

Backstage Pass

Minnesota State Mankato
Theatre
& Dance

May 2008

Come together for *THERMOfusion*

The Minnesota State Mankato Dance Program will present its third annual Spring Dance Collection, *THERMOfusion*, at 7:30 p.m. April 30, May 1 & 2, in the Ted Paul Theatre. Individual tickets are on sale now.

When diverse weather systems are mixed together, the result is generally an “expression” of precipitation and/or energy in the form of lightning and wind. *THERMOfusion* mixes a diverse pool of artistic expression in dance, ranging from love and war to frivolity and fun. The result is an electrifying storm of images, ideas and emotions.

THERMOfusion includes works by two promising Minnesota State choreographers: Staci Lipps (double major in Dance and Art) and Nicole Curry (Dance major). Staci’s “Paper to Floor” is the result of an Undergraduate Research Grant she was awarded to interconnect her research in print-making and dance-making into one, multi-media performance. The result is a colorful wash of color and line where points of distinction between two-dimensional bodies are blurred.

Nicole’s “Historically Speaking” is a tightly woven visual representation of

Daniel Stark will join the Dance Program as an Assistant Professor in August, succeeding Brad Garner. He has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Iowa.



The sultry, smoky ladies of *Small Favors* (left to right): Nicole Curry, Jennifer James, Katie Drietz, Sara Jump, Lori Ledoux and Stephanie Narlock. It was choreographed by outgoing faculty member Brad Garner.

Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “a date which will live in infamy” speech of Dec. 7, 1941. The combination of Nicole’s choreography and the spoken text draws strong connections to current American politics through formal structure and subtlety—evoking introspection rather than provoking controversy.

Listen to Nicole and Staci describe their pieces and their creative process by visiting MSUDance.com.

Work of the first two Nadine B. Andreas Guest Artists to grace the Minnesota State Mankato Dance Program—Mary Fitzgerald and Alan Sener—also will be featured. Fitzgerald is a former member of Kai Takei Dancers,

with whom she performed internationally for more than a decade. Her piece, “Dream Work,” has the dancers thrashing through the space violently with jagged and often broken lines in front of a kaleidoscopic video backdrop.

Sener spent nearly 15 years dancing with Louis Falco (choreographer of the film adaptation of “Fame”). His creation, “Wind in Palm,” has the dancers floating effortlessly over the floor in grand, sweeping circles interconnected in such a way as to suggest that both gravity and time have been suspended in submission to the kinesthetic power of dance.

Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

Coming soon ...

Highland Summer Theatre

Production meetings have been going on for a few weeks for the 42nd annual Highland Summer Theatre, opening May 28 with the summer debut of Heather Hamilton directing *Dial 'M' for Murder*. Earlier this year Heather directed *Dancing at Lughnasa* in the Andreas Theatre.

Then Paul Finocchiaro (*Cats* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*) cranks up the '50s rock 'n' roll with *Smokey Joe's Café* in the Ted Paul Theatre June 12-15.

Paul J. Hustoles (*Enchanted April*, *Bus Stop* and *Hamlet*) does double duty with *The Boys Next Door* June 25-29 in the Andreas Theatre and then *The Music Man* July 11-13 & 17-20 in the Ted Paul Theatre.

Season tickets are on sale now; individual tickets for all shows go on sale May 19 by calling 507-389-6661.

Hear directors Heather Hamilton, Paul J. Hustoles and Paul Finocchiaro talk about the show at MSUTheatre.com



Our 2008-09 shows

Watch our web site at MSUTheatre.com and the playbill for Highland Summer Theatre to get our entire Mainstage and Studio line-ups for 2008-09.

Because we're always looking to bring you a mix of the best of current shows in addition to traditional favorites, we sometimes have to wait to hear if we can get the rights to do a show. Although many of the pieces are in play—including our two Dance Concerts and a four-show Studio Season—we're not quite ready to roll out our entire Mainstage season. But soon ...

Touring in 2009

Joining our annual children's theatre touring production next year will be *Broadway Jukebox*, a revue of songs from some of the latest and greatest musicals on Broadway. Five students in the Department of Theatre & Dance will be traveling to Southern Minnesota high schools to perform and do outreach during spring semester.

For information about booking, drop a note to theatre-arts@mnsu.edu.

Kennedy Center Honors

Please join us in congratulating three outstanding Minnesota State Mankato students on making their respective debuts at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., as part of the 40th annual American College Theater Festival this past week.

Micah J. L. Kronlokken (junior, BFA Acting candidate), the KCACTF Region V Winner of the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship, was featured in the reading of the award winning ten-minute play *Cold Soup* on Friday, April 18, 2008, in the Terrace Theater. On Saturday, April 19, he performed in the national Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Audition on that same stage.

Katharine Moeller (senior, BFA Musical Theatre candidate), the Region V winner of the Best Partner in the Final Round, partnered Micah on Saturday. For her efforts, she was awarded a summer scholarship to the National Stage Combat Workshop from the Society of American Fight Directors.

Heather Ann Folsom (senior, BFA Acting candidate), the Region V winner of the Student Directing Award for the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, directed a staged reading of the award winning ten-minute short play, *The Professor* on Friday, April 18 in the Terrace Theatre.

All three students participated in a week filled with master classes taught by professionals from throughout the country.