



Newsletter

Fall 2010



Greetings from the Past President

It was out with the old and in with the new, as past-president Jeremy Rampton made painfully apparent in last year's BHTC Presidential Farewell. While the Black Hole grieved the loss of many of its key members who've gone and graduated, there were aplenty of fresh new keeners to take their place. The BHTC Exec was composed of entirely new members, excluding myself. And as for myself—how did I end up President?! What an adventure it has been, thanks to all who believed in me, even though I think you are crazy.

Kelly Jenken looking back on the past year posted to her facebook, "Now how the [profanity] did I manage all that?!". Yes Kelly, you were a busy girl-- starring and directing in various LunchBhaggs, stage managing unexpectedly for our ChurchillFest entry, Cloud 9, and receiving the most line changes in the new play HeadSpace by Mike Bell. This monster of a play premiered as BHTC's Mainstage #3 and broke records in lighting cues (over two-hundred), costumes (over one-hundred and twenty) and the number of people crammed backstage (over thirty). Perhaps in twenty-five years it will grace the Black Hole Theatre stage once more, just as our first mainstage production celebrated Departures and Arrivals by Carol Shields. It originally premiered in the Black Hole Theatre twenty-five years ago and was remounted for our 2009/2010 Season and also boasted a large cast and number of lighting cues. Dennis Smith was miffed about all these large casts, which meant less-willing students to serve backstage. But then again, when has Dennis Smith ever had enough backstageers to do his bidding? Ho-oh-ho!



As Twyla in *Headspace*

While there were new challenges and a few hiccups of the 2009/2010 Season, we not only survived but we achieved the once thought impossible. Thank-you to everyone who sacrificed their time to the Black Hole Theatre Company, and thank-you to those who supported those who sacrificed their time to the Black Hole Theatre Company. I owe a gaping amount of personal thanks to Margaret Groom, Dennis Smith, Marilyn Loat and Eleanor Stardom, Brenda McLean and Eric Bosse, the 2009/2010 BHTC Executive, and the many new friends I encountered this past season. I look forward to the upcoming BHTC season, where again I expect to be heavily involved—you haven't gotten rid of me yet! Break legs to all.

Jaclyn Kozak

Featured Alumnus

Barbara Gehring

Barbara Gehring (née Melnyk) sometimes wonders what would have happened if she hadn't been cast in *Criminals in Love* back in 1988. She might never have met Christine Harapiak and found out all about the JET program. She might never have moved to Japan after she graduated and met her American husband. She might never have followed him back to Denver Colorado where she became an improviser and professional actor. She might never have met Linda Klein and Matthew Taylor and formed the company A.C.E. Comedy. She might never have sat in her kitchen with Linda, pouring over their old childhood diaries. But she did and women all over are grateful for the tears of laughter their variety show provides. Barbara brought her hit comedy *Girls Only: The Secret Comedy of Women* to the MTC Warehouse last year and had local audiences rolling in the aisles.

The show was initially conceived as an improvised series of vignettes about the circle of women's lives. It blossomed over several productions into a very girly variety show that includes singing, dancing, improv and sketches where the audience is invited into a theatre that feels like a 12 year old girl's slumber party. Eventually Barbara and Linda scripted it and the show was picked up by the Denver Center of the Performing Arts where it ran for 2 years and grossed over 2 million dollars. The show has gone national with performances in North Carolina and Iowa. Next up, Barbara will be opening *Girls Only* in Minneapolis at the Hennepin Stages on January 14. She'll be performing there until the middle of February when she will hand the role over to one of the many talented actors she has cast as the Winnipeg character she created 6 years ago.

When Barbara was completing her B Ed, with a major in Theatre and English, she did much of her course work in the Education building but she spent her life in the Black Hole. After working with Chris Johnson on *Criminals in Love*, Barbara went on to perform in several other shows for us including one of her favourites, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, where she played Honey opposite George Toles as George. Many of her favourite memories occurred in the rehearsal hall, specifically playing warm-up games including one called "Killer Frisbee" a version of dodge ball using a Frisbee.



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09/10 Season

We had an amazing season this year. To kick it off, Adam McCourt directed *Cathleen Ni Houlihan*, and *Purgatory* by W.B. Yeats. This show told us about Mother Ireland, and also the decline of a struggling family. Following these shows, was another double bill *Footfalls* and *Catastrophe* by Samuel Beckett was directed by Ivan Henwood. These two pieces showed us the life of a woman sacrificing her life to take care of her mother, and the dehumanisation of an actor by the director.

Our first mainstage, *Departures and Arrivals* by Carol Shields, directed by Megan Andres, was a delightful comedy about peoples lives at the airport. Dennis Smith, the Set Designer, brought a miniature airport to life and the Costume Designer,



Liz Maddin and Megan Peters in *Departures and Arrivals*

Lasha Talman did a fantastic job in using only small costume pieces like jackets and shirts for each actor to change into for their next character. This production was the 25th anniversary of

the play and was celebrated on Opening Night with a small reception including some members of the original cast and the Shields family.

After Liverpool by James Saunders, directed by Kelly Jenkens, was next in our line up. This play looked at 5 different relationships and how the all have some good and some bad.

Our entry for the Master Playwright Festival this year was *Cloud 9* by Caryl Churchill. It was directed by Margaret Groome. Dennis Smith and set carp Ben Plamandon did a fantastic job creating a dynamic set that portrayed both colonized Africa and 1970's London. Claire Sparling had an interesting time costuming this show. One of the more interesting challenges was to fit two very tall men into dresses. Good job Claire.

Loyalty by John Patrick, directed by Garrett Rusnak, was our next show. It was a comedy where a man tries to save his best friends



From Left: Julie Simpson, Johanna Brierley, Yared Mendes, Becca Hay, Josh Banman, Andre Mardli in *Cloud 9*

marriage and still get some sleep before work the next day.

The final mainstage of the season *HeadSpace* by Mike Bell, directed by Chris Johnson was the highlight of the year. The brand new play was commissioned by the BHTC and featured

30 actors, playing well over 100 characters. Brenda McLean had her hands full trying to costume all of these people, but she managed it beautifully. The Set Designer, Andrei Mardli, transformed the Black Hole



From Left: Liz Maddin, Flora Wiebe, Murat Ates, Daniel Chen, Andrea Karr in *HeadSpace*.

Theatre into a giant computer circuit board, complete with a pop-out bed and a pop-up window. The Lighting Designer, Garret Rusnak, made the Stage Manager, Matthew Lagacé, lose his voice near the end of the run by giving him roughly 257 light cues to call each night. Definitely one of the biggest shows the BHTC has done in a while.

To finish off the season, Carly Gallant directed *Medusa's Tale* by Carol S. Lashof. This play uses characters from Greek mythology to tell the tale of a woman who allows her whole self-image to be defined by one horrible life experience.

After the season was over, we started work on Scene Night. It was great to see all the hard work that each of the classes had put into their scenes this year. Thank you to Kevin Ramberran and Christopher Charles for being great hosts and making sure the night ran smoothly. The executive was busy planning many socials and trying to keep up with the play reading group. This year's end of year Gala was a Masquerade theme. Everyone had a great time.

By Matt Lagacé

2010/2011 Executive

- President– Kevin Ramberran**
- Vice President– Garrett Rusnak**
- Treasurer– Carolina Vasilica**
- Secretary– Jaclyn Kozak**
- Member at Large– Matt Lagacé**
- Past President– Jaclyn Kozak**
- Onstage Rep– Thomas Toles**
- Backstage Rep– Vicki Rutkowski & Tim Gray**
- Publicist– Dana Smith / Erica Mann**
- Intro Reps:**
- Kerr: Anne Tuma**
- McLean: Sarai Pak**
- Johnson: Cara Fink-Wagner**

Presenting our 2010/2011 Season

Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing

by Tomson Highway
November 16th - 20nd, 23th - 27th at the Black Hole Theatre

The Black Hole Theatre Company's 2010/2011 season opener is Manitoba born playwright Tomson Highway's classic, *Dry Lips Oughta Move To Kapuskasing*.

Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing tells a story on two levels. On one level, seven men on the fictitious Wasaychigan Hill Reserve in Ontario react to the formation of an all-women's hockey team on the reserve. On a higher level, the play is about god returning as a woman. This award winning drama serves a mix of hockey and religion and the clash of western and indigenous cultures.

A Dream Play

by August Strindberg
adapted by Caryl Churchill

January 21st - 22nd, 22nd - 30th at the Gas Station Arts Centre

The Black Hole Theatre Company presents Caryl Churchill's adaptation of *A Dream Play* by August Strindberg for this year's MTC Master Playwright Festival, StrindbergFest.

A Dream Play takes the audience on a fascinating trip through a dream, where anything and everything is possible. Agnes, daughter of the gods, descends to earth to learn about humanity. Our production is brought to life with a magical mix of puppets and live actors.

The House of Bernarda Alba

by Federico Garcia Lorca, translated by James Graham-Lujan & Richard L. O'Connell

March 9th - 13th, 16th - 20th at the Black Hole Theatre

As the 2010/2011 season closer, the Black Hole Theatre Company presents *The House of Bernarda Alba* by Federico Garcia Lorca.

The House of Bernarda Alba is the story of a tyrannical, self-righteous, and passionless mother, who rules her unmarried daughters with an iron rod. Lorca's characters in *The House of Bernarda Alba* are fuelled by an explosive desire to be free of their constraints, to experience their natural sexual energy and the joy of living. The all-female cast will relate the story through a mixture of stylized movement, physical theatre and dance.

What's Happening Alumni

We would love to know what you are up to, and include an update of the successes of our Black Hole Alumni in future editions of our newsletter. Get in touch with the Theatre and tell us all about how amazing you are!

New Scholarship for Undergrads Doris Benson Scholarship In Drama

This is a fantastic opportunity for up to 6 recipients with high marks in theatre classes to win an award. It is very important for undergrads to declare majors and minors early to be eligible for these kinds of opportunities. Often cash goes un-awarded because students who may have fit all the other criteria simply haven't declared their area of study or didn't bother to hand in a theatre assignment, dropping their departmental GPA below the minimum requirement. Nag nag nag!

Continued from page 1—Barbara Gehring

After graduating, she went to teach English in Japan with the JET program where she met her husband Paul. They were married there but eventually settled in Boulder, Colorado where Barbara got a job teaching grade 5. The performing bug didn't leave her, though, and she spent so much time going to auditions and performing on sets and stages that she made the choice to quit teaching and try her hand at being a full time performer. Her leap of faith paid off and she is a sought after commercial actor and improviser. She does take some time off from performing to spend time with her children, Isabella and Gavin; and she appreciates how her lifestyle allows her to spend time with her young family.



In *Girls Only*, as an older lady, during the Crafter's Corner segment, using up old "product".

Barbara's words of advice for her fellow Black Holers are, "Direct. As an actor, one can learn so much by auditioning and directing other actors." She also suggests trying everything, "be a 'jack or jane of all trades', write, act, improvise, sing and dance, you don't have to be great at it all, but you should put it on your acting menu. Learn stage management, tech, take a film course, learn the whole business."

Barbara misses Winnipeg and looks forward to bringing *Girls Only: The Secret Comedy of Women* back home in 2012, where really, it all began.

Contact Information

Box Office: 474-6880

Production Office: 474-7655

Technical Director (Dennis): 474-9474

Technician (Karen): 474-8087

Administration Assistant (Marilyn): 474-9581

Margaret Groome: 474-9539

Chris Johnson: 474-9758

Bill Kerr: 474-8819

Bob Smith: 474-9605

Brenda McLean: 474-9757

Or e-mail us at: theatre@umanitoba.ca

Visit us on the web at:
www.bhtc.ca

Scholarships and Awards

Promethean Endurance Award

Matt Legace
Garrett Rusnak

Victor S. Cowie Award in the Performing Arts

Kelly Jenken

Irene Anderson Memorial Scholarship

Jaclyn Kozak
Claire Sparling

Florence Kanee Scholarship

Kaitlynn Porath

Inaugural Doris Benson Scholarship in Drama

Jaclyn Kozak
Kailey Knapp
Kaitlynn Porath
Kevin Ramberran
Dana Smith
Claire Sparling

Staff doings

Tim Bandfield

Tim had a busy year. On top of his duties as TA, he acted in and assistant directed *HeadSpace*. He also did a lot of acting outside the Black Hole and even found time to marry his sweetheart, Becca, in August. This year, Tim's pursuing his Master's. He's currently co-directing a puppet adaptation of *A Dream Play* with Chris.

Eric Bosse

As well as being the technician here, Eric also worked for the Fringe and SIR over the year and is currently on tour with SIR. In January he begins as the house tech at MTYP.

Margaret Groome

Harry, Imogen and Autolycus continue to be concerned about the long hours Margaret spends away from them at the University, and wonder when she will direct them in their adaptation of Chekhov's *Three Sisters – Three Felines*. After all, they are masters of subtextual communication. Alternatively, they would be up for doing some Shakespeare and have been working on expanding their vocal range to three octaves. And they all now understand that a "suspensory pause" in the verse does not mean lifting a paw. On the other hand, it would be easier just to curl up and "knit up the ravell'd sleeve of care" as usual. [Margaret will award a small edible prize to the first person who can identify the play, the speaker and the activity referred to in the quotation. Send your answers to groomeme@ms.umanitoba.ca.]

Chris Johnson

Chris spent the almost the entire summer reading Strindberg, an enlightening if frequently depressing experience. He also found time to direct and act in Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love*: it was great fun being Jane and Ivan's crabby, controlling dad (what a stretch!), and it was great to get together with Gary Jarvis after all these years and to do a show together again. What a great guy! Chris also went to Stratford to see the premiere production of *King of Thieves*, George Walker's new musical, his version of John Gay's *Beggar's Opera*; Chris especially enjoyed the singing corpses.

Bill Kerr

A highlight of this past summer for me and my family was celebrating my parents' 50th anniversary at the rugby club in

glorious Stanley Park. My parents also returned the favour by coming to see the BHTC production of *Dry Lips*. On another note, I have resolved to learn to schedule vacations and work separately so that I won't be enjoying the Fringe while my family enjoys Chicago!

Marilyn Loat

Marilyn is enjoying her 25th year with our theatre community. She joined the theatre program on November 22, 1985. How many of you were even born???

Brenda McLean

Brenda spent the entire summer renovating her house. After working 5 shows back to back, it seemed a good way to spend the summer.

Karen Schellenberg

Karen enjoyed having a year to play with daughter Elly and new baby boy Jamie. Bear with her as she adjusts to early mornings and basement lighting once again.

Bob Smith

Bob is away on sabbatical and continues to work on scripts. He is also doing some academic writing. Hurrah! He looks forwards to teaching in the winter term.

Dennis Smith

After experiencing the RV trip from hell this past summer, Dennis continued to work on his sailing skills and doing dog agility training and competition with Kayli and Tyee.

Eleanor Stardom

Eleanor became a grandmother for the second time this year and took some time to spend with her family when they came to visit in November. She continues to collect unwanted calendars to adorn walls in hospitals. If you have any free calendars that you can't use, please drop them off in the theatre office.

In Memoriam

Susan Nisbet

1970-2010

Student, Gertrude in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (2007) SUSAN recently completed her BA while battling a debilitating disease that left her paralyzed. She performed sit-down stand-up this spring at the Winnipeg Comedy Fest.

Dr. Mila Oh

1969-2010

Student, Lx Designer for *Blank Pages* (1989), SM for *I Rise in Flame Cried the Phoenix* (1990), Directed *El Matador* (1991), married to Ken Hunt. MILA was active with the Black Hole in the early 90s. After graduating from the U of M, MILA completed a medical degree, and lived and worked in Montreal. She passed on much, much too young, and she will be missed. Think of Mila and make a contribution toward finding a cure for breast cancer.

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA
 BY FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA
 TRANSLATED BY JAMES GRAHAM-LUJAN & RICHARD L. O'CONNELL

MAR 8-12 & 15-19

MAR 8 & 15 AT 7 PM
 MAR 9-12 & 16-19 AT 8 PM
 Language and content may be offensive to some.

AT THE BLACK HOLE THEATRE
 University College, Dysart Rd
 University of Manitoba

DRY LIPS OUGHTA MOVE TO KAPUSKASING
 BY TOMSON HIGHWAY

NOV 16 & 23 AT 7 PM
 NOV 17-20 & 24-27 AT 8 PM

AT THE BLACK HOLE THEATRE
 University College, Dysart Rd
 University of Manitoba

NOV 16-20 & 23-27

A DREAM PLAY
 BY AUGUST STRINDBERG
 ADAPTED BY CARYL CHURCHILL

JAN 21, 22, 24-29 AT 7 PM
 JAN 22, 29, & 30 MATINEES AT 2PM

AT THE GAS STATION THEATRE
 River & Osborne in the Village

BHTC.CA

the Black Hole theatre company

2010-11 SEASON

JAN 21-22 & 24-30

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

STRINDBERG FEST 2011

FOR THE MTC MASTER PLAYWRIGHT FESTIVAL
 Festival Passes accepted at the door.

STUDENT, FACULTY & ALUMNI NEWS

As usual, an asterisk (*) at the end of an entry means that there's more information about the individual in the "Fringe" section of the *Newsletter*.

RAYE ANDERSON was a stop on the interlake artist's WAVE tour, displaying her batiks. She is teaching at PTE this fall.

MEGAN ANDRES was Bob Metcalfe's assistant director for the PTE production of Morris Panych's *Lawrence and Hollowman* at PTE last season. MEGAN undertook the project as part of the U of M/PTE work study program. MEGAN graduated last spring, and this fall, worked as the Production Assistant for Sarasvati Theatre's FemFest. *

JOSEPH ARAGON arranged the music for our production of *Cloud 9* at the Gas Station last January for ChurchillFest 2010. JOSEPH toured Manitoba performing in the PTE Munsch show, and now has his Equity card. His short shot, *Personal Effects*, was included in the Carol Shields Festival of New Work at PTE in May. JOSEPH is a member of the Playwrights' Unit at PTE.

GAIL ASPER won an Edmond C. Bovey Award; the award recognizes individual business professionals who demonstrate exemplary leadership support of the arts. GAIL is managing director and secretary of the Asper Foundation, and is spearheading the establishment of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

TIM BANDFIELD graduated last year, and is now working on an M.A. at the U of M.; he is this year's winner of the Charles Rittenhouse Memorial Scholarship. He performed in the WJT production of Pinter's *Betrayal* last season, and assistant directed and played a crazed CIA operative in the BHT production of MIKE BELL's *HeadSpace*. In the spring, TIM played Giuseppe in the Dry Cold production of *The Light in the Piazza*. In August, TIM married BECCA HAY. In the upcoming BHT season, TIM will co-direct our production of *A Dream Play* for StrindbergFest 2011 with CHRIS JOHNSON. *

JOSH BANMAN married his fiancée this summer.

MIKE BELL's brand new mega-epic, *HeadSpace*, premiered in the Black Hole's 2009/10 season in March. BILL KERR was the dramaturge, and CHRIS JOHNSON directed, with assistance from TIM BANDFIELD and ANDREA KARR, both of whom also performed in the play along with a Black Hole cast of thousands (well, 30 actually). The play was written with a commissioning grant from the Manitoba Arts Council, and was developed and work shopped with Black Hole directors and actors over the past two years as part of the New Play Development Initiative, the same giant project that involved hiring MIKE as playwriting instructor and playwright-in-residence in 08/09; the offering of courses in playwriting, new play dramaturgy, and new play directing in the same year; the "Fire In the Hole" and "Fire Out of the Hole" festivals of fourteen new student plays, also in year #1 of the project; and the production of KEN RUDDERHAM's *Gorilla* and MEGAN ANDRES' *Antipode* in Winnipeg Fringe 2009. MIKE, BILL, and CHRIS went to Montreal in the spring to present a workshop on the project at Concordia University for the

Canadian Association for Theatre Research conference. MIKE performs in the new GUY MADDIN/GEORGE TOLES movie, shot in Winnipeg over the summer. *

STEPHANIE BEYKO is the drama teacher at John Taylor Collegiate.

ERIC BOSSE and BRENDA MCLEAN designed the set for the Theatre Incarnate production of *Far Away* and *Not Not Not Not Not Enough Oxygen* for ChurchillFest 2010. ERIC was production and lighting designer for the Geist Theatre production of Stephen Furmaniuk's *The Sound of Your Eyes* Closing in May. ERIC and BRENDA worked for the Theatre Program at the U of M during 09/10, replacing KAREN SCHELLENBERG while KAREN was on maternity leave. ERIC performed in the Shakespeare in the Ruins production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in the spring. *

CHARLIZE BOTHA and NATHANAEL GATZA got married this summer. Their son was born in September.

SIMON BRACKEN graduated from the National Theatre School of Canada, acting stream, and is now living in Toronto. *

HEATHER BRAUN teaches drama at Stonewall Collegiate.

JANINE BAMFORD BREMAULT performed in the Manitoba Opera Association production of Bizet's *Carmen* last spring.

JOANNA BRIERLEY came back to us to perform in our production of *Cloud 9* for ChurchillFest 2010, playing Maud in Act 1 and Victoria in Act 2.

JULIA BROWN is the House Manager at the Manitoba Theatre Centre.

SEAN CARNEY teaches English at McGill University.

SHELAGH CARTER teaches theatre at the University of Winnipeg.

JONAS CHERNICK performed on the CBC TV series, *The Border*. (He's the computer nerd, the role for which he won a Gemini the previous year.)

LARRY CLARK works for Cirque de Soleil as a Technical Director.

LEITH CLARK teaches drama at Sisler. *

PETER CLARK got a six month leave from his job teaching school in Taiwan (where he has lived for nine years) to come back to the U of M to finish his B.A. He particularly enjoys directing the annual production at his school.

SARAH CONSTIBLE performed in the staged reading of Debbie Patterson's new play, *Ruthless*, in FemFest last fall. She also adapted and directed the Shakespeare in the Ruins production of the "Stripped-Down Hamlet" last fall, and directed GORD TANNER and STEVE RATZLAFF in their "In the Chamber" piece for Theatre Projects Manitoba in January. SARAH played Mistress Ford in this year's Shakespeare in the Ruins production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. *

JONAH CORNE teaches in the Film Studies Program at the U of M.

ANDREW COYNE is the National Editor of *Maclean's* magazine, and appears on the CBC TV panel show, *At Issue*, with Peter Mansbridge.

TRACY DAHL was honoured by Opera Canada in October with a Ruby award in recognition of her distinguished career. Last season, TRACY played Gilda in *Rigoletto* in Edmonton and Madame Mao in *Nixon in China* for Vancouver Opera during the Winter Olympics. She also performed in the world premiere of *The Golden Ticket*, based on *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. TRACY teaches in the School of Music at the U of M.

DAVID DEGROW works and designs for Theatre Passe Muraille, and is Co-Artistic Director of Theatre Jones Roy, an award-winning theatre company in Toronto.

BARB DONOVAN came back to us last year to help us out as House Manager for our production of *Cloud 9* at the Gas Station.

NATHAN DUECK finished his PHD in English at the University of Calgary. He is teaching at St. Mary's University College in Calgary.

PHILLIP DUNCAN teaches drama at the Morden Collegiate Institute, which opened a new theatre this year. *

LUKE EISBRENNER has a morning show on CJOB radio.

ANGIE GANNON teaches English at St. John's high school.

BARBARA GEHRING (MELNYK) lives in Boulder, Colorado, with her husband and two children. She makes her living as an actor and performer. Last spring, she brought her show, *Girls Only*, to the MTC Warehouse as the last show in the Warehouse 2009/10 season. This season, it will run in Minneapolis, with BARB performing in it starting in January, then handing over to another cast later in the year. There's a big article about BARBARA (and a stunning photo) in the fall issue of *On Manitoba*, the U of M alumni magazine.

TRACY GEMMEL teaches English for Dawson College in Montreal.

ALI GETTY is the School Administrator for the Manitoba Theatre for Young People.

MARGARET GROOME directed our production of *Cloud 9* for ChurchillFest 2010 last season, and participated in the "Directors' Panel" and the panel on "Churchill's Feminism" in the lecture series. She also directed a staged reading of Churchill's *Traps* as a benefit for the Actors' Fund of Canada. In May, MARGARET gave a paper, "The Work of Women as Directors and Acting Teachers of Shakespeare's Works: Connections and Continuities Between Two Forms of Knowledge", at the Canadian Association for Theatre Research conference at Concordia University in Montreal. MARGARET will be performing in BOB SMITH's production of Durrenmatt's *Play Strindberg* for StrindbergFest 2011. This fall she is teaching the first half of Onstage and a graduate course in Modern British Drama. MARGARET will be on research/study leave during the second half of the 2010/11 school year. During her leave she will be working on her book on Canada's Stratford Festival and writing an article on Beckett's *Waiting*

for *Godot* entitled "Dialects, Rhythm, Pace and Pauses in English-language Productions of *Waiting for Godot*." In the New Year MARGARET will be working on an exciting project that will involve dialogue and interviews done via teleconferencing with students from several Theatre Programs across Canada: "Diversity Issues in Theatre Programs in Canada's Universities – Students Speak." MARGARET may be contacting some of you about participating in this project. In the coming summer MARGARET will be in London again, continuing her research on the work of British women directors of Shakespeare's plays.

DANNY GUNN practices law in Winnipeg.

CATHERINE HACKSLEY teaches at Dalhousie elementary school.

CHRISTINE HARAPIAK is a family court judge.

ELLIE HARVEY is a professional actor based in Vancouver.

JOHN HARVEY practices law in Winnipeg.

JENNETTE HEINRICHS is the Film Studies Program technician at the U of M.

IVAN HENWOOD participated in a reading of *Some Light Undergroun'*, Theatre Incarnate's entry in the Carol Shields New play Festival *

ROB HERRIOT directed *Carmen* for the Manitoba Opera Association last spring; JANINE BREMAULT was in the chorus and WILLIAM JORDAN was one of the supernumeraries. ROB recently created a new production of *Beatrice and Benedict* for Calgary's Emerging Artists, and adapted a new version of *Cinderella* for their school tour. He is on faculty with Opera-on-the-Avalon in St. John's, Nfld, and last summer, directed Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring* for that organization.

SEAN HICKS is the treasurer of Theatre Projects Manitoba, and practices law in Winnipeg.

CYNTHIA HIEBERT practices law in Winnipeg, and often performs with the Press Club's Beer and Skits Night and the Manitoba Bar Association MTC fund-raising benefit show.

CANDACE HUNTLEY has been teaching drama and English in Winnipeg. She's coming back to the U of M this fall to work on an MBA in the Asper School of Business.

ALEX JACKSON is helping the drama teacher at River Heights Junior High as his Faculty of Education practicum.

CHRIS JOHNSON's article about George Walker's *This Is Wonderland* appeared in the spring issue of *Canadian Theatre Review*, a special issue dedicated to Canadian drama, the law, and the courts. Last season, he directed the world premiere of MIKE BELL's new play, *HeadSpace*, and in May, he and MIKE and BILL KERR presented a panel on DEFT's new play development initiative of the past two years, including the development of *HeadSpace*, at the Canadian Association for Theatre Research conference at Concordia University in Montreal. CHRIS' play, *Duets for a Schizophrenic*, will be produced by Carolyn Gray's company this upcoming season. CHRIS serves on the board of Theatre Projects Manitoba. In

the coming season, he'll be directing Caryl Churchill's adaptation of *A Dream Play* for StrindbergFest 2011. TIM BANDFIELD co-directs and is in charge of the puppets. In the coming academic year, CHRIS will be teaching a section of first year, an academic course on four Canadian playwrights (including Tomson Highway, Vern Thiessen, and David Daniel Moses, whose work will also be seen in Winnipeg this fall), and a 3rd year acting, text and performance course on Jarry and Ionesco. *

SARAH ANNE JOHNSON's piece on the mistreatment of her grandmother, Val Orlikow, *House on Fire*, has been purchased by the Art Gallery of Ontario. Because that work was unavailable for a showing at aceartinc in Winnipeg, SARAH ANNE devised a new work for the Winnipeg show in March, *Dancing with the Doctor*, collaborating with three dancers whom she choreographed for the piece, using costumes and sets which she designed. Unbeknownst to her, Ms. Orlikow was subjected to CIA financed brainwashing experiments in Montreal, where she went for psychiatric treatment. SARAH ANNE hopes to remount the show in Toronto and New York.

MANISH KAUSHAL serves on the Board of Shakespeare in the Ruins. *

LEIGH-ANNE KEHLER continues to thrive as a professional story-teller. She had her first child last year.

BILL KERR directed the BHT production of *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing* this fall to co-incide with TOMSON HIGHWAY's visit to the U of M as writer-in-residence at the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture in University College. Last season, BILL worked as Dramaturge on the BHT premiere production of MIKE BELL's *HeadSpace*; in May, BILL, MIKE, and CHRIS JOHNSON, the production's director, went to Concordia University in Montreal to present a workshop on the New Play Development Initiative, of which the production of *HeadSpace* was part, at the Canadian Association for Theatre Research conference. BILL directed the students in his Political Theatre class in a highly controversial production of *Seven Jewish Children* for ChurchillFest 2010, and presented the Churchill 101 lecture. BILL has completed his two terms on the board of the Prairie Theatre Exchange, and now serves on the board of Shakespeare in the Ruins. In July, BILL took over from MARGARET GROOME as Chair of the Theatre Program at the U of M. This academic year, he'll be teaching a section of Intro, Advanced Directing, and the second half of Onstage. *

ANGUS KOHM edits *ellipsis*, the newsletter of the Manitoba Association of Playwrights. *

JACLYN KOZAK won an Irene Anderson Memorial Scholarship last year. She served as President of the Black Hole's student executive in 09/10, designed the lighting for *Departures and Arrivals*, and played a major role in *HeadSpace*.

CAROLYN KUCHYERA was the Production Stage Manager for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the 2010 Paralympic Games in Vancouver. She continues to grow here equine and canine massage business (backstretchmassage.com).

SUSAN KURBIS teaches drama at Maples Collegiate.

MATTHEW LAGACE worked as an apprentice stage manager on the Shakespeare in the Ruins production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* last spring and this summer was apprentice stage manager for the MTC revival of *The History of Manitoba from the Beginning of Time to the Present in 45 Minutes* (co-written by ROSS MCMILLAN) at the Forks. MATT was the stage manager for the productions of *Chelle* and *Mrs. Ferguson's Bed* at FemFest, and was the apprentice stage manager for the MTC production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. *

DALE LAKEVOLD teaches Creative Writing at Brandon University.

MARIA LAMONT directed *Giwedini*, a First Nations Opera, produced by Native Earth Performing Arts at the Passe Muraille main space in Toronto last spring. MARIA lives in Strasbourg, France.

JOHN LANDREVILLE has been accepted as a graduate student in Film at the University of Toronto.

JEFF LECLERC is University Secretary at the U of M.

TANNIS LEHMANN teaches English and drama at Kildonan East Collegiate.

CURTIS LOWTON teaches at St. George's School and contributes theatre reviews to *Swerve* magazine. *

MEGHAN MCNICOL played Anne Warwick in the Alumnae Theatre production of Normand Chaurette's *The Queens* last spring.

DARLA MACFARLANE is an educational consultant for the provincial Department of Justice.

JIM MACGREGOR is a producer working for Shaw community TV.

ADRIANO MAGNIFICO is Head of the English Department at River East Collegiate.

GUY MADDIN and GEORGE TOLES' *My Winnipeg* was ranked one of the top ten films of the first decade of the new millennium by both Roger Ebert and Associated Press. Ebert said of the film: "This is the story of everyone's home town. GUY MADDIN's films are like a silent movie dreaming it can speak. No frame of his work could be mistaken for anyone else's." GUY's new short film, *Night Mayor*, won the award for best experimental short at the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas, in the spring. GUY and GEORGE shot a new feature-length film in Winnipeg last summer; GEORGE describes it as an "indoor Odyssey". MIKE BELL is in it. GUY also worked on another major project over the summer, "a thousand short films". Some of them are very, very short.

ALEXIS MARTIN is working as an assistant to the entertainment director on a cruise ship.

JOCK MARTIN teaches Theatre at St. John's Ravenscourt school.

LISA MARTIN performed in Sarasvati's production of *Fen* for ChurchillFest 2010. She teaches at PTE.

SUE MATHESON teaches English at Red Deer College.

KYLE MCCULLOCH writes scripts for *South Park*.

CHUCK MCEWEN is Executive Producer of the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival and the MTC Master Playwright Festival. *

BRENDA MCLEAN and CHRIS SOBZCAK directed the Theatre Incarnate production of *Far Away* and *Not Not Not Not Not Enough Oxygen* for ChurchillFest 2010. BRENDA also performed in the show. This spring, BRENDA performed in the Geist Theatre production of Steve Furminiak's *The Sound of Your Eyes Closing*. BRENDA and CHRIS SOBZCAK directed a staged reading of Lisa Martens' *Some Light Undergroun'* for the Carol Shields Festival of New Work at PTE in May; JEREMY BOWKETT, LISA MARTIN, and IVAN HENWOOD were in the cast. BRENDA designed the costumes for the Shakespeare in the Ruins production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in the spring. BRENDA and ERIC BOSSE were back working as production assistants for the Theatre Program while KAREN SCHELLENBERG was on maternity leave in 09/10, and once again, BRENDA taught one of the sections of Intro. She'll be doing so again in the 2010/2011 school year. She's also teaching at PTE, as she did last year. BRENDA is a founder and Co-Artistic Director of Theatre Incarnate. In the coming BHT season, BRENDA will direct a mainstage BHT production of Federico Garcia Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba* in March.

AKALU MEEKIS plays a continuing role in the APTN TV series, *Cashing In*. He played Zachary Jeremiah Keechigeesik in BILL KERR's production of TOMSON HIGHWAY's *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing* in November.

AYNSLEY MOORHOUSE was assistant director on the Factory Theatre production of George F. Walker's *Featuring Loretta*. She recently spent some time in the Czech Republic studying Czech theatre. AYNSLEY created a sound installation for the Lab Cab Festival at the Factory Theatre in Toronto this fall.

STEPHANIE MOROZ is studying acting at Studio 58 at Langara College in Vancouver. *

LISA MUIRHEAD works as a researcher for *Mosaic*.

CARSON NATTRASS has moved from Winnipeg to Toronto for at least a year. He has a one-year contract to perform in the Toronto production of the musical, *Rock of Ages*, which opened in May. He and Sharon Bajer have a new son, Theodore; they got married last spring.

BOB NIXON lives in Vancouver, where he works as a reporter for CBC TV.

YVETTE NOLAN has announced that she's moving on after eight and a half years as Artistic Director of Native Earth Performing Arts in Toronto, Canada's premiere First Nations theatre company. She says she wants to concentrate on the two books she is currently writing. In the 09/10 season, she dramaturged and directed *Salt Baby* by Falen Johnson.

KAREN O'BRIEN is one of last year's three winners of an Alumni Association Award; the awards go to students who "demonstrate excellence in academics, coupled with strong

leadership skills and active community involvement". KAREN is working on her Ph.D. in clinical psychology. *

THERESA OSWALD is the provincial Minister of Health.

GERALD PAULS teaches English in Winkler, and directs for the Poor Theatre Company in Morden.

INGRID PEDERSEN teaches drama at Dakota Collegiate.

TRACY PENNER performed in the MTC Warehouse production of *Top Girls* for ChurchillFest 2010. *

MEGAN PETERS has a new job working with kids at Springs Church. *

NANCY PITCAIRN teaches drama and English at Vincent Massey in Brandon.

CSILLA PRZIBISLAWKSY is a drama therapist working out of the Aulneau Renewal Centre in St. Boniface.

STEVE RATZLAFF was one of the writer/performers featured in their "In the Chamber" series in the Theatre Projects 2009/10 season. SARAH CONSTIBLE directed. In May, STEVE performed in the Dry Coid Production of *The Light in the Piazza*. He was also one of the readers for the Carol Shields Festival of New Work at PTE. STEVE teaches Theatre at the Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg.

CHRIS READ is an arts reporter and a producer for CBC radio.

MIKE REALBA is a very busy film and television actor.

KERRY REID is teaching in Japan.

SYLVIA RICHARDSON teaches singing at Brandon University.

MALCOLM ROGGE is a writer and filmmaker based in Toronto. This fall, his film, *Under Rich Earth*, was screened in Suwalki, Poland, as part of the Watch Docs Travelling Human Rights Film Festival.

IAN ROSS teaches theatre at the University of Winnipeg. A new play by IAN, *Fabric of the Sky*, was presented as one of the events marking the initiation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

GARRETT RUSNAK worked on the set crew for Shakespeare in the Ruins last summer. Last season, he designed the lighting for *HeadSpace* and set a new Black Hole record for the number of lighting cues in a single show.

JON SANDERSON is studying acting at George Brown College in Toronto.

BRAD SAWATZKY performed in the Drunk Enough to Say I Love You production of *Seagulls* for ChurchillFest 2010. He's going back to school (at the U of W!!!) to finish his degree.

MIKE SAWATZKY is General Manager and Technical Director of the Lester Centre of the Arts in Prince Rupert, B.C., and the assistant manager of the North Peace Culture Centre in Fort St. John.

KAREN SCHELLENBERG is back as the Theatre Program's Technical Assistant having been away for a year on maternity leave. She has a new baby son. While KAREN was away,

ERIC BOSSE and BRENDA MCLEAN filled in.

JOFF SCHMIDT is the Associate Producer of Content Factory and Definitely Not the Opera at CBC Winnipeg, and reviews plays for CBC TV and radio. *

IVORY SEOL stage managed the WJT production of Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* last January.

GIORGIA SEVERINI I has completed her M.A. at the University of Alberta. Last May, she gave a paper, "'You Do Not Understand ME': Hybridity and Third Space in *Age of Iron*" at the Canadian Association for Theatre Research conference at Concordia University in Montreal, and an article by her will appear in an upcoming issue of *Theatre Research in Canada*. GIORGIA now works for the Writers' Guild of Alberta.

EDWINA SHWEDYK is Student Program Assistant in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the U of M.

TANIA (OLSON) SIGURDSON is back at the U of M, studying in the Faculty of Education.

AARIF SHIVJI teaches in Calgary.

JULIE SIMPSON was back at the U of M last year to perform in our production of *Cloud 9*, playing Edward in Act I and Ellen in Act II. JULIE is the drama teacher at Gordon Bell high school. For several years now she has stage-managed the Manitoba Association of Playwrights/Scirocco Press festival of high school plays at the Warehouse.

BOB SMITH is directing a production of Friedrich Durrenmatt's *Play Strindberg* for StrindbergFest 2011; MARGARET GROOME performs. BOB is on research/study leave for part of 10/11, and will be visiting Switzerland.

CHRIS SOBZCAK and BRENDA MCLEAN directed the Theatre Incarnate production of *Far Away and Not Not Not Not Not Enough Oxygen* for ChurchillFest 2010 last February. CHRIS and BRENDA also directed a staged reading of Lisa Martens' *Some Light Undergroun'* for the Carol Shields Festival of New Work at PTW in May. CHRIS is a founder and co-Artistic Director of Theatre Incarnate.

CLAIRE SPARLING won an Irene Anderson Memorial Scholarship last year. CLAIRE designed the costumes for the BHT production of *Cloud 9*, and worked in wardrobe for the SIR production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

JASON SPARLING teaches at Lorette Collegiate, and works with the kids in the drama club.

RAY STRACHAN performed in the Sarasvati production of *Fen* for ChurchillFest 2010. RAY also performed in the Moving Target Theatre Company production of Daniel Thau-Eleff's *Remember the Night* in March. This season, RAY performed in the Manitoba Theatre Centre mainstage production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, a Theatre Calgary/MTC co-production, so RAY opened the show in Alberta. He will be performing in the PTE Munsch show over the winter *

LESLIE STARK teaches high school drama in Vancouver.

LORI STEFANIUK is a casting director working with Next Casting in Winnipeg.

GUY STEWART teaches in a school for disturbed children in Reykjavik, Iceland.

KELLY STIFORA is Communications Officer at Brandon University.

JOHN STINSON is a Trustee of the Manitoba Theatre Centre.

JEFF STROME was in the Moving Target production of *Remember the Night*.

MARINA TAGGART runs a children's theatre in California.

GORD TANNER was one of the writer/performers featured in their "In the Chamber" series in the Theatre Projects Manitoba 2009/1010 season; SARAH CONSTIBLE directed. GORD visited Onstage to talk about the process leading to his "In the Chamber" piece. GORD also performed in the MTC productions of *Strong Poison* and *It's a Wonderful Life* in the season just passed, and in the SIR production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in the spring. He serves on the Board of Theatre Projects Manitoba.

JEY THIBEDEAU has completed her B.Ed. at the University of Winnipeg.

PAUL THULNER teaches drama and English at Sisler High School

GEORGE TOLES has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (that's a very big deal). His film, *Edison and Leo*, won the Best Animated Feature award at the Bangkok International Animation Festival; GEORGE wrote the original story, and co-wrote the screenplay. His essay, "Trying to Remember Clementine," was published in the Routledge Philosophers on Film collection devoted to *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. His essay, "The Forgotten Lighter and Other Moral Accidents in *Strangers on a Train*" appeared in the Spring 2009 issue of *Raritan*. A longer version of this essay will appear in the new Blackwell's volume on Hitchcock. His Afterword to a new edition of Henry Green's novel, *Back*, was published by Dalkey Archives. George's essay, "Rescuing Fragments: A New Task for Cinephilia" appeared last December in *Cinema Journal*. His *Raritan* essay on *A Streetcar Named Desire* was reprinted by Harold Bloom in his Modern Critical Interpretations series. GEORGE's essay, "The Gift of Amnesia in John Brahm's *The Locket*," appeared in the special Romanticism issue of *Film International* last winter. In July of 2009, GEORGE introduced five films at the GUY MADDIN Retrospective in the ERA Festival in Wraclow, Poland. GEORGE and GUY MADDIN's most recent cinematic collaboration shot in Winnipeg over the summer. GEORGE's son, THOMAS, is now a student in the Theatre Program at the U of M, and last season performed in the twenty-fifth anniversary production of CAROL SHIELDS's *Departures and Arrivals*.

DAMION TRYON teaches English at Kildonan East Collegiate.

JANE WALKER will be directing *Mrs. Feguson's Bed* at FemFest. *

RYAN WARD plays the lead in the new movie, *Son of the Sunshine*. Recently, he played the lead in the extended run of *Evil Dead: The Musical* in Toronto.

VERALYNN WARKENTIN's new play, *A Very Serious Undertaking*, was given a number of staged readings in Sarasvati Theatre's FemFest last fall. VERALYNN teaches writing at Red River College.

WAYNE WATSON teaches drama and English for Kumon Leysin, near Montreux in Switzerland.

TIM WEBSTER and wife, Xian, continue to produce the Kids' Fringe in Winnipeg, and TIM performs as "Captain Braggadocio" when he emcees the Outdoor Stage. *

ANDREA VON WICHERT read some of her writing at the launch of "Home Place 3", part two of a special issue of *Prairie Fire* celebrating Winnipeg fiction writers. The event took place at the Grant Park McNally Robinson. She is also a frequent performer in local poetry slams, and performed in the *Girls! Girls! Girls!* fundraising cabaret for the Gas Station Theatre last February. ANDREA is back at the U of M, working on an M.A. in English. She won the Nancy Moncrieff Scholarship.

STEFANIE WIENS performed in the MTC production of *Strong Poison* last season.

CHARLENE WIEST teaches in Winnipeg.

MARGO WILSON teaches English at Vincent Massey in Winnipeg, and also coaches the improv team.

TANNIS WOODLAND works as the Office Assistant for Disabilities Services at the U of M.

KIM ZEGLINSKI performed in the Theatre Incarnate production of *Far Away* for ChurchillFest 2010. *

MEGALLY ZELAYA is working towards her M.A. in Journalism at UBC.

ALLAN ZINYK is a professional actor based in Vancouver.

WINNIPEG FRINGE 2010

Above the Empress of China by ROSS MCMILLAN and Sharon Bajer.

bedbound by Enda Walsh. Directed by BILL KERR, who also acted. MEGAN ANDRES was the other half of the cast.

Breast Friends. Writer/performers included KIM ZEGLINSKI.

Club Chernobyl. TERI STEVENS co-directed. Cast included RYAN MILLER and KAREN O'BRIEN.

The Devil Next Door. Cast included TIM WEBSTER.

An Examination of Raphael Saray's Oeuvre, by RAPH SARAY. Cast included STEPHANIE MOROZ, KERRI WOLOSZN, and PAUL MADZIAK.

The Fabulous Four by CURTIS LOWTON. Music by JOSEPH ARAGON. The cast included PHILIP DUNCAN and DAVID FOX.

A Fish's Wish (Kids' Fringe). Writer/performers included TIM

BANDFIELD, BECCA HAY, and MEGAN PETERS. KEVIN RAMBERRAN did the sound. The show won Best of Kids Fest.

Fool for Love by Sam Shepard, directed by CHRIS JOHNSON. Cast: IVAN HENWOOD, JANE WALKER, GARY JARVIS, CHRIS. MIKE BELL was the assistant director, and the stage manager was MATTHEW LAGACE. KEVIN RAMBERRAN designed the sound and BEN CLARKSON designed the poster.

Le Grand-Guignol sur la Prairie. SARAH CONSTRIBLE arranged the music and designed the poster.

Kafka in Love by WILLIAM JORDAN and KEVIN HOULE. Directed by KRISTEN NORMAN. Cast included IAN MAKITA, YARED MEHZENTA, STACY PAUL HUEN, and WILLIAM.

Oleanna by David Mamet, directed by RAY STRACHAN. Cast included KEN RUDDERHAM.

The Particulars by Matthew MacKenzie. SIMON BRACKEN performed.

Scar Tissue. Cast includes TRACY PENNER.

The Shadowy Waters by W.B. Yeats. Performers included ADAM HURTIG.

The Taming of the Shrew. Cast included DANA SMITH.

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Performers included TIM BANDFIELD

The Unlikely Sainthood of Madeline McKay by JOSEPH ARAGON, directed by LEITH CLARK.

The Weirdest One in the World. (Kids' Fringe) Music by ANGUS KOHM.

We've Always Been Friends by Bruce McManus. Directed by MANISH KAUSHAL. LAUREN LANGE was in the cast.

CHUCK MCEWEN is Executive Producer of the Fringe.

ERIC BOSSE was one of the venue technicians.

MEGAN ANDRES was a site supervisor, RAY STRACHAN was outdoor site supervisor, and TIM WEBSTER was the Kids' Fringe co-ordinator. KEN RUDDERHAM was one of the Outdoor Stage hosts. JOFF SCHMIDT wrote reviews for the CBC

HIGH SCHOOL PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL

As usual, Black Hole alumni and current students were extensively involved in the MAP/Scirocco High School Playwriting Festival. ANGUS KOHM was the producer, and worked with some of the playwrights as dramaturge. STEFANIE WIENS was the MC, and JULIE SIMPSON stage managed. GARY JARVIS, MEGAN ANDRES, and JANE WALKER directed. Actors included: THOMAS TOLES, STEPHANIE MOROZ, LIZ MADDEN, DANA SMITH, CHRIS CHARLES, KIMIYA YUSSUF, KATIE MANN, TONY PORTEOUS, IVAN HENWOOD, KEVIN RAMBERRAN, PAUL MADZIAK, and LAURE MOODY'S daughter, LEIA.