

## **Information and Announcements for Academic Year 2007-2008**

**Welcome one and all. It is an exciting time to be a theatre major at Regent University. Our department continues to grow and God continues to bless us multitudinously.**

### **Faculty and Staff Updates:**

It's been a busy summer for the Theatre Arts faculty and staff. Dr. Elvgren spent a couple of weeks in England and caught **IN EXTREMIS** at the Globe in London. Dr. Kirkland also spent his vacation in England and Paris. He had the pleasure of seeing Ian McKellan perform the title role in **KING LEAR** at the RSC, and an Indian/Anglo production of **A MISUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** also at the RSC. He also caught **PEDRO AND THE COMMANDER** (a Lope de Vega piece) at the Comedie Française in Paris. Eric Harrell has been on the road to Texas. Mark Paladini is in New Jersey with a trip to L.A. on tap. Professor Judy Holland just got back from NYC where she caught several productions. Everyone is doing their best to catch their breath, stay professionally current—and prepare for the upcoming year.

### **Announcements:**

1. All MFA students (new and returning) should plan on being in Virginia Beach No later than **August 13**, unless permission to arrive late has been obtained. This will give you a week before classes begin and time to prepare for auditions for Shows 2 and 3 and your entrance audition pieces. Auditions for Shows 2 and 3 (**ARMS AND THE MAN** and **THE GREAT DIVORCE**) and VTA On-Site Screens will be Wednesday, August 22 & Thursday, August 23 with call-backs for Shows 2 & 3 on Friday, August 24 and Saturday, August 25 (if necessary). *All MFA students are required to audition for all Department of Theatre Arts Mainstage shows unless a request not do so has been submitted in advance, in writing, to the student's advisor and approved.*
2. **Reminder: It is the Department of Theatre Arts policy that students are NOT permitted to participate in non-departmental productions (theatrical or video) without filling out a "Permission to Participate in a Non-Departmental Production" form, submitting the form to their advisor, and then discussing the project in detail with their advisor in advance of accepting the assignment. Failure to do so MAY result in a range of punitive measures being taken from a reduction in future scholarship funds to dismissal from the program. PLEASE UNDERSTAND, WE DO NOT PROHIBIT OUR STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING IN NON-DEPARTMENT RELATED PRODUCTIONS. Quite to the contrary, we encourage our students to gain experience wherever and whenever possible—so long as it is not problematic in terms of their commitment to their academic and production responsibilities. It is our policy that our students communicate with their advisors and discuss the situation in detail IN ADVANCE OF COMMITTING TO ANY SUCH PROJECT.**

3. There will be a “Beginning of the Year Social” in the Film Stage on Saturday, August 18 at 6:00 PM. The entrée will be supplied and the rest is pot-lock. Contact Lisa Sanders at 757-226-4237 or email her at [lisasan@regent.edu](mailto:lisasan@regent.edu) and she will sign you up for either: salad, side dish, desert, or drink.
4. The Department of Theatre Arts productions for the Academic Year '07-'08 will be:

<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by William Shakespeare	Performance dates: 9-14 thru 9-23, 2007 Auditions: Cast already determined.*
<i>Arms and the Man</i> by G. B. Shaw	Performance dates: 10-11 thru 10-21, 2007 Auditions: August 23-24, 2007 *
<i>The Great Divorce</i> by C.S. Lewis) Adapted by George Drance	Performance dates: 11-29 thru 12-9, 2007 Auditions: August 23-24, 2007 *
<i>Harvey</i> by Mary Chase	Performance dates: 1-31 thru 2-10, 2008 Auditions: November 12 & 13, 2007
<i>An Inch of Rope</i> by Eric Harrell	Performance dates: 2-28 thru 3-2, 2008 Auditions: 2 person cast already determined
<i>Into the Woods</i> By Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine	Performance dates: 4-25 thru 5-4, 2008 Auditions: November 12, 13 & 14, 2007

\* Some roles have already been cast. See #12.

**The Department of Theatre Arts casting policy is published in the Departmental Policy Handbook and may be found by clicking on the “Student Forms” link on the Department of Theatre Arts web page.**

5. All MFA students should arrive with the following equipment/materials in possession or should expect to acquire them as required:
  - a. **A personal make-up kit.** If you do not already have a makeup kit, contact Professor Holland-Geary at 757-226-4775 or [judihol@regent.edu](mailto:judihol@regent.edu) and she will confer with you. You might consider putting your make-up kit in a fishing tackle box as such boxes afford multiple layers, levels, and cubby holes for storage.
  - b. **Gauntlets for combat classes involving weapons.** You can do a Google search if you prefer (“fencing gauntlets”), as there are a variety of vendors who sell gauntlets. I have used the Sullivan Glove Company for years (<http://factoryoutlet.stores.yahoo.net/mot.html>) ; but some students, of late,

have found them to be less than friendly when they had to return a shipment—or a shipment arrived tardy. If going through Sullivan please get the “Classic” unlined gloves. Color is irrelevant, but black tends to go with everything.

**YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICPATE IN CLASS WITHOUT GLOVES TO PROTECT YOUR HANDS.**

- c. **Standard leather work gloves for Unarmed Combat for the Stage.** These should not be the bulky “gardening” gloves or the even bulkier “welding” gloves. Some prefer to work with golf gloves, or work gloves made of some other material (such as deerskin). These gloves should be relatively form-fitting and relatively supple. Standard leather work gloves can be found at most hardware stores, Wal-Marts, etc. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICPATE IN CLASS WITHOUT GLOVES TO PROTECT YOUR HANDS**
- d. **Protective Pads.** Knee pads are required for all combat classes (not too bulky, please) and elbow pads are strongly recommended for Unarmed Stage Combat.
- e. **Dance shoes.** Be prepared to arrive at any dance class, on the first day, with the proper shoes for that class—be they ballet, jazz, or tap. Likewise, be prepared on the first day of class with proper shoes for stage combat. Standard trainers are fine, others prefer jazz sneakers. Jazz sneakers are light, tough, flexible and have just enough heel to comfortably cushion your heel when doing lunges.
- f. **Proper attire for class AND rehearsals.** Be prepared to arrive at any dance or movement oriented class, on the first day, in proper attire. Leotards, jazz pants, etc. are appropriate for dance class. Sweat pants and jazz pants are appropriate for stage combat and/or movement classes. Please do not wear shorts to stage combat as friction burns and scratches from swords may result. Regarding rehearsals: proper attire will be contingent upon the requirements for individual productions. In general, you should NOT wear restrictive clothing and foot attire to rehearsals, nor are flip-flops and Birkenstocks appropriate for rehearsals. Trainers and dance shoes are fine unless otherwise informed. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU WEAR FLIP-FLOPS, SANDALS, OR STOCKING FEET DURING STRIKES.** Look to your syllabi, instructors and directors for any additional commentary or requirements in this area.
- g. **Tape recorder.** All MFA students should acquire a small, hand-held, battery-powered cassette (or digital) tape recorder so as to be able to record accompaniment in voice classes and music rehearsals, or, when instructor permission has been obtained, to record lectures.
- h. **Tote bag(s).** Our only lockers are in the dressing rooms and are reserved for the cast members in whatever show is currently running to store their clothing

during performances. You need to acquire a bag that is roomy enough to handle some of your books, and whatever clothing, shoes, gloves, etc. you will need for each day's classes. **It is strongly urged that you acquire a lock to secure your locker (your clothing and valuables) when in production.**

- i. **Optional: Lap-top computer.** Although this item is optional, it is strongly suggested you invest in this item as it will free them from being slavishly relegated to the on-campus computer lab schedules. Many of your professors will prefer that your written assignments be submitted electronically.
  - j. **Head Shot and Resume.** All MA and MFA students, should arrive with professional quality 8 x 10" black and white, professional quality, head shot and a resume. Format of the head shot is flexible. Please go to the "Student Forms" linked to the Department homepage. There you will find a template for your resume. Please adjust the format of your resume to that provided on that page. These will be placed in the "Head Shot" gallery. Local commercial and theatrical agencies regularly refer to our gallery and will contact our students for employment.
6. **SETC.** The Department of Theatre Arts participates in the **Southeast Theatre Conference (SETC).** SETC is the largest regional theatre conference in the country. SETC generally falls during the first week in March ('08 will take place in Chattanooga, TN). **Auditions for professional summer work takes place at this conference. All Theatre Arts students are encouraged to audition at SETC for summer work.** To audition at SETC, unless you are already a member of Actors Equity Association, you must pass a "Screening Audition" at the Virginia Theatre Association auditions. Go to Virginia Theatre Association web site:

<http://www.vtasite.org>

for more information on VTA and the Screening Auditions. **Before a faculty member will sign off on your VTA application form you must pass the "On-Site Screens" on Wednesday, August 22, beginning at 6 pm.** These auditions are held concurrently with auditions to fill all the remaining roles in Shows 2 & 3. At this screen you will either be approved or you will be given suggestions for improving your audition and must audition again at a later date. **A list of those "passing" the On-Site screen will be posted on Thursday, August 23.** If you do NOT pass the second screen your application to audition at VTA will NOT be signed (applications are due no later than October 12). **VTA screening auditions for SETC will be in Richmond, VA at the Marriott Hotel, the weekend of October 26 thru 28, 2007.** It is strongly suggested that students wishing to pursue this process get a group together and show their pieces to each other for feedback before they show to the faculty at the On-Site Screens on August 22. **Students should anticipate incurring all expenses involved for VTAs. Please prepare a ninety (90) second monologue to**

*show on Wednesday evening, August 22, and sign up for a slot (6-10 pm)* . You may also present 16-20 measures of a song if you sing. **Side note: Should you be cleared to audition at VTA with the intention of going on to SETC, VTA parameters are as follows: ACTORS ONLY, you have one minute to audition. ACTORS WHO SING have 90 seconds.** You should arrive on Campus with two or three one-minute pieces that are highly polished and two or three highly polished songs in case the faculty suggests doing other material than your initially present. **Remember: 90% of the companies at SETC are doing typical summer stock fare (musicals and light comedies).** If you are serious about a career as an actor, you should try to acquire summer work while you are making progress on your degree. It is also strongly suggested that students who wish to go to SETC begin to communicate in the early fall and gravitate into groups that would be willing to room with each other at SETC. **SETC '08 will be in Chattanooga, TN, March 5-9, 2008. Even if you do NOT pass the screening auditions, or do not plan to audition for summer work, it is highly recommended that you attend SETC and take advantage of many workshops and master class opportunities. Those students who have been nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Competition should refer to the Irene Ryan web site for the rules and regulations governing the competition.**

7. **Modular Week:** Regularly scheduled classes will be on hiatus during the fall modular week. **There will be three (3) one credit hour modular courses offered during the fall modular week (October 8-12, 2007).** Michael Gaunt (former principal, Guildford School of Acting, the Welsh Royal School, the Birmingham School of Acting in the UK) will teach a one week/one credit course on the Michael Chekhov Acting Approach; **Jackie Matthews**, current head of movement at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, will teach a one week/one credit course on Historical Dance (an excellent supplement for those taking Periods and Styles). And **Dr. Kirkland** is currently slated to teach a Sword and Shield class. **At this time there are NO Theatre related modular courses scheduled to be offered during the spring semester, as spring modular week runs concurrent with spring break. Students involved with CTV film projects in the spring semester of '08 should carefully check the schedule to see if they will be required to be on-set during Spring Break.** Production rehearsals will continue during fall modular week but NOT during Spring Break. G.A. responsibilities will continue through fall modular week but shop personnel will need to confer with the Tech Director as to whether they will be required to work during Spring Break.
8. Tentative plans are that the Cohort C NYC Showcase will take place during the week immediately following commencement (May 12-16, 2008).
9. Any actors who would be interested in a stage management experience during their residency should contact Wendy King at 757-226- 4298. Or email her at: [wking@regent.edu](mailto:wking@regent.edu)
10. Because of several policy changes, the Departmental Policy Handbook will be getting a “make-over” during the summer. We’ll inform you when the adjustments are

complete. Once it is posted on-line: **MAKE SURE YOU READ IT BEFORE THE SEMESTER BEGINS AS ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS CONTENTS.**

11. A new booklet containing the Guidelines for producing the written thesis portion of your Creative Project is being worked on. In the meantime, the current guidelines may be found on the “Student Forms” page linked to the Department of Theatre Arts home page. Additional language addressing the forms that must be turned in at the library with your thesis will be added to the guidelines shortly.
12. Thesis Roles have been assigned in **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM**, and **ARMS AND THE MAN**. The following roles are NOT available as they have been assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> year students who must complete a Thesis/Creative Project:
  - a. **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM (This show is completely cast; due to the truncated rehearsal schedule that begins two weeks before classes begin).**
    1. Justin Glinn (Bottom)
    2. Kelly Whitesel (Helena)
    3. Jeff Dull (Demetrius)
    4. The remainder of the show has been cast as the show goes up mid-September.

**CONTACT DR. ELVGREN DIRECTLY TO FIND OUT IF ANY CASTING ADJUSTMENTS HAVE ARISEN OVER THE SUMMER OF IF HE HAS ANY ADDITIONAL CASTING NEEDS.**

- b. **ARMS AND THE MAN**
  1. Michael Woods (Bluntschli)
  2. Jennifer Jackson (Raina)
  3. Claire Larsen (Louka)

**ALL OTHER ROLES IN ARMS AND THE MAN ARE OPEN AND AVAILABLE.**

### **Additional “Notables”**

1. Beginning in the fall of 2005, all new students (MA and MFA) are required to take the **“General Knowledge Entrance Exam”**. New students are **required to pass this exam, with a 70% or better**, during the first year of matriculation. The exam is predicated on the fact that if someone wishes to pursue a graduate degree in theatre, there is certain basic knowledge of the theatre such a student should be in possession of. This is not an esoteric, deep exam—it’s basic theatre history, acting, directing, and technology stuff. **A Study Guide is posted on the Department of Theatre Arts home page in the “News” box.** The exam will be administered four times over the academic year on the following dates:

- **Friday, August 24, 2007; begins at 2:00 PM and ends at 4:00 PM.**
- **Friday, December 7, 2007; begins at 2:00 PM and ends at 4:00 PM**
- **Friday, January 11, 2008; begins at 2:00 PM and ends at 4:00 PM**
- **Friday, May 2, 2008; begins at 2:00 PM and ends at 4:00 PM**

**Please make note of aforementioned Study Guide and use it to guide you as you “bone-up” for the exam.**

2. **Dr. Gillette Elvgren will serve as Head of the MA Degree program. Professor Harrell will serve as Head of the MFA Program. Professor Paladini will serve as the Head of the BA program.** An “advisor/advisee” list will be generated later this summer and sent out by email. Privacy issues prevent us from posting this list publicly, but all faculty, staff, and students will have it sent to them via email. If you have general questions about the make-up or policies related to your degree program, see the faculty member that is Head of your degree program first.
3. **All MA students are required to have a mid-year advisement session and an end-of-year interview with their advisor.** All MFAs will have their mid-year advisement with their assigned advisor. MFAs will meet with the entire Performance faculty for their end-of-the year or exit interview. In the case of third year MFAs, their Oral Defense of their Creative Project will also include their exit interview. First and second year MFAs will be informed if they are to continue in the program at the end-of-year assessment interview. Graduating MA students are also required to do an Exit Interview. A list of issues to be addressed, in writing, in preparation of the Exit Interview will be provided. Student input will be utilized in assessment of the various academic programs for SACS review and general improvements on an on-going basis. *Failure to schedule and keep an end-of-year assessment meeting may be grounds for dismissal from the program.*
4. New “Worksheets” for MA in Theatre and the BA in Theatre will be generated later this summer and posted on the “Student Forms” link off of the Department of Theatre Arts web site. **GRID SHEETS ARE POSTED AS A COURTESY, IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR ADVISOR ON TOP OF YOUR PROGRESS. DO NOT CONFUSE YOUR WORKSHEET WITH YOUR ADP (APPROVED DEGREE PLAN)/GRAD CLEARANCE SHEET. THEY ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. YOU ARE STILL ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE YOUR WORKSHEET IS SIGNED OFF BY YOUR ADVISOR BEFORE FILLING OUT YOUR ADP/GRAD CLEARANCE SHEET FOR GRADUATION.**
5. **ALL NEW BA STUDENTS: You must meet with your advisor and have your advisor sign off on your schedule, semester to semester, before you can register for you classes.**
6. As of the fall of '05, all MFA students are **required to attend two Virginia Beach**

**BASH SAFD Regional Stage Combat Workshops during their three-year residency.** It is strongly suggested you fulfill this requirement sooner rather than later. The Virginia Beach BASH is a 2-3 day long, intensive workshop, at Regent University, sanctioned by the Society of American Fight Directors. This year it will take place on March 31 and April 1. It boasts some of the best stage combat instructors in the U.S. and U.K. **All Regent students receive a 50% discount off of the \$250.00 registration fee. This is a supplementary experience to your stage combat classes and the \$125.00 tuition should be viewed as a lab fee.** All weapons and equipment are provided.

6. As of the fall of '05, all MFA students are required to serve on four (4) Production Running Crews. MFA Students need NOT register for THE 781 to do so.
7. All MA students should carefully consider which of the three “Culminating Experience” options they wish to take: Comprehensive Examination, Thesis, or Portfolio. Unless you plan on pursuing a Ph.D. at some point in the future, it is **STRONGLY** recommended that you exercise the Comprehensive Examination option.
8. We are still awaiting SACS (our accrediting agency’s) formal approval of our new BA in Theatre program and our new MA in Theatre (two majors: Theatre Ministry and Theatre Studies). Watch the Department’s home page and the “News” box for any announcements.

**This letter will be updated as required.**