A Ballou to Broadway honorees (l-r): Rob Burnett, Dan Hedaya, Meredith Vieira, Donald Byrd, and Mary Louise Geiger show off their trunks.

More than 140 Tufts alumni and friends turned out on May 8 for "From Ballou to Broadway," a celebration honoring alumni with outstanding careers in the entertainment industry.

Tufts graduates receiving the P. T. Barnum Award for Excellence in Entertainment were Rob Burnett (A84), executive producer of the Late Show with David Letterman; Donald Byrd (A75), artistic director of the Spectrum Dance Theater of Seattle; Mary Louise Geiger (J79), lighting designer and associate professor of design at New York University's Tisch School; and actor Dan Hedaya (A62).

"The night was an unqualified success," said Drew Cohen (A90), a member of the New York Tufts Alliance organizing committee. "I am sure that we will need a bigger venue next year."

"Tufts graduates so many people who go on to do wonderful work in the media, entertainment, and theater fields," said Barbara Grossman (G84), chair of the Department of Drama and Dance, which hosted a reception prior to the main event. "This is one way of shining light on their accomplishments."

Held at Feinstein's at the Regency in New York, "Ballou to Broadway" was introduced by Meredith Vieira (J75), former host of The View and Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, and new co-host of NBC's Today Show.

"Though each of the four has done something very different, they have each been recognized by their peers, and by their fans, as among the most accomplished in what they do," she said.

A short film about each honoree preceded Vieira's presentation of an engraved elephant trophy to each recipient.

But before the evening was over, Julie Dobrow, director of Communications and Media Studies at Tufts, also awarded one more Jumbo—to Vieira. "Meredith, we know that you have a whole case full of Emmys and other awards, but probably none with tusk!"

The P. T. Barnum Awards are the brainchild of the Los Angeles Tufts Alliance's "Hill to Hollywood" network.

"We wanted to raise the profile of Tufts alumni in the entertainment industry, support the creative and professional development of alumni in this field, and provide opportunities for social and career networking," said Andrea Gall Schmitt (J90), president of the Los Angeles Tufts Alliance, a chapter of the Tufts University Alumni Association.

This past November, Amisha Patel (J97), a rising Bollywood star, received a special P. T. Barnum Award in India. "Ballou to Broadway" was organized by the New York Tufts Alliance, a chapter of the Tufts University Alumni Association, the Communications and Media Studies Program, and the Department of Drama and Dance.

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A The Ballou to Broadway honorees had a chance to share some of their experiences with the attendees and reflect on their years at Tufts.

in this issue

- Exploring the Chinese stage
- Remembering Kal Burnim
- More alumni and faculty news!
From the Chair...

Dear Alumni and Friends of Drama and Dance at Tufts,
Since the last edition of this newsletter, we've lost another esteemed colleague. On July 30, 2006, Professor Kalman A. Burnim (A50), a former department chair and director of our graduate program, died of a stroke. (A memorial tribute appears elsewhere in this issue.) On a less tragic note, Judy Staicer has embarked on a career in architectural lighting after many years on our faculty as lighting and set designer. Virginia Johnson, our gifted costume designer and former head of design, will be leaving our department at the end of this academic year to pursue other opportunities. We're currently conducting searches for both positions, as well as for a specialist in African-American, African, and/or Afro-Caribbean theatre, and hope to have three exciting new hires at the start of the 2007-2008 academic year.

Our part of the campus has also been in transition. A beautiful new dormitory, Sophia Gordon Hall, opened this fall across the street from the Aidekman Arts Center. The parking lot next to our building has given way to a magnificent new music building, scheduled to open in January. Project also includes the long-overdue renovation of Cohen basement. Although most of the space now belongs to Music, Drama has a lovely new seminar room, acting classroom (where the former Music Library was), and two new offices. Thanks go to Rita Dioguardi and Joanne Barnett, who heroically kept our department and children's programs running this summer, when the construction was at its invasive peak.

We had a wonderful 2005-06 season of departmental majors beginning with Sheriden Thomas' modernistic take on The School for Scandal in October. Don Weingust directed a striking Fifth of July in February, with Claire Conceison's innovative Heads, or Tails?, a play by Meng Jinghui in its English-language world premiere, in April. This season opened with Laurence Senelick's deeply affecting production of Chekhov's The Seagull, which he also translated. Downing Cless will direct Rain, Some Fish, No Elephants, a futuristic comedy by Y York, in February, while I'll bring Sondheim's Company to the Arena in April.

Our classes -- a mix of familiar offerings and exciting new courses (such as Downing's Political Theatre, Laurence's Cabaret class, and Playwriting I with guest artist Laura Harrington) -- continue to draw well. Our students are engaged and involved in a number of projects including "Play by Play," a festival of student work, produced by Bare Bodkin in conjunction with Harrington's class, scheduled for the end of this semester.

We remain committed to Alumni outreach. In addition to working on "From Ballou to Broadway," I traveled to Los Angeles in January to meet with Drama and Dance alums at an event sponsored by the L.A. Tufts Alliance and hosted by Jan and Saul Berman, parents of Ashley (A06). One of the tangible results of that trip was the creation of two internships in television production for Tufts students this past summer at Reveille, Inc. (a subsidiary of Universal Studios), a company headed by alum Ben Silverman. I hope to do more traveling for Tufts as soon as I finish my book! It's gratifying to see so many of our alumni thriving both personally and professionally.

Keep sending us your news! As always, if any of you are interested in finding more substantive ways to engage with the department, I'd love to explore them with you.

Best wishes,
Barbara W. Grossman, Chair

Asian Influence:

When she came to Tufts in 2004 and was asked which productions she envisioned bringing to campus, Assistant Professor of Drama Claire Conceison says "one of the first things I thought of was how exciting it would be to introduce the work of Meng Jinghui to Boston audiences and to Tufts audiences."

As director of last season's production Heads or Tails? she got that chance. And not only was it the English-language debut for the play, but it was the first time that Meng, a major force in contemporary Chinese dramatic theatre, has allowed it to be directed by someone other than himself and performed by college students.

That's a lot of firsts. But breaking new ground is nothing new for Meng, a director of the National Theatre Company of China and a longtime friend and colleague of Conceison's.

"Meng is by far the most important and controversial figure in theatre in China today," she says. "He has his finger on the pulse of these rapid social and cultural and economic changes happening in his country."

And Heads or Tails? is no exception to those influences. The play is what Conceison calls a "quirky, experimental, non-linear, uneven piece," touching on the nature of relationships, communication and identity.

"The play taken as a whole is more like a puzzle," she explains. "There are several characters but there are lots of roles the actors jump in and out of."

"The director's vision is really important to have in place, but with that vision I'm very open to the creative impulses of everyone involved with the production," she explains. "It takes a team of actors creating really original work together with the director to make all these characters and situations come to life."

But while Conceison, an expert on contemporary Chinese theatre, says that Meng was a huge influence on her, she says her production of Heads or Tails? stands alone.

"The most 'Meng way' to do this play was to make it our own, to create with our actors a new concept of it," she says.

In a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the student actors and designers, Meng Jinghui himself visited Boston, not only to watch the performance but also to participate in a series of events at Tufts, including a film screening and discussion of contemporary Chinese theatre.

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Vicky Abrash (J81) teaches dramaturgy and other theatre courses at the New School’s Lang College and NYU’s Playwrights Horizons Theatre School, coordinates the National Performing Arts Convention, which will bring 5,000 people from all performance disciplines together in 2008, writes study guides for Lincoln Center Theater, and is a freelance dramaturg.

Ari Ackerman (A97) has found a home at Playbill Magazine, providing promotional opportunities to Broadway and off-Broadway shows as well as classical music, opera, and dance performances around the world. As Director of Sales for Playbill.com and Playbillarts.com, Ari helps offer avid theatre-goers discounts and special access to their favorite events in New York, nationwide, and in London.

Crit Baker (A84) and Nancy Hicknott Baker have lived in Pittsburgh for the last 4 years. Nancy is teaching at the University of Pittsburgh in the Occupational Therapy Department and Crit is the Facilities Coordinator for a local public school district. He is responsible for maintaining all the school buildings including an 8,000 seat football stadium but enjoys upgrading the high school stage equipment more.

Bethany (Berg) Knox (J98) is currently a Partner and Casting Director at Telsey and Company, the largest casting office in New York City. She is casting several Broadway musical productions, including The Drowsy Chaperone, The Color Purple, Company, Wicked, Hairspray, Rent, The Wedding Singer, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels and Tarzan.

Joel Bishoff (A83) is about to celebrate 10 years of his and Jon Pollard’s production of I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change in New York. He has also been directing a Japanese production of Annie, and is also about to direct I Love You... in Shanghai in the first-ever Chinese-produced commercial production in the country’s history.

Seth Blum (A90) lives in Raleigh, NC. He is a partner practicing criminal defense and immigration law with Kurtz & Blum. This year he appeared as Hamlet in a production in Durham, NC, but is most proud of a production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream which starred his bride, Rebecca, and featured their dog Kevin, and 11-month-old daughter, Eowyn.

Ann Blumenstock (J02) has returned to London after falling in love with the city nearly five years ago while training at BADA during her spring semester abroad. This time around it’s work with a public relations agency that brings her to Europe, but she uses every chance she gets to travel and take advantage of the London theatre scene.

Alvin Bojar (A50) was invited in late March to speak on “Nanotechnology and Agriculture” in New Delhi, after which he met with India’s President Kalam to talk about his colloidal plant tonic, Nano Green, which has been successful in increasing rice production in Thailand by up to 25%.

Judy Bowman (J92) recently cast a play version of Win Wenders’ Wings of Desire which will tour Europe and play at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge with Dutch and American actors. Film casting includes: Body Antibody (independent) and New York casting for Something’s Gotta Give and Mean Girls. Judy is the Resident Casting Director for INTAR, New York’s premiere Latin-American theater company, and is currently casting Night over Taoos, directed by Estelle Parsons.

Chris Brown (A91) writes: “I have been busy art directing unsuccessful films and television shows. In the last 12 months I have done time on Head Cases for Fox, Threshold for CBS, E-Ring for NBC/Bruckheimer, and Used Guys for Fox Features—all projects unloved by either an audience, a studio or both. Currently, I am starting up a new fall show for Fox called Vanished. Nettie Brown is 5-and-a-half and just lost her first tooth. Her sister Amelia is 2 and (lord help us) has learned how to ride a razor scooter.”

Luke Brown (A06) started his M.F.A. study in Costume Design at Yale University this fall. He designed Gorilla Man for Boston Theatre Works at the Boston Center for the Arts last April.

Garnett Bruce (A89) finished up a summer with Aspen Music Festival and School (Opera Faculty) and Santa Fe Opera (Staging Staff) and getting ready for fall productions which include his directorial debut at Lyric Opera of Chicago with Turandot, followed by Pagliacci for Pittsburg Opera and his Canadian debut at Vancouver Opera directing Verdi’s Macbeth. Garnett has also joined the faculty at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and will direct The Tales of Hoffman for them in the spring.

Ellen Bry (J73) guest-starred on an episode of TNT’s The Closer with Kyra Sedgwick and plays the role of Keri Russell’s mother in the film Mission: Impossible III.

Janet Buchwald (J73) has been working with author Anita Diamant on The Mikveh Monologues, a play with music that celebrates traditional and new uses of the Jewish ritual bath. They have co-written two versions, each with different monologues based on interviews with and writings by people who have used the mikveh for everything from conversion to healing to marking important life passages. She has directed three local productions with casts including Annette Miller, Susan Wornick, and Ted Reinstein among other local actors. “During the coming months,” she writes, “we hope to take the show on the road using local performers around the country in an effort to raise awareness of this valuable spiritual possibility.” She has also worked as a cantorial soloist in the Boston area, most recently at MIT Hillel. Janet and husband Joel Moskowitz own a frame shop and art gallery in Sudbury and have two grown children.

Peter Byrne (A74) is an investigative reporter based in Northern California. His articles appear in Mother Jones, The Nation, Scientific American, Salon.com and many alternative weekly newspapers. Peter and Stacey Evans totally enjoy being with their four-year-old son, Miles Patrick.

Steven Calcote (A95) serves as Executive Producer for Menford Electronic Art, a Hong Kong-based Visual Effects and Animation house. He has recently created the animated version of Tokyopop’s Manga Midnight Opera and serves as its writer and producer, as well as director of L.A. voice talent. Upcoming projects include a feature-length anime anthology and additional cartoons in the Tokyopop library. He currently shuttles back and forth between Hong Kong and Los Angeles.

John Campbell (A77) is married with one son who is starting school at University of Delaware. He lives in Newton, MA, and works as director of publications and media relations for Mercer Management Consulting.

Rich Canzano (A97) got married last summer in Barnstable on Cape Cod to Brean, a wonderful woman from Minnesota. His last acting gig was a great production of Awake and Sing at Arena Stage in D.C. with Robert Prosky.
Michael Champlin (A90) works for the educational outreach program through Theatreworx in Palo Alto, traveling around to schools in the area and bringing theater games and exercises into the classrooms. He describes it as “a very process-oriented program, so the emphasis is more on participation by all and freedom of creativity rather than on polished final performance. The shows, however, are incredible, and the kids (ages 6-16) all treat it as if they were making their Broadway debut! It’s an absolute blast!”

Robertson Dean (A76) won favorable reviews as the family patriarch Jamie O’Shea in the new play Family Butchers by Edna O’Brien at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco.

Andrea Dishy (J84) writes: “After 10 years with Creative Arts Team, an educational theatre company now in residence at City University of New York (CUNY), I decided to take a break from full-time work to begin as a consultant in the field. My colleague and I used to run the Early Learning Program at CAT, and so now we consult mostly with teachers and teaching artists and students of this age group or older. We develop and lead training workshops on using drama as a teaching tool to help build curriculum-based knowledge and skills and as well as to enhance social development. One area of particular interest and concern for us is health and wellness and the obesity epidemic has caught our attention. We are currently working with established medical/psych folk to use drama-based methods to help address this issue for younger populations in schools. On a personal note I’m living in both New York and Montreal with my sweetie Maxime who is French Canadian. Good thing 1 was a French and drama major at Tufs—it’s all coming in handy now.”

Barry Edelstine (A86) directed Joshua Sobol’s iWitness at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, where it ran from March to May 2006. He also made a short film and has written a book about acting Shakespeare, which is about to appear. He and his wife have bought a house in the desert near Joshua Tree National Park.

Isabel Hoff Edgell (J81) Just completed another triathlon in the beautiful woods and lakes of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. She is working as an independent contractor doing wellness (Holistic Nursing assessment, fitness and nutritional planning, mind/body work, Pilates instruction) and will resume her position as the Director of Community Service at North Star Academy in the fall where she coordinates student placements in the nonprofit sector.

Jennifer Farrell (A04) is currently on faculty at the Boston Conservatory, Emerson College and Suffolk University, teaching jazz and tap dance.

Brian Finkelstein (A01) is a second-year law student at Georgetown University. In August 2006, he successfully managed to attend the Los Angeles premiere of the year’s most anticipated film, Snakes On A Plane, thanks to the unprecedented popularity of his web site SnakesOnABlog.com.

Jessica Fisch (A06) is the New York Theatre Workshop fall artistic intern and put up a short play at Theatre Studio Inc. in early September.

Preston Foerder (A81) premiered a new puppetry piece called Loners in Brookline, MA in 2003 and in New York in 2004. He also received for the second time the UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellence in the Art of Puppetry, the highest award in the field. Last year, he received an M.A. in animal behavior and conservation from Hunter College and presented a paper on training barramundi fish at the Animal Behavior Management Alliance conference in Houston. This fall, Preston will be returning to school, going for a Ph.D. in Biophysics at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Marc Frost (A05) recently directed his senior thesis play The Churchyard Motel, co-produced with fellow Tufts alum Ellie Levine (J05), at the Cambridge YMCA. A portion of the proceeds were donated to Rosie’s Place, a Boston shelter for disadvantaged women. He has also acted with the Rough & Tumble Theater Co. and the Boston Actors’ Theater as well as directed for Another Country Productions’ SLAMBoston Festivals. He spent the summer working with Brian Milauskas (A86) at his children’s performing arts camp Kidstock.

Andrea Gallo (J80) has had a number of regional theater roles in the past year, including Italian American Reconciliation and a new play, Tilt Angel at NJ Rep. She just finished working on a short film called The Query. Andrea is a frequent narrator of books-on-tape and also provide narration for museum audio tours around the country.

Gio Gaynor (A03) and some friends have put together a sketch and variety show called The Big Things for public access cable television in New York.

Mary Louise Geiger (J79) designed her first Broadway show, The Constant Wife, at the Roundabout and also her first big opera, The Grand Duchess (Offenbach), directed by Garry Marshall at LA Opera. She has designed, among others, The Pillowman and The Underpants at ACT Theatre in Seattle, The Busy World is Hushed, a world premiere at Playwrights Horizons, and a world premiere opera about Nicola Tesla called Violet Fire in Belgrade.

David Gelles (A99) has transitioned from assisting Katie Couric to producing political stories for The Today Show.

Bethany Gladhill (J89) is the Managing Director for Nautilus Music Theater in Minnesota. She married Patrick Rhone in June, adding two teenage stepsons and a pug to her life.

Michaela “Mickey” Goldhaber (J93) is co-Artistic Director of Flying Fig Theater in New York City, for which she recently directed the New York premiere of the Civil War reenactment comedy Shiloh Rules by Doris Baizley. Flying Fig is dedicated to producing compelling theatrical stories about women’s lives through commissioning new plays by contemporary playwrights and rediscovering plays from the past. Mickey is also Associate Development Director at New York Theatre Workshop, where she is helping to develop an education program and renovate a building.

Jeremy Goldstein (A01) recently joined the staff of ArtsBoston as Advance Ticketing Manager, in charge of marketing and web sales. In January of 2006 he completed his M.A. in playwriting from the Boston Playwright’s Theatre at B.U., and saw his 10-minute play Bossy and Jelly performed during the 2006 Boston Theatre Marathon last May. Jeremy lives in Somerville and fastidiously (some say obsessively) collects alumni news for In the Round. Keep it coming!

Jeff Greenstein (A84) has become a project developer for Disney after finishing his stint as Executive Director of Will and Grace.

Jonathan Hadary (A72) performed in the comic Intolerable Cruelty with George Clooney and Catherine Zeta-Jones, as the concierge Baron Kratzus von Espy. He also appeared in A Time to Kill and Private Parts and in the soap opera Guiding Light.

Christina Hanson (A05) recently directed a production of The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told by Paul Rudnick at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Katharine Higgins (A05) starred in her first feature film, Dough Boys, filmed in New York. She was also the Wardrobe Production Assistant on the feature film Stiffs starring Danny Aiello and Jon Polito.

Melissa Holman (J03) teaches 2nd grade in Newton and performs weekly with ImprovBoston. She also co-directs and per-
forms with two other improv troupes. Up With Family! and Wrong Kind Of Funny. Robert Lee Hotz (G73) has been appointed a Distinguished Writer in Residence at NYU. He's still a staff science writer for the LA Times.

Anastasia Kousakis (J01) is working for SenArt Films, an independent film production company in NYC. SenArt's new film, The War Tapes, just won Best Documentary Feature at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Bob Krakover (A81) is in post on a movie he's written called The Death and Life of Bobby Z with Laurence Fishburne and Paul Walker. He has also directed the sitcom Reba and What I Like About You and continues to coach on shows (Lucky Louie on HBO, among others) and still loves teaching.

Marianne Kubik (J89, J91) currently heads the movement division of the University of Virginia's Department of Drama, where she teaches classes in movement, mask, stage combat, period dance, and Meyerhold's biomechanics in the graduate and undergraduate programs. The focus of her recent creative work has been on original and physical theatre and film.

Kate Levy (J82) is starting a national tour of On Golden Pond with Michael Learned and Tom Bosley.

Andrea Cavallaro Lynch (J90) is now the Senior Sales Manager, Educational Markets, for Harcourt Trade Publishers in San Diego. Though not on stage anymore, much of the acting experience helps her when presenting the books. “Further,” she writes, “my husband and I enjoy the dramatic roles played by our small children, Christopher 6, and Joanna 3.”

Deane Madsen (A03) lives in L.A. and is currently working as a stand-in on the movie Super Bad by Seth Rogen (of The 40-Year-Old Virgin.)

Caitlin McGarty (A05) has recently secured a job at TheatreWorks as the Casting and Company Management Assistant.

Victor J. Medina (A97) lives in Robbinsville, NJ with his wife and two sons (Aidan, 3, and Lucas, 2 weeks). Victor is currently the managing partner of a boutique law firm, Medina, Martinez & Castroll near Princeton, NJ, specializing in school/education law. In lawyerly fashion, he's used all 50 words allotted for this space.

Stephen Q. Mitchell, JD (A83), his wife, Gina, and their three children Lauren, 11, Spencer, 10, and Eden, 5, moved to South Florida two years ago. He is currently the Admissions Officer for the Miramar, Florida campus of Keller Graduate School of Management of DeVry University. Little Eden just started Kindergarten and all three children are now in the same elementary school. Stephen continues to be involved with Tufis as an alumni interviewer of local high school seniors who apply but can't get to Medford for an on-campus interview. He also stays involved with his dramatic roots by acting in and writing plays for the South Florida Church of Christ. Classmates and friends visiting the Miami/Lauderdale area should feel free to look him up!

Donald Morgan (A50) keeps busy despite being 81 years old, having recently published another book, Keeping Your Spirit Up in Down Times, mentoring pastors and keeping some speaking occasions. He lives in two locations, Pittsfield, VT, and Rocky Hill, CT, six months in each.

David Nathanielsz (A95) and Heidi Crocker Nathanielsz (J96) have relocated to Albany after spending the last five years in Boston. Their current creative outlet is entertaining their two boys, Oliver, who is two and a half, and Graham, who is four months old. David is an executive producer at a video game developer owned by Activision, and Heidi is taking a hiatus from the education world to be home with the kids. While in Boston they wrote and performed two sketch comedy shows with fellow Cheap Sox-er Daniel Copland-Newfield, and we're back on campus for the 20th Anniversary Show of Cheap Sox in October.

Janet Neipris (J57) is chair of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts Drama Writing Program. She has published To Be A Playwright (Theatre Arts Books).

Eric Pliner (A97) just finished directing stand-up comedian Ophira Eisenberg in her one-woman show Vanilla Mistress at the 5-Lounge at the Daryl Roth Theater in New York and was recently appointed Director of the New York City Department of Education's new citywide Youth Development Resource Center.

Andrew Polk (A84) played the entire Bush administration in Gip Hoppe's political satire A New War at the Long Wharf Theatre and then stayed on at Long Wharf to eat a lot of dog food in Dario Fo's We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay! He also just finished his 12th Season as Artistic Director of The Cape Cod Theatre Project, which developed the newest plays by Jimmy Breslin and Adam Rapp, among others. He is in the new movie directed by Kevin Bacon, Loverboy, and will be in State of the Union at the Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Judith Pratt (J67) had her play Gaslit performed as part of the Dragonfly Festival at the Devanaught Theatre in Boston. In June, she traveled to Omaha, NE to hear her play Spiral-ling read at Edward Albee's Great Plains Theatre Conference.

George Rausch (A05) played the role of navy man George Sirian at the USS Constitution Museum during Boston's Harbor Fest 2006. He is now looking to move to New York City to pursue a career in the entertainment field. He spoke the narration for the documentary film shown at the From Ballou to Broadway awards.

Brenden Rhett (J96) and her husband moved back to New York in June after 6 years overseas in Tokyo and London. Though sad to have left London, Brenden looks forward to re-connecting with Tufis friends back in the States.

Cindy Rosenthal (J76), Associate Professor Hofstra University, Drama and Dance, recently contributed the cover story, "Ellen Stewart: La Mama of Us All" to The Drama Review, Summer 2006. The article has been translated into Italian and was published in Venice in July, 2006. Cindy presented her work on Stewart at the IFTR Conference in Helsinki in August where she raised a glass to Tufis comrades with Professor Laurence Senelick.

Andy Roth (A01) voiced a character in the PlayStation 2 game King of Fighters 2006. He lives in New York.

Brette Rothfield (A00) recently wed Katie Smith (J00) on August 5th, 2006, in Northeast Harbor, Maine. Joshua Gates (A99) was the co-Best Man, Julie “Azalea” Otis (J00) was a Bridesmaid, and Irina Kogan Frenkel (J00) was a Greeter. Brette is now the Business Manager of Alexander Montessori School in Miami, FL, and Katie is an Interior Designer at the Miami branch of Gettys, a Chicago-based hospitality design firm.

Stephanie Routman (J92) finished her first year as Assistant Professor of Theatre at Georgia Southern University. Last year, in addition to teaching, she directed main stage productions of The Chairs (at Aulais, A Piece of My Heart, and Wiley and the Hairy Man. She also produced a student-written and student-directed 10-minute play festival and was one of several directors and instructors for an International Arts Academy made up of students from England and Georgia. This year she'll be directing King Stag and the Southeastern premiere of Constance Condgon's new play, Automata Pietro.

Emily Rufio (J05) has retreated to Montana for a year to do AmeriCorps in the state's capital, Helena. She's excited to have recently been cast as Belle in O'Neill's Ah, Wilderness! at Helena's Grandstreet Theater.
Rebecca Russell (J01) is currently living in Los Angeles with her new husband and just completed a Masters in Education at Pepperdine University. She will begin teaching 4th grade in the fall and keeps up her creative side by singing with the professional octet EQ8.

Greg Skura (A93) just received great reviews for his role in LOL, a dark comedy which played to a nearly sold-out run at this year's Midtown International Theatre Festival in NYC. He will also be appearing this fall in Largo Desolato at the Havel Festival, helping to celebrate the life and art of Vaclav Havel.

Andrew Smaha (A99) has been developing shows and attractions for the theme park industry since 2001, most recently as a Production Manager with the Anheuser-Busch Entertainment Corporation. Current work has been focused on developing Halloween productions for Busch Gardens Williamsburg and the Shamu Believe production at SeaWorld Orlando, where he now resides. He married Emily Kirton, a fellow theme park manager, on April 29th of this year.

Catherine Arnott Smith (J81) got her Ph.D. in medical informatics from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002 and in June 2006 moved from Syracuse University's School of Information Studies to the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies. She finds her theatrical upbringing to be unbelievably useful in the classroom. Her husband Mark is a classical musician (and fortunately) very portable, as is 12-year-old Simon.

Adam Stahl (A04) is now the Technical Director for the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey.

Robert Sterrin (A77) and Prudence Fraser (J77) write: With The Nanny playing in syndication worldwide, we have returned to our first love, theater. We have written the book and lyrics of a new musical, The Girl Who Would Be King, with music by Hall of Fame songwriter Jeff Barry. We recently had a successful run at Riverside Theater in Vero Beach, Florida and are looking for our next production.

Richard Stoddard (A67) closed his bookshop in New York after 25 years of buying and selling out-of-print books and collectibles relating to the performing arts. But he carries on the business out of a home office and he has more time now to do appraisals of gifts to libraries.

Betsy Stowell (J78) is putting her theater degree to work by helping out at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School in Hamilton, MA. Both of her children are active in the theater program and Betsy lends a hand as a house manager/adult on deck/seamstress. She also enjoys being a parent volunteer when the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild One-Act competitions are hosted by the school and says “the level of talent exhibited at these competitions is amazing!”

Pat Tiedemann (Hofmann) (J82) announces, with husband Chris, the arrival of their son, William Christopher Hofmann, born on July 31. Their other “baby,” TimeLine Theatre Company in Chicago, is going strong at 10 years old! “We couldn’t be prouder parents!”

Nathan Todd (A06) has worked as a production assistant at the Summer Play Festival in New York. He has also formed a smaller theater company with some fellow Tufts alums.

Chris Vasquez (A91) continues to perform in New York. Most of his work lately has been in commercials but he has also made a name for himself singing tangoos. He was awarded best singer by the Argentine Consulate during their International Tango Competition, an honor he is very proud of, especially since he won it on what is regarded as “their soil.” This November he is traveling down to Buenos Aires for several months to study the tango music repertoire and to sing these tangos as well as some American songs.

Kalinda Vazquez (J01) is currently working as a writer’s assistant on the Fox show Prison Break, where she keeps track of character arcs, storylines, proof scripts, and writes copy for any newscaster on a TV in the TV show—among other things. She is also currently working on her own projects, and hopes to become a paid, full fledged writer soon.

Kathryn Vaughan (J95) has been living in L.A. for the past 7 years, working in sports and reality television. She is currently the Producer of ABC’s Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, where she is fortunate enough to travel across the country meeting incredible families. She is also thrilled to have served as the Maid of Honor in Julie Nathanson (J95) May nuptials!

Justin Waldman (A00) will direct Brendan, a new play by Ronan Noone, for the Boston University College of Fine Arts this fall. He also works as the Artistic Associate for the Huntington Theatre Company.

Aury Wallington (J91) is a writer on the new Fox mid-season drama Wedding Album. Her novel, Pop!, is being published this October by Penguin/Razorbill Books.

Kens Watt (A81) married the lovely butoh dancer Tanya Calamoneri last December. He is beginning the Ph.D. program in theatre at CUNY and beginning a new production of Chuck Mee’s Gone, to be presented at the 59E59 theatre center in New York. He also has begun a new job as managing director of the Brooklyn-based performance collective Radiohole. Kens has been an NEA/TCG Directing fellow, a TCG/PEW Charitable Trust National Theatre Artist and the founding artistic director of the Fifth Floor. He also has a new play under commission at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco.

Stephanie Weiss (J97) spent the summer in Vendome, France singing Fiordiligi in Così fan tutte. This past season, she made her debut with Oper Frankfurt as Musetta in La Bohème and at the Berliner Staatsoper Unter den Linden as First Lady in The Magic Flute. She also returned to the Deutsche Oper Berlin for several operas, including a premiere production of Il Trittico staged by Katharina Wagner, the great-granddaughter of Richard Wagner.

Philip White (A00) recently completed the score to his first feature film and is working as an assistant to two film composers. For Megan Cavallari, he worked on the musical arrangements for a new animated series based on the Eloise books. He also recently returned from Bratislava, Slovakia, where he assisted Christopher Lennertz in the recording of a game score with a 90-piece orchestra. He lives in Venice, CA, with his love, Riza, and their two Russian blue cats.

Barry Witham (A61) was keynote speaker for a national symposium on the WPA Arts programs in Seattle in May, 2006. His recent book, The Federal Theatre: A Case Study was designated an “outstanding academic title” by Choice magazine. He continues as Professor of Drama at the University of Washington.

Steven Yakutis (A81) is still teaching at Emerson (acting and directing primarily) as well as directing Richard Wilbur’s translation of Moliere’s The Misanthrope this fall. He writes: “Four years ago, my husband and I adopted 2 brothers from Cambodia: Sokra (now 10) and Mey (now 6). They are wonderful, energetic and fun! We’re exhausted!”

Mara Youdelman (J91) is a staff attorney at the National Health Law Program in Washington, D.C. working on Medicaid and civil rights issues. While not currently involved in theater, her 15-month-old son Jake is providing more than enough drama for her and husband Brian right now!
Dance News

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Dance Program has a newly renovated Lab space. A permanent wall now divides Jackson Gym, with the refurbished Dance Lab on the other side of the gym (just off the corridor). The space contains mirrors, a prung floor, stage curtains and lighting—all ringing the facilities up to par with those of many peer institutions. Program highlights this semester include the Parents’ Weekend Class Collage, “99 Moves,” and the Performance Ensemble’s December appearance under the direction of faculty member and choreographer Daniel McCusker. In addition to Dance Program classes and events, hundreds of extracurricular dancers now use the Lab, and a co-curricular teaching group offers non-credit classes. The two dance spaces in Jackson are alive with activity!

Faculty News

Assistant Professor Claire Concier was chosen this year as a Scholar-in-Residence for the summer Tufts program in Talloires. Among her research activities was to travel to Paris to interview Gao Xingjian, an avant-garde playwright, novelist, essayist, and painter who was exiled from China in the late 1980’s and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2000.

In Memoriam

Prof. Kalman Burnim
1928 - 2006

Professor Kalman Aaron Burnim died on July 30 of a stroke. He was born in 1928 and grew up in Revere, MA. On graduating from high school, he was drafted and served in Occupied Japan on General MacArthur’s staff. As an undergraduate at Tufts, on the GI bill he earned a B.A. degree in drama in 1950, where he worked closely with the department’s founder Marston Balch. Burnim entered the doctoral program in theatre studies at Yale, obtaining a Ph.D. under the illustrious emigre theatre historian, Alois Nagler.

Burnim returned to Tufts in 1960. He was made a full professor of drama in 1965 and became the first Fletcher Professor of Drama and Oratory in 1971. He served as a superlative chairman from 1966 to 1975, founding the Ph.D. program in drama and co-founding the junior year abroad in Tufts-in-London for English and Drama majors. He then served as Director of Graduate Studies until his retirement in 1987.

After his retirement, Prof. Burnim remained active as a scholar. He was made an honorary member of the Garrick Club in London for his catalogues of its theatrical paintings and porcelain figures. He was particularly proud to have been introduced to the Queen.

He leaves his wife, Verna, as well as two daughters and a son, several grand-children and great-grand-children.
Balch Arena Theater 2006-2007 Season

The Seagull
by Anton Chekhov
Translated and Directed by Laurence Senelick
October 26 — November 4

Rain. Some Fish. No Elephants.
by Y York
Directed by Downing Cless
February 15 — 24

Company
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by George Furth
Directed by Barbara W. Grossman
April 19 — 28

Tickets available for winter/spring!
617-627-3493