

# NEWSLETTER

## Student Playwright Festival Winners Announced!

Congratulations to the winners of the 2010 Student Playwright Festival.

1st Place (\$150)  
Jonathan Eller  
*Poupee de la Mort*



2nd Place (\$100)  
Jeff Wright  
*DOGS*

3rd Place (\$75)  
Tyler Whiteside  
*An Artist's Rendering*



Join us on May 4, 2010 in Haislip Theatre for Fringe Festival Revisited. The playwrights of the original six student written plays and the two honorable mentions will be heard in table readings based on the notes provided and Mr. Heifner's mentoring.

## It's The Straight Goods

As we head into the stretch, we stop to celebrate this year's new playwright prize winners and to thank Jack Heifner for his contribution to the success of the Fringe Festival;



we pause to hear our dancers regale us with tales of their adventures at the ACDFFA Festival in Illinois; and, look down the tunnel at the fabulous Spring Dance Concert opening next week (April 15). And speaking of the concert... kudos to Cheryl Hellmann..whose feature on last year's concert, broadcast on Channel 62 won her the coveted *TELLY* in the Culture Program category (check out the promo for this piece playing on [Youtube!](#))

## Editor in Chief

Ross Jackson

## UALR Dancers at ACDF

On Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, two van loads of UALR Dance Majors, and two very brave instructors, began their journey to Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, to attend the annual American College Dance Festival. We were there to perform and to participate in classes with students from colleges all over the country. There were three to four classes offered every day on various styles of dance as well as other classes relevant to our area such as, Tai Chi, Moving Meditations, and How to Start a Dance Company. The teachers were from participating college dance departments. Our own Stephanie Thibeault and Nancy Happel taught classes in ballet and various styles of modern.



The evenings were filled with performances by the schools including our own. The adjudicators were, Georgiana Pickett, Jill Sigman, and Sixto Wagan. Georgiana Pickett has been an important part of the arts community for 21 years. She has served on the board of directors for many arts based projects, represented many artists and art foundations as an arts management consultant, and served as executive director of 651 ARTS in Brooklyn New York since 2004. Jill Sigman is a “choreographer, performer, improviser, and teacher.” She owns jill sigman/ thinkdance dance company and pushes the boundaries of social consciousness, art and dance. She is a nationally and internationally known educator who has been on faculty at Princeton, Brooklyn, and Croatia and a frequent guest artist in Belgium, although she did not teach any classes at ACDF. Sixto Wagan is a performing arts curator for ‘Diverse Works Artspace’ in Houston, TX and works to develop artists and share works of artists from around the world. These talented adjudicators gave detailed critiques of each of the pieces, along with additional opportunities for the choreographers to speak with them personally about their work.

The dance departments from twenty-five colleges and universities were present for every Adjudication and Informal nightly concert. There were twelve pieces in each concert though only ten pieces in total were chosen for the Gala night. Some of the Gala night choices puzzled me because I didn’t necessarily consider all of them the best pieces, but ultimately, the Gala represented a diverse mix of dance. There were selections

## UALR Dancers at ACDF (Cont.)

ranging from techno-ballet, to one representing the menstrual cycle! From those Gala presentations eight will move on to the National Festival.

Our submissions were generally well received and the critiques were constructive though dance, as an art, is subjective and difficult for everyone to see in the same way. We performed *Invisible Chains* - by Aeren Bates, *Los juegos de pasion* - by Stephanie Thibeault, and *Epiphany* - by Marisa Kirby. *Invisible Chains* and *Los juegos de pasion* were both in the very first of four adjudication concerts, while *Epiphany* was an alternate for the Informal showings and got to perform at the "Later Gator" presentation. The "Later Gator" showing took place at ten o'clock at night in a studio and was called that because it was put together by the University of Florida.



We showed two works there, *Epiphany* - by Marisa Kirby, and *Left With Nothing* - by Britney Haygood.

The festival was a very positive experience and I was honored to be a part of it. It was exciting to see other colleges and observe how well our Dance program at UALR is coming along. I have learned that we need to be extremely focused to perform at our highest potential and that we must stay dedicated to our work. This is our passion. We would not be dance majors without it.

I remember when I first talked to Ms. Thibeault about joining the dance department here, at UALR, I had reservations because my training and focus had always been classical ballet. She told me she'd break me out of my "bun-head" mentality, but I wasn't sure I wanted to at the time. Now I understand what she meant because I feel a new kind of passion for all different kinds of dance classes and techniques. This was reaffirmed at the dance festival. I can't wait to explore every type of class and style until they all "feel like home", and I don't just look like a ballerina doing another style of dance.

We were very fortunate to have this opportunity, hopefully our excitement and new spark of passion will be apparent in our spring dance concert.

*Article Written by: UALR Dance Major Sydney Ippolito*

## All the World's a Stage

### UALR Spring Dance Concert Dates

**Opening Night:**  
**Thursday, April 15, 2010**  
**8:00 p.m.**

Friday, April 16, 2010  
8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 17, 2010  
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 18, 2010  
2:30 p.m.

Tickets on sale now. Contact Box Office  
at 501-569-346 for tickets.

### Script Analysis Presents: An Evening with Harold Pinter

Wayne Chapman and his class will present  
the following student directed and acted  
pieces from Pinter's plays, poems and prose:

A Selection from Pinter's Nobel Prize Lecture

*The Caretaker*

*Celebration*

*One for the Road*

*Old Times*

*The Homecoming*

*The Dumb Waiter*

*American Football*

*Death*

Please join us on

**May 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in  
Haislip Theatre**

as we pay homage to one of the most  
important writers of the Modern Era.

### Sigma Tau Delta Presents UALR Poetry Slam -Hosted By Our Own TJ Medel-

Come out and see some of the  
department's own compete with  
other fabulous poet's from the  
University.

**April 26 6:30 DSC Meeting Room G**

### UALR Dancer's Choreography Featured in Regional Festival

We would like to congratulate UALR Dance  
Major Emily Karnes for having her piece *In  
Love and War* selected to be performed in  
the Emerging Choreographers show  
presented by the Regional Dance America  
Festival.

Emily's piece will be shown in San Antonio,  
TX, on Thursday, April 8.