and received a staged reading in San Francisco at the conference with actors, a director, and two dramaturgs.

Under the direction of Guest Artist Robert Post and Jeanine Thompson, OSU MFA acting students created a new work entitled *Vaudeville*. Starting with research projects on vaudeville teams and acts, the students created pieces that both showcased and exposed the vaudeville tradition. The ensemble displayed the lighthearted, slapstick comedy of vaudeville as well as the more sinister side. The piece included comedy, tragedy, and dramatic performances of classic vaudeville tradition in addition to the new, contemporary vaudeville for which Robert Post is famous. The actors reprised the work in September at the 2005 OSU/Port Clinton Arts Festival.



Held Together with Glue and Tape, Spring 2005



The MFA Actors came together to form the new work *Vaudeville* in the spring of 2005 with co-directors, Robert Post and Jeanine Thompson.



Playwright, Catherine Filloux, goes through her script of Escuela Del Mundo with the cast.



Guest artist Herman LeVern Jones (far left) director Anthony D. Hill (center), and the cast of *Ghost Stories of the Blacksmith Curse*.



Undergraduate
James Anderson
and the cast
of Escuela del
Mundo



Escuela del Mundo, Winter 2005

School Tours

Ghost Stories of the Blacksmith Curse, Autumn 2004

School Tours

Ghost Stories of the Blacksmith Curse

By Billy Graham. Riffe Center, Studio One. Directed by Anthony D. Hill. Scenic Design by Chad Mahan. Costume Design by Julia Weiss. Lighting Design by Matt Hazard. Sound Design by Chris Pine. Stage Manager Dee Dee Katchen. Nov 5-6, 2004.

Escuela del Mundo

By Catherine Filloux. Mount Hall Studio Theatre.
Directed by Lesley Ferris. Scenic Design by Dan Gray.
Costume Design by Anna Grywalski. Lighting Design by Jason Banks. Sound Design by Katie Whitlock.
Stage Manager Rebecca Hitt. Tour Manager Vawnya Nichols

During the year, OSU presented two school tours to the Central Ohio community. Anthony Hill directed a production of *Ghost Stories of the Blacksmith Curse* during the Fall Quarter and Lesley Ferris directed the world premiere of *Escuela del Mundo* in the Winter Quarter.

The OSU production of *Ghost Stories of the Blacksmith Curse* provided students the opportunity to work with equity actor and artist-in-residence, Herman LeVern Jones. The production toured to local schools, the Ohio Union, and was OSU Theatre's first production to be performed downtown where it was featured at the Riffe Center.

Catherine Filloux's *Escuela del Mundo* was co-commissioned by The Ohio State University Office of International Affairs and the Department of Theatre. Filloux was the Thurber Playwright in residence and taught playwriting in the Winter Quarter. She was also able to work with the cast and crew throughout the rehearsal process providing them with a unique experience.

Escuela del Mundo was designed for middle school and high school audiences, and dealt with numerous issues including school violence, diversity, and tolerance. In the Spring Quarter, the cast and crew gave a special performance at New Albany High School in honor of their "Celebrate Peace Week."

Recognizing Excellence



President Karen Holbrook, 2005 Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Award Recipients - Lesley Ferris, representing the Department of Theatre, and J. Briggs Cormier, Dean of the College of the Arts Karen Bell, Provost Barbara Snyder, and Vice Provost Mac Stewart.



President Karen A. Holbrook presents Bruce Hermann with The Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.

The Department of Theatre continued its tradition of excellence with a number of outstanding awards in 2004-05.

In the Spring, the department was recognized for its ongoing efforts to promote diversity. The Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Awards, now in its 21st year, rewards efforts to enhance diversity on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, age, disability, veteran or military service status, gender identity, economic status, political belief, marital status or social background.

Department chair **Lesley Ferris** accepted the award on behalf of the department's work in making diversity a strong theme within our curriculum. The Department of Theatre's exhibitions, productions, and programs provide students with the opportunity to explore diversity issues in the United States, as well as cultural matters from around the world. One nominator commented, "Students and audiences alike get emotionally connected with the performances, guests, and texts; analyze their experience through guided discovery; and are changed by their theatrical experience."

In addition to the department's award,
Graduate student J. Briggs Cormier was also
honored for his long-standing commitment
to diversity. According to one nominator,
Cormier is "an individual who sees himself
and his role in the much larger world beyond
his own career and personal interest as an
agent of change." During his term as president
of the Council of Graduate Students, Cormier's
commitment to minority students was quite
notable, as he advocated for international, gay
and lesbian, and women graduate students,
among other diverse groups.

Also in the Spring, Bruce Hermann was awarded The Alumni Award for Distinquished Teaching, which honors faculty members for superior teaching. Recipients are nominated by present and former students and colleagues and are chosen by a committee of alumni, students, and faculty. According to one nominator, being in the classroom with Bruce Hermann "is like engaging with a living textbook, his knowledge and experience providing students with much more than a printed text ever could." An important aspect of Hermann's teaching has been his involvement in developing a new curriculum for the MFA in acting. Additionally, Hermann serves as a role model for his students, as his creative research is his active participation as an actor and director at both local and national levels. His unique performance and teaching style comes from his experience studying with one of this country's acknowledged master teachers of acting, Sanford Meisner.

Professional Development Grants were awarded this year to Rachel Barnes, Matt Harzard, Sonja Kalamas-Elder, Chad Mahan, and Eric Mayer.

The Office of Continuing Education Course Development Grant was awarded to Alan Woods and Joy Reilly for their work on theatre and aging in their courses, Crones, Curmudgeons, and Living Treasures—Theatre and Aging; and The Practice of Theatre and Age.

Valerie Kaneko Lucas was awarded a OSU Cares Grant for *DramaTies: Drama for Education*. This is a training initiative which will enable after-school club and youth group leaders to incorporate drama within the curriculum and develop new modes of experiential learning.

Lesley Ferris, with research partners **Brian Stone** (Design) and **Dorothy Noyes** (English/Folklore) received a Faculty Innovation Grant for research on *Afro-Caribbean Carnival Arts: An Interactive Multimedia Exhibit*.

Maria Ignatieva of the Lima Campus, was awarded the Coca-Cola Critical Difference Grant for her research on Stanislavsky and actresses, which enabled her to spend Winter Quarter 2005 researching in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Helsinki.



Undergraduate students, Ed Flynn and Dario Pope participate in the Columbus Children's Theatre Internship in Spring 2005.



Aiyanna Marcus and Jonathon Barnes are recognized at the End of Year Celebration for receiving their Honors Distinction for their one person shows they wrote and performed.



Joseph Maloney is congratulated at the End of Year Celebration for completing his musical for his Honors Distinction in Spring 2005.



Betsy Wilson, Ed Flynn and Stephanie Spiker perform at the Columbus Children's Theatre while participating in the Spring 2005 Internship.



Master of Arts students, Jennifer Stoessner and Yuen-Jean Mao, are recognized at the End of Year Celebration for completing their theses.



Tyler Seiple accepted an award for his ongoing commitment to Artistic and Academic Excellence from Lesley Ferris and Dan Gray, Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies at the End of Year Celebration.



PhD students Katie Whitlock, Mark Seamon, and Peach Pittenger are recognized at the End of Year Celebration.



The Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients for 2005 with Lesley Ferris and Dan Gray.

Emily McLaughlin of London's Royal Court Theatre works with participants of the community writing workshop hosted by Fort Hayes High School in Autumn 2004



Jeanine Thompson and MA student Kimberly Dachel participate in the Royal Court Theatre community writing workshop. During their visit, Simon Stephens used OSU Theatre students for a staged reading of his work-in-progress, *On the Shore of the Wide World*.



John Schmor with participants of his workshop on Devising New Works. (From left) Jennifer Stoessner, Jason Bush, Terry Schoone-Jungen, Jennifer Schleuter, Brian Rotman, Valerie Lucas.

Guest Artists

"If you write too beautifully, you're not writing a play!"-Simon Stephens. OSU Theatre welcomed The Royal Court Theatre to Ohio State in Fall 2004. The Royal Court Theatre is Britain's leading national company dedicated to new work by innovative writers from the UK and around the world. In addition to the week long writing workshop within the department, playwright Simon Stephens and director Emily McLaughlin held a one-day open workshop and a discussion with guest artists including OSU alum Diane Borger. The writing workshop coincided with the Royal Court's production of Sarah Kane's 4:48 Psychosis at the Wexner Center for the Arts.

Peter Engel, producer of the pre-teen sitcom *Saved by the Bell*, spoke to students in a small group discussion forum in Autumn 2004 about television producing and the importance of taking risks.

In an Autumn 2004 residency, **Herman LeVern Jones**, taught a directing class and worked alongside student actors in *Ghost Stories of the Blacksmith Curse*.

In Spring 2005 OSU Theatre screened Anna Deveare Smith's film, Fires in the Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn and Other Identities, prior to Smith's OSU visit as the Office of First Year Experience's Distinguished Speaker.

In Spring 2005, John Schmor presented a lecture at the Wexner Center titled "Beauty Passes Quickly: Pedagogy and Poetics in Devising New Theatre." The event was co-hosted by the Department of Theatre, Graduate Syndicate, and the Wexner Center. Schmor is an assistant professor at University of Oregon, deviser, and director. He addressed questions about the process of creating new work, responded to Vaudeville as the AfterWords speaker, and ran a workshop on devising new works.

The Department of Theatre, Graduate Syndicate, and the Wexner Center also co-hosted **Julian Henriques** from Goldsmiths College in London. His lecture investigated the sound systems in Jamaica—as a dramatic stage, dance arena, and performance space.

Also in Spring 2005, the Scottish puppeteer **Shona Reppe** brought her show, *Cinderella*, to OSU. Reppe recreated the classic fairytale using pieces of fabric, costume pieces, sound, and one puppet to create a multitude of characters. This event was co-sponsored by the Wexner Center.

OSU Theatre and Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design (ACCAD) welcomed **Lizbeth Goodman** to OSU. In Spring 2005, Goodman presented a multi-media presentation on the range of projects underway at SMARTlab. This spring, Goodman returned for a residen-



SmartLab workshop in April 2005 brought together digital artists, a musician and dancers from London and Dublin to work with students from OSU Theatre, Dance, and ACCAD. The SmartLab is run by Lizbeth Goodman at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in the University of the Arts London



Blair Wing (MFA actor) and Bobby Bryne (Cork, Ireland) in ACCAD's Motion Capture Lab improvising for the SmartLab workshop in April 2005

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and Scholars

cy that included a week long workshop for Dance and Theatre students held at ACCAD.

Also in Spring 2005, the Department of Theatre was visited by **Will Power**, a pioneer of Hip Hop Theatre. His visit was sponsored by the King Center.

The College of the Arts welcomed **Robert Redford** as the Barnett Symposium Distinguished Guest Lecturer. Redford met with students for an hour and a half discussion in the Roy Bowen Theatre before presenting a public lecture at the Wexner Center. During both the discussion and the public forum, Redford discussed the importance of arts advocacy, entrepreneurship, and making a career in the Arts.

Internationally known for her performances of Korean story-singing, **Chan Park** presented a solo performance titled *P'ansori* and led a discussion about her work. Park is an associate professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at OSU.

Denise Uyehara presented a performance of her interdisciplinary piece, *Big Head*, and led a workshop on performance art in Winter 2005. Her residency was co-sponsored by the Asian American students program.

The Wexner Center hosted residences with: **Needcompany, Richard Maxwell, Big Art Group**, and **Lone Twin** during the 2004-2005 year.

OSU Theatre helped host two international scholars: **T.K. Kang** and **Phuong Le.** Phuong Le is a Fulbright Scholar from Vietnam. T.K. Kang (OSU PhD 1998) returned to do research on American theatre.





MFA actors in the new work Vaudeville performing the "Slow Motion Race".



Wayne Lawson leads a discussion with Robert Redford during his visit to OSU in Spring 2005.



Denise Uyehara chats with MFA actor Tanya McBride after her workshop in Winter 2005. Uyehara performed excerpts from *Big Head* as part of Faces from the Past, Voices of the Present (Japanese American Internment in Art and History) presented by the OSU Asian American Studies Program.



Fullbright Guest Scholar Phuong Le.

Lomdom

The bi-annual OSU London Theatre Program took place from August 3 to September 6. The intensive five-week course was larger than ever before, with 17 undergraduates, 9 graduate students, and Resident Costume Designer Kristine Kearney joining in on her first British experience. Lesley Ferris again served as resident director.

The group saw over 20 plays during their stay, including a few sold-out, much-hyped shows, such as *Guys and Dolls* with Ewan McGregor, Mark Rylance's final run at the Globe in *The Tempest*, and a riveting production of *Mary Stuart* at the Donmar Warehouse. The students attended a number of productions at the National Theatre, in the West End, and enjoyed three days in Stratford-Upon-Avon to see the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Lesley Ferris's ongoing relationship with the Carnival mass camp, Mahogany, proved an exciting venture for a number of undergraduates and graduates who helped build carnival costumes. The entire group took part in Notting Hill Carnival as performers or stewards for Mahogany. A small group of students also worked on an original one-act play by Brian Rotman, entitled *Dominion*, which they presented at the London fringe venue Theatro Technis.

Several exciting guest lecturers visited the group, including theatre critic Matt Wolf and British playwrights Simon Stephens and Michael McMillan. Students also participated in acting workshops given by Improbable Theatre, Complicité, and Shared Experience, some of England's most influential contemporary companies. Peter Cutts, solo performer, presented his one person show, *Blue Hair*, and discussed his creative process with the students.



The students and faculty from the London Theatre Program posing at Fitzroy Square near their hall of residence. From left to right they are: *Front row:* Lesley Ferris, Katie Kimmel, Sonja Baidya, Megan Schutt, Kimberly Dachel, Christina Ritter, Blair Wing, Antonio Garcia *Middle row:* Eric Colleary, Joanna Hickman, Brittany Kiefer, Elizabeth Blockinger, Betsy Pandora, Chris Roche, Jen Schlueter *Back row:* Amy Dasher, Suellen Kasiara, Richard Smith, Adam Kling, Kristine Kearney, Chuck Comstock, Gloria Slater, Nicholas Dekker, Adrian Brown. Missing from the photo is Bonnie Milligan, Robin Post and Lane Scarberry.

2005 London Theatre Program



Betsy Pandora in the "Kalaidoscope" section of Mahogany's mas band at London's Notting Hill Carnival on August 29. Mahogany's theme for the entire band was "A Stretch of the Imagination."



Last minute costume preparations in Mahogany Arts' workshop. OSU student interns helped to build many of the costumes for carnival.



Clary Salandy, Artistic Director of Mahogany Arts, demonstrates one of her costume designs from past carnivals.



Clive Mendus from the international renowned British company Complicité runs a workshop with students from the London Theatre Program.

The Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute Report

The Theatre Research Institute's 2004-2005 year was highlighted by three exhibits, beginning with the presentation of *Ohio Dance Treasures* at the Cultural Arts Center in downtown Columbus, from mid October through November. The exhibit was done in conjunction with the touring exhibition, *America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures: The First 100*, and it was presented by the Dance Heritage Coalition. Among the items on display were material and video clips from Ohio dance companies.

On November 8th, the exhibit of Czech stage design, *Metaphor and Irony 2: Czech Theatre Design* opened. It was curated by Joseph Brandesky from OSU-Lima and Helena Albertová of the Theatre Institute in Prague. The show was exhibited in three sites: the TRI, the Hopkins Hall Gallery, and the Snowden Gallery for the Historic Costume and Textile Collection in Campbell Hall.

The third exhibit presented, Design for the American Stage: Treasures from The Ohio State University's Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute, was on display from February 10 to April 17, 2005 at the Riffe Gallery in Columbus. The exhibit featured 63 works by more than 40 artists, spanning the late 1800s into the 21st century, and included professional American theatre design for drama and comedy, musical theatre, opera, dance and outdoor spectacle. Nena Couch was the exhibition's curator.

A number of other noteworthy events occurred throughout the year. Prior to the 2004 election, The TRI presented a staged reading of Lawrence and Lee's play about the presidency, *The Gang's All Here*, which tells the story of an amiable but not-too-bright President manipulated by a group of scoundrels.

In October, Ben Barnes, who served as Artistic Director of the Abbey Theatre of Dublin, Ireland from 2000 to 2005, spoke to students and faculty as the annual TRI lecturer. Barnes' appearance at Ohio State was co-sponsored by the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA).

In late October, Alan Woods presented the Margo Jones Medal to playwrights Marsha Norman and Christopher Durang, honoring them for their mentoring of a generation of young writers as Co-Directors of the Playwrights' Program at the Juilliard School of the Arts. Emilie Kilgore, the most recent Jones Medalist, joined Alan, College of the Arts Dean Karen Bell, and Juilliard President Dr. Joseph Polisi at a reception at Juilliard's Lincoln Center campus.



Mary Gray - Curator for the Riffe Gallery, Bebe Miller, Dean Karen Bell, Dan Gray, Gail Strege, Dennis Parker, Nena Couch, Val Pennington, Lesley Ferris, and Mary Tarantino at the TRI Exhibit *Designers for the American Stage*.



Nena Couch leads a tour of the *Designers for the American Stage* Exhibit at the Riffe Gallery downtown.



Val Pennington at his going away party/lunch. Val is now the owner/operator of a frame shop in Columbus.

TRI report continued

A number of notable additions to the TRI came in 2004-05. Please visit the TRI website at http://library.osu.edu/sites/tri/ for a full list

Alum Frank Mohler and his wife Claudia delivered a working model of a seventeeth-century theatre. The model measures 3' high by 5' long, and includes working chariot-and-pole machines with winches and drums, borders, flying machines, wave machines, and trap doors. Frank first researched the model in Dr. John H. McDowell's theatre history seminars some forty years ago.

Alumna Meridee Stein, who was a featured speaker at the Jerome Lawrence Memorial in May, established a collection of her pioneering work in youth theatre in New York over the past three decades.

The TRI witnessed an impressive number of entries for the 2005 Eileen Heckart Competition, with a total of four hundred and fiftynine scripts submitted. Columbus, Ohio, and New York City playwrights tied for the top honors in the Drama for Seniors Competition. Janet Overmyer of Columbus and Dan Aibel of New York tied in the full-length category with their plays *My Beginning* (Overmyer) and *Lapses* (Aibel). In the one-act category, Katherine Dubois of Boulder, Colorado, won for *Innocent Bystanders*, while Milwaukee's Ludmilla Bollow's ten-minute play, *Saving America*, was judged the best short play. All winners receive cash prizes, and had their plays done as staged readings in August as part of the 2005 Playwrights' Retreat for the International Center for Women Playwrights in Columbus.

Working at the TRI in 2004-05, Alan Woods, Nena Couch, and Val Pennington were joined again by associate curator Kathleen Kopp, and cataloguers Joan Wells and Anca Galron. Jeanie Mao returned as graduate research associate, joined by two new graduate associates Frank Lasik and Kimberly Dachel. Ben Sullivan and Ian Smith returned as student workers, joined by new student workers Adam Gunning, Adrienne Johnson, Amanda Joos, Bill Lawless, Trevor McCleery, and Aaron Oates, along with Jeff Schumann on the computers. Volunteers included K Adamson, Chuck Moulton, Joey Thomas, and Barbara Yost. In the spring of 2005, The TRI was sad to see Val Pennington leave, but wishes him the best of luck in his new framing business.

The year ended on a high note, with a generous gift of over one million dollars from the estate of Jerome Lawrence. The gift was presented to the TRI's Endowment Fund by Deborah Robison, the executor of the Lawrence estate, at a reception following OSU Theatre's production of *Inherit the Wind*.

Spotlight on Undergraduates

The Undergraduate program said good-bye to **Esther Beth Sullivan** as the Director of Undergraduate Studies. The year was filled with several undergraduate productions, honors projects, film premieres, and research awards. Undergraduate traditions were passed on to the new students through the Welcome Back Pizza Party, Backstage Live, the Writing Company, and two school tours.

In the Fall, undergraduates took the stage in the *Four with Two* productions and the Scarlet Mask Society produced an all male production of George Orwell's *1984* directed by **Eric Colleary**. **Aiyana Marcus** performed in Eve Ensler's new piece about violence against women when Ensler toured to Columbus in the fall. In the Spring **Alan Woods** directed *Inherit the Wind* with a completely undergraduate cast.

During Beat Michigan Week, members of the Writing Company worked with OSU Police Department to create a drunk driving accident that was performed and filmed on campus to promote safety and responsibility when celebrating.



Aiyanna Marcus with The Vagina Monologues playwright, Eve Ensler, at V-Day, prior to the November election on the statehouse lawn.



Jonathan Barnes wrote and performed *Get Off My Porch!* in the Spring 2005 for his Honors Thesis.



Aiyanna Marcus performs in her one woman new work *Bitter Bitchings* of a *Black Actress* to receive her Distinction in Honors.

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OSU Theatre has also been home for budding film makers. *Detachment* was a student written, produced, and directed psychological thriller filmed on The Ohio State University Campus. Produced by **Kara Ulseth** and directed by **Nate Hahn**, *Detachment* premiered in the Thurber Theatre in December and has been entered into film festivals across the country. OSU Theatre provided support and assistance to these dedicated, hard-working, and talented students.

In Spring 2005, the following students participated in the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum: **Katherine Kimmel**, **Mary Anne Benson**, **Christopher Lee**, **Aiyana Marcus**, **Jonathan Barnes**, **Joëlle Joseph**, **Beth Josephsen**, **Eric Colleary**, and **Bonnie Milligan**. Katherine Kimmel won the 4th place award in Arts with her work entitled: *Two Planks and My Passion: Medieval Mask-Making from Conception to Reality*.

At the End of Year Celebration, the department recognized undergraduates for their achievements with scholarships (see our web site for the complete list: http://theatre.osu.edu/scholarships/). Following the celebration, students presented Backstage Live, which raises money to benefit local AIDS organizations.



Undergraduate students from the Department of Theatre come together to perform in a Mock Accident on campus. (From left) OSU Police Officer, Beth Josephsen, Cole Simon, Kristen Green, Eric Keitel, Liz Botros, and Joy Bemis.



Nate Hahn (far right) and Kara Alseth, with members of the production team for their independent film *Detachment* at the Sundance Film Festival.



Cole Simon in make-up for the mock drunk driving accident staged on campus.



Bonnie Milligan, Nate Gorey, Jeff Slack, and Jonathan Barnes take part in the Annual Undergraduate Welcome Back Pizza Party in Autumn 2004.





Megan Schutt and Betsy Pandora perform in a skit about disabilities in the class room with FTAD's group Class Act.

Class Act

Class Act is the department's new interactive theatre company that is co-sponsored by Faculty and TA Development (FTAD) and the Office of Minority Affairs as part of their "Commitment to Success" program. It kicked off the year by performing several short scenes, written by MFA actors, for the September FTAD orientation for graduate students. The scenes focused on various issues that aid instructional graduates in the classroom, such as sexual harassment and diversity

concerns. During the year Class Act worked with the Multicultural Center's Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Services to create scripts and with the African American Center to teach diversity sensitivity. The grads who helped develop scripts during this first year and performed them were Adrian Brown and Blair Wing, under the supervision of Mandy Fox. For the 2005-2006 year Lise Evans and Antonio Garcia will continue this important work.

Continuing the New

The OSU/Port Clinton Performing Arts Festival 2004 www.osupcperformingartsfestival.com

The OSU/Port Clinton Performing Arts Festival 2004 was launched on September 17-18. The two-day "sampler" featured work by students, faculty, staff and alumni in the visual and performing arts. This festival was partially funded by a grant won by the department in the University-Wide Outreach and Engagement Grant competition and by community sponsors. Our proposal called for the establishment of an annual summer performing arts festival featuring OSU talent in Port Clinton, Ohio.

The OSU departments of Theatre, Dance, Art, Music, and Advanced Computer Center for Arts and Design all contributed to the success of the premiere festival. The performances and visual arts displays were located in "non-traditional" spaces such as downtown businesses, hotels, churches, street corners, business lobbies and outdoor city parks.

Several alumni were featured in the festival including: the designs of Toni-Leslie James, Kenderick Hardy performed the character of former OSU student and Olympic winner Jesse Owens, Antonia Sophia Krueger performed her original solo piece, *La Pucelle*, and Dean Evans performed a series of vignettes ranging from stylized physical comedy to live action cartoon. There were also performances of new works by the Writing Company and the MFA actors.



Jennifer Stoessner performs with a puppet she created.



Jeanine Thompson and the cast of A Set of Thoughtful Guidelines for Leading a Happy Life.

Regional Campus Report

OSU Lima

OSU Lima's 2004-05 season included three productions. *The Blue Bird*, which ran in November, was adapted from the Maurice Maeterlinck and directed by Maria Ignatieva. The production was attended by 2600 children from the elementary schools of Northwestern Ohio, sponsored by the Theatre for Young Audiences program.

The Winter Quarter production was *All in the Timing*, by David Ives. The show was directed by Columbus campus graduate student Jennifer Schlueter.

Lima's spring production was Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, directed by Maria Ignatieva.

Joseph Brandesky contributed Czech theatre designs drawn from the *Metaphor and Irony 2* shown at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. The designs were part of a larger exhibit highlighting theatre activities from formerly communist countries in Eastern Europe and ran from June-August 2005.

Maria Ignatieva was promoted to Associate Professor, published three essays on *Stanislavsky and Actresses*. She and Jen Schleuter presented papers/participated in the annual meeting of the International Federation for Theatre Research in Maryland, 2005.

Brad Steinmetz designed three productions at the Lima Campus, as well as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Lesley Ferris and produced by the Virginia Arts Festival.

OSU Mansfield

The OSU Mansfield theatre program was very active in 2004-05 with Larry J. Evans directing and teaching for his 23rd and last year at the campus. In August, Larry moved to the Minneapolis area to join his family and to do additional theatre work there.

Congratulations to Joseph Fahey who will take over the theatre position on the Mansfield Campus beginning Autumn Quarter 2005. Joe received his Ph.D. from OSU and previously taught at Case Western in the Cleveland area.



The Glass Menagerie, Spring 2005, Lima Campus





The Blue Bird, Winter 2005, Lima Campus



Baby, Winter 2005, Mansfield Campus

al Campus Report

Regional Campus Report continued

The 2004-05 Theatre Season included three major productions, all of which used a combination of students and community talent. The Fall Quarter production was an evening of two Molière plays, *The Imaginary Cuckold* and *The Doctor in Spite of Himself*. The Winter Quarter production was the musical *Baby*; David Tovey, served as music director/conductor for the production. The Spring Quarter production was the William Inge play *Bus Stop*.

The theatre department and the campus drama club (Ohio Eta Chapter of Theta Alpha Phi) worked together in supporting the three theatre productions and also sponsoring the spring theatre banquet at which several awards were given, including the Gerry Rice Theatre Award to Cindy Logan who has worked on all 12 major productions for the last four years and the James Lewis Technical Theatre Award to Steven Bussell. The James Lewis Endowment Fund has recently reached \$50,000. The drama club also went into several elementary schools to do performances based on the Dr. Seuss books, and prepared a production of *Christ in the Concrete City* which was performed in two local churches before being taken to Minneapolis to perform in two churches there over the spring break.

OSU Newark

The 2004-05 Newark year kicked off with a production of Mike Folie's *Naked Mole Rats in the World of Darkness*. The playwright was an honored guest at the Ohio premiere of the show; he also gave an informative talk to the Theatre 100 class, after which he talked with several aspiring student writers.

The Winter Quarter production, *Three Radio Plays*, was a theatrical experiment in which three teams of three students each wrote a half-hour long script that they presented as a reading, with the other six students providing live sound effects. The first story dealt with the New York City art scene, the second was a humorous tale of the police in a small Ohio town, and the third was a satire on the current administration's foreign policy. Two students from the Columbus campus filmed a documentary of the entire process, which is currently in post-production.

The Spring Quarter production was Bryony Lavery's *Witchcraze*. Written in 1983, the play had its USA premiere in Newark. Three performers each played a variety of characters and presented a series of vignettes showing the persecution of wise women throughout history. The actors were masked throughout, and the script featured such technical challenges as an instantaneously-flowering tree and a spontaneous pregnancy. Dave Williams directed this challenging work.



Spalding Gray Tribute

I say that I can't make anything up. I think of myself as a collage artist. I'm cutting and pasting memories of my life. And I say, I have to live a life in order to tell a life. I would prefer to tell it because telling you're always in control, you're like God.

 Spalding Gray interview with Jeanne Carstenson
 The Gate

This fall the Department of Theatre honored Spalding Gray, a prominent solo performance artist who died in 2004, with a screening of one of his most popular works, *Swimming to Cambodia*. Gray is most known for his provocative, whimsical, autobiographical works. In addition to the screening, Chuck Helm, the Director of Performing Arts at the Wexner Center, and Johan Callens, a professor at the Free University of Brussels in Belgium, gave tributes to Gray. Helm provided his insights on working with Gray while Callens discussed Gray's work with the Wooster group.



The Alumni Return

OSU Theatre is richer for its continued involvement with alumni, and during the 2004-05 year we were delighted to welcome back a number of former students for various projects, visits, and productions.

In April of 2005, Lesley Ferris directed a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream for the Virginia Arts Festival. The cast and crew included current undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, OSU alumni, and artists from Virginia, New York, and England. 2004 BA Zach Hartley (Snout), 2002 MFAs Jennifer Manvich (First Fairy) and Regina Rockenseis (Hermia), and 1983 MFA John Kuhn (Oberon), performed in the production. 2001 graduate Kristen (Kidd) Bowen was the stage manager, 2003 MFA Brad Steinmetz designed the set, and 2004 graduate Sean Hennessey was assistant lighting designer. The design team also included Mary Tarantino, lighting designer, and Kristine Kearney, costume designer. Nena Couch was the choreographer.

The production, which rehearsed in Columbus and then traveled to Norfolk, Virginia, and Buffalo, New York, was staged with the live accompaniment of Mendelssohn's score, performed by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra respectively. Noted conductor JoAnn Falletta teamed with Ferris to create a magical experience that one critic hailed as directed with a "fresh verve and an eye towards the musicality of the evening." The production was a unique opportunity for current students and faculty to work with OSU



Roy Bowen, Diane Borger - OSU Alumnus and member of the Royal Court Theatre, and Wayne Lawson - OSU Alumnus and Director of the Ohio Arts Council.

alumni and to benefit from the professional experience they have gained since graduating from Ohio State.

OSU alumna Diane Borger (MA 1980) visited the department in October of 2004 as part of the Royal Court Theatre's week-long writing workshop and performance of Sarah Kane's 4:48 Psychosis. Borger is Managing Director of The Royal Court, one of Britain's leading national companies dedicated to producing new work by innovative writers from the UK and around the world. She had lunch with her



Professor Emeritus Dennis Parker poses with some his costume designs in the *Designers for the American Stage* exhibit at the Riffe Gallery.

Ohio State mentor, Roy Bowen, during her visit, and also spoke to Alan Woods' freshman Honors London class on London Theatre.

Damian Bowerman (MFA in Acting 2002) returned in Summer 2005 to work as Graduate Studies and Publicity Coordinator. He joined us from the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) and The Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) where he was the Development Coordinator for both companies. Damian continues to perform at CATCO and is a member of the Actors Equity Association.

Beth Kattleman, (PhD 2004) returned in the fall and directed one of the plays in the Four with Two series, *Stuff* by Coco Fusco and Nao Bustamante. She also worked on a new collection in the TRI, the Charles H. McCaghy Collection of Exotic Dance from Burlesque to Clubs. In the fall of 2005, Beth became the coordinator and lecturer for Theatre 100.

Katie Whitlock (PhD 2004) received a dual appointment in 2004-05, working as the Theatre 100 Coordinator and lecturer, and teaching courses for ACCAD, including a video games course. Katie took a position at the University of Florida in Gainesville for the 2005-06 school year.



A combination of OSU Alumni, current grads and undergrads, and outside performers gather together to create a jovial production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* produced in collaboration with the Virginia Arts Festival. Familiar faces include (from left) MFA Acting Alumni Jennifer Manvich and Regina Rockensies, Michael Fisher, Ricardo Melendez, Peter Cutts, OSU Alum Kristen Kidd-Bowen, and undergraduate Eric Colleary.

Bye Bye Beth

In Winter Quarter 2005, we bid a fond farewell to our colleague and friend, Esther Beth Sullivan. Beth accepted a position as Director of Distance Education at Alaska Pacific University to be closer to David, her husband, an Anchorage, Alaska resident.



Lesley Ferris and Esther Beth Sullivan.



Former Faculty member Esther Beth Sullivan chats with Mary Tarantino at her farewell party.



Esther Beth Sullivan, Jim Knapp and Susan <u>Durham</u>, his wife, in conversation.

Metaphor and Irony

Continuing OSU Theatre's international relation with the Czech Republic, a second design exhibit was featured on the OSU Campus in the Fall Quarter 2004. Presented simultaneously at three sites on campus, *Metaphor and Irony 2* contained stunning examples of contemporary Czech theatre including works that were part of the 2003 Prague Quadrennial. The exhibition included original costumes and puppets, models, scene and costume design renderings, and production photos. It was co-curated by Helena Albertová, Vice Director of the Theatre Institute in Prague and Joseph Brandesky, from OSU-Lima.

Brandesky taught a Czech theatre class on the Columbus campus which connected directly to the exhibit. Two guest artists were featured: Jaroslav Malina and Petr Matásek. Malina was a guest lecturer and Matásek had a week long residency with OSU Theatre design students. Both artists were featured in the *Metaphor and Irony 2* exhibit.

Petr Matásek is a designer of puppets, sets and costumes, as well as a teacher. Many of his puppets are inspired by the tradition of Czech folk carvers. Matásek is known for incorporating his puppet theatre expertise into straight drama. For many years he was artistic director of the celebrated puppet and object company DRAK. While in residency at OSU, Matásek held workshops for theatre design students. Matásek also led a walking tour of the *Metaphor and Irony 2* exhibit.

Due to the popularity of the class and exhibit, Brandesky is teaching another Czech theatre class in the 2005 fall quarter as well as taking a group of students to Prague in December.

(See more images from Metaphor and Irony 2 on the back cover)



Czech Scenographer, Jaroslav Malina, visits with the OSU Design Faculty and Lesley Ferris. (From left) Dan Gray, Mark Shanda, Lesley Ferris, Jaroslav Malina, Mary Tarantino, Kristine Kearney, and Joe Brandesky.



Joe Brandesky and Daniel Collins discuss one of the designs exhibited in *Metaphor and Irony 2*.



Petr Matásek's Master Class on Czech 'Action' Design: (From left top to bottom) Amanda Hart, Russell Blain, Daniel Matthews, Petr Matásek, Jason Banks, Mary Yaw, Jackie Seals, Betsy Cutler, Anjeanette Stokes, Sonia Baidya, Hannah Rosner, Sarah Gilmore, and Kristan Oelbracht.



Joe Brandesky and Nena Couch pose with an exhibit in *Metaphor and Irony 2*.



Jaroslav Malina visits Joe Brandesky's class on Czech Theatre Design in Autumn 2004.



Nena Couch speaks at the walking tour of the *Metaphor and Irony 2* exhibit.

Theatre Alumni

We want to hear from you!

Please fill out the form below, or email your update to theatre-alumni@osu.edu. Information received by June 1, 2006 will be included in the next on line issue of encore! Please visit **theatre.osu.edu/encore/** to see current and previous issues.

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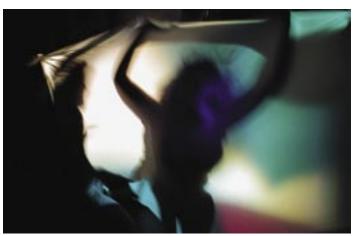
An exhibit of contemporary Czech theatre design (see more on page 22)



Nena Couch, Curator of the TRI; Halina Stephan, Director of the Slavic Studies Center; Daniel Collins, Chair of the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures; Prudence Gill, Hopkins Hall Gallery Curator; Joe Brandesky; and Gail Strege, Curator of Campbell Hall Historical Costume Museum.



Visiting Czech Scenographer and Puppeteer, Petr Matásek, speaks of designs exhibited at *Metaphor and Irony 2*.



Students experiment during Petr Matásek's Master Class in Autumn 2004.