

## Welcome Back to UALR Theatre & Dance!

For returning students the school year often begins with the same rituals. We walk through the same doors, we greet familiar students and faculty and staff, we meet the “newbies” and spread the welcome. This year, however, was slightly different because our physical surroundings had a bright new look.



*New Rigging System*

The most notable change is the renovation that took place on the site of the University Theater. We are now equipped with a state of the art rigging system

that will provide us with a myriad of scenic possibilities.

As a side benefit and as detailed in the [article written for the University's website](#), two of our students participated “in a paid capacity” and were mentored in the engineering of the conversion.

Along with the work on UT, the Design Studio and classroom 226 were completely remodeled and equipped with fabulous new learning technology - thanks to Dean Baldwin and the work of Chad Garrett!



## *It's The Straight Goods*

It's just a month since we came out of the starting gate and it's full speed ahead! *Ladies Man* is already rehearsing on it's set in preparation for a September 30 opening, and Yslan's fabulous costumes were modeled and displayed last week at the reception for the gala reopening of the Stella Boyle Concert Hall . This year's playwriting contest submissions are being read and we are proud to announce that Madeleine George, one of the talented 13P playwrights will be joining us for a week to mentor the entrants. Indeed, a



bevy of Guest Artists will be in residency including the Broadway dancer and choreographer Bill Hastings, ballet choreographer and teacher Lisa Fusillo from the University of Georgia, and Lighting Designer Jim Murphy from LSU.

Let us pause, as we launch our initiatives to welcome all the new students and new majors who have decided to contribute to the work of the theatre and dance department. My best for a happy and productive year!

**Editor in Chief**

**Penn Ross Jackson, Jr.**

## A Letter From Ryan Bona!

Hello Everyone,

I'm sorry I haven't written in a bit, but my life exploded once I made it back to LA.

To start, I got a job lighting a new opera, *The Mortal Thoughts of Lady MacBeth*, and it just

opened last

night to

rave

reviews

from the

audience

and the

show made

it in the LA

Times with

pictures of

my lighting. Check it out!



- [http://](http://www.themortalthoughtsoflady-macbeth.com/file/Home.html)

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- <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/culturemonster/2010/08/opera-review-lady-macbeth-at-fais-do-do.html>

Also in the news, I am working as an intern at the LA Opera. I get the opportunity to work with Jennifer Tipton on her world premiere of *IL Postino* and I also get to work with a British designer Mark Doubleday on a new revival of *Marriage of Figaro*.

I can't express how excitingly busy this semester is going to be for me. Look for more news to come.

Thanks,  
Ryan Bona

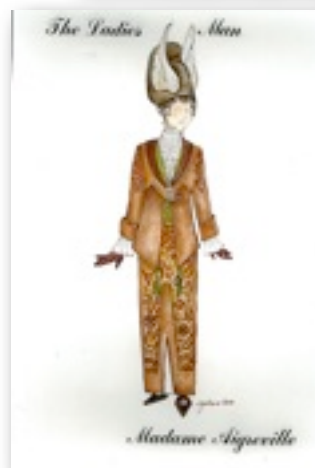
## Opening Soon: *The Ladies Man*

UALR Theatre & Dance department's first show of the season opens September 30. *The Ladies Man* is a French Farce written by Georges Feydeau and is sure to be a blast.

The show runs September 30 - October 3 and October 7 - October 10.



*Bill Marshal and Michael Bartholmey Painting.*



*Costume Renderings by Yslan Hicks*

## An Award for One of Our Own

Congratulations to Ms. Stephanie Thibeault who has recently received an Individual Artist Fellowship Award for Choreography from the Arkansas Arts Council—only three awarded throughout the state—and a prize only awarded once every half decade!