



~The Marquee~

The Newsletter of the Department of Performing Arts, Elon University

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The Marquee, 2800 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244; e-mail: rubeck@elon.edu

Welcome to the NEW Marquee!

Regular readers of *The Marquee* will notice some changes with this current edition. As our newsletter enters its tenth year of publication, we needed to expand it in order to include all of the exciting things going on in the Department of Performing Arts, and news from our wonderful and successful alumni. We hope you enjoy the new expanded version of *The Marquee*. In addition, beginning with the next edition (fall 06) we will begin offering an on-line edition, accessible through the department web page on the Elon University site. And please remember, this is *your* newsletter. If you have suggestions, story ideas, or news items, please forward them via email (rubeck@elon.edu) or via traditional “snail mail” to *The Marquee*, Department of Performing Arts, Elon University, 2800 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244.



OUR 2006-2007 PRODUCTION SEASON!

Mark Your Calendar Now So You Don't Miss These Great Productions!

We have a very busy and exciting season ahead of us this year. In addition to the fantastic musicals, dance concerts, and comedy/dramas listed below, we also expect a great line up of senior projects from the graduating class of '07. Watch for upcoming editions of *The Marquee* for details on those additions to our calendar.

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

FALL

- Collage* (music theatre revue) YRH-Sept 15-16
- Blues for an Alabama Sky* (drama) BBT-Oct 4-10
- Carousel* (musical) MCT-Oct 27-Nov 5
- Acting Up! With Student-Directed One-Acts* (scenes, monologues, and short plays) BBT – Nov 17-18.
- Fall Studio Dance Concert* (student works) Studio #1-Dec 6

WINTERSTOCK

- The Marriage of Bette and Boo* (comedy) BBT-Jan 19-Feb 3
- A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine* (musical) MCT-Feb 8-11

SPRING

- Quickies* (student-written and produced plays) BBT – Feb 23-24
- Just Dancin' Around* (student works) BBT – Mar 2,3
- Grand Night for Singing* (music theatre revue) YRH – Mar 30,31
- She Stoops to Conquer* (comedy) MCT – Apr 19-22
- Festival of Student-Directed Works - BBT – Apr 24-28
- Elon Dancers* (faculty & guest artist choreography) MCT – May 3-5



ELON INVADES SUMMER THEATRES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY!!!!

... *But it's a friendly invasion.* This year over 60 of our majors are working professionally all over the country. Our Design & Production, Acting, Music Theatre, Dance, and Theatre Studies majors are plying their trade at a theatre near you! Below is a list of where our majors are working this summer.

Heritage Repertory Theatre, VA

Ashley Campana
Tal Fish
Greg Maheu
Rob Marnell
Perry Medlin
Kelly Schmidt
Bree Sherry
Sarah Stevens

Seaside Music Theatre, FL

Matt Shingledecker
Chris Janata

Hangar Theatre, NY

Jay Briggs

Circle-in-the-Square, NY

Victoria Tucci

Orlando Shakespeare Festival

Trista Duval

B-Street Theatre, CA

Charles Keenan

Papermill Theatre, NH

Chelsey Clark
Chandon Jones

Arkansas Repertory Theatre, AK

Cameron Wade
Steven Baker

Big Fork Summer Theatre, MT

Cary Mitchell
Brooke Morrison

Walt Disney World, FL

Maura Phraner
Brian Summer

Flat Rock Playhouse, NC

Caroline Bower
Ian Frazier
Dan Gibson
Lauren Patton
Kelly Schmidt
Lauren Rogers
Drew Seigla

Music Theatre Workshop, PA

Keely Scarlata

Cain Park Outdoor Theatre, OH

Christina Caravella

Berkshire Theatre Festival, MA

Elizabeth Oller
Amanda Sox

Georgia Shakespeare Festival, GA

Kristina Damschen

Lakes Region Summer Theatre, NH

Cara Anstosca
Mirai Booth-Ong
Hillary Helmling
Elizabeth Miller

Theatre at Monmouth, ME

Jess Geguzis

The Lost Colony, NC

Dan Belmont
Matt Glover
Ken Handler
Michael Miller
Mike Tilma

Broadway Theatre Project, FL

Dionne Eleby

Central Piedmont Summer Theatre

Matt Keffer
Allison Nock
Rebecca O'Quinn
Maurice Whitfield

Discoveryland, OK

Mackenzie Bell
Carly Casey
Preston Ellis
Nick Ryan

Snow Camp Outdoor Drama, NC

Andrew Cioffi
April Holloway
Christopher Kiley
Reid Robinson

E. Carolina U Summer Theatre, NC

Kim Willes

Lees McRae Summer Theatre, NC

Corey Loftus
Kelli Russell

Maples Repertory Theatre, MI

Will Amato

Santaland! NH

John Say

Stephen Foster Theatre, KY

Kristin Alvis
Katie Emerson

Praether Family theatre

Andrea Cameron

Suntrust Bank Industrial

Jessica Barbour

"Welcome" to the Incoming Class!

Please join us in welcoming this exceptional group of incoming and transfer students to our department! 62 students from 20 states!

| <u>Dance</u> | <u>Acting</u> | <u>Music Theatre</u> | <u>Design & Production</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jessica Beck (OH) | Tristan Bailey (NC) | Ashley Culiccia (LA) | Bernadette Bui (MD) |
| Casey Castine (MA) | Laura Baker (NC) | Ashley Flanagan (NY) | John Paul Mullican (MA) |
| Natasha Cooper (MD) | Marshall Chaney (NC) | Alexandra Hensley (NC) | Stuart Richie (VA) |
| Jamie Lee DeVantier (PA) | Marshall Chaney (NC) | Erin Burniston (VA) | |
| Ashley Emmons (NJ) | Annie Duckett (PA) | Julianne Katz (AZ) | |
| Rachel Fine (VA) | Matt Emig (PA) | Max Korn (NC) | |
| Sabine Gempel (FL) | Daniel Gibbons (OH) | Eric Mann (AR) | |
| Ellen Kaspik (MA) | Sebastian Gunderson (FL) | Kevin Manship (VA) | |
| Michelle Micca (CT) | Tucker Krishock (TN) | Courtney Markowitz (PA) | |
| Taylor Murray (NC) | Melanie Lastrina (CT) | Emily Rice (TX) | |
| Lulainne Palchinsky (NC) | Evin Rose Lipman (OH) | Roy SanFilipo (NC) | |
| Rachel Perlman (MA) | Chelsey McGinnis (PA) | Teddy Scott (CO) | |
| Matina Phillips (VA) | Sarah Pace (NC) | Michael Sherry (NJ) | |
| Karena Thacker (NC) | Sarah Reedy (GA) | Christopher Staskel (NC) | |
| | Edward Schmidt (NC) | John Stellard (MI) | |
| | Mark Anthony St. Cyr (LA) | Lindsay Stephan (FL) | |
| | Lynnae Vana (NC) | Sunny Smith (NC) | |
| | | Ian Subsara (NY) | |
| | | Alexa Wildish (CA) | |
| | | Christopher Wood (OH) | |
| | | Justin Wooten (NC) | |

Theatre Studies

Kathleen Austin (VT)
Jacob Bowden (NC)
Rachel Fine (VA)
Christopher Floyd (GA)
Meredith Gullely (WV)
Kimberly Hogg (NC)
Erin Southard (MD)
Christine Winans (NJ)

Department Faculty News And Notes...

Oh, Confusion!?!

Those who don't know us well have expressed some concern about changes taking place in our department – particularly when they learn that we have a new department chair. An explanation of our department structure may help clear up the confusion.

We are the **Department of Performing Arts**. There is no “dance department,” “theatre department,” or “music theatre department” – and there never was. The Department of Performing Arts houses our **programs** in music theatre, acting, dance, theatrical design & production, and theatre studies. The Chair is the administrative leader of the whole department (all programs.) Within our department we also have three Coordinators – one for Dance, one for Music Theatre, and one for Theatre Arts (acting, design, & theatre studies.) These faculty members oversee activities within each area.

In recent years Catherine McNeela has been our Department Chair and Coordinator of Music Theatre. Fred Rubeck has been Coordinator of Theatre Arts, and Jane Wellford has coordinated Dance. Beginning this year, Fred Rubeck will serve as Department Chair (and will continue to be Coordinator of Theatre Arts,) Catherine McNeela will continue as Coordinator of Music Theatre, Lauren Kearns, will serve as Coord of Dance. Such leadership rotations are not at all unusual in the academic world. Prospective students and their families should be assured that strong leadership will continue for all our programs, and for the department of Performing Arts in general.

Welcome to Our New Faculty Members!

Please join us in welcoming two new colleagues – and one very familiar one...

Lauren Kearns will assume the role of Coordinator of Dance at Elon beginning this fall. She joins us from Rio Hondo College in Whittier, CA where she was Director of Dance. Her research interests include the application of somatic theories to dance training and performance, the utilization of video in dance, and autobiography in dance. Lauren is an internationally known choreographer and dancer who earned her MFA in Dance and MA in Dance Education and Theory from UCLA. She also holds national certifications in Vinyasa Flow Yoga and Classical Pilates.

Kevin Otos joins Elon after teaching at Oklahoma State University and Whitman College. He is an Equity member, has directed a variety of plays, and enjoys the study of commedia and theatrical clown. Kevin's MFA was completed at Florida State University where he studied with outstanding theatre artists such as Jose Quintero. Kevin will be teaching a wide variety of acting and other theatre courses as our new Theatre Generalist.

Bill Webb is not a new face around our building, but this year he was made a full time faculty member in our department. Prior to this his position was “shared” with the Office of Cultural Programs. Starting this year he joins us “full time.”



Performing Arts Faculty Having A Busy Summer

Lynne Formato is choreographing *A Chorus Line* for Arkansas Repertory Theatre, and *South Pacific* for Heritage Repertory Theatre. She will finish her summer by directing and choreographing *The Full Monty* for ArtPark.

Richard Gang is at Heritage Repertory Theatre in Virginia, performing the role of Gunner in *Don't Hug Me*.

Ken Lee was the featured soloist at the York Minister Choral Festival in York, Great Britain in May. The festival was part of a fund-raising effort to raise 23 million pounds for the restoration of the cathedral. The rehearsals and concerts were recorded by the BBC for a future documentary on the cathedral restoration.

Fred Rubeck will attend the Association of Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference in Chicago in August. He serves as Conference Planner and rising Focus Group Representative for the Playwrights Program of ATHE and will participate in the ATHE Leadership Institute. He will also produce a staged reading of a new play written by Romulus Linney.

Kirby Wahl is enrolled in the Society of American Fight Directors Summer Stage Combat Workshop, held on the campus of the North Carolina School for the Arts.

Bill Webb is traveling the country working for All Staging Unlimited as Crew Chief & Installer for corporate scenery.

Jane Wellford was a consultant for the NC Dept of Public Instruction to facilitate workshops for Dance and Theatre teachers in the public school system – to assist them with the development of Honors courses for High Schools throughout the state.

-Alumni News & Notes-

Connie Renda is singing backup for the band Wheatus, and performing all over the NYC area.

Todd Horman is playing Dave in *The Full Monty* at ArtPark.

Geoff Pilkington is in LA and working for Creative Artists Agency (CAA.)

Daniel Watts is in the cast of *South Pacific* at Heritage Repertory Theatre in VA.

Troy Pittman completed medical school and has taken a position at Rush university/Cook County Hospital (Chicago) in General Surgery.

Matt Leckenbush and Katie Pederson were married on June 2. Matt is Teacher and TD for the South Carolina Governor's School for Arts & Humanities. Email Matt at: mleckenbusch@yahoo.com.

Ben Seay recently shot a commercial for Mercury Insurance in LA. He is also working in the Box Office at the Geffen Playhouse.

Christine Piche is currently working for Disney Cruises. Prior to that, she toured for the Theatre of Monmouth in Maine playing Katharine in *Henry V*.

Maia Wirth is teaching at Veritas Academy in South Bend, IN where she will be Coordinator and Teacher for Dance and Music for kindergarten through 8th grade.

Jamal Green is performing with a dance company in NYC and was recently reviewed in the NY Times.

Katharine Lowery is the Lighting and Sound Assistant at Arkansas Repertory Theatre.

Mary Margaret Anderson performed in *Anything Goes!* in Atlantic City's Trump Plaza last fall. She recently did *South Pacific* at the North Carolina Theatre in Raleigh, and is starring in *Boys from Syracuse* and *Annie Get Your Gun!* at SurfFlight Theatre in NJ, and will be in the premier of *Windy City* at the Walnut Street Theatre in PA. Check out her website at www.maggieanderson.net.

Angie Blocker recently performed in *The Legend of Pearl Hart*, an equity showcase production in NYC. In August she will appear Off-Broadway in *The Awesome 80's Prom* as Missy Martin, the Prom Queen/Head Cheerleader.

(Alumni News & Notes Continued on Back Page)

Alumni News & Notes (continued)

Karen and Braden Weeks are entering their second full season with the AYT B Theatre in Boston (which they founded,) producing an exciting mix on challenging works – including some penned and performed by Braden. For details, check their website: www.aytb.org.

Ryan Dunn is in Gettysburg, PA doing *The Glory* (a new version of *The Civil War*) working with a host of great people including Frank Wildhorn and good Elon friend, Dave Clemmons. Check out the production at www.fortheglorythemusical.com.

Jen DeMinco just wrapped work on the film *Next* starring Nicholas Cage and Julianne Moore. Jen did double work for Jessica Biel in the film.

Andrew Frace has completed his National Tour of *Willy Wonka* and has moved to NY. Check out his updated website: www.andrewfrace.com.

Lindsay Northen is doing an original musical revue called *The Music of Tin Pan Alley* at Stamford Theatre Works in CT. Next up is Isabell (and Mabel u/s) in a new version of *Pirates of Penzance* at Goodspeed Opera in CT.

Jonathan Walsh is on tour with Troika Entertainment's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* playing an Apostle and u/s for Peter.

Joleen Neighbours recently completed her PhD work in Performing Arts Studies and awaits publication of her dissertation. She still teaches HS in VA where she recently directed *Footloose*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live*, and *A Midsummer Nights Dream* – plus six choral concerts.

Heather Haley did a two month tour with the Missoula Children's Theatre and is now the Drama Teacher at Dan River HS in VA. She teaches and directs all of their theatre productions and musicals.

Lauren Adams recently completed her contract at B-Street Theatre in Sacramento, CA and has moved to NY.

Kelsey Tucker is currently playing Rizzo in *Grease* and Lucy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at Thunder Bay Theatre in Michigan.

Jason Coosner will be attending the Cabaret Conference at Yale University this summer.

Nathan Moore just booked a recurring role on a new FOX drama, *Vanished*. Expected to air in August. Nathan's Gain Detergent commercial continues to play across the nation.

Amy (M. Wilkins) Blanchette is teaching dance and musical theatre classes at the Paige Conservatory in Andover, MA. She also recently choreographed *Me and My Girl* and *Oliver!* And keeps very busy with 18-mo old daughter, Madelyn.

Jen Forchelli is in the NYC area. In the fall she plans to start work on her Masters degree in Elementary and Special Education.

Marissa Pepple is working in NYC. She recently worked on *Spiderman 3* and *Jumper*, and was a stand-in for the film *August Rush*.

Beth Briley is busy performing in NYC. She also played a principle role in a recent Carmen Electra film and will be featured this fall in nine episodes of the TV series *The American Songbook Series*.

Phill Hill has signed on for a second year as Stage Manager at the Warehouse Theatre in SC.

Phillip Ward wrote that his recent film, *Nobody Loves Alice*, is complete and being submitted to several festivals. Phillip is living in LA.

Adam Cooley is playing Simeon in the National Tour of *Joseph ... Dreamcoat*.

Cindy Jung is the director of dance and music theatre at a non-profit organization in Summit, NJ. She also keeps busy with local performances and choreography, and planning her summer wedding.

Ginny Nagel will begin teaching elementary school in August. She will also be teaching classes for the Riverside Children's Theatre and directing a student workshop for teenagers.

Corey Bradley is shooting *Enchanted*, a film for Disney, as a principle dancer. Later this summer he starts *Hot Mikado* at Westchester Broadway Theatre.

Mark Ludden is at heritage Repertory Theatre playing Louis and Billy in *Sunday in the Park*..and Harbison in *South Pacific*.

Kacie Martin is an event planner for the city of Hampton, VA. She also teaches yoga classes and looks after her 9-mo old son, Devin.

Natalie Newman was cast in an original Christmas musical, *Follow Me*. Check out details at www.followthemusical.com. Email Natalie at nattienew@hotmail.com.

Carol Passaro lives in Sewell, NJ where she is Director of Drama at Williamstown HS. Email her at carolpassaro@yahoo.com.

Grace McPhillips performs with the Spirit of Chicago Cruises, filmed a documentary with Lifetime Network, and starred in the short film, *The Apartment*. She played Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and the title role in *The Julie*, along with several commercials and industrials in Chicago.

Kendra Goehring is teaching and performing in Wilmington, NC where she recently played the title role in *Peter Pan*. Next up is *Smokey Joe's Cafe* at the Temple Theatre in Sanford, NC

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