

SIDES

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

December 03

Volume III, Number 1

If You Design It You Can Wait And Wait And.....

For over five years Eastern Illinois University, the Dean's Office and the three Fine Arts Departments (Art, Music and Theatre Arts) have worked on the development and planning of the renovation and expansion of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.



(Doudna Fine Arts Center)

Last fall all involved were moved from the old fine arts center to alternative spaces so work could begin. Asbestos abatement occurred and everyone looked forward to seeing 7th Street blocked off and for construction to

get underway. Everything is in place to begin this long awaited project. An excellent and exciting design is complete, construction drawings are finished, and faculty, staff, and students anxiously await the sound of construction. All that can be heard, however, is a deafening silence. Doudna and Clinical Services are empty and unused. Like the characters in WAITING FOR GODOT, we wait. This time though, it is not for Godot, but for the Governor's signature to release funding for the project. Everyone remains optimistic that it will come soon... "if not today, then surely tomorrow it will come."

Laurels For The New Laureate

Dr. Jean Wolski, Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, was appointed the Eastern Illinois University

Faculty Laureate for the 2003-2004 Academic Year.



(Dr. Jean Wolski and President Lou Hencken)

The Faculty Laureate leads the faculty during convocation ceremonies in the fall, and has the opportunity to address the incoming class of freshmen. She will be an outstanding representative for the department, the College of Arts and Humanities and the EIU faculty as a whole. In addition to the above Jean will be profiled in a variety of student publications; and have the opportunity to represent the faculty on a number of student committees.

Congratulations Jean, and continued good luck.

Honors Thesis Moves From Page To Stage

Honor student Sarah Miller will complete her studies this spring with a touring production of Aurand Harris's **THE ARKANSAW BEAR**.



This production is being produced as a part of Sarah's honors thesis which focuses on the works of Harris. The production which will tour area schools also received a grant from Honors College at Eastern Illinois University.

Student One Act Closes Fall Season

Luke Gerdes, senior Theatre Arts major, will close the fall 2003 season with a production of Sam Shepherd's **FOOL FOR LOVE**. This powerful drama will be produced at The

Village Theatre. Production dates are December 5, 6 at 7:00 p.m. and December 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Luke is in his third year as a Talented Student Award recipient and also serves as president of Alpha Psi Omega, the national dramatic honorary society.

Luke will be assisted in his directing effort by student scene designer Miranda Stone and student costume designer Jennie Passig.

Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed...

The fall theatre season featured a variety of plays for student and community audiences. The season opened with **FIVE WOMEN WEARING THE SAME DRESS**, directed by Clarence Blanchette. This contemporary comedy was well received by all theatre patrons. November saw an Irish invasion with a revival of Brian Friel's **PHILADELPHIA HERE I COME!** directed by Jean Wolski.

Exile is one of the dominant themes permeating Brian Friel's long career as a playwright and this play was his first big international success. In between these productions the department borrowed some scenes from the works of William Shakespeare and sent them on the road with **BRUSH UP YOUR SHAKESPEARE**. The production included scenes from **ROMEO AND JULIET**, **MACBETH**, **TWELFTH NIGHT** and many others.



(Brush Up Your Shakespeare)

Class Acts

The spring semester will feature three classic productions. Jerry Eisenhower will open the spring season with Tennessee Williams' **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**. His well known characters: Laura, Tom, Amanda

and Jim will appear at The Village Theatre February 25-29. Area elementary schools will be visited by frogs, witches, and princesses when David Mamet's **THE FROG PRINCE** hops onto the road in March. Chair, John T. Oertling will direct this children's fable and take it on tour. The final classic for spring 04 is William Shakespeare's **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**, directed by Jean Wolski. The woods of Athens will sprout in theatre April 21-25.



For information on tickets, cost, group rates and times of these or any Theatre Arts productions please contact The Village Theatre Box Office at (217) 581- 3110.

New Play Readings

On January 21, 2004 the Department of Theatre

Arts will offer three new scripts in a "table reading" format. Walt Howard an EIU alum has submitted **THE CHRISTMAS CARD**, Mathew Montgomery a senior Theatre Arts major will present his **ROUND THE CAROUSEL** and a third script will be presented by Dr. Robert Petersen, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts. Readings will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by an informal discussion of each work. The readings and discussions will take place on the main stage of The Village Theatre.

Provost Approves Theatre Position

Provost Blair Lord opened the door for the replacement of Assistant Professor Christine Joern. Christy resigned her post last spring. She was married last summer and now lives in Indiana. With the budget situation, the department has been operating this year with one less faculty member. Once the approval was given by the administration the department established a search committee,

chaired by Dr Jerry Eisenhour. It was decided by the department that the need within the program is for a Theatre Generalist to assist in the teaching of the General Education Program and with Upper Level Theatre History and Literature. The area of specialization for the candidates will also be considered. Applications are now being accepted and the Department hopes to begin a review of files in early spring.

HELP!

As mentioned earlier the spring season will open with Tennessee William's **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**. As you dig through Christmas décor see if you have any glass or glass like animals that might be used in this production. Your help in filling the "zoo" will be greatly appreciated.



FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

Producer

David & Audrey Jorns
James Romanovich
Vaughn & Ruth Jaenike
David & Jean Wolski
Clarence P. Blanchette

Kevin J. Reed
J. Sain
E.T. Guidotti
John & Karen Eisenhour

James & Wanda Johnson
Bill & Carol Strode
Glen Gabbard
E.G. & Lucy Gabbard
John T. Oertling

Director

Lloyd Bury
Alice C. Stoughton
Jim and Patti Stratton Family
Mary Yarbrough

Associate Director

Blair and Christine Cnota-Lord
Richard and Phyllis Rogers

Stage Manager

Jerry & Jacqueline Bennett
Roann Kopel

Your support is playing an increasingly important role in funding our program and the quality it affords. As appropriations from the state are cut and inflation continues its dizzy spiral, patron support becomes a necessity. Necessary to our success in supporting a service to the community, campus and region is your volunteer donations. Please take a moment to fill out the attached form with your pledge of check and send it to us. Your generosity is appreciated.

FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

Membership Levels

Producer.....\$175.00
Director.....125.00
Associate Director.....100.00
Stage Manager.....75.00

Make checks payable to:

Friends of Theatre

Pledge Amount \$ _____

Mail Checks to: University Theatre, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920-3099

MAILING LIST AND PLEDGE INFORMATION

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Let us hear from you!

We would like to include information about our alums in the news letter. Take a moment and let us know where you are and what you are doing.

Name _____ CLASS _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL _____
ADDRESS _____

NEWS ABOUT YOU OR OTHER THEATRE ARTS GRADS:

mail to: Department of Theatre Arts, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston Illinois 61920 or email cfjto@eiu.edu