From the Editor: The last newsletter of the millenium contains news from alumni gatherings in New York and California, a special note from the chair, and, when possible, e-mail addresses for each entry. A special thanks from the editor for your continued response and support. Look forward to speaking to you again in early 2000. -- Chris Romano, Editor. cromano34@aol.com.

From the Chair: It had to come some day, so here it is now--my pitch for donations! Probably since all of you set foot in the Arena Theater, the department and 3P's have needed a second theater, better rehearsal spaces, and an improved design workshop/classroom. In the last few years our enrollments doubled, Arena productions escalated (15-20 per year), and your achievements as alumni grew, but our spaces still need expansion and improvement. The "new" Balch Arena Theater is starting to look "old" because of the constancy of production turnover, and the Dance Lab (which we share with P.E. in Jackson Gym) is continuously over-booked.

Amongst comparable universities Tufts is alone in not having a second theater! All we need is a flexible "black box" theater, completion of the Dance Lab, and renovation of a few classrooms. These crucial needs are relatively small compared with original construction of the Balch Arena Theater and the Aidekman Arts Center almost ten years ago. Our current needs are mainly renovations of existing spaces in order to complete the Arts Center.

Thanks to the leadership and generosity of Shirley Aidekman Kaye and David and Barbara Slater, Tufts Patrons of the Arts has been formed. As you can see from the enclosed brochure, the Patrons program is a development effort aimed specifically at the arts. And, VERY importantly, donations can be earmarked for Drama and Dance!

I hope you will fill out the form and mail it back with a check, pledge, or inquiry. Gifts may be small, becoming part of a general fund for the department's projects, or gifts can be large, involving membership in The Director's Circle or even the naming of a space in the completed Arts Center. We need gifts of ALL sizes, and in ALL cases the giver will be tremendously appreciated!

As alumni you have been wonderfully generous with your heartfelt memories and your increased contact with each other and with the faculty. Now we ask for more financial generosity. In the next newsletter I hope to report a groundswell of donations which will start to carry Drama and Dance, your department, into the 21st century in a glorious extension of your legacy! Gratefully yours--Downing Cless

From the Cast and Crew:

Hank Azaria ('87) is starring in two films to be released this summer, "Mystery Men" and "The Cradle Will Rock."

Noreen Barnes-McLain (Ph.D. '86) was appointed Director of Graduate Studies in Theatre at Virginia Commonwealth University. lacuna7@aol.com.

Stephen Benson, ('74) starred in a production of Dealer's Choice at the Gloucester Stage Company, chosen for several "Best of the Year" lists. Then, after a gap of a mere 27 years, he was able to work again with director Anthony Cornish in Tony's production of The Beggar's Opera, appearing as The Beggar, a singing highwayman, the thieving Filch, and the appropriately-named prostitute Mrs. Slammekin. Following in quick succession, he worked in stage productions of Driving Miss Daisy, The Miser, and Never the Sinner. In between, he completed principal filming of his first feature film "Bluff" starring comedian Lenny Clark and directed a touring college production of As You Like It.

Judy Bowman ('92) says her independent film "The Eden Myth" was first-pick at Rotterdam and Austin
film festivals, and will be bought and distributed! Recent castings include: The Cripple of Inishmaan at A.R.T., The Crucible at A.C.T. Seattle, and Y2K at Actors Theatre of Louisville, a new play by Arthur Kopit, directed by Bob Balaban.

Donald Byrd ('76) Artistic Director of the Donald Byrd Dance Foundation is preparing a new interpretation of the classical ballet Sleeping Beauty. The planned world premiere of this new full-length work is scheduled for the spring of 2001.

Cathy Cahners ('79) was Advertising Sales Manager at Boston Magazine for eight years, then "took a break to do the Mom thing." She has two girls, 6 and 9, and is trying to launch a career in voice overs. c2gil@aol.com.

John Caldwell ('71) has returned to the theater after ten years as a lawyer. Recently he played Sydney Black in Moss Hart's Light Up The Sky at the California Conservatory Theatre in San Leandro. Immediately before that he was Nat Moyer in I'm Not Rappaport at the same theater.

Ellen Christiansen ('81) is working as a set decorator for film, most recently "You've Got Mail" and "Lazarus and the Hurricane."

Tom Connolly ('91) taught three seminars at the University of Ostrava. His book George Jan Nathan and the Makers of Modern American Drama Criticism will be published this fall. He currently teaches at Suffolk University in Boston. tconnoll@acad.suffolk.edu.

Eileen Cooley ('72) got her Master's Degree in Choreography at UCLA, and then, choosing the course of lesser resistance, became a theatrical lighting engineer "because that's what people would pay me to do." Her work has earned three Lester Horton Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Design for Dance.


Lisa Diamond ('87) is working for The Shooting Gallery - an independent film company, and also still developing some film projects on her own.

Kermit Dunkelberg (M.A. '97) completed course work for the Ph. D. at NYU Performance Studies, and presented at the PSI Conference in Wales this April. kgd200@is7@nyu.edu.

Iris Fanger (Ph.D. '72) is a drama and dance critic for the Boston Herald and Christian Science Monitor. ifanger@aol.com.

Kate Goodspeed ('66) writes "Teaching teachers in China has used all my drama training." Just published The Magic Kingdom, a classroom drama for students with English as a second language in the TESOL Journal. You can reach her this summer at goodkate88@yahoo.com.

Curtis Houlihan ('82) is at NYU pursuing a M.A. in Non-Profit Management. cjhoulihan@aol.com.

Craig Konieczko ('92) appeared in a new play, 1593: The Devil's Due, at the Waterloo Bridge Theatre in New York during February.

Judith Libby ('59) continues to sing locally, and is the editor of the newsletter for the Association of Connecticut Choruses.

Sally Lindsay (M.A. '91) writes "I am producing and directing documentaries primarily for the BBC in London. My films have covered everything from history to politics with a little drama thrown in for good measure. My door is always open here in London to my old Tufts friends.

Charlie McCleary ('74) is active as the central Connecticut TAAP co-chair.

David Nathaneielsz ('95) directed Howard Korder's plays, Fun and Nobody, with Step Right Up Productions in Chicago last April.

Corin Nelson ('86) is Supervising Producer of the Rosie O'Donnell Show. corin2000@aol.com.

Robert O'Hara ('92) has been writing a new play while in residence at American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco (on an NEA grant) and developing a musical that is aimed at Broadway during 2000. His play, Insurrection: Holding History, was recently published by Theatre Communications Group.

Rebecca Pontikes ('94) graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1997, and is
Ari David Ackerman ('97) is working in marketing and promotions for the Richards Group, handling shows such as Jekyll & Hyde, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, Side Man, Amadeus, and The Civil War. ariack@aol.com.

Joel Bishoff ('83) had son Isaac last December, and directed Over the River and Through The Woods, and I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. jbishoff@aol.com.

Cindy Carver ('76) is a founding member of the New Jersey Repertory Company and has directed for Shotgun Productions in New York. begvremani@aol.com

Michael Champlin ('90) is currently directing independent films. His most recent project is Sam Shepard's "Action." redb522@idt.net.

Andrea Dishy ('84) works at Creative Arts Team as a teaching artist. abd2@is2.nyu.edu.

Tommy Finkelstein ('95) is still working at the New York law firm of Willkie, Farr & Gallagher. tfinkelstein@willkie.com

Preston Foerder ('81) has the cover story, "Interesting Times" in Complexity Magazine. slovpete@telesouth1.com.

Norman Frisch ('70) has returned to New York after many years on the road and is anxious to hear from old friends. nfrisch@aol.com.

Kristen Lee Kelly ('89) opens in the movie "Under Hellgate Bridge" and the play After the Rain. klkkel@aol.com.

Stan Kmic ('82) choreographed the national tour of Me and My Girl. lublinstas@aol.com.

Jenny Langsam ('85) continues to be active in regional theater work.

Andrew Leary ('94) is getting married in September. awl1203@is9.nyu.edu.

Randall Merrifield ('72) teaches at SUNY Stonybrook and Baruch College and is entering the Tufts Ph.D. program in the fall. rmerrifi@erols.com

Maren Montalbano ('97) finished singing and musical directing La Pucelle and performed in Measure for Measure, both at Expanded Arts. watermaren@aol.com.

Jennifer Plante ('95) wrote the original production Horse at PS122 in April, and continues to work and audition.

Andrew Polk ('84) gets married in August on Cape Cod. He is in his fifth year as artistic director of the Cape Cod Theatre Project and works in LA and NY as an actor.

Jon Pollard ('82) has produced I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, and Over the River and Through the Woods. jpollard@aol.com.

Flora Prescott ('95) finished Pelleas & Melisande at Columbia's Miller Theatre and is about to start work on an independent film.

Heather Alicia Simms ('92) was a guest on the pilot "Third Watch," and did voice over work on a national Pantene commercial. hsimms3487@aol.com.

Nan Siegmund ('88) is a producer and director, looking for a few good scripts. She's been working in new media and raising two kids on the upper west side. pep@interport.net

Greg Skura ('93) was the assistant director of Murray Schisgal's Angel Wings, and starred in the premiere of Offspring of Lorraine at the Phil Bosakowski Theatre in New York. He appeared in Much Ado About Nothing at the 42nd Street Workshop in May. gsinnyc@aol.com.

Chris Vasquez ('91) was in Cloud Tectonics at the Santa Fe Repertory Theatre and sings tango music in New York.

Amanda Yesnowitz ('94) is teaching at New York University and writing musicals at the Tisch Center. ay235@is7.nyu.edu.

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

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working at the Law Office of Judith E. Smith in Cambridge, specializing in sex discrimination and harassment.

Chris Popov ('79) announces the arrival of Nicholas Angelo Peter Popov last October. cpopov@eth.state.ma.us.

Matt Potosnak ('96) will be interning with technical theater services aboard Disney Cruise Lines. He should be finishing out his contract, steaming back from Trieste, Italy, right about now.

Sendhil Ramamurthy ('93) opened on May 24 1999 as Dr. Mehta in East Is East by Ayub Khan-Din, directed by Scott Elliot at the Stage 1 of City Center in New York to excellent reviews. He is completing his first short film, and finished his M.F.A. in June.

Cindy Rosenthal ('76) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Hofstra University, and is on the faculty of Breadloaf School of English in Juneau, Alaska. cdrnyc@aol.com.

Hannah Ruth ('54) studies art grammatical structures - petroglyphs - and has used them to teach drama.

Edward (Ned) Stonebreaker ('72) has become a licensed chiropractor in Geneva NY.

Lynn Torgove ('78) is a faculty member at New England Conservatory, directing in the graduate opera program. She will debut with the St. Louis Symphony as a mezzo soprano soloist. lat@aol.com.

Wendy Westwood ('72), wife of Jefferson Westwood ('71), has been appointed director of community relations for the Chataqua Lake Central District in Mayville after serving for four years as executive director of the Fredonia, NY Chamber of Commerce.

Steven A. Yakutis ('81) graduated from Emerson College in May with a Masters in Theatre Education. guyugh@massmed.org.

C. Van Youngman ('58) is still actively engaged in teaching at the Art Institute of Philadelphia, specializing in the Classic Greek dramas.

From the California Alumni Event (March):

Jean Abounader ('68) produces movies for television.

Ellen Bry ('73) has a recurring role in "Chicago Hope," and is training to participate in the 560 mile California AIDS Ride.

Mike Carroll ('90) continues to teach at American Conservatory Theatre and acts professionally in the Bay area. mdcarrrol@aol.com.

Mike Cavanaugh ('90) married Nicole Truax a year ago and is a freelance editor in San Francisco. He is currently working on "Rocky & Bullwinkle." mpcav@aol.com

Don Cummings ('84) has a recurring role on "Dharma & Greg," and was Jack in the LA premiere of Someone Knocking.

Rebecca Downs ('80) is singing with the swing band Red and the Redhots, and has acted in several commercials. bex@aol.com.

Robert Lee Hotz ('72, M.A.'73) is working on a project on the biology of language for the Los Angeles Times, for which he is a science writer.

Reed Lowenstein ('90) married Melanie Hanan in May. A graduate of Stanford Business School, he is working in investment management. reedlow@alumni.stanford.org.

David Nelson ('95) is in his third year at USC in Film Production. dnelson509@aol.com.

Nick Salamone ('76) won the fringe first prize for his musical, Moscow, at the Edinburgh Festival, and his play Merry Street is being made into a movie. nicksalamone@earthlink.net

Barbara Schofield ('84, M.A. '99) is finishing her Ph.D. at Tufts and teaches acting and directing in Los Angeles. bschofield2@aol.com

Lori Schwartz ('87) recently signed with an agency as a comedy writer.

From the New York Alumni Event (April):

Victoria Abrash ('81) coordinates the national nonconference for Theatre Communications Group, and reports that Phoebe is 6 and Gordon is 2. vickya@teg.org.