

SIDES

The Newsletter of the Department of Theatre Arts
At Eastern Illinois University

June 2004

Volume III, Number 2



Money Released, Slow Progress Towards a Fall Start.

Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich finally released monies for the Doudna Fine Arts project during the spring term (2004). Following the release of funds the design team and budget personnel worked to get the documents ready for the bid procedure. It was determined at a meeting held in May that the final preparation of the documents and Capital Development Board approval will be completed by the end of summer. It is hoped the documents will be on the street by August.

Spring 2004

A Midsummer Night's Dream Directed by Jean Wolski



(Stephanie Leasure, Christopher Yonke)



Congratulations!!!

to Dr. Jerry Eisenhour on the publication of his book, *Joe Leblang's Cut-Rate Ticket Empire and the Broadway Theatre, 1894-1931* (Studies in Theatre Arts, 23) published by Edwin Mellen Press; (October 2003).

This work studies the ticket agent, his business methods, and his contributions to the Broadway theatre. It contains elements of biography, economic history of the American stage, and insights into the relationship between Broadway producers and the people who sold the tickets to their attractions.

http://books.kelkoo.co.uk/b/a/cpc_5101_ps_6858924_gs_16270214.html?kpartnerid=8906144&popup=no&popunder=no, May 11, 2004)



Dr. Chris Mitchell Joins Faculty

Though not new to the Department of Theatre Arts, Dr. Christopher Mitchell has received a new appointment as a full time/tenure track member of Eastern's Theatre Arts faculty. Chris will head the Theatre History and Literature area helping to focus the study of history, literature and dramaturgy.

Chris has already had a significant impact on the program, assisting with selections of texts for 2140, 2190; leading the post production talk back series; appearing as guest lecturer at the Elizabethan exhibit at Booth Library to name just a few.

The Theatre Arts students, faculty and staff are looking forward to continuing to work with Dr. Mitchell.

Spring 2004 Arkansas Bear

Directed by Sarah Miller



(Ellen Daschler, Cari Maher, Rocco Renda)

Where are they now...

Over the last several months we have heard many good things about our graduates. We are always glad to hear from you and learn about your current positions.

Victoria Orrell-Norton (1998) a Drama teacher at Martinsville Elementary, became principal at Martinsville in 2001 and continues to direct the Prevention Theatre Troupe (now in its 11th season).

Sean Chappell (2001) is working as a Speech Pathologist at an elementary school in Arizona. He plans to pursue a Masters Degree in Speech Pathology at Arizona State University.

Jenni Passig (2004) will join the cast of Paul Green's TRUMPET IN THE LAND for the summer '04 season.

Jessica Siegal (2004) left the spring term early to begin her work as a costumer with OPERA THEATRE OF ST. LOUIS. After a month in Missouri, Jess will head west to spend the summer with the UTAH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL.

Liz Marfia (2001) and **Phil Ash** (2001) are currently working with Varuna Films in Los Angeles. Their current project is THE DRIVE, produced for CMT, Country Music Television.

BRYAN GROSSBAUER (1998) and **MICHAEL PAPALEO** (2000) appear in HELLO OUT THERE in NYC at the Steinberg Theatre on West 74th limited run early June.



Steel Magnolias (March 2000)
Directed by Clarence Blanchette

John A. Salamone (1985) since graduation John has been studying and working in fiber arts. He is raising Angora rabbits and Shetland sheep, spinning their beautiful wool into yarn, then weaving the yarns into garments. John also has been hand dyeing fabrics for clothing. He is selling his work through galleries, art shows and fine art festivals. John's major area of study at Eastern was costuming, studying with Nancy Paule. John gives Nancy credit for teaching him about fabric and instilling the principles of design. She also stressed the importance of integrity in all aspects of the work. John says that with all the artistic and creative work he is doing, he is still working to meet the very high standards that were set at Eastern.

Chris Pomeroy (1996) is still in Chicago. Things are going fairly well. Right now he is an associate director with Reality Theatre in Chicago. The actors are adolescents, and they generate the basic material for the scripts...the artistic director and Chris completes the scripts and directs them so they can go out on tour. They mostly stay in Chicago, but they're headed to London in March and to New York in November.

Chris is grateful for the work but admits it's only what helps pay the bills. He's been getting directing work; right now, the next project is a production of THE SEAGULL with Borealis Theatre, a company in Aurora. Working on Chekov has been a goal for quite some time, so this is kind of a dream...they start rehearsals in March, giving him time for much needed preparation. Mostly she has been writing; he's close to finally finishing a full length play that she put almost two years into preparing. After a long struggle, he's as sure as one can be with these things that he's got something, and hopes to have a draft by Thanksgiving.

Tom Kee (1991) is living in NYC, but has been doing a lot of Regional theatre these last couple years. He just finished his second show at Mill Mountain Theatre as LORT D in Roanoke, VA in GOD'S MAN IN TEXAS then back to NYC in May.

Tina Salamone (1981), a member of Actors' Equity Association, is a self-described Theatre Chick who has performed in over 100 shows, directed over 65, adapted over 30, stage managed over 20 and worked in every aspect of technical theatre at least once. Co-founder and Artistic Director of Our Town Productions, a professional theatre company in Downers Grove, IL, Tina has also taught in community colleges, produced and hosted a cable TV arts & entertainment program and served as the on-air talent coach for a CBS-TV affiliate. She is also the Technical Director at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, IL where she's worked with top talent including Bill Cosby, Joan Rivers, The Smothers Brothers and Weird Al Yankovic. Tina serves on many arts-related committees and is on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Theatre Association.

Best Wishes on
wedding nuptials for:

Sarah Miller (2004)
and **Dennis Malak**
(house manager 1999
to present), June 26,
2004.

**Liz Marfia & Phil
Ash**, Oct. 10, 2004

Congratulations!!!

2004 Fall Productions

The fall productions offer something for everyone.

The fall season will open with the late 15th Century morality play *Everyman*, directed by Jerry Eisenhour (September 17-18). Considered the best of morality plays, it is an allegory of death and the fate of the soul.

The Fantasticks (October 13 – 17) will combine the talents of the theatre and music departments. Directed by Department Chair, John T. Oertling, it has been heralded as “The World’s Longest Running Musical”.

Arthur Miller’s *All My Sons* (November 10-14) tells the tragic story of a family caught up in a series of conflicts about moral

responsibility, the nature of justice, and the facade of the American dream. Directed by Clarence Blanchette, this gripping drama is both comic and sad.

Youth Theatre Tour

The touring production of the Youth Theatre Tour will be November 15-19, 2004. Mary Yarbrough will again lead her troupe to elementary schools in the counties surrounding Charleston.

Student One Acts

Students Tim Travous, Jr. and Casey McLain will direct the upcoming One Act plays December 4-7.

Miranda Stone and Marissa Tieri will act as set designers for the performances. Rocco Renda will be in charge of the costume designs.

The Student Directed one act plays are supported in part by a gift from former Eastern Illinois University president, Dr. David Jorns.



(Joe Allison, Tatum Green)

Fool For Love Student One Acts (Dec.2004) Directed by Luke Gerdes

FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

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E.G. & Lucy Gabbard
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Stage Manager - \$75.00

Jerry & Jacqueline Bennett
Dale & Marilyn Hoots
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Crew - \$50.00

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