



# ~The Marquee~

The Newsletter of the Department of Performing Arts, Elon University

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## Announcing: Our 2007-2008 Season!

There have been a few notable changes in our performance schedule this summer, mostly due to a great opportunity that came our way a few weeks ago. We have been selected by the good people at the Rodgers & Hammerstein Theatre library to be one of a select few colleges to produce Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* to help learn what challenges would face school groups producing the show. This is a great honor and opportunity – one that we eagerly accepted. But it did require some adjustments to our season. See below for details:

- *Improvisation Olympics* – Sept 21-Black Box
- *Fall One-Day Plays* – Sept 21-Black Box
- *Site-Specific Dance* – Sept 23-Fonneville Fountain
- *Collage* - Sept 28, 29-Yeager
- *Marisol* – Oct 3-9-Black Box
- *Fall Dance Salon* – Oct 19 – Studio A
- *TBA* – Oct 25-Nov 4-McCrary
- *Fall Dance Concert* – Nov 17,18-Black Box
- *The Cherry Orchard* – Jan 18-Feb 6-9-Black Box
- *The Phantom of the Opera* – Feb 14-19- McCrary
- *Student-Directed One-Act Plays* – Feb 22-23 - Black Box
- *Spring One-Day Plays* – Feb 23 – Black Box
- *Just Dancin' Around* – Feb 29-Mar 1 – Black Box
- *Grand Night* - Apr 4-5-Yeager
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* - Apr 24-27-McCrary
- *Staged Reading of a New Musical & Student-Directed Full-Length Play* – Ap 30–May 3-Black Box
- *Reflections: Elon Dancers Concert* – May 8-10-McCrary

**Plus....** Master Class with **Olympia Dukakis** (Sept 18,) Spring Convocation with **Hal Prince**, including the premier of a piece commissioned by **Jason Robert Brown** (April 10) Senior projects for Dance, Acting, and Music Theatre– and *many more* special programs and master classes still to be determined!

## Busy Summer Plans!



Once again, Elon Performing Arts students are spending their summers sharpening their skills and building their professional resumes by working at great summer theatres, shooting films, working in the industry, and taking classes at prestigious training programs. This is our biggest year ever with nearly 100 students working in over 20 states. The following is a list of where you can find them- all over the country!

### SUMMER THEATRE:

#### ArtPark, NY

Ashlea Potts      Todd Beasley      Dionne Eleby  
Chase Brown      Steven Baker

#### Asheville Dance Theatre, NC

Karena Thacker

#### B Street Theatre, CA

Jody Cohen      Tara Sissom      Maurice Whitfield

#### Barksdale Theatre, VA

Drew Seigla

#### Big Fork Summer Playhouse, MT

Cary Mitchell      Brooke Morrison

#### Blue Jacket Outdoor Drama, OH

Elijah Martinez

#### Burning Coal Theatre, NC

Lily Brown

#### Busch Gardens Entertainment, VA

Ian Jordan Subsara      Matthew Glover

#### California Theatre Center, CA

Ken Handler

#### Centerstage, MA

Elizabeth Oller

*("Busy Summer"....Continued from page one)*

**Comedysportz, Washington, DC**

Matt Keffer

**CPCC Summer Theatre, NC**

Chelsey Clark  
Caroline Bower  
Lauren Juengel  
Sarah Stevens  
John Say  
Jeff Ostermueller

**Discoveryland, TX**

Libby Wood

**Dollywood, TN**

Alicia Reynolds

**Duke Children's Classic Benefit Concert, NC**

Roy San Filipino

**ECU Summer Theatre, NC**

Tal Fish  
Corey Loftus  
Will Amato  
Reid Robinson

**Flat Rock Playhouse, NC**

Bonnie Bower  
Lauren Patton  
Anna Kimmell  
Dan Gibson  
Chris Staskel

**Galveston Island Musicals, TX**

Erin Burniston  
Eric Mann  
Annie Duckett

**Georgia Shakespeare Festival, GA**

Kristina Damschen

**Granbury Opera House, TX**

Erin Burniston Eric Mann

**Hangar Theatre, NY**

Susan Slotoroff  
Daniel Gibbons  
Elizabeth Oller  
Katie Emerson  
Greg Maheu

**Hershey Park, PA**

Jessica Wockenfuss  
Carly Casey  
Rebecca O'Quinn  
Jess Elovsson

**Lake Dillon Theatre Company, CO**

Emily Rice  
Chris Wood

**The Lost Colony, NC**

Mike Miller  
Max Korn

**Maples Repertory Theatre, MO**

Dustin Diamond

**Masterworks Theatre**

Alexandra Hensley

**Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, NY**

Mackenzie Bell  
John Say

**Mill Mountain Theatre, VA**

Mike Sherry

**Music Theatre of Wichita, KS**

Johnny Stellard

**Nashville Children's Theatre, TN**

Lydia Graeff

**New Bedford Festival Theatre, MA**

Julianne Katz

**Orlando Shakespeare Festival, FL**

Corey Loftus

**Post Playhouse, NE**

Tara Sissom

**Santa Fe Opera, NM**

Allegra Sargent

**Seaside Music Theatre, FL**

Matt Shingledecker

**Shadowbox Cabaret**

T. Andrew Cioffi

**SPARC**

Stuart Richie

**Theatre IV, VA**

Darrick Penny

**Theatre West Virginia, WV**

Matt Masten  
John Mullican  
Justin Wooten

**Trumpet in the Land, OH**

Bekah Lashof

**Walt Disney World, FL**

Brian Summer

**Westport Country Playhouse, CT**

Mark Duncan

**WINT Productions, VA**

Kristin Alvis

**FILM:**

**Cottonmouth Films – Horror at McPhearson Hall**

Erica Siegel  
Elyse Rodriguez  
Liz Miller

**JJJ Productions – Zombie Cheerleading Camp**

Elyse Rodriguez  
Chris White

**MISC**

**INDUSTRY/PROFESSIONAL:**

**Camp Netimus**

Laura Baker

**National American Miss Pageants**

Chelsea McGinnis

**Atlantic Records**

Tristan Bailey

**TRAINING**

**PROGRAMS/FESTIVALS/MISC:**

**American Conservatory Theatre Summer Training Congress, CA**

Kristen Bowden

**Ailey School Summer Intensive Program, NY**

April Holloway

**Circle in the Square Actors Workshop, NY**

Jess Geguzis

**Circle in the Square Summer Musical Theatre Program, NY**

Heather Gilbert

**Spoleto Vocal Arts Symposium**

Natalie Stephens

**Broadway Theatre Project, NY**

Mollie Dolcimascolo  
Roy San Filipino  
Caitlin Juengel

**TVI Summer Intensive, CA**

Mirai Booth-Ong

**American Dance Festival Intensive**

Elizabeth Easterly  
Michelle Micca  
Annie McGhee

**International Dance Intensive, Pointe Park University**

Courtney Markowitz

**Wesleyan University's Center for Creative Youth Summer College Prep Program, NC**

Melanie Lastrina

**-Faculty News and Notes-**

**Cherie Bower**, long-time adjunct in Dance will be joining us as a full-time faculty member starting this fall – Congratulations and Welcome, Cherie!

**Polly Cornelius** attended the National Association of Teachers of Singing regional conference at the University of Maryland College Park. Three students participated in the competition. Alexa Wildish competed in the Freshman Women's category. Tara Sissom won

second place in the College Women Music Theatre category. Cary Mitchell won first place in the College Music Theatre Men category and performed in the Honors Recital.

**Lynne Formato** will be choreographing *The Full Monty* at Arkansas Repertory Theatre, teaching numerous master classes and intensives for Dance Masters of America's National Teachers' Training School and choreographing *Aida* for ArtPark in Lewiston, NY.

**Lauren Kearns** premiered the Kearns Dance Project, a new professional dance company, at the American Dance Festival at Duke University, featuring alumni Katie Lester and Immanuel Naylor. She also engaged in Advanced Yoga Body Science Research at the Triad Yoga Institute in Greensboro. Lauren is also choreographing a new duet to premier at the North Carolina Dance Festival.

**Catherine McNeela** will be teaching a master class at the Broadway Theatre Project this summer.

**Kevin Otos** will be directing *Much Ado About Nothing* for the Texas Shakespeare Festival, then teaching acting at the Teen Performance Conservatory in Helena, MT, then training in Commedia dell'Arte with Antonio Fava in Reggio Emilia, Italy.

**Fred Rubeck** will be attending the Association for Theatre in Higher Education conference in New Orleans. He is the Chair of the Playwrights Program and serves on the Long-Range Planning Committee and the Conference Planning Committee. Fred was also recently elected to the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Theatre Conference.

**Jack Smith** will be returning to Maples Repertory Theatre in Macon, Missouri where he will be designing costumes for *I Do, I Do*, *Dames at Sea* and *Holiday Memories* as well as helping with the build of *Godspell* and *Butterflies Are Free*.

**Chris Tilley** will be working as Music Director at Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, VA doing *Big River* and *I Do, I Do*.

**Kirby Wahl**, supported by a grant from the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, will begin studying the somatic awareness training system called Body-Mind Centering. He will also be leading a master class in Fitzmaurice Voicework for the Burning Coal Theatre Company's Summer Conservatory in Raleigh, NC.

**Jane Wellford** was one of the main faculty for the National Music and Worship Conference, a two-week event held at The Montreat Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. She created eight new choreographed works for the conference, taught daily classes, and performed in four concerts.

## -Alumni News & Notes-

### Turn Yourself In!

Please send your alumni news and notes to Fred Rubeck – [rubeck@elon.edu](mailto:rubeck@elon.edu) and we will include you in the next edition of *The Marquee*. You may also send items via USPS: Fred Rubeck, *The Marquee*, 2800 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244.

**Kiira Schmidt** was recently in the cast of the NY City Center production *Stairway to Paradise* (dancing alongside Kristen Chenoweth.) She is having a *West Side Story* summer, assisting choreographer Josh Bergasse at Barrington Stage in MA and Fulton Opera House in PA. In the fall she will join the Boston company of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*.

**Perry Medlin** choreographed *Hair* for the University of Virginia this spring and directed a revue for the Orange School of the Performing Arts, and teaching singing and dance for the Live Arts Teen Theatre Program. He is planning a NYC move in the fall.

**Lindsay Northen** is in the Broadway cast of *Wicked* performing in the ensemble and u/s for Glinda. She will also be doing a reading of the new musical *Ever After*.

**Matthew Millikin** recently worked on a documentary about the City of Hope and their efforts toward curing cancer. He is currently Production Stage Manager for *Porgy and Bess* at the Utah Festival Opera and then will return to LA Opera as Assistant Stage Manager.

**Meris Burton** is living in Blowing Rock, NC and planning her October wedding!

**Kristen Varvaris** recently completed a tour with Disney Cruise Lines and is busy planning her July 28 wedding! Following the wedding she and hubby Jason VonWachenfeldt will be moving to NYC.

**Amy M (Wilkins) Blanchette** is teaching music theatre and dance at the Paige Conservatory and baby music classes at Babysteps, both in Andover, MA. She and husband Mike are expecting the arrival of their second baby girl in August.

**April Holloway** will be joining the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre Summer Intensive in NYC.

**Tara Taylor** was recently promoted to Artistic Director for the youth performing arts school where she works. She was recently awarded a \$20,000 scholarship for writing, directing, and producing the most creative video on the health benefits of tea, sponsored by the Tea

Council. She also appears on a June 4 CBS show with Justin Guarini (of *American Idol* fame.)

**Allison Spratt** was recently cast in her third Broadway show, *Cry Baby* (based on the John Waters Film.) She will be in the ensemble and u/s for the leading role.

**Marissa Moss** recently moved to LA where she is taking classes and performing in a weekly showcase. She has also been doing background work on *Desperate Housewives*, *ER*, and *7<sup>th</sup> Heaven*.

**Katie Lester** will be performing with the Kearns Dance Project this summer at the American Dance Festival and the North Carolina Dance Festival.

**Tabitha Tuttle** is a Directing Intern at the Pacific Theatre in Vancouver, Canada. She will spend an entire year working with that company.

**Shawn Richardson** recently completed filming for the feature-length film, *Foursome*. He recently accepted a five-picture contract with Great Ideas Entertainment. Check out his IMDB page and his new website: [www.greatideas.com/shawnrichardson/index.html](http://www.greatideas.com/shawnrichardson/index.html).

**Andrew Frace** continues in *Finding Nemo: The Musical* at Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida.

**Kelly Dynan** is busy planning her August 25 wedding. She is currently in a new rock musical workshop called *Bigger Fish to Fry* opening at the Sage Theatre in NYC on July 13. She is also starting her own business, specializing in personal training and nutrition – check out her website at: [www.BestVersion.net](http://www.BestVersion.net).

**Nancy Snow** appeared in the Washington, DC premier of the new musical *Class of '42* in the role of Dorothy at the Round House Theatre. Nancy and her husband Gino are teaching in the Performing Arts Department at Stephens College in Columbia, MO.

**Bree Sherry** will be starting the graduate program in Stage Management at Yale University this fall.

**Sara Moore** is joining the Dance Therapy graduate program at Lesley University in Boston.

**Cara Antosca** will be joining the National Tour of *Cats* and will also be receiving her Equity card.

**Phill Hill** is moving to New Haven, Ct. He will be Production Stage Manager and Master Electrician for the children's company of the Downtown Cabaret Theatre in Bridgeport.

**Grace McPhillips** was recently elected to the Board of the Illinois Production Alliance and is heading up a major campaign for the Illinois Film Industry. She will also be in an indie feature film shooting in Milwaukee. See her web site: [www.gracemcphillips.com](http://www.gracemcphillips.com).

**Michelle Kidder** is entering the graduate program at Philadelphia University (pursuing medical school)

**Jason Coosner** recently graduated with an MFA in Dance from Southern Methodist University, Meadows School of the Arts.

**Corey Roberts** recently completed a two-year tour (including Asia!) with the Missoula children's Theatre. She is now back in NC where she is directing *Disney's High School Musical*, after which she will be appearing in *Oliver*.

**Meredith Wood** is appearing in *The Awesome 80's Prom* in Chicago. She recently appeared there in *Moon Over Buffalo*.

**Mark Ludden** was recently in the ensemble and played Captain Shultz in *Miss Saigon* at Merry Go Round Playhouse, and will play Magaldi in *Evita* at Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre this summer. In the fall he will join the ensemble (and u/s for Peron) in Troika's National Tour of *Evita*.

**Alex Ellis** played Rhoda in *White Christmas* at Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Penny Pingleton in *Hairspray* at Maine State Music Theatre and Ogunquit Playhouse.

**Katherine Southard** is going to graduate school at UNC-Charlotte to pursue her MBA.

**Kat Lowery** is the Assistant to the Lighting Designer at Seaside Music Theatre in Florida. She recently designed lights for the Elon productions of *A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine* and *Elon Dancers Spring Concert*.

**Kelly Schmidt** recently played Fruma Sara/Rifka/Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina in Hilton Head, SC, and is now playing Maria in *West Side Story* at ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre in Greenville, NC.

**Lauren Redmond** is the Stage Manager for Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance in Ashville, NC. In the fall she will begin a 10-month internship at Centerstage in Baltimore, MD.

**Jonathan Walsh** recently completed the first leg of the National Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Check out his web site: [www.myspace.com/keeperofadream](http://www.myspace.com/keeperofadream).

**Ashley Campana** is performing on the first National Equity Tour of *High School Musical*.

**Todd Horman** recently performed *Of Thee I Sing* and *Face The Music* at Encores in NYC. This summer he is in *The Full Monty* at Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera.

**Meagen Kenney** is working as soprano swing II for the USO in NYC. She is also in a production of *Spoon River Anthology*.

**Julie (Golden) Parrish** has been working as a Music Director at Children's Playhouse of Maryland (*Schoolhouse Rock Live*, *Tom Sawyer*, *The King & I*, and *Disney's High School Musical*) and Spotlighter's Theatre production of *Assassins*. She is currently in a

production of *Songs for a New World*. She and husband Todd are expecting a baby in early January.

**Kelli Russell** is on tour in *Snow White* with the Missoula Children's Theatre.

**Justin Roller** is in the ensemble (and u/s for Boris) of *Can Can* at the Pasadena Playhouse. He continues playing Iago in *Alladin: A Musical Spectacular* at Disneyland and recently finished *Root Beer Bandits* at the Falcon Theatre.

**Joleen Neighbors** was recently named one of the "Governor's Outstanding Educators for Visual and Performing Arts" for 2006-2007 in Virginia. This year she directed four productions, including *Disney's High School Musical*.

**Ian Frazier** recently appeared in a leading role in *The Unexpected Guest* at Flat Rock Playhouse in NC. He has also taught at Flat Rock's Youth Theatre program – for which he also co-directed their Touring Christmas Revue. He played Lindy in *Damn Yankees* at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre in Fort Myers, FL, and was on tour with *Swing* for the Prather Family of Theatres.

**Mary Margaret Anderson** recently worked at the SurfFlight Theatre playing Lalume in *Kismet* and Mrs. Meers (and Assistant Director) in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. She is spending the summer gigging at the Black Potatoe Music Festival in Clinton, NJ and Cosmopolitan Club in PA with her husband Gregg.

**Jen DeMinco** played a supporting role in *Made of Honor*, a feature film starring Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan. Recently released features include: *Georgia Rule* (singing/supporting) *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry* and *Next* (photo double/Jessica Beal). Jen will be working next on the Adam Sandler film *You Don't Mess with the Zohan* as well as Forest Whitaker's *Powder Blue*.

**Sara Moore** will be joining the Expressive Therapies/Mental Health Counseling Graduate Program this fall.

**Daniel Marin-Muller** recently completed shooting an indie film called *Talk to Him* and is cast in an untitled feature set to begin shooting in the fall. He also recently signed with TalentWorks Agency in LA.

**Jen (Minchik) Jayden** completed her cruise ship gig and has moved to LA where she is promoting her first album of original music and working on the second one. She is also teaching music and performing. Check out her website: [www.jenniferjayden.com](http://www.jenniferjayden.com).

**Manny Naylor** performed with the kearns dance project at the American Dance Festival in June, and will be performing in *Aida* at ArtPark in New York.

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**It's The Marquee – Your Source for News and Information about the Department of Performing Arts at Elon University**