

## Upcoming Productions

### RASHOMON

FEBRUARY 20-23, 7:30 P.M.

BY: Fay And Michael Kanin

BASED ON STORIES BY: Ryunosuke Akutagawa

DIRECTED BY: D.V. Caitlyn

PRESENTED BY: The School of Stage & Screen Theatre Program

VENUE: Hoey Auditorium

TICKETS: \$15 Adults; \$10 Faculty/Staff/Seniors; \$10 Student (\$7 in advance)



Based on a short story by Ryunosuke Akutagawa, the title *Rashomon* was popularized by a Noh play of the same title (written by Kanze Nobumitsu, 1435-1516). *Rashomon* is a brilliant and stark examination of the limits of human perception and the human need for certainty and its elusive nature. It is the story of four separate accounts of a rape and murder as seen through the eyes of four witnesses. From a review by James Berardinelli: *Rashomon* "is not about culpability or innocence. The story focuses on something far more profound and thought-provoking: the inability of any one man to know the truth, no matter how clearly he thinks he sees things. Perspective distorts reality and makes the absolute truth unknowable." WCU's dramatically stylized staging of the play pays homage to traditional elements of the Noh theatre of Japan.

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### THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

APRIL 11-13, 7:30 P.M. | APRIL 14, 3 P.M. (MATINEE)

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY: Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison

BOOK BY: Bob Martin and Don McKellar

DIRECTOR: Terrence Mann & Claire Eye

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Nathan Thomas

CHOREOGRAPHER: Karyn Tomczak

PRESENTED BY: The School of Stage & Screen  
Musical Theatre Program

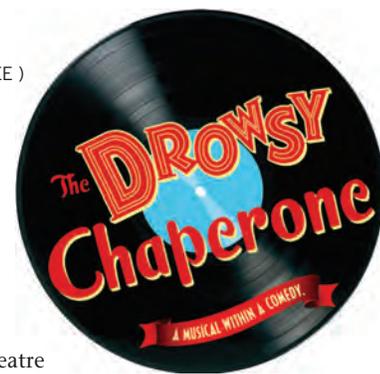
LOCATION: John W. Bardo Fine & Performing Arts Center Theatre

TICKETS: \$20 Adults; \$15 Faculty/Staff/Seniors; \$10 Students  
(\$7 in advance)

*This joyous musical celebration is a love letter to the classic Broadway musical full of eye-popping glitz and stunning surprises. A revved-up spoof of a 1920s song-and-dance frolic, it boldly addresses a great unspoken desire in all of our hearts: to be entertained. It all begins when a die-hard musical-theatre fan plays his favorite cast album on his turntable and the musical literally bursts to life in his living room, telling the rambunctious tale of a brazen Broadway starlet trying to find, and keep, her true love.*

*"You're unlikely to have as funny an evening of theatre this season as you will at this hilarious, side-splitting show," reviewer Jeffrey Lyons said of the five-time Tony Award winner.*

**Also enjoy the Silent Auction during the show. Details on page 3**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Kumar Das and Inflamm (Indian and flamenco music infusion) **March 12**

Nikky Finney (Part of the WCU Literary Festival) **April 11**

Friends of the Arts Silent Auction **April 11-14**

CONTROLLED CHAOS  
Film Festival **May 3**

## We've Grown



During the past five years the School of Stage and Screen has experienced a significant growth spurt. Our majors have increased from 127 to 174, marking a substantial 37 percent improvement! Our dance minors have increased an enormous 252 percent, growing from 17 to more than 60. And perhaps most important, our students are not coming only from North Carolina. Last year, a full one-quarter of our incoming class represented 11 different states. We believe this is a shout-out to the quality of our programs and our faculty. It is also relevant that this growth is taking place while our university continues its recovery from the economic meltdown of 2008.

With this increase in majors, however, comes the need for more of everything. More instructors to keep our class sizes small. More productions to give hands-on training to all of our students. Increased use of our facilities also increases the need to maintain and improve our equipment and lab spaces. We have been fortunate in the fact that the university has reinstated some of our funding in recognition of our growth. Last year we received 21 new computers loaded with the new industry-standard AVID editing software to refurbish our digital editing lab. This year we were able to add a part-time scene shop supervisor to assist with productions. In addition, we have restored funds to our Visiting Artist Program that will allow our students to learn from additional professionals in the field.

Artists are good at doing more with less, but there comes a time when a little more can make a big difference. We know that more money will help our programs in myriad of significant ways. So, as we begin the New Year, I am reaching out to ask for your support. There are many ways you can help. Send us a **tax-deductible donation** and let us know how **you** would like us to use it. Another show of support is to join the **Friends of the Arts**. Membership starts at only \$50. One more opportunity will come during our spring musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, April 11-14. At that time, the College of Fine and Performing Arts will hold its first-ever annual **silent auction**. If you have quality items that you would like to donate or can solicit someone to donate please contact me and I can help you with the details. Then, when you attend *The Drowsy Chaperone*, we urge you to bid on the wonderful items available. All proceeds from the auction will be returned to the school that solicited the donation. So, please consider giving what you can, however you can.

The arts are important, and your support will help the next generation of artists succeed.

**Thomas Salzman**, Director

School of Stage and Screen | [tmsalzman@wcu.edu](mailto:tmsalzman@wcu.edu) | 828.227.7491

## Recent Productions

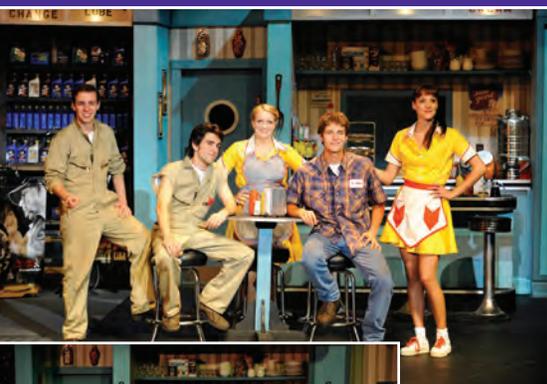
### PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES – SEPTEMBER 2012

BY: John Foley, Mark Hardwick, Debra Monk, Cass Morgan, John Schimmel and Jim Wann

DIRECTED BY: Brenda Lilly

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Jan Powell

*It was a foot-stomping time on all counts!*



### ONCE IN A LIFETIME – NOVEMBER 2012

BY: Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman | DIRECTOR: Claire Eye

*We had brilliant sets, fantastic costumes and sensational acting!*



### School of Stage & Screen Represents at NCTC

Thirty-five Stage & Screen students auditioned at the North Carolina Theatre Conference (NCTC) this year; 19 will move on to audition at the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) in March for summer and year-round professional work in theatre. Congratulations to all who auditioned, and break a leg to those heading to Kentucky for SETC: Alexander Volpi, Allison Dixon, Anastasia Teel, Charity Ruth Haskins, James Hendley, Joe Callahan, Jonathan Cobrda, Jordana McMahon, Josh Jones, Lauren Smith, Lindsey Cline, Madeline Seagle, Michael Gallagher, Paul Thiemann, Peter O'Neal, Samantha Alicandri, Tierney Cody, Tyler McKenzie and Will Bryant.



### New Staff Member News

Alexander K is the School of Stage & Screen's new scene shop manager. He holds a bachelor's degree in theatre from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and an MFA in scenic design from Illinois State University. Alex also serves as the scenic designer and technical director at the Highlands Playhouse in Highlands, North Carolina.



Various design credits include *Electra* at the Mary-Arrchie Theatre, *The Jungle Book* at Georgia Shakespeare, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at Findlay College, Ohio, and *The Spitfire Grill* and *Walter Cronkite is Dead* at Highlands Playhouse.

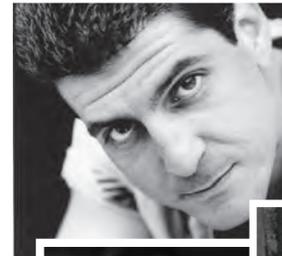
### Faculty News

D.V. Caitlyn's full-length play, *Capture*, received an excerpt publication as "Editor's Pick" and an accompanying article in the October 2012 issue of the Atlanta area arts and leisure magazine *North Georgia Leisure*. Also in October, D.V. served as chief adjudicator in the state of Tennessee's Actor Screening Auditions for the 2013 Southeastern Theatre Conference.

*Claire Eye*, theatre and musical theatre director, partnered with Steve Carlisle, Bruce Frazier and alum Jesse Romine to voice transitions and slate cards for *Reach Out and Read Carolinas*. These videos consist of children's stories being read aloud by celebrities such as Kristi Yamaguchi, Tom O'Brien, Andie MacDowell and WCU's Ron Rash. The stories and slates are played in hospital waiting rooms around the state. Videos can be accessed at [www.youtube.com/user/rorcarolinas?feature=results\\_main](http://www.youtube.com/user/rorcarolinas?feature=results_main).

On Oct. 2, **Jack Sholder** appeared as a visiting artist at Montclair State University in New Jersey. He spoke about his career and showed excerpts from his films. In keeping with Sholder's propensity to end his classes late, one student wrote, "The class hung on to every word even after he went over the time allotted for the class and everyone stayed about ten minutes after class was officially over just to hear him continue talking." Another said, "What I enjoyed most about Jack's presentation was his commentary. It was so cool to sit and watch his film and hear the inside scoop on what was going on behind the scenes of the film itself." Jack has been invited back to do a directing workshop in the spring.

**Nathan Thomas**, visiting assistant professor, recently spent a few days at UNC Pembroke, where he gave a master class, accompanied a performance by the Vocal Jazz Ensemble (who also sang two of his a cappella arrangements)



and accompanied his wife, Tracy Thomas (a lecturer in voice at UNCP), in a program of spirituals, two arias by Puccini and some selections from their specialty, the American Popular Songbook. In turn, Tracy Thomas was on the WCU campus Jan. 16 and gave a master class; the couple performed a recital that night as well.



# SILENT AUCTION

Engage your arts passion and be a part of our upcoming Friends of the Arts Silent Auction. The auction takes place during the performances of "**The Drowsy Chaperone**," **April 11-14**, put on by the School of Stage & Screen Musical Theatre Program. You can donate an item by contacting our support specialist, Jan Parker, at [FOAsilentauction@wcu.edu](mailto:FOAsilentauction@wcu.edu). Plan on attending the show and bidding on items of interest. Remember, all proceeds go toward the donor's designated area of interest.

## FEATURED ALUMNI



Within every newsletter we would like to introduce to you some of our alumni. This issue's featured alumnus is *BFA-theatre design/technical 2010 graduate Brian Moore*.

Here is what Brian said about his experience here at Western Carolina:

"Western is something that I like to refer to as the land of opportunity. It is a school that widens the opportunities for success, but just like the Wild West, it's not easy to get the success. While I was there I was given so many great opportunities to find my own way of designing that I now have my own style and look to shows. It was not always easy, though there were stepping stones as I started to design in the smaller spaces, and on smaller shows I was encouraged by the faculty to try new things and reinvent spaces. My first quality design while I was there was in the smallest space, Niggli Theatre. It was a perfect space to start; I had to stay focused because there was not an excess of supplies in the space. Every decision mattered, and that justification process helps me in many spaces I work in today. WCU gave me more than just theatre, though; this is where WCU really was my land of opportunity. I was able to host radio shows, manage the live sports for TV 62 and work with the football program. Every experience gave me more structured responsibility and widened my horizons, which made me more valuable to the theatre program as well but also gave me other outlets in which to gain knowledge and new ideas. The greatest thing, though, for me has been the continued mentorship and friendship that I have with the professors from WCU. I would not have had the success that I have had without their help. I have been lucky to fall into jobs when I needed them: Disney on Ice, Riverside Theatre (Vero Beach, Fla.), Weathervane Playhouse (Akron, Ohio) and Highlands Playhouse (Highlands, N.C.), and I have found jobs that have helped me so much with my development, but it all started with a solid foundation I developed at WCU."

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Phoebe Hall** BFA '89 wrote the study guide for Cape Fear Regional Theatre's production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* in Fayetteville, N.C. She also sang with the Fayetteville Symphony in its holiday spectacular this past December and directed *Spoon River Anthology* and *The Glass Menagerie* at Fayetteville State University.

**Brandon Hickman** BFA '10 is currently working as a staff carpenter for Ocean State Theatre Company in Warwick, R.I.

**Jessica Humphrey** BFA '11 is continuing her work with the Prather Entertainment Group in Fort Meyers, Fla., and Lancaster, Pa. She will be playing Jean McLaren in *Brigadoon* and Rumbleteazer in *Cats*.

**Amanda Kouri** BFA '12 appeared in a Hite Beer commercial featuring Korean pop artist Psy. She also has done extra work on TV shows *Smash*, *Elementary* and *666 Park Avenue*. She has been auditioning for a lot of film/TV and musical theatre productions. She is in final callbacks for a show at a small equity theatre in Brooklyn and she works regularly with Broadway composers Sam Carner and Derek Gregor.

**Seth Lewis** BFA '10 has been living in Wilmington, N.C., for 1.5 years working as

a prep tech for Joe Dunton, checking and fixing camera gear, working on lenses and learning a lot about film history, the business and cinematography. Pretty soon he will have fulfilled his two-year commitment and hopes to soon make the leap to working on set.

**Amanda Pisano** BFA '10 will soon be starting her third year as production manager at Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville, N.C. She is also about to start law school.

**Dan Rohrig** BFA '07 is currently working at the Grand Majestic Theater in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. He was a featured singer and principal dancer in the venue's '50-'80s, country, gospel, military and Christmas showcases.

**Tim Stoeckel** BFA '11 performed in a one-man show January 18-20, 2013, at the Hart Theater in Waynesville, N.C.

**Adrina Wilson** BA '12 graduated this past December and is already working. She is a lighting operation specialist and pyro technician on the cruise ship *Carnival Glory*. It ports out of Miami, Norfolk, NYC and Boston.

**Val Zubenko** BFA '11 is currently working at his local theatre company as crew member and occasionally as an electrician.

## WCU University Players

This year WCU University Players has expanded in a special way with the addition of a group of freshmen non-majors. The turnout at this year's *Shakesdonkulous* 24-hour play reading, though intimate, was incredibly diverse. Many students remained through the entire 24-hour period. Many students who attended the play reading also joined University Players for the first student-written, student-directed production in three years. The show *Idle Minds* opened in November and received a great turnout from all areas of Western Carolina's student body. We look forward to great things in the spring 2013 semester.



# Announcements

Senior recitals will take place Feb. 9-10, 2013, for BFA musical theatre and March 17, 2013, for BFA-acting majors. Recitals are free and open to the public.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Provost's Office, the Motion Picture and Television Production Program was able to purchase 21 new iMacs this summer for the editing lab and Avid Media Composer 6 for all its computers. In June, program director Jack Sholder took an intensive Avid Instructor Certification training course, passed the exam, and is now an Avid-certified instructor. He is teaching MC6 in the classes "Basic Production Techniques" and "Non-Linear Editing." In addition, MPTP has become an Avid Learning Partner, which means Sholder can offer Avid certification training and administer certification exams for students wanting to earn Avid User Certification.

As always, email [wcusas@gmail.com](mailto:wcusas@gmail.com) with announcements, questions and ideas.

And don't forget to join us on

Facebook at

WCU School of  
Stage & Screen.



## Silver Bells & Snowflakes

On Nov. 17, the WCU Dancers performed a one-minute routine to "Silver Bells" in the Asheville Holiday Parade, and they won the College Category. Congrats, WCU Dancers! They wore a classic Rockette-style costume of a red velvet skirted leotard with maribou and snowflake trim. The parade was broadcast locally on Channel 13 on Thanksgiving morning. Participants were Brittany Mastromatteo, Katelyn Baucom, Mollie Sellers, Lauren Locher, Elena Cope, Shannon O'Rawe, Sam Gampel, Alex Hairston, Allyson Lohaus, Heather Allison, Colby Creasman and Lindsy Freeman. Their recorded performance was submitted for National Dance Week's "Kick it Challenge" in honor of the 85th anniversary of the Radio City Rockettes. Here is the link to the news article about the performance: <http://news-prod.wcu.edu/2012/11/wcu-dancers-to-perform-alumnus-to-be-grand-marshal-at-asheville-holiday-parade-nov-17/>.

## Welcome New Alumni: December 2012 graduates

### BA: Stage and Screen

Robbie Fisher  
Marissa Mello (with honors)  
Ariel Rymer  
Jugena Watson  
Adrina Wilson  
Annabelle Yang

### BFA: MPTP

Kat Dills  
Joshua Gash  
Joshua Hartigan  
Kevin Slamon  
Leah Thomas (with honors)

### BFA: Theatre

Andrew Drake  
Leslie Helms



Thomas Salzman, left and Dr. Richard Beam, far right welcome Adrina Wilson into Alumni status as the newest major of BA Design Technical Theatre.