

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

Theatre Department Publications

Theatre

2014

URI Theatre 2014 Newsletter

URI Theatre Department

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/theatre_pubs

Recommended Citation

URI Theatre Department, "URI Theatre 2014 Newsletter" (2014). *Theatre Department Publications*. Paper 4.

https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/theatre_pubs/4

This Newsletter is brought to you by the University of Rhode Island. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theatre Department Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu. For permission to reuse copyrighted content, contact the author directly.



2014 NEWSLETTER



Photos by Randy Osga

Comments from the Chair:

By the time you receive this newsletter, you will have 6 weeks or less until the new school year begins at URI Theatre. I don't relish the thought of summer flying by so quickly and I'm sure that most of you feel the same way. It's even difficult to sit here in my office on such a bright, sunny day and compose encouraging words related to fall events. However, I know that by the time September rolls around and all of your faces appear in my doorway asking for permission numbers, sheet music, registration advising, audition tips, directions, etc., I will be ready to begin again. I am certain. It always happens. It's a cycle that repeats itself effortlessly. As I begin my 30th year at URI, I can count on this phenomenon without hesitation.

I am fairly confident that the other teachers and staff feel similarly. We all need a summer break to recharge and refresh but we are up for the work and the challenge of a new year when it is time. And I think it is fairly safe to say this applies to all of you students as well. Whether you're coming to URI as a freshman after surviving a busy, productive but nerve-wracking senior year in high school or you are returning as a college senior with only one year left to succeed in secure and familiar surroundings ... hopefully all of you have taken the summer off to relax and you will come to URI Theatre with a strong sense of dedication and purpose and zeal.

If all of us are eager and ready to work together, we will have another great year at URI. Our teachers are committed to delivering the very best instruction, our guest artists bring great skill and technique, our staff is caring and knowledgeable and our students demand the best of us just as we demand the best of them. It's a winning combination. It's what makes us unique.

So enjoy these last 6 weeks. Figure out what you have to contribute to the mix that no one else can. If each and every one of us values the work with a professional attitude and agrees to contribute his or her talents, we'll have a great academic year and we'll earn the right to relax all over again next summer. Soak up the sun, enjoy a campfire or two, listen to the seagulls and see you in September.

Paula



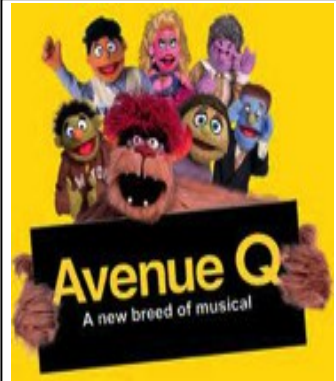
2014-2015 SEASON



SEMINAR by Theresa Rebeck

Seminar, an edgy, contemporary, comedic play by Theresa Rebeck involves four young post graduate aspiring writers who hire a well-known writing guru to critique their work. They get much more than they bargained for as his powerful persona disrupts their well-being in multiple and unexpected ways. This sexy, witty and entertaining play, set primarily in an upscale apartment on Manhattan's upper West Side, explores the world of art and commerce in one exciting intermission-less act, as it affects the two young men and two young women going into that world. Theresa Rebeck is a widely produced playwright and television writer whose plays include *Dead Accounts*, *Mauritius* and *Spike Heels*. *Seminar* played on Broadway in 2011-2012 and was nominated for a 2012 Drama League Award for Distinguished Production of a Play and as Best Play by the Outer Critics Circle. Rhode Island Premiere.

Robert E. Will Theatre, October 9-11 & October 16-18, 2014 at 7:30PM, October 12 & 19, 2014 at 3PM
\$20 General, \$15 Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, \$12 Students



AVENUE Q Book by Jeff Whitty, Lyrics by Jeff Marx & Robert Lopez

Winner of the Tony Triple Crown for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book, *Avenue Q* is part flesh, part felt and packed with heart. This musical is a laugh-out-loud production that tells the timeless story of a recent college grad named Princeton who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q. There he meets Kate (the girl next door), Rod (the Republican), Trekkie (the internet sexpert), Lucy (certainly not the girl next door) and other colorful types who help Princeton finally discover his purpose in life. With a cast consisting of three human characters and eleven puppet characters who interact as if human while animated by unconcealed puppeteers, Ben Brantley of the New York Times called it "savvy, sassy and eminently likable...a breakthrough musical."

Robert E. Will Theatre, November 13-15 & November 20-22, 2014 at 7:30PM, November 16 & 23, 2014 at 3PM
\$20 General, \$18 Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, \$15 Students



ALL MY SONS by Arthur Miller

Arthur Miller, one of America's greatest playwrights set *All My Sons* in a midwestern community soon after World War II. Inspired by a true story he was intent on exposing the fragility of the American Dream. Miller explores the destructive power of greed and misguided love as demonstrated by Joe Keller, the loving, shortsighted family patriarch. The original 1947 Broadway production won the Drama Critics' Circle Award and two Tony Awards for Best Author and Best Direction (Elia Kazan) of a play. *All My Sons* shines among Miller's greatest plays-- *Death of a Salesman*, *The Crucible* and *A View From the Bridge*. With its true and tender romance, its father-son conflict and its sense of impending catastrophe, this story takes hold of our hearts and our imaginations and doesn't let go for a moment.

Robert E. Will Theatre, February 19-21 & February 26-28, 2015 at 7:30 PM, February 22 & March 1, 2015 at 3PM
\$20 General, \$15 Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, \$12 Students



AS YOU LIKE IT by William Shakespeare

A pastoral comedy, the play was published in the First Folio in 1623. It follows its heroine Rosalind as she flees persecution in her uncle's court, accompanied by her cousin Celia and Touchstone the court jester, to find safety and, eventually, love in the Forest of Arden. The play remains a favorite among audiences and has been adapted for radio, film, and musical theatre.

J Studio, April 16-18 & April 23-25, 2015 at 7:30 PM, April 19 & 26, 2015 at 3 PM
\$20 General, \$15 Seniors, URI Faculty/Staff, \$12 Students

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

2014 FALL AUDITION INFORMATION

SEMINAR

by Theresa Rebeck

SEMINAR by Theresa Rebeck is an edgy, comedic, contemporary play involving four young post graduate aspiring writers who hire a well-known writing guru to critique their work, and get much more than they bargained for as his powerful persona disrupts their well being in multiple and unexpected ways. This sexy, witty, and entertaining play, exploring the worlds of art and commerce, played Broadway in 2011-2012 and was nominated for a 2012 Drama League Award for Distinguished Production of a Play and as Best Play by the Outer Critics Circle.

DIRECTOR BRYNA WORTMAN (Sets, Cheryl deWardener; Costumes, Marilyn Salvatore; Lights, Jen Rock; Sound, Michael Hyde; Props, Maria Day Hyde; Production Stage Manager, Lauren Thiele)

CAST SIZE - FIVE (2 women and 3 men)

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Izzy – very attractive (even exotic), ambitious, sexually free, man-smart

Kate - smart, talented, insecure

Douglas - entitled, golden boy

Martin – talented, very cautious, cynical

Leonard – brilliant, can be cruel and ruthless, sexual, sense of adventure

REQUIRED

Monologue 1 to 2 minutes demonstrating intelligence, comedic timing--a revelation. Show who you are, not a bunch of F words.

Be prepared if asked to also read sides at audition, definitely at callbacks.

Please read the entire play before auditions--script can be found in the Theatre Office.

AUDITIONS in J Studio

Tuesday, September 2, 2014 - 6:00-10:00pm, Juniors and Seniors

Wednesday, September 3, 2014 - 6:00-10:00pm, All Others

CALLBACKS in Will Theatre

Thursday, September 4, 2014 - 6:00-10:00pm

REHEARSALS

Tuesday-Friday, 6:00-10:00pm usually; 7:00-11:00pm sometimes

Saturday and Sunday usually 1:00-5:00pm; possibly some Sunday evenings

FULL REHEARSALS start Saturday, September 6, 2014 at 12:30

PERFORMANCES

Thursday-Sunday, October 9-12 and Thursday-Sunday, October 16-19 (all evenings except Sunday matinees)

AVENUE Q
Music and Lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx
Book by Jeff Whitty

AVENUE Q

A contemporary musical in two acts, a book musical that is rated R.

This puppet-filled comedy follows a group of 20-somethings seeking their purpose in big-city life.

Director: Paula McGlasson; Musical Director: Lila Kane; Choreographer: Dante Sciarra; Costume Designer: David T. Howard; Set Designer: Kent Homchick; Lighting Designer: Christian Wittwer; Sound Designer: Mike Hyde; Props Designer: Maria Day Hyde; Production Stage Manager: Sydney Rosenberg; Production Manager: Alan Hawkridge.

Cast Size: Small (around 10)

Cast Type: Ensemble Cast with many featured roles Dance Requirement: None/minimal

Casting notes: Puppets are used in this show and most actors play multiple characters

Character Breakdown:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GENDER</u>	<u>VOCAL PART</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>ROLE TYPE</u>
Princeton (A fresh-faced kid just out of college and the protagonist/uses puppet)	male	tenor	22-24	lead
Brian (A laid-back guy married to Christmas Eve)	male	tenor	30-35	lead
Kate Monster (A Kindergarten teaching assistant who is a bit older than Princeton/uses puppet)	female	mezzo	22-30	lead
Rod (An investment banker who is a Republican and a closeted homosexual/uses puppet)	male	tenor	24-32	lead
Nicky (A slacker who lives with Rod/uses puppet)	male	tenor	24-32	lead
Christmas Eve (A therapist who recently moved to Avenue Q from Japan)	female	mezzo	30-35	lead
Gary Coleman (The child TV star who is now superintendent of the apartment buildings)	female	alto	30-35	lead
The Bad News Bears N/A (Two snuggly, cute teddy-bear types/one female and one male/uses puppets)	female & male	various	20-40	supporting
Trekkie Monster (A reclusive creature obsessed with the Internet and all it has to offer/uses puppet)	male	tenor	23-35	supporting
Lucy the Slut (A vixenish vamp with a dangerous edge/uses puppet)	female	alto	21-30	supporting
Mrs. T. (Kate's grumpy and prim principal/uses puppet)	female	soprano	40-60	supporting
Ricky (A gay version of Nicky/uses puppet)	male	spoken	24-35	cameo
Newcomer (another resident similar to Princeton/uses puppet)	male	tenor	22-27	cameo

REQUIRED:

Vocal audition: Prepare one song from musical theatre using your own natural singing voice. 32 bars and memorized. You must supply sheet music for accompanist. This may be ballad or up tempo.

Then sing the same song in a character voice...OR...prepare 32 bars of a different song in a character voice. Up tempo or ballad.

Acting audition: Prepare a 1-minute comic, contemporary monologue.

AUDITION DATES IN G STUDIO:

Tuesday, September 2 from 7-10 for all junior and senior theatre majors

Wednesday, September 3 from 7-10 for all others

Thursday, September 4 Callbacks, times TBA

Rehearsals will begin in early October. Performance dates are November 13-16 & 20-23 in Will Theatre. If cast in SEMINAR, it would be extremely difficult to also be cast in this production due to overlapping rehearsal and performance schedules. Due to this fact, every attempt will be made to avoid casting the same actors in both productions. Thank you.

STUDENT PRODUCTION ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2014/2015

Seminar Stage Manager-Lauren Thiele; Assistant Director-TBA; Student Production Manager-TBA; Dramaturg-Vinny Ballirano

Avenue Q Stage Manager-Sydney Rosenberg; Assistant Stage Manager-Ally Schiller; Assistant Directors-Stephen Peterson and Julia Watkinson; Student Production Manager-TBA; Dramaturg-Alexandra Egan

All My Sons Stage Manager-Rachel Marshall; Student Production Manager-TBA; Dramaturg-Stephen Peterson

As You Like It Stage Manager-Jainee DiDonato; Assistant Director-Randi Budlong; Student Production Manager-TBA; Dramaturg-Catherine Poirier

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.



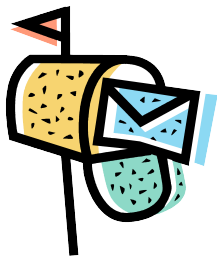
**MAJORS/MINORS MEETING
All Students Are Welcome**

Wednesday, 9/10/14, 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!!!

THE 111 Introduction to Acting section 01 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-1:45 with Alan Hawkrige. This class is for minors or non majors. 3 elective credits in J Studio

THE 161 Introduction to Stagecraft Lecture on Wednesday from 3:30-5:15 and then choose a lab at same time on Mondays or Fridays. Taught by Jake Hegnauer for 3 credits and this class must be taken by all theatre majors BEFORE starting their junior year.

THE 227 Dance for the Musical Theatre Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11-12:15 in G Studio. Taught by Dante Sciarra and 1 of 3 possible required courses for acting majors. 3 credits that require a permission number which I will give. Very under enrolled at present...please sign up so I don't have to cancel the class.

THE 250 Costume Construction Same schedule as Stagecraft above. Taught by Sally Dwyer and again, it is required of all theatre majors before starting their junior year. 3 credits.

THE 413 Acting for the Camera 3 credits taught by LA actor and film star, Eric Lutes. Open to junior and senior theatre majors by permission number. Monday nights from 7-9:45 and only offered every three or four years so register NOW.

THE 350 Makeup 1 credit course taught by Marilyn Salvatore and open to junior or senior majors. Required for all BFA actors. No permission number required if you are a major.

THE 499 Senior Seminar 1 credit course team taught by David, Bryna and myself. Open to all seniors to help bridge academic and professional theatre paths. Features frequent guest speakers. Not required for graduation but most helpful to all intending to pursue theatre as a profession.

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 8th at 6:00p.m. in room H101
(There will be a picture!)**

THE 100 TEACHING ASSISTANTS FOR FALL 2014

AM Company TA's

Vinny Ballirano
Kate Kendall
Julia Watkinson
Meg Kane
Randi Budlong

AM Technical TA's

Seth Finkle
TBA
TBA
Alexandra Egan

PM Company TA's

Stephen Peterson
Catherine Poirier
Rick Bagley
Daraja Hinds
Diego Rivera

PM Technical TA's

Rachael Gandy
Sydney Rosenberg
TBA
Lauren Thiele

WELCOME NEW FACES FOR FALL 2014

Eric Lutes: Best known for playing Del in *Caroline In The City* and the gay station manager, Tom Duran on *Frasier's Matchmaker* episode which TV Guide has ranked as one of the top 100 all-time most popular episodes of television. Eric also is known for playing one of Ellen's last boyfriends on the *Ellen* show. He is the only actor to have played father to the Olsen twins in a film and on their last series as a completely different character - Jake Carlson. Eric has also starred in several action/sci-fi films with co-stars like Malcolm McDowell, Mitch Pileggi, Louis Gossett, Jr. and the late David Carradine. Since these roles Eric has been doing many new projects and was thrilled to have starred opposite his dear friend Lea Thompson in the recently released *Adventures of a Teenage Dragonslayer* also starring Wendy Malik. Eric is one of the stars of the increasingly popular perennial Christmas hit *the 12 Dogs of Christmas* with Richard Riehl and Mindy Sterling. Of late Eric has been getting much recognition in quirky roles on *Desperate Housewives* and *90210* and more serious roles on shows like *House* and *Miami Medical*. Eric's star is once again on the rise and is in the mix for several up coming film projects that are in early pre-production.

KCACTF 2015

This year the festival will be held on the Cape in Hyannis!
January 27 - January 31, 2015

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: Devin Vietri and alternate Stephen Peterson from *Crimes of the Heart* and Julia Bartoletti and Anya Fox from *Chicago* and alternates Diego Guevara and Billy Luce from *Chicago*. Nominees remain to be chosen for *Seminar* and *Avenue Q*. Here's to Hyannis in January.

2014 SENIORS 2014

ALL SENIORS (any student with 75 credits or more)
MUST SUBMIT YOUR GRADUATION WORKSHEET
(Intent to Graduate form)
TO THE ARTS AND SCIENCES DEAN'S OFFICE BY 10/1/14 TO BE
ELIGIBLE TO GRADUATE IN MAY 2014
SEE BONNIE FOR INTENT TO GRADUATE FORM





**NEW MAJORS, MINORS
AND TRANSFER STUDENTS**

Melanie Bonacasa
Sarah Caldwell
John T. Cunha
Julia Davidson
Kate Diana
Rose DiLorenzo
Charles Gager
Laura Kennedy
Brigitte Kenny
Isabella Marshall
Ashley Medeiros
Daria-Lyric Monraguila
Magdalen Papa
Nicole Pelletier
Isabella Pellino
Susannah Thal-Nir
Alexis Wittlin
—

**CONGRATULATIONS
to our 2014 Graduates!**



**Julia Bartoletti
Lindsay Bissonnette
Jennifer Callaghan
Annalee Cavallaro
Daren Defrank
Danielle Dube
Rachael Gandy
Erin Grey
Lauren Hanson
Benjamin Hill
Benjamin Miller
Mia Rocchio
Gianna Saprano
Marc Tiberiis
Steve Wilson**

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...



**2014 George Graboys Scholarship
Daraja Hinds
Stephen Peterson**

**2014 Merit Scholarship Awardees
Stephen Peterson
Catherine Poirier
Diego Guerava
Rachael Marshall**

**2014 Academic Excellence Award:
Steven Wilson**

**2013 Pezzullo Scholarship Awardees:
Christine Dickinson
Kat Riley
Gianna Soprano**

**2013 Theatre Scholarship Awardees:
Annalee Cavallaro
Marc Tiberiis**

**2013 Mary Zorabedian Scholarship:
Steven Wilson**

**2013 Robert & Natalie Ward Theatre
Scholarship
Lindsay Bissonnette**

**2013-14 Motif Theatre Awards
Nominations:**

Best Male Performance in University Theatre,
David Sackal, Chicago

Best Female Performance in University
Theatre,
Julia Bartoletti, Chicago

Best University Production, **Chicago** and
Crimes of the Heart

Best Direction,
Paula McGlasson, Chicago

Best Set Design,
Cheryl deWardener, Chicago

Best Costume Design,
David T. Howard, Chicago

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 .