



~The Marquee~

The Newsletter of the Department of Performing Arts, Elon University

Volume XV, Issue 2 – [Winter, 2012]

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Winter/Spring Performance Schedule

Don't miss these great performances!

Location Guide: MCT=McCrary Theatre; BBT = Black Box Theatre; YRH = Yeager Recital Hall

JANUARY

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS – 14th at 6:30 & 8:30, YRH
Macbeth – 19th, 20th, 21st, at 7:30; 22nd at 2:00; 23rd at 7:30 pm BBT
Tapped Out – 20th at 6:00 & 7:30; 21st, 22nd at 2:00 and 3:30pm,
McKinnon Hall, Moseley Center

FEBRUARY

Macbeth – 1st, 2nd, 3rd at 7:30; 4th at 2:00 & 7:30, BBT
She Loves Me – 9th-11th at 7:30pm; 12th at 2:00, MCT
Student-Directed One-Acts–16th, 17th at 7:30; 18th at 2:00 & 7:30,
BBT
Senior Dance Project – 23rd, 24th at 6:00; 25th at 2:00 & 7:30;
26th at 2:00, BBT
Int'l Commedia Day Performance – 25th, Location and Time TBA

MARCH

DanceWorks – 10th & 11th at 2:00 & 7:30, BBT
Grand Night – 30th & 31st at 7:00 & 8:30, YRH

APRIL

Pride and Prejudice – 19th, 20th, 21st at 7:30; 22nd at 2:00, MCT
Dog Sees God – 25th, 27th at 7:30; 28th at 2:00, BBT
A Man of No Importance – 24th, 26th, 28th at 7:30, BBT

MAY

Fused Moves (Dance Concert)–3rd, 4th at 7:30; 5th at 2:00 & 7:30,
MCT

Spring Master Classes



In March, NYC casting director **Dave Clemmons** will return for his annual master class. Mr. Clemmons has given classes and lectures at every major training program in the country as well as in New York, LA, Boston, Houston and Orlando. He is a permanent faculty member of the Broadway Theatre Project.



Diane Coburn Bruning will also be joining us in March. She is the artistic director and choreographer of Chamber Dance. She recently was awarded both a Guggenheim Fellowship and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Choreography. Dance Magazine named her as one of the “25 to watch in 2003”. Ms. Bruning will be teaching a two-day workshop in contemporary ballet and partnering.



Tony Award nominee **Susan Egan** will conduct a master class at Elon in April. Ms. Egan originated the role of “Belle” in *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway and has been in numerous other Broadway shows. She was also the voice of “Meg” in the Disney animated movie *Hercules*. This is Ms. Egan’s first visit to Elon, and we are very glad to have her join us!



In May, we will once again host a weekend of master classes with Academy Award-winning actor **Olympia Dukakis**. Ms. Dukakis will work with a select group of students on prepared scenes, and conduct a public Q & A session about her career and life in the arts. This is Ms. Dukakis’ third visit to Elon, and we are extremely excited to have her back!



Elon Dancers Invited to French Festival

The Elon Dance program recently received a significant recognition - a special invitation to participate in the *La Semaine de la Danse* International Dance Festival in Aurillac, France, at the end of March. The festival features some of the world's most important choreographers, teachers, and dancers all gathered for a challenging and creative week. Elon is very honored to be the only American university invited to this festival.

Lauren Kearns, Coordinator of the Elon Dance Program, and Karl Green, Costumer, will travel with nine Elon dancers to the festival. In addition to presenting *End Game* (A piece professor Kearns created for our spring dance concert *On That Note* in 2011), they will be taking classes and networking with some of the worlds best teachers and choreographers.

Additionally, Professor Kearns will be teaching three dance workshops and Professor Green will present his costume for dance research and lead a costume design workshop.

The group will also take advantage of their time in France by spending a few days in Paris as well, touring museums and taking a private Paris Dance history tour facilitated by dance historian Marisa Hayes.

Oppressed Theatre Group to Visit Elon



Actors and dramatists from the Belarus Free Theatre (BFT) will be at Elon February 24th through the 29th. The BFT is an underground collective of artists who use their own backgrounds in Europe's last dictatorship along with documentary sources to inspire the creation of performance and Human Rights advocacy. The Minsk-based troupe left Belarus in January of this year to travel to New York as presenters in the Public Theater's *Under the Radar Festival*. They are unable to return to Belarus where they would face imprisonment because, in Belarus, only state-supported theatre is legal.

The group's website states that "The current situation in the cultural sphere of Belarus is influenced by several factors that negatively impact both the training of new theatrical staff and also the evolution of the theatrical process in general... This project includes underground flat performances and readings, the 1st International contest of modern dramaturgy, educational program for the Belarusian dramatists, publication of a regular periodical of the Belarusian dramaturgy and organizing the public readings of plays."

Aside from the political nature of their work, the BFT is becoming known among top critics, playwrights and theaters worldwide as inventive artists. Notable playwrights such as the late Harold Pinter, Tony Kushner and Tom Stoppard have personally advocated for this group. They have received rave reviews in the New York Times and The Times of London. The group is coming here as a part of the Performing Arts Department's effort toward the first Elon Commitment Theme of encouraging diversity and global engagement. During their time at Elon, the company members will conduct open public sessions about their work and the political situation and oppression they face. They will also conduct guest lectures and presentations in Theatre History and General Studies classes. Additionally, they will conduct two days of performance master classes with a select group of performing arts majors.

Faculty and Staff News

Jason Aryeh has been selected to lead a residency at Roger Williams University in March. Jason will teach numerous technique classes and rehearse a piece he will choreograph for the Roger Williams Dance Theatre spring concert in May.

Lynne Formato is currently directing *Edges* for the Fredericia Theatre in Denmark for its Danish premiere. She will be hosting Vincent O'Neill at Elon during February – Mr. O'Neill is the Founding/Artistic Director of the Irish Classical Theatre in Buffalo, a protégé of the late Marcel Marceau, and an Acting Professor at the University at Buffalo. He will be coaching the dialects for *A Man of No Importance* and teaching master classes in mime as well as performing his one-man show, *The Importance of Being Oscar*. Professor Formato will direct and choreograph *Young Frankenstein* for the Danish Musical Academy's Showcase performance – another Danish premiere. Next fall, she will be choreographing the European premiere of *Alladin* opening in October at the Fredericia Theatre.

Karl Green is taking 9 dance students to Semaine De La Danse in Aurillac, France with Lauren Kearns presenting his work as well as designing costumes for the performance. He received a Faculty Summer Fellowship and Stipend for \$16,000 and will be spending most of the summer living in France in both Paris and Lyon designing dance costumes for Choreographer and Filmmaker Marisa Hayes. Karl will also be presenting his dance costume designs at ACDFA in Feb. and costumed Elon's entry of Jon Lehrer piece, also for ACDFA. His dance costume work will be presented in January in the Greensboro fringe for two pieces: *Stones from the River* by Chris Burnside and *A Bird Circuit on a Short Wire* by Virginia DuPont, and for Choreographer Jan Van Dyke at UNC-Greensboro for concerts in October and December. His dance costume work will be featured with Lauren Kearns piece in NYC in January, and in the restaging of Chris Burnside's *Runaway Horses* for the Richmond Ballet performed with the Richmond Symphony in March.

Lauren Kearns is premiering a new duet "Stuck in Time" January 25th as part of Movement Research's Open Performance Series, Brooklyn, NY. The duet features alumni Allie Lochary 2009 and Kara Griffin 2011. Kearns is currently serving as the Regional Director for the ACDFA Mid-Atlantic Region and will be guest teaching at the ACDFA Conference at James Madison University in late February. Kearns will be travelling to France in late March to present her dance piece "End Game" in the Semaine de la Danse festival. Accompanying her are nine students and faculty member Karl Green. She will also be teaching three master classes in France. In late May, Kearns will be participating in "Dance 2050: The Future of Dance in Higher Education. This is an invited symposium held at Temple University and co-produced by the NDEO/Temple University Center for Research in Dance Education and the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University. Kearns recently published an article titled "I Live Here: A Multimedia Performance and Educational Project" in a special issue of the Journal of Dance Education. Lauren is now listed in *Dance Magazine's* "Active Women Choreographers"

Kevin Otos received grant support to study theatrical mask making in Italy this coming summer. This is part of his collaboration on mask with scenic designer **Natalie Hart**, and part of his ongoing research into Commedia dell'Arte and other classic, popular comedic forms.

Fred Rubeck is a member of the Governing Council for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE). He will be attending the winter meeting of the Governing Council in Orlando in January and the annual ATHE conference in Washington, DC in August.

Jack Smith - Designed costumes for *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Orlando Shakespeare theater), *A Wolf's Tale* (City of Maples Reparatory Theater), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Orlando Shakespeare Theatre). He also wrote and had produced a play for Theater for Young Audiences, *A Wolf's Tale* (City of Maples Reparatory Theater)

Kirby Wahl performed the double role of Lord Edgar and Jane in the Triad Stage Company's October 2011 production of *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, in Greensboro. He has also been hired to play the role of Richard Phillotson, in the Burning Coal Theatre's original stage adaptation of Thomas Hardy's novel, *Jude the Obscure*. This two-part adaptation will be performed at the BC's theatre in Raleigh, opening in April of 2012.

Alumni News and Notes

Kiira Schmidt is currently playing Margie in *Follies* on Broadway and will join the cast of *Anything Goes* the day after *Follies* closes (January 24th) as the understudy for Reno Sweeney, covering Sutton Foster.

Taylor Trench just recently came off the world premiere of *Little Miss Sunshine* at La Jolla Playhouse (with a likely Broadway Transfer) and will be playing Boq in the Broadway company of *Wicked* from January 23rd through April 22nd.

Matt Millikin will be stage managing an opera (their annual educational show that performs in the LA Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels) for LA Opera in the spring. He also makes underwater presentations at the California Science Center and is a SCUBA instructor working out of Eco Dive Center in LA.

Grant Gustin recently appeared on multiple episodes of the Fox series *Glee*. He also appeared on a January episode of *CSI: Miami*.

Wendy (Freed) McClesky is proud to announce the birth of her second child, Tucker on November 16!

Tara Jayne Sissom was just cast in *The Iceman Cometh* at the Goodman Theatre for their 2012 season. She will be performing alongside Nathan Lane and Brian Dennehy.

Alex Ellis is currently performing alongside Harry Connick Jr. in *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*. This is her second Broadway show.

Jared Titus is performing in the National Tour of *Spamalot*.

William Commander is a member of ClancyWorks Dance Company in the DC metro area. He is dancing, teaching and doing marketing consultation for the company.

Matthew Masten and **Steven Baker** are the owners and creators of Bennu Productions in NYC - one of their first projects is a production of *Porgy & Bess*, starring Audra McDonald.

Mirai Booth-Ong just finished shooting a sci-fi spec trailer on green screen, and recorded all the female voices (+Malcolm) for a CGI robot version of *Macbeth*. The feature film *No One Will Know* that she shot earlier this year is making the festival circuit, and the horror project *Kill Cam* has completed it's online cycle and is gearing up to be released as a feature film. It was written up in *Variety*, and can be seen on www.killcamlive.com
In other news, Mi is planning her March 24 wedding!

Johnny Stellard, having just finished a run of *Evita* at the North Carolina Theatre, will join the Broadway company of the same show, performing alongside Ricky Martin starting March 12th.

Chandon Jones and **Carly Casey** are performing in the National Tour of *Beauty and the Beast*.

Corey (Roberts) Exline is now working as the Program and Operations Director for an NYC children's theater company called Broadway Bound Kids. She is also the Associate Artistic Director of the newly founded Brooklyn Players Community Musical Theater. After a successful first year they are about to hold auditions for *Into The Woods*. Corey and hubbie Isaiah are also expecting their first baby - a boy - on January 4th!

Rachel Perlman is touring internationally with *The Aluminum Show*.

Todd Horman, is now performing in the Broadway company of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*.

Katie Emerson will be performing in *Hello, Dolly* starring Tony Award-winners Faith Prince and Gary Beach, directed by Marsha Milgrim Dodge at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre in Jupiter, FL from March 13th to April 1st. She will be playing "Minnie Fay".

Susan Slotoroff just finished filming *Speak Now!* the new ESL program through Oxford University Press, that will be featured widely all over the world. This winter Susan is thrilled to be playing Maggie in *Lend me a Tenor* at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina. She shot 3 commercials, 2 independent films and a webseries this fall, and is looking forward to shooting another independent film and a series this spring. Susan is currently costume designing fellow alumni, **Victoria Tucci's**, production of *Romeo and Juliet* that will be coming to NC in March.
www.Susan-Slotoroff.com

Carin Metzger is on tour with the National Theatre for Children

Barrett Wilbert Weed is making her Broadway debut in the new musical *Lysistrata Jones* as a swing.

Michelle Micca recently presented her choreography in the Young Choreographers Showcase NYC.

Mark Duncan is Assistant Directing for Carl Forsman (Artistic Director of Keen Company) on *The Ash Girl* by Timberlake Wertebaker with Pipeline Theatre Company in NY.

Kara Griffin recently completed a dance video in NYC.

Rob Marnell is now performing with the company of *Jersey Boys* in Las Vegas.

Paul Miller is performing in the Broadway production of *Mamma Mia*.

Britton Sparkman got married on August 13! His band, Red Circle Underground just started recording their second album, with an estimated release date of March.

Greg Mahue recently performed in *A Christmas Carol* at the Ford Theatre in Washington, DC. In the spring, he will be playing "Rutledge" in *1776*.

Lindsay Northen recently appeared on an episode of *CSI: Miami*. She continues in the ensemble (and understudy for Galinda) of the Broadway cast of *Wicked*.

Maurice Whitfield was in a November episode of the CBS show *The Young and the Restless* as a guest star.

Alex Pepper is performing and dance captain on the national Tour of *South Pacific*.

MacKenzie Bell is performing Off-Broadway in *Carrie*.

Erin Fitzgerald is dancing with Terranova Dance Theatre and The Dance Cure, both in NC.

Elizabeth (Oller) Wooten is teaching grades 6,7, & 8 at Turrentine Middle School in Burlington, NC.

Allie Lochary is dancing with Summations Dance Company and teaching Pilates in NYC.

Matt Shingledecker is playing the role of Roger in the Off-Broadway production of *Rent*.

Anne Sterling Dale has been showing her choreography in NYC and was recently accepted into *Dance Iquail*, a contemporary ballet company based in NYC. The director of the company, Iquail Shaheed was a dancer in the Broadway cast of *The Lion King*.

Want to Join Us? Here's How....

We are looking for the next great generation of students to join us in the Department of Performing Arts!

- An on-campus audition is required for our BFA programs (Acting, Dance, Music Theatre)
- An interview/portfolio showing is required for our BA Theatrical Design & Production program.
- No interview or audition is required for the BA Theatre Studies program, or for our Minors in Theatre Arts or Dance

More Audition Information and On-Line Applications at:

www.elon.edu/perarts