

encore2009

news from Ohio State Theatre



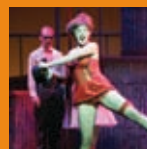
In this issue:



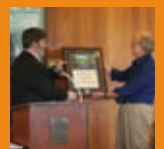
The Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute moves to the renovated Thompson Library



David Lander (B.F.A. 1987) nominated for Tony Award



Meredith Lark (B.A. Student) performs in three musicals at CAPA's Southern Theatre



Alan Woods steps down as Director of the Theatre Research Institute



department of theatre

Godspell, spring 2009
Photo by Doug Moody

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends:

Welcome back to your annual opportunity to hear the good news about the numerous activities and accomplishments of our remarkable students, faculty, and staff of the Department of Theatre. As you work your way through this edition of *encore* I think you will once again be surprised by both the breadth and the depth of the many educational opportunities that we offer for our students. I also hope as you journey with us over the past year, you will also think back to your time on campus and celebrate your continued connection to the lively art of theatre.

We once again offered a robust production season that met with both artistic and critical acclaim. Well over a thousand students participated throughout the year in various ways in bringing to life productions of *Noises Off*, *Machinal*, and *Godspell*; a new work from guest playwright Stephen Culp entitled *Pangea*; and multiple new works from the creativity of our students, ranging from the M.F.A. outreach production of *Destinopolis*, six undergraduate originals presented in a festival setting, to the ten solo projects of our graduating class of M.F.A. Actors.

Many faculty and student accomplishments outside of the production program are also detailed in this publication. We particularly celebrate the selection of Assistant Professor Janet Parrott for the Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award and the naming of Professor Lesley Ferris as a Distinguished Professor of Arts and Humanities in Theatre! Please also consider the thousands of miles traveled and the many individuals touched by the scholarship of our department with the multiple papers, symposia, and guest residencies shared over this past year by our students and faculty.

As a department we completed our university mandated program review that has now resulted in a blueprint for our future development. The university changes discussed in last year's *encore* continue as we celebrate the hiring of a new Executive Dean for Arts and Sciences, Dr. Joseph Steinmetz, and refine daily our new college structure within the division of Arts and Humanities.

The economic conditions make this a challenging time for all of us, but as you review our annual report, please consider making a donation of any size, large or small, to enable us to continue to best serve our students. Each of you serve as a partner in our educational mission and we could not achieve all that we do without your support.

Enjoy!



Mark Shanda
Chair/Professor



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The Persians

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Drake Performance and Event Center,
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encore

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publication or the Alumni page of
encore on our website:

theatre.osu.edu

2008-09 season in review



Noises Off

By Michael Frayn. Thurber Theatre. Directed by Maureen Ryan. Set Design by Corinne Porter. Costume Design by Marysha Sarris. Lighting Design by Matt Hazard. Sound Design by Dan Mayer. Stage Manager Brandon Curtis. Special thanks to Dr. Bill Childs, Professor, Ohio State Department of History, for sharing his knowledge and insights at "AfterWords," our post-performance discussion for *Noises Off*.
October 30 – November 9, 2008



Pangea

By Stephen R. Culp. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by Jimmy Bohr. Set Design by Victor E. Shonk. Costume Design by Elisa O'Neal. Lighting Design by Mary Tarantino. Sound Design by Dan Shifflet. Stage Manager Lindsay Beery.
November 13 – 23, 2008



Just Like Us

By Craig Sodara. Mount Hall Studio Theatre. Directed by Kiana Harris. Set Design by Sarah Sugarbaker. Costume Design by Shae James. Lighting Design by Alex Kyle-DiPietropaolo. Sound Design by James Knapp. Stage Manager Alyssa Ellis.
February 6 – 8, 2009



Destinopolis

By M.F.A. Acting Class of 2009. Roy Bowen Theatre. Directed by Maureen Ryan. Set Design by Corinne Porter. Costume Design by Cat Schmeal-Swope. Lighting Design by Jarod Wilson. Sound Design by Dan Shifflet. Stage Manager Kiley Morgan.
February 19 – March 1, 2009



Machinal

By Sophie Treadwell. Thurber Theatre. Directed by Lesley Ferris. Set Design by Elli Loomis. Costume Design by Shiree Campbell. Lighting Design by Anthony Pellecchia. Sound Design by Dan Mayer. Stage Manager Samantha Sharkey.
February 26 – March 6, 2009



Godspell

Conceived and Originally Directed by John-Michael Tebelak. Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. Originally Produced on the New York Stage by Edgar Lansbury, Stuart Duncan and Joseph Beruh. CAPA's Southern Theatre. Directed by Mandy Fox. Set Design by Sarah Sugarbaker. Costume Design by Elisa O'Neal. Lighting Design by Anthony Pellecchia. Sound Design by Dan Mayer and Adrienne Varwig. Stage Manager Brandon Curtis.
April 16 – 19, 2009

M.F.A. Actor Solo Performances

Nothing to Declare by Kal Poole. *Thel* by Julie Ann McMillan. *Trust: A Fairy Tale* by Kiana Harris. *Frankenstein Tonight* by Scott Wilson. *The Comet* by Dwayne Blackaller. *Prince Albert's Guide to Life* by Jessica Podewell. *The French Film* by Bruno Lovric. *Shafted: Oxytocin, Vasopressin & Other Love Stories* by Virginia Logan. *Black/Anger* by Raymond Caldwell. *Frijoles* by Johamy Morales. Roy Bowen Theatre. Coordinating Direction by Jeanine Thompson. Lighting Design by Jarod Wilson. Sound Design by Michael Lillie. Production Stage Manager Eric Mayer.
May 7 – 10, 2009

Undergraduate Sandbox

Fourth Room by Liam Cronin. Directed by Andrew Blasenak. Costume Design by Loren Varvarosky. Lighting Design by Kevin Duchon.

Or Forever Hold Your Peace by Kiley Morgan. Directed by Melissa Lee. Costume Design by Ashley Wills. Lighting Design by Alex Kyle-DiPietropaolo.

The Dreamers Upstairs by Angela Henderson. Directed by Ian Pugh. Costume Design by Loren Varvarosky. Lighting Design by Alex Kyle-DiPietropaolo.

God Forbid by Erika Hanes. Directed by Megan Corbin. Costume Design by Catrina Bush. Lighting Design by Kristin Jones.

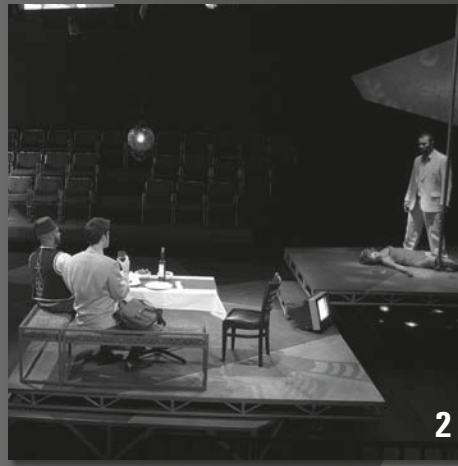
Morality Day written by Kevin O'Rourke. Directed by Matt Vадnais. Costume Design by Catrina Bush. Lighting Design by Michael Hesmond.

Constance by K.C. Novak. Directed by Jonathon Boyd. Costume Design by Ashley Wills. Lighting Design by Amy Witherby.

Roy Bowen Theatre. Coordinating Direction by Jessie Glover Boettcher. Sound Design by Michael Lillie. Stage Manager Doug Davis.
May 28 – 31, 2009



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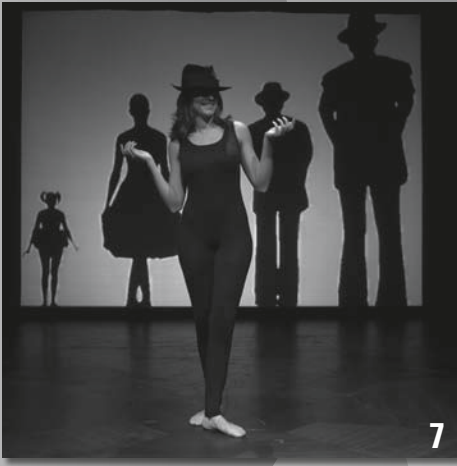
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Godspell

"Making the Southern productions even more special for students is the fact that college productions of rock musicals are not all that common in Central Ohio."

-Richard Ades, Columbus Alive

Guest Artists and Scholars

By Kiana Harris (M.F.A. Acting Student)



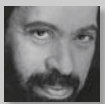
Award winning Playwright **Stephen R. Culp** workshopped, rehearsed, and produced the world-premiere of his new play *Pangea*, a Sloan Foundation Award Recipient, in the Roy Bowen Theatre. Culp worked closely with director Jimmy Bohr, faculty and student designers, and a cast of graduate and undergraduate actors in the fall.



E. Patrick Johnson performed his original solo work *Pouring Tea* in the Roy Bowen Theatre in the fall and held a symposium with students discussing his creation process. *Pouring Tea* is based on excerpts from Johnson's book, *Sweet Tea: An Oral History of the South*. The narratives were collected between 2004 and 2006 from black gay men who were born, raised, and continue to live in the South. Johnson is Professor, Chair, and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Performance Studies and Professor in African American Studies at Northwestern University.



Ralph Scott was a guest artist for the department's production of *Noises Off* in the fall. Scott was last seen in CATCO's hit comedy *The Foursome* last spring and recently won Best Actor for his role in *Solitude of Love*, in Columbus' first hosting of The 48 Hour Film Festival. He holds a B.F.A. in performance from Otterbein College and is a graduate of the Second City Training Center in Chicago.



American actor, director, jazz singer, dancer and choreographer **Maurice Hines** offered a Master Class for students during fall quarter. At that time, Hines candidly shared his advice, humor, and knowledge of the business. Hines also announced his artistic vision for Columbus' newly renovated Lincoln Theatre, where he has been named Artistic Director.



Michael Boyd, Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), met with faculty, staff and students in the fall to announce the upcoming partnership between the United Kingdom's RSC and The Ohio State University. The partnership involves a three-year teacher education program centered upon the RSC's renowned Stand Up for Shakespeare program. The program was launched in March 2008 in the UK to bring Shakespeare to life in the classroom.



In the fall, the department hosted *The Explicit Queer Body in Performance*, a lecture-performance by **Lazlo Pearlman**. Pearlman, a female-to-male transsexual, is an internationally renowned performer and speaker who pushes the boundaries of theatre, language, and art. His lecture in the New Works Lab focused on his own work, as well as the work of other Western European and North American artists to examine the effectiveness and use of the "explicit" body in performance.



Chief of the Theatre Collection National Museum of Prague **Vlasta Koubská** visited in winter to speak with students. The National Museum is the biggest museum in the Czech Republic and is the central State museum with collecting, scientific, educational and methodical functions.



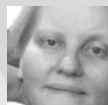
Penny Farfan was a keynote speaker in the winter for "Dismantling *Machinal*: Expressing Sex, Crime, and Punishment." The symposium was hosted by the department and The Syndicate, the department's graduate student organization. Farfan is a Professor and University Professor of Drama and English at the University of Calgary, a research-intensive public university in Alberta, Canada.



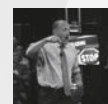
Julia A. Walker was also a keynote speaker for "Dismantling *Machinal*: Expressing Sex, Crime, and Punishment." Walker is an Associate Professor of English and Drama with a joint appointment in the Performing Arts department at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.



Geoffrey Nelson (M.A. 1981) spoke with students in conjunction with Lori Robishaw's Theatre Management class in the winter. Nelson founded the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) in 1984 with Robishaw and has been its Artistic Director ever since. He shared his experience with building and operating Central Ohio's only professional Equity resident theatre.



In the spring, playwright **Mary Steelsmith** worked and shared professional insights with students. A familiar figure on the Los Angeles stage, Steelsmith has won Supporting Actress awards for her performances in *The Boys Next Door* and *I Remember Mama*. Steelsmith played the role of 'Doreen' in *The Sunday Man*, a short film directed by Dany Shamash and produced by Rebecca Rankin, as part of the American Film Institute's directing workshop for women. *The Sunday Man* premiered on March 11, 2007, at A.F.I. in Hollywood. Steelsmith's work is published by Players Press and Pioneer Publishing and she is a member of the Dramatists' Guild as well as the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights. Steelsmith is married to the dashing Steve Lee and is owned by two cats.



Jim Cramer and his MSNBC cable television program *Mad Money* were in residence in Thurber Theatre in April and the program was filmed and aired "live" on April 22, 2009, as a partnership project with the Fisher College of Business. The production team offered many unique educational opportunities for theatre students, who worked side-by-side with production crews on both days.



Outreach and Engagement

InterACT

By Robin Post, Director of InterACT

Over one hundred Ohio State University students gather together in a room on the second floor of the Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC) and look on as Kevin asks his girlfriend Kerri if she's really going to the party wearing the shirt she has on. "Seriously," says Kevin, "You look like a slut. Do you want everyone to think you are looking for it?" Adding insult to injury, he goes on to say that she should go on a diet because she is getting fat.

Shortly thereafter Mark, another characterized OSU student repeatedly checks his girlfriend's text messages and wants to know who she is talking to and why. She becomes defensive as Mark becomes exceedingly more controlling. Fortunately both of these situations are fictitious representations of relationship abuse that are portrayed in a performance by the InterACT theatre troupe.



B.A. Students Andrea Schimmoeller, Tyler Stewart, Justin Mertz and Davonte Johnson rehearse a scene for InterACT.

The InterACT theatre program, under the leadership of Robin Post, finished its third year of writing and performing real life scenarios that occur on campus and in some cases, beyond. In an effort to combat the rise of relationship abuse in high schools and on college campuses, University Relations and the Wellness Center asked InterACT to create a performance that would address this growing problem.

The audience received information about relationship abuse and were given the opportunity to work through some of these issues directly with the characters. After each InterACT performance, the actors remain in character and the audience members are encouraged to ask the characters questions, offer solutions, etc. The audience members for this performance were quick to confront Kevin and Mark about their abusive behavior. One student asked, "Do you honestly think you love her when you talk to her like that?" WOSU Public Media's 24OSU aired a segment on InterACT's process of creation as well as the performance on the Big Ten Network. You can view it online at <http://theatre.osu.edu/interact>.



Mark Shanda presents Pat Schmidt of the James Cancer Hospital a staff award for Excellence in Community Service Engagement for partnership with InterACT to help cancer survivors explore their experiences by using the interactive theatre to communicate and to heal.

The InterACT program completed another successful year of outreach partnership with the JamesCare hospital where students and cancer survivors work together on theatrical paths for self expression. Several survivors have gone on to use their experience to embark on careers as motivational speakers. Theatre student Liam Cronin and Sarcoma survivor Jenny Auch collaborated on "An Evening of Comedy", a cancer fundraiser. Pat Schmitt, Program Director at the James Cancer Hospital, took the initial steps that made this partnership possible. The Service Learning Initiative and the Ohio Union awarded Pat with the 2009 staff award for Community Service Engagement as a result of her support of the collaboration with InterACT.

InterACT has continued to provide faculty and teaching associates with opportunities to interactively engage with characters that are either portraying problematic students or are presenting controversial situations. Quarterly workshops are held at the University Center for the Advancement of Teaching and provide an alternative method of disseminating information as well as providing instructors with a safe avenue for exploring teaching strategies. InterACT also continues to provide policy programming during the fall orientation for incoming teaching associates.



InterACT Director Robin Post.

The Graduate School requested that InterACT perform a piece about the all too frequent strained relationship between a faculty member and the advisee. The performance was played to a house of over two hundred faculty and graduate students and audience engagement with the characters was both lively and informative.

The demand for InterACT has grown as more of the university community recognizes the power of interactive theatre and the need for new and innovative methods of instruction. This year InterACT served the University Center for the Advancement of Teaching, First Year Experience (FYE), University Relations, the Wellness Center, the Big Ten Network, the Graduate School, and the James Cancer Hospital.

InterACT was cited as part of the university's nominations for the Outreach Scholarship W.K. Kellogg Foundation Engagement Award.

***Destinopolis* and Central Ohio's Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS)** By Pat Riechel, Arts Communications

The Ohio State University Department of Theatre premiered *Destinopolis*, a new work for the stage created by ten actors in the final year of their Master of Fine Arts Acting program in acting, on Thursday February 19, 2009 in the Roy Bowen Theatre.



A scene from *Destinopolis*.

Destinopolis was a community outreach and artistic project directed by Maureen Ryan. The actors volunteered at Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS), "an independent non-profit agency that helps refugees, asylees, and immigrants sustain self-sufficiency and achieve successful integration into the central Ohio community." CRIS provides immigration legal services as well as interpretation, and translation services.

Based on their work with CRIS staff and clients, interviews, research, and collaborative workshops, *Destinopolis* explored the innate human question in any culture, "What is home?" through snapshots of selected refugee experiences.

CRIS Partnership Liaisons Karina Harty-Morrison and Mike McCaman made a presentation and led a discussion with the audience for "AfterWords" following the February 26th performance.

The Upper Arlington Community of Theatre By Greg Varner (M.A. 2008, UACT Director)

The Upper Arlington Community of Theatre (UACT) is a high school company that incorporates theatre courses, theatre productions, master classes, National Thespian Society membership, and special Artist-in-Residence programming for all Upper Arlington (UA) students. One of the strengths of the program has been an ongoing collaborative relationship with The Ohio State University theatre community.

Theatre Production is an elective high school theatre course at UA that focuses on translating dramatic text to theoretical and actual production. This year, the 26 students in the class anchored their study in **Jennifer Schlueter's** (Ph.D. 2007) play *North*. After responding to the text through journals and sketches, the students developed individual director's concepts, which they, in turn, used as a foundation for expanded design proposals. As the students developed process journals and visual representations for dramaturgy, scenic, costume, lighting, or sound design, they were focused on the audience who would jury their work—three of the actors who were central to the development of *North*: **Christina Ritter** (Ph.D. 2007), **Chris Roche** (Ph.D. student), and **Kal Poole** (M.F.A. Acting student). After all, what could be more validating than feedback from the artists who brought the original production to the stage?

At the end of the design project, the three actors visited Upper Arlington High School for an afternoon session. During the first hour, they reviewed each of the displays to acquaint themselves with the various proposals. When the students arrived, Christina, Chris, and Kal discussed the designs as well as their own process as performers and contributors to the development of *North*. They underscored student concepts that aligned with their vision for the show and discussed with interest concepts that brought new insight to the text.

The *North* session is one of many investments in a collaborative relationship between Upper Arlington and Ohio State. In 2007, M.F.A.

Acting students **Kal Poole**, **Scott Wilson**, and **Dwayne Blackaller** brought *The Woman in Black* to UA as part of an Artist-in-Residence program that incorporated 17 high school students in all aspects of production. In 2008, the cast of Ohio State Theatre's production of *Noises Off* visited with the International Baccalaureate (IB) Theatre Arts students for a talk back session after the students attended their performance. M.F.A. Acting students **Julie Ann McMillan**, **Raymond Caldwell**, and **Dwayne Blackaller** brought master classes to UA students in 2008 and 2009. And this spring, Ph.D. student **Andrew Blasenak** and Julie Ann McMillan sponsored an Artist-in-Residence program to produce William Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*.

One of the central goals of UACT is to help high school students realize their place in a larger community of performance. By cultivating a dialogue between "generations" of performers, designers, and theorists, high school students begin to realize that their voice is welcome in a creative, ongoing discussion.

Just Like Us: The School Tour By Christopher M. Roche (Ph.D. Student and Tour Manager)

Orange juice and Tim Horton's doughnuts are a sure fire way to motivate people at 6:30 in the morning. Yet the students involved in this winter's touring production of *Just Like Us* by Craig Sodaro hardly needed sugar to stay motivated. Once again the Department of Theatre's school tour went out on the road during February and March to bring live theatre to many of Ohio's Public Schools. Ten hard-working and creative undergraduate students, an OSU "Plus Sixty" Program participant, and myself, packed up our van in the wee hours for eight Tuesdays and Thursdays and went on our journey to produce the show.

Just Like Us is a story of diversity. Two tribes: the Blues (who play music) and the Greens (who recite poetry) exist in the same land, but can find no common ground between them and are suspicious of how different each other appear. A talking tree narrates the piece which eventually engages the two clans finding unity through a stranger from the Land of Purple. The piece was performed for students from K-5th grades and was well received by its audiences. On one particular day there was a young man who was crying at the end of the show. I asked the teacher what was wrong, and she said he wanted a hug from one of the actresses. This remarkable young lady came out and gave this boy a hug. It was beautiful.



A scene from *Just Like Us*.

This is the power of theatre. The ability to have an ACTUAL experience between audience and performer, as opposed to the VIRTUAL experience between computer screen and individual, establishes the school tour as an important tool for education. There were mornings when it was so cold outside we looked as if we belonged to some prehistoric Antarctic expedition, but once we got to the schools we began to thaw seeing the joy of the students. The school tour continues to inform not only the students for whom we perform, but the OSU students involved in the production as well. By the end of the tour many friendships were made, skills were developed, and, most importantly, compassion and collaboration were achieved.

Godspell

"Among the most enjoyable songs: Day by Day, the stand-out and beautifully sung by Adrian Helser; All for the Best, an energetic vamp; On the Willows, a wistful and lovely treat; and Light of the World, the rousing first-act finale."

*-Michael Grossberg,
The Columbus Dispatch*

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

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

2008-2009 marked the final whirlwind year of the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute's residence in Lincoln Tower. Much of the year has been dedicated to preparation for the move to our new quarters which are designed for special collections in the renovated Thompson Library. Staff will enjoy state-of-the-art stacks and processing areas for the riches of the institute, and we hope you will come join us in the wonderful reading room and exhibit space on the main floor of the library, just off the Oval.

This year was also the final year of Alan Woods' tenure as director. The institute staff would like to thank Alan for the incredible commitment that he has given over many years. He will still be the institute's director emeritus! We also welcome new director Mary Tarantino who will bring great creativity to the job. We are looking forward to exciting collaborations.

It's a good thing we are moving – Lincoln Tower is full to overflowing! Amazing collections and materials have come in this year from our even more amazing donors adding to the already outstanding holdings



The newly renovated Thompson Library.



Internationally renowned lighting designer and author Francis Reid and Nena Couch at the International Association of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts (SIBMAS) conference.



Romanian director/designer Mircea Marosin's studio.

of the institute. Emily, Eve, and Jane, the daughters of Jeff and Hope Corey, donated his collection which includes materials documenting Corey's acting career, his blacklisting during the 1950s and HUAC materials, and his teaching. The U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology gave an amazing collection of draftings by the great designer Jo Mielziner for theatres and special events around the country such as the convocation in San Francisco in 1945 establishing the United Nations. Chris Wilbert gave the Nancy Walker and David Craig collection which documents the decades-long career of actor Walker from her childhood days in vaudeville through Broadway (she starred in Lawrence and Lee's *Look, Ma, I'm Dancin'!* and others) and television (*McMillan & Wife*, her own show, and many others). Craig was a well known and respected vocal coach whose clientele included the Hollywood elite. Professor emeritus Bob Wagner, who has served as an adviser and consultant over the years, donated his extensive collection on film. Other acquisitions include a small collection of correspondence by choreographer Busby Berkeley.

Significant additions to established collections have come from Carole Abrahams documenting Doris Cole Abrahams' work as a theatre producer; Grayce Burian for the Jarka Burian collection on Czech theatre; Joel R. Rubin for additions to the outstanding collection on Kliegl Bros. and technical theatre which was established last year; Michele La Rue for additions to the East Lynne Theatre Company collection; Ken Rinker documenting his career in dance; Frank Lloyd Dent who donated many rare books on Russian theatre to add to the Norris Houghton Collection; Charles McCaghy for additions to the Collection for Exotic Dance from Burlesque to Clubs to which was also added material documenting the El Rancho in Los Angeles; the Dance Notation Bureau for historical films and papers that enrich the DNB Collection; the American Theatre Critics Association for ongoing critic submissions; Paul Stiga

for additions to the design collections; choreographer/director/dancer Randy Skinner (B.C. 1974); playwright/actor/director Ted Lange; Nyle Stalder for additions to the Curtiss Show Print Collection; Joy Reilly for additions to the Grandparents Living Theatre Collection including Ella Richey Wells' cane; and Charles Chatfield-Taylor who added another wonderful oil painting by his grandfather Boris Anisfeld to the Anisfeld Collection. The Columbus Symphony Orchestra made a major addition to the already established collection of papers with the many recordings of concerts over the decades including performances by the numerous guest artists who have appeared with the CSO. Several new designs by Jaroslav Malina were acquired, in time to loan them for the traveling exhibit, and Cristian Donoso added new prints to the Boydell Shakespeare Gallery collection. Playwrights, including AAPEX and ICWP members, who have added to or established collections this year are Rebecca Nesvet, Rebecca Ritchie, Molly



Lesley Ferris with members of Fox Carnival at London's Notting Hill Carnival 2008.

Tinsley Best, and Don Nigro who is now sending in scripts in both print and digital forms. Programs, books, sound recordings, and journals have come from Barry Witham, DeTeel Patterson Miller, David E. Weaver, Julia Weiss, Marina Henderson, and Marvin Carlson.

We have lost some very special friends this year. Harold Eisenstein, long-time theatre leader, director emeritus of Gallery Players and institute advisor died in August, leaving a huge hole in the fabric of the Columbus theatre community. In California, Hope Corey, widow of actor and acting coach/teacher Jeff Corey, died during the summer. And In New York, the unforgettable Doris Cole Abrahams, producer of the original *Equus* in London and New York, numerous Tom Stoppard and many other plays, died. Curator Nena Couch joined a full house of friends and family celebrating Abrahams life at the theatre named for her.



Nena Couch with Joan Faroughy, widow of Mircea Marosin and donor of the Marosin collection.

We were honored to have a visit from Maurice Hines – choreographer, dancer, director, singer, and now new artistic director of the Lincoln Theatre. Toy theatre specialist Fritz Kannik came in to consult with us on our collection of toy theatre sheets. Sandra Lee Hughes and Michael Hickey delivered collection material and spent a couple of days talking through portions of the collection, answering our questions, and meeting with students. Dr. Vlasta Koubská, curator of the theatre collection at the National Museum in Prague visited while here working with Professor Joe Brandesky on the Jaroslav Malina exhibit, and graciously provided helpful information about our Jan Sladek holdings.

The graduate Theatre Research Methods class this year did a wonderful project as an outgrowth of an assignment that resulted in an exhibit, "Who's There?": The OSU Hamlet Project, drawing from the numerous materials on Hamlet in the institute holdings. This exhibit was a precursor to a European-wide Hamlet project that is underway currently.

Nena Couch had the great pleasure of representing the Lawrence and Lee Institute at the 2008 International Association of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts Congress in Glasgow, Scotland, in August. As a part of that trip, she stopped over in London to visit with actress Valerie Minifie, executor of the Daphne Dare estate; Joan Faroughy, widow of Romanian director/designer Mircea Marosin, who donated his theatre renderings to the institute; Marina Henderson, longtime friend of the institute who has helped to build the design holdings; and carnival artist Carl Gabriel whose wonderful wire sculpture of the Mayan Queen commissioned by the institute toured last year in the exhibition *Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill*. Beth Kattelman spent some time this year with members of the Jeff Corey family in California in preparation for receiving that great collection.

Exhibitions have again been high on our list of activities. Objects of *Wonder from the Ohio State University*, a major exhibition, took place at the Columbus Museum of Art over the fall. Joining hundreds of items from all over campus, materials from the institute

selected by CMA curators included a page of dance notation from the Dance Notation Bureau collection; programs, posters, Sportin' Life's cufflinks, photographs, and the musical score from the Robert Breen production of *Porgy and Bess* (1952-1956) that toured the U.S., Europe, the Middle East, Central and South America, and the Soviet Union; photographs of Marilyn Monroe from the Earl Wilson collection; Noh masks; the stage door from Players Theatre; a photograph of Steve Allen; an Al Hirschfeld drawing of the *Inherit the Wind* film; and Sidney Kingsley's blocking diagram for *Dead End*. We have loaned a number of pieces for a touring exhibit curated by Joe Brandesky on the Czech theatre designer Jaroslav Malina. The institute created its own major exhibit



Anna Hoptry, Carl Gabriel, Marysha Sarris, Barbie Papalios and Nena Couch at London's Notting Hill Carnival 2008.



Worthington Kilbourne HS students and teacher Chuck Buford came to the USITT exhibit in Cincinnati and also toured the department and TRI. Left to Right: Ben Neiger & Matt Givens, Sidney Martin & Rachel Hammer, Jeff Fuller above Chuck Buford, and Caroline Worrel & Cameron Worrel.

Design for Performance: Treasures from the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute, co-curated by Nena Couch, Dan Gray, Kristine Kearney, and Mary Tarantino, and designed by Theatre graduate student designers Elinor Loomis, Corinne Porter, Sarah Sugarbaker, and Victor Shonk. This exhibition of institute design and tech materials, which previewed at the Urban Arts Space, was a huge success at the annual conference of the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology in Cincinnati in March, seen by over 2,000 visitors.

Two new endowed funds became active this year. The Irwin and Jane Spector Memorial Endowment Fund, given by Jane Spector, supports the activities of the

Dalcroze Research Center at the institute. In addition to his own outstanding musical compositions, Dr. Spector wrote the definitive biography of Émile Jaques-Dalcroze, the creator of eurhythmics. The William Case Kramer Fellowship, funded by the William Case Kramer Endowed Fund, was awarded for the first time in May to Ian Pugh to support his research in England during the 2009-2010 school year. Kramer very much valued both the research at the institute and the international research experience that Professor John H. McDowell encouraged when Kramer was a graduate student in Theatre at OSU, and the Kramer fellowship seeks to re-create that experience.

Big news on the digital front – the Daphne Dare collection has gone live! Please go to <http://drc.ohiolink.edu/handle/2374.OX/30999> to see the more than 1100 beautiful costume and scene designs from more than fifty productions by British designer Daphne Dare (1929-2000). Dare worked for major theatres on both sides of the Atlantic as well as for television and film, serving in such roles as art director, costume designer, production designer, and set designer. This amazing collection came to the institute through Dare's executor, actor Valerie Minifie.

An international network kicked into gear when the Paris auction of much of the estate of beloved mime Marcel Marceau was announced in May. Marceau came to OSU several times to perform and give residencies in the department, due to his close working relationship with Associate Professor Jeanine Thompson. When Nena and Jeanine heard about the auction, they went into action. With the invaluable assistance of Marsha Hamilton in University Libraries and new TRI friend and longtime Marceau friend Elke Mohr who bid for TRI at the auction, the institute was successful in obtaining some lots of photographs and designs representing Marceau's unforgettable work. While the dispersal of the documentation of Marceau's work is a great disappointment, the institute is pleased that his friends in France and Germany are working toward raising funds and acquiring material for a museum for Bip.

And finally, we hope that you will all come and see us starting in the fall in the wonderful newly renovated Thompson Library.



Actor Valerie Minifie, executor of the Daphne Dare estate, and Nena Couch.

Spotlight on Students

By Damian Bowerman, Eric Mayer, Gianna Pandolfi de Rinaldis, and Beth Josephsen Simon

AUTUMN

Ph.D. Students Christopher Matsos and Matthew Yde successfully completed their candidacy exams and oral defenses of the written exam in the fall. Chris' examining committee was Beth Kattelman, Joy Reilly, Alan Woods and Lesley Ferris. Matt's examining committee was Richard Dutton, Beth Kattelman, Alan Woods, and Lesley Ferris.

M.F.A. Acting student Kal Poole introduced the newest member of his family, Emerson Lea Poole, a beautiful 8 lb. 4 oz. 21 inch baby girl born October 13, 2008 at 7:45pm.

B.A. Student Emily Mills did an internship at Walt Disney World in the costume characters department.

Ph.D. Student Jason Bush was awarded a prestigious Presidential Fellowship. This honor supported his final leg of research and writing for his dissertation titled "Staging Lo Andino: The Peruvian Scissors Dance and the Performativity of Heritage". Jason travelled to Peru to continue his fieldwork and archival study. He delivered a paper on his research in Spanish at a conference at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in Lima. During his impressive research efforts over the last few years, he studied Quechua, the indigenous language of many of the scissors dancers. In addition to his departmental Ph.D. advisor Lesley Ferris, Katherine Borland (Comparative Studies/Folklore) is a co-advisor.

The governing body of the graduate student organization, the Syndicate, elected officers Christopher Matsos, President, Mathew Yde, Vice President, Melissa Lee, Treasurer, and Ian Pugh, Secretary.

Ph.D. Student Chu Young Chon won an Alumni Grant for Graduate Research and Scholarship. She used the funds to support travel for dissertation research.

The USITT Ohio Valley chapter Fall Conference on Saturday, October 11 included a tour of the new Hanna Theatre, home of the Great Lakes Theatre Festival in Cleveland. More than thirty-five individuals entered their work into the Peggy Ezekial display of theatrical design. Seven of the entrants were OSU faculty, staff or students. The following students won awards:

- Anthony Pellecchia, Lighting Design, *The Trojan Women, 2.0*, Outstanding Achievement
- Sarah Sugarbaker, Scenic Design, *Working*, Outstanding Achievement
- Matt Hazard, Lighting Design, *The Labyrinth of Desire*, Distinction

The following students also entered work that was displayed along side the award winners at the National USITT conference held in March 2009 in Cincinnati, Ohio:

- Elinore Loomis, Scenic Design, *Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!*
- Corinne Porter, Scenic Design, *Much Ado About Nothing*

B.A. Student Meredith Lark was on an Ohio State team for several episodes of *The Family Feud*. They beat the team up north.

WINTER

Theatre minor Matt Starr worked as a general production intern at *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* in New York City. He worked upwards of 35 hours a week in a rotating system of stations with varying responsibilities, including: General Production, Control Room, Studio Production, Audience, Tape Library, Editing, and Reception. Matt's favorite responsibility was traveling on field shoots with the producers and correspondents where he helped to carry equipment, set up lighting, held the boom microphones, and labeled tapes.

M.F.A. Design student Jarod Wilson was a soloist in the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus production *Joy!: Our Holiday Tradition*.

SPRING

B.A. Student Barbie Papalios was offered a position with the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth. She will be a Residential Program Assistant at their program in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania at Moravian College. Her plans for next year are to go to Greece for an internship at Anatolia Elementary School in Thessaloniki where she will be teaching English and working in the dorm.

Ph.D. Student Jason Bush published an article based on his dissertation research: "El Gran Reto: Celebrity, Cultural Commodification, and Andean Citizenship," *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, 21:2 (Spring 2009), 91-114. His research was funded by a grant from Ohio State's Office of International Affairs.

In June, Ph.D. student Paul Lockwood's Evolution Theatre Company (ETC) presented the world premiere of *I'll Take Romance*, a gay romantic comedy by acclaimed New York playwright Edwin Sanchez. Paul co-directed the production with ETC Executive Director Mark Phillips. The production featured many Ohio State theatre students: Corbin Jones (B.A. student) as Dee, Raymond Caldwell (M.F.A. student) as Chi Chi Lopez, Johamy Morales (M.F.A. student) as Bree, and Kiana Harris (M.F.A. student) as Gretchen.



(Above LEFT) M.F.A. Design student Jarod Wilson focuses a light for *Godspell*. (Above RIGHT) M.F.A. Design student Anthony Pellecchia at the light board for *Godspell*.



B.A. Student Kayla Jackmon prepares for a performance of *Godspell* at CAPA's Southern Theatre.



(Above LEFT) B.A. Student Patrick Stengle speaks for the B.A. Class of 2009 at the department convocation. (Above RIGHT) M.F.A. Acting student Julie Ann McMillan in her site specific installation at the Ohio State Urban Arts Space.



(Above LEFT) Theatre Minor Heath Monat takes notes as Assistant Technical Director of *Godspell*. (Above RIGHT) B.A. Students Dan Mayer and Adrienne Varwig operating the sound board for *Godspell*.



Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee chats with B.A. student Brandon Curtis at the department's graduation convocation.



B.A. Student Megan Corbin prepares for a performance of *Godspell* at CAPA's Southern Theatre.



B.A. Students Spenser Morris, Mahmoud Osman, Cornelius Hubbard Jr., Ajah Collier, Laura Spires, Michelle Golden in a scene from the Black Student Theatre Network's production of *Hungry*.

M.F.A. Design students Elli Loomis, Corinne Porter and Sarah Sugarbaker successfully passed their M.F.A. thesis examinations: Elli Loomis, Scenic Design for *Machinal*; Corinne Porter, Scenic Design for *Noises Off*; Sarah Sugarbaker, Scenic Design for *Godspell*.

Anthony Pellecchia successfully completed his M.F.A. examination for *Godspell* lighting design at the Southern Theatre. His committee members included Mandy Fox, Kristine Kearney, and committee chair Mary Tarantino. Anthony will be the Interim Assistant Professor of Lighting and Sound Design at the University of South Dakota in August 2009.

Ph.D. Students Christopher Matsos and Matthew Yde were both awarded the highly competitive Arts and Humanities Post Prospectus Fellowship for next year. This award gives them one quarter of funding without teaching responsibilities so they can focus on their dissertations.

Ph.D. Bethany Banister Rainsberg's research paper, "Aeschylus in Action: Translating the University Stage" was awarded 2nd Place in the category Best in Academic Area at the Edward F. Hayes Graduate Research Forum on April 25, 2009. The award came with a cash prize of \$200 and a travel grant of \$250.

All ten M.F.A. Actors successfully passed their comprehensive exam as required for completion of their degree.

B.A. Student Cory Clawson played Duke Buckingham and Theater minor Whitney Cornelius played Elise in *The Three Musketeers* by Ken Ludwig at Actors' Theatre of Columbus.

SUMMER

Julie Ann McMillan (M.F.A. 2009) moved back to New York City to work as the Drama Director of Wagon Road Day Camp in Chappaqua, NY. She taught and directed all theatre activities at camp, including the "Summer of Shakespeare" scene selections with 6-13 yr. olds.

Kiana Harris (M.F.A. 2009) acted *As You Like It* with Actors' Theatre of Columbus. She is

also teaching acting classes for The Phoenix Theatre for Children, Columbus Children's Theatre, and BalletMet. She plans to move to Chicago in the fall.

Patrick Stengle (B.A. 2009) will be the Marketing Intern at Center Stage in Baltimore from August 17, 2009 to May 16, 2010.

Raymond Caldwell (M.F.A. 2009) moved to Washington D.C. to work with Arena Stage in their outreach/engagement and new works program for the 2009-2010 season. He is the proud recipient of the Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship. When not working with Arena, he plans to audition and work in both D.C. and New York.

Malerie Tabern (B.A. 2009) worked at a YMCA day camp in the Columbus area and plans to go to graduate school in fall 2010 to pursue a Masters degree in Drama Therapy at Kansas State University.

Kathryn (K.C.) Novak (B.A. 2009) moved to Nantes, France to teach English for the academic school year.

Amy Witherby (B.A. 2009) helped to write and perform in *Sketch By Number 3.0* at Wild Goose Creative on June 20, 2009. In August 2009, she moved to Providence, Rhode Island to begin an electrics internship at Trinity Repertory Company (Brown University's repertory theatre) for their 2009-2010 season. Amy plans on attending graduate school the following year for an M.F.A in Lighting Design.



(Above LEFT) B.A. Student Brandon Curtis at the stage manager post for *Godspell*. (Above RIGHT) Major General James Shelrock who is on the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon being interviewed by Lesley Walker and Tyler Mitchell of Buckeye TV. Major General Shelrock is an Ohio State Alumn and talked about various aspects of serving in the military.



(Above LEFT) B.A. Student Emily Mills' "very close friend" Maleficent, the evil fairy from *Sleeping Beauty*. (Above RIGHT) B.A. Students Moya Jolly, Brutus, Michelle Golden, Cornelius Hubbard Jr., Kayla Jackmon, Danny Ferguson recruiting for the Black Student Theatre Network on the Oval.



The cast of Evolution Theatre Company's production of *I'll Take Romance*.



B.A. Students Maria Borgerding, Michelle Golden, Ajah Collier, Zuri Hall, Ashley Greene, Yekaterina Melomed, Malerie Tabern in a scene from the Black Student Theatre Network's production of *Day of Absence*.

End of Year Celebration Awards

Mandy Fox led the newly elected APO Officers in the Oath of Office: President – **Liam Cronin**, Vice President – **Angela Henderson**, Business Manager – **Andy Hernandez**.

Mandy also recognized undergraduate students **graduating with distinction**:

- **Kevin M. O'Rourke, Jr.** – *Performing The Zoo Story and writing Morality Day Two Character Development Processes: Exploring Character Development Challenges for the Actor and the Playwright.*
- **Galen Thomas Roth** – *A New Work Discussing Art and Life: The Colony.*

Mo Ryan, Chair of the Production Committee presented awards for **Outstanding Contributions to the Department of Theatre's 2008-2009 Production Season**:

- **Angela Henderson** in recognition of her play *The Dreamers Upstairs*.
- **Amy Witherby** in recognition of her multitasking skills as a performer and assistant lighting designer in *Machinal* and in recognition of her lighting design for The Undergraduate Sandbox.
- **Kristen Russell** in recognition of her performance in The Undergraduate Sandbox - *Constance*.
- **Catrina Bush** in recognition of her costume design for The Undergraduate Sandbox - *Morality Day*.
- **Janice Wessner** in recognition of her directing assistance of *Godspell*.
- **Kristin Jones** in recognition of her lighting design for The Undergraduate Sandbox.
- **Michael Hesmond** in recognition of his lighting design for The Undergraduate Sandbox.
- **Kevin Duchon** in recognition of his lighting design for The Undergraduate Sandbox.
- **Rob Pond** in recognition of his leadership in The Undergraduate Sandbox.
- **Zach Sciranka** in recognition of his performance in *Pangea*.
- **Danny Ferguson** in recognition of his performance in *Godspell* and leadership as Choreographer's Assistant and Dance Captain for *Godspell*.
- **Patrick Stengle** in recognition of his leadership as Choreographer's Assistant and Dance Captain for *Machinal*.
- **Liam Cronin** in recognition of his performance in *Godspell* and The Undergraduate Sandbox.
- **Cornelius Hubbard, Jr.** in recognition of his performance in *Machinal*.
- **Amani Davidson** in recognition of his performance in *Machinal*.
- **Marysha Sarris** in recognition of her costume design for *Noises Off* and in recognition of her assistant costume design for *The Marriage of Figaro*.



The Ohio State University Department of Theatre Class of 2009.



(Above LEFT) M.F.A. Design students, staff and faculty with the crew of the Vari-Lite Road Show. (Above CENTER) Mark Shanda presents M.F.A. Acting student Johamy Morales with a Certificate of Graduation at the department convocation. (Above RIGHT) M.F.A. Acting student Dwayne Blackaller with his site specific installation at the Ohio State Urban Arts Space.



(Above LEFT) B.A. Students Kayla Jackmon and Malerie Tabern singing at the department's graduation convocation. (ABOVE RIGHT) M.F.A. Acting student Johamy Morales speaks for the M.F.A. Class of 2009 at the department's graduation convocation.



(Above LEFT) Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee and M.F.A. Acting student Virginia Logan at the department's graduation convocation. (Above CENTER) M.F.A. Acting students Raymond Caldwell and Johamy Morales observing M.F.A. Acting student Scott Wilson in his site specific installation at the Ohio State Urban Arts Space. (Above RIGHT) M.F.A. Design students Alex Kyle-DiPietropaolo, Jarod Wilson and Anthony Pellecchia investigate the equipment of the Vari-Lite Road Show in the Thurber Theatre.

- **Dan Mayer** in recognition of his sound designs for *Noises Off*, *Machinal* and *Godspell*.
- **Andrea Schimmoeiller** in recognition of her leadership in *Noises Off* and The Undergraduate Sandbox.
- **Kiley Morgan** in recognition of her leadership in *Destinopolis*.
- **Brandon Curtis** in recognition of his leadership in *Godspell*.
- **Megan Corbin** in recognition of her directing assistance of *Noises Off* and in recognition of her direction for The Undergraduate Sandbox - *God Forbid*.

Mandy Fox presented **Undergraduate Scholarship Awards**:

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: **Margaret Glaser, Caitlin Headley, Angela Henderson, Andy Hernandez, Paul Moon, Spenser Morris**



Ph.D. Student Jason Bush and Mark Shanda.

Special Recognitions

Mark Shanda presented the following **B.A. Students with special recognition**:

The **"Triple Crown Award"** presented to **Meredith Lark** in recognition as the only student to perform in all of the OSU Theatre/ CAPA Collaborations, 2005-2009 (*The Rocky Horror Show*, *Hair* and *Godspell*).

Undergraduate Student Excellence presented to **Barbie Papalios** in recognition of Dedication to Theatre Education for Youth.

Outstanding Contribution and Service presented to **Andrea Schimmoeiller** in recognition of her leadership in *The Colony*, *The Minstrel Show*, Theatre 660 Playwrighting, Theatre 610 Advanced Directing and providing some sense of sanity in Jim Knapp's office.

Mary Tarantino presented **Outstanding Contribution and Service** to **Michael Hesmond** in recognition of his lighting contributions to our productions over the last few years as assistant production electrician, production electrician, assistant designer, moving light programmer, designer and spending his free time pursuing an Engineering Physics major.

Mark Shanda presented a **Theatre Roundtable Award of Excellence** to the cast of *Noises Off*: **Mark Hale, Angela Henderson, Chris Hill, Anna Hoptry, Kayla Jackmon, Paul Moon, Robin Post, Patrick Stengle**.

Robin Post extended her heartfelt thanks to all of the students who participated in InterACT throughout the year.



(Above LEFT) The M.F.A. Acting Class of 2009 with Acting Directing Faculty. Kneeling left to right: Mandy Fox, Bruno Lovric, Virginia Logan. Standing left to right: Dwayne Blackaller, Kal Poole, Johamy Morales, Raymond Caldwell, Jessica Podewell, Scott Wilson, Maureen Ryan, Julie Ann McMillan, Kiana Harris, Jeanine Thompson and Jimmy Bohr. (Above RIGHT) The cast of *Noises Off*: M.A. student Chris Hill, B.A. students Mark Hale, Anna Hoptry, Kayla Jackmon, Patrick Stengle, Angela Henderson, and Lecturer Robin Post.



(Above LEFT) Graduate Students Johnathon Boyd, Christopher Hill, Pamela Decker, Melissa Lee, Christopher Matsos, Ian Pugh, Matt Yde and Jarod Wilson. (Above CENTER) B.A. Students Jessica Biggert, Kristen Russell and John Jackson. (Above RIGHT) B.A. Student Kayla Jackmon and M.F.A. student Raymond Caldwell.



(Above LEFT) Mark Shanda with B.A. students Angela Henderson, Margaret Glaser and Spenser Morris. (Above CENTER) Mark Shanda and B.A. student Meredith Lark. (Above RIGHT) Mark Shanda, B.A. student Danny Ferguson, and Mo Ryan.

The Michael Swink Fund for Talent in Theatre Technology was established in 1980 in memory of Michael Swink, B.A. 1975, and provides funding for undergraduate students who have demonstrated exceptional talent and ability in theatre in the area of design and technology.

- Recipient: **Andrea Schimmoeller**

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

- Recipient: **Liam Cronin**



Ph.D. Students Matthew Yde and Christopher Matsos.

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, Andy Hernandez, Angela Henderson, Paul Moon**

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: **Rob Pond, Kyle Rutkowski, Lowri Sion**

The Steven Vrba Award is given 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: **Andrea Schimmoeller**

Lesley Ferris presented awards to the following individuals with **Graduate Student Excellence in recognition of their Teaching, Service, Research and Creative Activity**: **Dwayne Blackaller, Melissa Lee, Christopher Matsos, Anthony Pellecchia, Ian Pugh, Matthew Yde.** Lesley Ferris also recognized **Jason Bush** for receiving the prestigious **Presidential Fellowship**.

Janet Parrott presented awards for **Outstanding Contributions in the area of Video Production**. Students were recognized for their Outstanding Dedication to Media Arts.

- For **Excellence in Video Production**: **Bradley Clapper, Rasean Davonte, Ruth Lang, Craig Pentak, Scott Sperling, Steve Tsentsersensky**

- For **Outstanding Dedication to Reel Buckeye Productions**: **Patrick Devers, Megan Dunlap.**

- And to **Manuel Wilson** for **Outstanding Dedication to Buckeye TV.**



(ABOVE LEFT) Alpha Psi Omega officers Liam Cronin, Megan Corbin and Patrick Stengle swear in new members Bill Gordon, Maria Borgerding, Spenser Morris, Kristen Russell and Margaret Glaser. (ABOVE RIGHT) Ph.D. Students Melissa Lee, Matthew Yde, Christopher Matsos and Ian Pugh with Mark Shanda.



(ABOVE LEFT) Mark Shanda and Maureen Ryan with B.A. student Rob Pond. (ABOVE RIGHT) Janet Parrott with B.A. student Manuel Wilson and Dave Fisher.

Mark Shanda presented the following graduate students with the **Chair's Award for Academic Achievement** for maintaining a 4.0 cumulative grade point average: **Andrew Blasenak, Johnathon Boyd, Pamela Decker, Christopher Hill, Melissa Lee, Christopher Matsos, Eric Mayer, Ian Pugh, Matthew Vadnais, Jarod Wilson, Matthew Yde.**

Mark Shanda presented the following undergraduate students with the **Chair's Award for Academic Achievement** for maintaining a 3.8 or higher cumulative grade point average.

Freshmen: **Brittany Belland, Margaret Glaser, Robert Pond, Dayna Schlefstein**

Sophomores: **Allison Baker, Andrew Barbagallo, Corey Dixon, Alexa Irwin, Stephanie Keller, Caitlin Rose, Lowri Sion, John Sorenson, Anna Wang, Danielle Wisti**

Juniors: **Andi Barnett, Jessica Biggert, John Jackson, Corbin Jones, Margaret Junkin, Emily Mills, Kristen Russell**

Seniors: **Cory Clawson, Samantha Cline, Liam Cronin, Adam Davidson, Rachel Deep, Ashley Dillen, Kathryn Dysard, James Goodwin, Angela Henderson, Alex Hluch, Alicia Huddleston, Meredith Lark, Barbie Papalios, Laura Spires, Amy Witherby**



B.A. Students Steve Tsentsersensky, Rasean Davonte Johnson, Ruth Lang, Craig Pentak and Megan Dunlap with Mark Shanda, and Janet Parrott.

Regional Campus Reports

Ohio State Newark

By Dave Williams, Associate Professor

The 2008-2009 season at Ohio State Newark was filled with topicality, urban grit, and a sudden change of plans. The first production was a play I'd seen the previous spring in New York City, A.R. Gurney's *Post Mortem*. It concerns the afterlife of a playwright named A.R. Gurney, who had written a play called *Post Mortem*, long after the Bush administration had been retired. The script was crying to be performed, and for it to have any bite, it had to happen before the November elections. It was accordingly scheduled, cast, and put into production. A month into rehearsals, however, the woman in the crucial third role of Betsy told me that she couldn't perform on the second scheduled weekend, so I ended up doublecasting the role. This was a new experience for me; both performers were good, but in very different ways, and it was fascinating to see how this affected the other two performers. Both weekends ended up drawing good crowds, and it was a nice experience for all involved. The crowning touch was a hand-written postcard from Mr. Gurney himself, pleased that we were doing his play, and wishing us success.

The second show was a double bill of plays by Israel Horowitz, *The Indian Wants the Bronx* and *Line*. Knowing the work that lay ahead of me in the role of Gupta, I located a native-speaker coach in October, and began learning the acres of Hindi required. There was a surprise awaiting me at auditions. The roles



Betsy (Casey Mumma) has a question for Alice (Lisa Ride-nour) and Dexter (Tony McClure) in *Post Mortem*.

of Joey and Murphy were originally written as white (Al Pacino achieved stardom in the latter), but when two African-Americans, Chris Boyd and Taylor Moss, showed up and gave dynamite auditions, I thought, hmm ... maybe it's time to put a new spin on this play. Some lines had to be changed, but all in all, it seemed to work quite well in performance.

Line had one of the best ensembles that the Black Box Theater has seen. It included not only students, but also local community theater stalwart Kelly Moore, and the chemistry was all that one could have hoped for. All in all, it was a highly successful evening.

The third play of the season was scheduled to be *The Laramie Project*. However, when only two people showed up to audition, a quick

change of plans was required. Providentially, I had been in New York the week before, and by chance picked up a copy of a twohander by Rich Orloff called *Romantic Fools*. This "comic vaudeville" calls for a man and a woman, and since that fit the auditioners, that filled the slot. Technically, this was one of the most demanding shows that has come my way in years. It's a compilation of twelve short skits, each requiring a different setting, different lights, and different introductory music. The sets were accomplished with minimalism, and a fair amount of overlapping furniture. Every single lighting instrument the theatre has is up in the grid and contributing ... and let's just say that the iTunes store is substantially richer now than it was before I chose the show. As I write, we are about to open, and just in time, too; this show is hungry for an audience. I anticipate good crowds and lots of laughter to close out the season.

Ohio State Mansfield

By Joseph Fahey, Assistant Professor

The Mansfield Theatre Program offered a year of collaborations with other arts and culture organizations in Mansfield and Columbus. Two new projects met with a strong artist and audience response. Teaming with Mansfield Youth Theatre, we presented Disney's *Aladdin, Jr.* in January. In spite of the worst snow storm of the year, excellent crowds came out to see over thirty young actors take the stage of Founders Auditorium. Plans are already underway for a second collaboration in 2010. In April the campus theatre club hosted "The 24," a twenty-four hour play creation competition. The teams came up with exciting, original plays and the club has set the goal of offering a similar project to kick off our 2009-2010 school year.

For our mainstage season we presented three shows by three OSU Alumni in honor of the campus's 50th Anniversary celebration. In the fall guest director Domenick Danza, Education Director of The Renaissance Theatre, directed *The Male Animal*, a delightful comedy by



Arnall (Taylor Moss) wonders in shock if his wife Molly (Erika Mugglin) may be pregnant. Fleming (Dave Williams) and Dolan (Kelly Moore) look on in *Line*.



The *Bye Bye Birdie* marquee greets Mansfield audiences on their way into The Renaissance Theatre.

James Thurber and Elliot Nugent. In the winter, we presented *Inherit the Wind*, by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. This show played to near capacity crowds in Mansfield one weekend and then, as part of the OSU-wide celebration "Darwin The Growth of an Idea," traveled to the Columbus Performing Arts Space for a second weekend. In the spring our season culminated with performances of *Bye Bye Birdie* at The Renaissance Theatre in downtown Mansfield. This beautifully restored 1928 movie house is now a fully functional, 1500 seat theatre. Our large, enthusiastic crowds were delighted to see *Birdie*, with lyrics by Mansfield native and OSU alumnus Lee Adams, presented there for the first time ever. It was also a fitting preparation for the show's return to Broadway for the first time since it premiered there five decades ago.

Our curriculum continues to expand as well, with our first offerings of Theatre 367.01: America on Stage, an Honors Embedded version of Theatre 100: Intro to Theatre, and a two-week summer theatre intensive for area teachers. We have expanded our summer internship opportunities for theatre students, and we will conclude the summer with the Mansfield campus's first offering of Theatre 100 in an on-line format.

Next season should be exciting as well, beginning with Barbara Field's acclaimed adaptation of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. The show will run Halloween weekend, including a school matinee supported by the Children's Theatre Foundation and a midnight showing.

Ohio State Lima

By Joe Brandesky, Professor

The Lima campus theatre program generated three productions in the 2008-2009 academic year. Joe Brandesky directed and adapted the Czech tale *Red Fox and the Firebird* for our Theatre for Young Audiences performances during autumn 2008. Former OSU Lima student Kim Barrett directed Moises Kaufman's *The Laramie Project* during winter 2009. Barrett, executrix for the Michael Chekhov Estate, also taught a studio course focused on the Chekhov Acting Method during the winter. Joe Brandesky returned as a director for the spring 2009 production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Greg Owen, Assistant Professor of Theatre, designed sets and Loo Brandesky designed costumes for all productions this last year. Along with Greg, we welcomed Melanie House, Lecturer, and Doug Raver, Assistant Technical Director, to our department during the past academic year and benefited greatly from their contributions to the program.



Autumn Quarter – *Red Fox and the Firebird*, Adapted and Directed by Joe Brandesky

Two students who played active roles in our theatre program were recognized with spring 2009 academic awards at OSU—Lima. Danita Lazenby was given the Arts Divisional Award (sponsored by the Music, Art and Theatre faculties) while a Theatre Departmental award went to Derryck Menard.

A touring exhibition entitled *Jaroslav Malina: Paintings and Designs* will be shown in Lima and Columbus during autumn 2009. The latter exhibit will be shown at the OSU Urban Arts Space from December 17, 2009 – January 15, 2010 and is being curated

by Joe Brandesky. Brandesky will also lead an OSU Study Tour to the Czech Republic in December 2009.

Maria Ignatieva was awarded a Faculty Professional Leave during the past academic year. Her book *Stanislavsky and Female Actors* was published during autumn 2008. Joe Brandesky was awarded a Faculty Professional Leave during the past year that is scheduled to begin in January 2010.

Next year's season in Lima will include *An Irish Tale*, a new play for young audiences written and guest directed by Brian Keegan, autumn 2009, a production of Sophocles' *Antigone* directed by Melanie House winter 2010, and J. B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, directed by Maria Ignatieva spring 2010. All set designs will be by Greg Owen and all costumes provided by Loo Brandesky during the coming year.



Spring Quarter – *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Directed by Joe Brandesky

Faculty and Staff Updates



Rachel Barnes
Box Office Manager / Fiscal Officer

- Rachel and her husband Michael, along with their 5 year old son Jacob, welcomed Daniel Roger Barnes into the world on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:15 pm, weighing in at 9 pounds 2 ounces and measuring 21 inches in length.



Joe Brandesky
Professor
Ohio State Lima Campus

- Produced *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, winter 2008.
- Produced and Directed *Fiddler on the Roof*, spring 2008.
- Produced, Adapted and Directed *Red Fox and the Firebird*, autumn 2008.
- Prepared Jaroslav Malina: *Paintings and Designs* for exhibit at the McNay Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX (January 2009), the Center for Visual Arts University of Toledo (April 2009), The Ohio State University at Lima (October 2009), The Ohio State University at Columbus (November/December 2009) and Alfred University (October 2010).
- 2008 Outstanding Faculty Scholar Award, Ohio State Lima.
- Contributing editor of the exhibition catalog, *Jaroslav Malina: Paintings and Designs*. Lima, OH: Ohio State University at Lima, 2008.



Jimmy Bohr
Assistant Professor
Acting and Directing

- Directed *Letters Home*, Teatro Technis, London, August 2008.
- Directed *Pangea* by Stephen Culp, Bowen Theatre, November 2008.



Damian Bowerman
Graduate Studies and Publicity Coordinator

- Performed his solo show *John D. Rockefeller: Divine Philanthropist or Cold-Blooded Oil Tycoon* at Westminster-Thurber in Columbus and the Wayne County Historical Society in Wooster, Ohio.
- Conducted a workshop at Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center for "Career Days".
- Member of the High Street Neighborhoods Board of Directors and the Columbus Arts Marketing Association (CAMA).

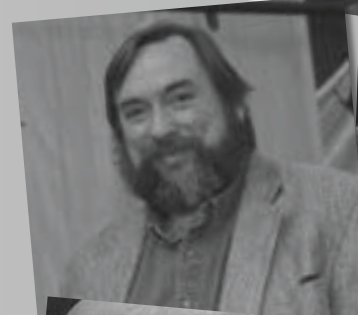
Stratos Constantinidis
Professor
History, Literature and Criticism

- Published *Text & Presentation, 2007: The Comparative Drama Conference Series* (McFarland 2008, 264p).
- Received a \$14,700 grant to translate Aeschylus' *The Persians* that is scheduled for a series of readings in November 2009, and to convene a conference about text and translation.
- Elected to the Executive Board of the Modern Greek Studies Association of America and Canada for a three-year term of service (2009-2011).



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

- Published "The Moving Image Secured Media Network: Presenting the Ephemeral Art of the Dance" in Proceedings of the International Association of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts, 27th Congress, Glasgow, August 2008. International Association of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts.
- Published three essays in *Student's Encyclopedia of American Literary Characters*.
- Reconstructed and performed Baroque theatrical dance accompanied by Katherine Borst Jones and Sean Ferguson on *Spectacular Winds!*, an Ohio State School of Music concert.
- Co-curated with Dan Gray, Kristine Kearney, and Mary Tarantino *Design for Performance*, exhibit of treasures from the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute for the U. S. Institute for Theatre Technology annual national conference, Cincinnati with a preview at the Ohio State Urban Arts Space.
- 2008 - present: Member of International Association



of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts (SIBMAS).

- Presented "The Moving Image Secured Media Network: Presenting the Ephemeral Art of the Dance" at the International Association of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts (SIBMAS) congress in Glasgow, Scotland.
- Was elected to a two-year term on the SIBMAS council.
- Presented "Don Preciso and Dance" at American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies/Ibero-American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Richmond, Virginia.



Nicholas Dekker
Lecturer

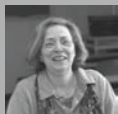
Theatre 100 Administrator

- Welcomed first child, William Isaac, into the world on July 3, 2008.
- Developed the first online section of Introduction to Theatre for the department during the summer 2008 quarter.
- Served as Dramaturg for the department's production of *Pangea* in the autumn 2008 quarter. This included organizing and moderating a panel on science and theatre with playwright Stephen R. Culp, director Jimmy Bohr, Brian Schwartz of CUNY, and Berry Lyons of OSU's Byrd Polar Research Center.
- Keynote speaker at the Calvin College Theatre Company 75th Anniversary, speaking on "Re-Inspecting the Classics: Different Approaches to *The Government Inspector*," in February 2009.
- Continued work as co-founder and board member of Columbus arts company Wild Goose Creative.

Joseph Fahey
Assistant Professor

OSU Mansfield Campus

- Appointed to the Board of the Ohio Theatre Alliance
- Served on the Renaissance Theatre Educational Advisory Board, the Pioneer Performing Arts Academy Board and on the Mansfield IMAC/STAR School Boards (two area charter schools for at-risk youth)
- Presented Workshops:
 - Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region III Workshop Presentation: Turning Actors into Script Detectives: Directing and Self-Coaching Through Stanislavski's Method of Physical Actions – Saginaw, Michigan January 2009.
 - Ohio Theatre Alliance Regional Auditions Workshop Presentation: Character Breakthroughs in Three Minutes: Using Personality Dimensions Research to Develop Dynamic Characters – New Concord, Ohio January 2009.
- Published reviews of *Remaking American Theatre: Charles Mee, Anne Bogart and the SITI Company* by Scott T. Cummings in *Theatre Journal* 2008 and *Samuel Beckett's Plays on Film and Television* by Graley Herren in *Theatre Survey* 2009.



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. Opened the OSU

- Urban Art Space in February 2008. The exhibition was recognized by *The Columbus Dispatch* as one of the visual arts events of the year and the GCAC nominated it for one of five "Artistic Excellence" recognition. In March 2009 it was given the top award and won the "Artistic Excellence"[with the Urban Art Space opening] and brought the university a \$10,000 award.
- Wrote "Lear's Daughters and Sons: Twisting the Canonical Landscape" in *Feminist Theatrical Revisions of Classic Works: Critical Essays*, edited by Sharon Friedman (McFarland, 2009) pp. 97-112.
- Wrote "Performing History into the Future: Mary Wollstonecraft in Newington Green", *Theatre Forum: International Theatre Journal* (No. 33, Spring 2008) pp. 31-34.



Mandy Fox
Assistant Professor
Acting and Directing

- "Creating New Works from Interview" invited presentation at The International Global University Theatre Experience, Theatre Methods Conference in Malpils, Latvia.
- "Best Actress of 2008", *Columbus Dispatch* for role of Sister Aloysius in *Doubt* at the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO).
- Directed *Godspell*.



Dan Gray
Associate Professor
Design and Technology

- DayTony Award winning production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Human Race Theatre in Dayton, OH.
- Critically acclaimed production of *Ears on a Beetle* at The Human Race Theatre in Dayton, OH.
- Scenic design for the world premiere of *Aladdin* at BalletMet in Columbus, OH.
- Scenic Design for *Julius Caesar* at Otterbein College named Best Scenic Design by *The Columbus Dispatch*, and the Central Ohio Theatre Critics Circle.



Matt Hazard
Lighting Studio Manager

- Became a Certified Theater Electrician through the Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP).





Anthony Hill
Associate Professor
History, Literature and Criticism

- Completed and published *Historical Dictionary of African American Theatre* (Scarecrow Press, 2009, 624 pages.)
- Wrote a 1,000 word entry on "How I wrote my book *Historical Dictionary of African American Theatre*" on www.blackpast.org.
- Attended and participated in the national Black Theatre Network conference.



Maria Ignatieva
Associate Professor
Ohio State Lima Campus

- Wrote *Stanislavsky and Female Actors: Women in Stanislavsky's Life and Art*, a book, University Press of America, released in October 2008.



Beth Kattelman
Assistant Curator, Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute

- Assistant Professor, Ohio State Libraries**
- Took part in a panel presentation on the "Pedagogy of Horror: Using Horror To Teach Across the Disciplines," at the National Popular Culture Association/National American Culture Association Annual Conference, New Orleans in April 2009.
 - Presented a paper at Mansfield College, Oxford for the 2nd Global Conference on Horror, Fear and Terror. The paper, entitled, "Carnographic Culture: America and the Rise of the Torture Porn Film" will be the first chapter in an international anthology to be published by Rodopi Press next year.
 - Was chosen as one of five faculty participants for OSU's Second Life Pilot Project, which explored the pedagogical possibilities of SL's virtual world.
 - Directed Moliere's *Tartuffe* for the Actors' Theatre of Columbus 2008 summer season.
 - Received the Teaching Excellence Award from the University Libraries.
 - Was elected to a two-year term as a council member for the Society of Ohio Archivists.



Kristine Kearney
Assistant Professor
Design and Technology

- Designed costumes for the Contemporary American Theatre Company's production of *Doubt*.
- Participated in the London Theatre Program (2008).
- Prepared documents that resulted in tenure and promotion to the level of Associate Professor effective October 1, 2009.
- Designed costumes for *The Marriage of Figaro*.



Eric Mayer
Administrative Coordinator

- Promoted to Administrative Coordinator, managing curriculum, financials and human resources.
- Continued his part-time pursuit of an M.F.A. in Stage and Theatre Management at OSU, which included serving as the Production Stage Manager for all of the 2008-2009 productions.



- Served as the Stage Manager for The Phoenix Theatre for Children's production of *The Miracle Worker*, performed by a cast of deaf, blind, and hearing/sighted actors in both English and American Sign Language.
- Served as the Stage Manager for the Columbus Youth Ballet's *Nutcracker*.
- Served as the Stage Manager for the M.F.A. Actor's New York City Showcase.



Janet Parrott
Assistant Professor
Film and Video

- Previewed the film she produced and directed *Song of the Soul: Stories of Hospice in South Africa* at the Wexner Center for the Arts cosponsored by Ohio State's Africa Network and International Studies 65th Anniversary. The South African Consulate General attended the preview and said, "This is the truth of my country. Thank you for making this film."
- Returned to South Africa with the film's executive producer Cathe Chapin Kobacker and others to share the film with the people in the hospice community who so passionately told their stories. It was shown in whole or part 16 times in 6 different cities. For more information visit www.songofthesoulfilm.com.
- Produced a joint showing of student work from Theatre 635: Video Production I and Ohio State's Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design

- (ACCAD) program at the Wexner Center's Film Video Theatre and the Ohio State Urban Arts Space.
- Received the 2009 Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.
- Participated in Preparing for the Afterlife: The Role of Hospice, a panel discussion at the Columbus Museum of Art with Catherine Chapin Kobacker.



Janet Parrott, Jackie Royster, Sister Cathy Thomas at the Good Shepherd Hospice in Middelburg South Africa.



Robin Post
Lecturer

InterACT Facilitator and Director

- Directed InterACT, performing for its third straight year at the Faculty and Teaching Assistant Development (FTAD) TA orientation.
- Wrote, produced, and directed *A failure to communicate* (the strained relationship between faculty member and advisee).
- Wrote an adaptation and directed the staged reading of the novel, *The Language of Baklava*, by Diana Abu-Jaber for First Year Experience.
- Wrote, produced, and directed *It's Abuse* (College student relationship abuse).
- Directed InterACT in their performance of *Women's Studies 101, It's a GEC with lots of chics* (the difficulties women instructors encounter with some male students).
- Directed InterACT in performance of *I can't afford my texts, much less next quarter's tuition* (commentary on the effects of the economic downturn on students, faculty and administrators at OSU).
- Performed the role of Mrs. Clackett/Dottie in Ohio State's production of *Noises Off*.
- Performed Molly in CarrickMacross's production of *The Blowin' of Baile Gall*.
- Presented the InterACT and cancer survivor collaboration at The Arts in Healthcare conference in Buffalo, NY.



Johamy Morales performed her own writing with the group as guest artist at the Eden Conference. This conference is a world-wide body of retirement center administrators and was hosted in the USA by Westminster-Thurber, Columbus.

Christina Ritter
Lecturer

- Performed in *Almost, Maine* with The Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) in February.
- Workshopped the next piece for the for/word company in Orgeon this summer.
- Moved to Lexington KY, where she plans to teach two acting classes in fall 2009 at the University of Kentucky.



Maureen Ryan
Associate Professor
Acting and Directing

- Directed two successful productions for Ohio State this season. *Noises Off* was recognized by the Theatre Roundtable with an "Excellence in Directing" citation and a citation for Excellence in Ensemble. She guided the M.F.A. Actors in their creation of *Destinopolis*, a new work devised by the M.F.A.'s in partnership with C.R.I.S., Community Refugee and Immigration Service.
- Worked with CarrickMacross productions where she directed *The Blowin' of Baile Gall*.



Joy Reilly
Associate Professor
History, Literature and Criticism

- Was on Faculty and Professional Leave for autumn 2008 and winter 2009.
- Recorded story for OSU Digital Story Showcase on how *Howling at the Moon* got started during preparations for the 2002 Senior Theatre International Festival and Conference. Learn more at: digitalunion.osu.edu/story.
- Featured in *The Exquisite Art of Aging*, which was aired in June 2008 on WOSU-NPR and appeared in the January 2009 issue of WOSU Airfare.
- Headlined the 4th Annual Eden Alternative International Conference at the Hyatt-Regency in Columbus in June 2008. M.F.A. Acting Student



Beth Josephsen Simon
Undergraduate Studies Coordinator

- Became the Undergraduate Studies Coordinator in July 2008.
- Played the role of Wendy in an ad hoc theatre company's production of *NParrrr! National Pirate Radio* in September 2008.
- Played the role of Constance in Actors' Theatre of Columbus production of *The Three Musketeers* in May-June 2009.





Mark Shanda
Chair, Professor
Department of Theatre, College of the Arts

- Produced OSU Theatre Season and *Letters from Home* a new play presented at the Teatro Technis in London England.
- Taught master class on Networking presented at USITT National Conference in Cincinnati, OH.
- Served on Nominations Committee for National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) and as a member of the NAST accreditation team for Montclair State University.
- Chaired Ohio Board of Regents Theatre Transfer Articulation Agreement Panel.
- Served on Colleges of Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction; General Education (GEC) Assessment subcommittee and University GEC Oversight committee.
- Elected Director at Large, U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology.

Robert Wagner
Emeritus Professor

- Selected for the University Film and Video Association (UFVA) and University Film and Video Foundation (UFVF) Lifetime Achievement Award. According to UFVF President Bill Huie, "This Award recognizes Dr. Wagner's many years of distinguished service to both the UFVA and the UFVF." Janet Parrott accepted the award on his behalf at the annual UFVA Conference in New Orleans on August 8, 2009.

David Williams
Associate Professor
Ohio State Newark Campus

- Reviewed *What We Do*, by Bo Meltzer, spring 2009, Theatre Research & Development.
- Performed three times with OSU-Newark's improv troupe "Outside the Box."

Alan Woods
Professor
History, Literature and Criticism
Director, Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute

- Conducted the Limbo Project (www.limboplays.blogspot.com).
- Led an audio description workshop in January 2009 in Detroit for the Matrix Theatre.
- Directed the Eileen Heckart Drama for Seniors Competition with 510 plays (www.heckartdrama.blogspot.com).
- Acted in *Apart From That* and the first scene from *A Slight Ache* for a tribute to Harold Pinter staged by Katherine Burkman in May 2009.



Mary Tarantino
Professor
Design and Technology

- Promoted to full professor effective October 1, 2009.
- Coordinated the Design/Technology Midwest Theatre Trip to visit Electronic Theatre Controls (Middleton, WI) for a facility tour hosted by President and CEO Fred Foster; to visit the Milwaukee Art Museum; and a comprehensive tour of the Milwaukee Rep.
- Helped bring the Joel Rubin archive to the Theatre Research Institute.
- Made a design and technology presentation in November 2008 to the IESNA - Buckeye Section for the department's production of *Pangea*, designed in the autumn.
- Awarded a Peggy Ezekiel Award of Distinction in October 2008 for her lighting design of the Phoenix Theatre for Children and CAPA's production of *The Secret Garden*.
- Awarded a Peggy Ezekiel Award of Outstanding Achievement for *The Pillowman* at CATCO.



Jeanine Thompson
Associate Professor
Acting and Directing

- Invited by the Association of Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) to conduct a session and present *Capturing the Ineffable: A Tribute to Marcel Marceau (1923 - 2007)*, along with her writing partner, Annette Thornton, at the National Conference in July 2008
- Directed and Choreographed *The Trojan Women, 2.0*, which won "Best Direction" by the Ohio Theatre Alliance for 2007 - 2008.
- Participated in the ATHE Leadership Institute held in Denver, Colorado, July 2008.
- Consulted with Department Chair, Bob Nelson, of the University of Utah, Department of Theatre on developing a strategic plan for their theatre department's future.
- Nominated to be a Barack Obama Presidential Campaign Neighborhood Team Leader and Staging Location Director, presiding over 19 precincts, a Neighborhood Team and hundreds of volunteers. August - November 4, 2008.



Mark Shanda presents Jim Knapp with the "This will just take a couple of minutes, come find me" award for Tech Support Excellence.

Alumni and Friends

Compiled, Researched and Edited by Damian Bowerman, Charmel Joiner and Gianna Pandolfo-de-Rinaldis

1960s

Abe J. Bassett (Ph.D. 1962)

Abe has been retired for 14 years after 34 successful years in higher education including being the Founding Chair of Department of Theatre Arts at Wright State University and Founding Dean of the College of Fine Arts at Indiana-Purdue, Fort Wayne.

1970s

Betty McCormick Aggas (M.F.A. 1975)

Betty is a Talent Manager for Midwest Talent in North Hollywood, CA.
www.midwesttalent.com

Hollis Huston (Ph.D. 1975)

Hollis Huston is a theologically trained Unitarian Universalist who is frequently invited to preach in congregations of his faith. He works as a board-certified hospice chaplain in New York City, serving clients of many faiths while discovering his own. Check out his blog at <http://nextcircle.blogspot.com>.

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

Toni-Leslie won an Obie for Sustained Excellence of Costume Design, with special reference to *Wig Out* at the Vineyard Theatre.

Frank Mohler (Ph.D. 1979)

Frank Mohler is a retired professor having teaching appointments at Denison University, the University of South Carolina, and the University of Virginia. He serves as set and lighting director at Appalachian State University. As a professor emeritus, Frank is currently researching the history of theatrical spectacle and maintains the development of Scenic Spectacle website. Frank is now writing a book on spectacle. He is married to Claudia Grossman Mohler who also attended Ohio State.



Randy Skinner (B.C. Education 1974)



Tommy Tune, Cheyenne Jackson, Jane Krakowski, Randy Skinner (B.C. Education 1974) and the rest of the cast of White Christmas.

Randy Skinner (B.C. Education 1974)

Skinner graduated Cum Laude from The Ohio State University and works as a guest teacher at numerous colleges. As Director and Choreographer, his New York works include *State Fair*, which received an Outer Critics nomination, *Ain't Broadway Grand*, which received Tony Outer Critics nominations, *42nd Street*, where he assisted Grower Champion, *DO RE MI* with City Center Encores! and a workshop of *The Jazz Singer*. Having also done a great deal of work on the West Coast, his Los Angeles credits include *Pal Joey* and *Hello Dolly*, which received a Drama-Logue Award, *Strike Up The Band*, and also *42nd Street*, which received both L.A. Drama and Bay Area Critics Awards. Mr. Skinner also has several recordings, including *Sondheim at the Movies*, *110 in the Shade*, *Strike Up the Band* and *Lucky in the Rain*. He was nominated for a 2009 Tony Award for his choreography of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* on Broadway.

1980s

Kelly Blake (B.C. 1989)

Kelly has worked as a commercial actor and voice-over artist for regional and national commercials. Currently she works at "New Uses," a trendy retail store that collects and sells theatre props and other used electronics.

Kevin Connell (B.A. 1987)

Kevin is an Associate Professor of Theatre Arts at Marymount Manhattan College. Directing credits include: Christopher Durang's *Baby with Bathwater* (2007) for GroundUp Productions (NYC); Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliette* (2007) for the Collective Company (NYC); Contance Cox's adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* (2005) and Richard Brinsley Sheridan's *The Rivals* (2004) at the National Black Theatre in Harlem; Michael John LaChuisa's musical *Hello Again* (2008), Tennessee William's (unpublished)

Approaching the End of a Summer and Edward Albee's *Finding the Sun* (2007), A.A. Milne's *The Ugly Duckling* (2006), an adaptation of Shakespeare's *King Richard II* titled *The Holy Terror* (2007), James Valcq and Fred Alley's musical *The Spitfire Grill* (2003), Seneca's *Trojan Women* (2002) Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2001) and Tony Kushner's *Reverse Transcription* (2000) all at Marymount Manhattan College. As an actor he has worked at the National Theatre (London), La Jolla Playhouse (San Diego, CA), Steppenwolf Theatre Company (Chicago, IL), Theatre Works USA (NYC/Tour), The Wayside Theatre (Winchester, VA), TheatreFest, NJ (Montclair, NJ), Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Edinburgh, Scotland) and Pinewood Studios (London). Kevin is currently co-adapting the stage version of Kathryn Harrison's novel *Exposure*.

Timothy R. Dougherty (B.F.A. 1988)

Upon graduation from The Ohio State University, Timothy spent a short time working professionally as a stage carpenter, stage hand, and light designer. Leaving theatre, he returned to school and was awarded a Masters of Business Administration from Franklin University, followed by a Juris Doctorate from the California Western School of Law. Since 1995, Timothy has been practicing law in Columbus. In 2006, he made the decision to begin working in the theatre again, acting and designing lights for community theatre within Columbus as well as acting in television commercials and regional industrial films.

Richard Grupenhoff (Ph.D. 1986)

Richard celebrated his retirement in June 2009 after teaching for 33 years at the Rowan University Radio/TV/Film Department in New Jersey.

Anne Hering (M.F.A. 1986)

Anne is currently the Director of Training for Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Partnership with The University of Central Florida where she mentors teaches and directs Acting Education interns and M.F.A. actors at UCF. Anne also enjoys acting and most recently performed the role of Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*.

Chris Jones (Ph.D. 1989)

Chris received the Kennedy Center's American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) Kennedy Center Gold Medallion at the KCACTF Region III Festival on Saturday, January 10, 2009 in Saginaw, Michigan. The Gold Medallion is a national honor bestowed by the KCACTF Regional Board to those faculty members whose commitment to KCACTF and their students sets an example for all of us. The award, given since 1972, is "presented to those in the KCACTF regions who have made extraordinary contributions to the

teaching and producing of theatre and to the development and quality of the Kennedy Center's American College Theater Festival." Chris is the chief theater critic for the Chicago Tribune. In May 2007, he gave the annual Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute Lecture.



Barbara Ann Kachur (Ph.D. 1986)

Barbara Ann Kachur (Ph.D. 1986)

Barbara died on December 28, 2008, after a brief illness. She was an Associate Professor of English at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, where she had previously served as Chair of the Department of English and Interim Associate Dean of the College of the Arts and Sciences. Barbara's Ohio State dissertation, on the life and career of Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, remains a magisterial work. Her study of two English playwrights of the Restoration, Etherege & Wycherley, published by Macmillan in 2004, was praised by critics and remains in print. She is survived by her partner of 35 years, Joann Lindsay.

John Kuhn (M.F.A. 1983)

John directed *The Three Musketeers* by Ken Ludwig at Actors' Theatre of Columbus.

David Jay Lander (B.F.A. 1987)

David was awarded the Tisch scholarship of the arts at NYU for his lighting design in the production of *The Three Sisters* at OSU. After 20+ years in New York City, he has been nominated for a TONY Award for *33 Variations*. Lander's Broadway credits include *I Am, My Own Wife* by Doug Wright directed by Moisés Kaufman, which won the 2004 Tony for Best Play and the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Best Play. Also in 2008, *Beast* by Michael Weller at NYTW, Edward Albee's *Occupant* at the Signature Theatre Company, NYC and



David Lander (B.F.A. 1987). Photo by Craig Schwartz.

Othello at the Alley Theatre in Houston. David designed the theatrical lighting for the feature film *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2* which opened August 6, 2008.



The billboard for *33 Variations* outside the theatre in New York.

Geoffrey Nelson (M.A. 1981)

Geoffrey celebrated his 25th year as Artistic Director of Central Ohio's only professional Equity theatre, the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) in Columbus, where he continues to direct and perform.

Ken Sonkin (B.F.A. 1982)

Ken has been based in San Francisco for many years with an acting, directing, and teaching career. He is a professor teaching acting at The University of San Francisco.

Harless Wiston (Ph.D. 1988)

After receiving his Ph.D. from Ohio State Harless became Professor of Theatre at Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee. He received a J.D. from The University of Tennessee in 1995, and is currently a partner in a law firm. Harless is also serving on The Board of Directors for The Nashville Children's Theatre.

1990s

Anna (Palmer) Aquino (B.A. 1999)

Anna is a free-lance writer, scriptwriter and director for a small theatre group in Florida. Presently she is a stay-at-home mom of two girls.

Andrea Biggs (B.A. 1993)

Andrea acts and directs in New York and works as a freelance editor/copy editor. Currently Andrea is in a long-running Off-Broadway interactive show called *The Awesome 80's Prom*. It plays Saturday nights to a whole lot of drunken bachelorettes. She is writing a comedy piece with a writing partner and recently directed a couple of little, Off-Off shows.

Kathleen Colligan Cleary (Ph.D. 1994)

Kathleen accepted the position of the Dean of Liberal Arts, Communication and Social Sciences Division at Sinclair Community College in January.

Donna Edmond (M.F.A. 1994)

Donna is a lecturer at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). She

is also the coordinator of a Certificate in Theatre and Performance program. Donna has been elected Member at Large with Black Theatre Alliance. She chaired and presented in an Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) panel entitled, "What Do You See When You Look at Me?" She has two children, Robert, 11, and Katja, 2.

Synnové Swanson Hoover (B.A. 1991)

Synnové is a stay at home mom in Norfolk, VA. Halden is a junior and her daughter Gisselle is a freshman in an international baccalaureate program.

Dawn Formey (M.F.A. 1993)

Dawn is an Assistant Professor and the Theatre Program Coordinator for the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Varun Khanna (M.F.A. 1993)

Varun's film *Bad Luck Govind* was released to theatres in January. Varun wrote the story, dialogue and screenplay. He also directed and co-produced the film with Artesian Media & Entertainment Pvt Ltd (AME). Check it out at: www.badluckgovind.com.

Joey Landwehr (M.F.A. 1997)

Joey is the Artistic Director for J*Company Youth Theatre in San Diego, California: www.sdcjc.org/jcompany. After breaking all records for attendance and awards in his first full year in residence garnering praise for his work with youth in the arts from the likes of Governor and First Lady Schwarzenegger, Mayor Jerry Sanders and Congress Women Susan Davis he has once again broken records and brought national acclaim to the theatre with his educational components when directing and encouragement of arts advocacy while also being the first youth theatre in the United States to take steps to go completely green. These works garnered praise and visitation from people such as Senator Christine Kehoe, the Mayor and Governor again, President and First Lady Obama and President of Disney Theatricals Thomas Schumacher. Joey directed the world premiere workshop production of *Pocahontas*. This season he also directed an award winning production of *Into the Woods* and the world premiere of *Fireflies: The Story of the Artists of Terezin* – Featuring the Original Childrens Opera *Brundibar*. Joey has added to his hat title of Director in Residence of the Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego directing such works as *Heart and Soul – The Music of the 50s*, *Diva by Diva*, *Holiday Toons – Tribute to Christmas Television*, and the Southern California Premiere of *Oliver Button is a Star!* a new musical work that deals with bullying in schools. Joey recently directed *That 80s Show* for the GMCSO, Disney's *Mulan* for San Diego Junior Theatre and is creating a partnership with The Rogers and Hammerstein Association on a complete R&H season in the fall for J*Company Youth Theatre in observance of the work they have given to the theatrical community.

Anthony Manzo (B.A. 1993)

Anthony works for DSC Consulting. Check out their website at www.dsc-consulting.com.

Michael Milligan (B.A. 1995)

Michael made his Broadway debut in October 2009 in *August Osage County* and remained until the show closed at the end of June 2009. He will appear at The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington D.C. in *The Alchemist* October 6 - Nov 22, 2009 and in the season opener of *Law and Order* September 25th.

Glenn Peters (M.F.A. 1999)

Glenn and Allison announced the birth of their son Kannon Dashiell Peters on December 2, 2008.

Mikell Pinkney (Ph.D. 1999)

Sixth Black Theatre Network President and Board Consultant Mikell Pinkney gave the keynote address for the 22nd Annual BTN Honors Banquet in summer 2008. The title of the address was, "Imagination, Truth and Consequences: The Magic of Black Theatre Possibilities."

Linda Pisano (M.F.A. 1996)

Linda continues designing through out the U.S.A. and teaches in London in the summers. Also, she has specialized her mask research in Italy with two recent trips. Her husband Paul is a vocal coach at the IU School of Music. They have two children.

Jonathan Putnam (M.F.A. 1990)

Jonathan celebrated his 25th year as Associate Artistic Director of Central Ohio's only professional Equity theatre, the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) in Columbus, where he continues to direct and perform.

Zeke Rettman (B.A. 1996)

Zeke is working as an actor and director in Los Angeles. He directed *Ragtime the Musical* which ran at the Hudson Theatre in Hollywood. He is slated to direct *West Side Story* at the Hudson Theatre in November.

Fereshteh (Hough) Rostampour (M.F.A. 1995)

Fereshteh is an Assistant Professor of Scenic & Lighting Design for the Department of Theatre at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Kim Ryan (B.A. 1991)

Kim is the Accessibility Coordinator for the Ohio Arts Council for the entire State. She works with all arts organizations from the SW Region of Ohio on their drafts, applications, final reports and funding questions. Kim continued acting after college at CATCO, Red Herring, Josephinum Pontifical College and Theatre Lancaster, until 1998. She lives in Columbus with her husband and two kids.

Roy Sexton (M.A. 1997)

Roy played the lead role of Bobby in Spotlight Players' production of Stephen Sondheim's

Company in Canton, Michigan in spring 2008. In the fall of 2008, he was an extra in the Drew Barrymore-directed film *Whip It* filming in Detroit with Ellen Page, Kristin Wiig, Jimmy Fallon, Marcia Gay Harden, Eve, Juliette Lewis, and Daniel Stern.

Lizabeth G. Stanley (B.A. 1999)

Currently, Lizabeth is a stage manager for pledge drives at KQED in San Francisco, CA, which has a dual PBS & NPR license. Her role is to solicit donations for use as pledge gifts, coordinate and schedule gifts, and matching grants, disseminate information maintain and updates the companies website: <http://www.kqed.org>.

Lisa Steinfink-Goldstein (B.A. 1995)

Lisa pursued an acting career in New York and ended up becoming a casting director. She started at a commercial company as a Casting Assistant for Don Case Casting, moved over to CBS and was the Associate Casting person, working under the V.P. of Daytime Casting on all 4 Soap Operas. She cast for Todd Thaler Casting, working on the NBC show, *Ed*, and a made-for-TV movie. She was a Casting Associate for Avy Kaufman Casting working on an ABC Dennis Leary series. She worked on the film *In America* with Jim Sheridan. She helped Mary Jo Slater on a film at USA Network, did other commercials, voice-overs and taught acting classes and forums in NYC in the evenings. She then worked as the Casting Associate for Saatchi and Saatchi doing celebrity bookings for their clients. Lisa and her husband Rich have 2 children, Harris, 4 and Alexa 17 months. Lisa is now a full-time mother.

Michael Swanson (Ph.D. 1991)

Michael is currently the Associate Professor of Theatre and Coordinator of Theatre and Dance at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. He is also serving as the Region 2 Coordinator for the Ohio and West Virginia areas of the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF).

Kim Turney (M.F.A. 1992)

Kim is on the production team of an online series at www.pirateprincessproductions.com.

Paula Rojo Vega (B.A. 1991)

Paula works with groups in Seattle Center Programs, doing "free stuff". For Winterfest she does grounds lighting and supervises contracts for getting lights. Also she does several cultural festivals a year, which include food, exhibits and performances.

Luther D. Wells (M.F.A. 1993)

Luther was elected to the 2008 - 2010 Executive Board of the Black Theatre Network.

Ardra Zinkon (B.A. 1997)

Ardra was recently named an Associate at Tec Inc. Engineering & Design Company where she serves as Director of Lighting

Design and heads the Columbus branch office. Her current lighting projects include: Denison University's Burke and Herrick Hall, Rockefeller Park in Cleveland, Ohio and two Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) projects. Ardra is the section President of the IES Buckeye section and is a member of the IES Progress Committee.

2000s

Steven J. Arnold (B.A. 2004)

Steven accepted the position of Executive Producing Director of the Church Hill Theatre in Church Hill, Maryland in 2007. A community theatre with a professional staff and guests artists, CHT produces 6 main stage productions a year, presents 3 to 6 additional performances of booked acts and offers year-round youth and adult education workshops and activities. For CHT, he directed *Once On This Island* in 2008, *Triumph of Love* in 2009 and will be directing *The Rocky Horror Show* in 2010.

David Atkinson (B.A. 2004)

Dave designed lights for *Escanaba in Love* at the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO).

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

Naomi is an Assistant Professor at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, PA. She is teaching all levels of acting, voice, and movement and directs several shows a year.

Edna Mae Berkey (B.A. 2000)

Edna is the company manager and resident stage manager for North Carolina Dance Theatre, a professional dance company in Charlotte North Carolina. In addition to stage management, she is in charge of workers compensation, housing, transportation, tour planning, shoes, props, as well as all the licensing needs of the company.

Sara Borgeson (M.F.A. 2003)

After moving to Los Angeles in 2007, Sara performed for the Hermosa Beach Playhouse, which is part of the Civic Light Opera of the South Bay Cities. At Hermosa, she appeared in *Come Back to the 5 & Dime Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean* and *Steel Magnolias*, receiving great reviews in the *LA Times* for her performance in both plays. In 2008, she also worked on the wardrobe crew and served as the "Young Performer Supervisor" for the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center's production of *Miss Saigon*. Sara and husband David announced the birth of their son Wyatt Anders Borgeson on Monday, June 29, 2009! He was 8lbs. 13.8 oz. and 20 inches long. Sara, David and big sister Abby are all doing well.

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

Curtis designed sound for *Blackbird* at the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO).

Laura Butler (B.A. 2003)

Laura sang and played a set to open for Jo Williamson at the LIC Bar in Long Island City, Queens. She is working on her first album, "Worth It." Check out her music at www.myspace.com/laurabutlernyc.

Liam Dillon (B.A. 2002)

Liam has been working for the last 2 1/2 years for a charity called Gingerbread that supports single parent families. Gingerbread is a membership organization that runs training programs, operates a free advice line and does policy work to promote single parent rights and tries to bring about equality for single parent families. They also coordinate a network of single parent meeting groups that covers England and Wales. These groups provide a way for people to meet up with others in a similar situation as a way of making friends and, generally, helping to alleviate the social isolation that many single parents can feel. Liam's job, as Group Support Officer, is to provide advice and practical support to these groups from the head office.

Crystalyn Donovan (B.A. 2005)

Crystalyn stage managed *The Three Musketeers* by Ken Ludwig at Actors' Theatre of Columbus.

Jean (Najar) Engstrom (M.F.A. 2001)

Jean is the resident costume designer for the Indianapolis Civic Theatre. She was interviewed by the *Indianapolis Star* for an article published on August 1, 2008, about her life and career.

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

Lise adjuncted one improv night class at the College of Dupage in Glen Ellyn, IL. She also performed in the Chicago premiere of *Cupid and Psyche* the musical. Check out her website at LiseKatEvans.com.

Meg Greene (B.A. 2007)

Meg works regularly with Imagination Stage in Bethesda, Maryland.

Justin Hagovsky (B.A. 2003)

Justin is the Assistant Technical Director at Actors Theatre of Louisville in Kentucky. His various responsibilities include: helping to mount The Humana Festival of New American Plays, tracking the budget and inventory for productions and building sets.

Zach Hartley (B.A. 2005)

Zach played Porthos in *The Three Musketeers* by Ken Ludwig at Actors' Theatre of Columbus.

John Rogers Harris (Ph.D. 2003)

John directed August Wilson's *Gem Of The Ocean* for The Actor's Theatre of Charlotte, NC. The production won Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress and Best Sound in the local theatre awards. John is the international investigator for a research project examining

Black migrations to southwestern Canada. He was asked to join the project after successfully raising \$10,000 to bring African Canadian playwright D'Janet Sears to NC to meet with Samm-Art Williams.

Jason Hedden (M.F.A. 2006)

Jason is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Gulf Coast Community College in Florida where he is teaching Acting, Stagecraft, Survey of Film, and Understanding Theatre. He designed sets and costumes for *Pinocchio*, *The Misanthrope* and *The Sound of Music*, and directed *The Rimers of Eldritch*. Jason and Becky announced the birth of their son Cameron Brand, born August 6th 2008, at 2:54am weighing in at 9 lbs and 22 inches long. Jason, Becky and Cameron are doing well. You can check out their blog at theheddenfamily.blogspot.com.

Nikki Heinlein (B.A. 2005)

Nikki is currently working with fellow alumn **Sean Hennessy (B.A. 2004)** at the New York based Lighting Management and Lighting Elysium. The companies specialize in Lighting Design, Supply, Implementation, Maintenance and Aiming in the retail world. Nikki holds a position as a Project Manager for the Lighting Management side of the company and as a Supervisor of Field Operations for the Lighting Elysium side where she gets to travel the country aiming lights. Recently Nikki took an opportunity to move back to Columbus, Ohio where she is starting a satellite design firm for the company.

Jim Hutchison (M.F.A. 2003)

Jim designed lights for *Blackbird* at the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO).

Creighton James (B.A. 2007)

Creighton guest starred as the Irish immigrant/schemer, Joe Corrigan in *Law & Order: Criminal Intent* on the USA Network at 9:00 pm on May 31, 2009.

Joëlle Joseph (B.A. 2007)

Joëlle works for a cross cultural organization in Italy that teaches English through Theatre. She conducts theatre workshops all over Italy for kids from age 5 to 17.

Tatjana Longerot (M.F.A. 2002)

Tatjana designed costumes for *The Santaland*

Diaries and *The Clean House* at the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) where she is the Costume Shop Manager.

Tanya McBride (M.F.A. 2006) and Mark Soloff (M.A. 2006)

Tanya directed Mark's production of *The Downward Smile* at Donny's Skybox at Second City in Chicago.



Mark Soloff (M.A. 2006), left, in a scene from his musical, *The Downward Smile*.

Mary (Yaw) McMullen (M.F.A. 2007)

Mary designed costumes for *Almost Maine* at The Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO). She is the Costume Studio Manager for The Ohio State University Department of Dance.

Monica White Ndounou (Ph.D. 2007)

Monica is an Assistant Professor at Tufts University. She presented, "Old Tropes/New Tricks: Staging Magic and Spirituality in Lydia Diamond's adaptation of Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* at the Black Theatre Network Conference in summer 2008.

Betsy (Cutler) Obermeyer (M.F.A. 2002)

Betsy Cutler is now Mrs. Brian Obermeyer and works as a Commercial Art Consultant for Deck the Walls in Kenwood, Ohio.

Betsy Pandora (B.A. 2006)

Betsy is a graduate student in the City and Regional Planning program at The Ohio State Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture. The department awarded her another full tuition scholarship for the coming year and

"Central Ohioans had a banner year in New York, thanks in part to excellent training at Ohio State University."
-Michael Grossberg, The Columbus Dispatch

the Wexner Center extended her contract as the Education Outreach and Development Coordinator. KSA faculty awarded Betsy the Most Outstanding First Year Graduate Student in City and Regional Planning Award at their end of the year ceremony. In summer 2009, she did a two week study abroad with the Technical University of Dresden in Germany and travelled around most of the European Union. She is also interning in marketing with Experience Columbus in summer 2009.

Leah Reddy (B.A. 2004)

Leah's stunning re-creations of selected iconic American Photographs were unveiled at the New York Theatre Experiment's Great American Pie-Off! in August 2008. They are available for viewing on the NYTE Facebook group and their website (www.newyorktheatreexperiment.org).

Joel Searls (B.A. 2007)

Joel finished The Basic School (TBS) at United States Marine Corps base Quantico, which is the officer school follow-up course. He then reported to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina to 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion and served in billets as platoon commander and adjutant. This past summer he completed the low altitude air defense officer course in Fort Bliss, Texas. Joel was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in August 2009.

Jessica Secrest-Trent (B.A. 2002)

Jessica designed the set for *Blackbird* at the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO).

Kathleen Seymour (B.A. 2003)

Kathleen is now working for the Ohio State Athletic Department. She is the Assistant Merchandise Director. She assists the director with buying and is the head of the costume services, designs, visual displays and merchandise stands in Ohio Stadium. Also, she has participated in many theatrical events including work with the Blue Forms Theatre Group. She is working with playwright Johnrick Hole of BalletMet on one of his new works.

Jennifer Schlueter (Ph.D. 2007)

Jennifer was awarded the The American Society for Theatre Research (A.S.T.R.) 2009 Gerald Kahan Scholar's Prize for the best essay written and published in English in a referred scholarly journal for 2008 by an author untenured and within seven years of the doctorate. Her essay, "A theatrical race: American Identity and Popular Performance in the Writings of Constance M. Rourke," was published in *Theatre Journal* (2008). The committee felt her essay was excellent in its uses of archival research to rediscover a forgotten early 20th century popular historian of American theater and culture. Moreover, they said her work explores the stakes of such recovery by engaging with contemporary theater and performance studies.

Amy Schmidt (B.A. 2004)

Amy completed her M.F.A. in Dance at Ohio State and is working as a Graduate Coordinator in in the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) at Ohio State. In the evening and weekends she teaches ballet, modern, ballroom dance, and dance videography, editing, DVD production. She will eventually be adding labanotation certifications.

Megan Schutt (M.F.A. 2006)

Megan is in Chicago doing various theater projects in the non-equity community and spending her days as a receptionist at a small Architecture/Interior Design Firm. She participated in a staged reading of new 10 minute plays for New Leaf Theater, one of which she performed the part of the Bride in *Vow*, by Dan Rubin, as a part of Abbie Fest XX. She was Witch #2 in *Greasy Joan* and Co's production of *Macbeth*. Megan wrote and directed an original adaptation for Rascal Children's Theater. She also performed in *Women of Manhattan* by John Patrick Shanley with the Playing Space Theatre at The Artistic Home in Chicago.

Jennifer Stoessner (Ph.D. 2008)

Jennifer is the Education Programs Associate at La Jolla Playhouse in California. She communicates with area teachers about the programs they offer and coordinates educational activities for students. She also taught a four session class in puppetry and a five session movement for actors class at the University of California San Diego Extension during their winter 2009 term.

Shaun Suchan (B.A. 2003)

Shaun completed the M.F.A. program at the University of Florida in spring 2007.

Andrew Ward (M.F.A. 2003)

Andrew owns and operates a landscaping services company. Check out his web page at www.wardservices.net.

Adam West (M.F.A. 2004)

Adam is living in Los Angeles and was inducted into the IATSE Local 705, Motion Picture Costumers, in April 2008. He is working at ABC Costumes full time, after working for almost a year at Elizabeth Courtney Costumes, which is Bob Mackie's studio. Adam is getting very involved in the union, and presented a class for IATSE Local 705 on Costume Research on August 16th, 2008. He's been doing a lot of work with their education committee and is also teaching at a non-profit called Hollywood CPR (Cinema Production Resources), which is sponsored by the IATSE film technical unions and trains underprivileged youth in skills to get into the unions. Adam is the regular Wardrobe Supervisor for Reprise Theatre Company-*Seinfeld's* Jason Alexander is the Artistic Director. He completed his fourth show with that company this year.

Brian Otting a.k.a. Nar Williams (B.A. 2006)

Brian's new show "Science of the Movies" premiered on Science Channel on May 26th. The promo for the show is available at <http://narwilliams.com/blog/video/>. More info and schedules: <http://science.discovery.com/tv/science-movies/science-movies.html>

Laura (Simpson) Gale (B.A. 2002), Allyson Morgan (B.A. 2004), and Joseph Schultz (B.A. 2003)

continue their work with the New York Theatre Experiment. The company celebrated it's fifth anniversary with a "Great American Pie-Off" fundraiser. They also collected submissions for new 10-20 minute plays inspired by the photos. Winning plays were presented in fall 2008 as part of their Capture the Flag Festival. As part of their One NYTE Stands: Great American Plays series, the company presented *Fool for Love* by Sam Shepard on August 12, 2008, at Manhattan Theatre Club Studios, 311 W. 43rd Street, 8th Floor.

Godspell

"Set against a stylized Downtown Columbus Skyline by designer Sarah Sugarbaker, the two-act production uses a moving staircase, rolling platforms and other props to suggest an improvisatory sketch show with hints of vaudeville, pantomime and G-rated burlesque."

-Michael Grossberg, The Columbus Dispatch



Pam Scheer and Anita Eisenstein remember Harold Eisenstein at the annual Theatre Roundtable Awards Banquet.

Friends News

Allison Chinchar

Allison graduated from Ohio State with a Bachelor of Science degree in Atmospheric Science. She was a member of the Buckeye TV news team. She is now a member of the NewsChannel 9 Stormtrack Team in Chattanooga, TN.

Michael Dempsey

Michael is a freelance writer living in New Haven, CT. He recently completed his first novel, *Necropolis*.

Harold Eisenstein

More than 300 people attended a memorial service for Harold Eisenstein, director emeritus of Gallery Players, on August 20, 2008, at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Columbus. Eisenstein, 90, died early Friday, August 15, after a brief illness.

Leah Hocking

Leah played Dead Mum in the Original Broadway Production of *Billy Elliot*.

Corwin Georges

Corwin, long time Ohio State faculty member and current Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, was honored on April 1, 2009, as the winner of the Governor's Awards for the Arts in Arts Education. Corwin received his award as part of Arts Day 2009, co-sponsored by the Ohio Arts Council and the Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation. Corwin's doctoral study was on the Shakespearean productions of Augustin Daly, and his M.A. on the English tours of Edwin Booth, both completed using materials in what is now the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute.

Laralu Smith

Laralu acted in ArtsPower National Touring Theatre's Equity production of *My Heart in a Suitcase*, a one hour play for 6th through 9th graders about the Kindertransport set in 1938 Berlin. She was also accepted into New Jersey Rep's acting company.

Bob Press

Former Mills James associate Bob Press has returned as production manager in the company's Teleproduction Services department. As production manager, Press schedules field and studio shoots, manages facilities and production crews and oversees production logistics for corporate video, broadcast television and high-definition projects.

Tracy Lee Wigent

Tracy died unexpectedly on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009, in Richmond, Virginia. He pursued a Masters of Fine Arts at Ohio State University in 1979, costuming productions at the university as well as Ohio State Opera. He was an instructor at Ohio State University, Wake Forest University, William and Mary University, and Hillsdale College. He had been in the Virginia Shakespeare Festival as both an actor and a designer, North Carolina Shakespeare Festival where he became a member of the Actor's Equity Association.



Catherine (Nix) Thomas (M.F.A. 1982) and Tracy Wigent in a scene from Ohio State's production of *The Alchemist* in Columbus, OH.



Janet Parrott and Alan Munroe (Ph.D. 1997) at Tshwane University of Technology in South Africa.



Nikiwi Dube, coordinator of South Africa's Soweto Hospice Mapetla Day Care Center, two volunteers and children spell O-H-I-O with Janet Parrott and Nadia Auch.

Alumni and Friends

We want to hear from you!

Please send updates and photos to:

theatre@osu.edu or
encore

The Ohio State University
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1849 Cannon Drive
Columbus OH 43210-1208

Featured Faculty Awards

Lesley Ferris named an Arts and Humanities Distinguished Professor of Theatre

Professor Lesley Ferris was named an Arts and Humanities Distinguished Professor of Theatre. The permanent honorific title is awarded only to a select number of Full Professor rank faculty in the Colleges of Arts and Humanities who have consistently distinguished themselves through outstanding teaching, service, and research/creative activity. This award is intended to honor senior colleagues who have earned distinction in all three areas of professional endeavor, and whose work, especially in professional service and scholarship, has earned them national and international recognition of the highest sort. Dr. Ferris will be formally recognized at the College's Fall Faculty Reception on October 28, 2009, by President Gee.



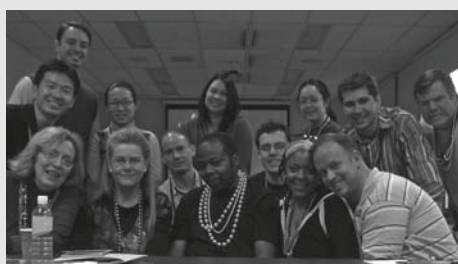
Lesley Ferris, Brian Stone, Brandon Craft, Ruth Tompsett, Carnival Artist Carl Gabriel, and Brian Stone's children at the Urban Arts Space Opening.

Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival Exhibit wins Greater Columbus Arts Council Artistic Excellence Award

On March 6, 2009, the OSU Urban Arts Space in conjunction with the *Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival* exhibit won the Artistic Excellence Award from the Greater Columbus Arts Council. This award is given out annually to recognize a local arts initiative that demonstrates risk, innovation, and excellence. The award comes in recognition of the opening of the Ohio State Urban Arts Space in February 2008 along with its inaugural exhibition, *Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival*. A \$10,000 prize was included with the award.

The inaugural exhibition of the Ohio State Urban Arts Space was the North American premiere of *Midnight Robbers: The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival*, which explored the nature of Carnival, its artistic process and the connections between the Notting Hill celebration and the original emancipation

celebrations of 1807 in Trinidad, West Indies. It included photographs, costume designs, costumes and a timeline of Carnival history as well as Carnival Interactive, a multi-media computer program developed by a student design team under the leadership of Ohio State Design faculty member Brian Stone. The exhibition was co-curated by Ohio State Theatre Professor Lesley Ferris, and Ruth Tompsett of London and the opening of both the Urban Arts Space and *Midnight Robbers* was selected as one of the "Best Visual Arts Events" by the *Columbus Dispatch*. A portion of the exhibit was remounted at the USITT National Conference and Stage Expo held in Cincinnati in March of 2009.



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, Carl Scholl, ChuYoung Chon, Eric Mayer, Ian Pugh.

Janet Parrott Receives the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching

Assistant Professor Janet S. Parrott received the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, honoring faculty members for superior teaching. Recipients are nominated by present and former students and colleagues and are chosen by a committee of alumni, students, and faculty.



Archie Griffith congratulates Janet Parrott for her award.

It's safe to say that without Janet Parrott, there would be no video production program in the Department of Theatre. It's also safe to say that as a one-woman show, she has to wear a variety of hats, often at the same time. Parrott serves as the faculty advisor for the student group Reel Buckeye Productions, teaches both undergraduate and graduate lab classes, and often connects students with internship opportunities at commercial venues. She also has reshaped the curriculum to align with university and departmental goals. "Parrott has created a strong academic study of the field of video for early career scholars to explore that capitalizes on their inherent interests and challenges them to see the potential impact of their work well beyond their current frame of reference," one colleague wrote.



Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee presents Janet Parrott with the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.

It's a challenge her students seem to relish, judging from the popularity of her courses and the praise they offer for her teaching. "Janet is a superb teacher; she is running a video production program all on her own and she is a mentor to countless video production students, including myself," said one of her undergrad students.

Another of her students offered this example to support how Parrott uses humor and hands-on application to teach both theoretical and practical skills: "One project she had us do to learn Avid, an editing program, was to re-edit the movie *Psycho* into a one-minute trailer. The results were hysterical."

Year in Review

Lift Every Voice

Every year, the Department of Theatre partners to support N.Y.T.E.'s Lift Every Voice program, an innovative new arts education program committed to using theatre to reach out to New York City's young people. Three of the company members who formed the New York Theatre Experiment (N.Y.T.E.) are OSU Alumni: Laura Gale (B.A. 2002) Allyson Morgan (B.A. 2004) and Joey Schultz (B.A. 2003). Here are reflections from two B.A. Theatre students who participated in the program this year.

By Spenser Morris (B.A. Student)

During the first weekend of spring break, the Ohio State Department of Theatre sent myself and two other individuals to New York City to participate in the Lift Every Voice Program, which is hosted annually by the New York Theatre Experiment, to help the students from the West Bronx Academy find their "inner actor." Students and staff members were encouraged to write a short play dealing with the topic of "How _____ changed my life." The first day in New York, we met up with the other staff members, a majority of which were OSU alumni, and worked out three of the plays. The next day, the students who joined us were split into groups to work on 10 different plays. The students took the roles of directors and actors while the staff helped by assistant directing and filling in other acting positions. After a day of workshoping, we performed these 10 plays for a live audience in the Algonquin Theatre Off-Broadway. Working with these kids was an amazing experience. Not a single student has ever participated in anything theatre related. These students were brave and jumped right into all of the activities we had planned. The most rewarding feeling was seeing how proud each and every one of those students was after the night was over. This program helped show these kids that anything is possible if you work for it. I was blown away by the teamwork and collaboration these students used to create the end product. The program is designed to demonstrate the true potential we each have inside. The students I had the pleasure of working with really brought that potential out and put it on stage in front of their family and friends. It is important for these kids to know that they are worth something and their hard work really will pay off in the end. I can honestly say I am honored that the Ohio State Theatre Department sent me to work with these kids. They opened my eyes to the world around me and the struggles some people face. It is very important that we are not so closed minded to the problems around us and we should use

our gifts to help those in need.
By Malerie Tabern (B.A. Student)

I was so honored to be a part of Lift Every Voice this year. It is an amazing program that I truly believe is accomplishing great things. The program works with underprivileged youth and exposes them to theatre. The kids get the opportunity to write their own plays, direct and act in them. For many of them this was the first time that they had gotten to flex their creative muscle in such a way. It was easy to tell that most of them had never been encouraged to do something like this and having support from the LEV staff members was positive for them. These kids have often been told that they are bad and would never amount to anything. It was amazing to see what these so called "bad" kids could do. They had so much talent and creativity that simply needed to be encouraged. I could see the disbelief and then the pride in their eyes when we told them how amazing they were. Seeing their bravery and willingness to take part in this new experience was so humbling for me. I learned from them that day. At the end of the day I could tell that we did something great for these kids and it was hard to leave them behind. Not only did I have an amazing time but I gained more tools that I can use with kids in the future. I hope that OSU continues this partnership and more students get to take part in this amazing experience.



Ohio State students and N.Y.T.E. staff with the students of Lift Every Voice.



The students of Lift Every Voice.



Ohio State students and the staff of the New York Theatre Experiment.

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

Young Jean Lee's Theater Company:

World Premiere: *The Shipment*

In the fall the Wexner Center hosted the World Premiere of Young Jean Lee's newest play *The Shipment*. Graduate students participated in two symposiums regarding the show. *The Shipment* is, in the playwright's words, "an extremely awkward exploration of the experience of being black in America that raises pointed questions about ethnic appropriation and race relations that will leave people reeling... My work is about struggling to achieve something in the face of failure and incompetence and not-knowing. The discomfort and awkwardness involved in watching this struggle reflect the truth of my experience."

Chelfitsch: *Five Days in March*

Chelfitsch met with graduate students at the Wexner Center in winter to discuss their unique play, *Five Days in March*. Toshiki Okada's award-winning play from Japan is set on the eve of the U.S. and British offensive in Iraq, when Japan rejoined the ranks of the armed nations for the first time since 1945. The play's main characters, a young couple of Japanese drifters who meet and spend five



Playwright Young Jean Lee discusses her new play *The Shipment*.

days in a Shibuya "love hotel," are completely disconnected from the world events. The production was characterized by stylized scripts and unique body movement.

The Improbable Theatre Company: *Panic*
In the winter, graduate students met with The Improbable Theatre Company to discuss their performance of *Panic*, which "examines the relationship of men and women with dramatic intercessions by the Great god Pan."

The Builder's Association: *Continuous City*
Graduate students participated in a residency with The Builder's Association in the spring at the Wexner Performance Space. The Builders Association presented *Continuous City*, a "meditation on how contemporary experiences of location and dislocation stretch us to the maximum as our 'networked selves' occupy multiple locations. From Shanghai to Los Angeles, Toronto to Mexico City, *Continuous City* tells the story of a traveling father and his daughter at home tethered and transformed by speed, hypermodernity, and failing cell phones."

Hoipolloi: *The Story of a Rabbit*
In the spring, graduate students participated in a residency with Hoipolloi after seeing their performance of *The Story of a Rabbit*, in which "Shon Dale-Jones celebrates the complexities of death while intertwining the story of his father's death and that of a rabbit."

Terry Schoone-Jongen Transforms Master's Thesis and Doctoral Dissertation into Two Books

By Distinguished Emeritus University Professor Tom Postlewait and Terry Schoone-Jongen (Ph.D. 2007)

Two books by Terry were published in 2009, one on Shakespeare and the acting companies in the years before 1594 and the other on Dutch-American communities and their annual festivals. It is amazing that Terry rewrote his M.A. thesis (several drafts) on Shakespeare while finishing his study for the doctoral degree, and then wrote his dissertation on the Dutch-American festivals. Now both studies have been transformed into books, a major accomplishment for an "independent scholar," as he identifies himself in the Shakespeare book.

Terry defended his dissertation in December 2006 and graduated in March 2007. He briefly worked at Ohio State and Otterbein and also continued working on his Shakespeare book, which had been accepted for publication in the fall of 2006.

In August 2007, he moved to Washington D.C. to start law school. Since undergrad, he had been interested in advocacy, even activism, and public service. As Terry progressed through graduate school, he found himself increasingly wanting to take these interests beyond theatre and the arts. Terry typically had thought of himself as an agent of change or justice through theatre, but he felt that he

perhaps had talents that could be used to achieve the same goals in other ways, and so he enrolled at The George Washington University Law School.

During summer 2008, Terry worked for Capital Area Immigrants Rights Coalition, an organization that meets with detained immigrants in Virginia and Maryland.

Terry was named to the editorial board of the George Washington Law Review as an Articles Editor for 2009-2010. Being on Law Review at all is an honor; being an editor is truly an honor.

In summer 2009, Terry worked for Bredhoff & Kaiser, a small D.C. firm that is known for representing labor unions (and occasionally suing them on behalf of aggrieved union



Terry Schoone-Jongen playing the opening guitar solo from Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" with Restatement Third of Rock for a February 2009 fundraising event for Law Revue at the DC9, a rock club in Washington, D.C..

employees). They are, in fact, one of the leading labor law firms in the country.

Terry has been heavily involved in the law school's spring sketch comedy show, the Law Revue. Last year he acted and sang in it, and also wrote some material; this was also the case this year, but he was also the director. He has also held leadership positions in two organizations: Student Hurricane Network and Street Law. He also worked as a writing fellow--which mostly involves giving feedback and guidance to first-year students working on their Legal Research and Writing class assignments.

This year, Terry aided David Dorsen with his research of Judge Henry Friendly. Dorsen is a D.C. attorney who assisted in the Watergate prosecutions and is currently writing a book about Judge Friendly. Judge Friendly is widely regarded as one of the two greatest judges of the 20th century who never sat on the Supreme Court.



Terry in St. Maarten in the Caribbean, spring 2009.

Terry enjoys being a columnist for the law student newspaper and playing guitar in two bands. He ran the Marine Corps Marathon in fall 2008.

And, of course, there are the books. The first, *Shakespeare's Companies*, was a long time coming, as it is descended from his M.A. thesis. Without realizing it, he began work on it in 2001 during his first quarter at Ohio State. As mentioned earlier, Ashgate took an interest in it in 2006, and between then and October 2007 there was a lot of back and forth in terms of editing and revising. The second, *The Dutch-American Identity*, is a slight revision of his doctoral dissertation. Terry received an email from an editor at Cambria Press in January 2008 wondering if he would be interested in submitting the dissertation for publication (the editor had run across it in the Ohio State catalog while web surfing). The process moved along quite rapidly, with the result that it also came out in December 2008.

Performing in Three Musicals at the Southern Theatre

By Meredith Lark (B.A. Student)

I had the good fortune to perform in the three Ohio State and CAPA collaborations at the Southern Theatre in the past four years, including: *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Hair* and *Godspell*. The stage at the Southern Theatre with its gold embellished proscenium arch, flawless wood floors and tiers of balconies is remarkably beautiful. These collaborations provided the rare opportunity to rehearse as usual in the Drake and preview the show first in the Thurber Theatre, then pack up in the short space of a week and adjust to a new stage with new dimensions, a fun challenge for both actors and designers. I sincerely hope that Ohio State's partnership with CAPA continues in the future as it was an enjoyable and challenging experience each time and a great glimpse into professional theatre.



B.A. Student Meredith Lark as Columbia in *The Rocky Horror Show*.



Meredith Lark as Sheila in *Hair*.



Meredith Lark as John the Baptist/Judas in *Godspell*.

Syndicate Symposium

By Christopher Matsos (Ph.D. Student)

In conjunction with its February 2009, production of Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal*, The Ohio State University Department of Theatre and The Syndicate, the theatre graduate student organization, hosted "Dismantling *Machinal*: Expressing Sex, Crime, and Punishment," a highly successful two-day academic symposium devoted to the themes, issues, and historical context of Treadwell's classic American drama. The well-attended event included two keynote speakers, Penny Farfan, Professor of Drama and English at the University of Calgary, and Julia A. Walker, Associate Professor of English and Drama at Washington University in St. Louis.

Covering a broad range of topics, symposium presenters included OSU Professor Lesley Ferris who remarked on her directorial process for OSU's production of *Machinal*; Annulla Linders, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Cincinnati; and a bevy of Ohio State Theatre graduate students of every discipline: M.F.A. Design students Anthony Pellecchia, Elinore Loomis, B. Shiree Campbell and Ph.D. students Pamela Decker, Matthew Yde, and Mina Choi. Panel moderators included Beth Kattelman of the Department of Theatre, and Julia Watson, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Comparative Studies. The symposium was organized by The Syndicate leadership team, Ph.D. students Christopher Matsos, Matthew Yde, Melissa Lee, and Ian Pugh, with generous support from the Department of Theatre and the OSU Student Organization Resource Center.

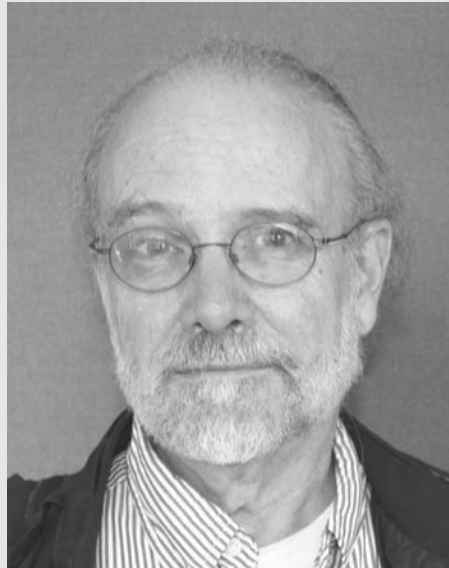


"Dismantling *Machinal*: Expressing Sex, Crime, and Punishment" participants (back, left to right) Jason Bush, Lesley Ferris, Melissa Lee, Julia A. Walker, Penny Farfan, Ian Pugh, JiRye Lee, Beth Kattelman, Julia Watson, Christopher Matsos (front, left to right) Pamela Decker, Mina Choi, Matthew Yde, Amany Selem, Annulla Linders and Andrew Blasenak.

Woods Steps Down as TRI Director

By Mark Shanda, Chair and Professor

The haunting anthem *Seasons of Love* from the musical *Rent* speaks of five hundred, twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes and asks the question, "How do you measure a year?" If you think that is difficult, try to sum up fifteen million, seven hundred and sixty-eight thousand minutes, for that is how long Alan Woods has served as Director of the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute. For the past 30 years, Alan has guided the development of the TRI from its original, primary holdings, the John H. McDowell Film Archives, to one of the premiere theatre research and special collection resources in the world. Just as the TRI is in the process of being relocated from the 14th floor of Lincoln Tower to the main floor of the renovated Thompson Library, Alan has decided to step down from the directorship.



Literally, thousands of students, alumni, and donors to the TRI have benefited from Alan's able leadership of this unique resource. The many personal connections that he has developed have resulted in the addition of the Robert Breen Collection; Eileen Heckart, Ted Lange and Meridee Stein papers; Earl Wilson files; American Theatre Critic Association and Twyla Tharp archives; as well as numerous regional theatre and new play collections, just to name a few. The impact that Alan has had on the expansion and usefulness of the TRI cannot be underestimated. As one colleague puts it, "Alan has transformed the TRI from a file cabinet in the corner of an academic office into the centerpiece of the renovated Thompson Library." Well done, Alan!

While Alan's stepping down is a significant change, all of us are heartened by his willingness to stay on the faculty to continue his significant teaching role for our students. In addition, we celebrate the next chapters in the life of the TRI in its new home in the Thompson Library and under the continued leadership of Curator Nena Couch, Associate Curator Beth Kattelman, and newly named Director of the TRI, Professor Mary Tarantino.



Mark Shanda presents Alan Woods with an award recognizing his 30 years as Director of the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute.

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