

SIGHT LINES

Department of Theatre Newsletter

August 28 - September 4, 2009

Volume 4

No. 4

CALENDAR

August 28 - September 4



A new conference room has been created and the Script Library is being moved to a new area in 356 Murphy. Beautiful new bookshelves and a conference table were designed and built by Scene Shop Manager Dave Wanner.

Photo by Karla Conrad

The Glass Menagerie to be KCACTF Participating Entry

The Glass Menagerie will be a Participating Entry in this year's Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

If it is selected for the regional competition, the Region V Festival will be held at Johnson County Community College January 17 – 22.

Macbeth Fight Workshops

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 29

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 30

Crafton-Preyer Theatre Stage

The Glass Menagerie Production Conference

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 2

201 Murphy Hall

Production Staff Meeting

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 3

CPT Upper Lobby

Distracted Production Conference

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Friday, September 4

201 Murphy Hall

Advisor's Corner

Info from Heidi Hulse
Advising Specialist, Theatre

Heidi, the Advising Specialist for Theatre, is now switching from Environmental Studies to the Center for Global and International Studies. She will be in 510 Blake from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays, and all day Thursday and Friday. The phone number for her new office is 864-4052. As always, you can reach her by e-mail at hhulse@ku.edu.

If you still have a DEPT HOLD on your record, please see Heidi!!

Buckner Presents Papers at ATHE Meeting

Doctoral candidate Jocelyn L. Buckner presented two papers at the Association of Theatre in Higher Education conference held August 8-12 in New York, NY.

Her presentations included "Who Wears the Pants?: The Performances and Iconography of Dangerously Visible and Risqué (De)constructions of Gender Identity by African American Female Performers During the Harlem Renaissance" and "Diggin' the Material: The Intersectionality of Class Identity in Suzan-Lori Parks's Red Letter Plays."

Jocelyn also spent a week and a half conducting dissertation research at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, and the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center.

After-School Classes Offered for Children

The Department of Theatre is continuing to offer free After-School Drama Classes for children in grades one through six. The classes are taught by Jeanne Klein and students enrolled in the Children and Drama course.

Parents may register their children in the Murphy Hall Lobby, on a first come, first served basis, on the following dates:

Children in Grades 1 - 3 may register from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 31. Classes will be held from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays, September 8, 15, 22, 29; November 10, 24, and December 1.

Children in Grades 4 - 6 may register from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Monday, October 5. Classes for the older children are from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays, October 8, 22, 29; November 5, 12, and December 3, 8. No class will be held on Thanksgiving.

More information is available by contacting Klein at 864-5576 or kleinj@ku.edu.

Campus Safety Issues Outlined

Members of the KU Community are reminded the University is committed to providing students, employees and visitors with a safe and secure environment, free from threats and violence. The University's Campus/Workplace Violence Policy is available at <https://documents.ku.edu/policies/provost/WorkplaceViolence.htm>.

In addition to addressing the issue of potential campus violence, this policy provides important information regarding how and where to report incidents of violence or concerns regarding potentially violent behavior. It also includes information regarding additional resources available to the campus community.

The University also has a policy regarding weapons on campus. A copy of that policy is available at <https://documents.ku.edu/policies/provost/WeaponsPolicy.htm>.

As the new semester begins, remember that we each have an important role to play in keeping the campus safe.

Ottawa Theatre Seeks Actors

Act Ottawa is holding a casting call for *To Kill a Mockingbird* Saturday - Sunday, August 29 - 30, in the Old Franklin County Courthouse, 400 S. Main Street, Ottawa.

They are looking for actors of all ages and have a special need for African-American actors to portray Tom Robinson, Helen Robinson, Calpurnia, and Rev. Sykes.

Rehearsals begin August 31. Performances are October 16 - 18. A special performances for all 9th grade students is Wednesday, October 14.

Ottawa is 20 miles south of Lawrence on Highway. 59, which becomes Main Street.

For full information, visit actottawa.org or call 785/242-4545 or 242-1182.

Averills to Stage Melodrama at Arts Center

Dangerous Damsels: A Melodrama by Ric and Jeannie Averill will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday - Saturday, September 25 - 26, in the Lawrence Arts Center Theater.

The comedy features alumni Ric and Jeanne, Trish Averill Neuteboom, Jerry Mitchell, Laurie and Charles McLane-Higginson, Doug Weaver, and Jerry Mitchell.

“This awesome comedy has a little of everything: audience participation, beer, popcorn, and old tyme fun!” Ric promises.

Tickets, available at the door, are \$10 for adults and \$7 for senior citizens and students.

Adam Burnett Drama to be Staged in Topeka

A new play by 2008 alumnus Adam R. Burnett will be premiered at the Helen Hocker Theater in Topeka in mid-September.

Prelude: Shores of Lake Michigan is the second play in a five-play cycle that revolves around the characters first introduced in *The Death of Romance*, staged by the University Theatre in the fall of 2007. The cycle includes two preludes, two etudes, and a nocturne.

Prelude: Shores of Lake Michigan, directed by Christopher Reed, centers on a single family unit at the end of the 20th century. Professor Theo Davis and his wife, Melanie, are on vacation while their two daughters are away at summer camp. They

must interact with one another in the confines of a not-so-empty lake shore home, thick with personal ghosts, illness, insomnia, jealousy, and hidden agendas. As they move further in on each other, forces of the unknown are unleashed upon both and result in an irrevocable act that neither of them can return from.

“Prelude focuses on the worlds beyond the middle class American family—the deathly, the grotesque, the romantic and the conscious and subconscious, where husband and wife contend with death, birth, consequence and other ghosts lurking throughout their lake house,” Adam explained.

Performances will be at 8:00 p.m. September 18, 19, 25, and 26 and at 2:30 p.m. September 20 and 27.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and will be on sale beginning August 31. For further information, call the theater at 785/368-0191 or visit www.topeka.org/parksrec/hocker.shtml.

Due to adult themes, this production is not recommended for children 14 and under.

Adam has begun the MFA program in Dramatic Writing at the University of New Mexico, studying under playwrights Elaine Avila and James Linnell.

“It’s quite remarkable—my core writing class, held each Monday for four hours, includes myself, the only other first year (they’ve capped their class size here to two playwrights a year!) and the instructor,” Adam said. “So my work will be definitely be getting a lot of attention. But, alas, and I’ll say this often when it comes to any other school or program, it’s no KU.”

Alumna Tracy Iwersen Dies in Omaha

Tracy Iwersen, a 1986 theatre alumna, died August 23 in Omaha, NE.

Tracy was a gifted actress and educator, who lived a life filled with creativity and fun. She co-founded and directed *Pride Players* for 10 years, and taught, directed and acted extensively in Omaha’s children’s theater arts. She touched the lives of many through her work at Christ the King School, Children’s Square, Boys Town, St. Joseph’s Villa Homecare and Hospice, the Rose Theatre, Omaha Community Playhouse, for the Nebraska Arts Council, Bridget St. Bridget Theatre, and at St. Stephen the Martyr.

She is survived by her husband, Kevin Barratt; her mother, Rosemary Iwersen; a brother, three sisters, many nieces and nephews, and her beloved pets, Arthur and Kitty.

A Visitation is from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. this evening at Christ the King Church, 654 S. 86th St., Omaha, and the Funeral is at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, at the Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Joseph’s Villa Homecare and Hospice or the Christ the King Educational Trust Fund.

Labor Day Holiday Is September 7

Monday, September 7, is the Labor Day holiday and no classes will be held.

Alum's Design to be Featured in Korean Exhibit

Alumnus Jon Young, who received his BFA degree in theatre design in 1999, is the new assistant professor of scenic design in the School of Drama at the University of Oklahoma.

One of Jon's designs has been selected to a part of the World Stage Design 2009 gallery exhibition in Seoul, Korea, in September. Every four years, World Stage Design celebrates scenic, lighting, costume and sound design work from the past four years. Jon's design is from the production of *After Juliet*, produced by the Coterie Theatre in Kansas City in 2004.

His design is part of the gallery exhibit by an international jury of theatre designers and will also be a part of the digital and printed catalogs for the exhibit.

For more information on the exhibit, check http://www.wsd2009.kr/main_eng.html.

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