



backSTAGE

www.jmu.edu/theatredance

Sustained Direction

By Terry Brino-Dean, Director of the School of Theatre and Dance

Contents

- 2 A Taste of Our New Home
- 5 Avignon Festival
- 6 VA Rep in Beijing
- 7 New Faculty Introductions
- 8 Fall 2012 Shows and Concerts
- 10 Faculty Highlights

Welcome to this issue of our JMU Theatre and Dance alumni newsletter, Backstage! While our faculty keep in touch with many of you informally, we know how important it is to communicate with all of you in a more formal, "newsy" kind of way. As you might imagine, in the current fiscal environment, it has been difficult for us to continue printing Backstage as we have in the past. By relying more on technology for our publication and distribution, we hope that a renewed Backstage will allow us to keep you informed and connected with one another and the current activities of the School of Theatre and Dance.

As you may know, we have undergone some important changes in the last few years. Most significantly, in the summer of 2010, we moved into our new home in the Dorothy Thomasson Estes Center for Theatre and Dance in the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts. These world-class facilities have brought all of our programs in theatre and dance under one roof and have created exciting new synergies across our disciplines.

Our enrollment has been growing, and we now count over 250 majors in the School. And we are drawing students from an increasingly competitive applicant pool. This is due in part to our new building,

but it is also the result of two other significant factors: the outstanding work of our faculty over many years, and the success and visibility of you, our alumni. Your contributions to the school come in many forms, and you continue to shape the present and the future of theatre and dance at JMU.

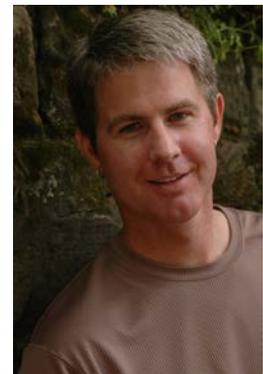
In 2011, the School of Theatre and Dance transitioned into new leadership. Bill Buck stepped down as school Director after 16 years of distinguished service. Professor Buck's legacy will be marked by his humble leadership aimed at continual program development and, of course, advocating and seeing through the realization of a new performing arts center. We are fortunate that he remains on the faculty and is now able to focus his efforts on his passions for teaching and design.

In turn, I was hired as Professor Buck's successor. I moved here from the Pittsburgh area where I had worked for eight years as Director of the Theatre and Dance Program at Seton Hill University. I was attracted to JMU because of the outstanding faculty here in theatre and dance and their commitment to practical training within the liberal arts tradition. There is a very bright future for the School; it is an exciting time to be here, and there are exciting things ahead. It has been gratifying

to meet many of you as you have returned to campus and visited us in our new home in the Forbes Center. I hope to meet many more of you in the near future.

Amidst all these changes, there has indeed been a sustained direction. That direction is still aimed at the fundamentals that have characterized our programs in theatre and dance for many years: individualized attention, independent student productions, and a broad education of high quality that prepares students for a variety of careers while at the same time allowing for intensive individualized training.

So, welcome to this new chapter in the life of theatre and dance at JMU, one that sustains the direction of the past while embracing new opportunities for our future. I look forward to working with each of you as partners in advancing our mission in the coming years.



Dr. Terry Brino-Dean



Forbes Center for the Performing Arts

A taste of our new home

The journey to the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts began decades ago. A performing arts training program scattered across the campus in five buildings, none of which were designed as college theatre and dance performance laboratories. Despite a number of stops and starts in the journey, the final leg of this trip began about ten years ago as a true collaborative effort between the faculty and staff of the School of Theatre and Dance, the university administration and the committed project leadership of a true guardian of the arts, Dr. Richard Whitman. A decade of meetings, negotiating, planning, designing, fundraising, engineering and creativity culminated in the 2011 opening of the building.

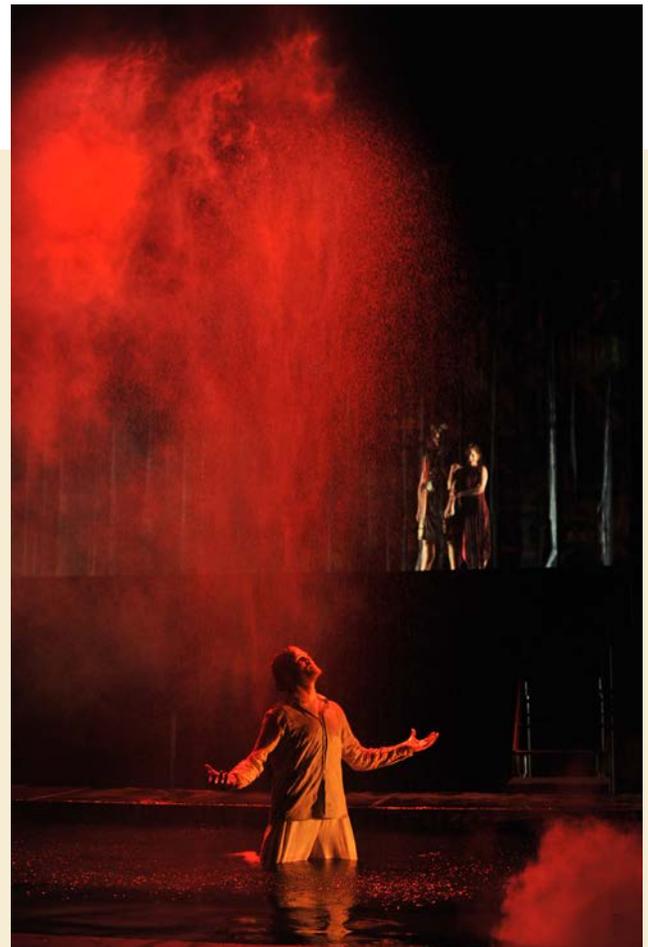
Our first year in the building was one of discovery. We were learning how to make this complicated new building function as a laboratory of the performing arts. And it was not unusual to find students and sometimes faculty lost in the back hallways. Our first production was performed when the paint was literally still wet in parts of the building. The Children's Playshop production of *Miss Nelson is Missing* introduced the community to this fine new facility and gave the faculty and staff a taste of the complexity of producing our work in a space that included state of the art technology. Two and a half years and hundreds of theatre and dance performances later we are still sometimes discovering the potential of the space. A building does not make great art, and great art has sometimes been created in the most humble of facilities. But the classrooms, studios, shops, offices and performance spaces have lived up to our expectations. They have challenged our imaginations while providing students with a level of training that will enable them to step seamlessly into professional regional theatres and graduate schools. -William J. Buck



Jacob Dickey '13 performs in the 2010 Children's Playshop production of *Miss Nelson is Missing*



Thahn Nguyen '13 works on a officer's jacket for the 2011 production of *Our Country's Good*



George Dippold '13 kneels in a pool of water designed for our 2010 production of *Metamorphoses* that put our new Main-stage to the test.



Sarah Ryland '13, Jenn Womack '15, and Cody Whitfield '13 help bring John Burgess' incredible set design to life for the Spring 2012 production of *Sweeney Todd*



Meg Spenneberg '12, Maria Slye '12, and Colleen Hayes '12 take the stage for the 2011 World Premiere of Carmel Dean's *A Girl Called Vincent* in our Studio Theatre



Lindsey Kaine '12 performs in the 2011 *Virginia Repertory Dance Concert*. This dynamic group of young women, led by Shane O'Hara, was selected to perform at the ACDFA National College Dance Festival in May of 2012, one of 32 schools from across the nation.



Megan Miller '15 and Marissa Barber '13 as peacocks in the Spring 2012 *Student Dance Concert* at the Earlynn J. Miller Dance Theatre



David Little '11, Justin Calhoun '13, Connor Schwantes '11, Jason Itam '11, Owen Wingo '13, and Sean Grady '14 in the 2011 production of *Kiss Me Kate*



Jacob Dickey '13 in the 2011 Mainstage production of *Our Country's Good*



Taylor Faulkinberry '12 and Gabriela Wolfe '15 in the 2011 Studio Theatre production of *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds*



The 2012 *Contemporary Dance Ensemble* dazzled audiences with this piece featuring Chareka Daniels '12

Theatre and Dance Abroad

The Servant of Two Masters in Avignon

On July 11th, 12 students and two faculty members from JMU's School of Theatre and Dance boarded an Air France flight to Paris, embarking on a memorable two week adventure to the Festival d'Avignon in Avignon, France, Europe's largest international theatre festival. Through an invitation by *The Servant of Two Masters* guest director Jean Pétremont, the artistic director of the French company Theatre Bacchus, the students were able to perform *The Servant of Two Masters* as part of the celebrated festival. The opportunity provided the School's first Mainstage theatrical touring production in 13 years, and first international theatrical touring production in 30 years.

The location for our production was the courtyard of a medieval cathedral in the Citi Medieval in nearby Montfavet, where Theatre Bacchus is based. To transition the original production for a predominantly French audience, director Pétremont inserted one of his company members, Quentin Juy, as an improvisational character and an interpreter for the French speaking audience. Cast members had a limited number of rehearsals to adapt to the new character and new location.

At the root of *comedia dell'arte* is a system of improvised comedic plots based around stock characters and familiar scenarios. In working with Pétremont the company discovered that how the actors adapted to situations became as important as the story itself. So unlike the meticulously rehearsed production in Harrisonburg, the production in Avignon challenged the actors to make each performance unique, while contending with the ever changing conditions presented

by the outdoor location. The disciplined cast was highly successful in rising to those challenges, maintaining their characters and connecting with the French audiences. A highlight of the run was the penultimate performance attended by the US General Consul to France, Diane Kelley, who met with students before and after the production and generously offered to host our next venture to France.

The adventure was not limited merely to the stage. Offstage the company was treated by Jean Pétremont to the signature production of the Festival, the Simon McBurney directed *The Master and Margarita*, performed at the Popes Palace. Students were also able to perform scenes on the stage at the Guggenheim Institute in Avignon, attend Theatre Bacchus performances of *Don Quichote* and *L'Île des esclaves*, perform in parades through the streets of Avignon, participate in fencing workshops, and share cultural exchanges with members of the Theatre Bacchus company.

The walled medieval city of Avignon itself provided the students endless opportunities to explore the rich culture through museums, tours, shops and restaurants. A trip to Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer on the Mediterranean Sea highlighted the final day of the trip, giving the students a chance to explore a Spanish influenced seaside town complete with a bull fighting ring and wide sandy beaches.

And while this may have seemed like a once in a lifetime opportunity, there is great interest from the School and Theatre Bacchus to continue the collaborative relationship, and its hoped that JMU will have many future opportunities to visit and perform at the prestigious Festival d'Avignon. - John Burgess



Cameron Clarke '13 and Jessica Michelle Johnson '12



Alex Towers '14 and Amanda Kohr '13



The cast and crew of *The Servant of Two Masters* with US Consul General for France Diane E. Kelly (center) in Avignon

Sichuan Dance Project

This May, JMU Dance Program students will be heading to China to participate in an artistic and cultural exchange with dancers from the Sichuan Province.

The trip will include residencies at Chengdu University, the Aba College, and the Guangya International School. At each of these locations participants will teach master classes, take classes in Chinese and Tibetan dance with host faculty, and perform in an informal concert. We will also teach creative movement classes in regional orphanages with children affected by the 2008 earthquake.

In addition to these amazing dance opportunities, trip participants will visit cultural sites in Beijing and the Sichuan Province such as the Great Wall, Summer Palace, and the Forbidden City, and attend a presentation of Sichuan Opera. This journey will be an educational experience of a lifetime, increasing each dancer's artistic horizon and global perspective. Alumni, keep an eye out for fundraising events connected to this important project.



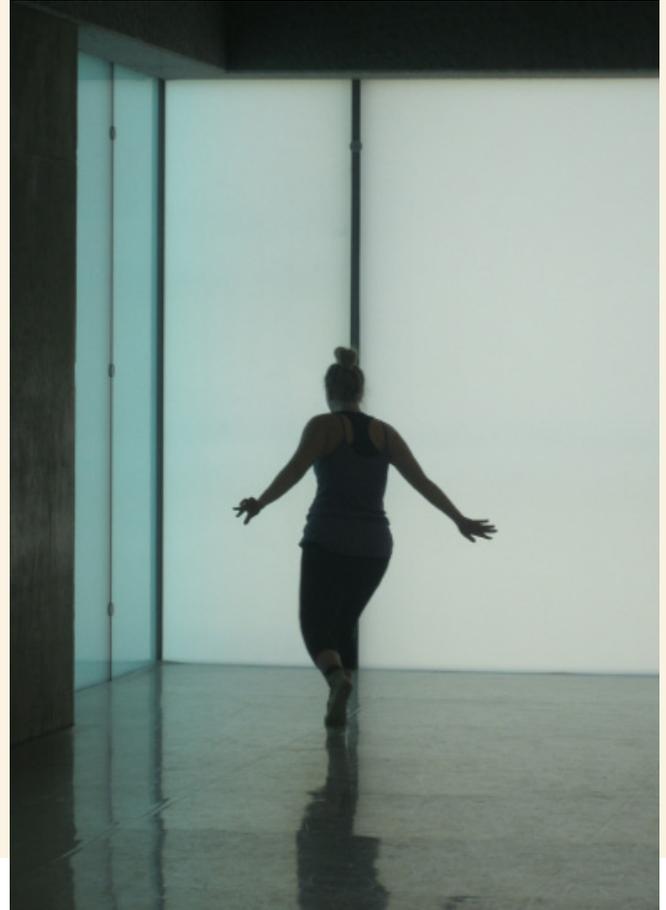
Sichuan Opera performer in Chengdu, China

Theatre and Dance Abroad

London Contemporary Dance & Performance Summer Intensive

The JMU London Contemporary Dance & Performance Summer Intensive brought 12 JMU Dance Program students to Bloomsbury for rigorous training in contemporary dance techniques as well as opportunities to view cutting edge performance work in London. The students experienced the rich performance scene of this truly international city. Over the 25 days, the students saw more than 15 performances by internationally acclaimed companies and emerging artists, including events at London's world famous theatres as well as site-specific works in alternative spaces. Students took over 20 classes in dance/performance training techniques, taught by British professionals.

Many of the JMU dance alumni have been a part of this important cross cultural program and Director Shane O'Hara is preparing for the next Intensive in the summer of 2014!



Baily Laitin '14 at the Laban Centre, London



London Intensive students visit the Globe Theatre

New Faculty Introductions



Meredith Conti is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at JMU, teaching performance analysis, theory and performance studies, and general education courses. She arrived at JMU from the University of Pittsburgh, where she received her Master's and Doctoral degrees in Theatre and Performance Studies. As an Andrew Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellow, Meredith completed her dissertation on performances of illness on the Victorian popular stage. Her work in the theatre includes acting, directing, dramaturgy, and stage combat choreography.

Meredith's scholarship has been published in the *Journal of American Drama and Theatre and Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, and her work is contained in a forthcoming essay collection on Victorian medicine and popular culture. Her book reviews have appeared or are to appear in *Theatre Survey*, *Theatre Journal*, *Theatre History Studies*, and the *New England Theatre Journal*, and she has presented at national and international conferences on theatre and performance, literature and medicine, American studies, and Victorian studies, including those convened by the American Society for Theatre Research, the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, the American Studies Association, the Northeastern Victorian Studies Association, and the Centre for Victorian Studies (University of Exeter). Meredith holds a Bachelor of Fine Art's in theatre performance from Denison University and a certificate from the British and American Drama Academy, an acting conservatory in London, England.

In addition to teaching, Meredith is a Freshman Advisor at JMU and oversees the work of student dramaturgs. She also acts as the School of Theatre and Dance's Assessment Coordinator, and serves on the Diversity Committee for the College of Visual and Performing Arts and JMU's Assessment Advisory Council.



Rebecca Lustig is a Costume Designer whose designs include works at the La Jolla Playhouse, The Philadelphia Theatre Company, Bay Street Theatre, The Prince Music Theatre, The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, The Irish Repertory Theatre among others. A graduate of the prestigious Theatre MFA program at the University of California at San Diego, Rebecca was U.S. Assistant Costume Designer on the North American productions of *Billy Elliot the Musical*. She was also the Assistant and Associate Designer on Hal Prince's *LoveMusik* on Broadway and his *Paradise Found* in London at the Menier Chocolate Factory, both of these designed by her mentor, Judith Dolan. These productions included some of America's brightest musical theatre stars including Mandy Patinkin, Donna Murphy, Shuler Hensley, Michael Cerveris, Kate Baldwin, Judy Kaye, and Nancy Opel.

Over her career she has designed for directors Les Waters, Brian Kulick, Hal Brooks, Leonard Foglia, Casey Biggs, Giovanna Sardelli, Jesse Berger, and choreographers Mel Wong and Joe Goode. Particular favorite projects include the costume design for *The Happiness Lecture* created by and starring the incomparable Clown and Actor Bill Irwin, the original Page-To-Stage version of *I Am My Own Wife* starring Jefferson Mays and directed by playwright Doug Wright, the SUNY Purchase workshop production of Rajiv Joseph's Pulitzer Prize nominated play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, and the co-design with legendary Broadway and film designer Tony Walton of a benefit production of *Busker Alley* starring Glenn Close and Jim Dale.

When not locked in a dark theatre, Rebecca is an avid gardener, cook, and backpacker. She is happy to have relocated to the Valley from the bustle of New York City with her dog Benny, cats Troilus and Cressida (yes, she is a theatre nerd) and husband (and classical music composer) Steve Voigt.

BE *the* CHANGE

www.jmu.edu/BeTheChange/

Linda Holman retires after 24 years of service

She appeared fragile as a dried flower, but defended the School of Theatre and Dance with the ferocity of a bear at a trash can. She reached out to help students and faculty for decades to solve the financial (and thus artistic) dilemmas of their productions, but was the guardian of the baroque maze of university financial procedures and policies. The classic "Linda-sigh" spoke volumes to those who forgot to turn in contracts on time or lost receipts, but her laugh and glowing smile when student lived up to our high artistic expectations was infectious. For decades she worked quietly, tirelessly, ceaselessly, responsibly and methodically for our school. She was the watchdog of finances who kept us under control and in the black. And when we went in the red she managed to find resources to keep the art coming. Her commitment to student accomplishment and education was at the core of her existence. She was a workaholic, and is a chocoholic. Linda Holman is one of the pioneers who helped the school grow up to become the distinguished and widely recognized program that it is today. While we miss her and envy her free time in retirement, Linda's presence in the school remains embedded in the program and building that she helped to shape.



Fall 2012



The 2012/2013 Virginia Repertory Dance Company featuring Melissa Jones '13, Alyssa Torre '13, Carolyn Hoehner '14, Katelyn Peterfy '13, Kelsey Kramer '14, Rachel Tack '13, Brittany Hoehlein '14, and Baily Laitin '14 perform in *Metaphors in Motion*



Skip Lazenby '15 and George Dippold '13 perform in *Anna in the Tropics*



Eisenhower Dance Ensemble performs in the 2012 *New Dance Festival*



(front) Mike Swan '13, Ross Neal '13, (back) Cameron Clarke '13, Logan Troyer '13, and Alex Towers '14 in the Mainstage production of *subUrbia*



Ricky J. Martinez, Artistic Director of the New Theatre in Miami, FL, joined us as the guest director of *Anna in the Tropics*



Maddie Arthur '13 and Robert Mathis '14 perform in the Studio Theatre production of *Awake and Sing!*



Justin Calhoun '13 and Caitlin McAvoy '15 in the 2012 Children's Playshop production of *Pinkalicious, The Musical*



Tyler Cramer '16 and Bruno del Alamo '16 in *For Sale*, a play written by JMU class of 2011 alumnus Garret Lee Milton



Katelyn Murray '12 directs Sydni Brawley '16 and Nora Ogunleye '16 in a rehearsal for the Studio Theatre production of *Rossum's Universal Robots*



Katie Bianchi '14 performs with Whitney Trevillian '14 and Rachel Novi '14 in the Studio Theatre musical *Grey Gardens*

Faculty highlights

Dennis Beck has completed two projects that will be included in forthcoming books. He wrote the Czech and Czechoslovak entries for the *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Stage Actors and Acting* and a chapter on the use of Constantin Stanislavsky's theories and techniques in avant-garde theatre for the *Routledge Companion to Stanislavsky*. He directed *Our Country's Good* on the Mainstage last season.

Bill Buck produced the summer 2012 Children's Playshop season, directing and designing sets for *Pinkalicious, The Musical*. He adapted the script and designed the set for *The Velveteen Rabbit*. He designed *October, Before I Was Born* at Barter Theatre, and worked with the Roanoke Children's Theatre designing the set for *Pinkalicious, The Musical*. At JMU he designed scenery and lighting for *For Sale*, and the lighting for *Servant of Two Masters*. He received the 2012 JMU College of Visual and Performing Arts Distinguished Service Award. Bill was brought to the Yale School of Drama in December to speak and work with students in a Job Application Skills Seminar.

Meredith Conti's article entitled "Ungentlemanly Habits: The Dramaturgy of Drug Addiction in *Fin-de-Siecle Theatrical Adaptations of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*" is set to appear in the forthcoming essay collection *Victorian Medicine and Popular Culture*. Conti also has book reviews in 2013 editions of *Theatre Survey* and *Theatre History Studies*.

The production of *For Sale*, which Roger Hall directed in October 2012 and which was written in his advanced playwriting course, has been invited to the Region II KCACTF festival at Towson University for January 2013. In summer



Axis Dance Company presenting a workshop at Stone Spring Elementary School. This workshop was one of many presented during an incredible five-day residency organized through the tireless efforts of Kate Trammel. Axis Dance Company is one of the world's most acclaimed and innovative ensembles of performers with and without disabilities.

2013, just before his official retirement, he will be taking a group of students to Ireland to study Irish theatre and writing.

Wolf Sherrill played Pantalone in the summer tour of JMU's *The Servant of Two Masters* to the Avignon Festival Off in France. He also secured funding and co-led the expedition. Wolf arranged a special JMU screening of the feature film *The FellowsHip* this fall in which he played commune leader and ex-gamer Baba Melvin. The film is currently entertaining distribution deals. Wolf also continues voice over work for Rosetta Stone and is still intruding into area living rooms as a police officer in a Ritchie Law Firm commercial.

Cynthia Thompson is happy to be serving the STAD as the associate director and Dance Program coordinator. In 2012, she performed with Theatre Gigante in Milwaukee and collaborated with co-directors Isabelle Kralj and Mark Anderson on "neither here..." a solo involving 35 teacups and featuring her new video, "...nor there." Cynthia taught at the 2012 Mid-Atlantic Summer Dance Intensive and was recently a guest teacher at the Roanoke Ballet Theatre.

Shane O'Hara continues to put a lot of his energy directing the Virginia Repertory Dance Company. Last year, the company was

selected to the ACDF National Festival, one of 32 schools from across the nation! Shane's recent artistic activities include performances in the JMU New Dance Festival. He continues to direct the JMU London Summer Intensive on Contemporary Dance and Performance and this year is working on the JMU Sichuan Dance Project for May 2013. This trip will involve 11 JMU dance students and is a cultural and artistic dance exchange with Chengdu University and the Aha School in China.

In addition to her design duties, Pam Johnson enjoyed directing a very well received *Arcadia* on the main stage in April 2011. She continues to work with the Children's Playshop, she and Bill Buck just completing their 19th season. The JMU Historic Clothing collection has become the focus of her research and she has mounted five exhibits on campus and one at a regional historical society using items from the Collection. The new museum-quality storage room in the Forbes center in combination with new, generous donors has allowed the collection to grow, provided for exhibition forms and assured that the inventory will be preserved and appreciated. Students each semester do independent study related to the collection and on-line exhibits are scheduled for

the near future. As a final note, Pam and Kathleen have almost finished unpacking and moving in to the costume shop and the massive costume storage room.

In May 2011, Kate Trammel taught the Infant Developmental Movement workshop, a series of 5 classes for babies and care-givers in partnership with the JMU Occupational Therapy Clinical Education Center. She also taught pre-technique/conditioning and Anatomy for the Dancer at the White Mountain Summer Dance Festival in July, 2011. She was an adjudicator and faculty at the WV Dance Festival in April, 2012. During a month long teaching/research/service trip in China in the summer of 2011, Kate taught master classes for dance majors at Chengdu University (Sichuan Province) and Shenyang National Conservatory for Music and Dance, (Lianang Province), taught creative movement workshops for children at Dujiangyang Temporary Housing Program for Earthquake Victims and at the SOS Children's Village in Chengdu, and taught a weeklong workshop in Using Creative Movement to Teach English Language Skills for countryside teachers enrolled in continuing education classes at the Guangya School.

JMU's School of Theatre and Dance Patrons

Dr. Michael A. Alexiou
 Dr. William J. Allen
 Mrs. Charlene R. Alvey
 Mrs. Cathy G. Anderson
 Drs. Kathleen G. and Thomas H. Arthur
 Mr. and Mrs. Adam S. and Shannon Arthur
 Dr. Christopher A. Ashton
 Ms. Suan K. Bartee
 Ms. Susan K. Bartee
 Mr. and Mrs. Brian A. Bassett
 Mrs. Emily Becher-McKeever
 and Mr. Martin McKeever
 Dr. Herbert E. Bing
 Dr. Barry M. Berger
 Mrs. Judith H. Blonski
 Mrs. Tess W. Blumenthal
 Dr. Michael J. Botticelli
 Mrs. Joan S. Bradford
 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Buck
 Mrs. Carol L. Burgess
 Dr. Leslie S. Burt
 Dr. Dane Byers Carilion
 Ms. Anne J. Cline
 Mr. and Mrs. David A. Collins
 Dr. F. Edward Comer
 Mr. Thomas M. Culligan Sr.
 Mrs. Diana W. Dean and Mr. Edward Dean
 Dr. Marcia S. DeFreese
 Dr. John P. Delisio
 Ms. Sherry L. Driver
 Mr. Christopher R. Dunphep

Mrs. Doreen M. Dvorscak
 Mr. J. Burns Earle III
 Mr. Charles Edwin Estes
 Mrs. Susan E. Estes
 Ms. Jayne T. Flowers
 Mrs. Gail P. Fox and Dr. Frederick L. Fox
 Ms. Julia Ann Frailey
 Dr. Frank W. Gearing
 Dr. Jason K. Gentry
 Mr. Steven Grande
 Dr. Roger A. Hall
 Mrs. Lynn S. Hampton
 Mrs. Gail Hanger
 Ms. Lori Ann Hankins
 Ms. Betty J. Harding
 Ms. Daryl V. Harrison-Carson
 Ms. Shirley Hasdin
 Dr. and Mrs. Charles H. Henderson III
 Mr. Joseph Hepner
 Mr. and Mrs. T.P. Hern Jr.
 Ms. Theresa H. Hobson
 Mrs. Doris D. Homan
 Ms. Susan Hopp
 Dr. and Mrs. Alden L. Hostetter
 Mr. and Mrs. Terry Earle Houff
 Mrs. Peggy Huffman
 Ms. Shannon L. Hummel
 Dr. Marilou Johnson and George Johnson
 Mrs. Pamela S. Johnson and Mike Johnson
 Ms. Diana D. Kelley
 Mrs. Dawn F. Kern

Mrs. Virginia R. Kisner
 Ms. Kathryn K. Litten
 Ms. Margot Haliday Knight
 Mrs. Elizabeth Pranis Kurr
 Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Kurtz
 Mr. and Mrs. Leon J. Leonidoff
 Mrs. Joan M. Lokitis
 Mr. William C. Loomis III
 Dr. Maribeth P. Loynes
 Mrs. Barbara C. Maclam
 Ms. Alana Mahdalik
 Ms. Hildegard Marvel
 Dr. Henry F. Mason
 Mr. Robert B. Mathews
 Ms. Carol I. Mathews
 Ms. Lynne O. McClagherty
 Mrs. Sharon S. Mercke
 Dr. Earlynn J. Miller
 Mr. Nathan H. Miller
 Ms. Suzanne Miller-Corso
 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Milner
 Ms. Kelly J. Moran
 Dr. Marcus Morra
 Ms. Shari Moxley
 Dr. and Mrs. Danny Alan Neal
 Dr. Louis E. Nelsen III
 Mr. Shane O'Hara
 Mrs. Louisa S. Painter
 Drs. Zack T. and Judith S. Perdue
 Dr. and Mrs. Jose R. Perez
 Dr. Allan L. Pettie

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Mo Philon
 Mrs. Cephe F. Place and Mr. Roger Place
 Mrs. Bethany C. Plummer
 Ms. Sonia Purkey
 Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ramquist
 Ms. Hedy L. Reese
 Dr. Phillip M. Renick
 Dr. Helen M. Rose
 Mrs. Cindy M. Sabato
 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley K. Schelhorn
 Dr. David F. Scudder
 Dr. W. Craig Sease
 Mr. Paul J. Shearman
 Shenandoah Arts Center Foundation
 Mr. William T. Shuler
 Dr. M. Catherine Slusher
 Mrs. Caroline B. Smith
 Dr. Susan B. Smith
 Dr. George E. Sparks
 Mrs. Grace Spart
 Mr. Mark H. Spellman
 Ms. Cynthia R. Thompson
 Mr. and Mrs. Tommy W. Thompson
 Dr. Jon R. Tomei
 Ms. Kate Trammell
 Mr. Matthew K. Tureck
 Virginia Theatre Association
 Dr. Craig A. Westwood
 Mrs. Eliot D. Westwood
 Mrs. Richard F. Whitman
 Dr. and Mrs. C. L. Whitten

backSTAGE

backSTAGE is the official newsletter of the James Madison University School of Theatre and Dance within the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Call (540) 568-7836 to get on the backSTAGE mailing list.

Dean: Dr. George E. Sparks
 Director: Dr. Terry Brino-Dean
 Editor: Jonathan Stewart

Photography: Richard Finkelstein
 James Madison University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation or disability with respect to employment or admissions or in connection with its programs or activities. Inquiries or requests for reasonable accommodation of disability may be directed to the activity coordinator or the appropriate university office. Guests and visitors: Office of Equal Opportunity, (540) 568-6991; Students with disabilities: Office of Disability Services, (540) 568-6705.
 JMU 2012

Please support the performing arts at JMU

by completing this form and mailing your gift or by calling (800) 296-6162 to charge your gift.

Prefix Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Dr. Other

Full Name _____

Spouse _____

Parent Alumnus/na, Class of _____

Friend JMU Faculty/Staff Business

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Work Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Use my gift in this area:

- School of Theatre and Dance (No. 14837)
 Theatre Program (No. 14829)
 Dance Program (No. 14327)
 Children's Playshop (No. 14304)

Thank you for thinking of theatre and dance.

Visit the School of Theatre and Dance at:

<http://www.jmu.edu/theatredance>

I would like someone to call me regarding my gift to JMU.

My employer has a matching gift program. I have enclosed the company form.

Employer: _____

Job Title: _____

Gifts to the JMU Foundation are tax deductible. Please complete this gift card and return it with your gift to:

Advancement Gifts and Records
 220 University Blvd., MSC 3603
 James Madison University
 Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Giving Levels:

Enclosed is my gift of: \$500 \$250 \$100

\$50 Other \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to: JMU Foundation.)

Please charge my gift of \$ _____ to:

American Express VISA Discover MasterCard

Account number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

Theatre and Dance 2013 Spring Season

Main Stage at FORBES CENTER

Spring Awakening

Book and Lyrics by Steven Sater

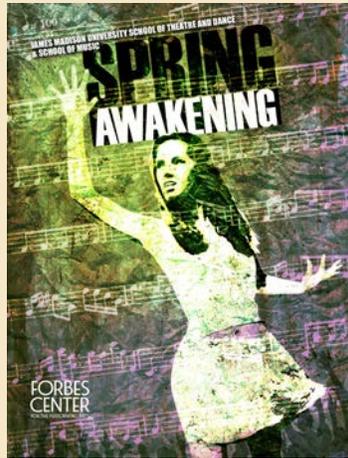
Music by Duncan Sheik

Feb. 19– 23 at 8 p.m.

Feb. 23 at 3 p.m.

Feb. 24 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$18 Adults/\$13 Students



New Voices in Dance

Featuring JMU's Contemporary
Dance Ensemble

March 21 – 23 at 8 p.m.

March 24 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$14 Adults/ \$11 Students



Romeo and Juliet

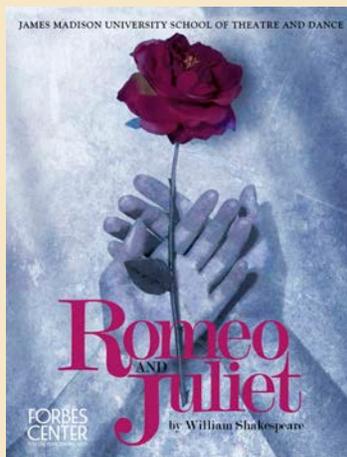
by William Shakespeare

April 23 – 27 at 8 p.m.

April 26 at 10 a.m.

April 28 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$14 Adults/ \$11 Students



Studio THEATRE

Sylvia

by A. R. Gurney

Feb. 5 – 9 at 8 p.m.

Feb. 9 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$6

Gruesome Playground Injuries

by Rajiv Joseph

Feb. 22 – 27 at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$6

They're Playing Our Song

Book by Neil Simon

Music by Marvin Hamlisch

Lyrics by Carole Bayer Sager

March 19 – 23 at 8 p.m.

March 23 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$8

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Story and Book by Rebecca Feld-
man, Rachel Sheinkin & Jay Reiss-
Music and Lyrics by William Finn

April 9 – 13 at 8 p.m.

April 14 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$8

Directors' Fest

A festival of ten-minute plays
directed by JMU Theatre stu-
dents

April 20 - 21 at 2 p.m.

April 21 at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$4

Earlynn J. Miller Dance Theatre

Senior Dance Concert

Feb. 7-9 at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 Adults/\$6 Students

Student Dance Concert

April 17 – 20 at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 Adults/\$6 Students

Dance Theatre Showcase

April 29 at 7 p.m.

Admission is free



Visit the School of
THEATRE AND DANCE
online
at www.jmu.edu/theatredance

Tickets: JMU Masterpiece Season
box office (540) 568-7000 or (877)
201-7543 (toll free); noon – 4 p.m.,
Monday – Friday.