From the Editor: First, a different e-mail address for ye old editor. Send all correspondence to cromano34@yahoo.com. Second, as ever, keep the news flowing. It was a pleasure seeing some of you at the Boston alumni gathering, held during the run of Anthony Cornish’s production of The Merry Wives of Windsor, where special guests Kal Burnim and Doc Collins were on hand. We hope to do more Boston events in the future. Read on for news about the annual New York and Los Angeles gatherings. — Chris Romano

From the Chair: Happy "Space Odyssey" Year! As always, the department is lively and the Arena Theater is chock-full of exciting productions. Students have new course opportunities such as Asian American Theater and Film, Advanced Acting Workshop on Stage Combat, and Kathak Dance. Lighting Design had an unprecedented enrollment of 18, and every Spring course in acting, design, and studio dance is full. The season of faculty-directed plays is The Merry Wives of Windsor in October, Crazed Women (The Bakkhai of Euripides) translated and directed by Laurence Senelick in February (15-17 and 22-24), and Massachusetts playwright Constance Congdon’s Tales of the Lost Fomicans directed by Barbara W. Grossman in April (17-22). If you are in the area try to see one of the upcoming shows! Also performed in the Arena--Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (3P’s Fall play), The Wizard of Oz (Torn Ticket II musical), On the Verge (3P’s Spring play, March 8-9), SubUrbia (3P’s Freshmen play), plus 3P’s and Torn Ticket’s freshmen orientation shows, the Parents Weekend showcase, several Cheap Sox improv performances, and a half dozen smaller-scaled student-directed productions. So, as I’ve said before we greatly need a second black-box theater to accommodate some productions and courses, and we intend to pursue that important goal in 2001. More on that in the next newsletter!—Downing Cless

Ari David Ackerman (’97) recently switched fields from Broadway marketing to advertising. He is currently a junior account executive at Eliran Murphy Group in Manhattan.

Hank Azaria (’87) was awarded an Emmy for his performance of Mitch Albom in “Tuesdays with Morrie,” which also received the Emmy as the best television film of 1999-2000 along with another Emmy for Jack Lemmon who played Morrie.

Anita J. Barzman, M.D. (’76) is a psychiatrist and Jungian analyst with offices in San Jose and San Francisco. She is an advanced student of The School of Homeopathy in England, and has begun to include it in her practice. Her e-mail address is abarzman@lmi.net, and she says hello to Cindy Rosenthal!

Roz Beiliter (’61, M.Ed. ’63) won the first annual Lee Elliott Memorial grant of $10,000 from Millbrook Press in celebration of its tenth anniversary. She is the Library Media Specialist at Barrett Elementary School in Arlington, VA., and received her Library Science degree in 1976 from the University of Chicago.

Stephen Benson (’74) has had a busy year. He taught at Tufts with Anthony Cornish, starred in the New England debut of Tennessee Williams’ recently discovered Not About Nightingales, and in the Merrimack Repertory’s A Walk in the Woods. He also directed David Mamet’s The Water Engine.

Joel Bishoff (’83), director, and Jonathan Pollard (’82), producer, of I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change are celebrating that it recently became the longest-running off-Broadway musical, breaking the record of 1,847 performances for Jacques Brel.... Their Boston production opened to rave reviews in September and continues a successful run at the Stuart Street Theatre.

Judy Bowman (’92) is an independent casting director in New York City with Laura Richin Casting. They cast Broadway, off- Broadway & regional theatre, audiobooks for Simon & Schuster, internet audiodramas for USA Networks, film & television. Their production of Martin McDonagh’s A Skull in Connemara is in rehearsal at the Roundabout Theatre, and they are currently casting Actor’s Theatre of Louisville’s Humana Festival. Send pictures & resumes to: Judy Bowman, Laura Richin Casting, 33 Douglass Street #1, Brooklyn, NY 11231.

John (Jesse) Caldwell (’71) played the lead in The Caretaker, then in The Staircase, and through the summer starred in Playhouse West’s New Wrinkles, a musical review. He will be appearing as Nicola in the Sacramento Theatre Company’s production of Arms and the Man, and running through February 18.

Sherwood Collins (Former Faculty) was in attendance at the Boston Alumni gathering and is anxious
to hear from you. Drop a line to Doc at 21 Appletree Lane, Lexington, MA 02173. “Don’t tell people to expect a reply immediately,” says our favorite grump, “I’m just not that good at writing people back.”

**Anthony Cornish (Faculty)** will be at both annual Drama Alumni events this year. Mark your calendars for March 25 in Los Angeles and April 16 in New York City. Time and venue will be on your invitation.

**Don Cummings (**'84**)** gets an apology for being misnamed “Dean” in the last newsletter.


**Patrick Diamond (**'91**)** has started the MFA Program in Directing at the Yale School of Drama, and reports that it has been great. “All first year directors are working on creating a performance piece of Dante’s *Inferno* based on the new Pinsky translation. It looks like I’m also assisting a thesis production of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle.*” Contact Patrick at Patrick.Diamond@yale.edu

**Molly Erdman (**'96**)** most recently performed in *The Winston Review*, a partially improvised Vegas-style talk and variety show with the Chicago ImprovOlympic theatre. She is engaged to co-star Rich Prouty, and they plan to be married this summer.

**Rosemary Garrison (**'97**)** recently completed her MFA from UCSD and after playing *Jane Eyre* at the La Jolla Playhouse, is making her Off-Broadway debut in *The Big Funk* by John Patrick Shanley.

**Jonathan Hadary (**'71**)** was a co-star of Gore Vidal’s *The Best Man* in a limited run on Broadway.

**Kate Halpern (**'95**)** left PBS to work for the Rosie O’Donnell Show, where she handles publicity. In May 2000 she married Scott Fisher, a management consultant with Booz-Allen & Hamilton. Contact Kate at Kate.Halpern@warnerbros.com.

**Kristin Lee Kelly (**'89**)** opened in the Broadway production of *The Rocky Horror Show*.

**Ethan Krasnoo (**'97**)** recently completed a production of *Fiddler on the Roof* at the North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly, MA. He has also been cast in a new play, *The Game*, about to open in New York.

**Stephen Kunken (**'89**)** is in New York and recently created two roles in the Humana Festival at Actors Theater of Louisville. He is also featured in Spike Lee’s new movie “Bamboozled,” and is shooting his second “Law and Order.” Last year he was a recurring character on the now defunct CBS television show “Now and Again.” He has his own commercial photography business for anyone looking for headshots; www.bigfirephotography.com.

**Tommy Mallan (**'90**)** directed a “Las Vegas Version” of Mozart’s *Marriage of Figaro* at the Washington Shakespeare Company’s Clark Street Playhouse in Arlington, VA.

**John Marcus (**'85**)** married a Tufts classmate and they have two more Jumbos. After teaching first grade for twelve years he is now Principal of the Hansen School in Stoughton, MA. He is working on integrating music and movement into the curriculum this year. He would love to hear from interested alums at j_marcus@stoughton.k12.ma.us.

**Beth Maury (**'93**)** is a graphic designer with an international firm in Boston. She will be married next year to Jack Gregory.

**Mitchell Maxwell (**'75**)** produced the Pulitzer Prize winning comedy *Dinner With Friends* by Donald Marguihes, and will open a revival of *Bells are Ringing* at the Broadway Theatre in April.

**Maren Montalbano (**'97**)** played the role of Lucy Manette for backers’ auditions of a new musical, *Tale of Two Cities*, which will be produced at the Helen Hayes Theater in Nycack, NY. She had an opportunity to work backstage with fellow alumni Adam Grosswirth (**'97**)** and David Hatkoff (**'00**)** in the Off-Broadway production of *Soul of an Intruder*. She has also performed with the Victorian quartet, Coventry Gardens, and the Spring Sisters, a mid-19th century trio.

**Michaela Murphy (**'96**)** is working for Hewitt Associates in Waltham, MA as a health management data analyst. She is contemplating business school within the next year or two.

**Jesse Pennington (**'96**)** has completed his first feature movie, an independent production with Barbara Bain and James Coburn entitled, “American Gun.” Next is Richard Nelson’s play, *Goodnight Children Everywhere*, directed by the author at ACT in San Francisco.

**Candace K. Platz (**'74**)** is an equine veterinarian with a professional focus on the biomechanics of dressage horses. She is currently developing two Lipizzan horses for F.E.I. international competition.

**Rebecca Pontikes (**'94**)** worked in the Costume Shop for 4 years and was in a play her freshman year. She is an attorney with Berluti & McLaughlin LLC in Boston. E-mail her at rpontikes@mindspring.com.

**Sendhil Ramamurthy (**'93**)** is rehearsing the role of Sylvio in Carlo Goldoni’s *The Servant of Two*
Masters for the Royal Shakespeare Company. The West End run precedes a 6 month world tour covering Australia, Israel, Hong Kong, and then the U.S. including New York, L.A., and finishing at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. He has also just finished filming in Hungary for "In the Beginning," a mini-series for NBC which will be released some time in 2001.

Michelle Gerson Ray ('93) is still teaching in Mt. Kisco, NY. Of the seven weddings she attended during the summer, two were of Tufts Drama alumni: Kate Halpern ('95) and Mark Mishkin ('94). You can contact Missy at mray@bedford.k12.ny.us.

Jacqueline Reid ('97) left her job at Boston College to get her MFA in lighting and scenic design from Northwestern University.

Jeff Reine ('97) is living in San Francisco and working as a strategy consultant for Sapient. Drop him a note at jreine@iname.com.

Braden Rhett ('96) packed up and moved to Japan in January. Her beau's company asked him to run their Tokyo desk for a few years, and they are now in a spacious apartment in central Tokyo. Braden says she has tons of room for visitors, and can be reached at Nishiazabu Park Towers East - 901, 17-31, Nishiazabu 4-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-0031. E-mail her at brhetts@hotmail.com.

Amy Rhodes, J.C. Devore, Eric Pliner (all '97) & Travis Bellicchi('00) are appearing in Spooked, the renamed Scooby Doo Show and opened Off-Broadway, playing Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 p.m. (extended to February 24). Travis has just left the cast to go to Vienna to rehearse an as ensemble member of a big international musical opening in Munich for a two year tour.

Chris Romano ('79) completed his Masters of Science in Management, concentrating in Information Systems, from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. Job offers can reach him at 73 Broad Reach, T95C, N. Weymouth, MA 02191. E-mail to cromano34@yahoo.com.

Michael Shepley ('67) has moved to Maplewood, NJ. He's currently representing a two-hour PBS documentary about African American statesman and humanitarian Ralph Bunche. He is also working with author Frank McCourt. He plans on learning how to drive a stickshift, in relation to his role as administrator for Art Workshop International, an art and writing program based in Assisi, Italy. E-mail Mike at meshepley@aol.com.

Peter Silbert ('69) just closed his 130th Equity production. After 26 years he counted them up for the first time. In October he did The Odd Couple at A Contemporary Theatre in Seattle followed by Anything Goes with Bronson Pinchot and three time Tony nominee Dee Hoty, at the 5th Avenue Theatre. He'll be doing Spinning Into Butter at Seattle Rep followed in April by Gypsy back at the 5th Avenue. After that he hopes to do another show at ACT and then the first half of the season at Milwaukee Rep, where he has done 30 shows since 1983.

Magda Spasiano, ('96) lives in Brookline, MA. In June of 2000 she started working as the Teen Program Coordinator at the Boston Center for the Arts in the South End. She works with inner city kids from the different neighborhoods around Boston. According to her, "It's a wonderful job. This spring my youth will be writing and performing their own theatre piece, with a full production going up in May."

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

Name: 

Address: 

News: 

Send to Chris Romano, 73 Broadreach, T95C, N. Weymouth, MA 02191 or Department of Drama & Dance, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155. E-mail: cromano34@yahoo.com.
Dave Stevens ('58) was 3P's President 1957-58, and is a United Methodist Minister in Glendale, NY. He has an MRE in Christian Education and Drama from Vision Theological Seminary in New York. For the past three decades he has directed numerous plays and musicals in the metro New York area. Recently he formed The Jubilee Cluster United Methodist Players, comprised of seven churches in Queens, and returned to the stage as Erronius in their production of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.

Lolly Su (‘72) reports her first play, Gone to L.A. was done by Hampstead Theatre last spring. Her second, The Perfect Truth is due to go to the West End this year. She just turned a third, Ice Out at the Big Dog, to the Hampstead. Big news is Showtime Television wants to do Gone to L.A. with Helen Mirren. Lolly continues her acting career as well. She was at the Donmar Warehouse last summer in Orpheus Descending, with Mirren, and starts rehearsals for the takeover cast of The Graduate in the West End, with Amanda Donohoe playing Mrs. Robinson. She is grateful for “the flurry of activity in my life these days. There can indeed be ‘life after breast cancer’.”

Eric Valliere ('91) received his Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from the New England Conservatory in May, 2000. He and his partner Michael Hinchcliffe will be living in San Francisco, and can be reached at ericv2000@hotmail.com.

Aury Wallington (‘91) is a script coordinator for Darren Star, doing revisions on “Sex and the City” and The Street.” She has also created an animated on-line series called “Issue Girl,” and recently won a short story contest held by MTV. She lives in Manhattan and can be reached at AuryW@aol.com.

Debra (Goldberg) Weiland (‘81) was married in November 1999 and is a sales representative for Shaw Industries, a manufacturer of commercial and residential carpet. She enjoys working with architects and interior designers, thereby satisfying the creative side of the brain.

Stephanie Weiss (‘97) will be singing Violetta in La Traviata at the University of Missouri-Kansas City where she is working on her Master's in Voice Performance. She is in the chorus at the Lyric Opera of Kansas City where she recently sung in Madama Butterfly and will be performing in a new Macbeth.

Arun Venkataraman (‘95) is now Law Clerk to Judge Jane A. Restani of the U.S. Court of Int'l Trade.

Steven Yakutis (‘81) graduated from Emerson College with a M.A. in Theatre Education in May of 1999. He is now in his second year at Emerson as a part-time faculty member teaching Acting, auditioning prospective students for the B.F.A. programs in Acting and Musical Theatre, and helping to administer the audition process. In April he will be involved in the Emerson Playwrights’ Festival, selecting and directing one of the winning entries. He has also taught senior level Speech at the Boston Conservatory.