

NEWSLETTER

UALR Theatre Department Announces 10 minute Playwriting Festival

What is it?

The Department of Theatre Arts and Dance at UALR announces a call for submissions of 10-minute plays to be produced as part of the annual Student Fringe Festival in the Haislip Theatre in November of 2008.

All plays chosen will be produced by the students and faculty. The playwrights will participate as members of the production team in a page-to-stage process over a three-week rehearsal and performance period. Selected plays will be eligible for cash prizes.

For more information about guidelines and where to submit your entries: <http://www.ualr.edu/theatre/10minplayfestival.html>

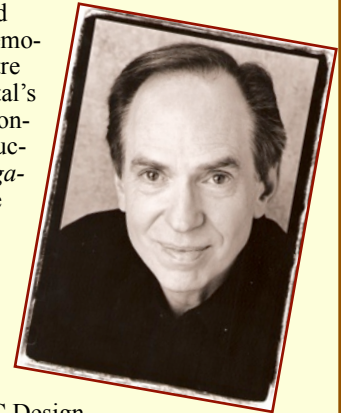


The Kerry Kennedy Playwright Development Fund is intended to honor the life and work of Kerry Kennedy and to provide assistance in the development of playwriting opportunities among the students of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Assistance and support will be used to offer workshops and training experiences provided by professional playwrights, guest artists, teachers and others broadly related to the art form; to underwrite productions of UALR student written works; and to assist students wishing to participate in campus, regional and national play festivals.

It's The Straight Goods

With this edition of our news letter, we close out another busy and successful year. As we continue to prepare for the trip to England and the performance of the Marlowe Project in Canterbury, student directors are putting the finishing touches on a group of one acts—*Lite and Laffable*-- to be performed during this last week of classes.

This year is filled with the memories of theatre major Crystal's Mercer's wonderful production of *Purgatory*, theatre major Ryan Bona's scenic design for same which also took second place in the SETC Design competition, the Joel Ruminer Dance Concert which raised \$80,000 in scholarships for our forthcoming dance concentration, Wayne Chapman's critically acclaimed production of *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* with Brandon Hall and Erin Anson, the all-faculty presentation of Yasmina Reza's *Art*, and the season ending showing of the exciting work in progress on the Marlowe Project.



Already looking ahead, the department anticipates with excitement the arrival of two new faculty members in dance, Ms. Christine Bergeron and Ms. Stephanie Thibeault. Plans are underway to devote next year's Fringe Festival to a campus wide new play contest complete with full productions and cash awards; and great titles are being bandied about for the new production season.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, I wish you a happy and productive summer!!

Finale:..and All that Jazz

A Celebration of the heart and the music.



Ushers: Sean Porter, Natasha Mason, and Anthony Bryant



Ushers: Brian Chambers and Rebecca Champion



Crew: Ryan Bona, Sara Lyon, and Bryson Williams

The Marlowe Project

Next Stop
England!!



Students of *The Marlowe Project* are getting ready for opening night in Canterbury, England this summer for The Marlowe Foundation's annual conference.

Graduate School

Interview

with
Alexis Qualls



Why did you choose to go to grad school?

I chose to go to grad school because I have a really strong idea of what I want to do in my career. I've always enjoyed the challenge of stage management, but I know that I won't get the kinds of jobs that I want to do with just a Bachelor's degree. My goal is to stage manage on Broadway. Grad school not only gives me a chance to practice in New York, it gives me the chance to meet and connect with people here in the city.

How did you get ready to apply to grad school?

A year and a half before I graduated, I made an appointment with Jay in his capacity of department chair. We talked about what I was interested in and from there I went off to research the schools that are out there. Because my goal is to do theatre in New York City, I concentrated on East Coast schools. Once I had a list of 10 schools, I did a lot of research into the actual program, I looked at the teachers and their educational backgrounds, and the theatre that the cities supported. I narrowed it down to my top three schools and went from there.

How's Columbia?

I love it! They really keep me busy. I have to know a lot about what happens in the business. Typically, I have all the reading I do for my Management class (Variety, Playbill, the Times, the

Post, union contracts, and our texts). I also have a lot of reading for my class in Not-For-Profit Theatre. I have to do a lot of research on the guests we have coming in to our classes and prep questions for them. I've really learned a lot and I'm excited about next year.

Now that you have finished almost a year of classes, what is your favorite moment?

It's hard to choose just one. I had the opportunity to meet Edward Albee – that was pretty amazing. He is a very young 80 and he told me that stage managers are the most important people in theatre. He had some very strong ideas on theatre and directing – that class was very spirited.

What do you love about New York?

That spring is almost here? It's been so cold, so it is nice to have a break from that to enjoy 60s and 70s. The city is pretty awesome. Of course, the biggest thing I love is the theatre – you can see just about anything you want here. I also just enjoy walking around the city.

What does Year 2 of your program look like?

Lots more classes! I'm really excited about next semester. We will be working on stage managing Opera and Dance with a class at the Lincoln Center. Myself and two of the others will be taking a class with the second year managers that is taught by Gerald Schoenfeld. Lots of exciting stuff. On top of that, we will be production stage managers on the thesis projects. A very busy semester.

Any advice for your former classmates?

Pay attention to the theatre history class – you will hear a lot of that information again and it will be important if you work in the theatre to know as well. Read whatever you can get your hands on.

The list Jay posted a couple of years ago is a fantastic place to get reading materials from. Read all sorts of plays, even kinds you don't normally like. Learn a bit about what is happening in the regional theatre scene and in New York. Take a peek at Playbill once in a while. Read Jay's board!