



Department of Dramatic Arts
University of South Alabama
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Theatre USA 2002-2003 Season

The Rivals

October 10-14

Eager Beaver Builds a Dam

December 4,5,6,9,10

Waiting For Godot

February 20-24

CABARET

April 24-28

Department Wins Sara Spencer Award

The Department of Dramatic Arts was the 2002 winner of the Sara Spencer Award for Excellence in Children's Theatre. The award was presented to Dr. Jackson at the awards banquet during the Southeastern Theatre Conference annual convention held in Mobile in March. The award, named in honor of Sara Spencer, the founder of the children's play publisher, Anchorage Press, is given to recognize those individuals or organizations who contributed to the quality of children's theatre in the Southeast. For 30 years, the USA drama department has presented an annual children's play to 9,000 to 12,000 school children in Mobile & Baldwin counties and southern Mississippi. During the 30 years, over 300,000 preschool to fourth grade students have been able to experience live theatre through their attendance at these productions. Most of the plays have been new scripts created by Dr. Jackson. These scripts have either been original plays or new slants on old literature that ultimately have been published and made available for production by other theatres. In addition to making the plays available through various theatre catalogs, USA also distributes videos of its performances to assist other theatres in staging the shows. Some examples of USA productions include: an adaptation of *Beauty and the Beast* set in the bayou country south of New Orleans and featuring Cajun style music; the offbeat *Rock 'n Roll Santa*, in which Santa raises money for his annual rounds through a rock and roll tour; and *Amazing Grace and Her Jellybean Tree*, a 1995 play that deals with the effects of divorce on a child, and the new play *Eager Beaver Builds a Dam*, the tale of a young beaver's attempt to block a stream to form a pond. The department is very proud of being selected as the 2002 recipient of this prestigious award.

Awards

Margaret Joyner's skills as a dresser won her the Best Crew Person Award for her work on both *Dancing at Lughmasa* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Her job was to make sure all the actors were properly dressed and had the right costumes on all the time. No small job.

Jamie Englehart's and David Mims' outstanding devotion, skills and work in the costume shop and scene shop respectively

was acknowledged by the Best Costume Shop and Best Scene Shop Awards. Both spent many hours working in their shops on all the productions this past year.

With a 4.0 overall GPA, Senior Keone Fuqua was the recipient of the much coveted Best Academic Award.

The Danny Conway Award is given each year in memory of former student Danny Conway. This award goes to an upper level

student who exhibits the same kind of acting talent and dedication to theatre that Danny had before his untimely death in a car accident in 1984. This year Jim Willsey was the recipient of the award. Along with a plaque, Jim received a check for \$600.00 to assist him in his future endeavors.

The Gerrells-Jackson Award is a cash award of \$800.00 given to the student who has at least 2 semesters of studies at USA, is in the top 10 drama students by GPA, and has an outstanding list of achievements with the department. Receiving the Award this year is Jeremy Floyd. Jeremy graduated this spring and plans a future as a makeup artist for film, television and stage. To further that goal he will be attending the Makeup Designery in Burbank, CA, this fall.

Two Special Achievement Awards were presented this year. T.J. Dezauche received the Award for his Musical Direction of *The Little Mermaid* and Jeremy Floyd received it for designing makeup for all four productions this year and for designing the costumes for *Dancing at Lughmasa*.

Several other highly contested awards were presented at the banquet, the Bent Nail, the Silver Needle, the Foot in the Mouth and the Best Costume Shop Quote, but the winners refused to have their names published.

Season

Thursday, April 24 through Monday, April 28. *Cabaret* is the story of a young American writer who comes to Berlin just before the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party. As he struggles to write, the young man finds himself more and more tempted by life at the decadent Kit Kat Klub, and by the club's star attraction, Sally Bowles. From the authentic 1930's Berlin club setting to its haunting, unforgettable music, *Cabaret* is divinely decadent entertainment at its best!

Recipients of 2002-2003 Scholarships and Assistantships Announced

Nine performance students have received Laidlaw Acting Scholarships ranging from \$500-\$1,000 annually. This year recipients are Jessica Allison, Leah deButts, Camryn Duff, Jamie Englehart, Keone Fuqua, Jameel Lewis, David Mims, Jean Parker and Jared Peregoy. These scholarships are made possible by an endowment donated by Mrs. Sally Green in memory of her father Mr. John W. Laidlaw.

Fall Technical Assistantships went to Kenneth Kudulis, Jameel Lewis, David Mims, April Ortiz, and Bonnie Woolley in the Scene Shop. Jessica Allison, Camryn Duff, Jamie Englehart, Jean Parker and Anna Wright in the Costume Shop. Students on Assistantship receive \$1,000 per semester toward tuition. The students assist in scenery and costume construction in addition to crewing or performing in department productions.



Romeo & Juliet Pictured Left to right: Sara Argiro - Nurse, Robert Wells - Paris, Natasha Tucker - Lady Capulet, David Mims - Capulet, Jean Parker - Juliet, Paul Thomas - Friar Laurence

In today's world of escalating expenses in higher education, Scholarships make it possible for many talented students to achieve their goals. If you are interested in making a donation to our scholarship program or if you know a talented incoming student who may need financial aid please contact our office at 460-6305.

Students Earn Professional Internships and Apprenticeships

Eight students from the Department earned Summer Internships and Apprenticeships at major Theatres across the United States. These students went through an intensive three days of interviews at the Southeastern Theatre Conference which was held in Mobile this past March. Over 1,300 students from Universities and Colleges in the 13 state region interviewed with ninety-nine professional Theatre companies from across the United States for positions as actors, technicians, designers, and theatre management personnel.

Bonnie Woolley, a junior from Mobile, spent the summer in Santa Fe, New Mexico, serving as a Properties Apprentice at Santa Fe Opera, one of the preeminent Technical Theatre Apprenticeships in the nation.

The success of Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Program can be gauged from the number of participants who are now active as directors, designers, production managers, and administrators for opera, ballet, dance, theatre, television, and film companies around the world.

Margaret Joyner, a Sophomore, former Marine, from Miami, FL, spent the summer off the North Carolina Coast on Roanoke Island, at the outdoor drama, *The Lost Colony*. Sixty-five years since it first opened, *The Lost Colony* has embraced a "new look." As a cutter draper Margaret worked on the lavish costumes designed by Tony Award-winning costume designer William Ivey Long.

Jamie Englehart, a junior from Dayton, Maryland, served as Wardrobe Supervisor of the Unicorn Theatre, the Experimental Theatre of The Berkshire Theatre Festival, an Equity Company in Stockbridge, MA. The Berkshire Theatre Festival's Unicorn Theatre focuses on new works, young artists and controversial material.

Fellow juniors Jean Parker of Montgomery, AL and Jessica Allison from Huntsville served as stitchers in the Costume Shop for the 50th Anniversary Season of



Noises Off Pictured Left to right: Jonathan Conner - Garry, Nick Yohn - Lloyd, Mandi Elliot - Dotty, Brian Haire - Tim

Lees McRae Summer Theatre in Banner Elk, North Carolina. The theatre celebrated its Anniversary with three large period musical productions: *The Rothschilds*, the musical revue, *A Grand Night for Singing*, and perennial favorite *The Sound of Music*.

Ocean Springs Senior Jill Laiche was found in Amarillo, Texas, in the Box Office of *TEXAS! The Musical*, Official Play of the State of Texas, internationally recognized and noted as the best attended outdoor drama in the U.S.

Junior Jared Peregoy, like Parker, is from Montgomery and a graduate of Booker T. Washington. He was chosen as an actor and fight captain for *The Legend of Daniel Boone*, in

Harrodsburg, KY, where the story of Kentucky's first settlers is told in one of the Nation's longest-running outdoor dramas.

Finally, David Mims, another Junior from the Montgomery area, performed in *1776* and *Oklahoma* at The Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, in Jekyll Island, GA. David also served as a carpenter for those productions and the Dance extravaganza *Honk!* Originated in 1990, the Festival has grown in stature each year and was named "The State Musical Theatre of Georgia" in a bill passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Zell Miller in 1993.



Dancing at Lughnasa

Ticket & Box Office Information

Phone (251) 460-6306

Tickets for Theatre USA:

Dramas & Comedies: General Admission \$10.00, Students* \$ 7.00

Musicals: General Admission \$12.00, Student* \$ 8.00

Children's Production: General Admission \$ 7.00, Students* & Children \$ 5.00

The Box Office will be open starting 2 weeks before each production from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm, Monday thru Friday and one hour before each performance. Children's show tickets available only at the door on the day of the performance.

Tickets are sold on a first come, first served basis. All seats reserved. All sales final. No refund or exchange.

* Student tickets available for all students with valid ID. One ticket per ID.

Theatre USA Newsletter

University of South Alabama

The Department of Dramatic Arts PAC 1052 Mobile, Alabama 36688-0002

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Theatre USA Announces 2002 - 2003 Season

From 18th Century Restoration comedy to 20th Century Absurdism, from the cabaret to the beaver's den, the Theatre USA 2002 - 2003 season has something for everyone.

Considered one of the best of English Restoration comedies, Richard Brinsley Sheridan's (1751-1816) *The Rivals*, (1775) directed by Jean Galloway, will open Thursday, October 10, and run for 5 days through Monday, October 14. This play is the epitome of a spoof, full of surprises. An eligible suitor disguises himself so that the eye of his affections thinks marrying him is romantic poverty.

December always brings our children's production. This year we will be returning to the USA-Wright Auditorium with R.

Eugene Jackson's newest play, *Eager Beaver Builds a Dam*. The public performance will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 4. School performances will be at 9:30 am and 12:00 noon on December 4, 5, 6, 9 & 10. To book your school or class, please call the office at (251) 460-6305.

Perhaps the best example of the absurdist movement, *Waiting for Godot*, Samuel Beckett's renowned work, will run Thursday, February 20 through Monday, February 24. A tale of the resilience of man's spirit in the face of little hope, *Waiting for Godot* inspires audiences to continue to persevere. Lou Currie will direct this play of international fame.

Currently running in a revival on Broadway, the popular musical *Cabaret* will complete our season. Directed by Matt Ames, *Cabaret* will run from

Please see Season page 2



The Little Mermaid Pictured Left to right: Jim Willsey - Clem Clam, Camryn Duff - Anemone (The Little Mermaid), Douglas Cook - Zip-Tide, Keone Fuqua - Rip-Tide & Sara Argiro - Sea Witch.

The 2001-2002 Theatre Awards

Students, faculty and patrons gathered this year at Bilotti's Italian Café in May for our annual Theatre awards banquet. Four major acting awards, four major Technical Awards and five Special Awards were presented along with Special Thanks and other fun and humorous awards.

Graduating Senior Jim Willsey received the Best Actor Award for his creative and imaginative portrayal of Clem Clam in *The Little Mermaid*. With no hands, feet, arms or legs Jim had only his facial expressions to portray this character.

Jean Parker received the Best Actress Award for her performance of Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet*. Like Romeo, the audience

fell in love with Jean's Juliet.

The Best Supporting Actor Award went to Paul Thomas for Friar Laurence in *Romeo & Juliet*. For those who have watched Paul over the years, his portrayal of Friar Laurence showed the great depth and maturity he has developed to become an excellent actor.

Best Supporting Actress went to Sara Argiro for her funny yet emotional rendition of the Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet*. Her comic timing in the fun scenes along with her emotional range in the dramatic scenes was spectacular.

Bonnie Woolley received the Best Stage Manager Award for *Noises Off*. Bonnie's leadership and organizational skills helped to make this very complicated show run smoothly.

Please see Awards page 2



Dancing at Lughnasa Pictured Left to right: Leah de Butts - Agnes, Jim Willsey - Jack, Jean Parker - Rose, Jamie Lynn Barbour - Maggie, Jessica Allison - Kate, Jamie Englehart - Chris