

### Musical Theatre BAC inaugurated with

### *Berlin to Broadway*

The new BAC in Musical Theatre at BGSU combines the breadth of a liberal arts education with intense training in acting, singing and dancing drawing from resources across the campus. As a kickoff for that brand new program the Theatre Department, The College of Musical Arts and the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies (which houses the dance program) collaborated this fall



American composer. Weill worked with some of the most famous writers of the 20th century, including lyricists Bertolt Brecht, Ogden Nash, Ira

ironic commentary.

Theatre and music students alike collaborated in this unforgettable musical theatre experience, following Kurt Weill from his roots in Germany to the celebration of his American citizenship.

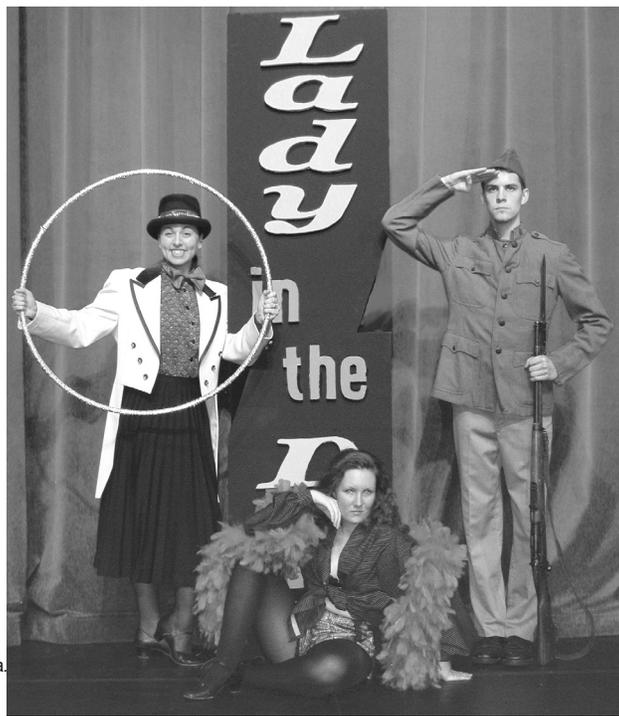
on *Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill*.

Directed by Dr. Michael Ellison from the Theatre Department, the show featured the musical direction and conducting of Dr. Eugene Dybdahl of the College of Musical Arts and choreography by Deborah Tell and Tammy Starr of the Dance Program.

*Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill* is a wonderfully eclectic celebration of the passionate music of this German/

Gershwin, Alan Jay Lerner, and Langston Hughes.

Whether celebrating what it means to be an American, addressing apartheid or wrapping the audience in a love song, Weill uses his music to inspire and provoke thought, touching the heart and the mind. His music ranges from sweet lyricism to passionate drama to



Above, Justin Randolph and Emily Wright perform together in "Mack the Knife" from Threepenny Opera. To the right Jessica Linkous, Craig Gottshalk, and Emily Wright represent the worlds of Kurt Weill.

*Join Us  
Open to All!*

to Recognize **Dr. Allen White**

BGSU Professor Emeritus

National Communication Association Award  
to be presented at the Business Meeting

Homecoming Reception

Friday, November 22 • 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Sheraton New Orleans • 4th Floor Bayside B

*Desserts and coffee provided by the School of Communication Studies and Department of Theatre*

# Note from the Chair...

This has been an extremely active time for all of us. Good things are happening. Enrollments have greatly increased (over 100 film majors; over 100 undergraduate theatre majors). What about our new theatre building? I'm told that news about funding for this project will be announced before Christmas. I'm optimistic that we will receive significant support for this construction. For now, we wait.

I am pleased to spread the news about Dr. Allen White. As most of you know, Allen retired a few years ago and has moved to Virginia to build his house on top of some mountain peak. Well, he will have to leave the clouds and make his way to the low lands of Louisiana in November. At the annual convention of the National Communication Association in November, the leadership of the Theatre Division will present this year's Professional Service Award to Professor White for his contributions to the professional development of his students through the years. While in New Orleans for the convention, we plan to host a BGSU Homecoming Reception as a gathering spot. Please come!

Our undergraduate students (through the leadership of Theta) are planning this year's outreach event, "Setting the Stage." Organized as a series of practical workshops for high school students, "Setting the Stage" has quickly become an important recruitment activity. Our undergraduate theatre students do the planning, promotion, and run the all-day Saturday event. Besides getting the word out to area high school thespians about BGSU Theatre, the event is a great opportunity for our students to learn about teaching theatre. It also promotes collaboration between BGSU theatre faculty and undergraduate students.

The Department's Forensics Team continues to impress. Under the leadership of Paul Wesley Alday (Instructor in Forensics and Technical Theatre), the team travels to several competition each semester.

BGSU Theatre faculty continue to be active professionally. This year



Bradford Clark is on faculty research leave. He is spending the year as "Scholar/Artist in residence" at the International Puppetry Center in Atlanta. Lisa Wolford (Associate Professor of Theatre and American Culture Studies) has continued her work with her professional performance company based in Cleveland. This fall their production of "Blue Sky Transmission" opened in Cleveland and will travel for performances in New York at La Mama in December.

I have recently assumed the editorship of *Theatre Annual*, with my first issue due to be out by the end of the year. Margaret McCubbin (Associate Professor) provided both set and costume designs for Michael Ellison's (Assistant Professor) staging of *Berlin to Broadway* (which opened at the end of October as a co-production with the BGSU College of Musical Arts).

Scott Regan (Professor of

Theatre) produced his original play about the early years in the career of Ohio native and silent film pioneer, Lillian Gish. The play was produced by the local youth theatre organization, Horizon Theatre, and was staged at the Pemberville Opera House. Lesa Lockford and Michael Ellison (Assistant Professors) continue to teach classes and conduct "actor workshops" for our undergraduate students. Marcus Sherrell (Assistant Professor) teaches courses in technical theatre, design and Black Theatre. Jonathan Chambers (Assistant Professor) has been appointed to serve as our department's graduate coordinator.

As I write these words, our faculty designers, technical staff, and talent scholarship students and workers are working together to finish three productions—all set to open during the next few weeks! (Yes, it is that time of year again.)

Treehouse Troupe auditioned recently and will soon begin work on two plays to tour next spring semester. Auditions for *Pirates* are upcoming along with casting calls for the other spring semester productions (*Vinegar Tom* and *Our Country's Good*). To say the least, things are hopping around here.

I would like to hear from all of you. Please take the time to check out our departmental website and let me know what you've been up to.

Dr. Ronald E. Shields  
Professor and Chair

**Ronald E. Shields** (Ph.D., Professor and Chair) is a performance studies scholar whose research interests explore performance as cultural practice. Recent publications focus on opera, media and popular culture, and celebrity studies (ie, "The Force of Callas' Kiss: The 1997 Apple Advertising Campaign, 'Think Different'," *Text and Performance Quarterly*, July 2001). Currently the editor of *Theatre Annual* (a journal of theatre and performance studies published through the College of William and Mary), Dr. Shields has also served in leadership positions in various professional associations, including Performance Studies International (PSi) and the National Communication Association (Performance Studies Division and Theatre Division).



New Faces in  
Faculty  
& Staff

**Paul Wesley**

**Alday**, a second year member of the Department of Theatre faculty and Director of the BGSU Forensics and Debate program, has recently been elected to



two different Forensics Associations, the Ohio Forensics Association and Pi kappa Delta. Paul also serves as the technical director of the Joe E. Brown Theatre on the BGSU campus.



**Cynthia Baron** has been named to the Executive Council of the Society for Cinema Studies. She has also been asked to serve on the Program Committee for the

International SCS Conference to be held in Minneapolis in March 2003. Currently, her major projects include an anthology entitled *More than a Method: trends and traditions in contemporary film performance* to be published by Wayne State University Press and a co-authored text entitled *Acting in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*.

**Jonathan Chambers** is currently serving as the Graduate Studies Coordinator. In addition to his duties as GSC and teaching, Jonathan has been working on a book-length, critical study of John Howard Lawson's playwriting career which will be published by Southern Illinois University Press as part of



the Theatre in the Americas Series. National/international service includes: servings as Vice President/President Elect of American Theatre and Drama Society; and serving as reader for the journals *Text and Performance Quarterly*, *Theatre Annual*, and *Theatre Topics*.

**Sara Lipinski-Chambers** joined the

BGSU faculty last year, teaching Directing, Script Analysis and directing *The Skin of Our Teeth*. This year's efforts include the direction of *Our Country's Good* as well as teaching



The Theatre Experience, Directing, and Senior Seminar. She previously taught at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY and Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. Sara earned her BS at Western Michigan University and MFA at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Michael Ellison** has directed, choreographed, taught, performed and shared his transformational body/energy work across the United States, in Canada,



Denmark and The Philippines. In the Philippines, Michael served as artistic consultant for a production of *Grease*, starring Lea Salonga (of Miss Saigon fame) and staged a world premiere concert,

"The Music of Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg in Concert". Michael is the point person for the new BAC in Musical Theatre and is currently writing a musical with collaborators in New York City.

**Lynn Houtz** is starting her second year with us as Departmental Secretary. She has been with BGSU since 1999. She is married and has 2 boys, age 5 years and 14 months.



**Lesa Lockford**

performed the lead role of Vivian Bearing in the Toledo Repertoire Theatre's production of Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prizing winning play, *W;t*. Her



research interests include gender, sexuality, and performance; feminist theory and criticism, women and performance, performance composition, actor training, dialects and voice for the stage; qualitative methods of inquiry including ethnography and autoethnography; phenomenology, hermeneutics and existentialism; and narrative knowing. Articles she has written include "The Abject Body: A Feminist Refusal of Disempowerment." *Theatre Annual*, currently in press.

**Denise A. Menchaca** recently settled in Bowling Green, OH after a ten year



stint in southern Illinois. She is currently completing her dissertation that considers the nexus of Chicana experience and devotion to the religious Icon Our Lady of Guadalupe

as a means for constituting a performance of identity. Denise is jointly appointed in the Department of Interpersonal Communication and is very excited about being here at Bowling Green State University where she has been given the opportunity to teach and do research in both communication and performance studies.

**Shaun W. Moorman**,

our Business Operations Manager, is beginning his fourth year with department. He will continue to serve the Department's summer



program in the capacity of Business & Operations Manager for the Huron Playhouse, where he has spent his last five summers. A graduate of BGSU, Shaun was a teacher for the Orange County Public Schools in Orlando,

Florida and was a freelance special events coordinator before returning to BG as a staff member.

**Marcus Sherrell** joined us last year from Tennessee. He specializes in technical theatre and scenic design. Marcus designed the lighting for University Performing Dancers production this Fall, and has several projects upcoming this Spring.



**Valerie G. Whipple** is starting her third year as Administrative Secretary for the theatre department, 15 years total at BGSU. She has had the pleasure of working previously in the sociology and computer science departments. A native of Wood County, she was born and raised a "farm girl." She enjoys water sports, the outdoors and theatre with her husband; as well as keeping track of her 82 year old mother. Valerie has two children.



### LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have information you'd like to share with other alumni? Is there some aspect of the department you'd like more information about, or a story you'd like to see us feature in Theatre News? Just call or drop us a line!

**Shaun Moorman**  
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We look forward to hearing from you!

*Theatre News* is an independent publication of the BGSU Department of Theatre.

## 2002-2003 Season Highlights

### Bash & Crave

by Neil LaButte by Sarah Kane

Joe E Brown Theatre

September: 26, 27, 28 (8:00 pm), & 28, 29 (2:00 pm)

### The Dining Room

by A.R. Gurney Jr.

Joe E Brown Theatre

October: 24, 25, 26 (8:00), & 26, 27 (2:00 pm)

### Berlin To Broadway with Kurt Weill

by Kurt Weill

A joint production between Department of Theatre  
& College of Music

Kobacker Hall Moore Musical Arts Center

November 1, 2, (8:00), 3 (3:00 pm)

### A Christmas Carol

by F. Scott Regan

Eva Marie Saint Theatre

December 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (8:00 pm), & 7, 8 (2:00 pm)

### Pirates of Penzance

by Gilbert and Sullivan

Eva Marie Saint Theatre

February 21, 22, 28 & March 1, (8:00 pm)

March 2 (2:00 pm)

### Vinegar Tom

by Caryl Churchill

Joe E Brown Theatre

March: 20, 21, 22 (8:00 pm), 22, 23 (2:00 pm)

### Our Country's Good

by Timberlake Wertenbaker

Eva Marie Saint Theatre

April: 4, 5, 6 (2:00 pm), 11, 12, 13 (2:00 pm)

### TREEHOUSE TROUPE

#### A Red Rose & Inventing Ohio

by Le Clanche du Rand by F. Scott Regan

Joe E Brown Theatre

April: 25 (7:30), 26 (2:00 & 7:30), 27 (2:00 pm)

# Huron Playhouse delivers another successful summer



*An Ohio Tradition!*

The Huron Playhouse continues its tradition of summer success with the 2002 summer season, our best attended (topping 11,000 tickets sold) since resizing the theatre in the early 1980's.

Opening day of the 53rd season was celebrated by unveiling the new Historical Site Marker for the Playhouse. Awarded by the Ohio Historical Society in 2001 and made possible by grants by the Longaberger foundation and the generosity of alumni, the marker is a permanent addition to the McCormick School grounds. Having truly become an Ohio tradition, the Huron Playhouse was declared Ohio's oldest continually

operational theatre.

And word is spreading across the nation. The Huron Playhouse continues to attract the best student talent from colleges and uni-



versities nationwide. In the 2002 season

alone, company members hailed from seventeen schools in twelve different states. The quality of experience in and production values have given Huron Playhouse a reputation as one of the nations premiere summer educational theatres.

Bowling Green State University's Department of Theatre has benefited from this reputation both artistically and financially, and we all look forward to helping that tradition flourish and grow in the summer seasons to come.

For more information about the Huron Playhouse, or to update alumni information, please check out the website at [http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/theatre/huron\\_playhouse](http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/theatre/huron_playhouse)

## Spotlight on Film

There are now more than 100 undergraduates in the Film Program. Students who choose the film studies emphasis serve as editors of *THE PROJECTOR*, the electronic film and media journal published by the Department. Students with a production emphasis produce narrative and documentary digital video pieces as part of their senior capstone experience. Film Majors also receive internship credit for working at the local PBS affiliate WBGU or the ongoing International Film Series at the Gish Theater. New courses developed for the Major include American Independent Cinema and the Junior Film Seminar.

## Treehouse Troupe Productions for Young Audiences Celebrates 25 Years!

The Treehouse Troupe has performed and educated through the art of live childrens theatre and workshops over a quarter of a million students and teachers, performing 48 plays, approximately 2500 performances.

This season once again sees us in collaboration with the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) in Toledo. 2003 marks Ohio's Bicentennial celebration, and Treehouse Troupe is playing a part, featuring the production *Inventing Ohio*, adapted by our own F. Scott Regan. This fun show is a musical tribute to

the inventors - famous or not so famous - that have made Ohio great.

The Treehouse Troupe is booked for its Spring touring schedule, but you can catch it on the BGSU campus April 25-27, 2003.



## Our Program Coordinators...

### Shaping Our Future

#### Expanding our Undergraduate Degree Offerings



The undergraduate program in theatre continues to thrive, now offering four degrees: BA or BAC in Theatre, the newly developed BAC in Musical Theatre, and BA in Film Studies. Each program is academically flexible, allowing students to tailor a course of study to fit individual interests and goals. Each is academically and artistically rigorous, chal-

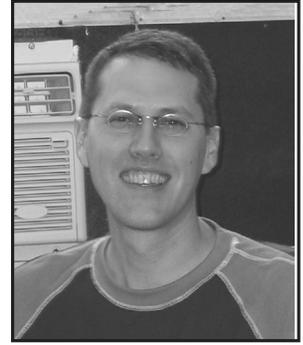
lenging each student in the classroom and on the stage to stretch intellectually and artistically and to grow as a creative person.

We are glad to have Steve Boone as our Undergraduate Coordinator for the Department. Steve has just finished his fifteenth year here at BGSU where he is also the Technical Director. He continues to serve as well as Designer/TD at the Huron Playhouse. Steve will be designing the scenery for *Pirates of Penzance*, and the lighting for *Our Country's Good*, in the Spring.

For more information about the Undergraduate Programs, email Steve at [sboone@bgnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:sboone@bgnet.bgsu.edu) or contact the Department.

#### Graduate Programs Going Strong

Largely on the strength of two more stellar classes of emerging scholar/artists (i.e., eleven new MA/MAT and four new Ph.D. students) who matriculated in late August 2002, the graduate programs in theatre at BGSU are thriving. In my brief time with these new students, it has become strikingly clear that what drew them to graduate study in theatre at



BGSU are three features that make our programs unique in the United States. The first is a commitment on the part of the faculty to instill in our students the necessity in viewing theatre as a dualistic endeavor, involving the constant dialogue of scholarly and creative pursuits. The second is our practice of affording most every student on assistantship (particularly those in the Ph.D. program) a wide breadth of teaching opportunities, from general studies courses, to 200 and 300 level courses that serve our undergraduate theatre majors. The third is our continued resolve to position graduate studies in theatre at BG as a site of interdisciplinary study. As Graduate Studies Coordinator, I am endeavoring to take advantage of these three distinctive features by situating them as foundational edicts. If you know someone who is interested in graduate study in theatre and would benefit from this type of environment, please encourage him/her to contact me at [jonathc@bgnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:jonathc@bgnet.bgsu.edu) or (419) 373-0856.

-- Jonathan Chambers

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