From the Chairman: So far 1997 has been a remarkable year for alums of our department. So many of your recent achievements are especially noteworthy. Also, we expanded the alum gatherings and the turn-out has been gratifying, not to mention the wonderful contact and sharing at these events. Indeed, it's been overwhelming for Anthony, Jerry, and me to report, so I hope you will forgive us if we misrepresented or omitted you (in which case you'll have good reason to contribute to the next newsletter!). This summer we will be preparing a revised edition of the Alum Directory, so please send in any new addresses, including your email (if you have it and want it listed). MAIL THE ATTACHED FORM BY SEPTEMBER 15. And, of course keep in touch by submitting news for the Fall newsletter.--Downing Cless

From the Editor: Tons of news this issue, as we waited for the alumni gatherings to be concluded before going to press. I can only reiterate Downing's plea to send updated addresses for the next edition of the Alumni Directory. Send the attached form directly to the department, or e-mail me at cromano@interserv.com. Again, thanks so much for contributing to the newsletter, attending alumni gatherings, and getting to the Arena when you can. A year ago this newsletter was just a dream; you have turned it into what I hope will be a lengthy Tufts tradition.--Chris Romano

From the Cast and Crew:
FROM THE BIG APPLE...On January 13, 1997, thanks to Artistic Director Jim Nicola ('72), the New York Theatre Workshop was the site of a gathering of Tufts Drama Alumni and Friends. The festivities were hosted by Anthony Cornish and Downing Cless, who spoke with most of those alums present and got these updates:
Jordana Sandler ('95) is enjoying a great new job with City Lights Youth Theater in NYC.
Braden Rhett (96) took a trip to India with the Asia Society, for which she works in NYC.
Jefferson Westwood ('71) reports great success from the theater complex he runs at Fredonia--a part of the New York State University system. He oversees a building that showcased 220 events and performances in 1996.
Craig Sturgis ('71) is writing a musical which is called "Forever Monday"--he is thinking of retitling it "Tuesday Never Comes."
Barry Edelstein ('86) reports that the class that Jesse Pennington ('96) is in at NYU is one of the best classes he has ever taught. Barry's production of All My Sons is part of the current Roundabout Theater season in NYC.
Randy Merrifeld ('71) and Cindy Rosenthal ('76) are both in the final stages of completing their PhD's at NYU.
Donald Byrd ('72) has enjoyed critical acclaim for his dance company's production of "Harlem Nutcracker."
Kate Levy ('82) is back in NYC after a huge success in a play based on The Magnificent Ambersons at Indiana Rep.
Mitchell Englumeyer ('74) is a member of the Wall Street Journal editorial staff.
Phil Bryce ('74) has been working with Tina Packer's Shakespeare & Company.
Michael Shepley ('71) is writing a novel, and joining his partners in LA in their public relations business.
Jeff Goldman ('82) has been acting in several professional productions in Philadelphia, including a run of seventy performances in Brigadoon.
Edward Porter ('81) is a vocal coach/teacher at the Williamstown Theater Festival, where Kathryn Vaughan ('95) "was one of my best students."
Andrew Polk ('84) is featured in Howard Stern's Private Parts, and is Artistic Director of The Cape Cod Theatre Project, now in its third season in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, during the summers. Recently he acted in successful runs of Love! Valor! Compassion in Philadelphia and Angels in America in Atlanta at The Alliance Theatre.
Christopher Vasquez ('91) recently moved to NYC after several successful acting engagements in Chicago, including playing the "Beast" in Beauty and the Beast.
Lisa Diamond ('87) is recently married and is in the process of working on several film projects.
Kristen Lee Kelly ('89) is in her second year in the ensemble of Rent and often performs the role of Maureen.
David Costabile ('89) completed a successful run in The New Bozenta and is appearing on Broadway in Titanic.
Preston Foerder ('81) continues performing his own solo puppet works. In 1995 he designed and built the title puppet character in the film Phineas and appeared at the 1996 Contemporary American Theater Festival.
Sandra Galeota-Long ('82) has a son, Dylan, who is 3. She is an administrator for an HIV-AIDS education organization.
Victoria Abrash ('81) continues to be a dramaturg, teacher, and mother of two. While teaching theater history at Fordham University, she "felt that Peter Arnott was looking over my shoulder."
Curtis Houlihan ('82) is working in fund-raising, including a recent month in South America.
Flora Prescott ('95) played Catherine in Henry V at NADA, and has worked in education at the Cloisters Museum.
Elizabeth Mutton (’94) and William Rosenfeld (’95) continue in the MFA Acting Program at Columbia University, along with Jennifer Plante (’95), Ashley Clayton (’94), and Sharon Cinnamon (’91).

Nan Siegmund (’82) received a grant from AAUW career development in multi-media and is working full-time at Broadway Video, a post-production house.

FROM THE CITY OF ANGELS... On March 23, 1997 Jerry ("Doc") Collins and Jan Geber Smith (’82) hosted a reception for Tufts alums working in California. Doc reports the following:

Michele Billy (’75) is now Michele Povill and the mother of two. She has been active in the film industry, but is now taking some time off to spend with kids and family.

Lee Hota (’72) worked for the Atlanta Constitution for several years before moving to the Los Angeles Times as Science Editor. He has just returned from Scotland, where he covered the breakthrough in cloning experiments.

Mike Cavanaugh (’90), who is engaged to be married, is making a film starring Michael Carroll (’90), and has been involved in other film projects recently.

Michael Carroll (’90) acts professionally throughout California and continues to be associated with the ACT.

Bruce Newberg (’79) continues his involvement in dramatic writing.

Michaela Goldhaber (’93) entered the MFA Directing program at UCLA after doing assistant direction for The Cherry Orchard at ACT, and other credits in San Francisco. She just finished directing Fielding’s Tom Thumb.

Connie Hall (’93) has acted in San Francisco for the past few years, and has been accepted into the MFA Acting Program at Columbia University.

Robert Sternin (’77) and Prudence Fraser (’77) were pleased to report that their series "The Nanny" will be going into syndication.

Constance Kaplan (’77) was working with the administration at Paramount, but recently left her position there to pursue a career in therapy.

Nick Salamone (’76) has a very successful restaurant and is also moonlighting as a playwright.

Stephen Macht (’65) has been working as an actor for the past thirty years. His work has taken him far and wide.

Bill Purves (’68), who was a member of the first Tufts in London program came up from San Diego, where he is a Vice President of Harris Goldman Productions.

Coral Hawthorne (’71) continues to produce television sit-com series, primarily for 20th Century Fox.

Tina Surt (’93) after starting her career in major businesses in London and Los Angeles, will enter the MBA program at Harvard Business School in September.

Mark Mishkin (’94) continues in the film industry, currently assisting an independent producer.

Diane Brewer (’90) will start teaching and directing at MacMurray College, 447, East College Avenue, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650.

Stacey Mann (’94) has several design credits in Bay area theaters and works at the San Francisco Exploratorium.

Matthew Garcia (’94) is finishing the MFA program in Film at USC.

Stephen Q. Mitchell (’83) is a writer for The Daily Journal, a West Coast legal newspaper, and does occasional acting and screenwriting. He is married and has two young children.

BACK HOME AT TUFTS... On February 22, 1997 Laurence Senelick, Downing Cless, Jerry Collins, Anthony Cornish, and members of the Drama Department Faculty and Staff hosted a reception for alums in the New England area. The alums who attended mentioned the following developments in their personal and professional lives:

Michael Shepley (’71) owns and runs his own public relations firm, which handles a number of programs for PBS, including "American Experience."

Laura Matz (’74) owns and runs a marketing firm in the area. She has a 12-year old who she is happy to report is active in the theater.

Michael Murphy (’96) is the Student Activities Administrator at Tufts and is producer for an upcoming show at the New Broadway Theater in Somerville.

Steven Yakutis (’81) is applying to graduate directing programs in New England. For the past several years he has been very active teaching theater to children.

Connan Morrissey (’89) since receiving her MFA in Acting from the University of North Carolina, has been performing professionally in NYC and at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and Vermont Stage Company.

Sharon Breibart Frischling (’83) recently married a Tufts alum and has been working with a booking firm that handles the Regatta Bar entertainment at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge.

Julie Mahler (’72) is working with the Christian Science Center.

Paula Ramsdell (’81) is acting in the Boston area, and is contemplating graduate school in directing. She also works as
the concierge for the Four Seasons Hotel.

David Nelson (’95) has been directing in Boston and at Lawrence Academy. He was admitted into the MFA program in film at USC where he will be after September.

Adam Mendelman (’95) is designing professionally in the Boston area.

Jennifer Collins (’95) has just begun an exciting job in computer graphics in Boston.

Stephen Benson (’74) teaches and directs at Holy Cross & Middlesex colleges, and has recently done both a network TV program and a film, as well as acting professionally in the Boston area.

Divinna (Snyder) Schmitt (’71) brought lots of production pictures from her work—including hard-to-find pictures of William Hurt (’72) for the Department showcases.

Tom Divan (’72) is the Personal Assistant to Oscar-winning actress Patricia Neal.

IN OTHER NEWS....

In Memoriam: Elizabeth Noyce (’52). Some 1,200 people attended a public memorial held for Betty Noyce who died unexpectedly at age 65 on September 18 in Bremen, Maine. Noyce was remembered as a "true source of light" for her generosity to an array of projects. At Tufts, she was the first of Tufts living alumni to give the university a million dollars. She named the Balch Arena Theater in honor of her Tufts professor and mentor, Marston Balch.

Tsai Chin (M ’81) received the Los Angeles Critics Circle Award in 1996 for her performance in The Woman Warrior. For the last several months she has been performing in David Henry Hwang's new play Golden Child. She is also preparing to play a Communist Chinese judge in Red Corner, with Richard Gere.

Robert O'Hara (’92) is working on a screenplay for Robert Altman, and his film adaptation of the autobiography of Richard Pryor is in production under the direction of Martin Scorcese.

Darcy Pulliam (’65) is touring in Show Boat, as the Landlady, and understudying Parthy.

John "Rocky" Coe (’51) has donated his theatrical library to the department, along with a lifetime of working scripts and scores. We appeal to all alumni who have collections relating to their career to follow John’s lead and deposit them with us, in the hopes of establishing a departmental library/archive.

David Krasner (PhD ’90) has been appointed head of the undergraduate program in dramatic studies at Yale University.

Linda Ciccariello (Squire) (’77) has moved to Owensboro, Kentucky, with husband Jon and children Jonathan, age 7, Victoria, age 4, and Alexandra, age 3. Jon is site manager of Hampshire Chemical's manufacturing facility in Owensboro. "Chicki" is on the go with her three kids pretty much all the time. The Squires can be reached at 3675 Trehaven Bend, Owensboro, KY 42303.

Mitchell Maxwell (’75) is President of Workin' Man Theatricals, a Broadway, Off-Broadway and touring production company. His recent productions included Damn Yankees with Jerry Lewis, and Stomp Off-Broadway. He is also a managing partner of the Minetta Lane, Orpheum and Union Square Theatres. You can reach Mitch at Workin’ Man, 12 W. 27 St., 15th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Jessica Wilson (’94) is working as a researcher for BBC Children's Programmes. You can reach her at Flat 1, 115 Highlever Road, London, England, W106PW.

Susan Fiore (’83) has been an assistant director since 1989. Film credits include A Bronx Tale, Quiz Show, Interview with a Vampire, The Last of the Mohicans, Die Hard III, and The Age of Innocence. Projects in 1997 include Dreamwork's first feature, The Peacemaker, and New Line's Most Wanted. She has made the "big move" to LA from NY, but misses that Big Apple energy. She is at 17516 Castellammare Dr., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

Alexandra MacAaron (’84) is an ad agency creative director, and says her drama training has definitely come in handy. Most recently she launched a new division of Boston agency Coneo Sullivan Dolabany. In addition to writing commercials, Alexandra keeps her hand in the theatre by creating marketing materials for Off-Off Broadway shows. She lives at One Stacey Court in Marblehead, MA 01945, with her husband and mini-long-haired dachshund.

Stephen Benson (’74) appeared as a college professor in Oleanna and Reverend Dimmsdale in The Scarlett Letter. He has also directed productions of Macbeth, Light Up the Sky and The Beaux Strategem locally. He has been on NBC’s Unsolved Mysteries and had a featured role in the film, Sentenced to Life. He acts, directs and teaches in the Boston area, and can be found at 2 Maple Terrace, Melrose, MA 02176.

Ken Gilden (’76) was a professional actor for 10 years. He appeared opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger in Total Recall, and played Eugene in Grease in New York. He then worked assisting the writers and producers of Star Trek: The Next Generation, and appeared as Data’s double in an episode. Currently, he is happy "working with sane people" in advertising at Walt Disney Home Video. Contact him at 7250 Franklin Ave., Apt. 1108, Los Angeles, CA 90046.

Candy Kagan Platz, DVM is an equine veterinarian doing referral work in dressage and movement analysis in horses. She and husband Jim Platz have two daughters and live in Poland, Maine. They can be reached at P.O.B. 1240, Auburn, ME 04211, or at CKP@aol.com.
Mara Youdelman ('91) graduated from BU Law School in 1996 and is currently practicing with the Administration for Children’s Services in New York City, concentrating on child abuse and neglect cases. She can be reached at 82-40 Austin St., Apt. 4G, Kew Gardens, NY 11415.

Dr. Noreen Barnes-McLain (M '79, PhD '86) is Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and is married to lighting designer David McLain. She can be reached at the Dept. of Theater, Mailcode 6608, Southern Illinois Univ. at Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901, or at Norclare@aol.com.

Eric Forsythe (Former Faculty) is Artistic Director of the Iowa Summer Rep., where last season’s Arthur Miller Festival saw him directing An American Clock and producing All My Sons, The Archbishop's Ceiling, and Two Way Mirror. The festival also performed the first public reading of The Ryan Interview. He and wife Kitty are the proud parents of two-year old Grant. Eric writes, "It will not come as news, but fatherhood is an extraordinary, and wonderful experience. I've come late to it, but it is well worth the wait." You can reach him via e-mail at ekforsythe@avalon.net.

Fernanda Gordon Fisher was married in October of 1996 to David Fisher, a manger at Andersen Consulting. She received her MFA in theatre from USC and is now performing in the Bay area. She played the title role in Gypsy last year in summer stock in Beverly, MA. She can be reached at 510 Gravatt Dr., Berkeley, CA 94705.

Catherine Arnott Smith ('81), is a database developer and information specialist for a large midwest insurance company. She published a critical bibliography of Tennessee Williams in 1984, "and haven't done anything dramatic since, except get married, which is plenty." Reach her at Lincoln National Reinsurance Companies, P.O. Box 7808, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. E-mail can reach her at catsmith@cis.com or afk@inc.com.

Carl Samrock ('65) is Vice President of National Publicity for Warner Brothers. He is married to the former Carol Andelman and they have a son, 10 year old Steven. His 25 year old son Gabe lives in New York and is pursuing an acting career. Gabe's mother, Thaisoma La Guardia, ('63), also lives in New York and has worked in the school system there for 30 years. During the promotion of The Accidental Tourist Carl chatted with William Hurt, who had some very complimentary things to say about Jerry Collins. (Who doesn’t? ed.) Carl can be reached at 4928 Odessa Ave., Encino, CA 91436 or e-mail him at Carl_Samrock@warnerbros.com.

Stephen Webber ('87) is in the acting company of the Saratoga International Theater Institute.

Heidi Crocker ('96) directed Molly Erdman ('96) and David Nathanielz ('95) in Keith Reddin's You Belong to Me, as part of the debut of the Chicago company Step Right Up.

Stacy Klein ('88), Carroll Durand ('83), David Flaxman ('84), and Bonnie Cordon ('86) and the Double-Edge Theatre performed Keter: The Crowning Song, the last part of the Song Trilogy they have created over the last seven years, based on the life of the Jewish people in Diaspora. They have been invited to present the entire cycle for the first time at festivals in Korea and Romania this summer.

Tommy Mallan ('90) is teaching at Academia Cotorpaxi in Quito, Ecuador, where he has directed Life is a Dream and "the not very Ecuadorian" Little Shop of Horrors.

David Sonnenberg ('68) won the 1996 Academy Award for Best Documentary for the film, When We Were Kings, for which he was the producer.

Darlene Johnson ('84) completed a Masters in Social Work at Tulane in 1994 and recently performed in Ask Aunt Polly. She teaches acting to teenagers at the American Theater Project in Washington, DC. You can reach her at 3228 chillum Road, Apt. 102, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712.

OOPS!! In the last issue of the newsletter we listed Elizabeth M. Towle as being a Tufts graduate now working for Sun Microsystems. It is really David Towe ('83) who went to Tufts and works for Sun. Dave ran the Arena sound booth for two years.

--------------------------------- ALUMNI NEWS ---------------------------------

Name: 

Address: 

Phone: 

E-Mail Address: 

Year of Graduation: 

News: 

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Send to Chris Romano, 73 Broadreach, T95C, N. Weymouth, MA 02191 or Department of Drama & Dance, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155.