

Alumni News

~ Theatre & Dance Chapter ~

S A C R A M E N T O S T A T E A L U M N I A S S O C I A T I O N

UPCOMING SPRING SEASON

- **Lenaea Festival**,
(February 1–3, 2008)
- **Sacramento Black Art of Dance**, directed by Linda Goodrich,
Solano Hall 1010
(Feb 28–Mar 9, 2008)
- **42nd Street** by Michael Stewart and Mark Bramble, directed by Ed Brazo,
University Theatre
(Mar 14–Mar 30, 2008)
- **One Act Festival**, directed by Sac State Students,
Studio Theatre
(2 performances daily)
(Apr 7–Apr 26, 2008)
- **Lorca in a Green Dress** by Nilo Cruz, directed by Manuel Pickett,
Playwrights' Theatre
(May 1–May 11, 2008)
- **Senior Dance Concert**, directed by Lorelei Bayne,
Solano Hall 1010
(May 7–May 11, 2008)



LENAEA 2008 – A ROUSING SUCCESS! BY SCOTT ADAMS

Lenaea 2008 was a rousing success. It was slightly rainy over the three days, but nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of the participants and staff involved.

Inspired by the Lenaea Festival of Ancient Greece, Dr. Carl Thomas, then Chair of the Sacramento State College's Department of Theatre, initiated this program in 1955. His desire was to establish an event that would support and encourage high school students with an interest in theatre. Over the years, Lenaea grew into a multi-programmed event with recognition not only for one act productions but for audition pieces as well.

In 2003, following the passing of Professor Smart, Lenaea's primary motivator and lifeline over the past 50 years, the Theatre and Dance Department sought a new direction to highlight the traditions that brought Lenaea to its great heights yet still enhanced educational aspects of the festival. In response to feedback from school surveys and with the

goal to enhance the educational aspects of the Lenaea, the Festival instigated some exciting new additions including: (1) Command Performances of the top scoring groups and individuals, (2) multiple workshops offered during the Festival given by experienced theatre professionals, and (3) networking and socializing opportunities for teachers and students such as a dance featuring fabulous lighting by



Our Beloved Bob Smart



One Act submission from Monterey Trail HS-2007

alumnus Ron Dumonchelle (owner of Monkey Glue Lighting) and DJ'd by alumnus Hans Weichhart.

In 2006, the Festival added a brand new category in musical theatre solos which has been extremely well received. Students from each school are now encouraged each year to submit audition recordings from which a selected group will be chosen to compete at the Festival. The top scoring three are selected by Sac State Musical Theatre Faculty Ed Brazo and Claudia Kitka to perform during the awards

ceremony on Sunday evening in the University Union Ball room. In tribute and memory to the Department's Creative Foundation builders, The Lenaea Festival offers awards in the names of Larry Shumate (Synergy Award for technical cohesiveness), Gerard Larson (Best overall Direction of a One Act Play), and Robert Smart (Spirit of Lenaea Award).

At Lenaea Festival 2008, we had a total of 71 schools attend, 55 one act plays, 12 student original written one acts, 30 student directed one acts, 244 monologues, 22 student

original monologues, 120 duo scenes, 9 student original duo

scenes, 17 musical theatre entries, 40 respondents, and over 1,250 high school students and over 150 chaperones.

If you are interested in participating next year as a respondent, staff, or running crew, please contact the Lenaea Office at Lenaea@csus.edu.





SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI - DAVID BOGDONOFF BY JIM LANE

David Bogdonoff got his B.A. from CSUS in the spring of 1985. Among his favorite experiences at Sacramento State was working for Dr. Gerard Larson in Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair in the fall of 1982 and Bob Smart's production of Marat/Sade during the 1984-85 season.

David's primary interest was acting, but during his stint here he also worked in promotions. This experience stood him in good stead after graduation, when he moved into the business side of the arts. He worked a number of years for the company now

known as Tickets.com, rising to upper management and charged with implementing new clients all across North America, especially on the East Coast. It didn't leave much time for theater, but he did find time to stage three operas for a semi-professional company in Connecticut. Since 2001, David has been

with WestEd, a nonprofit educational research agency in the San Francisco Bay

Area, where he lives with his wife Susan and their son Alexander.

He's gotten back into theater, too, through a reacquaintance with his friend and fellow

CSUS alum Mark Manske. Starting out as actors with

the Contra Costa Civic Theatre (CCCT) in El Cerrito, the two have risen within the company until Mark is now Artistic Director (currently on hiatus) and David is president of the Board of Directors. CCCT's goal is to present professional-quality shows in a non-professional setting. As we go to press, the company is staging a revival of the seldom-seen Marx Brothers classic The Cocoanuts (through March 2), to be followed in April by Foxfire. For more information on CCCT, log onto <http://www.ccct.org/>.



KEEP UP TO DATE BY MICHAEL HAUGLAND

We recently merged all of our contact databases and, in the process, limited each entry to one email address to facilitate sending out our newsletter. Please contact us at theatre-dancealumni.sacstate@gmail.com if you have a preferred email other than the one to which this newsletter was mailed. Update us with your street and city mailing address and phone number if they have changed in the recent past.

If you know a member or friend of our organization that did not receive this newsletter, please share the email address listed and ask them to update us. We want to stay connected and encourage you to renew your Theatre and Dance Alumni

Association membership when notified.

If you are not a member or your membership has lapsed, please consider joining. Contact

the Sac State Alumni Association and indicate the Theatre and Dance Alumni Chapter on your ap-

plication. Your dues help us to raise funds for students who need additional funding while at Sac State pursuing their degree in Theatre Arts and Dance.

We are also in need of a volunteer to join the Board who has fundraising experience. Anyone interested should contact us at theatre-dancealumni.sacstate@gmail.com.

Thank you!



Where Are They Now? Leslie Brott I'm just home from rehearsal for my 11th season with the Utah Shakespearean Festival. And during the academic year, I teach Acting in the Grad and Undergrad training programs at Southern Methodist University (SMU).

Where Are They Now? Lisa (Nilmeier) Derthick I am currently self-employed, working as a tutor for students with dyslexia and Attention Deficit Disorder. I am a paid chorister for Sacramento Opera, and I perform in local community productions from time to time. My husband, Tom, and I live in the South Natomas area.



FOR MORE INFO ABOUT JOINING THE
SACRAMENTO STATE ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION, VISIT
WWW.SACSTATEALUMNI.COM

**SACRAMENTO STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
THEATRE & DANCE CHAPTER**

Our Mission

To enhance the connection between the department and its former students and/or supporters through a variety of interactions, including networking, social activities, professional development, scholarship fund-raising, educational outreach, and artistic/creative collaboration.

Benefits to Chapter Members/Students/Department

Through the development of a strong connection between the Alumni Association and the department, current members, students, and potential students will benefit from a richer, more productive environment enjoying an alliance between historical continuity and tomorrow's innovations.

For more information, or to join the Sac State Theatre & Dance Alumni Chapter, please visit our website:

www.csus.edu/org/theatre_alumni

**BLAST FROM THE PAST
BY LARRY SHUMATE**



Meleva Barbula-Steiert, Scott Adams, Robin Peters and the cast in *Guys and Dolls*, 1991



The Irrepressible Dr. Gerard Larson in *Die Fledermaus*, 1965



Debra Hammond and the cast in *Cabaret*, 1981

Theatre & Dance Alumni Chapter Board Members

Debra Hammond—President, Kathy Burleson—President Elect, Bill Zariello—Secretary/Editor, Dennis Hammond—Treasurer, Scott Adams, Ed Trafton, Georgia Larson, Jim Lane, Michael Haugland, Cheryl Watson, Kim McCann Lawson, Larry Shumate, Tygar Hicks (Student Rep)