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Theatre Arts Department

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SIDES

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

December 2005

Volume V, Number 1



Doudna Project on Track

Students returned to campus this fall to find a maze of obstruction fences and a flurry of activity surrounding the old Fine Arts Center. Clinical Services was no more and in its place a crevasse of more than twenty feet outlining the basement and footings for the new theatre wing. As of this writing, the furthest East wall is clearly outlined and the skeleton of the basement passage ways are clearly visible. These include the trap room under the main stage, its access hallway and the mechanical room. Clearly visible as well are the loading dock area and the overall shape and scope of the building. Passers by on the library quad see steel rising and a complex geometric roofline taking shape.

Complete construction updates are available at the facilities planning and management web page

<http://www.eiu.edu/~physplnt/>

Check out the progress as it happens with the webcam

<http://www.eiu.edu/~physplnt/Doudna/doudnacam.htm>

Cole

Directed by Jean Wolski, the cast of *Cole*, performed October 14 - 18, included Theatre Majors: Cyndi Golata, Katy Hawley, Stacey Mallo, Leslie McGinnis, Ryan Peterzell. Non-theatre majors included: J.J. Bradley (Music), Brandon Brown (Music), Kaylie Diel (Music), Meghan Parks (Elem.Ed.), and Dane Thomas (Music).

Consisting mainly of musical numbers with biographical narrations and projections, the show included 43 of Cole Porter's tunes. Musical director was Jerry Daniels, with Paul Johnston on keyboard.



Cole cast line up, Oct.2005

The Little Foxes

The Little Foxes (1939) is one of Lillian Hellman's best-known works. The chronicle of hatred and greed among the members of the Hubbard family was partly based on her own memories of the South. The play became generally known to American audiences through the film,

starring Bette Davis, which received nine Academy Award nominations, but didn't win a single Oscar. In November '05 the Department of Theatre Arts revived this American classic for the fourth time. Once again Hellman's powerful characters captivated the audiences at the Village Theatre. Overflow houses again demonstrated the fact that the quality performances at the Village Theatre are drawing students, staff, faculty and the community in to see live theatre performances.

Clarence Blanchette directed and designed this production with costumes by Karen Eisenhower and lights by David Wolski.

**Season's Greetings
From our "House"
to yours**

**Theatre Arts Faculty and
Staff**

The Village Theatre



Student One Acts Close Fall Season Dec. 2-4

This year's One Acts included:

An American Century by Murphy Guyer, directed by Rocco Renda.

A Dead Man's Apartment by Edward Allan Baker, directed by Cory Vogt.

Faith by Israel Horowitz, directed by Marissa Tieri

Dear Donors;

We apologize to anyone who donated monies to the Alumni Telefund in the name of Theatre Arts Dept. between December 2004 and July 1, 2005 and did not receive a thank you from us until much later.

The foundation system was re-worked, and we just got the new listing of donors in August 2005.

Damita Lewis

Web Site Re-Design

The Theatre Arts Web page (www.eiu.edu/~theatre) is in the process of being re-designed to conform with the standardized design of the Eastern main web pages.

If you have any suggestions on what you'd like to see added or removed from our web page, just drop a line, and we'll consider it. Send suggestions to:
dklewis@eiu.edu

E-Mail Changes

On that same note, by the end of the year, all EIU students, staff and faculty e-mail address will change from the CU, CS, CF prefix to a first initial, middle initial, last name ID.

If you have an EIU e-mail on your address book, you should check the web site phone book (<http://www.eiu.edu/cgi-bin/phquery>) to confirm the **new** e-mail address that can be used immediately as it will transfer.

New Play Table Reading

The play selected this year for the 4th Annual Table Reading is Tom Weller's play *Nesting*. Tom is from Greencastle, Indiana.

The Table Reading will be held on January 24, 2006 at 7:00 at the Village Theatre. The public is invited to attend.

Theatre Arts Majors Honor Students 2005-2006

University Honors:

Kayla Blue
Garin Jones
Stephanie Leasure
Leslie McGinnis
Ryan Peternell
Anne Marie Sears

Departmental Honors:

Megan Gabor
Kathryn Hawley
Garin Jones
Stephanie Leasure (applying)
Leslie McGinnis
Scott Podraza
Rocco Renda
Jacob Senesac (applying)
Cory Vogt

Theatre Arts Scholarships

The deadline for the Eastern Illinois University Theatre Arts Scholarships are as follows:

Excellence in Fine Arts (EFA)

Application Deadline

01/31/06

Interviews

3/04/06

Talented Student Award (TSA)

Application Deadline

4/01/06

Interviews

4/8/06

Forms can be found on our website at:

<http://www.eiu.edu/~theatre/schol.html>

Summer 2005 Graduates

Congratulations to

**Aaron Lawson
Amber Wagner**

ACTF Irene Ryan Nominees for Fall 2005

Ellen Daschler - Regina Giddens in *The Little Foxes*, November 2005

Vince Dill - Horace Giddens in *The Little Foxes*, November 2005

Cari Maher - Faith in *Faith*, Student Directed One Acts, December 2005

Jess Elfring - Valerie Marie in *A Dead Man's Apartment*, Student Directed One Acts, December 2005



2006 Summer Camp July 23 – July 30, 2006

This coming summer will once again feature our popular Theatre Arts Summer Camp for High School Students. Open to any high-schooler who has completed her/his freshman year by camp time, the camp features an intensive week of theatre training (with a good healthy dose of fun) for students interested in the performing arts. As is our tradition, the week will culminate in a performance for parents. The camp is tentatively scheduled for July 23 (Sunday) through July 30 (Saturday). Please email cfcjm2@eiu.edu or call (217) 581-3451 for information on the program, or contact the Office for Adult and Continuing Education at (217) 581-5116.

Theatre Arts Study Abroad Rides Again -- Sweden/Germany 2006

Tentative dates: June 11-26, with sessions prior to departure for orientation.

After a highly successful debut study abroad program in Ireland this summer past, we are pleased to announce that we will once again offer a study abroad program this coming summer-- to Stockholm, Sweden and Berlin, Germany! Led by Dr. Chris Mitchell, the program will spend one week in each city visiting major sites relevant to the development of the modern theatre. Course activities include attending productions, touring of facilities and museums, and talking with experts in the field. Students who successfully complete the program will receive either 6 undergraduate or 6 graduate credit hours; for undergrads, these can be applied to the general-education program or the theatre major/minor.

Come join us for an exciting and stimulating experience! Email cfcjm2@eiu.edu for more information or call (217) 581-3451.

Katy Dwiggins Honored at 1st Theatre Arts Undergraduate Research Symposium

The 1st Theatre Arts Symposium held on December 8 provided scholars the opportunity to present research to faculty and students. Five papers were presented:
Katy Dwiggins, "Holofernes and His Intricate Role in *Love's Labour's Lost*"
Traci Hillstrom, "A Sex-Toy House"
Scott Podraza, "A Doll's House: One Slammed Door Open Several Others"
Kathryn Smith, "Jack and Jill: the Concept of the "Perfect" Couple as Seen in A *Midsummer Night's Dream* – Arguments of Origin and Recent Connotations"
Eric Thornton, "Art and the Artist as Represented in Chekhov's *The Seagull*"

Name That Show

(1st one who emails the name of show, the year, and the students performing wins a prize)
send responses to: cfjms@eiu.edu by Feb. 1, 2006
(Find details on the June 2005 "Name That Show" under "Where Are They Now"-- Stephen Donart in this issue)



Where are they now....



Charleston resident, **John L. Roberts (1948)**, was recognized at the Sunday matinee Nov. 13th performance of *The Little Foxes* for having played Oscar in the 1941 production at EIU (Eastern Illinois State Teachers College back then). John graduated EIU 1948 w/B.S. Degrees in Business Education and with minors in Social Science and Speech. He was a member of the Business Club all four years; president of the Players Club and Theta Alpha Phi his junior year; Pi Omega Pi president senior year; junior marshall junior year; Who's Who junior and senior years; member of Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity junior and senior years; Eastern State Club member junior year; member of Dramatic and Forensics Board junior and senior years; Campus Leader Junior year AND had roles in Dramatic Productions all four years.

John taught Management & Marketing at EIU. He spent a major portion of the last years of his professional career at EIU and served as acting chair of his department for 1 year. John has been an active member in Charleston Community Theatre and a founding member of Charleston Alley Theatre. He was presented a "Charlie" award in 1985 for his outstanding contributions to community theatre.

Karla Ries (1986) – Since graduating I've worked in theatres in Boulder and Colorado Springs, CO; Indianapolis and Carmel, IN. I am in advertising at The Indianapolis Star and hold the public relations seat on the board of directors for Carmel Community Players. My duties include: Acting, Scenic Design and Artistry, Set Dressing, and Directing. I met Michael, my husband of 19 years, while doing *Dracula* at Eastern. He also remains very active in theatre.

Jackaay Watt (2001) – After audition, after audition I finally hit something big...I filmed a reality show last summer in NY and it begins airing on NBC – Tuesday, June 21...it is called "I want to be a Hilton". The first episode is two hours because they have to do character introductions for all 14 of us. Please watch it and make fun of me all you want!!! or tape it?

Jennifer Givens Loeffler (1996) – I worked for a skyscraper builder in downtown Chicago, got married, became a widow, got married again last year (June 2004) to a man with 2 young children. I work as a real estate agent, love my work, love the mountains of North Carolina (moved here in 2002), love my new family. It's a good life! P.S. Theatre skills can be very useful in sales!

Jason Winfield (1994) - I recently finished my MFA in Technical Production at Penn State. Currently, I am the Technical Director at Michigan State. On a personal note, I have been married for a year and a half.

From **Shannon Blair (1996)** – Here is some great news that I just found out on Saturday (May 2005). **Jen Corrington Whittington** is pregnant with twins!!! She is due around Christmas.

Randi Morris (2000) – God finally answered my prayers – I'm going to be an English teacher again this fall. I will be teaching at Lanphier High School in Springfield. They do not have any kind of drama program but are looking to possibly start one. For all those who were pulling and praying for me – thanks a bundle!

Tina Salmone (1981) – Stepped down as Editor in Chief of FollowSpot the quarterly publication of the Illinois Theatre Assoc. this year.

John Tilford (1979) – is the 2005-2006 President-Elect for the Illinois Theatre Association. John teaches and directs at Unity High School, starting his 16th year this fall. Under his direction, UHS has performed seven times at the IHSTF and once at the intern'l Thespian Festival in Lincoln, NE. This fall (2005), Unity High School played host to T.A.L.E.N.T. – the Illinois Thespian annual leadership conference.

The Unity Drama department will present the Vietnam War play *A Piece of My Heart* Nov. 3-5 at 7:30 p.m. The emotional drama is directed by **John Tilford (1979)**.



Marty Stanberry & Donna Parrone

Donna Parrone (1978-1980) – I’m the managing director of HotCity Theatre in St. Louis along with **Marty Stanberry (1984)** who is Artistic Co-Director. We didn’t know each other at Eastern, just a weird coincidence. We ran HotHouse Theatre Co. for 8 years together and just merged with another company last June and became an equity house (SPT).

I did two years at EIU 1978-1980 before heading to New York to study at the National Shakespeare Conservatory. I also had the opportunity to work for many theatres in St. Louis, playing Hecate in *Macbeth*, Cleopatra and Mrs. Malaprop amongst others. For HotHouse/HotCity I played many roles, the most recent being the lead in *Filumena* and the most taxing being John Adams in the all female *1776*. I have a 19 year old daughter, Caroline, who attends the College of Santa Fe as an Arts and Entertainment Management major.

Terry Kroenung (1980) – I teach advanced English at Niwot High School. I run the Shakespeare Club and am the Artistic Director/fight director of a Shakespeare company. We are doing *King Lear* now (Sept. 8, 2005). My wife’s a costume designer. I’ve published 3 books of plays – feel free to require EIU to use them in class ☺

Winner of Name that Show:

That photo brought back memories . . . from left to right pictured are: Charice Shianna, Tim Estep, Gerry Lunsford, Debra Gwisdalla, Louann Stallard, Karen Vogt, Eileen "Beenie" Sullivan and **Stephen Donart (me) (1987)** the show is *Kennedy’s Children* it opened Feb. 14, 1986. I remembered all but one name without digging up an old program.

I’m now a transition counselor for Northern Suburban Special Education District . . . I keep my fingers in theatre by teaching an after school drama program. I did go on for my masters at UIC and was Artistic Director of a small non-profit for ten years before I broke down and decided I was too old to live the bohemian life style. I’m glad you printed the photo it brought back warm memories. Pass the word to Clarence Blanchette - I now have a 2nd MA in Rehabilitation Counseling . . . in all my many, many years of school he was by far one of the best teachers I’ve ever run across!

John Tolch (1949) – When I graduated in 1949, there was no Theatre Department. EIU had a Speech Dept. with a general focus of the area at that time. I had the great, good fortune to participate in theatre events under the direction of Prof. Gabbard, “Gabby.” Gabby, Lucy and I have known each other for a very long time. Eastern started me on the “theatre trail.” I spent my career in Theatre Education and a major emphasis in Theatre for Children and Young People at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.



Therese Supple Kincade
Recipient of the Alumni Service Award
Homecoming 2005

Therese Supple Kincade (1980) has been an active member of the EIU community for many years. The 1980 speech communication graduate currently serves as the president of the Tarble Arts Center Advisory Board, a position she has held for the last six years; previously she served as vice president of that group since its inception in 1990. Kincade has played a major role in assisting the Tarble achieve accreditation from the American Association of Museums, and has also been active in programming.

Kincade has also been actively involved with Celebration: A Festival of the Arts, and with Easterns’ departments of music, communication studies, and Theatre Arts. She and her husband Bob, a 1972 Eastern graduate, own What’s Cookin’, a popular Charleston restaurant.

J. Sain (1975) performed the wedding ceremony of **Jennifer Zorn (1998)** to John Sargent on July 9, 2005 in Schaumburg, IL. “Tell the faculty I know hello. You could also inform them of the link to my wedding pictures if anyone is interested:
jenniferandjohn.us

Where are they now.....

(Continued)

Vickie Norton (1990) – For 8 years, I taught Drama, Speech Communication, English I, Lang. Arts, and Mass Media at Martinsville High School. During that time, I directed the fall play, musical, and Prevention Theatre Troupe each year, coached cheerleading and developed the school newspaper. I am finishing my 4th year as the elementary school principal at Martinsville CUSD C#3. I am still directing Martinsville Prevention Theatre Troupe...an award winning theatre group of 7th-12th graders who travel Illinois and Indiana spreading prevention messages thru acting and performance. We will begin our 13th year in the 2005-2006 school year.



Jessica Siegel & Scott Stratton

Jessica Siegel (2004) – This week (Sept.2005) starts our two week tech process at the Milwaukee Rep. The first show of our season is *A Flea in Her Ear*. There are numerous quick changes for the main character who plays 2 different people in a revolving door style. I'm living full time in Milwaukee, so if you're in the area, come visit and see a show! I am getting married Sept. 23, 2006 to my first love from high school. We lost touch while I was at EIU but re-connected my final year. I've never been happier!

Christopher Ham (1998) – I finished graduate school in May 2005 from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. I got a position at the Wayside Theatre in Middletown, VA where I am the resident Lighting and Sound Designer as well as the Master Electrician and Sound Engineer. I had two big shows back-to-back: *Killer Angels* (adapted from the Civil War novel) the most recent and had a lot of challenges. I also directed Euripides' *Trojan Women* with the Acting Interns here at the Wayside Theatre. I enjoyed directing, but the headaches! The show turned out really well; I got some great work from the Interns, but for being way over our heads, I think we had a great little show.



Earl Halbe (1979) and wife Elizabeth as "Gastone" & "Annina" in Island Opera Theatre production of *La Traviata*, March 17-20, 2005.

Jessica Mahrt Gresk (2003) On Friday, July 1, I competed in a talent showcase at Naperville's Ribfest. I ended up singing "Free Bird" and "Sweet Home Alabama" as I won the competition. I will be opening for Loretta Lynn on the 4th of July at 12! I'll be singing 4 songs. One of the judges is a voice coach and wants to help me prepare to audition for American Idol. American Idol has not released the dates they are auditioning, but we are watching closely.

Chris Pomeroy (1995) and **Melissa Hard (1997)** – Chicago premier of Charles Mee's play, *Wintertime*, opens Saturday, Nov. 12 running through Dec. 18 at Live Bait Theatre. Director and one of the founders of Reverie Theatre Company is Chris Pomeroy. Also in the production is Melissa Hard who worked with Chris at EIU on Marat/Sade and other shows.

"*Wintertime* is a kooky show that can be taken lightly as it delivers a fresh comic take on love, desire and communicating with relations. I enjoyed this well produced vaudevillian farce" – Tom Williams, Chicago Stage Talk Radio Show.



Wintertime cast

Jenni Passig (2005) – I am officially surviving Tech in the South. I am performing in the fall quarter show, which is a world premier of *D'Arc Comedy*. It's the story of Joan D'Arc and her experiences told through three Saints on a TV show in heaven. Not only am I "Louise", but I am also the puppet costume designer. I am also serving as a TA for the honors Theatre Appreciation class. I have to TA so I can get the real experience b/c that's the type of class I'll be teaching next year. It's a little scary, but I'm enjoying the possibilities of teaching.

Spring 2006

The Menaechmi by Plautus, written circa 184 B.C. this rollicking farce is a peculiarly Roman contribution to the development of drama. Twin brothers separated at a very young age, are reunited years later and mistaken identity confusion ensues as the hometown twin juggles his wife and mistress and unknown double. Directed by Dr. Jerry Eisenhour, it opens on March 3 and closes March 7.



Especially recommended for children ages 5-8, *Aladdin* by Moses Goldberg will be directed by John Oertling. A group of peddlers decide to stage the play *Aladdin*. After choosing roles and setting the stage, they enact their classic with novel flourishes. Comedy, suspense, and the excitement of helping Aladdin defeat the Evil Magician make this an ideal theatrical experience. In addition to the two public performances on April 21 and 22, two daily performances (at 9:30 and 12:30) will be held for elementary students April 17 – April 21 in the theatre.

Tickets available Monday – Friday 2-6 p.m. the week of the show opening.
For reservations call
217-581-3110

Oh Where, Oh Where Are They Now????

If you know, please let me know (dklewis@eiu.edu).

Thanks.

Theresa Anderson	Saovanut Bhuvanti
Madeline Buck	Kurt Christensen
Melissa Copoulos	Karl Daniel
Cathy Elwell	Erika Goff
Lelan Graham	Jeana Guerrieri
Elizabeth Hall	Michelle Henderson
Nancy Henderson	Leroy Hook
Gail Knez-Shurbert	Julie Lewis
Lynn Lupo	Sara MacDonald
Ed Olsen	Robert Poe
Joyce Prescott	Alana Reeves
Steven Rodgers	Cynthia Sanders
Ann Schenk	Deirdre Schultz
Amy Sherwood	Jacqueline Smith
Leah Soderberg	Carol Spoon
	Kristine Warner
	Mary Winkleblack



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John Hanners
Julia Hawkins
Jennifer Loeffler
Joseph Straka

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. Your voluntary donations are necessary to our success in supporting a service to the community, campus and region. Please take a moment to fill out the attached form and return with your pledge or check. Your generosity is appreciated.

Make checks payable to: **Eastern Illinois University** Pledge Amount \$ _____
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