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UPCOMING EVENTS

Broadway's Next HIT Musical

October 24 | 7:30PM | John W. Bardo
Fine & Performing Arts Center Theatre

Cinnamon Girls the Musical: Christmas in the South

December 12 | 7:30PM | John W. Bardo
Fine & Performing Arts Center Theatre

Travis Ledoyt a.k.a.

The World's Best Young Elvis

January 31 | 7:30PM | John W. Bardo
Fine & Performing Arts Center Theatre

The Rocky Horror Show

February 19-20 | 7:30PM
February 21 | 7:30PM & 10:30PM
Hoey Auditorium

Peter Pan, or

The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up

April 16-18| 7:30PM | April 19 | 3PM
John W. Bardo Fine & Performing Arts
Center Theatre

Controlled Chaos Film Festival

May 1 | 7PM | John W. Bardo Fine &
Performing Arts Center Theatre

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

ELEMENO PEA

OCTOBER 1 – 3, 7:30PM & OCTOBER 4, 3PM & 7:30PM

BY: Molly Smith Metzler

DIRECTOR: D.V. Caitlyn

PRESENTED BY: The School Of Stage & Screen

LOCATION: Hoey Auditorium

TICKETS: \$16 Adults; \$11 Faculty/Staff/Seniors;

\$10 Students (\$7 in advance)



Elemeno Pea

Wickedly witty and ferociously funny, *Elemeno Pea* is an exploration of status, ambition, regret, mistakes and choice, and the big left and right turns we take in life.

Warning! Adult Content & Language

42ND STREET

NOVEMBER 13-15, 7:30PM & NOVEMBER 16, 3PM

A MUSICAL BY: Harry Warren

MUSIC BY: Harry Warren

LYRICS BY: Al Dubin

BOOK BY: Michael Stewart and Mark Bramble

DIRECTOR: Terrence Mann

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Katya Stanislavskaya

CHOREOGRAPHER: Karyn Tomczak

PRESENTED BY: The School Of Stage & Screen

LOCATION: John W. Bardo Fine & Performing Arts Center Theatre

TICKETS: \$21 Adults; \$16 Faculty/Staff/Seniors;

\$10 Students (\$7 in advance)



Talent and love, hard knocks and lucky breaks. Broadway is always changing and an aspiring chorus girl one minute can be the lead the next minute. Follow along with her on her journey with music that includes *You're Getting to Be a Habit with Me*, *We're in the Money* and *Lullaby of Broadway*.

SCHOOL OF STAGE & SCREEN

246 Central Drive, ST 233 | Cullowhee, NC 28723 | 828.227.7491
stageandscreen.wcu.edu

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



As they say in the South, "there ain't no flies on us"! This has never been truer than in the School of Stage & Screen. There was little time for vacation

this past summer, as Terrence Mann's Triple Arts Summer Intensive hit campus in July and in August, the Film & Television Production program showed some of our best work to a full house in Cashiers during the *Best of Controlled Chaos* Film Festival. As I write this we are three weeks into classes and have already participated in the *Arts Alive! 125* celebration of the Arts with Chancellor and Mrs. Belcher, we're gearing up to perform for the Board of Governors visit in just a few weeks, we're already in rehearsals for our first main stage production and finishing up designs for the second. By the time you read this we'll be heading into tech week for *Elemenno Pea* and our guests will have come and gone.

There have been some changes to our faculty and staff page, too; the most obvious may be that I'm writing this Stage & Screen. Director Tom Salzman has traded the mountains for the beach, and is now Chair of the Department of Theatre at UNC-Wilmington. We're grateful for the years with Tom at the helm and wish him well in Wilmington. I will sit in this chair for the year while we conduct a national search for our next Director.

We welcome Katya Stanislavskaya as our new Musical Theatre Program Director/Music Director. Andrew Mannion joins us as faculty and resident scenic designer. A familiar face in the hallways is that of Peter Savage, who is back with us for the year teaching acting and theatre experience classes. Kevin King is setting up shop in the Bardo Arts Center as Scene Shop manager, and we can officially welcome David Bortle as Technical Director of the BAC. Additionally, FTP alumna Jason Ledford is back on campus as the equipment manager for the FTP program, and Michael Yannette takes a seat at the piano as our resident accompanist

for the year. Get to know the new members of Stage & Screen by checking out their bios in the announcements section of this newsletter.

We're also preparing to say goodbye to one of our own. Luther Jones will retire at the end of this year, after twelve years as Technical Director for Theatre. Luther's work and dedication is visible in every production we stage, as well as many of our film projects. We will soon begin the search for his replacement; that will not be easy.

This year our majors increased by more than 15% and we've got plenty for them to do; this semester we will produce the new comedy *Elemenno Pea*, and the Broadway classic *42nd Street*, as well as "Lost Soles", one of our two Senior Projects in Film.

Please check out the rest of the newsletter for all of the exciting things our students, faculty and alumni have been doing, as well as details on our upcoming projects. I will borrow from Tom once more as I end with... See you at the theatre!

WELCOME NEW ALUMNI: MAY 2014 GRADUATES

Bardon, Michael, BFA-MPTP

Barkow, Rachel, BFA- MPTP

Barnes, Cody, BFA-MPTP

Bennett, Ashton, BA-S&S

Botzenhart, Sean, BFA-MPTP

Cody, Tierney, BFA-THEA

Dillow, Murphy, BFA-MPTP

Dixon, Allison, BFA-THEA

Duncan, Andrew, BFA-MPTP

Dyson, David, BFA-FTP

Entrekin, Lindsey, BA-S&S

Gay, Brian, BFA-THEA

Goolsby, Devante, BA-S&S

Gordon, Margaret, BFA-MPTP

Hairston, Alexandrea, BFA-THEA

Hengeveld, Grant, BA-S&S

Hill, Grady, BFA-MPTP

Hoffman, Ian, BFA-MPTP

Jones, Joshua, BFA-THEA

Kiser, Matthew, BFA-MPTP

Lenski, Robert, BFA-MPTP

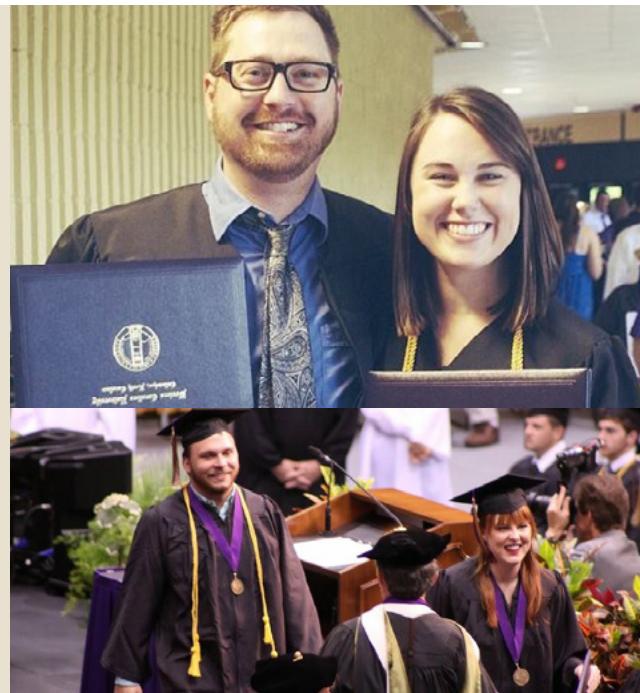
Maesar, Emily, BFA-MPTP

Morse, Morgan, BFA-THEA

Mundy, Elizabeth, BA-S&S

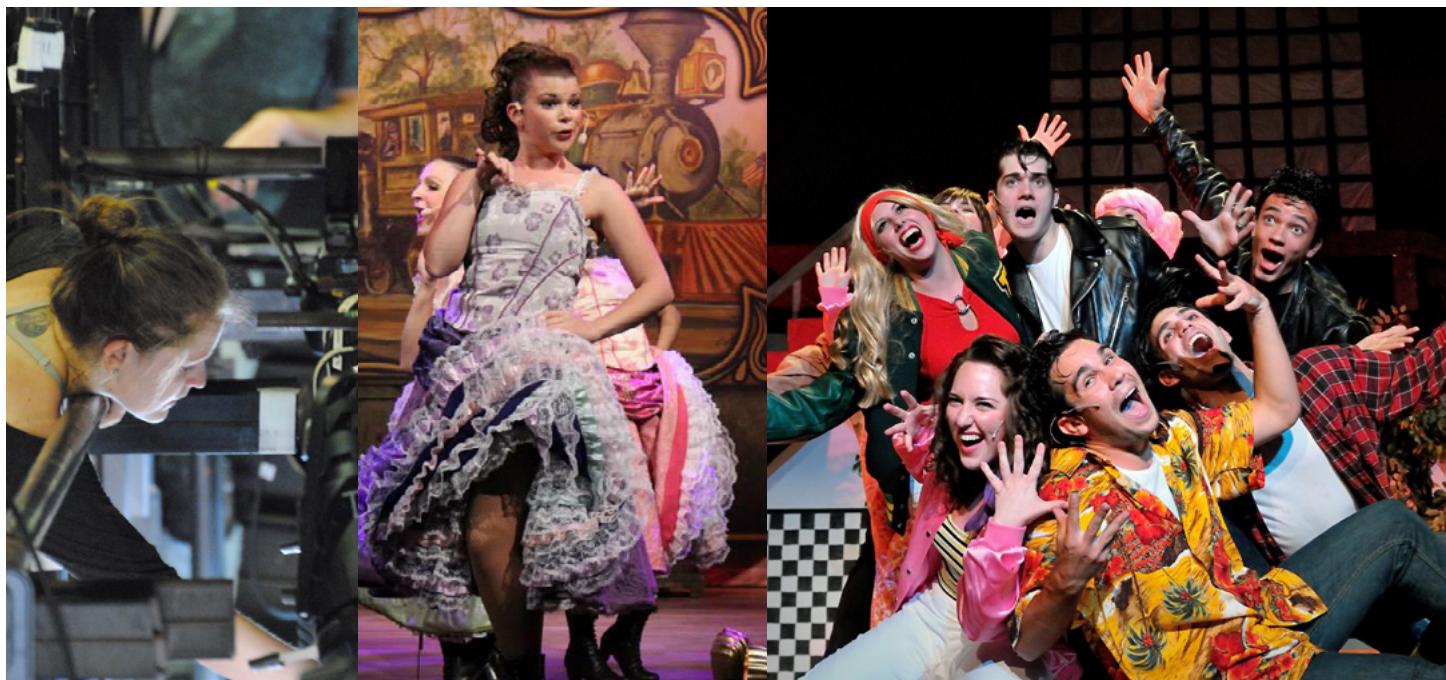
Scott-Martin, Lucas, BFA-MPTP

Teel, Anastasia, BFA-THEA



DON'T FORGET TO "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK AT facebook.com/theatreandfilm

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST THIS SUMMER...



Our students are always encouraged to work in the industry during the summer months. Here are some examples of where they worked:

SAMANTHA ALICANDRI

Actor | Highlands Playhouse | Highlands, N.C.

AARON BENTON

Production Design Assistant on FX show "The Bridge" | Los Angeles, CA

JONATHAN BORGIA

Props Master | Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre | Winchester, VA

BRITTANY BROWN

General Technician | Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre | Winchester, VA

WILL BRYANT

Actor | Cedar Point | Sandusky, OH

TYLER CANADA

Intern at a Production Company | Marty Snider & Associates | Charlotte, NC

TIERNEY CODY

Actor | Bright Star Touring Children's Theatre | Arden, NC

ELENA COPE

Actor | Unto These Hills | Cherokee, NC

STEFANI CRONLEY

Actor | Actor's Studio Theatre | Charlotte, NC

PHIL CULTON

Shop Manager | Creede Rep | Creede, CO

FRANK D'AURIA

Intern | Cinepartners & WTVI PBS | Wilmington & Charlotte, NC

ALEX DROST

Actor | Forestburgh Playhouse | Forestburgh, NY

JOSHUA FARRAR

Actor | Carolina Broadway Theatre Company | Hickory, NC

SAMANTHA HUNT

Intern | Cinepartners | Wilmington, NC

CASSONDRA KLEPZIG

Electrics Apprentice | Santa Fe Opera | Santa Fe, NM

COURTNEY LATTERNER

Audio Visual Intern | United States Military Academy, West Point | West Point, NY

SARAH LUCKADOO

Actor | Unto These Hills | Cherokee, NC

LOGAN MARKS

Actor | Dollywood | Pigeon Forge, TN

CHASE MCCALL

Actor | Bigfork Summer Playhouse | Bigfork, MT

JORDANA MCMAHON

Actor | Barrington Stage Company | Pittsfield, MA

EMILY PEARS

Actor | Dollywood | Pigeon Forge, TN

CORY PHELPS

Actor | The Lost Colony | Manteo, NC

JOSHUA SCHARFMAN

Intern | PC&E | Atlanta, GA

MADELINE SEAGLE

Actor | Dollywood | Pigeon Forge, TN

PAIGE SMITH

Actor | Cedar Point | Sandusky, OH

KYLEE SMITH

Actor | Carolina Broadway Theatre Company | Hickory, NC

SYDNEY TROXLER

Actor | Cedar Point | Sandusky, OH

CLAIRE VANDERLINDEN

Actor | Dollywood | Pigeon Forge, TN

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF STAGE & SCREEN



KATYA STANISLAVSKAYA MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Katya Stanislavskaya is a musical director, composer, lyricist and educator. In New York City, she has served as a musical director for Transport Group, Prospect Theater, 54 Below, Laurie Beechman Theater, and New York Musical Theater Festival. Her regional credits include shows at Arden Theater, Prince Theater, Society Hill Playhouse, and Act II Playhouse (Philadelphia), and Barrington Stage (Massachusetts). Katya's original musical theater pieces and cabaret songs have been performed in New York at venues such as Lincoln Center, Joe's Pub, Merkin Hall, 54 Below, Ars Nova, and York Theater. Katya is a member of the Advanced BMI Lehmann Engel Musical Theater Workshop, where she received the 2014 Harrington Award for creative achievement in musical theater. Other honors include the 2014 Dramatist Guild Fellowship, 2013 New Dramatists Composer-Librettist Studio, 2011 MacDowell Artist Colony residency, and the inaugural Audrey Residency at The New Georges.

Before coming to WCU, Katya served as a musical director and pianist at New York University, Temple University, Westminster Choir College, and the University of the Arts. She was commissioned to create original pieces for musical theater students at NYU-Steinhardt, University of California-Irvine, and Playwrights Horizons Theater School.



ANDREW MANNION VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR/RESIDENT SCENIC DESIGNER

Andrew has recently moved to North Carolina from New York City where he was the resident assistant scenic associate at City Center's Encores! Program under scenic consultant John Lee Beatty. He also assisted Mr. Beatty with Broadway productions including *The Nance*, *Big Knife*, and *Orphans*. Andrew also worked with scenic designer David Zinn on and off Broadway on productions of *Violet*, *Kung Fu*, *The Realistic Joneses* and *The Last Ship*. Selected designs include *The Producers* at Mount Baker Theatre in Bellingham, Washington, the world premiere of *Greasemonkey* in New York, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Flat Rock Playhouse and *Doubt* at NC Stage Company.

He has worked as a design assistant, painter, carpenter and technical director for various theatre and opera companies including Santa Fe Opera, The Juilliard School, Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Kennedy Center, Chicago Lyric Opera, Shakespeare in the Park, and the Fulton Opera house.



KEVIN KING SCENE SHOP MANAGER

Kevin King has joined the staff as the Scene Shop Supervisor after spending most of the past six years as Director of Exhibits for a children's museum in Asheville, NC, designing, building, and managing traveling exhibits.

He graduated with a B.A. in Theater from Catawba College in 1981. After receiving his degree he toured America for a year with a small bus and truck children's theater out of Charlotte, NC, a tour so small he worked as a performer, dancer, and stage manager. Following that move to New York where he worked as a free-lance carpenter and technician for several years, as well as holding staff positions as Technical Director for Musical Theater works, Lighting Designer for Lakota Theatre, among others. Whenever possible he did scene design work mainly for various smaller theater organizations in New Jersey. Backstage, at one of those small theaters he met his soon to be wife Cynthia, a dancer, and they moved to Asheville in 1991 so she could fulfill her dream of operating a dance studio for children.

For several years he worked as an industrial sales person, and in event planning; but to keep his feet wet in theater did scene design and technical direction for area high schools, as well as designing, technical directing and producing the year end dance concert annually, for his wife's studio, Idea Factory.

He is very happy to be at Western Carolina University and looks forward to sharing a very busy and exciting year with the staff and students.

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF STAGE & SCREEN – CONTINUED



DAVID BORTLE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AT BARDO ARTS CENTER

David Bortle started his journey with a BA in theatre from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. At Arizona State he earned a MFA in scenography with an emphasis in lighting design and moving light technology. Since then he has worked with a couple dance companies (Ballet Arizona Colorado Ballet, Ballet Nouveau), a theatre or two (Gammage Auditorium in Arizona, Dodge Theatre in Arizona, Paramount Theatre in Colorado, Diana Wortham Theatre in North Carolina, Asheville Community Theatre in North Carolina), a college here and there (Arizona State, Northern Arizona State, UNCA), and a lot of crews in many states. He has worked in all areas of the entertainment industry including everything from small break out rooms for Fortune 500 company meetings to Presidential events (Bush, Clinton, and Obama) to bar bands to multiple stage music festivals (Rhino Staging). Some of the greatest joys that have influenced David include working with the Bolshoi, Designing lights for Mikhail Baryshnikov, working with the National Theatre of the Deaf, Touring with Ariel the Power of 5 and of course countless *Nutcracker's*.



JASON LEDFORD EQUIPMENT MANAGER FOR FTP

After reviewing a number of applicants for the job, Arledge selected recent grad Jason Ledford as FTP's first Equipment Manager. It is a one-year appointment, but we are hoping the university will decide to continue to fund the position. This is good news for faculty and students, especially Arledge who hasn't stopped smiling since he heard the news.

Jason will be working Saturday's most weeks which should make check out and check-in much more convenient for students. He will also be training and testing students on camera, grip and electric equipment and will be responsible for safety training and monitoring. He will be around when shooting takes place on one of our stages or for Senior Projects. And he will be organizing and maintaining the equipment room and our cameras and gear. We are delighted to have Jason as part of the FTP Team.



MICHAEL YANNETTE STAFF PIANIST

Performance artist Michael Yannette is an exceptional concert pianist, actor, singer, playwright, multi-media artist and music educator who brings together all of his talents to create rich and thoroughly unique theatrical, musical and visual experiences. He wrote, produced and starred in the title role of *An Evening with George Gershwin*, a one-man show about the life of the great composer which played to rave reviews nationally. He is currently finishing work on his second theatrical concert entitled *Fantasia on Mysterium* about the life of composer/pianist Alexander Scriabin featuring a choreography of live piano performance, animation, storytelling, lighting, and aromas.

As a soloist, Mr. Yannette recently performed in New York master classes with Jerome Lowenthal of the Juilliard School for the Scriabin Society of America. As a composer, he most recently wrote the music for the Kravis Center production of Frannie Sheridan's *Confessions of a Jewish Shiksa*.

As an educator, Mr. Yannette is the recent past Director of Music at Grandview Preparatory School in Boca Raton, FL where he was recently named Teacher of the Year. He is the co-founder and a director of the Young Singers of the Palm Beaches, an organization which has grown to reach over 450 students annually in 8 different choirs through the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach, FL. As a choral accompanist, Mr. Yannette has performed for choirs in National, Southern Division and State Level American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) conventions and has been an annual accompanist for Florida All-State Choirs. He was also the accompanist for the 2007 National OAKE Children's Choir in Denver. Recently, he performed a second time for choirs at both Avery Fischer Hall and Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Yannette is a graduate of Florida State University where he was named the 1986 Presser Scholar and received various honors including the Ernst von Dohnanyi Prize and the winner of both the FSU Concerto Competition and the Florida Collegiate Artist Competition.

WELCOME BACK!

PETER SAVAGE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR-ACTING

Peter Savage is very excited to be returning to WCU for the 2014/2015 year. Over the past few years Peter has enjoyed teaching and directing at both The Asheville School and Brevard College. Some of his recent production include *Medea*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and a Commedia Del Arte interpretation of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. But most exciting is the newest addition to his family, Mary Jane. Born in April, MJ has kept Mom, Dad and her big sister very busy but thankfully has been a great sleeper!



FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

KATYA STANISLAVSKAYA

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MUSICAL THEATER:

was a 2013-24 Dramatist Guild musical theater fellow. On October 6th, 2014, she will participate in the Dramatist Guild Fellows industry showcase, held at Playwrights Horizons Theater in New York City. Katya will present excerpts from her original musical, *Resident Alien*, which she had been developing during the fellowship. The presentation will include Broadway performers Amy Justman (*Company*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*) and Alyse Alan Louis (*Mama Mia*).



TONY SIRK

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER:

This summer Tony Sirk designed costumes for three different shows at Creede Repertory Theater in Creede Colorado. This was Tony's third season at CRT as the Costume Shop Manager and Costume Designer. This past month Tony returned to Colorado to remount CRT's production of *The Last Romance* at the Denver Center's Black Box Theater.



KARYN TOMCZAK

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, DANCE:

On August 2nd, Karyn Tomczak was awarded Dance Teacher Magazine's 2014 Dance Teacher Award for Higher Education.

Karyn received her award during the annual Dance Teacher Summit held at the New York Hilton Hotel from August 1-3. Hundreds of dance teachers from K-12, higher education and dance studio owners gather for dances classes and seminars to share creative and technical knowledge about dance.

In 2007, Karyn sat in the audience as her childhood dance teacher, Tom Ralabate, currently the Chair of the University of Buffalo's Theatre and Dance Department, received this same award. She was so proud to tell those around her that that was her teacher. But this year, it was her on that stage.

Karyn was introduced by Assistant Editor of Dance Teacher Magazine, Alyssa Marks. In her acceptance speech, Karyn first thanked the WCU students, colleagues and administration who have supported her during her five years as the program director of dance. Next, she thanked the Buffalo dance teachers who inspired and guided her through her dancing dreams. Many dance teachers from her hometown were in the audience that night, and they roared when she mentioned her teachers; for they knew about the amazing training that exists in the Buffalo area.

The evening came full circle for Karyn when a former student of hers from the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Queens, Tommy Tibball (now a dance studio owner himself), wrote on her Facebook page, "Congrats!!!! I was at the ACE Awards tonight and so happy to see you up there accept that award!!! I was telling everyone that was my dance teacher all through high school! What an honor! Well deserved!!".

FEATURED ALUMNI – DEANNA BRAINE '13 BA –THEA



Within every newsletter we like to introduce to you one of our recent alumni. Our current featured alumnus is Theatre Design Tech Program graduate: Deanna Braine '13 BA –THEA.

We recently caught up with her and inquired about her experience at WCU as well as what she has been up to since graduation and here is what she shared:

"Life since graduation has certainly been eventful and, overall, very rewarding. I ended my last year at Western by immediately starting work (during exam week, no less) as the Production Stage Manager at *Unto These Hills* in Cherokee, NC for the 2013 Summer Season. There I got a taste of the exciting (and often rainy) world of outdoor drama and of the incredibly strong bonds that are made spending a summer performing under the stars. I was also introduced to, and fell in love with, the world of stage combat. I helped to coordinate and performed in an original site-specific stage combat show, *The Battle of Taco Hill*, which took place on "The Hill" itself where the UTH cast was housed. This was the start of my involvement with FIGHT THEATRE – but more on that later.

By taking the job with *Unto These Hills*, I had to turn down an offer from the Orlando Shakespeare Theater and a job I'd had my heart set on. Rather than being discouraged, I decided to move down to Orlando after my contract in Cherokee ended. My plans were slightly delayed when I picked up a contract at Highlands Playhouse to stage manage their production of *Nunsense*. This show was a stroke of luck for me; I was able to save up enough

money for my move to Florida and I got to spend autumn in the mountains. I left home as the leaves were changing colors and made my way to the Sunshine state to try my luck in Orlando. After arriving in Orlando, I was hired almost immediately by Mad Cow Theatre as the ASM on *The Light in the Piazza*. Free-lancing is tough to do in this business; I was only able to pay my rent by working as a carpenter to build the set for *Light in the Piazza* during the day while devoting my nights to rehearsals. But I was able to work in theatre, doing what I loved without having to take on a day job I couldn't stand and I am very thankful for that. I don't think I would have done as well as I have if it hadn't been for all the skills I learned at WCU in so many different areas: stage management, lighting, carpentry, costuming. Nothing I learned has gone to waste.

After *The Light in the Piazza* closed, I continued to pick up free-lance work in electrics and carpentry, including run lights for a production of a new play, *Pluto*, at Orlando Shakes, but I was faced with ongoing unemployment and I was desperate to be doing creative, fulfilling work. Since the opportunity wasn't presenting itself, I helped to create my own opportunities. Working with José Pérez IV, the founder of FIGHT THEATRE, we put together a show called *The Ride-Along: An Immersive Theatre Adventure for Two*. *The Ride-Along* took place entirely in and around a car, with the audience sitting in the backseat as two quirky and unconventional secret agents drove them around Orlando. The show had a heavy focus on stage combat and was written, directed, and choreographed by José; I acted as Production Manager and one of

the lead performers. The first run of the show was very rewarding creatively, if not monetarily, and we decided to remount it as part of the Orlando International Fringe Festival. We added a second cast of agents and had an amazingly successful run at Fringe. *The Ride-Along* won awards for Patron's Pick and Best Show in the Bring Your Own Venue category. Working on *The Ride-Along* was one of the best experiences I have ever had in theatre; helping to create something unique and original is probably the most fulfilling thing a theatre artist can do and I am so thankful to have been a part of the process. To finish out what had been a very eventful year, I was offered a position as a Stage Management Apprentice with the Orlando Shakespeare Theater; the same position I had been forced to turn down after graduation. I said yes, of course. I am currently working on Orlando Shakes' production of *Les Misérables* and will be starting work on another show soon; I will be the Assistant Stage Manager for *Best of Enemies* working directly under George Hamrah, the Production Manager at Orlando Shakes and an AEA Stage Manager. I will be with the Orlando Shakespeare Theater for the duration of their 2014-2015 season and I have high hopes for where my career will be going next.

Looking back, I am very grateful to the faculty at WCU for encouraging me to be persistent, to learn everything I could about every aspect of theatre, and to put forth the best work that I possibly could. I learned so much from both the professors and the students at WCU; I am so thankful for the support I received in my four years at Western and especially in the year and a half since I graduated."



ALUMNI NEWS

ALLISON DIXON-'14 BFA-THEA:

Allison just completed a summer contract living in the Outer Banks of North Carolina performing at the Tony award winning outdoor drama *The Lost Colony* that ended in August, 2014. Then, in October she joined the State Theatre of Georgia, Springer Opera House located in Columbus, GA as a lead in their production of *Della's Diner*. Next year, she will be joining the national tour of *Della's Diner* lasting from February 2015 to May 2015. You can keep up with her tour adventures and future endeavors <http://www.allisonpdixon.com>.



ALEX HAIRSTON-'14 BFA-THEA:

Alex has just finished a contract with Norwegian Sky Cruise Line as a Singer/Dancer and is about to start a new contract with Norwegian Pride of America (Hawaii).



DAN ROHRIG '07 BFA-THEA:

Dan is working at Pigeon Forge, T.N. at the Memories Theatre where he is a lead dancer/backup vocalist & Assistant Choreographer.

THE BEST OF CONTROLLED CHAOS FILM FESTIVAL

On Sunday night, August 17th, the Film & Television Program presented the *Best of Controlled Chaos* Film Festival at the Country Club of Sapphire Valley in Cashiers, N.C. . Almost 90 minutes of student films were shown dating back to the first CCFF in 2009 and including "Strigoi" (Aaron Putnam) and "Jerry" (Christy Conyers, written by Mike Hill & Grant Hengeveld, produced by Dyson). In addition to Jack Sholder and Arledge Armenaki, alums Jason Ledford and Andrew Dyson, and students Kelsey Amico, Scotlan Sturrock, Kasey Summers, Sam Wallace, and Kent Browning were there to present the films. Chancellor David Belcher and Provost Alison Morrison-Shetlar were also in attendance, with Chancellor Belcher introducing the event. To quote the Crossroad Chronicle, the Cashiers/Highlands newspaper, "About 150 people witnessed the high caliber of work students in the Film & Television Production Program have created over the past few years. Many would have likely admitted at the beginning of the day their skepticism of the quality of work they would see, but left feeling they saw a high-budget production."

In addition to the \$75 ticket price, which covered the cost of putting on the event, \$36,100 was pledged by members of the audience to purchase equipment and support senior project productions. Jack observed Kent Browning's jaw drop when the fundraising opened with a perfect stranger donating \$10,000. FTP has always provided \$500 in matching funds to all senior projects, but this year that number will go up considerably. We are also hoping to buy more accessories for the F65, get a motorized remote head for the jib Tim Rudisill built for us last year, and buy some new lights including at least one big daylight LED light.

At the end of the event, Cashiers resident and Emmy Award winning special effects artist Wesley Wofford stood up and said, "What these kids can do with \$5,000 is amazing." We could not agree more. And what they do for no money can be equally amazing. Huge thanks go to Meg White of the WCU development (i.e. fundraising) office and to Susan Belcher, both of whom spent six months working with Jack to put the evening together and make it such a success. The hope is to put the event on again next year.



PHOTOS BY FEDERICO BIGAZZI WITH FB STUDIO