

## Upcoming Event

### CONTROLLED CHAOS FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 2, 7 PM

HOSTED BY: Film & Television Production Students

PRESENTED BY: The School of Stage & Screen  
Film & Television Production Program

LOCATION: Bardo Arts Center

TICKETS: \$10, cash at the door only

Come and join us at the sixth annual *Controlled Chaos* Film Festival. Enjoy an evening with the best films written, directed and produced by this year's Film & Television Production Program's student filmmakers.

*"Six years ago Arledge said we really needed to screen of the best of our students' work at the end of the year. It sounded like a great idea, and so was born the optimistically named First Annual Controlled Chaos Film Festival." We held it in Niggli and had an overflow audience. In 2010 we moved it to the UC Theatre and had an overflow there. Since 2011 we've held the Festival in the Bardo Arts Center and last year had 500 admissions. With the 6th Annual Controlled Chaos Film Festival coming up next Friday, May 2nd, it's a good time to reflect on how far we've come.*



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This May we will graduate 16 students, our largest senior class. Next year we expect to graduate 20. Almost 90% of our graduates are either employed in the field, have started their own film production companies, or attend top graduate film schools: NYU, USC, University of Pennsylvania, the Dodge School at Chapman. They live and work in L.A., New York, Atlanta, Charlotte, Wilmington, Asheville, New Jersey, Tennessee, even Waynesville and Cullowhee, and they are sticking together and forming networks of FTP alums. Two of our senior project films were shot on the F65 camera Sony donated to the program a year ago, with a set of quality lenses purchased with a grant from the Council of Deans. "Jerry," one of last year's senior project films, won Best Student Film at this year's Asheville Cinema Festival besting ninety other entries in the category. We changed our name from MPTP to FTP – Film & Television Production. And we're proud to say that three siblings of FTP grads entered FTP as freshmen this year. So we're alive and kicking.



We love to hear what our grads are doing, so please stay in touch, check out and friend our Facebook page, and come to the Festival this year if you can make it. We've got a crop of great new films and we'd love to see you."

**Jack Sholder**  
Director, Film & Television Production

## SCHOOL OF STAGE & SCREEN

246 Central Drive, ST 233

Cullowhee, NC 28723

828.227.7491

[stageandscreen.wcu.edu](http://stageandscreen.wcu.edu)

## ADDITIONAL EVENTS

*The Fantasticks* Part of the *Galaxy of the Stars* Series | April 27, 5-7 pm | Bardo Arts Center

Commencement | May 3 | Ramsey Center

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Its CHAOS time again for the School of Stage & Screen but this time it is in a controlled way. Of course I am referring to the 6th annual *Controlled Chaos* student Film Festival. This festival highlights the talents of the entire school, including our actors, designers, technicians, and most

importantly our filmmakers. It also features our collaboration with students and faculty from the School of Art & Design and the School of Music. It is a great example of how the arts on this campus foster collaboration. It truly is the highlight of the season.

Two of the films from last year's *Controlled Chaos* have gone on to critical acclaim. *Jerry* won the best student film in the 2013 Asheville Film Festival. Who knows where this year's films will go. Don't miss this year's event that will take place on May 2nd at the Bardo Arts Center. Come witness the great work that our student filmmakers have in store for you. Who knows you could be on hand to see a future Academy Award winner.

Dr. Beam is retiring after 43 years of service, dedicating his entire working career to the students of the theatre department of WCU. He has been witness to the tremendous growth of the University and the evolution

of the Theatre Department to what is now film, theatre and dance department called the School of Stage & Screen. For most of his tenure he was the technical director on all of the student productions and the designer on many of them. In the later years he specialized in teaching our theatre history courses. In every capacity he has been a strong advocate for our student's success. Dr. Beam you will be missed but not forgotten. Thank you for all you have done for the arts at Western. Enjoy your well-earned retirement.

Please check out the rest of this newsletter for all of the exciting things our students, faculty and alumni have been doing and the exciting projects that are ongoing.

See you at the Theatre.....

Thomas Salzman  
Director, School of Stage & Screen

## GUEST ARTIST: MERCEDES ELLINGTON

Mercedes Ellington, granddaughter of jazz great, Duke Ellington was on campus February 26-28, 2014. Ms. Ellington's visit was primarily to work with the Catamount Singers and Electric Soul for the April 24th Radio Show, *Echoes of the Cotton Club*. But during her visit she was able to squeeze in a master class for our Tap 2 students. The radio shows at WCU are under direction of collaborators of Steve Carlisle, Don Connelly, Bruce Frazier, Karyn Tomczak, and this year, Jonathan Henson. Read more about it here: <http://thereporter.wcu.edu/2014/03/granddaughter-of-duke-ellington-works-with-students/>.



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



One of our beloved Theatre Professors, Dr. Richard Beam, will be retiring at the end of the spring 2014 semester. Here is what he had to say about his experiences here at WCU. You will be missed Dr. Beam.



### *“To my colleagues in the School of Stage & Screen...*

*When I first came to WCU, in the fall of 1971, to join the Department of Speech & Theatre Arts, Western was considered “the most rural university in the country” and was (in my opinion) a rather underrated little school (5000± students, as I remember it) in the mountains of North Carolina. A certain amount of that hasn’t changed, although there have been many changes along the way. Many of the current campus buildings didn’t exist yet and our population (faculty, staff and student) has grown considerably. Personally, I had my M.A. from Indiana and had been working for two years with Theatre 65—The Children’s Theatre of Evanston, Illinois, then the longest continuously operating children’s theatre in the country, where I had been Technical Director and done some scenic and lighting design, as well as directing a couple of shows with, mostly, Middle School students. Simply the chance to work with college students was an exciting change, which I have continued to enjoy, at least most of the time.*

*Down the years, I picked up my Doctorate at the University of Georgia; with my wife, Bonnie, I watched our two daughters grow up, go to school and move on with their lives; I’ve have had the chance to direct, design scenery and lighting (often both); fulfill professional roles as Technical Director, Producer, Faculty Fellow for Instructional Technology, Faculty Senator, Chair of the Faculty; and, most importantly, to know and work with numerous colleagues, faculty and students on about 300 productions and countless classes. All in all, it’s been quite a run.*

*At this point, the future is not definite. Bonnie and I are pretty strongly considering moving (at some point) to the Omaha, Nebraska, area to be near our younger daughter. This is a surprisingly nice place to live, with an active theatre and arts scene, several colleges and universities in town and only about an hour from the University of Nebraska. I have thought of starting a blog, or a podcast, to discuss things of interest to me (perhaps others) and I might look into brushing up on the guitar and banjo and returning to performing some of the folk music which was an important part of my life “back in the day.” I also might want to get involved with Nebraska Shakespeare and/or the Omaha Community Playhouse, if we move. I can’t imagine that I won’t keep busy, although I won’t miss 8:00 classes.*

*Whatever I do, a part of my heart will always remain in Cullowhee and with the people I have known here. Looking back, it’s been a good run, but it’s time for that show to close and to look for new adventures and experiences. I’ll keep in touch with the School of Stage & Screen and let people know how to reach me, if they wish to do so. So, as this curtain comes down, remember to “Break a leg!” I’m looking forward to what the future may bring to all of us.*

*With great affection, Dr. B”*



## SILENT AUCTION

The 3rd annual FOA silent and live auction was held on April 4, 2014 during the musical production of *Les Misérables*. All the proceeds of the auction benefitted the College of Fine and Performing Arts at WCU. The auction exceeded expectations. Dean Robert Kehrberg estimates the final total raised for arts scholarships and programs to exceed \$50,000. Thanks to the volunteers, great support throughout the university, art students, faculty and staff — the event was a pivotal moment for all of us.

## FEATURED ALUMNI

Within every newsletter we like to introduce to you one of our recent alumni. Our current featured alumni are Film & Television graduates: Christy Conyers '12 BFA-FTP and Mike Santoro '11 BFA-FTP. We recently caught up with Christy and Mike and inquired about their experiences at WCU as well as what they have been up to since graduation. Here is what they shared:

**CHRISTY:** Since graduating from WCU in 2013 I moved to Los Angeles, California and have been soaking up the sun and feeling the occasional earthquake. I am currently working as a Post Production Assistant on two Blumhouse films including *Ouija*, and *The Purge: Anarchy*. Blumhouse is mainly known for their horror films including the *Paranormal Activity* series, and the *Insidious* films. It's great to be in the presence of talented individuals who are successful in the profession that I am pursuing. I am learning more about the studio system and what is expected from editors, assistant editors, post-production supervisors, etc. Being part of the post-production process has allowed me to build upon the knowledge

I gained during my time at Western. What I loved about Western was the fact that the Stage & Screen program is very close knit. Everybody is really supportive of each other, and the professors know how to bring the best out of their students. I would say some advice I have to students still in school is to be receptive to everything you are being taught. Ask questions, and soak up as much knowledge as you can. You have to be just as receptive to learning if not more after you get out of college and into the real world. Just because college is over doesn't mean your education is.

**MIKE:** The summer after graduation in 2011, I saved up money with the intention of moving out to LA, working for the Video Department in the Office of Public Relations. I arrived in Los Angeles that Fall and immediately got to work. Primarily, my first year-and-a-half, I was a Production Assistant for several reality shows. I went from a FOX show called *Mobbed* to work on *The Voice*, and a few other smaller shows. Mainly by keeping in touch with the Art Directors and Production Coordinators, I was able to keep up-to-date on slots opening up.

In early 2012, I decided I really wanted to get a full-time salaried position in addition to the PA work which was never steady.

I landed a job at Encompass Digital Media, a post-production broadcasting facility, but after six months I realized it was really not what I wanted to do. I had the itch to be a Director and a Producer since I was a kid. So I quit – a decision I regretted, mainly because of financial reasons and a close relative had helped land me the job. I was keen on landing something film-related, but work dried up...as is the case in show business.

I started to think outside the box to try and land paid work. I decided to start cold-calling some of my favorite writer/directors, the first being Alexander Payne, as *Election* and *Sideways* were a few of my favorite films of his. After reaching his office and getting in touch with his assistant, a great girl who recently succeeded in raising funds for her short film on Kickstarter, she helped me

get through to some people, one of them being Rex Pickett, who wrote the book for *Sideways*. I became his assistant for about a year. Not substantial pay, but enough to get by. He hired me to direct a documentary that he was developing about his writing career. Initially, we had a contact at PBS who liked the concept and the footage, but geared away from it after a hiatus struck the production and we ran out of money.

While I was his Assistant I was applying for other jobs, hoping to land additional contacts and get extra cash. The summer before I graduated, I did an internship in LA to test the waters, which I heard were infested with sharks - something I would highly recommend! Working with Avi Lerner, CEO of Nu Image Films, I became great friends with the Director of Development over there. In January 2013, she helped land me a job at Variety, one of the premiere trade publications in Los Angeles. They wanted to create an online movie database that was to compete with IMDB and brought me on as a Data Entry Coordinator and to help hire a team to run the site. We ran out of funding in March 2013 and I got laid off. It was a sad and lonely time, for sure. I had realized that I was jumping from endeavor to endeavor without anything sticking.

I was desperate and started doing unpaid internships. One of them was with Morris Ruskin, CEO of Shoreline Entertainment. I read scripts and did coverage for them. Tiring and overwhelming, it also helped me learn what was current and popular and what scripts got through the door and into a production company's development slate. During that time, I got a call from a small production company to help do transcriptions for a documentary they were producing. The producer told me he also had a commercial production company and could get me a PA job since he saw I was desperate. He ended up getting me on national ads for Claritin, Audi, Disney, etc. It was gratifying and gave me an extra shot of hope that I could land a significant job in the industry that I love.

Even with the commercials and small stipend I received from the documentary, I had to get a steady paycheck. I landed a job at a film locations company, assisting the CEO. It was mundane but showed me another side to the industry.

Less than a month into the job, the same Producer that had the commercial company



## FEATURED ALUMNI

called me and asked if I knew anyone who can edit on Final Cut Pro. "Yeah...me." A bit circumspect, he gave me a test run and asked if I could edit a sizzle reel for him to help green-light a potential network pilot. For three days and with little sleep, I finished the sizzle reel. He ended up loving it and hired me as Co-Editor on the documentary *How To Survive Prison*. It takes a look into the U.S. Justice system and how its inefficiency affects the rest of the world and will be released in late 2014 by Robert DeNiro's company, Tribeca Films. Adrian Grenier (Vincent Chase of HBO's *Entourage*) is a co-producer. Lasting through February 2014, it was very challenging but great experience, and I am hoping to work with the company again as they've produced other award-winning documentaries such as *Teenage Paparazzo* and *How To Make Money Selling Drugs*, a satirical look on the War on Drugs.

This February, I was looking for work once again and decided to dust off a project I had been attached as Producer on for four years.

It is a feature comedy entitled *Sandwiched*, which David Arquette (*Scream*, *Never Been Kissed*) is directing and Cloris Leachman (*Young Frankenstein*) and Rosanna Arquette (*Pulp Fiction*) star in. We are currently raising funding and are just about to acquire Domestic Distribution. Hopefully this will be released in 2015.

While actively promoting the *Sandwiched* project, I spoke again with Morris Ruskin of Shoreline to see if he could send around my resume. He asked me to meet him and told me he's re-starting a management sector of his company and wanted me to help him get it off the ground. I told him about my inter-



personal skills, the projects I was affiliated with, and my sense of understanding of how the industry works. He gave me the job.

I've been a Talent Manager since then. I currently have thirteen clients at the moment who are all writers and directors. The majority of them have won major festivals, gotten their work on the Sci-Fi channel, Hallmark channel, etc. It's been a great experience and is definitely steering me where I want to go.

In early March, the editor I was helping on *How To Survive Prison* called to ask if I could help a friend of his, Jay Miracle, who was looking for an Assistant Editor on a few documentaries he was hired to edit and produce. I looked him up on IMDB and found he had a hand in editing some of my favorite films growing up... everything from *Star Wars*, *Apocalypse Now*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and this year's Oscar-winning documentary *20 Feet From Stardom*. He also edited *Hearts of Darkness* (my all-time favorite documentary, which chronicles the perils of shooting *Apocalypse Now*) and won an Emmy for it. I started a week and a half later.

The struggles that you hear about living in LA are ever-present, but I do have to admit, it's been a great experience. I know I have my hesitations, but I honestly couldn't see myself living anywhere else. I'm still far from where I want to be and face the financial and career pressures that LA brings every day. But, this is all I've ever wanted to do and all I have ever wanted to be.

### SCHOOL OF STAGE & SCREEN REPRESENTS AT SETC

The School of Stage & Screen Theatre, Design/Tech and Musical Theatre majors competed at the annual Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) in March 2014. SETC is a dynamic membership organization, serving a diverse constituency and reaching out across 10 states in the Southeast region of the United States and beyond. SETC is the strongest and broadest network of theater practitioners in the United States.

They provide extensive resources and year-round opportunities for our constituents. Their services, publications and products contribute significantly to the careers of emerging artists, seasoned professionals and academicians. SETC energizes the practical, intellectual and creative profile of theater in America. Students of WCU School of Stage & Screen traveled to Mobile, AL., to participate in this year's conference. They showcased their talent by auditioning with monologue and song packages in hopes that they would receive professional summer jobs. The School of Stage & Screen had 20 students qualify from the North Carolina Theater Conference to audition at SETC. Congratulations and way to represent, WCU School of Stage & Screen!



## STUDENT PROJECTS

Every year the Film & Television Program has two Senior Projects that are produced entirely by students, one is filmed in the fall semester and one in the spring semester. This year's senior projects are: *The Radical Notion of Gene Mutation* and *Black, White & Blue*. Here is what the directors of each project said about the experiences:



### THE RADICAL NOTION OF GENE MUTATION

Choices are something you make every day. Some choices you notice, some you don't. But what if you were forced to make a choice between your allegiance to the government, or the one you love? That is exactly what Cailin Harper must do in the 2013 Fall Thesis, *The Radical Notion of Gene Mutation*. The film takes place in an alternate reality in which the government pays for college, with a small price – your freedom. After graduation, you're forced to get an injection, become a mutant soldier, and join the army for four years. When Cailin, a senior, meets Patrick, she must decide whether or not to fulfill her obligation to her country, or flee with her newly found love.

The film was directed by Andrew Dyson, written by Emily Frances Maesar, and co-produced by Maesar and Dyson. The film's cinematographer was Matt Kiser. The production designer was Margaret Gordon. In addition, the film's Assistant Director was Mike Bardon. Claire Vanderlinden, Drew Starkey, Grant Hengeveld, Tyler Canada, Emily Lindeman and Elizabeth Heffelfinger were the cast and crew. "The process of making a film is never easy, but it is one of the most rewarding experiences you could ever have. The crew and cast worked long, 12-hour days and braved cold weather and long nights. However, the end product is one that will hopefully connect to both a college audience as well as a wider audience." Andrew Dyson '14 BFA-FTP.



### BLACK, WHITE & BLUE

This year's spring thesis film, *Black, White, & Blue*, was filmed over January 17-20th, 25th-26th, and February 15th -16th. The film was produced by Blair Hoyle and Murphy Dillow, and written and directed by Rachel Barkow. Although the crew faced many new

challenges on this set, including filming in slow motion as well as filming underwater, they were able to overcome them and film everything they needed. In order to get permission to film underwater sequences the camera operator, Kris Naylor, and the lead actress, Emily Pears, were required to get scuba certified. Luckily, they were able to get their certification done quickly thanks to the hard work of the producers as well as Asheville Scuba. The film was a huge learning experience for everyone involved, and one of the most ambitious senior thesis films shot at Western. Rachel Barkow '14 BFA-FTP.

*The Radical Notion of Gene Mutation* and *Black, White & Blue* premieres at the *Controlled Chaos* Film Festival on May 2nd, held at the Bardo Arts Center. We look forward to seeing you there.

### REFLECTIONS OF A SENIOR FILM & PRODUCTIONS MAJOR: ANDREW DYSON



"I've always loved films. Always have; always will. In elementary school on "Career Day", I always came with my video camera in hand and yelled, "Action!" up and down the halls.

Cut to: fifteen years later. I'm attending WCU's Film & Television Production program, and I've produced a senior project film, and I've directed a senior project film. In the spring of 2013, I produced *Jerry*, the story of a homeless man who gets run over by a local politician. Written by G.M. Hill and Grant Hengeveld, and directed by Christy

Conyers, *Jerry* proved a really great "crash course" in producing a 20-minute short film. From finding locations, to casting actors, to editing the film, the process was really interactive and exhausting – but fun. *Jerry* won best student film at the Asheville Cinema Festival, and all key crew were there to accept the award. It was a rush.

In the Fall of 2013, I directed *The Radical Notion of Gene Mutation*, which was written by Emily Frances Maesar, and produced by Maesar and myself. Getting to sink my directing teeth into a project so meaty was a fun experience for me. Having produced a senior project the year before, I knew kind of what to expect, but new surprises sprung my way every day of production. Getting to work with actors was really enjoyable; it's like getting to live Halloween each and every day, and play make-believe with some very talented people. *Radical Notion* will premiere at the 6th Annual *Controlled Chaos* Film Festival.

*Controlled Chaos* is the Film & Television Production program's one-night-only event that showcases the best of students' films. From comedies to dramas, each genre will be touched upon. Films are all produced by film students and require a lot of active collaboration with theatre students, graphic design students, music students, etc. It's a night where the School of Stage & Screen has huge representation, and the film students have a live audience to watch their films.

Speaking of...why don't you come to *Controlled Chaos* this year? It's on May 2nd at the Bardo Arts Center at 7 PM. It'll be a great way to support the WCU community, and who knows? You may see the next up-and-coming Spielberg. Tickets are \$10 at the door. So, come on out, relax, and enjoy the show."



**ANTHONY GIORDANO '10 BFA-THEA:** Anthony recently completed a guest spot on the CBS show *Person of Interest*. He also has a radio spot for *Goodie's Headache Powder* starring Richard Petty and Trace Adkins that airs across the southwest. This past year he co-formed the production company *Don't Touch That Comedy* (DTTComedy), where he serves as co-creator/actor/writer/producer and the occasional director. They shot a Doritos commercial and a FunnyorDie sketch within the first few months of production. They have since successfully funded season 1 of the sketch-comedy web series *Don't Touch That Web Series* from the popular crowd-

funding site Kickstarter.com. Season 1 is currently in-development, and it is slated to release later this fall. *DTTComedy* has also been developing an original podcast: *The Don't Touch That Podcast*. The podcast will be an audio extension of their sketch-comedy series- full of twisted games, improvised scenes, and hilarious scenarios. The first episode will be released on April 1. For more on Anthony check out his web page: <http://www.anthonygiordanoland.com/>

**JESSICA HUMPHREY '12 BFA- MT:**

Jessica is currently living and constantly auditioning in New York City. She just returned from playing the role of Little Red Riding Hood in *Into the Woods* at The Herb Strauss Theatre in Sanibel, FL. This fall Jessica will be attending Graduate school at San Diego State University in San Diego, CA. She hopes to get her MFA in Musical Theatre with the intention to someday run a college musical theatre program. She also just started freelancing with Dulcinea Eisen Associates Talent Agency and is excited to see what the rest of the audition season holds.



**AMANDA KOURI '12 BFA-MT:**

Amanda is starting the journey toward becoming an agent and started working with the prestigious Mine Agency in New York City. With more clients on Broadway than any other agency she is proud and honored to be working with such an elite group. They currently have clients working in the smash hit *Revival of Les Miserables*, the new hit *Rocky the Musical*, the television sensation *The Following*, and the critically acclaimed *Boardwalk*

*Empire*, to name a few. She can't wait to begin this journey and help actors achieve their dreams. Amanda will also be on the next season of *Orange is the New Black* as a core actor.



**TYLER MCKENZIE '13 BFA-MT:** Tyler is currently on tour with *Mamma Mia* and his contract has been extended to August. He will be going with the production to Bogota, Columbia, South America for the month of August. Along with having a blast performing eight times a week, He has been performing in cabarets around the country; Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Chicago and more, raising money for The Trevor Project Foundation. He plans on moving to New York City after his contract is complete.

**PETER O'NEAL '13 BFA-MT:**

Peter is currently on tour with *The Fantasticks* and you can see him when the show comes to WCU on Sunday April 27, 2014 at 5 pm in the Bardo Arts Center.



**ALEXA RUFTY '13 BFA-FTP:**

Alexa recently accepted a job with Disneyland as a Reservation Sales Agent with the Walt Disney Travel Company in Anaheim, CA. She currently is working toward becoming a certified Travel Agent. In her spare time she works on various film projects.

*Graduates and Alumni,*

We want to hear from you! Contact me at [aujohanson@wcu.edu](mailto:aujohanson@wcu.edu) or update us on Facebook at **WCU School of Stage & Screen** with what you are working on. Let's spread the WCU Mafia word worldwide.

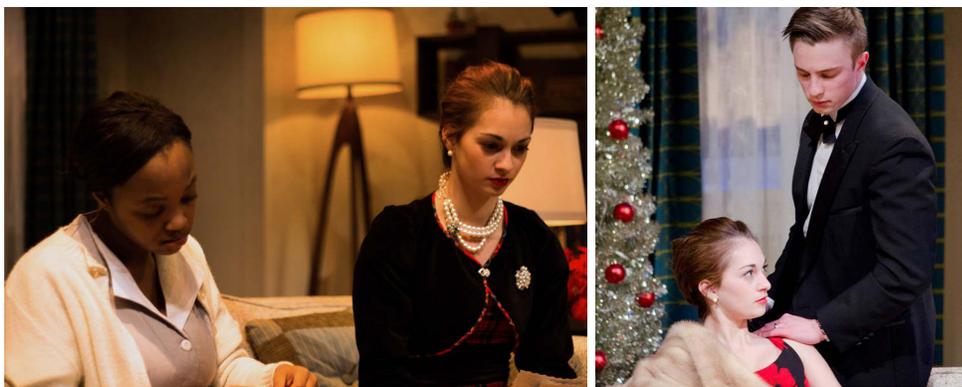
## RECENT PRODUCTIONS

### A DOLL'S HOUSE

FEBRUARY 2014

A PLAY BY: Henrik Ibsen

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY: Brenda Lunsford Lilly



### LES MISÉRABLES

APRIL 2014

A MUSICAL BY: Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg

BASED ON A NOVEL BY: Victor Hugo

DIRECTOR: Terrence Mann

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Nathan Thomas





**STUDENTS TRAVEL TO NYC:** Twenty-four Stage & Screen students went to New York City during this past Spring Break to perform in *A Salute To Rockette History II*. This show was co-produced by WCU Dance Program Director, Karyn Tomczak, her Radio City Rockette colleague, Mary Six Rupert and Mark York from New York's Ziegfeld Society. This was the second year the show was held; this year's production was at the Miller Theatre at Columbia University on Saturday, March 15, 2014. The show included thirteen former Radio City Rockettes known as the Legacy Dancers, the WCU Dancers, WCU Singers, WCU Alumni, Jonathan Cobrda and Broadway legend, Carol Lawrence. During the week, the students rehearsed for the show, took dance classes at the Broadway Dance Center, saw *Les Misérables*, *Aladdin*, and *If/Then*, and participated in backstage tours at the famous Apollo Theatre and City Center. Read more about it here: <http://thereporter.wcu.edu/2014/04/students-soak-up-nyc-dance-theater-experience-explore-opportunities/>.

To add further excitement to the week, the musical theatre senior class performed in the first WCU Senior Showcase through Actors Connection. All six seniors received callbacks from NYC Talent Agents and Casting Directors. Plus they had a fun night at Don't Tell Mama's performing in their first NYC cabaret. As we are the School of Stage & Screen, Film & Television Production's Arledge Armenaki and Jason Ledford captured the whole week on film that will make one incredible recruiting video.



**KARYN TOMCZAK, DANCE PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** In January, Karyn was in Cleveland teaching precision dance technique to the High Stepping Kick line team in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. She taught about 150 students from all over the district the tricks of the trade of precision dance. Next, she was at Ms. Betsy's School of Dance in Franklin teaching a master class in musical theatre dance. About 30 students attended and enjoyed doing a dance combination from the musical *Hairspray*. In March, she began the month at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Mobile, AL where she taught her Secrets of Precision Dance Class to students who were at the conference vying for summer theatre work. Then, she was at the American College Dance Festival at Georgia College in Milledgeville, GA. On her way back from Georgia, she stopped at Ms. Charlotte's School of Dance in Winder, GA to teach four tap productions numbers for their June recital. The last weekend in March, Karyn was judging the Tri-State Dance Contest in Asheville. The best news of the month came from *Dance Teacher* magazine. This August, Ms. Tomczak will be receiving

the 2014 Dance Teacher Award for Higher Education. Take a look in the upcoming July issue of *Dance Teacher* magazine for an article about her work at WCU.

Previous issues of **FRONT ROW** can be found at our online archive [here](#).

## COMING UP APRIL 27



*THE FANTASTICKS* is the world's longest-running production of any kind, and with good reason: It is a moving tale of young lovers who become disillusioned, only to discover a more mature, meaningful love. Punctuated by a bountiful series of catchy, memorable songs, many of which have become standards, audiences will find themselves humming along to such classics as "Try to Remember" and "Soon It's Gonna Rain".

The production stars our very own WCU Stage & Screen Alumnus Peter O'Neal as Matt (the boy).

Tickets are available by calling the box office at 828-227.2479; online at [www.wcu.edu/bardoartscenter](http://www.wcu.edu/bardoartscenter) or in person at the John W. Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center, 299 Centennial Drive, Cullowhee, NC 28779.

**Sunday, April 27, 2014 | 5pm**

**Tickets: \$20 Adults/Seniors  
\$15 Faculty/Staff  
\$5 Students/Children**