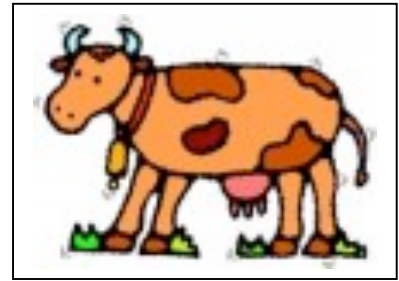


Cattle Call



News from the
Department of Theatre
University of Utah

Fall 2007

Events

The Department of Theatre, through the generosity of Plan-B Theatre Company, hosts a fundraising event November 15 at the preview performance of *Gutenberg! The Musical!* Tickets for this first night's performance of the wacky off-Broadway hit are available only through the Department of Theatre. For information, call Tillie Wilber at 581-5404, or email her at tillie.wilber@utah.edu. Public performances of the play run November 16 through December 30, at the Studio Theatre at The Rose.

In early October, approximately 3,000 middle school students attended our production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Kingsbury Hall. This important, enduring play was well received by the students, who will be studying Anne Frank's diary as part of their 8th grade curriculum.

The Department's **Student Advisory Council** hosts a **gala** after the opening night performance of *The Winter's Tale* in the Babcock Theatre on November 7. All friends are invited to share light refreshments and meet the amazing, talented students from each program in the Department. Anyone wishing to attend the performance prior to the gala should purchase tickets through Kingsbury Ticket Office (581-7100 or www.kingtix.com).

The **Performing Arts Building** is sporting fresh paint. Offices, hallways, and classrooms have been painted, and a new "graffiti" mural by local artist Brody Froelich enhances the Studio 115 wall. Stop by and see it next time you are in the area.

The **Babcock and Studio 115 seasons opened very successfully**, beginning with Euripides' *Helen* for the Classical Greek Theatre Festival, *The Diary of Anne Frank* at the Babcock, and *Happy End* in Studio 115. Still to come this fall: *Experiments in Ink* (October 25-28) and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (November 15-18) in Studio 115 and Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* (November 7-11 and 15-18) in the Babcock Theatre. Youth Theatre at the U will present *Honk! Jr.* at Kingsbury Hall November 16 and 17.

The Department has brought back **panels to accompany our Babcock shows**. In conjunction with the University's International Studies Program and the United Jewish Federation of Utah, our panel for *The Diary of Anne Frank* included local author Eileen Hallet Stone, Dr. Janet Kaufman of the U's Department of English and Dr. Ronald Smelser of the U's Department of History. The panel for *The Winter's Tale*, which will be held at 6:00 pm on November 9, includes English professors from the U, Dr. Brooke Hopkins and Dr. Jacqueline Osherow, and from BYU Dr. Bruce Young. Everyone is invited to these free, informative and delightful discussions.

The Student Advisory Council held a very successful **Open Mike Night** on October 20. Students from across campus displayed their talents. The SAC intends to make Open Mike Night a twice-a-semester tradition.

In November, noted second-generation Butoh master Denise Fujiwara, will visit the Department of Theatre to offer master classes to senior students.

Faculty News

Professor **Sandra Shotwell** and Assistant Professor **Tim Slover** spent six weeks with the University's London Study Abroad in May and June, enjoying Great Britain, the students, and a great deal of amazing theatre. **Professor Shotwell** also spent time working on a translation of Federico García Lorca's *Blood Wedding*, which she will direct in the Babcock Theatre in the Spring.

Joe Payne (Sound Design faculty) designed his biggest show yet last Spring, *Les Misérables* for Pioneer Theatre Company. He managed to slip away briefly to compose music and design sound for *Death of a Salesman*

at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He then returned to Cedar City in the summer to work with Utah Shakespeare, designing and composing music for three productions for the summer. Joe's composition and sound design for PTC's *Julius Caesar* was part of the Prague Quadrennial Design Exhibition, which will tour the US in 2008.

Our beloved Technical Director and Associate Professor Eddie Coe retired, as a Professor Emeritus, at the end of June. We are pleased to welcome **Kyle Becker** as Assistant Professor (Clinical) and Technical Director to fill Eddie's shoes. Kyle is an alumnus of our Performing Arts Design Program, and is happy to return to Utah after some time spent at the University of Central Oklahoma and the University of Central Florida. Welcome Kyle.

Plan B Theatre Company, under the direction of adjunct faculty **Jerry Rapier**, took *Facing East* to New York and San Francisco during the summer, to great reviews and acclaim. Next stop is the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival in January 2009.

Associate Professor **Jerry Gardner** reported great success in his travels in France, where he presented a workshop at the Universite d'Artois as part of a week-long Theatre Festival. He drew students from the workshop to present an evening butoh show at Arass Theatre. He then went to Paris, where he presented a butoh workshop and began exploring the possibilities for our own Department's students to present in Paris. Next came a month in Japan, where Jerry studied butoh with founders and first generation masters of the art. Closer to home, Jerry and the Ugyen Samten Ling Gonpa Tibetan Buddhist Temple recently hosted the 4th Annual Lotus Festival which included Tibetan dancing, martial arts demonstrations, and Tibetan food and tea.

Debra Cook, Adjunct Assistant Professor, was honored to host the Muir String Quartet for their series of master classes and composer lectures at the Utah Conservatory, where Debra serves as Managing Director. The internationally acclaimed quartet was in Park City in conjunction with Utah Symphony & Opera's Deer Valley Summer Music Festival. Debra's busy summer also included directing the Conservatory's Summer Camp and attending seminars presented by the only Steinway Master Teacher, Jane Tan.

Robin Wilks-Dunn, Adjunct Assistant Professor directed the Grand Theatre's season opener, *Johnny Guitar*, and Adjunct Instructor **Morgan Lund** appeared in Salt Lake Acting Company's opener, *Moonlight and Magnolias*.

In addition to working with the student designers for our Babcock and Studio 115 shows, Professor **Gage Williams** designed shows for the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, the Great Lakes Theatre Festival, and HBO over the past months.

Professor **Xan S. Johnson** returned to Wisconsin to last summer to conduct the Youth Theatre Workshop at the Portage Center for the Arts. National guest instructors included Associate Professor **Jerry Gardner** (movement concepts), **Jean Gardner** (masks and creative movement), ATP graduate **Emily Heugartner** (Shakespeare), and Youth Theatre alum **Sara Noble** (voice techniques). Xan also attended the American Alliance for Theatre Education Conference in Vancouver, and presented a session with Professor George Nelson from BYU entitled "Brain Research Update-Accelerating Cognitive Social Mimesis Through Theatre. He then returned to Wisconsin for a professional residency at the Children's Theatre of Madison and to direct the summer production at the Portage Center for the Arts.

Assistant Professor (Lecturer) **Margo Andrews'** production for the Utah Museum of Natural History, *Toadally Awesome Frogs*, starring ATP students **Gabrielle Gaston** and **Eb Madson** was a big hit with museum-goers throughout the summer.

Student News

ATP student **Erica Richardson** recently won a national singing contest in Las Vegas. She received a cash prize plus the production of a music video of one of her songs, a recording contract, and a week's paid vacation back to Vegas in the spring to represent the competition at their next event. At the same time, Erica sang a principal role in Hale Center Theater's production of *Once on This Island*.

Eb Madson, ATP junior, was recently seen as Turtle in the The Grand Theatre's production of *Johnny Guitar*.

Singing in a field of music and musical theatre majors from around the state, ATP student **Natalie Blackman** placed third in the College Major Division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Annual Musical Theatre Competition last April.

ATP senior **James Morris** appeared in a Sci-Fi Channel feature length film last summer, ICE SPIDERS.

If you travel to Las Vegas, watch for ATP student **Leticia Vélez** in a series of regional TV commercials airing in that area. Leticia and recent BFA graduate **Heidi Hackney** also can be seen in the Marriott Library video for the University of Utah. She and fellow ATP student **Nicholas Zaharias**, in addition to faculty members **Peder Melhuse** and **Ron Frederickson**, presented the first public reading of an upcoming feature film titled "David and Jonathan" to an SRO crowd at the City Library during Gay Pride weekend.

Alumni News

MFA graduate **Kerry Lee** appeared in *American Pastime*, a movie based on the true story of Japanese internees in Camp Topaz in Utah during World War II, who turn to baseball to help deal with the boredom and strife of life in the camp.

BFA graduate **Kevin Stanfa** was accepted to the MFA in Acting Program at the Florida State University ASOLO Conservatory for Actor Training.

Sean Kazarian, BFA class of 2006, was chosen to apprentice at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre.

Graduate **Erick Herrscher** returned briefly to Utah last spring as the SSDC's choice to assist Charles Morey and choreographer Karen Azenberg on Pioneer Theatre Company's production of *Les Misérables*.

Leah Langan, BFA graduate, spent last summer in an internship with the International Rescue Committee, helping to resettle refugees as they arrive in SLC to start a new life.

Leah Dutchin spent last summer as an apprentice with the American Players Theatre in Wisconsin, savoring choice roles as Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Jessica in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

BFA graduate **Brighton Quinn** appears as Millie in Hale Center Theater Orem's production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* this fall.

Graduate **Jong Hyuk (Huck) Song** has been accepted into the doctoral program at Goldsmiths College in the University of London.

Jaye Maynard earned an MA in Vocal Performance at NYU, has been performing off-Broadway, and plans to launch her one-person show (*Jaye Sings: The Barbie Show*) later this year. She recently produced and designed costumes for *Angry Young Teen-Age Girl Gang*, a partner event of the New York Musical Theatre Festival.