

encore

news from Ohio State Theatre

2008



↑ A scene from OSU Theatre's production of *The Trojan Women 2.0*.

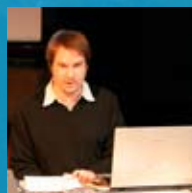
inside



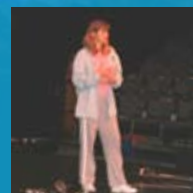
Distinguished Guest Artist Sydney Poitier inspires the department with anecdotes from his fascinating career.



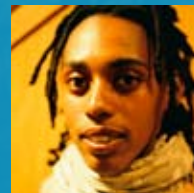
Professional mime Gregg Goldston teaches two movement classes.



Ph.D. Student Jason Bush presents "Translating Danza de las Tijeras: The Contemporary Transnational Scene" at the Urban Party Mix in the Roy Bowen Theatre.



Alumna Kim Turney teaches two stage combat classes.



Guest Artist Lenelle Moise performs *Womb-Words, Thirsting*.



department of theatre
college of the arts

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends:

Most of the time I spend in my office is spent "looking ahead." Whether it is preparing for my next appointment, problem solving our next production, working on details for our next partnership, or planning the next unique opportunity that we can provide the students in our program. The annual publication of *Encore* is one of the few times that I get a chance to look back and celebrate the many and varied accomplishments of our students, staff, faculty, and alumni. I hope that you too enjoy this review of our past year.



Mark Shanda, Chair/Professor

The breadth and depth of our season once again served our ambitious artistic and educational goals by enabling over 300 students to participate in the making of theatre and audiences numbering over 7000 to attend our shows. Our commitment to new works was realized through a theatre-in-the-round experience set up on the Thurber stage for an evening of three short plays. Our second year graduate ensemble production of *Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!* was a successful building block in our three-year curricular focus on performer generated new work and community outreach. Charles Mee's *The Trojan Women 2.0*, Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, Caridad Svich's *The Labyrinth of Desire*, and *Working: A Musical* rounded out the year.

We celebrated the return of several alumni as guest artists including Meridee Stein, Annie O. Cleveland, Denis Freeh, Richard Farshler, and Kim Turney. In addition to their visits, we hosted solo artists Daniel Beaty and Lenelle Moise, Broadway lighting designer Beverly Emmons, CEC ArtsLink Fellow Sofyia Ryabchuck, mime virtuoso Gregg Goldston, and Mr. Sydney Poitier. Each guest enriched our lives by sharing their talents, passion, and insights with all they encountered.

What enhances so many of these great educational opportunities for our students is the support that we receive from our friends and alumni. Although university budgets have been holding steady, costs have risen greatly and the demands on our limited resources never seem to let up. As you go through this *Encore*, consider the impact that each event detailed has had on our students and think about sending some money our way. What could your donation make possible for next year? As you know, all of us in theatre really know how to stretch a dollar, and I can assure you that whatever the size of gift that you might be able to send our way will go a long, long way.

One final note, a significant department change happened with the retirement of Sonja Kalamas-Elder after 36 years of fine service to the university. We certainly continue to move forward, but a day hardly goes by where we don't discover some aspect of our operation that wasn't affected by Sonja. Her care for students is legendary, the void that she left significant, and we all wish her well in this new chapter in her life called retirement!

Enjoy reading about our exploits and please be in touch,

Mark Shanda
Chair/Professor

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encore

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theatre.osu.edu

Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!
“...cheeky, smart and, in its own unstuffy
way, educational. It may be everything
that serious theater in a university setting
should be: at once a vital history lesson,
a timeless political statement and a
thoroughly entrancing performance.”

- Jay Weitz, *Columbus Alive*

2007-2008 season in review

The Trojan Women 2.0

by Charles Mee. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by Maureen Ryan and Jeanine Thompson. Set Design by Matthew D. McCarren. Costume Design by Lindsay Simon. Lighting Design by Anthony Pellecchia. Sound Design by David Toro. Stage Manager Becky Hitt. November 1 – 17, 2007

Medea

By Christopher Durang and Wendy Wasserstein. Thurber Theatre. Directed by Beth Kattelman. Set Design by Greg Owen. Costume Design by Katie Dysard. Lighting Design by Greg Owen. Sound Design by James Knapp. Stage Manager Jennifer Kramer. November 8 – 19, 2007

English Therapy

By Nancy Gall-Clayton. Thurber Theatre. Directed by Nicholas Dekker. Set Design by Greg Owen. Costume Design by Corinne Porter. Lighting Design by Matt Hazard. Sound Design by James Knapp. Stage Manager Jennifer Kramer. November 8 – 19, 2007

Vendetta Chrome

By Sally Oswald. Thurber Theatre. Directed by Christina Ritter. Set Design by Greg Owen. Costume Design by Sarah Sugarbaker. Lighting Design by Jordan Kardasz. Sound Design by James Knapp. Stage Manager Laura Jack. November 8 – 19, 2007

The Three Bully Goats Griff

By Patrick Rainville Dorn. Mount Hall Studio Theatre. Directed by Johamy Morales. Set Design by Lindsay Beery. Costume Design by Marysha Sarris. Lighting Design by Eric M. Slezak. Sound Design by James Knapp. Stage Manager Liz Tufts. February 1 – 3, 2008

The Labyrinth of Desire

By Caridad Svich. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by Jimmy Bohr. Set Design by Victor E. Shonk. Costume Design by Lydia Fleck. Lighting Design by Matt Hazard. Sound Design by Eric M. Slezak. Stage Manager Sarah Helgesen. February 14 – March 1, 2008

Much Ado About Nothing

By William Shakespeare. Thurber Theatre. Directed by Mandy Fox. Set Design by Corinne Porter. Costume Design by Crystal Herman. Lighting Design by Gregory Owen. Sound Design by Brandon Massay and Adrienne Varwig. Stage Manager Laura Hum. February 21 – March 1, 2008

Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!

By The M.F.A. Acting Class of 2009. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by John Giffin. Set Design by Ellinore Loomis. Costume Design by Elisa O'Neal. Lighting Design by Jordan Kardasz. Sound Design by Adrienne Varwig. Stage Manager Jennifer Kramer. May 1 – 17, 2008

Working: A Musical

From book by Studs Terkel. Adapted by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso. Songs by Craig Carnelia, Micki Grant, Mary Rodgers and Susan Birkenhead, Stephen Schwartz, James Taylor. Dance Music by Michele Brouman. Original production directed by Stephen Schwartz. Thurber Theatre. Directed by Christopher M. Roche. Set Design by Sarah Sugarbaker. Costume Design by Annie O. Cleveland. Lighting Design by Matthew D. McCarren. Sound Design by Christopher Zinkon. Stage Manager Lindsay Beery. May 15 – 23, 2008



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AfterWords

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

Much Ado About Nothing

Richard Dutton, Professor, OSU Department of English

Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!

Matthew Yde, Dramaturg and Ph.D. Theatre Student

Working: A Musical

Laura Baggs, Dramaturg and Honors B.A. Theatre Student

The Labyrinth of Desire

“What sustains one’s interest are the antic movements, seductive postures and bawdy gestures that generate laughter beyond the dialogue. The striking design helps, too. The Mediterranean spa setting morphs into the title’s labyrinth with artful lighting.”

- Michael Grossberg, *The Columbus Dispatch*



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- 9 *The Trojan Women 2.0*

Guest Artists an

By Virginia Logan (M.F.A. Acting Student)



◀ Daniel Beaty in a scene from his one-man show, *Emergence-SEE!*



Guest playwright Nancy Gall-Clayton. ▶



◀ Guest artist Lenelle Moise.



▲ (Left to right) Alan Woods, John Jay, Nena Couch, Matthew Hazard, Beverly Emmons, Gregory Owen, Jordan Kardasz, Louise Guthman, Anthony Pellecchia, Matthew McCarren, and Mary Tarantino at Emmons' presentation.



▲ Jeffrey Weissman appears as Groucho in a scene from *Just for Laughs*.

Former Thurber House playwright-in-residence **Sally Oswald** returned to campus in the fall to further develop her new play *Vendetta Chrome*, performed in the Evening of One Act Plays November 8-19th in Thurber Theatre. Throughout the project Sally worked closely with the cast and director in refining the piece. The play had a New York debut showcase production in June at Clubbed Thumb as part of their Summerworks festival at the Ohio Theater in Soho.

Poet, playwright and performance artist **Lenelle Moise** performed her solo show *Womb-Words Thirsting* on September 28th in the Roy Bowen Theatre. Her frank engagement of the audience and the sensitivity with which she approached her bold subject matter was refreshing and inspiring. She also led a workshop with the M.F.A. Actors – discussing process, writing, and ensemble performance exercises.

David Wood held a discussion of his life writing plays for children. He was dubbed “the national children’s dramatist” by Irving Wardle in *The Times* and has recently published, to rave reviews, *Theatre For Children: Guide To Writing, Adapting, Directing And Acting* (Faber), co-written with Janet Grant.

Jason Buyer came to the department in the fall to share his presentation “Marketing for the Actor.” He began casting extras and commercials in his home town of Chicago, Illinois nearly eleven years ago. Since arriving in Los Angeles, he has worked on over ten pilots and dozens of episodic television shows.

Sofiya Ryabchuck, a 2007 CEC ArtsLink Fellow, and the project manager for the Theatre Center of Kyiv Mohyla Academy National University in Kiev, Ukraine was with the Department of Theatre for five weeks in the fall. She participated in many departmental classes, workshops, rehearsals, meetings and performances. While on campus she also exchanged ideas for arts marketing and management strategies, shared experiences about the challenges of managing an organization with a dual educational and professional mission, and taught faculty, staff and students the differences in production management and academic structure at the Theatre Center of Kyiv Mohyla Academy National University.

Award-winning actor, writer, singer and composer, **Daniel Beaty**, came to OSU in the fall with his solo show *Emergence-See!*. This show explored the effect that slavery has had on the modern psyche featuring Mr. Beatty’s facile ability to switch between his 40 characters.

Sydney Poitier, distinguished actor, director, and author, presented a talk-back in the Roy Bowen Theatre in the fall for theatre students. As a Barnett Distinguished Visiting Lecturer, Mr. Poitier also presented a lecture at Mershon Auditorium.

In the fall we were joined by **Nancy Gall-Clayton**, the playwright for *English Therapy*, one of the shorts in the Evening of One Act Plays in November. She is both a playwright and a teacher, and visited classrooms and rehearsals to discuss her work.

Seven-time Tony nominee **Beverly Emmons** was the Annual Jerome Lawrence



◀ Guest playwright Sally Oswald.

Meridee Stein shares her life’s work with the First All Children’s Theatre (First A.C.T.). ▶



d Scholars

and Robert E. Lee Theater Research Institute lecturer in October in Thurber Theatre. Emmons has designed for many Broadway, Off-Broadway, regional theatres, dance concerts and opera in the US and abroad. She is currently a professor at Columbia University.

Meridee Stein (B.A. 1969) returned in the spring for a public talk-back and a workshop with the M.F.A. Actors. Ms. Stein was the founder and Artistic Director of the First All Children's Theatre (First ACT). Her shows have been presented nationally at such places as The Kennedy Center, BAM, NY Shakespeare Festival/The Public Theatre, and Lincoln Center.

Annie Cleveland (M.F.A. 1990) returned to design costumes for the spring 2008 production of *Working: A Musical*. Cleveland is a member of the United Scenic Artists Union, local 829. Her most recent union designs were for Walden Media, a subsidiary of Disney, designing costumes for children's theatre productions at the Walden Family Playhouse in Denver.

Jeffrey Weissman, along with OSU alumni Denis Freeh (B.A. 1963) and Richard D. Farshler (B.S. 1963), returned to OSU to perform *Just for Laughs*, a comedy review in the Roy Bowen Theatre. Freeh and Farshler recreated some comedy gems that were originally done when they were OSU students. Proceeds of the shows went to undergraduate scholarships in the Department of Theatre.

Gregg Goldston visited as a guest lecturer in the spring to teach Mime classes for both graduate and undergraduate students. He

also performed several pieces at an open presentation/talk-back in April, where his graduate students also performed. Goldston is an internationally known mime having performed for over 30 years, touring around the world, opening the Goldston and Johnson School for Mime, and working very closely with Marcel Marceau.

Kim Turney (B.C. 1986, M.F.A. 1992) returned in the spring to teach Stage Combat classes for graduate and undergraduate students and to present a talk-back in the Roy Bowen Theatre in May. Turney has acted in regional theatre, worked in marketing for Disney, is currently the business manager for the Academy of Theatrical Combat in L.A. and is the Director of Educational Administration for Freshi Films.



▲ Annie Cleveland.



▲ Casting Agent Jason Buyer.



▲ Dramatist David Wood (center) discusses his career writing plays for children.



▲ C.E.C. Artslink Fellow Sofiya Ryabchuck presents her lecture, "Ukrainian Theatre as a Challenge."



▲ Mime artist Gregg Goldston demonstrates the "Derby Lean."



▲ Alumna Kim Turney demonstrates basic stage combat techniques.



▲ Karen Bell (left) moderates a discussion with Sidney Poiter (right) in the Roy Bowen Theatre.

Outreach and Engagement

InterACT

By Robin Post, Lecturer and Director of InterACT

Samantha Nevins struggles to ignore a disruptive and seemingly aggressive student in her introductory theatre class. She is obviously unnerved by the student's behavior and doesn't want to exacerbate an already difficult situation.

Unlike recent tragic events at other college campuses, the scenario in this case isn't real because the aggressive student, the teacher's assistant, and the other students in the class are all actors. They are members of an undergraduate service learning class called InterACT that received the Multicultural Award for best program in 2007 and continued to develop their outreach partnership and service in 2008. InterACT has made it its mission to write and perform real life scenarios that occur on campus and in some cases, beyond, in an effort to provide instruction and make change.

In another scenario, tensions rise within a team of undergraduate engineering students working on a class project when one member consistently makes sexist remarks about a peer. This scenario is used as course material for an engineering class on college teaching and intended to provide instruction on team management. The performance provides live interaction with the problem and is a unique alternative to the more typical lecture or PowerPoint presentation on similar topics.

What makes InterACT unique is that all of the actors are trained in improvisation and remain in character after each scenario has played itself out. When the scene comes to an end,

a new scene develops on the spot when the audience is invited into the theatre space and is called on to interact with the characters. The audience is encouraged to ask questions, offer solutions, and volunteer to play the part of the TA. They are given a safe format to try out possible problem solving techniques on a pretend group of students who have failed to work together effectively. The audience

need not worry about making mistakes. This is a playground where mistakes are welcome and are essential to discovering what may or may not work. The audience also engages in conversation with one another during these performances. One of InterACT's goals is that this dialogue will continue long after the performance.

InterACT made a new and profound partner with survivors of cancer from the

James Cancer Hospital. During the winter and fall quarters, InterACT students and cancer survivors collaborated to devise a theatrical piece that celebrated survivorship, strength, and life. Both students and survivors shared the stage to present their creation in July during the Nationwide Summer Conference on Survivorship in Columbus, OH. Students and survivors alike expressed their deep appreciation for this unique opportunity. Of the partnership, Director of JamesCare for Life Patricia Schmitt said, "It's been nothing short of remarkable and probably one of the single most effective and meaningful experiences we've ever provided our cancer survivors...."

To see individuals move from a state of fearful anxiety that often accompanies living with great uncertainty due to a challenging (and uninvited) disease to one of empowerment



Top Left to Right: Robin Post, Jessica Studer, Malerie Tabern, Angela Wilson. Middle Left to Right: Porsha Evans, Alicia Huddleston, Meghan Ninneman. Bottom Left to Right Diana Bae, Alec Clairmont, Katie Bowman.



Jessica Studer, Katie Bowman, Diana Bae, Porsha Evans, Alicia Huddleston, Meghan Ninneman, rehearsing an InterACT scene.

and self-efficacy is really a remarkable thing." The demand for InterACT has grown as the university community recognizes the value and need for new and innovative methods of instruction about challenging topics. This year InterACT served Faculty and TA Development (FTAD), First Year Experience (FYE), University Extension and Outreach, The College of Engineering, College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, WOSU Public Media at COSI, The Office of Academic Affairs (OAA), and the James Cancer Hospital.

InterACT was nominated for the C. Peter Magrath University Community Engagement Award this year. The award was established in 2006 to recognize outstanding outreach and engagement partnerships between universities and community partners.

WOSU
Public Media

VIEWS FROM "THE WAR"
AN INTERACT PRODUCTION

VETERANS DAY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2007
1:30PM

WOSU@COSI
333 W. BROAD ST
COLUMBUS, OH

FREE ADMISSION TO THIS PERFORMANCE

OHIO STATE
College of the Arts
Department of Theatre

The InterACT theatre troupe from The Ohio State Theatre Department will be performing a theatrical piece about WWII by engaging with the real voices of a few veterans whose interviews will be heard and woven throughout the theatrical piece. The members of The Senior Repertory Theatre will be singing some popular songs from that era prior to the performance.

School Tour

By Russell Hainline (M.A. Student) and
Caehlin Bell (M.A. 2008)

The Department of Theatre again presented *The Three Bully Goats Griff*, an adaptation by Patrick Rainville Dorn of *The Three Billy Goats Griff*, 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 director toured for five weeks throughout February and March and performed at nine elementary schools around the Columbus area. Over 2,000 kindergarten through 6th graders saw this show which teaches about the effects of bullying. Many schools incorporated the show into their curriculum and other 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, students had a question and answer session with the actors, and the 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.

▼ Hartman Brawley and Kyle Jepson in a scene from *The Three Bully Goats Griff*.



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 2007-2008 year was outstanding in terms of programs, acquisitions, and teaching. The Prague Quadrennial, an international design competition and exhibition, was held in June 2007, and thanks to the generosity of the OSU Department of Theatre and the Libraries, Nena Couch joined tour leader Joe Brandesky and a number of theatre faculty and students who attended. In addition to enjoying PQ, she had the great pleasure of meeting with a number of Czech designers, and bringing back to the institute works by Jaroslav Malina, Jana Zbo ilova, and Jan Štepanek and the loan of a beautiful puppet and her design by Petr Matasek. The TRI's Jarka Burian collection on Czech theatre has grown this year, with additions generously donated by Grayce Burian.



Dwayne Blackaller and Sandra Hughes meet to share ideas and experiences.

2007-2008 Lawrence and Lee Lecturer and internationally known lighting designer Beverly Emmons has done numerous productions with Joseph Chaikin, Meredith Monk, and Robert Wilson, and has worked with choreographers Trisha Brown, Martha Graham, and Merce Cunningham.

2007 saw another Eileen Heckart Senior Drama Competition, honoring the great performer, OSU alumna, and Columbus native, Eileen Heckart. Over 500 plays were submitted this time around—the results are at heckartdrama.blogspot.com. Staged readings of the winners, finalists, and semifinalists were presented during the year.

Eleven playwrights attended the annual retreat of the International Centre for Women Playwrights hosted by Alan Woods in August 2007. Readings of works-in-progress by a wonderful band of volunteer performers were highlights—much more about the retreat at icwphioretreat.blogspot.com.

2007 was a great Lawrence and Lee year with an outstanding revival of *Inherit the Wind* on Broadway with Christopher Plummer as Drummond and Brian Dennehy as Brady.

The Curtiss Show Print Collection donated last year and added to this year by Nyle Stateler has been very busy. The Association for College Research Libraries published a beautiful volume celebrating the organization's sixty years, and selected Curtiss materials to represent the Ohio State University Libraries. In addition, Nena's article on Curtiss Show Print (Continental, Ohio) and Hatch Show Print (Nashville, Tennessee) has just come out in *Theatre Survey*, the journal of the American Society for Theatre Research, with a Curtiss poster on the cover. TRI staff Beth Kattelman, Kathleen Kopp, and Rebecca Kallemeyn worked with the Curtiss collection during the year, and Bob Tauber of the OSU Libraries' Center for Book Arts generously made his presses available and helped Kathleen in her project to make record prints of the more than 1200 printing blocks in the collection.

Marcel Marceau, the great French mime, died in September. Through several residencies at OSU arranged by his protégée and faculty member Jeanine Thompson, Marceau touched and inspired many of our students. Documentation of his work at the Institute will keep his genius alive for future generations.

In November, writer extraordinaire Hollis Alpert died in Naples, Florida. Hollis first became part of the Institute family while using the Robert Breen collection for his book, *The Life and Times of Porgy and Bess*, and later established his collection here. Nena had the honor of speaking at the memorial service

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

in Naples. An evocative portrait of Hollis, given last year by artist Tammra Sigler and beautifully framed by Val Pennington, was on display at the service. Hollis's close friend Lacey King has made a generous donation of additional papers, photographs, and other materials to the Hollis Alpert Literary Collection. Maureen and Mickey Winograd, David S. and Helga Miller, and Joan Blessing have given gifts in Hollis's memory.

The collections continue to be enriched by many generous donations. Dr. Joel E. Rubin, of Kliegl Bros. Lighting, and co-founder of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, has established a collection on theatre lighting that includes catalogs and other print material from the earliest published Kliegl catalog in 1898; a 1930s set of glass slides and accompanying script for a Kliegl presentation on stage lighting; hand-painted glass "Pose" slides from the late 19th, early 20th centuries accompanied by a scrapbook of the original slide designs; and original technical drawings. A gift of thousands of slides of the work of designer Gordon Micunis was donated by Jay Kobrin, joining the beautiful original Micunis designs held by the Institute. Lesley Ferris and Ruth Tompsett, co-curators of *Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival* a wonderful exhibition which opened in London and came to the OSU Urban Arts Space in February 2008, have donated materials documenting Carnival. In addition, the Lawrence and Lee Institute commissioned a sculpture by carnival artist Carl Gabriel

which was featured in *Midnight Robbers*. Ken Rinker, dancer with Twyla Tharp in the 1970s, has contributed his collection of materials documenting his own work. Long-time supporter Paul Stiga donated materials of costume historian Millia Davenport, author of *The Book of Costume*, a foundational resource for clothing and theatre costume history; a full set of designs for a 1900s production of *Jungfrau von Orleans*, and bracelets designed for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival by Noel Taylor. Carole Abrahams donated outstanding material on the professional work of Broadway and West End producer Doris Cole Abrahams. Richard Eyan donated a fabulous film poster for *Dreamgirls*. Tom Minnick and Cristian Donoso donated five prints each from Boydell's Shakespeare Gallery. Charles Chatfield-Taylor, grandson of the Russian artist Boris Anisfeld, has donated an oil portrait by Anisfeld of his daughter, Charlie's mother, which will be shown in a summer 2008 exhibition. Beth and Nena also worked with the curators of the Wexner Center's Film/Video Department to establish an ongoing collection at TRI that will house posters, presskits, and other informational materials acquired as a result of the Film/Video Department's programming. Many thanks go out to donors who have added to already established collections: Charles H. McCaghy, Grayce Burian, Dorothy Indenbaum to the Dalcroze School of Music collection, Louise Guthman to the Tom Skelton collection, Michele LaRue to the East Lynne Company collection, Marianne Evett, Elizabeth Maupin, Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Bebe Miller, Michael Grossberg. Alumna Meridee Stein, founder of the First All Childrens Theatre, added DVDs to the First ACT collection, Many donors have kept us up to date with programs, books, journals, posters, photographs, videos, and other materials including Charles Babcock, James Bailey, Tom Bay, Melissa Bialko, Vera Borkovec, Marvin Carlson, Chuyoung Chon, Professor Tanya Clyman, Harold and Anita Eisenstein, Mrs. William B. Emmons, Jr., Lesley Ferris, Anca Galron, Fred Holdridge, Lucy Lee, Valerie Lucas, Sheila Marion, Orville Martin, Barbara Musso, Geoffrey Nelson, Heidi Nielsen, Gayle Stahlhuth, and the Stratford Festival of Canada.

Playwrights have been very generous again this year with their own work including Catherine Filloux; African American Playwrights Exchange contributors Grace Cavalieri, Joy Jones, Henry Miller, OWA, and Jamal Williams; and International Centre for Women Playwrights writers Emily Ball Cecchini, Jean Seitter Cummins, Linda Eisenstein, Hortense Gerardo, and Sandra K. Hoskins, Shirley King, Judith Pratt.

We are very excited that, through OhioLINK, we can at long last mount searchable finding aids to our wonderful collections on the World Wide Web. To see what is up so far, go to "Browse by Contributing Institution" at ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/, and look at the listings for The Ohio State University Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute. Beth has been very active on the OhioLINK task force that has made this home for finding aids possible.



Nena Couch and Sandra Hughes peruse a scrapbook from Sandra's latest addition to the Sandra L. Hughes Theatre Collection.

Beth also represented the Institute at this year's Barnett Symposium held at the Urban Arts Space, and Nena attended Dance Heritage Coalition meetings as the OSU representative.

The Lawrence and Lee Institute was honored to receive a 2008 Theatre Roundtable Harold Award "for its ongoing work over decades in gathering and preserving one of the nation's leading collections of theatrical historical materials." On hand from TRI at the annual award event to receive the award were Alan Woods, Nena Couch, Beth Kattelman, and Orville Martin.



David Emmes and Martin Benson speak at the Margo Jones Medal presentation at the South Coast Repertory Theatre in Costa Mesa, CA.

The Margo Jones Award, founded by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee to honor "citizens of the theatre who have demonstrated a significant impact, understanding and affirmation of the craft of playwriting, with a lifetime commitment to the encouragement of the living theatre everywhere," was given for 2007-2008 to David Emmes and Martin Benson, co-founders of South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, California, on May 1. Under Emmes' and Benson's guidance, South Coast Repertory has premiered 103 plays and has given commissions to nearly 150 writers. Over 80 percent of new plays launched at SCR have gone on to subsequent productions at theatres across the nation. Their records of accomplishment in theatre make David Emmes and Martin Benson ideal recipients of the Margo Jones Award.



Sitting left to right: Deborah Robison, Janet Waldo Lee, Alan Woods, Nena Couch, Joe Branin. Standing left to right: Joshua Lee, Lucy Lee, Jonathan Barlow Lee, Martin Benson, David Emmes, Neila Lee, Jenny Lee at the Margo Jones Medal presentation.

Mask and Mime artist, director, choreographer, playwright, and artistic director Sandra Hughes visited the Lawrence and Lee Institute just after spring quarter to help Nena work through an extensive addition to the Sandra L. Hughes Theatre Collection which she established some years ago documenting her original theatre productions for the stage featuring masks, mime, dance, music and spoken work which have been performed at theatres, festivals, performing arts centers, colleges, universities, and schools in 30 states in the U.S. and 12 other countries. Sandra's background includes mime training with Marcel Marceau and Juki Arkin, dance with Valentina Litvinoff of Isadora Duncan's Russian School, acting at the Stella Adler Acting Conservatory in New York City, Japanese Noh Theatre training with Akira Matsui and Richard Emmert, a professional acting and directing apprenticeship at the Cleveland Play House and theatre studies at Ohio University. M.F.A.

Acting Student Dwayne Blackaller and Sandra were able to share some time talking about their art before she had to return to Atlanta.

There's been a whole lot of teaching going on, with Alan's honors seminars researching plays in Institute collections and interacting with the playwrights (Nancy Gall-Clayton, Julia Pearlstein, Linda Eisenstein, and Robert Gately visited Columbus to discuss their work with students); Alan's popular course in censorship which draws heavily upon the Charles H. McCaghy Collection of burlesque materials; Beth's freshman seminars on horror films and culture; and Theatre Research Methods taught by Beth and Nena with graduate students doing excellent research projects on a variety of topics using Institute collections including those of designers Gordon Micunis and Tony Straiges, actor-humorist Robert Post, choreographer Twyla Tharp, director/producers Robert Breen (*Porgy and Bess*) and Ted Lange (film of *Othello*), playwright Tom Eyan, companies Reality Theatre and Harmount Uncle Tom's Cabin, actress Isabel Bigley Barnett, and others. Mary Tarantino's graduate lighting design seminar spent autumn quarter at the Institute exploring the lighting genius of Tom Skelton in the copy collection given by his associate and OSU emerita faculty Louise Guthman.

Orville Martin continues to supervise the reading room and is head guru 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. Our student staff has included graduate students D. Dwayne Blackaller, Chuyoung Chon, Emily Fargo, Becky Kallemeyn, Jirye Lee, Bruno Lovric, and Brittany Nau, and undergraduates Justin Culver, Leslie Dow, Anait Grigoryan, Bonita Jackson, Eddie Kerwin, Emily Metz, and Andrew Sattler. We are very proud of Emily Fargo and Becky Kallemeyn who received Department of Theatre Graduate Student Excellence Awards for their outstanding work at TRI this year. Dean Capper completed his work with the Institute's Dalcroze collections. We are very grateful to our fabulous volunteers of 2007, Barbara Butler and Chuck Moulton.



Beverly Emmons' presentation about her career as an award-winning Broadway lighting designer.



Deborah Robison and Janet Waldo Lee speak at the Margo Jones Medal presentation at the South Coast Repertory Theatre in Costa Mesa, CA.



Mark Shanda, Alan Woods, Nena Couch, Beth Kattelman and Orville Martin accepting the Harold Award at the Annual Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable Awards.

Spotlight on Students

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

Undergraduate and graduate students grew as artists and students of theatre during the academic year through the creation of new works, conference presentations, and creative and research activities.

Autumn

Congratulations to the following recipients of the College of the Arts Undergraduate Research Scholarship: **Allison Bressi** with Distinction in Theatre and **Jennifer Harris**.

Winter

Several students received Central Ohio Theatre Awards in February:

Acting, **Sarah Katz** (B.A. 2007)
The Children's Hour

Acting, **Julie Ann McMillan** (M.F.A. Acting Student) *Mary Stuart*

Scenic Design, **Matthew D. McCarren** (M.F.A. Design 2008) *The Trojan Women 2.0*

Scenic Design, **Elinore Loomis** (M.F.A. Design Student) *Mary Stuart*

Jayson Morrison graduated in December with his M.A. in Theatre. The title of Jayson's thesis is: *Dying for Attention: ACT UP's Confrontational Image, Indeterminate Performance Structure, and their Impact on 'Stop the Church'*. He defended his thesis in the summer and completed revisions in the fall. Lesley Ferris was the chair of his committee and Alan Woods was the second member.

B.A. Student **Allison Bressi** presented the rock musical *tick, tick...boom*, the autobiographical 1990 rock musical precursor to *Rent* by Jonathon Larson, in the New Works Lab in January in partial fulfillment of her Honors senior thesis project for Distinction in Theatre. Musicians from the School of Music provided live music. Allison was awarded a competitive College of the Arts Honors scholarship of \$4,700 to support her senior project. For the second part of this project, Allison wrote and produced her own comedy/farce in the spring. She then completed an honors thesis comparing the directing challenges in the two productions.

Ph.D. Student **ChuYoung Chon's** proposal of "Re-Assessing Korean Theatre Historiography: The Example of Jin Chaek Sohn's Madangnori" was accepted for presentation at the International Federation for Theatre Research 2008 Conference in Seoul. Her paper addressed how the contemporary Korean theatre scholars schooled in European realist drama have overlooked the creativity and artistic value of reviving indigenous performing arts. The problematic fascination of Korean scholarly critics with western dramatic theories has led to an overly limited criteria for evaluating theatre. Chon took Sohn's madangnori, a contemporary transformation of indigenous Korean culture, as an exemplary sacrifice to such an imbalanced scholarly practice.

M.A. Student **Jirye Lee's** paper proposal, "The distance between two Vagina Monologues" was also accepted for presentation at the IFTR 2008 Conference in Seoul. Using the original Vagina Monologues and the Korean adaptation, Jirye examined issues of women's plays and gender traditions within the context of globalization and integration of different cultures. The IFTR 2008 conference aimed to examine, learn, and bring to discussion how different theatre traditions of East and West come to play for, against, amongst each other to transform and re-create their respective new ones, ultimately in order to enrich and reinforce theatre as an important cultural asset of the global community.

Ph.D. Candidate **Matthew Yde's** review was published in the December 2007 issue of Theatre Journal. Matt reviewed *The Cone of Uncertainty: New Orleans After Katrina*. Written, directed, and performed by Jose Torres Tama. The Ohio State University, Roy Bowen Theatre, Columbus. 30 September 2006.

The Writing Company 2008 presented *A Student's Story* in February in the New Works Lab. Featured writers included B.A. Students **Akil Babb** (with Laura Baggs), Jacob Browning, **Jennifer Harris**, Ph.D. Student **Paul Lockwood**, B.A. Students **Kiley Morgan**, **Mark Schwamberger** and **Michael Toland**.

B.A. Student **Laura Baggs**, candidate for Honors with Distinction in Theatre, discussed her role as the dramaturg for *Much Ado About Nothing* on WOSU NPR News and Classical Music (8.20 AM and 89.7 FM). Laura's work as a dramaturg on the department's production was examined in a special arts feature by Marilyn Smith, host of the daily program. Laura was also the dramaturg on *Inspiration of Love* written by B.A. student Akil Babb. A scene from this play in development was presented in February as part of The Writing Company's presentation of samples of new work in progress in the New Works Lab.

In March, the 2008 New Works 688/800.08 class presented a selection of monologues, scenes, oral histories, interactive conversations with self on film, short plays on the theme of Obsessions, and a martial arts demo. Writers were Ph.D. Students **Paul Lockwood** and **Kyoungnye Kwon**, B.A. Students **Samantha Bowling**, **Allison Bressi**, **Jacob Browning**, **Porsha Nicol**, **Jennifer Harris**, **Alex Lefeld**, **Kiley Morgan**, **Matt Owen**, **Lindsey Smith**, **Matt Starr**, **Ian Stroud** and **Joel Weidl**. (Samantha, Lindsey, Matt Starr, Ian and Joel are members of the 8th Floor Comedy Troupe).

Spring

The Ohio State University's Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design (ACCAD) and the Department of Theatre presented an evening of recent undergraduate and graduate student work in film and animation in May. The screening of narrative and experimental shorts was followed by a brief Q&A session with the creators of the work.



Karen Bell presents a diploma to Katie Phillips (B.A. 2008.)

Current Student Activity Updates by Area:

B.A.

The Department of Athletics recognized B.A. Theatre Students **Joseph Orizczak**, Cheerleading, **Daniel Bass**, Fencing and **Diana Care**, Synchronized Swimming as Scholar Athletes for achieving a GPA of 3.00 or better.

Nick Linkenhoker was selected as one of the students who will be studying in Ottawa as part of the Canadian Parliamentary Internship Program.

Distinction in Theatre B.A. Student **Jennifer Harris**, a member of The Writing Company, for three years, wrote and performed in *It's Because You're White!*, a contemporary play about dating and racial relationships on a college campus. The play was directed by Writing Company member Michael Toland. Besides Jennifer, also performing in the cast are **John Houston, Mark Torrez, Jacob Browning, Kiley Morgan** and **Alex Lefeld**. This play is funny but is not afraid to tackle serious and complicated issues head-on.



Jennifer Harris's display at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum for her play, *It's Because You're White: a play about Relationships in Black and White*.

B.A. Students **Barbie Papalios** and **Elizabeth Yerian** were honored at President Gee's salute to Undergraduate Excellence in April. They were two of approximately 200 students honored.

B.A. Student **Laura Baggs** was elected to Ohio State's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at the initiation and banquet in May.

B.A. Students **Laura Baggs, Allison Bressi**, and **Jennifer Harris** competed at the Denman Undergraduate Forum in May. This prestigious competition showcased the most impressive research each year submitted by students and selected from every discipline at Ohio State. Each student prepared a display board of their work and were questioned by three different judges. In addition, students showed 7-minute performance excerpts of original creative work. Baggs had a display of her work as Dramaturg on *Much Ado About Nothing* and on *Inspiration of Love* (by B.A. Student Akil Babb). Bressi, who directed *The Clean House* and *Aida* in the spring, presented a directing project, including an excerpt from her winter production of *tick, tick...boom* by Jonathon Larson. Harris wrote and performed in an excerpt from her own play: *It's Because You're White: a play about Relationships in Black and White*— which completed a run in the New Works Lab in the spring.

History, Literature and Criticism:

Ph.D. Students **Jason Bush, ChuYoung Chon, Chris Matsos, Bethany (Banister) Rainsberg, and Caehlin Bell** (M.A. 2008) presented papers at the 32nd Comparative Drama Conference that took place at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles in March. The Comparative Drama Conference is an international, interdisciplinary conference founded in 1977. Every year, approximately 150 scholars are invited to present and discuss their work in the field of drama. The conference draws participants from both the Humanities and the Arts. Over the past 31 years the participants have come from 31 nations and all 50 states. The keynote speaker for 2008 was Canadian Indigenous playwright Drew Hayden Taylor, who spoke on the development of Native theatre in Canada.

Karen Mozingo (Ph.D 2008) passed her dissertation defense with flying colors. The title of her dissertation is *Crossing the Borders of German and American Modernism: Exile and Transnationalism in the Dance Works of*

Valeska Gert, Lotte Goslar, and Pola Nirenska. Lesley Ferris served as Karen's advisor; her committee included Joy Reilly (Theatre) and Sheila Marion (Dance) and the Graduate School representative was **Nina Berman** (Comparative Studies). Karen moved to upstate New York this summer where she accepted a new position as Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance at SUNY-Potsdam.

Rebecca Kallemeyn (M.A. 2008) successfully defended her master's thesis which examines how objectification and parody in British pantomime mirror the insecurity of representation that was present in Victorian society. Her committee members consisted of Beth Kattelman (chair) and Dorothy Noyes of the English Department.

Greg Varner (M.A. 2008) directed The Upper Arlington Community of Theatre (UACT) production of *The Laramie Project* in May at Upper Arlington High School and completed his thesis which documents his work on UACT.

Ph.D. Candidate **Jason Bush** won the Patrick B. Mullen prize for the best graduate student paper in Folklore Studies at OSU. He also presented "Translating Danza de las Tijeras: The Contemporary Transnational Scene" at the OSU Center for Folklore Studies Spring Colloquium "Urban Party Mix."

Ph.D. Student **Ian Pugh's** paper "Police and Surveillance at the Notting Hill Carnival in London" was selected for presentation this summer at the annual Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC) conference in Oxford, England.

Jenny Stoessner (Ph.D. 2008) successfully passed her doctoral exam. Her dissertation, *Building American Puppetry on the Jim Henson Foundation*, examines the pioneering work of puppeteer Jim Henson, the most famous puppeteer in history, and the Foundation he established in 1982 to support the work of other puppetry artists. Jenny's committee included Dr. Beth Kattelman and Alan Woods. Jenny is a professional puppeteer, very active performing and presenting at national conferences and festivals. She was invited to the 2008 Association for Theatre in

Spotlight on Students (continued)

Higher Education (ATHE) conference to make two presentations: "Using Theatre to Address the Difficult Issues of Life" as well as serving as the Puppeteer for "Performing New Works on Aging."

Emily Layne Fargo (M.A. 2008) successfully defended her thesis, *The Fantasy of Real Women: New Burlesque & the Female Spectator*. Members of her committee were Nena Couch (chair), Alan Woods, and Linda Mizejewski from the Department of Women's Studies.

Caehlin Bell (M.A. 2008) successfully defended her master's thesis *Being Ireland: Lady Gregory in Cathleen Ni Houlihan*. Members of her committee were Joy Reilly (chair) and Barry Shank from the Department of Comparative Studies in Humanities.

Stephni Wilkins Woods (M.A. 2008) successfully defended her masters thesis: *American Dreams in Black and White: The Quest for Freedom and Equality in American Drama (1858-1938)*. Members of her committee were Anthony D. Hill and Stratos Constantinidis.

Christopher M. Roche (Ph.D. Student) received critical acclaim for playing Michael in the *Pillowman* at The Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) in autumn 2007, for directing *Working: A Musical* for the department in spring 2008 and for playing Antoine de Saint-Exupéry in the for/word company's hailed production of *North* for a three-week limited engagement run at the Chicago American Theater Company in June 2008. *North*, written and directed by Jennifer Schlueter (Ph.D. 2007) moves between 1939 and 1944 and tells the story of a charged meeting between author/writer Anne Morrow Lindbergh, wife to aviator Charles, and, the man whom she felt best understood her work.

Acting:

Kal Poole (M.F.A. Acting Student) played Charles Lindbergh in the for/word company production of *North*.

Design:

Greg Owen (M.F.A. 2008) accepted the Assistant Professor Technical Director/ Designer job at the OSU Lima campus. He successfully defended his thesis/project for his lighting design of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Committee members included Mary Tarantino (chair), Dan Gray, and Mandy Fox.

Crystal Herman (M.F.A. 2008) accepted a Tenure Track Costume Design job at University of Texas El Paso and will be head milliner at Utah Festival Opera this summer.

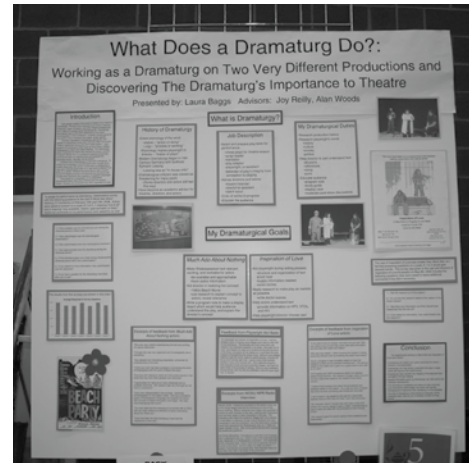
Crystal Herman and **Lindsay Simon** (M.F.A. 2008) completed their respective thesis productions. Lindsay's thesis is titled *Costume Design and Production for The Trojan Women 2.0*, by *Charles Mee*. Her committee members were: Kristine Kearney (chair), Mark Shanda and Maureen Ryan. Crystal's thesis is titled *Costume Design and Production for Much Ado About Nothing*, by *William Shakespeare*. Her committee members were: Kristine Kearney (chair), Mary Tarantino and Mandy Fox.

Matthew McCarren (M.F.A. 2008) successfully defended his thesis/project, the lighting design for *Working: A Musical*. Committee members included Mary Tarantino (chair), Dan Gray, Mo Ryan and guest Chris Roche.

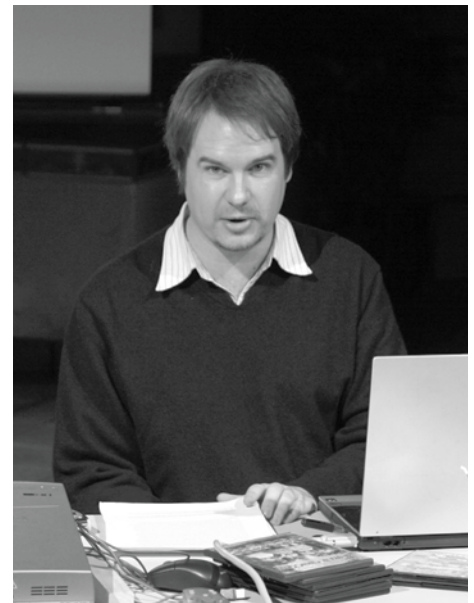
Jordan Kardasz (M.F.A. 2008) successfully defended her thesis/project for her lighting design of *Wild Stages: MFA Kabarett!* Committee members included Mary Tarantino (chair), Dan Gray, and John Giffin of the Department of Dance.



Sara Helgesen (B.A. 2008) (right) celebrates her graduation.



Laura Baggs' display What Does a Dramaturg Do? at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.



Jason Bush presents "Translating Danza de las Tijeras: The Contemporary Transnational Scene" at the Urban Party Mix in the Roy Bowen Theatre.



Allison Bressi's research for her directing projects, *The Clean House* and *tick, tick...boom* at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION AWARDS

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

Co-Sponsor and member of Alpha Psi Omega Eric Mayer led the 2008-2009 Officers in the Oath of Office. The newly elected Alpha Psi Omega officers are: President – **Will Burress**
Vice President – **Megan Corbin**
Business Manager – **Patrick Stengle**.

Joy Reilly recognized the following individuals with Undergraduate Student Excellence in recognition for distinction work in Theatre and for their participation in the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum:

Allison Bressi (B.A. 2008) – “Directing Theatre: An Exploration of Stage Directing in Two Different Forms,” **Jennifer Harris** (B.A. 2008) – “It’s Because You’re White: A Distinction Project in Black White,” **Laura Baggs** (B.A. 2008) – “What Does a Dramaturg Do?: Working as a Dramaturg on Two Very Different Productions and Discovering the Dramaturg’s Importance to Theatre.” **Elizabeth Yerian** (B.A. 2008) was recognized for graduating with Honors in both Theatre and English and outstanding commitment to the Department of Theatre as a performer, organizer, and scholar. The department honored **Greg Varner** (M.A. 2008) for Outstanding Contribution and Service in recognition of his contributions and dedication to the department.

Maureen Ryan recognized actors for the multitude of Theatre 310 and 610 scenes. She recognized **Bill Gordon** (B.A. Student) for Outstanding Contribution and Service in recognition of his performance, dedication, and support of the Department of Theatre Directing Courses.

Mo also presented Department of Theatre Honors to the following B.A. Students for Outstanding Contribution to the 2007-2008 Production Season:

Kyle Jepson in recognition of her performance in *The Three Bully Goats Griff* and in recognition of her leadership and design assistance in *Working: A Musical*.

Hartman Brawley in recognition of his performance in *The Three Bully Goats Griff*.

Eric Slezak in recognition of his design and leadership for *The Three Bully Goats Griff* and *The Labyrinth of Desire*.

Ashlee Mundy in recognition of her performances in *The Trojan Women 2.0* and *Working: A Musical*.

Meredith Lark in recognition of her performance in *Working: A Musical*.

Diana Bae in recognition of her

performance in *Working: A Musical*.

Akil Babb in recognition of his performance in *Working: A Musical*.

Lindsay Beery in recognition of her leadership in *Working: A Musical*.

Matt Proctor in recognition of her performance in *The Labyrinth of Desire*.

Shane Needham in recognition of his performance in *The Labyrinth of Desire*.

Jessica Chinn in recognition of her performance in *Vendetta Chrome*.

Katie Dysard in recognition of her design for *Medea*.

Sarah Helgesen in recognition of her leadership in *The Labyrinth of Desire*.

Elizabeth Yerian in recognition of her performance in *The Trojan Women 2.0*.

Lydia Fleck in recognition of her design for *The Labyrinth of Desire*.

Doreen Salkiewicz in recognition of her performance in *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Amani Davidson in recognition of his performance in *Much Ado About Nothing*.



Jennifer Harris accepts her award from Mark Shanda and Joy Reilly.

Adrienne Varwig in recognition of her design for *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!*

Jennifer Kramer in recognition of her leadership in *The Three Short Plays* and *Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!*

Lauza Hum in recognition of her leadership in *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Laura Baggs in recognition of her dramaturgical work for *Working: A Musical*.

Corey Balogh in recognition of his leadership in *The Labyrinth of Desire*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Working: A Musical!*

Marysha Sarris in recognition of her design and construction work for *The Three Bully Goats Griff* and the 07-08 OSU Theatre Season.

Several students were recognized for their Theatre Roundtable Awards:

Excellence in Acting to **Sarah Katz** (B.A. Student) *The Children’s Hour*

Excellence in Acting to **Julie Ann McMillan** (M.F.A. Acting Student) *Mary Stuart*

Excellence in Production for Scenic Design to **Matthew D. McCarren** (M.F.A. Design 2008) *The Trojan Women 2.0*

Excellence in Production for Scenic Design to **Elinore Loomis** (M.F.A. Design Student) *Mary Stuart*

Excellence in Production for Costume Design to **Mary Yaw McMullen** (M.F.A. Design 2007) *Mary Stuart*

Lesley Ferris presented Graduate Student Excellence Awards to the following students:

Caehlin Bell (M.A. 2008) nominated by Joy Reilly, with Graduate Student Excellence in recognition for Teaching, Research and Creative Activity.

Jennifer Stoessner (Ph.D 2008) nominated by Joy Reilly, with Graduate Student Excellence in recognition for Teaching, Research and Creative Activity.

Emily Fargo (M.A. 2008) nominated by Nena Couch and Beth Kattelman, with Graduate Student Excellence in recognition for Service, Research and Creative Activity.

Rebecca Kallemeyn (M.A. 2008) nominated by Nena Couch and Beth Kattelman, with Graduate Student Excellence in recognition for Service, Research and Creative Activity.

Kiana Harris (M.F.A. Acting Student) nominated by Mo Ryan, with Graduate Student Excellence in recognition for Teaching, Service and Creative Activity.

Jordan Kardasz (M.F.A. Design 2008) nominated by Mary Tarantino, with Graduate Student Excellence in recognition for Teaching, Service and Creative Activity.

Jason Bush (Ph.D. Student) nominated by Lesley Ferris, with Graduate Student Excellence in recognition for Research.

Melanie House (Ph.D. Student) nominated by Lesley Ferris, with Graduate Student Excellence in recognition for Teaching.

Bethany Banister (Ph.D. Student) nominated by Stratos Constantinidis with Graduate Student Excellence in recognition for Research.

Spotlight on Students (continued)

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION AWARDS

Janet Parrott presented awards for Outstanding Contributions in the area of Video Production honoring the following B.A. Students in recognition of their Outstanding Dedication to Media Arts:

Rasean Davonte Johnson
Aaron Kunkel
Ruth Lang
Craig Pentak
Steve Tsentsereny

Rachel Barnes recognized the following students for their Outstanding Contribution in the Box Office:

Lindsay Beery (B.A. Student) for Outstanding Contribution and Service in recognition of her performance and leadership in the OSU Theatre Box Office.
Laura Hum (B.A. Student) for Outstanding Contribution and Service in recognition of her performance and leadership in the OSU Theatre Box Office.

Mark Shanda presented the Chair's Award for Academic Achievement honoring the following graduate students with the Chair's Award for Academic Achievement for maintaining a 4.0 cumulative grade point average:

Melissa Lee (Ph.D. Student)
Christopher Matsos (Ph.D. Student)
Karen Mozingo (Ph.D. 2008)
Ian Pugh (Ph.D. Student)
Matthew Yde (Ph.D. Student)

Mark Shanda also recognized the following undergraduate students with the Chair's Award for Academic Achievement for maintaining a 3.85 or higher cumulative grade point average:

Erin Asselta, Andi Barnett, Jessica Biggert, Katherine Bowman, Cory Clawson, Andrew Copenhaver, Liam Cronin, Adam Davidson, Kathryn Dysard, Angela Henderson, Meredith Lark, Barbara Papalios, Mark Schwamberger, John Sorenson, Laura Spires

Lesley Ferris recognized the following individuals who were awarded international travel funding from the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, the College of the Arts, and/or the Department of Theatre:

Raymond Caldwell (M.F.A. Acting Student)
Liam Cronin (B.A. Student)
Kathryn Dysard (B.A. Student)
Angela Henderson (B.A. Student)
Anna Hoptry (B.A. Student)
Kayla Jackmon (B.A. Student)
Kyle Jepson (B.A. Student)

Melissa Lee (Ph.D. Student)
Barbie Papalios (B.A. Student)
Ian Pugh (Ph.D. Student)
Marysha Sarris (B.A. Student)
Laura Spires (B.A. Student)

Anthony Hill recognized the following Undergraduate Graduates

Summer Quarter 2007

Miranda Crowe, Ryan Hemsoth, Nolan Martin, Drew Raitch, Michaeline Sexton.

Autumn Quarter 2007

Michael Eberst, Ryan Harvey, Sarah Katz, Kelly McKanna, Jeanine Meyer, Katharine Phillips, Elizabeth Shay.

Winter Quarter 2008

Reginald Harper, Sarah Helgesen, Brandon Massay, Eric Slezak, Nicholas Trouw.

Spring Quarter 2008

Katarina Aubrecht, Jessica Chinn, Billy Earnhart, Lydia Fleck, Stephanie Hill,

Rebecca Hitt, Laura Hum, Julia Hypes, Laura Jack, Max Koknar, Jennifer Kramer, Roni Leake, Alexander Mack, Mark Schwamberger, Bethany Small, Jonathan Thimdit, Liz Tufts, Adrienne Varwig, Donald Wahlenmaier, Michaela Willford, Angela Wilson, Elizabeth Yerian.

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 playwrighting. Recipients:

Jessica Biggert, Samantha Bowling, Kathryn Burkhart, Cory Clawson, Liam Cronin, Jaclyn Ferguson, Margaret Glaser, William Gordon, Caitlin Headley, Angela Henderson, Peyton Noland, Barbara Papalios, Robert Pond, Marysha Sarris, Jessica Studer, Taylor Tackett, Meagan Winkelman.

The Michael Swink Fund for Talent in Theatre Technology was established in 1980 in memory of Michael Swink, B.A. 1975, and



Beth Kattelman, Emily Fargo, Nena Couch and Lesley Ferris at Emily's award presentation.

Maureen Ryan (far right) presents honors to students for their Outstanding Contribution to the 2007-2008 Production Season.



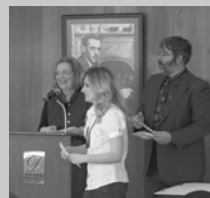
Jason Bush receives an award from Lesley Ferris.



Melissa Lee, Chris Matsos, Ian Pugh, and Matthew Yde celebrate their awards from Mark Shanda.



Jessie Biggert celebrates her award from Mark Shanda.



Lesley Ferris and Mark Shanda present an award to Marysha Sarris.



Katarina Albrecht receives an award from Anthony Hill.



Jessica Studer receives her award from Mark Shanda.

provides funding for undergraduate students who have demonstrated exceptional talent and ability in theatre in the area of design and technology. Recipients:

Kathryn Burkhart, Brandon Curtis, Kathryn Dysard, Caitlin Headley.

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:

Jessica Biggert, Cory Clawson, William Gordon, Peyton Noland, Jessica Studer.

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:

Brandon Curtis, Kathryn Dysard, Jaclyn Ferguson, William Gordon, Angela Henderson, Marysha Sarris.

The Scarlet Mask Award was established in 1973 by members of the Scarlet Mask Society to recognize distinction and outstanding performance. Recipient:

Liam Cronin

Awarded annually in memory of Steven Vrba, Assistant Professor of Theatre, 1982-January 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:

Brandon Curtis



Mark Shanda and Joy Reilly congratulate Jennifer Stoessner for her award.



Mark Shanda presents an award to Bill Gordon.



Greg Varner thanks Mark Shanda and Joy Reilly for the recognition.



Caehlin Bell accepts her award from Mark Shanda and Lesley Ferris.



Mark Shanda presents an award to Laura Baggs.



Beth Kattelman, Rebecca Kallemeyn, Nena Couch and Lesley Ferris at Rebecca's award presentation.

Regional Campus Reports

OSU Newark

By Dave Williams, Associate Professor

The 2007-08 theatre season at OSU-Newark got off to a somewhat rocky start. After several rehearsals and the beginning of set construction, it became necessary to cancel the autumn production, which was to have been *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. Perhaps another time.



A scene from OSU Newark's production of *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*.

The winter production fared much better. After two years of negotiations, the director was finally able to present *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*. This show, currently in long runs in both New York and Chicago, consists of 30 plays every night performed in 60 minutes in a random order suggested by the audience. Its high energy and presentational style proved a hit with audiences and plans are under way to reprise the evening the year after next with 30 completely different plays and a new cast.

The spring production was Christopher Durang's *Baby With the Bathwater*. To compensate for the relative bareness of the set required for the winter show, the set for this play was the most complex the director has ever designed or built. The architecture of the main unit is inspired by Dr. Seuss, and it was complemented by periaktoi, a Pollock-type backdrop, and a large cartoon sun that flies in. The cast was as strong as the writing and received a good audience response.

Regional Campus

Reports (continued)

OSU Mansfield

By Joseph Fahey, Assistant Professor

This was a wonderful year for college theatre in Mansfield. We opened our season with Shakespeare's delightful comedy *Twelfth Night*. For the opening night of this production we were joined by the Arts and Lectures 2007 Distinguished Diversity Lecturer David Halperin. On stage, alongside the show's cast and director, Professor Halperin shared a post-show reflection on classical images of love present in Shakespeare's play.

For its second weekend, we loaded our set on a truck and moved *Twelfth Night* downtown to the Mansfield Playhouse. For three shows we brought Shakespeare back to this storied community theatre after an absence of many years. Our students and the Playhouse's staff enjoyed a lively collaboration, and, thanks to Designer Richard Keith's inventiveness, our set even found its way into the Playhouse's production of *A Christmas Carol* two weeks later.

In February we presented a Winter Shorts Festival of plays, again in Downtown Mansfield, this time at the Richland Academy. The intimate setting of their performance hall allowed us to offer plays by Harold Pinter, Samuel Beckett, and other contemporary theatre artists in a cabaret setting. This mix of edgy shows and short modern masterpieces wouldn't appear on most of the stages of Mansfield. They raised a few eyebrows, and brought out some new audiences. They also enriched the programming on campus and at the Academy, and provided many commendations from a surprising mix of our patrons.



Twelfth Night, autumn 2007 (L to R: Katy Esmont, Scott Schagg, Tabitha Rymal, Billy Haynes)

For our final show of the season, former OSUM Theatre Director Larry Evans returned as J.B. Biggley in the Tony Award-winning musical comedy *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Audiences delighted in seeing Larry on stage again, our students (and their director) learned a thing or two about musical theatre, and many of our patrons were able to reacquaint themselves with a dear friend after a three year absence.

ACTING FOR THE CAMERA

By Diana Bae (B.A. Student)

In my Ohio State college experience, I felt that I had learned many useful tools and techniques to apply towards stage performance, but film acting was the one area in which I was lacking knowledge. So naturally, as a senior undergraduate student in the theatre department, I was very excited to hear that Jimmy Bohr was offering an Acting for Camera class in my last quarter here at OSU. In the short period of ten weeks, Jimmy managed to cover the most crucial elements of Film/TV acting, while still giving each student the individual and useful guidance needed to help hone our skills. He focused primarily on those facets of camera acting that we as young actors would truly be able to utilize in "the real world." He discussed

the "do's and don'ts" of auditioning for Film/TV, taught us the basic technical jargon that we should be familiar with, the nuances of different camera shots and how to act accordingly, and the major differences between Stage and Film/TV acting. We worked with scenes from both movies and daytime television, which was effective in our learning the different acting styles needed for different genres. The Acting for Camera class has been an invaluable experience that I feel has been one of the most beneficial and applicable towards shaping my craft. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with a professor like Jimmy, who is so genuinely interested in helping his students to grow as actors.

OSU Lima

By Joe Brandesky, Professor

The Lima campus theatre program generated three productions in the 2007-2008 academic year. Maria Ignatieva directed and wrote *The Swan Lake* (the original story for the famous ballet) for our Theatre for Young Audiences performances during autumn 2007. Christina Ritter directed Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* during winter 2008. Joe Brandesky directed the spring 2008 production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, our first musical in seventeen years. Brad Steinmetz designed sets and Loo Brandesky designed costumes for all productions this last year. Next year we will welcome our new designer, Greg Owen as Assistant Professor of Theatre, Melanie House as Lecturer and Doug Raver as Assistant Technical Director to our department.



A scene from OSU Lima's production of *The Swan Lake*.

Three students who played active roles in our theatre program were recognized with spring 2008 academic awards at OSU Lima. Lena Plescher was given the Arts Divisional Award (sponsored by the Music, Art and Theatre faculties) while Theatre Departmental awards went to Stephanie Seaman and Ashley Dillen. Joe Brandesky was awarded the OSU Lima Outstanding Scholar Award during the academic awards ceremony.

Next year's season in Lima will include *The Red Fox and the Firebird*, a new play for young audiences written and directed by Joe Brandesky, autumn 2008, an arena production of *The Laramie Project* directed by former OSU Lima student Kimberly Barrett coupled with a studio course in the Michael Chekhov Acting Method, winter 2009, and the musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, directed by Joe Brandesky, spring 09. All set designs will be by Greg Owen and all costumes provided by Loo Brandesky during the coming year.



Diana Bae (far left) in a scene from OSU Theatre's production of *Working: A Musical*.

Faculty and Staff

updates

Jimmy Bohr

Assistant Professor
Acting and Directing



- Directed *Pangea* by Steven Culp, a staged reading for the Science on Stage Festival, The Magic Theatre, San Francisco, September 2007.
- Directed *Awake in the Dark* by Shira Nayman, Lincoln Center Institute, New York City, October 2007.
- Directed *Octopus* by Steve Yockey, a workshop for the New Voiced West Festival, The Magic Theatre, San Francisco, December 2007.
- Directed *Stones in His Pockets* by Marie Jones, Carrickmacross Productions, Madlab Theatre, Columbus, June 2008.

Damian Bowerman

Graduate Studies and
Publicity Coordinator



- Played "Donnie" in the *The Foursome* at The Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) in June 2008. Of his performance Michael Grossberg of the Columbus Dispatch said, "As golf neophyte Donnie, Damian Bowerman might have the funniest but least complex role. Yet his easygoing, emotionally centered approach to the happily married father of five makes the character engaging and welcome."
- Presented his process for creating a character and scoring a script to the CATCO Board of Trustees at a board meeting, June 2008.
- Performed his one man show *John D. Rockefeller: Divine Philanthropist or Cold-Blooded Oil Tycoon* for The Ohio Humanities Council Speaker's Bureau at the Ohio Historical Society's Conestoga Conference in Columbus, January 2008, the Allen County Museum, January 2008, the Dublin Community Recreation Center, April 2008 and the Mount Vernon Chautauqua series in August 2008.

Joe Brandesky

Professor
OSU Lima campus



- Editor for *Twentieth Century Czech Stage Design: Metaphor and Irony Revisited* Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2007.
- Produced *Swan Lake* at OSU Lima in the autumn.

Stratos Constantinidis

Professor
History, Literature and Criticism

- Gave a talk on the golden age of Greek cinema at the Barker Humanities Center at Harvard, a second talk at Yale on Greek film, the Truman Doctrine and the Military Dictatorship of 1967, and chaired a panel on visions and revisions in drama at the 31st Comparative Drama Conference.
- Published two volumes in 2007: *Text & Presentation, 2006: The Comparative Drama Conference Series and Modern Greek Theatre*, a special issue of the Journal of Modern Greek Studies.
- Served as consultant for the Ohio Department of Education Licensure Programs, Standards and Submissions as a member of the Writing Team for Drama/Theatre.

Nena Couch

Professor
Curator, The Jerome
Lawrence and Robert E.
Lee Theatre Research
Institute



- Co-edited and contributed essays to *Documenting: Lighting Design* published by the Theatre Library Association.
- Published two articles highlighting the wonderful Curtiss Show Print Collection donated to the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute by Nyle Stateler: "The American Show Printer: Curtiss Show Print and Hatch Show Print" in *Theatre Survey* and "Collection Profile and Overview" in *Celebrating Research: Rare and Special Collections* from the Membership of the Association of Research Libraries.
- Presented "Dance in Eighteenth-Century Spain" at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon in March.
- Did choreography for OSU's production of

Much Ado About Nothing.

- Is serving as a member of the International Theatre Exchange, of the USA Committee for UNESCO.
- Continues to serve on the board of the Dance Heritage Coalition

Nicholas Dekker

Lecturer
Theatre 100 Administrator



- Reviewed *Radio Macbeth*, Created by SITI Company, Directed by Anne Bogart. The Wexner Center for the Arts, Performance Space, Columbus, OH, February 2007, published in the December 2007 issue of *Theatre Journal*.
- Nick and Beth welcomed William Isaac Dekker into the world on July 3, 2008, at 7:48 p.m. He weighed in at 9 lbs. 13 oz. and measured 20.5 inches.

Joseph Fahey

Assistant Professor
OSU Mansfield Campus

- Published Book Reviews of *Remaking American Theatre: Charles Mee, Anne Bogart and the SITI Company* by Scott T. Cummings in *Theatre Journal* (May 2008) and *Samuel Beckett's Plays on Film and Television* by Graley Herren in *Theatre Survey* (forthcoming).
- Conducted the workshop "Less Think, More Move: Approaching Character from the Outside-In," for the Ohio Theatre Alliance North Central Regional Auditions and Workshops in New Concord, Ohio, in February 2008.
- Developed collaborations with The Mansfield Playhouse for the Autumn 2007 production of *Twelfth Night* and The Richland Academy for the Winter 2008 production of *The Winter Shorts Festival*

Lesley Ferris

Professor
History, Literature and
Criticism



- Co-curator of *Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival*, City Hall, London. Funded by Arts Council England and the Mayor of London. September 26-October 30, 2007.
- Co-editor of the 48 page catalogue for the exhibition: *Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival*

**"One of the best events in theatre:
The Trojan Women 2.0"**

- The Columbus Dispatch 2007 Year in Review.

- Published "Daily Life 1: Kitchen Show", in Bobby Baker: Redeeming Features of Daily Life, editors Michele Barrett and Bobby Baker

Dave Fisher

Lecturer and Buckeye TV Coordinator



- Oversaw production of Buckeye TV with approximately 60-70 students per quarter. The 2007-2008 year saw continued growth in both enrollment and amount of new television programming endeavors.
- Student influences helped "The Buckeye 19 News" and shows such as "Jackpot Trivia Bowl" and "Try Your Luck" continue towards its goals of creating an open and diverse student media outlet.
- Buckeye TV broadcast a special edition of "Backtalk Live" with special guest Dr. Gordon Gee. In addition, OSU students competed in song and dance for the grand prize on the show "OSU Talent Search."
- "The Campus Report" offered a humorous look at news and current events while hosting guests such as Sen. John Glenn, Archie Griffin, and Miss Ohio's Roberta Camp.
- Directed over 150 hours of live television and created over a dozen TV commercials in the past year, and tried to keep up with the rapid changes in the broadcast industry by attending the National Association of Broadcasters National Convention.
- Taught Theatre 634 Video Production each quarter.

Mandy Fox

Assistant Professor Acting and Directing



- Performed the role of Sister Aloysius in *Doubt* at the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO). Received Best Actress award for her performance from the Central Ohio Theatre Critics Circle.
- Directed *Much Ado About Nothing* for OSU Theatre, winter 2008.
- Served as Vocal Coach for The Phoenix Theatre Ensemble and CAPA's production of *Secret Garden*, autumn. Collection, analysis, and coaching of the Yorkshire, Received Pronunciation, and Scottish dialects,

attendance and notes at select rehearsals with combined hearing and hearing-impaired cast.

- Project Leader, Head-writer and Vocal Coach for *You are Here*, Red Herring Theatre Ensemble, Club Diversity, summer 2007.
- Vocal Coach for *The Trojan Women 2.0*, Ohio State University, autumn.
- Associate Editor, International Dialects of English Archive.
- Regional Editor, VASTA.

Dan Gray

Associate Professor Design and Technology



- Designed the set for the production of *The Secret Garden* produced in collaboration with CAPA, The Phoenix Theatre Circle and Opera Columbus at The Shubert Theatre, New Haven, CT and The Southern Theatre, Columbus, OH.
- Designed the set for productions of *The Piano Lesson* and *The Pillowman* at CATCO in Columbus, OH.
- Scenic design for the world premiere of *WHODUNIT? At Ballet Met Columbus*.
- Adjudicated the KC/ACTF Region IV design Exhibit in Clemson, SC.
- Exhibition design of the national tour of Russel Wright: Better Living Through Design exhibit through spring 2008. This exhibit, which opened at the Ohio Decorative Arts Center in May, '06, received strong reviews from national publications such as *Antiques & Auction News* and *Maine Antique Digest* as well as *The Columbus Dispatch*, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, and *Columbus Alive*.

Anthony Hill

Associate Professor History, Literature and Criticism



- Working on his book *Historical Dictionary on African American Theatre*.
- Professor Quintard Taylor of The University of Washington, included four of his theatre profiles on his World Wide Website Black Past.org (The Black Past, Remembered and Reclaimed History: an Online Reference Guide to African American History.)
- Served as an adjudicator for the Young Scholars Contest and facilitated the Black Pioneer Award at the National Black Theatre Network conference.

- Attended The National Black Theatre Network Conference and National Black Theatre Festival in Winston Salem, North Carolina as well as a conference on August Wilson at The University of Maryland.

Maria Ignatieva

Associate Professor OSU Lima Campus

- Completed the manuscript *Stanislavsky and Female Actors*, which has been accepted by the University Press of America, to be published in November 2008.
- Represents Lima Campus and the College of the Arts on the OSU Presidential Council on Women (2007-2010).

Beth Kattelman

Assistant Curator, Theatre Research Institute Assistant Professor, OSU Libraries



- Developed a class on "Horror Films and Culture" as part of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Freshman Seminar program.
- Directed Christopher Durang's one-act version of *Medea* for OSU's evening of Three Short Plays, November 2007.
- Attended the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference in San Francisco where she delivered a paper on "The Horror Film as Cautionary Tale" and was also asked to serve on a special panel discussing responses to hate speech both in the classroom and beyond.
- Published book reviews in *Theatre Journal*, *The Journal of Popular Culture*, and *Theatre Survey* and also contributed several entries to encyclopedias.
- Completed a Special Research Assignment that took her to the American Museum of Magic (Marshall, Michigan) to conduct research on the theatrical aspects of the nineteenth century Spiritualist movement, summer 2007. One resultant article from this trip appeared in an issue of *Theatre Survey*. Beth was the first recipient of the Barbara Van Brimmer Award, given by the University Libraries in partial support of this project.
- Submitted proposal for a Pilot project in Second Life which was one of five chosen by Ohio State's Technology Enhanced Learning and Research office for a test run. Beth will use Second Life to aid students understanding of the design and adaptation of performance spaces.

Kristine Kearney

*Assistant Professor
Design and Technology*

- Costume Design for professional production of *Fair and Tender Ladies* produced by Alabama Shakespeare Festival, July, 2007.
- Costume Design for professional production of *Doubt* produced by Contemporary American Theatre Company, April, 2008.
- Received the Peggy Ezekiel award of Outstanding Achievement for her costume designs for *Hair* at the United States Institute for Theatre Technology Ohio Valley Conference held in Wilmington, OH. Her designs were selected for this recognition out of a pool of twenty-six entries. The Peggy Ezekiel Award is presented annually to recognize outstanding achievement in Design and Technology.

**Kaizaad Kotwal**

*Lecturer
Marion Campus*

- Awarded the Griffin Society Teaching Award, which recognizes superior undergraduate teaching by a senior lecturer, lecturer, instructor, or teaching associate at Ohio State Marion. The award was presented at the 37th Annual Ohio State Marion Academic Recognition Program in May.

Valerie Lucas

*Assistant Professor
Acting and Directing*

- Designed for a new play, *De Botty Business*, by Benjamin Zephaniah at the Hackney Empire.

**Eric H. Mayer**

*Undergraduate Studies
Coordinator*

- Began his part-time pursuit of a Master of Fine Arts in Stage and Theatre Management at OSU.
- Served as the Production Stage Manager for CAPA's presentation of the musical adaptation of *The Secret Garden*, performed by deaf and hearing actors in both English and American Sign Language. The production opened in the historical Shubert Theatre



(New Haven, CT) and closed at the Southern Theatre (Columbus, OH).

- Served as the Stage Manager for the Columbus Youth Ballet's *Nutcracker* (his eighth year working on this production).

Janet Parrot

*Assistant Professor
Design and Technology*

- Presented a video short at the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa (FHSSA), Archbishop Tutu Leads Celebratory National Launch of Diana Legacy Fund.
- Producing and directing the video documentary *Women's Work*. It's in the post-production phase. This documentary is about a group of remarkable American women who went to South Africa and had meaningful conversations with South African hospice nurses and caregivers.
- Video collaboration with the Department of Theatre design, acting and video students in the creation, advising and production of a video short titled *The Beyonder*.

**Robin Post**

*Lecturer
InterACT Facilitator and
Director*

- Continued development of the InterACT program, now two years running and beginning its third.
- Wrote adaptation and directed staged reading of novel, *What is The What?* (Depicting the survival and journey of a Sudanese Lost Boy.)
- Producer and Director of the performance *Views of War* at WOSU/COSI (A collaboration with several WWII veterans and the students of InterACT.)
- Producer and Director of *Shared Stories, Separate Journey* (A cancer survivorship performance in collaboration with JamesCare For Life and the students of InterACT.)
- InterACT performed a piece about ethical behavior for both faculty and students at the First Year Experience Conference.
- InterACT performed *I'm scared of that student, please remove him from my class* (a scene depicting instructors that fear seemingly disruptive and unruly students) and *Why is religion so scary?* (A scene



depicting the issues of faithism on campus.)

- Performed the Mother in CATCO's production of *The Pillowman*, by Martin McDonagh.
- Attended Augusto Boal's three day workshop on Theatre of the Oppressed.
- Attended NCBI (National Coalition Building Institute) three day workshop and received certificate of membership.

Joy Reilly

*Associate Professor
History, Literature and
Criticism*

- Invited to perform at the Wexner Center with Howling at the Moon's Writing Our Lives: The Exquisite Art of Aging.
- Howling at the Moon has been contacted by two of the largest corporations in the country that run living and learning retirement centers --- the Erickson, which is building a campus in Hilliard, and the Eden Alternative. This southern-based organization invited them to perform at their international conference held in Columbus in June.
- Retirement Living TV cable channel of Baltimore, Md. created a 10 minute feature about Howling at the Moon at the Wexner Center.
- Continued to create new scripts with Howling at the Moon, performed and taught workshops, seminars, and classes at such state events as the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education, and the Senior Theatre USA national association in Baltimore.
- Presented her research at ATHE 2007 in New Orleans.
- Received a "Harold" Award from the Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable for her prolific career, including her work with the Senior Theatre movement.

**Maureen Ryan**

*Assistant Professor
Acting and Directing*

- Producing Artistic Director, Red Herring Theatre Ensemble, Columbus, OH, July 2001 - Present. Red Herring's mission is to produce innovative and thought-provoking theatre in an intimate theatre setting, and to provide



Faculty and Staff

employment and career development opportunities for local theatre artists.

- Co-Director with Jeanine Thompson, *The Trojan Women 2.0*, The Ohio State University, autumn 2007.
- Director/Creator, *Ellington Nutcracker*, Red Herring Theatre Ensemble in partnership with Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA), November 2006 - Present. In conjunction with Jonathan Tazewell, Red Herring Associate Artistic Director, she will be developing a dance theatre piece based on Duke Ellington's jazz version of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. The piece is to be staged annually in December at the newly renovated Lincoln Theatre in Columbus, OH which will open in April of 2009.
- Promoted to Associate Professor with tenure commencing the 2008-2009 academic year.

Mark Shanda

*Chair and Professor
Design and Technology*

- Appointed by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications as a Sector/Subject Specialist for a three-year period until June 30, 2011.
- Served as External Program Reviewer for Iowa State University, Ames, IA.
- Wrote three tenure reviews for Assistant to Associate candidates from other universities.



Mary Tarantino

*Associate Professor
Design and Technology*

- Lighting Designer for *The Pillowman*, Contemporary American Theatre Company, Studio One Theatre, Columbus, Ohio, September 2007.
- Lighting Designer for *The Secret Garden*, CAPA/Phoenix Theatre/Opera Columbus co-production, performed at The Shubert Theatre, New Haven, CT, and at the Southern Theatre, OH, November 2007.
- Published an article in the *Theatre Library Association* entitled "Beyond the Produced Design: Teaching Lighting Design Through Archival Research."



Jeanine Thompson

*Associate Professor
Acting and Directing*

- Nationally Recognized Master Teacher: Only dance and theatre artist invited to participate on the Math and the Arts Curriculum Development Program (MAPS) for the National Institute for Education and the Arts located in Washington DC.
- Director and Choreographer: *The Trojan Women 2.0* voted to be one of "The Best Shows of the Year" by the Central Ohio Theatre Critics Association.
- Authored "*Remembrances of Marcel Marceau*" published by Michael Grossberg in the *Columbus Dispatch's* Blog, a regional site with international access, October 2007.



David Williams

*Associate Professor
OSU Newark Campus*

- Directed and performed in poetry reading of Richard Wilbur's works.
- Directed, designed, built, lit, and performed in 30 Neo-Futurist plays in 60 minutes, *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*.
- Directed and performed in poetry reading of the works of Edna St. Vincent Millay.
- Directed, designed, built, and lit Christopher Durang's *Baby With the Bathwater*.
- Directed and performed in reading of the found poetry of Phil Rizzuto, *O Holy Cow*.

Alan Woods

*Professor
History, Literature and Criticism*

- Organized and hosted the Eileen Heckart Playwriting Competition and the Playwrights retreat both of which solidified a growing reputation for Ohio State as a place that celebrates playwrights.
- Helping to develop and reinforce the focus of Beyond the Borscht Belt, the new Columbus Jewish Arts Festival.
- Several of Alan Woods plays were produced this year. *The Danish* was produced by the Heritage Theatre Company as part of the "Family Foibles" Festival in Bend, Oregon, and by the Maple Grove Players as part of the "Dessert Plays" at the Maple Grove



Methodist Church here in Columbus, both in May. *Who's Herbert?* was produced by the Spokane Civic Theatre, Spokane, Washington, also in May, and will be presented at the Senior Theatre Festival in Baltimore this month; *Limbo, Ohio* is also being presented at the Senior Theatre Festival. As a side note, all the plays are available online (which is how a couple of these groups found them) at <http://playsbyalanwoods.blogspot.com>.

- Organized readings of Limbo Plays at Gallery 202 in Westerville, Ohio, the Department of Theatre, Cleveland State University, Elizabethtown College (Lancaster, Pennsylvania), and Ohio Dominican University in Columbus. Ten-minute plays on the topic of limbo were submitted by writers from the United States, Canada, Scotland, England, and Australia, and were given free staged readings. More information about the Limbo Play Project is available at <http://limboplays.blogspot.com>.
- Submitted proposal for a pilot project in Second Life which was one of five chosen by Ohio State's Technology Enhanced Learning and Research office for a test run. Alan will use Second Life to aid students understanding of cultural and structural impacts on performance spaces.

Jan Woods

Costume Studio Supervisor

- Designed the costumes for *Woman In Black* for Whistling in the Dark Theatre, the cooperative project that M.F.A. Acting Students Dwayne Blackaller, Kal Poole and Scott Wilson did with Upper Arlington High School last fall.

Chris Zinkon

*Assistant Technical
Director*

- Served as Production Technical Director for OSU Theatre's productions of *The Trojan Women 2.0*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!*
- Designed sound for OSU Theatre's production of *Working: A Musical*.
- Specified and installed a new loudspeaker system in Thurber Theatre.
- Designed sound and scenery automation systems for Pickerington High School North Theatre's productions of *A Christmas Story* and *High School Musical*.



Alumni and Friends

Alumni News

Researched and compiled by
Damian Bowerman, Graduate Studies
and Publicity Coordinator

1950's

Frank Rutledge (B.A. 1956, M.A. 1958)
Michigan State University Emeritus
Professor of Theatre History/Directing
and co-founder of MSU's Summer Circle
Theatre Frank Rutledge died on February
19, 2008. He was 72. "For close to 50
years Frank Rutledge instilled a deep
appreciation for the performing arts
in the lives of MSU students, many of
whom went on to successful careers
around the country, both in professional
theater and in academia," said George
Peters, chairperson of the Department of
Theatre. "Frank Rutledge not only taught
theater history, he made it." Memorial
contributions may be sent to the MSU
Department of Theatre or the Michigan
Nature Conservancy.

M. Glen Wilson (Ph.D. 1957)
Macalester College Emeritus Professor
of Speech and Dramatic Arts M. Glen
Wilson died in January of 2006.

1960's

Stephen Conrad (B.A. 1969)
Stephen retired from the United States
Army as a Colonel in 1999 after almost
29 years of service. He has worked for
non profits since 1999 and received
an award at the White House Annex
for his Fund Raising success for the
2003 Combined Federal Campaign in
Northeast Florida. From 1965-1969 he
attended OSU on the University Musical
Productions Scholarship awarded by the
late Dr. Roy Bowen. He had major roles
in: *Mr. Roberts*, *Wonderful Town*, *Finnians*
Rainbow, *Our Town*, *Romeo and Juliet*,
and *How to Succeed in Business*. He
has dabbled in theatre after retiring from
the military and played Huckelbee in *The*
Fantastics at a Dinner Theater in Georgia.

1970's

Toni-Leslie James (B.F.A. 1979)
Toni is now teaching at Virginia
Commonwealth University. Her daughter
Cosi helped Bucknell's basketball
team win the Patriot League D1 NCAA
championship.

Michael Weferling (B.F.A. 1976)
Michael has worked as a sound engineer
for the Broadway musicals *A Chorus*
Line, *Grand Hotel*, *Teddy and Alice*, *Crazy*
for You, and many others. He was in
Columbus in July 2007 with the National
Company's touring production of *Wicked*.

1980's

Helen Fashbaugh (M.F.A. 1982)
Helen teaches high school English and
Drama and is directing plays in Bessemer,
MI. She has four grown kids and a
grandson. She does much work with two
theatres in the area. One is a restored
old 1920's once-a-movie palace that
imports entertainment and the other is
a wonderful community theatre space
called Theatre North. She frequently
directs, holds workshops for all ages, and
acts occasionally. She spent three years
as a member of a local improv comedy
troupe. Helen's husband Jack is a lay
minister for two Presbyterian churches in
the area, adjunct professor for Northland
College (Ashland, WI) and seminary
student working toward ordination.

Jeff Fiske (Ph.D. 1988)
Jeff's adaptation of C.S. Lewis' *The*
Screwtape Letters moved from Off-
Off Broadway to Off Broadway. It was
performed in The Theatre at Saint
Clement's.

Deborah Jordan (M.F.A. 1989)
Deborah is Associate Professor of
Theatre, Program Head, Acting &
Directing at the Department of Theatre
and Dance at Jacksonville University
(www.ju.edu). She has received tenure.
Jacksonville University opened a newly
renovated theatre space--a 400 seat
state-of-the-art proscenium theatre.

Lisa Molyneux (M.F.A. 1987)
Lisa was featured in the April 2008 issue
of *Dramatics* magazine in the article, "The
Scenic Artist: Painting a Sense of Place,"
by Mike Lawler. Lisa completed her 17th
season with Cincinnati Playhouse in the
Park as a scenic artist. She is a member
of IATSE.

Annette Reid (B.C. 1985)
Annette appeared in Jerry Sroka's
semi-autobiographical comedy *In the*
Wings, at the Whitefire Theatre in
Sherman Oaks, California, March - May.

The production, directed by Don Eitner, is
a new play starring Mariette Hartley.

Dana Rowe (B.A. 1989)
The Japanese production of Dana Rowe
and John Dempsey's lavish musical
The Witches of Eastwick played at the
Imperial Theatre in Tokyo. The Cameron
Mackintosh production also played in
London.

Rob Roznowski (M.F.A. 1989)
Rob is currently the Head of Acting
at Michigan State University. He
came to Michigan State University
directly from New York City where he
served as the National Outreach and
Education Coordinator for Actors' Equity
Association.

As an actor, Rob has appeared at the
Long Wharf Theatre, the Goodspeed
Opera House and the Pittsburgh
Public Theatre as well as numerous
off-Broadway productions. He was an
original cast member of the New York
and Los Angeles productions of the
long-running musical *I Love You, You're*
Perfect, Now Change and can be heard
on the recording of that show.

Ken Sonkin (B.F.A. 1982)
Ken is on the faculty at The University of
San Francisco where he teaches acting,
a professionalism seminar, oversees
the USF Cabaret program, and is the
faculty advisor for The College Players.
This spring, he will be directing Mary
Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses*. He has
been acting and directing for the past 25
years with such companies as American
Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Rep, The
Magic Theater, Sonoma Rep (Associate
Artist), Center Rep, Marin Shakespeare
Festival, The Grove Shakespeare Festival,
The Monterey Shakespeare Company,
Pacific Alliance Stage Company, The
B Street Theatre, Alternative Theater
Ensemble (Founding Member), San
Jose Stage Company, Pennsylvania
Centre Stage and The Denver Center
Theatre Company. He trained at The
National Theater Conservatory in Denver
and is also a graduate of A.C.T.'s M.F.A.
Advanced Training Program.

He recently acted in SF Playhouse's
production of *Six Degrees of Separation*.
His television credits include *Nash*
Bridges, *Moonlighting*, *The Late Show*,

Alumni and Friends (continued)

A & Es Comedy on the Road, and numerous PBS programs, including being the host of *Video Field Trips*. As a magician, Ken was voted #1 Street Performer in San Francisco, appeared in concert with Jay Leno, Red Skelton, Ellen DeGeneres, The Manhattan Transfer, toured all over the world, and performed for Queen Elizabeth II of England.

1990's

Emily Bach (B.A. 1996)

Emily is performing in *The Bird Feeder*, a dance piece with choreography by Fannie Hungerford and live original music by Joshua Dumas and Whitney Johnson. Her four dance partners are Katy Collins, Jason Eonomus, Joshua Holden and Daniel Malone. The piece is part of the Antigone Coffeehouse festival produced by Caffeine Theatre in the Lincoln Square Art Center in Chicago. She is also appearing as Mary and is sharing the stage with Bryan Burke, Simone Roos and Adam Sweeders in *The Melville Boys*, by Norm Foster, directed by Kurt Naebig with the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble in Chicago. Emily recently signed with Chicago-based Encore Talent Agency. This affiliation offers her opportunities for higher-profile theatrical (feature film and stage) and commercial work, not only in the Windy City, but in regional and national venues and projects as well. Emily invites you to visit www.emilybach.net.

Patrick Barnes (M.F.A. 1992)

Patrick is a Development Writer at Lincoln Center Institute for Arts in Education (www.lcinstitute.org). Previously he was at the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers working with 280 or so foundations and corporate grantmakers in the area.

He writes the music for 2-3 shows each year with The 52nd Street Project (www.52project.org), a nonprofit that teams up students from Hell's Kitchen with theatre professionals - the students write plays, act in others, working their way up to Shakespeare by their late teens, getting mentoring and scholarships. As composer he gets to write songs for people like Edie Falco and Fran McDormand. Patrick was in a new play at the Actor's Studio called *The Wound of Love*.

Dennis Hassan (M.F.A. 1993)

Dennis received The National Teaching Artist Grant in recognition of Outstanding Achievement as a Theater Artist and Educator at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. The \$2000 grant was in support of a professional development opportunity of his choice.

Brad Fryman (M.F.A. 1996)

Brad directed *A Thousand Variations On A Lie Told Once* by Stacey Lane which was produced by Oberon Theatre Ensemble at the Dorothy Strelsin Theatre in New York.

Megan Mateer (M.A. 1999)

Megan portrayed one of the "famous historians" on a new History Channel production called *The Chamber* due to air sometime in February. The show is about medieval torture devices.

Roy Sexton (M.A. 1997)

Roy completed his M.B.A. at the University of Michigan and was recently promoted to Corporate Director of Strategic Communications and Planning at Oakwood Healthcare, a \$1 billion health system based out of Dearborn, Michigan. His responsibilities include strategic planning, marketing, and internal communications for the organization. Roy's e-mail address is sextonr@oakwood.org and he'd love to hear from his fellow '90s OSU Theatre friends.

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

Michael is still with the Lighting Design Group in NYC, though he is no longer at CNBC. He is now spending his time working on a variety of Projects for LDG, in Architectural and Systems Design and in Broadcast Lighting. He lit the outdoor musical performances for ABC's *Dick Clark's Rockin' New Years Eve 2008*.

John H. Taylor (M.A. 1990, Ph.D. 1994)

John has been granted Full Professor status at Adams State College in Colorado.

Micheal Jon Washer (BA 1994)

Mila Christine Washer, daughter of Mike and Michele (Morin) Washer (B.A. 1998) was born January 7, 2008 at 10:58 am. At birth, she weighed 9 pounds 4 ounces and measured 22 inches long. Everyone including big sister Miri is healthy and happy.

Steven Weiss (Ph.D. 1994)

Steven is still teaching at Coe College where he staged a production of *All's Well That Ends Well*.

Mark Winchester (M.A. 1990, Ph.D. 1995)

Mark participated in the 3rd Annual Brain Tumor Path to Progress 5K run in Chicago to raise money for the research programs of the American Brain Tumor Association. Mark also started a facebook group for Theatre Alumni.

2000's

Sara Borgeson (M.F.A. 2003)

Sara played Stella May in The Hermosa Beach Playhouse production of *Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*, which received a great review in the *Los Angeles Times*.

Carie DeVito (M.F.A. 2002)

Carie is teaching theatre at Ramapo College of New Jersey. Her husband Chris was accepted into a police academy for deputy sheriff.

Dean Evans (B.A. 2003)

Deans work with the Neo-Futurists was featured in a May 2008 *Stage Directions* magazine article entitled, "New Visions in Artistic Direction: How Two Bold Theatres are Trying to Reinvent the A.D. Wheel," by Bret Love.

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

Kat performed in a midwest premiere of *Bare: A Pop Opera* and played Princess Jasmine in Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* for the Emerald City Theatre Company at the Apollo Theatre in Chicago in May. For more information visit: emeraldcitytheatre.com/aladdin.shtml

Sarah Gilmore (B.A. 2005)

Sarah finished a M.A. at Kansas State last spring. She is in Providence, Rhode Island, working for Trinity Repertory Company as the sound intern. She ran sound and video for *Some Things are Private*, a new play. Aside from running shows, she's been doing a bit of everything sound-related, from fixing cables and hanging speakers to tuning musical wine glasses and constructing a "washtub bass."

Kathleen Gonzales (M.F.A. 2002)
Kathleen performed her one-woman show, *The Bridge of Bodies*, as part of The Mead Theatre Lab Program at Flashpoint in Washington, D.C. and received many positive reviews from the local press.

Jason Hedden (M.F.A. 2006)
Jason is in his 2nd year teaching theatre at Monte Vista Christian School near Santa Cruz, CA. He directed a cast of 14 in a production of *The Miracle Worker* in their newly renovated black box space. His advanced students put on a New Works showcase of material they created all semester. Jason started a thespian troupe there. His students provided some narration for Festival of Carols and performed an outdoor production of *Oklahoma!* in May.

Laura Gale (Simpson) (B.A. 2002),
Allyson Morgan (B.A. 2004) and
Joseph Schultz (B.A. 2003)
The New York Theatre Experiment began their series "One NYTE Stands: Great American Plays" with a reading of Clifford Odets' *Waiting for Lefty* directed by Executive Artistic Director Laura Gale, and featuring company members Emberli Edwards and Allyson Morgan, along with several other very talented actors. The reading was presented in April at Manhattan Theatre Club. Also in April, for the first time the New York Theatre Experiment offered an exclusive, intimate "Industry Night" for the actors in their community. They provided the opportunity to audition for and ask questions of 5 industry professionals: casting directors Gayle Keller (Gayle Keller Casting), Julie Schubert (Denise Chamian Casting) agent Christina Wright (CESD), agent Michael Goddard (Nicolosi and Co.) and Rori Bergman (Jeanne McCarthy Casting).

They also announced the New York Theatre Experiment's 2008 season. According to their release, "This year, inspired by the exciting wave of change afoot in American culture and politics, we are embarking on an exploration of American theatre, voices, images, ideas, and themes. During this season-long endeavor, which we have affectionately dubbed The American Experiment, we will explore and celebrate great voices

from the past with readings of some of the most influential and powerful American plays, and we will work to nurture new voices in the American theatre through several exciting initiatives designed to generate, support and produce new works."

Robin Gordon (M.F.A. 2000)
Robin accepted a position at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, to begin in August following several years as Artistic Associate at CATCO. She will be Assistant Director, Arts Village Learning Community. According to Robin, "Arts Village is essentially an arts immersion dorm that actively engages in service learning, workshops, events, field trips, and art assignments in and out of the classroom. The position will be split between teaching a 2/2 load in the Department of Theatre and Film and overseeing Arts Village funding, planning, programming, promotion, and participation."

Creighton James (B.A. 2000)
Creighton understudied the roles of Lenny, Teddy and Joey in the Broadway production of *The Homecoming*.

Suellen Kasiara (B.A. 2005)
Suellen is Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors for Raconteur Theatre Company, a new theatre company in Columbus with a mission "to produce consistently high quality plays that tell engaging and challenging stories that are relevant to people in all walks of life."

Brittany Kiefer (B.A. 2007)
Brittany has been touring with *Walking With Dinosaurs* since October 2007. She works as part of a team of three in the Skins/Fabrication Department. The team is responsible for all the outside covering, or skin, of their ten life sized animatronic dinosaurs. They make sure the dinos look aesthetically how they are supposed to before going on stage. They are also responsible for dressing their physical performers in the five dinosaur suits which are about 90 lbs each. She has signed a contract through March '09.

Eric Keitel (B.A. 2005)
Eric appeared as an extra in *Without A Trace* on CBS, *The Office* on NBC, *Greek* on ABC Family, *Ghost Whisperer* on CBS, *Everybody Hates Chris* on UPN, *Austin*

Golden Hour (a CBS pilot) *The United States of Tara* (a Showtime pilot) and *Seven Pounds* (a movie starring Will Smith, Woody Harrelson, and Rosario Dawson.)

Robert Lublin (Ph.D. 2003)
Robert is Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at the University of Massachusetts Boston and is currently completing a book examining costuming practices on the Shakespearean stage. *Theatre Survey* published his article, "An Vnder Black Dubblett Signifying a Spanish Hart': Costumes and Politics in Middleton's A Game at Chess" in November 2007.

Mary (Yaw) McMullen (M.F.A. 2007)
Mary received a Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable Award for her design of *Mary Stuart* at OSU and Actors' Theatre of Columbus. She also designed costumes for *The Foursome* at CATCO and has been hired full-time by the OSU Department of Dance Costume Studio.

Jeremy Meier (M.F.A. 2002)
Jeremy married Adrian and started a new teaching position at Owens State Community College in Toledo. Before moving, he was teaching at Central Michigan University where he facilitated a brand new class that he developed called Biographical Solo Performance. His students researched the American 1920's and each selected a prominent person from the times to research as inspiration for the the creation of an original monologue which they performed for the faculty and students. He also taught a course on performing prose and poetry.

Allyson Morgan (B.A. 2004)
Allyson played the sick babysitter on *As The World Turns*. Her scenes aired April 21, 2008 on CBS. Allyson said, "I do have 3 scenes, so you'll get to see the whole arc of my character in under 5 lines."

Christina Ritter (Ph.D. 2007)
Christina played Anne Lindberg in the for/word company production of *North* by Jennifer Schlueter in Chicago for a three-week limited engagement run at the American Theater Company in June 2008. *North*, which moves between 1939 and 1944, tells the story of a charged meeting between author/writer Anne Morrow Lindbergh, wife to aviator Charles, and, the man whom she felt best

understood her work. The show received rave reviews from the Chicago Tribune and other Chicago media. Christina was also a guest lecturer in the OSU Department of Theatre.

Jennifer Schlueter (Ph.D. 2007) and **Brad Steinmetz** (M.F.A. 2003) Jennifer and Brad announced the arrival of Jack Carter Steinmetz, 9lbs 6oz, 22 inches on November 5, 2007 joining big brother Henry to make a family of four. Jennifer directed and wrote the for/word company production of *North* in Chicago for a three-week limited engagement run at the American Theater Company in June 2008. The show received rave reviews from the *Chicago Tribune* and other Chicago media. In his article entitled "The Evolving Relationship Between Artist and Patron" published in *Theater* author George Hunka said Jennifer's article about Charles Mee entitled "Angels in the American Theater" was particularly strong. Jen starts her new job as a tenure track Assistant Professor of Theatre at Oregon State University where husband Brad will hold an adjunct position this fall.

Joel Searls (B.A. 2007) Joel is currently stationed in Quantico, Virginia at Camp Barrett. He completed

The Basic School (TBS), a six-month course for newly commissioned officers in the United States Marine Corps.

Tyler Seiple (B.A. 2006) Tyler participated in the Orange County Marathon in January as a member of Team One Million Ways to help the children of Good Shepherd Orphanage. (Check out the website: www.onemillionways.org).

Amira Soliman (B.A. 2007) Amira co-produced the film *Dionysus, Help Me...* which played at the Landmark (previously Drexel) Gateway Theatre in Columbus.

Mark Soloff (M.A. 2006) Mark has been moving through Second City's Conservatory program and will graduate from it in a few months. He acted in a Commedia Dell'Arte show with a small company called Promethean Theatre playing *il Dottore*. He received mentions in two separate Chicago reviews. He also participated in National Novel Writing Month (or NaNoWriMo) in November.

Adam West (M.F.A. 2004) Adam left his job teaching at SUNY Geneseo at the beginning of the summer 2007 to try to get into the video game industry as a concept artist. After months of job searching and dozens of ignored applications, he began tutoring for a tutoring agency; teaching reading, writing and arithmetic to kids aged 6-18. He now works for EC2 Costumes, a union costume house in L.A. and the studio of Bob Mackie, who designed for Carol Burnett (the Curtain Rod dress from her *Gone with the Wind* spoof) Cher, Barbie's most expensive stuff and many others. Ret Turner, an Emmy-winning costume designer who did costumes for *The Donny and Marie Show*, *The Dinah Shore Show* and many others also works there. Adam hopes to eventually work on film costuming.

Friends News

Firman (Bo) Brown (Professor Emeritus and former chair) Bo received an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from The University of Montana in May.

Michael Dempsey Michael is a novelist, playwright, television and film writer whose most notable credit is as a staff writer for CBS's *Cybill* starring Cybill Shepherd. Currently, he lives in New Haven, CT and has shifted his writing focus to fiction. *Necropolis* is his first novel and the result of a lifetime's passion for speculative and crime fiction.

Larry Evans Larry played J.B. Biggley in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* at The Ohio State University Mansfield Department of Theatre in May.

Rex McGraw (Professor Emeritus) Rex McGraw spent the summer of 2007 co-directing a new outdoor drama in Manassas, Virginia. The play was entitled *The Gray Ghost* and dramatized the actions of John Mosby, a Confederate Ranger, who robbed Northern supply trains for food and horses for the South. The cast included 30 actors, seven children, five musicians, a balladeer, and four horses that appeared in the battle scenes. The play was written by Ken Elston (M.F.A. 1996) who also co-directed. At Ohio State, Ken took several of McGraw's classes. One of his students staged the battle scenes, so it was three academic-generations-production. In addition, Molly Elston (B.A. 1996) functioned as stage manager.

Sally Oswald (Guest Artist) Sally's play *Vendetta Chrome*, which was presented at OSU as a workshop production, was selected for New York debut. The play will have a showcase production at Clubbed Thumb, a cool downtown company, in their Summerworks festival at the Ohio Theater in Soho June 15-21, 2008.

Sue Ott Rowlands (Dean of Arts and Sciences at Virginia Tech University) Sue is pleased to announce that she is a proud grandmother for the 2nd time! Her daughter Carlie Rowlands and her partner Mike Desert have a new daughter named Mackenzie Desert, born Sunday February 20 in Toledo, OH. Mackenzie joins her big sister, Kaela Rowlands (now almost 4 years old!). Carlie and Mike are planning a wedding in the fall.

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

Working: A Musical
"...a lively production
that makes the most
of [the] huge cast."

- Richard Ades, *The Other Paper*



The Esoteric Players standing in a trunk.
Front Row: Elaine Burke, Laurie Burke. Back Row:
Denis Freeh, Richard D. Farshler, Jeffrey Weissman.

Just for Laughs

By Denis Freeh (B.A. 1963)

The Roy Bowen Theatre has hosted the highest level of classic drama, tragedy and political satire. Our performance weekend in April was – well, different. The set was a giant logo of a man slipping on a banana peel. The audiences were greeted by head usher, Charlie Chaplin, who flirted with the ladies and became entangled in their purses. The overture was played by the 6 piece orchestra, plus the audience playing bicycle horns, pan lids, bag pipes and a plastic chain saw. The red wigged Fabulous Flames sang “You’re Mature”, the rather large matador – El Magnifico was prepared for the bull ring by Pedro – his clumsy attendant, Groucho musically remembered “The Tattooed Lady,” Tonga was a hula dancer with hay fever, a production number featured a dancing toilet as plumbers tried to cope with a duck who kept appearing, vanishing and reappearing, a talking lobster escaped from the kitchen, and hapless mentalist, Mr. Memory, left his trousers in the dressing room. Slapstick comedy was alive and well on Cannon Drive. The generous audiences did not stand in appreciation. On cue, they closed the performances by providing a whoopy cushion – Sitting Whoopy ending. So much for the invisible barrier! We were back.

In 1963, Richard Farshler, Phill Wilson and I created and performed *The Esoterics At Large*, a Derby Hall experimental theatre revue. With standing room crowds, we found our production on both public and commercial television. Phill had a top 50 hit record, I was doing comedy improv radio and Richard was - really funny. Mary Travers of Peter, Paul and Mary saw us perform in Dayton and several months later we signed as the comedy act for The Hootenanny national tour, playing Carnegie Hall 3 times. We recorded our comedy on Olympic. It’s

45 years later, Richard and I came back on campus to perform *Just for Laughs*, our award winning madcap revue. The show stars Jeffrey Weissman from *Back To The Future II* and *III* and Phill Wilson, Ph.D. was in the audience opening night. Chair, Mark Shanda enabled us to create the “Laughs” student theatre scholarship with 100% of all ticket sales going to the scholarship. The funds will help many directors, actors, and tech students with financial help when they need it most – as funding for that audition, job interview or critical creative seminar. All of our company was touched to learn that faculty members were buying tickets to support our cause. Mark Shanda not only had thought outside the box, he sat on the carton. (Not a pretty sight.)

Our star, Jeffrey Weissman, recently participated in a Florida, Back To The Future Convention that raised \$800,000 for charity. Our “Laughs” scholarship is at the other end of the spectrum; we’re dealing in dollars – one by one. At age 67, I’ve co written a TV pilot that is in final negotiations with two major studio’s. If against all odds, it makes it on the air in 2009, our scholarship will get a major boost. In the mean time, we need your help. Cash in the coins in your change jar and mail a small check made out to The Ohio State University, Laughs Scholarship, mail to The Ohio State University Department of Theatre, 1089 Drake Center, 1849 Cannon Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210. I’ve performed at Carnegie Hall and in The Tropicana and Riviera main hotel showrooms. Performing *Just for Laughs* on campus and working with the student orchestra and tech crews was by far, the most satisfying performances of my life. They say you can’t go home. We did! Oh, and remember that change jar.

Midnight Robbers:

The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival

By Lesley Ferris, Professor

Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival, a groundbreaking exhibition co-curated by Lesley Ferris (OSU Theatre) and Ruth Tompsett (Middlesex University) opened in London at City Hall in September 2007, the year that marks two hundred years since the cessation of British slave trading. It was a timely anniversary for exploring and reflecting upon the slavery legacy of which carnival is so significant a part. The exhibition provided a much needed opportunity to showcase the work of carnival artists—as artists—in an art form that is only just starting to receive the recognition it deserves. Its location on the river used the Thames as a literal undercurrent, the pathway where products of slave plantations reached the mother country to build the wealth of the colonial power and it is this power that carnival so innovatively dismantles each year it takes to the streets. In addition to photographs, original drawings, costumes, and video, the exhibition featured the Carnival Interactive, a multi-media computer program developed and designed by OSU Design student Brandan Craft and other students on the design team under the leadership of Brian Stone (OSU Design). The Carnival Interactive was funded by the Colleges of the Arts and Humanities Faculty Innovation Grant. The exhibition came to Columbus where it opened the new OSU Urban Art Space (the old Lazarus Building downtown) in January 2008. The exhibition was funded by Arts Council England and The Mayor of London. In Columbus it received support from (PTO).



Members of Lesley Ferris' and Ruth Tompsett's Theatre 802: Contemporary Carnival class. Front left to right: Lesley Ferris, Ruth Tompsett, Carl Gabriel, Charmel Joiner, James Marchant. Back left to right: Seunghyun Hwang, Chris Matsos, Jirye Lee, Dries Vandorpe, Melissa Lee, Karl Scholl, Chuyoung Chon, Eric Mayer, Ian Pugh.



Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival opening at the OSU Urban Arts Space on February 8, 2008.



L to R: Edgar Lampert, Mayor Coleman, Karen Bell, E. Gordon Gee, Kelly Stevelt Kaser, Guy Worley.



Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival opening at the OSU Urban Arts Space on February 8, 2008.

From Theory to Practice

The Classroom, The Exhibit, and Study Abroad

By Charmel A. Joiner (Ph.D. Student)

In February 2008, I was hired as a student assistant to work at The Ohio State University Urban Arts Space located in the former Lazarus building in downtown Columbus. The inaugural exhibit that premiered at its grand opening was *The Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival*. For approximately six weeks, I was immersed in the history, music, photographs, costumes, interviews, and lectures related to this Caribbean derived celebration of the emancipation of slavery. This phenomenal exhibit was the focal point of Theatre 802: Contemporary Carnival, a class I was enrolled in during the exhibitions opening. The course allowed students to examine theoretical concepts related to the history

and significance of the Notting Hill Carnival, and the exhibit enabled visitors to engage in the carnival practices. Students and teachers from the Africentric School, the Christopher Arts Program, and OSU dance majors enjoyed guided tours, lectures, and a Caribbean dance workshop facilitated by "yours truly," amidst the back drop of the Notting Hill exhibit.

In August, as part of the London Study Abroad Theatre program, I travelled to London and participated in the Notting Hill Carnival. The program gave me the opportunity to put theory into practice during this once in a life time event. Check on my post story of the Carnival in the next issue of *Encore*.

Comparative Drama Conference

By ChuYoung Chon (Ph.D. Student)

From March 27th to 31st, the 32nd Comparative Drama Conference was held at Radisson Hotel, Culver City, LA, CA. I attended the conference in 2003 while doing my masters at Miami University, but this was my first presentation. I thank Professor Constantinidis who sat in my panel almost right after his arrival from Columbus. Ph.D. Students Jason Bush, ChuYoung Chon, Chris Matsos, Bethany Banister, and Caehlin Bell (M.A. 2008) presented papers at the conference. Scholars from Japan attended my panel and the renowned theatre scholar, Marvin Carlson, sat right behind me in one of sessions I attended. It was a wonderful moment to see scholars of all age, from different regions gather together and share their research with each other.

"Wit, style and imaginative staging make *The Labyrinth of Desire* one of the season's most vivid productions."

- Michael Grossberg, *The Columbus Dispatch*



Congratulations and Farewell Sonja Kalamas-Elder

By Mark Shanda (chair and professor)

The Department of Theatre announced the retirement of Sonja Kalamas-Elder on February 29, 2008. Mrs. Kalamas-Elder has been a colleague, friend, problem solver, and stalwart supporter of the Department of Theatre for many years. She was associated with the university for the past 36 years, serving on the University Staff Advisory Committee during the first Gee administration and in 1995 receiving the Distinguished Staff Award. Her able skills, willing spirit and dedication to The Ohio State University will

be greatly missed. The department dedicated its winter production of *Much Ado About Nothing* to Sonja and a celebration in her honor was held on Friday, February 29. At the party, letters from four of the department chairs whom she served were read. Each letter spoke in different ways to Sonja's care and concern for each and every student and faculty member during many years of service. We wish Sonja the very best in her retirement and hope that she stays connected to OSU Theatre for many years to come.



▲ The poster from BSTN's production of *The Colored Museum*.

Michelle Golden as "Mama" in *The Last Mama on the Couch Play*
- *The Colored Museum* ▶



Making Strides in Black Theatre

By Raymond Caldwell (M.F.A. Acting Student)

Theatre by African Americans and about African Americans came to OSU in the spring of 2008 when a new organization, The Black Student Theatre Network (BSTN) was established by M.F.A. Actor Raymond Caldwell. BSTN produced as its premier production *The Colored Museum*, a series of humorous and poignant vignettes by George C. Wolfe. The show is a satire on the contradictions of being black and living in America. In this extraordinary museum, eleven exhibits "popped to life" to portray the moving voices and stories of the African American experience. *The Colored Museum* was presented at the Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center to almost sold out crowds. Through audience donations, BSTN raised over \$300 for the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America. It is the continued organizational goal of the BSTN to study and produce theatre about African Americans and the African America experience. The organization will produce three plays for the 2008-2009 season including *Hungry* (a children's theatre tour), *Day of Absence*, and a newly devised work. For further information about BSTN productions or for membership information email Artistic Director Raymond Caldwell and Assistant Artistic Director Kayla Jackmon at BSTN@live.com.

Buckeye TV

By David Fisher
Film/Video Lecturer and Buckeye TV Coordinator

The Ohio State University student-run TV station had an exciting year. All of the regular shows airing on Buckeye TV, including *Buckeye TV News 19*, *The Sport Perspective*, *Music on Campus*, *Backtalk LIVE*, *Jackpot Trivia* and *Try Your Luck* were back with new episodes. *Kollege* returned, along with a new sit-com, *Room and Bored*. Creating a lot of buzz were new shows that students produced, including the *Ohio Talent Search* that featured singers, dancers, and musicians competing ala *America Idol* for a grand prize. Another interesting new comedy show called *The Campus Report* premiered with an all-star line up of guests including Miss Ohio Roberta Camp, Archie Griffin, and Senator John Glenn. *Backtalk LIVE* featured many student organizations on campus including the Archery Club, the Karate Club, 4H, Ballroom Dancers, Rap Dancers, and many more. The season finale featured Dr. E. Gordon Gee as he answered student questions about life at OSU. Buckeye TV also started broadcasting a former NBC show called *Quarterlife* that looks at life in the transition between the college years and the working career. The Buckeye TV Weather Department broadcasts daily weather updates with a staff of five students from the Geography Department. We look forward to an exciting fall season on Buckeye TV. Stay tuned for more new shows and check us out on the web at www.buckeyetv.com for streaming video broadcasting.



▲ President E. Gordon Gee, Ben Brown and Stephanie Chandler on the set of Buckeye TV.

“Could it be that Lope de Vega’s Spain tolerated sexual adventurousness only as long as lip service was paid to the sanctity of marriage? Such questions form a labyrinth of discussion that you can explore after the echoes of laughter finally die down in your mind.”

- Richard Ades, *The Other Paper*
on *The Labyrinth of Desire*

“One wouldn’t expect a student cast, however gifted, to capture the rainbow of colors, moods, styles and themes in *The Trojan Women 2.0...yet... Ohio State University theater department’s production shatters those expectations while fulfilling others through an artful fusion of text and movement.*”

- Michael Grossberg, *The Columbus Dispatch*



▲ Christopher M. Roche and Kal Poole in a scene from *North*.

North goes to Chicago

By Christina Ritter (Ph.D. 2007)

North tells the story of a charged meeting between writer Anne Morrow Lindbergh, wife to aviator Charles, and Antoine de Saint-Exupery, the man whom she felt best understood her work. Their brief meeting is the beginning point in a spiral of events and memories that ultimately make *North* the story of one woman’s struggle to orient herself, to reconcile motherhood with work and love with duty, and to articulate the responsibility of the artist to a world sunk in war. In keeping with the for/word company’s creative technique, *North* is based in the historical record. The text is constructed exclusively from Anne Morrow Lindbergh’s prolific letters and journals, memoirs, fiction, poetry, and wartime polemics. It also draws from material written by Charles Lindbergh and by Antoine de Saint-Exupery, including his poetic works on flight, his journals and letters, and his famous children’s book, *The Little Prince*.

The for/word company brought *North* to Chicago for a three-week limited engagement run at the American Theater Company from June 5 to 22, 2008. The play was performed by Christina Ritter (Ph.D. 2008) who played Anne Lindbergh, Christopher Roche (M.F.A. 2006, Ph.D. Student) who played Antoine de Saint-Exupery and Kal Poole (M.F.A. Student) who played Charles Lindbergh. It was written and directed by Jennifer Schlueter (Ph.D. 2007) and created by the for/word company. Of the performance *Chicago Tribune* writer Kerry Reid said, “Wistful, poetic, and wise...it’s an admirable calling card for a new company dedicated to creating works that ‘reimagine’ the historical record.”



◀ **Marceau Marceau demonstrating one of his signature techniques to students during his 2001 OSU Theatre residency.**

Remembrances of Marcel Marceau

By Jeanine Thompson, Associate Professor

The first few weeks after Marcel Marceau's passing my life perfectly echoed this quote by him: "Do not the most moving moments of our lives find us without words?" Tears have been flowing more freely than words... Now I will try to craft my thoughts into words.

I have been asked by many people to share with others what Marcel Marceau meant to me; what I have learned from him; and what I hope to continue in terms of his work and his legacy. I hope the following will begin to address some of these questions.

In 1985 I had the privilege of meeting Marcel Marceau after his performance in Berkeley, California. Having come from a background in modern dance and acting, I was invited by him to observe instead of participate in his upcoming summer seminar held in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I went and our journey together began.

For one week at his summer seminar I sat on a cold cement floor for eight hours a day. I analyzed every movement Mr. Marceau did and how he taught it to his students. By not participating I was able to more clearly see what was important to him about his technique and style. I had the advantage of objectively seeing the difference between what Mr. Marceau would do and what the students would do. I learned invaluable lessons by listening to the corrections he made and seeing the adjustments he gave to each student. My dance training served me by developing in me a discerning eye for seeing minute detail in every movement. And my acting training developed in me an understanding of how Mr. Marceau was filling the highly stylized physical forms with characters, thoughts and emotions.

It was at that time that I realized that Mr. Marceau's work was the crystallization of what I had been trying to arrive at by combining dance and theatre: in his work, he is expressing the essence of character, thought, and emotion in an extremely stylized and poetic physical form.

By the end of the summer seminar Mr. Marceau was so impressed with the quality of my work along with fellow faculty member Gregg Goldston, of the Goldston School for Mime, that he invited us to visit his school in Paris, France in order to discuss the differences in what we were teaching at our school compared to his that was enabling our students to advance so quickly. We went to Paris that fall.



Jeanine Thompson and Marcel Marceau.

While visiting his school and his home we shared many hours discussing the values of both of our curriculums and processes for teaching and creating work. Our visit to Paris inspired the beginning of many years spent together where in which we produced his summer seminars. We would meet up with him when we were on tour to see how each other was doing; we would discuss the details of his show where he thought some things

worked and where other moments didn't work; and perhaps the most intimidating and yet most deeply fortunate, he privately directed my mime technique and performance work.

In 1990 he said to me and his manager that he believed that there were three primary teachers in the United States who he believed truly understood and had proved that they could teach what he found to be the most important elements of his technique and style. I was the only woman he mentioned... That placed upon my heart the burden that comes with such a great gift. This burden, this gift, this opportunity has inspired in me the burning desire to not only teach his work but to also develop an archive for his work in the United States. America was very important to Mr. Marceau. He was so deeply grateful for our troops saving his country during WWII. And he knew that his global success in the world was greatly due to his initial successes, acceptance and in fact celebration in the United States. He was invested in securing a legacy of his work for American mime artists. I know that I occupy an essential role in that possibility.

I coordinated the first of four Marcel Marceau residencies at The Ohio State University which included his teaching of daylong master classes for undergraduate, graduate students and faculty members. Ohio State developed a long relationship with Mr. Marceau that has included master classes, lecture-demonstrations, performances, filming his undocumented work, motion capture of his signature works, and setting up the Marcel Marceau Archive in the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute. His death is a profound loss for all of us, but we will long cherish his generosity as a teacher, artist and Master of Movement/Mime.

Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!

"How amazing that the topical pieces of the early 20th century remain as alive in the early 21st. And how equally amazing that this cast brings it all to life with such skill."

- Jay Weitz, *Columbus Alive*

RESEARCH IN GERMANY

By Jordan Kardasz (M.F.A. 2008)



Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!

Back in September of 2007 Elinore Loomis and I thought, "wouldn't it be fun if we could go do research for *Wild Stages* in Germany?" *Wild Stages* was already set to be my thesis project and Eli was the scenic designer. After some research and conversations with our advisors (Mary Tarantino and Dan Gray) we learned that that the trip could actually be a reality. We recruited actor Julie Ann McMillan on our adventure and received funding from both the Department of Theatre and the College of the Arts. In December we got on a plane and flew to Germany.

Our research took us to the Deutsches Kabarettarchiv in Mainz, Germany where we spent two days going through photos, letters and articles relating to the upcoming cabaret production. From Mainz we moved on to Berlin, which was the highlight of our trip. We

saw cabaret, went to museums, and experienced the city. The historical significance of Berlin left such an impression on all of us. The performances we saw and the history we learned helped us to understand why cabaret was so important in Europe before World War II. After Berlin we spent two days in Paris, again at museums and cabarets, and again helping us develop ideas for what we wanted to contribute to the upcoming *Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!*

The time we spent in Europe was incredible! On the trip we truly did learn about cabaret and our designs and performances were influenced by the art we saw, the performers we spoke to, and the overall experience we had submerging ourselves in the place where cabaret began.

Student International Opportunities

Estimated number of students:

32 total Theatre students (14 graduate students and 18 undergraduates) travelled overseas during 2007-08

Countries visited:

Canada, England, France, Germany, Peru, South Africa, South Korea

Gibson Cima (M.A. 2007) travelled to Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, and Stoellenbosch, South Africa to conduct research and attend the IFTR Conference.

Jason Bush (Ph.D. Student) travelled to Lima and Cuzco, Peru, and Huancavelica, Peru to conduct research for his dissertation, *The Peruvian Scissors Dance and the Performativity of Heritage*.

Chuyoung Chon (Ph.D. Student) travelled to Incheon, Kyunggi Province, Seoul, South Korea and Burbank, CA to conduct research on the Revival of Traditional Art Forms in Korea.

Julie Ann McMillan (M.F.A. Acting Student) travelled to Frankfurt, Berlin, and Mainz, Germany; Washington DC and Paris, France to conduct research for MFA Acting Devised Project: *Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!*

Jordan Kardasz (M.F.A. Design 2008) travelled to Frankfurt, Berlin, and Mainz, Germany, and Paris, France to conduct research for MFA Acting Devised Project: *Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!*

Elinore Loomis (M.F.A. Design Student) travelled to Frankfurt, Berlin, and Mainz, Germany, and Paris, France to conduct research for MFA Acting Devised Project: *Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!*

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

Repertorio Espanol Cronica de una muerte anunciada (Chronicle of a Death Foretold)

By Gabriel García Márquez
October 2007

Toni Dove: Spectropia
November 2007

The Old Trout Puppet Workshop: Famous Puppet Death Scenes
November 2007

U.S. Premiere Romeo Castellucci/Societas Raffaello Sanzio: Hey Girl!
January 2008

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

Lone Twin: Nine Years
February 2008

Pan Pan: Oedipus Loves You
May 2008



Brandon Curtis, Marysha Sarris and Andrea Schimmoeller show off their costumes for the Notting Hill Carnival.

During my thirty one days in London, I've learned that I can do so much more than graduate and move to New York for auditions. I've learned about myself. While in London, I've learned the importance of knowing one's heritage and ancestry, the distinct similarities between Black British citizens and African Americans, and how to truly analyze performance.

London may not have been the quintessence of my theatre education, but the experience taught me so much more than that. I've learned about myself. Over three thousand miles away from home, I've learned about myself as an African American, a female, and an actor. This is who I am. No country or culture can separate me from it, and if anything, has given me a deeper understanding of myself and my own culture.

Kayla Jackmon



Matt Hazard and Peyton Noland building a Carnival costume.



Students enjoy a production of King Lear at the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.



Meredith Lark and Angela Henderson walk in the Carnival parade.

I would say that the highlight of my experience in London was the opportunity to see so much theatre. Not all of it was good, but it was great to be able to see people putting themselves out there. I left London with a new sense of focus and determination to succeed in my chosen field.

Brandon Curtis



Laura Spires, Amy Witherby, Marysha Sarris doing a unique version of a familiar cheer with the assistance of the London Bridge.



Chris Roche, Amani Davidson, Liam Cronin, Danny Ferguson, Kayla Jackmon, Anna Hoptry and Raymond Caldwell in a scene from Letters Home: Voices from Iraq.

LONDON THEATRE PROGRAM 2008

In August 2008, **Lesley Ferris**, professor of theater, led Theatre 674, "Contemporary British Theatre," a summer study abroad class to London, England, for both undergrad and graduate students. Accompanied by two assistants, **Charmel Joiner** and **Chris Roche** (both PhD students in the Department of Theatre), they lived in a residence hall run by London School of Economics and attended 21 performances in just over four weeks.

Ferris set an ambitious agenda for the spectrum of performance, from contemporary interpretations and adaptations of Shakespeare to participating in the Notting Hill Carnival. The London theater scene, she noted, enables students to view outstanding theater productions, many of them premieres. A highlight among the productions the

group attended was seeing Jeremy Irons as former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan in the National Theatre production of *Never So Good*, a new play by Howard Brenton, and attending renowned director Peter Brook's production of *Fragments* by Samuel Beckett at the Young Vic. The students also had a rich diet of Shakespeare on site, attending *King Lear* and other Shakespeare plays at the Globe Theatre, and two plays performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Students were required not only to keep a journal, to present, individually or in pairs, introductions to the scheduled plays, and to lead post-performance discussions, but to do "hands-on" research through internships. A group of musical theatre students worked with theatre artists at Tricycle Theatre company, who develop short musicals with young people. Another seven students interns took part in the carnival summer school of Kinetika Arts, where they helped to construct a costume that became part of the Olympic "Passing of the Torch" to London on

August 24. Single intern projects included a student placed at the National Council of Drama Training, another working as an arts administration intern at Teatro Technis, a PhD student interning at Oval House on new script writing, and a MFA lighting design student interning at the Royal Court Theatre with the lighting designer of a new work.

At the end of the course, on September 2 at Teatro Technis, students participated in a staged reading of a work-in-progress that explores the Iraq war in American soldiers' own words through their letters, emails, and blogs. It was developed by **Jimmy Bohr**, a director from New York City and now a professor in the Department of Theatre at OSU, who plans to produce the completed work in Ohio and New York. *Letters Home: Voices from Iraq* was followed by a panel discussion including George Eugeniou, the theater's founding director.

Some Final Words

By Mark Shanda, Chair

"If you don't like change, your going to like irrelevance even less!" At no time in the history of the Department of Theatre have the words from this popular poster had a truer ring. The 2007-08 school year ended with a flurry of big administrative changes that continue to unfold and impact the department.

A major restructuring of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences has resulted in a new Interim Executive Dean and Vice Provost being appointed for one year (Joan Leitzel), an Interim Dean for the College of the Arts (John Roberts) and a developing merger of the College of the Arts with the College of Humanities as a new "division" within the College Arts and Sciences. Former College of the Arts Dean Karen Bell has been appointed by President Gee to a new position as Associate Vice President for Arts and Culture to provide an even stronger presence for the arts on campus.

These changes and the deliberate process to restructure, as new relationships are defined and internal processes adjusted, have created some uncertainty, but the impact on our students has been minimal. As this future administrative structure becomes clearer, there is great hope for greater stability in funding and increased opportunity for all.

The department also is undergoing a university mandated program review required of all departments once every five years. This opportunity to examine ourselves through a self-study process, invite highly qualified external artists and scholars to visit campus and comment on what they see, and the resultant reports and action plans will also, undoubtedly result in some change.

While all of this is going on, we add on the pending shift from the quarter schedule system to a semester system as suggested by the Ohio Board of Regents Strategic Plan for Higher Education. Although a final vote on campus regarding this massive change has not occurred yet, all signs are that we will be making the shift by the fall of 2012.

Although all change can be difficult, we actually embrace these circumstances as opportunities for real improvement and renewed commitment to our educational mission. We are all about to "put on a new show" with a script that is a "work in progress." No department should be better prepared for this time than the Department of Theatre.

We will keep you posted!



Mark Shanda



Medea

The Labyrinth of Desire
**"...the 12-member cast
generated merriment and
excitement..."**

- Michael Grossberg
The Columbus Dispatch



Much Ado About Nothing



Vendetta Chrome

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A scene from OSU Theatre's production of *Working: A Musical*.