Upcoming Productions

NEXT TO NORMAL
SEPTEMBER 25-28, 7:30 P.M.
MUSIC BY: Tom Kitt
BOOK AND LYRICS BY: Brian Yorkey
DIRECTOR: Terrence Mann & Nathan Thomas
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Nathan Thomas
CHOREOGRAPHER: Karyn Tomczak
PRESENTED BY: The School of Stage & Screen Musical Theatre Program
LOCATION: Hoey Auditorium
TICKETS: $20 adults; $15 faculty/staff/seniors; $10 students ($7 in advance)

Winner of the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this rock musical examines the effects of mental illness on a suburban family. As the show begins, mother Diana Goodman has been struggling with bipolar disorder for years. We follow her and her family for several months as they go through different approaches to dealing with her illness and its effects on each of them. Funny, moving and ultimately hopeful, the show won three Tony awards, including Best Original Score.
(Contains mature content and language.)

ZOMBIES ON CAMPUS!
A SLAUGHTERPOCALYPSE!
NOVEMBER 13-19, 7:30 P.M.
A NEW COMEDY WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY: D.V. Caitlyn
PRESENTED BY: The School of Stage & Screen Theatre Program
LOCATION: John W. Bardo Fine & Performing Arts Center Theatre
TICKETS: $15 Adults; $10 Faculty/Staff/Seniors; $10 Students ($7 in advance)

The curse of Macbeth meets undead lore via vegetarian cuisine in “Zombies on Campus! A SlaughterPocalypse!,” a new play by D.V. Caitlyn.

It’s like a nightmare: An ancient curse cooked up in the university’s very own dining hall is ground-zero of an undead outbreak spreading right now like a super-virus across the entire campus! And the only thing standing between college life as we know it and a bloody apocalyptic slaughter is… a handful of theatre majors and some guy named Leon!

Will they break from rehearsing their student production of “Macbeth” long enough to realize what they’re really up against? Will they band together and find a way to survive an undead invasion of the Bardo Arts Center – the only safe place left in Cullowhee – even though odds are that not all of them will make it out alive and the smart money is apparently on Bob? Will they find a vaccine? What about a cure? Will there be a tomorrow? What about their finals? Oh, who cares about their finals – don’t they understand this is the end of the modern world?! How do you even kill these things anyway? And how come the undead are so dang fast? But the most important question remaining is: Will these annoying questions ever stop? Audience warning: Not for the faint-of-funny!
As some of you may have read, the university spent last year doing a complete program prioritization review of all degree programs at Western Carolina. During that review the faculty committee charged with that review recommended that our Film & Television program be discontinued. However Chancellor Belcher did not agree with the committee's recommendation and in fact praised us for the work we have been doing. The chancellor

said our Film and Television Program: "...is a unique program in which many of the performance metrics are on an upward trajectory; retention rates are good, the number of majors is healthy, the number of graduates is increasing, and the average class size has increased significantly in the last five years. In addition, the program has impressive quality indicators. Graduates are accepted into top graduate programs and gainfully employed in degree-related fields. And, in late spring and thus outside the decision-making process of the task force, the program received an external validation of quality from the Sony Corporation which choose the program as the recipient of a gift of its most advanced professional video production camera. Sony made such gifts to less than a dozen film programs in the United States." We thank the chancellor for his confidence in our program. We always believed that we had an excellent program; however during the review process we found the measurable facts to prove it. Here are just a few:

• Almost 90% of our recent grads are either working in the field or enrolled at a top-tiered graduate program.
• We increased the number of majors by 38% since 2008.
• We had a graduation rate of 93%.
• We increased our student credit hours by 130%.
• We decreased the cost of the program per major by 46%.
• We produced more than 80 documentaries to support local business and student organizations.

The future of our program has never been brighter.

As Steve Jobs was famous for saying "and one more thing"...

We have changed our name. MPTP is now FTP: Film and Television Production.

Please check out the rest of this newsletter for all of the exciting things our students, faculty and alumni have been doing and the exciting projects that are upcoming.
See you at the theatre...

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Director, School of Stage & Screen
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Big News

Our Motion Picture and Television Production Program (MPTP) is now named Film and Television Production Program (FTP). Click here to read more about it.

Film and Television students and faculty create video for fundraising event

Organizers of a fundraiser for Mountain Youth Charities, a Cashiers, NC, nonprofit organization, say a documentary-style video created by Western Carolina University students and faculty helped contribute to the success of the event, with more than $43,000 of the $200,000 raised coming in after the video was screened. Click Here to read the article in the Reporter written by Teresa Killian Tate.

Great News!

Friends of the Arts have a brand new webpage. Here is the link to the page: Friends of the Arts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• “A Doll’s House”
  February 12-15, 7:30 p.m. & February 16, 3:00 p.m. at Hoey Auditorium

• “Les Misérables”
  April 3-5, 7:30 p.m. & April 6, 3:00 p.m. at the Bardo Arts Center

• Nai Ni Chen Dance Company
  October 2, 7:30 p.m. at the Bardo Arts Center

• Imago Theatre Presents: Frogz
  February 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Bardo Arts Center

• Carolina Chocolate Drops
  March 3, 7:30 p.m. at the Bardo Arts Center

• Controlled Chaos Film Festival
  May 2, 7:00 p.m. at the Bardo Arts Center

DON’T FORGET TO JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AT facebook.com/theatreandfilm
Our students are always encouraged to work in the industry during the summer months. Many of our students found jobs in the industry this past summer. Here are some examples of where our current students worked:

Samantha Alicandri  
Actor | Haywood Arts Regional Theatre  
Waynesville, NC

Kelsey Amico  
Intern | GreyHawk Films | Charlotte, NC

Rachel Barkow  
Intern | Eclectic Pictures | Los Angeles, CA

Cody Barnes  
Intern | WSOC-TV | Charlotte, NC

Jonathan Borgia  
Assistant Props Master | Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre | Winchester, VA

Sean Botzhart  
Intern | Catch the Spirit of Appalachia Inc.  
Sylva, NC

Brittany Brown  
Assistant Stage Manager | The Prizery  
South Boston, VA

Will Bryant  
Actor | Unto These Hills | Cherokee, NC

Tierney Cody  
Actor | SummerShine | Mount Rushmore, SD

Phil Culton  
General Technician | Highlands Playhouse  
Highlands, NC

Murphy Dillow  
Intern | Mountain Youth Charities  
Cashiers, NC

Allison Dixon  
Actor | Blue Gate Theater | Shipshewana, IN  
Actor | The Confession Musical  
Sugarcreek, OH

Alex Drost  
Actor/Tech | The Lost Colony  
Roanoke Island, NC

David Dyson  
Intern | UNC-TN | Durham, NC  
Instructor | Explo | Norwood, MA

Joshua Farrar  
Actor | Haywood Arts Regional Theatre  
Waynesville, NC

Brian Gay  
Actor/Tech | The Lost Colony  
Roanoke Island, NC

Grant Gilliard  
Intern | Media Solutions  
Colorado Springs, CO

Margaret Gordon  
Intern | “The Bridge” series | Los Angeles, CA

Alex Hairston  
Actor | Lees-McRae Summer Theatre  
Banner Elk, NC

Jordana McMahon  
Actor | Haywood Arts Regional Theatre  
Waynesville, NC

Matthew Kiser  
Intern | Cine Partners | Wilmington, NC

Cassie Klepzig  
General Technician Intern | Cirque du Soleil Las Vegas, NV

Jason Ledford  
Intern | Mountain Youth Charities  
Cashiers, NC

Robert Lenski  
Intern | Mountain Heritage Center at WCU  
Cullowhee, NC

Emily Maesar  
Intern | Mountain Youth Charities  
Cashiers, NC

Jeffery McElmurray  
Intern | Traverse City Film Festival  
Traverse City, MI

Jordana McMahon  
Actor | Haywood Arts Regional Theatre  
Waynesville, NC

Emily Pears  
Ensemble | Unto These Hills | Cherokee, NC

Chris Ryan  
Sound Intern | Flat Rock Playhouse  
Flat Rock, NC

Madeline Seagle  
Actor | RWS & Associates Story Land Theme Park  
Glen, NH

Lucas Scott-Martin  
Digital Imaging Technician | Independent Feature Film “Theory of Conflict” | Boston, MA

Paige Smith  
Performer | Dollywood | Pigeon Forge, TN

Anastasias Teel  
Actor/Tech Intern | Cortland Repertory Theatre  
Preble, NY

Paul Thiemann  
Dancer | Cedar Point | Sandusky, OH

Claire Van der Linden  
Performer | Dollywood | Pigeon Forge, TN
Within every newsletter we like to introduce you one of our recent alumni. Our current featured alumnus is Film and Television Production Program graduate: Zach Heaton '12 BFA-MPTP.

We recently caught up with him and inquired about his experience at WCU as well as what he has been up to since graduation and here is what he shared:

“In just a short amount of time since graduating from WCU I have really put my education to work on a variety of mediums. I have worked on 11 episodes of a show called “In The Loop,” five of which were shot entirely by me, and three of which I also edited. This show is currently being televised on the World Fishing Network in North America as well as WildTV in Europe. I have also been involved with shooting a few other shows including a pilot for a new show called “Action Sports Information Desk,” which was shot at the Winter Dew Tour and is currently under production. In addition to beginning work on season two of “In The Loop,” I am currently working for Muscle Milk – Pickett Racing, a top-tier professional sports car racing team, to document their 2013 American LeMans season in the form of web videos after each race. I have also worked on countless other projects for a variety of clients including AMA Pro Motorcycle race teams, Pro mountain bike teams, and other production companies that wanted me to join them for shoots.

I learned a lot as a member of the MPTP (now FTP) program at WCU and it is really hard to pinpoint what has helped the most. So many of my experiences working on projects in class or on senior thesis films have come back to me at some point to allow me to be able to do my job. At WCU I not only learned the technical knowledge that is required of me every day, either on a shoot or at the computer editing, but more importantly I learned how to tell the stories that matter. I can fall back on my education to help me know who to point my camera at and how to edit a compelling film with the footage at hand. So much of the work I do has required me to rely on my judgment of things like what to film, where to set up my camera, what questions to ask people, and how to adjust my style of shooting around the story and I know that all of the training, experience, and even critiques that I received at WCU and in the FTP program have been the backbone that has contributed to my success.

I have never been asked for a list of classes that I took nor have I ever been asked what my GPA was and frankly I am not sure that a lot of my employers even know where I went to college or what my degree was in. They do know that I will give them a product and a film that they will be happy with and I know that I couldn’t do that without my BFA in Motion Picture and Television Production.”

**FEATURED ALUMNI**

**WELCOME NEW ALUMNI: MAY 2013 GRADUATES**

- Brock Baird, BA-STSC
- David Bennett, BFA-MPTP
- Deanna Braine, BA-STSC
- Joseph Callahan, BFA-MT
- Hannah Chatham, BFA-THEA
- Lindsey Cline, BFA-MT
- Jonathan Cobrda, BFA-MT
- Christina Conyers, BFA-MPTP
- David Elder, BFA-MPTP
- Cameron Feuerhelm, BFA-MT
- David Haines, BA-STSC
- Jaclyn Helms, BFA-THEA
- Clara Kelly, BA-STSC
- Tyler McKenzie, BFA-MT
- Mitchell Metz, BFA-MPTP
- Tatjana Moffitt, BA-STSC
- Courtney Olivier, BA-STSC
- Peter O’Neal, BFA-MT
- Christopher Park, BA-STSC
- Taylor Pleasants, BFA-MPTP
- Timothy Rudisill, BFA-MPTP
- Alexa Rufty, BFA-MPTP
- Lauren Smith, BFA-MT
- Jordan Sneed, BFA-THEA
- Abigail Taylor, BFA-MPTP
- Alexander Volpi, BFA-THEA
- Joseph Watson, BFA-THEA

**ALUMNI ADVICE**

Ever wanted to share the insights you gained here with the WCU students of tomorrow? We ask alumni to share their words of wisdom for our new students about to embark on the adventure that will culminate in a degree from the School of Stage & Screen. Alumni are welcome to submit their gems of knowledge via our Facebook page “WCU School of Stage & Screen.” Here is some advice from our alumni to the upcoming freshman class.

“Collaborate and get involved ASAP. Be proactive and push yourself to try new things.” – Alex Rufty ’13 BFA-MPTP

“Don’t lose yourself while you are in college. Things can get hard in your classes and elsewhere that can cause negativity in your life. Always have a strong sense of yourself while allowing yourself to change and grow for the better.” – Lauren Smith ’13 BFA-MT

“Respect the craft. Put in the work and research. Do the homework and take notes. If you want to grow and learn at the craft then you have to be willing to stretch yourself and work for it.” – Chris Evans ’10 BFA-THEA

“Every day is an audition. Act like it. Make friends that make you better. Stay away from the people who bring you down. No one comes in at the same level or leaves at the same level. Don’t plan your future according to anyone else’s standard of success. Celebrate your path and congratulate others on theirs, but don’t compare them.” – Tatjana Moffitt ’13 BA-S&S

“Sleep is overrated during the semester but underrated during tech.” – Brock Baird ’13 BA-S&S

“Be respectful and genuine. You are there to learn.” – Cameron Feuerhelm ’13 BFA-MT
ALUMNI NEWS

Corey Utke ’08 BA-MPTP: is now co-founder/Creative Director at Combustion Media Group in Charlotte, NC.

Ian Vigstedt ’08 BA-MPTP: is now Multimedia Designer at Moog Music, Inc. in Asheville, NC.

Mike Santoro ’11 BA-MPTP: is Assistant Editor at Saturday Entertainment in Los Angeles, CA, working on a documentary entitled “How to Survive Prison.” It’s directed by Oscar-Nominee Matthew Cooke (2006 Academy Award-Nominated Documentary “Deliver Us From Evil”) and produced by Adrian Grenier (HBO Entourage).

HERE IS WHERE OUR RECENT GRADUATES WORKED OVER THE SUMMER

Brock Baird ’13 BA-S&S
Carpenter Intern at Flat Rock Playhouse in Flat Rock, NC

Deanna Braine ’13 BA-S&S
Production Stage Manager at Unto These Hills in Cherokee, NC

Hannah Chatham ’13 BFA-Theatre
Box Office/ Front of House Staff at Creede Repertory Theatre in Creede, CO

Lindsey Cline ’13 BFA-Musical Theatre
Performer at Hershey Park in Hershey, PA

Jonathan Cobrda ’13 BFA-Musical Theatre
Singer/Dancer and Company Manager at RWS & Associates Idlewild Theme Park in Ligonier, PA

David Haines ’13 BA-S&S
Company Management Internship with Gateway Playhouse in Long Island, NY

Charity Ruth Haskins ’13 BFA-Musical Theatre
Actor at the Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, TN

Tyler McKenzie ’13 BFA-Musical Theatre
Singer/Dancer at RWS & Associates Idlewild Theme Park in Ligonier, PA

Tatjana Moffitt ’13 BA-Theatre
Tour Director/Actor/Tech at Missoula Children’s Theatre in Missoula, MT

Peter O’Neal ’13 BFA-Musical Theatre
Actor at Theatre West Virginia in Beaver, WV

Lauren Smith ’13 BFA-Musical Theatre
Actor at Thin Air Theatre Company in Cripple Creek, CO

Jordan Snead ’13 BFA-Theatre
Actor at Festival 56 in Princeton, IL
ARLEDGE ARMENAKI, Associate Professor of Cinematography with the Film and Television Production Program within the School of Stage & Screen, served as an international tutor at the 2013 Summer Media Studio for European Film Students held in Lithuania. The focus of the workshop was “Dance in Film.” Click Here to read the article in the Reporter.

D. V. CAITLYN, Associate Professor of Acting with the Theatre Program within the School of Stage & Screen, worked closely with the Cherokee Historical Association as Production Manager for the pre-season and a portion of the 2013 performance season of “Unto These Hills” in Cherokee, NC. Also, among numerous scholarly activities, D. V. finalized the script (for now...) of his latest full-length stage project, “Zombies on Campus! A SlaughterPocalypse!” in preparation for the play’s world premiere, November 13th in WCU’s Fine and Performing Arts Center as part of Stage & Screen’s 2013-2014 Mainstage Season. Also in support of that production, the website for the play was launched, www.slaughterpocalypse.com, which will document the process of the play’s very first production with photos and video, and which will eventually serve as home-base for performance rights licensing of the play. Other activities include the submission of D. V.’s previously completed play, “Capture” (a thriller/police procedural with a Nine-Eleven tie-in set in present day Manhattan), to various U.S. theatre and producing entities for production, staged reading, or awards consideration.

TERRY CURTIS FOX, Associate Professor of Screenwriting with the Film and Television Production Program within the School of Stage & Screen, spent his summer completing a substantial revision of his screenplay “Sherman” which is now being shopped with publishers.

BRENDA LILLY, Instructor of Acting with the Theatre Program within the School of Stage & Screen, was commissioned to write a play for Parkway Playhouse entitled “Spirited Recollections,” which was produced in May. She was appointed to the Board of Directors at Asheville Community Theatre. She also adapted Henrik Ibsen’s play “A Doll’s House” for our spring play production that will be showing February 12-15 at 7:30 p.m. and February 16 at 3 p.m.

JACK SHOLDER, Director of the Film and Television Production Program within the School of Stage & Screen, was at the University Film & Video Association Conference this summer at the Dodge College of Film & Media Arts at Chapman University in Orange, CA. He was a panel chair on “Teaching Filmmaking: Industry and Independent Perspectives” that dealt with how teaching filmmaking differs between those with a previous career in the industry and those from an independent or academic setting. He also participated in another panel, “Directors on Directing,” where he presented a paper called “Learning By Mistake” discussing common mistakes directing students make and how to anticipate or avert them. In addition, Sholder attended an advanced Media Composer workshop at Avid Headquarters in Burlington, MA, and received “Professional” Avid Instructor certification, having received his Avid certified instructor status last summer from Avid. Sholder says he is relieved that he now has paperwork attesting that he is a professional. He adds that the Film and Television Production Program is an Avid learning partner, and we can now provide training to Film and Television Production students that would lead to Avid certification.

STUDENT PROJECTS

Stay tuned for “The Radical Notion of Gene Mutation,” a senior thesis film project set in a dystopian reality in which a government organization pays for students’ college tuition. The catch? After graduation, the organization mutates your genes and forces you to serve as a super-soldier in the armed forces. The film is in pre-production and is directed by Andrew Dyson, written by Emily Frances Maesar, with cinematography by Matt Kiser. This will be the first film at WCU to be shot on the Sony F65 camera, which was generously donated by Sony to the FTP Program last May. If you’re interested in helping fund the project, please look at the Stage & Screen Facebook page or click on this link to the indiegogo (a crowd-funding website).