



Newsletter

Fall 2011



Greetings from the Past President

Wowzers! Well this certainly has been an interesting year for the Black Hole Theatre Company. Our 2010/2011 season certainly put our abilities to the test. It demanded a large amount of dedication from every aspect of the company. Together the BHTC was able to pull off some of the most challenging shows, both technically and artistically, we've ever experienced. I'm sure many will agree with me when I say that the hard work that was put into this year certainly paid off.

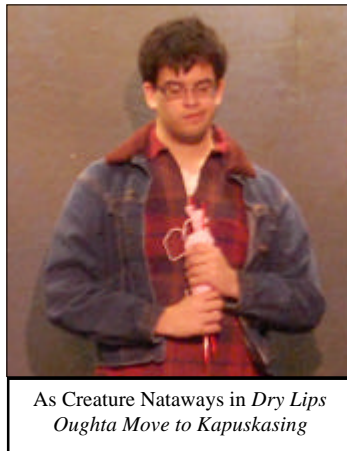
I'd like to take a moment to thank all of the members of the Black Hole Theatre Company's Executive Council. When I took over as President after Jackie Kozak, her words of advice to me were something like this; "Being President is easy, just delegate all the jobs and make sure everyone does them." (Although she made it sound much more elegant and included a fair amount of curses). I certainly heeded this advice (in some regards more than others) but this is a year that required some serious dedication from many of the executive members and I'd like to thank them all for stepping up to the plate.

I also feel that the Black Hole Theatre Company as a whole deserves praise for the effort they put in. Everyone helped contribute in a large way to the success of this year. Whether it was spending hours building puppets, helping out during technical days or just putting up a few posters, this year would not have been possible without your help.

I know many readers will be shocked that I've managed to remain professional and stunned that I've refrained from touching on any profane topics during this letter. I would like to remind them that I am writing this letter on my own behalf, without the aid of Thomas Toles (har har!).

As my chapter closes as BHTC President and a new one opens, I look back on the previous year as one of excitement and achievement. Together we can all look forward to the next years exciting season which is sure to be filled with new challenges and exciting experiences. Because worry not, I'll still be here. Break legs, chip teeth and damage cartilage.

- Kevin Ramberran



Featured Alumnus

A SECOND CITIZEN OF THE HIGH SEAS

Written by Jim Taylor

The cheery jingle of the cabin phone pulls me out of my snooze at an early hour. I fumble with the receiver and hear the voice of the cruise director on the other end. She informs me that, due rocky seas, it will be too dangerous for the theatre to put on the aerial act scheduled for the evening. Since we're a comedy company with no wire walking in our repertoire and only 4 chairs as our set, we're the most logical choices as the replacement show. We originally had 3 days to prepare our act, and now it's tonight. I sleepily acknowledge the order, hang up the phone, and call the rest of the cast to fill them in on the situation.

This is cruise ship life. Every effort is taken to maintain a schedule, but safety takes priority. You need to be ready to make changes at a moment's notice. You might have a good idea of what's around the corner...but you never really know until you get there. For most of the cast, this is only their second show on a ship. We've only just started our contract and they're already getting a taste of how quickly things can change.

It's a good thing we're improvisers.

I started working with the Second City in Toronto in 2001, first as an understudy, then as a long time member of the National Touring Company. A few years later, the Second City negotiated a contract to produce shows exclusively for a major cruise line, and Boat Company was born. For Second City it offers a chance to expand their brand beyond their theatres in Chicago and Toronto and expose their unique style of comedy to a whole new audience. For the cruise line it means quality sketch shows in their ships' theatres and hilarious improv nights in their lounges, neither requiring elaborate sets, complex technical needs, nor dedicated storage areas for props and equipment. And for us performers, it means more opportunities to perform, a chance to travel to incredible places, and another foot in the door for those hoping to have their name uttered in the same sentence as some of Second City's legendary alumni. Everybody wins.

This is my fourth ship as a performer and third as a company

Continued on page 3...

10/11 Season

What a busy year!

The season began with *The Bald Soprano* by Eugene Ionesco directed by Thomas Toles and Kevin Ramberran. This classic of absurdism provided a humorous, sexually charged start to the year. It was followed by *Running with Wizards* by Alistair Mowat, directed by Luke Cecelon, an entertaining (mostly) 2 hander about civic politics. Dan Chen provided the radio voice while tucked into the sound lab 100 feet away.

Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing by Tomson Highway opened our Mainstage season. Bill Kerr, with Jo Shepard as assistant, directed the stellar cast of (mostly) men which included alumnus Gary Jarvis. Senior students Jeremy Rampton, Carly Gallant, Jaclyn Kozak and Nick Whitehurst were the design team. A highlight came when the playwright attended a rehearsal.



Michael Strickland and Natasha Durand in *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*

Cudos to Natasha Durand as Nanabush and Akalu Meekis as Zachary Jeremiah Keechigeesik for being willing to bare it all for art!

Just before the winter break our third lunchbagg saw Tony Porteous trapped in purgatory. *Waiting* by filmmaker Ethan Cohen was handily directed by Brittainie Pillar.

For StrindbergFest in January, we presented the “unstagable” *A*



Maja Bakija, Megan Andres, Caitlin Belton, Kristopher Traquair, Patrick Hofmann, Trevor Smith, and Jill Guincanogo in *A Dream Play*

Dream Play, directed by Tim Bandfield and Chris Johnson. This ambitious effort saw all kinds of puppets interacting with the actors including

tiny puppets that floated to heaven and a giant puppet that ran the Quarantine. Graham Isaak created a haunting score under pinning the entire play. The audience “Oohhed” every night when the chrysanthemum bloomed atop the burning tower. Unstageable my foot!

We returned to campus for another classic of the post modern canon with *'Dentity Crisis* by Christopher Durang, directed by Matthew Lagacé.

Brenda Maclean directed our final mainstage *The House of Bernarda Alba* by Federico Garcia Lorca. The energy of Flamenco dancing was reigned in by the controlling spirit of Alba,

portrayed with great style by Dana Smith. The (mostly) female cast out did themselves in this powerful ensemble piece about power issues in a family.



Duncan McGregor, Dana Smith and Jo Shepard in *The House of Bernarda Alba*

Claire Sparling created a beautiful Spanish inspired set for the characters to inhabit and Garrett Rusnak to light. Karen Schellenberg was challenged to clothe everyone in black dresses. The vintage stores were sold out by the time she finished shopping for the show. Duncan McGregor strummed away through every performance on his liltng Spanish guitar.

Our final lunchbagg brought to light the question of casting choices for directors Matthew Lagacé and Bill Kerr. *The New Testament* by Neil LaBute watches a writer try to enforce his casting veto based on race.

Scene Night ended our year with a rocking good time. It was hosted by Tim Bandfield's little friend Lexy the Lamb and included a rap by bff's Kevin Ramberran and Thomas Toles and a remount of a short play from puppetry class starring Dennis and his moustache.



Contact Information

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Technician (Karen): 474-8087

Administration Assistant (Marilyn): 474-9581

Teaching Assistant (Ivan) 474-9757

Margaret Groome: 474-9539

Chris Johnson: 474-9758

Bill Kerr: 474-8819

Bob Smith: 474-9605

Or e-mail us at: theatre@umanitoba.ca

Visit us on the web at:

www.bhtc.ca

From the Fringe of the Fringe!

Written by Kelly Jenken

This Fringe, our company, Kick You To Death Productions, had the pleasure of putting on George F. Walker's "Criminal Genius". When the opportunity came along to take our show out to Clear Lake for a mini fringe festival and FREE CAMPING we knew we had to do it. So the 5 geniuses and set pieces in tow crammed into an SUV and set off for a 5 day summer adventure and 4 encore performances. Shows were always interesting and we never knew what to expect. We performed on a raised end stage in a venue we lovingly dubbed "Suburban Log Cabin". Our backstage was outside, which was a real experience in the thunderstorm during our last show. When not performing we spent our days beach bumming, handbilling, and living the dream! Our highlight was spotting Dennis anchoring his yellow sailboat in the harbour. We swam out and handbilled him.



Kelly Jenken, Ray Strachan, William Jordan, Paul Duncan, Liz Maddin
in *Criminal Genius*

2011/2012 Executive

President– Thomas Toles
Vice President– Garrett Rusnak
Treasurer– Vicki Rutkowski
Secretary– Jaclyn Kozak
Member at Large– Kaitlynn Porath
Past President– Kevin Ramberran
Onstage Rep– Justin Fry
Backstage Rep– Caitlyn Belton
Publicist– You
Intro Reps:
A01 (Smith): Emma Dacquisto
A02 (Johnson): Logan Stefanson
A03 (Groome): Kane Makowski

This November, check out **Hey Shorty! Vol.2, An Evening of Short Plays and Films**. This production is the brain child of Jane Walker & Ivan Henwood. The evening will consist of a series of comedic and dramatic short plays and films written, directed, and featuring local artists.

November 17th, 18th, and 19th at Ellice Cafe and Theatre 8pm.
 Featured Black Hole Alumni include: Megan Andres, Joshua Banman, Mike Bell, Paul Duncan, Darcy Fehr, Ivan Henwood, Kevin C, Houle, Julianne Hoyak, Gary Jarvis, Kelly Jenken, William Jordan, Katherine Leithead, Ken Rudderham, Jeff Strome, Thomas Toles, and Jane Walker; As well as, Katie Man, Jorge Requena, Tobias Hughes and Kerri Woloszyn.

Continued from page 1— Jim Taylor
 manager for Second City. When I started doing ships I wondered whether I possessed the skills and temperament needed to live and work in such unique circumstances. I quickly discovered that I didn't just know what I was doing. I loved it! There's nothing like the thrill of being in a live theatre ensemble. Film & TV are great, but live theatre offers much more than the instant gratification of hearing the audience laugh. It involves the careful crafting of a piece in rehearsal, testing each line, pause, and nuance to ensure a maximum response. It demands a feeling out of new cast members, getting to know their pace and style, and folding it with your own into something worth watching. It means thinking on your feet. Fast. And not just on the stage. Anything can happen during a show. And when that show is on a ship in the middle of the ocean, there are entirely new parameters to ponder.

My time at Second City has trained me well for this experience, but so did the Black Hole Theatre. The hands-on education I received at the University of Manitoba played a vital role in getting me where I am today. With its focus on student-produced-and-performed shows, the Black Hole didn't just put me on stage, but backstage too. It put me in the booth running a soundboard, on a ladder hanging lights, and in the workshop painting and building sets. The University of Manitoba Theatre Program taught me to be much more than a theatre performer. It taught me how to be a theatre worker. It provided a learning experience that gave me the skills and confidence to hit the stage with my own comedy troupe after my graduation. It gave me the courage to step through the door and audition for a place in the ranks of Second City. It taught me to face the obstacles of performing live theatre with a smile and a nod, and to walk on stage completely without fear. The Black Hole Theatre taught me that, as part of an ensemble, I'm part of something much, much greater than myself. I'm grateful for all these lessons learned, and the incredible opportunities they made possible.

Backstage, I pace with the other actors, quietly warming up by muttering tongue twisters and lines from the show. "Sweet Home Chicago" starts to play in the house, which is our cue that it's almost show time. We smile, pat each other on the back, and wait to step in front of an audience of over a thousand. While they wait, the passengers are treated to a slideshow featuring some of Second City's most celebrated members. When the screen rises, they'll see us. I suppose that should be intimidating, but I get excited instead. The cruise director gives me a thumbs up, I smile and nod, and we're on.

This is cruise ship life. And it's amazing.

Scholarships and Awards

Promethean Endurance Award	Florence Kanee Scholarship
Kaitlynn Porath	Anne Tuma
Victor S. Cowie Award in the Performing Arts	Doris Benson Scholarship in Drama
Kevin Ramberran	Daniel Chen
Irene Anderson Memorial Scholarship	Justin Fry
Kevin Ramberran	Jaclyn Kozak
Thomas Toles	Kaitlynn Porath
	Kevin Ramberran
	Dana Smith

Staff Doings

Margaret Groome

Margaret has returned from her 6 months of research/study leave and a summer in rainy London feeling reinvigorated. Even with riots close at hand she managed to have a great summer! Margaret is looking forward to directing *Arms and the Man* - one of Shaw's earliest, funniest and most-often performed plays. In London Margaret saw several wonderful productions, with superb direction and designs and marvellous performances, including those of James Purefoy and Dominic West. (You may know them from the TV series "Rome" and "The Wire", respectively.) To hear more you should take Margaret's British Drama course in the Winter Term!

Ivan Henwood

Ivan quit his job as a steelworker after twelve years to dedicate more time to theatre including running local production company, Snakeskin Jacket, with his partner, Jane Walker. Ivan has also, despite his better judgement, developed a fondness for Jane's cat, Biscuit.

Chris Johnson

Chris' son, Zak, is now a first-year student at the U of M, and Chris is really enjoying the drive to campus together in the morning. No first year theatre for Zak, though; not his thing. All politics and biology instead.

Bill Kerr

Bill travelled with his family to Guadalajara where they were astounded by the murals of Jose Clemente Orozco, particularly his *El Hombre del Fuego* (Man on Fire). His wife Marina spent a full day in makeup being fitted with prosthetics to play the Frost Goblin in an upcoming episode of *Todd and the Book of Pure Evil*. Bill once again coached Kitty's soccer team to a resounding mid-table finish!

Marilyn Loat

Marilyn spent a wonderful month in Haultulco, Mexico and upon her return George Toles' Film Production class of 10-11 cast her as Miss Taylor in their film "The Assignment."

Karen Schellenberg

Karen hit the ground running last October. She enjoys being back at work, and dealing with 20 yr olds instead of 2 year olds just don't expect her anywhere early in the morning or late at night. Karen is a little bit flabbergasted that she has committed to spend more on hockey

In Memoriam

Kali Dyck

1985 - 2011

Intro Theatre 05-06, Played Mamillius in *A Winter's Tale*

John Rempel

1942 - 2011

Professor, Taught many courses in Restoration Comedy and Shakespeare

tickets than she has probably ever paid for theatre. Oh and if anyone is free to babysit in the evenings, please contact her!

Bob Smith

Bob had a fabulous year and learned so much. He took sabbatical in the fall using the time to rewrite the *Only Known Photograph of God*. He directed an Equity Coop during the festival and acted in the Fringe! But everything was surpassed by attending his daughter's wedding in Esquimault, BC.

Dennis Smith

Dennis and Carolyn got a new border collie puppy. They named it Leko. Yep, that's right, they named their dog after a theatrical lighting fixture.

Eleanor Stardom

Eleanor welcomed a granddaughter and a third grandson to her family. She continues to travel. Eleanor played a nun in "the Assignment". Keep her in mind when you are inundated with free calendars. She collects unwanted ones and distributes them to local hospitals to brighten patients rooms.

Taché Arts Project - Conklin Theatre

Plans are underway and demolition has begun for our new performance space. The Theatre Program is slated to take over the upper levels of Taché centre block. It will be known as John Conklin Hall and will include a 150-seat end stage, shops for sets, props and wardrobe, dressing rooms with adjacent bathrooms, and an actual lobby with a bar and everything.

The question remains however: Will it be ready to celebrate 100 years of student theatre on campus in 2014?



The Black Hole Theatre Company's 2011/2012 Season:



Nov. 15 - 26



Jan. 20 - 29



Mar. 13 - 24

**Season Passes:
Student/Senior: \$29
Adults: \$39**

Box Office & Information: 474-6880

www.bhtc.ca



the
Black
Hole
theatre
company

The Gypsy Woman

By Don Nigro

November 15-19, 22-26

at the Black Hole Theatre

Our contemporary reworking of the classic Commedia dell'arte scenario, first performed by the Gelosi troupe four hundred years ago in Italy and France.

Isabella and her servant Pedrolino return to Naples after ten years and decide to impersonate gypsies in this outrageous farce.

Playwright Nigro takes us on a journey through love, identity crisis, insanity, the secret of life, and a very unfortunate recipe for magical cookies.

An R-rated production.

Arms and the Man

By George Bernard Shaw

January 20-21, 23-29

at the Gas Station Theatre

For the 2012 MTC Master Playwright Festival

Raina grows tired of her fiancée Serguis after he returns home from battle in the 1885 Serbo-Bulgarian war. Instead, Raina becomes fond of the cowardly Bluntschili, a Swiss mercenary who elects to carry chocolates rather than pistol cartridges during battle. Raina hides the desperate Bluntschili during the war, and a complicated love triangle takes shape.

A comedic commentary on war and love that is as relevant in today's world as it was in 1894.

The House of Blue Leaves

By John Guare

March 13-17, 20-24

at the Black Hole Theatre

The Black Hole Theatre closes its season with this classic contemporary American comedy complete with our very own "amateur night" talent show before the performance.

When the Pope visits New York City, Artie Shaughnessy, zookeeper and would be songwriter, is inspired to do more with his life. However, Artie must also deal with the demands of his crazy wife, bossy mistress, and bomb-wielding son. George Toles returns to the Black Hole Theatre to direct *The House of Blue Leaves*, guaranteeing non-stop laughter in this uproarious comedy.

2012 Student, Alumni, and Faculty News

As usual, an asterisk (*) at the end of an entry means that there's more information about the individual in the "Fringe" section of the *Newsletter*.

MEGAN ANDRES performed in the Tara Players' production of Wendy Lill's *The Fighting Days*. MEGAN graduated last spring, but came back to us to perform in our production of August Strindberg/Caryl Churchill's *A Dream Play* at the Gas Station for StrindbergFest 2011. MEGAN directed one of the entries in the MAP/Scirocco high school play festival at the Warehouse in the spring; KIM ZEGLINSKI was one of the performers. One of MEGAN's plays was included in the "One Night Stand" playreading series at FemFest this fall. *

JOSEPH ARAGON performed in the staged readings of Debbie Patterson's new play, *Victor and Sargent*, last February. JOSEPH is a member of the Playwrights' Unit at PTE. *

MURAT ATES is serving on the U of M Board of Governors.

GERRY ATWELL played keyboards for the PTE production of Sharon Bajer's new play, *Burnin' Love*. Last summer, he performed with the Ministers of Cool at the Lyric Theatre in Assiniboine Park.

TIM BANDFIELD performed in *Snapshots*, a musical theatre revue, at the Berney Theatre last November. TIM co-directed BHT's *A Dream Play* with CHRIS JOHNSON for StrindbergFest 2011; TIM also designed and supervised the building of the magnificent puppets – this is the production that Kelly Nestruck of *The Globe and Mail* described as "quite the wonder". In May, TIM performed in the Dry Cold production of *Sweeney Todd*.

MIKE BELL performs in three episodes of *Less Than Kind* this season, and played a major role in a movie, *The Lucky Christmas*, which was shot in Winnipeg over the summer. In the coming academic year MIKE will be teaching a playwriting course at Brandon University, replacing DALE LAKEVOLD while DALE is on sabbatical.

STEPHANIE BEYKO teaches drama at John Taylor Collegiate.

ERIC BOSSE is the head technician at MTYP.

SIMON BRACKEN performed two one-man shows, a revived and somewhat revised *The Particulars*, and *In General*, for Summerworks at the Factory's Studio theatre in Toronto last summer; SIMON first performed *The Particulars* at the 2010 Montreal and Winnipeg Fringe Festivals.

HEATHER BRAUN teaches drama at Stonewall Collegiate.

JANINE BREMAULT BAMFORD has moved to Edmonton.

JOHANNA BRIERLEY is displaying her jewelry collection at Toronto's One of a Kind Show.

JULIA BROWN organized the first Clear Lake Fringe Festival this summer. She brought seven shows from the Winnipeg Fringe to Wasagaming for the four day fest at the end of July.

Among the shows was the production of George Walker's *Criminal Genius* directed by KELLY JENKEN and RAY STRACHAN. JULIA hopes that the festival will become an annual event.

JESSICA BURLESON completed her M.Ed. She performed in the *Girls! Girls! Girls!* fundraising cabaret for the Gas Station Theatre in March.

SEAN CARNEY teaches in the English Department at McGill University.

SHELAGH CARTER's first feature-length film, *Passionflower*, premiered at the Vancouver International Film Festival this fall; DARCY FEHR is one of the performers. One of SHELAGH's short films, *Canoe*, was broadcast by CBC TV this summer. She teaches Theatre and Film at the University of Winnipeg.

JONAS CHERNICK has recurring rolls on *Degrassi: The Next Generation* and *Living in Your Car*. He is in Winnipeg this fall filming a movie with Sean Garrity and will be visiting the university to talk to students

LEITH CLARK teaches drama at Sisler Collegiate. *

ARI COHEN played Biff in the Soulpepper production of *Death of a Salesman* in Toronto last season.

SARAH CONSTIBLE performed Al Rae's new script, *One Man's Show*, at the special fall edition of the Carol Shields Festival of New Works at PTE last September. She also played Christine in the MTC Warehouse production of Patrick Marber's *After Miss Julie* as part of StrindbergFest 2011. SARAH edited and adapted *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2* for the Shakespeare in the Ruins production in June; she also served as musical director, and played Mistress Quickly. SARAH will be performing in the Theatre Projects Manitoba production of STEVE RATZLAFF's *Dionysus in Stony Mountain* in the coming season. SARAH's recent film and TV credits include: *Less than Kind*, *The Many Trials of One Jane Doe*, *The Haunting in Connecticut*, and *Todd and the Book of Pure Evil*.

JONAH CORNE teaches in the Film Studies program at the U of M.

ANDREW COYNE is the National Editor of *Mclean's* magazine, and appears as a political commentator on the *At Issues* panel on CBC TV with Peter Mansbridge.

MARK CUDJOE is teaching in China, and performing with a number of bands.

deco dawson created the videos used in the MTC productions of *Brief Encounter* and *Grumpy Old Men*.

DAVID DEGROW was the production manager and lighting designer for the Native Earth Performing Arts production of Daniel David Moses' *Almighty Voice and His Wife*, which toured across the country and included stops in Winnipeg and Brandon last season. Since completing his M.A. at the Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama at the University of Toronto, DAVE did a PTPP mentorship with Theatre Passe Muraille and the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People. He's Co-Artistic Director of Theatre Jones Roy and Production

Co-ordinator for the Canadian Stage Company's Festival of Ideas and Creation. He was the tour manager and designer of Theatre Jones Roy tours of *Pyassa* and *Letters to My Grandma*, which visited Victoria, Ottawa, London, and Vancouver. Last season, DAVE designed the lighting for *Roshni* at Theatre Passe Muraille.

BARB DONOVAN fills in for Marilyn and Eleanor in the Classics/Film/Theatre office when they go on their world adventures.

PHILLIP DUNCAN teaches drama at Morden Collegiate.

LEIGH ENNS got married this fall.

DARCY FEHR performs in SHELAGH CARTER's feature-length film, *Passionflower*, which premiered this fall. He is the Training and Community Programs Coordinator at the Winnipeg Film Group and a Facilitator and Instructor with The Acting Studio – Winnipeg.

MURIEL FLETT acted in the indie film *Sunday*.*

TRACY GEMMEL teaches English at Dawson College in Montreal.

REBECCA GIBSON directed the Academy of Acting production of Frank Wedekind's *Spring Awakening* at the Ellice Café and Theatre in May. *

MARGARET GROOME will be directing the BHT production of *Arms and the Man* for ShawFest 2012. She performed the role of Alice in BOB SMITH's production of Durrenmatt's *Play Strindberg* for StrindbergFest 2011; she also directed a staged reading of Strindberg's *The Pelican* as a benefit for the Actors' Fund of Canada. Last fall, MARGARET was promoted to Associate Professor. She is working on an article on Beckett that she was invited to contribute to the prestigious, bilingual journal *Degrees/Degrès*. Entitled "Dialects, Rhythm, Pace and Pauses in English-Language Productions of *Waiting for Godot*," it will be published in 2012. In September, MARGARET gave a paper titled " . . . Study's god-like recompense': Confessions of a Shakespeare Addict" in the DEFT symposium in honour of JOHN REMPEL. In the coming year, MARGARET will be teaching a section of Intro, half of Onstage, Modern British Drama, and a Text and Performance course on acting Shakespeare.

JILL GUINCANGCO's performance in an episode of *Todd and the Book of Pure Evil* won her a Gemini award for Best Ensemble Performance this fall.

ANGELA HECK has moved back to Winnipeg after having lived in Vancouver for several years. She had a job as Communications Officer for CBC Winnipeg and is now joining the University in marketing and communication.

IVAN HENWOOD, JANE WALKER, and PAUL MADZIAK produced, directed, and acted in *Hey, Shorty!*, an evening of short plays presented at Ragpickers in December. IVAN will be working as the Theatre Program Teaching Assistant at the U of M for the 2011/12 academic year.*

ROB HERRIOTT was the assistant director for the WJT

production of *The Father* last winter, and performed in the Dry Cold production of *Sweeney Todd* last spring. Last season, he also directed productions of *Tosca* for Edmonton Opera and *Le Noeuz di Figaro* for Opera-on-the-Avalon.

SEAN HICKS is the Treasurer for Theatre Projects Manitoba.

JULIANNE HOYAK is teaching drama in Steinbach.

ADAM HURTIG played Jean in the Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre's production of *Miss Julie*, which was presented at the Park Theatre last January as part of StrindbergFest 2011.

ADAM has completed his ACTRA apprenticeship, and is now a full member. *

GRAHAM ISAAK will be performing with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. GRAHAM composed the original music and designed the sound for our production of *A Dream Play* in StrindbergFest 2011.

KELLY JENKEN sang TOMSON HIGHWAY Cree jazz with DANA SMITH at the CCWOC Cree Stories event at Aqua Books in May. TOMSON, one of the storytellers at the event, taught a course in Cree Literature at the U of M last spring. *

CHRIS JOHNSON co-directed the BHT production of *A Dream Play* with TIM BANDFIELD for StrindbergFest 2011; he also participated in the directors' panel. CHRIS serves as Vice-Chair of the board of Theatre Projects Manitoba. CHRIS gave a paper on George Etherege's *She Would If She Could* at the DEFT Symposium in honour of JOHN REMPEL in September. In 2011/12, he'll be teaching a course on stage comedy, a section of Intro, the second half of onstage, and the advanced directing course which this time around will be focused on directing the new play, and will be offered in conjunction with courses in playwriting (taught by BOB SMITH) and new play dramaturgy (taught by BILL KERR) – students from all three courses will work together to produce a "Fire in the Hole" festival of new student plays in March. At the same time, BOB is writing a new play which BILL is dramaturging and which CHRIS will direct in the 12/13 BHT season.

WILLIAM JORDAN performed in the Shoestring Players production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the Manitoba Opera Association production of *Tosca*. WILLIAM graduated last spring, but came back to play the Officer in our production of *A Dream Play* at the Gas Station in January. WILLIAM's company, Naughty Sailboat, presented *August Strindberg's Flying Circus* at the Park Theatre, also as part of StrindbergFest 2011; performers included MEGAN ANDRES, JANE WALKER, IVAN HENWOOD, JOSH BANMAN, LIZ MADDEN, JENNIFER WALKER, and WILLIAM himself. *

MANISH KAUSHAL serves on the board of Shakespeare in the Ruins.

ANDREA KARR has completed a Master's degree in literature at Ryerson Polytechnical University in Toronto. She is now interning at *Flare* fashion magazine.

MAGDALENA KAZBUBOWSKI-HOUSTON's new book, *Staging Strife: Lessons from Performing Ethnography with Polish Roma Women*, McGill-Queens UP, won the Canadian

Association for Theatre Research Ann Saddlemeier Prize.

BILL KERR will be directing the TPM production of STEVE RATZLAFF's new play, *Dionysus in Stony Mountain*, in March. Last season, he directed the BHT production of *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*, to coincide with TOMSON HIGHWAY's visit to the U of M campus as Visiting-Writer-in-Residence. BILL is Chair of the Board of Shakespeare in the Ruins. In the coming year, Bill will be teaching political theatre, new play dramaturgy, and dramatic analysis.

TREVOR KLIPPENSTEIN is the rentals manager at Epic Productions Winnipeg.

ANGUS KOHM produced the MAP/Scirocco festival of high school plays at the Warehouse in the spring. ANGUS also served as one of the dramaturges. ANGUS edited *I Was a Teenaged Playwright*, an anthology of plays from the last ten years of the festival, recently published by Scirocco.

SUSAN KURBIS teaches drama at Maples Collegiate, and last year directed the school production of *Batman: The Musical*. Susan is a team member of Manitoba Education's Grade 9-12 Drama Curriculum Development committee and she got married in March.

MATTHEW LAGACE was the apprentice stage manager for the MTC production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* last season, and last spring, he was the apprentice stage manager for the Dry Cold production of *Sweeney Todd*. MATT also stage managed the production of JOSEPH ARAGON's *Illuminati* in the spring, and *Illuminati II* at the Fringe. *

DALE LAKEVOLD teaches Creative Writing at Brandon University; he'll be on sabbatical in 11/12, and MIKE BELL is taking his place.

MARIA LAMONT lives in Luxembourg and makes her living directing and assistant directing opera, mostly in Europe. She is currently in Vienna working on a production of *The Turn of the Screw*. Directing credits include *La Voix Humaine* for Le Grand Theatre de Luxembourg; *Rigoletto* for Kentucky Opera Operaworks; *Albert Herring*, *La Rondine*, and *The Threepenny Opera* for the University of Toronto Opera Division; and *Enoch Arden ...* for the Theatre Centre in Toronto. Selected assisting and revival credits include *Katakabonova* for La Scala in Milan; *Jenufa* for Opera de Oviedo, The Flemish Opera, the Saito Kinen Festival in Japan, and Le Grand Theatre de Luxembourg; *La Boheme* for Le Grand Theatre de Luxembourg; *Fidelio* for The Netherlands Opera, and the Maggio Musical Festival in Firenze, Italy; *Cunning Little Vixen* and *Il Trittico* for the Flemish Opera; *Loss of Eden* for the Opera Theatre of St. Louis; and *Madama Butterfly* and *Carmen* for Opera Ontario. Upcoming projects include working as assistant director on a new production of *Candide* by Robert Carsen and Michael Levine for the Chatelet in Paris and La Scala Milan. After graduating in English and Theatre at the U of M, MARIA studied acting at the Vancouver Playhouse Acting School and played leading roles in theatres across Canada. She was the first graduate of the Stage Directing Programme at the University of Toronto Opera Division.

JOHN LANDREVILLE is in graduate studies in film at the

University of Toronto.

JEFF LECLERC is University Secretary at the U of M.

TANNIS LEHMANN teaches English and drama at Kildonan East Collegiate.

CURTIS LOWTON teaches at St. George's school.

JIM MACGREGOR is a producer/director working with Shaw TV. He also produces and directs the broadcast of the Goldeyes baseball games.

GUY MADDIN married the Los Angeles film critic, Kim Morgan, last fall. GUY exhibited a project with U of M Fine Arts professor, Cliff Eyland. Their "silent books" (silent because they contain no words) consist of pages large enough to hang on gallery walls, and present stills from MADDIN movies juxtaposed with illustrations and paintings by Eyland. The latest GUY MADDIN/GEORGE TOLES film, *Keyhole*, premiered last fall, as did *Hauntings*, a series of short films. *Keyhole* was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival in September. GUY's multi-screen installation, *Hauntings I*, was exhibited at the Platform Gallery in Artspace this fall.

KATIE MAN has been hired as the Technician in charge of the Media Lab by the Dept. of English, Film, & Theatre at the U of M.*

JOCK MARTIN teaches drama at St. John's Ravenscourt school.

JUDITH MATE has a new job with the International Centre for Students at the U of M.

SUE MATHESON teaches English at Red Deer College in Alberta.

KYLE MCCULLOCH writes scripts for *South Park*.

CHUCK MCEWEN is Executive Producer of the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival and the RMTTC Master Playwright Festival. *

BRENDA MCLEAN directed and acted in *Dionysus is Getting Impatient*, Theatre Incarnate's contribution to StrindbergFest 2011, last January. She also designed the set; ERIC BOSSE designed the lighting. BRENDA also directed Federico Garcia Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba* for the BHT's 2010/11 season in March. Brenda continues to costume movies and shorts and filmed one of her own over the summer. She taught a section of Intro in the 2010/11 school year, and a special section of Intro for aboriginal students in the spring. Brenda is now the Head of Wardrobe at PTE.*

ROSS MCMILLAN's play, *Miss Julie at the Gates*, was given a staged reading last January by the Manitoba Association of Playwrights as part of StrindbergFest 2011; ROSS directed. ROSS will be acting in the Theatre Projects Manitoba production of STEVE RATZLAFF's *Dionysus in Stony Mountain* in March; BILL KERR directs. He also is performing in the MTC Warehouse/Tarragon Theatre in Toronto co-production of Sarah Ruhl's *In the Next Room; or, The Vibrator Play*.

MEGHAN MCNICOL performed in *The Long Red Road* in

the Backspace at Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto last March.

AYNSLEY MOORHOUSE did an apprenticeship in dramaturgy with Iris Turcott at the Factory Theatre in Toronto last spring.*

BRUCE MICHALSKI performed in the Tara Players' production of Wendy Lill's *The Fighting Days*. BRUCE is now working as the Executive Director of Camp Manitou. He married Rosalie Harms in August.

STEPHANIE MOROZ played Abigail Williams in her senior class production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* at Studio 58 in Vancouver this fall.

BOB NIXON's new book, *My Road to Rome; The Running Times of B.J. McHugh*, came out this fall.

YVETTE NOLAN is Writer-in-Residence at the Saskatoon Public Library. She stepped down as Artistic Director of Native Earth Performing Arts in January after eight and a half years leading Canada's premiere aboriginal theatre company. She says she wants to concentrate on the two books she is currently writing. In her last season at NEPA, YVETTE directed the premiere production of Marie Clements' new play, *Tomb of the Vanishing Indian*. YVETTE's article, "A Hopeful Present", was published in *Canadian Theatre Review* 145, the Winter 2011 issue.

THERESA OSWALD successfully defended her seat in the Seine River riding in the provincial election October 4.

GERALD PAULS teaches English in Winkler, and directs for the Poor Theatre Company in Morden. His wife just had a baby.

TRACY PENNER performed in the "stripped down" *Macbeth* produced by Shakespeare in the Ruins last fall, and in the TPM production of Armin Wiebe's *The Moonlight Sonata of Beethoven Blatz* last spring.

NANCY PITCAIRN teaches drama and English at Vincent Massey in Brandon.

JEREMY RAMPTON stage managed BOB SMITH's production of *Play Strindberg* for StrindbergFest 2011. He came back to the Hole this year to perform in our production of *The Gypsy Woman*; JACKIE KOZAK directs.*

STEVE RATZLAFF's new play, the full-length version of *Dionysus in Stoney Mountain*, will be produced by Theatre Projects Manitoba this spring. An earlier, one-act version of the play was produced in the Winnipeg Fringe a couple of years ago. ROSS MCMILLAN and SARAH CONSTIBLE perform, and BILL KERR directs. STEVE performed in the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre's production of Vern Thiessen's *Lenin's Embalmers* last season; the production played in Toronto as well as Winnipeg. He also performed in the Dry Cold production of Sweeney *Todd* in the spring and will be in *August: Osage County* for MTC this spring. STEVE teaches theatre at Canadian Mennonite University.

CHRIS READ is an arts reporter and producer for CBC radio.

JANELLE REGALBUTO designed the costumes for the WJT productions of *The Father* and *One of Ours* last season, and worked as head scenic artist on the PTE production of

Thunderstick. JANELLE was Assistant Set Painter for the Shakespeare in the Ruins production of *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2* in June.

TRACY RETTIG teaches Drama and English at Dakota Collegiate. She got married this summer, and honeymooned in Greece.

GAVIN RICH serves on the board of the PTE Foundation Trust.

SYLVIA RICHARDSON teaches singing at Brandon University. She got married in March.

IAN ROSS teaches theatre at the University of Winnipeg; he participated in the Writers' Festival at Canadian Mennonite University last spring.

GARRETT RUSNAK is Black Hole Vice-President this academic year.*

KAREN SCHELLENBERG is the Theatre Program's technical assistant at the U of M.*

JOFF SCHMIDT is Executive Producer of *Content Factory* and *Definitely Not the Opera*, and reviews plays for CBC radio.*

IVORY SEOL stage managed *The Father* and *One of Ours* for WJT last season. She worked at the Stratford Festival over the summer.

JO SHEPARD returned to the BHT to assistant direct *Dry Lips* and act as La Poncia in *Bernarda Alba*. Jo also had a baby boy in September.

TANIA SIGURDSON is teaching in Morden.

JULIE SIMPSON teaches drama at Gordon Bell. She stage managed the MAP/Scirocco festival of high school plays at the Warehouse in the spring.

BOB SMITH directed the Adriana Theatre Collective production of Friedrich Durrenmatt's *Play Strindberg* for StrindbergFest 2011. MARGARET GROOME performed. BOB will be teaching Intro, Drama I, and Playwriting in 2011/12.*

DANA SMITH sang some TOMSON HIGHWAY Cree jazz with KELLY JENKEN at the Cree Stories event at Aqua Books in May.*

JASON SPARLING teaches at Lorette Collegiate.

LESLIE STARK is a high school drama teacher in B.C. She won first prize in this year's *Geist* magazine literary postcard story contest.

TERI STEVENS is the publicist at MTC.*

KELLY STIFORA is a Creative Arts Instructor at Red River College*

RAY STRACHAN performed in the Manitoba Theatre Centre production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, an MTC/Theatre Calgary co-production which was presented in both Calgary and Winnipeg. He also performed in PTE's Munsch plays at Christmas. Ray assistant directed *Grumpy Old Men* at MTC.*

FIONA STRYJAK-SMITH has moved back to Winnipeg this autumn after 8 years of self-sufficiency, animal husbandry and farming near Parry Sound, Ontario. She is a Freelance Writer and regular contributing Writer with The Motorcycle Times. In the past four years, she helped found The Mastocytosis Society of Canada and is currently an active Board Director.

MARINA TAGGART runs a children's theatre in California.

GORD TANNER played Kelly (Kilyugan) in the Bruce McManus adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* produced by Theatre Projects Manitoba and Zone 41 this fall. He was also in the MTC productions of *White Christmas* and *Calendar Girls* last season. GORD serves on the board of Theatre Projects Manitoba.

JIM TAYLOR is working for Second City on a cruise ship.

BURTON TENEBEIN is the Vice President Concert Touring at Epic Production Winnipeg.

PAUL THULNER teaches drama and English at Sisler.

GEORGE TOLES will be directing *House of Blue Leaves* for us in March. He wrote the script for GUY MADDIN's latest film *Keyhole* which was screened at TIFF.*

THOMAS TOLES is Black Hole president this school year.*

DAMION TRYON teaches English at Kildonan East Collegiate.

ANDREA VON WICHERT is in the M.A. program at the U of M, and is the Artistic Director of the annual *Girls! Girls! Girls!* cabaret. She had an art show at the Gas Station in February. ANDREA worked on the TPM production of *The Moonlight Sonata of Beethoven Blatz* as the scenic artist.

JANE WALKER directed one of the entries in the MAP/Scirocco festival of high school plays at the Warehouse in the spring; **KERRI WOLOSHYN** was one of the performers.*

RYAN WARD's indie movie, *Son of the Sunshine*, played the Carlton in Toronto last spring,. In August, the movie was screened at Cinematheque in Winnipeg. RYAN co-wrote the script, directed the film, and played the lead role. The film has won a bunch of awards: Best Feature at the Film North Festival; Rising Star and Best Actor awards at the Edmonton International Festival; Audience Award and Best Feature Award at the Malibu Film Festival; People's Choice Award at the Thunder Bay Film Festival; and Best Director, Best Actor (Ryan Ward), Best Original Music and Best Ensemble Acting at the Wild Rose Independent Film Festival. (Back in the day, RYAN played Spock/Malvolio in BHT's Star Wars/Star Trek production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* at the Gas Station Theatre.)

VERALYNN WARKENTIN teaches writing at Red River College.

WAYNE WATSON teaches English and drama for Kumon Leysin in Switzerland.

TIM WEBSTER performed in the Tara Players production of *Debit and Credit* for StrindbergFest 2011.*

STEFANIE WIENS was the host for the MAP/Scirocco festival of high school plays at the Warehouse in the spring. One of STEFANIE's plays was included in the "One Night Stand" series of play readings at FemFest this fall.

RYLAN WILKIE played Dr. Jekyll in Vertigo Mystery Theatre's production of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in Calgary last spring.

ALLAN ZINYK played Toad in Carousel Theatre's production of *A Year With Frog and Toad* in Vancouver last year. He also performed in *Leading Ladies* at the Gateway Theatre, a performance *Province* theatre critic Jerry Wasserman described as the best comic acting seen on a Vancouver stage last season.



Fire extinguisher training with the 2010/11 Backstage Class.

FRINGE 2012

Cannibal! The Musical. JOHN TITLEY performed and JOSEPH ARAGON created the music.

Catching Shadows created by MEGAN ANDRES, TREVOR SMITH, MAJA BAKIJA, and JEREMY RAMPTON. MEGAN performed, JEREMY directed, and MAJA provided the choreography and movement coaching.

Criminal Genius by George F. Walker. KELLY JENKEN and RAY STRACHAN directed; cast comprised of KELLY, RAY, PAUL DUNCAN, LIZ MADDEN, and WILLIAM JORDAN. GARRETT RUSNAK stage managed. The show also appeared in JULIA BROWN's Clear Lake Fringe Festival July 29 to August 1.

For Tea and Country by WILLIAM JORDAN and KEVIN HOULE. Cast included: WILLIAM, KEVIN, BECCA BANDFIELD, MIKE LONG, DAN CHEN, JUSTIN FRY, TREVOR SMITH, GARY JARVIS, SHANNON AULD, JOSH BANMAN, WILLIAM O'DONNELL and KEVIN RAMBERRAN.

Full Screen Ahead. Writer/performers included TIM GRAY and DAN HUEN.

Hamlet: A New Musical. Adapted by FRANCES KONCAN, who also produced, directed, composed the music, and performed as a musician. Performers included: CHRIS CHARLES, CARLY GALLANT, and YARED MEHZENTA

Hersteria. Music by JOSEPH ARAGON.

A House Fell on our Sister and We Didn't Get No Ruby Slippers, by Columpa C. Bobb and LEITH CLARK. LEITH also performed.

Illuminati II: The Second One by JOSEPH ARAGON. LEITH CLARK directed and MATTHEW LEGACE stage managed.

Kyle's Pile by JASON BROADFOOT. JASON also performed.

LAW & ORDER: Nursery Rhyme Unit. PAUL MADZIAK performed.

Mary Rose, created by GEORGE TOLES, IVAN HENWOOD, THOMAS TOLES and JANE WALKER from material by J.M. Barrie and Alfred Hitchcock. Performers included Tobias Hughes, JANE BURPEE, TALIA PURA, BOB SMITH, IVAN, THOMAS, and JANE. Stage manager: KATIE MAN. Set & lighting design: KERRI WOLOSZYN. Sound design: AYNLEY MOORHOUSE. Costume design & co-ordination: ANGELA HECK, ALANA PYRCH, TALIA PURA and STEPHANIE MOROZ.

What's Happening Alumni

We would love to know what you are up to, and include an update of the successes of our Black Hole Alumni in future editions of our newsletter. Get in touch with the Theatre and tell us all about how amazing you are!

Master Orloff and Madame Clodille's Penny Arcade Freakshow Beautifique; or, The Illusionary Box. Directed and designed by BRENDA MCLEAN. BRENDA, CHRISTOPHER SOBCZAK, ANAIS BOSSE, and Claire Therese performed. ERIC BOSSE designed the lighting and GARRETT RUSNAK stage managed.

The Revenge of Macabre Tales of Horror and Macabreness. THERESA THOMSON (FAWCETT) performed.

Rogue Cop. Performers included ADAM HURTIG & DANA SMITH.

Romeo and Juliet (SIR's stripped-down version). RAY STRACHAN and ANDREW CECON performed, ERIC BOSSE designed the set.

So You Think You Can be a Music Theatre Idol: All Stars. LEITH CLARK performed.

A Show of Hands. Performers included RYAN MILLER.

Spring Awakening by Frank Wedekind. Directed by REBECCA GIBSON. MURIEL FLETT stage managed.

A Taste of Honey. KIM ZEGLINSKI co stage managed and TIM NHLAZANE acted

Wildwood Park. JASON BROADFOOT & Maryth Gilroy performed. Subsequently presented at the Vancouver Fringe Festival.

Zanna, Don't by Red Hot Thespian Action. Performers included RYAN MILLER.

Mariachi Ghost played the Free Stage. JORGE REQUENA is lead vocals and guitar

CHUCK MCEWEN was the Executive Producer of the Fringe. KEN RUDDERHAM was one of the Free Stage hosts. TERE STEVENS was the Publicist. FRANCES KONCAN worked in Advance Tickets. TIM and XIAN WEBSTER were the Kids Fringe Coordinators. RAY STRACHAN was the Outdoor Site Manager. ERIC BOSSE and KARENSCHELLENBERG were venue technicians. JOFF SCHMIDT and KELLY STIFORA wrote reviews for the CBC.

Independent Production

IVAN HENWOOD and JANE WALKER's Snakeskin Jacket Productions worked with PAUL MADZIAK's Burning Meatloaf to present *Hey, Shorty*, an evening of short plays and films at Ragpickers last December. The bill included short plays by MEGAN ANDRES and RAPH SARAY, and films by PAUL and others. MEGAN, GARY JARVIS, and RAY STRACHAN were the directors, and performers were JANE, MEGAN, IVAN HENWOOD, JEREMY RAMPTON, KATIE MAN, KERRI WOLOSZYN, and PAUL DUNCAN.