Students applaud an award recipient during the annual award ceremony in May.

Let us brag about you in promotional materials! Send your information to:

School of Drama
aamartin@andrew.cmu.edu

New York Drama Alumni Clan
www.nydac.org

Third Coast Network (Chicago)
thirdcoast.alumni.cmu.edu

West Coast Drama Alumni Clan
www.wcdac.org
Welcome to the School of Drama’s 2010 fall newsletter. The aim when producing these newsletters is to keep our alumni, friends, students, subscribers and benefactors in touch with the many new developments and activities taking place in the school. At the same time we wish to promote and cross connect graduates so that the larger School of Drama family continues to grow and interact across disciplines.

The 2010/2011 academic year begins after a record number of applications for places. Clearly, the school’s reputation continues to grow as it examines how best to prepare young artists for an ever evolving work place. This year for example we introduce a new Masters degree in Costume Production. Additionally, and for the first time, the school has appointed a faculty member, Larry Shea, to lead the study of Video and Digital Media across all disciplines.

As the demand for new forms of entertainment and arts content grows - so too will our courses, aims and outcomes.

I wish you all a prosperous fall and look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible back to campus in the near future.

Peter Cooke PhD OAM
Professor and Head - School of Drama
The School has been the beneficiary of an anonymous donation that has fully funded our Visiting Artists Program this year. The benefits to the students, staff and faculty from the influx of leaders and innovators across all disciplines has been incalculable. My aim is to continue to bring in artists that value add to the great strengths of our faculty and staff so that the school as a whole benefits from the very best national and international practitioners and educational theorists.

Peter Cooke PhD OAM
Professor and Head – School of Drama

SPRING/SUMMER 2010 GUESTS

Mac Johnson
Richard Bugg
Steve Bush
Buford Jones
Meyer Sound Labs, Inc
Kyle Beltran
(BFA 2008)
Actor
Don Birge
Owner of Stewart Talent
Mary Coleman
Pixar Animation Studios
John Collins
Founder/Director, Elevator Repair Service
Christopher Dimond
(MFA 2007)
Playwright

Timothy Douglas
Actor/Director
Julie Felise Dubiner
Dramaturg
Patrick Galligan
Actor
Scott Kaiser
Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Sasha Illiav
Actor/Mime
Anne Kauffman
Director
Aurora Khoo
Playwright/Screenwriter
Kille Knobel
Lighting Designer
David Korins
Scenic Designer

Sherry Kramer
Playwright
Dane Laffrey
Scenic Designer
Peter Nigrini
Theatre Designer
Jim Noone
Scenic Designer
Bridget O’Connor
(BFA 2003)
Sound Designer
Daniel Orlandi
(BFA 1976)
Costume Designer
Camille Patton
Casting Director
Mark Redanty
Talent Agent
Rui Rita
Lighting Designer
Casey Roche
Automation trainer, Fisher Technical Services, Inc
Norm Schwab
Lighting Designer
Singaporean Government Arts Representatives
StrataSpore
Performance and Ecology Initiative
Miriam Weisfeld
Dramaturg
Kerry Whigham
Director
Jason Williamson
(MFA 2007)
Playwright
GUEST NEWS: SPRING 2010 GUESTS
Natalie Baker-Shirer (BFA 1964) has coached dialects for 8 plays for Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre (6 of which are the Pinter Celebration), is the dialect coach for ONE FOR THE MONEY, a film produced by Lakeshore Entertainment and starring Katherine Heigel (now in production), and am completing her own online course “American English Dialect” for CMU.

Dick Block, Teaching Professor of Design and Associate Head, will be designing THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK for Virginia Stage Company which opens at the end of September.

C. Todd Brown, Lighting Technologist, designed and programmed the lighting for the CMU School of Music Collage concert in January. He also recently completed work on a Quantum Theatre production of THE TASK which featured a predominately CMU Drama production team, including Director Jed Allen Harris, Scenic Designer Narelle Sissons, Sound Designer Joe Pino, and Costume Designer Susan Tsu. Recent graduate Kathryn Culver (BFA 2007) was the Production Manager and included in the cast were two alumni, Larry Powell (BFA 2008) and Tami Dixon (BFA 1996).

Michael Chemers, Assistant Professor of Dramatic Literature and Dramaturgy Option Coordinator, was awarded the 2009 Association for Theatre in Higher Education’s Outstanding Book Award in 2009-2010, honorable mention, for his recent book Staging Stigma. His new book, Ghost Light: A Handbook for Production Dramaturgy, was published by Southern Illinois University Press. His original adaptation of Gogol’s THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, which was produced by the CMU School of Drama, will be released from Carnegie Mellon University Press this summer. Dr. Chemers also wrote the Program Book for the 75th Anniversary Edition of the Shakespeare Repertory Festival at the Old Globe Theatre, San Diego, for plays directed by Adrian Noble and Ron Daniels.

Kenneth Chu, Costume Shop Manager, received a Rotary Club Fellowship to participate in the organization’s Group Study Exchange program. Along with three other young professionals, Ken traveled to Argentina for a month long tour of southern Patagonia. He will be designing costumes for a short film in August 2010.

Janet Madelle Feindel (MFA 2002) presented a workshop on Alexander Technique and Actor’s Voice at the Care of the Professional Voice Symposium in Philadelphia, PA. Luká Gлинский (BFA 2013) and Larry Powell (BFA 2008) participated and Marya Spring Cordes (MFA 2011) assisted. The Thought Propels the Sound received more positive reviews in the UK STAT newsletter, British Voice Association Communicating Voices; the Post Gazette blog and New Zealand’s Toi Whakaar drama school.

Jed Allen Harris, Associate Teaching Professor and Option Coordinator-Undergraduate Directing, directed THE INSPECTOR GENERAL for the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama. He also directed the critically acclaimed production of Heiner Mullers THE TASK for Quantum Theatre in Pittsburgh. He will participate for the fourth year as teacher/advisor with The Leon Katz Rhodopi International Theatre Laboratory in Smolyan, Bulgaria.

Rob Handel, Dramatic Writing Option Coordinator, wrote the play, A MAZE, which is part of the 2010 Portland Center Stage JAW Festival. In June, his New York-based company 13P is presenting its tenth production, Madeleine George’s THE ZERO HOUR. He has a blog, about new plays and the CMU Dramatic Writing program, at themeansofproduction.blogspot.com.

Amanda Jenkins, Wardrobe Supervisor/Rentals Manager, spent May managing the theatre on the Holland America ship MS Westerdam, traveling to Greece, Italy, Croatia and Turkey. She attended a wigs and hair maintenance and styling workshop at DePaul University in Chicago. And she will spend the rest of the summer working in the costume department for the film ONE FOR THE MONEY.
Cindy Limauro, Professor of Lighting Design, recently designed the lighting for FALSTAFF for the Pittsburgh Opera and the world premiere of BEAUTIFUL DREAMER, based on Stephen Foster music, for the Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre. Her projects to have the students light up campus and downtown Pittsburgh have taken off. CMU will install new exterior lighting for the Hunt Library over the summer and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust would like to use the students’ lighting of alleyways in the Cultural District as a test pilot for the City of Pittsburgh.

Barbara MacKenzie-Wood, Raymond W. Smith Professor of Drama and Option Coordinator of Acting/Music Theatre, co-directed ALICE ALICE ALICE! in New York at the Irondale Ensemble Project in January. In June she directed a staged reading of Henry Adam’s THE PEOPLE NEXT DOOR, a black comedy about terrorism and winner of a Fringe First Award, Edinburgh Festival, also at Irondale. She will then be traveled to Berlin to study German methods of actor training at the The Hochschule für Schauspielkunst “Ernst Busch” and also went to London to meet with faculty and observe work at the Drama Centre during the summer break.

Narelle Sissons, Assistant Professor of Design, designed in DER FERNE KLANG or THE DISTANT SOUND by Franz Schreker at The Fisher Center for The Performing Arts, Summerfest, where it opened at the end of July, 2010. Designs from the production MILK-N-HONEY including her scenic design were chosen for the PQ 2011 exhibit in Prague, Czech Republic. MABOU MINES DOLL HOUSE, features her scenic design as well as original costume designs, and will return to Europe in 2010. She is the scenic designer for the Intiman Theatre in Seattle’s is production of a new adaptation of THE DOCTOR IN SPITE OF HIMSELF.

Susan Tsu, Professor of Costume Design, is working full-time as Artistic Director in summer 2010 for the United States submissions to the Prague Quadrennial 2011. She invites you all to attend from June 16-26, 2011! More information about this international exhibit can be found at: http://www.pq.cz. Over 55 countries bring their best design work from the past four years on three levels: National (professional), Student and Architecture. The Prague Quadrennial is on par with the Venice Biennale and is considered the “Olympics of Design” for designers. Susan is also designing THE ROYAL FAMILY for the Pittsburgh Public Theatre.

Don Wadsworth, Professor of Voice and Speech, coached two films that are about to be released this Fall: UNSTOPPABLE with Chris Pine and Denzel Washington and WARRIOR with Tom Hardy and Joel Edgerton.

Kaf Warman, Associate Teaching Professor, is the Artistic Director of Island Theatre Workshop, Inc, on Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts. The company is hosting PigPen Theatre, formed at CMU in 2008, for a summer residency. Island Theatre Workshop is also employing current students Dan Weschner and Matt Nuernberger as teachers in The Children’s Theatre summer program, directed for the second year by alum Mary Kate Schellhardt (BFA 2002). Kaf will teach Master Classes in the Walnut Hill summer theatre program (CMU alumni) from the program include Van Hansis (BFA 2004), Sam Trussell (BFA 2008), Gabe King (BFA 2010), Ross Francis (BFA 2010) and current students in every year). She is also teaching in The Vineyard Arts Project’s Musical theatre summer program for high school students, from which incoming Musical Theatre freshman Mitch Marois was accepted.

Marianne Weems, Graduate Directing, recently held a workshop for her next production with The Builders Association at the Performing Garage in NYC. Her last production, CONTINUOUS CITY, is touring to the Southbank Centre in London in June.
LARRY SHEA WILL LEAD NEW VIDEO AND DIGITAL MEDIA COURSE

Artist Larry Shea has been appointed Associate Professor of Video and Digital Media at the School of Drama and will begin his full time appointment this fall.

Head of the school of Drama, Peter Cooke, said, “I am delighted we have been able to attract someone of Larry Shea’s technical expertise, visual acumen and collegiate personality for this exciting and demanding position. The role of digital media is increasingly important in modern theater making. I am pleased that the School of Drama is leading the way in offering training across all courses in this evolving and groundbreaking area.”

Shea creates experimental single-channel film/video, interactive installations, and large-scale video projections. His films have shown at festivals around the US and in London (BFI), Austria (Ars Electronica), Paris, Berlin, Milan, and Brazil. Recently he collaborated with Ann Carlson and Mary Ellen Strom on GEYSERLAND, a train-trip artwork in Montana, to project large-scale video imagery from a moving train onto the landscape. Shea received his MFA from The Massachusetts College of Art in 1996. He was the Executive Director of MIX:NYC LGBT film-festival from 2002-2005. He has taught at The School of the Museum of Fine Arts – Boston, The New School and Pratt Institute.

Shea says of his new appointment “I’m extremely excited by the opportunity to join CMU’s Drama Faculty and create a top notch Media Design concentration. The challenge as I see it is to provide structure and context for a rapidly evolving field, so that students can see the bigger picture and become adept at communicating using these new and exciting tools. I aim to give the students the conceptual and technical skills they need to create in whatever context they find themselves.”

SCHOOL OF DRAMA FACULTY AND STAFF

Peter Cooke, PhD OAM  Professor and Head
Dick Block  Associate Head and Teaching Professor
Daniel J. Martin  Interim Dean, College of Fine Arts; Associate Professor of Drama
Barbara Anderson  Bessie Anathan Professor of Drama; Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts

ACTING/MUSIC THEATRE FACULTY
Barbara MacKenzie-Wood  Raymond W. Smith Professor of Drama, Option Coordinator
Natalie Baker-Shirer  Janet Madelle Feindel
Claudia Benack  Ingrid Sonnichsen
James Caton  Matt Gray
Judith Ann Conte  Gary Kline
Thomas Wesley Douglas  Anthony McKay
Catherine Moore

DESIGN FACULTY
Anne Mundell  Option Coordinator
Barbara Anderson  Cindy Limauro
Dick Block  Joe Pino
Abigail Rosen Holmes  Narelle Sissons
Brian Russman  Susan Tsu

DIRECTING FACULTY
Jed Allen Harris  Undergraduate Option Coordinator
Marianne Weems  Graduate Option Coordinator
Gregory Lehane

DRAMATIC WRITING  DRAMATURGY FACULTY
Rob Handel  Option Coordinator
Michael M. Chemers PhD  Option Coordinator
Wendy Arons PhD

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT FACULTY
David Boovers  Option Coordinator
Kevin Hines
Tina Shackleford

ADJUNCT FACULTY
Tim Dawson  Lisa Levinson  Melissa Martin
Derek Davidson  Anya Martin  Richard Rauh
Randy Kovitz

PURNELL CENTER FOR THE ARTS STAFF
David Holcomb  Jonathan Ward  Beth Zamborsky
Production Manager  Properties Master  Scenic Artist
Ben Carter  Amanda Jenkins  Kenneth Chu
Shop Supervisor  Wardrobe Supervisor  Costume Shop Manager
Sean West  C. Todd Brown  William “Buzz” Miller
Theater Supervisor  Master Electrician  Video and Media Technician
Leslie Kennedy Maxson  Marlene Speranza
Costumer  Costumer

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Ari Blackford  Alison Popivchak  Louis Stein
Sr. Academic Advisor  Administrative Associate  Network Administrator
Keith Marsh  Anya Martin  Maria Stoy
Business Manager  External Relations Officer  Box Office Manager/Pre-Colle
Gina Kuhn  David Randolph
Assistant Business Manager  Facilities Coordinator

For more information regarding the School of Drama visit us online at www.drama.cmu.edu or call 412.268.3293
HIGH SCHOOL MATINEE PROGRAM:
SCHOOL OF DRAMA OPENS DOORS FOR FREE PERFORMANCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Approximately three hundred high school students from a wide range of communities and school districts recently attended a free matinee of the School of Drama’s production of RICHARD III, directed by Assistant Professor of Acting, Matt Gray. Students from urban Pittsburgh schools to rural areas of Western Pennsylvania, were transported to campus by bus, greeted by Carnegie Mellon faculty and staff, and introduced to a Shakespearean classic.

Teacher Laura Mitchell of Moon High School said, “Moon High School Drama Club attended the production of RICHARD III and were absolutely thrilled to have been invited. What a wonderful production in every way - the acting was superb, indeed the entire production was just exceptional.” She continued, “Our students were enthralled. I think somehow when high school students watch young people who are so close in age achieve such accomplishments, it inspires more than a professional production with professional actors. Achievement becomes tangible”

Senior actor Alborz Ghandehari, who portrayed Clarence and the Bishop of Elia, concluded, “The notion that theater cannot reach out to young people, that they are somehow out of touch with its mature content could not have been more turned on its head when these high school kids saw RICHARD III. As actors, we could feel them as they gasped, laughed, and vocalized disgust.

Head of the Drama School, Peter Cooke, described the high school student audience as, “attentive, focused and very engaged with the show. You could hear a pin drop during the performance.” He continued, “Opening out our considerable talents and resources to local kids seems like a sensible community activity, and these young people proved it to be so by their sincere response to the play. I look forward to making it a yearly activity.”

STUDENTS EXPLORE WITH “NAVIGATOR” STAGE AUTOMATION PACKAGE

Casey Roche, a leader in the Production Technology field, and currently affiliated with Fisher Technical Services, Inc., led a weeklong workshop with the School of Drama’s Production Technology Management students in the programming and operation of the Navigator stage automation package, which the School of Drama recently acquired.

Second year PTM graduate student Sam Thompson said, “I am very excited about our new automation system. From what I understand, we now have the largest Fisher automation system of any university, which makes Carnegie Mellon a fantastic place to be if you want to learn about automation.”

Senior PTM student Naomi Eduardo added, “The use of Navigator completely changes the way you think about executing an effect because you can use the same components and create multiple and radically different effects with minor changes in the programming.”

Sam said, “We spent the first few days of the training in the PTM classroom, focusing on the Navigator software, which controls our automation system. We learned how to set up the program, set up network connections between our computers and the equipment, program all the settings, limits, and safety features on the equipment, and how to write and modify cues.” He continued, “In the final two days of the training, we set up our equipment in the Wells Studio Theatre and practiced setting it up and taking it down, troubleshooting, and actually running the equipment. Casey gave us challenges to complete, such as bringing the system back online after he altered it, or writing certain complex cues.”

Naomi noted the benefits of Navigator training, “Having experience with this equipment and understanding it in a learning environment is not common in our field and will give a lot of us greater opportunities when we begin working as professionals. In addition to the priceless hands-on experience, it gives students another form of artistic expression to think about and explore that is fairly uncommon early in your professional career.”

Kevin Hines, Assistant Teaching Professor of Production Technology and Management concluded, “The capabilities of this system are well beyond anything I’ve used before. It’s at least a generation ahead of its nearest industry competition . . . We very much look forward to integrating it in our productions, as it will allow us to do some very impressive things.”
The CMU Actors’ Showcases were held in New York during the first week of March (at the Snapple Theater in midtown) and in Los Angeles (at the Matrix Theater on Melrose) in the first few days of May this year. Both were exciting challenges and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for the twenty-six graduating seniors actors.

As is customary for our invitation-only events, they were well attended by prominent agents, casting directors and personal managers. On both coasts the actors were seen by approximately three hundred industry professionals in the one hour program. In New York many of the actors sang from a wide range of Broadway repertoire while others presented monologues from contemporary plays. All of the actors were featured in two minute scenes. The highly creative class has several budding writers, so much of the material this year was original.

Mark Redanty, Head of the well-known Bauman, Redanty and Shaul Agency in New York, offered the group and director, Don Wadsworth, some useful feedback about the material for the east coast presentation and well-known and highly-respected west coast casting director, Camille Patton came to Pittsburgh to help prepare the actors for their west coast presentations.

The industry folks welcomed our actors with open arms on both coasts and often remarked that the students looked to be ready for the profession. On the west coast everyone in the group was treated to personal auditions and interviews with John Wells, Paula Wagner, Chris Chulack and John Levey on the Warner Brother's lot. In New York, Meg Simon, executive casting director for many Warner Brothers productions asked several actors to read for new pilots and existing prime time shows. Actors were seen by executives, at Dreamworks, Sony, MGM, Showtime, CBS, NBC and ABC. The actors were considered for spots on such television shows as 30 Rock, Southland, Miami Medical, various daytime soap operas as well as such prominent theater productions as the Broadway cast of WICKED, IN THE HEIGHTS, and for Lincoln Center and Public Theater productions.

While most actors thought they might start their careers on the east coast, the presentations on the west coast were very successful. As a result many of the actors decided that they give L.A. their first try. The students were evenly divided between settling on either coast.

Nearly all of the actors have signed with agents or managers (and some with both). Already Amanda Jane Cooper has been cast in the workshop of a new musical, Nick Cosgrove is performing an entire season with the MUNY in St Louis, Skye Scott is on a U.S. /Canadian tour with MISS SAIGON.

The actor showcase proves to be an enormously useful first step into the profession for our extraordinary actors.

The School of Drama extends a special thank you to the New York Drama Alumni Clan and the West Coast Drama Alumni Clan for support of the Actor Showcases.
Manhattan’s Midtown Loft was again home to this year’s showcase for graduating Designers, Directors, Dramatic Writers, Dramaturgs and Production Technology and Management students.

On the evening of May 19th, the school hosted a cocktail party for alumni and professionals working in all aspects of the theatre and entertainment business. Guests had the opportunity to chat with students, see portfolios, view design and technical work, have a look at Dramaturgical casebooks and pick up a script to read from the Dramatic Writers.

This year’s party featured slideshows of the work of the year at the School of Drama, lighting by recently graduated lighting students a custom music mix by sound professor, Joe Pino and fabulous appetizers and drinks. The effect was dynamic and the party was a wonderful occasion where contacts were made, friendships renewed and the many professionals who attended had a chance to see the high caliber of work students continue to produce. This year’s party boasted record attendance.

The School of Drama gratefully thanks the many alumni, professionals and talented new graduates that helped to create a very successful New York Showcase for Design, Directing, Dramatic Writing, Dramaturgy and Production Technology and Management students.

We hope to see you next year on the tentative date of May 18th!
RECOGNIZING WINNERS OF THE 2010 SCHOOL OF DRAMA AWARDS CEREMONY

- **Acting Award:**
  - Lawrence and Marguerite Carra Memorial Scholarship Award: Amanda Jane Cooper, Chapel Folger
  - Mary Michael Gifford Award: Graham Swindoll
  - Henry Beottcher New York Drama Clan Award: Sarah Krohn
  - John Arthur Kennedy Acting Award: Rebecca Berkman-Rivera, Gabe King
  - Adelyne Roth Levine Memorial Award for Acting: Kenya Alexander, Katie Wieland
  - Helen Wayne Rauh Award: Dan Weschler

- **Award:**
  - Charles Willard Memorial Award: Tess Soltan
  - Oren and Teschie Parker Award for Excellence in Design and Production Technology and Management: Naomi Eduardo
  - Elizabeth Schrader Kimberly Costume Design Award: Jen Sturm
  - George Kimberly Award for Set Design: Kellan Andersen, Scott Tedmon-Jones
  - William Nelson Memorial Award: Brandon Mitchell
  - Lloyd Weinger Award for Stage Design: Lydia Fine, Brian Grego
  - Mary Marlin Fisher Playwriting Award: Justin Coppa
  - Growing Theater Mentorship Award: Alana Clap
  - West Coast Alumni Drama Clan Achievement Awards: Justin Coppa, Nick Ducassi, Daisy Hobbs, Molly McCurdy, Hidenori Nakajo, Kate Pines
  - Patrick C. Dunter Scholarship: Lydia Fine
  - Tony McKay awards the John Arthur Kennedy Acting Award

- **Special Recognition for Students of the Dramatic Writing Program:**
  - Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival’s Mark Twain Prize for Comic Playwriting:
  - Second Place - Joshua Elias Harmon for A BOY NAMED ALICE
  - Kennedy Center American College Theatre Region II One-Act Play Award: Carolyn Kras for WHISTLEBLOWER
  - Selection for the Theater Masters National MFA Playwrights Festival: Carolyn Kras for A WAKE OF VULTURES
  - Selection for Centenary Stage’s Women Playwrights Series:
  - Carolyn Kras for THE MASTODON PLAY
  - Selection for the Great Plains Theatre Conference Playlabs:
  - Liz Ellison for THE MINUTE HAND and Carolyn Kras for WHISTLEBLOWER
  - Playwright Residency - The Studios of Key West: Dean Poynor
  - Selection as Core Apprentice at Playwright’s Center in Minneapolis: Dean Poynor
  - Readings at Kennedy Center American College Theatre Region II Festival:
  - BAGGAGE AND ON A CLEAR NIGHT by Dan O’Neil, ORGANUM by Dean Poynor

- **Recognitions of Awards to Drama Students from the University or Outside Organizations and Foundations**
  - Andrew Carnegie Society Scholars: Alana Clapp, Molly McCurdy, Gahl Pratt
  - National Society of Arts and Letters – Washington DC: Daisy Hobbs
  - 2010 Lotte Lenya Competition: Lora Lee Gayer – Young Talent Award
  - Pittsburgh Foundation Scholarship: Liz Willett
  - Campus Superstar: First Place - Olivia Harris, Runner up – Lee Marks

Students celebrate at the end of the year barbeque following the annual awards ceremony.
ALUM'S CAREER SPANS SIX DECADES & COUNTING

Barbara Oliver, Carnegie Tech alumna of 1949, forged a distinguished theatre career spanning an amazing sixty-one years and counting. Barbara, an acclaimed actress and the founding Artistic Director of the award-winning Aurora Theatre Company in Berkeley, California, recently directed Ibsen’s JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN, in a new version by David Eldridge, as part of the company’s 2009-2010 season. Though she stepped down as Artistic Director in 2004, she continues to direct “about one show per year there,” Barbara said.

Barbara considers the education she received at Carnegie Tech instrumental to her success, “I felt I got the best education in theatre arts that was to be had.” She cites the importance of her teachers, including George McCalmon, theatre literature professor; B. Iden Payne, a correspondent of George Bernard Shaw, and anoteble Shakespearean director; novelist Gladys Schmitt; Voice and Speech teacher Edith Skinner; and actress/director Mary Morris, who originated the role of Abbie Putnam in Eugene O’Neill’s DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS. Barbara stated, “1945 was a great time to be there. There was a renewed energy and vitality as the GIs returned. . . .Carnegie instilled the importance of the arts as well as a strong sense of discipline, not just to be an artist, but to do good theatre.”

She also met her husband, William I. Oliver, at Carnegie Tech, a drama alumnus of 1950 and a Navy veteran. They stopped in Dayton Ohio (Barbara’s home town) to be married before moving to Fargo, North Dakota, where Barbara took over as head of a community theatre in Fargo-Moorhead, and Bill began directing. In 1953 they relocated to Ithaca where Bill completed a PhD in theatre at Cornell University, and Barbara ran Cornell’s costume shop. Finally they settled in the San Francisco area, where Barbara became “a grande dame of Bay Area theatre,” according to local artist Michael Rice, while Bill taught as a tenured Professor in the Dramatic Arts Department at the University of California, Berkeley.

Barbara has performed at Berkeley Repertory Theatre since 1969. Notable roles include Lady Markby in AN IDEAL HUSBAND, the nurse in THE ORESTEIA, and the Stage Manager in OUR TOWN. At A.C.T. in San Francisco she did Berta in Hedda Gabler and Mrs. Voysey in The Voysey Inheritance, which was a co-production with the Kansas City Repertory Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri. Her work has been recognized with awards and nominations from the Bay Area Critics’ Circle, Drama-Logue, and the Dean Goodman Awards.

Barbara and four other theatre colleagues founded the Aurora Theatre Company in 1992. “I was being offered nothing but nannies and grannies,” she said, “and they were pretty dull. We launched the Aurora Theatre Company to produce plays that emphasized language and ideas.”

Barbara said, “When we began, back in 1992, there weren’t many women who were Artistic Directors, or even directors, for that matter. My whole concept of directing up until that point was looking at it through male eyes. I wanted a way to define directing from a female perspective and I settled on, ‘it’s the playwright and the actors who make the baby; the director is a mid-wife.’ But then I revised it to, ‘the director is first a Yente and then a mid-wife, because casting is 90% of a director’s job and then it’s up to the actors, with the help of the director, to blend with the script and make the baby.’”
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JARED J. STEIN

ALUM CO-DIRECTOR OF ARTS ORGANIZATION IN SMOLYAN, BULGARIA

From July 9 to August 9, professional theatre artists and students will congregate in Smolyan, Bulgaria to collaborate on new theatrical projects and practices at the Leon Katz Rhodopi International Theatre Laboratory (or RITL). RITL is co-directed by theatre directors Peter K. Karapetkov of Bulgaria and Jared J. Stein of the United States, and Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama alumnus. The residency’s location, in the center of the Rhodopi Mountains, is noteworthy as the mythological birthplace of Orpheus and Eurydice, as well as the first home of the cult of Dionysus, the ancient Greek god of theatre, revelry and winemaking.

In a recent interview Jared shared how he became interested in international theatre as a freshman at Carnegie Mellon in 1991. "At that time, after the fall of the Eastern bloc, we saw a large influx of Eastern European directors,” he says. His career took a number of international turns, as he studied abroad in Ireland, assistant directed in Bulgaria and wrote plays in Prague.

Each year, RITL focuses on a specific mythology to investigate and stage. This summer of 2010 work will be dedicated to “the legends of Ogun (the Yoruba god of fire, metalworking, war, and government) and their global parallels,” according to www.rhodopi.org. In addition to these theatrical experiments RITL will also develop a new workshop production of MEDEA, as well as a number of other smaller projects. Works developed at RITL have gone on to theatres across the country, including such American performances spaces as the McCarter Theatre, La Mama, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and The Chocolate Factory.

In addition to co-directing RITL, Jarod is the Founder and General & Artistic Director of Fourthworld Theatre Projects and has been directing at the Sarofin School of Fine Arts since 2007. Jared is an accomplished writer and theatre deviser whose work has travelled throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

He claims one of his career highlights to be directing the Macedonian premiere of ANGELS IN AMERICA, PART ONE: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES at the Dramski Teatar in Skopje. Jared said, “Our challenge was to find parallels between the Macedonia and American communities . . . our production most likely presented the first male-male kiss onstage in Macedonia.”

Jared encourages students at Carnegie Mellon to consider studying abroad. “It internationalizes your imagination,” he said. He describes RITL as “a month of risk and sometimes, beautiful failure. Our hope is to find broader possibilities of the stage.”
SPRING 2010 PRODUCTIONS

(top row) Playground, Richard III
(middle row) Dance Light, Playground
(bottom row) Richard III, Dance Light
SPRING 2010 PRODUCTIONS

(top row) Slow Dance, Inspector General
(middle row) Deadman’s Cell Phone, Inspector General
(bottom row) In the Blood, Slow Dance

Photos by Louis Stein
Jessika Aldridge (BFA 2008) is a stage manager and assistant stage manager at the San Francisco Playhouse.

Kevin Auses (BFA 2002) is a new associate at Auerbach Pollock Friedlander, which is a Performing Arts/Media Facilities Planning and Design company.

Habib Azar’s (BFA 2002) film, ARMLESS, was selected to be included as part of the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. He has previously been a director for DAYS OF OUR LIVES for which he received a day time Emmy in 1997.

Mary Bacon (BFA 1994) starred in Donald Margulies’ Pulitzer Prize-winning play DINNER WITH FRIENDS at the Westport Country Playhouse.

Adam Barrie (BFA 2009) opens in THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY at the Planet Connections Theatre Festival in New York this summer.

Natalie Venetia Belcon (BFA 1991) is featured in the musical, THE LAST SMOKER in America, world premiering at the Columbus, OH, theatre CATCO in late September 2010.

Lourdes Benedicto (BFA 1996) is a series regular on FLASH FORWARD and V (ABC).

Tina Benko (BFA 1994) is in the New York Theatre Workshop’s production of RESTORATION. She also appeared in the Off-Broadway production of THE AGE OF IRON.

Matt Bomer (BFA 2000) goes into his USA Network’s acclaimed new series, WHITE COLLAR.

Christian Borle (BFA 1995) Elizabeth De Rosa (BFA 2004) and Barrett Davis (BFA 2005) are in the Broadway production of MARY POPPINS. Christian Borle has also been cast in the Signature Theatre production of ANGELS IN AMERICA (New York City) with Billy Porter (BFA 1991) and Zach Quinto (BFA 1999).

Charlie Brady (BFA 2001) is in the musical BURNT PART BOYS at Playwrights Horizons’ Vineyard Theatre.

Will Brill (BFA 2009) is in the Off-Broadway production of OUR TOWN and directed the Off-Broadway production of YOU MAY BE SPLENDID NOW along with Emma Galvin (BFA 2009) and Nicholas Lehane (BFA 2009).

Matt Burns (BFA 2006), James Carpinello (BFA 1997), and Renee Goldsberry (BFA 1993) guest starred on the GOOD WIFE, with Paul Domenic (BFA 1999) also appearing.

Renee Goldsberry (BFA 1993) appeared on ONE LIFE TO LIVE and ALY MCBEAL and was on Broadway with RENT, LION KING and THE COLOR PURPLE.

Jack Carpenter (BFA 2006) can be seen in the film SYDNEY WHITE.

James Carpinello (BFA 1997), Matt Stocke (BFA 1995), Mitch Jarvis (BFA 2002), and Paul Shoefller (BFA 1995) are in the Broadway production of ROCK OF AGES. James Carpinello also originated a role in XANADU, starred in SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER, and was featured in the film THE GREAT RAID.

Matt Stocke (BFA 1995) has also appeared in The FULL MONY, THE WEDDING SINGER, BOY FROM OZ and TITANIC. Mitch Jarvis (BFA 2002) was also featured on Broadway in FIDDLER ON THE ROOF and was in the New York Fringe Festival production of INFERTILITY.

Anthony Carrigan (BFA 2006) is a regular on the ABC series, THE FORGOTTEN.

Ernessa T. Carter’s book (MFA 2001) 32 CANDLES, is available in stores and online.

Alex Cendese (BFA 2004) is in the Broadway production of A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE.

Kendra Chapman (BFA 2011) has accepted an internship with the film company, Odd Lot Entertainment, where she will be doing pre-production work for their fall producing season and assisting with their annual film festival.

Gaius Charles (BFA 2005) played Smash on FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (NBC). He recently appeared in the Williamstown Theater Festival and played the Duke in OTHELLO for the Public Theater.

Alana Clapp (BFA 2010) is working as an assistant stage manager for Cirque de Soleil in Las Vegas.

Rhys Coiro (BFA 2002) is a series regular on ENTOURAGE. He can also be seen in the films THE UNBORN and STRAW DOGS.

Alex Cole (BFA 2008) was on Broadway with A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS with Frank Langella. He’s in the movie ADVENTURELAND. Other TV includes JOAN OF ARCADIA and LAW AND ORDER.

Chris Conti (BFA 2006 PTM) worked on Wizardly World of Harry Potter, a new attraction at Universal Studios in Florida, as Cinnabar Entertainment Construction’s Lead Technical Designer. Chris is currently working on the new wing of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, The Age of Mammals.

Amanda Jane Cooper (BFA 2010) was recently cast in a new musical in New York City called BUNKED!

Nick Cosgrove (BFA 2010) is spending this summer at the MUNY in St Louis where he is appearing in their production of TITANIC. Sara Jean Ford (BFA 2005) and Telly Leung (BFA 2002) will also appear in the production.

Corey Cott (BFA 2012) and Skye Scott (BFA 2010) are opening in MISS SAIGON at Pittsburgh’s Civic Light Opera. The tour then moves throughout the US and Canada Summer 2010.

Anderson Davis (BFA 2006) is playing Cable in the Los Angeles production of SOUTH PACIFIC.

Ramon De Ocampo (BFA 1998) is in the Los Angeles based Antaeus Company’s production of KING LEAR.

Cote De Pablo (BFA 2000) is a series regular on NCIS.

Tami Dixon (BFA 1996) received a Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowship for her work at City Theatre. Tami also acted in Quantum Theatre’s THE TASK and taught freshman acting at the School of Drama.

Christopher Dimond (MFA 2007) and School of Music BFA alumni Michael Kooman were selected by American Theatre Wing to receive the 2010 Jonathan Larson Grants for their work as lyricist-librettist and composer on productions including GOLDEN GATE, DANI GIRL, JUNIOR CLAUS, and the song cycle HOMEMADE FUSION. They are 2009-2010 Dramatists Guild Fellows, and were recently fellows at the O’Neill Music Theater Conference, and were finalists for the 2009 Fred Ebb Award.

What are you and your fellow alumni doing?

We are always excited to hear what you’ve been up to and to share that information with the School of Drama family and prospective students. Included is a list of recent work and achievements that have been shared with us between January and mid-July, 2010.

Send your own submissions to: amartin@andrew.cmu.edu

**AMA’S**
Trevor Eaton (BFA 2012) has a featured role in “S WONDROUS for the Civic Light Opera cabaret starting June 2010. Michael Campayo (BFA 2014) is also in the production.

Liz Ellison’s (MFA 2011) monologue written for her first CMU Theatre Lab assignment has been selected by Vintage Books for inclusion in an anthology to be published in 2011.

Kevin Emrick (BFA 2007) recently joined Stuart Thompson Productions.

Leo Evans (BFA 2002) is currently starring in Theatre Under the Stars staging of INTO THE WOODS. He has performed in WEST SIDE STORY in London as well as eight off Broadway productions and four national tours including ANYTHING GOES with Patti Lupone and OKLAHOMA with Shirley Jones.

Bruce Faulk (BFA 1988) wrote, produced, directed and starred in WALLY and THE CHOSEN FEW short film, winner of the NYC Downtown Short Film Festival Award for Best Ensemble.

Dylan Fergue (BFA 2002) is a series regular on PASSIONS. He can also be seen in the films COME AWAY WITH ME and HELLBENT.

Seth Fisher (BFA 2004) won a 2010 Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Actor in a Large Company for his performance in BECKY SHAW at the Huntington Theatre Company (Boston). He was in the Broadway production of JULIUS CAESAR with Denzel Washington.

Sara Jean Ford (BFA 2005) appeared in the Broadway production of FINIAN’S RAINBOW. Later this summer Sara will be appearing in A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC on Broadway.

Harvey Friedman (BFA 1982) has appeared in numerous German film and television productions, voiced cartoons, and dubbed German films into English. He appears in SPEED RACER by the Wachowski Brothers, and plays Dr. Joseph Goebbels in Bryan Singer’s production of VALKYRIE. He also played the composer Friedrich Hollander in the CBS mini-series HITLER: THE RISE OF EVIL.

Michael Fuller (BFA 1992) stars in IS HE DEAD for Pennsylvania’s St. Vincent Theater.

Josh Gad (BFA 2003) is a reporter on Comedy Central’s THE DAILY SHOW.

Drew Gehling (BFA 2005) is in the Broadway production of JERSEY BOYS.

Ben Gonio (BFA 1998) is reprising the role of The King in THE KING & I for Lyric Light Opera of The Northwest (Seattle) and just completed a national M&M commercial.

Matthew Hales (MFA 2005) is currently the Lead Project Manager at Tait Towers.

Ian Harding (BFA 2009) stars in the new ABC Family series, PRETTY LITTLE LIARS. Ian was nominated for a TEEN CHOICE AWARD for his work. Chuck Hittinger (BFA 2005) and Heather Mazur (BFA 1998) are also members of the cast.

Joshua Harmon (MFA 2010) was chosen by the National New Play Network to be the Playwright-in-Residence at Actor’s Express in Atlanta for 2010-2011. He has also been given a MacDowell Colony Fellowship for the winter, an invitation to join the O’Neill Playwrights Conference for two weeks in July as a Kennedy Center Playwriting Fellow, and was a runner-up in the regional KCACTF honors of The Mark Twain Prize for Comic Playwriting, Region IV, for his play A BOY NAMED ALICE.

Chris Henry (BFA 2006) is in the Yale Repertory production of SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS.

Hunter Herdlicka (BFA 2008) and Brad Dean (BFA 1993) are in the Broadway production of A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC, newly re-cast with Bernadette Peters and Elaine Stritch.

Susan Heyward (BFA 2005) recently finished a run of RUINED for the Manhattan Theater Club. She can currently be seen in the hit Comedy Central series MICHAEL AND MICHAEL HAVE ISSUES starring Michael Ian Black and Michael Showalter.

Rachel Lyra Hospodar (BFA 2002) is running a small business and costume designing for City Circus and Crowded Fire in San Francisco.

Holly Hunter (BFA 1980) is a series regular on SAVING GRACE.

Telly Leung (BFA 2002) premieres his new show WHO LOVES YA’ BABY? based on his Chinese parents’ experiences of life in America in the 1970’s at the The Laurie Beechman Theater in New York, NY. He recently played Angel in the Hollywood Bowl’s production of RENT. He was a member of the final cast of Broadway’s RENT. He has also appeared in the revival of FLOWER DRUM SONG, PACIFIC OVERTURES, the Chicago production of WICKED, ZANNA, DON’T!; THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE; THE KING AND I; JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR; CHILDREN OF EDEN; Sweeney Todd; and GODSPELL. Leung co-founded the Jaradoa Theatre Company.

Gabriel Macht (BFA 1994) can be seen in the film SAM’S STORY and MIDDLE MEN.

Joe Manganiello (BFA 2000) plays Alcide in TRUE BLOOD on HBO.

Crystal Manich (BFA 2004) directed MADAME BUTTERFLY in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in May 2010 to rave reviews.

Catherine Marilley (BFA 2005) and Emily Skinner (BFA 1992) are in the national tour of BILLY ELLIOT.

Any Martin (BFA 2003, MFA Sarah Lawrence) recently traveled to the
Cork Midsummer Festival in Ireland on behalf of the Center for Arts in Society. Past year highlights include directing for City Theatre’s Young Playwrights Festival, and Pittsburgh’s Eco-Drama Festival. Her play CAMINO, featured on the front pages of Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and City Paper, will have a second reading on August 22nd as part of a read-out party for her newly formed original performance company, HIAWATHA PROJECT, created with Michelle Carello (MFA 07).

Edgar Mendoza (MFA Dramatic Writing 2009) is the inaugural recipient of The Paul Stephen Lim Asian-American Playwriting Award for his play BLUE NOTE RUN. This award is given to the outstanding full-length or one-act play on any subject written by an Asian-American student.

Pa’Tina Miller (BFA 2006) is in the London production of SISTER ACT.

Denver Milord (BFA 2012) is acting in TAMING OF THE SHREW this summer for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Co.

Katy Mixon (BFA 2003) is in the new CBS sitcom MIKE AND MOLLY. She can also be seen in the films STATE OF PLAY, ALL ABOUT STEVE, and FOUR CHRISTMASES.

Tim Monich (BFA 1973) was featured in a November 2009 article in The New Yorker regarding his career as a pioneering figure in established dialect coaches in Hollywood.

Burke Moses (BFA 1995) stars in the world premiere of JOHNNY BASEBALL: THE NEW MUSICAL ABOUT THE RED SOX, for the American Repertory Theater.

Ryah Nixon (BFA 2009) was cast as Laurette Sincse in the Obie Award winning Peccadillo Theatres production of Lillian Hellman’s ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST, directed by Dan Wackerman.

April Novak (MFA 2004) has worked as assistant production coordinator on many films including GOING THE DISTANCE, KNIGHT AND DAY, BURNING PALMS, IT’S COMPLICATED, G.L. JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA, and ANGELS & DEMONS. She also worked as travel coordinator for UNSTOPPABLE, and production coordinator for THAT GIRL.

Zach Morris (BFA 1999). Bessie Award-winning artist of Third Rail Project, will conduct five master classes with a group of local emerging choreographers and lead them through their unique process of creating site-specific movement works at a unique location in Hong Kong.

Derek Pendergrass (BFA 2009) was a Technical Designer employed by Chicago Scenic, which handled interactivies on the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry’s (CMS) new exhibit, SCIENCE STORMS. Bob Doepel (BFA 1978) owns Chicago Scenic. Interactivities designed by Chicago Scenic on this exhibit include Air Pressure, Avalanche control console, Colors From Light control console, Light Lever interactive, Dichroic Wings interactive, all touch screens, Inclined Plane interactive, and Magnetic Levitation interactive.

Frank Anthony Polito’s (MFA 2006, Dramatic Writing) second novel, DRAMA QUEENS!, has been named “Best Gay Romance” for 2009 by the Lambda Literary Foundation.

Billy Porter (BFA 1991), Dan Amboyer (BFA 2006), Rich Dreher (BFA 2007), Nick Lehane (BFA 2009), Leslie Odom (BFA 2005), Jeffrey Omura (BFA 2007), Larry Powell (BFA 2008), Liam Rhodes (BFA 2008), and David Winters (BFA 2006) are featured in a new adaptation of Christopher Marlowe’s DIDO, QUEEN OF CARTHAGE by Jason Williamson (MFA 2007), directed by Ed Iskander (MFA 2007) and associate directed by Michael Finkle (BFA 2009) at the 14th Street Y in New York City.

Larry Powell (BFA 2008) performed in the Broadway production of BROKELOGY.

Dean Pynnor (MFA 2010) was selected as a Core Apprentice at the Playwrights’ Center. His play, PARADISE KEYCHAIN, won the 2010 Trustus Theatre Playwrights’ Festival.

Harriet Sogin (BFA 2009) is the Production Coordinator for Lookingglass Theatre Company and the Production Manager for Theatre Seven of Chicago.

Pablo Schreiber (BFA 2000) has a recurring role in a new series, called LIGHTS OUT (FX). He recently appeared on Broadway with DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS and in AWAKE AND SING at Lincoln Center.

Ian Schwartz (BFA 2007) is a Project Manager for Lexington Scenery and Props in Los Angeles. Derek Pendergrass (BA 2009), is a Technical Draftsman for the company.

Matt Scott (BFA 2004) is in SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM, which won Outstanding Musical Revue at the 2010 Drama Desk Awards.

Matt Shatz (MFA, 2004) was a finalist for the 2009 Fred Ebb Award for excellence in musical theatre songwriting. His musical was part of the Humana Festival last year and was just published in the anthology. His play THE TALLEST BUILDING IN THE WORLD, which was read at CMU in 2007, is going to be produced at Luna Stage in NJ next spring.

Tro Shaw (BFA 2008) is in the Broadway production of WEST SIDE STORY.

Jim Stanek (BFA 1994), Skye Scott (BFA 2010), Kirsten Bracken (BFA 2007) and Sara Jean Ford (BFA 2005) as well as current students Trevor Eaton (BFA 2012), Gabby McClinton (BFA 2011), Kallie Torres (BFA 2011), Tess Primack (BFA 2011), Corey Cott (BFA 2012), and Marquis Wood (BFA 2012) are appearing in Summer 2010 productions at the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera.

Will Taylor (BFA 2003) is starring in LOVERS, a featured new musical of the 2010 Midtown International Theatre Festival. He was on Broadway with THE PRODUCERS, 42nd STREET, A CHORUS LINE, LA CAGE AUX FOLLES and THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS.

Daniella Topol (BFA 1996) directed LASCIVIOUS SOMETHING for the Women’s Project.

Kallie Torres (BFA 2011) and Donovan Mitchell (BFA 2011) will be performing this summer at the West Virginia Public Theater.

Julie Tosh (MFA 2009) received a Playwrights’ Center Development Workshop Grant.

Gregory Treco (BFA 1999) plays God in the new musical I’LL BE DAMNED for the Vineyard Theater in New York.

Tamara Tunie (BFA 1981) is a series regular on LAW & ORDER SVU.

Jeremy Unger (BFA 2009) directed a reading of his play, TALES OF BRAVE ULYSSES, which took place on June 23 at the Ars Nova Theatre in New York. The cast was made up of School of Drama alumni, and was produced by WME Entertainment and Exile Entertainment.

Adrienne Wells (BFA 2005) is an assistant stage manager at the Pittsburgh Public Theater.

Dan Weschler (BFA 2011) will be performing and directing this summer at The Cape.

Shonn Wiley (BFA 1999) is in SWEENEY TODD for the Barrington Stage Co. The production stars Jeff McCarthy and Harriet Harris.

Tamina Woodard (BFA 1995) guest starred on LAW AND ORDER; SPECIAL VICTIMS.

Michael Zalzinger (BFA 1998) will play Laetes for the Pioneer Theater production of HAMLET in Utah this fall.
2010/2011 SEASON

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Directed by Katie Brook
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Directed by Lillian DeRitter
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