

FALL 1998



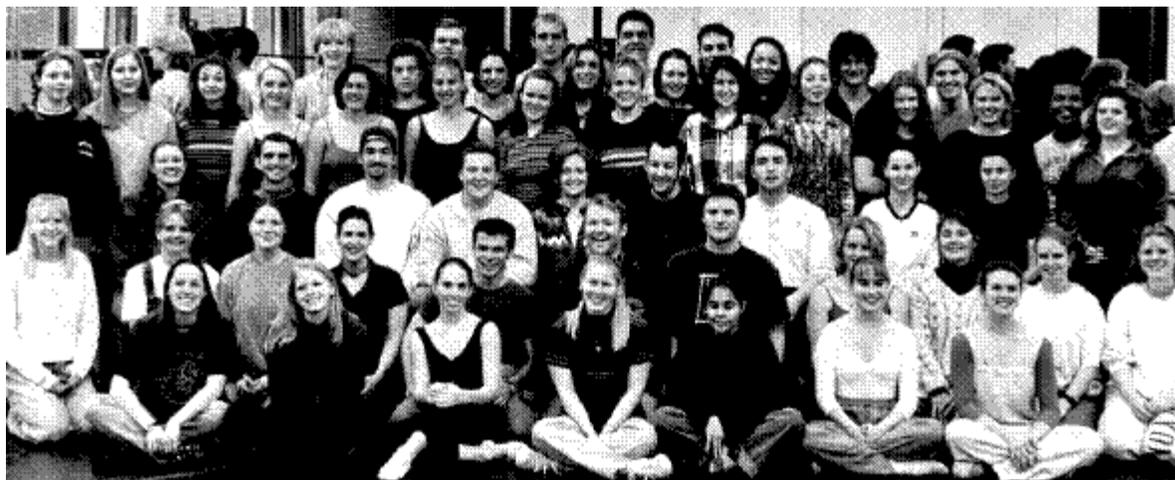
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE  
ALUMNI NEWS

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## THANKS A MILLION AND A HALF!



Students line up for a group shot to thank our anonymous donor for a 1.5 million dollar donation!

## TIDBITS of NEWS!

By Leigh Selting

Hello once again! Fall has arrived in the air in Laramie, and I hope this issue finds you and yours doing well. This

issue includes a large section of alumni tidbits I have received over the past several months, and its exciting to have so many success stories to share. Be sure to check it out, and make plans to drop us line about you for the spring issue! As always, productions are hot and heavy into rehearsal. The season opened with the Gladys Crane Mountain Plains Festival and our first ever Vedauwoo Pageant production held at Vedauwoo. An outdoor extravaganza that included music, dance, and the cutting edge “vertical dance” on rappel ropes from the top of the Clamshell provided for an exciting afternoon for nearly 300 audience members! As a result, Neil Humphrey (a cast member and faculty person from the Geology Dept.) will teach a course in “Vertical Dance” for our students, making the University of Wyoming the only school in the nation to offer Vertical Dance in their curriculum! Guest filmmakers from Ireland, Canada, and throughout the United States were on campus for the three-day event, highlighted by the Wyoming premier of Smoke Signals. Director Chris Eyre was on hand to discuss his film with students and the community. A large group from the Wind River Reservation was brought in and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The film Festival winners were as follows:

Best Documentary: THE LONG WAY HOME

Best Animation: JOY STREET

Best Director: CHRIS EYRE for SMOKE SIGNALS

Best Feature: SMOKE SIGNALS

Best Short: JESUS 2000

Bill Downs is currently directing Death of a Salesman for the first main stage show, and Marsha Knight is in rehearsal for our production of Nutcracker, to be performed in A&S auditorium in December. Senior Terolyn Thompson is directing her senior project Substance of Fire in the studio theatre, and next month the department will produce five original student-written and student-directed one-acts and submit them for adjudication for the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival. The second semester schedule of Dancing at Lughnasa, Sylvia, and Macbeth will make a total of 12 fully mounted productions in the Theatre and Dance department this year! We have lots going on and a lot to be proud of this year. Committee meetings are in full swing for completion of our new studio theatre addition, and groundbreaking is scheduled for sometime this summer. The high school apprentice program was also a huge success, and 5 of them are now full-fledged theatre majors here at the University of Wyoming.

Faculty continue to stay busy with outside projects to enhance our program. Margaret Stalder choreographed the horizontal dance for the Vedauwoo Pageant, and recently attended the National Ballet School in Canada to work with kinesiologist Irene Dowd. She is also continuing her work developing our Pilates training for dancers (and would love another Pilates machine!) She received a CTE Instructional Improvement grant for additional Pilates training and certification. Ron Steger designed and painted, with the help of students, Nutcracker for the Sweetwater County Performing Arts Guild in Green River, WY and started the designing and painting of a two to three year Nutcracker project for the Charleston Ballet Theatre in Charleston, SC. He also started work on a design project with the Montana Rep for a unit set that can be utilized in their outreach program, and is beginning work on another Nutcracker for Springfield Ballet in Springfield, MO, that will premier in 2000. Lou Anne Wright most recently served as dialect consultant for MOLLY SWEENEY at the Bas Bleu Theatre in Fort Collins and voice and speech consultant for SLOW DANCE ON THE KILLING GROUND at the Shadow Theatre in Denver. Leigh Selting will be one of the featured guest artists at the regional Rocky Mountain Theatre Association’s festival in February, where he will serve as an acting competition judge and present workshops in acting and auditioning. Davey Marlin Jones directed Bill Downs’ play INNOCENT THOUGHTS at the Asylum Theatre in Las Vegas. It will open in November at Performance Network in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Also, his play IMITATING LIFE: THE CONFESSIONS OF A SITCOM WRITER will open at Fleetwood Stage in New Rochelle, New York in March. Larry Hazlett is returning to Saratov, Russia in order to continue the research that he initiated on his brief trip last May. He is studying the conditions of the Russian theatre after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He is also going to work on the details of establishing a student / faculty theatre exchange, and will be gone from February through April 1999.

Please let us know where you are and what you are doing! Send a short note to the address below with your address, any tidbits about family, work, jobs, photos, stories, etc. Or, call (307) 766-3287 or use e-mail! We'd love to hear from you!

Alumni News!  
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## CLASS OF '98

**Amalie Millhone, BFA '98** is pursuing an MFA in Acting at Louisiana State University, where she is on an assistantship.

**Omar Sharif Parks, BFA '98** received his degree in Theatre and Dance and is currently working for radio station KJL 1370 AM in Cheyenne, WY. In addition, he and several partners are performing with American West Stunts, presenting gunfights at old-west style theme parks around the region. Last May, Omar was also an extra in a CBS documentary on The West.

**Sal Sabella, BFA '98**, completed a short stint on a Cruise line as a performer and is now based in NYC.

**Dan Lawrence BA '98** acted for Wyoming Summer Theatre and now resides in Oklahoma.

**Elise Cooper, BA '98**, received her BFA in Dance.

**Carina Wade, BFA '98**, received her BA in Dance and is currently auditioning and pursuing performance work in NYC.

**R. Gavin Mayer, BA '97**, received his BA in Theatre and is now the Director of Theatre at Pomona High School in Arvada, CO. ·

**Bert Bennett, BFA '97**, received his BFA in technical theatre.

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## ASOPA NEWS

BY ASOPA President Jason Pasqua

As the year gets under way, ASOPA is continuing to play a role in the affairs of the department. The officers and members of this year's organization owe a great deal to the officers of last year. Twila Coffey and her cabinet began the process of building the organization up in terms of membership and in terms of financial stability. Continuing that process is one of this year's goals. It will be hard work, but it can be done. With the help of a very large membership, ASOPA has the ability to do some great things. This year's freshman class stands out as one of the most talented, driven groups ever. We have a number of fundraisers in the works and with the money raised, we hope to provide substantial funds to send our students to ACTF. ACTF will be held in Moscow, Idaho this year. And, as in years past, the department is sending the very best. There are already several actors with Irene Ryan nominations, and with student written one-acts coming up in November, their ranks are sure to grow. The UW Department of Theatre and Dance is in top form as always. ASOPA will continue to work to make it even better.

Break a leg everyone!!

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# NEW STUDIO THEATRE

A \$1.5 million gift from an anonymous donor to the University of Wyoming will soon enlarge and improve the Department of Theatre and Dance facilities for acting instruction, performance, theatre production and film studies. Construction should begin this year on a laboratory classroom and to install a production control booth for use with the new classroom and an adjoining studio theatre currently used by the department. In reporting on the gift to UW Trustees, Ben Blalock, UW Vice president for Institutional Advancement, enthusiastically commended the donor for his vision and generosity.

The project represents a much-needed expansion of the Fine Arts Center. It provides space where films can be studied and video production taught and the new equipment will improve experimental theatre productions. This new classroom will be the primary classroom for all of our acting classes. It will also allow us to teach acting for the camera, a much-needed new course, and new camera equipment to make this possible. It will also be a flexible space where we can show films for small film festivals on a regular basis. The studio theatre will then revert to its specific intention, to be a theater where we can produce fully staged departmental production, new student works and advanced student directing projects.

The 18-month project includes construction of a 4,540 gross square-foot classroom addition next to the west entry of the Fine Arts Center, video equipment for the acting classroom, and the installation of a light, sound and projection control booth between the classroom and the studio theatre.

The capacity for viewing films will be around 200. The studio theatre capacity will remain at 110 around three sides of center stage in an arena-style format. Portable platforms and seats may also be moved to the new classroom for the showing of films.

The anonymous donor for this new project last year established the Gladys Crane Mountain Plains Film Festival with a gift of \$50,000 to support and encourage creative studies at UW. He continues to support the film festival, named to honor the former department head who retired in 1993 as a professor emerita, which had its inaugural season last fall and will be held this year Sept. 18-20.

The Donor's wish is for the University of Wyoming to achieve standards of excellence and play a leading role in the nation's fine arts programs, believing that a strong educational program helps build a stronger community.

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CHECK OUT OUR [ALUMNI HOMEPAGE](#)

**Adam Stolte, BTD '96** "Hi Leigh. I hope all is well at the University of Wyoming. I am co-designing props for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at the Arvada Center here in Denver. I am also working with Gavin Mayer (BA '98) at Pomona Sr. High School as his technical director. I was in a production of "The Foreigner" in the spring and I think I have found a space to produce John Santangelo's (BFA '96) one act, "One in the Oven". Life is very busy right now but I am enjoying all of the opportunities and hope to go back to school real soon. Please tell everyone I said hello and thank you all for giving me the knowledge to be active in so many areas of the performing arts. I hope to come visit in the near future. Thank you!"

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**Amy Tigner, BTD '87** is studying at Stanford for a Ph.D. in English Literature. "It has been an exciting and difficult

process, but I am looking forward to being in a great department in a great location-- ah, no more nasty winters, at least for a while."

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**Scott Little, BS '89** is now an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Oklahoma State University.

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**Dodie Montgomery, BTD '93** writes "I just found out I got cast at Book It Rep... in a Prayer for Owen Meany. It is a tiny little part but it is for a company that does excellent work consistently and I really want to get in there and work for them...I have loved every production I have seen there. I hope all is going well for you and yours give my love to everyone."

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**Rene (Verplanke) Sollars** writes "Leigh... I went to San Jose in 1993 to work for one of three major international automated lighting companies. Worked in the shop there for about 1 1/2 years and then went out touring. Did Van Halen, Boston, Natalie Merchant, and KISS. Other one-off type things filled the gaps in major tour scheduling. Ice skating shows, rock festivals and inaugurations. Met my husband Storm Sollars in San Jose while working for Morpheus. He is a road guy as well. In 1996 we moved from San Jose to Ft. Collins and continued to tour. In January 1997 we moved to Laramie to avoid the rocketing costs of Ft. Collins (quickly becoming too much like CA). At that time having done KISS, I stepped in off the road and took a REGULAR JOB at a vet clinic here in Laramie. My husband still tours. He recently finished Metallica, Mariah Carey (in Japan and Australia) and is now working on Michael Bolton/Wynonna. I am busy working on our turn of the century home trying to drag it out of the seventies and early eighties party house vibe it has fallen into. Keep in touch all and be well."

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**John Santangelo, BFA '96** writes "Hey Leigh! I'm doing well here at UNLV. I'm up to my neck with graduate work but it is all well worth the effort. My first design "Duty" (an original script) goes up in the black box here in November. Davy Marlin Jones is the director for this show. A wonderful man to work with and a consummate theatre professional. I am the "lead scenic artist" in the scene shop, which is a daunting task, but a valuable experience. I put in 50 hours a week (easily) at school, not counting the work I do at home. Things are a little crazy right now but I thrive on full schedules. What really amazes me about the tech program here at UNLV is how similar it is to UW's. The people, the goals, the size, even the theatre itself, just the whole atmosphere about it is similar to UW's. The first show of the season "Les Liaisons Dangeureuses" went well. After the show opened some people commented that this was one of the nicest sets they're seen at UNLV. All the while I was thinking that UW puts up the same (or better) quality sets almost every time! The students at UW should feel privileged to be able to do graduate-level work at an undergrad school. I'm assistant-designing a new musical that opens in February. The designer is John Iacovelli, with whom I've been collaborating with since school began. He designed the new "Peter Pan" which opens next month on Broadway and he is the artistic director for the TV show "Babylon 5." He has become my mentor here, even though he is a guest artist. He's a wonderful designer and a great teacher. I've made trips to L.A. to see the sets of "Babylon 5" and to work on the musical. He's trying to arrange for me to make it to the load-in of Peter Pan in NY. I hope it happens... what an experience that would be! Angela is still auditioning for dance jobs. It's kind of a tough time of year to break into the business since most contracts start in January. They only hold auditions if they need to fill a position. Meanwhile she works at a mortgage company and makes a goodly amount of money. She says "hi" to you all. Well, got lots to do. Hope all is well in Wyoming. Sorry to hear about that Matthew Shepherd incident. That's a terrible thing. My condolences to all who knew him. Be safe and take care."

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Catherine (Di Bella) Lindsey, BTD '91 wrote "Hello to all from Denver. Things are crazy as ever...I am doing "Parallel Lives" until the beginning of November, and I just finished a four-month run in "Scotland Road"; we shamelessly whored ourselves on the heels of the "Titanic" juggernaut, but we had a great time and good reviews. My husband has politely requested that I take a break until spring, since I've been doing shows back to back since February of 1997. More time to ski! The weather's great here--shouldn't you all come and visit? Yes, Brad and Kimmy, I mean you, but the invite is open to everyone. I'll show you all the dive bars!"

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Martha Slater, BTB '92 sent the following: "Greetings! We once again spent the summer in Salisbury, CT, where Bill teaches summer school. We are looking forward to our move to Philadelphia. We have put in a bid on a beautiful old Victorian house that has been accepted, and we are very excited about that. Bill is looking forward to his job, and I have had one cattle call audition, which led to my being cast in "Billy and Zelda," a one woman monologue interspersed with songs about people haunted by ghosts. It is a world premiere and is being produced at Opera Delaware. A nice way to start out this next chapter of our life! Clarke is saying ABC's and counting... and saying "no" a lot. Hope all is well."

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Brad Bond, BTB '88 sent this update: "Dear Leigh, here's a blurb for ya: This has been very exciting year. My Spanish Masters Thesis, which involved translating and adapting a 500-year-old novel in dialogue, has now been adapted once again--into a musical. It's called "Celestina: a tragic musical comedy." My partner Jason and I have produced three staged concert readings of it in Manhattan, and through these showings have made some great strides. We have signed with Writers and Artists, the same agency that handles CHICAGO and SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE. We have also assembled an "all-Broadway" cast (almost everyone in it is either on Broadway or has been in the past.) The music is ready to go, but are in negotiations with a book-writing team, who have some excellent conceptual ideas for spicing up the production value. The eventual goal is a Broadway production, which is a long hard road, but one that many of our supporters seem to think is a strong possibility. It's a fun, strange, dark show with all different styles of music, and lots of sex and death, so it's sure to be a popular hit!

That has been the core of my artistic life, although I have also been performing in various venues doing staged readings of new works. One of them, THE REBORN AGAIN COWGIRL, is in negotiations to have an off-Broadway production. If it does get picked up, I may end up making my big New York debut playing "Jimmy Bell, a murderously insane cross-dresser who killed his daddy by stuffing a blonde wig down his throat." It has always been my dream to perform a grand finale tap extravaganza on a huge white staircase in full cowgirl drag with fire baton. (As you can tell, it's a highbrow intellectual piece.)

As some of you may know, Susan Hanselmann just took the plunge and moved to New York and found an apartment during her first four days here! Kudos to Susan! One by one the UW contingent is growing here. Y'all come! I'll keep you posted."

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Mike Morelli, '89 writes "I just finished the first summer season with the Community College, (Nevada) and it went fairly well. I kept asking the head of my Department for a Summer Theater program until she finally gave me a shoe string budget on which to produce 1 show. We did The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) mostly on the strengths of Tom Dewester, that old wild man from UW, who got rave reviews in the paper. We ended up breaking even after the city of Sparks donated the space, a stone amphitheater in downtown Victorian Square. Unfortunately the light rail, complete with lights and speakers got lowered to the floor, by the City's technician, in order to replace a lamp, when one of the motors froze. We performed opening night with these humongous chains with bright orange motors on the end hanging down from the ceiling. Of course we had to use the house lights and had no sound. Other than that the show went well! Say hi to everyone for me!"

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Roger Winn, BA '89 sent the following "Hello Leigh (and everyone that still remembers me!) I just thought an update would be in order since it involves a couple of UW Theatre and Dance people. I'm still the Executive Producer with Industrial Arts Theatre in Denver, which just means I give away a lot of my time to keep the theatre going. This fall, however, I am directing Don Juan in Chicago (David Ives) for IAT. It's a great script, very funny, AND I have two Alum's working with me. Jan Gosse will be designing sound for us again (this is his second show with IAT) and Rick Berrara is cast as Leporello, Don Juan's assistant. The entire project is shaping up to be a fun production. It opened on September 11, 98 and ran Fri, Sat, and selected Sun. matinees. On the Comedy Helper front (that's the improv), we recently attended and performed at the Big Stinkin' International Sketch and Improv Festival in Austin, TX. It's big; it's really big. We performed two shows and saw at least four a night for the whole week. Everyone in the group spent the week working with some of the best instructors in the Improv field (K. Johnstone, Del Close, etc.). Then we came back and did our 5th anniversary show with another

group in Denver. It was a great show, well attended and even picked up some TV press (channel 9 came by and took some footage). On the personal front (funny how that's always last): I recently had my roof redone and the day after the roofing crew finished my house was burglarized. Was there a connection? Film at eleven. Not much was taken but it still made me mad! I've been working my drum chops a little more and played in the pit orchestra for a production of "Tommy". That was a lot of fun, as well. (I moved my drums upstairs with the idea that I would play them more). And finally, I am part of the National Bone Marrow Donor Program and was matched with a patient who needs marrow; so in early September, I will be donating bone marrow. Rick says "hi" as does Jan. I would like to plan a visit up there sometime. AND I would really like to take the Improv group up for a show/workshop thing. I think that would be a blast...Guess I'd better go. By the way, I've been selected to teach at the improv festival in Kansas City this November. The festival is called "5: the US Improv Festival" and it's very selective. What will I be teaching, you ask? Not improv, but Shakespeare. I'll do a 3-hour workshop on the Rough and Ready technique that John Basil showed us at WY and here in Denver. I'm looking forward to it. My new email is helper@dimensional.com. Sometime soon the Comedy Helper web page will be up at [www.comedyhelper.com](http://www.comedyhelper.com), so be sure to look for it. Still thinking of all of you..."

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James Weber, BTD '93 wrote "...I got cast in a brand new play called Den of Thieves by a new playwright by the name of Carl Ross. I'm playing a small time thief that's more talk than walk. He is somewhat like Steve Buscemi in Reservoir Dogs, except he is an expert with a knife. This play is being produced by the Lark Theatre (NYC); a fairly new company that takes new works and develops them with the playwright in residence. The set design, costume design, and lighting design are all put on paper and in renderings and then displayed in the lobby before each performance but the actual performance only has a suggestion of these elements; a Bare Bones Production. The last play they produced, Pera Palas, is moving to Off-Broadway. Out of the seven in the cast, I'm the only non-equity. One guy was in the original production of "Sunday in the Park with George" and another one was a regular on "One Life to Live" for several years. We rehearse for four weeks pretty hard and then perform it for six nights for producers, agents, etc. We have also been given first refusals if the show moves to OB. If they don't offer us the roles they have to buy us out. This is a great opportunity to work with older professionals. I'm looking forward to the experience."

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Janet Bigler writes "Hi Leigh. I finally signed a contract to play the keyboards for the Carousel production of Phantom, and we just started rehearsals. The Carousel is about six blocks from our house so that is really nice. I've been working exclusively at the Carousel since January: Father of the Bride (Ellie), Smoke on the Mountain (Vera - understudy), Driving Miss Daisy (piano). Scott and Armeda Winter from UW are currently at the Carousel doing Forever Plaid, and Suzie Brizuela is also working on Phantom. Jim Sadler (UW) and Grace Willing (both of Wyoming Territorial Park) were here to visit about a month ago and said to say "hi" to everyone. They are still in Jefferson City, Missouri, although probably only for another year or so. Thanks for keeping track of all of this, Leigh. I'm sure everyone appreciates the effort that it takes on your part. I know I do! Thanks again!"

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Laurel (Peterson) Wicke acted and directed at the Fort Peck Summer Theatre in Riverton, WY, and moved to Los Angeles, CA in August, where her husband will be starting grad work in Sociology and she will be looking for acting work.

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Clint Campbell married Liz Click in September 1997. He's the owner of Campbell Construction Company, and in June, bought the old VFW hall in Cody, WY. They are remodeling part of it to live in and will start a playhouse in the rest of it!

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Robert Slaughter, BTD '88 performed in Work, a new play by Josh Late at the Producer's Club in NYC.

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Robert "Mike" Earl, BTD '93 has been working extensively for Disney and Universal in set design, drafting, modeling,

etc. for such projects as the ET ride for a new theme park in Osaka, Japan!

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Sharon Huizinga '98 writes, "Hi Leigh, I'm firmly settled in Vancouver and in Grad school at University of British Columbia. I'm designing set and lights for the Bacchae in March, leaving town to assistant design set for a huge (to me) budget (\$500,000) show in Feb. and building a model for my prof (set) for a show he designed which is entered in a competition in Prague (I'm probably going to Prague with the model). I have landed an assistant scenic artist job at a professional theatre here and am slowly becoming part of the IATSE paint union. I almost had a job as assistant art director of Millenium- that doesn't really count as news, but I was excited. Vancouver has a very exciting theatre, film and TV community- it's actually rather small on the tech end, so if you impress one person you get to work non-stop for everyone in town. The program is fine- but they agree with me that the outside work is really important. Things are well, I'm working lots and doing fine-Sharon"

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Pete Simpson, Jr., BA '93 writes "Hey Leigh! I have finally moved to New York (as of October 1st). I was offered a spot in the New York cast of Blue Man Group, so I'm sticking with the show as an official support job for my outside career. Aside from figuring out where to live in this city, I had the good fortune of being able to book two different appearances of the comedy duo I've been involved in for the past nine months, "VadVoyghz." I have agent meetings at the end of the month to re-strategize after my long two years away from the action; they've been very patient all the while. "Dreamstoppers," the film with Lisa Loeb, has been postponed until June of 1999 for budgetary reasons. It's still a go. My Jim Beam add got released again, kind of fun to see around. Williamstown was a very fulfilling experience again; I'll be doing a showcase with other actors from that festival this November. Other than that, I'm just trying to get re-acquainted with the scene here and get the roots in. So far, so good! I ran into Martha (Slater) and Kimmy (Gamble) the other day; they seem to be doing great (I may do Strindberg's "The Creditors" with Martha in the spring). That's it for now! Please pass hello on to everyone. Take care!! (NYC Voice Mail: 212-560-7377; e-mail: Simpstim@Juno.Com)."

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Lisa Betz, BTD '93 writes "I now live in Washington D.C. and work for The Georgetown, a free, community newspaper located of course, in Georgetown. Brady Allen's picture was in our paper when we covered the Folger Library's gala event. He was in the background between Derek Jacoby and Zoe Caldwell. I see Brady occasionally and most recently we attended a "meet and greet the UW president and basketball coach cocktail party" together. What a riot! It's good to get that Wyoming feeling all the way out here. My duties at the paper are varied. I sell advertising, do layout and design (don't laugh Ron!) attend and cover gala events and do accounting. It sounds pretty boring but I find it exciting. I am meeting tons of people and learning something new every day. I also get free tickets to just about any concert, play or event that I want to see as a benefit. I haven't been involved in theatre for about four years; since my father died, but now I feel ready to get back to it. I had sort of lost my heart for awhile and didn't feel like performing. When my schedule becomes open after the gala season, I plan to begin auditioning again. Over Labor Day weekend, I visited Martha Slater and her husband, Bill and daughter, Clarke in Philadelphia. What a joy it was to finally meet Clarke! Martha and Bill are wonderful parents and a delight to watch in action. Martha has gotten a job helping young musicians find career type jobs. I don't know the details but it sounds like an interesting day job while she pursues acting jobs. I hope everyone is doing well. Hello to my friends out there! Lisa"

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David Gray, BTD '93 and Chontelle Gray, BA '93 sent the following: "Leigh, thank you so much for doing the Alumni Newsletter. We appreciate getting it so much. It's great to hear about what people are doing. Chontelle and I are both very happy here at CWC. Chontelle is the Technical Theatre Director here, and is currently designing "Anything Goes". Last year she designed (and remember, she does lights, props and sets for all of these) "The Imaginary Invalid", "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", and "Reckless". The rest of the 98-99 season here will be "All In The Timing" and "Coastal Disturbances". Chontelle will design all of these. She is also teaching General Art and Drawing 1 this semester, which she really enjoys. I directed "Joseph and the ..." last year. This year I'm playing Moonface Martin in "Anything Goes" and I will direct "All in the Timing." I recently moved up from Adjunct Instructor to half-time faculty in the English department. I'll be teaching a Shakespeare course as a sophomore

literature class next semester, and I'm really excited about that. We also just bought a house, in Lander, and we're enjoying that very much. We want to send our best wishes to all our friends who get the newsletter."

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Chet Jordon , MA '68 "Leigh, a brief update from me. Our University Theatre this season includes: Fall Shows:"Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead" and a staged reading of one of our student's plays. Spring proves to be less modest. We are doing "Two by Ionesco - The Rhinoceros and The Lesson", three student directed shows (all one-acts), a full production of "Flora & Fauna", the student written show, and I'll be doing "Hot l Baltimore". This will be our University Theatre season of shows we produce. We're also bringing in " West Side Story", "Miracle on 34th Street", "Smokey Joe's Cafe", "Haley's Comet", and "Grease!"; we serve as the area roadhouse since we seat 1700 [nice for big shows but too large for the University Theatre]; however, the season pays the bills and give us a free hand with our shows. My best to all in Cowboy Country. Chet Jordan, Director of Theatre, University Theatre, P.O. Box 1510 University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Pembroke, NC 28372-1510, (910)521-6289 Fax: (910)521-6552, jordan@sassette.uncp.edu

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Scott Pardue, BA '94 writes, "Hey Leigh and All! It is always a joy to receive news from back home. I can't wait to hear what everybody is up to! As for myself: I have been working in North Carolina developing Trial Designer software for a pharmaceutical company. I have to say that I never thought that I would ever write software in the bowels of Corporate America, but here I am! The work is intensely creative and very challenging and every day I am thankful for the experience I got at UW! Yes, I know it sounds crazy, but Theatre does help with software development. I am hoping to move back West to Colorado before the turn of the year. The whole Southern thing has been a wonderful experience, but tell Lou Anne that I would rather eat Kentucky Fried Chicken in the Rockies!" Scott Pardue, (919) 783-8772  
depardieu@hotmail.com

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John Anglin MA '71 writes, "Leigh, good to hear from you. We are opening our new Fine Arts Facility here at ECC with a production of Anything Goes. The Friends of the Theatre (a group of actors from past shows) created a beautiful queen sized quilt commemorating my past 27 years of directing at ECC and presented it to me at the grand opening of the new theatre on Sept. 20. We're looking forward to another great 27 years of theatre at ECC. John Anglin, Chair Fine Arts and PE anglinje@ecmail.ecc.cc.mo.us

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Kathleen Clymer, BA, BS, '75, BA '77 has moved to Green River High School where she teaches art and assists with the theatre program.

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Brady Allen, BTd '95 is working in development and fundraising at the Folger Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC.

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Christine (Lewis) Austin '92 writes, "Hi Leigh!! Hope you are doing well and your semester has gotten off to a good start. Currently, we are still living and working in Virginia. I'm dancing with Arlington Center for Dance and teaching at a local studio. At the moment, I have six classes--ages 6 to adult. I'm also doing some choreography for the National Rehabilitation and Rediscovery Foundation--a group that was formed to help people suffering from neurological or other disorders reach their goals through dance. I've learned a lot from them. I'm still also doing my "regular" job--managing a group of therapists. I'm going to Phoenix in December to have a "mini-reunion" with Sandi (Schiabbe) Parkes--can't wait! That's about it from the east coast. Wish everybody in the department well for me...I think about you guys often!" ·

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**..WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS**

You probably get requests like this at least once a week. Whether it is Public Radio, Public Television, Girl Scout Cookies, the ACLU, the N.R.A., the Red Cross, the Sierra Club, the Democrats, the Republicans, the Libertarians, somebody's defense fund, the Alumni Association, Mrs. Johnson's Fourth Grade soccer team, the Band or the boys in it; you name it, everybody seems to be asking for money these days. We wish we could be different. We wish we could bring you the Alumni News with information about the department, your fellow graduates, theatre and dance in Wyoming, who just had a baby, who just opened on Broadway, who lives two blocks away, etc., etc., etc., without asking for money. We can't. We want to, but we just can't anymore. Paper, printing, mailing; it all adds up. We do however, want to continue to keep in touch. We want to hear from you. We want to continue to be a resource for you. We want to help you locate lost friends and to keep you informed about the good things the department and college are doing, so that you can be proud to call yourself an alum of this fine University.

Please take a moment and reflect on the good times you had at UW, that special production you were in that might have changed the way you view the world, or that special someone you met on stage or backstage. Then think about how you can help a new student experience some of those same joys by making a donation to the newsletter, the department, or the New Studio Theatre. We need your help. \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100, \$1000. Any amount will do. We might even put your name on one of the bricks that build the new Studio Theatre. Contribute today. You will feel great tomorrow!

Harry Woods

## 1998-99 SEASON

### BOX OFFICE

<p><b>Death of A Salesman</b> by Arthur Miller Directed by William Missouri Downs Featuring Harry Woods as Willy Loman October 23,24,25,29,30,31 Main Stage</p>	<p><b>The Nutcracker</b> by Peter Tchaikovsky Choreographed by Marsha Knight UW Symphony Orchestra Conducted by Michael Griffith December 3-6 A&amp;S Auditorium</p>
<p><b>Dancing At Lughnasa</b> by Brian Friel Directed by Rebecca Hilliker February 9-15 Main Stage</p>	<p><b>Sylvia</b> by A.R. Gurney Directed by Leigh Selting March 23-31 Studio Theatre</p>
<p><b>Macbeth</b> by Shakespeare Directed by Lou Anne Wright April 20-25 Main Stage</p>	

# KEEP IN TOUCH!

Please let us know where you are and what you are doing! Send a short note to the address below with your address, any tidbits about family, work, jobs, photos, stories, etc. Or, if you're a phone person, call (307) 766-3287 or use e-mail! We'd love to hear from you!

Alumni News!

c/o Dept. of Theatre and Dance P.O. Box 3951 Laramie, WY 82070-3951

e-mail...[SELTING@UWYO.EDU](mailto:SELTING@UWYO.EDU)

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THANKS TO WILLIAM MISSOURI DOWNS AND HARRY WOODS

## Letter from New York!

By Robert Callely

Dear Leigh Selting,

I rarely read the UW Alumni News, but was leafing through it last week while riding up in the elevator to my apartment. I was pleased and surprised to see the article on the theatre apprentice program and indeed that the University had a theatre program. Alas, my ignorance. It set my mind to remembering. I grew up in Rawlins and did not even know theatre existed. In 1958 when I was a freshman at UW, I remember seeing a poster of some kind advertising either "Oklahoma" at the student auditorium so I paid my money and went. The lights went down, the overture began and soon the curtain parted to "Oh What a Beautiful Morning." I sat there for a little while and then got up and walked out. I did not want to see a bunch of people acting out the movie. I had thought I was going to see the film which I had seen while in high school. As I said, I did not know theatre existed. After what can only be characterized as a very unsuccessful three semesters studying accounting, I quit school and joined the Army, did a brief tour in Germany, was shipped back to the states, discharged at Ft. Dix, New Jersey and got on the bus to New York City. It was March 1961. Ironically, the week I got here, I wound up working in the accounting department of Sinclair Oil. Still knowing nothing about theatre.

Shortly after, an army buddy of mine found out I was living in NYC. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music, he wrote to me and asked if I would do him a favor and go to see a certain Broadway show for him and afterwards I was to let him know what it was like. I found the show, bought a ticket in the orchestra -- it turned out to be in the second row on the aisle -- and went to see "My Fair Lady." Need I say, I had never seen anything like it in my life. Although it was in its sixth year and umpteenth cast, I was simply knocked out. The next day, I went to the bank, took out a student loan and bought theatre tickets for every night of the next few weeks as long as the money lasted. I have been going to theatre ever since. With no background and less self-confidence, getting involved in the theatre was a real struggle for me. However, I have been fortunate enough to have worked in the business in one capacity or another for nearly thirty years now and while I never got rich and famous, it has been rewarding nonetheless. I have had a varied career much too detailed to go into here even assuming you were interested. However, I have done casting, theatre managing, general managing, producing, run performing arts service organizations and currently serve as executive director of the American Theatre Wing, founders and presenters of the Tony Awards, a job I am leaving this month to run the HB Playwrights Foundation & Theatre here in New York. When I read about the UW program, I wished, with a great deal of regret, that I had known about theatre and had been able to study it as a kid. I do not know if UW had a theatre program in 1958. Certainly it was not on my screen. Anyway, this is really to say that I think it is terrific what you are doing for the young people who come to UW and want to study theatre. It is so great that they have a place to go and explore and nurture their creativity. Would that I had had such a head start, it

certainly would have made things easier for me along the way.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT CALLELY ·