

Upcoming Productions

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, APRIL 11-13, 7:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 3 P.M. MATINEE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY: Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison
BOOK BY: Bob Martin and Don McKellar
DIRECTOR: Terrence Mann and Claire Eye
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Nathan Thomas
CHOREOGRAPHER: Karyn Tomczak
PRESENTED BY: The School of Stage & Screen Musical Theatre Program
LOCATION: John W. Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center Theatre
TICKETS: \$20 Adults; \$15 Faculty/Staff/Seniors; \$10 Students (\$7 in advance)
COMMERCIAL CREATED BY: Joseph Hader ([View the Drowsy Chaperone Commercial](#))



This joyous musical celebration is a love letter to the classic Broadway musical full of eye-popping glitz and stunning surprises. A revved-up spoof of a 1920s song-and-dance frolic, it boldly addresses a great unspoken desire in all of our hearts: to be entertained. It all begins when a die-hard musical-theatre fan plays his favorite cast album on his turntable and the musical literally bursts to life in his living room, telling the rambunctious tale of a brazen Broadway starlet trying to find, and keep, her true love.

"You're unlikely to have as funny an evening of theatre this season as you will at this hilarious, side-splitting show,"
– reviewer Jeffery Lyons said of the five-time Tony Award winner.

Original Broadway production of "The Drowsy Chaperone" produced by Kevin McCullum, Roy Miller, Bob Boyett, Stephanie McClelland, Barbara Freitag and Jill Furman. "The Drowsy Chaperone" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

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SCHOOL OF STAGE & SCREEN
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CONTROLLED CHAOS FILM FESTIVAL

7 P.M. FRIDAY, MAY 3

HOSTED BY: Motion Pictures Students
PRESENTED BY: The School of Stage & Screen's
Motion Picture & Television Production Program
LOCATION: Bardo Arts Center
TICKETS: \$10, cash at the door only

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **FOA Silent Auction** – April 11-14 – During all performances of "The Drowsy Chaperone" at the Bardo Arts Center
- **Nikky Finney** – April 11 – Part of the 2013 Spring Literary Festival, 7:30 p.m. at the Coulter Building recital hall
- **Neil Berg's "101 Years of Broadway"** – April 19 – Part of the Galaxy of the Stars Series, 7:30 p.m. at the Bardo Arts Center
- **Commencement** – May 11 – At the Ramsey Center

CONTROLLED CHAOS



“Controlled Chaos” is the name of our student film festival but it could also be used to describe daily life in The School of Stage & Screen. Stop in any day to our theatres, film stages, editing studios, shops and offices to see what I mean. It may be “chaos” but we thrive on it. As I write this, we just completed a successful run of our production of “Rashomon” directed by D.V. Caitlyn. Although the cast is a little bruised and battered from all of the stage fights in the show, no one has any lasting scars, and

we are thankful. There is no time to rest. Just two days after we closed, we participated in the fourth annual live radio production of “Tarzan,” which included costumes by Susan Brown-Strauss and choreography by Karyn Tomczak. This production was jointly produced by departments of Communication and English, The Schools of Music and Stage & Screen and the Honors College. Our students not only acted and danced in this production but helped build the costumes.

We are already two weeks into rehearsals for our spring musical, “The Drowsy Chaperone.” It is going to be a great show. If you have never seen this show, you are in for a treat. It is a throwback and tribute to the classic musical theatre comedies of the golden age of musicals. Bring the whole family and prepare to be entertained.

During the run of “Drowsy Chaperone,” the College of Fine and Performing Arts will hold its first-ever annual silent auction. Please be generous when you bid. In addition, I ask that you consider becoming a Friends of the Arts member. Membership starts at only \$50 and is tax-deductible. Proceeds will go to support the

programs of the college including the schools of music, art and design, and Stage & Screen.

Our motion picture students have completed filming their senior thesis projects and are now deep into editing and post-production work. The best of their works will be shown at the fifth annual *Controlled Chaos* Film Festival, at 7 p.m. May 3 at the Bardo Arts Center. There will be something for everyone, including two narrative thesis films as well as documentaries and other projects that vary in length from 15 seconds to 20 minutes. Don't miss the culmination of the year's artistic output of our school. It has become the must-see event of the season.

The arts are important, and your attendance at our events and your financial support will help the next generation of artists succeed. See you at the theatre!

Thomas Salzman, Director
The School of Stage & Screen
tmsalzman@wcu.edu or 828-227-7491



RECENT PRODUCTIONS:

“RASHOMON”

BY: Fay and Michael Kanin

DIRECTED BY: D.V. Caitlyn

PRESENTED BY: The School of Stage & Screen Theatre Program



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are pleased to announce that **Andrew Dyson**, a current MPTP student, was chosen to receive \$750 for the 2013-14 CFPA Dean's Friends of the Arts Rising Arts Senior Scholarship. He was selected based on his submitted essay, which was picked by a committee of Stage & Screen faculty. Andrew also will be teaching screenwriting and singing this summer at the summer EXPLO program at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Mass. Congrats, Andrew! Your hard work is paying off.

Catherine Scully, a former student of Terry Curtis Fox, has signed with a literary agent for her young adult series "Jennifer Strange," which she began writing while she was a student in his class here at WCU. Great news!

Paul Thiemann, senior BFA Musical Theatre, and **Ashton Bennett**, junior BA stage & screen, had their work selected for presentation for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research 2013 at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Chosen from more than 3,500 submissions, the abstract review committee cited their abstracts as demonstrating "a unique contribution to your field of study and we are pleased to offer you the opportunity to present your work to your peers, faculty, and staff from around the world." Both projects involved 1920s research and work they did in conjunction with our November 2012 production of "Once in a Lifetime," directed by Claire Eye. Ashton's submission was "The Revival of the Ribbon Cockade" as seen in the page costumes. Paul designed makeup and hairstyles for the male ensemble in the production and his submission was titled "Men's Style in Hollywood in the 1920s."

FACULTY NEWS



Terry Curtis Fox, MPTP professor, was interviewed for "The Reel Talk" on Asheville Free Media.

Brenda Lilly, theatre professor, was recently on a panel titled "Life in the Television Industry" following a staged reading of "Rubble" by Mike Reiss, writer/executive producer for the animated series "The Simpsons." The play and the panel explored the world of pitching and writing for television. The panel also included writers Patricia Green and Ken Keeler.

Nathan Thomas, theatre professor, has been chosen as our new assistant professor (tenure track), musical director and program director for musical theatre.

Susan Brown-Strauss, design and technical theatre professor, will be presenting at the USITT conference March 20-23 in Milwaukee. She serves on the jury and editorial board for the Costume Design and Technology Commission poster session.



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 2013. 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 Louisville, Ky., to participate in this 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 15 students qualify from the North Carolina Theater Conference to audition at SETC. Congratulations and way to represent, WCU School Of Stage & Screen!



SILENT AUCTION

APRIL 11-14, 2013
BARDO ARTS CENTER

The Friends of the Arts Silent Auction will be held April 11-14, 2013, in the Bardo Arts Center. This year's auction adds a layer of fun to the musical theatre production of "The Drowsy Chaperone," directed by Terrence Mann with co-director Claire Eye. All proceeds from the auction benefit the College of Fine and Performing Arts at WCU. Enjoy an evening of beverages, bites, Broadway and bidding!

For more details, visit www.wcu.edu/29235.asp.

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

GUEST ARTIST SAVION GLOVER

This spring we had the privilege of getting a visit from guest artist and world renowned tap dancer and choreographer Savion Glover. Some of Glover's notable choreographed pieces are "Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk", the ABC special Savion Glover's "Nu York," ABC's opening to Monday Night Football, and the HBO movie "The Rat Pack." He also has created a dance company called NYOTs (Not Your Ordinary Tappers). Here is what WCU student and dance minor Heather Allison wrote about the whole experience:

"Before Savion's master class, I was really excited about getting to work with him in a classroom setting where he could give me pointers about my tap technique and help me move into the direction of becoming a better tapper. However, in the moments before the class began I started to get a little nervous because I knew of his expertise as a tapper and was afraid that I wouldn't be up to the standards that he had in mind when coming to teach this class. To my surprise, though, Savion's class gave me more insight than any other tap class – or dance class, for that matter – than I have ever been in. While this is a very profound statement, I find this to be one hundred percent true. Instead of having us perform for him the steps that he came with, he had us challenge our tap technique and brains so that this experience was more of an insight into his world and into the world of tap. From this point on, I will now be able to think of tap in a different light and hopefully will push myself more and more to try to break out of the Broadway style tap genre and spread into a more broad type of tap that includes deeper sounds and background understandings. I hope that in the future I will be able to accomplish certain things by using the advice and knowledge that Savion passed on to me. Without a doubt, I will strive to become a better dancer because of the soul and passion I saw in Savion and the help that he gave to us as a class."



MOTION PICTURE AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION NEWS

Sony has announced that the Motion Picture and Television Production Program will be given a gift of its top-of-the-line digital motion picture camera, the F65 CineAlta. Eleven other film programs in the Southeast were considered for the gift, with the WCU MPTP program ultimately chosen because of Sony's belief in the quality and potential of our program. The value of the camera and accessories Sony is giving us is close to \$100,000.

The F65 has only recently come on the market. It is the most advanced digital production camera available, shooting at a resolution that surpasses film resolution, considered the gold standard. It was recently used to shoot "Oblivion" with Tom Cruise as well as M. Night Shyamalan's new feature, "After Earth." While now in active manufacture, only 400 of these cameras are available and are being snapped up by the major camera rental houses. Getting this camera is a major coup for MPTP and Western Carolina University.



controlled CHAOS FILM FESTIVAL



7 P.M. FRIDAY, MAY 3

By Abigail Taylor, senior BFA-motion picture student

You won't want to miss the fifth annual *Controlled Chaos* Student Film Festival this spring. Showcasing the best selection of work from this generation's rising filmmakers, actors, audio engineers and motion graphic artists, the festival is sure to entertain and inspire film lovers of every age. The festival will feature shorts from all genres as well our three senior thesis films: "Emeralds of the East," an Appalachian drama; "Jerry," a dark comedy; and a moving documentary, "Cataloochee," all written and produced by Western Carolina's Stage & Screen students. The big night is on the last day of classes, Friday, May 3, at 7 p.m. in the Bardo Arts Center. Complete with amiable hosts and a post-show reception, the festival is sure to be a memorable experience. So get spiffed up, grab a date and join us for "A Night With the Stars." Tickets are \$10 and available only at the door. This money will help fund next year's senior thesis films as well as other film endeavors to come. For more information, contact Lexi Ruffy at atruffy1@catamount.wcu.edu. See you there!



A SALUTE TO ROCKETTE HISTORY

This spring break was an exciting one for 20 musical theatre students and dance minors of the School Of Stage & Screen – one week in New York City with two performances at the Ida K. Lang Recital Hall at Hunter College. The show, produced by Karyn Tomczak and the Ziegfeld Society and titled “A Salute to Rockette History,” united 13 former Radio City Rockettes (including Tomczak) with students from WCU’s School Of Stage & Screen.

It was a 50-minute show that celebrated the more than 80 years of Rockette history. Former Rockettes performed two tap numbers, one in the style of the famous “Parade of the Wooden Soldier” and the other to the old standard “New York, New York.” Former Radio City Rockette Mary Six Rupert, who also narrated the show, choreographed the numbers.

WCU students performed two Rockette-style routines to “Dreamgirls” and “Happy Holidays,” both choreographed by Tomczak. In addition, musical theatre students performed through-line pieces representing famous singers who have appeared with the Rockettes, such as Peter Allen and Ann Margret.

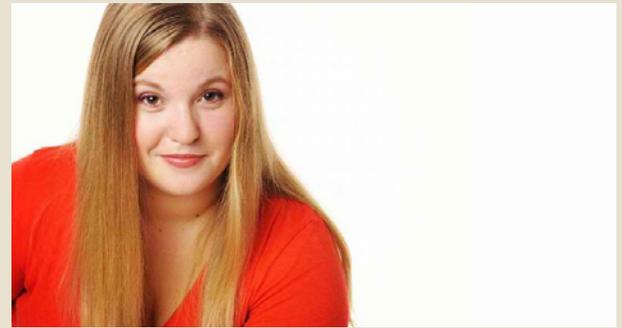
Participating students were Jonathan Cobrda, Tyler McKenzie, Peter O’Neal, Joe Callahan, Joshua Jones, Paul Thiemann, Brian Gay, Joshua Farrar, Danielle Lacroix, Katelyn Baucom, Lindsy Freeman, Alex Hairston, Sydney Troxler, Samantha Gampel, Colby Creasman, Elena Cope, Heather Allison and Ariel Hedgepeth. Clara Kelly traveled along as wardrobe supervisor, Wesley Gonzales was the stage manager and WCU alumna Amanda Kouri portrayed Ann Margret.

Funding the trip was more than \$8,500 in grants from Brian Railsback, Dean of the Honor’s College; Robert Kehrberg, Dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts; Thomas Salzman, Director of the School Of Stage & Screen; a QEP travel grant; and a professional development grant.

While in NYC, students took three dance classes at world-class dance studios Steps on Broadway and Broadway Dance Center. In addition, they booked backstage tours at Radio City Music Hall and the New Amsterdam Theatre and saw Terrence Mann, WCU Carolyn Plemmons Phillips and Ben R. Phillips Distinguished Professor of Musical Theatre, in “Pippin” on Broadway.

This group was also featured in the current issue of Dance Spirit magazine at www.dancespirit.com/cover-gallery/2013-issues/.

ARTS FOR HUMANITY



Every semester graduating performance seniors are required to complete a senior project/capstone to showcase what they have learned in their years in the program. Here is what B.A. theatre major, **Courtney Olivier**, said about her project:

“Arts for Humanity was an idea I have had for more than a year now. After working with various nonprofit organizations over my time here at Western Carolina University, I realized how important it was to give back. More than that, I wanted to be able to combine my two true passions in a way other than teaching the arts. Thus, Arts for Humanity was born – a combination of community service and the arts. With the help of my fellow artists, we are planning to offer a truly exciting show this spring! Among many my co-artistic director, Morgan Morse, and I are very excited to announce: up-and-coming folk artist Cal Olivier & The Fickle Souls will join our cast, alongside such talent as choreographer and performer Tyler McKenzie, freshman musical theatre major Paige Smith, and B.A. major Grant Hengeveld.

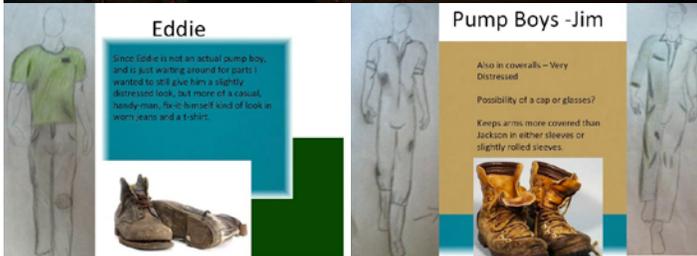
Other guests include: Light designer Cassandra Klepzig and Charity Ruth Haskins, Will Bryant, Cullen Ries, Brian Gay, Katelyn Baucom, Alex Hairston, Sydney Troxler, Danielle Lacroix and Shani Searcy. Also helping with the production is Jordan Snead.

Our mission is to raise money for various nonprofit organizations through the arts. Our spring benefit will be to support the Susan G. Komen Foundation. All proceeds from our performances will be donated directly to the foundation. We hope to inspire the world to connect through various art forms. We will use several different art forms in all of our performances including but not limited to dance, music, acting, singing, painting, sculpture and media arts (film and television). The benefit will feature aspiring young artists hoping to better the world though the arts. We also will sell several of the art pieces seen in our production.

Our spring benefit is set for 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28, in Hoey Auditorium, with hors d’oeuvres and art viewing starting at 6:30 p.m. There will be no fee charged for attending the performance, but we are suggesting a \$5 donation. We hope to see a full house.”

COSTUME AND MAKEUP NEWS

This year's THEA 237: "Costumes Crafts and Makeup" class had projects from MPTP senior thesis and theatre/musical theatre productions. Here are examples of what some BA and BFA students created for these projects:



Eddie

Since Eddie is not an actual pump boy, and is just waiting around for parts, I wanted to still give him a slightly distressed look, but more of a casual, handy-man, fix-it-kind of look in worn jeans and a t-shirt.

Pump Boys - Jim

Also in coversalls - Very Distressed

Possibility of a cap or glasses?
Keeps as little covered than jacket in either sleeves or slightly rolled sleeves.

In our September 2012 production of "Pump Boys and Dinettes", footwear became a focus for defining these characters. Designs showing color swatches, as well as costume sketches, and of course, shoe research were made by Courtney Olivier, senior BA in stage & screen.



Hannah Chatham, senior BA in stage & screen, designed costumes, hair and makeup for three film projects in conjunction with motion picture and television production at WCU, including "The Prospect," in which she also appeared as an actress.



Clara Kelly, senior BA in stage & screen, designed costumes for "Emeralds of the East." With a focus in costume technology and design, Clara also served as costume assistant for the recent N.C. Stage production of "In the Next Room" and as a production assistant on the motion picture movie "The Hunger Games."



Alexandra Hairston, junior BFA in theatre, designed the costumes and Emily Lindeman, sophomore BFA in theatre, designed the makeup "Jerry," another motion picture thesis project. "Jerry" presented some unique opportunities for the designers in researching and creating costumes and special effects makeup for characters involved in vehicular homicides.

INGRID MICHAELSON: 'YOU AND I'

By Madeline Seagle, junior BFA-Musical Theatre student

The ladies of WCU Musical Theatre presented the music of Ingrid Michaelson in "You and I." This concert doubled as a benefit for G.A.B. (Girls Against Bullying). G.A.B. is a group of girls ages 10-13 in a local Jackson County elementary school. The ladies of musical theatre recognize, appreciate and support the efforts of G.A.B. to fight the battle against bullying in schools. G.A.B. makes efforts to include everyone in school with projects such as "No Valentine Left Behind." The ladies of musical theatre all worked together to put together a show that both entertained and also inspired with a theme of fighting bullying. The show opened with a fun group number, "You and I," then ended with the ladies all holding hands in a chain against bullying. They raised \$113 during this benefit. Congratulations, girls!



STUDENT PROJECT: 2ND SENIOR THESIS FILM – "JERRY"

During the 2013 winter break, our second senior project of the year, "Jerry," was filmed. Here is what producer Andrew Dyson said about the project:

"The political arena in the United States has been, to say the least, tumultuous in the last few years. While much strife and grieving has come out of the partisan two-party system in the last decades, there is a saying that comes to mind: 'In life, you can either choose to laugh, or you can choose to cry.' This year, the motion picture and television production students have chosen to laugh.

'Jerry,' the 2013 spring thesis, is one of the first comedies ever to come out of the MPTP program at WCU. Written by G.M. Hill and Grant Hengeveld, the plot revolves around a homeless man, Jerry, who is run over by a local politician, Dick. Jerry then comes back to haunt Dick and havoc ensues. I can't exactly divulge more plot information. That would ruin the movie. Sorry. However, I can divulge some of the behind-the-scenes magic that went into making the film. 'Jerry' is directed by Christy Conyers. She has worked hard alongside Taylor Pleasants, the first assistant director; Jason Ledford, the director of photography; and me, the producer, to make a product that will end up on the big screen. The preproduction process on any film is difficult. On 'Jerry,' we've fundraised via Kickstarter and family donations, we've gone through 13 drafts of the script, we've found six locations, we've moved two locations on the day we were supposed to shoot, we've shot on strict time constraints and ultimately, we've made a film.

One of the great strengths of the MPTP program at WCU is the vast feeling of community. Making films is hard and often stressful work. However, every single member of the crew is important. Whether they get people coffee or focus the camera, a piece of the puzzle would be missing without them. Throughout my three years here, I have learned that working together forces us to evolve into better professionals and better human beings. I look forward to seeing everyone at the *Controlled Chaos* Film Festival on May 3 at the Bardo Arts Center. Mark your calendars."





Andrew Drake '12 (BFA-theatre) received nine callbacks for grad school at the University/Resident Theatre Association.



Zach Heaton '12 (BFA-motion picture) just finished working on a new fly fishing TV show called "In the Loop." He shot five episodes by himself, six episodes with other people and edited three episodes. He also has shot one episode of another fishing show called "Fly Nation" and helped shoot the pilot of a new show titled "Action Sports Information Desk," which was shot at the Winter Dew Tour. He also is going to be shooting an entire American Le Mans sports car racing series for Muscle Milk Racing and editing a series of Web videos after each of 10 races all over North America.



Christina Banner Pettus '12 (BFA-theatre) was married in October 2012. She is currently working with Robert Clater SDC and Lesia Kaye SDC at Clater Kaye Theatreworks in Hickory, N.C. She helps run the performing arts school and in this process has learned more about directing and producing. With the producers' clearance, she will be assisting them this summer when they direct and choreograph "Dreamgirls" for Theatre of the Stars in Atlanta.



Leslie Putnam '11 (BFA-musical theatre) has been under contract at Wayside Theatre in Middletown, Va., as resident acting intern. Wayside Theatre is a professional theatre outside of Washington and is currently running its 51st season. She has been working there since March 2012 and will be done at the end of April. She has been in many shows this year including "Hank Williams: Lost Highway," "Private Lives," "Wait Until Dark" and "Glory Bea: A Shenandoah Christmas Story." She also teaches musical theatre classes as well as choreographs for the theatre's education shows.



Adrina Wilson '12 (BA-design tech) is currently working as a lighting/pyro and special effects tech on a cruise line. She loves her job and would recommend it to anyone. She gets to travel and see new places and work with high-end equipment. She will be starting graduate school for lighting design this fall at California State University of Long Beach. She will be mentored by internationally known lightning artist David Martin Jacques.



FEATURED ALUMNI

Within every newsletter we would like to introduce to you one of our recent alumni. Our current featured alumna is musical theatre graduate **Amanda Kouri '12** BFA-theatre. Here is what Amanda said about her experience here at Western Carolina:

"Western Carolina University's School Of Stage & Screen is a truly magical place. Set in one of the most beautiful spots in the country is a tiny gem mine of true artists. I learned so much in my time at WCU not only from the incredible professors but from the students as well. I learned everything from how to approach an audition to how to sew a button. One of the most valuable things I learned was to be a smart actor. To be a smart actor you need to know the history of theatre, how the profession works, who the famous playwrights, composers and lyricists are and what works they've created, and what it means to be an artist. There is so much more to being a "good" actor than having talent; the knowledge of the craft is what really can set you apart. I will be forever in debt to the plethora of amazing professors who taught me to do my research. My knowledge of theatre has helped me prepare for the dozens of auditions I go on each week. But most importantly, WCU taught me to never stop learning. I take each time I walk on to a set or enter a callback as an opportunity to learn about myself and watch other actors work. Now when I watch TV I think about the way the actor set up the line, and I can't watch a musical without wondering how that actor placed that note in their falsetto so effortlessly. I am an information sponge, and that is thanks to my education at WCU. Currently I work as a core extra on "Smash" on NBC, as well as audition daily for other opportunities. [My professors at] WCU never told me this would be easy, but they have assured me that it will be worth it."