



# Newsletter

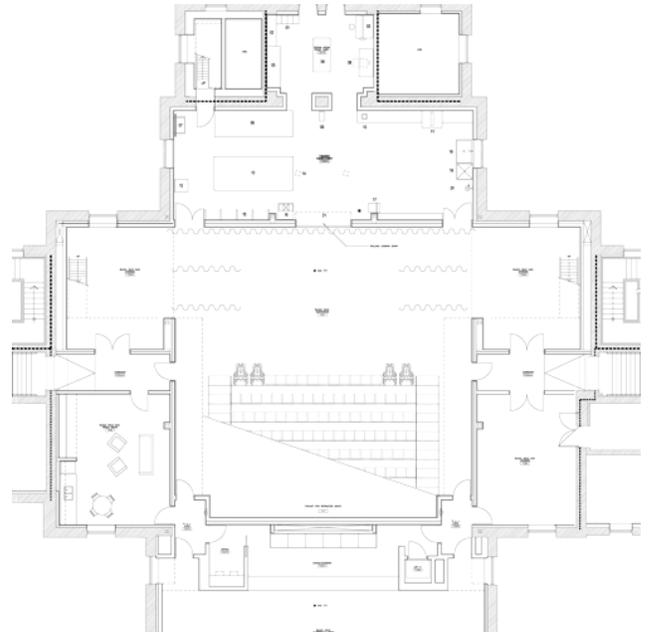
## Fall 2012



### We're Getting a New Theatre!

Plans for the new theatre are racing ahead. The University of Manitoba is developing a new, flexible, 150 seat end stage theatre (with the ability to retract seats to create a more black box style space) in the University's historic Taché Auditorium. For many years this auditorium was at the heart of the University's social and cultural life, it will now beat again. It is currently being prepared for building anew and is slated for completion in time to celebrate 100 years of theatre on campus in 2015. To see the space as it was, is, and plans for how it will be, check out this link to our website. [http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/english\\_film\\_and\\_theatre/undergrad/theatreonTAP.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/english_film_and_theatre/undergrad/theatreonTAP.html) And, keep coming back for updates as the project continues!

Chris will be holding a meeting in the spring for Alumni who want to participate in the celebration of our new venue. He is looking for support for alumni productions and a fundraising committee. Contact him at [Christopher.Johnson@ad.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Christopher.Johnson@ad.umanitoba.ca) if you are interested.



### Greetings from the Past President

#### Thomas Toles

After a lovely year of theatrical shenanigans has come to a close, I remain delighted by the series of clerical errors that led to my presidency. I refer to these errors because I cannot imagine a company with this much talent and passion putting faith into my feeble bones. Whoever screwed up, you'll be receiving a fruit and stripper basket in the mail.

The Black Hole's 2011/2012 season may have been the strongest season I have seen since I enrolled at the University of Manitoba. Dying is easy, comedy is hard, and this company managed to tackle both. From wacky



strongest season I have seen since I enrolled at the University of Manitoba. Dying is easy, comedy is hard, and this company managed to tackle both. From wacky

Thomas just won the Rhodes Scholarship and will be jetting off to England to continue his studies at Oxford. Congratulations Thomas, well done!  
We will miss you.

*Continued on page 3...*

### Featured Alumnus

#### Geoffrey Devenney

The performers on stage at a Cirque du Soleil production are absolutely incredible performers. Their ability to achieve incredible feats of strength with absolute grace and showmanship comes from dedication and focus. This mentality extends itself far beyond the performing branch of Cirque du Soleil's productions. One of Cirque's Operations Production Managers and Black Hole Alumnus Geoffrey Devenney is living proof of this.



Geoff worked backstage with the BHTC on shows in 1981 thru 1986 and found the experience very rewarding. Working with the Black Hole helped Geoff realize the importance of time management and working with others toward a common goal. The eclectic nature of the Black Hole experience allowed Geoff to branch out and work with Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers,

*Continued on page 3...*

## 11/12 Season

The Black Hole Theatre's 2011-2012 season was a hootenanny and a half. *No Why* By John White directed by Kaitlynn Porath started the year off right with sexual oppression, patriarchy, incest and child suicide. Following that was the Chekhovian double bill *The Harmfulness of Tobacco* and *The Marriage Proposal* by Anton Chekov directed by Mike Long. It was a door slamming, gut busting success. Next in line was the first main stage *The Gypsy Woman* by Don Nigro directed by Jaclyn Kozak.

Alumni Jeremy Rampton and Andre Mardli returned to join the cast. Dana Smith's costume and mask designs helped bring the characters to life. This zany zani zoo, inspired by commedia dell'arte



Daniel J. Tompkins, Andrei Mardli, and Jennifer Ching getting down and dirty in *The Gypsy Woman*

(more like farte) was a masking blast involving shit cookies, nearly naked men and the meaning of life. Also during the fall semester, Bill Kerr's dramaturgy and Bob Smith's playwriting classes were beginning their work on the plays that would be shown at the end of the year.

David Dick didn't dick around with *The Dark Lady of the Sonnet* by George Bernard Shaw giving us a quick taste of a middle age, in love Shakespeare as well as a perfect segway into the MTC ShawFest show, *Arms and the Man* directed by Margaret Groome; a war torn comedy involving sweets,



Kelly Jenken and Brennan Hakes expressing true love in *Arms and the Man*.

manipulation, and humans' somewhat hypocritical nature. Karen Schellenberg designed set and costumes and Garret Rusnak got to play with the lights at the Gas Station Theatre. At this point Chris's advanced directing class had sunk their

teeth into the new, student written work that the play writing and dramaturgy classes had produced for a soon to be bloody good time.



Anne Tuma, Daniel Chen, Katherine Leithead, Kayleigh Nichol, Laurie MacDonnell, and Shaylyn Maharaj-Poliah hoping to watch the Pope during *House of Blue Leaves*.

Then came the 4<sup>th</sup> lunchbagg *Sunday Costs Five Pesos* by Josephina Niggli directed by Justin Danyluk. Cha cha cha. Following that was *The House of Blue Leaves* by John Guare directed by George Toles. This play had a bit of everything; nuns, movie stars, AWOL back flips, catchy tunes, gnarly silver boots and a strangled banana. Jamie Savage returned to design costumes and Jocelyn (Thorvaldson) Dunstan returned as the musical director having both worked with George in the eighties on the same show! Many people participated in this show that also included a 20 minute cabaret each night. George Toles had done it again.

To end the year, we set the Black Hole Theatre on fire with *Fire in the Hole 2*; a showing of all the student work that was produced by the playwriting, dramaturge, and advanced directing classes. It involved a sit down read, a staged read and a discussion period of all the plays. There were tons of people involved.

Thanks to everyone for their excellent work all year!

Xxoo Anne Tuma, Publicist 2011/12

## 2012/2013 Executive

**President— Garrett Rusnak**  
**Past President— Thomas Toles**  
**Vice President— Corey Malone**  
**Treasurer— Kayleigh Nichol**  
**Secretary— Caitlin Belton**  
**Member at Large— Logan Stefanson**  
**Onstage Rep— Emma Daquisto**  
**Backstage Rep— Daniel Tompkins**  
**Publicist— Kevin Ramberran**  
**Intro Reps:**  
**A01 (Groome): Mark Finnbogason**  
**A02 (Smith): Gavin McNeil**  
**A03 (Malazdrewich): Gabriel Kellner**

## Toronto International Film Festival Honours Deco Dawson

This fall Deco showed his eighth work at the Toronto International Film Festival. His entry *Keep a Modest Head* is a portrait of French Surrealist artist Jean Benoit. It won the Best Short Film Award. This was Deco's second time winning that award, having won in 2001 for *FILM(dzama)*. Deco was a student here from 1996-2000. Congratulations Deco!

*Continued from page 1— President's Message*

improvisation to British wit to crazed dog women, the Black Hole took on such a myriad of challenges this year and rose to meet all of them. I'm floored by the sheer level of ability and enthusiasm shown by the U of M's theatre students.

Then, there's the BHTC executive council. I was privileged to work with a fantastic set of people with strong opinions and true grit. Not a meeting went by without hearty laughter and spirited discussion. Also to my benefit, my gross negligence was carefully disregarded. If I ever found myself overwhelmed, there was a group of people ready and willing to help out by visiting classes, organizing events, performing sensual massages, etc. Many thanks to all of you!

Seriously, this theatre company has enriched my life in ways I can't possibly say. The Black Hole provides so many opportunities for meeting great people, being creative, and discovering the magic of theatre. What I've always admired most about the U of M's theatre program is how welcoming it is to one and all. It's incredible that even Intro to Theatre students can easily get involved in BHTC Mainstages (and many did this season!). I can't wait to see what the upcoming year has in store for the Black Hole. I'll be ravenously watching from the shadows.

And now, as is my tradition, I shall leave you with a haiku.

### Ode to the Black Hole

How did you do it?

You've caused me to love you more

Than I love myself.

- Thomas Toles

## Contact Information

Box Office: 474-6880

Production Office: 474-7655

Technical Director—Dennis Smith: 474-9474

Technician—Karen Schellenberg: 474-8087

Administration Assistant—Marilyn Loat: 474-9581

Office Assistant—Diana Amey: 474-9122

Teaching Assistant—Tim Bandfield

Margaret Groome: 474-9539

Chris Johnson: 474-9758

Bill Kerr: 474-8819

Bob Smith: 474-9605

Heidi Malazdrewich: 474-9757

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

*Continued from page 1— Geoff Devenney*

MTYP, PTE and the Winnipeg Fringe Festival. Geoff claims that the Black Hole had provided him with the insight that theatre could be a career.

Nowadays, Geoff is the Operations Production Manager of Cirque du Soleil's resident show at Walt Disney World in Orlando, La Nouba. He works ten shows a week, bringing about 1600 people a show and according to him, the most interesting experience of his job with Cirque is knowing that those 1600 people have been influenced by the 200 people working on La Nouba.

La Nouba has been running in Orlando, Florida since 1998 and has 6700 performances under its belt. Earlier this year they welcomed their 7,500,000<sup>th</sup> guest.

Geoff's road to working with Cirque brought him into many different places, both locally and globally. Geoff was a top technical talent locally and served as the executive director of the Gas Station Theatre (now Gas Station Arts Center) for a time. At one point Geoff spent 9 months working in Japan and he mentioned that working abroad is a tremendous opportunity to experience how others live.

Geoff says that running into people he has worked with during his Black Hole days shows that the BHTC has provided the alumni with a common bond that transcends time. When Geoff first started at the Black Hole, the Technical Director/ Production Manager position was a part-time job. In his second year there, it became a permanent position and you can bet for both those years, Dennis Smith filled that chair. One of the most interesting things about the Black Hole, according to Geoff, is the profound impact of having a few fixed members like Dennis Smith and Chris Johnson in the company for over thirty years can have.

Geoff claims that when he was involved with the BHTC, theatre helped him find a direction but now he defines his career as more of a responsibility. A responsibility to, those entering the business, the people he works with and the audiences. He is constantly wondering how he can serve others to the best of his ability. With the extreme complexity of a Cirque du Soleil show, Geoff says his favorite part of the job is the challenge of problem solving minute by minute. He claims it keeps him looking forward to each day and keeps him energized.

Geoff is also a big dog person. When provided with the observation that many technically inclined theatre workers seem to have an affinity for dogs Geoff says that they help to provide a bit of sanity when dealing with difficult timelines and stressful working conditions. With that, Geoff not only explains his own affinity but perhaps that of another Black Holer who has been here since Geoff's days.

Kevin Ramberran

*This edition of the Black Hole Theatre Co. Newsletter was compiled by Karen Schellenberg with Alumni & Fringe News provided by Chris Johnson.*

## In Memoriam

**ARIF HASNAIN**

Artistic Director of the Manitoba Theatre Centre from 1976 to 1980; while he was at MTC, he taught a number of theatre courses and workshops at the U of M. His last position was Head of Acting at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland, where he taught for 17 years.

## Staff Doings

### Diana Amey

Diana joined the Theatre Program office at the end of June and is looking forward to the coming season. Diana and her husband Dave are empty-nesters but still have a furry quadruped at home named Sadie. She's named after Diana's old spinster aunt that loved hockey, had a glass eye and wore negligees as formal dinner attire. No, seriously.....

### Jim Agapito

Our film technician, Jim Agapito, travelled to Kansas City, Missouri to Box at the Ringside 2012 World Championships. Over 1,800 boxer from around the world competed at this prestigious tournament. Jim fought at the middleweight novice division which consisted of 40 boxers in the round-robin style tournament. Jim made it to the championship bout where he lost a close decision against an American from Chicago.

### Tim Bandfield

After finishing his graduate coursework last fall, Tim and his wife, Becca, co-directed the puppetry for The District Theatre Collective's Winnipeg premiere of Avenue Q in January. In February, he took part in a play reading mounted by WJT for Tribefest, and this summer he played Coach Dunbar in Rainbow Stage's Footloose. Now he is intent on finishing his Master's thesis, "Puppet(eer) as god: the metatheatrics of the Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes," for which he was able to meet and interview Ronnie in the spring.

### Margaret Groomer

As usual, Margaret spent her summer in London, UK, going to the theatre and doing research in Britain's wonderful libraries. The productions featured superb acting and directing, but were most striking for their cutting-edge designs - you really cannot see anything like this in Winnipeg. Highlights included a Twelfth Night with a four-foot deep "seaside" tank of water (yes, some actors entered from under water) and a glass-walled elevator that rose four stories. Marvellous! Sweeney Todd, Warhorse, and Richard III were similarly stunning. Margaret also enjoyed a superb new Parisian-style, Art Deco, brasserie which featured champagne and superb desserts - the Café Zedel. Highly recommended.

### Chris Johnson

Chris's play from the early seventies, *Duet for a Schizophrenic*, was revived by the Little Theatre of the Gray Goose and Adhere and Deny at the Ace Art gallery in October. Carolyn Gray directed, and Erin McGrath and Graham Ashmore played She and He. A rollicking good time was had by all, and Chris was inspired to add "write more plays" to the list of things he wants to do when he retires in four years. Later this fall, he received a tremendous and delightful surprise when George Walker sent him an email with the scripts of seven new plays attached, all unpublished and unproduced. The email said, "I thought you might be interested in these", which must qualify as one of the

## Eleanor left us :(

There were some big changes in the office upstairs. Eleanor Stardom, who had been with the department for 9 years, retired. She is planning to spend more time with her 4 grandkids, travelling and reading lots of books.

Eleanor continues to collect free calendars that get distributed to hospitals in the Winnipeg area. Any you have can be dropped off at her old desk in 364.

Diana Amey has joined us from Engineering. Diana is getting the hang of dealing with artistic types quite well. Diana and Marilyn have rearranged their desks and are settling in together. Be sure to introduce yourself when you pop into the office.

greatest understatements of all time. One play, *Dead Metaphor*, premieres at the Actors' Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco in February, and another, *Moss Park*, is a sequel to *Tough!* All of them are very, very dark, and very, very funny. Some students in Onstage will be working on scenes from these plays this year.

### Bill Kerr

I just wanted to state that this summer I discovered both what it was like to be tied up in a falling chair knowing that I was going to hit bottom and what it was like to travel to New York with my family. Both experiences were exhilarating and a little terrifying.

### Marilyn Loat

Yes, I am still here. From July 2011 to June 2012 I served as the President of the Faculty of Arts Support Staff Council. My travels took me to Guelph, ON; Mayan Riviera, Mexico; Saskatoon, SK. In March Karen and I were members of the U of M Support Staff Exchange trip to the University of Western Ontario, with a visit to Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake. In June I bid farewell to Eleanor and welcomed Diana Amey. In July I enjoyed a number of Fringe plays and saw many current and former students.

### Katie Man

I spent the summer stage managing *States of Shock* for Snakeskin Productions at the Fringe. I have enjoyed working in the Media Lab, transitioning to the new, beautiful lab on the main floor. Come and visit.

### Karen Schellenberg

Once again I spent as much of my summer as I could in my yard swimming in the pool with Jamie and Elly. I got sidelined several times with a recurring case of Strep throat. Teching Fringe shows with a fever of 104 is no fun. I apologize for missing everyone's brilliant stage antics but you didn't want me in your audience spreading germs!.

### Bob Smith

Bob spent his summer fine tuning his new play *The Pluto Shot*. He was also super excited to become a grandparent for the first time to an adorable little boy.

### Dennis Smith

Besides for usual business of mounting a theatre season, Dennis has been working intensely for the past year on the design phase of the Theatre Program's new production and stage facility in the old Tache Hall building. The summer was spent on an RV trip to the west coast and sailing at Clear Lake.

## Yay Bob!

Nominated by his Intro to Theatre class, Bob Smith won last year's U1 Excellence in Teaching Award. Way to go Bob!

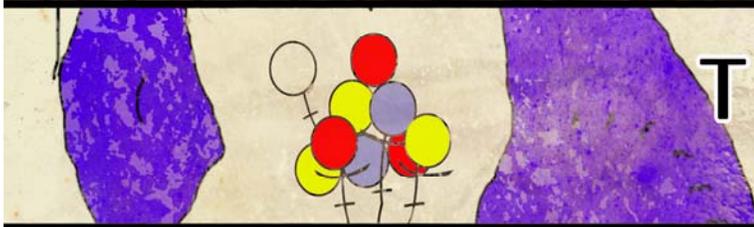
The Black Hole Theatre Company 2012/2013 Season



Oscar Wilde's  
*The Importance of Being Earnest*  
November 20th - December 1st

Martin McDonagh's  
*The Cripple of Inishmaan*

January 15th - 26th



ROBERT SMITH'S  
*THE PLUTO SHOT*

March 12th - 23rd

Presenting our 2012/2013 Mainstage Season

*The Importance of Being Earnest*

By Oscar Wilde

November 20 - 24, 27 - December 1  
at the Black Hole Theatre

Oscar Wilde's classic social satire on the triviality of social institutions kicks off the Black Hole Theatre Company's season. A trip back in time to Victorian era England where Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff are up to some tricky deception is sure to engage and stimulate audiences. As Algernon's cousin Gwendolyn and Jack's young ward Cecily become fascinated with the fictional beings the men have created a hilariously confusing web of lies is weaved. Director Kelly Jenken's handling of Oscar Wilde's farcical masterpiece is sure to cause bouts of uproarious laughter.

*The Cripple of Inishmaan*

By Martin McDonagh

January 15-19, 22-26 at the Black Hole Theatre

Comedy, candies and cripples are all in the recipe for our second mainstage production. In 1934, on the small island of Inishmaan, news spreads about a visit from Robert Flaherty to film *Man of Aran*. Some of the youth organize a boat trip to the neighboring island in hopes of getting a role in the film, but return one passenger short. 'Cripple' Billy Claven is taken to America for a screen test, leaving the people of Inishmaan to wonder what has become of him. With director Mike Long at the helm, Playwright Martin McDonagh (director/writer of 2008's *In Bruges* and this year's *Seven Psychopaths*) takes us into the heart of Ireland and shows us just how crazy one community can get.

*The Pluto Shot*

By Robert Smith

March 12-16, 19-23 at the Black Hole Theatre

The premiere of local playwright Robert Smith's explosive comedy *The Pluto Shot* closes out our season this year. In northern California in the early 1960's, when a nuclear test goes wrong, in a very controversial place and in a very public way, the conservationists, the cultists, and even the transcendental mystics are out in force. With director Chris Johnson tackling this new work, *The Pluto Shot* boldly forecasts a change in global weather.

Adults \$15, Students/Seniors \$12

For exact performance times and dates please visit our web site, [bhtc.ca](http://bhtc.ca)

For Season Subscription inquiries and reservations, contact our box office at 474-6880

## Scholarships and Bursaries

There are several scholarships available that must be applied for. These include the Hirsch Memorial Scholarship (for creative writing), the Cohen Prize, the Promethean Endurance Award, and the Charles Birkett Rittenhouse Memorial Scholarship.

A new bursary has also been created: the Sharon Greening Memorial Bursary. It is \$1000 and available for a full time advanced Film or Theatre major in third or fourth year. Apply for it through Aurora.

### Promethean Endurance Award

Ainza Bellefeuille

Daniel Chen

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## News From Students, Staff, and Alumni

An asterisk (\*) at the end of an entry means that there's more information about the person in the "Fringe" section of the newsletter.

**RAYE ANDERSON** has been appointed to the Manitoba Arts Council. She presents her art in her Woodshop Gallery during the Interlake Artists Wave Tour.

**MEGAN ANDRES** performed in the Tara Players production of *Candida* for ShawFest 2012. She performed in MARGARET GROOME's staged reading for Shawfest. MEGAN has been working as a story teller at the Manitoba Museum. \*

**JOSEPH ARAGON**'s *Bloodless: The Trial of Burke and Hare* will be given its professional debut this season when it is produced by Theatre 20, a new, professional musical theatre company in Toronto, as part of their first season. The company workshopped the piece last spring. JOSEPH is a member of the Playwrights' Unit at Prairie Theatre Exchange. \*

**GAIL ASPER** is on the Advisory Board for the Royal Manitoba Theatre Company. She'll be performing in the Dry Cold Productions/Winnipeg Jewish Theatre production of *Follies* for SondheimFest.

**TIM BANFIELD** has a principal role in a new movie, *Deserted Cities*, being shot in Winnipeg this winter. He also performed in *Footloose: The Musical* at Rainbow Stage last summer. TIM and BECCA directed the puppet component of the District Theatre Collective production of *Avenue Q* in February. TIM performed in the reading of Ginny Collins' *Good Intentions* presented by Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, also in February. In April, TIM went on a research trip to Montreal to meet and interview Ronnie Burkett, on whom TIM is writing his M.A. thesis; Ronnie let TIM work with some of his marionettes, a rare honour. TIM is the Theatre Program's Teaching Assistant again in 2012/13. He received a SSHRC

scholarship for his graduate studies.

**JOSHUA BANMAN** performed in the pte@PTE production of Morris Panych's *The Ends of the Earth* in May.

**JOHN BARNARD**'s film, *The Sheepdogs Have It*, was screened at the Whistler Film Festival in October.

**MIKE BELL** had a small role in *Goon*, and made a number of appearances on *Less Than Kind*. In September, he won an ACTRA award for his performance in *Lucky Christmas*.

**CHRISTY BOETTCHER** starts a new job at R.B. Russell high school this fall. She'll be teaching science math, geography, and drama.

**JEREMY BOWKETT**'s new play, *Maple Route*, was presented as a reading by Theatre Incarnate in the CAROL SHIELDS Festival of New Work at PTE in May. CHRIS SOBCZAK directed, and THERESA THOMSON performed. The play will be given a full production by Theatre Incarnate in the 2012/13 season.

**HEATHER BRAUN** teaches drama at Stonewall Collegiate.

**JANINE BREMAULT BAMFORD** now lives in Edmonton where she performs as a vocalist and musician with the Canadian Artillery band.

**SIMON BRACKEN** was a member of the Stratford company in the summer of 2012. He played "first Cloten Lord" in *Cymbeline* and also appeared in Thornton Wilder's *The Matchmaker*. Last fall, he was back in Winnipeg to perform in the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre production of *Romeo and Juliet*. In January, he performed in *Tomasso's Party* by new playwright, Jules Lewis, in the Next Stage Theatre Festival at the Factory Theatre in Toronto.

**ORLANDO BRAUN** is in the final year of his MFA in Producing for Film and TV at the New York Film Academy at Universal Studios in California. He has been chosen for the Telefilm Canada Producers' mentorship program.

**JESSICA BLAIKEY** is a guidance councilor at Stanley Knowles school.

**SEAN CARNEY**'s new book, *The Politics and Poetics of Contemporary English Tragedy*, has been published by the University of Toronto Press. SEAN is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at McGill University.

**SHELAGH CARTER**'s film, *Passionflower*, won the Platinum Remi award at Worldfest. It was screened at Cinematheque in the fall. Performers include DARCY FEHR. SHELAGH's film, *Canoe*, screened at Nuit Blanche Winnipeg this year.

**MARLEIGH CHAPMAN** has completed her Master's degree in Drama Therapy at Concordia University in Montreal. She published her Thesis "Playspace, Role, and Distancing in the Treatment of Depersonalization Disorder"

**TERRI CHERNIACK** performed in the PTE production of *The Swearing Jar* this fall, and last season, she was in the RMTC production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

**JONAS CHERNICK**'s new film, *My Awkward Sexual Adventure*, was screened in the Contemporary World Cinema

program at the Toronto International Film Festival this fall. The film won the People's Choice Award for Best Narrative Feature at the Calgary International Film Festival, and was also screened at the Whistler Film Festival. JONAS was back in Winnipeg last fall shooting the movie, and while he was here, he and his director, Sean Garrity, gave a noon hour talk for U of M theatre students, several of whom subsequently performed in the film as extras. Last winter, JONAS performed in several episodes of George F. Walker's new television series, *Living in Your Car*. He also appeared on *Degrassi* and *The Listener*

**LEITH CLARK** teaches drama at Sisler. \*

**ARI COHEN** performed in the Tarragon Theatre's workshop production of *This Is War*, Hannah Moscovitch's new play, last winter. Last summer, he performed in David Mamet's *Speed-the-Plow* for Soulpepper Theatre in Toronto.

**SARAH CONSTIBLE** performed in the PTE production of *The Swearing Jar* this fall, and later in the season, she'll be in the RMTC production of *Gone With the Wind* and the Warehouse production of Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*. Last season, she played the lead role, Frances Beynon, in the RMTC's production of Wendy Lill's *The Fighting Days*. She also performed in the RMTC production of Sarah Ruhl's *In the Next Room*; the Theatre Projects Manitoba Christmas show, *The Eight Tiny Reindeer of the Apocalypse*; and the TPM production of STEVE RATZLAFF's *Dionysus in Stony Mountain* last season. *Through the Window*, a new play SARAH co-wrote with ROSS MCMILLAN, was presented as a reading by Shakespeare in the Ruins at the CAROL SHIELDS Festival of New Work at PTE in May. Also at the CAROL SHIELDS Festival, SARAH performed in the reading of Tricia Cooper's *Social Studies*. SARAH composed the music for Shakespeare in the Ruins' production of *Henry V*. SARAH's recent TV work includes *The Haunting in Connecticut* and *Todd and the Book of Pure Evil*.

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

**ANDREW COYNE** is the National Editor of *Mclean's* magazine, and regularly appears on the At Issues panel on CBC with Peter Mansbridge.

**TRACY DAHL** is performing in Rigoletto with the Manitoba Opera Association this fall; it's the 30th anniversary of her first appearance with the MOA. Last season, she toured the U.S. and Australia with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

**DECO DAWSON's** film, *Keeping a Modest Head*, won the Best Canadian short award at the Toronto International Film Festival this fall. This is DECO's second win; he first won the award in 2001.

**DAVID DEGROW** received a Dora nomination for his lighting design of *Hallaj* a co-pro for Modern Times Stage Company and Buddies in Bad Times in Toronto. He is the Production Manager at Theatre Passe Muraille.

**KERRY DESROCHERS** teaches English at a university in S. Korea.

**PHILLIP DUNCAN** teaches drama at Morden Collegiate.

**JOCELYN (THORVALDSON) DUNSTAN** came back to us

last season to help out as Musical Director for GEORGE TOLES' production of *The House of Blue Leaves*.

**NATASHA DURAND** played Cleopatra in the Nomadic Players/Naughty Sailboat production of *Caesar and Cleopatra* for ShawFest 2012; RAY STRACHAN directed.

**AUDREY DWYER** performed in the Studio 180 production of *Clybourne Park* at the Berkeley Street Theatre in Toronto last spring.

**KRISTIAN ENRIGHT** has published his book of poems, *Sonar*, with Turnstone Press. He's working on his Ph.D., in English lit. at the U of M.

**DARCY FEHR** is the Training and Community Program Coordinator for the Winnipeg Film Group. DARCY performs in SHELAGH CARTER's new film, *Passionflower*. You can watch him take his close off during a WCB commercial currently running.

**MURIEL FLETT** has been taking acting classes from DARY FEHR at The Acting Studio Winnipeg.

**JULIA FLOREK** came back to us last season to play Catherine in *Arms and the Man*, and is back again this fall to play Miss Prism in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. \*

**DAVID FOX** performed in the Winnipeg Studio Theatre production of *Spring Awakening* (the musical) at the Warehouse Theatre last November. \*

**KATHY FRANCE** is now living in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Her husband, Peter, has retired from his overseas job working with prospective immigrants, and KATHY and family have returned to Canada to live. Their last posting was in Nepal.

**MATTHEW FUNK** starts a new job this fall teaching at Dr. D.W. Penner school.

**IAN GAMACHE's** paintings were featured in an art show at Galerie Dentaire in Montreal last winter.

**BARBARA (MELNYK) GEHRING's** play, *Girls Only*, has been doing really well in American regional theatre. It was produced in Denver (where BARB lives), Minneapolis, and Pittsburgh last season, and this fall, will be produced in Houston, this time with a local cast rather than BARB and her co-writer performing. BARB herself has been doing some performing with her old ACE comedy troupe.

**TRACY GEMMEL** teaches English at Dawson College in Montreal.

**TASIA GERAS** is company manager for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

**REBECCA GIBSON** is one of a number of Winnipeg women who have formed a new film production company, Red Czarina. The company filmed *Hansel and Gretel* in Manitoba last summer.

**CATHERINE GRAJEWSKI (FOSTER)** is working on her Ph.D. at the Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama at the University of Toronto. She is also teaching drama at Ryerson Polytechnical University, and running the historical reenactment program at Pioneer Village.

**MICHAL GRAJEWSKI** works as a production assistant for

the Rick Mercer Show.

**DANIELLE GREGOIRE** lives in Seattle, and has been performing stand up at the People's Republic of Comedy. She's a mother of two.

**MARGARET GROOME** directed our production of *Arms and the Man* as part of the Master Playwright Festival 2012 at the Gas Station Theatre in January. During the Festival MARGARET also directed Shaw's masterpiece, *Heartbreak House*, and performed the major role of Hesione Hushabye in that production at the RMTc's Tom Hendry Theatre ("the Warehouse") as a Benefit fund-raising reading for the Actors' Fund of Canada. MARGARET finds it's always such a pleasure to work on these fund-raisers with fellow professionals in the Winnipeg theatre community. MARGARET was also a speaker on two panels that were part of the "Shaw Unbound" Lecture Series during ShawFest: "Shaw and Women's Rights" and "Discovering Shaw - Directors' Panel". During the summer MARGARET spent many weeks doing research and seeing several fabulous productions in London, England. Her article "'Why don't you listen to me?': Dialects, Rhythm, Pace, and the Sound of Voices in English-language Productions of *Waiting for Godot*" has just been published in the bilingual journal *Degrés* (Quatrième année, no. 149-50, printemps-été 2012, i, 1-27). MARGARET is looking forward to teaching her course "Theatre on Film" beginning in January. This will be the first time she has offered this course at the U of M!

**BEN GROSS** teaches history in a Toronto high school.

**ROSE-ANNE HARDER** has taken up a new position as Director of the Manitoba Arts Alliance.

**ELLIE HARVIE** is a professional actor who lives and works in Vancouver.

**ANGELA HECK** has left her marketing and communications job at the U of M to take up a new position as director of business development for Tactica Interactive, "a cross platform digital strategy company".

**IVAN HENWOOD** has a new job as Associate Producer at Winnipeg Jewish Theatre. Last school year, IVAN worked as the Theatre Program teaching assistant. He performed in the Nomadic Players/Naughty Sailboat production of *Caesar and Cleopatra* for ShawFest 2012. Last winter, IVAN and JANE WALKER became engaged. \*

**ROB HERRIOT** directed a highly acclaimed, "Japanese anime" production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Mikado* for Edmonton Opera last season. Last summer, ROB performed in the Rainbow Stage production of *Annie*, and this fall he's directing the Dry Cold production of *Little Women*, and *Rigoletto* for Manitoba Opera.

**CYNTHIA HIEBERT-SIMKIN** is coming back to the Black Hole this fall to play Lady



Bracknell in our production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. CYNTHIA is in the process of establishing her own law firm in Winnipeg.

**JULIANNE HOYAK** is teaching drama in Steinbach.

**ADAM HURTIG** performed in the Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre Society's production of *Major Barbara* for ShawFest 2012, and in the Winnipeg Studio Theatre production of *My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding* in May. \*

**GRAHAM ISAAK** performed his graduating recital at Young United Church in April; the program included a piece for bass trio which GRAHAM composed himself.

**GARY JARVIS'** play, *Whatever Happened to Mary Badham*, was given a staged reading at the Rudolf Rocker centre in October. GARY was back in the Black Hole this fall, playing Rev. Chasuble in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

**SHEREEN JERRETT** is teaching film classes at the universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg.

**SANDY JOBIN-BEVANS** plays the Dad in the new YTV series, *Life With Boys*. Sandy has been a very busy actor over the past few years; his TV and film credits include: *Harold and Kumar go to White Castle*, *Dawn of the Dead*, *The Gavin Crawford Show*, *The Endless Grind*, *Off the Record*, and numerous movies of the week. Previously he performed with the Second City Mainstage Cast in Toronto, winning three Canadian Comedy Awards. SANDY is also a successful script writer and pops up in lots of commercials.

**CHRIS JOHNSON** presented a short paper, "Prairie Chekhov: Bruce McManus' adaptation of *The Three Sisters*", for the Robert Kroetsch Symposium at the U of M in May, and a longer version of the same paper for the Canadian Association for Theatre Research conference at the University of Waterloo later that month. CHRIS serves on the board of Theatre Projects Manitoba. In September, Carolyn Gray directed a production of CHRIS' play, *Duet for a Schizophrenic*, at Ace Art. In the coming season, CHRIS will be directing the premiere production of BOB SMITH's new play, *The Pluto Shot*, for the BHT. In the coming academic year, CHRIS is teaching a graduate English lit. course on the work of three Canadian playwrights (George Walker, Judith Thompson, and Tomson Highway); Text and Performance (Commedia dell'Arte): an undergraduate course on Canadian drama; a course on dramatic tragedy; and half of Onstage.

**SARAH-ANN JOHNSON** was one of thirteen Winnipeg artists whose work was shown in the *Winnipeg Now* exhibition to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Earlier in the year, a number of her photographs were featured in an art show exploring concepts of "North" in Anchorage, Alaska.

**WILLIAM JORDAN** performed in the Nomadic Players/Naughty Sailboat production of *Caesar and Cleopatra* for ShawFest 2012, and was a supernumerary in the Manitoba Opera production of *Daughter of the Regiment*. He also makes appearances as "Captain Morgan".\*

**ANDREA KARR** is in STEVE KOSTANSKI's new film, *Manborg*.

**RACHEL KENNELLY** is teaching drama classes at Cercle Moliere this year.

**BILL KERR** directed the Theatre Projects Manitoba production of STEVE RATZLAFF's *Dionysus in Stony Mountain* last season. **BILL** also worked on the play as dramaturge. He is Chair of the Board of Shakespeare in the Ruins. **BILL** performed in the reading of *Saint Joan*, presented as a fund-raiser for the Performing Arts Lodge as part of ShawFest 2012. **BILL** is dramaturging BOB SMITH's new play, *The Pluto Shot*, which will be given its premiere production in the Black Hole in March, 2013. \*

**GREG KLYMKIW** is Senior Creative Consultant at the Canadian Film Centre, a position he has held for thirteen years. **GREG** writes for and runs his own film reviewing site on the web, "Greg Klymkiv's CFC Canadian Film Corner" (canadianfilmcorner.blogspot.com). He's currently working on several film scripts and a text book on screenwriting.

**ANGUS KOHM** edited *I Was a Teenaged Playwright*, which was published by Scirocco Press last November; the book is a collection of plays written by contestants in the annual Manitoba Association of Playwrights/Scirocco Press Festival of High School plays, which **ANGUS** has produced every year for the past twelve years. Excerpts from several plays were read at the launch at McNally-Robinson; readers included: JOFF SCHMIDT, GARY JARVIS, MEGAN ANDRES, JANE WALKER, STEFANIE WIENS and VERALYN WARKENTIN.

**FRANCES KONCAN** lives in New York and studies playwriting at Brooklyn College. She attended Punchdrunk's immersive theatre workshop in Alberta this summer.

**STEVE KOSTANSKI**'s new film, *Manborg*, was premiered at Cinematheque this fall.

**JACKIE KOZAK** is moving to Edmonton to take up a new job at the Royal Alberta Museum.

**SUSAN KURBIS** has a new job as a vice-principal.

**CAROLYN KUTCHYERA** stage managed the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre production of *Way to Heaven*.

**MATTHEW LAGACÉ** was the Apprentice Stage Manager working on the RMTc production of *Romeo and Juliet* last fall; **MATT** also did some fire spinning in the show. He was also apprentice SM for the PTE production of *Altar Boyz* and the Manitoba Opera production of *Daughter of the Regiment* last season. In January, he stage managed our production of *Arms and the Man* for ShawFest. This fall, he's stage-managing the Dry Cold production of *Little Women*, and Shakespeare in the Ruins' production of the *Stripped Down Midsummer Night's Dream* for schools.\*

**DALE LAKEVOLD**'s new play, *Aleta Day: A Rehearsal*, was produced in Winnipeg and Brandon last spring as part of the MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts; **TRACY PENNER** performed. **DALE** teaches Creative Writing at Brandon University.

**MARIA LAMONT** directed the Pacific Opera Victoria production of Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda* last April; **TRACY**

**DAHL** played the title role. In 2013, **MARIA** will direct *Eugene Onegin* for Edmonton Opera.

**JEFF LECLERC** is University Secretary at the U of M. Last summer, **JEFF** and his wife welcomed a baby daughter, **BRIDGET**.

**TANNIS LEHMANN** teaches English and drama at Kildonan East Collegiate.

**CURTIS LOWTON** teaches at St. George's School.

**JIM MACGREGOR** is a producer working for Shaw Community TV.

**JEFF MADDEN** played Andrew Undershaft in the Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre Society's production of *Major Barbara* for ShawFest 2012.

**GUY MADDIN** has been named to the Order of Canada. His new film, *Keyhole*, won the Borsos prize for best Canadian film at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Whistler Film Festival in December, and **GUY** was named one of the top ten most important filmmakers at last year's TIFF. Last winter, he shot a short film in Paris as part of the Centre Pompidou's *Spiritisme* project, and **GUY** was one of thirteen Winnipeg artists whose work was included in the *Winnipeg Now* exhibition to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Winnipeg Art Gallery. **GUY** was the Distinguished Filmmaker-in-Residence at the U of Manitoba again last school year.

**HEIDI MALAZDREWICH** is teaching Intro for the first time at U of M. She was assistant director on *Romeo And Juliet* and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* with RMTc last year.

**ADRIANO MAGNIFICO** was one of the four MTC ShawFest bloggers; **ADRIANO** is head of the English Department at River East Collegiate.

**KATIE MAN** is the technician in charge of the Media Lab in the Department of English, Film, and Theatre at the U of M. \*

**ANDRE MARDLI** has been hired for his first teaching job, at an elementary school in Morden.

**ALEXIS MARTIN** performed in the Tara Players production of *The Attic, The Pearls, and Three Fine Girls* in February. She works as a life coach.

**JOCK MARTIN** is the drama teacher at St. John 's Ravenscourt School.

**LISA MARTIN** teaches English at Westgate Mennonite School.

**JUDITH MATE** works for the International Students' Centre at the U of M.

**SUE MATHESON** teaches English at Red Deer College in Alberta.

**KYLE MCCULLOCH** writes scripts for *South Park* and is a voice in the animated series *Neighbors from Hell*.

**CHUCK MCEWEN** is the Executive Director of the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival and Winnipeg's Master Playwright Festival. \*

**DARLA MCFARLANE** is Regional Manager of the Learning Program of the Canada School of Public Service.

**ALISON MCLEAN** is teaching the Teen Playwriting course at MTYP this fall.

**BRENDA MCLEAN** is Head of Wardrobe for PTE. BRENDA also taught for the PTE School. BRENDA designed the costumes for the PTE production of *Altar Boyz*, and performed in the Nomadic Players/Naughty Sailboat production of *Caesar and Cleopatra* for ShawFest 2012. BRENDA and JOHN B. LOWE co-directed the PTE adult company production of *Metastasis: A Tragicomedy* in the spring. Also last spring, BRENDA taught a workshop course in physical theatre at Theatre Incarnate. In May, she performed in a reading of Bob Armstrong's *Jesus of St. Vital* at the CAROL SHIELDS Festival, and in the summer, was the assistant director for the Shakespeare in the Ruins production of *Henry V*. This year, BRENDA will be teaching physical theatre at the PTE school, and directing the School's Adult Company.\*

**ROSS MCMILLAN** performed in the MTC Warehouse/Tarragon Theatre co-production of Sarah Ruhl's *In the Next Room; or, The Vibrator Play* last season. He also performed in the TPM production of STEVE RATZLAFF's play, *Dionysus in Stony Mountain*, and in the MAP staged reading of Daniel Thau-Eleff's *My Affair With George Bernard* for ShawFest 2012. *Through the Window*, a new play ROSS co-wrote with SARAH CONSTIBLE, was presented as a reading by Shakespeare in the Ruins at the CAROL SHIELDS Festival of New Work at PTE in May. Also at the CAROL SHIELDS Festival, ROSS played the Prime Minister in the reading of Michael Healey's *Proud*. ROSS plays a continuing character on the TV series, *Less Than Kind*. \*

**AKALU MEEKIS** makes an appearance on *Less Than Kind* this season.

**BRUCE MICHALSKI** has started a new job as Publicity and Marketing Coordinator at Prairie Theatre Exchange. BRUCE performed in the Tara Players production of *Atta Boy, Mr. Synge!* last November.

**RYAN MILLER** performed in the WJT production of *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* last season, and will be playing Prior again in *Angels in America: Perestroika* this spring. \*

**AYNSLEY MOORHOUSE's** sound recording/installation, *Walk With Me*, was included in Buddies in Bad Times' Rhubarb Festival in Toronto last season. It also aired on CBC1's program *Living Out Loud*. AYSLEY runs a theatre group in the Baycrest nursing home in Toronto, and writes a fascinating blog about the project.

**CAROL MORIYAMA** is the house manager for Winnipeg Jewish Theatre.

**STEPHANIE MOROZ** performs her first professional gig this fall: she's playing Cecily in the Persephone Theatre/Western Canadian Theatre Company co-production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* in Saskatoon and Kamloops respectively. STEPH graduated from Studio 58 last spring. She was in Winnipeg for part of the summer working as an instructor in the MTYP drama camp.

**CARSON NATTRASS** directed the production of *Footloose:*

*The Musical* at the Rainbow Stage this summer. This January, CARSON will be performing in the Dry Cold/Winnipeg Jewish Theatre production of *Follies* for SondheimFest. Productions in which CARSON recently performed include *Great Expectations* at Talk Is Free Theatre; *Nevermore* at Persephone Theatre in Saskatoon; *Cats* and *Hairspray* at Rainbow a year ago; and *The 39 Steps* at Persephone last winter.

**YVETTE NOLAN** is directing *Café Daughter* by Kenneth Williams for Native Earth Performing Arts this season.

**CHRIS NOVAK** has left Vancouver to run the Holt Renfrew on Bloor Street in Toronto.

**TANIA OLSEN** is teaching in Morden.

**THERESA OSWALD** successfully defended her seat in the provincial election last fall, and continues to serve as the Manitoba Minister of Health.

**MICHELLE PALANSKY** teaches English for Daejeon Education. \*

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

**MAURA PENN** performed in GIORGIA SEVERENI's production of Pirandello's *The License* at the Edmonton Fringe Festival. MAURA works for Theatre Alberta.

**TRACY PENNER** performed in the Theatre Projects Manitoba production of Carole Frechette's *John and Beatrice* this fall, and later this season, will be performing in the RMTC production of *Ed's Garage*. Last season, TRACY performed in the Zone 41 production of *Village Wooing* for ShawFest 2012. Later in the season, she performed in the Sarasvati production of *Eden*, and in the independent production of DALE LAKEVOLD's *Aleta Day* for the MayWorks festival. In the summer, she worked with BILL KERR on the workshop development of Karen Moore's new play for MAP.\*

**SCOTT PETERSON** performed in the Winnipeg Studio Theatre production of *My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding* last May. He's going into the Faculty of Education this fall.

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

**TONY PORTEOUS** performed in the film, *Hansel and Gretel*, shot in Winnipeg over the summer.

**CASSANDRA POTENZA** performed in *Footloose: The Musical* at Rainbow Stage last summer.

**JEREMY RAMPTON** came back to us last season to play Pedrolino in the BHT production of the commedia scenario, *The Gypsy Woman*. Later in the season, he performed in the Nomadic Players/Naughty Sailboat production of *Caesar and Cleopatra* for ShawFest 2012. JEREMY was on the lighting crew for the PTE production of *Altar Boyz*, and in May, he stage managed the pte@PTE production of Morris Panych's *The Ends of the Earth*. This fall, JEREMY was back in the Black Hole again, designing the set for *The Importance of Being Earnest*.\*

**STEVE RATZLAFF** performed in Ellen Peterson's new play, *The Brink*, at PTE this fall. STEVE teaches theatre at Canadian

Mennonite University. His play, *Dionysus in Stony Mountain*, was produced by Theatre Projects Manitoba last season. BILL KERR directed, and ROSS MCMILLAN and SARAH CONSTIBLE performed. Also last spring, STEVE performed in the MTC Warehouse production of *August: Osage County*, and in the Sarasvati production of HOPE MCINTYRE's new play, *Eden*. In the summer, STEVE performed in *Annie* at Rainbow Stage.

**CHRIS READ** is a producer and arts reporter for CBC Radio.

**JANELLE REGALBUTO** designed the set and costumes for the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre production of *Way to Heaven* and the set for their *Angels in America*. She was also one of the set painters working on the PTE production of *Altar Boyz*.

**CHRISTINE REINFORT** is going to study acting at Studio 58 in Vancouver starting this fall. In February, she performed in the Chautauqua fund-raising event for Shakespeare in the Ruins at PTE; BRENDA MCLEAN directed the piece. CHRISTINE also performed in the pte@PTE production of Morris Panych' *The Ends of the Earth* in May. \*

**TRACY (RETTIG) SEWELL** is the Drama teacher at Dakota Collegiate. She's currently on mat leave, and last summer, gave birth to a baby son.

**GAVIN RICH** serves on the board of the Prairie Theatre Exchange Foundation Trust.

**SYLVIA RICHARDSON** teaches singing at Brandon University.

**MALCOME ROGGE** has moved to Boston to work on a graduate degree at the Harvard Law School.

**IAN ROSS**'s reading at the Storytelling Festival was moved to Aqua Books due to a bomb threat at the Millennium Library.

**GARRETT RUSNAK** was one of the stage hands for the TPM production of *John and Beatrice* this fall. He's working on the lighting crew at PTE this season. This fall, GARRETT was back in the Black Hole designing the lighting for *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and also working on the show as set carpenter.\*

**JAMIE SAVAGE** came back to us last season to design the costumes for GEORGE TOLES' production of *The House of Blue Leaves*. JAMIE designed the costumes when GEORGE first directed the play for the BHT in 1982.

**KAREN SCHELLENBERG** is the Theatre Production Assistant at the U of M. She was a stage manager at KidsFest in the spring and production managed *Girls! Girls! Girls!: Blue*, a yearly fundraiser for the Gas Station Arts Centre this fall. Performers included ANDREA VON WICHERT, BRENDA MCLEAN, JESSICA BURLESON, and SARAH CONSTIBLE. KIM ZEGLINSKI co-produced the event and CAITLYN BELTON was a stage manager. \*

**JOFF SCHMIDT** is Executive Producer of *Content Factory* and *Definitely Not the Opera*, and writes and broadcasts the *Theatre Beat* theatre reviews for CBC radio. \*

**DEANNA SCHUERBEKE** lives with her family and holds an executive position at Nortel in Portland, Oregon. She also serves on the board of directors of Third Rail, a small and edgy

theatre company in that city.

**RYAN SEGAL** was the Producer for the Winnipeg Studio productions of *Spring Awakening* and the District Theatre Collective production of *Avenue Q* last season. \*

**GIORGIA SEVERENI** directed Pirandello's *The License* at the Edmonton Fringe Festival; MAURA PENN was in the cast.

**SHERRY SEYMOUR** is back in Winnipeg after several years teaching in Korea. She's currently teaching in the English language program at the U of M.

**KHAL SHARIFF** got a MacArthur Foundation Grant for Education by winning the foundation's digital media and learning competition.

**ALEXIS (HOOK) SILVER** came back to us last season to play the piano for the talent contest pre-show for GEORGE TOLES' production of *The House of Blue Leaves*. ALEXIS teaches at Sisler Collegiate. She gave birth to a little girl this fall.

**JEFF SINCLAIR** is teaching English in Korea.

**JULIE SIMPSON** is a drama and dance teacher at Gordon Bell High School. JULIE stage managed the MAP/Scirocco high school drama festival at the Warehouse again.

**DEAN SMALLWOOD** is one of the owners of Bounce Design.

**CHRIS SOBCZAK** directed the reading of JEREMY BOWKETT's *Maple Route* at the CAROL SHIELDS Festival of New Work at PTE in May.

**CLAIRE SPARLING** is working as a sewer in the wardrobe department at PTE this season. Look for her costume design on *The Cripple Of Inishmaan* this January at the BHT.

**JASON SPARLING** teaches at Lorette Collegiate.

**LESLIE STARK** teaches drama, writing, and English at a high school in Vancouver. She directed their production of *The Laramie Project* last spring. This fall, her play, *Joint*, was produced at the Vancouver Fringe Festival.

**TERI STEVENS** is the Publicist and Online Media Coordinator for the RMTc. \*

**KELLY STIFORA** is Communications Officer at Brandon University.

**RAY STRACHAN** did an internship with Obsidian Theatre in Toronto last spring, and while he was there he was on the Strombo show. Last season, RAY performed in the RMTc production of *Romeo and Juliet*, and directed and performed in the Nomadic Players/Naughty Sailboat production of *Caesar and Cleopatra* for ShawFest 2012.

**JEFF STROME** performed in *Caesar and Cleopatra* in ShawFest, and this fall, performed in the RMTc production of *A Few Good Men*.\*

**DONNA SZOKE**'s interactive video installation, *And All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace*, was exhibited at Plug In ICA last winter. DONNA teaches art at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario.

**MARINA TAGGART** runs a children's theatre in California.

**GORD TANNER** is in Shakespeare-in-the-Ruins' production of the stripped-down *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Last season, he performed in the MTC Warehouse/Tarragon Theatre co-production of *In the Next Room; or The Vibrator Play*. Also last season, he performed in the Theatre Projects Manitoba/Zone 41 co-production of Bruce McManus' adaptation of Chekhov's *Three Sisters*. He was also in the MTC Warehouse production of *Mrs. Warren's Profession* for ShawFest 2012, and in May, he performed in a number of the short shots in the CAROL SHIELDS Festival of New Work at PTE. \*

**TIFFANY TAYLOR** was one of the scenic painters working on the WJT production of *Way to Heaven* last season, and was the assistant scenic artist working on the set for the PTE production of *The Swearing Jar*.

**THERESA THOMSON** performed in the reading of JEREMY BOWKETT's *Maple Route* at the CAROL SHIELDS Festival in May. \*

**PAUL THULNER** has taken up a new job teaching at Stanley Knowles school after having taught at Sisler for several years. \*

**JOHN TITLEY** is moving to Toronto to study with the Entertainment Writers' Labn at the Canadian Film Centre. JOHN also won the Telefilm Golden Quill award to attend the Toronto Screenwriting Conference last winter. JOHN has been working for InkCanada as an intern.

**GEORGE TOLES** and GUY MADDIN won the Borsos prize for best Canadian Feature at the Whistler Film Festival last year. GEORGE directed our production of John Guare's *The House of Blue Leaves* last March; he first directed a production of the play for the Black Hole in 1984.

**DAMION TRYON** teaches English at Kildonan East Collegiate.

**ANNE TUMA** started her acting training at George Brown College in Toronto this fall.

**JANE WALKER** directed one of the play's in this year's MAP/Sirocco high school playwriting competition at the Warehouse. \*

**RYAN WARD**'s movie, *Son of the Sunshine*, was nominated for a Genie for best screenplay.

**VERALYN WARKENTIN** is Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Arts at the University of Winnipeg. \*

**ANDREA VON WICHERT** was one of the scenic painters working on the WJT production of *Way to Heaven* last season. ANDREA also worked on the set for the Winnipeg Studio Theatre production of *Spring Awakening*. This season, she was the scenic artist working on the TPM production of Carole Frechette's *John and Beatrice*, and on the PTE production of *The Swearing Jar*. \*

**STEFANIE WIENS** is performing in the MTC mainstage production of *Miracle on South Division Street* this season. She and ANGUS KOHM have been working on a film documentary on Winnipeg actress, Doreen Brownstone. STEFANIE directed *Pshaw! A Literary Roast of George Bernard Shaw* as a fundraiser for the Actors' Fund of Canada at ShawFest 2012. \*

**CHARLENE WIEST** is the Vice-Principal at J.H. Bruns Collegiate.

**RYLAN WILKIE** is a professional actor working out of Toronto. He performed in Theatre Columbus' production of *The Story* last season, and last summer was a member of the company at the Blyth Festival, where he performed in *Having Hope at Home* and *The Lonely Diner*.

**DAVID WILLIAMSON**'s new book of poetry, *Hauntings*, was published by Goldrock Press last winter, and launched at McNally-Robinson at the end of March. *Northern Writers Anthology No. 3* was launched at the same time, and includes more of DAVID's writing.

**JON WITZKE** teaches in Russell.

**MAGALLY ZELAYA** works for CBC Vancouver as a reporter and anchor person. In September, she married Ian Bickis.

**DEREK ZORNIK** works in Front of House at the MTC.

**ALLAN ZYNICK** is a professional actor working out of Vancouver.

## 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!



Garrett Rusnak and Matthew Lagacé at the production table during levels for *Arms and the Man*.

## Fringe 2012

*Against the Wall.* Performers included CHRISTINE REINFORT.

*The Agony and Ecstasy of Steve Jobs.* RYAN SEGAL produced.

*Almost an Evening.* Performers included MURAT ATES, WILLIAM JORDAN, KEVEN HOULE, LIZ MADDEN, and WILLIAM O'DONNELL.

*Artichoke Heart.* Co-written by GORD TANNER.

*Bare.* Performers included DAVID FOX and CHRISTOPHER TRAQUIR.

*Body Language.* Performers included RYAN MILLER.

*Broken Wings* by ANDREW CECON. BRENDA MCLEAN directed. Performers included CLAIRE THERESE.

*Cabaret.* MATTHEW LAGACE stage managed.

*Choose Your Adventure: An Improvised Tale.* Performers included LUKE CECELON.

*The Darling Family.* Performers included MEGAN ANDRES, who also produced.

*Fresher.* Performers included ADAM HURTIG. RYAN SEGAL looked after the graphics.

*The Getaway.* Performers included TIM GRAY.

*Illuminati III* by JOSEPH ARAGON. LEITH CLARK directed and performers included KELLY JENKEN.

*Inside the Box.* MATTHEW LAGACE stage managed.

*Lady Skits.* Written and performed by the MUFF-Stache Collective, i.e. JACKIE KOZAK, KAITLYN PORATH, ANNE TUMA, and DANA SMITH.

*Maiden Voyage 4: Come Hell or High Water.* Performers included DAVID FOX and DANA SMITH.

*Mary and Martha* by VERALYN WARKENTIN. Performers included JULIA FLOREK.

*Morning Coffee.* Directed by DARY FEHR.

*Mr. Flatland Comedy.* Performers included JON MCPHAIL.

*Next.* Performed by TRACY PENNER.

*Orphans.* Co-directed by THOMAS TOLES and KEVIN RAMBERRAN. Performers: JUSTIN FRY, A.J. MCCULLOCH, BILL KERR. CAITLIN BELTON stage managed and GARRETT RUSNICK advised on lighting.

*Overexposed.* Written and performed by ANDREA VON WICHERT.

*Poor Fools.* Creator/Performers: JEREMY RAMPTON, JACKIE KOZAK, ANDRE MARDLI, ANNE TUMA, PAUL DUNCAN, David Montebruno, Cory Wojik, Jennifer Ching.

*The Qualm.* Co-written by PAUL MADZIAK, who also performed.

*The Seducer's Diary.* Performers included JEFF STROME and RYAN MILLER.

*Shades of Gray.* Performers included TONY PORTEOUS.

*States of Shock* by Sam Shepard. Directed by IVAN HENWOOD. KATIE MAN was the production designer, and MIKE LONG wrote and performed the music. Performers were: DANIEL CHEN, JANE WALKER, KERRI WOLOSZYN, KEVIN RAMBERRAN and Harry Nelken.

*Stretchmarks.* Written and produced by KIM ZEGLINSKI, who also performed.

*Tales My Mother Never Told Me.* Written and performed by LEIGH-ANNE KEHLER.

*Top Dog.* Directed by BRENDA MCLEAN. Performers included MIKE LONG.

*The Touring Test.* Directed by ROSS MCMILLAN. Performers included TRACY PENNER, STEFANIE WIENS, and ANDREW CECON.

CHUCK MCEWEN was the Executive Producer, KEN RUDDERHAM was an outdoor stage host, and JORGE REQUERA's band performed on the outdoor stage. TIM and XIAN WEBSTER were Kids' Fringe Co-ordinators, and TERI STEVENS was publicist. Production staff included ERIC BOSSE, PAUL THULLNER, GARRETT RUSNAK, and KAREN SCHELLENBERG. FRANCES KONCAN worked in advance ticket sales and JASON NEUFELD worked FOH. JOFF SCHMIDT wrote and presented a lot of reviews for CBC. CHRIS READ, MICHELLE PALANSKY, and JIM TAYLOR also reviewed for the CBC, and HOLLY HARRIS reviewed for the *Free Press*.

## Events

Snakeskin Jacket and Burning Meatloaf produced *Hey Shorty! Volume 2* at the Ellice Café and Theatre in November. Writer/performers included MEGAN ANDRES, JOSHUA BANMAN, MIKE BELL, PAUL DUNCAN, DARY FEHR, IVAN HENWOOD, KEVIN HOULE, JULIANNE HOYAK, GARY JARVIS, KELLY JENKEN, WILLIAM JORDAN, KATHERINE LEITHEAD, PAUL MADZIAK, KATIE MAN, JORGE REQUERA, KEN RUDDERHAM, THOMAS TOLES, JANE WALKER, and KERRI WOLOSZYN.

Again, there were many Black Hole people involved in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Scirocco Drama & Manitoba Association of Playwrights' High School Playwriting Contest presentation of plays at the Warehouse Theatre in June. ANGUS KOHM produced the evening of five finalist plays for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, and STEFANIE WIENS was the host. Directors included JANE WALKER and MEGAN ANDRES, and actors included KATHERINE LEITHEAD, JEREMY RAMPTON, and CHRISTOPHER CHARLES.