

# drama beat



Summer  
2005

A Publication of the Jacksonville State University Department of Drama

## Official Box Office Policy

All evening performances begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Matinees begin at 2:00 p.m.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House and Box Office Managers.

No babes-in-arms allowed (children under the age of 2). Small children (under the age of 6) allowed only at the discretion of the House and Box Office Managers. Most JSU Mainstage productions are appropriate for age 13 and older.

**ABSOLUTELY NO VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING ALLOWED DURING PRODUCTIONS.**

This causes us to break our royalty agreements with renting companies and may cause us to be denied permission to produce plays by said companies.

Production schedule may be amended if performances are added or deleted.

Jacksonville State University Drama Department is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Jacksonville State University Drama Department is an organizational member of the Southeastern Theatre Conference and the Alabama Conference of Theatre and Speech.

Jacksonville State University Drama Department is a member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

## new season announced

The JSU Department of Drama is pleased to announce the roster of plays for the 2005-2006 theatre season.

Opening the season on October 20th will be the comedy, *ARMS AND THE MAN*, by George Bernard Shaw. Following in November will be Carson McCullers' drama, *THE MEMBER OF THE WEDDING*.

The season's musical will feature the music and

lyrics of two of America's greatest composers, George Gershwin and his brother Ira Gershwin. The story for this delightful show is by Ken Ludwig, another great comedic writer. The show, *CRAZY FOR YOU*, will open on February 16th.

The winner of the 2005 Southern Playwright's Competition will premier May 18th. The play is *WAS*, written by Barry Bradford.

Rounding out the season

is a new comedic farce, *THE CURSE OF THE PORCUPINE'S EAR*, by our very own Wayne H. Claeren which will open on June 22nd.

Season brochures are being printed now and will be in the mail soon.

**Call 782-5648  
To Order Your  
Season Passes Now!**

## JSU Drama suffers tragic loss

JSU Drama suffered a very sad loss on July 4th. Junior Drama major, Brian J. Roberson, Jr., drowned at a family outing at Smith Lake.

Brian had appeared in the mainstage JSU Drama productions of *You Can't Take It With You* (fall 2003), *West Side Story* (spring 2004), *As You Like It* (fall 2004), and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (spring 2005).

Brian was a bright young man who had been awarded drama scholarships since entering JSU as a freshman in 2003. The junior level academic scholarship award has been named in his mem-

ory. Contributions to this fund may be made in his name to the Drama Department's Theatre Angel Fund through the JSU Foundation/Institutional Development Office, 700 Pelham Rd N, Jacksonville, AL 36265.

Visitation was held at Riverchase Presbyterian in Birmingham on July 6th from 5-7 p.m. Services were held on the 7th at the church.

Brian will be much missed by students, faculty, and staff of the drama department and the JSU Community.



Photo by Freddy Clements

## 2004-2005 alpie awards presented in april

This year's Alpie Award ceremony was held on April 17th at Remington Hall at McClellan. Awards were made to the following actors and technicians for their contributions to the 2004-2005 JSU Theatre season. Both students and faculty were able to place their votes for the awards.

The award for Best Student Costume Design went to Teri Ulm for *Towards Zero*; Best Student Set Design was presented to Amanda Kirker Elkin for *Towards Zero*; Best Student Light Design went to Wil Robinson for his design for the productions of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *The Venetian Way*. Best Overall Costume Technician was awarded to Dustin Stilwell; Best Overall Scenic Technician was presented to Daryl Pauley; and Best Properties went to Stephen Williams for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Lindsay Jacks was awarded the Alpie for Best Stage Manager for her work on the productions of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *As You Like It*.

The award for Best Male Cameo went to Andy Cayse for his role in *As You Like It*. Best Female Cameo was awarded to Ashley McDonald for her role in *Towards Zero*. The Most Improved Actor Award was received by Jason Skinner and the

Most Improved Actress Award was received by Lora Roberts.

Best Supporting Actor in a non-musical role went to Ben Whitehead for *As You Like It*. Best Supporting Actress was presented to Amanda Kirker Elkin, also for *As You Like It*. Best Actor in a non-musical role went to Stephen Williams for his work in *A Doll's House*. And, Best Actress in a non-musical role went to Jessica Sanborn for her work in *As You Like It*.

Acting awards for the musical, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* were: Best Supporting Actor, Jason Skinner; Best Supporting Actress, Heather Norton; Best Actor, Russell Reeps; and Best Actress, Judy Holt.

This year's Blue and Gold award, which is always decided strictly by student vote, was presented to Alpha Psi President, Casey Campbell.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented posthumously to long-time JSU Theatre supporter, Paulene Murray.

This year's award for Patron of the Arts was presented to Dr. and Mrs. William A. Meehan.

### 2004-05 Alpie Awards held at Remington Hall

Three  
students earn  
academic  
awards in  
memory of  
LeFevre,  
Roberson, and  
Ericson

JSU Drama  
Students work  
across nation

### CONGRATULATIONS TO SPRING 2005 GRADUATES

Lindsay Jacks, Magna  
Cum Laude and honors  
And  
Jonathan Aaron  
Thomas

### SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Three outstanding drama students were awarded academic scholarships for the Fall 2005 term. Amy Richter received the Janet LeFevre academic award for outstanding senior. Russell Reeps received the Brian Roberson academic award, and Dustin Stilwell received the Gene Ericson academic award. Incoming and transfer students receiving scho-

larships are: Amanda O'Hern, Gatlin Alldredge, Ronnie Gordon, James Ebert, Eden Riddlespur, Lura Logan, Beth Stanford, and Leesa Tucker.

The department is pleased to have been able to make these awards as well as to award scholarships to 20 other majors.

### CONGRATULATIONS

### JSU STUDENTS HIT THE BOARDS

JSU Drama students and graduates are "hitting the boards" across the nation in regional theatres and outdoor festivals.

Trey Butler, Jason Skinner and Joe Carter joined graduate Cris Morriss in Chillicothe, Ohio for *TECUMSEH*. Dustin Stilwell is working with *Heritage* in Charlottesville, Virginia. Sandy Knight and Josh Mayfield are with *Brevard Music* in Brevard, North Carolina.

Stephen Williams will be joining the *Pennsylvania Renaissance Festival* later in the summer and will be returning to JSU in the Spring of 2006.

Jessica Sanborn is appearing in productions with *Theatre West Virginia* and will be working with graduate, Candice Carter.

Technician, Daryl Pauley, is working with *Forrestburg Playhouse* in New York. Scott Merrill and graduate, Sharon

McCoy Morgan, are both in costuming with the *Utah Shakespeare Festival*.

Lindsay Jacks, graduate, has just accepted a stage manager apprenticeship with the *Orlando Shakespeare Festival*. She will be leaving soon to begin her work there in September.

Casey Campbell will be heading to Newport, Kentucky in September to begin work with the Shadowbox Cabaret.

# Where are they?

We continue our column on graduates of the program. We're glad you like to keep up with them too! For a complete listing of these and many others, please check out our web site at <http://www.jsu.edu/department/drama/alumni.html>

**Jose Alba ('99)** let us know that his film *The Call of the River (Panaghoysa Suba)* won seven major awards at the Manila Film Festival: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Supporting Actress, Best Screenplay, Best Musical Score, and Best Song. As if that wasn't exciting enough, his movie was an official selection to Cannes Film Festival in May under the category, Cinema of the World. Another movie, *Another Deep Breath*, is still pre-production. After shooting this film, Jose will be directing *Hiwaga* (mystery). Jose's info may also be found at [www.lafilm.com](http://www.lafilm.com).

**Jessica Duke Cantu ('00)** and her husband, James, are now located in central New York. They moved to Auburn in the Fall of 2002 to tour on the Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre's educational tour. They have since bought a house and have each acted in several shows in the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse. James was promoted to Company Manager and Jessica is now the Box Office Manager.

**Candice Carter ('03)** recently Stage Managed *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* with Virginia Stage Company where she has been working as the Education Stage Manager (her 2<sup>nd</sup> season). She stage managed two tour shows *The Garden of Rikki Tikki Tavi* and *Danny, King of the Basement; Goodly Creatures* (VSC) and Assistant Stage Manager *The Christmas Carol* and *Treasure Island*. She has an internship with the Majestic Theatre for Stage Management in NYC where *Phantom* is currently running. She will return to Virginia Stage Company as the Education Associate in the fall.

**Stephanie Crossman (Cum Laude & Honors '00)** is working for a CPA firm in Tacoma, WA. When we last heard from Stephanie, she was planning a July 24<sup>th</sup> wedding to Jerod Nace. Her recent theatre work includes playing Sister Mary Leo in *Nonsense* for six weeks in February and March at the Auburn Avenue Dinner Theatre. She has since gone

on to play Sister Mary Leo in *Nonsense II* for an additional four weeks.

**Joe Fuselli ('03)** just completed another semester with the Actor's Studio. According to him, it may be the last. Recently, the New School University chose not to renew their contract with the Actors' Studio. So, he's not sure what's happening there yet. On the happy front, he is working with the Brooklyn Playwrights again where he is starring in an original piece called *Dreams 'n' Dust*. It is his second opportunity to work with Will Cordero, an extremely promising new writer. He plays a recently fired college professor who struggles with his marriage to a smothering wife.

**Michelle Johnson, ('02)** just finished a yearlong tour with Disney Live! *Winnie the Pooh on Stage*. She has been working as Assistant Stage Manager as well as Props Assistant. The show toured New Zealand, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Europe and the United Kingdom. She will continue another year with the show as it does a United States, Mexican, and Canadian tour followed by a three month tour of Japan.

**Sharon McCoy-Morgan ('03)** is completing her third year at Utah Shakespeare Festival. This year she will be Senior Costume Technician and will get to apprentice first hand this summer and again in the fall. She recently designed the costumes for *Lunatics and Lovers* for the JSU Music Department. She just finished draping two Kennesaw State operas *The Old Maid and the Thief* and *Gianni Schicchi*. Her corset business is booming. You may visit Sharon's web-site business, Altered Tyme Corsets at [www.altered-tyme.com](http://www.altered-tyme.com)

**Chris Mueller ('03)** has "closed" his kiltmaking business to pursue graduate school. He has been accepted to Virginia Commonwealth University's Graduate program for Costume Design and will begin classes soon. He is currently completing his second season with Alabama Shakespeare Festival as a costume crafts assistant.

**Phil Pyle ('93)** is still in LA working at Sony Pictures. He recently landed a role in the Odyssey Theatre/Circus Theatricals co-production of *The Misanthrope*. He also completed a Shakespeare Workshop hosted by the brilliant Alfred Molina, a member of

Circus Theatricals, who comes in every few years to teach the workshop. He also says that the "droll guy from the Geico commercials" is also in the group. ([www.circustheatricals.com](http://www.circustheatricals.com) for further information).

**Jeff Roper ('03)** is now preparing to begin teaching at Paulding County High School in Dallas, Georgia. He will teach three blocks of Drama; beginning, intermediate, and advanced, and one block of 11<sup>th</sup> grade English.

**Todd Shumpert ('93)** marks his seventh year in ordained ministry. For the past three of those years he has served as College Chaplain for Bloomfield College in Bloomfield, New Jersey. ([www.bloomfield.edu](http://www.bloomfield.edu)). He says, "It's great to be back in a college atmosphere again where there is so much energy and discovery... and, in my case, only 12 miles from Broadway and New York City!" He tells us that the college has recently launched its first campus radio station and that he is in discussions with "the powers that be" about the possibility of creating a student radio theatre group here.

**Jayne Thomas ('01 Magna Cum Laude)** is still located in Louisville, Kentucky where she works for Humana Insurance. She recently performed as Ysabel in Louisville Repertory Theatre's production of *Killing the Coyote* and has done extra work on East Lane Picture's *How You Look to Me*.

**Micheal Waid ('01)** is just finishing up his first year in grad school at the University of Alabama where he is working on an MFA in costume design. He designed his first show as a grad student in January called *THE HYPOCHONDRIAC*, a musical adaptation of Moliere's *THE IMAGINARY INVALID*. He is spending his summer working in Mesa, Arizona.

**Jeremy West ('03)** is still in Staunton, Virginia where he continues to work at the Blackfriars in Staunton, Virginia. He recently let us know that he is engaged to a wonderful young woman, Phoebe Schweizer. He also informs us that they plan to "spend the rest of our lives never growing up together."

... 'til next time

*Alba film competes at Cannes*

*Fuselli to appear in original work*

*Duke-Cantu in Auburn, New York*

*Johnson to tour US*

*Shumpert marks seven years in ministry*

*Roper to teach in Georgia*

*Pyle lands role in The Misanthrope*

*West is engaged!*

*And more....*

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We're on the Web!  
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OFFICE HOURS:**  
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**JSU Theatre  
Faculty and Staff**

- Carlton Ward, Chairman  
405 Stone Center,  
782-5447
- Wayne Claeren, Director  
340 Stone Center,  
782-5489
- Freddy Clements, Costumer  
339 Stone Center,  
782-5602
- Susan McCain, Acting & Movement  
341 Stone Center,  
782-5635
- David Keefer, Technical Director  
238 Stone Center,  
782-5647
- Jan Rhodes  
Secretary & Box Office Manager  
344 Stone Center,  
782-5623

Costume Shop—782-5602  
Scene Shop—782-5647

**Alpha psi omega  
Honorary  
dramatic  
fraternity  
officers**

- Heather Norton  
President
- Joe Carter  
Vice President
- Gloria Helm  
Secretary
- Jason Skinner  
Treasurer
- Jessica Sanborn  
Historian
- Dustin Stilwell  
Public Relations and  
Pledge Educator

**Upcoming  
events**

- ARMS AND THE MAN**  
October 20-23
- THE MEMBER OF THE WEDDING**  
November 17-20
- CRAZY FOR YOU**  
February 16-19 & 23-26, 2006
- WAS**  
May 18-21
- THE CURSE OF THE PORCUPINE'S  
EAR**  
June 22-25

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