

Theatre Alumni Reunion Slated for Saturday, February 25, 2006

Plans for the second reunion of the MTSU Theatre Alumni Chapter are well underway. Organizers encourage all former students who had some affiliation with the Theatre & Dance program to attend – regardless of their major or whether they finished their degree in Theatre at MTSU. Reunion events are slated throughout the day, but the highlight will be a 7:30 performance in Tucker Theatre with a reception following in the Alumni Center. Details and registration are available online at www.mtalumni.com or by calling the MTSU Alumni Office at 1-800-533-6878. We hope to see you there!

Halladay Named Tennessee Professor of the Year

Dr. Jette Halladay, professor of speech and theatre, is the recipient of the 2005 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's Tennessee Professor of the Year. The honor is bestowed annually to a single educator in each state who delivers the most outstanding undergraduate instruction in the country. A member of MTSU's faculty since 1994, Halladay traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept the honor and attend a formal awards luncheon and reception Nov. 17, where she was congratulated by U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander and Congressman Bart Gordon, among other notables.

Students and Faculty Work on Second Off-Broadway Internship

Six MTSU Theatre students and resident design faculty, **Scott Boyd**, head to New York March 10-19, 2006, for the second annual internship with Flying Fig Theatre. The team will provide set, props, and lighting for the NYC premiere of Doris Baizley's SHILOH RULES, which runs for 12 performances at the Gene Frankel Theatre March 18-April 9. Boyd will serve as scenic & lighting designer and technical director. The scenic elements will be constructed by students at MTSU and transported to NYC for installation. While in the city, students are responsible for preparations for opening night but will also meet with theatre professionals, participate in workshops, and tour the city.

Honduras Project Update

MTSU Theatre & Dance is preparing for the first student excursion to La Cane, La Paz, Honduras in May 2006. The project combines creative activity and research with service and experiential learning in a unique international setting. While in Honduras, some 20 students and faculty will tour MAYOR MOON & THE STORYTELLING FESTIVAL, an original children's play by associate professor **M. Crosby Hunt**, to small villages, orphanages, and a U.S. military base. During the two-week residency, students will lead workshops and perform humanitarian service projects designed to enhance the life of the country's poorest citizens and children. You can learn more about the project by visiting www.mtsu.edu/~theatre and following the links to the Honduras Project under the "Educational" button.

Spring 2006 Theatre & Dance Events

(For ticket information call (615) 494-8810)

**MAYOR MOON & THE
STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**
by M. Crosby Hunt

Feb. 24 & 25 at 7:30 p.m.

School matinees
Feb. 21-24 at 9 & 10:30

TAKE ME OUT
by Richard Greenberg

March 31, April 1 and 5-8
7:30 p.m.

BLEACHER BUMS
by Joe Montegna

April 2-4 at 7:30 p.m.

(BDA Studio Theatre)

SPRING DANCE CONCERT
MTSU Dance Theatre

April 20-22 at 7:30 p.m.

Alumni Profiles

DeArnold R. Barnette (1957) has many wonderful memories of MTSU Theatre, like when he starred as Romeo in MTSU's production of ROMEO AND JULIET. He also participated in two summer stock seasons (with studies in acting and other theatre basics) in Cape (outside of Boston, MA). Barnette served as a TV/Radio spokesperson in the Southeast for twelve years. He also worked as a director of marketing in banking for twenty-two years. Barnette is now retired with an occasional "theatre jaunt" to NYC. He still loves to participate in his local community theatre.

Mrs. Eddy Jo Reid (1958) is a retired teacher after forty-three years with Metro Public Schools. She lives in Nashville, TN.

Bart Walker (1968) is owner of WGNS Talk Radio and was honored a year ago as the Broadcaster of the Year by the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters. He is happy to have WGNS again be MTSU's radio voice in Murfreesboro. Walker's biggest thrill now is his wife, LeeAnn (also a 1968 grad), and his two grandchildren (Reed, 4, and Olivia, 1).

Susan (Glass) Broom (1971) lives in Ambler, Pennsylvania, where she is a high school theatre director. She is a member of a cabaret style theatre company called the Upper Dublin Players. Broom is happily married with three children.

Roger K. Smith (1971) currently resides in Nashville and is married to **Katie (Werner) Smith (1971)**. They have two children - Monica who lives in Los Angeles and Rhonda who lives in Nashville. Smith is currently working as an attorney.

William Robb Dorian (1973) received an M.A. in Theatre from Tulane University and taught at Western Kentucky University and Cumberland University. Dorian is the Artistic Director of New Day Theatre in Goodlettsville and serves as theatre critic for *The Nashville Pride* newspaper. He directs and acts in the Middle Tennessee area and has written numerous plays which have been produced locally (he is currently directing one called A KITTY CHRISTMAS for New Day Theatre). The company is also in production with a play he co-wrote with Joel Meriwether about "The Bell Witch." Dorian wrote a play about William Shakespeare and Edward de Vere called A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME; the play is in the University of Birmingham's Shakespeare Institute Library in Birmingham, England. Dorian resides in Old Hickory.

Thalia McMillion (1973) has taught theatre for about 30 years. For the past 18 years, she has run an arts program in Hingham, MA, for over 200 students each summer (ages 8 to 15). The program employs 30 artists and 18 teenagers each year. McMillion also teaches improvisation and directs several plays annually. McMillion now lives in Jamaica Plains, MA.

Donald W. Goldmann (1974) is National Director of Sales for CIMS, one of California's most widely recognized insurance product distributors. Goldmann works with over 65 different insurers and provides training for hundreds of agents annually. As a licensed provider of continuing education courses for the California Department of Insurance, he currently provides over 38 different hours of lecture ranging from technical subjects to social performances distilling the merits of wine consumption on health. Along with being published in numerous trade newsletters, magazines, and collegiate level educational journals, Goldmann is a regular contributor to web sites that publish for the insurance industry.

Janey Pollock Hickman (1974) married **Jimmy Hickman (1972)** after graduation and moved to Nashville where she worked in the public schools. In 1977 they moved to Lawrenceburg and had Erin (B.S. 2000), Emmy (B.S. 2003), and Sam, who is a high school senior. Hickman also has four beautiful grandchildren --- Tyler (13), Bailey (8), Rob (6), and Andy (3). She has worked in Lawrence and Maury County Schools since 1977.

Maryann Bradburn Hendrixson (1975) taught for 5 years after graduating and then began a family. She has six children (four girls and two boys, all of whom are adults or teens). Three years ago, she and a friend began Joyful Creations Catering. The business has grown and continues to be challenging and fun. Hendrixson now dwells in Franklin, TN.

Don Skelton (1976) spent the past six years with national tours such as FOOTLOOSE (Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor), THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (Sewing Supervisor), and THE PRODUCERS (Star Dresser). Skelton was Costume Supervisor at Opryland USA from 1979-1995. From 1995-1998 he did freelance wardrobe work for Tennessee Repertory Theatre, Nashville Opera, and touring shows at TPAC including MISS SAIGON, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, and LES MISERABLES, among others. Skelton was the Costume Shop and Wardrobe Supervisor for the Nashville Ballet in 1998-99. He is now enjoying time at home in Nashville (after six years on the road) before he leaves for his next touring show.

Teresa (Looney) Brolley (1981) has been married for 19 years to John Brolley, a professor at the University of Cincinnati. They have two children, Maria, 15, and Ian, 7. Teresa is currently the Art Department Manager for Sterling Cut Glass. Her professional theatre credits include *The Lost Colony Outdoor Drama*, the title role in a national tour of *GYPSY*, and being a singer/dancer for Ronald Reagan's 2nd inauguration in D.C., among many others. For the past 15 years, Teresa has also worked as a graphic designer. She lives in Erlanger, Ky.

Jerome Davis (1983) is Artistic Director of Burning Coal Theatre Company, a professional theatre in Raleigh, North Carolina (www.burningcoal.org). In their 9th season, accomplishments include major grants from NC Arts Council, Lila Wallace Foundation, Shubert Foundation, and Target Stores, among others. The company has toured to Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC and StoneLeaf Festival in Asheville, NC. It has received the Independent Weekly's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 2000, NC Theatre Conference's Award for Excellence in Professional Theatre in 2001, and multiple "Year's Best" awards from *Raleigh News & Observer* and/or *Independent Weekly*. Davis resides in Cary, NC.

Sherri L. Edelen (1984) is a Helen Hayes Award winning actress in the Baltimore/DC area with a total of five Helen Hayes nominations and one Barrymore nomination in Philadelphia. Edelen serves on the local Actors' Equity Association Liaison Committee and is a part-time teacher for Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Her hobbies include cooking, gardening, music, and her cat, Ashley. Edelen has traveled all over the United States performing in various regional theatres. She is now living in Laurel, MD.

Heather D. Volante (1986) has owned several businesses, traveled extensively overseas, and obtained a law degree from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL since graduating from MTSU. Today, she is an attorney, mediator, and real estate broker in San Francisco, CA. She has a diverse civil litigation practice which enables her to use the theatre performance skills cultivated at MTSU. Volante has also continued her musical work in the areas of gospel and opera.

Meredith Gordon (1987) has performed extensively in the Atlanta area with organizations such as Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Dad's Garage, The Alliance, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, and the Atlanta Shakespeare Company. Gordon has performed at entertainment venues Six Flags Over Georgia, Stone Mountain, and Universal Studios Florida among others. As *Squeeze the Clown*, he combines his experience from the stage with his juggling, musical, and improv skills to wow his audiences. Currently Gordon is a supervisor with the Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit at Children's Health Care of Atlanta. For more information on Gordon please visit www.squeezetheclown.com.

Roger Roark (1987) has been the Director of Wardrobe for the Louise Mandrell Theatre and the Louise Mandrell Organization for the past 13 years. He has also recently embarked on a new daytime career of selling real estate in the beautiful mountains of east Tennessee. Roark now lives in Pigeon Forge.

Shannon (Parnell) Marcelin (1989) has lived in Miami, Florida, for 13 years and has been married to Luis for 11 years. They have two kids, Sean Fisher (6) and Lily Blue (4). Her pastimes are boating, going to concerts, and playing pool and darts (both skills that were honed in the 'Boro). Marcelin might not be doing theatre but she still sings "Sleepy Man" to her kids at bedtime. Marcelin has worked as a Sales Information Manager for Hewlett Packard for the past 13 years.

Jenny Alexander (1990) moved to New Zealand fourteen years ago and wanted nothing more than to act for a living. Unfortunately, there were even fewer professional acting jobs in New Zealand than in the States. So Alexander worked in fashion, opened a performance café, wrote strategic plans for an IT start-up, served as Press Secretary for the Minister of Defense, and now works as Chief of Staff for the Mayor of Wellington, New Zealand's capital. Alexander has completed a Master's degree, worked on a doctorate, and married twice (but only divorced once!).

Lee Blair (1991) works for the Actors' Equity Association as a business representative for Developing Theatre in the Southeast. In this position, he negotiates with theatre companies on their number of AEA actors, salaries, and seasons. He also provides solutions to problems that different theatre companies or actors have in relation to AEA. Prior to joining the AEA workforce, Blair acted and directed in numerous productions in New York and Virginia.

Muffin Dixon (1995) began working for the Chi Omega Foundation in February 2005, as Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice-President. She is learning many aspects of the exciting world of fundraising. She is the proud aunt of her 22-month old niece, Judy, and lives in Memphis, TN with her two spoiled dogs- Baxter and Moose.

Travis Modrall (1995) has a 16-month old baby boy named Tristan, and his wife, Amy, just opened her first Dental practice. Modrall has owned and operated Prime Time Valet Company in downtown Fort Worth, Texas, since 1999. Modrall has also acted in the pilot episode of CHEATERS on the WB while a member of the Ivett Stone Agency in Dallas, TX. His first professional play was at Theatre Two in downtown Dallas in David Mamet's, THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD in 1998. He is currently involved in the art of improv and resides in Grand Prairie, TX.

Jason Cook (1997) is presently performing his show ILLUSION: THE MANY FACES OF JASON MICHAELS around the country. His stage show has been compared by his magical contemporaries to the early style of David Copperfield. Whether performing a high-energy illusion show, intimate street magic, or recreating Houdini's Water Torture Cell, Cook is at home on any stage. Cook lives in Gallatin, TN. For more information go to www.jasonmichaelsmagic.com

Kenneth Howe (1997) has worked in healthcare for the past seven years. He is currently the Subspecialty Training Coordinator for the Department of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Howe is married and has two beautiful daughters (one month and eighteen months). At this time, he is working on his Masters in Bioethics and will graduate in the spring of 2007. Afterwards, Howe will continue on and work towards a PhD in Bioethics. He lives in Wauwatosa, WI.

Jenny Rainwater (1997) and **Jonathan Shockley (1995)** met in the MTSU Speech and Theatre Department, married in 2001, and now live in Los Angeles, California, where they are pursuing acting careers. Jenny just booked a national print campaign for MetLife. She is a proud member of the Screen Actors Guild and performs in plays. Jonathan completed the improv program at Improv Olympic West in which he performed on several teams. He recently finished a critically acclaimed run of a sketch show at Second City (LA) that he wrote and also starred in.

Renee (Frost) Ritter (1998) has two children. Her son, who is five, just started kindergarten and Ritter proclaims that her three-year old daughter will probably win an Academy Award some day for her dramatic performances. Ritter is currently teaching theatre at Station Camp High School in Gallatin, Tennessee, and she loves it.

Shirley Sweitzer (1998) enjoys being a theatre teacher at Franklin High School. She is also a theatre facilitator each summer for the Tennessee Arts Academy. She currently lives in Franklin, TN.

Janna L. Wheatley (1999) survived a two year stint as theatre arts teacher at LaVergne High School. Wheatley loves her new job as the office supervisor at Safari Pet Resort. She is the proud mommy of five fur-kids: Melvin, Sybil, Jackie Chan, Harley, and Little Alice (respectively, two ferrets, two cats, and one little brown dog). Wheatley resides in Murfreesboro.

Maryanna Clarke (2001) is Founding Artistic Director of the Tennessee Women's Theatre Project. The successful inaugural project was the southeastern premiere of Jeanmarie Simpson's A SINGLE WOMAN at Vanderbilt's Sarratt Theatre in June 2005. Clarke has been named to *Who's Who of American Women* and resides in Hendersonville, TN.

Bob Roberts (2002) spent a year after graduation with a traveling children's theatre based out of Ohio before returning to Nashville. He is now a master puppeteer and a recognized Actor/Combatant by the Society of American Fight Directors in Unarmed Combat, Rapier and Dagger, and Quarterstaff. This spring, Bob will begin work at the soon-to-open Musician's Hall of Fame in Nashville.

Sara Vaughn (2002) is a substitute teacher and graduate student in teaching at Belmont University. She has an 11-year old daughter and works as a camp counselor during summer months. Sara has five cats and a dog and lives in Nashville.

Holly Hamilton (2003) lives in Antioch, TN, and works for Enterprise Rent a Car. She is planning a move to New York in the near future.

Amber Wakefield (2003) moved to New York after graduation and interned in the casting office of The Public Theatre. After six months, she was offered the full time position of Assistant to the Casting Director, making her a popular person among talents agents. She works with such notables as Kevin Kline, Meryl Streep, Idina Menzel, and George C. Wolfe.

Hugh-Thomas H. Rader (2004) has worked with the People's Branch Theatre in Nashville as a Theatre Technician since December 2004. The company, which bills itself as "Nashville's leading experimental theatre and haven for cool culture," performs at the Belcourt Theatre in Hillsboro. Rader currently resides in Goodlettsville, TN.