URI Theatre 2013 Newsletter

URI Theatre Department

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Comments from the Chair

Did you know that ..............................................

*we currently have 28 new theatre majors and 6 minors coming in this fall?
*we have new faculty arriving to teach voice and movement, sophomore acting and stage combat?
*we have a new assistant technical director?
*our second production will be finished before Thanksgiving this year and the musical will close the season in April?
*everything has been removed and cleaned out under the stage and in the trap room over the summer to improve cleanliness and air quality on the lower level?
*we are offering Touring Theatre, Scene Painting and Stage Combat this fall and we have plans to offer History of the Musical Theatre, Set Design and Singing for the Musical Theatre in the spring?
*we have changed the order of our acting classes to improve the transition between years and fields of study?
*we have two senior design/tech majors designing sets and lights in three of our plays for the main production season?
*the profile of our graduating class includes 4 students heading for Brown/Trinity, Minnesota State, New York Film Academy and Yale School of Drama; 1 going into the Air Force; 1 currently playing a role at Contemporary Theatre Company; 1 planning on teaching in RI elementary schools; 1 is getting married; 2 are interning at theatres in Florida and New York City; and 2 stage managers are currently working with companies in New York City and Minneapolis?

It’s going to be an exciting, vibrant year with many new faces, new methodologies and new challenges. If each of you plays your part and gives 100%, it will be a year to remember. Get involved, stay involved and make the most of every class, rehearsal and performance.

Welcome to URI Theatre.

Paula
**Be Aggressive** by Annie Weisman

In the Southern California community of Vista Del Sol, life should be paradise. But life is thrown into chaos when 17-year-old Laura’s mother is killed in a gruesome hit and run accident. Suddenly thrown into the roles of wife to her distant workaholic father and mother to her precocious younger sister Hannah, Laura struggles to cope with grief, sudden adulthood, and the hell of high school life. Laura throws herself with total abandon into the world of cheerleading when she befriends popular cheerleader Leslie, a girl with a terrifying zeal for all things cheer. Leslie convinces Laura to run away to the “Spirit Institute of the South,” a hardcore, take-no-prisoners school of cheerleading. Armed with her dead mother’s Mobil card and some stolen cash, Laura embarks on a journey to escape her life only to find herself faced with unresolved grief, something from which she cannot escape. A “Valley-girl” take on Greek tragedy equipped with a chorus of cheerleaders, *Be Aggressive* is the off-beat telling of a classic tale of journey and catharsis in the complicated life of a teenage girl.

J Studio Theatre, October 10-12 & 17-19, 2013, 7:30pm October 13 & 20, 2013, 3:00pm
$20 General, $15 Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, $12 Students

**How The Other Half Loves** by Alan Ayckbourn

*How the Other Half Loves* is a brilliant farce by the master of the comic genre, Alan Ayckbourn. The play concerns the lives and loves of three couples at different stages in their marriages. William and Mary are newlyweds. Bob and Teresa have a loveless marriage but a new baby. Frank is the boss of the other two men; he is often confused and is married to his long suffering wife Fiona. Through dinner parties, mistakes, lies and infidelity, the play descends into hysterical chaos. *How the Other Half Loves* is a wonderful and witty play by a playwright at the very top of his game.

Robert E. Will Theatre, November 14-16 & 21-23, 2013, 7:30pm, November 17 & 24, 2013, 3:00pm
$20 General, $15 Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, $12 Students

**Crimes of the Heart** by Beth Henley

Down in Mississippi three sisters must “learn how to get through these real bad days” from the past to a future. Beth Henley's very funny, very touching *Crimes of the Heart* won the 1981 Pulitzer Prize and the New York Drama Critic's Circle Award. The play takes us on a journey which Lenny, the eldest sister, who is about to hit 30 -- Meg in the middle who is home from an unsuccessful try at a singing career -- and Babe, the youngest, who just shot her husband, must overcome the legacy of self destruction stemming from their mother's earlier suicide. With the help of the men who love them and their own better natures the sisters reunite with love in this always quirky, unpredictable comedy.

Robert E. Will Theatre, February 20-22 & February 27-March 1, 2014, 7:30pm, February 23 & March 2, 2014, 3:00pm
$20 General, $15 Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, $12 Students

**Chicago** Book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse; Music by John Kander and Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Devilish and delightful, *Chicago* is an indisputable Broadway landmark that delivers one big musical showstopper after another. John Kander and Fred Ebb’s now classic score keeps the story of two rival vaudevillian murderesses, Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart moving at a gunshot pace. A multiple Tony, Grammy and Oscar winner, this stinging satire on corruption, crime and celebrity based on true crime stories of the period features Bob Fosse’s steamy and sexy moves during the “jazz hot” 1920’s.

Robert E. Will Theatre, April 17-19 & 24-26, 2014, 7:30pm, April 27, 2014, 3:00pm
$20 General, Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, $15 Students

Tickets may be purchased at the BOX OFFICE: 401-874-5843
Or ONLINE AT: web.uri.edu/theatre. Call 401-874-5921 for INFORMATION.
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

2013 FALL AUDITION INFORMATION

BE AGGRESSIVE
By Annie Weisman

Synopsis: In the Southern California community of Vista Del Sol, life should be paradise. But life is thrown into chaos when 17-year-old Laura’s mother is killed in a gruesome hit and run accident. Suddenly thrown into the roles of wife to her distant workaholic father and mother to her precocious younger sister Hannah, Laura struggles to cope with grief, sudden adulthood, and the hell of high school life. Laura throws herself with total abandon into the world of cheerleading when she befriends popular cheerleader Leslie, a girl with a terrifying zeal for all things cheer. Leslie convinces Laura to run away to the “Spirit Institute of the South,” a hardcore, take-no-prisoners school of cheerleading. Armed with her dead mother’s Mobil card and some stolen cash, Laura embarks on a journey to escape her life only to find herself faced with unresolved grief, something from which she cannot escape. A “Valley-girl” take on Greek tragedy equipped with a chorus of cheerleaders, Be Aggressive is the off-beat telling of a classic tale of journey and catharsis in the complicated life of a teenage girl.

Director: Rachel Walshe
Cast: 1M, 7W

Laura: 17 years old, struggling to find her place
Hannah: Laura’s 14-year old sister, precocious and desperately in need of guidance
Leslie: 17, Captain of the high school cheer squad, has a ferocious commitment to “real” cheer
Judy: 40’s, Leslie’s mother, a perfectly manicured example of Southern California culture
Phil: 40’s, Laura’s emotionally distant father, a workaholic with no idea how to deal with his daughters
Cheerleaders #1, #2 & #3 aka “The Cheer Chorus”: a sometimes terrifying, always united squad of cheerleaders who serve as storytellers, girls in Laura’s cheer squad, and more. They move fluidly between “Valley Girl” lightness and Bacchanalian ferocity.

Required: Please prepare a 2-minute monologue from a contemporary play AND a cheer of your own choosing. You may also choreograph your cheer if you choose though it is not necessary. You may also be asked to read from sides in your audition. Please read the entire play before your audition. A copy is available in the URI Theatre Office.

Auditions: September 3 and 4 at 6:30PM

Callbacks: September 5, 6:30PM

Rehearsals: Begin September 6 (Tuesdays 6:30-10:30PM, Wed-Fri 6-10PM, Sat 12-6, Sun/Mon OFF)

Performances: October 10-13 & October 17-20
How the Other Half Loves
by Alan Ayckbourn

Director: Alan F. Hawkridge

Cast size: 3 males and 3 females

How the Other Half Loves is a brilliant farce by the master of the comic genre, Alan Ayckbourn. The play concerns the lives and loves of three couples at different stages in their marriages. William and Mary are newlyweds. Bob and Teresa have a loveless marriage but a new baby. Frank is the boss of the other two men; he is often confused and is married to his long suffering wife Fiona. Through dinner parties, mistakes, lies and infidelity, the play descends into hysterical chaos. How the Other Half Loves is a wonderful and witty play by a playwright at the very top of his game.

Characters:
Bob Phillips: Late 20’s; having affair with Fiona
Teresa Phillips: Late 20’s; fiery mother with new baby
Frank Foster: Middle aged; boss of Bob and William
Fiona Foster: Middle aged; having an affair with Bob
William Featherstone: 20’s; innocent and recently married
Mary Featherstone: 20’s; innocent and recently married

Required: Please prepare a one to two minute contemporary comic monologue. The ability to use physical comedy is important. Although the characters find themselves in extreme situations, the acting must be truthful and grounded.

Auditions: September 3 (for junior and senior theatre majors) and September 4 (for freshmen, sophomores, transfers and community) at 6:30 PM

Callbacks: September 5, 6:30 PM

Rehearsals will begin in October.

Performances: November 14-17 & November 21-24
STUDENT PRODUCTION ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2012/2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Show</th>
<th>Stage Manager</th>
<th>Assistant Director</th>
<th>Student Production Manager</th>
<th>Lighting Designer</th>
<th>Dramaturg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be Aggressive</td>
<td>Rachel Gandy</td>
<td>Gianna Soprano</td>
<td>Annie Cavallaro</td>
<td>Marc Tiberiis</td>
<td>Stephen Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How The Other Half Loves</td>
<td>Erin Gray</td>
<td>Jainee DiDonato</td>
<td>Catherine Poirier</td>
<td>Steve Wilson</td>
<td>Rick Bagley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimes of the Heart</td>
<td>Annie Cavallaro</td>
<td>Erin Gray</td>
<td>Set Designer</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Catherine Poirier</td>
<td>Marc Tiberiis</td>
<td>Rachel Gandy</td>
<td>Vinny Ballirano</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We still need students to fill production positions for the above named shows and for the spring THE 420 and One-Act festival. You may apply to work on these shows now by seeing Alan Hawkridge or we will wait till December auditions to see which students are available in the spring. Thank you.

MAJORS/MINORS MEETING
All Students Are Welcome

Wednesday, 9/11/13, 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.

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 Manager. in PM. Stop by Room. H206 for information.
A FEW SEATS AVAILABLE....REGISTER TODAY!!!

Attention URI Theatre!

Do you like acting?
Do you like choreographing?
Have you ever wanted to punch a fellow classmate in the face?

If you said yes to anyone of these then
THE 237/ Stage Combat
is the class for YOU!

My name is Mike Commendatore and, like most of you, I was once a theatre major taking different electives to fulfill those extra credits. My freshman year I saw this very class listed in the catalog and couldn’t believe I could earn 3 credits by learning how to fight on stage. I took the class. I liked it so much I took it again...for another 3 credits (yes, you can do this twice) and loved it. My junior year I audited the class and did everything left-handed. My senior year, I audited again and this time considered being a teacher’s assistant. Now, a year into the real world, I have been asked to come back and teach the class I’ve loved so much!

This class will focus on safety and discipline above all things, but we will also cover Épée Sword Fencing, Hand-to-Hand Combat, Choreographing Fight Sequences, and, if we’re lucky, Falls, Rolls, and More!

Right now there are only 7 people signed up for this class. WE NEED AT LEAST 15 TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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

THE 100 Shadows

If you have an interest in someday being a THE100 Teaching Assistant you have to spend two semesters as a T.A. Shadow. A Shadow is entitled to generate one academic credit and positions are available for the morning and afternoon sessions (Tuesdays and Thursdays, either 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.) and in the area of directing, managing and technical theatre (lights, sound, sets/props, costumes, stage management/publicity). If you have some knowledge and a passion for what you do, we’re looking for you! You will be assigned to a T.A.

If you want to be a Shadow, come to our first THE100 meeting…
Monday, September 9th at 6:00p.m. in room H101
(There will be a picture!)

THE 100 TEACHING ASSISTANTS FOR FALL 2013

AM Company TA’s
Stephanie Traversa
Lauren Hanson
Meg Kane
Ben Hill/Lindsay Bissonnette
Danielle Dube

AM Technical TA’s
Annalee Cavallaro-Management & Publicity
Maria Day Hyde-Sets & Props
Emma Haney-Costumes
Jen Callaghan-Lights & Sound

PM Company TA’s
Marc Tiberis
Gianna Soprano
Christine O’Connell
Lauren Hanson
Julia Baroletti

PM Technical TA’s
Annalee Cavallaro-Management & Publicity
Danielle Dube-Sets & Props
Stephanie Traversa-Costumes
Christopher Marshall-Lights & Sound
WELCOME NEW FACES FOR FALL 2013

Mike Commendatore is a graduate of URI, and holds both a B.F.A. in Theatre Arts and a B.A. in Film Studies. Currently, he works as a video creative services coordinator at Event Resource Group and as a media/projection designer for the Wilbury Group. Mike studied stage combat for four years under Craig Handel. He has choreographed fights at URI in Tartuffe, Singin‘ in the Rain, A View from the Bridge, Marat Sade, for 322’s and 420’s, and various other shows. He has recently been seen as Robin Hood in Robin Hood Spring Time Festival and Hank Morgan in King Arthur Fall Harvest Festival both produced by the Connecticut Renaissance Faire. Mike has over a decade of experience in Shaolin Kempo, having received his third degree black belt in 2007, not currently practicing. Mike also attended and instructed at the Stunt Action Film Academy from 2004-2006. His design portfolio can be found at Revolutionary-Media.com. (Instructor—Stage Combat)

Angela Brazil is a professional actor and a member of Trinity Rep’s Resident Acting Company, where she has appeared in over 40 shows in 14 seasons. Regional credits include Dallas Theater Center, Berkeley Rep, and the Long Wharf Theater. She has taught for, among others, Clark University, The Bread Loaf School of English, Trinity Rep, and The Arts Literacy Project. Ms. Brazil also records audiobooks. She lives with her family in Lincoln, RI. (Instructor—all Voice and Movement)

Angus McPherson has been involved in the theater industry for over 25 years, working for companies such as Theatre-By-The-Sea and Trinity Rep. His work as a set builder/props person can been seen in the film industry in movies such as “Underdog” and “Shutter Island”. He has operated his own prop house for over ten years. He spends his free time creating Steampunk and sci-fi/horror art for commissions and just plain fun. Angus is excited about his new position here at URI and looks forward to a long relationship. (Assistant Technical Director)

KCACTF 2014

This year the festival will be held on the Cape in Hyannis!
January 28—February 2, 2014

Last year the faculty decided that for this January, we will be sending only one nominee and partner per production if the cast contains ten or less actors. This means that 14 or 15 nominees and partners 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: Americo Lanni and Daraja Hinds from Metamorphoses, Annalee Cavallaro from No Exit, and Ben Miller and Marc Tiberis from Much Ado About Nothing. Nominees remain to be chosen for Be Aggressive and How The Other Half Loves. Here’s to Hyannis in January.

2013 SENIORS 2013

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 10/01/13 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO GRADUATE IN MAY 2014 SEE BONNIE FOR INTENT TO GRADUATE FORM
WELCOME

NEW MAJORS, MINORS AND TRANSFER STUDENTS

Daniel Bertel, RI
Alyssa Bevilacqua, CT
Michael Boisvert, Jr., RI
Jon Capozzoli, CT
Steven Carvalho, RI
Morgan Clark, RI
Kyle Couture, RI
Alijah Dickenson, RI
Benjamin Florance, MA
Michaela Forbes, MA
Anya Fox, RI
Emily Gamage, RI
Reilly Hayes, RI
Kennedy Jackson, RI
Kate Kendall, VT
Billy Luce, MA
Rebecca Magnotta, RI
Celine Montaundy, CT
Danise Nichols, RI
Emma Palk, NY
Christopher Piti, RI
Haley Pittman, RI
Adrian Richburg, NY
Allison Schiller, NJ
Emily Shovlin, NJ
Nadia Sokolove, NY
Jennifer Spirito, RI
Billy Stiles, RI
Olivia Thornton, RI
Lauren Wade, RI
Emma Walker, ME
Melissa Williams, PA
Pablo Youngs, RI

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, britl@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.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

2013 Merit Scholarship Awardees
Andrew Burnap
Alex Maynard
Samantha Ryel
Lindsay Bissonnette

2013 Academic Excellence Award:
T.S. McCormick

2012 Pezzullo Scholarship Awardees:
Danielle Dube
Lauren Hanson
T.S. McCormick
Samantha Ryel

2012 Theatre Scholarship Awardees:
Molly Pritchard
Steve Wilson

2012 Mary Zorabedian Scholarship:
Alex Maynard

2012 Motif Theatre Awards:
Nomination for Best Male Performance in University Theatre, Andrew Burnap, Company
Nomination for Best Female Performance in University Theatre, Lindsay Bissonnette, Company
Nomination for Best University Production, Company
Nomination for Best Direction, Paula McGlasson, Company