2012

URI Theatre 2012 Newsletter

URI Theatre Department

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Comments from the Chair

Last year was a milestone year for URI Theatre. We set record attendance goals at our productions, our graduating class numbered twenty majors, Andrew Burnap became the first URI student to win the regional Irene Ryan Acting Award and after twenty-six years of service to this university, I applied for and received my promotion to Full Professor in Theatre…… and we are finally in the beginning phase of a multi-million dollar renovation plan for the Fine Arts Center.

I also agreed to serve one more term (3 years) as Chair of Theatre. I am beginning my thirteenth year in this position. As I tackle the tasks of summer, I am aware of a robotic approach to many of these responsibilities. I mean, after so many years of building deadline sheets and orientation flyers, how excited do you expect me to get just because I use a new font? That is the trap of repeating a task over and over again. How do you keep it fresh? How do you stay interested and challenged?

I’ve discovered that with the arrival of the students in September, the slate gets wiped clean and I happily start all over again. No matter how many times I’ve spoken to students at the Majors Meeting or listened to “Summertime” at the fall audition for the musical, each time I look into the faces of the returning students and the new eager freshmen, I feel a new beginning is a good thing. Each student is unique with a different dream, a different background, and a different sensibility. Each student represents a new challenge. I look forward to starting over, starting fresh, hoping for new work, aiming for successful productions, and noting strong achievements from students, faculty and staff. This is what I like about being a teacher…starting over and seeing it all with new vision. I know from experience that my robotic nature will soon disappear and I will be in the moment…acting and reacting to each new challenge. Thank goodness.

So enjoy your summer. Rest and recuperate. Come back in September with new energy and brilliant ideas to share. To our seniors I say…make every moment count. Become leaders and be generous with your spirits. To our new freshmen and transfer students I say…welcome and embrace what is new with fearlessness. This is your school, your program, your department. Do your part to make it the best it can be. Let’s all start anew.

Paula
Marvin’s Room by Scott McPherson

Marvin’s Room is “one of the funniest plays of the year as well as one of the wisest and most moving”, said the New York Times when the play opened Off Broadway in 1991. The words are as true today. How can a play about family, illness and death be so incredibly funny and so extraordinarily moving? It simply is. Join the newly reunited sisters, Bessie who has chosen to care for Marvin, their elderly, ill father and their elderly, ill Aunt Ruth, and Lee, mother of two sons, one Hank, a disturbed teenager and Charlie, his younger brother. What brings them all together—Bessie’s diagnosis of leukemia and the possibility that one of them may be a match for a transplant. A laugh a minute, right? Right! Because the playwright has an uncanny empathy and a fierce sense of humor, human frailty is revealed in a hilarious light. Marvin’s Room is being presented as part of the 2012 URI Honors Colloquium on Healthcare. Marvin’s Room won the Outer Critics Circle Award, the Drama Desk Award and the John Gassner Award for Best New American Play.

Robert E. Will Theatre, October 11-13 & 18-20, 2012, 7:30pm October 14 & 21, 2012, 3:00pm $20 General, $15 Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, $12 Students

Company

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by George Furth

From Stephen Sondheim's 2010 book FINISHING THE HAT which reveals his delicate art of writing lyrics.................

The Notion: A man with no emotional commitments reassesses his life on his thirty-fifth birthday by reviewing his relationships with his married acquaintances and his girlfriends. That is the entire plot.

Company...a Musical Comedy: Originally Produced and Directed on Broadway by Harold Prince; Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

J Studio, November 29-December 1 & December 6-8, 2012, 7:30pm, December 2 & 9, 2012, 3:00pm $20 General, $15 Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, $12 Students

Metamorphoses by Mary Zimmerman

Mary Zimmerman’s play Metamorphoses, based on Ovid’s fifteen-volume work of transformation myths, juxtaposes the ancient and the contemporary in both language and image. Images snag on the edges of thought, stirring up fragments of half-remembered dreams. A door opens to reveal a dead lover, alive again and yet not quite the same. A man looks over his shoulder and fails to see the familiar face he was sure was behind him. Metamorphoses is a grand tour of ancient mythology that speaks to us as affectively today as in days past.

"...Zimmerman's lovely, deeply affecting work...shows that theater can provide not just escape but sometimes a glimpse of the divine." --Time Magazine

J Studio, February 21-23 & February 28-March 2, 2013, 7:30pm, February 24 & March 3, 2013, 3:00pm $20 General, $15 Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, $12 Students

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing is a titillating comedy in which two of his best characters, the intelligent, witty Beatrice matches wits with the droll, cynical Benedick. Their duel of love, a verbal sparring match, engages us throughout a love story involving Beatrice’s cousin Hero and Benedick’s friend Claudio that goes awry when Hero is falsely accused of betrayal. It takes the comic Constable Dogberry and his hilarious troops to uncover the truth. And it takes true love for Benedick to believe in Beatrice’s loyalty to Hero and to commit himself to her course of action. Much Ado may seem to be about nothing, but it is essentially about the attractions of a woman’s mind and character on a perennial bachelor. It is a lighthearted romp rooted in the depth of the battle of the sexes.

Robert E. Will Theatre, April 18-20 & 25-27, 2013, 7:30pm, April 21 & 28, 2013, 3:00pm $20 General, $15 Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, $12 Students

Tickets may be purchased at the BOX OFFICE: 401-874-5843 or ONLINE AT: www.uri.edu/theatre
INFORMATION: 401-874-5921
URI THEATRE AUDITION POLICY

REMINDER: Department policy requires all BFA Acting students to audition for URI Theatre Main Stage productions. Students are also expected to audition for THE 420 and Ten Minute plays. The URI Theatre Department is rooted in and sustained by your commitment and participation. All students are expected to wait until cast and crew assignments are finalized for URI productions before accepting outside work.

Thank you,
URI Faculty, Guest Artists & Staff

2012 FALL AUDITION INFORMATION

Marvin's Room by Scott McPherson

Marvin’s Room is a play about three generations of family and about love, life and death. It is incredibly moving and extraordinarily funny. It will be presented as part of the 2012 URI Honors Colloquium on "Healthcare Change? Health, Politics and Money." Marvin's Room won the Outer Critics Circle Award, The Drama Desk Award and the John Gassner Award for Best New American Play. Contemporary play - locations in Florida and Ohio.

Director: Bryna Wortman
Cast size: 5 Women, 6 Men

Bessie - 40ish, loving, caring
Dr. Wally - absent-minded doctor
Ruth - 70ish Bessie's aunt - needy
Bob - Dr. Wally’s brother and receptionist
Lee - late 30's, Bessie's sister, Hank and Charlie's mother. Tough exterior, caring heart
Doctor Charlotte - late 30's, administration mental institution - abides by the rules, tries to be helpful
Hank - 17 emotionally troubled, basically OK kid
Charlie - Hank's younger brother, observant
Retirement Home Director - by the rules lady
Marvin - Bessie's father - elderly, ill, needy

Required: Please prepare a 1 to 2 minute monologue expressing a thought, an idea and/or feelings. No slang or foul language! Please read the entire play prior to your audition. Copies of the script are available in the URI Theatre Office.

Be prepared to possibly read sides at the auditions; definitely at callbacks.

Auditions: Tuesday, September 4 from 6-10 pm (Juniors & Seniors) & Wednesday, September 5 from 6-10 pm (All others). All auditions will be in J Studio.

Callbacks: Thursday, September 6 from 6-11 pm in Robert E. Will Theatre.

Rehearsals: Tuesday through Friday evenings 7-11 PM and Saturday and Sunday afternoons 1-5 PM, possibly Sunday evenings.

Full rehearsals start: Saturday, September 8.

Performances: Thursdays – Saturdays, October 11-13 and 18-20 at 7:30PM
Sundays, October 14 and 21 at 3PM
COMPANY
Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by George Furth

In Stephen Sondheim's 2010 book titled *Finishing the Hat*, he says the following about his masterpiece work:

The Notion...A man with no emotional commitments reassesses his life on his thirty-fifth birthday by reviewing his relationships with his married acquaintances and his girlfriends. That is the entire plot.

Director: Paula McGlasson
Musical Director: Lila Kane
Choreographer: Dante Sciarra

Cast size: 8 Women, 6 Men

Ensemble Cast requiring singing actors with minimal dance requirements.

AMY A frantic, neurotic, loving woman
APRIL A girlfriend of Robert - a flight attendant; a bit air headed, but adorable
DAVID Jenny's husband, relaxed, in control
HARRY Sarah's husband - possibly an alcoholic in self-denial
JENNY Quietly manipulative, simultaneously square and wise
JOANNE Acerbic, funny, demanding
KATHY A girlfriend of Robert - sweet and very much in need of love
LARRY Joanne's husband, stoic and centered
MARTA A girlfriend of Robert - an intensely "with it" woman
PAUL Amy's fiancé - coolly loving to Amy's neurotic nature
PETER Susan's husband - the perfect husband and ex-husband
ROBERT An observer, seemingly happy, but with a hidden pain
SARAH Crisply critical, karate-learning over-eater
SUSAN A delicate southern belle

Required: Please prepare 2 memorized songs...one an up-tempo selection and one a ballad. One selection should be a Sondheim song from any show other than *Company*. Bring sheet music to give to the accompanist. Please read the entire play prior to your audition. Copies of the script are available in the URI Theatre Office. Be prepared to possibly read sides at the auditions; definitely at callbacks.

Auditions: Tuesday, September 4 from 6-10 pm (Juniors & Seniors) & Wednesday, September 5 from 6-10 pm (All others). All auditions will be in G Studio.

Callbacks: Thursday, September 6 from 6-11 pm in G or J Studio.

Rehearsals: Tuesday through Friday evenings 6-10 PM and Saturday and Sunday afternoons 1-5 PM, possibly Sunday evenings.

Full rehearsals start: Tuesday, October 16.

Performances: Thursdays – Saturdays, November 29-December 1 & December 6-8 at 7:30PM
Sundays, December 2 & 9 at 3PM
STUDENT PRODUCTION ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2012/2013

**Marvin’s Room**
- Stage Manager-Lauren Hanson; Dramaturg-Gianna Soprano
- Production Manager-Molly Pritchard

**Company**
- Stage Manager-Samantha Ryel; Assistant Stage Manager-Erin Gray;
  Dramaturg-Julia Bartoletti & Lindsey Bissonnette

**Metamorphoses**
- Stage Manager-Danielle Dube; Dramaturg-Ben Hill & Marc Tiberis;
  Production Manager- Lauren Hanson

**420**
- Director- Samantha Ryel; Stage Manager-Erin Gray; Assistant Director-Darren Defrank

**Much Ado about Nothing**
- Stage Manager-Molly Pritchard; Production Manager & Assistant Director-Samantha Ryel; Dramaturg-Darren Defrank

**322**
- Stage Manager-Lizzie Strauss; Production Manager-Danielle Dube

As you can see from the list above, we need more help backstage. Some of you are registered in classes that will place you on crews for course credit. For the rest of you, anyone who is not assigned a role in a fall play should come see Alan to sign up for production work. (second floor office beside mine which is H208) He will be serving as Production Manager. One, two and three credits are available for the work. All majors must complete 2 credits of THE 291 and 2 credits of THE 391 prior to graduation. These credits must be earned offstage…not for roles. Get involved and support your department.

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MAJORS/MINORS MEETING
All Students Are Welcome

Wednesday, 9/12/12, 5:15-6:30 PM in J Studio
FREE FOOD and ENTERTAINMENT from several of our talented students.

Find out what is going on, what is planned for the year, meet the faculty, guest artists, staff, other students and maybe, just maybe, Theatre alum. Have fun, catch up with your old pals, make some new ones and enter the raffle for prizes…goodies from the Emporium and other places. Agenda items? Just send them to Paula, paulam@uri.edu (Theatre Chair) via email prior to the meeting.

SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Upperclassmen in THE 499…remember your first meeting? If you are in THE 499 as a mentor, bring along your students or arrange to meet them there. Welcome to all.

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LOCKERS AND MAILBOXES

Theatre students and key production personnel have a mailbox located in the main Theatre hallway, 2nd floor. Lockers are available to Theatre students and are located inside the mens and ladies dressing rooms. Unlocked in the AM, relocked by the Stage Mgr. in PM. Stop by Rm. H206 for information.
A FEW SEATS AVAILABLE….REGISTER TODAY!!!

THE 227 Dance for the Musical Theatre
Dante Sciarra
T & TH 11-12:15 PM

All BFA Acting majors are required to take two specialized courses before graduating, and this is one of those offerings. It doesn’t matter if you’ve never had formal dance training…in fact, if you haven’t, this is the class you NEED to take. Actors need to be competitive in all areas so register today by writing Paula for a permission number. Fun and a definite stress reducer.

THE 350 Makeup
Marilyn Salvatore
M 4-5:50 PM

All BFA Acting and Design/Tech majors are required to take this “hands on” class before graduation. Currently there are only 3 juniors enrolled. I must have at least ten enrolled or this class will be cancelled till next year. Seniors, juniors….sign up now. Write Paula for a permission number.

THE 499 Senior Seminar
David Howard, Bryna Wortman, Paula McGlasson
W 12-12:50 PM

This course helps bridge the worlds of educational theatre and professional theatre. Recommended for all seniors. Focuses on resumes, internships, grad schools, unions, getting the job, relocating, etc. Highly suggested for all seniors who plan to graduate anytime in 2013.

For additional information or permission numbers to any course if required, please email Paula McGlasson at paulam@uri.edu.

The 100 TA’s and Shadows

THE100 is always looking for interested folks to be THE100 Shadows- that’s an assistant to a Teaching Assistant. This is the apprenticeship gateway to becoming a Teaching Assistant. Work with us for a semester or two, get to know what we’re about and how we do what we do and then apply to be a TA yourself. The first time you TA, it would be for academic credit and then subsequent times would be for pay. There are Shadow positions available in Acting/Directing, Sets/Props., Lights/Sound, Costumes and Stage Management/Publicity.

Requirements: Enjoy working with people, willing to learn, organized, enthusiastic, and have an interest in teaching.

Contact Michael Lapointe at 401-874-9038.
If he’s not in, leave a message, and he’ll get back to you.
The first THE100 meeting for all T.A.’s and Shadows is Monday, September 10th at 6:00 P.M. in Room H101

THE 100 TEACHING ASSISTANTS FOR FALL 2012

AM Company TA’s
Stephanie Traversa
Allie Meek
Carol Pegg
Emily Foster
Mia Rocchio

PM Company TA’s
Americo Lanni
Samantha Ryel
Andrew Burnap
TS McCormick
Alex Maynard

AM Technical TA’s
Travis Greene-Management & Publicity
Maria Day Hyde-Sets & Props
Emma Haney-Costumes
Sam Lewis-Lights & Sound

PM Technical TA’s
Travis Greene-Management & Publicity
Marc Tiberis-Sets & Props
Sam Lewis-Costumes
Christopher Marshall-Lights & Sound
WELCOME NEW FACES FOR FALL 2012

Steven Ginsburg, Director Metamorphoses; Steven is Co-Founding Artistic Director of HartBeat Ensemble, a theater company in Hartford, CT that generates dynamic new works based on the most pressing issues of our times. Steven began his theater career at the groundbreaking New WORLD Theatre, a landmark theater dedicated to newest works that tell under-heard stories from overlooked peoples. From there he went on to work with the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Anna Deveare-Smith at the Institute for Arts and Civic Dialogue, Shakespeare and Company, Augusto Boal, Michael Rohd and The Civilians. Steven has been a teacher, playwright, actor and director. He was honored in American Theatre’s 25th anniversary issue celebrating 25 young theatre artists who are most likely to influence American Theater in the next 25 years. He is a member of the 2012 Lincoln Center Directors Lab and also holds an MFA in Directing from Boston University.

Steven Pennell, Guest Lecturer THE 413, Travelling Theatre Troupe; Mr. Pennell is the Coordinator of Arts and Culture at URI Providence Campus and is a Ph.D.A.B.D. from Ohio State University in Theatre, M.A. from New York University in Educational Theatre and B.A. in Secondary Education Communications/Theatre from Rhode Island College. He has been the Archivist at Rites and Reason Theatre/Brown University, and has been an Adjunct professor at RIC and URI in the Communications/Theatre for 15 years, teaching Creative Drama for Children and Youth, Mask Performance, Introduction to the Theatre, Reader’s Theatre, Script Analysis, Theatre History and Oral Interpretation of Literature and regularly takes his students out into the community to perform as representatives of the university including the National Black Storytelling Conference and Festival and the New England Theatre Conference. Steven has created more than 16 original performance works, has directed more than 90 plays, and continues to perform, create visual arts and teach workshops in music theatre and dance.

Jen Rock, Lighting Designer Marvin’s Room; Jen is a freelance lighting designer based in Boston, MA, and is thrilled to be joining URI for her first production. Recent design credits include at Company One: The Elaborate Introduction of Chad Deity, The Orfeo Group: Love Song, Perishable Theatre: Hedwig and the Angry Inch, 2nd Story Theatre: In the Next Room (The Vibrator Play) and Circle Mirror Transformation, Master Class, The Gamm Theatre. Jen holds an MFA in lighting design from the University of Connecticut. www.jenrockdesign.com

Rachel Walshe, Guest Lecturer THE 331, Playwriting; Rachel is a director and dramaturge whose work has been seen on stages in Chicago, Boston, Providence and London. Her most acclaimed work includes the Chicago premiere of These Shining Lives (Jefferson Equity nominations for Best Production and Best Director) and the record-breaking production of The Hypocrites’ Our Town (now an Obie-Award winner for which she served as Associate Director). Rachel’s local work includes Mauritus and Circle Mirror Transformation (The Gamm), J:23 (Perishable Theatre) and Lake Untersee (Brown/Trinity). Rachel is a 2002 Rhodes Scholar and currently resides in Providence with her husband and two children.

2012 SENIORS 2012

ALL SENIORS (any student with 75 credits or more)
MUST SUBMIT YOUR GRADUATION WORKSHEET (intent to graduate) TO THE ARTS AND SCIENCES DEAN’S OFFICE BY 10/01/12 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO GRADUATE IN MAY 2013
SEE BONNIE FOR INTENT TO GRADUATE FORM
Announcing URI/Theatre Department Scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year.

CRITERIA:

- Excellence of academic performance in the departmental course offerings
- Quality and extent of participation in productions

ELIGIBILITY:

- Open to all students who are in good academic standing
- Not limited to Theatre Majors alone: Theatre Minors or University College Students planning to major in Theatre may also apply

REQUIREMENTS:

Students must submit a brief statement in support of their candidacy by Friday, October 5, 2012 to Bonnie Bosworth. This statement might include such things as classes taken, academic record, production positions and plans for future involvement in URI/Theatre, as well as production positions outside the University. However, the major purpose of the statement is to explain why you are deserving of the scholarship. These statements must be typed and should not be longer than two pages.

Scholarships will be awarded subject to availability of funds.

These scholarships are NOT based on need. That is not a criterion for application.

The selection committee: URI/Theatre Faculty & Staff

KCACTF 2013

We’ve gotten so used to heading north to Fitchburg each year to represent URI at the festival that I’m not sure we can change our ways but...........................................

This year the festival will be held on the Cape!

Last year the faculty decided that for this January, we will be sending only one nominee and partner per production. This means that eight students will be participating in the Irene Ryans from URI. Four additional students will be selected to represent interests in directing, stage management and design/tech. So far, our Irene Ryan nominees are: Olivia Khoshatefeh from Tartuffe and Andrew Burnap from Singin’ in the Rain. Nominees remain to be chosen for Marvin’s Room and Company. Our Irene Ryan acting coaches will be Bryna Wortman and Claudia Traub. Here’s to Hyannis in January.
EARN COURSE CREDIT
YOU DON’T’ EVEN HAVE TO BE A THEATRE STUDENT

Either acting in or working on a production under the direction of the resident, guest artist or student designer can earn you course credit. PASS THE WORD!

Crew Areas: Props, Carpentry, Scene Painting, Design, Lighting, Sound, Box Office, Costumes, Follow Spot Operators, Wig/Hair/Makeup, Electricians, House Managers, and more.…

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
Contact Alan Hawkridge
Theatre Dept. Rm. H210
401-874-7885, brit1@uri.edu

REMINDER: All sophomore, junior and senior students should be registered for production lab credits under THE 291 or 391. A total of 4 credits is required by graduation. Freshman and transfer students may also register, if their courses do not include crew assignments.