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## 2015-2016 SPECIAL EVENTS

*Triple Arts 2015 Broadway Series  
Summer Intensive Show*  
July 19 | 3pm | Bardo Arts Center

*The Best of Controlled Chaos*  
August 15 | 6-9pm | Highlands (NC)  
Performing Arts Center

*Conservatory Showcase*  
November 5-7 | 7:30pm |  
Bardo Arts Center (Studio Theatre)

*Dance Showcase*  
December 2 | 7:30pm |  
Bardo Arts Center

*Black Beards Ghost &  
Queen Ann's Revenge*  
March 17 | 8th Annual collaborative  
staged radio broadcast | 7:30pm |  
Bardo Arts Center

*Controlled Chaos Film Festival*  
April 29 | 7pm | Bardo Arts Center

## MAINSTAGE SEASON 2015-2016



### **POP! WHO SHOT ANDY WARHOL**

OCTOBER 1-2, 2015 7:30PM | FEBRUARY 3, 3:00PM AND 7:30PM

BOOK & LYRICS BY: Maggie-Kate Coleman

MUSIC BY: Anna K. Jacobs

DIRECTED BY: Claire Eye

MUSICAL DIRECTION: Katya Stanislavskaya

LOCATION: Hoey Auditorium

### **BLITHE SPIRIT**

NOVEMBER 18-21, 2015 7:30PM | NOVEMBER 22, 3PM MATINEE

A PLAY BY: NOËL COWARD

DIRECTED BY: Brenda Lunsford Lilly

LOCATION: Hoey Auditorium



### **MACBETH IS THE NEW BLACK**

FEBRUARY 17-20, 2016 7:30PM

AN ADAPTATION BY: Jayne Morgan and Linda Parsons Marion

DIRECTED BY: Claire Eye

LOCATION: Hoey Auditorium

### **GYPSY**

APRIL 14-16, 2016 7:30PM | APRIL 17, 3PM MATINEE

BOOK BY: Arthur Laurents

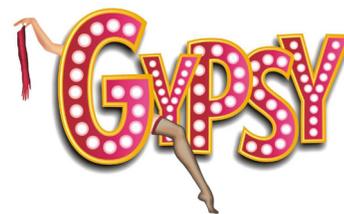
MUSIC BY: Jule Styne

LYRICS BY: Stephen Sondheim

DIRECTED BY: Terrence Mann

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY: Katya Stanislavskaya

LOCATION: The Bardo Arts Center



### SCHOOL OF STAGE & SCREEN

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



A collective sigh comes from the office of Stage & Screen as we kick off our shoes and head toward summer. We are saying farewell to 34 wonderful

program graduates, and hello to 32 new faces this coming year!

This has been a huge year of change in the School of Stage & Screen. The coming 2015-16 academic year will give us the opportunity to strengthen our commitment and look for new directions in our quest to provide the best education and training in the area of Stage & Screen in the southeast.

It's been a struggle at times without Tom Salzman, who left the position of Director to helm the Theatre program at UNC-Wilmington. However, we're still in touch and know that each has friends on the other side of the state.

In July we will officially welcome our new Director of the School, Jayme McGhan. Jayme comes to us from Concordia University, Chicago, where he has served for the past six years as Associate Professor of Theatre Arts and Artistic Director of the Theatre program. He holds an MFA from UNLV and a BA from Southwest State University. Jayme is a Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists and a Creative Producer/Screenwriter at Revision Entertainment-Chicago, among many other talents. In his application to the School, Jayme lists director, actor, technical director, set designer, scenic carpenter, and props designer in his training, along with many other skills – so it seems we could plug him into just about any class we may need covered in the fall! I'm not sure about his dance skills, though...

Jayme, his wife, Julie, and son, Levi, are outdoor enthusiasts who have vacationed in Western North Carolina before, and they're looking forward to really getting to know our trails, mountains and rivers. We're looking forward to the new opportunities that come with this change in leadership. Welcome, Jayme, Julie and Levi!

We also wrap up our first semester with the new Dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, George Brown. George comes to WCU from Western Michigan University, where he served as Associate Dean of the College of Fine Arts. Prior to that, George served for 10 years as chair of the Department of Theatre Arts at Bradley University.

George has directed more than 100 productions

and been in professional and university theater for more than 20 years. However, his focus is in all the arts and the College; recently I jokingly asked him if he had a home, because he seemed to be at every arts event held this semester. George and his wife, Eli, will soon see daughter Calista off to college; hopefully, shortly after, Eli can join us in WNC and continue her and George's passion for raising Alpacas. Welcome, George and Eli!

The year has brought a number of changes in faculty, too. Luther Jones has turned off his band saw and entered the world of the retiree. Terry Curtis Fox announced his retirement from WCU this semester and will begin a new tenure as Chair of the Goldberg Department of Dramatic Writing at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts this fall. Terry's influence will long be felt at WCU, but we're glad he'll be back in New York and can spend more time with his family. Theatre faculty, playwright and screenwriter Brenda Lilly will fill Terry's seat while we search for a new faculty next year.

Peter Savage will join us for another year to fill in for Brenda; Peter filled in expertly for my classes this year as I served as Interim Director; I know the students and faculty are all glad to have the opportunity to have him back for another year.

Andrew Mannion has spent the last year doing great work at WCU in a one-year position as Scenic Design faculty and production designer; next year he comes back to WCU on a tenure track in that position, and it will be exciting to see what he brings to our students, classes and productions.

New Technical Director Chris Collins will join us fresh from collecting his MFA in Lighting Design and Technical Direction from the University of Alabama. Chris already has over 19 years of experience in the industry, including developing the technical program at our neighbor Rabun Gap, Ga., and serving as TD down the other end of the road at *Unto These Hills* in Cherokee, NC. We're thrilled to have Chris join us and look forward to the new directions this will take us.

In addition to the name changes on the many doors around campus, the School of Stage & Screen has continued to blaze trails in terms of educational, training, and production opportunities.

During Spring Break the Theatre Senior class travelled to New York City for its annual showcase for agents, and some of them and other students participated in "On Tap," a dance showcase organized by Dance Program Director Karyn Tomczak. The students also

performed at a Cabaret show to raise funds while in the city.

Not to be outdone, Andrew Manning took Senior BA/Design Technical Students to New York to experience firsthand the technical needs of a Broadway show.

Musical Theatre Program Director Katya Stanislavskaya wraps up a busy first year, including being honored with the New Musical Award from the Weston Playhouse for her musical *RESIDENT*. The only honor of its kind in the country, the Weston New Musical Award honors new work by writers and composers from a group of national nominations. During Spring Break, Katya performed a selection from the show at a concert in Weston, Vermont, as well as in New York City.

The School of Stage & Screen created its own accolades this year; Once again the Film and Television Production program's Controlled Chaos Film Festival played to a packed house at the Bardo Arts Center and showcased terrific narrative films and documentaries for students, faculty, and community. The Theatre program delighted audiences with the biting new comedy *Elemeno Pea*; it started people tapping to the incredible 42nd Street; audiences sang along and threw toast during the production of *The Rocky Horror Show*, and were taken away to Neverland in the magical production of *Peter Pan*, or *The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up*.

This year we saw a record number of 34 graduates in theatre and film pick up their diplomas to take their first steps in the industry, and we will welcome 32 freshman and transfer students to begin their training journey with us.

As for me, this has been, well... a year. I know I've made a lot of mistakes this year – one can never underestimate the learning curve that comes with the Director position! However, I've also learned a lot, which I hope will help me to be a better program director. I know I couldn't have done any of it without the help of our terrific faculty, staff, and particularly the students – and I'd like to send a special note of thanks to Stage & Screen's right hand, Melody Huddleston. Thank you all for making this an exciting year, and helping to pave the way for an even more exciting future in the School of Stage & Screen.

So whether you're working at WCU this summer, are out in the industry, or taking a well-earned break, I hope you enjoy the summer months and that you're ready to jump back into fall and all its opportunities. Have a great summer, everyone.

— Claire Eye

## SHIFTING GEARS

At the invitation of project producer and WCU Alum Keith Harris, FTP Professor Arledge Armenaki ushered WCU film students into the trenches to work side-by-side with professional filmmakers in April on the feature film, *Shifting Gears*. Arledge and his students spent three days assisting as camera operators and assistants in an action packed race sequence at Elkin Friendship Speedway.

"It was total integration for the students," says Armenaki of the Shifting Gears Elkin Speedway shoot. "Students had the chance to be immersed in the middle of a professional independent film shoot in a very dynamic action car race sequence. It really doesn't get any better than that as a filmmaker, and as a faculty member. To be able to show students what the world of professional filmmaking is like was extremely valuable. And this was regional filmmaking at a very high level, with top professionals working in the film industry in North Carolina.

"I've read the script," Armenaki said. "I've seen what they're doing, and it's hot. It's a great family story. It's very intriguing. You have some very experienced filmmakers making it. I really think it's going to be a big hit. I think it will do well. They have a great cast."

Armenaki said many of those working on the project were either associates or former students of his, and gathering together with them was like "Old Home Week."

"A lot of people I knew were on the set," he said. "The students got to see that, in the world of filmmaking, when you step away, you can step back in and it's like you've only been away for a weekend vacation. But you have to step in at a very high level and start getting things done right away."

"When we stepped out of our vans... within a few minutes the students were being assigned in camera positions as operators and assistants. That's the impression our student filmmakers made in terms of professionalism when they step onto a set. They didn't come across as greenhorns or dumb founded. They were ready to get to work," Armenaki added.

The Shifting Gears Movie Project is currently in post production and should be completed in the next few months.

Students who participated in the Elkin Speedway shoot included Brandi Anderson, Nicole Baskin, Jason Ledford, Jason Miller, Josh Scharfman. Students either worked with or observed shooting on the Sony F65, Sony FS7, Black Magic, Red Dragon, Red Scarlett, and Canon C500 cameras. They also were able to experience aerial shooting using a heavy lift remote control octocopter, as well as a Ronan gimble rig on the camera car navigating the racetrack.

We're proud of current and former FTPers, who made this valuable industry experience possible! Go team Stage & Screen FTP!! A huge "Thank you" goes out to Keith Harris and his team for making this happen! You guys ROCK!

Learn more at [shiftinggearsmovie.com](http://shiftinggearsmovie.com).



## “CONTROLLED CHAOS” FILM FESTIVAL

Films created by Western Carolina University students were screened at the 7th Annual Controlled Film Festival in the John W. Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center May 1.

The festival featured short works in a range of genres created by students from WCU's School of Stage and Screen Film and Television Production Program.

“We all dream of having polished work on the big screen and this was our opportunity to celebrate the hours of hard work put in by each student,” said Controlled Chaos event organizer Kasey Summers. “From horror movies to silent films, our top-notch programs encourage film lovers to experience the talent, art and entertainment they've come to expect from Western Carolina University's Stage and Screen!”

Senior thesis short films “Lost Soles” and “Cold Coffee” were featured at the event.

### LOST SOLES, a dark comedy

“Lost Soles” introduces Neil Garrison, an unassuming college freshman who has his world turned upside down when the search for a missing shoe turns into more than he could have possibly anticipated. With the help of his childhood friend, Gideon, Neil is faced with a decision that will change his life – for better or for worse.

“Being the Director of Photography, or DP, for Lost Soles was one of the greatest learning experiences I've encountered,” says WCU senior Samantha Hunt. “You really have to throw yourself into the filmmaking process. At first, I was definitely worried that I wouldn't be able to understand the full work ethic of being a DP. However, by the time we wrapped I ended up walking away with so much more confidence and knowledge, especially after working with such a talented and supportive crew.”

### COLD COFFEE

The day after a break up is always the hardest. COLD COFFEE follows college student and RA Gwen Easton in this dramatic comedy as she goes through the first 24 hours after heartbreak.

Students raised between \$4,000 – \$6,000 to create each senior project film and shot with a state-of-the art F65 CineAlta camera that was donated by Sony to WCU.

CONTROLLED  
CHAOS  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2015

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF STAGE & SCREEN FILM & TELEVISION PRODUCTION PROGRAM  
PRESENTS THE 7TH ANNUAL CONTROLLED CHAOS FILM FESTIVAL  
MAY 1ST 7:00 PM BARDO ARTS CENTER \$10 CASH AT THE DOOR  
TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PRESALE IN THE STAGE & SCREEN OFFICE

“Working on the Sony donated F65 was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life,” says camera operator Nicole Baskin. “To work with such quality and clarity was challenging and expanded my skills. I hope to one day work with the F65 professionally.”

Each year the Controlled Chaos film festival is held to raise funds for film program projects for the upcoming academic year. This year's event raised more than \$3,000 in ticket sales and donations.

DON'T FORGET TO “LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK AT [facebook.com/theatrandfilm](https://www.facebook.com/theatrandfilm)

## ACCEPTD: EXPANDING WCU STAGE & SCREEN'S REACH WORLDWIDE



Recruiting efforts this year took us to Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; Maryville, Tennessee; Greenville, South Carolina; Gainesville, Florida; Columbus, Georgia;

NCTC in Greensboro, North Carolina; and SETC in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

We found out the hard way that there are just not enough of us available to meet all of the talented students out there interested in a career in theatre arts or film.

So...

We are proud to announce that we are now partnering with ACCEPTD, the largest and most respected fine and performing arts recruitment and remote auditioning online program in the world.

The WCU School of Stage & Screen ACCEPTD portal is now open and fully operational! Partnering with ACCEPTD to create a powerful student recruitment and audition platform was a natural next step for us. We think our Stage and Screen programs are pretty awesome and we were more than ready to reach out to potential applicants outside of the Southeast U.S. – though our students from the Southeast are amazing, too!

Currently, WCU School of Stage and Screen has one of the highest percentages of out-of-state students in the university. WCU's percentage of out-of-state students as a whole is 6 percent while the Stage & Screen percentage of out-of-state students is over 20 percent. This is a true indicator of the caliber of programs we offer here at WCU in the School of Stage & Screen.

Through WCU Stage & Screen's online application portal, potential applicants can learn more about our programs in performance, stage design and film and television production. They can also submit their application, video audition materials, resume and portfolio files online from anywhere in the world. Our ACCEPTD portal also allows us to actively recruit specific applicants, wherever they are located, depending on a number of criteria and areas of expertise and interest.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW  
PREVIOUS ISSUES OF  
THE FRONT ROW  
AT OUR ONLINE ARCHIVE.

As alumni, family of students, teachers and friends, please feel free to share the link below to anyone who may want to check out what we are doing or may have a child, grandchild or someone interested in theater, film, musical theatre, design/technical theatre or dance. Western Carolina just may be a perfect fit for them.

We will still offer our on-campus audition opportunities. There is nothing like seeing the campus and spending time with our faculty and students. Audition dates for the coming academic year will be posted on our web page.

Explore the WCU School of Stage & Screen ACCEPTD portal at [app.getacceptd.com/wcu](http://app.getacceptd.com/wcu).



### WELCOME NEW ALUMNI: DECEMBER 2014 AND MAY 2015 GRADUATES

Almand, Brandon, BA-S&S

Amico, Kelsey, BFA-FTP

Anderson, Brandi, BFA-MPT

Ayers, Haven, BA-FTP

Benton, Aaron, BFA-MPT

Borgia, Jonathan, BA-S&S

Breaker, Mary, BA-S&S

Brown, Brittany, BA-S&S

Browning, Kent, BFA-MPT

Bryant, William, BFA-THEA

Chandler, Tyler, BFA-FTP

Cronley, Stefani, BFA-THEA

Culton, Philip, BFA-THEA

D'Auria, Francesco, BFA-MPT

Farmer, Jason, BFA-FTP

Farrar, Joshua, BFA-THEA

Gamble, Shyris, BFA-FTP

Gillard, Grant, BFA-MPT

Hendley, James, BFA-THEA

Hunt, Samantha, BFA-MPT

Janusik, Bayleigh, BFA-MPT

Klepzig, Cassondra, BA-S&S

Lindeman, Emily, BFA-THEA

Masterson, Alicia, BFA-MPT

McAdams, Rhiannon, BFA-FTP

Ortigo, Victoria, BFA-THEA

Pears, Emily, BFA-THEA

Perez, Katherine, BA-S&S

Robinson, Brooks, BA-S&S

Ryan, Christopher, BA-S&S

Scharfman, Joshua, BFA-FTP

Seagle, Madeline, BFA-THEA

Smith, Hannah Paige, BFA-THEA

Sturrock, Scotlan, BFA-FTP

Summers, Kasey, BFA-MPT

Tan, Beverly, BFA-MPT

Troxler, Sydney, BFA-THEA

Walker, Ashley, BFA-MPT

Washington-Baskin, Brittnee, BFA-FTP