

Backstage Pass

September 2010

Minnesota State Mankato
Theatre
& Dance

Minnesota State University, Mankato
Department of Theatre & Dance

RAZZLE DAZZLE

MAINSTAGE
Chicago
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
The Odyssey
Born Yesterday
Dracula
The Producers

STUDIO
Copenhagen
Evil Dead: The Musical
A Coupla White Chicks
Sitting Around Talking
Frozen

Two Dance Concerts

For dates and information, see
MSUTheatre.com



We will “razzle dazzle” you

The season, the Minnesota State University, Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance has set out to “razzle dazzle” you!

After several years of unsuccessful attempts, we have finally gained the rights to produce *Chicago*, among the most popular musicals on our biannual audience survey. In addition, when Mel Brook’s hilarious movie-turned musical-turned movie musical *The Producers* became available we scooped it up, too.

Chicago will be presented Sept. 30-Oct. 3 & Oct. -10, 2010, in the Ted Paul Theatre. *The Producers* will be presented April 7-10 & 14-17, 2011, also in the Ted Paul.

We hope these musical book-ends will encourage you to join us for the entire season by purchasing a season subscription for just \$85

(plus \$5 processing fee). That’s because we think the rest of the season has its own fair share of ‘razzle dazzle.’

Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? is Edward Albee’s classic story of George and Martha, a college professor and his wife who were portrayed on stage and screen by the naturally dynamic couple of Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. We haven’t presented this show since summer 1968, and it’s definitely worth another look! It will be presented Oct. 14-17 & 20-24, 2010, in the Andreas Theatre.

Next is *The Odyssey*, by Homer but adapted by Mary Zimmerman from the translation by Robert Fitzgerald and originally directed by Mary Zimmerman. If Zim-

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Thank you, Corporate Sponsors and all of our Friends

We couldn’t do everything we like to do without the constant and consistent support of patrons who buy tickets and become Friends of the Theatre and businesses that buy ads and/or become Corporate Sponsors.

In a future edition of *Backstage Pass*, we’ll thank advertisers by name (sales are continuing at this point), but right now we’d like to thank Corporate Sponsors for this season’s Mainstage shows.

First this season is HickoryTech Corporation, which returns for its 17th year with a sponsorship of *Chicago*. It

all began back in 1994 with *South Pacific* and has continued through *Brigadoon*, *Footloose*, *Peter Pan* and last year’s *Into the Woods*.

Next is Blethen, Gage & Krause, which started in 2005 with *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* and continued through such classics as *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, *Bus Stop* and *The Christmas Carol*. This year they sponsor *The Odyssey* for their sixth show.

A new name appears this year with Community Bank Mankato. Although a regular advertiser in past years, this

season their role increases as Corporate Sponsor for *Born Yesterday*.

Finally, we welcome back Immanuel St. Joseph’s-Mayo Health System with their sponsorship of *The Producers*. In the past, they’ve brought you *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *42nd Street*, among others; this is number nine.

This past summer, we had a new sponsor join us for *High School Musical*. The good folks at Farrish Johnson Law Office joined Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic and Eide Bailly.

Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

Theatre & Dance Scholarship winners

KIMBERLY STEFFEN

The Ted and Katy Paul
Theatre Scholarship

**RUDOLPH SEARLES III
& KATHERINE PHILLIPS**

The Lee and Loretta Snilsberg
Theatre Scholarship

MATTHEW A. GILBERTSON

The Stephan Klein
Performing Arts Scholarship

JASON GARTON

The Mary Jo and Paul J. Hustoles
Musical Theatre Scholarship

CLAYTON OLIVER RUTSCHOW

The Phyllis and Clif Kroon
Musical Theatre Scholarship

RACHEL LANTOW

The Sandy and John Hey
City Scholarship

JACOB NATHAN

The Fred and Karin Bock
Theatre Scholarship

J. ALEXANDER COE

The Jane F. Earley
Theatre Scholarship

AARON ALAN

The Shirley Grundmeier
Musical Theatre Scholarship

STEPHEN MARK CRISP

The Julio and Doris Gasteiro
Theatre Scholarship

TERRY NELSON

The F. James and Nancy Zwickey
Theatre Scholarship

SAMUEL JUNKE

The William Steil
Technical Theatre Scholarship

JOSEPH B. CROOK

The Paul J. Hustoles
Theatre Scholarship

LIZZY LUCKHARDT

The Kirk Ristau
Memorial Theatre Scholarship

CASEY MORGAN

The Theatre & Dance
Endowment Scholarship

DAVID J. WASYLIK

The Edna & Duane Georgius
Theatre Scholarship

LAURA OTREMBA

The Jane L. Rush
Theatre Scholarship

LAURA D. THAISEN

The Bunny Just
Theatre Scholarship

MEGAN VOLKMAN-WILSON

The Emily Walter
Musical Theatre Scholarship

ADAM MOEN

The Joan and James Pengra
Theatre Scholarship

NATALIE SCHLEUSNER

The Larry and Betsy Fowler
Theatre Scholarship

EMMA OTTOSON

The Florence and Raymond Sponberg
Theatre Scholarship

MAXWELL THAO

The Margaret and Daniel Preska
Theatre Scholarship

MARY JANE OLSON

The Lorraine Larson Scholarship

*Next year the Department of Theatre & Dance will award the first-ever
Mary & Richard Davenport Theatre Scholarship.*

Theatre & Dance awards Freshman Talent Grants

The following first-year students
were awarded Freshman Talent Grants:

Ali Bowman

Mark Blashack

Sydney Burch

Saravouth By

Tylinn Grace Fahrni

Joshua Hopkins-Bowman

Amelia-Jane Levchenko

Hannah Maslinski

Jake McInerney

Arthur Seifert

Marshall Sonstebly

Sam Stoll

Lauren Swanson

Callandra Syverson

Derek Tomlinson



Nikki Swoboda (in the red) was one of four students in the College of Arts and Humanities to receive the Toy Blethen Fine Arts Award last year. To her right is Terry Flaherty, who was Acting Dean of the college last year.

Notes from the Call Board

Seeing Record Numbers

This fall, the Department of Theatre & Dance welcomes a record number of new students and its largest ever number of MFA students.

This year's Theatre freshman class includes 28 new faces! Add to that the 12 new Dance majors and 10 students who transferred here from another institution. In addition, we've got 20 MFA students!

Children's theatre tour

This year's touring production of *Rikkie Recycle & the Eko-Kidz!* was seen by about 10,000 southern Minnesota school students. This year's production, *Iktomi*, hopes to duplicate that feat. Iktomi is a Lakota Indian "jokester" who will appear in three stories. Written/directed by third-year MFA Musical Theatre candidate **Deanne McDonald**, musical com-

position/direction will be by second-year MFA Musical Theatre candidate **Lauren Mikeal Parsons**.

Tour targets high schools

This year, BFA students **Megan Volkman-Wilson, Kim Steffen, J. Alexander Coe** and **Aaron Alan** will be going out on tour to high schools performing in a show titled *Broadway Jukebox*. When they arrive, they will offer students at the hosting school the chance to hear songs performed from three of these six Broadway shows: *Avenue Q, Chicago, Hairspray, Spring Awakening, Phantom of the Opera* and *Wicked*. This will introduce the talents of Minnesota State Mankato directly to high school students.

Kerr-Berry's leadership noted

Director of Dance **Dr. Julie Kerr-Berry** was recognized by the National

Dance Education Organization with an Outstanding Leadership Award for 2010.

Lighting Designer **Steven Smith** was promoted to Associate Professor; second-year MFA Technical Direction candidate **Tom Fagerholm** had a piece published for *Dissections*; third-year MFA Directing candidate **Michael James** presented at the Black Theatre Network Conference in Los Angeles this summer in addition to directing *On Golden Pond* and starring in *The Sunshine Boys* during Highland Summer Theatre.

Welcoming a New Dean

After 35 years under the leadership of **Dean Jane Earley**, and one year under **Acting Dean Terry Flaherty**, the College of Arts and Humanities welcomed a new dean, **Walter Zakahi**, on July 1.

"Razzle Dazzle": Season's productions include two dance concerts

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merman's name sounds familiar, it's because she's also the author of *Metamorphoses*, the "pool play," that we presented in 2004. As we did with that production, we'll be bringing back faculty emeriti Tom Bliese and multiple award-winning Music alum Michael Croswell to design sets and music, respectively. Both join us as Andreas Guest Artists.

Performance dates for *The Odyssey* are Nov. 11-14 & 18-21, 2010, in the Ted Paul Theatre.

Starting the new year, we will be presenting *Born Yesterday* in the Andreas Theatre. We've presented this show twice before, in 1958 and 1995, but the story about a corrupt tycoon who hires a newspaperman to help educate his showgirl mistress seems like it could be ripped from today's

headlines ... so we're doing it again.

Dates are Jan. 27-30 & Feb. 2-6, 2011.

Our last play of the season is old, but its main character has been brought back to life so many times we figured he was due for another resurrection. *Dracula*, the Bram Stoker story adapted by Hamilton Deane and John Balderston, will be presented Feb. 17-20 & 24-27, 2011, in the Ted Paul Theatre.

But don't let your MSU Theatre & Dance enjoyment end there. Each semester we stage an engaging **Dance Concert** in the Ted Paul Theatre that shows off the additional talents of our students. Performances in the fall semester will be 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3 & 4 and 2 p.m. on Dec. 4. In the spring, performances are 7:30 p.m. on April 28 & 29, with the 2 p.m. matinee on April 30.

Plus, we have four Studio shows that are sure to pique your more adventurous brand of curiosity. Coming in just a couple of weeks is our opener, *Copenhagen*, directed by third-year MFA Directing candidate (and actor!) Michael James. Also this semester, in the spot filled by *The Rocky Horror Show* last season, is *Evil Dead: The Musical*. It's sure to get your heart pumping!

Then in the spring, we'll share *A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking* and *Frozen*.

Tickets to ALL of these productions are available NOW to season ticket holders or beginning Sept. 22 if you're not. For more information or to download a season brochure, visit us at **MSUTheatre.com**

FYI: While we were at it, we also picked up the rights for next year's fall musical opener: *Rent*.