

NEWSLETTER

Congratulations!

Ryan Bona



Annually, the Southeastern Theatre Conference sponsors a design competition in the areas of Scenery, Lighting, Costumes, and Theatrical Crafts. This year, Ryan Bona, a Junior Theatre major interested in design created an entry based upon his set and lighting creations for Crystal Mercer's production of *Purgatory* presented in the Fringe Festival in the Fall.

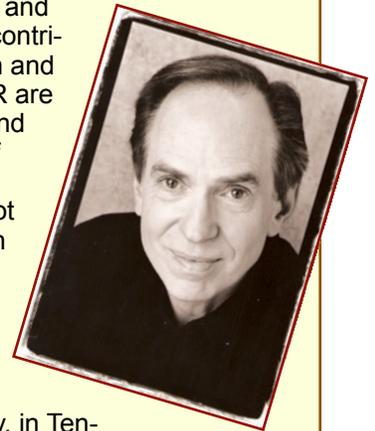
Last week, Ryan journeyed to Tennessee for the conference and proceeded to make it through to the final cut. His display included his research, paper work, lighting plots, and production photos. During the final round, he dialogued with Broadway lighting designer, Kevin Adams (*Spring Awakening*) and received feedback on his work. Overall, Mr. Bona was a "smash" and placed second in the entire competition!



Afterwards, Ryan commented, "The competition was at a very high level including design majors in BFA programs. Going in, I didn't think I had a chance. Indeed, some of the designs had been realized with very large budgets and a host of assistants. I am really glad I had the opportunity to participate in the competition. Despite the size of our 'fish bowl', if we hang on to everything that the professors at UALR teach us we are more than equipped to hold our own, and show that we can make great theatre no matter the amount of money that we spend or the size of our department. I hope that more students will want to participate in years to come."

It's The Straight Goods

"We begin on a sad note this week having to report the passing of Ms. Dot Callanen-Gravett. Dot retired a year ago after an illustrious career as a dancer, choreographer, teacher and mentor. Her contributions within and beyond UALR are well-known and the legions of students who "took" with Dot will surely join with us in expressing our respect and regrets.



Last Saturday, in Tennessee, Junior theatre major Ryan Bona took second place in a major design competition sponsored by the Southeastern Theatre Conference and adjudicated by Kevin Adams, Broadway lighting designer for *Spring Awakening*. Ryan's entry consisted of his work for *Purgatory*, directed by Crystal Mercer as part of the student Fringe Festival. His prize was awarded by Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc. On behalf of the faculty and staff and students, congratulations to Ryan for his great success and his contribution to the work and growth of the department."

Mr. Joel Ruminer

A Celebration in Dance of the Man
and His Work.



After a year of planning and the hard work of FOA and UALR's Development Office, the dance gala in honor of UALR alum Mr. Joel Ruminer got "off the ground" on the weekend of February 22. It was an exciting series of events surrounding the concert itself.

The community of Little Rock packed the University Theatre (renamed "Mr. Joel's House of Dance" for the occasion) for two performances. Audiences were treated to a bevy of amazing performers from major national dance companies and Broadway and Hollywood -danc-



ers and vocalists presenting pieces in the jazz, tap, ballet, and modern genres. All of these folks, students and colleagues of Joel's, had created works expressly for their mentor and friend.

It was Joel's intent to have the gala serve as a benefit in order to create endowed scholarships and production support for the department's dance program. The outpouring of support has brought in over \$80,000 to date and the goodwill of many folks from all over central Arkansas.

*Tribute to
Mr. Joel Ruminer*



GALA CONCERT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2008

MATINEE CONCERT
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2008

Theatre and Dance Department

Remembers beloved dance professor

“Miss Dot”



invited into membership with the Professional Dance Society. For those who have worked with Dot, she was driven, creative, compassionate, and inspired by seeing the potential and best in those around her. She believed in those who could not believe in themselves and is responsible for the education of more than can be counted. Locally, most may recognize her for her work with Arkansas Dance Theatre, Murry’s Dinner Playhouse, The Miss Arkansas Pageant, the Farkleberry Follies and the Dot-Callanen Dance-Gymnastics Center. A lifelong member of the Church of Christ, Dot’s relationship with her Lord and Savior was her greatest legacy and gift to those around her.



For those of you who loved our Miss Dot. Here is her obit. She will be truly missed. I certainly will never forget the care and patience she had gave to me. I am a stronger woman today because of her. Her teachings will live on by those who remember her.

- Karen Harris

Dot Callanen-Gravett, “Miss Dot” to many who knew her, a prominent figure in the Arkansas theatre and dance community, left this world Saturday, March 8. A native Arkansan and Suma Cum Laude MFA graduate in dance performance and choreography from SMU, Dot danced for NBC productions, the Los Angeles and San Francisco ballet companies and as a national freelance performer before starting the dance program at UALR . Her work was so esteemed that she was the only Arkansan to be

