From the Editor and Chair: We kick off the last gasp of the millenium with the updated Alumni Directory and a new feature, Faculty News. This is the sixth edition of our little experiment, and as we hurtle into the year 2000, our goal is to take the newsletter to the next step, incorporating more news of the Department of Drama and Dance, perhaps some longer features by faculty and alumni, and, of course, news from you. Watch for the next newsletter sometime in June. -- Chris Romano, Editor and Downing Cless, Chair.

From the Cast and Crew:

Ari Ackerman ('97) administers a small Off-Broadway Producing office, Gindi Theatrical Management. He reports: "We produced and managed Shakespeare's R&J, the four man adaptation of Romeo and Juliet. I oversaw the entirety of that show's year long run (it closed on January 3). Besides having a brief stint as Company Manager of R&J, I also spent five and a half months as Company Manager of the musical Nunsense A-Men!, which recasts the original with an all male cast."

John Adornato III ('96) was doing research with the Department of Agriculture in Phoenix, AZ, but is now back on the east coast, pursuing his Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of Maryland. Contact him at jadornato@wam.umd.edu, or at 5023 56th Pl., Hyattsville, MD 20781.

William B. Allen ('61) has been in the insurance industry for 25 years, specializing in coverage for museum collections and exhibitions. He is one of the Managing Directors of Henderson Phillips Fine Arts, an organization that insures the collections of 200 museums nationwide.

Christopher Arnott ('83) recalls being "pressed into service" by his father, Peter, "whenever Arena productions needed real live children." An English major at Tufts, he now lives in New Haven, CT, where he has been a theatre critic and art reporter for several publications. He currently is the Associate Editor for the New Haven Advocate. You can reach Chris at carnott@newhavenadvocate.com, or at the paper, at One Long Wharf Drive, New Haven, CT 06511.

Elissa Barrett ('92) graduated last year from University of Michigan Law School and received the National Association of Women Lawyers' Award. Currently, she is in Jerusalem at the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling and will join the Litigation Department at Loeb and Loeb in Los Angeles which specializes in Entertainment, Intellectual Property, and First Amendment law. She adds: "I am happily engaged to Ms. Amy Beth Lowen." While abroad, she can be reached at edbarrett28@hotmail.com."

Rick Barter ('82) is on the road to Beirut to be Director of Libraries at the International College. Contact him at icmc@cyberia.nt.lb.

Marina Lyn Beckhard ('85) is the Director of the Lawyer Referral Service of the Bar Association of Washington, DC. "However," she writes, "as a former litigator I'm not sure how long I can stay out of the courtroom -- MY acting arena these days." She is married to Alan Luberda and has two sons, Benjamin, 5, Joshua, 3, and is expecting a third (and last!) son in January of 1999. Her e-mail address is mlbeckhard@aol.com.

Martin Bloom ('51) recently published Accommodating the Lively Arts, An Architect's View. The book deals with principles underlying effective theatre design, and is available through Amazon.com.

Phil Bryce ('74) co-produces and co-hosts the monthly environmental news magazine "The Bay Show" on cable television on Long Island, NY. He recently completed a one-hour documentary, "Camp Homeward Bound," about a summer camp for homeless children, which he produced with his brother, Scott. He has appeared in a number of Shakespearean productions with the Shakespeare Project and the Holderness Project in New York, and with Shakespeare & Co. in Massachusetts.

Jessica Callison ('96) teaches chemistry at Derby High School, in Derby, Kansas. She played Adelaide in Guys and Dolls and Magnolia in Showboat in regional dinner theatre.

Rich Canzano ('97) is rehearsing with Tony Award winning director Rupert Holmes for Goose-Bumps.

Charles Cermele ('80) has recorded a second CD of his renditions of songs by Harold Arlen and George Gershwin. Issued by Archangel, it is called Ask Me Again.

Douglas Alan Clark ('73) works as a Senior Writer/Researcher for CARE-USA, an Atlanta, GA based international relief organization. From 1985 to 1994 his travels took him to Belize, Ecuador and Haiti where he worked in water sanitation, maternal child-health, and emergency food aid. He graduated from the Somerville Hospital School of Nursing in 1979 with his RN and received a Masters in Public Health from Columbia in 1984.
David H. Cohen ('81) travelled to Europe last summer where he did the Triathlon and Marathon (his first) at the Gay Games in Amsterdam and saw 11.5 shows in London (left one at the interval). He adds: "Passed by Gloucester Road Tube a few times, but never made it to Stanhope Gardens to locate the Reynolds" He is an Administrative Assistant for the Major Programs Group of SIAIC.

Elizabeth (Megan) Cole (M.A.'67) appeared in several episodes of "The Practice" on ABC, and is currently appearing at the Arena Stage in Washington, DC as Georgia O'Keefe through many years of her life.

Mark Cosdon (M.A.'98) has a baby daughter, Nina, and is teaching at Colby College while working on his Ph.D.

Heidi Crooker ('97) and David Nathanielsz ('96) are planning their wedding and applying to graduate schools—Heidi for a Masters in outdoor or experiential education and David for a Ph.D. in theater history.

Don Cummings ('84) co-starred with Jane Seymour on "Dharma and Greg" this year and also appeared with Carol Burnett on "Mad About You." He played Issacher in Tim Robbins' Actor's Gang Production of The Tragedy of Salome and received critical acclaim as the Smarmy Barfly Robbie in Canyon Theatre's production of The Nature of the Beast.

J.C. Devore ('97) had the lead in Marvin's Room, produced by the Peabody Theatre Coop, in Somerville, MA.

Molly Erdman ('96) reports, "Things here in Chicago are going quite well. I am performing with two improv groups at Improvised Olympic, one of which, the Lindbergh Babies, has been performing regularly on Saturday nights for a year now and has received glowing reviews from the Tribune and the Chicago Reader."

Terry Field ('67) writes "I wound up with a doctorate in epidemiology a number of years ago and am currently the Associate Director of the Meyers Primary Care Institute based in Worcester, MA. We are an epidemiology and health services research group with our major focus on managed care."

Susan Fiore ('83) works as a D.G.A Assistant Director on feature films. In 1997 she filmed "Letters from a Killer," with Patrick Swayze, and "A Night at the Roxbury" with Chazz Palminteri. She just completed filming "Carrie II" in New York City.

Fernanda (Gordon) Fisher ('88) gave birth to Justin Gordon Fisher in July. Last year she performed in a new adaptation of Isabel Allende's "Paula" with A.C.T. Studio.

Missy Gerson ('93) is getting married in June to Jonathan Ray ('92) and is teaching 5th grade at Mt. Kisco Elementary School in New York. She says, "When I was in Boston after graduation I was teaching children's theater. I started to realize that one of the things I always loved about directing was the teaching and guiding a group through a project." She attended UCLA and received a M.Ed. in elementary education.

Erika Gould ('87) taught voice and movement in the Yale University acting program this fall.

Kate Halpern ('95) is currently working as a publicist at PBS in New York.

Ava Altman Harder ('84) was married in August of 1997 to Bruce. Sharon Breitbart Frischling ('83) was in the wedding, and Rebecca Kyler Downs ('81) sang at the event. Ava is a freelance writer and facilitator for a healthcare training company.

Curtis Houlihan ('82) is the Associate Director of Foundation Relations at New York University, monitoring and managing each of NYU's 13 schools to bring in about 25% of the University's annual fundraising.

Andrew Leary ('94) is completing his M.A. in Educational Theatre at New York University. He enjoyed the "MFA thing" at Brandeis but "missed playing nicely with the kids." He was engaged to be married to Melanie Cooper, "a brilliant and beautiful French teacher," last September. In the spring he will appear as Micio in The Brothers at the Provincetown Playhouse.

Eric Milano ('96) is currently playing and headlining at various clubs in Manhattan as the lead singer in the rock band Ten Degree Lean.

Maren Montalbano ('97) is touring with Holiday Swing, a big band show, and is returning to Busch Gardens, Virginia for a second summer in 1999.

Selma Odom (M.A.'67) is a Professor in the Department of Dance at York University in Toronto. She is currently on sabbatical, working on a book on Dalcroze Eurhythmics and developing a computer project on Joan of Arc in performance and visual art. You can contact her at selmao@yorku.ca, or at the Department of Dance, York University, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada.

Jesse Pennington ('96) is rehearsing the lead in On the Razzle in his final year at the Tisch School.

Oliver Platt ('84) has played major roles in several recent films, including "Bulworth" and "Simon Birch."

Craig Quintero ('92) is a Doctoral Candidate in Performance Studies at Northwestern University. He is conducting field research on "Performativity in Taiwanese Pop Culture" as a Chiang Ching-kuo Fellow and recently directed two performances at Assignment Theatre and Eslite in Taiwan. You can contact Craig at ncquint@juno.com
Jeff Reine ('97) is a Senior Consultant with Kaiser Associates in Washington, DC. Jeff's job has taken him from San Jose (CA) to San Jose (Costa Rica) but unfortunately nowhere near a stage. Drop him a line at jreine@iname.com.

Amy Rhodes ('97) and Eric Pliner ('97) co-produced Jinkies! The Scooby Doo Mysteries in which Amy played Velma in Cambridge in December '98.

Chris Romano ('79) returned to the legal profession after a brief stint in the financial services business. He became Manager of Information Systems at the Boston litigation firm of Cetrulo & Capone in November.

Susan Shrand ('78) a LAMDA Gold Medal winner, is teaching speech at Chrysat Arts in London, a young peoples drama school.

Justine Shapiro ('85) is producing and directing an independent documentary film, "Promises," about Israeli and Palestinian children living in and around Jerusalem. She adds: "Somewhere in the 130 hours of video materials that we shot, we have a film. It will probably take us six months (at least) to edit." Also, she hosts "Lonely Planet," which was recently put in prime time on the Travel Channel. In March she will finish shooting 8 shows in 8 months in Italy, the Czech Republic, Poland, Paris, San Francisco, Mexico City, Malaysia/Thailand, New Orleans, and Sydney.

Amy Sodaro ('97) was in London last year, and reports "I found little theatre work but I had a magnificent time anyway. I did, however, put together (with some friends) a production of a Havel play which we put on in a Fringe theatre. It was a mild success and a good experience. Otherwise, I travelled and just enjoyed life abroad." In September Amy moved to New York to intern at Juilliard's costume shop.

Karen Spiegel ('87) is a motion picture and television producer, having recently produced Castle Rock Entertainment's film, "Absolute Power" starring Clint Eastwood. She is now producing a film "Diamond Head" for DreamWorks as well as co-executive producing the four hour mini-series, based on David Baldacci's novel, "Total Control" for CBS television. She has numerous feature film and television projects in development under her production company banner, Copper Beech Productions.

Trimmie Hoblitzelle Stamell ('80) and Neal Stamell ('81) are living in Illinois, where Neal is an Account Planner at Foote, Cone & Belding in Chicago. Tammy is involved in science enrichment in the public schools.

Rebecca Stephens ('79) received her Masters in Psychology in 1994 from Texas A&M, where she is finishing up her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. She teaches at the Univesity and in Dallas high schools. She also directs high school theatre in Dallas, where her casts "keep one inspired and young, to be sure."

Robert Sternin and Prudence Fraser Sternin ('78) are finishing up their first feature film script. Their CBS sitcom "The Nanny" is in its sixth season. Rob has joined the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera.

Louise Thistle ('63) teaches students from preschool to high school and gives staff development training in literature dramatization. Her most recent book is Dramatizing Mother Goose. Her other teacher resource books on the dramatization of literature include Dramatizing Aesop's Fables and Dramatizing Myths and Tales, published by Addison Wesley, and three bilingual acting picture books.

Eric Valliere ('91) is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition, while working at the New England Conservatory as Administrative Director for the Provost. His music has been performed by the NEC Contemporary Ensemble, and will be played by the Boston chamber group "Auros" in the 98-99 season. He adds: "I admit that I miss the theater, too--I have especially fond memories of composing, rehearsing, and conducting the score for Midsummer at Tufts."

Jane (Stern) Walmsley ('68) has been co-producing a movie for ABC television about Dr. Jonas Salk. Her company, Jam Pictures, is co-producing the feature film "One More Kiss."

Stephanie Weiss ('97) and Stephen Benson ('74) played a Whore and The Beggar, respectively, in a production of The Beggar's Opera for the Boston Academy at the Emerson Majestic in September, 1998 directed by Anthony Cornish (Faculty).

Jake Woland ('97) is in the process of completing a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture by writing a thesis about the role of light in the perception of safety in public open space.

Richard G. Woodward ('48) is a 3P's alum living in Salem, Massachusetts. He takes great pride in being the first Drama major at Tufts, and writes "even though my professional career took a different turn, it is most satisfying to see how the department has grown since those early days."

Talia Yellin ('96) is in a Masters program for Performing Arts Administration at Columbia University in New York. This past year she continued her musical studies at the University of Minnesota and directed and conducted The Leader of the Pack with the Morris Park Players.
Former Faculty News:
Kalman Burnim travels quite a bit with Verna, and was presented to Queen Elizabeth II when she received his book of the catalog of pictures of the Garrick Club in London. He has just published John Bell - Patron of British Theatre Portraits. Kal says the door is always open to anyone who passes by the neighborhood of Spring Hill, about 50 miles east of Tampa. E-mail him at kburnim@aya.yale.edu.
Lisa Cody (now Cody-Rapport) is married to Allan Rapport, a scenic artist for Disney/MGM. She is a designer at Rollins College in Florida, where she is building a successful design program.
Peter DiMuro is Associate Artistic Director of the Dance Exchange, an international company of dancers and performers. Contact him c/o Liz Lerman, Dance Exchange, 7117 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.
Phil Eck says he mostly enjoys himself these days, working on his house, landscaping, reading, and realizing his lifelong desire to compose music. He adds, "being unsurpassably content with my present circumstances, I hardly go anywhere."

Current Faculty News:
Anthony Cornish is now in his fifth year as Artist-in-Residence in the department. He remains eager to hear from his many friends from Tufts in Medford and Tufts in London. He is currently directing Macbeth for late February in the Arena. E-mail him at cornish@mindspring.com.
Carson Eddy is Head of Design (since 1997). She has focused on building the design program and developing an expanded production calendar. Also, she continues to design costumes for departmental productions and teaches a range of design courses.
Barbara Grossman is a member of the National Council on the Arts (the board for the N.E.A.) and attended the awards ceremony for the National Medal of the Arts at the White House in November. She delivered the keynote address on public arts funding at the annual meeting of the American Society for Theatre Research. She looks forward to directing Tom Stoppard's Arcadia for the Arena in April (15-17, 22-24).
Neal Hirsig reports that the Fall 1998 semester was a period of transition. For the first time at Tufts he designed a main stage production, The Inspector General, with the assistance of a full-time Technical Director - new faculty member Brent (Mickey) Henry. "It was strange to go through an entire production without picking up a screw gun," recalls Neal. In addition, he has been teaching exclusively computer-based multimedia classes for the last year, which he thoroughly enjoys.
Judy Staicer went to China as part of a Production Delegation sent by People to People International, and she is putting together an exhibit of Chinese design work for the USITT conference in March. She has also designed the set for Ed Bullins' new play, Dr. Geechee and The Blood Junkies, and a new musical, The Hopeless Romantic, at Riverside Theatre.
Alice Texler recently directed a dance concert in the Arena titled Moving Structures, in which her choreography "Sky Dancing" was included. She continues as Head of the Dance Program.

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News:

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