Upcoming Productions

I Hate Hamlet

OCTOBER 5-8

BY: PAUL RUDNICK
DIRECTED BY: CLAIRE EYE
SHOW DATES/TIMES: OCTOBER 5-8, 7:30 p.m.
VENUE: Hoey Auditorium
TIKTETS: $15 general; $10 seniors (60 and older) and WCU faculty/staff; $10 students ($7 in advance)
INFORMATION: 828.227.2479 or theatretickets.wcu.edu

Hot, young television star Andrew Rally finds his career in limbo when his TV series is canceled. After relocating to New York to become a “real actor” again, he is offered the role of Hamlet on stage. There’s only one problem: He hates Hamlet. Andrew’s life is further complicated when he rents a gothic New York apartment and meets his new roommate – the drunken ghost of John Barrymore, one of the most successful Hamlets of all time. This “odd couple” forges a strained friendship as they duel over women, art, success, television – and the apartment.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

November 10-12, November 13 (matinee)

BOOK BY: Hugh Wheelers
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY: Stephen Sondheim
GUEST DIRECTOR: Terrence Mann
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Bradley Martin
GUEST ARTIST: Mitch Hutchings (BM ’07)
SHOW DATE/TIMES: November 10-12, 7:30 p.m.
November 13, 3 p.m. (matinee)
VENUE: John W. Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center
TIKTETS: $20 general; $15 faculty/staff/seniors; $10 students ($7 in advance)
INFORMATION: 828.227.2479 or theatretickets.wcu.edu

Mrs. Lovett is serving her inhumanly delicious meat pies … again.

Angela Lansbury first baked them on Broadway in 1979. Patti LuPone fired up the oven in 2005. Then Helena Bonham Carter and Johnny Depp brought the recipe to perfection in the 2007 hit film. Winner of eight Tony Awards and two Golden Globe Awards, this heart-pounding masterpiece is one of the most acclaimed theatrical and cinematic works of the 20th century.

An unjustly exiled barber, Sweeney Todd returns to the seedy underworld of 19th-century London. His savagery soon finds its equal in Mrs. Lovett, the proprietress of a pie shop, who wastes nothing of the recently deceased, impeccably shaved and very tasty clients.
The Prospect Project

This summer a group of Stage & Screen students traveled to New Mexico to create an independent film titled “The Prospect.” We asked the director, Chris Read (’12), to comment on his experience: “If someone told you they wanted to shoot a short film 2,000 miles away, with hardly any budget and only taking actors and a few crew members, would you call them crazy? Some people may have called me crazy, but that crazy idea turned into a reality this summer. I told everyone we would be shooting a film in seven days. What I didn’t tell them is that they would not only have to put up with me, but the weather, cold pizza, hiking, lack of sleep and the list goes on. But every day each person was there and ready to work, and each day everyone grew closer together. It is amazing to see students take what they have learned and put it to work. Each person went out to New Mexico as a student, but came back as a professional. It wasn’t until the car ride back to North Carolina that it hit me: We just shot 37 pages in seven days in the worst conditions I have ever been in. I believe that if you asked around to those who went with us on the film, they would go on for days about the conditions, but I think you will find the same answer when they get done, which would be, they wouldn’t have traded the experience for anything in the world. I don’t think this film would have been possible if it wasn’t for each and every person putting in their blood, sweat and tears. In the end, all 16 of us molded into one cohesive unit, and the friendships that grew out in New Mexico are ones that will last a lifetime. This wouldn’t have been the case if our school was not a cohesive unit. Each day, Stage & Screen students work together in a way that is unheard of in the college world. We hang out outside of school and our friendships grow. Its experiences like “The Prospect” that will make this school grow in the future, and it is a perfect example of why we are called Stage & Screen.”
I Know What You Did Last THIS Summer …

Our students are encouraged to work in the industry during the summer months. Many of our current students found jobs in the industry this summer. Here is a sample of what some of them did.

**Deanna Braine:** Served as stage manager for Highlands Playhouse.

**Tierney Leigh Cody:** Played Tessie Tura in “Gypsy” at the Haywood Arts Regional Theatre.

**Allison Dixon:** Worked at Highlands Playhouse where she played Marge in “SUDS! The Rockin’ 60’s Musical Soap Opera.”

**Josh Jones:** Performed in “Bye Bye Birdie” and “The Drowsy Chaperone” at SummerStock at the University of Findlay in Ohio.

**Brian Gay:** Interned at Lees-McRae Summer Theatre for “I Do, I Do”; male vocalist in “Swing: The Musical”; and Friedrich in “The Sound of Music.”

**Alex Hairston:** Was an apprentice at Flat Rock Playhouse and performed in “Hairspray” and “Once on This Island.”

**Tina Henderson:** Served as stage manager at The Prizery in South Boston, Va.

**Jessica Humphrey:** Performed at Wild Adventures Theme Park in Valdosta, Ga.

**Clara Jean Kelly:** Intern on the film “The Hunger Games.”

**Amanda Ellis Kouri:** Acting intern at Theatre by the Sea in Rhode Island.

**Tyler McKenzie:** Choreographed for French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts in Hancock, N.Y.

**Marissa Mello:** Served as assistant stage manager/intern at Diana Wortham Theatre in Asheville.

**Peter O’Neal:** Performed at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., as well as Moore on Stage’s “Road to Fame” touring show.

**Jessica Presnell:** Performed as a cancan dancer at Tweetsie Railroad and in “Swing: The Musical” and “Sound of Music” at Lees-McRae Summer Theatre.

**Robert Raines:** Performed and stage-managed at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

**Adrina Wilson:** Technical director and lighting designer at Highlands Playhouse.

**Tara Williams:** Played Nadia in Next Generation Theatre’s inaugural production of “Bare: The Musical” in Raleigh.

**Paul Thiemann:** Featured dancer in “The Stephen Foster Story,” the outdoor musical of Kentucky, and performed in the theater’s production of “The Wizard of Oz.”

**Annabelle Yang:** Served as props master at The Prizery in South Boston, Va.
THIS JUST IN!

Help us congratulate the University Players and their fundraiser event, “ShakespeareSpearific.” Yes, that is spelled correctly, and it was a great success. The 24-HOUR – yes, 24-HOUR – play reading event of selections from the Bard which included “Romeo and Juliet,” “Hamlet,” “Twelfth Night,” “Much Ado About Nothing,” “King Lear,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “Henry V” and “All’s Well That Ends Well.”

The group packed their gear and spent the night in Hoey auditorium with a live Web feed for pledges and donations, reading nonstop to raise money for the group. More than $500 was raised this first year and UP hopes to raise more every year with the annual event. Look for it every September in Hoey and online.

However, you do not have to wait – you can give any time you like. In fact you can give to any Stage & Screen group you like, OR you can simply give to the School of Stage & Screen. Just send your check to the Stage & Screen office at WCU School of Stage & Screen, 246 Central Drive ST 233, Cullowhee, NC 28723. Be sure to make the check out to “WCU Foundations – Stage & Screen.” If you would like your contribution to go to a particular area, just put that in the memo section of the check. To give to WCU online, visit wcu.edu/27669.asp and choose from the drop-down menu, College of Fine and Performing Arts, then School of Stage & Screen. You can put the specific area you wish to donate to in the comments box.

Don’t forget to join us on Facebook at WCU School of Stage & Screen.
Our Newest Space, the Ramsey Film Stage

The Ramsey film stage was completed this summer with a new electrical system, state-of-the-art dimmer board, a new studio lighting package, a grid to lower the lights, Genie Lift, and wood floor. We broke ground on the new Ramsey stage with the Whimzik production with the help of MPTP students Trey Campbell, Josh Hartigan and Kevin Slamon. Also, the next senior project “Moses Creek” will build its main set in Ramsey to shoot during break. See featured online articles at:

news-prod.wcu.edu/2011/07/production-filmed-on-wcus-new-motion-picture-stage
thereporter.wcu.edu/2011/07/professor-and-wife-create-mask-and-music-theater-group

Faculty/Staff Highlights

Arledge Armenaki: Broke ground on the new Ramsey stage with the Whimzik production. Worked on a short film “Second Fiddle” at Gideon Media Arts Conference and Film Festival with WCU student interns Abby Taylor, Jeb Bennett and Mason Taylor.

D.V. Caitlyn: Accepted the position of artistic director of Highlands Playhouse, which had the highest-grossing season in the playhouse’s 73-year history. Conducted a master class in ensemble building for “Unto These Hills” as part of his association with the Cherokee Historical Association.

Amy Dowling: Getting ready to embark upon a comprehensive pilates certification and looks forward to the ways she will be able to incorporate this information into our dance program.

Brenda Lilly: Co-wrote and produced “Along About Sundown: A Musical Memoir of Bascom Lamar Lunsford” at Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville. The cast included alumni Bethany Rowe and Amanda Pisano as well as Trey Campbell, who produced the video trailer.

Thomas Salzman: Returns for his 18th season to the Boca Raton (Fla.) Caldwell Theatre Company as its resident lighting designer. This fall he will design the new drama “After the Revolution” by Amy Herzog and in February will design the musical “City of Angels.”

Peter Savage: Acted in “1776” at the Parkway Playhouse and accepted an invitation to join the board of the North Carolina Theatre Conference. He currently is the director of drama for The Asheville School.

Jack Sholder: Took on a summer project to watch all 54 films of Alfred Hitchcock with the idea of doing a course on him. He discovered that movies he previously disliked, such as “Rear Window,” he now likes.

Karyn Tomczak: Served as assistant director/choreographer on “The Drowsy Chaperone” at Theatre by the Sea in Matunuck, R.I., this summer. She wrote an article titled “Using Interactive Media in Dance Education” that will be published in the Journal of Dance Education.

See more of Tony’s work at: anthony-sirk.blogspot.com

Meet the newest member of STAGE & SCREEN

Anthony Sirk, aka “Tony,” is our new Stage & Screen costume shop manager. Sirk graduated from Ball State University with a degree in musical theater. While he was a student at Ball State, he directed the smash hit “Zombie Prom,” but unfortunately the costumes assigned to him were not what he wanted. So he made them himself. He did such a good job on the costumes he was named assistant shop manager, and that is how he fell into the costuming business. Over the years Sirk has worked at many universities and regional theatres throughout the eastern United States. He has managed in costume shops at West Virginia Public Theatre, Anderson University, Maine State Music Theatre and The University of West Florida. Anthony also worked as a wardrobe supervisor and first hand at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Over the past few years he also has designed costumes for “Bat Boy,” “Coppelia” and “Alchemy of Desire.” He is extremely excited to be working for the School of Stage & Screen at Western Carolina University.

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Amanda Hughes directing her senior thesis project “Too Much To Ask”

From a young age, Amanda Hughes would try to find and watch the “behind the scenes” of major movies. She knew at an early age that she wanted to be a storyteller but didn’t want that story to be limited to the page. Hughes went to college knowing that she wanted to make movies. She transferred to WCU in her sophomore year and knew that she was finally in the right place once she had seen the facilities that WCU had to offer and the opportunities that were now open for her to experience. Once here she found faculty members who would push her to be better than she thought she was and reach higher than what she was aiming for. Terry Curtis Fox, Claire Eye and D.V. Caitlyn were always willing to talk, “whether it was about an assignment, a movie or a production. There’s only so much you can learn from a classroom chair,” Hughes said. The Stage & Screen faculty members gave her the tools but made it clear that the rest was up to her, Hughes continued. “THAT, in my mind, is perfect teaching,” she said.

The motion picture program has many students submit to be chosen to direct a thesis film project. Hughes was one of two to be given the honor to film her project during her senior year. “The whole experience still amazes me, and the cast and crew were phenomenal people,” Hughes said of the experience. She adds that there were other moments in her years here that will be high points for her. They include the Controlled Chaos film festival and assistant directing a Mainstage theatre production. We asked Hughes, “What was the most valuable thing that you learned at WCU?,” and the response was, “Don’t be afraid to really put yourself out there, because when you really put yourself out there, no one will laugh at you.” Hughes graduated from Western Carolina University in the spring of 2011 with a BFA in motion pictures. Through her WCU Stage & Screen connections she was able to get an internship in the summer of 2010 at Productions Consultants and Equipment in Atlanta. She did such a good job that the woman that she interned for that summer called her once she graduated and offered her a paying job working with a show in Atlanta. Hughes just wrapped working that series, “Necessary Roughness,” and is well on her way to fulfilling her dream of making movies.

With every newsletter, we will introduce to you one of our recent alumni. This issue’s featured alumna is a Motion Picture and Television Production Program graduate.
ALUMNI ADVICE

Ever wanted to share the insights you gained here with the WCU students of tomorrow? Every fall issue of the newsletter will have a section where alumni can share their words of wisdom with all those who are about to embark on the adventure that will culminate in a degree from the School of Stage & Screen. Alumni are welcome to submit the gems of knowledge via our Facebook page “WCU SCHOOL OF STAGE AND SCREEN.”

Here is some advice from our alumni to the upcoming freshman class. We shared these words with the class of 2015 at the annual Stage & Screen picnic.

- Keep your fingers away from the table saw blade. Glow tape marks where you’re not supposed to walk.
  Jeff Hedgecock (BFA THEA/DSGN 2004)

- Auditions don’t get easier. You just get better at them.
  Benny Enfinger (BFA ACT 2008)

- Word to the wise, it’s simple and easy, GET OFF-BOOK! The quicker the better.
  Kaley McCormack (BFA ACT 2009)

- Look around you. The people you see aren’t your competition, they are your family. Without them you will fail. Nothing is a greater asset to your career than each other. I guarantee you one of them will help you get a job or help you move your stuff up three flights of stairs, which is just as valuable!
  Dayna Dunnron (BFA ACT 2010)

- If you are working as a PA on a film, always bring a pen!
  Carey McKelvey (BFA MPTP 2011)

- Take advantage of office hours. It’s amazing how much learning takes place OUTSIDE of the classroom.
  Mandy Hughes (BFA MPTP 2011)

WELCOME, NEW ALUMNI

2010-11 GRADUATES

Anthony, Desmond C., BFA: THEA
Barber, Stephen J., BFA: MPTP
Cassidy, Sean S., BFA: MPTP
Chafetz, Benjamin D., BFA: THEA with honors
DeSoto, Christina M., BA: STSC with a minor in dance
Evans, Christopher M., BFA: THEA with honors
Hartness, Marshall A., BA: STSC with a minor in film studies
Hughes, Amanda L., BFA: MPTP with honors/cum laude
Johnson, Matthew S., BFA: MPTP
Lewis, Seth H., BFA: MPTP
McKelvey, Carey R., BFA: MPTP with honors/cum laude
Morris, Adam D., BFA: MPTP
Oslund, Nicole E., BFA: MPTP with honors/magna cum laude
Paris, Donald A., BA: STSC with a minor in creative writing
Pirro, Nicholas A., BFA: MPTP
Putnam, Leslie E., BFA: THEA with a minor in dance
Ritter, William E., BFA: THEA with a minor in art
Santoro, Michael G., BFA: MPTP
Thiemann, Elizabeth A., BA: STSC with honors/magna cum laude
Watson, Jack B., BFA: THEA
Waugh, Elizabeth N., BA: STSC