Elon Takes Broadway By Storm!

In January, the Performing Arts Department sent a group of students to New York City for a two week Acting Intensive. The students participated in a Michael Chekhov method workshop with Lenard Petit, Artistic Director of the Michael Chekhov Acting Studio. “The Chekhov Technique is a very useful tool to incorporate into my training,” says senior Beth Goodell. “At Elon we learn Meisner and Stanislavski techniques which teach us ‘what’ we want to do. Chekhov goes beyond to give us ‘how’ we will do the ‘what’. It doesn’t replace what we’ve already learned, but supplements it and makes it easier to do.” The technique, a psycho-physical approach to acting in which transformation, working with impulse, imagination and inner and outer gesture are central.

The students enjoyed living in New York and getting an idea of what life will be like when they move to the city after graduation. They were able to attend several Broadway performances including: Equus, All My Sons, In the Heights, Alter Boyz, and August: Osage County. The alumni association also provided the students the opportunity to attend Wicked and an alumni reception. The event was an excellent networking opportunity for all involved. The group met with several industry professionals including Manager Serena Esposito; renowned Meisner expert Bill Esper; talent agent Meg Pentera; and Marcie Phillips head of casting for ABC Television.

Upon returning to Elon, the students presented a Chekov method demonstration to the rest of the Performing Arts Department. It was evident that this was truly a life-changing experience for the participants of the New York Trip; they were transformed artistically, personally, and spiritually. Junior, Joanna Bateman who was part of the demonstration commented, “Because the work is so personal to each individual who does it, I wanted to include the audience as much as possible. This art form is something you can’t learn by watching. You have to do it, say ‘yes’ to every impulse and do what your body tells you to. I hope people got that.”
Spring 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

February

4, 5, 6, 7 – The Country Wife, 7:30, BBT
7 – The Country Wife, 2:00, BBT
12, 13, 14, 15 – Nine, 7:30, MCT
20 – One Act Festival, 7:30, BBT
21 – One Act Festival, 2:00 & 7:30, BBT
22 – One Act Festival, 2:00, BBT
27, 28 – Danceworx, 7:30, BBT

March

1 – Danceworx, 2:00, BBT
15, 16, 17 – MTE Senior Project #2, Times TBA, BBT

April

3, 4 – Grand Night, 7:00 & 8:30, YRH
5, 6, 7 – Dance Senior Project, Times TBA, BBT
23, 24, 25 – Noises Off, 7:30, MCT
26 – Noises Off, 2:00, MCT
Tapped Out, 6:00 & 7:30, McKinnon
27 – Tapped Out, 6:00, McKinnon
28, 30 – Edges, 7:30, BBT
29 – Mother Courage and Her Children, 7:30, BBT

May

1 – Mother Courage and Her Children, 7:30, BBT
2 – Mother Courage and Her Children, 2:00, BBT
2 – Edges, 7:30, BBT
10, 11, 12 – ACT Senior Proj. #2 – Times TBA, BBT

As usual Spring is a very busy time in the Department. It’s even busier because of the number of companies that come to our campus to recruit our majors for professional work.

Professional Master Classes

Choreographer Liz Maxwell was here in January to set a Laura Dean piece on our majors for Vibe the Spring Dance concert. Composer John Bucchino will return to campus February 23rd to teach a series of master classes. Anthony Zerbe, award-winning actor of film, stage, and TV, will be performing his one-man show, and teaching a master class in April. Other special guests for the year are still pending final arrangements.

Dave Clemmons will be returning to campus four times through out the Spring for several sessions with the senior class as well as a Master Class.

Faculty News and Notes

Kevin Otos recently appeared for the second time on the television drama One Tree Hill in the episode “We Change, We Wait”. He is currently in pre-production for Romeo and Juliet which he will direct this summer at the Texas Shakespeare Festival.

Kirby Wahl performed in The Prisoner’s Dilemma at the Burning Coal Theatre last fall; he also served as the dialect coach for the production. He continues to serve as an officer on the Open Space Café Theatre’s Board of Directors. He has been invited to teach a weekend workshop on Fitzmaurice Voicework by the East Carolina Music Theatre Association at ECU.

You’re Invited – Scholarship Fund-Raising Dinners Set for 08-09!

In an effort to increase scholarship funding, and to provide scholarships for programs that have previously been unfunded, Steven House, the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences launched the idea of hosting pre-theatre scholarship fund-raising dinners for each of our productions in McCrary Theatre.

Tickers 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. Please note which program is supported by each dinner.

Noises Off – Saturday, April 25 (benefits Acting)
Vibe: Spring Dance Concert – Saturday, May 9 (benefits Dance)

For more information or to make your reservation for one of the dinners, contact Kimberly Rippy at 336-278-5600 or via email: 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)

- Talent Scholarships (please specify which program)
  Acting __ Music Theatre __ Dance ____ Design & Production

- Endowed Scholarship Funds (please specify which fund)
  ___ Catherine H. McNeela Music Theatre Scholarship
  ___ Mel Wooten Theatre Scholarship
  (in support of worthy Music Theatre majors)
  (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.

Questions?
Contact Fred Rubeck, Department Chair @ 336-278-5695; rubeck@elon.edu

Alumni News & Notes

Matt Shingledecker is Georg, and Melchior u/s on the Spring Awakening National Tour.

Jay Briggs is currently the Assistant Director on Big Love, and directing the premiere of Megan Sass’ Joan 3:16 for Extra Pulp Ensemble- part of Manhattan Repertory Theatre’s Winterfest New Play Festival.

Kevin Hoffmann is in the graduate program at the Old Globe Theatre. He is in Six Degrees of Separation, in rehearsal for The Greeks, and understudying Opus in the Spring.

Holly Hanson recently moved to NY and is a Junior Member of the Laughingstock Company, Scott Eck’s Improv Troup.

Mirai Booth-Ong recently finished a run of Clue! at the Hollywood Fight Club Theatre and has been directing Teenage Love Story for their children’s theatre company.

Connie Renda is producing The Last Five Years at the Pullo Center at Penn State. She is also in a new web series (www.black20.com) and shot two more episodes for Guiding Light. She has recently filmed several commercials including Chili’s, Best Buy, and Macy’s, and has appeared on TV shows including One Life to Live, As the World Turns, and Dove Fresh Takes with Alicia Keys.

Dionne Eleby is performing with the professional dance company STEP AFRIKA! They are touring the country and have performed at the Kennedy Center and the National Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Justin Roller played Billy in Anything Goes last summer, directed several shows at the Improv Playhouse in Chicago last fall, and has recently moved to New York.

Meredith Wood is currently in a production of Picasso at the Lapin Agile as Female Admirer and u/s Suzanne with the St. Sebastian Theatre in Chicago.

Danielle B. Tolley is a producer for WET (Women’s Expressive Theatre) in NY. Additionally she is the resident Casting Director for Strait 90’s Productions and is working on the film Concerto by fellow Elon Alum, Brian Goodwin.

Jess Barbour was just cast as Beth/Imogene in NCT’s tour of The Best Christmas Pageant Ever! Her recent film Will to Power just went to DVD.

Daniel Marin starred in the short film last year, El Primo which has recently been circulating all the major film festivals.

Lauren Patten is on the National Tour of The Wizard of Oz as Ensemble, u/s Dorothy, and Asst. Dance Captain.

Susan Slotoroff has been doing children’s theatre at the New York Hall of Science and is performing in Maggie’s Getting Married with the Broadhollow Theatre Co.

Maggie Henry just shot for the new CBS show ‘The Ex-List’ which premiered in November. Also, she will be appearing in the film Rough Hustle.

Andrew Frace is on the National Tour of The Lion King as Ed and u/s Timon & Zazu.

Alicia Reynolds has been traveling the world working as a singer on a cruise ship.

Lacy Varn is currently work-shopping a new musical, Light and Sweet. She is also in the Hotel Gansevoort’s new ad campaign and will appear in next month’s Martha Stewart Wedding magazine.

Christina Caravella is working with Prather Entertainment Group performing in All Shook Up and The Wedding Singer.

Tallen Olsen is teaching Music and Music Theatre at a NJ high school. He is also the Minister of Music at a UCC church.
**Allison Nock** is working at the Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre in Wichita, Kansas where she recently played in *Club Morroco* and *7 Brides for 7 Brothers*.

**Lauren Adams** is doing Improv at The Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in NY and was recently cast in the new musical *Illyria* where she will play the understudy to both Olivia and Maria. See an article about the show at [www.playbill.com/news/article121910.html](http://www.playbill.com/news/article121910.html)

**Kiira Schmidt** recently finished in the run of *No, No, Nanette* at the NYC City Center and then went on to play Ellie in *Showboat* at Gateway Playhouse and Gertie in *Oklahoma!* at Papermill Playhouse. This winter she appeared on Broadway in *White Christmas*.

**Lindsay Northern** is in the ensemble of *Wicked* on Broadway; she is also the understudy for Glinda.

**Lauren K Redmond** is the Assistant Company Manager for the Hartford Stage in Connecticut and is preparing for her wedding in late June.

**Alex Ellis** is now playing Kate/Chutney and Vivienne U/S for the First National Tour of *Legally Blonde*. She has also recently been in *All Shook Up* at Maine State Music Theatre and in *Edges*, *A Song Cycle* with Music Theatre of CT.

**Mark Ludden** recently finished the National Tour of *Evita* and worked at the Merry-Go-Round Theatre this summer where he played in *Les Miserables* and *The Producers*. He is now playing as Bishop and Jean Valjean in *Les Mis* at Arkansas Repertory Theatre.

**Maurice Whitfield** finished his internship at B Street Theatre and went on to play in the ensemble of *Sweeney Todd* and *Evita* at the California Music Circus. You can check out his newest tunes at [www.reverbnation.com/80/snoovm09](http://www.reverbnation.com/80/snoovm09)

**Jen DeMinco** just finished shooting for the film *The Colony* and was cast in the film *Sweet Water Creek* and the TV show *Eleventh Hour*.

**Tara Sissom** is studying Improv at The Annoyance Theatre in Chicago and is in The New Colony’s production of *FRAT*.

**Kelly Dynan** is currently singing at Ellen’s Stardust Diner in Times Square. She recently finished playing Meredith in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* with the CBU players.

**Liz Marion** is currently playing Charity Barnum in *Barnum* with the Alpha Omega Players in PA.

**Allison Spratt** just finished *Cry Baby* on Broadway and is now performing the role of Miss B. in *Enter Laughing* at the York Theatre off Broadway. Look out for her in the Rider’s Jeans National Commercial.

**Mary Margaret Anderson** has had a busy year starting with the role of Vivian in *State Fair* at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia. She then went on to the Surflight Theatre in NJ where she performed in *Chicago* (Velma Kelly), *The Miracle Worker*, *Kismet*, *All Shook Up*, *It’s a Wonderful Life*, *The Silver Dollar*, *The Producers*, and *Oklahoma!*.

**Julia (Goden) Parrish** is the Resident Music Director at Children’s Playhouse of Maryland. Recent projects include: *Crazy for You*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*. She is looking forward to the arrival of her second baby this March!

**Katie Lester** is dancing with the Caroline Calouche dance company in Charlotte, NC and is teaching dance and pilates at a Charlotte dance studio.

**Kim Willis** is currently touring with Theatreworks USA performing *If you give a Pig a Pancake*.

**Hannah Campbell** recently wrapped up the role of Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* and is currently starring in a series of webisodes called ‘Backstage’.

**Joleen Neighbours** has been elected to the Board of Directors for the Virginia Theatre Association and is the Secondary Education Chair. She is currently directing *Grease*. She was also named ‘Teacher of the Year’!

**Michael Tilma** is in Raleigh working for the public school system as a Stage and Studio Technician and writing an original musical.

**Laurie (Saylor) Cutler** is living in Virginia Beach where she was recently in the ensemble of *Aida* with Virginia Musical Theatre.

**Katie (Padgett) Miller** lives with her husband in Fairfax, VA where she is Associate Director of Metropolitan Fine Arts Center. She was invited to perform at the Lincoln Center in May 2008, with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

**Perry Medlin** is living in Charlottesville, VA where he is a dance instructor for the Orange School of the Performing Arts and Shergold Ballroom studio. This summer he will be choreographing *Oliver!* and *Little Shop of Horrors* for Heritage Repertory Theatre.

**Bree Sherry** is continuing to work on her Masters Degree in Stage Management at Yale School of Drama. In the spring she will be working on Odet’s *Paradise Lost* for Tim Vassen.

**Nancy (Snow) Carr** is currently pursuing an MFA in Musical Theatre at San Diego State University.

**Cindy Jung Santore** is the Director of Performing Arts at The Connection in Summit, NJ. She recently finished choreographing *The Beauty and the Beast* and had a baby girl!

**Natalie Newman** has had a busy year working at Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, VA, and North Carolina Theatre in Raleigh. She is now in New York and working on a new musical called *POPart.*

**Cory Loftus** recently finished his internship at the Heritage Theatre Festival and has moved to New York.

**Tamara Issac** has been working as a producer on *Fringe*, a TV show on Fox. She is getting married in April.

**Marissa Pepple** has been doing stand in work on several shows including *Cupid*, *Law and Order SVU*, *Criminal Intent*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Fringe*, and *Rescue Me*. She is featured in upcoming episodes of *Flight of the Conchords*, and *Kings*.

**Katie McCrystal** is working for Dance Space in Washington, DC as their PR & Marketing Director.

**Charles Keenan** is currently Producing/ Directing/ Acting in a new project titled ‘Elisnore’ that will be coming out this summer.

**Matt Millikin** was the PSO of *La Boheme* at the University of Colorado, and ASM for *The Magic Flute* at LA Opera. He is currently an ASM on the first Ring Cycle Opera, *Das Rheingold*.

**Ben Seay** has an AT&T commercial coming out and his film ‘Sons of Liberty’ has been screened at the New Filmmakers Film Festival in LA and NYC.

**Amanda Sox** is a Grant Writing Assistant for non-profit companies in LA.

---

**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.