

STAGES

The Annual Theatre Circle and Alumni Newsletter - Fall 2015
Indiana University Department of Theatre, Drama, + Contemporary Dance

Musical Theatre Students Learn From Broadway Royalty

On April 7, 2015, the department was treated to a master class given by Audra McDonald, prior to her giving a concert that evening at the IU Auditorium. McDonald is the premiere musical theatre performer of her generation, having proven her versatility and talent with a record-setting six Tony awards for acting, including one in each of the categories for plays and musicals, leading and featured roles. McDonald's master class was exhilarating to watch. I asked the four BFA Musical Theatre students about their experiences with this legend.

Emily Kelly (BFA '16): I sang "Changing My Major" from *Fun Home* because I thought it would be a good acting exercise with Audra. It's a very important song: it shows Alison Bechdel as a college freshman, the morning after she has sex for the first time, with a girl. It's a very special thing when a young girl finally feels so comfortable in her own skin, is falling in love and, despite her fears and the other complications in her life, finds pure joy in looking back at one night she shared with this girl.

Samantha Mason (BFA '15): I chose "No One Else" from *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*. As soon as I heard it, I felt an immediate connection to the piece. It felt like a piece of literature: It's like having a little treasure hunt because I can go into the song to discover new bits of information about what the character is feeling in that moment. Also, I chose it because not very many people had heard it before or knew the show it was from (little did I know that Audra was planning on singing it in her concert!). Audra has been probably my top influence in musical theatre since I was in kindergarten. I even wrote a fan letter to her when I was in fifth grade!

What was it like to work with Audra McDonald?

Christian: She was wonderful! From the moment she walked in she put a sense of ease over the room. I was still extremely nervous to work with her but she made it feel like a safe place to completely fall on your face.

Samantha: She had such a calming presence, which was great because I expected to be a lot more nervous than I was. I think that because she was so comfortable around us, we each were able to reciprocate that level of comfort.

Emily: Working with her was even better than I imagined. She knew how nervous we were and was so warm and comforting, I felt like everyone else in the room disappeared and it was just us playing with the scene. It was pretty amazing for (*continued on p. 12*)



Accompanist Ray Fellman looks on as Audra McDonald coaches Christian Fary through "Safe".

What song did you sing and why did you choose it?

Elaine Cotter (BFA '16): I sang "I Don't Know What I'd Do Without You" from *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* because it is comedic and fun and I wanted to get some tips from Audra about comedic timing because I think she executed it wonderfully.

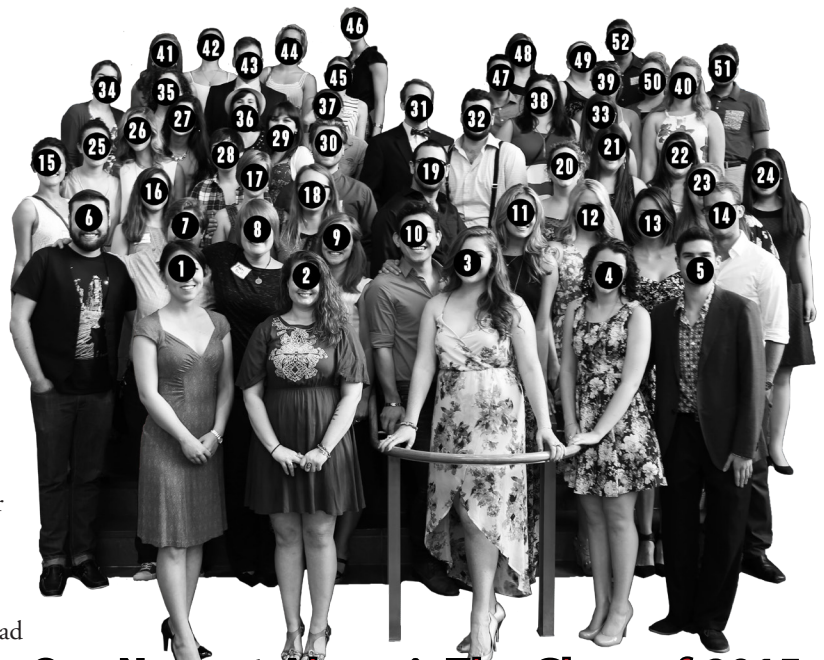
Christian Fary (BFA '17): I chose "Safe" from *Hello Again* because it is a little edgy and it pushes me as a performer. The song talks about wanting to find someone who you can lean on in times of trouble in your life. The character is living a destructive lifestyle and this is a moment of truth that he has.



- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Eriko Terao | 32. Samuel Barkley |
| 2. Johna Sewell | 33. Sarah TeKolste |
| 3. Meghan Goodman | 34. Iris Dauterman |
| 4. Samantha Mason | 35. Katie Landrum |
| 5. Markus McClain | 36. Jennifer Smith |
| 6. Christopher Rhoton | 37. Payne Banister |
| 7. Sandra Everett | 38. Megan Gray |
| 8. Andrea Ball | 39. Allison Marra |
| 9. Katie Gruenhagen | 40. Claire Drews |
| 10. Nathaniel Robbins | 41. Sydney Harmon |
| 11. Abigail Bartish | 42. Mante Baliutaviuciute |
| 12. Kelsey Shaw | 43. Jacob Halbleib |
| 13. Madeline Shea Baldwin | 44. Charlotte Twitchell |
| 14. Luke Denison | 45. Kathryn Hammett |
| 15. Amelia Heintzelman | 46. Krista Zozulia |
| 16. Cathleen Brumback | 47. Christopher Rohrer |
| 17. Cassandra Alexander | 48. Katherine Hershberger |
| 18. Maya Ferrario | 49. Katelyn Hurst |
| 19. Robert Heller | 50. Alexandria Criss |
| 20. Lily Walls | 51. Zachary Decker |
| 21. Caitlin Diekhoff | 52. Shane Zechariah Conrad |
| 22. Shelby Reed | |
| 23. Jessica Evans | |
| 24. Lucia Xiaoran Zhu | |
| 25. Leah Fournier | |
| 26. Brittany Greene | |
| 27. Alyssa Condotti | |
| 28. Sarah Schikora | |
| 29. Frances Levenson-Campanale | |
| 30. Austin Wilson | |
| 31. David Gordon-Johnson | |

Not Pictured

- Justin Bennet
 Stacy Brewer
 Braden Cleary
 Samantha Driver
 Connor Ebbinghouse
 Catherine Fisher
 Alejandro Fonseca



Our Newest Alumni: The Class of 2015

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ryan Galloway | Mara Lefler | Kelsey Shaffer |
| Michael Gonzalez | Jeffrey Lindquist | Bradley Shaw |
| Emily Harpe | Haley McElwee | Daniel Shefer |
| Aaron Hartman | Brittney Patikas | Claire Stebbins |
| Anna Hashizume | Shelby Plummer | Danielle Steg |
| Jensen Davis | Stephanie Price | Nicholas Sweet |
| Mindi Kirsch | Ella Rosenfeld | Zach Trinkle |
| Joshua Krause | Savannah Serban | |

Department News

Former IU student Jonathan Banks helps dedicate new Media School

Jonathan Banks (EX'68) visited Bloomington in October 2014 as part of IU's Homecoming Weekend festivities. While on campus he spoke in a private session with Theatre students and was interviewed by Jonathan Michaelsen at a standing-room-only public session held in the IU Cinema. As a testament to what a good person he really is, Banks personally greeted all of the guests outside of the IU Cinema who arrived after the seats were filled.

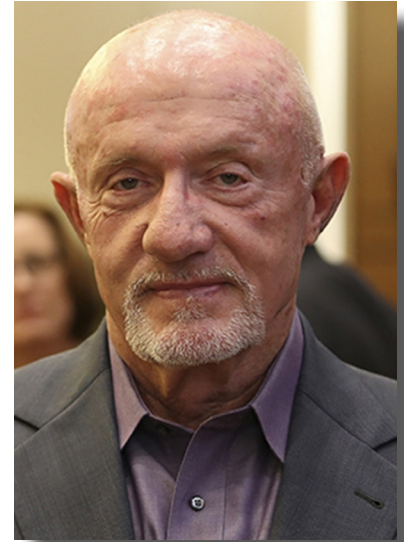
Also during his visit, Banks participated in the Homecoming parade and spoke at the inauguration of the Media School. He shared some thoughts on IU during that

ceremony at Franklin Hall:

"This school, specifically the theater and cinema, has been my life. I owe so much more to you and I need you so much more than you will ever need me. I am honored to be here. I can only wish you well."

His closing piece of advice to the undergraduate and graduate Theatre students assembled in the Studio Theatre was a nugget of wisdom collected from his 40-plus years in the business:

"Be kind, don't lie."



Murray McGibbon wins New Frontiers Grant for an Original Pronunciation *King Lear* to end the year

In May 2016, **Murray McGibbon's** *King Lear Project* will be mounted in the Wells-Metz Theatre. This production is made possible by an IU New Frontiers grant. McGibbon was awarded the grant to create an original, experimental production of

Shakespeare's *King Lear* in original pronunciation (O.P.). McGibbon traveled to England during his 2013-14 sabbatical, where he met with David Crystal the world's foremost authority on O.P. and his son Ben Crystal, an actor who has originated many roles in

O.P. He also met with Giles Block, author of *Speaking the Speech*, at the Royal Shakespeare Company. This will be the first time *King Lear* has been staged in the original pronunciation since 1606.

Contemporary Dance Legend Twyla Tharp presented President's Medal for Excellence

Indiana University President Michael McRobbie awarded the President's Medal for Excellence to the Indiana native at a dinner in her honor in October.

Tharp was recognized for her extraordinary merit and achievement in the arts during her stop in Bloomington on the 50th anniversary tour of her dance company. The 2015 performance of **Twyla Tharp Dance** marks fourth time Ms. Tharp's company has

performed at the IU Auditorium.

Members of Tharp's company led a master class for IU Contemporary Dance students, and Tharp spoke in a Q&A session to students from both the Contemporary Dance and Musical Theatre programs in the Wells-Metz Theatre during the tour stop.



President Michael McRobbie with Twyla Tharp at the presentation dinner.



IU Contemporary Dance students performing choreography taught by Twyla Tharp Dance company members during master class.

The Road to Research... Needs Money

Dr. Jennifer Goodlander, Assistant Professor of History, Theory, and Literature, explains a bit about the process of seeking research funding for her scholarly research.

My research often requires me to travel in order to experience theatre and cultures on the other side of the globe. In order to complete this work—I am often seeking grants and fellowships. I learned in graduate school the importance of planning early and applying often—just like an actor, a would-be scholar must embrace rejection.

Next year – my book, *Women in the Shadows: Gender, Puppets, and the Power of Tradition in Bali* will be published by Ohio University Press. This research was part of my dissertation and received funding from a Fulbright Fellowship to Indonesia. It was an exciting process to revise and rethink those ideas. But, now it is time to start planning for my next project.

I love to travel; I love Southeast Asia; and many of the puppet forms in this region of the world share histories and aesthetics. I am working on a book that examines how puppet performance articulates national, cultural, and regional identity in different cities around Southeast Asia. I received a Mellon Innovating International Research and Teaching Short-Term Faculty Research Award from IU—this gave me funding to spend time in Indonesia, Cambodia, and Singapore. Last winter, I spent a month in Thailand as part of a faculty exchange at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. A small grant from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at IU funded a week in Jakarta Indonesia to take part in a collaboration between puppet artists from all over Southeast



Assistant Professor Jennifer Goodlander with puppeteers from Indonesia.

Asia as part of the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) celebration.

Next summer I need time to write and synthesize all of this research. I also want to examine how social media is being used by puppet companies and artists to share their work and ideas about identity. I have applied for summer funding through the National Endowment for the Humanities – the first part of this process was an internal competition here at IU (each university may only submit two applications for this prestigious award). I was delighted to be selected!

The entire application was due in October... but it is an honor to make it this far. Doing research requires funding—but applying for grants gives me an opportunity to talk about my research and ideas early in the process. Like auditioning, it is a chance to try out ideas and take risks. If you never audition you will never get cast—and it is important for scholars to learn early in their careers, if they never apply they will never receive the support needed for exciting research.

- Jennifer Goodlander

MFA Designers win big at SETC



Each year, the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) invites theatre actors, singers, dancers, designers, technicians, stage managers, directors, playwrights, teachers, students, professionals, and academicians to gather together in celebration of the art of theatre. The annual convention brings members of the theatre community together for a weekend of workshops, keynotes, performance festivals, auditions, recruiting, interviews, and competitions.

The 2015 SETC Conference took place in Chattanooga last March, and our M.F.A. Design students had a very good trip to Tennessee. **Kristen Martino** (MFA candidate '16 - pictured far right) won 3rd place for her scenic design of *In the Red and Brown Water*, **Katie Gruenhagen** (MFA '15 - center) won 2nd place for her lighting design of *Romeo & Juliet*, plus received a “Ready To Work” award to design an upcoming production at Omaha Stage. And finally, **Chris Rhoton** (MFA '15 - far left) won first place for his scenic design of *Into the Woods*.

Conferences are Cool!

M.A. and Ph.D. students in theatre are often asked, "What is it you do?" Unlike actors, designers, and directors, our work is not as apparent.

Well, one thing theatre scholars do is to present their work at academic conferences. If this sounds like a trip to the dentist's office, it's really not. M.A. student Susannah Stengel described them as "a warm and lively platform upon which to share your ideas with colleagues in the field of theatre."

In December 2014, our department hosted its third graduate symposium in theatre. Over the course of a weekend, Eric C. Heaps and Sarah Campbell coordinated a myriad of paper presentations, performances, and a keynote address from Brazilian playwright and scholar Lucienne Guedes Fahrer. The symposium extended beyond just this department's scholars - graduate and undergraduate designers, actors, and directors from IU as well as visiting scholars who traveled from as far away as Texas joined in the eclectic discussion of what theatre is and can be.

In addition, IU's grad students have presented their work extensively around

the country and beyond. Last fall, Andres Lopez, Miriam Poole, and Sarah Campbell presented their joint panel "Constructing Celebrity" at the Midwest Popular Culture Association conference in Indianapolis. Assistant Professor Jennifer Goodlander and several Ph.D. students attended the American Society for Theatre Research Conference in Baltimore in November. Sarah Campbell achieved a great coup here: as a first-time presenter, her paper was chosen for a plenary session. She presented "'Rituals in Stone': Negotiating the Meanings of Monumental Constructions through Notions of Performance" alongside two renowned scholars, David Savran and Andrew Sofer, as well as another graduate student from Northwestern. Sarah said, "I was nervous about presenting my work in front of a room full of theatre scholars (including former IU professor Marvin Carlson!), but the presentation went really well. After the presentation both Savran and Sofer congratulated me on my presentation and my research."

In March, Joshua Robinson, Sarah Campbell, and I as well as 2014 Doctorate Deana Nichols piled into the department

van and drove to Kansas City, Missouri to attend the Mid-America Theatre Conference, meeting up with several alumni of the department as well. Deana and Josh presented papers in the Theatre History symposium, Sarah served as a dramaturg to a new 10-minute play in the Playwriting Symposium, and I presented a paper in the Theatre Pedagogy symposium and had a 10-minute play performed at the Playwriting symposium's Fringe Festival. A highlight for the group was Dr. Irma Mayorga's no-holds-barred discussion of diversity and cultural competency in theatre practice and education today. A week later, Ph.D. students Eric C Heaps, Bridget Sundin, and I attended the Comparative Drama Conference in Baltimore. The airline lost my carry-on luggage (!) but I got it back just in time to present my paper.

Jihay Park traveled to Galway, Ireland over the summer to present her paper "Still/moving: Blending the Archive and the Repertoire" at the Performing the Archive Conference. Jihay noted, "The speakers were amazing! Hearing about the latest projects they are pursuing was inspiring. The conference was packed with people from various backgrounds and professions from across Europe, South Africa, America, Asia, academics, librarians, archivists, etc."

Also this summer, Eric C. Heaps and Whit Emerson attended the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference in Montreal. Whit presented on using theatre to teach Chinese speakers American English and on a new Chinese Hua Ju play he translated from Chinese to English at the Association for Asian Performance pre-conference. Eric reunited with his long-standing conference colleagues and served as Electronic Communications Co-Chair for the Dramaturgy Focus Group and Graduate Student Representative for the Latino/a Focus Group.

- Joe Stollenwerk



Current and former PhD students (L-R): Emmy Kreilkamp, Joshua Robinson, Jeff Grace, Joe Stollenwerk, Sarah Campbell, Tom Robson, Deana Nichols, and Neal Utterback.

In Memoriam

Howard Jensen

There are many things that Marion and I will always remember about Howard. And I know there are many things you too will always remember. But I would like to share with you some of the things that never appeared in his resume, some things not really related to his work as a teacher or director in the Department of Theatre and Drama. Rather, some other more personal things that Marion and I learned about Howard ... from Howard; and some things we learned about Howard from his family.

Howard grew up in Redmond, Utah, an area known for its salt mines and coal mines. He was the sixth child in a family of seven children. The first five children in the Jensen family were girls, the last two boys. The sixth child born was Howard and the seventh, born several years later, was his brother Dale.

His father worked as a timber man in a coal mine. His job was to erect timbers to reinforce the walls and roofs of mine shafts. He was killed when a shaft collapsed. Howard was just seven years old, and he once said that the most vivid memory of his childhood was the cry of his mother when she was told that her husband (Howard's father) had been killed. Veda never remarried. She raised seven children by herself, and made ends meet by working in a grocery store. And the children also worked. Howard worked every day after school as a paperboy and later as a janitor at his high school.

As a child and throughout his entire life, Howard loved dogs. Some of you will remember his dog, Mickey; well his first early childhood dog was also named Mickey. Unfortunately, unbeknownst to Howard, childhood Mickey loved to chase and kill sheep, and had to be put down. His father did this one day while Howard was at school. When he came home, they told Howard that Mickey was gone ... some sailors had stolen Mickey. It was not until Howard was in his teens that it occurred to him that there were no sailors in Utah.

Howard's educational career began in the College of Southern Utah, then he transferred to the University of Utah where he received his BA in 1964; his MA from the

University of California Davis in 1969; and his Ph. D. from Wayne State in 1972. During his early college years he pursued a degree in English with a possible minor in Journalism or Drama. His aim, he once said, was to teach English, Speech, and Drama in a high school. Eventually, maybe, at a college. In fact, he actually did teach English in a Jr. High School in Salt Lake City in 1964-65.

His academic career at Davis was inter-



Howard Jensen

rupted during the Viet Nam war and he spent two years in the Army in the Military Police. I once asked him how or why he became an MP. "Simple," he said. "I was big, so they made me an "MP."

His career in the theatre began while he was still a student at the College of Southern Utah. In 1962 the College of Southern Utah launched the Utah Shakespearean Festival Theatre in Cedar City, Utah. The purpose was to introduce Shakespeare to a wide range of people and provide students with opportunities to work outside an academic environment.

One of the plays in that first season was *Hamlet*; and a young student by the name of Jensen who had just finished his sophomore year was cast in *Hamlet*, as Hamlet. The

following year Howard was cast in *Othello*, as, believe it or not, Othello. And the next year he returned to the Utah Shakespearean Festival to play Malvolio in *12th Night*. Not bad for an undergraduate who started out pursuing a degree in English.

In 1970 Howard received a graduate assistantship as an actor at the Hilberry Theatre at Wayne State and in 1972 was finishing up his Ph.D. And, in 1972 we were looking for a teacher of acting and a director to fill out a faculty line in our newly created Department of Theatre and Drama; so I called Leonard Leone at Wayne State and asked him if he had anyone he might recommend. Leonard suggested I look at a "brilliant young actor/director by the name of Howard Jensen." So Howard was invited down for an interview.

In those days Marion and I would host a reception at our house so the faculty and staff could get to meet new candidates in an informal situation. When Howard arrived we had a John Denver record playing softly in the background. We had known about John Denver, the musician and activist who lived outside Minneapolis during the years we lived in Minnesota. We liked his music; and we especially liked the things he supported.

Howard arrived and during most of the evening did not exhibit much vitality. In fact there was some question as to whether or not he could do what needed to be done in the production program. But we hired

him. Some years later I told Howard that we originally had some reservations about hiring him. Howard replied, "Well, I had some reservations about joining a department headed by a chair who plays John Denver music."

One final recollection. As most of you know, before he became ill, Howard, Marion and I would frequently go to London to catch the season. We selected the plays by listing those plays that we must see, those that we should see, and those that we will see if we have time. Sometime during the middle 80's the three of us went to London, and Marion and I during the planning process decided we wanted to see Derek Jacobi in a play at the National Theatre. Now Howard was never very fond of Derek



Thor Steingraber (BA '88), Chris Tickner (BA '89), Prof. Dale McFadden, and Andy Sokoloff (MFA '91)

Jacobi, but he humored us. We went to the play, but at the end of the first act Howard left and went back to our flat.

We arrived back at our flat later that evening, and I asked Howard if anyone said anything on his way out of the theatre. He said, "Yes, the girl at the coat check counter

helped shape the lives of many of us; and in the case of Marion and myself ... for over 40 years.

May he rest in peace ... and may his high standards of artistic excellence be remembered and carried on by you ... the people he touched during his illustrious career.

— R. Keith Michael

"You always knew that Howard had a detailed and passionate connection to the play he was directing, and this sensibility was one of his admirable traits as a person."

"Sensitive, compassionate, and opinionated, Howard was the artistic conscience of the Department, and I am fortunate to have worked with him for many years."

"I miss our conversations at Howard's home about the films he had watched, the books he was reading, and the state of the world large and small. But there is a trove of memories to draw upon, and for that I and others are grateful."

— Dale McFadden

would cause great distress! As a director, Howard was completely invested in making certain that the audience would be 100% engaged in the storytelling and any piece that fell short was less than worthy of the stage. Howard never chose plays that were 'easy' or 'simple'.

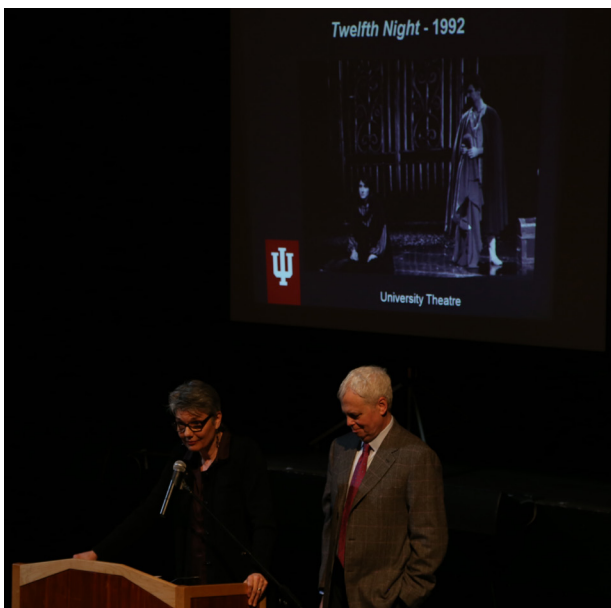
In working with Howard, you knew you would need to go above and beyond. Really, you wanted to. Howard expected me to push my own creative problem solving skills and see what I could do.

At Howard's retirement, I had written down a quote for him, it is from one of his favorite authors, Anton Chekhov. It is a partial quote from a letter Chekhov had written to his brother about writing. As someone who had the honor of collaborating several times with Howard, I think this quote expresses the beauty of how he worked.

Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass.

Anton Chekhov (1860-1904)

— Linda Pisano



Janet Allen (MA '79) and Michael Connolly (PhD '86) offering a remembrance of Howard at the April 4 service at the Norvelle Theatre and Drama Center.

asked if I was ill." "And what did you say?" "I said, yes! Derek Jacobi always makes me ill."

Howard's last few years were difficult, but thanks to friends and especially Allison and other people, he died in comfort.

He was a dear friend who shared and

Howard demanded, in the most generous way, that you step up to the plate in your work. As a designer I never wanted to disappoint him because I knew my work needed to be worthy of his work. A detail oriented director, even the cue called a beat too late, like a phone or doorbell ring,

For Those Wishing To Make A Memorial Donation in Howard Jensen's Memory

Questions and inquiries may be directed to the attention of:

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E-Mail: ssgambel@indiana.edu

In Memoriam

Fontaine Syer

**When it's over, I don't want to wonder
If I have made of my life something
particular, and real.
I don't want to find myself
sighing or frightened
or full of argument.**

**I don't want to end up simply having
visited this world.**

~ From *When Death Comes*
by Mary Oliver ~

To know Fontaine or to spend any significant time with her was to be engaged with a bright, articulate, formidable energy and a mind that was passionately focused on the work at hand - whatever that happened to be. If you had her attention, it usually meant that you were worth it. In the months since her passing at the end of May, I have been continually struck by the enormity of her circle of friends and colleagues, and the impact that she had on their lives over the years. From her students and colleagues here at IU, to her many professional colleagues and friends around the country, to her intimate family and closest friends, to have obtained Fontaine's friendship and confidence felt like a kind of stamp of approval, a validation that you were on the right wavelength, heading in the right direction. Because we all learned that she did not suffer fools gladly, nor give her friendship lightly. You had to earn it. But once you did, you were golden.



Fontaine Syer

For myself, of course, it is nearly impossible to put into words what her partnership has meant to me over the 23 years that we were together. We met as working colleagues in 1992 at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival,

became quick friends, and not too long after joined our hearts to begin an extraordinary journey of love. She was the real deal, the genuine article, and the world has become far less interesting without her in it. She would pooh-pooh that notion, of course, but for me it's a profound truth. She was my best friend, my biggest booster (one of her favorite words), my most trusted confidante, my light, my love... my pal. I feel her presence around me everywhere these days, and that is some measure of comfort as I navigate my own grief. But I also see her and hear her, in the eyes and words of her family, her dearest friends, her many colleagues, and of course her students, when they might speak of her. And it is always in those moments that I feel her the strongest. For she left an indelible impact, one that is still rippling out like a beautiful stone dropped into a pond. It washes over each of us still, and we are all the richer for it. All that she ever was to us who knew her and loved her, she still is. For it is within us now that she resides.

In the end, Fontaine Syer did indeed make of her life something particular and real. She did not end up simply having visited this world. She left it... changed. May we all be so blessed when our own accounts are called to balance.

~ Henry Woronicz

For Those Wishing To Make A Memorial Donation

An initial gift from Henry Woronicz established, the Fontaine Syer Directing Fellowship in Theatre at Indiana University in October 2015. It is to honor the memory of his longtime partner and to celebrate her life and work. A nationally recognized theatre artist, Fontaine had a lifelong belief in the transformative power of the theatre and a particular passion for training and mentoring the next generation of the theatre professionals. The Syer Fellowship will be awarded for the first time in Spring 2016 and, when fully endowed, will provide support in perpetuity for MFA students in Directing at Indiana University Bloomington.

To Make Your Gift On Line:

Please visit the Indiana University Foundation web site at www.iufoundation.iu.edu. Click on the GIVE NOW tab, which will



Fontaine from the IRT production of
The Year of Magical Thinking, 2010.

take you to page displaying your giving options. Click on MAKE A GIFT. In the WRITE IN GIFT AREA box, please enter "Syer Fellowship" and click ADD WRITE IN GIFT. Then follow the prompts to enter your contact information, gift amount, and payment method. The IU Foundation will send you a receipt for tax purposes within one to two weeks.

To Make Your Gift via Check:

Checks may be made payable to the "Indiana University Foundation" and sent to the following address:

Office of Advancement
College of Arts & Sciences
Owen Hall – 3rd Floor
790 East Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405

Please include the notation, "Syer Fellowship – Account # 0370012200".

Questions and inquiries may be directed to the attention of:

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New Faculty



Eleanor Owicki joins the department this fall as Visiting Assistant Professor of history, Theory and Literature. She blends the world of scholarship and practice, having published articles on Northern Irish drama as well as being a dramaturg. Eleanor holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, and a B.A. from New York University. Her research focuses on theatre and the Northern Irish peace process. She has published articles and reviews in *Theatre Symposium*, *Theatre Journal*, and *Eccumenica*, and is a past Assistant Editor of *Theatre Research International*. Eleanor has presented at many conferences including the Association of Theatre in Higher Education, the American Conference of Irish Studies, the American Society for Theatre Research, and Performance Studies International.

She is also a dramaturg, having worked on productions including Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel*, John Ford's *Tis Pity She's a Whore*, Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's *Threepenny Opera*, and Euripides's *Trojan Women*. This semester, she will served as dramturg for *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*.

In addition to working on *Mr. Burns*, Eleanor is teaching three classes this fall. "I'm excited about getting to know the students at IU – so far they seem like a great bunch of dedicated, talented, and intelligent people." Eleanor is teaching a graduate-level class focused on Northern Irish theatre. She said, "It's great to be able to do something that's so closely related to my research and to have the opportunity to share that with people. Eleanor is enjoying exploring Bloomington, particularly the vegetarian options at the diverse range of restaurants. She notes, however, that she is "a little nervous about this whole 'winter' thing I've been hearing about."

Peter Gil-Sheridan joins the department as Visiting Assistant Professor of Playwriting and Screenwriting. He was recently in residence at San Juan College in Farmington, NM writing a new play called *Courtney and Caroline*, a piece written with Native and non-Native community members about religious and cultural tradition in the area. His play *Ritu Comes Home*, originally commissioned by InterAct Theatre in Philadelphia was selected as part of their 20/20 Commission program had its world premiere there. Peter's other plays include *Cockfight* written at the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab and further developed by PlayPenn under the direction of Anna Brenner and *What May Fall*, commissioned by the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis and performed there. *Topsy Turvy Mouse* was produced by the Cherry Lane and Borderlands Theatre in Tucson and was the winner of The Smith Prize awarded by the National New Play Network for outstanding political work. Other work developed by the Lark's Playground, New York Theatr Workshop, Queens Theatre in the Park. Residencies include the Jerome Fellowship in Minneapolis, The Sundance Institute, The Millay Colony, The Ucross Foundation, Tofte Lake and A Theatre Group in Silverton, CO.

Peter has also been a member of I73, Page 73's weekly writing group in New York. He's performed his first solo piece *People Tell Me Things* at several venues across the U.S. including Ars Nova's ANTFest, Identity, Inc. in Farmington, NM, at Ucross in Wyoming and on Martha's Vineyard. Peter joins the faculty at IU after ten years of teaching at Fordham University in New York and as a LEAP teaching artist in New York City Public Schools.



Four-time Tony Award-winning producer and IU alumna **Harriet Newman Leve** returned to the Bloomington in October 2015 in a new role. Last spring Leve was appointed a Visiting Scholar with the College of Arts and Sciences. Her accomplishments and experience in the theatre world and the entertainment industry as a whole, coupled with her unique passion for nurturing and developing new work, position her well to contribute to the education and preparation of IU students who plan to pursue careers in the entertainment industry.

During her week on campus, Leve taught a number of undergraduate and graduate level classes in the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance, as well as courses in the Media School and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs' (SPEA) Arts Administration program.

Additionally, she held a private Question & Answer session with members of the University Players, the Department's independent undergraduate theatre producing organization. The UP members were able to hear how Harriet chooses material, finds backers and puts together creative teams for productions on Broadway.

Perhaps best known for her work with *STOMP* which blends rhythmic sound, dance and musical performance, Leve has produced some of Broadway's most acclaimed shows.

Her Broadway producing credits include: *An American in Paris*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Ann* (about late Texas governor Ann Richards), *War Horse*, *The 39 Steps*, and *The Norman Conquests*.

Additional Visitors to the Department

Over the past year, the department has had the honor to host many more visitors including several teachers, guest artists, and IU Alumni. Among them: George Chakiris, best known for his role as Bernardo in the film *West Side Story* visited in **September 2014** as part of the IU Cinema's Jorgensen Guest Filmmaker Lecture Series., and conducted a private Master class for our Musical Theatre students.

Arizona State University's p.a.v.e. program head, Linda Essig visited in **February** to speak to students about arts entrepreneurship, and educating the artist of the future. The Design/Tech area had several additional guests in to work with undergrad and graduate students.

In **March**, Brenden Patrick Hill (BA'06), Paul Shoulberg (MFA'07) and Andrew J. West (BA'06) returned to Bloomington for a screening of their independent film *Walter* at the IU Cinema. The trio also took time to speak to students about making the transition to film.

In **April**, Jocelyn Golarz O'Neil (BA'96) returned to Bloomington to visit family and graciously offered to speak to students about getting started, writing, and producing independent short films. Also in **April** the national touring company of *Memphis* visited campus to perform at the IU Auditorium. The members of the ensemble led a dance workshop for Liza Gennaro's the Musical Theatre dance class.

Dance Student Receives Award

In April 2015, senior contemporary dance major Ryan Galloway was one of six students from across the university who received the prestigious Provost's Award for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity. In doing so, Galloway became the first dancer at IU to receive this recognition. Students are nominated by professors and are then selected by a committee of administrators and faculty. His mentor is Elizabeth Shea, Associate Professor of Contemporary Dance.

Galloway was recognized for his performance in *Minor Bodies* at the National College Dance Festival, the Boston Contemporary Dance Festival and the American Dance Festival and with the professional dance company Dance Kaleidoscope. In responding to his submission, the award committee commented, "Mr. Galloway's technical expertise, combined with his grace, fluidity and expressiveness were so impressive. The level of dancing by both performers is extremely high, and I would never have guessed I was watching an undergraduate performance." In his statement to the awarding committee, Galloway wrote, "I was incredibly honored to not only have been selected to perform this piece, but also have this opportunity to be a part of a professional atmosphere with a mentor that provided so much guidance, scholarship, direction, and wisdom. Professor Shea definitely paved the way for the dance and created a baseline for the movement, but she also allowed me to explore a creative vocabulary that I didn't know I could even achieve. This allowed me to expand my knowledge of my body and its capabilities, as well as create a dynamic and mature dance. While she guided me on my movements, she also guided me with her knowledge of solving daily life prob-

lems, and helped me cope with stress and injuries through our gift and passion for dance. I was very fortunate to get along so well with my mentor, as well as be inspired by her different ways of choreographing, and wealth of knowledge she had to share about the dance world and the real world."

Professor Shea noted Ryan's professionalism, creativity, and quickness to learn: "The choreography for *Minor Bodies* is extremely challenging. However, Ryan demonstrated great diligence during the process. He was extremely coachable and open to my mentorship, including the smallest of nuances that really make a difference when striving for a professional level of performance. Ryan's performance, along with dance major Shannon Kazan, proved so successful, that I decided to augment the piece, and together we created a beautiful new segment to the choreography which completed the artistic intention of the work." *Minor Bodies* premiered at the Ruth N. Halls Theatre in January 2014 and traveled to the American College Dance Festival, Central Region, last March where it was selected for the gala (10 of 42 dances selected) following adjudication. The adjudicators then selected *Minor Bodies*, along with two other works from the gala, to represent the Central Region at the National College Dance Festival, June 5-8, at the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington, D.C. Shea remarked that, "Dance Magazine, the preferred in-



IU Contemporary Dancers Shannon Kazan and Ryan Galloway.

ternational publication in dance, published a review of the festival by editor Jennifer Stahl." Stahl wrote "There were some dancers with jaw-dropping technique (notably—and unsurprisingly—from LINES/ Dominican University, Indiana University, University of Utah) and some dancers who seemed to have only a couple years' training under their belts."

Shea's final comments on her letter of recommendation were, "I know the best is yet to come for him, and I will watch with pride as he represents Indiana University in the world of dance."

- Joe Stollenwerk

Building a 'Vortex of Dreams' for the Prague Quadrennial

In the summer of 2014, eight theater M.F.A.s and associate professor Paul Brunner, working with renowned Broadway designer Klara Zieglerova and a team of student designers from around the country, built the "Vortex of Dreams" installation piece and a fantastical red locker-scape, and sent them both across an ocean to the Czech Republic for the 2015 Prague Quadrennial of Performance and Design Space.

We reunited in Prague in June 2015, just days before the opening of the Prague Quadrennial, which has been described as the "Olympics of Theater," and involved 56 participating countries from around the globe. We unpacked our crates and set to work in a beautiful, decommissioned church alongside the hardworking Hungarians and the tenacious Slovaks. Meanwhile, Romania and Peru moved into the opposite end of the church and Japan, Bulgaria and Croatia worked upstairs.

After four long days of setup -- and an explosive opening performance in the Old Town Square -- we were able to wander the



Completed US entry in the 2015 Prague Quadrennial, "Vortex of Dreams".

city and see the other exhibits. It was eye-opening to see how different theater is in other countries, and yet how similar it can be to our own. The Taiwan Student Exhibit had set and costume designs from student productions of "Into the Woods" and "Woycezk" -- two shows we recently produced

at IU! We met people from all over the world and shared ideas and conversations about theater, which really is a universal language.

It was sad to see the exhibit come down at the end, but I'm incredibly grateful that I had this opportunity to represent my country and participate in this experience, and I know the rest of my team is as well.

I think it is a testament to the quality of the students and programs at IU that we were chosen to carry such a great responsibility. I'm proud of the exceptional results we achieved. While three of the student team members have graduated, and the remaining five of us will work to complete our thesis projects this year, I'm sure the memories of this experience will help to shape who we are as theater artists for many years to come.

If you'd like to read more about our experiences, check out the USA PQ blog that was updated through our process at <http://pq15.usitt.org>, #PQ2015USA.

- Kelsey Nichols M.F.A. candidate '16

Expanding Opportunities on the BFA Senior Showcase Trip

It is hard to believe George Pinney has been taking the Musical Theatre senior class to New York showcase auditions for over ten years. In that time the trip has evolved into an immersive week of professional networking opportunities.

The 2015 trip started May 11th with two events. A welcome reception for the seniors hosted by the IU Foundation Women's Philanthropy Council President, **Dale Leff** at her upper east side home. The seniors mingled with a number of welcoming IU alumni, and performed some a capella arrangements on the Leff's beautiful rooftop deck (pictured below).



From there it was a quick trip down to Joe's Pub, where IU Theatre alumna **Shanta Thake** (BA'02), once again gave us use of the space for a wonderful IU alumni event hosted by The College of Arts and Science.

A crowd of nearly 100 filled the intimate performance venue. The crowd was treated to a sneak peek of the senior's showcase performance, and the chance to catch up with old friends and make new connections in the city.

The 12th was devoted to auditions, with two sessions filled with agents, casting directors, producers, and friends.

The 13th and 14th were more relaxing, but still full of great activities. Broadway producer and IU alumna, **Harriet Leve** provided tickets for the seniors to see her production of *Beautiful - the Carole King Musical* and the group was treated to a backstage tour by **Andrew Brewer** (BFA'10) who was the male swing at the time.

The next day Ms. Leve assembled a panel of industry professionals to talk to the students about starting their careers in New York. The panel was comprised of:

Dennis Erdman, a producer and director of television as well as a former theatre director whose credits include *Sex and the City* and *Gilmore Girls*.

Ryan Jones, an former actress and producer's assistant, now a screenwriter working in Los Angeles. Ryan still works with Harri-

et as a Group Sales coordinator for Harriet's company Guardian Angel Group Sales.

Benjamin Endsley Klein, a director who helmed the Broadway production *Ann*, starring Tony-nominated actress Holland Taylor as Texas Governor Ann Richards. He is currently working as the Assistant Director on the Broadway hit *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and is developing additional projects for production.

Josh Prince, a former actor and current director and choreographer working on Broadway. His choreography credits include: *Shrek, the Musical* and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* which was nominated for a Tony Award in 2013.



Panelists Ben Klein, Ryan Jones, and Josh Prince.

The 2016 Showcase trip will take 14 B.F.A. students to NYC May 8 - 12.

(continued from p. 1)

such a star to care so much about a few random students, after I'm sure she's done this a million times. She even asked for our sheet music ahead of time so she could be prepared with our songs. She had even contacted the composer of Christian's song and gave him inside info about it! She didn't hesitate to share personal anecdotes



Samantha Mason listens as Audra McDonald offers insights into "No One Else" which she also sang later that evening in her IU Auditorium concert.

and things she had learned from her mentors. I felt truly cared for, enlightened, and inspired!

What did you learn from her during the master class?

Elaine: I learned a lot about comedic timing. She talked a lot about not predicting the laugh or trying to make the audience laugh but rather be honest with the words in the song and the laughs will come. She explained that honestly was the best policy.

Samantha: Audra focused on what the song meant to me instead of focusing on what the song meant to the character. Her exercises reminded me of the ones we had used in Acting 3 because she told me to bring my own substitutions into the song and whispered triggers into my ear to illuminate the raw emotion of the song. And, boy, did it work! Now every time I sing that song, I can go back to that place and that feeling because of the tools she gave me during that master class, and I am forever grateful for it. There I was on the floor of the Wells-Metz, crying my eyes out while Audra held me in her arms and sang along with me. I will never forget that moment for as long as I live.

Elaine: It was humbling to work with her and hear her advice because she explained that even this far into her career and being successful as she is, she still continues to deeply connect with the characters that she plays and continues to take classes and better herself as a performer. She stressed that there is truly never a time that you

stop learning in this craft, which I found profound and exciting.

Emily: I loved the exercise she used to get me more connected to the through line of the line. She had my friend lay down in front of me with me sitting behind her just like Joan would be for Alison in the song. It really helped me feel real in the song and discover each line moment to moment. I got so emotional I almost couldn't sing, and she taught me that you have to go to that place so you know what it feels like and can imitate that without going so deep so you can keep performing. That allows the audience to experience all the feelings you once did.

Christian: She took my arms away from me and she walked around and insulted me while I sang my song. She really taught me that the character and the emotion come from a very deep place within you and it takes work to get that out sometimes. She also taught me that you are never too old to ask for help and that it is okay to take something in a direction and realize after some work that that is the wrong place for the song to be.

Any final thoughts you'd like to share?

Emily: She had a fuzzy sweater on so hugging her was like hugging a cloud!



Cameron Mullin holds Elaine Cotter's arms as part of the notes Elaine received from Audra McDonald to help with the comic moments in her song from A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.

Elaine: This was an experience that I will absolutely never forget and I am honored to have worked with Audra in such an intimate setting. She is and will continue to be an inspiration to me and many other young actors.

Samantha: Overall, this master class was one of the top highlights of my entire IU experience. I will always be very proud to consider myself a student of Audra's. What a wonderful way to finish out my senior year at IU.

- Joe Stollenwerk

Faculty Notes

Paul Brunner (theatre technology) spent the summer in Europe, first attending the Set-Stage-Scenery World of Entertainment Technology Conference in Berlin, Germany, before leading the United States delegation to the Prague Quadrennial of Performance, Design, and Space. Paul was accompanied by eight IU Theatre graduate students and the versatile assistance of Production Manager, Thom Quintas. The PQ exposed the entire team to 78 different countries representing a truly unique immersion into international design and performance. The 20+ day trip to Prague created life-long memories for all involved. Paul followed Prague with an Italian vacation joined by his very supportive (and understanding) wife, Emilia. He can't wait to start his eighth year teaching at IU.

recent scholarly work includes *Talking In: Telling as Writing in Improvised Dance Performance* presented as a performative paper at the Society for Dance History Scholars and Congress on Research in Dance joint conference, *Writing/Dancing*, at the University of Iowa, 2014. With her colleague Dr Nyama McCarthy-Brown she co-wrote a chapter on choreographing socio-political dances for students as a means to *Critical Dance Pedagogy* (forthcoming in 2016).

Alison Calhoun (history, theory, and dramatic literature) won a Wenner-Gren grant (a Swedish grant) to conduct research on early modern French stage design at the National Museum and Royal Library. She also gave a paper in St. Andrews (Scotland) on the temporality of early French opera

Over Spring Break, Ray travelled to Madrid and Barcelona with the Purdue University Orchestra to sing *Barber's* "Dover Beach" and perform the piano solos in William Grant Still's symphonic work entitled *A Deserted Plantation*. In April, Ray received a 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award from the IU Jacobs School of Music Singing Hoosiers.

In May, Ray returned for two months to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to music direct and conduct a beautiful production of *The Wizard of Oz* for the historic Fulton Theatre. The cast of over 100 included Broadway veterans, 4 year old munchkins, and the Broadway Toto, Snickers, trained by William Berloni, whose new series on Discovery Family Channel *Wags To Riches* With Bill Berloni features footage from rehearsals and premieres in August, 2015.

Also in July, Ray was invited to serve as the musical theatre voice pedagogy for the Torggler Summer Vocal Institute in Newport News Virginia, where he led Master classes for 5 days at Christopher Newport University with high school and college age singers. Other clinicians included Kelli O'Hara, Bobby McFerrin, Straight No Chaser, and fellow IU professors Timothy Noble and Costanza Cuccaro.

But the highlight of Ray's summer by far was serving as the Celebrant for the marriage of our very own George Pinney and Scott Jones in Syracuse, New York!



The eight IU Theatre students who made up the US Prague Quadrennial team: Bridgette Dreher (MFA'16), Kelsey Nichols (MFA'16), Carrie Barton (MFA'16), Aaron Bowersox (MFA'16), Katie Gruenhagen (MFA'15), Sandy Everett (MFA'15), Kristen Martino (MFA'16), Bradley Shaw (MFA'15) and Production Manager Thom Quintas.

Selene Carter (contemporary dance) recently had her choreography presented at the Aronoff Center by the Contemporary Dance Theatre of Cincinnati, Ohio and at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater by Wild Space Dance Company. Her work was also featured in the Regional Alternative Dance Festival (RADfest) in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and in the Breaking Ground Contemporary Dance & Film Festival, Tempe, Arizona. She was one of sixteen choreographers accepted in to the charter year of Doug Varone's Devices Intensive, a choreographic mentorship project that culminated in a 2014 festival of new dances at the Harkness Dance Center/92nd Street Y in New York City. Her work will be produced in January 2016 by the Indianapolis Art Museum, in the Performance Series at the Tobey Theater. Her

prologues as part of the Early Modern-French Society's annual meeting.

In the Spring, **Ray Fellman** (musical theatre) served as the Music Director for the Cardinal Stage Company's production of *Junie B Jones*. The cast included several IU Theatre and Drama students including Scott Van Wye and Berklea Going (BFA '18), Kayla Eilers (BFA '16) and Chad Singer (BA '17).

From January through April, Ray travelled back and forth to Boston and NYC while working as the Vocal Coach for the upcoming Twentieth Century Fox film *Joy*, directed by David O. Russell. The film stars Jennifer Lawrence, Edgar Ramirez, Bradley Cooper and Robert DeNiro, and will be released on Christmas Day, 2015.

Despite continuing physical therapy and recuperation from back surgery, **Winona L. Fletcher** (Professor Emeritus) managed to attend the 50th ANNIVERSARY GOLDEN GALA, College of Fellows of the American Theatre held in DC in April, 2015. She was delighted to greet friends and co-workers as she announced that this would probably be her last trip to the Washington affair since being inducted in 1979. WOW! Best wishes to all.

Allen Hahn (lighting design) has a couple of shows he is looking ahead to. The first is a production of *Die Fledermaus* at the MAC, reuniting with Robin Guarino, freelance director and J. Ralph Corbett Distinguished Chair in Opera at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music with whom Allen previously worked at Lincoln Center in New York, and the set

designer Allen Moyer, a friend and longtime collaborator with whom he has worked on opera productions in the US and Europe.

Allen will also be making his debut at IRT this fall designing the lighting for their production of *Bridge and Tunnel*.

Rob Johansen (acting/directing) is excited to be teaching for IU again this year, as well as appearing in two shows at the Phoenix Theatre in Indianapolis—*One Man, Two Guvons* in September/October and *A Very Phoenix Xmas X* in November/December. Immediately after he will go into rehearsals at the Indiana Repertory Theatre for *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (January/February).

Terry LaBolt (musical theatre) spent much of the summer orchestrating and arranging commissioned works for the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra. He also engaged two of the IU BFA students, Joey Birchler and Elaine Cotter, as soloists in the concert he helped prepare for the orchestra entitled “Battle of Broadway: Sondheim vs. Webber.” Also, along with Jacobs students Josh Roberts and Quinn Sternberg, the Terry LaBolt trio will appear along with comedienne Christina Bianco at the Carnegie Theater in Covington, Kentucky this fall.

Nyama McCarthy-Brown (contemporary dance) was awarded a Mellon Fellowship to attend the 2015 Summer Dance

Murray McGibbon (acting and directing) spent his summer traveling, including a stay in New York where he directed *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for Hip to Hip Theatre Company. The production toured to parks throughout the five boroughs. Murray blended “a classical ‘outline’ with a contemporary ‘inline’ in terms of the design and production style,” and brought out as much comedy as possible in the work he called “the closest Shakespeare has written to a farce or sitcom.” Murray also is looking forward to staging *King Lear* in May, 2016, performed in the original pronunciation of 1606.

Jonathan Michaelson (Chair) continued his duties as Chair and worked to integrate Contemporary Dance into the Department this year. While logistically challenging, the addition of Dance has been welcome and adds a wonderful new dynamic to the Department. Jonathan also produced his fifth season of the Indiana Festival Theatre and directed *As You Like It*. He directed *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* this fall collaborating with Liza Gennaro and Ray Fellman. Continuing his work for the National Association of Schools of Theatre, Jonathan is currently on the Commission for Accreditation. In conducting Accreditation visits around the country, he has met a number of graduates from IU who are currently serving in leadership roles.



George and Scott's IU Alumni Wedding Party: Taylor Crousore (BFA'13), Chloe Williamson (BFA'13), Best Man Randy Jones (BS'95), Reverend Ray Fellman (BS'97), George, Scott, officiant Scott Hogsed, Maid of Honor Nicole Brown Ferrara (BA'90), Maddie Shea Baldwin (BFA'15), Nat Zegree (EX'14).

The highlight of 2015 for **Scott Jones** and **George Pinney** (both musical theatre) was their marriage ceremony celebrated on Saturday 25th of July at The Red Mill Inn in Baldwinsville, New York. The officiates were Rev. Ray Fellman of the Unitarian Universalist Church and his partner, Scott Hogsed. The Maid of Honor was Nicole Brown ('90) and Randy Jones ('95). The Music Director and accompanist was Nat Zegree who also sang an original song from his upcoming CD to be released this fall. Maddie Shea Baldwin ('15) and Chloe Williamson ('13) sang for the ceremony and the reception. Taylor Crousore ('13) was the M.C. for the reception, dance and party and led a smashing tango. Scott was given away by his mother, Shirley Jones, and George was given away by his sister, Deborah Van Zant. To date this is Scott and George's most memorable production which they plan to extend for the rest of their lives.

Studies Seminar at Northwestern University. In July, Nyama presented *Shadow Cast Over Hope* at the Dancing While Black performance lab in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Also, for the summer of 2015, she was selected to participate in Doug Varone's choreographic intensive, *Devices*, at Purchase College in New York. As an outcome of Varone's mentorship, she premiered a new work at the 92nd Street Y in August.

Dale McFadden (acting and directing) directed *Coming to See Aunt Sophie* in June at The Jewish Theatre of Bloomington with an IU connected group of actors – the cast was Department Alumnus Gerry Pauwels, Graduate Student Jason Craig West, Undergraduates Emily Sullivan and John Putz, and Meisner Acting Teacher Martha Jacobs. In July he was director for *The Gentleman From Indiana* for the Indiana Festival Theatre.

Heather Milam (costume technology) spent the summer as a draper for Illinois Shakespeare Festival's *Love's Labour's Lost* and for the world premiere of Scott Kaiser's sequel, *Love's Labour's Won*. She was also recently appointed a Vice Commissioner of the costume commission of USITT.

Linda Pisano (costume design) has had a busy and wonderful year. Locally she designed *On Golden Pond* with director Janet Allen for the Indiana Repertory Theatre (March 2015) and *South Pacific* for the Jacobs School of Music with director Vince Liotta (February 2015). Farther away, Linda designed *Salome* for Opera San Antonio with soprano Patricia Racette and director Candace Evans (January 2015) and her design work was featured in an exhibition this summer (2015) of international designers entitled *Costume at the Turn of the Century* at the Bakhrushin Museum in Moscow. She and Paul Brunner attended the ALIA (Asian League of Institutes of Art)

conference in Taipei Taiwan in the fall semester. They are working toward the goal of establishing an exchange program in design and technology. Linda continues to be busy with USITT (The United States Institute for Theatre Technology): she was re-elected for another three-year term to the Board of Directors, she co-authored the national diversity statement for USITT, and her work was exhibited at the national conference of USITT (March 2015). Linda also has recently finished authoring a chapter on Design Collaboration for a collaboratively authored textbook on Costuming due out in 2016. One of Linda's proudest moments was watching her graduate student Eriko Terao win a place in the coveted Young Designers Forum. This is an exhibition of the top emerging young theatre designers in the United States. And when Linda was not busy designing, teaching, and mentoring, she was able to spend some significant time with her family this summer and on two novels (fiction) that she has been working on over the past year.



Andres Lopez (PhD'17), Natasha Heines, Eriko Terao (MFA'15), and Linda Pisano at St. Paul's Cathedral in London during the summer Theatre Study Abroad trip.

Thom Quintas (Production Manager) traveled with Paul Brunner and 8 IU Theatre Grad Students—Katie Gruenhagen, Bradley Shaw, Carrie Barton, Aaron Bowersox, Kristen Martino, Sandy Everett, Kelsey Nichols, and Bridgette Dreher—to Prague for the PQ 2015 Exhibition, representing the United States and USITT.

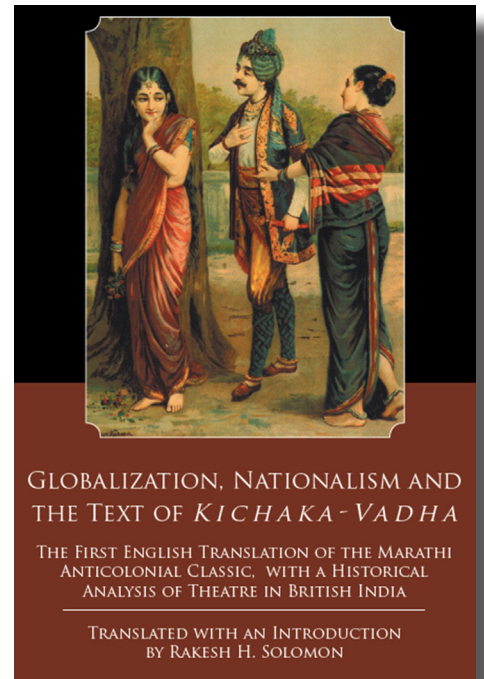
Kenneth Roberson (musical theatre) went to New York in May with the recent graduates and fellow educators of the BFA Musical Theatre program for the annual NYC showcase. Many talent agents and casting directors were there to be introduced to new and fresh talent from IU and our performers were well received. While in New York, Ken took advantage of some tap classes from one of my favorite teachers Germain Salsberg. In June he attended The True Acting Institute: a Professional Development for Acting Teachers, Actors

& Directors in Meisner Training. In July, Ken returned to Bloomington to teach four classes for the IU High School Summer Intensive (Contemporary Dance) curated by Professor Selene B. Carter here at IU.

Elizabeth Shea (contemporary dance) had a busy year touring with several choreographic works. "Minor Bodies" was presented at the Ailey Citygroup Theatre in NYC as part of the American Dance Guild's Festival 2014 and was also shown as part of Dance Kaleidoscope's production of "Carmina Burana" at the Indiana Repertory Theatre, where critic Jay Harvey deemed it "a remarkable display of contemporary dance." Shea also premiered "In the Seas" at the John Ryan Theatre in NYC for the 2014 DUMBO Dance Festival, and showed the work again at the Detroit City Dance Festival. Her newest choreography, "Protean Hearts," was performed at Footprints Dance Festival at the Marjorie S. Dean Little Theatre in NYC, the Midwest Dance Festival in Anderson, IN, and for the 2nd Annual Conference for Somatic-Based Dance at Dean College in Franklin, MA, where Liz also presented a workshop. Additionally, the piece was selected for the First Annual Digital Dance Concert at the World Dance Alliance—Americas Conference 2015 in Hawaii, and was one of four works to be featured during the conference presentation. In May, Liz spent a week at the University of Maryland re-staging "Flawed," with music by JSOM composer Don Freund, on professionals Connie Dinapoli, Adriane Fang, and Arturo Garcia. Liz also presented at the 2014 National Dance Organization's annual conference, and in July gave master classes in Florence, Italy for the Florence Dance Center and at Dance Italia in Lucca. On campus, Liz was honored to be featured in the "Groundbreaker" section of The College Winter 2015 Magazine. She was also part of the student/mentor team with senior Ryan Galloway, who became the first dance major at IU to win the Provost's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity.

In 2014, **Rakesh Solomon** (Associate Professor Emeritus) saw the publication of his latest book, *Globalization, Nationalism and the Text of Kichaka-Vadha: The First English Translation of the Marathi Anticolonial Classic, with a Historical Analysis of Theatre in British India* (Anthem Press). This is the only edition of the play, in any language, to provide an extensive historical-

critical analysis which draws on a comprehensive range of archival documents. It is also the first study to locate this landmark text within such an expansive theatre-historical and political landscape. "Globalization, Nationalism and the Text of "Kichaka Vadha"" illuminates the complex policies and mechanisms of theatrical censorship in the British Raj, and offers many rare production photographs. Phillip Zarilli, of the University of Exeter, called it "An extremely well-researched and highly significant contribution to the history and politics of early modern anticolonial theatre in India accompanied by a translation of the Marathi text." (book jacket pictured below)



Ronald Waincott (history, theory and dramatic literature) is working on a new book-length project based on theatre of ugliness and the death and resurrection of Dionysus. He will be on sabbatical in the fall working on this project including library work in New York and Washington, D.C.

Stephen Watt (history, theory and literature) is pleased to announce that his book, "Something Dreadful and Grand": *Modern American Literature and the Irish-Jewish Unconscious* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015) just came out, as did "Sam Shepard, Irish Playwright," in *Irish Theatre in Transition: From the Late Nineteenth to the Early Twenty-First Century*, ed. Donald E. Morse (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

CLASS NOTES

SPECIAL REQUEST

Barbara Anne (Heron) Selvitella (BA '68, MA '69)

I am presently searching for a living kidney donor and I am sharing my campaign to find a donor and raise funds to help offset the medical and travel expenses that a donor might incur.

My website is located at:

<https://helpholive.org/campaign/9372>

I remember my days in the Speech Department fondly and am very grateful for the wonderful education I received there.

IN MEMORIUM

Kit Carson (BA '80) passed away in January. He worked as the chief of staff for Rush Limbaugh's EIB Network in New York from 1988 through 2014.

J. Edgar Webb (PhD '71) passed away in January following a fall in his home. He had retired in 1993 as head of the Theatre Program at IUPUI. Subsequently, he devoted his retirement years to studying painting technique, and working in both pastels and oils. He completed a number of commissioned portraits and sold numerous landscapes and still-life pictures.

1950s

Nancy Kierspe Dodd (BA '58) Although her main career was that of mother and Senior Mortgage Loan officer, she had been active in theatre since the moment she graduated from IU. She has appeared in over 40 community productions, won numerous acting awards, had a children's musical published by Samuel French, won the Northeastern Indiana Playwright contest in both 2010 and 2014, and has written and have seen production of 4 other musicals for youth. When she was a senior at IU, her script *The Beautiful Witch* won the annual Jordan River Revue Contest and was produced by the department.

1960s

Jonathan Banks (EX '68) reprised his role as Mike Ehrmantraut from the FX series *Breaking Bad* in the spinoff *Better Call Saul*, for which he earned his third Emmy nomination. Jonathan has continued to give

back to IU, having attended a series of IU Media School and alumni events held in Los Angeles this past June.

Richard S. (Dick) Beam (BA '66, MA '69) retired from his position on the faculty of the School of Stage and Screen at Western Carolina University just over a year ago. Along the way (since I.U.), he obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia and spent much of his career as Principal Faculty Scenic and Lighting Designer and Technical Director. From 2006 to 2010, he was Chair of the Faculty at WCU, which drastically reduced his production schedule, although he continued to teach Dramatic Literature & Criticism and Theatre History. Since he retired, Dick and his wife Bonnie moved to Omaha, NE, to be closer to one of their daughters. You can visit his web site and blog at www.richardsbeam.net.

Ron Garrison (BA '67) has served as Cultural Events Coordinator for the City of Denver, where he coordinated the hundreds of festivals and special events annually held in Denver and produced many large events such as the Stanley Cup Celebration, Papal Arrival Ceremonies, and LucasFilm's first Star Wars Celebration. He is most proud of producing the blockbuster Denver Millennium Celebration that brought a quarter-million people to Denver's Downtown. Now retired, Ron finished his career with the City of Denver as Guest Services Manager for the world-famous Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Ron managed the venues' events staff and customer interface so that each guest could experience the kind of world-class service appropriate to such a famous venue.

Susan Spring Hermann (BA '64) married her fellow theatre student Vincent C. Gagliardi soon after graduation. Together they worked in educational theatre for



Jonathan Banks (EX'68) at the dedication of the new Media School during Homecoming 2014.

about 15 years. Susan was Costumer for the Department at Minnesota State University in Mankato from 1964 – 68; they then moved East, when Vincent was hired at Professor of Theatre and Stage Designer at Central Connecticut State University. She taught Introduction to the Theatre at CCSU for 10 years, enjoying a variety of teenagers through mature students. In the 1980s she had two daughters and a Master in Literature. She published her first adult books in 1983-1986, then moved into literature for young readers. She has written novels, biographies, and social surveys and histories from 1988 to the present. Check out her website: www.springhermann.com. In 2002 she had her first musical play produced. Since then she has written four plays and the book to two musicals. One musical and one play are on the list at Big Dog Publishers. Her older daughter Margo Spring Gagliardi [now Margo Tucker] chose Indiana University Bloomington to attend. This made 3 generations to graduate from IU - her dad Arthur G. Hermann was a graduate in the 1930s.

Cynthia Anne Voigt (BA '69) (formerly Cynthia Montilla) is working on adapting Hakan Nesser's book *Woman with a Birthmark* into a screenplay.

1970s

Jane Adams Birdsong (BA '72) continues to act and direct plays in Elkins, West Virginia, where she has made her home since 1986. This year Jane directed *Grace & Glorie* by Tom Ziegler, and played the role of 90 year-old Grace at the Old Brick Playhouse in Elkins. She occasionally does murder mysteries on board the Tygart Flyer, a 4-hour train trip where passengers interact with the actors and try to guess the culprit. She also recently performed several roles in a touring show, "Traveling 219," which told stories of folks - in their own words - who lived and worked along Route 219 through West Virginia, over the past 50 years. The route has now been dubbed the "West Virginia Music Trail." Birdsong also performs as a ballad-singer, accompanying herself on guitar, autoharp, banjo & dulcimer.

Michael Bourne (MA '69, PhD '77) Still on the radio, New Year's Eve celebrated 30 years on WBGO, broadcasting world-

wide on wbgo.org ... Still a theatre critic and frequently gets to show off his IU Ph.D., active member of the Outer Critics Circle ... Still lives more in the jazz world than the theatre world, this summer his 23rd being part of the Montreal Jazzfest ... Still the artistic director of the Jazz on the Mountain festival at Mohonk Mountain House in the Hudson Valley ... Last year's jazz highlight: hanging with Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga, wrote cover story for DownBeat, recorded a radio special with them on wbgo.org/blog ... Last year's theatre highlight: wrote, directed, and performed in a cabaret show called *My Jazzy Valentine*, all about standards composed by jazz greats ...

David Chambers (MA '76) worked for



many years as a writer for television, most prominently *The Wonder Years*, *Frank's Place* (both won Emmys for writing),

and *Bosom Buddies*, which launched Tom Hanks' career. He has also written documentaries, including the History Channel program based on the book, *April 1865: The Month That Saved America*. The past few years he has been team-teaching writing for the screen with his wife, Julie. They helped launch Syracuse University's Los Angeles Semester program, which is now entering its seventh year. They have also been teaching for the graduate school of Film and Television for UCLA. David continues to write, as well as teach, and will be publishing a Civil War novel in the next few months.

Sheila Duell (BA '75) has been in the Piedmont Triad (Greensboro, NC) for over 35 years. In the last year she has been involved in promoting several music and film projects including narration and vocals for Andrew Eversole's acclaimed Americana CD, *The Cumberland Ghost*, (<https://andreweversole.bandcamp.com/album/the-cumberland-ghost>). This summer she was in the studio singing on the soundtrack for the film short *Someday* (2016 release), singing jazz as part of *Jazz Nomads*, acting in the film short *Return*, and has done production work for Stephen van Vuuren's IMAX film *In Saturn's Rings* (<http://www.insaturnsrings.com/>).

2016 may see a revival of *Dorian*, her musical adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Michael Mell (MA '78) continues his work as a theater consultant (www.theaterdesigninc.com) and lighting designer. His consulting projects include the Birman 32 Theater in Sao Paolo, Brazil, the Centro de Convenciones de Lima, in Peru and the renovation of Loudis Concert Hall at the University of Delaware. His lighting design credits include: *The Goblin Market*, *On Golden Pond* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Joe Paparone (PhD '78) has taught at SUNY New Paltz since 1970 and been a full Professor there since 1978. He has taught almost all courses in the curriculum except for costume courses (he never understood the magic of the bobbin). He has produced over forty -five productions during fifteen different Summer Repertory Theatre seasons. He has directed more than a dozen Departmental productions and has designed lighting and scenery for several productions. Also, he has acted in various college, community, regional, and professional productions and has appeared in such films as *Perfect Stranger*, *Romance & Cigarettes*, *Illuminata*, *Lesser Prophets*, *Men in Black*, *Nobody's Fool*, *Romeo Is Bleeding*, *Mr. Wonderful*, *Mac*, and *Men of Respect*. His television credits include *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, *Ed*, *Feds*, and *Guiding Light* (see his professional resume at "www.joepaparone.com") He retired and became Professor Emeritus on Sept. 1, 2013. He continues to be a Board Member of McKenna Productions, Ltd. (a non-profit corporation that produced New Paltz Summer Repertory Theatre and all main stage departmental productions from 1973 thru 2004 and which continues to offer theatre students at SUNY New Paltz scholarships annually).

Alex Polner (BA '79) is the Director of Visual Merchandising for Alex Brands in Fairfield, NJ, an international Toy Company. For past 11+ years that he has worked for them, he has designed showrooms, trade shows and over 30 stores globally. He lives in Montclair, NJ, and has two children.

Kate (Kathleen) Robbins (MA '73, PhD '80) has been awarded the 2015 Small Business Award for excellence in Education & Entertainment performance skills for *Speak Sure: The Art & Craft of Powerful Pre-*

senting! Highlights of the year include sending one student to National History Day finals to perform her 10-minute one-woman show on the life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and beginning work on *Under the Lintel*, a one-man show, with another coachee. She was both sad and happy to attend Howard Jensen's memorial tribute at IU Bloomington and reconnect with Gerard Pauwels, Leon & Roberta Brauner, Randy & Nancy Pope, and Marian & Keith Michael! "I just loved my days at IU; they informed my adult life in such a positive way. I think my 14-year old daughter may attend IU to study languages. Just maybe."

Ellen (Miller) Snyder (BA '73) ended up in IU management despite her BA in Theatre and Drama and MBA from UCLA in Arts Administration. She retired three years ago after 32 years as Director of Information and Telecommunications Services at IU Health Bloomington Hospital. She has been active for about 10 years in a sort of readers' theater group in Bloomington called the Faculty Drama Club and in May, 2015, stepped onto a real stage, playing the role of The Chef in a Woody Allen comedy produced by the Little Theatre of Bedford.

Stephen Sorkin (MA '72) resides in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston. Stephen's artistic career began as a member of the Indiana University Repertory Company. He later received his MFA at Brandeis University. He has taught theatre and served as a director at the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, Loyola University, the University of Maine, Emerson College and the Boston Conservatory. Stephen joined the development staff of the Huntington Theatre Company and embarked on a second career in fundraising leading to long-term positions with the New England Aquarium, Salem State College, and Boston Center for the Arts and consulting positions at various metro Boston non-profits. Stephen also works as a voice over actor. Stephen and his wife Karla have seven grandchildren.

Scott K. Strode (PhD '74) retired from Manchester College (now University) after 34 years as Director of Theatre (2009) and moved to Iowa City, IA. He is involved in local theatre as actor and director. Selected roles: Ebenezer Scrooge, *A Christmas Carol* (City Circle Acting Company), Judge and Ciaphas, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Dreamwell Theatre), Reverend Tooker,

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Malachi Stack, *The Matchmaker*, Barber, *Man of La Mancha* (all with Iowa City Theatre Company), Puck, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Combined Efforts Theatre), Cornelius, *Cymbeline* (Fourth Room Theatre). He also directed *The Crucible* for Dreamwell Theatre and *Steel Magnolias* for Iowa City Theatre Company.

Dorothy Webb (PhD '70) retired as Chair of the Department of Communication Studies and Theatre at IUPUI in 2000. She served for 9 years as president of the Children's Theatre Foundation of America and currently serves as past-president and on the Executive Committee. After retirement from IUPUI, she continued to direct The Bonderman Playwriting for Youth Symposium and development lab she founded in 1985 and administered until 2011. It subsequently moved to the joint sponsorship of the Indiana Repertory Theatre and Childsplay, a professional theatre for youth in Tempe, Az. The biennial event was renamed "Write/Now." The first event under the new titled was In 2013 in Tempe where she was honored in an evening long retrospection of the Bonderman and where the playwright prizes were named in her honor. This year she attended the event meeting this year at the IRT and presented the "Webb Prizes" to four winning playwrights (from a field of over 150 submissions).

This year she also attended the College of Fellows of the American Theatre's 50th anniversary at the Kennedy Center, Washington, DC where she supported the candidacy of Janet Allen, Indiana Repertory Theatre, for induction into the membership. She also created and presented a citation honoring Janet for the Orlin Corey Medalion Award presented by the Children's Theatre Foundation of America at the meeting of One Theatre World/ TYA meeting in Chicago.

D. Terry Williams (PhD '74) is Chair Emeritus, Dept. of Theatre, Western Michigan University. He directed *Good People* and *Lend Me a Tenor* for Kalamazoo Civic Theatre; *Old Wicked Songs* and *The Glass Menagerie* for Farmers Alley Theatre (Equity), starring his wife, Sharon Hopfinger Williams (BA '69). In 2016 he will direct *The Mountaintop* for Face Off Theatre, *Other Desert Cities* for Farmers Alley Theatre, *4000 Miles* for Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, and *Glengarry Glen Ross* for Western Michigan University Theatre.

1980s

Richard J. Allen (MFA '84) has been Professor of Film, TV and Digital Media at Texas Christian University since 1993. In 2014, his play *Starbright and Vine* was produced at Stage West in Fort Worth, Texas. In October, he will direct the regional premiere of *Bad Jews*, and again at Stage West to open their 2015-2016 season. His wife Sheri (nee Berkson, also an IU alum, with many acting credits 1980-1983) is now a Cantor at Congregation Beth Shalom in Arlington, Texas and a Chaplain at Harris Methodist Hospital in Ft. Worth. Their youngest daughter, Rebekah is having a world premiere production of her musical (she wrote book, music and lyrics) *We Are the Tigers* at The Hudson Backstage Theatre in Los Angeles, beginning October 10.

Alice Bristow (MFA '89) was recently appointed the Director of Theatre at Berry College. Her most recent professional costume design, other than the many Berry shows, was for *Madame Butterfly* at the Utah Opera. Alice also received Berry College's Student Government Association Faculty Member of the Year award for 2013/14. She has been at Berry College for 15 years as head of the costume design and construction program.

Elane Denny-Todd (MFA '84) has been Head of the Performance Program at Ohio Wesleyan University since 1992, where she directs productions each year and teaches acting, voice, and movement. This past year she directed *The Merchant of Venice* and *Shaw's Heartbreak House*. Elane stays active in the community with her two children Alex and Laurleena, both Seniors in High School, husband, Rick Todd, and their 3 German Shepherds. She was recently elected to the Board of Directors of APT, A Portable Theatre, Inc.

Alvia Lewis Frey (BA '82) is a columnist for Pharos Tribune in Logansport, IN, where she also teaches 3rd and 4th grade Sunday school teacher at St. Matthew United Methodist Church.

Lynne Porter (MFA '85) continues to work as the Chair of the Theatre Program at Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT. She was recently promoted to full professor. She also recently published a book about creativity in the theatre-making process called *Unmask-*

ing Theatre Design: A Designer's Guide to Finding Inspiration and Cultivating Creativity. It is published by Focal Press, a Routledge imprint, and it's available on Amazon. She also continues to design freelance and was recently named an Affiliated Artist of the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, in Pennsylvania. "Life is good."

William Grange (PhD '81) published his latest book this summer, the second edition of his *Historical Dictionary of German Theater*. It is his eleventh book in print. Please see <http://www.amazon.com/William-Grange/e/Boo1HOHO5G> for his other books, some in paperback, some available via Kindle. This past year he also published two book reviews in a journal published by Bath Spa University in England called SHARP (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing) and an essay for the December issue of the German History Society, published by Oxford University Press. He appeared in nation-wide commercial for LICOR Biosciences, a firm which manufactures molecular protein synthesizers. He played the Ghost of Laboratores Present. Also last year he played Sarastro in a student production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

Donna (Waters) Kishbaugh (BA '84) currently lives in Westfield, IN with her writer husband Greg Kishbaugh and their two children, a son Dagan who is 22, and a daughter Bronwyn who is 16. Donna is a self-employed artist and jewelry designer who creates unique, functional mixed media art pieces. She also currently works for Live Nation creating mixed media works and handcrafted jewelry for House of Blues venues across the country. She recently had some of her pieces debut on the runway at New York Fashion Week with her friend and Project Runway contestant Buffi Jashanmal's Science Fiction inspired fashion designs. Donna has been published in a number of publications and books, such as *1000 Steampunk Creations*, and she has created mixed media works for celebrities and rock bands alike. When she is not creating art or jewelry, Donna utilizes her hard-earned MA in Fiction Writing from Columbia College Chicago by conceptualizing and writing comic stories and marketing her husband's books. She also works for del Toro Films promoting Guillermo del Toro movies and other del Toro works. Visit her website at <http://about.me/TheArtOfDonna>.

Tina Magnuson (BA '82) moved to Martha's Vineyard after graduating where she did lighting design for the Vineyard Playhouse. In 1990 she moved to NYC and opened up the Workhouse Theater in Tribeca where she acted as technical director and designed lights. Additionally she stage managed and did lighting for La Mama and SoHo Rep. In 1994 she moved over to film and TV working mostly on music videos and commercials up with a couple years off as a staffer at Comedy Central. Since 1999 she has been production managing and line producing mostly live and live to tape multi-camera variety specials and TV shows including *Live By Request* for A&E, *The Mark Twain Prize* for WNET and *In Performance at the White House* to name a few. She feels fortunate to work with many of the top professionals in the business.

Barbara Ann O'Leary (BA '81) has managed IU Cinema's social media since 2013. She created "Directed by Women: A Worldwide Film Viewing Party," held from September 1-15, 2015: <http://directedbywomen.com/en>.

Jane Page (MFA '83) is the Head of Directing at University of California, Irvine, where she was named 2015 Professor of the Year. She has been busy doing community-based and collaborative projects as well as freelancing. She will be directing *I and You* at the Repertory Theatre of St Louis in October. She directed *All My Sons* last winter for the Swine Palace Production in Baton Rouge and *Macbeth* at Colorado Shake two summers ago. She directed the European premiere of *Other Desert Cities* in Vienna and *The Great Goddess Bazaar* continues to tour the US and abroad.



Jane in rehearsal for the European premiere of *Other Desert Cities* at Vienna's English Theatre; discussion with Artistic Director Julia Schafranek.

Fred Shamlian (MFA '84) has been the head of his own ad agency since 1986 in Philadelphia. After years of focusing on de-

signing and marketing credit cards for major banks and their Fortune 1000 partners, the Shamlian Creative team decided to return to our roots as a full service marketing & branding firm. With 5 new clients this year, a new project manager, and an inexplicable yet welcome jump in our clients' collective willingness to embrace ever more ambitious marketing strategies, things are definitely trending up. His son Forrest, 23, is a tour de force, with his own video firm (OutboundCreative.com), a unique theatrical performance using his own custom-designed nunchakus (chuckarts.com), and a leading role in creating events and video interviews for fans of anime and video games (jstudios.com). His younger son Chase leaves much too soon to for his freshman year at Boston University, to study broadcast journalism and economics. "Much happiness and success to all my fellow classmates!"

Thor Steingraber (BA '88) just completed his first year as Executive Director of Valley Performing Arts Center in Los Angeles. The new 1700-seat LEED certified venue has received many awards, including selection as top 3 venue on an U.S. university campus. Thor launched his first season with Yo-Yo Ma in recital.

Don Stoll (Ph.D. '82) taught at Glassboro State College (now known as Rowan University) in Glassboro, NJ for thirty-four years in the Communication Department (later the College of Communication). He retired in 2011 after a total of 34 years of service. He taught a full range of undergraduate and graduate courses and his share of administrative duties including Director of General Education and Director of the Honors Program, but he was most happy teaching Freshman Composition, a course he managed to teach at least one section of during every one of my 34 years. His research ended up focusing on children's magazines and on the pedagogy of teaching composition and rhetoric, quite a stretch from his major at IU in American theatre and drama. Since his retirement he has worked as a travel

writer focusing primarily on central Europe and as a consultant for College Board leading workshops for high school teachers of AP English Language and Composition. He

is married to Pat Alexy Stoll and has three children.

Denise Stoner-Barone (Cert/BA'85) has self-published several books under the pen name Denise Gwen: *Trailer Park Wives—The Single Wide Edition* and *Trailer Park Wives—The Double Wide Edition* on both Amazon and Smashwords, as well as *House of Wax*, *The Well*, *Groovy Girl*, and the ninety-nine cent read, a short story called "How to Get a Date to the Prom." Also as Denise Gwen, I have a sweet young adult paranormal called *Covenkeepers* on CleanReads.Com and a sweet contemporary romance called *Molly's Folly*. With e-publisher SweetCravings.com, I have a sweet young adult romance, *Perfect Girls*. There is also a contemporary romance with Soul Mate Publishing, entitled *Judging Rachel*. As Gwen Williams, I have my first male/male romance, *Breaking Out*, with SecretCravings.com. As self-published author Angharad Williams, I've released *Goose Girl and the Mischievous Little Maid—Part One* (Part Two is in edits), *Snow White and Rose Red*, *Camping Weekend*, and *Mirabelle*.

Brad Tassell (BA '87) has had an amazing year! He toured his stand-up comedy show across the UK from August – December and most of May, also Cologne, Germany. He also just signed to have his book *Don't Feed the Bully* turned into a graphic novel. In Bloomington he did pieces for 12 episodes of the PBS series *The Friday Zone* at WTIU, and he will do more next season.

As one half of Two First Name Productions, **John Thomas** (BA '84) co-created, co-produces and occasionally performs in "Going ... Going ... Gone," a long-form improv show that is staged on the first Sunday of every month at Indianapolis' Theatre on the Square. Developed for the 2012 IndyFringe Festival, this interactive "live auction comedy" has been in monthly production for three years and also has been performed at community theatres, festivals and for private gatherings. John also directed "The High-Impact Infidelity Diet" at the 2013 IndyFringe Festival. He and his partner in Two First Name Productions are currently developing a series of play readings presented outside of theatrical settings.

Catherine Zublin (MFA '86) was recently appointed the Interim Dean of the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities at Weber State University (WSU).

This fall begins her 30th year at WSU. In addition to her duties at WSU she serves as the chair for Design, Technology & Management for the Kennedy Center American Theatre Festival, Region VIII. She's pleased to be able to mentor young design students.

1990s

Charles Barrett (BA '90) graduated in 2002 from AFI- The American Film Institute with an MFA in Screenwriting. After 15 years working in Casting, Talent and Production in Los Angeles, CA, he is now about to celebrate my three year anniversary as a Professor in the MFA for Creative Writing at Full Sail University in Orlando Florida.

Richard Bristow (MFA '97) is now doing voice over full time. After launching his voice over website, www.bristowvo.com, he booked a National radio commercial for Tecate beer. His most recent gigs have been a Holiday spot for the Texas Lottery and a "boss" in an audiogame (videogame for the blind) for Blastbay Studios in Sweden! Many of Richard's theatre students at Berry College also played characters or bosses in the game entitled "The Gate." He was also selected to voice the new Berry College "Life Ready" campaign video. Richard also donates his time to AIRS-LA, the audio internet reading service for the blind. You can listen to his podcasts of the New York Times movie reviews at airs-la.org

Jeff Coté (MFA '95) recently received the award for Best Principal Actor by The San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle for the play *The Book of Matthew (Leibowitz)* by Gene Abravaya.



Steven Cole Hughes (BA '95) had his latest play *A Good Indian* presented in a staged reading at the inaugural New Works Festival, at the historic Elitch Theatre in Denver, CO in August. He accepted a one year contract to teach theatre at Western State Colorado University in Gunnison,

CO for the 2015-16 academic year. Steve and his wife Heather also welcomed their baby girl, Birdie Lucille Hughes, to the world October 3rd.

Flip Filippelli (BA '94) worked on several films after graduating, including *Best of the Best 3* and *In the Soup*. He moved to Los Angeles in 1995 where he worked as an art director and then as a construction coordinator on various TV, film, music videos, and photo shoots. He eventually formed his own company, Lake Effect Films, designing and building sets, and then having a set shop on the lot of Hollywood Center Studios (formerly Desilu) called 41 Sets. He now lives in Napa, CA, having moved there 4 years ago, where he does project management for a few Bay Area interior designers as well as designs and builds custom furniture and art from reclaimed and recycled materials.

Catherine Fritsch (BA '96) continues to work as a designer, pattern maker and sample maker for local fashion entrepreneurs at her business Mercurious Designs (est. Noblesville 2007). She still occasionally do costume work for IRT (this year: built a smattering of costumes for DK's Ray & Ella, IRT's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and later this year, *The Great Gatsby*). Her apparel brand, Rue Violet, is growing as well.

Suzanne Schuckel Heath (BA '90), based in New York City, is now represented by literary agent Courtney Miller-Callihan from the Sanford J. Greenburger agency. She's a novelist who is currently enjoying incorporating elements of her theatrical past into the Gothic horror novel she's working on. She's got a fifth grade son, third grade daughter, a husband, and a one-eyed-cat. She would love to stay in touch with IU alum...please find her on Facebook or on Twitter @zannieSH.

Suzanne Lang Fodor (BA '96) is teaching and advising at DePaul University, Chicago in The Theatre School and have been a part of their faculty for 8 years.

Presently she is filming a web series called *Trade Show Girls*. Recently she worked on *Sense8* (Netflix), *Chicago Fire*, and *Chicago PD* (NBC) and filmed two film shorts last summer "Beyond a Field of Poppies" and "Gardening at Night".

Ben Livingston (MFA '90) can currently be seen at Dr. Mays on the Cinemax series *The Knick*. He also appeared on episodes of *Elementary*, *House of Cards* and *Daredevil* in 2015. Recently he acted in the Tectonic Theater Project's benefit performance of Moisés Kaufman's *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* alongside a cast that featured Sally Field, Larry Kramer, Tony Kushner, and Judith Light, among others.



Ben Livingston as Coleman Brown on the CBS series Elementary.

Darian Lindle (BA '99) moved to Seattle in 2000 after an internship at the Steppenwolf. There she interned for Seattle Repertory Theatre in directing and dramaturgy. She has since been a director, actor, theatre educator and playwright about town. Of her 17 plays, all but one have been produced. In 2010 her adaptation of *The Westing Game* was published by Dramatic Publishing and is now produced at schools across the country. Her next play, *The Secret and Impossible League of the Noosphere*, is a science fiction commission by Live Girls! Theater which will open in spring 2016. She is also working on a post-apocalyptic musical and her first novel. She is married to sound artist Nick Notis and has young twin daughters.

Joel Markus (BA '96) is in his fifth season as Production Manager at the Wal-

nut Street Theatre in Philadelphia. Other credits: ten seasons at the Indiana Repertory Theatre; four years at Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, NY; five summers at the Weston Playhouse in Vermont; American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin; and North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly, Massachusetts.

Derek Miller (BA '97) appeared on Comedy Central's *Drunk History* narrating the story of "The Birth of Mickey Mouse" in the *Hollywood* episode. He also recently completed filming on an as-of-now unnamed pilot with fellow alum **Nicole Parker** (BA '00).



Nicole Parker (BA'00) and Derek Miller (BA'97) recently completed work on a new television pilot. They are pictured with the full cast.

Chris Petrelli (BA '98) serves as the Director of Programs and Education at Conner Prairie Museum in Fishers, Indiana.

Annie (Boedeker) Roberts (BA '99) was recently promoted to VP, Casting and Talent Development for E! Entertainment Television.

Diane Timmerman (MFA '93) is Chair of Theatre at Butler University and Producing Artistic Director of the Heartland Actors' Repertory Theatre (HART), an Equity company in Indianapolis that produces free Shakespeare productions each summer. Favorite recent acting appearances include *Rancho Mirage*, *August: Osage County*, and *Bug* at the Phoenix Theatre and *Othello* and *Much Ado About Nothing* for HART. Diane is a Designated Linklater voice teacher and the author of *Spare Scenes: 60 Skeletal Scenes for Acting and Directing*.

LaRonika Thomas (BA '99) is a doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland with research interests in performances of urban planning, cultural space and cultural policy, particularly in 21st century Chicago, online archiving and databases in the new play world, and technology and performance. As professional dramaturg, producer, and writer, LaRonika worked in arts education, literary management, and dramaturgy in Chicago and in the Baltimore/DC area for a decade before returning to school for her doctorate. She has worked in various capacities with the Goodman Theatre, the Public Theater, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, The

Kennedy Center, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Centerstage, The Playwright's Center, The Neo-Futurists, and Writers' Theatre, among others. Her work has been funded by LMDA, the University of Maryland, and the City of Chicago. Her chapter, "Digital Dramaturgy and Digital Dramaturgs" is included in the volume, *The Routledge Companion to Dramaturgy*. She serves as the Vice President for Regional Activity for Literary Managers & Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA) and as the Electronic Communications Co-Chair for ATHE's Dramaturgy Focus Group. She and her husband, Nate Larson, currently live in Baltimore, MD.

Karen Weinberg (BA '95) spent the first 10 years after graduation acting in Chicago theatre productions, working with a variety of companies including the Neo-Futurists and the Cupid players. She moved to Brooklyn, New York in 2005 and spent 6 years there, which included acting in the successful off-Broadway production of *Seussical* as Gertrude McFuzz and singing on the cast album for that production. At the same time she transitioned to a career as a television and film editor, working on feature films and shows for PBS and the History Channel. She now lives with her wife Marjorie and two dogs back in Chicago, and is currently directing/producing a feature documentary about an endangered Alaska Native language and the teachers who are working to save it. Please check

out the film website at www.keeptalkingthefilm.com or on Facebook (search for Keep Talking - the film) and follow on Twitter @keeptalkingfilm.

2000s

Ira Amyx (MFA '03) recently appeared on episodes *Shameless* (Showtime), *Sirens* (USA Network), and *Chicago P.D.* (NBC). He has independent films soon to be released including *Thrill Ride*, *Resurrecting McGinns* with IU alum Lia Mortensen (BA'88), and *The Dwarves of Demrel* with fellow IU alum, Happy Anderson (MFA'02). Ira is co-owner of Hero Solutions, a prop, set and special effects studio serving the Chicagoland film and commercial community.

Happy Anderson (MFA '02) currently can be seen in the second season of the Cinemax series *The Knick* as Jimmy. Happy recently wrapped up filming on the new Cinemax series *Quarry* playing Detective Verne Ratliffe. He appeared in the staged reading of *There's Never A Gavin*, by Amy E. Witting at the Atlantic Theatre Company. And *Addiction: A 60's Love Story* had its New York Premiere November 6th at Cinema Village in NYC. Also look for Happy in *Hit Men* on the festival circuit in 2016 along with fellow alum Ira Amyx.



Happy Anderson as Jimmy in the Cinemax series, The Knick

Vanessa Ballam (MFA '06) is the Head of Acting in the theatre department at Idaho State University where she is starting her fourth year in the tenure track position. She is also the Education Director for Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre. In the last year she portrayed Fantine in

Les Miserables and Princess Margaret in *The Student Prince* at UFOMT, she directed *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* for the Old Lyric Repertory Company, and she directed *The Musical of Musicals, the Musical* for ISU. Upcoming directing projects include: *The Glass Menagerie* and *Guys and Dolls* at ISU, and *Bravo Caruso* for UFOMT. This fall she performed at The Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland in their new production of *A Christmas Carol*. She is married to actor Stefan Espinosa and they have a son named Sebastian.

Jude “J.D.” Biersdorfer (BA ’03) served as a properties master/wardrobe assistant in a few regional theaters in the late 1980s, including Bucks County Playhouse in Pennsylvania, Arena Stage in Washington, DC, and Soho Repertory in New York City. After a few non-union tech jobs in NYC, she got a job as a typesetter at *Rolling Stone* magazine in 1988 (thanks to four years in the production department at the *Indiana Daily Student*) and has been in magazine/newspaper/book publishing ever since. She has been at *The New York Times* since 1994 and currently serves as the production editor for the Sunday Book Review section. She has also been writing the paper’s weekly computer Q&A column since 1998 and the Book Review’s Applied Reading column since 2012. She is the author or co-author of eight books (mostly in O’Reilly Media’s “Missing Manuals” series) and has written numerous freelance articles for other publications, including *Frommer’s Budget Travel* and the *AIGA Journal of Graphic Design*. Fear not, the theater degree did not go to waste — she performed in a series of tech-help videos for *The Times* in 2008-2009 (where she did her own props) and co-hosted the NYT’s tech podcast for five years. She currently scripts, blogs and co-hosts a weekly audio podcast called *Pop Tech Jam* that covers technology news/geek pop culture and moderates an annual panel on diversity in comic books at New York Comic Con.

Jennifer (Froehlich) Birnie (BA ’03) has just celebrated her first full season as the Development

& Fundraising Officer of Pittsburgh Musical Theater after four years as the Individual Giving Manager with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Jennifer and

Andrew Birnie (BA ’04) also recently celebrated eight years of marriage. Their daughter Carley is 2 and a budding dramatic. Andrew Birnie transitioned from Bayer Material Sciences to Covestro in September, 2015 in Industrial Marketing. Andrew and Jennifer live in Sewickley, Pennsylvania and get back to Bloomington at least once a year to relive the glory days of IU and always make time to visit the Theater, the place of their first meeting.

Seamus M. Bourne (MFA ’09) welcomed with his wife Anna the arrival of twins Madeleine Jane Ramsey Bourne & Holden James Marshall Bourne on October 31, 2014. He was also promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor of Theatre at Berry College where he teaches Scenic Design/Technology & Stage Management. He received two Faculty Design Merit Awards from Region IV of KCACTF where he was also named Stage Management Coordinator. He joined United Scenic Artists Local 829 in May. Production Highlights Include: *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Jar the Floor*, *Knuffle Bunny* (Assistant Designer), and *Click Clack Moo* (Scenic Artist @ Center for Puppetry Arts).

Kate Braun (BA ’00) appeared this summer in the Adirondack Theatre Festival’s production of *Kalamzoo*. She can also be seen in the play *Billy Witch* at the Bloomington Playwrights’ Project, directed by **Rob Heller** (MFA ’15).

Angelique Cabral (BA ’01) is currently starring as Colleen in the new CBS sitcom *Life of Pieces* Mondays at 8:30pm. She also appeared on episodes of *State of Affairs*, *Backstrom*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Chicago P.D.*, and *The Odd Couple* last year.

Yuri Cataldo (BA ’04) has had a busy year. In addition to teaching scenic design at Indiana University South Bend, he started to teach marketing classes to art students and launched a new class called “Art Entrepreneurship”. He was a featured speaker at the Self Employment In the Arts Conference in early 2015 in addition to speaking gigs at Stanford and Princeton about Art Entrepreneurship. In May he was hired to be the Director of Creative Enterprises at Emerson College in Boston and launch their brand new program geared at helping artists become entrepreneurs. In February 2015 his bottled water company IndigoH2O was featured in the gift baskets at the Oscars and during the same weekend it won a GOLD medal at the Berkley Springs International Water Tasting making it the best tasting water in the world for 2015. Because of those events he was featured in 25 news stories and articles in the following few weeks. (BuzzFeed, Playboy, CNN, CNBC, IndyStar). This summer he designed costumes for a production of *Over The River and Through The Woods* at Florida Studio Theater in Sarasota, FL.

Christopher Crostic (MFA ’06) has been at Stevenson University located outside of Baltimore, MD since January 2009 and was just promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor.

Eileen Curley (Ph.D. ’06) recently published an article, “Parlor Conflagrations: Science and Special Effects in Manuals for Amateur Theatricals,” in *Popular Entertainment Studies*. <https://nova.ojs.newcastle.edu.au/ojs/index.php/pes/article/view/151/123>. She has been selected to teach in her college’s Freshman Florence Experience program and will be spending the fall 2015 semester teaching “Writing for College: Performing Florence” at the Marist College / Istituto de Lorenzo de’ Medici campus in Florence, Italy.



The Cast of the new CBS sitcom Life in Pieces featuring Angelique Cabral (BA'01).



Colin Donnell (BA'05) as Dr. Conor Rhodes from the new NBC drama *Chicago Med*.

Colin Donnell (BA '05) is currently working on the new TV series *Chicago Med*. He married Patti Murin in June and then the two went off to celebrate by starring in *Holiday Inn* at the St. Louis MUNY in July.

Larry Dooley (PhD '00) has been chair of the Theatre Department at Columbus State University, Georgia, since 2010. The department has nearly 170 majors in the BA, BFA, BS.Ed, and M.Ed. degree tracks. The department recently received an endowed chair in dance, with the intention of adding a dance minor. In addition to its regular season, a summer repertory series was begun in 2011. For the past seven years CSU Theatre has hosted the Georgia Thespians Conference, which brings over 4,000 high school drama students to campus for a 3-day festival of shows, workshops, and special events. Columbus is also the home of the "State Theatre of Georgia," the historic Springer Opera House, and Larry recently appeared as "Mr. Saunders" in *Lend Me a Tenor*.

Rick "Bears" Fonte (MFA '03): After three years as the Director of Programming for Austin Film Festival, last year Bears (as he is now known) founded the Other Worlds Austin SciFi Film Festival. In addition, he recently became the Director of Programming for the inaugural St. Lawrence International Film Festival based in Canton NY. He consults for film festivals nationwide, as well with filmmakers on their film festival strategies. Bears Fonte also writes reviews and features for *AMFM Magazine*, focusing on Indie Film. His latest short film, starring **Sara Fletcher** (BA

'04), makes its world premiere this October as part of the \$50,000 Louisiana Film Prize.

Nicole Green (BA '04) has been working for three years as an Academic Advisor for Fulbright College, within the University of Arkansas. She is also currently a fourth year doctoral student at the University of Arkansas's Higher Education program where she is researching LGBTQ Faculty and Staff. Additionally, she recently married (July 2015) a wonderful woman who also works at the university.

Kassi Heidenreich (BA '02) has enjoyed a career in Medical Sales for the past 10 years. She has always dabbled in voice over work, which lead her to some on camera performances. She signed with an agency in Indianapolis this past spring and has been doing a few commercial spots (Goodwill ads, industrial videos) and participated in the 48 Hour film project.

Kristen Held (MFA '05) moved back to California after graduation where she worked at the San Francisco Opera as a first hand until the birth of her first child. I'm now a full time writer/parent with two kids (ages 6 & 8) and she recently sold her debut novel, a young adult mystery that features what might be her dream costuming job. *Holding Court* is due from Entangled Teen/Macmillan on March 1, 2016.

Brenden Patrick Hill (BA '06) and **Paul Shoulberg** (MFA '07) produced and wrote, respectively, the independent film *Walter* which had a special screening at the IU Cinema in March. The star-studded cast featured fellow IU alumnus **Andrew J. West** (BA '06) in the title role.

Eliza Hittman (BA '01) is an independent filmmaker born and based in New York. Her critically acclaimed debut feature film *It Felt Like Love* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and the International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2013. It

was a NYTimes, Village Voice, and LA Times Critics' Pick. She was named one of Filmmaker Magazine's '25 New Faces of Indie Film'. She was also nominated for a Bingham Ray Breakthrough Director Gotham Award (2014) and two Independent Spirit Awards (2015) for *It Felt Like Love*. Her screenplay *Beach Rats* was selected for the Sundance Screenwriter's Lab and is currently in development. She is a Professor of Film/Video at Pratt Institute.

Sarah Kiperman (BA '09) is in the Doctorate Program in School Psychology at Georgia State University. She is also performing improv at The Basement Theater in Atlanta.

Jason Marr (MFA '06) is the Artistic Director of Hip to Hip Theatre Company in New York. This summer, the company produced *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, directed by IU's own Murray McGibbon, and *The Merchant of Venice* at a variety of venues around the city, free of charge.

Pamela Miles (BA '09) spent two years as the Scenic Charge Artist with both Forward Theater Company and Children's Theater of Madison in Madison, Wisconsin. In 2014 she accepted the position of the Scenic Charge Artist at Arizona Broadway Theatre, in Peoria, Arizona. It is a professional, year-round, 300 seat theater. They produce large, Broadway style musical productions, all of which are built and painted in house; 8 mainstage shows and 3 children's shows. The technical staff also works closely with ABT's Academy for Young Performers, a day camp for children and young adults in the summer.



Andrew J. West (BA'06), Brenden Hill (BA'06) and Paul Shoulberg (MFA'07) sit on IU Theatre lobby bench that gives their production company, Purple Bench Films its name.

Arian Moayed (BA '02) can currently be seen in the new Barry Levinson film *Rock the Kasbah*, starring Bill Murray. He wrote and directed the new Waterwell Films thriller, web series *The Accidental Wolf*, starring Tony winner Kelli O'Hara. It premiered October 19th. He appeared in the Atlantic Theatre production of *Guards at the Taj* in May through July. Arian can also currently be seen in Stephen Karam's play, *The Humans* at Roundabout Theatre Company through January 3rd. It will then move to Broadway this spring.



IU Alumni Maddie Shea Baldwin (BFA'15), Rob Heller (MFA'15) met up with Arian Moayed (BA'02) after seeing Arian perform in *Guards at the Taj* last May in New York

Noe Montez (PhD '09) recently submitted his manuscript *Staging Memory: Performing Transitional Justice in Argentina's Post-Dictatorship* to press where it is currently under review. This year, Noe has been elected as the conference planner for ATHE's Latina/o Focus Group and as a member of ASTR's Executive Committee. He has also joined the board of directors for Boston's Company One Theatre. Last year Noe directed Beckett's *Footfalls* with Boston ensemble Fifth Floor Collective and in February he will be directing *Next to Normal* at Tufts University.

Hannah Moss (BA '07) is married to fellow IU theatre graduate David Nosko (BA '09). They both founded and managed Theatre of the People, an inclusive non-profit community theatre in Bloomington from 2009 to 2012, after which they took a hiatus from theatre to move to Pittsburgh, PA. They now have two vivacious children, Henrik Wilde and Eleanor Jane, and they are working in social services. Although absent from the stage for the time being,

they are finding quite a bit of drama in the raising of their aptly-named budding thespians, and they hope to provide a stage for their family in the near future.

Kirsten Olson (BA '09) is the Operations Director of the Sino-US Diabetes Center. She is currently raising funds to produce a play for next year and in talks to work with a Hong Kong based theater company. Visit her online at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/olsonkirsten>.

Nicole Parker (BA '00) was recently in the world-premiere musical, *Dog and Pony*, at the Old Globe Theatre. Next she will be a featured performer this fall at the Houston Symphony POPS in their program "Wicked Divas."

Christine Perrotta (BA '06) recently completed a production of *In Fields Where They Lay* with The Dreamscape Theatre at the New Ohio Theatre in New York. She will also be marrying Jonathan Ziese, a fellow graduate of The New School for Drama, this coming September.

Alex Peurye-Hissong (BA '09) is living and working in Manhattan as an actor and entrepreneur. He just graduated from the Tom Todoroff Conservatory, a two year professional acting conservatory in NYC, and booked his first show post conservatory, a holiday comedy. He also works as CFO of Jupiter Highway, a creative cooperative, and runs his own accounting firm.

Matt Reynolds (BA '08) is starting his 4th year as the Theatre Manager/Resident Lighting & Sound Designer at New Mexico State University, Department of Theatre Arts. In

the past year, he has designed lights and/or sound for 8 productions, including *Twelfth Night*, *Edwin Drood*, *West Highland Way*, and three dance concerts. He also managed 40 events and crewed a dozen touring productions including Trans-Siberian Orchestra, *Wicked*, and *Judas Priest*. He published two papers at USITT, bought a house, and celebrated 13 years of marriage as well as his children's 2nd and 7th birthdays.

Clay Sanderson (BA '05) went on to get an M.F.A. in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University and have continued a professional acting career both in Chicago, where he lived for eight years, and Phoenix, where he currently resides. He has appeared in over thirty professional productions since graduating and he is the drama teacher at Tempe Preparatory Academy. He can next be seen in both *Hysteria* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with Southwest Shakespeare Company. He encourages people to visit his website at www.claysanderson.com.

Graham Sheldon (BA '09) both filmed and appeared in NBC's documentary survival series *The Island*, hosted by Bear Grylls. The show follows 14 American men as they struggle to survive on an uninhabited island in the Pacific Ocean. In July and August, he produced a documentary project for PepsiCo and he is serving as Director of Photography on a six country digitally distributed show for Disney owned Maker Studios in Russia, Vietnam, Australia, The Philippines, Japan and Mongolia until September.



Graham Sheldon (BA'09) [back row far right] with the cast of *The Island*.

Wolf J. Sherrill (MFA '00) is an Associate Professor and the Chair of Acting/Directing at James Madison University. He has been on contract with Rosetta Stone for the past 5 years and can be heard and seen around the globe in voice over and video products. Other recent projects include playing the lead in a fantasy pilot entitled *The Rangers* and a YouTube campaign for Purina's Tidy Cats as kitten behaviorist Lars Montana. Wolf resides in Harrisonburg, VA with his wife Alexi, son Keegan, and two cats, Caesar and Maximilian. He can be found on the web at www.wolfjsherrill.com.

Jorie Slodki (BA '07) recently began her new position as Director of Education for Burning Coal Theatre Company in Raleigh, NC.

Amanda Smith (BA '07) wrapped up the holiday season in January, performing in *Grinchmas* at Universal Studios' Island of Adventure as *Holly*, the musician Who. This summer, she was an extra in a music video ("Forever Stuck in our Youth") for the rock band *Set It Off*. She continues to work full-time at Walt Disney World as a performer in the parades and shows at Magic Kingdom. This fall she will be working seasonally at Universal Studios as a scare actor in their 25th year of Halloween Horror Nights.

Zachary Spicer (BA '06) returned to Bloomington this summer to play the leads in both *As You Like It* (Orlando) and *The Gentleman from Indiana* (John Harkless) for the Indiana Festival Theatre. He is planning another return later this year to shoot his first film, *The Good Catholic*, written by fellow alum, **Paul Shoulberg** (MFA '07). Zach and **John Armstrong** (BA '07) started their own production company, Pigasus Pictures, in 2014.

DeAnna Toten Beard (PhD '01) has been promoted to the rank of Professor at Baylor University where she serves as the associate chair of the Department of Theatre Arts. DeAnna also co-directs the Baylor in Oxford program in England each summer. Her ongoing historical work is on the topic of theatre and World War I, including "Inspiration and Atmosphere in *Getting Together: A War Play*: Stage Authenticity and the WWI Soldier on the Broad-



Mara Lefter (MFA'15), *Zachary Spicer** (BA'07), and *Amanda Catania** in Indiana Festival Theatre's *As You Like It*.
*Zachary and Amanda appear courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

way Stage" in *Theatre Annual* (2015) and "A Doughgirl with the Doughboys: Elsie Janis, 'The Regular Girl,' and the Performance of Gender in World War I Entertainment" in *Theatre History Studies* (2014). DeAnna is also active with the work of the National Association of Schools of Theatre and sits as a member of the Commission on Accreditation.

Ansley Valentine (MFA '00) received the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion at the Region III Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. "I am very honored and humbled. I really owe a lot to the training and experience at IU. Getting my MFA at IU literally changed the course of my life and career." Ansley is the Director of Theatre, Forest Roberts Theatre, Northern Michigan University.

Eric Van Thielen (MFA '07) was called back to Broadway in August for a short run with the cast of *Les Misérables*. He joined the cast of *Prince of Broadway* as the male swing this fall. The production opened in Toyko in October and moved to Osaka through December. It is scheduled to open on Broadway in spring 2016.

Kelly Waggoner (BA '07) is not in the acting world, though she is still in front of a crowd recruiting prospective freshman and transfer students for IU. She has worked in the Office of Admissions since December of 2005 and was recently

promoted to Senior Assistant Director of Recruitment and Outreach as well as the Transfer Specialist.

Julia Weiss (BA '07) recently performed with The Second City touring company at the union.

2010s

Jamie Anderson (BFA '12) started working for Michael Cassara Casting in New York City as well as a freelance director in the beginning of 2015 after performing regionally across the country.

Joshua Annable (BA '14) is currently running a theater department for the first summer camp in China—summer camps are a hot topic at the moment in China and many Chinese feel they are amazing and want to start them here, while there are just as many that feel they are a waste of time. I am working at "Camp IDEAS" located in Beidaihe China, just southeast of Beijing on the ocean. This camp will be the test to see if summer camps become a thing in China. I work with Chinese students ages 7–15, giving them their first taste of theater, and train the Chinese staff on how to run, perform, and generally put on a theatrical production. It's a lot of fun and I am enjoying every day: the children are really taking to drama and seem to love it.

After graduation, **Juliet Barrett** (BA '14) took off for a grand adventure in South

America and has been living in Cuenca, Ecuador ever since. Over the past year she's embraced all that comes with living in a new culture, and made more grammatical errors in Spanish than she cares to admit. Life in South America has given her the flexibility to explore other artistic mediums, including: joining the art collective Lakomuna and collaborating on multiple murals around Ecuador, pursuing freelance commissions as a painter and writer, as well as the opportunity to sing/perform weekly with the Jazz Society of Ecuador. So far Juliet's favorite experience was participating in a week-long intensive Grotowski workshop hosted by company members from the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards in Pontedera, Italy."

Mark Banik (BA '10) has joined the cast of the national tour of *Beautiful - the Carole King Story*. He is in the ensemble and the show will be in Chicago from December 1 - February 21.

Leslie Ann Boyden (BA '14) moved to the Greater Philadelphia Area to pursue her career options. She was the 2014-2015 Stage Manager for the Lively Arts Series at Montgomery County Community College and interned at Theatre Horizon. She will shortly begin a stage management fellowship at the Hedgerow Theatre.



Andrew Brewer (BFA'10) with the BFA Musical Theatre senior class during their showcase trip to New York. Andrew gave the seniors a backstage tour of the Beautiful set and the Stepen Sondheim Theatre.

Andrew Brewer (BFA '10) was the male swing for *Beautiful - the Carole King Story* in the spring, and has now joined has joined the cast of the production's national tour.

Brittany Brewer (BA '14) just graduated from Brown University with her Master of Arts in Teaching (Secondary English Education). Starting in September, she will be a professional apprentice at the Arden Theatre in Philly.

Ethan Carpenter (BFA '12) is based in Seattle, which has been very good to him. He appeared at Village Theatre in *Les Miserables* (Comberferre) and *Funny Girl* (John/Ensemble). The 5th Avenue Theatre hired him for a reading of a new version of Lerner and Loewe's classic *Paint Your Wagon*. He then booked again in Seattle, working on the mainstage at 5th Avenue Theatre in *A Chorus Line*. Directly after, he played Matt in *The Fantasticks* with Showtunes Theatre. Indiana called him back again, and he played Marius in *Les Miserables* with Different Stages in Huntington, IN last Christmas. He is currently in the development lab of *Paint Your Wagon* at the 5th Avenue Theatre. This fall/winter, he will be in *My Fair Lady* with Village Theatre, and will return to *Paint Your Wagon* for the full production in 2016 with 5th Avenue Theatre.

Jonathan Courtemanche (MFA '11) is the Assistant to the Director at the Florida State University/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training in Sarasota, FL. Also, on April 4, 2015, he got married, and thanks to the recent Supreme Court ruling, it's legal in all 50 states!

Lee Cromwell (MFA '14) moved to Washington DC after graduating. He worked for several months at the National Theatre and is now in his second year as Associate Producer for the Source Festival (<http://www.sourcefestival.org>). He produced Kelly Lusk's (*a love story*) for the 2015 festival. Lee has seen fellow IU alums Jaysen Wright and Shanta Parasuraman in several productions in the DC Metro area. He is building a coaching studio for singers and actors in the Alexandria area.

Nathan Davis (MFA '14) is in his second and final year in the playwriting program at Juilliard. He received a 2050 Fellowship from New York Theatre Workshop

(2015/16). His play *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* received a 2014 Steinberg/ATCA New Play Citation and productions in LA, Cleveland, Eugene OR, Indianapolis and DC. *The Wind and the Breeze* was workshopped at the New Harmony Project (May 2015)

Tyler DeLong (BA '10) graduated with a degree in theatre concentrating in technology. Since leaving IU Tyler has spent time with Cavalia's *Odysseo* where he was on the rigging and automation team during creation and then toured as the Day-Time Head of Rigging and Automation. Upon leaving the cirque he spent a few months bouncing between cruise ships working on their automation systems. Post ships Tyler served as a Carpenter for the International tours of *The Addams Family*, and *Mamma Mia* and then as Head Carpenter on the International tour of *Bring It On the Musical*. Most recently Tyler has been on tour with the International Tour of Blue Man Group as the Rigging and Automation technician.

Aaron Densley (BFA '13) recently got back from the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa, where he appeared in the world premiere of *I.D.*, a devised



piece in collaboration with Nsangou Jikam (a.k.a. Glenn Gordon) from The Public's emerging writers group. They will be performing it next summer at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, with hopes to perform it at The Public Theatre in New York and the Fugard Theatre in Cape Town. He was also recently in another devised piece called *Drifting*, dealing with end of life care for those with traumatic brain injury. He also appeared as a marine in an educational film for the Department of Defense Wounded Warrior Project.

Kristl Densley (MFA '12) has been teaching acting during the summer session at Penn State.

Jess Drew (MA '13) landed a promotion and now works for Alumni Relations & Development at Northwestern University, which she is loving. Jess also finished her Grant Writing Certificate through DePaul University, and taught gifted kids theatre over the summer for the Center for Talent Development for the third year in a row. Right now, she is working with fellow IU alum Kelly Lusk on his new play, *king oedipus*, as a dramaturg.

Claire Drews (BA '15) moved to Chicago after graduating in May. Her first performing job will be playing Maureen in a production of *RENT* for World AIDS Day in December.

Katherine Duffy (BA '13) was an acting intern at The Milwaukee Rep this past season appearing in *A Christmas Carol* and understudying roles in *Harvey*, *Good People* and all the roles in the one woman show *The Amish Project*. She is currently the summer artist in residence at Third Avenue Playhouse in Door County playing the title roles in *Educating Rita* and *Sylvia*.



Katherine Duffy (BA'13) [bottom row on the right] with members of the ensemble cast in the Milwaukee Rep's *A Christmas Carol*.

Jacque Emord-Netzley (BA '13) works in the WEE Arts Program at The Children's Museum of the Arts (CMA) in Manhattan and is starting to begin auditioning.

Joseph Fernandez, Jr. (BM and BSOF '13) is very excited about getting his Equity card at Playwrights Horizons as an Assistant Stage Manager on their season opener *The*

Christians by Lucas Hnath, directed by Les Waters, after having spent a year as their SM Resident working on three of their shows last season (*Boytocandy*, *Pocatello*, and *Iowa*).

Leila Gorstein (BA '14) moved to Chicago to do theatre and comedy! She is finishing the iO Training center and The Second City Conservatory. A few months after moving to Chicago, she was part of the show *Red, White, and Blaine*, a staged production of the musical from the Christopher Guest movie *Waiting for Guffman*. She performed in the Annual Chicago Sketchfest with her three woman sketch group Three Way Kiss, where they had a sold out show! Evelyn Gaynor directed the Sketchfest show. Leila is currently performing in a musical called *Ready for Hillary: The Musical*, a wacky musical following Hillary Clinton's 2016 Campaign trail. She is also performing with *Improvvised Mythology*, where they wear togas and improvise a myth that has never been seen before. And finally she performs with her improv group *Alterboyz* every week at iO! During the day, she works at an Athletic Recruitment company. If anyone ever has any questions about the theatre/ improv scene in Chicago, definitely let her know!

Nicholas Graves (MFA '12) is Assistant Professor at the University of Northern Colorado, where he designs scenery and teaches classes in stage management, scenic technology, orientation to theatre technology, digital media for theatre, theatrical drafting, and design for secondarily education majors. He teaches workshops throughout the western United States and recruits for one of the nation's top ranked undergraduate design and technology programs. He also freelances as a scenic designer in Montana, Colorado, and Texas.

Samantha Gurnick (BA '11) lives in Los Angeles where she has performed at the LA Fringe Festival and has helped write and perform for an original web series called *Bite Sized*. The second season wrapped earlier this year and was also recently accepted into the Miami Web Fest. She studies improv at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre and works as a segment researcher at *Jimmy*

Kimmel Live where she is frequently asked to rehearse and perform in sketches/bits on the show, both with Jimmy as well as for guests on the show to review.

Justin Harner (BA '10) has fallen into a musical director role since moving to Chicago in 2015. He was assistant musical director and accompanist last winter for the Jeff-recommended *Book of Mermaid* with Pride Films & Plays, and he just completed a Jeff-recommended run of the Chicago store-front premiere of *[title of show]* as the character Larry (and assistant musical director/accompanist) with Brown Paper Box Company, of which he is an Artistic Associate. Up next is the Midwest premiere of the off-Broadway hit *Triassic Park* (Jurassic Park told from the perspective of the dinosaurs), where he will act as musical director, accompanist, and conductor for Circle Theatre (www.circletheatrechicago.org).

Nick Heinzen (BA '15) has taken a Development Coordinator position with Stanford University, within the Stanford School of Medicine / Stanford Health Care Hospital.

Molly Herman (BA '13) begins her second season at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Last season she was a Costume Construction Journeyman, a Paul Owens Fellow. This will be her first season as one of their Wardrobe Supervisors.

Satsu Holmes (BA '14) has worked almost exclusively in the Bloomington arts scene since graduation. In Spring 2015, she co-choreographed IU Opera Theatre's production of *South Pacific* and worked as a wardrobe supervisor or dresser for IU Theatre's productions of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Sing To Me Now*, and *Into the Woods*. In Summer 2015, she interned with Indiana Festival Theatre (IFT) Marketing and Communications, worked as a dresser for IFT's *Seussical*, and both consulted and acted in a series of video vignettes linked to dissertation research in the IU Department of Sociology. She also started a dance class, DMT: Dance for Musicians and Thespians, which was supported by the IU African American Arts Institute; and she led a hula workshop during the IU High School Summer Dance Intensive. This fall, Satsu will move to Lille, France on a contract from the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF). In addition to her teaching duties, Satsu will seek to make

and present work in western Europe and the United Kingdom.

John Houtler-McCoy (MFA '14) moved to Bristol, PA to work at the Bristol Riverside Theatre as their resident Technical Director. He worked on 9 productions there including *The 39 Steps*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *Ragtime*, and *Enemy of the People*, as well as 4 concert productions. John and his wife celebrated their second child, Eli, born in April, in addition to their 5 year old, Jayne. Upcoming, they will be moving to Milwaukee, WI as John has accepted a position at the Skylight Music Theatre as their Technical Director. Production credits will include *Tosca*, *My Fair Lady*, *Powder Her Face*, *Crowns: A gospel musical*, *Pirates of Penzance*, as well as *Dear Elizabeth*, *Love Stories*, *Slow Girl*, and *Fallen Angels*.

Chika Ike (BA '13) is part of Victory Gardens Theater's new Directors Inclusion Initiative, a program designed to cultivate a new generation of diverse stage directors, where will also serve as the assistant director for *The House that Will Not Stand* at Victory Gardens Theater this May.

Mark Kamie (MFA '12) was named one of the best directors of 2014 by DC Metro Arts for his direction of *Nightfall with Edgar Allen Poe*, which was nominated for a Helen Hayes Awards for best choreography of a play. He will be directing Eric Coble's *The Giver* for Carroll Community College in Fall.

Hannah Kennedy (BA '12) is in her fourth year with the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. She is the Public Relations Associate for the Theater, managing all media contacts and requests and overseeing in-house photo/video projects and social media channels. Check out www.chicagoshakes.com and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/chicagoshakespeare, Twitter: [@chicagoshakes](https://twitter.com/chicagoshakes) and Instagram: [@chicagoshakes](https://www.instagram.com/chicagoshakes). She is working with fellow IU Theatre and University Players alumnus Sam Ostrowski, who works in the Advancement Office as the Special Projects Coordinator.

After graduating from IU, **Britney Kuehm** (BA '10) went on to work with Theatre Aspen as a Production Management Intern and Portland Stage Company as a Stage Management Intern. She moved to Chicago in Fall 2011 with fellow IU

alumni and freelanced as an Assistant Stage Manager in the Chicago theatre community. Just this August she moved to California to pursue a Masters in Arts Management, focusing on Non-Profit Arts at Claremont Graduate University in the LA area. She is looking forward to working within the Southern California arts community while completing her degree.

Courtney Lucien (BA '14) spent the past year with the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. As part of the touring ensemble, she performed three Shakespeare plays in parks, schools, community centers, libraries, etc. throughout the year. They also taught Shakespeare to students through workshops and master classes. She also performed in six mainstage shows in the season, including Amy March in *Little Women* and Pauline in *One Man, Two Guvnors*. In August, she relocated to Chicago, but she will return to CSC in February 2016 to play Emma in *Emma*, written by Jon Jory.

Kelly Lusk's (MFA '14) play (*a love story*) has been produced this year at UCF in Florida and at the Source Festival in DC. Through the Playwright's Center he workshopped *Lacy and Ashley Live in a Trailer Now*. Kelly also got hired by an online literary magazine called Priceless Pennies here in Chicago. The Queen City Queer Collective Theatre in Cincinnati is doing a reading of (*a love story*) in September. And in late August Chika Ike will be directing his play *king oedipus* here in Chicago. Kelly also reports that his cat turned three this fall.

John Machesky (BA '13) was just in an original theater production in Chicago called Black River Falls. He is with Chosen male model management and Stewart talent.

Alycia Matz (BA '13) interned with PCPA-Pacific Conservatory Theatre in Santa Maria, CA, where she had the opportunity to design costumes for two of their mainstage shows, *Forever Plaid* and *The Penelopiad*. This fall, she will start her MFA in Stage Design at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

Evan Mayer (BFA '13) most recently finished the National Tour of Annie as the Swing/Dance Captain, under the direction

of Martin Charnin. Before leaving for tour he worked at Westchester Broadway Theatre doing their productions of *Mary Poppins* (Swing) and *Ragtime* (Younger Brother u/s). He also participated in the Broadway Cares Easter Bonnet last year and has been pursuing voice over work. Now he is happily living in New York!

Maggie McCoy (BA '14) works at Gray Talent Group in Chicago, IL as an Associate Agent and loves every moment, particularly her fellow agents and the hard working actors. The agency has placed numerous actors on *Empire*, *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago PD* and now *Chicago Med* as well as the many pilots that came out this past Pilot Season. They have also placed actors on Broadway as "Simba" in *The Lion King* and in countless films including *Divergent* and the upcoming *ChIraaq*.



Maggie McCoy (BA'14) [far left] with the staff of Gray Talent Group - Chicago.

Utam Moses (BS '10) was chosen as an artist in residence by Earth Dance in Plainfield, Massachusetts as part of the E/Merge Interdisciplinary Residency Program, a highly curated program that fosters a yearlong collaboration between artists across disciplines, a two week intensive residency at Earth Dance, and culminated in a series of performances and workshops showcasing the new works.

Grant Niezgodski (BA '14) will be joining the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company as a guest artist this fall to play Christian in *Cyrano De Bergerac*.

Jason Orlenko (MFA '12) designed the costumes for the world premiere opera *The Snow Dragon* at Skylight Music Theatre in Milwaukee; the production then moved to Opera Siam in Thailand this summer. Also around Wisconsin, Jason has been designing for Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renais-

sance Theaterworks, Children's Theatre of Madison, In Tandem Theatre and UW-Milwaukee Theatre. He has also spent the last two summers as an Assistant Costume Designer at American Player's Theatre in Spring Green, WI. Upcoming design work includes *A Charlie Brown Christmas* at First Stage Children's Theatre, *The Devil's Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith* at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and Noel Coward's *Fallen Angels* at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre.

Christina Rose Rahna (BA '10) performed in two musicals at the La Comedia Dinner Theatre, did several cabarets and benefits in NYC, and became EMC by performing in *Smoke on the Mountain* at Beef & Boards in Indianapolis. She is also a musician and play five instruments: violin, guitar, mandolin, upright bass, and auto-harp.

CJ Pawlikowski (BFA '12) is currently on the national tour of *The Book of Mormon*. He is part of the ensemble alongside fellow IU alum **Charnette Batey** (BFA '12). CJ and Charnette are with the tour performing dates in the eastern half of the country.



CJ Pawlikowski (center) with fellow IU alum and *Book of Mormon* castmate Charnette Batey (right) and another ensemble member before a performance in Philadelphia.

Julian Ramos (BFA '14) was a swing for *Legally Blonde* with Norwegian Cruise lines and is now a Playlist Singer for The Carnival Legend. He started off in Sydney, Australia and has been to New Caledonia islands, Bora Bora, Tahiti, Hawaii and now Alaska where he will be until August 26. Then, it's back in NYC to approach another beautiful year as an artist!

Daniel Reinglass (BA '10) has been working at Writers Theatre on Chicago's North Shore for more than two years. He was recently promoted from Development Coordinator to Advancement Manager, overseeing the theatre's Annual Fund operations, development intern program, digital fundraising campaigns, and database information and assisting with fundraising galas, major gifts, and cultivation events. Additionally, he oversees the Young Professionals Circle (YPC), the junior board of the League of Chicago Theatres, which is responsible for opening up the performing arts scene to young professionals in Chicago through a monthly theatre-going program, themed engagement events and digital communications.

Tom Robson (Ph.D '11) is entering his fifth year as an assistant professor of Theatre & Dance at Millikin University, where he teaches courses in theatre history, dramatic literature, directing, and playwriting. This fall he will be directing Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's play *Rough Magic* as part of Millikin's season. His most recent article, "Advertising and the Commercial Spirit: Cataloging Nineteenth-Century Scenic Studio Practices" appears in the edited collection *Working in the Wings: New Perspectives on Theatre History and Labor*, published in 2015 by SIU Press.

David Sernick (BA '10) has moved on from The Flea Theater as Marketing Manager to become the Marketing Manager at Signature Theatre Company.

Kelsey Shaw (BFA '15) graduated in May and joined the cast of the national tour of *Annie* in August. She will be with the cast when they come to Bloomington to perform at the IU Auditorium in February 2016.

After having her son, Ian, in March 2014, **Katie Cowan Sickmeier** (MFA '12) designed *My Fair Lady* at Actors Theatre of Indiana and returned to IU to design *M. Butterfly*. She was the assistant costume designer on the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's *Yuletide Celebration* for a second year. This upcoming season she is designing *The Fantasticks* and *Sweeney Todd* at ATI, returning to ISO for the 30th anniversary of *Yuletide*, and designing *Bridge & Tunnel* at the Indiana Repertory Theatre.

Hana Slevin (BFA '12) is in a new musical in the New York International Fringe Festival (in August) with several IU alums! **Evan Rees** (BS '14) is music directing, and I'm in it along with **Nick Pecoraro** (BFA '14) and **Markus McClain** (BFA '15). The show is called *To Dance*, and it's about the Russian-Jewish ballet dancer Valery Panov and his struggle to dance in Russia during the Cold War. Read more at <http://www.todancethe-musical.com>.

Adam St. John (MFA '14) played Palamon in *The Two Noble Kinsmen* at Green Stage, Seattle's Shakespeare in the Park company.

Katie Taylor (BA '11) spent the last year in London and took some visits to Russia and Iceland. She got accepted into a grad program at a little Lutheran university in California where she will study International Development. Part of the program requires that we spend a year in China teaching, studying, and conducting research. "And I got married to a handsome fellow!"

Abby Wells (MFA '12) has been living in New York for the past three years. She currently works at Vibrant Design, a freelance TV Production Company, as a Lighting Director. This year they have designed 'Lip Sync Battle' for Spike TV, 'The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore' for Comedy Central, MTV's 'Wild'N Out with Nick Cannon', and Logo TV's 'Trailblazer Awards', among other things. While Abby mostly works in TV, she has to continue her love of theatre in New York as well. In January, she was the lighting designer on an independent project called *Frozen* (no relation to the Disney movie) and she co-designed *Rock of Ages* at the Gateway Playhouse in Long Island this past May.

In the past year, **Jaysen Wright** (MFA '12) has played Darren Lemming in *Take Me Out* at 1st Stage in Virginia and Anthony Justin James in *Choir Boy* at The Studio Theatre in Washington, DC. He recently returned from San Francisco, where he reprised his role as Anthony in *Choir Boy* at the Marin Theatre Company. He's in rehearsals for the world premiere of *Now Comes the Night* at 1st Stage. His upcoming season includes *Sons of the Prophet* at Theatre J in DC, and the title role in *Looking for Roberto Clemente* at Imagination Stage in Maryland. Jaysen is now a proud member of

the Actor's Equity Association. He continues his work as a teaching artist at the Shakespeare Theatre and the Young Playwrights Theatre, both based in DC. In his spare time, he's planning his wedding to his fiancé Christopher!

Elisabeth Wurm (BA '11) is currently Executive Producer & Director for Silhouettes Production Company in St. Louis, Missouri. She founded the theatre company in 2013, and she directed their past three shows - *Songs for a New World*, *Edges*, and

Next to Normal. Additionally, local theatre companies have invited her to guest direct musicals, including *Urinetown*, *Little Women*, and most recently, *Singin' in the Rain*. www.elisabethwurm.com.

IU shines at the National Society of Arts and Letters Chapter Competition and National Conference!

The Bloomington Chapter of The National Society of Arts and Letters (NSAL) hosted its annual Showcase of the Arts competitions in the winter of 2015. These annual arts competitions are adjudicated by professionals in the visual arts, dance, drama, literature, music, and musical theatre. Each year the NSAL Chapters send their champions in one area to the National Conference competition. 2015 was the National Competition for Drama.

Winners of this year's drama and musical theatre divisions were all IU Theatre students. Drama Division Winners were:

Lora Shiner Memorial Award: **Ian Dammont Martin**; *Lenyth Brockett, Carol Moody and Fran Snygg Memorial Award:* **Cassandra Jane Alexander**; *Ilknur P. Ralston Memorial Award:* **Kristen Marie Alesia**; *Hrisomalos Merit Award:* **Mary Cathleen Brumback**

Musical Theatre Division Winners were:
Mrs. Granville Wells Memorial Award: **Jason Craig West**



The Bloomington Chapter contingent at the National Society of Arts and Letters annual conference in St. Louis. Senior BA Ian Martin represented the Bloomington Chapter in the National Drama competition and received an Honorable Mention award. Ian is pictured with former Chair and Professor Emeritus R. Keith Michael, Theatre Circle Board Secretary Ruth Albright, and Professor Emerita Marion Michael.

Robinson Merit Award: **Robert Toms**
Shiner Merit Award: **Kaitlyn Mayse**
Ilknur P. Ralston Memorial Award: **Kelsey Shaw**
David E. Albright Memorial Award:

Ashley Dillard
Kovener Merit Award: **Maddie Shea Baldwin**
Scott Burgess Jones Tribute Award: **Kaitlyn Smith**

The Annual Stages Newsletter

This issue of *Stages* has been compiled and edited by Joe Stollenwerk. Other writers and proofreaders include: Drew Bratton, Trish Hausmann, Jonathan Michaelsen, Liz Shea, Susannah Stengel, and graphic designer Zachary Roznicki.



This complimentary copy is provided courtesy of the Theatre Circle.

Join the Circle and receive numerous pieces from the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance that provide insights into each production of the academic and summer seasons, and updates on the students and faculty that keep you coming back year after after.

STAGES—one of the many benefits of being in the Circle.

2015 - 2016 Season Preview

***Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen**

Directed by Dale McFadden / September 25th - October 3rd

***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* by Anne Washburn**

Directed by Jonathan Michaelsen / October 23rd - October 31st

Sweet Charity

Directed and Choreographed by Kenneth L. Roberson / Music Direction by Terry LaBolt
November 6th - November 14th

***Antigone* by Jean Anouilh**

Directed by Katie Horwitz, 2nd yr. M. F. A. Directing candidate / December 4th-12th

Leading Edges - Winter Contemporary Dance Concert

Choreography by Liz Shea, Selene Carter, Nya McCarthy-Brown & Guests / January 15th-17th

***Macbeth* by William Shakespeare**

Directed by David Koté, 3rd yr. M. F. A. Directing candidate, Thesis project / February 5th-13th

Featuring: A **Theatre Circle Lecture** by Moira Marsh, Ph. D.

February 4th at 5:30, The Studio Theatre

Dr. Marsh will utilize her background in folklore to explore stage representations of witchcraft in *Macbeth*.

***Noises Off* by Michael Frayn**

Directed by Murray McGibbon / February 26th-March 5th

At First Sight: a repertory of new plays

***Occupants* by Mauricio Miranda**

Directed by Katie Horwitz, 2nd yr. M. F. A. Directing candidate / March 25 - April 2

***Berserker* by Bruce Walsh**

Directed by David Koté, 3rd yr. M. F. A. Directing candidate / March 29 - April

Featuring: A **Theatre Circle Lecture** by Peter Gil-Sheridan, Mauricio Miranda, and Bruce Walsh

March 24th at 5:30, The Studio Theatre

"New Plays in Practice"

***Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson, Book* by Alex Timbers and *Music and Lyrics* by Michael Friedman**

Directed and Choreographed by George Pinney / Musical Direction by Ray Fellman
April 15th-April 23rd

New Moves - Student Choreographers Showcase

Innovative New Works by Emerging Dance Makers, Directed by Selene Carter / April 28th-29th

Theatre Circle Goes to New York City!



Abby Bartish, Maddie Shea Baldwin, and Marcus McClain prepare with accompanist Nat Zegree for their set at Joe's Pub in May 2015.

The IU Musical Theatre Senior class is Broadway Bound in 2016. Would you like to join them?

MAY 8-12, 2016

Those are the dates to set on your calendar if you want to experience New York in a whole new way.

A few lucky travellers accompanied the 2015 class on the Senior Showcase trip last May and had a fabulous time watching those seven seniors take the first steps in their professional careers.

Last year's students all expressed their gratitude at being able to look over the heads of talent agents and casting directors to see friendly Theatre Circle faces in the crowd.

In addition to the showcase you are invited to attend a special IU alumni event organized by The College of Arts & Sciences where you can reconnect with students from past years and see the seniors perform a preview Showcase set.

If you need more incentive to consider making the trip, we recently received word that one of the students from the 2015 class, Maddie Shea Baldwin has been cast in the new Broadway musical *Bright Star*, opening in March 2016.

So please consider adding your name to list. For more information contact:
Managing Director - Drew Bratton

Email: acbratto@indiana.edu
or
Phone: 812-855-5568



DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, DRAMA, AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE

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THEATRE CIRCLE CALENDAR

2015-2016

December 2015

Thursday, December 3, 5:30 PM

Conversation on Craft Lecture

with ART@IU graduate students and members of the Creative Team

Antigone

Lobby - Mezzanine

Wednesday, December 9, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Theatre Circle and Faculty/Staff Holiday Lunch

Lobby - Mezzanine

Monday, December 14, 4:00 PM

Theatre Circle Board Meeting

UU Church

January 2016

January 1 - January 9

Theatre Circle at Sea III

Miami, Virgin Islands and Bahamas

Monday, January 11, 4:00 PM

Board Meeting

Saturday, January 23

Cabaret Fundraiser

Lobby and Neal Marshall Grand Hall

February 2016

Thursday, February 4, 5:30 PM

Theatre Circle Lecture

with Moira March, PhD - Folklore

Macbeth

Studio Theatre

Monday, February 15, 4:00 PM

Board Meeting

February 2016 (con't)

Thursday, February 25, 5:30 PM

Conversation on Craft Lecture

with ART@IU graduate students and members of the Creative Team

Noises Off

Studio Theatre

March 2016

Monday, March 21, 4:00 PM

Board Meeting

UU Church

Thursday, March 24, 5:30 PM

Theatre Circle Lecture

with Mauricio Miranda, Bruce Walsh and Prof. Peter Gil-Sheridan, Theatre + Drama

At First Sight

Studio Theatre

April 2016

Thursday, April 14, 5:30 PM

Conversation on Craft Lecture

with ART@IU graduate students and members of the Creative Team

Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson

Friday, April 22, 5:30 PM

Theatre Circle Annual Meeting and Dinner

Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson

Neal Marshall Grand Hall

Saturday, April 30, 6:00 PM

Drama Prom

Indiana Memorial Union's Alumni Hall

theatre.indiana.edu