



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE  
ALUMNI NEWS

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March 2001

## New Crane Studio Opens!

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This has been one of the busiest years in our department's history. The new Crane Studio (named for professor emerita Gladys Crane) is now open. The 1.6 million dollar project was funded by an anonymous donor, and adds a 4,000 square-foot rehearsal hall, projection booth, television control room and new Studio Theatre light booth to the fine arts building. Included in the renovation are new seats for the Studio Theatre and cameras and video editing systems for a newly added acting for the camera class.

In March, the dance studio (finished a few years ago) will be named for former dance professor Margaret South Mains and this summer the construction will continue with the installation of new seats in the Main Stage Theatre.

The season started off with our students and professors vertical dancing on the cliffs of Vedauwoo. Next, we held the 4th Annual Gladys Crane Mountain Plains Film Festival showcasing dozens of diverse, independent films. Director John Waters (director of such films as *Pink Flamingos* and *Serial Mom*) wowed the crowd with a memorable keynote speech. Director Moises Kaufman came to town with his play *The Laramie Project*. UW Students and professors donated hundreds of hours to build the set and raise the funds necessary to bring this award winning off Broadway play to the Main Stage. In January, a special benefit presentation of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?* sold out each performance and raised \$8000 to help fund student and faculty travel to the ACTF. The department also hosted the Wyoming High School Drama festival and Dance Intensive with the Parson's Dance Company, staged several new student written plays, held the Annual Snowy Range Summer Dance Festival and still managed to stage a full season of theatre, musicals and dance concerts.

UW faculty and students continue to win awards. UW professor Leigh Selting was recognized by ACTF as one of the best acting teachers in the region, while Ron Steger won the Northwest Drama Conference President's Award. After winning the Irene Ryan regional acting competition for the last two year, UW students Brian Slaten and Jed Schultz were this year's first and second alternates respectively. Todd McCullough won the awards for both ACTF Best Scene Partner and best student written play. Mike Mahlum won an Honorable Mention for Lighting Design and Andrew Dooley won best lightning design from the Northwest Drama Conference.

Finally, for the first time, our total number of majors topped 100!

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**Benefit performance earns over \$8,000 for ACTF expenses**



The ensemble who made this benefit production of WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? possible include: Front row (L-R): Brian Slaten, Lou Anne Wright, Missy Moore, Harry Woods. Back row (L-R): Angela Millhone, Lisa Cianflone, Todd McCullough, Billie Kay Gross, Travis Hetland, Miri Voss, Sarah Dye. Not pictured are Rebecca Hilliker, Ron Steger, Andrew Dooley, Dawn Humphrey, Kevin Sweeney, Lisa Gruber, Joel Heinschel, Jon Schroeder, Kevin Dykstra, Ryan Harmon, Andrew Gallawa and Father Roger W. Schmit.

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## DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBER



Robert Michael Earl - Assistant Professor

Computer Assisted Design & Technical Director

B.T.D. Univesity of Wyoming - M.F.A Carnegie Mellon

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## ALUMNI & FRIENDS NEWS

**Avery, Ramsey** is currently celebrating the opening of his design for the Animation Pavilion at Disney's California Adventure, the new theme park in Anaheim. He recently finished work on Steven Spielberg's "AI" and is currently art directing on Mr. Spielberg's "MINORITY REPORT." In February, Ramsey remounted a design of TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA from Shakespeare Santa Cruz at Geva Theatre in Rochester, NY, where we crammed

what was originally a 30' tall set sitting in an outdoor glen surrounded by 200' redwoods into a 23' tall modified thrust proscenium space surrounded by brick. Now that was a challenge.

**Billings, Jim** received his MFA in set design from CalArts '84 and is currently resident scenic and lighting designer for the American Southwest Theatre Company and scenic and lighting design instructor for New Mexico State University. Jim married Claudia Waldrip (a UW alumna). Their daughter Maggie is four years old.



Brad Bond In Cypress

**Bond, Brad** lives in New York City. His day job as Global Council Coordinator with The Conference Board (running meetings for top executives around the globe) has paved the way for a new company he has started called "OFFice Broadway." The group performs for corporate meetings and events and does interactive workshops.

**Burack-Lamberson, Ruth** lives in Hinesburg, Vermont with her husband, Paul and their two children, Miles (4) and Jillian (2). Ruth is a Stay-at-Home Mom who teaches alpine skiing on the side. Additionally, she performed a leading role in the experimental video which was featured in the New York International Video Festival at Lincoln Center in July, 2000.

**Clymer, Kathleen S.** is currently teaching art at Green River High School in Green River Wyoming. Although Miss Clymer is no longer currently active in the GRHS Theatre Department she is working with the Music Department directing and designing the setting for Fiddler on the Roof.

**Deahl, Wayne** was recently elected to serve a four-year term on the Wyoming Council for the Humanities Board of Directors. He began his term with the Summer Board Meeting in Evanston, WY in July, 2000. Deahl, an instructor at Eastern Wyoming College, also served on the steering committee for EWC's recent NCA re-accreditation visit. Deahl has been an instructor in English, theatre, communication, and philosophy for twelve years at EWC.

**Galaites, Jimmie** is starting his third and final year at the Asolo conservatory. He played Gerge in Diana Son's Stop Kiss, he bid a fond farewell to Durrenmatt's Inspector Voss from THE PHYSICISTS. On March 17, 2001, Jimmie will wed Lisa Howe and they will holiday in Europe later this summer. Jimmie will be working with Charmian Hoare from the RSC and Mark Wheatley from Theatre Complicite while doing his semester abroad in London this May.

**Gonzalez, Michael** is working on his MFA in playwriting at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. His 10-Minute play IN THE SEVENTH INNING MAGIC STRETCH, was a finalist in the Actors' Theater of Louisville's 10-minute contest. He is at work on his thesis play, WHEN THE WORLD SLIPS AWAY, scheduled to be performed this summer.

**Gosse, Jan** is very happily living in Denver, where he's continuing to work as a theatre sound designer. He's also

working with an improv comedy group called Undead Jugfish, and is collaborating on some original material for the stage, in between sessions at his home studio creating sound and music for various projects. "Hell, if I lived in L.A., I'd be making some real money", he says sardonically. He wants to hear from all his friends (this means you) at jangosse@cs.com, or he's in the Denver phone book.

**Hill, Mike** is currently director of the middle school speech and drama program at Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City, Mo. He's also the head debate coach in the high school. He and his wife Roxane have a 19 month old daughter named Maya.

**Keefe (Duff), Dawn** was recently married to Nathaniel Duff, whom she met at medical school. They are both PA's in Family Practice.

**Lindsey, Catherine** and her husband David have had a son! John Robert Lindsey was born April 22, 2000. Jack is already showing a flair for the babes, and is angling for a date with the Slater twins. Catherine took a break from full-time motherhood to join the ensemble cast of the Kentucky Cycle this past summer; the show has been nominated for six Denver Drama Critics Circle Awards, including Best Production and Best Supporting Actress for Catherine (her third nomination, as she looks to become the Susan Lucci of Denver theatre).

**Mahoney, Shannon** continues to live in North Hollywood with her three pawed dog Daisy. She and a few fellow artists have started their own theatre company called, "Six Chairs and a Couple of Artists," in Long Beach, CA. The company is doing very well and is already into its second season! The show SubUrbia (featuring Shannon) was nominated for an OC Award in two categories; best ensemble and best professional production. They are up against such theatres as South Coast Rep and Laguna Playhouse (both are equity houses). She welcomes anyone to come out and visit or submit new scripts.

**Millhone, Amalie** is currently in her last semester at Louisiana State University working on her M.F.A. She spent the fall semester in L.A. where she was able to complete an internship at The Pacific Resident Theatre located in Venice. Amalie was also cast in the L.A. premiere of 'The Closet' for the Edge of the World Festival.

**Montgomery, Dodie** lives in Seattle, Washington. She will be playing Suzy in SWEET THURSDAY for Book-It Repertory Theatre. She helped develop the script for the company. She teaches Shakespeare to folks of all ages (she is employed by the Seattle Shakespeare Company) and will marry David Hargis on May 19 in the Virgin Islands.

**Moon, Betsye** is teaching jazz, hip-hop/funk, ballet and modern at a dance school in Chicago. She is also training at Lou Conte Dance Studio (Hubbard Street) while helping Jay Franke with his Chicago Arts Project. She will be his Stage Manager for an upcoming performance of urban high school students performing dance, theatre, music and more that will be taught at various workshops. Betsye's "RJ" is Rand McNally on North Michigan Ave. She is planning on traveling west in July with her parents and end in Laramie where she will be Dr. Pat Tate's assistant for Snowy Range Dance Festival. Betsye will then be flying to South America for a month-long excursion.

**Parkes (Schiabbe), Sandi** completed her doctorate in Public Administration in May of 2000. She is now a professor at the University of Utah. Sandi has recently started a program called Arts For Kids, which provides homeless children with opportunities to experience the arts. Her daughter Quincy is now 21 month old.

**Parks, Omar** is working in Tempe, AZ as an Academic Counselor for the University of Phoenix and playing bass for Block 16. The band is playing the Phoenix area, and trying to secure an opening slot for Roger Clyne and The Peacemakers (ex-Refreshments and Gin Blossoms).

**Pasqua, Jason** is working on his MFA in acting at Penn State. His first major role was in the recent production of JULIUS CAESAR. This summer he is off to London for six weeks of classes, shows and a tour of the continent. While in London he hopes to run into Alum Jimmie Galaites. (PSU and FSU share the housing around the University of London).

**Penton, Bill** made his Los Angeles directorial debut with RENAISSANCE GEEK which closed another successful 8 week run. The show received more glowing praise and two more award nominations for directing and solo

performance. The show is being packaged by the William Morris Agency for a 9 month American tour winding up in New York for an off-Broadway run in the spring of 2002. Bill is also going to direct a short film (mockumentary) about the making of RENAISSANCE GEEK and the rigors of touring a one-man show. Apart from directing, acting, and teaching, Bill is the Co-Managing/Technical director of the Gascon Center Theatre where he has implemented the GCT Playreading Series, dedicated to reading new plays from Los Angeles area playwrights.

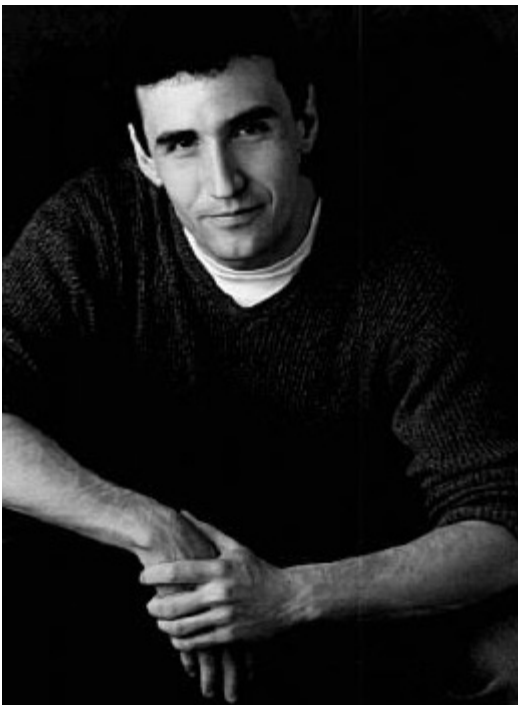
**Roberts, Anthony** will be awarded his masters in architecture this summer at a private engineering school in San Diego



**John Santangelo's design for Hamlet at UNLV**

**Santangelo, John** is finishing his final semester of graduate school at UNLV where he will receive his MFA in Set Design in May. His thesis project, "Hamlet" was produced in December to rave reviews. Both he and his wife Angela, are enjoying their new house which they purchased in June of 2000, and they plan to stay in Las Vegas for a few more years.\*

**Sabella, Sal** is currently on tour with the national tour of GODSPELL, directed by Scott Schwartz (Stephen Schwartz's son and co-director of JANE EYRE just opening on Broadway). He is also featured on the cast CD singing ALL GOOD GIFTS, which is now available in stores. Previously, Sal toured with THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBER where he had the opportunity to work with Michael Bolton as a special guest star. He looks forward to being back in New York City in July.



**Pete Simpson**

**Simpson, Pete** continues his loonnngg run in BLUE MAN GROUP (the NYC company); Blue Man's album "Audio" (which pictures Pete as the Blue Man playing in the background) has been nominated for a Grammy. The New York times called his original two-man show, "A 12 lb. Discourse", a "A piping hot ticket...." and he and his partner hope

for another workshop in 2001. Pete recently appeared on LAW & ORDER in the episode, "Teenage Wasteland."



Angela Santangelo in costume for the "Folies Bergere" at the Tropicana Hotel In Las Vegas

**Stoddard (Santangelo), Angela** is having a wonderful time performing as a showgirl in the Tropicana Hotel's long-running Folies Bergere. She has now been with the show for almost a year now and has loved every minute of it. She was recently on "Live with Regis" when the showgirls from the Tropicana made an appearance.\*

**Thompson, Terolyn Leisa** is currently working as an Equity stage manager in New York City. In the summer, she directs at Long Lake Camp for the Performing Arts in upstate NY, where she directs 6 shows with children ages 10-16.

**Vernon, David** received his Master's in Computer Science from Bradley University in 1995. He works for Information Services at Caterpillar Tractor in Peoria, IL where he lives with his lovely wife, Kevin Yale Vernon, their dog and five cats. He has designed lights for a number of community shows and misses the 72 dimmers he had at UW.



David Veron running in the Chicago Marathon

**Vernon, David** received his Master's Degree in Computer Science from Bradley University in 1995 and had to find a day job - he works for Information Services at Caterpillar Tractor in Peoria, IL where he lives with his lovely wife, Kevin Yale Vernon (B.T.D. '86), their dog and five cats. He has taken up marathoning as of late (the fool!). Theatrically speaking, he has designed lights for a number of community shows and misses the 72 dimmers he had at UW. He encourages everyone to find their plasticity.

**Vernon, Kevin Yale** is starting her student teaching. By December of this year she'll be looking for a job teaching English and Theatre at the high school level She's been active in several community and college theatres in central Illinois, acting, directing, stage managing, and designing lights. She has also done a few industrial videos for large corporations in the area.



Jim Weber

**Weber, Jim** co-founder of Loosely Translated Productions, has been currently producing, editing and shooting projects in New York that include short films, variety shows, PR and event videos for Time Inc. and American Express. He is currently working on a talk show series entitled "Neptune & Chuck". Upcoming projects include a documentary to be shot on location in Thailand in late February.

**Woodend (Seaton), Erin** was married in August. She lives in Highlands Ranch, CO with her husband, Cory, & dog, Yoda. Erin works at the Country Dinner Playhouse as an Assistant Stage Manager.

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# FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

**William Missouri Downs** is co-writing (with UW professor Lou Anne Wright) *THE HARCOURT COMPANION TO THE THEATRE*. This will be his third book with Harcourt Brace. This year, he also published two articles in *THE DRAMATIST* (the magazine of the DGA). His play *DEAD WHITE MALES* was performed at the Boxer Rebellion Theatre in Chicago, The Alleyway Theatre in Buffalo, NY and here at UW. He was a guest speaker at the 14th Annual ArtCore Literary Conference and also at Moondance Film Festival. His classes at UW were named best non-honors classes by the UW honors society and he won top ten professor for the third year in a row.

**Billie Gross** - presented a lecture/workshop, "Designing for the Human Clotheshanger," at ACTF Region VII in Anchorage for students and faculty. The project was funded by a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. She has designed such shows as *HIGH PLAINS HOLIDAY* for the Wyoming Territorial Park and *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF*, and *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*. She is currently designing *PAINTING CHURCHES* for Pete and Lynne Simpson.

**Larry Hazlett** - designed *THE CHERRY ORCHARD* and was Master Electrician for *THE LARAMIE PROJECT*. He is working on an article on Saratov, Russia theatres and was an NWDC/ACTF respondent for the lighting design competition in Anchorage, Alaska. He is currently working as design consultant for the Education auditorium theatre. He won an International Travel Award for \$2000 and will design lighting for the upcoming Colcannon concert at A&S.

**Rebecca Hilliker** - received a faculty development grant, travel grant and a Wyoming Arts Council grant to take a production of *TRIFLES* to the University of Tel-Aviv. There she attended a conference designed to look at the play from the perspective of society and the law. She directed the production in conjunction with Bas Bleu Theatre and Colorado State University in Fort Collins. The play was the center of focus for the festival with discussions by lawyers, sociologists, theatre and English historians, and artists from all over the world. She is currently the vice-chair of the American College Theatre Festival Region VII and will take over as chair this Spring at the Kennedy Center.

**Lee Hodson** - is serving this year as chair of the Arts and Sciences Tenure and Promotion committee (i.e. time consuming and exhausting). He is designing a complete set of costumes for a new production of *THE NUTCRACKER* for the Springfield Ballet in Springfield, Missouri. Currently he is designing and building the costumes for *INANNA, QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH* a new ballet choreographed by Marsha Knight.

**Marsha Knight** - in October, Marsha danced with Apollo's Banquet, an ensemble of dancers and musicians who present 17th and 18th century music and dance. Marsha is currently working on her new ballet, *INANNA, QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH*. Storyteller/author Diane Wolkstein will narrate the ballet and will visit various classes, present lectures and post-performance discussions on topics relevant to the Sumerian myths of the Goddess Inanna. Performance dates are March 27-April 1. Marsha received a Wyoming Council for the Humanities Grant to support Wolkstein's residency on campus.

**Annie Sailer** - has taught two new courses during the 2000-01 school year. In the fall she co-taught *Experiential Anatomy* with Margaret Stalder. She is currently teaching performance art. *EVENT HORIZON*, a new work choreographed by Annie for eight dancers will be performed by UW students at the American College Dance Festival in Missouri.

**Leigh Selting** - was the Production Stage Manager last summer at a new Equity theatre in Jackson Hole, WY and then directed *GODSPELL* for the Grandstreet Theatre in Helena, MT. His production of William Missouri Downs' *DEAD WHITE MALES* was selected for the Regional KC/ACTF festival in Anchorage, AK. This coming summer he will be the Equity Production Stage Manager for Theatre at Lime Kiln in Lexington, VA.

**Margaret Stalder** - choreographed for *Dance Y2K* bringing modern and vertical dance pieces to the concert. Excerpts from *Dance Y2K* traveled around the state. She choreographed and performed in *GRANITIC SUSPENSION*, *VERTICAL DANCE AT VEDA UWOO*. She spent a week at Western Wyoming Community College as a guest teacher and choreographer as well as performed in *NARRATIVE STRANDS* a collaborative project with Wendy



Lemen Bredehoft, visual artist. She attended the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science meeting in Miami, FL.

**Ron Steger** &ndash; designed sets at UW for ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD, THE FOREIGNER, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK, and THE CHERRY ORCHARD. He also designed and painted for the Springfield Ballet (Springfield, MO) NUTCRACKER and designed for the University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND) NUTCRACKER. He was Technical Coordinator for the Laramie production of the LARAMIE PROJECT. He was also Co-Design Chair for KC/ACTF Region VII.

**Pat Tate** - directed and Choreographed FIDDLER ON THE ROOF this year and continues as Director of the upcoming 7th Annual Snowy Range Summer Dance Festival. This April she will be choreographing PETER AND THE WOLF for the Prairie Youth Dance Company in Cheyenne. She also received several grants including a UW Faculty Grant in Aid, Wyoming Arts Council Arts and Technology, and an Arts in Education grant.

**Harry Woods** - just finished the role of George in the UW production of WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? Currently, he is directing PAINTING CHURCHES with Pete, Lynne and Maggie Simpson. The production is set to tour the state this spring.

**Lou Anne Wright** &ndash; is co-writing (with UW professor William Downs) THE HARCOURT COMPANION TO THE THEATRE. This will be her second book with Harcourt Brace. She played Maggie in DANCING AT LUGHNASA in August at the Bas Bleu Theatre in Ft. Collins, Colorado and recently played Martha in UW's benefit production of WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? This past year, she has voice and dialect coached productions at the Shadow Theatre in Denver (including the premiere of FLYIN' WEST), two productions for the Bas Bleu Theatre in Ft. Collins, Colorado State University and the UW production of THE CHERRY ORCHARD. Lou Anne has had two recent articles published in the DRAMATIST.