

CENTER STAGE

WINTER 2016



Photo courtesy Donald P. Turner.



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Center Stage

WINTER 2016

Newsletter of UW Theatre & Dance

Content

CH-CH-CH-CHANGES 1
 Welcome New Faculty!..... 4
 Neltje Donates Artwork.....5
 Department Hosts ACDA6
 “The Winged” Invited Nat’l ACDA7
 Stage Combat Workshops.....8
 Safe Treat Comes to BCPA9
 Department Hosts State Drama10
 2016 Guest Artist Series.....11
 Alumni News.....12
 Faculty Spotlight13
 Thanks!.....15

“The Winged” Soars at ACDA



UW THD students perform Jose Limon’s classic work, “The Winged” (See p. 7.). Photo: Donald P. Turner.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
 Department of Theatre & Dance

(307) 766-2198
 jchapman@uwyo.edu
 uwyo.edu/THD



Photo courtesy Donald P. Turner.

CH-CH-CH-CHANGES...

Happy Holidays to you and yours from all of us in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Wyoming! We have had a full and rewarding year, and we have much news to share with you!

2016 has been a year of considerable and evolving change for UW, from the installation of a new president to the review of academic programs to strategic planning, to the restructuring of budgets and campus units. But some things remain constant at the Department of Theatre & Dance. We are dedicated to:

- Preparing students for meaningful lives as artists, scholars and educators by providing a rigorous, vibrant, creative, and academic environment in which to mentor them;
- Enriching the cultural life of Wyoming by staging high-quality performances, workshops, conferences, and events that showcase our students, faculty and guest artists’ talents and creative work, and to bringing the performing arts world to Wyoming, and Wyoming to the world;
- Promoting artistic curiosity, exploration, innovation, experimentation, risk-taking, and cross-disciplinary collaboration as we inspire our students, and the people of Wyoming, to reflect, think, and engage in issues of our life and times; and
- Creating and maintaining a fair, secure, and safe learning environment, in which open communication is the rule and not the exception, creativity is celebrated and not inhibited, and the ensemble is applauded, while the individual is encouraged to flourish.

Following are ways in which we accomplished this work in 2016.

In January, we hosted guest artist Francisco Pablo Ruvalcaba of the Limon Dance Company, who worked closely with our students to expose them to a historic dance work, as well as a unique movement vocabulary and method of working.

In March, we hosted the 2016 American College Dance Association (ACDA) Northwest Conference, which brought in students and faculty from all over the region for several days of workshops, lectures and performances, was quite an undertaking

CH-CH-CH-CHANGES (cont.)

for our students, faculty, and staff, but was ably coordinated and directed by **Marsha Knight**, with assistance from student intern **Julia Cooper**, senior Dance Performance major. Hosting events like this increases the visibility of our programs, faculty, and facilities, and offers our students more networking, mentoring, and service opportunities.

In April, we produced the original musical **ANGRY PSYCHO PRINCESSES** by **Seán Stone** and **William Missouri Downs**. Investing in new works allows us to involve our students actively in the creative development process, provide a vehicle for faculty creative endeavors, and present innovative pieces to our patrons.

In early June, UW Indoor Vertical Dance, the brainchild of **Margaret Wilson** and **Neil Humphrey**, and the musical ensemble **Lights Along the Shore** performed a free public concert of original dance pieces and music at the Berry Biodiversity Center. This was the fourth Vertical Dance concert given in the Berry Center, and highlighted the cross-disciplinary work occurring among the performing arts, and among these and the natural and physical sciences.

In June and July, we produced our 63rd summer theatre season—the second oldest program west of the Mississippi—with a high-spirited selection of plays, Keith Reddin’s “The Missionary Position,” directed by **Patrick Konesko**, a comedy about the back-room dealings on the presidential campaign trail; a revival of Steven Schwartz’s beloved Broadway musical “Godspell,” directed by **Leigh Selting** and music directed by **Seán Stone**; and Neil Simon’s classic family tale about a reconciliation and reconnection, “I Ought to be in Pictures,” directed by **Kevin Inouye**. The 21st annual Snowy Range Dance Festival ran in late July and this year featured a unique assemblage of world-renowned artists who served as both the teaching faculty and resident company, and who devised and set collaborative works on festival participants.

The fall season has been eclectic and fun. A modern-day rendering of Shakespeare’s early, slapstick comedy, **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS**, directed by Kevin Inouye, opened

the season, and made good use of multimedia and creative staging to update the play.

In **Jennifer Deckert**’s original full-length dance concert, **DRACULA: THE LEGEND IN MOTION**, the combined creative talents of our faculty were on full display, as the piece mesmerized audiences with Deckert’s frenetic and beautiful choreography, **Seán Stone**’s insistent and menacing original score, **Casey Kearns**’ eerie, atmospheric set, **Lee Hodgson**’s gorgeous, gently steam-punked Victorian costumes, and **Jason Banks**’ moody, unnerving lighting. The piece inspired a kitschy bloodmobile drive, which reached capacity, as well as a preview performance in Coe Library, and a costume contest on Halloween night.

The season closed with **William Missouri Downs**’ rollicking new comedy for Shakespeare fans and haters alike, **WOMEN PLAYING HAMLET**, produced in record time and as simply as possible, to better feature the all-female cast and shrewdly funny script. Directed by Downs and senior **Kathryn Demith**, the play was a major hit with State Drama students, and well-received by area audiences, who braved the cold and competition with major sporting events to attend.

Speaking of State Drama students, UW Theatre & Dance hosted the Wyoming High School State Drama competition for the second year in a row, coordinated by the hard-working **Cecilia Aragon**, who cheerfully met each daily challenge as it arose, along with invaluable stage managers **McKendry McGown** and **Jennifer Wilbur**, and the indefatigable student coordinator **Patrick Konesko**, and a huge group of student, faculty, and staff volunteers.

The spring season promises to be just as engaging. The season opens in February with **SONIA FLEW**, directed by **Patrick Konesko**, a timely examination of one immigrant’s experience, family matriarch Sonia, who escaped revolutionary Cuba for Minneapolis, but where, post-911, she struggles to come to terms with her past, her lost parents, her own children, her adopted country, and an uncertain future.



Photos courtesy Donald P. Turner.



CH-CH-CH-CHANGES (cont.)

Immediately after strike, our students will once again head down to Denver to compete in all areas of theatre at the 2017 Region VII Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF).

Next up is SPRING TO DANCE, which runs in March right before spring break, and which features the choreography of THD faculty as well as guest artists in a mixed-bill concert that offers an array of dance styles ranging from jazz and modern to European release and vertical dance.

Also before break, our design/tech students will participate in the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) annual conference and expo in St. Louis, MO.

The 2016-2017 Theatre and Dance season closes in late April with Stephen Sondheim's groundbreaking musical COMPANY, directed by **Seán Stone**. Join us for a very funny and affecting examination of love, relationships, and marriage through the eyes of Bobby, a confirmed New York bachelor, and featuring some of Sondheim's best-known songs, including "Marry Me A Little," "Ladies Who Lunch," and "Being Alive."

Watch for news of our spring guest artists, student productions, and the upcoming summer theatre season, which will feature a local and touring production of the longest-running musical in Broadway history, **THE FANTASTICKS!**

We at UW Theatre & Dance are more excited than ever to share the world of the performing arts with you, our faithful supporters. While "the times may be a' changin'," our commitment to undertaking creative work, providing quality instruction, and enhancing the cultural life of the local and Statewide community is stronger than ever.

We welcome your news and visits at any time. Feel free to stop by and take a tour of the new facilities or just say hello.

Thank you for your interest in our programs, our production season, and our students! We are grateful for your continuing support, and we wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season.

See you at the theatre in 2017!

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!



Jason Banks

*Temporary Assistant Lecturer,
Lighting Design*

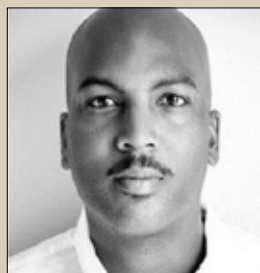
Jason is elated to be joining to team at the University of Wyoming. With a BFA from the University of Florida and an MFA from The Ohio State

University, Jason has worked professionally as a designer and technician for over fifteen years. Having served as a lighting, video, and sound designer for a wide array of productions in theatre, dance, opera, film, and concerts, Jason is happy to bring with his love of teaching a great deal of industry experience.

Jason has served as lighting director for festival headliners such as Candlebox, Boys II Men, and Smashmouth, and has served as designer for Interlochen Center for the Arts, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and Opera Columbus amongst many others.

As a technician, Jason has worked as a freelance contractor nationally and internationally on a variety of installation and maintenance projects with entertainment companies such as Royal Caribbean.

Jason looks forward to experiencing Wyoming and sharing his experiences with future students and artistic collaborators.



Maurice Watson

*Temporary Assistant Lecturer, Jazz
Dance - Modern Dance - Repertory
- Partnering*

Maurice is a choreographer, dancer and teacher who uses dance as a way to communicate, when words just aren't enough. Born and raised

in Long Beach, California, dance was a way of connecting all of the little voices inside his head. Along his journey in dance he acquired a strong sense of artistry that allowed him to dance and perform with world-class companies such as Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Disney, Jazz Antiqua, Long Beach Ballet, and Holland America Cruise Line.

A 2015 graduate from the University of Iowa, Maurice holds an MFA in dance with an emphasis in choreography. His choreography has been seen on Dayton Contemporary Dance 1st and 2nd company, 7Dancers Dance Company, Jazz Antiqua Dance and Music Ensemble, universities and dance studios throughout the United States. Maurice is an engaging teacher, and has taught at numerous universities, summer programs, and dance seminars throughout the United States, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, where many students and teachers have experienced his creative prowess as a dancer and choreographer.



Neltje, *Sounds of Sorcery* (10' X 30', 2015).

WYOMING ARTIST NELTJE GIFTS ARTWORK TO UW

The University of Wyoming Department of Theatre and Dance and the Office of the President are pleased to announce a gift of artwork to UW by Wyoming artist **Neltje**.

The artwork is permanently installed in the east lobby of the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts (BCPA) in honor of **Jacque and Tom Buchanan**.

Neltje, one of Wyoming's eminent artists, is a self-taught artist who has worked in several media, most notably, painting, to express her experiences of nature and life. Her work has been inspired throughout her career by the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming, her home for the last 50 years. Neltje has exhibited her work extensively in solo, group, and invitational exhibitions.

The idea for featuring Neltje's remarkable, large-scale paintings first came to UW Theatre and Dance faculty member **Marsha Knight** while attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the BCPA in October 2016.

"I was looking around at the crowd while Tom [Buchanan] was speaking quite passionately about the importance of the arts, of his view that the Performing Arts Center is among the most important that UW will ever build, and that a commitment to 'strength in the arts is a prerequisite to calling yourself a good university,'" said Knight.

"And there stood Neltje, and I thought that, perhaps, with her history with the Art Department and UW Art Museum, that Neltje might be willing to consider donating a work to this new space with its enormous walls," she added.

Knight's epiphany was a natural outgrowth of Neltje's impact on her own work and that of her students. After

viewing an exhibition of Neltje's multi-paneled paintings in the UW Art Museum in fall 2013, Knight was inspired to bring her dance composition class to the exhibit improvise there.

"Neltje's work is loaded with movement, and I understand she very surely dances while painting," said Knight. "Well, those dancers were a very talented group, and it was a stunning experience." Knight sent on film clips from that afternoon to Neltje via Ricki Klages, head of the UW Department of Art, whom she felt would be sure to understand the experience had by all that afternoon.

Knight mentioned the idea of incorporating Neltje's work into the BCPA to the Buchanans, who in turn approached Neltje, and the process began to move rather quickly. Neltje's idea was to donate two works; "Follies and Foolishness" (2005), and a new piece she painted specifically for the BCPA, "Sounds of Sorcery" (2015), which embodies music and dance in a vast 30' x 10' composition.

Neltje gave her preference on placement in the BCPA, and **Chris Boswell**, UW Vice President for Government and Community Affairs, and UW's President's Public Art Committee approved and began the rather involved process of installing the works for permanent display. **Susan Moldenhauer**, Director and Curator of the Art Museum, advised on every aspect of how best to present the works in terms of light, proper installation, placement, and balance in the room. Finally, Neltje's assistant, **David Schreiber**, moved the paintings down from Neltje's studio/home in Banner in a horse trailer.

A dedication ceremony in recognition of Neltje's gift took place on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the BCPA.



UW THEATRE & DANCE HOSTS ACDA NW CONFERENCE

This March 9-12, 2016, the University of Wyoming Department of Theatre and Dance was proud to host the Northwest Conference of the American College Dance Association (ACDA), welcoming 425 dancers and faculty from 31 schools, with 44 difference pieces of choreography entered for adjudication.

The conference was a multi-day celebration of dance in higher education, opening with a performance and master classes offered by the guest artist company, Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Following were a wide variety of exciting master classes, scholarly research presentations, Screendance, opportunities for student and faculty exchanges, feedback sessions, and adjudication and informal concerts, all culminating in a Gala Concert of selected pieces on March 12.

Dance faculty member **Marsha Knight** coordinated the event, with assistance from student intern **Julia Cooper**, a senior Dance Performance major who has studied with companies such as American Repertory Theatre, Trey McIntyre Project, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Repertory Dance Theatre, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and who has taught dance for the past five years.

“Rhythm of the Heart, Sound of the Soul” was the theme of the conference, which featured several invited guest musicians to collaborate and make great, live music, including **Jesse Manno**, **James Hoskins**, **Selasse**, **Mike Wall**, **Salim**, **Atta Addo**, and **Dave Willey**.

The role of adjudicators is central to ACDA conferences. UW’s included **Virginia Johnson**, Artistic Director, founding member and former principal dancer of Dance Theatre of Harlem; **Tiffany Mills**, artistic director and choreographer of the is a NYC-based Tiffany Mills Company; and **David Dorfman**, artistic director of David Dorfman Dance and Chair of Dance at Connecticut College.

ACDA exists to support and affirm dance in higher education through regional conferences, the adjudication process, and national festivals. The educational mission of the Association is to foster creative potential, to honor multiple approaches to scholarly and creative research and activity, to promote excellence in choreography and/or performance, and to give presence and value to diversity in dance. The Association acts as a national membership service organization to strengthen the educational network for students and faculty within the academic dance community.



Photo courtesy Donald P. Turner.

UW'S "THE WINGED" INVITED TO NATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL

The University of Wyoming Latina/o Studies Program and the UW Theatre & Dance were proud to host guest artist **Pablo Francisco Ruvalcaba** of the Limón Dance Company for a two-week residency this January, in which he taught classes and set the singular José Limón work, "Excerpts From the Winged," on UW dancers.

A native of San Diego, California, and a graduate of The Julliard School, Mr. Ruvalcaba first joined the Limón Dance Company in 1996, where he was quickly cast in prominent roles dancing opposite Carla Maxwell in "Carlotta" and Nina Watt in "Orfeo," as well as featured solos in "The Winged," "Choreographic Offering," and "There Is A Time."

"The Winged" was created in 1966 for a cast of 19, partly in silence and with incidental music by Hank Johnson, Carla Maxwell restaged it in 1999 with a new score by Jon Magnussen. The work is sectional, and includes solos, duets, a quintet and several large ensemble passages.

The finished piece was presented in UW's spring dance concert. UW dancers were delighted to present the piece again for adjudication during the ACDA Northwest Conference.

"Following several weeks of intensive rehearsals, 16 of our best dancers were ready to perform this beautiful work and represent our department at the conference," said **Jennifer Deckert**, dance faculty.

UW's presentation of "Excerpts from The Winged" was deemed by world-renowned adjudicators David Dorfman, Virginia Johnson, and Tiffany Mills to be "a

brilliantly realized reconstruction of an exquisite classic modern dance performed with precision and creature-like embodiment."

The piece was not only selected, along with 12 others, for performance at the Gala Concert on March 12, but was also given the incredibly high honor of being invited to represent the ACDA Northwest Conference at the National American College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., June 8-11, one of only three works so chosen.

"This is an amazing opportunity to represent the University of Wyoming on a national stage and give the dancers hard-earned recognition of their stunning performance and dedication," said Deckert.

The National Festival highlights the outstanding quality of choreography and performance created on college and university campuses throughout the nation. This year, a total of 31 schools from the 12 conferences were selected to participate based on outstanding artistic excellence and merit.

"The prospect of sending our students to perform at the Kennedy Center is exciting, but naturally comes with significant travel costs," said department head **Leigh Selting**.

"We are extremely fortunate to have the generous support of Mel Cox, long-time donor to our programs, as well as the UW President's Office and the College of Arts and Sciences, whose contributions have made our participation at the National Festival possible," he added.

“THE PERFECT MUSICAL. IT’S A GEM!”

-The Wall Street Journal



The Fantastic

The World’s Longest Running Musical
Music by Harvey Schmidt. Book & Lyrics by Tom Jones.

A funny and romantic musical about a boy, a girl, two fathers, and a wall.

COMING SUMMER 2017

2016-2017 STAGE COMBAT WORKSHOPS AT UW THEATRE & DANCE

October 15 and 16, UW Theatre & Dance hosted Wyoming’s first Theatrical Firearms Safety Workshop, a certificate-bearing, Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD)-sanctioned event, with participants including students, community college instructors, high school teachers, and actors from WY and CO. The two-day intensive covered all common aspects of theatrical firearms use, taught by SAFD Certified Theatrical Firearms Instructor, UW Assistant Professor, and author of [The Theatrical Firearms Handbook](#), **Kevin Inouye**. Successful participants received a certificate of completion from the SAFD.

Theatrical Firearms is the SAFD’s newest discipline, and is available from only 26 instructors worldwide. The workshop was suited not only to actors/stunt performers and aspiring fight coordinators, but also to stage managers and any backstage crew that might be called upon to handle acquisition, maintenance, storage, and Equity reporting on firearm props.

This **May 6 and 7, 2017**, UW Theatre & Dance will host the third annual **UWYO Stage Combat Workshop**. Participants can attend one or both days of intensive stage combat instruction in a variety of styles, including:

- Gypsy knife and poncho and WWI Trench Raiding with SAFD Fight Director **Charles Conwell**;
- Sneaky Ninja Tricks with Ninjutsu black-belt and SAFD Fight Director **Tim Pinnow**;



Workshop participants rehearsing a stage fight.

Historically-influenced theatrical longsword with SFAD Certified Teacher **Kevin Inouye**...and more!

The UWYO Stage Combat Workshop is the only regular two-day intensive in the Rocky Mountain Region, and is fully endorsed by the Society of American Fight Directors, the oldest and largest group dedicated to the study and performance of staged conflict.

UW’s Stage Combat workshops are supported in part by a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council, which helps to keep registration fees the lowest in the nation. Registration for the May workshop will open in early spring.

UW'S SAFE TREAT COMES TO THE BUCHANAN CENTER

Many on campus and in the community were sad to learn that Safe Treat, the University of Wyoming's annual trick-or-treating event for school-aged children was cancelled for 2016 due to staffing issues.

UW Theatre & Dance members were discussing the cancellation and the very real workload demands and budget realities that can lead to such painful decisions being made. Offhand joking that the department should host the event at the Buchanan Center led to a discussion of the various advantages in using the facility, from its size to its various levels and corridors and backstage areas, to the parking available, to the set of DRACULA, which was already up.

Relatively quickly, approval had been requested and granted from interim department head, **Margaret Wilson**, other programs within the building were consulted, and the department contacted Union events staff to see if the event could be reinstated at the BCPA. Within 30 minutes or less, we had permission from UW administrators to serve as hosts and set the 2016 Safe Treat for Friday, October 28.

UW Theatre & Dance relied heavily on the work of Safe Treat organizers from previous years to guide our efforts, as well as the volunteer work of several design/tech students and student performers in DRACULA to help to provide an appropriately spooky atmosphere. Numerous RSOs volunteered to set up booths and hand out candy as in

previous years, and donations of candy came in from several individuals and groups from on and off across campus, most notably, from the **Department of Chemistry**. Several other campus entities assisted with logistics, including the **Department of Music** and the **String Academy**, the **UW Copy Center**, **TransPark**, and the **Cowboy Joe Club**, which was incredibly supportive of community use of the Stadium parking lot right before a home football game. Several faculty and staff were instrumental in coordinating student volunteers and assisting with creating booths and setup and clean up, including **Casey Kearns**, **Landee Lockhart**, **Jason Banks**, **Kathy Kirkaldie**, and **Greg Owen**, and **Lou Anne Wright**

Finally, **Daryl Schultz**, Zone 4 Supervisor with UW Custodial Services, volunteered to arrange for custodial staff who were interested to flex out their normal work hours so that they could assist with SafeTreat clean up. This courtesy was not only appreciated, but left the building in tip-top shape within 30 minutes of the event's end.

A formal headcount was not taken, but we estimate that 2000-3000 area children and their families attended the 2016 Safe Treat, and a great time was had by all.

UW Theatre & Dance extends our sincere thanks to those individuals and groups, as well as the RSOs, who helped to make the 2016 Safe Treat a success. We appreciate you!



UW Theatre & Dance is pleased to announce that the

DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

will serve as the

2017 Eminent Artists-in-Residence!

DTH company members will be onsite for two weeks in September, culminating in a gala performance for the public, co-sponsored by UW Cultural Programs, on **Friday, September 29, 2017**.

A performance for area schoolchildren will take place on **Friday, September 22, 2017**. DTH teaching faculty will undertake an extended residency with our students during the Fall 2017 semester.

Watch for upcoming Eminent Artist news and events!



UW THEATRE & DANCE HOSTS WY STATE DRAMA COMPETITION

More than 600 students participated in the annual Wyoming High School State Drama competition Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 1-3, sponsored by the Wyoming Educators of Secondary Theatre (WEST) and hosted by UW Theatre and Dance. WEST supports and enhances quality theater education in Wyoming secondary schools.

Students in grades 9-12, representing more than 30 different schools, took part in several performance and design competitions using facilities on the UW campus, including the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts, and proximal facilities in Corbett Gym, the Visual Arts Building, and the Washakie Center commons area.

This annual event, held since its inception in 1972, was originally denoted the State Drama Festival, with International Thespian activities included as part of the festivities. In 1989, the event was transformed into a competition, and is now included as a Wyoming High School Activities Association event.

“We are happy to host all of the Wyoming high school theater students in the Department of Theatre and Dance. This event marks a great moment to showcase our renovations and state-of-the-art performing facilities,” said Margaret Wilson, department chair. “It also gives students from all over the State of Wyoming an opportunity to interact with our reputable faculty,” she added.

Cecilia Aragon, UW Theatre & Dance associate professor, was the Wyoming State Drama producer.

“This is one of the largest events where the UW Department of Theatre and Dance provides statewide services and stewardship to drama teachers, coaches, sponsors and students in all of Wyoming high schools,” she says. “This event offers UW Theatre and Dance faculty an opportunity to network and recruit the best, intelligent, motivated students in Wyoming.”

Students also had the opportunity to audition, interview and display portfolios for all of the recruiting community college representatives in Wyoming and universities in the Rocky Mountain region.

An opening ceremony was held Thursday, Dec. 1, in Corbett Gym, with competitions commencing that afternoon and 8 a.m. through evenings on both Friday, Dec. 2, and Saturday, Dec. 3. The awards ceremony was held Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in the BCPA Concert Hall.

Students competed and were adjudicated in: one-act play categories -- proscenium, arena, group and performance art; monologues -- humorous and dramatic; two-person scenes -- humorous and dramatic; scenic design; costume design; makeup design -- real and fantasy; lighting design; publicity; and original scripts -- one-act, monologue and duet.

UW Theatre & Dance would like to thank the many units on campus that assisted with hosting the event, including the Dept. of Kinesiology and Health, Residence Life and Dining Services, Student Affairs, Dept. of Music, College of Law, Athletics, and TransPark, among others.



2016 GUEST ARTIST SERIES

Since the 2008-2009 season, UW Theatre & Dance has enjoyed tremendous support for its Guest Artist Series and Eminent Artist-in-Residence through the Excellence in Education Endowment from the Wyoming State Legislature.

During 2016, the Guest Artist Series brought numerous talented artists and professionals in technical theatre, dance, acting, and playwriting on campus to work with and present master classes to our students.

Visiting guest artists offer outstanding training and networking opportunities for our students and learning and performance opportunities for the community.

2016 Guest Artists, among others, include:

- In January, **Francisco Pablo Ruvalcaba**, of the Limon Dance Company, taught classes and set “Excerpts from The Winged” on UW dancers. The residency culminated in two free, public events on January 29, the lecture “The Artist As An Outsider” and a performance of “Excerpts from The Winged.”
- In late April, **Rachel Holmes**, former member of Elisa Monte Dance, a NYC- based company, currently with Dance Jackson, was in residence to work with our advanced dancers in the Modern and Ballet classes.
- In early April, costume designer **Anne Cleveland**, formerly professor and resident costume designer at CSU before relocating to LA, where she teaches and designs productions at Cal-State University-Northridge, was on site to teach a master class in Digital Costume Rendering.
- June 2-7, **Andre Megerdichian** was in residence to teach Limon classes and to prepare UW dancers to perform “Excerpts From The Winged” at the Kennedy Center, and also joined the performers in Washington, D.C. for the national festival.
- In October, UW Theatre & Dance alumna and LA-based casting agent **Coco Kleppinger** presented a critique of on-camera auditions for acting and musical theatre students, and a workshop on the actors’ life in Hollywood, including presenting tips and tricks of the trade, how to get an agent, and providing a critique of live auditions.
- Also in October, playwright, director, and acting coach **Lisa Konoplisky** conducted an intensive Meisner workshop, as well as a workshop on the playwright’s life and tips and tricks of the trade.
- In November, director, performer, and librettist **Joshua William Gelb** presented lectures on THE BLACK CROOK, the first musical, and THE BASTARD, which was presented by the Musical Theatre Workshop, as well as workshops/rewrite session with the Musical Theatre Workshop-Workshop/rewrite sessions with MT Workshop class.



Francisco Pablo Ruvalcaba.



CoCo Kleppinger

ALUMNI NEWS



Noelia Antweiler in Alabama Shakespeare Festival's production of THE COMEDY OF ERRORS.

Noelia Antweiler, BFA, '12, was selected as part of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's 2016 Touring Company.

Hannah Barefoot, BFA '05, moved to LA from Portland two years ago, where she lives with her husband and son Keller. She spent 2015 procuring agents and a manager and studying intensely with on-camera studios. She began 2016 with a co-star on CSI: Cyber in February, then a three-episode recurring guest star on THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS in April, a guest star on TNT's THE LIBRARIANS, then a six-episode recurring guest star on a new Amazon show, GOOD GIRLS REVOLT, and then a top of show guest star on NCIS in November (airing 12/13). She was offered the lead role in a feature film, DERAILED, a thriller from MarVista Entertainment, and shot in New York in October 2016. Check out Hannah's work at www.hannahbarefoot.com.

Chris Egging, BFA '06, lives in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania with wife Kate and daughter Harper. In April, he played Hal in PROOF with Global IMPACTORS Group in Macungie, PA. He is also involved in a staged reading series with Allentown Public Theatre. He was Macbeth in MACBETH last November, Andre Friedman in THE MAN WHO INVENTED HIMSELF in January, and Ned Weeks in THE NORMAL HEART in June. Chris directed Agatha Christie's THE MOUSETRAP in November 2015 with Northampton Community College and has begun pre-production work on a short film being shot in the area.

Laurel Hanson, BFA '13, is working full-time as a carpenter with the Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas.

Missy Moore, BFA '02, was recently seen as Arlene in Getting Out by Marsha Norman, in a new collaboration called DUST with Curious Theatre Company and Wounderbound, as well as in the children's show Art Dog with Denver Children's Theatre.

Claudine Mboligipelani Nako, BFA, '12, received a Gregory Award for Best Actress (Musical) for her role in MY HEART IS THE DRUM at the Village Theatre. The Gregory Awards are administered, funded and produced by Theatre Puget Sound, and celebrate the theatre arts in the Washington State and the region, honor the outstanding

achievements of theatre practitioners, and raise the visibility of the local theatre scene as a whole.

Scott Pardue, BTD '93, has been getting more involved in video production work. With the help of many UW alumni, last year one of his videos won a national grant (20K) from Dr. Pepper for a playground for a local elementary school. Check out the video here: <https://youtu.be/nxdP1x8wlmQ>. Recently, Scott completed a promotional video and audio book for a new book called Be Holy published by Chalice Press and shot a new video for the Augusta Boys and Girls Club.

Siri Paulsen, BFA, '14, lives in Greenland with her husband Guillaume and one-year-old daughter named Inès Atangana. Siri started her own company and has work scheduled through 2017. She began by making podcasts for a museum, then received stipends to write two different scripts, and later took all design for a production with the National Theatre of Greenland. Siri says: "It's all very exciting and I really appreciate how there won't be two days alike."

Steven Rotramel, BFA, '13, served as Assistant Costume Designer under Tony Award nominated designer Jane Greenwood for Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's new show BRIGHT STAR.

Brian Slaten, BFA, '02, is a member of the Chalk Repertory Theatre in Culver City, CA. He recently appeared in BENT at Mark Taper Forum and STRAIGHT WHITE MEN at Kirk Douglas Theatre. Brian also recently appeared in the indie film "Happy 40th."

K. Harrison Sweeney, BFA, '02, guest stars with John Travolta, Ethan Hawke, Karen Gillan (DR. WHO, GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY, SELFIE), Taissa Farmiga (AMERICAN HORROR STORY seasons 1-3), James Ransone (SINISTER, THE WIRE), and Jumpy the Dog (trainer Omar Van Muller also trained the dog in "The Artist") in IN A VALLEY OF VIOLENCE from Blumhouse Productions/Focus Features and written/directed/edited by Ti West. The film had its worldwide theatrical release on October 21 after headlining at SXSW, TIFF, and BeyondFest.

In a Valley of Violence Official Trailer 1 (2016)



Brian Slaten (left middle) with Sir Ian McClellan and the cast of BENT.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

William Missouri Downs had a remarkable year in 2016. His plays were produced in Switzerland, Spain, South Korea, and the U.S. Bill's play HOW TO STEAL A PICASSO was a finalist at the Eugene O'Neill, and an Equity production at the Unicorn Theatre in Kansas City (MO) received standing ovations, an extended run, and excellent reviews. The play was translated into Korean and opened at the Daehakro Arts Theatre in Seoul, South Korea in November. Bill's comic play MAD GRAVITY was translated into Spanish and produced all over Spain, including the "Gran Via" in Madrid, which is Spain's version of Broadway. Bill's comedy BELOW THE NAVEL ABOVE THE KNEES earned second place at the Julie Harris Playwrights Award at the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild in LA. Bill also directed an Equity production of Aaron Posner's STUPID F@#ING BIRD at the Salt Lake Acting Company, which received standing ovations, packed houses, and was the highest grossing non-musical in the 40- year history of the Salt Lake Acting Company.

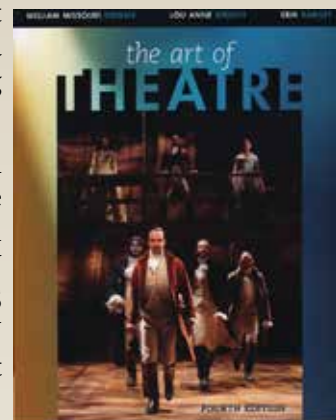


Bill published three new plays with Playscripts (WOMEN PLAYING HAMLET, MR. PERFECT and MAD GRAVITY). Bill also had a monologue published in "The Best Women's Stage Monologues of 2016" (Smith and Kraus), and with co-author Lou Anne Wright, had the fourth edition of their book *The Art Of Theatre* published by Wadsworth.

Bill spent his weekends working on a new TV pilot, which got him meetings in Hollywood with Reese Witherspoon's and Adam Sandler's production companies. But it was a meeting with That's Wonderful Entertainment, Jim Parsons' (of the Big Bang Theory) production company,

that was most exciting. After doing several rewrites, Parsons flew Bill out to Hollywood where they pitched the show to Warner Brothers' top management. The script is one of three finalists (out of hundreds of scripts) in a popular Hollywood writing contest.

In the midst of all this, Bill found time to co-write and co-direct (with Sean Stone) the musical ANGRY PSYCHO PRINCESSES and his comedy WOMEN PLAYING HAMLET here at UW.



Jennifer Deckert

choreographed the original ballet, DRACULA: THE LEGEND IN MOTION (original score by Sean Warren Stone), which premiered in Laramie on October 25th. In conjunction with the production, several special events were held, including a blood drive, a preview at Coe Library, an appearance by dancers at the community event Safe Treat, and a costume contest during intermission on Halloween night. Following a successful run in Laramie, DRACULA toured to Rock Springs, Thermopolis, Cody, and Rapid City, SD.

Kevin Inouye taught the State's first Theatrical Firearms Safety Workshop, a certificate-bearing, Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD)-sanctioned event, with participants including students, community college instructors, high school teachers, and actors from WY and CO. Kevin also led unarmed stage combat renewals with Fight Master Geoffrey Kent at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, is invited instructional staff at the 25th International Paddy Crean Stage Combat Workshop, which will take place in Banff, AB, over the winter break, had a review published in *The Fight Master* (Journal of the SAFD), and has a Physical Dramaturgy chapter in progress, for title accepted by Routledge Press. Kevin has been trying to obtain funding for updating the department's A/V equipment, and received a \$1000 Caitlin Long Excellence Fund grant, and has other grants awaiting response. Kevin directed THE COMEDY OF ERRORS in late September.

Marsha Knight says: "I am fully invested in continued reading of transcriptions and listening to oral histories at Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration's Oral History Collection, enjoying the time that sabbatical allows to fully experience the research process. Each day brings new stories; diverse, specific, and profoundly pertinent to where we are as a country. The research

personalizes the topic of immigration, and I continue to define how to best present this material in a new version of SIX SONGS FROM ELLIS, a dance/theatre piece first presented by Theatre and Dance in 2009.

I am observing many classes, mostly to date at Dance Theatre of Harlem and at Ballet Academy East's pre-professional school. I have fallen into a truly exciting position with both schools, teaching as needed at Ballet Academy's adult division and at Dance Theatre of Harlem with their upper level students. I set a section of a recent study (performed by Annaliese Ptacek and Lexi Reeder last spring) for DTH upper level dancers for a Sunday matinee performance at the school. Being involved in studio work in New York is adding a dimension to this sabbatical experience for which I am very appreciative.

I continue to work through details of DTH and their planned Eminent Artist Residency for September 2017. Featured will be a Gala Concert on September 29 at A&S, during which DTH will premiere a work developed as part of the Eminent Artist residency. DTH artists will set two works on UW dancers during the Extended Residency presence, teach many workshops and classes, and perform a lecture demonstration for Albany County elementary school children, among other activities across campus.

Leigh and I are seeing many performances in both theatre and dance, attending films and lectures, and seeing museums as much and as often as possible. We are definitely keeping focus on the happenings at UW, and appreciate the time and efforts allowed to make our sabbatical possible!"

Leigh Selting is currently on sabbatical leave in New York City. He has spent much of the last five months working with the Tony award-winning Public Theater, primarily stage managing for their new play workshops/

readings division. Thus far he has worked on pieces with Pulitzer prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks, Pulitzer prize-winning composer and lyricist Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey, Paul Rudnick and Rebecca Gilman. He has stage managed for Tony award winning directors Daniel Sullivan, Walter Bobbie, Obie-award winners Lear deBessonet and Anne Kaufman. In between workshops, in September, he served as a rehearsal assistant for Bill Bowers on a show at the Stella Adler Theatre, and flew to Bozeman to shoot a short film about life in the theatre, with Emmy-nominated director Tom Watson. Leigh also was invited to directed a show for alum Garrett Neergaard, BFA, '02, at his school LaGuardia College in Queens called TWEETING IVES (using Twitter during the show), which closed in November. In December/January, Leigh will work as a venue coordinator for the Public Theatre's Under the Radar Festival, show-running a production from Berlin called TOP SECRET INTERNATIONAL, a site-specific performance at the Brooklyn Museum, where each audience member gets a smart-phone and a Bluetooth earpiece. The spring he will hold positions as Assistant Production Manager for the Public Theatre's Public Studio production, and will serve as stage manager for a premier production directed by Obie award-winning director Leigh Silverman.

Margaret Wilson is serving as interim chair in Leigh Selting's absence. Her love for Marsha and Leigh knows no bounds....She and Neil Humphrey are producing a suite of vertical dance pieces in the March 2017 concert SPRING TO DANCE based on work they have created at the UW Berry Biodiversity Center and they will be presenting VERTICAL DANCE AT VEDAUWOO in August. She has a chapter on "Rest and Recovery" published in "Dancer Wellness" a new publication from Human Kinetics that she co-wrote with Glenna Batson. She is hoping to practice rest over the winter break.



THANK YOU TO THE 2016-2017 FRIENDS OF THEATRE & DANCE!

We invite you to join in the work of UW Theatre & Dance by becoming one of the *2016-2017 Friends of Theatre & Dance*. For a contribution over the cost of a season ticket, you can take pleasure in knowing you are helping our program to succeed and to continue its tradition of excellence.

SPONSOR (\$25,000 & UP)

Melvin Cox, John & Esther Clay, Douglas B. Reeves.

ANGEL (\$10,000 & UP)

Prof. Audrey C. Shalinsky, Wyoming State Bank.

DESIGNER (\$1000 & ABOVE)

Dave Andrews-Andrews Photography, Prof. Harold L. & Dr. Annie N. Bergman, Prof. Steve & Kathleen Bieber, Bryan & Evelyn Brodersen, Capezio-Ballet Makers Dance Foundation, Inc., Skip Harper, Paulie Jenkins, Dr. David L. Jones & Mary Hardin-Jones, Dr. Kent M. & Nicko L. Kleppinger, Jeffrey A. Lee, Jack & Victoria H. Oakie Charitable Foundation, Michael J. & Connie K. Schingle, Dr. Roy J. Schlemmon, Dr. Ann M. Sprague-Upper Rogue Physical Therapy, LLC, Dr. B. Oliver & Sidney Walter, Rev. Howard & Ruth Wilson.

BENEFACTOR (\$500 & ABOVE)

Michael C. Cordes, Capital Lumber Co. - Jerry & Ivan Heimsoth, LLC, En Avant Dance Studio-Andrea B. Rinne and Lorraine Brown-Bassett, Betty Fear, June S. Lee, Dr. Paula & Leonard Lutz, Donald A. & M. Virginia Porter, O'Dwyers Public House, Peter K. & Lynne Simpson, Susan C. Weidel, Margaret A. Wilson & Neil Humphrey.

PROMOTER (\$250-499)

Dr. Bruce R. & Carol D. Adams, Christine G. Austin, Lew & Donna Bagby, Elena Berlinsky & Peter Polyakov, Prof. Gladys M. Crane, Samuel R. & Pauline M. Dunnuck, Charles Mason & Glenda Earl, Peter F. Hansen, Timothy & Jamie Kearley, Prof. Charles & Sandra Ksir, Bob & Carmen Leonard, Jon & Ginnie Madsen, Dr. John R. and Treasure L. McPherson, Patricia G. Engler-Parish &

A donation at the Patron level or above entitles you to early seat selection, recognition in T&D programs, and an invitation to our annual donor gala reception. Giving at levels of Designer and above also entitles you to other extras. Become a *Friend of Theatre & Dance* today!

Dr. Thomas R. Parish, Bill & Joan Ryan, Mark Roller, Anne H. & Barry M. Shalinsky, Rebecca L. & Jeffrey L. Tish, West Family Dentistry - Dr. Donald West, Meg VanBaalén-Wood & Casey Wood.

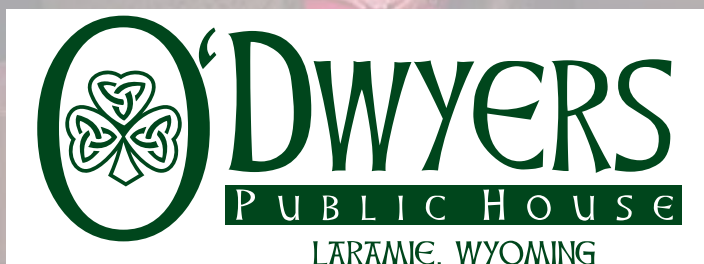
ADVOCATE (\$100-249)

Randy L. & Elizabeth H. Anderson, Cecilia Aragon, Prof. Kent G. Drummond & Susan Aronstein, Donald R. Austin, John J. Yochem & Leslie Bell, Kathleen Bertoncelj, Dr. Charles P. De Wolf & Dr. Mary Burman, Charles W. Dolan, Sarah Strauss & Carrick Eggleston, Dr. Rodney A. & Sandra L. Garnett, Larry & Carolyn Hazlett, Wanda Hodgson, Bonnie Zare & Steve Holbrook, David C. Ungerman & Susan G. Horan, Douglas & Richelle Keinath, Dr. Jeffrey A. & Nancy F. Lockwood, Martha E. Lawlor, Carol L. & William E. Loyer, Susan B. Moldenhauer & Robert A. Moore, Lisa Muller, Anne Smith Myers, Prof. Eric Nye & Prof. Carol Frost, Plateau Properties - Tom & Dr. June Parnell, Dr. Paul & Martha Pheneger, Dr. Margaret Prine, Louise Richardson, Rotary Club of Laramie, Gary & Susan Sherman, Alice Sherwood, Dan & Carolina Turnquist, Deborah Rieger & Robert Van De Rostyne- VDR Volvo, Richard W. & Eleanor W. Waggener, Bill & Sue Walden, William J. Kuestner & Gillian M. Walford, Marian S. Weiser.

PATRON (\$50-99)

Randy & Elizabeth Anderson, Barbara A. & Grant E. Arnold, Douglas J. & Cheryl K. Baker, Katherine Birdsall, Dr. Donna L. Bliss, Dr. Gregory K. & Linda J. Brown, Stephen & Laura Feldman, Danial & Raenne Groathouse, Peter Hegg, Chester I. and Marla J. Jordan, John P. & Elizabeth W. Kissell, Donna & James Mecham, John & Judith Nelson, Antonia S. Passow, Catherine Ryan, Gordon & Julie Schroyer - Lucky Six, LLC, Robert H. & Paula H. Seamon, Donal & Margaret Skinner, Dr. Teresa Ukrainetz & Jerry L. Starr.

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



 UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Dept. of Theatre & Dance
Dept. 3951
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071

Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 7



*Happy
Holidays!*

UW THEATRE & DANCE WISHES YOU A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON AND OUR
SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.