

encore

news from OSU theatre

Autumn 07



Guest Equity Actor and OSU Theatre Alumnus **Glenn Peters** performs the role of the Stage Manager in *Our Town*.

inside



department of theatre
college of the arts



Approximately 30 students, faculty and staff travel to Prague, Czech Republic for the International Theatre Prague Quadrennial.



The department continues its relationship with the Columbus Association of Performing Arts (CAPA) and produces *Hair* at the Southern Theatre.



The department plays host to a two-week residency with nearly 100 *Daily Show* staffers and Jon Stewart himself.

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends of OSU Theatre:

Although my letter to you appears as the first page of this impressive publication, it is in fact the last item written just before the work goes to press. I get to write it during a time where I am simultaneously editing all the rest of the content of *encore* and gearing the department up for the next season by publishing calendars, meeting agendas, teaching schedules and issuing contracts for guest artist residencies. This is a unique time where I get to relish the memories of all the guests, productions, student achievements, faculty and staff accomplishments from last year and anticipate even greater opportunities for the next. Most of all I get to reflect on the impact that our teaching, research, creative activity, and service mission has on the lives of the students who we have the pleasure to teach.



Mark on the set of *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*

Certainly our 2006-07 academic year began with a bang with our hosting of *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* in the fall. While it was an honor for the Roy Bowen Theatre to serve as the "World Headquarters of the Midwest Midterm Midtacular," the more important aspect of *The Daily Show's* visit was their impact on our students and the many ways in which the over 100 individuals in residence with us graciously shared their time and talents.

Our year ended with a group of students, staff, and faculty traveling to the Prague Quadrennial to join with theatre colleagues from around the globe in a celebration of theatrical design and architecture. While there, our students partnered with Czech and Australian students to develop a daily presentation inspired by Aristophanes' *The Birds* as part of the companion *Scenofest*. The trip and exhibits were wonderful, but the impact on our students was at the forefront.

In between these major national and international events, we produced several fine productions, extended our reach into the community through a variety of outreach and engagement projects, hosted a major graduate student conference entitled *Disciplining Interdisciplinarity*, returned to CAPA's Southern Theatre for a triumphant run of the musical *Hair*, and taught hundreds of students in our classrooms and in one-on-one tutorials. Our Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy programs remain strong and are recognized throughout the country for their excellence.

I celebrate daily the opportunity to serve the students of The Ohio State University and the remarkable faculty and staff of The Department of Theatre. I also celebrate the accomplishments of our numerous alumni who maintain contact with us. So please take a few minutes to savor the memories that we share here of our 2006-07 year and look forward with all of us to the impact that we will have on our students this next year and they, in turn, will have on the world for years to come.

Enjoy this issue of *encore* and let us know what you have been up to since graduation. You are an important part of the OSU family and we want to celebrate your life and art as well.

Please be in touch,

Mark Shanda
Chair/Professor

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encore

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page of *encore* on our website:

theatre.osu.edu

2006-2007

season in review

The Festival:

A Series of 10-Minute Plays

by Nicholas Dekker, Gibson Cima, Martin Casella, Catherine Filloux, Brian Rotman, Okla Eliot, and Mary Gallagher. Mount Hall Studio Theatre. Directed by Caehlin Bell, Jason Bush, Bora "Max" Koknar, Matthew D. McCarren, Kal Poole, Cole Simon, and James Smith. Scenic Coordinator: Chad Mahn. Costume Coordinator: Jan Woods. Lighting Coordinator: Madeleine Sobota. Sound Coordinator: Jim Knapp. Stage Managers: Becky Hitt, Laura Hum, and Liz Tufts. Nov. 2-17, 2006

Hair

by Gerome Ragni, James Rado, Galt MacDermot. Southern Theatre. Directing Concept by Mandy Fox. Directed by Steven C. Anderson. Scenic Design by Dan Gray. Costume Design by Kristine A. Kearney. Lighting Design by Jason Banks. Sound Design by Eric M. Slezak. Stage Manager Eric H. Mayer. Nov. 16-22, 2006

Our Town

by Thornton Wilder. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by Jimmy Bohr. Scenic Design by Corinne Porter. Costume Design by Lindsay Simon. Lighting Design by Jordan Kardasz. Sound Design by Dan Nash. Stage Manager Mandalyn Stevens. Feb. 8-24, 2007

Dead Man Walking

by Tim Robbins. Thurber Theatre. Directed by Maureen Ryan. Scenic Design by Gregory Owen. Costume Design by Crystal Herman. Lighting Design by Matthew D. McCarren. Sound Design by Katie Phillips. Stage Manager Kristen Blazek. Feb. 22-Mar. 3, 2007

The Three Bully Goats Griff

by Patrick Rainville Dorn. Mount Hall Studio Theatre School Tour. Directed by Greg Varner. Scenic Design by Lindsay Beery. Costume Design by Lydia Fleck. Lighting Design by Anthony Pellecchia. Sound Design by Jim Knapp. Stage Manager Laura Jack. Feb. 2-4, 2007

The Children's Hour

by Lillian Hellman. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by Lesley Ferris. Scenic Design by Sarah Sugarbaker. Costume Design by Katie Kimmel. Lighting Design by Gregory Owen. Sound Design by Jim Knapp and Chris Zinkon. Stage Manager Lindsay Beery. May 3-19, 2007

Mary Stuart

by Friedrich Schiller. Thurber Theatre; Schiller Park. Directed by John S. Kuhn. Scenic Design by Elinore Loomis. Costume Design by Mary Elizabeth Yaw. Lighting Design by Jordan Kardasz. Sound Design by Katie Phillips. Stage Manager Sarah Helgesen. May 17-20 Thurber Theatre. May 24-27, June 7-17, 2007 Schiller Park.

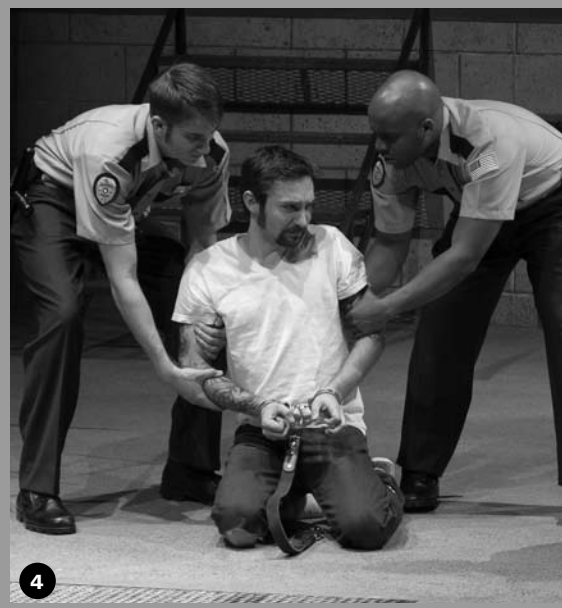
Being Alive in the World:

Public Discourse on the Death Penalty

By Rebecca Kallemeyn (M.A. Student)

On March 2nd, 2007, students, faculty, and members of the Columbus community gathered in the Thurber Theatre for a panel discussion on the death penalty. The panel complemented OSU Theatre's winter quarter production, *Dead Man Walking*, which recounts the experiences of Sister Helen Prejean as she counseled two death row inmates. Tim Robbins, writer and director of the film of the same name, also authored the play as part of the *Dead Man Walking* School Theatre Project, a program that releases production rights to schools committed to increasing community dialogue on capital punishment.

The panel, moderated by department chair Mark Shanda, had a multi-disciplinary discussion of the issue. Maureen Ryan, director of OSU's production, discussed the implications of creating a work of art based on a hot-button political issue. Professor David Jacobs, of OSU Sociology, explained his own research on the death penalty, extending to issues of race and social class. Moritz College of Law professor Joshua Dressler then introduced the basic legal system under which capital punishment operates. Judge John Bender of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas distinguished between presiding over ordinary trials and capital cases, which differ significantly. Rex Zent, retired prison warden, complemented each of these perspectives with his own occupational experiences.



AfterWords

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

Our Town

Robin Brenneman, *Retired Hilliard High School English and Theatre Teacher*

Dead Man Walking

Rebecca Kallemeyn, *MA Theatre Student*

The Children's Hour

Debra Modellmog, *Associate Dean, College of Humanities*
Terry Moore, *Assistant Professor, Department of Women's Studies*

Mary Stuart

Mark Evans Bryan, *Assistant Professor of Theatre, Denison University*



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07



PHOTOS

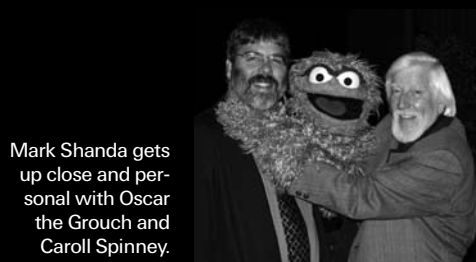
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Guest Artists an

By Caehlin Bell (M.A. Student)



Guest Artist Jose Torres Tama in a scene from his solo piece *The Cone of Uncertainty: New Orleans after Katrina*.



Mark Shanda gets up close and personal with Oscar the Grouch and Caroll Spinney.



Playwright Mrinalini Kamath with student director Kalifa Li and the cast for a reading of her play, *Celestial Motions*. Kamath, a member of the International Center for Women Playwrights, has participated in the writing retreat held each summer at OSU for members of ICWP by the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute.



Dennis Kennedy presenting his lecture "Memory, Performance, and the Idea of Museum."



Ruth Tompsett presented a talk entitled "From the Periphery to the Center: Carnival in the Global City."



SITI Company member Barney O'Hanlon (standing far right) demonstrates the practice of sustained movement to members of the Suzuki master class.

Guest Artists an

Performance Artist **Jose Torres Tama** started off the year with his solo piece *The Cone of Uncertainty: New Orleans after Katrina*, performed September 29-30, 2006, in the Roy Bowen Theatre. In conjunction with his performance, Jose gave a lecture on his experience as a performance artist and did a workshop with the M.F.A. Acting students.

Puppeteer **Caroll Spinney**, better known as Oscar the Grouch and Big Bird on PBS's *Sesame Street*, participated in a Q&A session with faculty and students on September 29, 2006. He is the author of *The Wisdom of Big Bird (and the Dark Genius of Oscar the Grouch): Lessons from a Life in Feathers*.

Playwright **Mrinalini Kamath** attended Alan Woods' Introduction to Theatre: Making History class, where the students read her comedy, *Celestial Motions*.

Geralyn Horton visited Alan Woods' Introduction to Theatre: Making History class for a reading of her play, *Boston's Brothers in Liberty*--a piece that explores the Boston Massacre of 1770. She has made available on her website a podcast of an interview conducted by student Brad Bartels during her visit, see <http://glhorton.podomatic.com>.

While Professor Mary Tarantino was on sabbatical this year, M.F.A. Lighting students enjoyed the expertise of three visiting lecturers: **T.J. Gerckens**, **Kris Jones**, and **Paul Vincent**. T.J. Gerckens is the production manager for CATCO and a free-lance lighting designer. He received the Jefferson Award for *The Odyssey* (Chicago), and won awards in Chicago, L.A., New York, and San Francisco for *Metamorphoses*. Alumnus Kris Jones (M.F.A. 2002) is the Assistant Manager of Entertainment and Resident Theatrical Lighting Designer at Six Flags Great America. Paul Vincent is President of Vincent Lighting Systems based in Cleveland. The company sells lighting supplies, and designs and installs entertainment lighting.

Alumna **Madeleine Sobota** (M.F.A. 1988) joined the Department of Theatre in Fall 2006 as guest instructor and light design supervisor. She was co-designer of the USA National Exhibit at the Prague Quadrennial 2007.

Phoenix Theatre founder and artistic director **Steven C. Anderson** was guest director of OSU Theatre and CAPA's joint production *Hair* at the Southern Theater in November.

Dennis Kennedy, the Samuel Beckett Professor of Drama at Trinity College Dublin, visited the department and presented his lecture "Memory, Performance, and the Idea of Museum" in November.

Guest lecturer **Freddie Rokem** author of the award-winning book *Performing History: Theatrical Representation of the Past in Contemporary Theatre* and faculty member of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Tel Aviv University gave a talk in November titled "Performance and Philosophy in Dialogue."

Emily Mann, Broadway playwright and director, visited OSU as part of "Beyond the Borscht Belt: A Jewish Theatre Celebration" in November. Her visit was made possible by The Ohio State University Theatre Research Institute (TRI), the Department of Theatre, the OSU Hillel Foundation, and the Columbus Jewish Foundation, with funding from the Leventhal Fund. In addition to presenting a reading of her play *Meshugah*, Emily took time to discuss her experiences with OSU Theatre students in an informal talk. She is currently the Artistic Director of McCarter Theater at Princeton University.

Director of Communications for the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, and OSU Theatre alumna, **Lori Robishaw** took time in the winter quarter of 2007 to teach a course on theater management.

Ruth Tompsett came to OSU in January 2007, to present her lecture "From the Periphery to the Center: Carnival in the Global City." Tompsett is the leading authority on London's Notting Hill Carnival.

d Scholars

Anne Bogart's **SITI Company** came to OSU as part of the Wexner Center for the Arts creative residency program. While on campus, company members Barney O'Hanlon and Akiko Aizawa led master classes in the department.

Janine Lewis of Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria shared a two week residency as part of the department's continued exchange program with Tshwane University. She held master classes with the M.F.A. Acting students.

Cast members of the national tour of *All Shook Up* **Wally Dunn** and **Beth Glover** stopped by the department during their run in Columbus to speak with students about the demands of touring and strategies for working in the industry.

Sister Maureen Fenlon visited for several days in February in her role as the national coordinator for the *Dead Man Walking* School Theatre Project.

Alumnus **Glenn Peters** (M.F.A. 1999) returned to OSU to perform the role of the Stage Manager in the winter production of *Our Town*. He also took some time to talk with students about being a professional Equity actor.

Sally Oswald, Thurber House playwright-in-residence during winter quarter 2007, presented her newest work *Pony* on March 8, 2007, and taught a course on playwriting. Oswald holds an M.F.A. from Brown University and a B.A. from Barnard College.

Pulitzer Prize winning critic **Margo Jefferson** gave a lecture of her new book *On Michael Jackson* in March 2007, at the Wexner Center for the Arts. A former critic for *The New York Times*, Jefferson now teaches at Columbia University and Eugene Lang College at The New School.

Alumna **Carmen Mitzi Sinnott** (B.A. 1993) returned to present her one woman show *Snapshot* in the Roy Bowen Theatre and at the Hale Center. Mitzi has received critical acclaim for *Snapshot*, including recognition from the *Stage* for the 2005 performance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Alumnus **Chris Jones** (Ph.D. 1989) gave the Annual Lawrence and Lee TRI Lecture this year entitled "Every Night in the Dark: A Critic Debunks the Pervasive Myths Surrounding Contemporary American Theatre." Chris is the principle theatre critic for the *Chicago Tribune* and teaches at DePaul University.

The Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) was recognized for its work with the College of the Arts and presented with the "Award for Excellence in Community Partnership Building" at OSU's annual Celebration of Excellence in Community Service and Scholarship.



Janine Lewis teaches a master class to the M.F.A. Acting students on the methods of the Artaud and acrobatics.



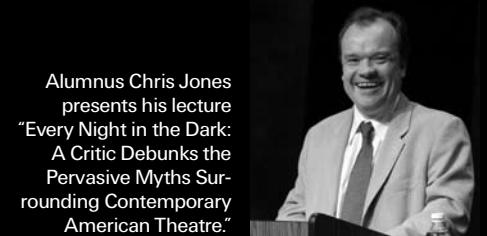
Guest Equity Actor and alumnus Glenn Peters talks with students about being a professional actor in New York.



A staged reading of Thurber House Playwright-in-Residence Sally Oswald's newest work *Pony*.



Pulitzer Prize winning critic Margo Jefferson giving a lecture on her new book *On Michael Jackson*.



Alumnus Chris Jones presents his lecture "Every Night in the Dark: A Critic Debunks the Pervasive Myths Surrounding Contemporary American Theatre."



Left to right: Cast members of the national tour of *All Shook Up* Wally Dunn and Beth Glover speak with faculty member Jimmy Bohr, B.A. Student Cole Simon and other theatre students.



Students warming up for a dress rehearsal for OSU Theatre's production of *Hair* at CAPA's beautiful Southern Theatre.



Carmen Mitzi Sinnott in a scene from her one woman show, *Snapshot*.

Outreach and Engagemer

InterACT, DramaTies and Alpha Psi Omega Reach Out

By Julie Ann McMillan (M.F.A. Acting Student) and Valerie Kaneko Lucas, Director of Outreach

InterACT

OSU's Education and Outreach program grew notably this year with the success of InterACT, led by Robin Post. Robin taught InterACT as a five credit undergraduate course with about 15 students in the class each quarter. The department now receives requests from other university and off-campus organizations to bring InterACT in for conferences and meetings. When InterACT receives a specific request—for example, a department's request for scenes addressing minorities in the workplace—Robin starts her students off with some research, and then—through discussion, improvisation in character and script refinement—a scene is born that provides potent inspiration for discussion and critique of the situations presented. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive about the program and the program received a 2007 Multicultural Center Diversity Award.

DramaTies: Drama for Community Education

This year's DramaTies focused on youth and youth leaders. Led by Dr. Valerie Kaneko Lucas, DramaTies offers intensive workshops to introduce key drama skills that enable people to create theatre with and for themselves. During DramaTies at Camp Ohio, counselors learned improv, narrative and puppetry; while DramaTies in Dayton's Adventure Central provided drama training for the specific needs to after-school club leaders. A new partnership with Columbus Public Schools (CPS) Gifted and Talented Program—DramaTies Day at the Drake—was created by P.J. Abell, Faye Caner and Nancy Eucker (of CPS). The partnership treated 50 seventh-graders to workshops on mime, comedy improv, character, a special awards ceremony and a memorable introduction to the OSU campus.



APO members lead a workshop with students from Daniel Wright Elementary school in the Dublin district.

Tri-State Diversity Conference

The department created an original, issue-based drama commissioned by OSU Extension to serve its conference themes. For the past two years, the focus has been on the relationship of food and diversity. In January, Ph.D. student Christopher Matsos directed and transported a group of undergraduate actors to perform original sketches for the Tri-State Diversity Conference. While nutrition professionals from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana gathered, they were also entertained and inspired by the serious and lighthearted "Food for Thought" pieces, sketches addressed the challenges of promoting healthy eating.

Student-Led Community Initiatives

OSU Theatre students have also created their own theatre in the community initiatives. Ph.D. student and puppeteer Jennifer Stoessner taught puppetry workshops at Indianola Alternative Elementary School in the University District. Additionally, she and Christina Ritter led Acting Shakespeare, Puppetry and Playwriting workshops at Central Crossing High School. Building upon their internships last year with DramaTies, members of the OSU chapter of Alpha Psi Omega (the national theatre honorary society) created an outreach project with Daniel Wright Elementary school in the Dublin School district. In autumn and winter quarters, undergraduates Bora 'Max'

Koknar, Nick Trouw, Ashlee Mundy, Meg Green and M.F.A. student Virginia Logan taught weekly workshops in reader's theater, movement, voice, improvisation and basic acting.

Verbatim Drama Project

For the third year, the students of Theatre H367.01, an Honors course on Asian American Theatre, created a verbatim drama, *What Do We Do Now?*. Verbatim drama crafts the actual words spoken and written by interviewees into a play. This verbatim project was partnered with OSU's Multicultural Center and Asian American Studies. Students chose the theme of 9/11 and its impact upon citizens now, particularly those of West Asian heritage. They undertook research at the Kirwan Institute, fieldwork in the Asian American communities of Central Ohio and interviews with Americans of differing political persuasions.

All of our various community partnerships afford a unique opportunity to create theatre which considers the possibilities for social change and raises issues for reflection and debate through lively, accessible art.



Alpha Psi Omega outreach project with Daniel Wright Elementary school in the Dublin district.



The cast and crew of *The Bully Goats Griff* at Highland Elementary School.

School Tour

By Caehlin Bell (M.A. Student) with Jayson Morrison (M.A. 2007)

The Department of Theatre presented *The Three Bully Goats Griff*, an adaptation of the tale of *The Three Billy Goats Griff*, by Patrick Rainville Dorn as this year's school tour. After a weekend of performances on campus in the Mount Hall Studio Theatre, the cast of nine along with the tour manager, stage manager, and assistant stage manager toured for five weeks throughout February and March and performed at eight elementary schools around the Columbus area. Over 2,000 kindergarten through 6th graders saw this show about the effects of bullying. Many schools incorporated the show into their curriculum and anti-bullying initiatives.

As violence in school intensifies, it becomes increasingly important to address bullying as a precursor to more aggressive and disruptive behavior. Prevention starts in the elementary schools where students can learn early how to discuss and address bullying. Along with the performance, teachers received a study guide, with classroom activities about tolerance and communication and a list of resources on how to deal with bullying in their classroom.

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

By Nena Couch, Professor
Curator, Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute

The Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute's 2006-2007 year has been outstanding in terms of acquisitions, teaching, and programs.

Artist Tammra Sigler has contributed a wonderfully evocative painting of Hollis Alpert, author of *The Life and Times of Porgy and Bess* researched at the Institute. Chair emeritus Firman H. ("Bo") Brown donated the original scene designs by Leo Kerz for the Broadway production of Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*. Dr. Glenda Gill, theatre professor and scholar, has established her collection of research materials which deals with the dynamics of race, gender, and class, and how they intersect with African-Americans in the performing arts. Karen Goodheil donated a number of rare magazines and materials on magic. Mary Allen Johnson gave the Lew A. Wallace *Gone With the Wind* materials that her uncle, Mr. Wallace, had collected. Walter O'Neal donated a wonderful scrapbook of Columbus-born actor Elsie Janis on her work from 1904-1907. Ben Rader donated photographs, programs, correspondence, and clippings documenting vaudeville appearances of The Ohio State University Band, managed by Clark Rader, in the 1920s. Michael Brittain sent tapes of Jerome Lawrence interviewing the great Bette Davis. Long-time TRI supporter Paul Stiga donated materials of costume historian Millia Davenport, author of *The Book of Costume*, including her copy of the two-volume work with annotations, an original costume rendering, and two scrapbooks.

Professional association archives continue to grow. The Columbus Puppetry Guild, originally chartered in 1940, has established its archives at TRI, as has the Mt. Holyoke College Summer Theatre whose records were donated and beautifully organized by founder James Cavanaugh. Established collections increased with additional contributions of records of the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) and the American Theatre Critics Association (ATCA). Randy Gener, senior editor for *American Theatre* and member of ATCA, has

established his collection documenting his work in the field, as has Providence, R.I. critic Bill Gale. Clara Hieronymus, great lady of the theatre criticism, long-time critic for the *Nashville Tennessean*, and founding member of ATCA, has begun her collection at TRI.

Dance critic and scholar Marcia Siegel, who spent much time doing research at TRI, has made a generous gift of her papers related to her new book, *Howling Near Heaven: Twyla Tharp and the Reinvention of Modern Dance*. Also on the dance front, through the good work of Senta Driver in New York and Lucy Venable and Sheila Marion here, the board of the Dance Notation Bureau completed the gift agreement for the Labanotated scores in the DNB collection here, and cataloging and rehousing work has begun. Ken Rinker, dancer with Twyla Tharp in the 1970s has contributed his collection of programs, reviews, press clippings and other materials documenting the work of the company.

Many thanks go out to donors who have already established collections: Twyla Tharp, Bebe Miller, Tish Dace, Grayce Burian, Catherine Filloux, Caridad Svich, Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Charles McCaghy, Michele LaRue (East Lynne Theater Company), and M. Glen Wilson. International Center for Women Playwrights members Diane Grant, Sandra Hosking, Tami Canaday, Shirley King, Sandra Dempsey, Nancy Gall-Clayton, Margaret T. McSweeney, Vicki Cheatwood, Mrinalini Kamath, Kristen Lazarian, Diane Howes, Mary Steelsmith, Maureen Brady Johnson, Diane Howie, and Jewel Seehaus-Fisher have added to, or established, collections of their plays. Sara Kahan added a wonderful collection of 19th- and early 20th-century acting editions, sheet music, photographs, souvenir programs, and theatre cigarette cards.

A new collection of playscripts, documenting the work of members of the African-American Playwrights Exchange established through the efforts of Jaz Dorsey, has been established with initial donations from playwrights

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

George P. Brome, Peter Lawson Jones, Sean O'Leary, and Judy Juanita. Many donors have kept us up to date with programs, books, videos, and other materials including Tom Bay, Heidi Nielsen, Marvin Carlson, Sheila Marion, Lesley Ferris, Harold and Anita Eisenstein, Harvey Rubin, Jennifer Stoessner, Bonnie Vorenberg, the Stratford Festival of Canada, Valerie Lucas, Enid Weaver (POG), Beth Kattelman, Lucy Lee, Mrs. William B. Emmons, Jr., and Charles Moulton.



McCarthy Poster from the Curtiss Show Print Collection.

Donated by Nyle and Helen Stateler, the recently received Curtiss Show Print collection is a remarkable compilation documenting the beautiful letterpress work done by the company for their show business clients. The collection contains wonderful materials printed by Curtiss Show Print (such as posters, window cards, heralds, tickets, ads, letterhead stationery, and other materials), and also work orders and more than 1200 printing blocks. We are grateful to Bob Tauber of the Logan Elm Press and OSU Libraries Center for the Book Arts, and to Harry Campbell, OSU Libraries Conservator, for their invaluable support in working with this collection.

Alan Woods helped to establish "Beyond the Borscht Belt: A Jewish Theatre Celebration" jointly created by TRI, the Department

of Theatre, the OSU Hillel Foundation, and the Columbus Jewish Foundation, with funding from the Leventhal Fund, which culminated in a November staged reading of Emily Mann's *Meshugah*, adapted from Isaac Bashevis Singer's novel. Other readings sponsored by TRI this year include *When Something Wonderful Ends* by Sherry Kramer, given by longtime volunteer Barbara Butler in June; *Levels of Living*, by Nancy Gall-Clayton, Louisville playwright and ICWP member, in December. Another play reading marked International Women's Day in March: Shirley Barrie's *Audience*, Vicki Cheatwood's *The Last Time Cooper Took Midge Fishing*, Gerry Sanseviero's *Matinee Lunch*, Elaine Jarvik's *Dead Right*, and Katherine Burkman's *Geraldine and Jacob*.

In the early fall, Beth Kattelman finished up her obligations as Coordinator of Theatre 100 in order to accept the position of Associate Curator. Nena was pleased to work with students from Professor Steven Conn's History 489 class who did archival projects in the Jarka Burian collection (on Prague Spring and the Warsaw Pact), the Ella Gerber Kasakoff collection (identifying photographs of the Robert Breen production of *Porgy and Bess*), and the Sidney Kingsley collection (in preparation for an online exhibition on the playwright's work). Several graduate students have done archival independent studies: Melanie House on the Mt. Holyoke College Summer Theatre, Emily Layne Fargo on the Charles H. McCaghy Collection of Exotic Dance and on New Burlesque, and Rebecca Kallmeyn on the First All Children's Theatre founded and directed by alumna Meridee Stein. Students in the Czech theatre and culture course taught by OSU Lima professor Joe Brandesky have made great use of the Jarka Burian collection and other Czech holdings at the Institute. Otterbein College Theatre and Dance faculty member Rob Johnson brought a class of his student designers for an introduction to the Institute's wonderful scene and costume designs, and OSU Theatre faculty member Dan Gray and his graduate designers came to examine the exquisite scene design models by Broadway and regional theatre designer Tony Straiges.

The International Center for Women Playwrights Third Annual Retreat was held in August with 10 playwrights in attendance, and volunteer readers. The retreat ended splendidly with the staged reading of *'Til the Fat Lady Sings* by Carolyn Gage and Andrea Higgins, both of whom were in attendance, directed by WOSU-FM producer Christopher Purdy and with standout operatic singing by Tamara Regensburger and Crystal Stabinow.

The annual presentation of the Margo Jones Medal was a particular joy this year, as it was presented posthumously to Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee for their lifelong encouragement of young writers through teaching, organizations (including creating the American



At the presentation of the Margo Jones Award in Los Angeles on September 28th, 2006 are (left to right) standing: Alan Woods, Jenny Lee, Neila Lee, Jonathan Lee, Lucy Lee, Karen Bell, Nena Couch; seated: Deborah Robison, Janet Waldo Lee, Joshua Robison.



From the presentation of the Margo Jones Award in Los Angeles on September 28th, 2006: John Cauble, of the University of California, Los Angeles; Fay Kanin, writer (most notably of *Rashoman*, *Friendly Fire*, and *Heartsounds*), and Alan Woods are Fellows of the College of the American Theatre (which is based at the Kennedy Center in Washington). Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, who received the Jones Award posthumously, were also Fellows.

Playwrights Theatre), and active mentoring. It was a delight to present the medals to Jerry's niece and nephew, Deborah and Joshua Robison, and to Janet Waldo Lee, Jonathan Lee, and Lucy Lee, Bob's widow and children, in Los Angeles in September at a star-studded event, which included an exciting reading of the courtroom confrontation from Act II of *Inherit the Wind*, read by Ed Asner and David Selby, and directed by Gordon Hunt. Dean Karen Bell hosted the evening.

Mrs. Irwin Spector and her family visited campus on May 30 for a performance of *The Greatest American*, one of Irwin Spector's compositions, by the School of Music's Wind Symphony. In Dr. Spector's memory, she has established an endowed fund that will support the Dalcroze collections at the Theatre Research Institute which include Spector's own collection of research materials for the definitive biography he wrote on Dalcroze, as well as records of the Dalcroze School of Music, and papers of Dalcroze practitioners Hilda Schuster, John Colman, and Frances Aronoff.



Members of the Irwin Spector family with Beth Kattelman and Nena Couch

Orville Martin continues to supervise the reading room and is head of the website, Kathleen Kopp continues her work with the TRI's art holdings, while both Anca Galron and Joan Wells are here several days a week as cataloguers, joined by Nataliya Chrisman. We are always grateful to our wonderful volunteers: Barbara Butler, Chuck Moulton, and Joey Thomas who has recently "retired" after having worked with several collections including the Grandparents Living Theatre collection and the Earl Wilson celebrity photographs. Regretfully, Sidonia Marowitz, who worked for several years as a volunteer, died this year.



Joy Reilly and Barbara Kachur in St. Louis.



Barb and Joy were debut panelists for the American Theatre Association in 1980 (above). Barb is now Professor of English and Theatre, and Chair of the Department of English at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Alan Woods was her advisor, and Joy's co-advisee.

The 2006-2007 Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute Lecture was given this year by OSU alum and nationally known theatre critic Chris Jones, who began his career in theatre criticism by doing reviews for Joy Reilly on WOSU-AM. For a number of years, Chris was a stringer for *Variety* and is now theatre critic for the *Chicago Tribune*.

We were very sad to say farewell to the gracious, beautiful, and talented Isabel Bigley Barnett who was Laurey in the London cast of *Oklahoma!*, created the role of Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, and for whom

Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote *Me and Juliet*. Isabel had given her papers documenting her career to the Institute, and she and husband Lawrence Barnett funded two endowments which support the Arts Policy and Administration program at Ohio State. Late in the spring we were saddened to hear that Romanian designer/director Mircea Marosin had died at his home in England. His wife Joan Farouhy had given Marosin's almost one hundred scene and costume designs to the Institute, and later we commissioned Marosin to design *King Lear* to add to the collection.



Isabel Bigley Barnett as "Laurey" in *Oklahoma!*



Costume design by Mircea Marosin

Spotlight on Students

By Damian Bowerman, Graduate Studies and Publicity Coordinator, and Eric Mayer, Undergraduate Studies Coordinator and Webmaster

Autumn

Following the Autumn Quarter Departmental Meeting, **Lindsay Beery**, **Brittany Kiefer**, **Meredith Lark**, **Ashlee Mundy**, and **Adrienne Varwig** (B.A. Theatre Students) were elected to serve as the Undergraduate Student Advisory Committee (USAC). USAC meets regularly with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and quarterly with the Department Chair to share the ideas and concerns.

Brittany Futrell, **Katherine Kimmel** and **Joel Searls** (B.A. Theatre Students) each received scholarships from the autumn 2006 Undergraduate Research in the Arts competition.

Patrick Stengle (B.A. student) appeared as Roger in the Croswell Opera House's August production of *Grease*. The Croswell Opera House is a semi-professional summer theatre located in Adrian, Michigan.

Emily Fargo (M.A. Student) received The Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas' (LMDA) Student Dramaturgy Award at The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Jennifer Schlueter (Ph.D. 2007) contributed to the new book, *Angels in the American Theatre: Patrons, Patronage, and Philanthropy*, edited by Robert A. Schanke.

Jennifer also presented *North*, her new play "that tells the story of a charged meeting

between author/writer Anne Morrow Lindbergh (wife to aviator Charles) and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of *The Little Prince* and the man whom she felt best understood her work" (Schlueter, Jennifer). Text by Jennifer Schlueter. Starring **Christina Ritter** (Ph.D. 2007), **Christopher M. Roche** (M.F.A. 2006), and Brandon Firla. Design by **Brad Steinmetz** (M.F.A. 2003).

Winter

Jason Banks received an Excellence in Technical Design award for his lighting design for *Hair* at the Theatre Roundtable of Central Ohio and The Central Ohio Theatre Critics' Circle Annual Theatre Awards Event.

Damon Trammell (B.A. Student, Minor) appeared as Lymon in the Contemporary American Theatre Company's (CATCO) production of August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize winning *The Piano Lesson*.

Karen Mozingo (Ph.D. Student) and **Kal Poole** (M.F.A. Acting Student) were nominated for the 2007 Graduate Associate Teaching Award (GATA).

Adam Kling (B.A. 2007) held an internship at Glenbard North High School in

Carol Stream, Illinois, where he had the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with faculty in the instruction of students for a production of *Peter Pan* and the school's *Winter Arts Festival Show*.

The department also works with non-Theatre majors to provide internship opportunities throughout the entertainment industry. **Steven Paul**, a first year Pre-Architecture student, was able to work with the Athletic Video Department, learning and performing various roles such as replay operator, camera operator, director and technical director.

Reel Buckeye Productions' movie *3 Easy Payments* by Scott Sutton played to over 250 cast, crew, and family members in OSU's Sullivant Hall Dance Theatre as a private premiere. Weeks later, on January 11, 2007, it premiered to the public at the Drexel Gateway Theater. The movie ran through the holiday weekend, playing to over 400 viewers. Over 100 students have worked on this truly collaborative project.

Lindsay Beery (B.A. student) and **Laura Hum** (B.A. Student) served as assistant stage managers for the School of Music's production of *Elixir of Love*.

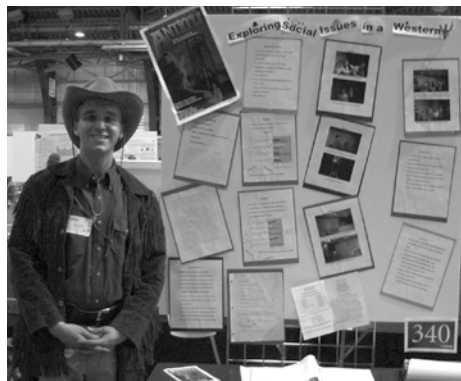
Andrew Martin (B.A. student) spent both winter and spring quarters as vocal director for Dublin Scioto High School's productions of Disney's *High School Musical* and the classic *Singing in the Rain*.

Spring

Meredith Lark (B.A. student) performed in the Club Theatre production of *Songs for a New World* (April 12-28). Club Theatre, located above the Club Diversity martini bar in German Village, was founded by alumnus **Ryan Scarlata** (B.A. 2006) with support from alumna **Allison Walker** (B.A. 2006).

Jennifer Kramer (B.A. Student) received a certificate of Special Commendation by the 2007 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival National Selection Team for her property design of Sinclair Community Colleges' production of *Footfalls*.

At the department's End of the Year Celebration, Mandy Fox swore in the elected officers of Alpha Psi Omega: President – **Bora**



Joel Searls presents *Exploring Social Issues Through a Western*, his research for his play entitled *Antioch* at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.



Brittany Futrell presents *Antioch: Communicating My Directorial Vision* at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.



Katherine Kimmel presents *Secrets and Sexual Scandal: Costuming The Children's Hour* at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.



Katherine Thornton presents *Reconstructing The Bacchae of Euripides at Smith College 1934* at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.



Andrew Cronacher presents *Undercooked* at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.

"Max" Koknar, incumbent; Vice President – Marysha Sarris and Business Manager – Janice Wessner, incumbent (B.A. Theatre Students).

Joy Reilly presented awards to the following individuals honored with Undergraduate Student Excellence in recognition of earning the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with Distinction and for their participation in the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum. **Katherine Kimmel** – *Secrets and Sexual Scandal: Costuming The Children's Hour*, **Andrew Cronacher** – *Undercooked*, **Joëlle Joseph** – *The Encounter of Three Worlds*, and **Brittany Futrell** – *Antioch: Communicating my Directorial Vision* (Brittany also received 1st place in Art and Architecture at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.) **Joel Searls** – *Exploring Social Issues through a Western*. **Katherine Thornton** was recognized with Undergraduate Student Excellence for her participation in the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum presenting her research for *Reconstructing The Bacchae of Euripides at Smith College 1934*.

Awards for Service in recognition of their work for The Syndicate and their Disciplining Interdisciplinarity Conference were presented to **Jason Bush** (M.A. Student), **Nick Dekker** (Ph.D. 2007) **Gina DiSalvo** (M.A. 2007) and **Jennifer Schlueter** (Ph.D. 2007).



Gibson Cima surveys the beginning of his dramaturgical display for *Our Town*.

Current Student Activity Updates by Area:

History, Literature and Criticism:

Christina Sidebottom (M.A. 2007) completed a M.A. thesis on the Egyptian playwright Tawfiq al-Hakim, whose play *Fate of a Cockroach* the department staged three years ago.

Gibson Cima (M.A. 2007) has completed a M.A. thesis on the playwright Athol Fugard and was admitted to the doctoral program at University of Washington, with a teaching assistantship.

Gina DiSalvo (M.A. 2007) has completed a M.A. thesis on representations of virgin martyrs on the Jacobean stage and was admitted into the doctoral program at Northwestern University on a full fellowship.

Monica White Ndounou (Ph.D. 2007) has accepted a tenure track position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Drama and Dance at Tufts University which begins on September 1, 2007. Monica presented the findings of her work in progress at The Comparative Drama Conference, the African Literature Association Conference, the Mid-America Theatre Conference, the American Society for Theatre Research Conference, the August Wilson Conference at the University of Maryland, and the Conference on Conscious-



Gina DiSalvo works on her dramaturgical display for *Mary Stuart*.

Spotlight on Students (continued)

ness, Theatre, Literature and the Arts in the United Kingdom.

Nicholas Dekker (Ph.D. 2007) successfully defended his dissertation on the ways that German theatre and culture influenced and shaped the development of British theatre in the early modern age, 1890 to 1918 and graduated in June.

Terry Schoone-Jongen (Ph.D. 2007) graduated in March with a Ph.D. in Theatre and was accepted into law school at George Washington University, with a full fellowship. Also, he is now completing the last stages of his book entitled *Shakespeare's Companies: William Shakespeare's Early Career and the Acting Companies, 1577-1594* to be published by Ashgate. This is the most comprehensive study of the 'lost years' of Shakespeare in terms of the acting companies he might have acted with after leaving Stratford-upon-Avon and before settling in London with the Lord Chamberlain's Men.

Jason Bush (Ph.D. Student) was the recipient of the Pat Mullen Prize for Graduate Student Excellence in Folklore, awarded annually for the best graduate student paper or project submitted during the academic year to the Center for Folklore Studies. His winning paper centers on his research for his dissertation and is entitled:

Danza de la Raza: The Folklorization of the Peruvian Scissors Dance. Jason's paper proposal to the American Society for Theatre Research has been accepted for the plenary sessions at the November ASTR conference in Phoenix. Jason's paper entitled "Scissors Dancing and the Intellectual Gaze" offers a study of the Peruvian danza de las tijeras, which is an acrobatic ritual dance from the Chanka region of Peru in the central Andes.

Melanie House (Ph.D. Student) passed her Comprehensive Oral Examination and now moves

onto her dissertation work which involves archival research in Toronto as she starts to

document the Peninsula Players, a theatre company active under the apartheid regime in South Africa in the 1950's.

Ritter, Christina (M.A. 2004, Ph.D. 2007) Christina is completing her dissertation on the significance of location for the Royal Shakespeare Company and Shakespeare's Globe. She has written an investigation of the importance of place for the development, history, identity, and mission of two theatre companies: the Royal Shakespeare Company, which is located in Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace and final resting place for Shakespeare, and Shakespeare's Globe company, which performs in the newly built Globe theatre. In addition, Christina acted in *Ghost Light*, the Contemporary American Theatre Company's (CATCO) shorts festival.

Jennifer Schlueter (Ph.D. 2007) received a Presidential Fellowship in December and began January 1, 2007. She accepted a job offer from University of Oregon. She will have her second child this autumn, and then begin the job in autumn 2008.

Jennifer Stoessner (Ph.D. Student) is writing her dissertation on the impact of the Jim Henson Foundation on American puppetry. She has recently had an article published in *Puppetry International* entitled, "The Shoebox World of Robert Anton." This essay develops out of her M.A. thesis, 'Infecting the Inanimate: Puppet Theatre Responds to AIDS.' Jennifer has done a great deal of work with the Wexner Center, presenting workshops in conjunction with their Jim Henson Film Series



Jennifer Stoessner, Bora "Max" Koknar, Julia Hypes, and Nick Trouw building masks in Valerie Lucas' mask class.



Stephanie Spiker celebrates earning her B.A. in Theatre.



Joel Searls (center) and the cast of his play, *Antioch*, answer questions after a performance.



Damon Trammell (right) as Lymon and Alan Bomar Jones (left) as Doaker in CATCO's production of *The Piano Lesson*.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION AWARDS

in March and in elementary schools following a puppetry performance from Denmark in May. She attended the Puppeteers of America National Festival in St. Paul and presented a paper at the ATHE Conference in New Orleans in July. Jennifer performed her solo performance of her new work, *Bravado*, in the New Works Lab of the Drake in April.

Karen Mozingo (Ph.D. Student) was the recipient of The Presidential Fellowship, which recognizes the outstanding scholarly accomplishments and potential of graduate students entering the final phase of their dissertation research or terminal degree project. Karen performed *Witch Dance* in April 12 at the Sullivant Theatre. Based on choreography and costume by Mary Wigman (c. 1926) Recreated by Bonnie Oda Homsey with first performance in 1996. Original score by Hanns Hasting Hexentanz from *Frauentanze* (1934). Score realized by Alan Terricciano using the Gassman Electronic Music Studio, UC Irvine.

Acting:

Both **Virginia Logan** (M.F.A. Acting Student) and **Dwayne Blackaller** (M.F.A. Acting Student) were accepted to participate in the SITI four-week Summer Intensive Program. SITI receives hundreds of applications from around the world for 40 participation slots with a dedication to maintaining an international representation among the participants.

Design:

Mary Yaw (M.F.A. Design 2007) completed her thesis for her costume design of *Mary Stuart*. She plans to work as a freelance costume designer in the Columbus area and got married in summer 2007.



Mark Shanda and Mary Yaw present the "Where is the love in theatre award."

Mandy Fox presented awards for Outstanding Contributions to the Department of Theatre's 2006-2007 Production Season to the following B.A. Theatre students:

PERFORMANCE: *Hair* – **Akil Babb, Liam Cronin, Meredith Lark; The 10 Minute Play Festival – **Ashley Mundy, Matt Proctor; Our Town – **Cole Simon, Angela Henderson; Dead Man Walking – **Dammon Trammel; The Children's Hour – **Sarah Katz, Pamela Sanchez, Elizabeth Yerian; Mary Stuart – **Cole Simon************

LEADERSHIP: *The 10 Minute Play Festival* – **Bora "Max" Koknar, Cole Simon; Dead Man Walking – **Bora "Max" Koknar; The Children's Hour – **Lindsay Beery, Brittany Kiefer; Mary Stuart – **Sarah Helgesen********

DESIGN: *The Three Bully Goats Griff* – **Lindsay Beery; The Three Bully Goats Griff – **Lydia Fleck; The Children's Hour – **Katherine Kimmel******

The Ohio State University Lima Campus honored the following students:

MARTHA FARMER THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: **Bethany Small, Nellie Smith, Jeanine Meyer;**

ARTS DIVISION WINNERS: **Brandi High, Jeanine Meyer**

Tom Postlewait presented awards for Graduate Student Excellence:

SERVICE AND RESEARCH: **Virginia Logan** (M.F.A. Acting Student) **Jayson Morrison** (M.A. Student)

SERVICE AND TEACHING: **Raymond Caldwell** (M.F.A. Acting Student) **Karen Mozingo** (Ph.D. Student)

TEACHING AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY: **Mary Yaw** (M.F.A. Design Student)

Janet Parrott presented awards for Outstanding Contributions in the area of Video Production:

Kenny Hathaway (B.A. Student) for Outstanding Contribution to Video Production in recognition of his leadership and dedication to Buckeye TV and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. **Kristina Hall** (B.A. Student) for Outstanding Contribution to Video Production in recognition of her leadership and fiscal management for Reel Buckeye Productions and Video Lab Assistance. **Amira Soliman** (B.A. Student) for Outstanding Contribution to Video Production in recognition of her

leadership and dedication to Reel Buckeye Productions and Video. **Carrie Jones** (B.A. Student) for Outstanding Contribution to Video Productions in recognition of her leadership with the 2006-2007 Reel Buckeye 10 Minute Shorts

Mark Shanda presented the Chairs Award for Academic Achievement:

The Ohio State University Department of Theatre Honors the following graduate students with the Chair's Award for Academic Achievement for maintaining a 4.0 cumulative grade point average: **Bethany Banister** (Ph.D. Student) **Gibson Cima** (M.A. 2007) **Gina DiSalvo** (M.A. Student) **Emily Fargo** (M.A. Student) **Virginia Logan** (M.F.A. Acting Student) **Christopher Matsos** (Ph.D. Student) **Julie Ann McMillan** (M.F.A. Acting Student) **Karen Mozingo** (Ph.D. Student) **Andrew "Kal" Poole** (M.F.A. Acting Student) **Christina Ritter** (Ph.D. 2007) **Terry Schoone-Jongen** (Ph.D. 2007) **Matthew Yde** (Ph.D. Student)

The Ohio State University Department of Theatre Honors the following undergraduate students with the Chair's Award for Academic Achievement for maintaining a 3.85 or higher cumulative grade point average: **Andi Barnett, Sara Bonilla-Larsen, Maria Borgerding, Katherine Bowman, Liam Cronin, Kathryn Dysard, Marguerite Gross, Angela Henderson, Anna Hoptry, Julia Hypes, Katherine Kimmel, Sarah Lammon, Meredith Lark, Eric Melton, Barbara Papalios, David Portlatin, Eric Slezak, Elizabeth Yerian.**

Mandy Fox recognized Undergraduate Graduates. Summer Quarter 2006: **Emily Beisner, Jonathan Nawn, Ryan Scarlata, Davina Ware, Elizabeth Wilson.** Autumn Quarter 2006: **Elizabeth Blockinger, Jolene Bolinger, Curtis "Nitz" Brown, Jonathon Leonard, Daniel Nash, Megan Simcox, Richard Smith.** Winter Quarter 2007: **Nicholas Hanneman, Ken Hathaway, Elena Mcintosh, Mandalyn Stevens, Linda Torres.** Spring Quarter 2007: **Wade Corder, Andrew Cronacher, Megan Fitzpatrick, Rebecca Ford, Brittany Futrell, Kristina Gainey, Cristin Gerleman, Kristin Green, Evan Gregg, Ryan Herron, Frank Houst, Amanda Ireton, Joëlle Joseph, Brittany Kiefer, Katherine Kimmel, Adam Kling, Sarah Lammon, Adam Peal, Darrio Pope, Lane Scarberry, Joel Searls, Cole Simon, Katherine Sutter, Katherine Thornton, Sara Ziglar.**

Spotlight on Students (continued)

Mandy Fox recognized Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients:

The Gerald R. Black Scholarship Fund for Recognition of Excellence in Theatre was established in 1974 in memory of Gerald R. Black, a 1924 graduate of The Ohio State University. The scholarship is intended for undergraduate students within the Department of Theatre interested in the area of playwriting. Recipients: **Barbara Papalios, Bora "Max" Koknar, Samantha Bowling.**

The Michael Swink Fund for Talent in Theatre Technology was established in 1980 in memory of Michael Swink, (B.A. 1975) and provides funding for undergraduate students who have demonstrated exceptional talent and ability in theatre in the area of design and technology. Recipients: **David Portalatin, Katharine Phillips, Marysha Sarris.**

The Robert Eugene Johnson Memorial Scholarship was established in 1983 with gifts from the estate of Robert Eugene Johnson, (M.A. 1950) to provide one or more scholarships for Junior and/or Senior students who are majoring in Theatre and are maintaining at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Recipients: **Joshua Getzinger, Lindsay Beery, Nicholas Trouw, Roni Jarrett-Leake.**

The Roy and Addeleen Bowen Fund for Exceptional Talent in Theatre was established in 1978 to honor Dr. Roy H. Bowen, Professor Emeritus of Theatre. The scholarship supports undergraduate students who have demonstrated exceptional talent in theatre. Recipients: **Bill Gordon, Emily Dorrian, Erika Hanes, Kathryn Dysard, Maria Borgerding, Patrick Stengle, Ricardo Hernandez, Sara Kaufman, Spenser Morris.**

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Awarded annually in memory of Steven Vrba, Assistant Professor of Theatre, 1982-1984, this cash award is to be given to an upper division theatre major who has demonstrated high academic achievement and outstanding abilities in Theatre Technology during the year. Recipient: **Eric Slezak.**



Left to right: Kyle Jepson, Virginia Logan, Sarah Helgesen, Patrick Stengle, Erika Hanes, Janice Wessner, Elizabeth Yerian, and Meredith Lark are sworn in as new members of Alpha Psi Omega (honorary dramatic fraternity) by president Bora "Max" Koknar.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION AWARDS



Katharine Phillips and Marysha Sarris receive a scholarship from the Michael Swink Fund for Talent in Theatre Technology.



Left to Right: Mark Shanda presents Awards for Service in recognition of their work for The Syndicate to Nick Dekker, Jason Bush, Jennifer Schlueter and Gina Disalvo.



Mandy Fox presents Chair's Award for Academic Achievement for maintaining a 4.0 cumulative grade point average to Matthew Yde, Terry Schoone-Jongen, Julie Ann McMillan, Virginia Logan and Gina DiSalvo.



Mark Shanda presents awards to Kenny Hathaway for Outstanding Contribution to Video Production in recognition of his leadership and dedication to Buckeye TV and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* and Kristina Hall for Outstanding Contribution to Video Production in recognition of her leadership and fiscal management for Reel Buckeye Productions and Video Lab Assistance.



Joëlle Joseph receives an award from Mark Shanda for earning a B.A. with Distinction in Theatre and her presentation of *The Encounter of Three Worlds* at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.



Raymond Caldwell receives an award from Mark Shanda for Graduate Student Excellence in Service and Research.



Sarah Helgesen celebrates her recognition for her outstanding contribution to the Department of Theatre's 2006-2007 Production Season for her stage management of *Mary Stuart*.



Elizabeth Yerian receives an award for her performance in *The Children's Hour*.



Cole Simon is recognized by Mark Shanda for his outstanding contributions to the Department of Theatre's 2006-2007 Production Season for his work in *The 10-Minute Play Festival*, *Our Town*, and *Mary Stuart*.



Virginia Logan receives an award from Mark Shanda for Graduate Student Excellence in Service and Research.

Regional Campus Reports

OSU Newark

By Dave Williams, Associate Professor

2006-07 kicked off with A.R. Gurney's comedy-drama *Another Antigone*. Set on the campus of a small liberal-arts university, this production revived a simultaneous staging technique, with two offices and an open space on campus all represented; the lights directed the audience's attention as appropriate. The production was well received, and suggested that other plays by the same author might well appear in the future.

The winter quarter production was Frank Gilroy's neglected play *Who'll Save the Plowboy?*. This script is every bit as powerful as his better-known *The Subject Was Roses*, and the director was able to cast strong actors in the lead roles. The tale of deception, betrayal, and unfulfilled dreams left a lasting impression on all those who saw it. The set recreated a lower-class urban apartment from 1962, down to the battered furniture, scuffed floor, and antique radiator. One feature repeatedly commented upon by audience members was the cityscape outside the window, which portrayed distant buildings with window lights that decreased in number as the play proceeded.

The spring production was Sam Shepard's drama *Fool For Love*. All three main roles were filled by actors of uncommon energy, presence, and imagination.



Newark's production of *Another Antigone*: Judy (Kenda Brand) helps her boyfriend Dave (Steven Bennett) stretch out before a track meet.



Newark's production of *Who'll Save the Plowboy?* Larry (Chris Carter) and Albert (Steven Douglass) put together a train set.

In addition to the full productions, the Theatre Department at OSU-Newark also presented three poetry readings: Ogden Nash (Sept. 28), Robert Herrick (Jan. 11) and Charles Bukowski (April 5). All of these were well attended. The audiences enjoyed Nash's verbal and metrical dexterity, Herrick's delicacy and sly eroticism, and Bukowski's intensity.



Newark's production of *Fool For Love*: May (Alyse Cho) tells a story, while Eddie (Clinton Bates) and Martin (Anthony Harper) listen.

OSU Lima

By Joe Brandesky, Professor

The Lima campus theatre program generated three productions in the 06-07 academic year. **Brad Steinmetz** (M.F.A. 2003) directed and designed *Hattie*, written by **Jennifer Schlueter** (Ph.D. 2007), for our Theatre for Young Audiences performances during autumn 2006.

In October our students participated in a lecture/workshop on the Mikhail Chekhov acting system led by Mala Powers, stage and film actress, teacher and executrix of the M. Chekhov Estate, and former Lima student and Powers protégé, Kim Barrett. Joe Brandesky directed Joseph Fisher's *Cupid and Psyche* during winter 2007. The production featured a stage design and projections by Brad Steinmetz with costumes by Loo Brandesky. Maria Ignatieva directed the spring 2007 production of Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*. Guest Designer Dennis Christilles (University of Kansas) provided sets and costumes and worked with Lima campus students during his residency. Five Lima theatre students joined a total of twenty-three travelers to the 2007 Prague Quadrennial as members of the OIA sponsored Prague Theatre Study tour in June, led by Brandesky.



OSU Lima's production of *Hattie*, written by Jennifer Schlueter.



OSU Lima's production of Joseph Fisher's *Cupid and Psyche*.

Four students who played active roles in our theatre program were recognized with spring 2007 academic awards at OSU - Lima. Jeanine Meyer and Brandi High were given the Arts Divisional Award (sponsored by the Music, Art and Theatre faculties) while Theatre Departmental awards went to Bethany Small and Nellie Smith.



OSU Lima's production of Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*.

Regional Campus

Reports (continued)

OSU Mansfield

By Joseph Fahey, Assistant Professor

The department opened its season with *Nickel and Dime* by Joan Holden, based on Barbara Ehrenreich novel about low-wage America. Graduate student Todd Smith directed the work, and for our opening performance we were joined by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Shipler, who discussed his recent text *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*. There followed four additional performances each with a panel of speakers who addressed issues of local concern in the effort to combat poverty.

In February, the theatre program took its show on the road and presented Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* for one weekend at the Mansfield Art Center and a second weekend in our traditional campus space at Founders Auditorium. Richard Keith designed a wonderful mobile set, and the actors delighted in the rare opportunity to work the same show in a cabaret setting and a traditional proscenium space.

To close out the mainstage season, we presented *Guys and Dolls* on Mothers Day weekend. It was a fantastic team effort involving collaborations with dancers from the Richland Academy and barber-shop singers from Mansfield's FunCenter Chordsmen. Attendance was exceptional – including a rare “sell-out” evening, and the large cast of students and community members delighted in the opportunity to bring this gem of American musical theatre to a new audience.

Our season's alternate stage performances included three shows. *Avalon*, a new social-issues work by Professor Ralph Hunt, *In the Hands of Mr. Hyde*, a punk-goth reworking of the Robert Louis Stevenson classic, and the first-ever Mansfield performance of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*. This performance, co-produced by OSU-Mansfield's Office of Student Services and directed by student Amanda Sposato, raised over \$1600 for Mansfield's Domestic Violence Shelter and brought Ensler's message to over 350 people.



Nickel and Dime autumn 2007,
(L to R: Jacqueline Allen, Bryan Lynch)



Picasso at the Lapin Agile winter 2008,
(L to R: Cindy Logan, Jim Childress,
Paulina Trunzo)



Picasso at the Lapin Agile, winter 2008,
(L to R: Bryan Lynch, Kyle Sturts, Nathan
Daugherty)



Guys and Dolls spring
2007, (L to R: Billy
Haynes and Esther
O'Brien)



Guys and Dolls spring 2007, (L to R: Kyle Sturts, Ryan
Hooks, Nathan Daugherty, Dan O'Brien – front
Brian Eckels, Billy Haynes, Mike DeVenny, Bryan
Dellefield, Scott Schag, Dane Noe, Tom Hardy - back)

Tom Postlewait Retirement

By Mark Shanda, Professor and Chair

Effective June 15, 2007, Dr. Tom Postlewait retired from the Ohio State University. Tom has been an outstanding faculty member since joining the department in 1994. In January of 2006 Tom was named a University Distinguished Scholar, one of the highest awards a faculty member can receive. Tom and his wife Marilyn will be relocating to their new home that they have purchased on Whitby Island just north of Seattle. This move will allow them to spend more time with

two of their daughters and their grandchildren who live in Seattle. The move is also a return to Tom's Pacific Northwest roots. In addition, Tom has accepted a part-time teaching position in the doctoral program, School of Drama, at the University of Washington. We congratulate Tom and Marilyn on a well deserved next chapter to their academic careers and thank Tom for the countless hours of mentoring M.A. and Ph.D. students that he has done.



Tom cuts his “Best Wishes” cake at the End of Year Celebration.

Tom accepts a parting gift from The Department of Theatre at the End of Year Celebration.

Faculty and Staff

updates

Jimmy Bohr

Assistant Professor
Acting and Directing



- Directed *Awake in the Dark*, a Musical Theatrical Performance at the Brooklyn Historical Society in New York City for the launch of Shira Nayman's same titled novel.
- Performed the lead role of Aaron Greidinger in a staged reading of Emily Mann's *Meschugah* at the OSU Hillel Center, directed by Dr. Alan Woods, in honor of Ms. Mann's contribution to Jewish culture.
- Directed Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* in the Roy Bowen Theatre, in a production to honor the late Roy Bowen.
- Member of the Curriculum Advisory Committee at Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio, for the newly formed Theatre Arts and Management Department.

Damian Bowerman

Graduate Studies
Coordinator
Publicity Coordinator



- Played Dr. Gibbs in OSU Theatre's production of *Our Town* in February.
- Portrayed Andrew Carnegie for the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Centennial Gala in April giving a speech to hundreds of donors thanking them for their continuing support of the library, which the actual Carnegie initiated with a \$200,000 seed grant.
- Participated in a John Glenn School of Public Affairs Management Advancement for the Public Service seminar entitled, "Media Relations for Public Sector Professionals."
- Performed his one man show *John D. Rockefeller* for a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Rocky River, Ohio.

Joe Brandesky

Professor
History, Literature and
Criticism



- Edited *Czech Theatre Design in the Twentieth Century*, which was recently published by the University of Iowa Press, featuring the craft of twenty-seven of the best stage and costume designers of the twentieth century.
- Led group of students to Prague for the Prague Quadrennial 2007.

Stratos Constantinidis

Professor
History, Literature and Criticism

- Editor of two interdisciplinary periodical publications, *Text and Presentation*, *The Comparative Drama Conference Series* and the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*.
- Chosen as a semi-finalist for the 2006-07 Alumni Awards for Distinguished Teaching.
- Published "Dinos Katsuridis' *What Did You Do in the War, Thanasis?*" in the *Cinema of the Balkans*, edited by Dina Iordanova.
- Presented "The Status of the Journal of Modern Greek Studies, 2003-2006;" a report sponsored by the Modern Greek Studies Association of America and Canada.
- Presented "Euripides' *Hecuba* and Cornaro's *The Sacrifice of Abraham: Two Set Designs by Fotis Kontoglou and a Theory*" at the 30th Comparative Drama Conference.
- Participated in the President and Provost's Leadership Institute.

Lesley Ferris

Professor
History, Literature and
Criticism



- Presented "Carnival Interactive," a multimedia, interactive computer program on London's Notting Hill Carnival, beta-tested at the Mayor of London's Caribbean Showcase, Hyde Park, London co-creators Brian Stone (Department of Design), Brandon Craft (Department of Design), and Ruth Tompsett (Middlesex University).
- Directed *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller at Tshwane University of Technology, Department of Drama, Pretoria South Africa.
- Directed *A Movie Star Has to Star in Black and White* by Adrienne Kennedy at Tisch School of the Arts, Department of Drama, New York City.
- Directed *The Children's Hour* by Lillian Hellman at The Ohio State University Department of Theatre.

Mandy Fox

Assistant Professor
Acting and Directing
Director of Undergraduate
Studies



- Received three Production Awards for shows that she directed, Excellence in Directing Award, *The Rocky Horror Show*, the Central

- Ohio Theatre Roundtable, winter 2006; Outstanding Production Award, *The Rocky Horror Show*, the Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable, winter 2006; Best Productions of the Year, *Hair*, *The Columbus Dispatch*, autumn 2006.
- Collaborations with Dash Networks Incorporated and the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO).
- *The Devil's Season*, feature-length film, Script Advisor and Acting/Voice Coach.
- *Lucifer's Fall*, feature-length film, Script Advisor and Acting/Voice Coach.
- *Damon and Stella Foundation Public Service Announcement with Randy Travis*, Script Advisor and Vocal Coach.
- *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Vocal Coach, CATCO.
- Named an Associate Editor for the International Dialect of English Archive.

Dan Gray

Associate Professor
Design and Technology



- Designed the set for the highly praised production of *Hair* produced by OSU Theatre in collaboration with CAPA receiving an Excellence in Technical Design award for this set design at the Theatre Roundtable of Central Ohio and the Central Ohio Theatre Critics' Circle Annual Theatre Awards Event.
- Designed the national tour of *Russel Wright: Better Living Through Design* exhibit which opened at the Ohio Decorative Arts Center in May.
- Designed the set for the critically acclaimed production of *Moonlight and Magnolias* at the Human Race Theatre in Dayton.
- Invited to Adjudicate the KC/ACTF Region III design Exhibit in Milwaukee, WI.
- Designed the set for CATCO's critically acclaimed production of *The Piano Lesson*.

Anthony Hill

Associate Professor
History, Literature and
Criticism



- Developed and implemented two new undergraduate and graduate theatre courses: Theatre 674: August Wilson Seminar and 802.03: African American Women Playwrights.
- Made in-roads on his book project, *An Historical Dictionary of African American Theatre*.

- Recognized in the 2006 edition of *Who's Who in Black Columbus* that highlights positive achievements of African Americans.
- Participated in a panel on August Wilson at the Black Theatre Network at Louisville, Kentucky.

Beth Kattelman

*Assistant Curator, Theatre Research Institute
Assistant Professor,
University Libraries*

- Hired as Associate Curator of The Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute and as an Assistant Professor for the University Libraries.
- Director of the Puppet-Queers, an award-winning puppet-theatre troupe that has performed most recently at the 2006 National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival in Columbus, Ohio.
- Co-founder of Madcap Productions, a Cincinnati-based puppet troupe that continues to tour nationally, and she served for a brief time as the Artistic Director of New Venture Theatre, a company dedicated to the promotion of new works.
- Presented a paper at the national conference for the Popular Culture Association on the presentation of horror-magic.



Kristine Kearney

*Assistant Professor
Design and Technology*

- Received an Excellence in Technical Design award for her costume design for *Hair* at The Theatre Roundtable of Central Ohio and The Central Ohio Theatre Critics' Circle Annual Theatre Awards Event.



Jim Knapp

Production Coordinator

- Joined the Humana Festival production staff for the month of March working with Justin Hagovsky (B.A. 2003).



Kaizaad Kotwal

*Lecturer
Marion Campus*

- Featured in the December 2006 issue of

Ohio magazine as part of their "Excellence in Education" recognition program, given to 150 of Ohio's top college and university professors as a result of being acknowledged by an administrator or colleague from his or her school.

Valerie Kaneko Lucas

*Assistant Professor
Acting and Directing*

- Chaired the Society for Theatre Research Performing Conference *The British Asian Diaspora*, the first academic conference on British Asian performance in the U.K., held at London's Theatre Museum.
- Published two articles on Black British and British Asian Theatres in two anthologies: 'There's No Justice: Just Us: Black Britons, British Asians and the Criminal Justice System in Docudrama' in *'Black' British Aesthetics Today* and "Performing British Hybridity: *Fix Up* and *Fragile Land*" in *Reconstructing Hybridity: An Anthology of Critical Essays*.
- Devised her third verbatim drama, *What Do We Do Now* with Theatre H367.01 Honors students, focused upon 9-11's aftermath and its impact upon Asian American and Arabic-American communities.
- Chaired and organized *New Spaces of Authenticity*, an IFTR Scenography conference held at the Czech Theatre Institute as part of the 2007 Prague Quadrennial of Theatre Design.
- Produced *The Beyonder*, a video project developed from Aristophanes' *The Birds* that was a major collaboration between theatre and video students.



Eric H. Mayer

*Undergraduate Studies
Coordinator*

- Stage Managed OSU Theatre's production of *Hair*.
- Stage Managed *A Year with Frog and Toad* at the Capitol Theatre, his third production with the Phoenix Theatre for Children.
- Designed sound for CATCO's production of *The Piano Lesson*.



Janet Parrot

*Assistant Professor
Design and Technology*

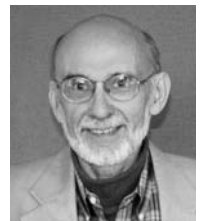
- Co-producer of the YWCA-Columbus, Women of Achievement 2006 Awards.
- Video Advisor: *Hidden Voices*, Blair Wing, video designer
- Video Advisor: *Bright Room Called Day*, Adam Rex, video designer
- Directing a documentary with the working title, *Women's Work*, about a group of remarkable women who went to South Africa in 2005 and met hospice nurses and caregivers who are dealing with HIV/AIDS in their communities.



Tom Postlewait

*Professor
History, Literature and
Criticism*

- Continued to edit the book series at the University of Iowa.
- Served on the executive committees of the American Society for Theatre Research, the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, and the International Federation for Theatre Research.
- Active member of the Society for Theatre Research in Great Britain.
- Served as President of ASTR.
- Lead the national campaign for the inclusion of theatre and performance studies in the National Research Council evaluation.
- Served as Vice President for Research in ATHE.
- Retired from OSU effective June 15, 2007



Joy Reilly

*Associate Professor
History, Literature and
Criticism*

- Performed *The Exquisite Art of Growing Old: Writing Our Lives 2007: A Live Art Performance* by Howling at the Moon in April at the Wexner Center Film and Video Theater.
- Honored with the Rosalene Sedgwick Faculty Service Award from The Ohio State University Arts and Sciences Committee.
- *The Art of Living* program on Retirement Living Television filmed a feature on Joy and



the Howling at the Moon Theatre company at the Wexner Center.

Maureen Ryan

*Assistant Professor
Acting and Directing*

- Producing Artistic Director, Red Herring Theatre Ensemble, Columbus, Ohio.
- Co-Director/Producer, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Red Herring Theatre Ensemble performed at the Brownstone on Main.
- Director, *Two Sticks on a Drum* in close collaboration with playwright Holly Walter Kerby, and actors Janet Wilson and Lori Adams, a new play about the relationship between Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, performed as three staged readings June 22 in Madison, Wisconsin at Edgewood College, July 13 at The Ohio State University and July 24 at Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago, IL.
- Producer, *The Last Five Years*, Red Herring Theatre Ensemble, a musically complex and compelling piece that required a six-piece orchestra and was produced in the Studio Two theatre at the Verne Riffe Center.
- Director, *Prison Project: Restorative Justice*. Ross County Correctional Institution, Chillicothe, OH.
- Director, *A Bright Room Called Day*, The Ohio State University.
- Director/Producer, *Paul Robeson*, Red Herring Theatre Ensemble, marking the start of Red Herring's business-arts partnership with the Brownstone on Main.



Mark Shanda

*Chair and Professor
Design and Technology*

- Elected to serve a three-year term as director at large of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc (USITT).
- Received a 2006-2007 Career Services Award recognizing his "outstanding support of student career development and career services programming" presented by The Ohio State University Career Services Committee.



Mary Tarantino

*Associate Professor
Design and Technology*

- Enjoyed a Faculty Professional Leave for the 2006-07 academic year, spending many productive hours researching American lighting design pioneers at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, WI. Various interviews completed in association with the research have taken her to New York, Boston, and Toronto.
- Received a University Libraries Faculty Course Enhancement Grant to support a Seminar Course in Archive Research for Design to be taught at the Theatre Research Institute in autumn 2007, with Professor Nena Couch.
- Returned to Prague to participate in ScenoFest and the Prague Quadrennial.



Jeanine Thompson

*Associate Professor
Acting, Directing and
Dance*

- Formally received a courtesy faculty appointment in the OSU Department of Dance.
- Invited as a Master Teacher and Tenured Professor by the national Association of Theatre Movement Educators (ATME) to present a paper and speak at the national conference.
- Invited as a professional Creator and Performer of New Work to be a part of PlayWorks ensemble, created a new work



within the time constraints of the national Association of Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference.

- Invited to conduct a second residency in Concepcion, Chile, part of the Ohio Arts Council's International Exchange Program.

Alan Woods

*Director, Lawrence and
Lee Theatre Research
Institute
Associate Professor,
History, Literature and
Criticism*

- Coordinated the Heckart Competition and the Playwrights' Retreat, both which solidified a growing reputation for Ohio State as a place that celebrates playwrights.
- His short play, *The Safari*, will be produced in Cape Town, R.S.A., and another short play, *Limbo, Ohio* will be produced in Phoenix, Arizona.
- His short play, *Twentieth Night*, was read at the Center on High, Stonewall Columbus' new community center in May.
- His short play *Last Call* had been published by the Free Press in June 2006, in their online edition. In September, it was performed by FLUSH INK PRODUCTIONS as part of their ASPHALT JUNGLE SHORTS in Kitchener, Ontario.
- 497 scripts were submitted for the 2007 Eileen Heckart Drama for Seniors Competition. This is the highest number submitted in the three times the Heckart Competition has taken place; obviously, theatre by/for/about seniors is a rapidly expanding field!



ASSISTANT DIRECTING THE CHILDREN'S HOUR By Brittany Kiefer

Assisting professors Lesley Ferris and Jeannine Thompson in the direction of *The Children's Hour* was a very valuable and fun learning experience. Having not previously had a directorial role in an OSU Theatre main stage production, I did not know what to expect or what my role would be going into this production. Much to my delight, Lesley allowed me as much involvement as I wanted. I realized quickly that if I wanted to have an active role in this process I would have to claim it for my own. I learned the importance of having a collective creative vision and the necessity of clear articulation of thoughts. As in

any production, *The Children's Hour* came with its own set of challenges which presented themselves from the beginning. Through the flexibility and determination of everyone involved in the process, we were able to come together and work it out. The most valuable part of this experience was importance of collaboration. Having a directorial team composed of three women with different experiences and approaches to theatre enabled us to challenge each other and bring our own unique vision to the process. Throughout the process my thoughts and ideas were valued and incorporated.

Alumni and Friends

Alumni News

1960's

Bill Bushnell (M.A. 1962)

Bill is the co-founder of the Los Angeles Theatre Center and is now doing disaster relief work for the federal government.

Anita Simons (B.A. Mid 1960's)

Anita is a playwright and the Executive Assistant to the Managing Director of La Jolla Playhouse. She recently experienced the first full production of her play *Goodbye Memories* at her old high school in Canton, Ohio.

1970's

Toni-Leslie James (B.F.A. 1979)

Tonie-Leslie recently accepted a position as head of design at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

James Joseph Knobloch (M.F.A. 1976)

James appeared in the film *King Kong* as the Thuggish Studio Guy in 2005, in 5 episodes of *Ponderosa* as Jack Wolf in 2002, in 1 episode of *V.I.P.* as Spalding in 2000, in 70 episodes of *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman* as Jake Slicker from 1993-1997 and the TV Movie of the same title in 1999, and in *Heaven's Gate* as Kopestansky in 1980.

Frank Mohler (B.A. 1965, M.A. 1969, Ph.D. 1976)

Frank is a Professor, Scenic and Lighting Designer at Appalachian State University. He has published several articles on Renaissance and Baroque Theatre and created and maintains the Development of Scenic Spectacle web site www.1.appstate.edu/orgs/spectacle.

Tony Schmitt (Ph.D. 1970)

Tony is an emeritus professor at Wayne State University in Detroit where he was in charge of the graduate acting company at the Hilberry Theatre for 17 years.

Craig Turner (M.F.A. 1974)

Craig is a teacher of movement and coach for PlayMakers Repertory Company North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He is been a member of the Society of American Fight Directors and a founding member of the Association of Theatre Movement Educators and co-authored the book *Methods and Practice of Elizabethan Swordplay*.

1980's

Van Ackerman (M.F.A. 1985)

Van is an Acclaim panel member (Acclaims are awards for outstanding theatre in Cincinnati) and Director of marketing and public relations for the Cincinnati Arts Council.

Monique Sacay-Bagwell (M.F.A. 1990)

Monique is an Associate Professor at the Lander University Theatre Arts Department. She was a member of the cast of the Greenwood Community Theatre production of *Women on Fire*, which won the state level Community Theatre Festival competition and she was named Best Actress.

Kevin Connell (B.F.A. 1987)

Kevin is teaching at Marymount Manhattan College and appeared off-off Broadway in *Burn This*, which was produced by Ground Up Productions at Manhattan Theatre Source.

Jefferson Cronin (M.F.A. Acting, 1987)

In the world of theatre, Jefferson has diverse professional experience as an actor, teacher, workshop participant, consultant, producer, and director. He has been an editor, columnist and critic for *The Tygart Valley Press*, responsible for editorial policy and writing, feature and news reporting and writing, photography, and film and theatre reviews. He has taught for University of Maryland University College in Guam, and in the distance education program, since October 1996. Since 1998 Cronin has served as the artistic director of Theatre Guam, the only independent theatrical producer on the island.

Annette Reid Crump (B.C. 1985)

Annette appeared on an episode of *Desperate Housewives* on ABC in October.

Varlo Davenport (M.F.A. 1988)

Varlo Davenport is currently the Director of Theatre at Dixie State College where he teaches, directs plays and serves as program administrator. He is the author and performer of the award winning one-person show *John Wesley Powell: The Last American Adventure*. He also performs as Wilford Woodruff in the one-person show *Wilford Woodruff: God's Fisherman*.

James Depaul (M.F.A. 1983)

James is an internationally-acclaimed director and teacher of acting at California State University, Northridge. This year he directed the world premiere of Kornfeld's *The Gates of*

Hell, supported by the Jerome Foundation, at Theatre for The New City in New York City. He is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and Actors' Equity Association.

Cathy Fank (M.F.A. 1983)

Cathy is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at the University of Wisconsin.

John Finnegan (M.F.A. 1988)

John Campbell Finnegan is an Associate Professor of Computer Graphics Technology at the New Albany branch of Purdue University. While at Purdue, John has co-authored the text, *The Web Page Workbook* (with Jeffrey Griffin). John is an active member of ACM:SIGGRAPH having served as the full conference Chair for SIGGRAPH 2006. John is currently developing a course called Acting for Animators.

Chris Jones (Ph.D. 1989)

Chris Jones is the chief theater critic for the *Chicago Tribune*. He has reviewed theater, comedy, improv and other forms of live entertainment for the *Tribune* for more than a decade. He also writes a weekly theater column and hosts the popular blog, The Theater Loop. Jones recently returned to The Department of Theatre for the Annual Theatre Research Institute lecture to present *Every Night in the Dark: a Critic Debunks the Pervasive Myths Surrounding Contemporary American Theatre*.

Deborah Jordan (M.F.A. 1989)

Deborah is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Jacksonville University.

John Kuhn (M.F.A. 1983) is the Artistic Director of the Actors' Theatre of Columbus. He recently directed OSU and the Actors' Theatre of Columbus' co-production of *Mary Stuart*.

Cynthia Lammel (M.F.A. 1987)

Cynthia is a lecturer at Chico State in California.

Brenda Laurel (Ph.D. 1986)

Brenda recently became Chair of the Graduate Program in Design at California College of the Arts. In this position, Laurel will provide the vision and leadership for the program and engage in collegewide strategic planning.

Christopher Merrill (B.A. 1979, M.F.A. 1981)

Christopher is a web designer and professional actor based in Chicago. He has appeared

Off Broadway in *Roots* (by Arnold Wesker) at Healey Jewish Repertory Theatre, *H. M. S. Pinafore* as Sir Joseph at NY Gilbert and Sullivan Players. In Chicago: *Of Thee I Sing* as Lippman at Drury Lane Oakbrook, *Candida* (March 2007) at Burgess Illinois Theatre Center. Regional: *Guys on Ice* (Feb. 2007) at Lloyd Riverside Theatre and *Proof* as Robert at Apollo Fine Arts Center.

Tom O'Connor (M.F.A. 1989)

Tom is a director, choreographer, adaptor and performer with professional credits in both traditional theatre and in new works. O'Connor's 2006 projects included performing in the premier of an original English language noh play *Pine Barrens* with Theatre Nohgaku; choreography for the premier of an original full length opera, Libby Larsen's *Every Man Jack*, for the Sonoma City Opera; and directing the WVU Theatre production of *Batboy: The Musical*. Tom O'Connor lives with his wife and two children, Naka who is almost eight as of this writing, and Mai Lisbeth who was born at 7:00 p.m. on December 8th, 2006.

Diane Wondisford (M.F.A. 1982)

Diane has worked with Music-Theatre Group, a pioneer organization in commissioning, developing, and producing innovative works combining music, theater, dance, and the visual arts, for 26 years. Wondisford is vice chair of the OPERA America Board and is also a board member of ART/NY.

1990's

Margaret Anich (M.F.A. 1995)

Margaret is the Ensemble Associate/Box Office Manager for Touchstone Theatre in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She was a full-time lecturer for three years in the Department of Theatre and Dance at University of North Carolina—Charlotte.

Wendy Bagger (M.F.A. 1999)

Wendy performed in Banyan Theater Company's production of *Uncle Vanya* by Anton Chekhov. She also played Viola in St. Louis Shakespeare's production of *Twelfth Night*.

Matt Ballin (M.F.A. 1991)

Matt has been a certified Actor/Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) and has produced, acted, and directed throughout the Bay Area and is happy to be teaching at Washington High School in San Francisco.

Frank Barnhart (M.F.A. 1993)

Frank is the Founding Producer of The Reality Theatre and the Executive Director of Act Out Productions. He is the moving force behind the Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival.

Anita Buhman-Wiggs (M.F.A. 1992)

Anita and her husband now live in Atchison, KS. Adam is a full-time faculty member of the Psychology Dept. at Benedictine College and Anita teaches Speech Communication. They have three (now four) children: Ian is 9, Emma is 5, James is 2, and #4 should have arrived in mid-May.

Cezanne Charles (B.A. 1997)

Cézanne Charles is currently the Executive Director of New Media Scotland, www.fastuk.org.uk.

Michelle Cuomo (M.F.A. 1997)

Michelle performed her one person show *Unveiled* at the Mad Lab Theatre in Columbus in March. In *Unveiled*, Cuomo portrays contemporary women in New York, Afghanistan, Egypt and Pakistan. Michelle is now teaching at Queensboro College in New York. She's worked with Judith Malina and the Living Theatre, and appeared at LaMaMa.

Ken Elston (M.F.A. 1996)

Ken Elston is Assistant Professor of Theatre at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and the Resident Theatre Artist at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. He teaches Acting and Directing with a speciality in movement for the stage and one-person show development. He is the Artistic Director of the Gray Ghost Theatre Company, dedicated to bringing history to life on the stage through theatrical works that are exciting, inventive and relevant.

Brad Fryman (M.F.A. 1996)

Brad Fryman is one of the founders of The Oberon Theatre Ensemble and its current Co-Producing Artistic Director. As such he has helped produce twenty-five full length plays, over thirty staged readings, and a plethora of fundraisers and special events.

Mary Beidler Gearen (M.A. 1990)

Mary conceived and directed *Before I Disappear*. The production was nominated for two Artist Directors' Awards (ADA) awards in LA. One for "best actress - musical," and one for "best production - musical."

L. J. Houdyshell (M.F.A. 1990)

L.J. was the Assistant Art Director for the sitcom *Everybody Loves Raymond* on CBS. She was also the Assistant Art Director for *Complete Savages* on ABC. She was a painter for the film, *Sugar Hill*.

David Hyland (M.F.A. 1996)

David teaches at Palm Beach Community College. He is a founding member of Mod 27 (improve troupe) in Palm Beach.

Tae-Kyeong "T. K." Kang (Ph.D. 1997)

T.K., who was here in Columbus a year ago on a sabbatical leave, continues not only to teach in Seoul, Korea but also to direct and publish regularly (on both Korean theatre and Shakespearean theatre). He is now working on a new project on Arthur Miller.

Lumiri "Tubo" Afridika Khahaifa

(M.F.A. 1991)

Tubo is an accomplished actress and singer. Her performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center's new Rose Room have garnered her rave reviews and standing ovations. She currently lives in upstate New York where she provides drama workshops for youngsters and works as a therapeutic staff supporter for troubled children. Tubo is a regular on the New York cabaret and jazz scene.

Varun Khanna (M.F.A. 1993)

Varun's second film *American Blend* is opened all over India in September 2006. Starring Anupam Kher (*Bend It Like Beckham*), *American Blend* won the best director and best achievement filmmaker award at the Riverside International Film Festival.

Joey Landwehr (M.F.A. 1997)

Joey has just finished his first full season as Artistic Director for the award winning J*Company Youth Theatre, one of the largest in California. With J*Company Joey has directed *Oliver!*, *Yours, Anne*, Disney's *Beauty And The Beast*, and *The Story of Hansel and Gretel*. He has also initiated educational and outreach programs with every show, which is something new for Southern California. He broke all attendance records for 14 years and his 1st season won 10 National Youth Theatre Awards as well as personally being given San Diego Metropolitan Magazine's "40 Leaders Under 40" Award for excellence in his field. On top of this Joey also directed the plays *The Madness Of Lady Bright* by Lanford Wilson (winning a best direction award.), *Diva By Diva* for the Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego and *Winnie-The-Pooh*,

Alumni and Friends (continued)

and performed in Lanford Wilson's *A Poster Of The Cosmos* (winning a best actor award.) *Yours, Anne* and Tennessee William's *The Chalky White Substance*.

Ramona Malec (M.F.A. 1993)

Ramona has taught at University of New Mexico, Los Alamos as well as at the Theater Residency Project with Gonzales Elementary School. She is a member of the Theatre Grottesco in New Mexico.

Jennifer Manvich (M.F.A. 2002)

Jennifer made her debut with The Minstrel Players in Long Island, NY. She has been performing professionally for several years.

Kenneth Martin (M.F.A. 1991)

Kenneth J. Martin is an Associate Professor of Theatre/Resident Designer and Chair at Coastal Carolina University. He has designed professionally for the Florida Rep, Surf Light Theatre, Sacramento Theatre Company, Ensemble Theatre of Cleveland and Contemporary American Theatre Company. Ken is a member of USA 829.

Michael Milligan (B.A. 1995)

Michael had a free public reading of his new play, *Heroine*, on Monday, May 21st, 2007 at the historic 13th St. repertory theatre in New York. It was directed by Hal Brooks and performed by Michael Milligan and Elizabeth Zins. Micheal played Costard in *Love's Labors Lost* at the Royal Shakespeare Theater in Stratford Upon Avon. The RSC hosted the Shakespeare Theater of D.C.

Chris Neher (M.F.A. 1999)

Chris is an Actor and vocal coach in New York. He is on the Faculty of the Voice Dept. in NY at AMDA (American Musical and Dramatic Academy).

Glenn Peters (M.F.A. 1999)

Glenn appeared as Lady Clem in *West Moon Street*, a new play by Rob Urbinati based on Oscar Wilde's "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime," directed by Davis McCallum with Prospect Theater Company at the Hudson Guild Theatre in New York. In February he returned to OSU to play the role of the Stage Manager in our production of *Our Town*.

Mikell Pinkney (Ph.D. 1999)

Mikell is an Associate Professor and Head of Performance & Graduate Actor Training School of Theatre and Dance at the University of Florida. The head of performance essentially functions as an artistic director while

the Director of the School, Kevin Marshall, is more of a manager, fundraiser and administrator. Mikell also functions as coordinator of the entire graduate program. Mikell directed Sir George Etherege's *The Man Of Mode*. He also played the judge in Stephen Adly Guirgis' *The Last Days Of Judus Iscariot*.

Jonathan Putnam (M.F.A. 1990)

Jon is the Associate Artistic Director for CATCO and performed in *The Complete History of America (Abridged)*. He will perform in Martin McDonagh's *The Pillowman* this fall and direct *The Drawer Boy* by Michael Healey in the winter and *The Foursome* by Norm Foster in the spring.

Venas Opal Reese (M.F.A. 1997)

Venas is an actress and professor of aesthetic studies at the University of Texas-Dallas. She has interviewed hundreds of black women in researching [hair weaves]. She recently performed her one-woman play *Split Ends*, which takes an in-depth look at black women and their historical tangle with hair.

Brian Russman (M.F.A. 1994)

Brian was the associate designer on *Wedding Singer* which was in Seattle early 2006 and then opened on Broadway in late May. After *Wedding Singer*, he moved on to a film that will open sometime late summer or fall called *American Gangster*. This was a major film (Universal) and stars Russell Crowe and Denzel Washington among others. The remainder of the year, he designed *The Rivals* for New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, then he worked on a workshop of a new touring production featuring Shaolin kung fu.

Brian also worked on a tour of *Spamalot* for Las Vegas, and two new London to Broadway transfers of *The Chorus Boy* and *Frost/Nixon*. Amongst this, he designed a production of *The Play's The Thing* and worked on an opera, *The Saint Of Bleeker Street* which was performed at Central City opera in Colorado starting mid July.

Michael E. Steinberg (M.F.A. 1998)

Michael joined The Lighting Design Group, Inc. (New York, NY) as a Staff Lighting Designer. He will be the Lighting Designer of Record for CNBC, whose studios are across the George Washington in Englewood Cliffs, NJ. He has freelanced, working mostly corporate meetings and events, for the last 5 years.

Laura Sipe (B.A. 1997)

Laura Sipe is the Events Manager for the

John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University. The School was formed with the merger of the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy and the School of Public Policy and Management in July 2006. As the Events Manager Laura oversees the School's wide variety of offerings, including recent lectures with broadcaster Tom Brokaw, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, and historian David McCullough. In the summer of 2007 Laura collaborated with Lesley Ferris to design the catalog for the exhibit "Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival," which will open in London in September 2007.

Michael Swanson (Ph.D. 1991)

Michael Swanson is this year's Kennedy Center Gold Medallion recipient in Region III, presented to those in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) regions who have made extraordinary contributions to the teaching and producing of theatre and to the development and quality of the Kennedy Center's American College Theater Festival.

Anike Tourse (M.F.A. 1999)

Anike performed an internationally acclaimed one-woman show portraying the life of slave, abolitionist and women's rights advocate Sojourner Truth. She also wrote and produced a public service announcement starring Selma Hayek. Anike is a media consultant for the Coalition for Humane and Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles.

Kim Turney (M.F.A. 1992)

Kim has been blessed lately with a constant schedule of film work with the HD camera workflow that she does. She has created a new job title on IMDB even - camera data manager. Recently, she worked on a film called *Childless* starring Barbara Hershey, Joe Montagna, James Naughton and Diane Venora.

Luther Wells (M.F.A. 1993)

Luther is the Chair of theatre department at Florida A&M University. He directed *Jitney* by August Wilson in February 2007.

Richard Wesp (M.F.A. 1991)

Mr. Wesp is an adjunct instructor at Niagara County Community College, teaching Acting I, Acting III and History of Theatre. He has worked as an actor in professional regional theatres, including GeVa, the Cleveland Playhouse in Ohio, the Champlain Shakespeare festival in Vermont, the American Players

Theatre in Wisconsin, the Academy Theatre of Atlanta, the Theatre at Monmouth in Maine, among others. He has also worked off-Broadway, and this summer made his second career appearance at The English Theatre of Vienna, Austria.

2000's

Naomi Hatsfelt Baker (M.F.A. 2002)

Naomi is an Assistant Professor of Acting at Wilkes University. Previously she was at The University of Alabama at Birmingham where she served as assistant professor of voice and speech. She is a Lessac Designated Teacher Certification Candidate and holds active memberships in Actors' Equity Association, Voice and Speech Trainers Association, and the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

Russell Blain (M.F.A. 2006)

Russ is an Assistant Professor of Lighting, Sound and the Technical Director at The Northern Arizona University Department of Theatre in Flagstaff. He recently attended the Prague Quadrennial.

Sara Borgeson (M.F.A. 2003)

Sara is an actress and instructor who has performed at the Denver Fine Arts Center (*Nuncrackers*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Sweet Charity*) and with the Denver Children's Theatre. She worked with both the Youth Rep (*The Secret Garden*) and Youth Rep Jr. (*Magic Theatre*) programs at the Denver Fine Arts Center.

Caroline Bradac (M.F.A. 2000)

Carrie performed in *Wounded*, her third production with The Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble. She was last seen there playing "Sharice" in Adam Rapp's *Stone Cold Dead Serious*, directed by Larry Arrick. She was recently seen playing the lead role in the horror film *Miner's Massacre*, starring Karen Black.

Curtis "Nitz" Brown (B.A. 2006)

Curtis was the light board operator for CATCO's production of *The Piano Lesson*.

Eric Colleary (B.A. 2006)

Eric is a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. He is teaching a writing intensive section of Introduction to Theatre and has been given a research position to investigate enrollment patterns in their Introduction to Theatre class. He served as a movement coach for a

physically-intensive university production of Heiner Muller's *Die Hamletmaschine* and also for a staged reading on diversity directed by one of his professors.

Abby Crain (B.A. 2004)

Abby has spent the last year living in Pamplona, Spain. She teaches English to students of all ages at a private academy there. In the coming school year she will teach dance and theatre classes in addition to English. She got married on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2007, in Zizur Mayor, Spain.

Betsy Cutler (M.F.A. 2002) and **Brian Obermeyer** (B.A. 2004) announced their plans to get married in September 2007.

Lise "Kat" Evans (M.F.A. 2006)

Lise was cast in *Be Twixt and Be Twain* for The Human Race Theatre in Dayton. It's a Mark Twain piece, cast of 5, that toured to schools throughout the Dayton area from September 18-November 3, 2006. Lise was also in the cast of *My Favorite Year* at Bailwick Repertory Theatre in Chicago.

Laura Gale (Simpson) (B.A. 2002)

Laura is the Executive Artistic Director of New York Theatre Experiment (NYTE). She has spent the past six months guiding NYTE towards new levels of creative and administrative success through an intensive professional development process. In addition to running the company, Laura will be co-producing *Burn*. She recently worked as Assistant Director to American theatre icon Anne Bogart on SITI Company's production of *Radio Macbeth* at the Public Theater in New York and the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio.

Cristin Gerleman (B.A. 2007)

Cristin returned with members of The Ohio State University Theatre Department to the Czech Republic June 2007 in anticipation for the world renowned Prague Quadrennial. Cristin is acting in the supporting role of Patricia in *Accidents at Home and How They Happen*. Directed by the award-winning Jennifer Reeder, the feature length film is in conjunction with Wexner Center for the Arts and filming in Columbus this summer (July 2007).

Kathleen Gonzales (M.F.A. 2002)

Kathleen gave a reading of her one-woman play, *The Bridge of Bodies*, which she originally wrote and performed as part of her masters thesis. After many rewrites and work with her director Patrick Crowley she did a reading of

the play as a part of the STILL GOING SOLO festival of solo performances for women being produced by Horizons Theatre Company at the Warehouse Theatre in November.

Robin Gordon (M.F.A. 2000)

Robin is Artistic Administrator for CATCO. She attended GCAC's Arts Integration for Teaching Artists seminar, and has recently been appointed to the Ohio Department of Education's State Committee for the Arts and Innovative Thinking. Robin played Sarah the Lizard in CATCO's production of *Seascape* and Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Kenderick Hardy (M.F.A. 2000)

Hardy served as director of theater at Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery last year. He joins the Alabama State University faculty as an instructor of orientation. He is a spoken word poet with one album to his credit - "Apollo's Poetics." He has also created a spoken word poetry drama titled "K-nowhere to run, nowhere to Hide." Hardy appeared as Warren in the Porthouse Theatre's (Kent, Ohio) production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and in the Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival's production of *Romeo and Juliet* as Romeo.

Mandy Hart (M.F.A. 2002)

Mandy is a venue tech for the New York Musical Festival. She designed the set for Graces Theatre Company's production of Heather McDonald's *Dream of a Common Language* at the Hudson Guild Theatre in New York. She recently accepted a faculty appointment at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater.

Jason Hedden (M.F.A. 2006)

Jason did a Workshop Performance of his one-man-show, *Resurrecting Van Gogh*, based on the life, work and writing of Andy Martin, on January 26 at the Creative Center in New York, NY. He is currently teaching theatre at Monte Vista Christian School near Santa Cruz, CA. Jason is also the creator and performer of *Let's Get this Show on the Road, Tennis Pro*, and director/co-creator of *Oliver Hazard Perry: The Price of Victory*.

Jim Hutchison (M.F.A. 2003)

Jim has been accepted into the United Scenic Artists of America Designer's Union, in the category of Lighting Designer.

Creighton James (B.A. 2000)

Creighton is the Artistic Associate/Director of Audience Development of New York Theatre Experiment (NYTE). His one-act play, *Am I*

Alumni and Friends (continued)

Born To Die? was performed at NYTE's 2007 Benefit in May. New York Theatre Experiment will present the World Premiere production of Creighton James' new play, *Burn*, at the New York International Fringe Festival this summer. *Burn* is the second installment in his Appalachian trilogy, which started with *Feud*, a play we produced at the Fringe Festival in 2005. Creighton also just completed the Graduate Acting Program at NYU and signed with an agent and manager.

Kristopher Jones (M.F.A. 2002)

Kris recently returned to The Department of Theatre to teach an advanced stage lighting design class. He serves as the Entertainment Supervisor and Resident Lighting Designer for Six Flags Great America.

John Leahy (B.A. 2001)

John is a Sales Manager for the Fastenal Company, an industrial supply company in Houston, TX. He manages a staff of salespeople and warehouse help to supply the oil and aerospace industries. John married Dorothy, an 8th grade English Teacher, in June 2006.

Esther Kim (Lee) (Ph.D. 2000)

Esther's book *A History Of Asian American Theatre* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) was recently selected for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) book award. Esther is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. In May, she and her husband Albert had a baby girl named Erin.

Tarashai Lee (M.F.A. 2003)

Tarashai appeared on three episodes of *Flavor of Love*.

Tatjana Longerot (M.F.A. 2002)

Tatjana designed costumes for CATCO's production of *The Piano Lesson* and serves as CATCO's Resident Costumer.

Robert Lublin (Ph.D. 2003)

Robert, who teaches at University of Massachusetts, Boston, has continued to publish regularly on both American drama and English Renaissance theatre. He has just signed a contract for his book project, tentatively titled *Costuming the Shakespearean Stage*.

Joe Maloney (B.A. 2005)

Joe and Michael Lluberes' musical, *The Boy in the Bathroom* has been selected to premiere in the 2007 New York Musical Theatre Festival.

Dan Matthews (M.F.A. 2006)

In spring 2007, Matthews was hired on a tenure track line as the Technical Director of The University of Kansas Speech Communication, Theatre and Dance Department.

Michael Mauldin (Ph.D. 2000)

Michael is the new director of the dramatic arts program at Cleveland State University.

Tanya McBride (M.F.A. 2006)

Tanya's performance in OSU Theatre's production of *A Bright Room Called Day* was selected as one of the Best Female Performances of 2006 by Jay Wietz, *Columbus Alive*. Tanya is completing an internship with The Neo-Futurists in Chicago. She recently appeared in *You Asked For It!*, the newest "Neo PRIME-TIME show." Tanya was cast as an understudy in Mary Zimmerman's new production, *Mirror of the Invisible World* at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago.

Jessica Morgan (M.F.A. 2000)

Jessica is an Assistant Professor of Stage Movement at West Virginia University. Her work in the classroom focuses on Suzuki, Viewpoints, Composition, and Laban Effort Qualities, as well as Pilates matwork. One of Morgan's special interests is the creation of original movement theatre pieces. Her newest work, "emotion[al]," was a collaboration with faculty member Joshua Williamson, and was first shown in fall 2006. Morgan is a member of the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD), the Association of Theatre Movement Educators (ATME), and is an Equity Membership Candidate.

Allyson Morgan (B.A. 2004)

Allyson is currently an Artistic Associate with New York Theatre Experiment, a company she co-founded in 2004 with OSU alums Laura Gale, Creighton James, and Joey Schultz. Additionally, she is the Program Director for StudentsLive, an award-winning Broadway education outreach company. This past year, she completed a six-month Equity tour of *Ramona Quimby* with Theatreworks/USA, and performed with New York companies Emerging Artists Theatre and You Are Here Productions.

Ryan Osborn (B.A. 2001)

Ryan is the Lighting Supervisor for The Wexner Center for the Arts. He recently passed the Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) exam and is a Certified Entertainment Electrician.

Elizabeth Pandora (B.A. 2006)

Betsy is the Education Outreach and Development Coordinator for the Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University. She is a member of the Columbus Arts Marketing Association, the Columbus Fringe Festival Advisory Board and a volunteer grant writer for MadLab Theatre Company. She will begin pursuing her M.B.A. at The Fisher College of Business in the fall of 2007.

Chris Roche (M.F.A. 2006)

Chris was selected as one of the best male performers of 2006 by Jay Weitz of *Columbus Alive*. Jay said, "Christopher Roche commanded the stage as Mr. Mister in OSU's *The Cradle Will Rock*." Chris played Jigger Craig in *Carousel* at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia during May 15 – July 15, 2007. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Theatre at Ohio State in fall 2007.

Angeles Romero (M.F.A. 2003)

Angeles performed *El Entrecejo/The Brow* at Talento Bilingue de Houston (www.tbhcenter.org) in April 2007. *El Entrecejo/The Brow* is a solo movement theater piece by Romero, an actor, writer, and activist whose work mediates on the new lexicon of contemporary Latino culture and its political relations to Anglo and international cultures.

Ryan Scarlata (B.A. 2006)

Ryan announced the opening of Club Theatre Company where he is the Artistic Director at Club Diversity. Keeping with the club's dedication to excellent live music, the Club Theatre Company will add an opportunity to provide its patrons with a truly unique line-up of productions in a space that is like none other in Columbus. The company's first production was *A Girl's Gotta Eat: The Musical*, written and directed by recent Ohio State University graduate Bonnie Milligan.

Joseph Schultz (B.A. 2003)

Joseph is the Artistic Associate/Director of Project Development of New York Theatre Experiment (NYTE). Schultz is overseeing NYTE's ambitious series of administrative initiatives. He is supervising the planning of this season's Benefit. Schultz is currently enrolled in a writing class at the New School, where he is working on a memoir inspired by his relationship with his grandmother, Nana.

Friends News

Megan Faye Schutt (M.F.A. 2006)

Megan played Princess Chloe in *The Princess Who Would Not Marry* at the Rogue Theater Company in Chicago in January and February 2006.

Amy Schmidt (B.A. 2004)

Amy was formerly known as Amy Long. On June 18, 2007, she will celebrate her 2nd wedding anniversary with husband Matthew Schmidt. She is finishing the second year in The Ohio State University's Department of Dance M.F.A. program, emphasis in Directing from Score. Amy is conducting studio and thesis research investigating the role of folk dance in the modern nation of Israel's cultural identity. She is employed as a Graduate Administrative Associate at OSU's Graduate School.

Stacey Siak (B.A. 2004)

Stacy was the properties master for CATCO's production of *The Piano Lesson*.

Mandalyn Stevens (B.A. 2007)

Mandalyn is currently the stage manager for Near West Theatre in Cleveland, Ohio. Her recent shows include *Urinetown* (the musical) and *Annie Jr.* She travelled to Toronto with the SUPERNOVA Theatre Company to debut *History of Stripping* at the Fringe Festival. She also worked as an Assistant Stage Manager with the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival.

Anjeanette Stokes (M.F.A. 2005)

Anjeanette worked on New York Theatre Experiment's production of *Fallen* at the Gene Frankel Theatre. She was nominated for a New York Innovative Theatre Off-off Broadway Award for a show she did in May 2006 with some fellow Williamstown alums called *Bloody Mary*. She transferred *A Jew Grows in Brooklyn* again...her first and undying Off-Broadway show...for which she negotiated residuals. At the same time she lighted the New York premiere of *Nickel and Dimed* based on the book by Joan Holden. Anjeanette designed lights for Graces Theatre Company's production of Heather McDonald's *Dream of a Common Language* at the Hudson Guild Theatre in New York and for Fildwith Ensemble Theatre's off-off-Broadway musical *Time Being* at Theatre Three in New York.

Sean Sullivan (B.A. 2000)

Sean recently played Dr. Joseph Cardin in *The Children's Hour* at TimeLine Theatre. He has also appeared in *The General From America* and *Fiorello!* there. Sean plays guitar and sings with his Irish folk/bluegrass band, One of the Girls (www.oneofthegirls.net).

Emily Thiel (B.A. 2006)

Emily was the 2006-2007 CATCO Stage Management Fellow. She was the assistant stage manager for CATCO's production of *The Piano Lesson*.

Anthony Trujillo (M.F.A. 2006)

Anthony is an intern at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

Allison Walker (B.A. 2006)

Allison is the recipient of the 2007-2008 CATCO Stage Management Fellowship. She stage managed the School of Music production of *Elixir of Love*, which was staged in Mershon Auditorium.

Adam West (M.F.A. 2004)

Adam is a costume designer and is teaching at the School of Performing Arts State University of New York-College at Geneseo in Geneseo, NY.

Blair Wing (M.F.A. 2006)

Blair performed her new work, *The History of Stripping* at the Toronto Fringe Festival with The SUPERNOVA Theatre Company.

Nan Zhang (M.A., M.F.A. 2001)

Nan Zhang teaches at Smith College. She worked as a lighting designer in Beijing, China, and is developing design work in the United States. Ambitiously, she is attempting to develop her design career in both countries. Despite the difficulties for a woman to make her way professionally in China as a designer, Nan is pushing open the doors and getting opportunities

Alumni and Friends



We want to hear from you!

Please send updates and

photos to

theatre@osu.edu

or

encore

**The Ohio State University
Department of Theatre
1089 Drake Performance and
Event Center
1849 Cannon Drive
Columbus OH 43210-1208**

Steven Anderson received an Excellence in Directing award at the Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable and the Central Ohio Theatre Critics' Circle Annual Theatre Awards Event for his direction of OSU Theatre's production of *Hair*.

A Roy Bowen Award for Lifetime Achievement was presented to **Katherine Burkman** Ohio State University English professor emeritus and playwright at the annual the Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable awards for co-founding and leading Women at Play throughout its 12-year run, and for her world-renowned scholarship, books and international OSU conference on playwright Harold Pinter.

Chris Cowan (B.A. 2006, PSP in Video Production) and **Alex Randleman** (Minor 2006) submitted a video piece *Fingerman* to "On The Lot" which is like American Idol but with filmmakers. Their piece was in the top 100 out of the 12,000+ people who sent in their films. It was used for the On The Lot commercial.

Angela D'Ambrosia died in April 2006. She taught acting at Ohio State in the mid 1970s after an extensive professional career as a performer, one of the first acting teachers hired for the then new M.F.A. program. She inspired several of her students in an early effort at starting a professional theatre in Columbus. She also taught at Emerson College, Dalhousie University in Halifax, Carnegie Mellon University, and West Virginia University. At the time of her death, she was on the faculty of the Pittsburgh Musical Theatre. One of the founding members at the Pittsburgh Playhouse of what became the American Conservatory Theatre, she taught an intensive acting technique drawn heavily from the methods of Constantine Stanislavski. She was 69 and is survived by her son, Nick Flynn, of Morgantown, West Virginia.

Connie Grappo

Connie is currently working as artistic director of the Working Theater in NYC and teaching acting at Yale, where she's been on the faculty for about nine years and where she received her M.F.A. in directing in 1995. Connie was in the BFA acting program at OSU for three years until 1977 after transferring from Otterbein.

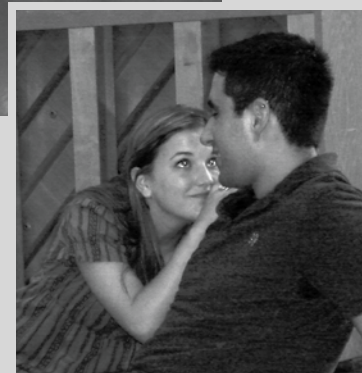
InterACT

In the summer of 2006, Mark Shanda met with several of the Vice-Provosts and shared his vision for the creation of an interactive theatre ensemble of undergraduate students who could serve the campus in addressing issues of social change and policy instruction. The idea was to offer a service learning class for 15 undergraduates per quarter under the leadership of a director/facilitator trained in interactive theatre techniques. The group would develop and perform projects related to graduate student orientation, Faculty and TA development events, and work with specific units to start dialogue about challenging operational issues. Within a week of that meeting cash commitments were received from the Office of Academic Affairs, the Graduate School and the Dean of Undergraduate Education. These funds along with support from the College of the Arts and the Department of Theatre combined to form a salary package to hire a 9-month lecturer to organize and direct the InterACT company.

We are pleased to report that the InterACT program has had a highly successful year and has been well received by the university community. Under the direction of Robin Post (M.F.A. 2006) InterACT has presented interactive events for Faculty and TA development (FTAD) the Office of Minority Affairs (OMA) The First Year Experience (FYE) University Extension and Outreach, The Wellness Center, The School of Dentistry, and the Office of Disability Services. In addition, InterACT has fielded requests for future potential projects with the Martin Luther King Complex, the Wexner Center, the Multicultural Center, WOSU, the College of Engineering, and even Purdue University.



InterACT cast members bow after a performance.



Adrienne Varwig and Jesse Urban in an InterACT scene.



Adrienne Varwig, Diana Bae and Akil Babb in an InterACT scene.



Pamela Sanchez in an InterACT scene.

"I've been at OSU for 14 yrs and this was far and away one of the Best workshops (of any kind) I have ever done."

—Faculty

UNDERGRAD PERFORMANCE IN *HAIR* By Akil Babb



Akil Babb in a scene from *Hair*.

In November 2006 I had the amazing opportunity to perform with an outstanding cast, crew and director in *Hair*, directed by Mandy Fox and Steven C. Anderson. I also had the opportunity to work with a few of the brand new M.F.A. Actors in their first show in the theatre program at OSU. They demonstrated a love for theatre and for helping undergraduate students. This experience was one of my first lead roles and a wish come true. I played the character of Hud, an African-American male that is distraught with the ways of society and fed up with stereotypes in the world. This gave me a chance to represent issues dear to me and portray a character I have always wanted to analyze. Reliving the Hippie days of the

sixties was an eye-opener. The challenges of living in the sixties as an outcast or another form of militia, which the hippies were classified as, was a feat that should - and will - be remembered throughout history. Getting to relive this historic event was a wonderful and successful experience that will be a great story to tell later on down the road. Working at the Southern Theatre and performing on a professional stage was an unforgettable accomplishment that will be a magnificent memory.

I would like to thank the Department of Theatre, faculty, staff, cast and crew for helping me grow as a person, an actor, and a student in my many years at OSU. I will never forget the experiences with all of you.

The Daily Show Goes Scarlet and Gray

By Mark Shanda, Chair and Professor



Jon Stewart

It all started with a phone call in February 2006, "Would The Ohio State University be interested in hosting *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*?" Nine months later and after numerous meetings, phone calls, faxes, e-mails, and even a bit of regular mail, the Department of Theatre played host to a two-week residency from October 23-November 3 with nearly 100 *Daily Show* staffers and Jon Stewart himself. The Roy Bowen Theatre became the Midwest headquarters of Stewart's "news" operation, broadcasting live-to-tape daily from October 30 through November 2. While the television audience enjoyed *Battlefield Ohio: The Daily Show's Midwest Midterm Midtacular*, the students, faculty, and staff of the department engaged in a wide variety of residency activities. Highlights included:

- Dean Karen Bell hosting an intimate "conversation with Jon Stewart and *Daily Show* staff members" in the Jerome Schottenstein Center on October 28 with over 12,000 OSU faculty, staff and students in attendance.
- Numerous graduate and undergraduate students had the opportunity to work with the *Daily Show* staff in a variety of roles, learning hands-on about television production and observing a highly successful team in action
- *Daily Show* director Chuck O'Neil met with 40 undergraduate students taking video courses in the Department to share his personal work history as well as offering specific assistance to the students' own video projects. O'Neil also did a "walk and talk" interview and tour through the five video production trucks on site.
- Line producer Jill Katz and director Chuck O'Neil shared a department-wide forum about the show, the reasons for their Ohio residency, and encouraged students pursuing a career in the entertainment industry.
- Associate Producers Gina Brown and Jen Flanz, who review hundreds of resumes and cover letters each week, shared

their own career histories and made invaluable suggestions to students who will soon be on the job market.

- Dr. Joy Reilly's freshman seminar was given a tour of *The Daily Show* set during its installation and met with several staffers for a Q & A session.
- Correspondents Dan Bakkedahl and Rob Riggle shared a ninety-minute "long form" improvisation workshop with students from the Freshman Seminar, Theatre 100 and the Eighth Floor Improv Troupe.
- Avid editor Mark Paone and field producer Stu Miller spoke about editing and toured the video editing truck with interested students.
- Nearly 50 students attended a writing workshop with Emmy award-winning writers from the show's staff.
- Over 100 undergraduate Theatre majors and over 35 graduate students in Theatre attended the tapings and served as support staff.
- *The Daily Show* made a contribution to support theatre graduate student activities and paid rental fees for all space and equipment used to support their residency.

We all celebrate the generous spirit of *The Daily Show* staff in impacting our students' lives. The positive examples they set and the spirit of engagement and cooperation that they shared will long be a hallmark experience for all involved.



Daily Show correspondents Dan Bakkedahl and Rob Riggle demonstrate "long form" improvisation to students from the Freshman Seminar, Theatre 100 and the Eighth Floor Improv Troupe.



Line producer Jill Katz and director Chuck O'Neil share in a department-wide forum.



DJ Javerbaum, Head Writer, and Ben Karlin, Executive Producer of *The Daily Show* speak with graduate students.

The set of *Battlefield Ohio: The Daily Shows' Midwest Midterm Midtacular* in the Roy Bowen Theatre.

Graduate acting program grows up

Theatre department celebrates 35 years of MFA degree training

By Julia Harris, OnCampus Staff Writer

More than 10 years ago the Department of Theatre asked itself a tough question: Why would anyone come to Columbus to study acting at the graduate level?

Considering the competition for acting students includes places like Cornell, Columbia, Yale and NYU, it may surprise some to find out the department has been handing out Master's of Fine Arts degrees for 35 years.

Mark Shanda, department chair, admits the program has had a bit of an identity crisis in its three-plus decades as faculty wrestled with carving out a unique niche for it.

"Part of the reason the Yale School of Drama is so successful is they're a train ride away from New York City," he says. "They've got people on their faculty who swoop in for a morning or an afternoon a week. There's no way we could compete with that."

The answer for Ohio State's department, says Associate Professor Jeanine Thompson, has been to go with its strengths and what distinguishes it from other programs.

The big distinction that separates Ohio State from the pack, Shanda says, is the Wexner Center and the Department of Dance. Both have brought high-quality contemporary arts to Columbus and attracted national attention to the creative process that goes on here.

Faculty have teamed with Chuck Helm, director of performance at the Wexner, to bring innovative performers and ensembles — like SITI Company, the New York-based group that premiered its new work "Radio Macbeth" in Columbus — to campus for long-term residencies.

When the program first launched, it was a single-track progression toward a degree in traditional theater. In 1996, the program was split into two tracks: A traditional, ensemble-based track and an independent track, where students would focus on creating new dramatic works of their own.

Then, in 2002, the MFA in acting degree underwent what faculty hope will be its final metamorphosis: The two tracks were fused into one and given a sharpened focus on collaboration and creation.

Program designers went a step further in differentiating the degree by establishing that only 10 students would be admitted each three-year cycle. The students would take classes as a group and graduate as a group, with a whole new crop of students arriving the next fall.

While a bit risky — what happens if the students end up hating each other, or worse, the faculty gets fed up with the students? — Shanda says the strategy helps promote unity, financial responsibility and curriculum cohesiveness.

The curricular focus on the creation of new work doesn't mean students miss out on the more conventional aspects of actor training, adds Shanda. Students pursue a rigorous program, fully funded, in which they hone their voice, movement, directing and acting skills.

They also develop community outreach and engagement projects to harness the power of theater for social change. Last year, the students worked with a women's shelter in Mansfield, capturing the women's

I researched and auditioned for many MFA Acting programs before choosing Ohio State, such as Columbia, Brown and Yale, as well as NYU. I like the individualized opportunities and focus that creates for the MFA actors here. I also appreciate the strong relationship between the graduate and undergraduate program. Students of all experience levels can interact and learn from one another within productions and other projects.

I appreciate the relatively private and focused nature of our classes and the opportunity to teach undergraduate classes as well as the generous financial package and stipend.

Another major highlight is the experience and reputation of Movement Professor Jeanine Thompson. I was extremely excited to study techniques like Viewpoints, Suzuki, Laban and especially mime from someone so accomplished who also has studied with the masters of these disciplines, such as Marcel Marceau.

— Kiana Harris,
M.F.A. Acting Student



Dwayne Blackaller



Raymond Caldwell



Kiana Harris



Virginia Logan



Bruno Lovric



Julie Ann McMillan



Johamy Morales



Jessica Podewell



Kalafatic Poole



Scott Wilson

stories and crafting them into an original drama, *Hidden Voices*, that explored the issue of domestic violence.

"We believe any of our students could walk into a regional theater and audition with the person standing next to them — who might well have come from Yale — and be completely successful," Shanda says. "But we've also come to realize that the type of student we attract already has a background in the fundamentals of traditional stage performance. Our job is to give them a whole new set of tools."

So far the program seems to be working. The first band of 10 MFA students graduated last June and all of them have jobs.

"They're not working the front desk at Motel 6," Shanda says with a laugh. "In all seriousness, we give them a strong set of skills, and it's up to them how they choose to use them. I'm confident that within the next seven years, some of those 10 students we just graduated will become widely recognizable in the entertainment industry."

PRAGUE

Prague Quadrennial, 2007

By Kristine Kearney, Assistant Professor

BACKGROUND: One of Matt Hazard's beautiful photos of the Prague landscape.

In culmination of Joe Brandesky's Course in Czech Theatre and Culture, and as participants in the 2007 International Theatre Prague Quadrennial, approximately 30 students, faculty and staff traveled to Prague, Czech Republic in early June. In addition to extensively touring the city and its surroundings, all attended the prestigious Quadrennial, an international theatre festival which displays the work of professional and student theatre artists from around the world. Six of OSU's M.F.A. design students collaborated with students from DAMU (Prague) and Victoria College of the Arts (Melbourne, Australia) to create a presentation as part of the Phoenix project. Some students were disappointed in having arrived in Prague rather late in the process, but all agreed that the final collaborative work "The Painting Baby", part of "The Baby Life Cycle", was highly successful. A metal baby doll, paint brush firmly tied in hand, was suspended slightly above the ground in front of the main Exhibition Hall. Six "puppeteers" each held a string that controlled the painting puppet baby. As students, children, professors and interested onlookers took turns controlling the strings, the baby took on a comic life seemingly all its own, painting random patterns along the pavement.



College of the Arts Dean Karen Bell takes a turn with the puppet baby in Prague.



The site of the Prague Quadrennial.



Elinore Loomis, Sarah Sugarbaker, Corinne Porter and Jason Banks admiring the exhibition.



Students shooting *The Birds* video project.



(Back) Lindsay Simon, Jordan Kardasz, Matthew McCarren, Jaroslav Malina, Matt Hazard, Anthony Pellecchia, Brad Steinmetz, Greg Owen (Front) Jason Banks, Corinne Porter, Elinor Loomis, Sarah Sugarbaker and ChuYoung Chon.



Students and faculty enjoying an informal talk with respected Czech theatre designer Jaroslav Malina.

Along with attending the Quadrennial, students toured the beautiful Cathedrals of St. Vitus and St. Peter and Paul, the Prague Castle, The Old Jewish Cemetery and Old/New Synagogue, the National, Vinohrady and Estates Theatres, and the National Gallery (Veletrezní Palace). Further a field, we toured Archduke Ferdinand's Hunting Castle at Konopiste, the mining town of Kutna Hora and Cathedral of St. Barbora, the ossuary at Sedlec, the charming Museum of Puppets at Chrudim, and the lovely Troja chateau (now a museum). We walked for hours during our weeklong visit, enjoying among many sights, the fifteenth century astronomical clock in Old Town Square, the beautiful Baroque, Rococo and Art Nouveau buildings, and the exquisite views of the city and river Vltava from the fourteenth century Charles Bridge.

I believe the highlight of the tour, aside from the Exhibition, came for me and many others in the form of the first dress rehearsal for a production of *The Tempest*, held out doors alongside an old church near Prague castle. Our friend and respected Czech theatre designer Jaroslav Malina (who had addressed the students with an informal talk earlier that week) had designed the scenery and kindly had secured an invitation for us to see the rehearsal. The play was performed entirely in the native Czech language, but all could understand when Gonzalo had trouble with his lines, when the train of Ariel's costume snagged a prop, and when Prospero had trouble finding the sleeves of his magic robe and needed to look to Miranda for help. It was a grand experience to see that rehearsals in Prague encounter many of the same challenges as do their American counterparts.

New Faces

Beth Kattelman

Assistant Curator, Theatre Research Institute



Beth Kattelman received her doctoral degree in theatre from The Ohio State University in 1999. She also holds a masters degree in library science from Kent State.

Beth has performed with various theatre companies throughout the Midwest including the ArtReach Touring Theatre, The Cincinnati Children's Theatre, The Reality Theatre, Act Out Productions and Actor's Theatre. She has also worked with Megan Terry at the Omaha Magic Theatre, where she served as company member and sound designer for productions of *Body Leaks* and *Sound Fields/Sound Minds*.

Beth co-founded Madcap Productions a Cincinnati based puppet-theatre company that continues to tour throughout the country. She also co-founded and served as Artistic Director of the New Venture Theatre, a Columbus company that was devoted to showcasing and developing new works. She has directed several award-winning productions in Cincinnati and Columbus including *The Rocky Horror Show* (the inaugural production for Stage Five Repertory Company), *The Story of My Life: Part One, the End* (written by OSU visiting artist Dr. Allan Munro), *Agnes of God*, and *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love*.

Beth currently is a member of the Advisory Board for the Columbus Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival and is a contributor to the Gale Group's Drama for Students series. She has also written entries for numerous theatre encyclopedias and reference sources.

Education:

- B.A. Xavier University
- M.A. The Ohio State University
- Ph.D. The Ohio State University
- M.L.I.S. The Kent State University

Jennifer Schlueter

Lecturer



Jennifer Schlueter is a 2006 recipient of Ohio State's prestigious Graduate Associate Teaching Award. She is also a doctoral candidate in the Department of Theatre. Her scholarly work focuses on popular American performance in

the 19th and 20th century. She also studies the historical and contemporary avant-garde, American scenography, and the theory and practice of adaptation and translation.

Jen's master's thesis, " 'This is what it is to be human:' the Drama and History of Charles L. Mee" was the first full-length study of Mee's challenging body of work. A portion of this study was published in the Fall 2005 *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*. She contributed a chapter on Mee's patrons to a collection of essays on philanthropy entitled *Angels in American Theatre* (ed. Robert Schanke, forthcoming from SIU Press, 2007). She has also published reviews in *Theatre Journal*.

Jen is also a director, playwright, and dramaturg. Her recently staged playwriting projects include *Hattie* (a children's theatre piece, 2006) and *North* (a new work on the life of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, 2006). Her recent directing projects include *North* (2006), *All in the Timing* (2005), *El Entrecejo/The Brow* (touring production, 2004), and *Cuerpos Ambulantes* (for the eighth annual Encuentro de Mujeres Iberoamerica en las Artes Escenicas, Madrid, Spain, 2004). Her recent dramaturgical projects include *A Movie Star Has to Star in Black and White* (New York University, 2006), and *Dominion* (Theatro Technis, London, 2005). In 2000, she interned in dramaturgy at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. She is a founding member of the For/Word Company.

In 2007, Jen coordinated an invitational conference, "Disciplining Interdisciplinarity," for the Graduate Syndicate. She also received a Presidential Fellowship in December. She recently accepted a job offer from University of Oregon. She will have her second child this autumn, and then begin the job in autumn 2008.

Education

- B. A. Truman State University (Kirksville, MO)
- M. A. The Ohio State University
- Ph. D. The Ohio State University

Jimmy Bohr

Assistant Professor



Jimmy Bohr has a M.F.A. in Directing from Florida State University and a B.A. in Theatre from The Catholic University of America. He also attended the Goodman Theatre School's Acting Program and was a Directing Intern at the

Actors Theatre of Louisville. Bohr's training includes a strong base in Stanislavsky, including Technique, Scene Study, and Basic and Advanced Acting as well as a strong background in theatre history and structure and a particular expertise in American theatrical styles.

Bohr joined the faculty of The Ohio State University Department of Theatre as an Assistant Professor in September 2006. He comes to OSU from the New York School of Film and Television, where he taught courses in Shakespeare, Advanced On-Camera Study, Intro to Camera, and Daytime Drama. Bohr has also taught at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. His teaching philosophy is to "encompass as many of the accepted disciplines as possible, and to give each student the specific tools needed to create freely and do the best work possible."

Before his teaching career, he was the Casting Director for *As The World Turns* (CBS), *Another World* (NBC), and the Assistant Casting Director for *Guiding Light* (CBS). Bohr has also directed over thirty stage productions ranging from New York's Off-Broadway theatres to Regional theatres and encompassing classical and contemporary works, as well as culturally diverse and innovative new plays with emerging playwrights.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, Bohr was involved with undergraduates and graduates in both the classroom and main-stage productions. His courses just began to dabble in his areas of expertise, through various acting studios, an Introduction to Stage Directing, and an all-time favorite with the students, Acting for the Camera. Bohr directed OSU Theatre's main-stage production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* (winter 2007) in the Roy Bowen Theatre.

Education

- B. A. The Catholic University of America
- M. F. A. Florida State University

Nicholas Dekker

Theatre 100 Administrator



Nicholas Dekker has a goal to be professor at a small liberal arts college someday. He has taught a number of courses at Ohio State, from Intro to Theatre and Script Analysis to Playwriting and Contemporary British Theatre. In autumn 2005 he directed Sam Shepard's *Icarus's*

Mother for the Department. The tentative title of his dissertation is "Becoming Good Europeans: The Influence of Germans and Germany on the London Stage, 1890-1914." Nick received BA's in Communications and English from Calvin College in 2001. In addition to his teaching, Nick is a produced playwright; his current project is a play on the English physician Edward Jenner and the eradication of smallpox. He and his wife Beth presently reside in central Columbus with their Yellow Labrador Retriever, Maeby.

Education

- B.A. Calvin College
- M.A. The Ohio State University
- Ph.D. The Ohio State University

Robin Post

Lecturer



Robin Post headed up the new *InterACT* theatre troupe this year with great success. The *InterACT* class devised, wrote and performed an average of five performances each quarter. Embracing issues of social justice, social change, and social awareness was the goal and achievement of these performances. Some examples of the issues covered were sexual assault, Academic Rights and Responsibilities, underrepresented in the field, and the disability policy at OSU. The acting troupe performed as part of faculty and TA workshops, for classrooms, university conferences, and for the Wellness Center. The performances made a great impact in enhancing the growth of diversity and inclusion within the university and won the OSU Multicultural Center's award for outstanding program in 2007. Alongside Robin's instruction and facilitation of *InterACT* was her instruction of voice for the actor. She received her M.F.A. in acting from The Ohio State University in 2006 where she specialized in voice for the actor. She performed in *Mary Stuart*, the OSU and the Actors' Theatre of Columbus collaboration.

Education

- B.A. Colorado College
- M.F.A. The Ohio State University



Scenes from *Mary Stuart*.

Partnership with Actors' Theatre of Columbus

By Mark Shanda, Chair and Professor

After several years of planning, The Department of Theatre and Actors' Theatre of Columbus teamed up to produce Friedrich Schiller's dramatic masterpiece, *Mary Stuart*. Schiller in Schiller (Park) has long been a desire of Artistic Director for Actors' John Kuhn and once a variety of logistical hurdles were overcome, Chair Mark Shanda signed The Department of Theatre on for the project. With a one-week run in Thurber Theatre and then a transfer to Schiller Park for a three-week run, the project gave students the opportunity to experience the typical challenges of touring, performing in outdoor drama, and bringing a classic to a contemporary audience. Course credit was granted for the on campus portion of the production, and performers and technicians alike were paid for the park performances. With engaging student designed scenery, costumes, and lighting and strong performances by a student and community-based cast, this extraordinary fictional account of the relationship between England's Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots came to life. We think Schiller would have been proud.

About *Mary Stuart*:

...The cast illuminates the bowing, scraping, scheming, plotting, counter-plotting and blame-shifting endemic to any royal court—or modern government."

—Michael Grossberg, *The Columbus Dispatch*, May 19, 2007

A celebration of the remarkable life of Dr. Esther Merle Jackson (1922-2006)

By Mark Shanda, Professor and Chair, and Raymond Caldwell (M.F.A. Acting Student)

When Miss Esther Jackson enrolled as a master's student at The Ohio State University on October 3, 1945, the number of African Americans on campus was quite small. Racial tension was all too prevalent and an African-American female studying theatre was even rarer. But Miss Jackson, who never let anything get in her way, never faltered, and in the August of 1946 she received a Master of Arts degree.

With that success and in part to satisfy her life long desire to learn, she decided

to eventually return to OSU and continue her education to pursue a Ph.D. This talented and gifted scholar began focusing, studying, and dissecting the works of Tennessee Williams as the major part of her research agenda, setting a course for her to become a leading authority on Williams and contemporary American theatre.

Her dissertation: *The emergence of a characteristic contemporary form in the American*



drama of Tennessee Williams was completed in August of 1958 and she, herself, made history by being the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. from the Theatre and Speech department of The Ohio State University. With her brilliance, perseverance, and intellect, she blazed a trail for many more to follow and continued to give back to generations of students to come through her multiple teaching positions.

After receiving her Ph.D., Jackson went on to be one of the most renowned scholars on the works of Tennessee Williams, ever. She published *The Broken World of Tennessee Williams* in 1965, adding her own definitions to describe the major characteristics of Williams' plays and laying the foundation for generations of future Williams' scholars and others who were to study the American theatre.

Throughout her life Jackson's accomplishments were staggering because she never allowed the idea that she was an African-American

woman keep her from the success she desired. She taught at Tuskegee Institute and in later years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was appointed to serve as the first drama specialist with the US Office of Education. She also received two Fulbrights and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Jackson became the first vice-president for research with the American Theatre Association and worked to establish the Institute of American Theatre Studies.

Esther Merle Jackson was never afraid to comment on the quality of the work being produced. She believed in the need for the audience to thoroughly understand the intent of the playwright and loved to share her passion for the literary as well as dramatic value of each play. Miss Jackson's insights and commentary have impacted generations of students. The OSU Department of Theatre along with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Theatre and Drama co-sponsored a tribute panel at the 2007 ATHE conference in honor of Dr. Jackson's life in the theatre. We all join in this tribute to one of our very own Buckeyes who went on to affect the scholarship of theatre forever and to touch so many.

Disciplining Interdisciplinarity

By Jennifer Schlueter, Ph.D. 2007

On April 14-15, 2007, the Graduate Syndicate sponsored its first conference! Entitled "Disciplining Interdisciplinarity," the goal of the conference was to gather together graduate students from three institutions for a lively examination of the state of the academic world they already inhabit and are beginning to shape. Particular interest was on the ways in which "theatricality" and "performativity" have become essential tropes with which to conjure across the disciplines.

In mounting this conference, the Syndicate hoped to forge cross-institutional relationships as we examined the cross-disciplinary work undertaken within each. To that end, work was solicited from graduate students across the disciplines at OSU, Northwestern University, and the University of Maryland-College Park. During the weekend, papers from graduate students from Theatre or Performance Studies departments at all three institutions were presented, as well as work from Departments of Comparative Studies, Spanish/Portuguese, English, Education, Art, and Music. A truly interdisciplinary mix of work that interplayed in fascinating ways!

In addition, as part of the conference, the Syndicate hosted one faculty member from each institution to serve as keynote speakers and as respondents to the papers presented. Susan Manning, PhD represented Northwestern, Franklin J. Hildy represented the University of Maryland, and Tom Postlewait represented OSU. With this addition, participants were able to receive feedback from (and engage in a dialogue with) noted scholars who bring a variety of experience, methodological approaches, and theoretical concerns to our field of study.

The conference was coordinated by Jennifer Schlueter (Ph.D. Student), in collaboration with Nicholas Dekker (Ph.D. Student, Syndicate President), Gina DiSalvo (M.A. Student), and Jason Bush (Ph.D. Student). Funding was raised from The OSU SOURCE, with additional support from the Department of Theatre.

Graduate Students were grateful to participate in residencies with the following Wexner Center events:

Shiny

Sat, Sep 16 - Sun, Dec 31, 2006
Wexner Center Galleries

Frank Stella 1958

Sat, Sep 16 - Sun, Dec 31, 2006
Wexner Center Galleries

Akram Khan and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui *zero degrees*

Tue, Oct 10, 2006 | 8:00PM
Mershon Auditorium

The Foundry Theatre

Major Bang

Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Dirty Bomb

A Suspense Comedy with Magic

Thu, Oct 26 - Sat, Oct 29, 2006

Wexner Center Performance Space

SITI Company

Radio Macbeth

Thu, Feb 15 - 18, 2007

Wexner Center Performance Space

New York Theatre Experiment

By Damian Bowerman, Graduate Studies and Publicity Coordinator

Four of the six company members who form the New York Theatre Experiment (NYTE) are OSU Alumni: **Creighton James** (B.A. 2000) **Laura Gale** (B.A. 2002) **Allyson Morgan** (B.A. 2004) and **Joey Schultz** (B.A. 2003). NYTE is a forum for artists to continue to grow and challenge each other working with new works. To the company, "experiment" means exploring process. Each production is therefore guided by an experiment, outlined by the director that challenges the artists to explore a particular aspect of the play or the process in a fresh, innovative way. The company investigates how do create a forum for yourself as an artist because, said Gale, "you never want to be finished growing."

The Department of Theatre partners to support NYTE's *Lift Every Voice* program. According to Gale, "*Lift Every Voice* is an innovative new arts education program committed to using theatre to reach out to New York City's young people. *Lift Every Voice* works with arts organizations and public high schools to offer underprivileged New York teens the opportunity to collaborate with theatre professionals to write, direct and perform an evening of short plays about their lives and experiences. This unforgettable and empowering experience provides the at-risk high school students who participate in the program with a personal connection to and sense of affiliation with the theatre and enables them to envision themselves, perhaps for the first time, as capable of bright and successful futures."

The Ohio State University Department of Theatre sends interns to serve in these NYTE weekend programs. OSU students come to New York for a weekend as NYTE staff members. On Saturday, the interns participate in an intense training process. They do the program with NYTE that they will repeat the next day with high school students. The program is modeled on OSU Theatre's "Take Out Theatre." Students choose the role of actor, director or playwright and work together to create 10-minute plays. 10 plays, some from staff, most from students are created in a 13 hour day on Sunday.

Gale says that *Lift Every Voice* helps actors to stay inspired as an artist, despite the pressures of the business. By focusing on the contribution to high school students, OSU interns get inspiration, fuel, and perspective on how important their work is. She tells the interns that the high school students are very vocal about the impact of the program. The key its success is to "set the bar high and play messy."



Teaching Artists, OSU Interns and participating students for Lift Every Voice Program with West Side High School, May 2004. Gathered outside the Village Theatre in Manhattan before the performance. Staff included OSU's Joelle Joseph, Joe Maloney, Joseph Schultz, Creighton James, Allyson Morgan and Laura Gale.

For more information, visit www.newyorktheatreexperiment.org



From *and...and...and...* by Christopher Dickman. New York Premiere, September 2004. (World Premiere production presented by EAT Theatre, Columbus, Ohio, 2000.) In photo (left to right): David Myers as Joey, Laura Gale as Suzy.



From *Stuck* by Jessica Goldberg. December, 2004. Directed by Laura Gale. In photo (left to right): Emberli Edwards as Margaritah, Allyson Morgan as Lula.



From *Feud: Fire on the Mountain* by Creighton James. World Premiere at the New York International Fringe Festival, August 2005. Directed by Creighton James. In photo (from left to right): Emberli Edwards, Laura Gale, Jaclyn Tommer (in front).



From *The Long Christmas Dinner* by Thornton Wilder, December 2005. Directed by OSU alumnus Glenn Peters. In photo (from left to right): Emberli Edwards, Kevin Hoffmann, Allyson Morgan, OSU alumnus Casey Burns.



From *A New York Christmas Carol*, a gender-bending updated version of the Dickens classic, set in present-day New York City. Developed by New York Theatre Experiment, World Premiere, December 2005. Directed by Joseph Schultz. In photo (left to right): Allyson Morgan, Kevin Hoffman, Laura Gale.



Full cast from *Fallen*, a new play developed by New York Theatre Experiment, inspired by *Lord of the Flies*. World Premiere, September 2006. Written by Laura Gale & Joseph Schultz. Directed by Joseph Schultz. Featuring, among others, OSU alumna Leah Reddy and Laura Gale.



Teaching Artists and OSU Interns for Lift Every Voice Program with Williamsburg Prep, November 2005. Back row (left to right): Allyson Morgan, Michael Lluberes, Bonnie Milligan, Rori Bergman, Joe Maloney, Beth Josephsen, Joseph Schultz. Middle row: Christopher Lee, Daniela Tedesco, Sarah Armstrong. Front row: Laura Gale, Emberli Edwards.



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↑ A scene from *Mary Stuart*, a joint production with the Department of Theatre and Actors' Theatre of Columbus.