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drama beat



WINTER
2004

A Publication of the Jacksonville State University Department of Drama

DRAMA CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Official Box Office Policy

All evening performances begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Matinees begin at 2:00 p.m.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House and Box Office Managers.

No babes-in-arms allowed (children under the age of 2). Small children (under the age of 6) allowed only at the discretion of the House and Box Office Managers. JSU Mainstage productions are designed for 13 and older.

ABSOLUTELY NO VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING ALLOWED DURING PRODUCTIONS.

This causes us to break our royalty agreements with renting companies and may cause us to be denied permission to produce plays by said companies.

Production schedule may be amended if performances are added or deleted.

Jacksonville State University Drama Department is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Jacksonville State University Drama Department is an organizational member of the Southeastern Theatre Conference and the Alabama Conference of Theatre and Speech.

Jacksonville State University Drama Department is a member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

The JSU Departments of Drama and Music will present a 30th Anniversary performance of *WEST SIDE STORY*, by Leonard Bernstein. The first presentation of this classic musical occurred in 1973 and was the first musical presented as part of the then newly founded Department of Drama, headed by Carlton Ward.

The cast selected during November auditions includes: Stephen J. Williams, Matt Thompson, Casey Campbell, Jordan Christenot, Carl Bramblett, Derek Grindlesperger, Jason Skinner, Cris Morriss, Kelly Summers, Amanda Kirker, Sara Murdock, Erin Pool, Dani Proctor, Amy Mitchell, Christian Fernandes, Joshua P. Sirten, Chris Harper, Rocky Tejada, Brian Roberson, Heather Norton, Judy Holt, Britani Mason,

Bess Van Leuven, Cassie Ferguson, Mandy Dickens, Jessica Sanborn, Ashley McDonald, Carlos Rivera, Obed Resendez, Russell Reeps, Ben Whitehead, Brian Seitel, Andrew Cayse, and Joseph Carter. Performing duties as stage manager is Rick Gwin. *WEST SIDE STORY* is a mid-century version of the classic Shakespearian story of Romeo and Juliet. Set in the streets of New York City, two idealistic lovers find themselves caught between warring street gangs, the Jets and the Sharks. Tony and Maria discover each other and it is "love at first sight." However, their respective gangs are totally against their relationship. Their friends' disapproval does little to dissuade them so, against all odds they pursue love, only to face a tragic end.

Wayne H. Claeren is directing this year's anniversary performance. Vocal direction is by Teresa Stricklin. Mark Fifer will conduct the orchestra. Carlton Ward has designed sets. Costumes have been designed by Freddy Clements. Linze McRae is choreographing the extensive dance numbers. And, David Keefer is technical director.

Production dates are February 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28 at 7:00 p.m. and February 22 and 29 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are: adults \$10; senior citizens and JSU personnel-\$9; and students and military \$8.00. Group rates are available. It is strongly recommended that tickets be purchased in advance as the musical historically tends to sell out.

Call 256-782-5648

for tickets or further information

JOIN US TO SLEUTH A MYSTERY

The Alpha Psi Omega Scholarship Fund-Raising production this year is *TOWARDS ZERO* by Agatha Christie and Gerald Verne. This will be the first time JSU Drama has presented a Christie murder-mystery.

Lady Tressilian is planning a party at her home on the coast of Cornwall. She invites

Kay and Neville Strange; Audrey, Nevill's ex-wife (the tension rises); and Mary Aldin, Lady Tressilian's secretary. As with all Christie mysteries, someone is discovered murdered. Got any guesses? To find out, join us as Matthew Treves and Superintendent Battle sleuth out the truth.

Auditions for the April pro-

duction will be held February 23rd and 24th and are open to all.

The production will be held April 15, 16, and 17 at 7:00 pm and April 18 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$6 for adults; \$5 for JSU personnel and senior citizens; and \$4 for students and military. Call 782-5648 for paid reservations.

JOIN US ON MARCH 12 FOR A STAGED READING OF THE NEW MUSICAL "*VIRTUAL LOVE*," book by Jerry Ellis and Music and Lyrics by Debbi Holms-Binney. Performance at 7:00 p.m. in Room 338, Second Stage Theatre. Admission, free.

*Southern
Playwright's
Winning
play*

May 20-23

*Murdock
to direct
Stoppard
play*

*Claeren to
direct "La
Venexiana"*

2003 WINNING PLAY TO DEBUT

Ron Osborn won 2003's Southern Playwright's Competition with his entry, **WISE WOMEN**. The production, which will be directed by Drama's Susan McCain, begins in 1944. It's almost Christmas. The world is at war, but Florence's daughter, Rose, hardly seems to notice. She's too caught up in the thought that Frank Sinatra is coming to town to sing at the USO.

Florence wants the best for Rose. She wants her to make

something of herself—to meet the "right" people. Enter, two young female boarders who work at the local bomb plant. This is a "bittersweet celebration of womanhood overcoming heart-rending losses and long-standing conflict." It 'also teaches that "family" can be anyone who truly touches our hearts.

Auditions for this production will be held April 7th at 7:00 pm. The director requests a prepared thirty-

second monologue and all are welcome to audition.

Performance dates are May 20, 21, and 22 at 7:00 pm and May 23 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$6 for adults; \$5 for JSU personnel and senior citizens; and \$4.00 for students and military.

Reservations are recommended and may be made by calling
256-782-5648.

SECOND STAGE TO SEE "ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN"

JSU Drama senior, Sara Murdock, will direct the comedy, **ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD**" by Tom Stoppard, May 27-29 in the Second Stage Theatre. All tickets are \$3.00. This production is not a part of the season subscription package.

Stoppard's Tony and New York Drama Critics Circle award winning play tells the story of Hamlet's college chums, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Theirs is a "behind-the-scenes" kind of story. They don't really know why they are there, only that they have been sent for. As a matter of fact, they have much

difficulty in remembering their own names. In the end, they find that their only escape from the absurdity of the situation is their own death.

Performance dates are May 27, 28, and 29 at 7:00 p.m. All tickets are \$3.00 and should be reserved as seating is limited in the Second Stage Auditorium. The box office will begin taking reservations in mid-May.

**CONTAINS MILD LANGUAGE AND
INTIMATE SITUATIONS
Call 256-782-5648**

SPRING DIRECTING CLASS ONE-ACT SERIES

*"Part I" of the series will be presented on
Wednesday, March 10 and Friday, March 12th at 4:00 p.m. each day.*

*"Part II" of the series will be presented
Monday, April 19th and Wednesday, April 21st at 4:00 pm each day*

INTRIGUING "NEW" PLAY TO BE PRODUCED

JSU Drama's final mainstage production of the 2003-04 season is a highly unusual, surprisingly modern play written about thirty years before Shakespeare was born. Translated by Carolyn Feleppa Balducci, this anonymously written play, **LA VENEXIANA (The Venetian Way)**, tells the story of Iulius (Julius) who has come to Venice in search of a bride. He sets his sights on Valiera, who just happens to be married, but who is eager for a ro-

mantic tryst. Adding a twist to the tryst is Anzola, a widow about ten years older than Iulius who has her "sights" on him. What follows makes us warn you that this is not a play for all ages—as we quote from the Prologue, **"Everyone, I ask you, pay attention, and above all, don't be upset if our uninhibited actors flaunt some things in public that we might prefer to pass over in silence."**

Performance dates are June

17, 18, and 19 at 7:00 p.m. and the June 20th at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are: adults \$6; senior citizens and JSU personnel-\$5; and students and military \$4.00

Call 256-782-5648

**THIS PLAY CONTAINS
MILD LANGUAGE WITH
VERY INTIMATE
SITUATIONS**

**CONGRATS TO DECEMBER GRADUATES
Dani Proctor, Jonathan Lawson, and Mandy Dickens.**

WHERE ARE THEY?

We continue with our popular column about graduates and former students. In this issue we have news from several grads whom we've not heard from it a great while.

Rita Baker Manyette ('95) is the National Spokesperson for the National American Heart Association's "Red Cap Ambassador." Her 3-year-old son, born with a heart defect, will be featured in the February 1st issue of "Woman's World Daily." Rita is currently teaching at the John Casablanca Acting School in Jacksonville, Florida. Check her at <http://RitaManyette.starsearchcasting.com>

Frances R. Steel (honors '83) spent time in Germany as a Supply Specialist; received her Masters in Business in 1990 and managed a small retail jewelry business. In 1997 she began contracting for the US Government. Until May 2003 she bought spare parts for the PATRIOT missile system and later helicopter parts for the CH-47 (the Chinook). She took a position in May of 2003 with the Corp of Engineers, located in Huntsville. Some days she longs for the "uncomplicated pleasures of painting a set or wiring a two-fer."

Don Elliott ('93) is now located in South Bend, Indiana with his wife, Nicole, and son, Parker. He is teaching at the Montessori Academy. He and his wife hope to open an acting studio in 2005.

Traci Miller Williams (honors '92) is on faculty at Northeast Alabama Community College where she is an instructor of public speaking in the Communication Department.

Shane Goodwin ('00) is located in Los Angeles, CA where he is a drama teacher and football coach. He attended the Lee Strasburg Theatre Institute for two years and was recently in "Condemned," an American Film Institute movie, and he also appeared in an episode of HBO's "Six Feet Under."

Candice Carter ('03) is Assistant Director for a second stage show, "Cat's Paw," at Virginia Stage Company.

Tim Prestridge (Cum Laude and Honors '01) is now located in Boston at Suffolk University where he is the office manager for the theatre department. His plans include working on an

MFA in theatre management.

Lesley Gray ('98 Cum Laude & Honors, DR & EH) is located in Atlanta where she has played the role of Lady Macbeth at the Atlanta Classical Theatre and Jane in **The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told**.

Jessica Geron Zeller ('98) lives in Huntsville where she works with payload projects onboard the International Space Station as a Data Planner. She does plays in her spare time with her recently converted "actor" husband. They were in **As You Like It** during the summer. Next, she will be in Huntsville's production of "Of Mice and Men" <http://www.theatreshv.org/nextshow.htm> and has appeared in a reenactment on the Discovery Health Channel show, "Impact".

Neil Jones ('96) recently performed in "**Jane Eyre, The Musical**" as Mr. Brocklehurst in Act I and St. John Rivera in Act II.

Jennifer Jacobs ('95 Summa Cum Laude & Honors), is still in New York and ads to her client list Toyota, Astra-Zeneca, She House (another TV show for WE, Women's Entertainment), Lady Footlocker, and Sesame Street. Over the holidays she did a Peppid commercial and a Chrysler film as well as a Hewlett Packard film with Rob Cordry of the Daily Show and Carson Kressley of Queer Eye. She continues to work on the TV show Cinematherapy, and recently began working on several projects for MTV.

Micheal Waid ('01) is applying to grad schools to begin an MFA in Costume Design. Currently, he is the Costume Designer for Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA. His designs this term include "**Cabaret**" and "**Edmond**."

Jeremy West ('03) is with the Virginia Stage Company. He has appeared in "**Amadeus**," and "**Cat's Paw**." He hopes to be hired to teach stage combat for GSA which is a magnet high school program for the dramatic arts.

Misty Layne ('01) is working as a receptionist in Atlanta. She has done "extra" work on the movie "**Stroke of Genius**" with Malcolm MacDowell. She also worked on a public access TV show called L.A.F.F.S. She will be performing the role of Juliet at Cobb Playhouse in Marietta in March.

Jason Shaffer ('01) is joining the

Air Force and plans to concentrate on bomber avionics. He and wife Lori are expecting their first child in August.

Chris Mueller ('03) is working as a costume crafts assistant at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He also recently started an online kilt-making business that may be found at www.cheapkilts.net.

Devon Boodoian ('01) is in Birmingham where she works at Pine Tree Country Club. She is working on a film "**Camp D.O.A.**" (yep, a slasher film), as art director.

Fabio Pires ('01 Summa Cum Laude) will be playing Bill in "**Lobby Hero**" and Longaville in "**Love's Labor's Lost**" which is being directed by Jim Sullivan, artistic director of the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

Jose Alba ('99) directed season two of the Philippine hit drama "**Kapalaran**". He is on pre-production for a film "**Another Deep Breath**." He has done several political ads in the Philippines and several commercials. His info may also be found at www.lafilm.com.

Eric Traynor ('86 Honors) now has DVD/VHS of "**Little Red Riding Hood**" and "**The Three Little Pigs**" available for purchase on his web-site www.storybooktheatre.com.

Rene Humphrey ('96 Cum Laude in both Drama and English) will be graduating from law school in May.

Kim Kinsey ('98) is still with South Coast Repertory in CA. Her big news is that she is getting married in Las Vegas in March and is then off to Paris for her honeymoon.

Stephanie Crossman (Cum Laude & Honors '00) is working for a CPA firm in Tacoma, WA. Her most recent theatre work includes "**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**." She and her boyfriend have founded a company, Loxias Theatre Company.

Sharon McCoy Morgan ('03) is still working at the Alliance and will be doing some work at Kennesaw State in Marietta.

I'm running out of room and can't make this type any smaller. Please check out the drama web site at <http://www.jsu.edu/depart/drama/Alumni.html> for info on other graduates of JSU.

'til next time

*Goodwin appears in
Six Feet Under*

*Layne to perform in
Romeo & Juliet*

*Mueller begins kilt
business*

*Shaffer to join
Air Force*

*Elliott hopes to open
acting studio*

*Baker-Manyette
teaches in Florida*

*Alba directs second
season of series*

*Traynor films
available for purchase*

*Boodoian works on
slasher film*

And more.....

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340 Stone Center, 782-5489
- Freddy Clements, Costumer
339 Stone Center, 782-5602
- Susan McCain, Acting & Movement
341 Stone Center, 782-5635
- David Keefer, Technical Director
238 Stone Center, 782-5647
- Jan Rhodes
Secretary & Box Office Manager
344 Stone Center, 782-5623
- Mitch DuPont, Adjunct Instructor
Sandra Lafferty, Adjunct Instructor
782-5623
- Costume Shop—782-5602
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- Amanda Kirker, Public Relations
and
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**THEATRE BOX
OFFICE HOURS:**
8:30—4:00 Monday through Friday
and one hour prior to performances

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- WEST SIDE STORY**
February 19-22 & 26-29
- One-Act Series, Part I**
March 10 & 12 at 4 pm
- VIRTUAL LOVE (Staged reading)**
March
- TOWARDS ZERO**
April 15-18
- One-Act Series, Part II**
April 19 & 21 at 4 pm
- WISE WOMEN**
May 20-23
- LA VINIEXIANA (The Venetian Way)**
June 17-20
- CALL
256-782-5648**