The Theatre Arts Management Shop at Catawba College Shuford School of Performing Arts Presents:

THE SPOTIGE

CATAWBA PHOUSE.
2300 Web COLLEGE Salisbury. NC 28114.

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THE EMAIL

PC ATREE.

As the weather cools down, things are heating up this season!

Editor: Sydney Berk smberk@catawba.edu

Assistant Editor: Verity Pryor-Harden vpryorha@catawba.edu

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS OCTOBER:

BLUE MASQUE HALL OF FAME

Learn about this year's inductees.

Continued on Page 2

UPCOMING PRODUCTION: CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Student director Maggie Truxell directs this year's first year showcase, telling the beloved children's story we all know.

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ALUMNI AND FACULTY COLLABORATE IN DIX

Written by Catawba's own Writer-in-Residence and directed, designed, and acted by theatre alumns, *Dix* moved Salisbury audiences.

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AWESOME ALUMNI!

Catawba alumns Carmen Bartlett and Robin Tynes tell *Spotlight* about their new theatre company, Three Bone Theatre. Learn how they started and about their upcoming production!

Continued on Page 7





Blue Masque Hall of Fame 2012 Inductees

As a part of celebrating this year's upcoming Homecoming weekend, on Friday, October 26, the Blue Masque Hall of Fame will honor four new inductees: John Bell (1976), Richard Stienert (1981), Mike Yionoulis (1988), and longtime Catawba theatre arts professor, Dayna Anderson.

The purpose of the Catawba College Blue Masque Hall of Fame is to recognize and perpetuate the noteworthy theatre tradition of Catawba College by honoring and memorializing individuals who have made outstanding contributions to this tradition. Inductees into the Hall of Fame must have either attended Catawba College as a full time student, been employed at Catawba as a full or part time faculty/staff member, or contributed to the success of the Blue Masque by performing outstanding service as a volunteer. The inducted individuals are recognized for their meritorious life in theatre.



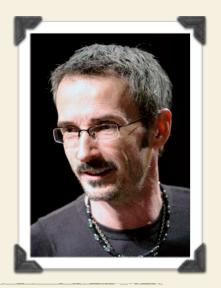


John Bell is currently the president and CEO of Tampa Theatre, Tampa Florida. A talented actor, as well as all-around theatre student while at Catawba, he is remembered for his strong performances in plays such as *The Birthday Party*, *Midsummer Nights Dream*, and *House of Blue Leaves*.

Upon graduation from Catawba, he was chosen as program coordinator for the North Carolina Arts Council in Raleigh, N.C. Three years later, he moved to Greensboro to become the managing director of The Carolina Theatre. Under his direction, this historic movie palace, built in 1927, was transformed into Greensboro's primary performing arts center. Bell was next selected, in 1985, for his current position at the Tampa Theatre, where he is responsible for the overall preservation, restoration, programming and direction of the 1926 1,446-seat historic theatre facility. Under Bell's leadership Tampa Theatre has received many awards and gained national attention. LIFE magazine listed Tampa Theatre as "One of America's 21 Wonders," Delta Sky Magazine recognized the theatre as one of the "Top Ten Iconic Show Places in the World," while USA Today called it "One of the Top Ten Places to Revel in Cinematic Grandeur." A national leader in theatre management and restoration, Bell is president-elect of the League of Historic American Theatres.

Richard Steinert is currently artistic director of Ballet Pensacola, Pensacola, Florida; on the University of West Florida dance faculty; and is scholar-in-residence at The Bishops School in La Jolla, California. Steinert's strong interest in dance, while still a theatre arts student at Catawba, helped influence the initiation of the department's musical theatre major soon after.

Since graduating from Catawba College, Steinert has served as director of Ballet Arkansas, director of Ballet Theatre in Hartford, Connecticut, and as a founding director of Connecticut Contemporary Ballet Theatre. His choreographic work on more than 30 original ballets was sanctioned by such funding organizations as the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Ford Foundation. He has held seats on the Board of Directors of the Midwestern Arts Alliance, the Alcoa National Choreographic Awards, and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to a seat on his Arts-In-Education Committee. Steinert's choreographic work is critically acclaimed for its innovation and collaborative blending of theatre and dance.



THE SPOTLIGHT

Mike Yionoulis is a composer and songwriter who works in film, television and theatre. Yionoulis first gained success as a composer while still a student at Catawba College with his rock musical *Oedipus Rox*, a contemporary musical theatre adaptation of *Oedipus Rex*. He also distinguished himself as one of Catawba's leading performers in productions such as *Pippin, West Side Story, A Chorus Line*, and *Hair*. Since graduation, his work as a composer and sound designer for theatre have included the New York premieres of *Three Days of Rain* at the Manhattan Theatre Club, *Everett Beekin* at Lincoln Center Theatre, *The Maiden's Prayer* at the Vineyard Theatre, as well as the critically acclaimed *Ohio State Murders*, which received the 2008 Lortel Award for Best Revival. He wrote the music and lyrics for *The King Stag* which premiered at the Yale Repertory Theatre, while his *Flights of Angels*, still in development, received a workshop production at New York's Second Stage, with an all-star cast including Brian D'Arcy James in the title role. Yionoulis' most recent work is *Redhand Guitar* which was a finalist for the Richard Rodgers Award and received a workshop production at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.





Professor Dayna Anderson has been with Catawba College's theatre arts department since 1981. A specialist in performance theory, Anderson has gained recognition for her work with actors who are just beginning their performance art, particularly women. Selected for post graduate study in acting, her experiences include study with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Theatre Association's Conference on Women in Theatre. Many other post graduate acting studies have been in the Alexander Technique. Anderson's long commitment to the Alexander Technique has lasted for twenty-five years, culminating with her recent graduation from the Alexander Alliance in Philadelphia and marking her as a teacher uniquely versed in both the American and British approaches to the Alexander Technique. Also a director, more than fifty percent of her productions have been at Catawba where she has offered students a wide and meaningful range of performance opportunities. Honored by Catawba College for her pedagogical skills and creative teaching she was awarded the Swink Award for Classroom Teaching.

Blue Masque Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Friday, October 26
7:30 pm, Student Talent Showcase
8:00 pm, Induction Ceremony
Hedrick Little Theatre
Reception to Follow
Tickets \$25
To reserve tickets, call the Catawba Alumni Office at
(704) 637-4394

First Year Showcase, Charlotte's Web

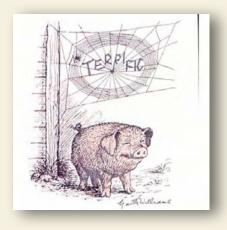
A JOURNEY OF GROWTH: FOR THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY AS WELL AS FOR THOSE WHO PORTRAY THEM

By Leanna Hicks

My name is Leanna Hicks, I play Charlotte in our upcoming production of *Charlotte's Web*. Ecstatic, honored, and humbled are just some of the words I use to express my feelings about being able to do this show. All my life I have always said that I want to play the lead in a production, and I do, but it can be hard. Leadership responsibilities come with the job along with memorizing your lines, other's lines, and blocking. Luckily, I have had so many people help me with this process. My directors Maggie Truxell and Joe Hernandez have helped me tremendously by believing in me and showing me different ways to make this role the best it can be!

I have seen the movies and read the book, but I never knew there was a play. So you can imagine when I heard that the first year showcase was Charlotte's Web, I was surprised and excited! I always saw Charlotte as a motherly type of character but found that this has been harder to play than I expected. Charlotte takes Wilbur in as her own child and fights to make sure he stays alive, while sacrificing herself. People usually place this play under "children's theatre"--and I agree with that--but this play also relates to adults. I am the oldest in my family and also the first to go to college, so my family and I went through some emotional events when sending me off. My mother was especially affected, because she had always been there to help me and show me how to be the woman I believe I am today. She is still there for me, but I'm on my own at college and that was difficult. While saving Wilbur's life, Charlotte also helps him to grow up. By the end of the play he is confident enough in himself to be on his own because of what Charlotte has taught him; and isn't that what all parents want? They want to know that their babies are going to be okay and hope that they, as parents, did a good job preparing their children for the world. While still staying in contact with them with the casual video chat or phone calls, parents need to know that their children will be safe and are ready to be on their own. Sounds like something all first years can relate to.

Along with being able to add another show to my resume and gain more experience, I have made such a close-knit family being involved in this production. It has been such a joy to immediately start my freshman year off working with such talented and dedicated people. From my fellow cast members to the costume and make-up designers, everyone has made this experience incredible for me! "It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer. Charlotte was both." I feel this quote embraces and explains the whole show in just a few words. The love not just between Charlotte and Wilbur, but all the characters makes this play one of the most heart-warming plays ever made. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll leave the theatre filled with more love for animals and a spider than you have ever felt before. Now sit back, relax and enjoy Charlotte's Web!



"The best part about this process is that you become closer to everyone that surrounds you. I personally have found that this production has been that perfect stepping stone into the theatre program that I know all of us have been through. I am very honored to be with such a talent-filled theatre department. This place has made my passion for performing so much greater than it has ever been before!"

- Martha Brucker, Cast Member

"Trust me, Wilbur. People are very gullible. They'll believe anything they see in print."

- E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

THE SPOTLIGHT

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A FRESHMAN SHOW AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

By Sydney Berk

The transition into a new school can be a difficult one, especially when studying theatre. Every school functions differently and every company has a unique way of working. Whether you are a freshman or a transfer, there is a time of adjustment where students need to find out what it means to be a working member of the department. The First Year Showcase acts as a means of making this transition easier while also providing a great artistic opportunity. The cast of the First Year Showcase is, you guessed it, made up of all new students. This process gives them a means of getting to know each other, having a support system, and working with an ensemble full of people who understand what they are going through. Many schools do quite the opposite, not allowing students to perform until their Junior year. At Catawba, we believe that you learn best by doing, experimenting, and having a project to work on where you can apply all that you are learning in core classes such as Beginning Acting and Foundations of Movement. The project of the First Year Showcase has grown throughout the years and now we are so pleased to be able to give the students the opportunity to do a full production, right at the start of college. It teaches rehearsal etiquette, time management, and how to work as an ensemble, leaving the cast in excellent shape to audition for next semesters' productions.



EEK! SOME FUN FACTS ABOUT BARN SPIDERS

Photographs by Sean Meyers www.seanmeyersphotography.com

- Barn Spiders don't like one another and can become aggressive.
- They are nocturnal.
- They rebuild their webs every night.
- They hide during the day.
- When hunting, they sit at the center of their web.
- If the Barn Spider feels threatened, it may bounce while in the middle of the web, possibly to give the appearance that it is much bigger.





Charlotte's Web

adapted by Joseph Robinette based on the book by E.B. White Student Directed by Maggie Truxell Florence Busby Corriher Theatre October 23-25, 6:55 pm; October 27, 2:00 pm FREE admission!

catawba.edu/theatretix | (704) 637-4481 | theatrearts@catawba.edu

Cast:

Wilbur - Ryan Walker Charlotte - Leanna Hicks

Fern - Caitlin Geisser

Mr. Arable - Brandon Walls

Mrs. Arable - Naomi Ansano

Avery/Ensemble - Si Waugh

Homer Zuckerman - Brandon Engelskirchen

Edith Zuckerman - Morgan Summers

Lurvy - Sam Yeager

Templeton - George Glass

Sheep - Kassandra Tuttle

Lamb - Jean White

Goose - Caitlin Billings

Gander - Daniel Brown

Ensemble - Martha Brucker

Ensemble - Dontre Lawrence

Ensemble - Melissa Tarduno

Director:

Stage Manager:

Assistant Stage Manager: Set & Props Design:

Asst. Set & Props Design: Hair & Make-up Design:

Costume Design:

Lighting Design:

Maggie Truxell

Dee Clark

Cody Mangum David Pulliam

Brandon Engelskirchen

Diandon Engelskire

Donna Steele

Jacquelyn Loy

Katie Higgins

Catawba Theatre Alumnus and Faculty Collaborate in *Dix*

By Sydney Berk

It is a beautiful thing when alumni of Catawba can come back together and create theatre. Currently at Salisbury's Lee St. Theatre, in collaboration with the TapRoot Ensemble, this is exactly what is happening. TapRoot Ensemble, based in Charlotte, was founded by Catawba alumni Brie Smith, who is also directing the piece which was written by Catawba's own Writer-in-Residence, Janice Fuller.

Janice Fuller, poet and playwright, originally wrote this play in 2004 for the Minneapolis Fringe Festival. Inspired by the life and poetry of Dorothea Dix Hospital nurse Juanita Tobin Brown, Dix explores the lives of nurses and patients at the Hospital. Developed with a focus on devised theatre, this piece is rough and raw, yet it embraces the humanity of these women who have gone through so much pain.

Several Catawba alumni are involved: Brie Smith is directing, Mary Alice Nichols is a member of the cast, David Loehr has recorded the voice overs for the production, Adam York was the lighting designer, and Justin Dionne is currently the Artistic Director for the Lee St. Theatre.

ABOUT DIX

by Janice Fuller

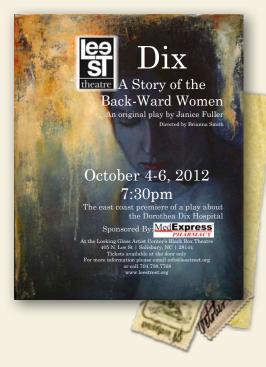
A few weeks ago, Dorothea Dix Hospital closed its doors for the last time after serving the citizens of North Carolina since 1856. In early August, when I visited the hospital in Raleigh with my two daughters, we discovered the

cemetery where over 900 of the unclaimed patients were buried. We had to dig deep into the grass to find the tiny markers. A large number of the graves have no identification at all, in some cases because the families did not want their names associated with the hospital.

The main character of tonight's play—the Older Nurse—is based on Juanita Tobin, who worked for decades as a psychiatric nurse in a women's ward at Dorothea Dix. The play is based more than anything on her poetry and the stories she shared with me about her life and work. It is clear from Juanita's poems (parts of which are included in the play) that Juanita served as family to these damaged women, offering them compassion, acceptance, and a chance to be creative. Most of all, she was determined that they and their sad stories not be forgotten...

In attempting to capture a fragmented world filled with troubled patients, I have created a play that is chaotic and often seems illogical. For that reason, audience members don't need to feel any more obligated to "get" what's happening in each scene than they would expect to comprehend the chaos inside the walls of Dorothea Dix or within the chambers of its residents' minds.

For Juanita Tobin, the boundary between sanity and insanity was blurry at best. She welcomed chaos and individuality, both within the hospital and without. She embraced her own idiosyncracies and brokenness, and encouraged everyone around her to



celebrate their own "madness." For her, turmoil was the source of creativity and art. To make this point, she quotes

Nietzche in her poetry collection Ransom Street Quartet: "One must have chaos in oneself in order to give birth to a dancing star." She committed her life to finding beauty and humor in the midst of bedlam, pain, and unspeakable acts of cruelty...

You still have one more chance to catch the show!

October 11-13

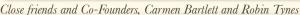
Warehouse Theatre in Cornelius, NC
Tickets: \$10

Tickets available at the door only Contains Adult Language and Situations

THE SPOTLIGHT

等者性能在外世界政府其仍然在武士等。







Three Bone Theatre Logo

THREE BONE THEATRE COMPANY FOUNDED BY CATAWBA ALUMNS

By Sydney Berk

Carmen Bartlett graduated from Catawba College in 2010 with her BA degree in Theatre Arts. Robin Tynes graduated from Catawba in 2012 with her BFA degree in Musical Theatre. Both were transfers and met at Catawba during the one year their time at school overlapped. They have become very close friends and colleagues and are now living in Charlotte, NC and starting Three Bone Theatre Company. When asked what the process of starting a company has been like, how Catawba influenced them, and where they hope to be in the future this is how they responded:

"Neither of us went to school with the intent of starting a company but through our liberal arts education at Catawba we experienced having many different interests and responsibilities. Catawba's program aims to create a well-rounded theatre artist instead of pigeonholing students as "actor" "director" or "techie." It all came together during the Summer of 2011 when we both voiced interest in starting a small non-profit theatre company in North Carolina. We

wanted to highlight the journey of the theatre artist as a never-ending learning process and create powerful work.

Starting a company has been a challenging and rewarding experience from the start. Our name, Three Bone Theatre, is inspired by the quote "To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone" by Reba McEntire. We exist to do quality, professional theatre that serves as a catalyst for hope, strength and humor throughout society. On the surface level, starting a company has changed our daily vocabulary and we are now using words like business plan, 501c3 and marketing strategies on a daily basis. We are so thankful to Catawba for providing the unique perspective we now have going into this process.

We hope to be creating quality theatre for many years to come."

Connect to Three Bone Theatre

/threebonetheatre

@ThreeBoneTweets

www.threebonetheatre.com

Three Bone Theatre Proudly Presents:

Fiction

by Steven Dietz Directed by Carmen Bartlett

Featuring: Blake Dyson, Deb Mein, & Rozlyn Stanley

Linda and Michael are married. Linda is dying. Her final wish is to read her husband's meticulously kept journals. Michael proves that no one is ever truly an open book.

Performance Information:
Florence Busby Corriher Theater
Saturday, November 3, 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 4, 2:00 pm
Tickets are \$10
Email tbtreservation@gmail.com
to reserve tickets

Join us to witness a heart-wrenching story of infidelity, twisted secrets, and wit. You won't want to miss it!

Alumni of the Month: Tiffany Yvonne Cox '07

Catawba,

Skylight Music Theatre.

Hey fam! I'm honored to be chosen as a Featured Alumni. I've always said Catawba prepped me for where I am today. That is to be a good person, a good actor, a communicator, able to work with others, and appreciate whatever you are given. Sounds simple, sounds crazy, but for me it's my truth.

I went to Santa Maria, CA right after Catawba where I completed a year long internship at the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts. It confirmed that what I learned at Catawba, is what other actors are learning in universities too. From there, I was accepted into The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre's Acting Internship. I worked under amazing people such as Timothy Douglas, Regge Life, and JR Sullivan. This Internship launched me into Chicago with their end of year Showcase. I was introduced to many of the top agencies and casting directors in Chicago. I moved to Chicago 3 months after my internship, had two acting jobs 6 weeks after, an agent 6 months later, and started an African American based theatre-company in Milwaukee called UPROOTED theatre of which I am now the Managing Director.

In Chicago I have performed at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Provision Theatre, Gorilla Tango, Chicago Children's Theatre, MPAACT, The Griffin Theatre Company, and The Goodman. This summer I was the first cast for Chicago's inaugural Shakespeare in the Park. Outside of Chicago, I have worked at Nebraska Shakespeare

Shakespeare in the Park. Outside of Chicago, I have worked at Nebraska Shakespeare on the Green, Tibbits Opera House, American Players Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, First Stage Children's Theatre, and

I'm currently at Skylight with AVENUE Q. We were blessed to have Donna Drake (original cast of CHORUS LINE) direct the show and use her Broadway connections to enhance the process. We worked with John Tartaglia on how to use puppets and used the puppets created by Rick Lyons from the Broadway Production.

Besides theatre, I have recently gotten into the voice over world with recording Radio and Television spots for McDonalds, Vtech, and Sanford Brown Institute. I have also done several commercials and am one of the faces of Claires Inc. for their training videos.

If you read that resume I just spit out to you...awesome. If not, tis ok, because this is the important part. I have that resume and a feature in the Spotlight because of working my ass off and not giving up. The theatre world isn't easy. There is a lot of rejection, inconsistent work and a constant feeling of what am I going to do next. If you can breathe into that, and I mean really accept and breathe into it, you will be fine. It won't feel like work. It will feel like your world. The connections you make with each show, the work you produce and story you tell is what gets you the next job. When directors, actors, and agents see your hard work throughout the process and what you are willing to produce you will get cast time and time again. That is why I am the face of Claires and why my agency sends me out for major auditions. I have been told time after time by directors that they cast me because I am a joy to be with in the room, I do my homework, and develop with them as a collaborator, not an ego, to tell an honest story. As I said above, Catawba taught me to be a good person, a good actor, and to communicate. Listen to your professors even when you think they are crazy because there is a truth in what they say that helped get me here.

-Tiffany Cox



Just a few reminders:

Have you read our student blogs?

As a way to reach out and let parents and prospective students know what it's like to be a theatre major at Catawba, we have begun a blog with posts written by a few of our very own, very talented, very *busy* theatre majors. Check it out!

www.catawba.edu/gallery/2012/ blog/theatre/ Do you have a friend or loved one in a Catawba College or Blue Masque theatre production? Do you want to show your appreciation for all of their hard work?

Then purchase a Blue Masque Break-a-Leg Gift for \$6.00!

Break-a-Legs include a beautiful mylar balloon with an equally exquisite red carnation and a personalized note.

To have a Break-a-Leg delivered to your loved one, please send \$6 in cash or check to:

The Blue Masque, c/o Theatre Arts
Department Catawba College
2300 West Innes St., Salisbury, NC 28144
OR
On campus mail box 262

Thank you!
Allison Andrews
<u>aandrews@catawba.edu</u>
The Blue Masque Treasurer





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Buy tickets!

www.catawba.edu/
theatretix



THE SPOTLICHT

October 2012

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