



# ~The Marquee~

The Newsletter of the Department of Performing Arts, Elon University

Volume XIII, Issue 2 – Fall, 2009

The Marquee, 2800 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244; e-mail: [rubeck@elon.edu](mailto:rubeck@elon.edu)



## Fall Performance Schedule

**Don't Miss These Great Shows!**

*Location Guide: MCT= McCrary Theatre; YRH= Yeager Recital Hall; BBT= Black Box Theatre; DSA=Dance Studio A; WMA = Williamson Ave.*

### October

7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, – Psycho Beach Party, 7:30, BBT  
10, 11 – Psycho Beach Party , 2:00, BBT  
22, 23 – Dance Salons, 6:00 & 8:00, DSA  
29, 30, 31 – Kiss Me Kate, 7:30, MCT

### November

6, 7 – Kiss Me Kate, 7:30, MCT  
8 - Kiss Me Kate, 2:00, MCT  
12, 13, – Dancing in the Black Box, 6:00 & 8:30, BBT  
14 – Dancing in the Black Box, 7:30 and 9:30, BBT  
19, 20, 21, 22 – ACT. Senior Seminar: *Rabbit Hole* , Times TBA, BBT  
22, 23 – *Freshman Acting Showcase*, Times TBA, WMA

### December

6, 7, 8, – MTE Senior Seminar: *Assassins*, Times TBA, BBT

### January

16 - Broadway Cares – Time TBA, YRH  
21, 22, 23, 25 – *Time of Your Life* – 7: 30 , BBT  
23, 24 – *Time of Your Life* - 2:00, BBT

### February

3, 4, 5, 6 - *Time of Your Life* - 7:30, BBT  
6 – *Time of Your Life* - 2:00, BBT

## Professional Master Classes

The Fall semester is off to a great start with lots of master classes! We began on September 8<sup>th</sup> with a visit from alumni **Nathan Moore** and **Phillip Ward** who were shooting an independent film in the area. They spoke to the Acting and Music Theatre Majors about life and work in L.A.



September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> brought us renowned Music Theatre composer **Craig Cornelia** (*Working, Is There Life After High School?*) In New York, he is a highly sought after vocal coach. Fourteen Music Theatre Majors were selected to participate in the Master Class in which Mr. Cornelia worked with them individually on their vocal performance technique.

**Scott Eck**, an old friend of the Acting Program and of professor Richard Gang, spent September 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> with us for his greatly anticipated Improvisation Mastery workshop. Mr. Eck is the founder of The Laughingstock Company, a New York based improv troupe. The weekend began on Friday with a department-wide workshop on the basics of improv. On Saturday, 17 students participated in an improv intensive, culminating in a public performance. On Sunday, Mr. Eck said farewell with a thoughtful discussion on life as a theatre artist.



## Master Classes Cont.

On September 29<sup>th</sup> we were visited by one of Kirby Wahl's former students, **Seth Shaffer**, who gave a delightful presentation on the art and business of puppetry. He is currently on the road with his tour partner, Gregg Wozniak, with the Madcap Puppet company.

Choreographer **Leslie Scott** gave a dance Master Class on October 1<sup>st</sup>. She is the director of *bodyart*, a critically acclaimed dance company based in New York. While here, she also held auditions for the piece she will be choreographing for our Spring concert. Ms. Scott will be in residency for the entire month of January setting that piece.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Vicki Regan**, Ballroom Champion and actor (*Grand Hotel* with Tommy Tune, *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* with Gower Champion), gave a Master Class in Beginning and Advanced Ballroom.

**Charles Strouse**, Broadway composer (*Bye Bye Birdie, Annie*) will be on campus October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> filming portions of a documentary on his music. He will also attend our production of *Kiss Me Kate*.



On December 4<sup>th</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>, Elon will be graced once more with a visit from the legendary actor **Olympia Dukakis**. It has been two years since her last visit and she is excited to work with our students again. Her visit will consist

of a public Q&A and two days of working individually with students on scene study.

**Paul Russel**, professional casting director and author of *Acting: Make it Your Business*, will be on campus for three days of Master Classes, January 8<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, NYC casting director **Dave Clemmons** will be returning for his annual Master Class.

---

## PROFESSIONAL COMPANIES SLATED TO HOLD AUDITIONS ON CAMPUS

**Busch Gardens** will return to campus once again to conduct auditions and interviews on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Stiletto Entertainment** will join us for their auditions on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

---

## In Memoriam



We are sad to share the passing of Judy Gang, wife of Associate Professor Richard Gang on Friday October 2, 2009.

A memorial service to celebrate Judy's life will be held on Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> (Judy's Birthday) at 10:00 am in Whitley auditorium on the Elon Campus. The memorial will be followed by a time of fellowship and refreshment on the second floor of the Oaks Commons Building.

Donations in Judy's honor may be made to the Elon University Department of Performing Arts. Donations should be sent to Elon University, 2600 Campus Box, Elon NC 27244.

## Faculty News and Notes

**Kevin Otos** directed *Romeo and Juliet* this summer at the Texas Shakespeare Festival and attended the Association for Theatre in Higher Education's conference in New York City where he made a presentation on Shakespeare's clowns and fools.

**Jack Smith** was recently invited to design for Orlando's Repertory Theatre, a professional children's theatre that works in conjunction with the University of Central Florida's Theatre Department. He designed the theatre's season opening production of *Charlotte's Web*.

**Lynne Formato** recently attended the Music Theatre Educators Alliance International Conference in Fredericia, Denmark and Hamburg, Germany. Formato, who is in her second elected term as vice president for the organization, presented a master class on "American Theatre Dance" for 25 students from the Stage School in Hamburg for colleagues from across Europe and the US.

This summer **Fred Rubeck** directed *Charlie's Aunt* at Maples Repertory Theatre in Missouri and attended the Association for Theatre and Higher Education conference in New York City. Fred is a member of the governing council for ATHE.

---

## Scholarship Fund-Raising Dinners Set for 09-10!

We are excited to announce that we will be sponsoring our second year of scholarship fund raising dinners, following the success of last year's events.

Tickets for the fund-raising dinners are \$150.00 each and include a served dinner and premium reserved seating for that night's performance. Profits from each will provide scholarships to worthy students in Music Theatre, Acting, Dance, and Design & Production. Below are the dates for this year's events.

- *Kiss Me Kate*- Saturday, November 7
- *Elements: Spring Dance Concert* – Saturday, May 8

For more information or to make your reservation for one of the dinners, contact Kimberly Rippey at 336-278-5600 or via email: [krippy@elon.edu](mailto:krippy@elon.edu).

# Support the Department of Performing Arts

Your kind donation can help us "make the magic!"

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Donation – Thank You!

**Please tell us how you would like your gift applied**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Annual Gifts** (to support Performing Arts' operation & productions)

-or-

\_\_\_\_\_ **Talent Scholarships** (please specify which program)

\_\_\_ Acting \_\_\_ Music Theatre \_\_\_ Dance \_\_\_ Design & Production

-or-

\_\_\_\_\_ **Endowed Scholarship Funds** (please specify which fund)

\_\_\_\_\_ Catherine H. McNeela Music Theatre Scholarship  
(in support of worthy Music Theatre majors)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sam White Scholarship in honor of Professor Mel Wooten  
(in support of Senior Theatre and Music Theatre majors as they pursue internships, study abroad, conferences, professional auditions, etc.)

***Please Contact Me to Discuss:***

\_\_\_\_\_ *I would like to establish a new endowed Performing Arts scholarship.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I would like to include the Performing Arts in my estate planning.*

**Please send this form and your check, payable to Elon University, 2600 Campus Box, Elon NC 27244**

## Questions?

Contact Fred Rubeck, Department Chair @ 336-278-5695;  
[rubeck@elon.edu](mailto:rubeck@elon.edu)

## Alumni News & Notes

**Matt Shingledecker** and **Taylor Trench** are currently touring with *Spring Awakening*.

**Matt Leckenbusch** is the Technical Director/ Production Manager at the South Carolina Governors School for Arts and Humanities. He is also designing for the Warehouse Theatre and Center Stage in SC and is currently working on a MA in Arts Administration at Winthrop University.

**Alex Ellis** has been cast in Cirque du Soleil's new show *Vaudeville*. She is in Canada creating the new piece for four months – it then moves to Chicago and then NYC.

**Matt Millikin** is stage managing at LA Opera. His current shows include *Seigfreid* and *The Barber of Seville*.

**Jay Briggs** is working as a Directing Intern at the Actors Theatre of Louisville.

**Allison Knock** and **Eric Mann** are performing in *West Side Story* at NCT in Raleigh, NC.

**Victoria Tucci** has been invited to return for the second year of professional actor training at the Circle in the Square Theatre.

**Lauren Patton** is touring for second year with *The Wizard of Oz* as Ensemble, Dorothy u/s, and has been promoted to Dance Captain. Check out if she is coming to a city near you!

<http://www.wizardofozontour.com/>

**Beth Goodell** is currently working as an Associate Therapist with Autism Outreach, Incorporated in Reston, Virginia and auditioning in Washington, DC.

**Katharine Lowery** is now the Second Assistant Lighting Director for American Ballet Theatre at the Metropolitan Opera House in NYC.

**Phillip Ward** just finished shooting *HellPhone* in NC with fellow alumni **Nathan Moore**. Phillip's three short films *SapSucker*, *The Darling*, and *Ofelia and Joe* are making the film festival rounds and doing very well. He is working on two screenplays *The Legend of Jucas Craig* and *Ginson Twist*.

**Matthew Masten** is the Artistic Administration/ Casting Intern for the Signature Theatre in Arlington, VA. Upcoming: Assistant directing "Nobody's Perfect" at the Kennedy Center and *Little Shop of Horrors* at Ford's Theatre.

**Sam Noble** is living and working in Boston and will be moving to NYC in the near future. She has been doing extra work on movies that are filming in the area and recently appeared in a Visa commercial. She was cast by the Museum of Science in Boston as a host at their Harry Potter Exhibit.

**Ben Seay** recently shot a Geico commercial 'with the famous Gecko' and has an indie film *Cupids Arrow* in screenings.

**Amanda Sox** is currently working as a costume intern at Actor's Theatre of Louisville.

**Brittany Susko** was recently on two episodes of the Lifetime show *Army Wives*.

**Susan Soloroff** was recently cast as Laura in the new play "Prince Charming: Presented without Comment". She is also working with the murder mystery company "Just Add Murder" on their new show "Karl's Killer Sauce". Commercially, she filmed a company promo for Kotex last month. She is also excited to begin her second year touring with the Central Park Zoo's Wildlife Theatre.

**Tara Sissom** is a Company Member and Art Director of The New Colony, an original works theatre in Chicago. She just closed *Frat* and is in *Tupperware: An American Musical Fable*. Her play, *11:11*, will open in spring of 2010. Tara is a member of Friendshipsoulmateporno, a sketch comedy group and studies improv and writing at IO and The Annoyance Theatre.

**Jess Barbour** just worked on two industrials, one for IBM and the other for an independent triathlon training company. She is also playing Sister Mary Leo in *Nunsense* at NRACT and was just cast as a day player in the pilot for a new TV show.

**Mark Duncan** recently directed *American Jataka Tales* in the NYC Fringe Festival and *I Hate Love* in the Midtown International Theatre Festival for which he was awarded 'Best Director'.

**Elizabeth Oller** was married to Rob Wooten this summer and they are happily living in Burlington, NC.

**Daniel J. Watts** is performing in *Memphis*, which opens on Broadway in October.

**Meredith Wood** is happy to announce that she was just married a few weeks ago to Matt Davis!

**Corey Roberts** was married to Isaiah Exline on September 26.

**Mirai Booth-Ong** is performing as Maria in *The Sound of Music*, and just completed a web-series on Larping: [www.larpingtheseries.com](http://www.larpingtheseries.com). She is also starting a website design and image branding service for actors, webseries, and creative folk. Check out [www.brandaging.com](http://www.brandaging.com) for more info.

**Kevin Hoffmann** is in the graduate acting program at the Old Globe in California. He is in rehearsals now for their summer rep as Sebastian in *Twelfth Night*, Musketeer/Musician in *Cyrano de Bergerac* and Senator/Soldier/Citizen in *Coriolanus*.

**Hannah Campbell** is the new host for New Filmmakers LA. She is the moderator and Q&A host of the live monthly event at Sunset Gower Studios. In addition, she has been filming one-on-one interviews with filmmakers that will be launched on [MoviemakerMagazine.com](http://MoviemakerMagazine.com).

**Ginny Buckner** is currently performing in *Flee This Place* at Burning Coal in Raleigh, NC.

## 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.

# Want to Join Us?

## Here's How....

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

- Students wishing to major in **Acting, Dance, or Music Theatre** must audition to be accepted to those programs.
- Students wishing to major in **Theatrical Design & Production** must complete an interview/portfolio showing to be accepted to that program.
- No audition or interview is required for those wishing to enter the **Theatre Studies program**.
- No audition or interview is required for those wishing to minor in **Theatre Arts** or in **Dance**.

The following dates can be used for your department audition/interview:

### October:

- 9 – Acting, Theatrical Design & Production
- 23 – Dance, Theatrical Design & Production
- 30 – Acting, Music Theatre, Theatrical Design & Production

### November:

- 6 – Acting, Music Theatre, Theatrical Design & Production
- 13 – Dance, Theatrical Design & Production
- 20 – Acting, Dance, Music Theatre, Theatrical Design & Production

### February:

- 6 – Acting, Music Theatrical Theatre, Design & Production
- 12 – Acting, Music Theatre, Dance, Theatrical Design & Production
- 19 – Acting, Music Theatre, Theatrical Design & Production
- 26 – Acting, Dance, Music Theatre, Theatrical Design & Production

### March:

- 12 – Acting, Music Theatre, Theatrical Design & Production

Please contact our Audition coordinator, Kimberly Rippy at (336) 278-5600, or via email: [krippy@elon.edu](mailto:krippy@elon.edu) for more information, including audition forms.

Please be advised that all department forms and fees must be **received** at least two weeks prior to your desired audition date.