



THEATRE ARTS DEPARTMENT

July 22, 2014

TO OUR CATAWBA THEATRE ARTS ENSEMBLE:

The theatre arts faculty is looking forward to the 2014/2015 academic year and performance season and we hope you are, too.

- **Exciting news!** The Catawba College Faculty and Staff have been enjoying a well deserved break but you know how we are so you know we have all been busy working on projects.
- Professor David Pulliam just completed a successful scenic design for the Saint Thomas Players production of *Driving Miss Daisy*. Professor Pulliam has also been hard at work collaborating with Dr. Janice Fuller in preparation for the first production of the fall, *Under Milkwood*. It will be exciting to see how the production team and cast will produce this traditional Radio Play! I know the opportunity to perform the play for a live audience in the theatre while also streaming the performances to listeners, just as the original play was produced, will be fun but creatively challenging for all those involved.
- I have been in contact with Ms. Lara Williams, our Blue Masque Student Director, and I know she has been hard at work on her preproduction planning for *Some Girl(s)*. I would recommend getting a script and reading the play if you are not familiar with it.
- Dr. Homan has been traveling, spending time with family and friends, while also working closely with Justin Dionne as they prepare to direct the musical *RENT!* Justin and the LEE Street Team have been busy publicizing the production so we are expecting good attendance. It will be another exciting challenge as we perform this production in two very different theatre spaces, but boy what a great opportunity!
- Professor Anderson loves to research the plays she directs and that research really pays off! She has been busy pre-planning the spring production of the Shakespearian classic comedy *A Comedy of Errors*.
- Ms. Meredith Fox has also stayed busy as she attended a fantastic weeklong certification course on Elemental Body Alignment Systems (EBAS). I am sure she will share what she learned in her movement and dance classes. Ms. Fox also went on tour to Germany where she performed in a physical theatre version of Shakespeare's Henry V entitled *To the Breach* with *Creatively Independent Theatre*. What a great way to prepare for the work she will be doing with Professor Anderson and the cast of *A Comedy of Errors*.
- Professor Erin Dougherty has been spending well deserved and very important time with her family but has also been gearing up for the new semester as our wonderful Costume Designer.
- Mr. Joe Hernandez has also been traveling to the far corners of the country meeting new people and sharing information about our theatre program with some great new contacts. He has also been prepping for our spring musical production of *Guys & Dolls!* If that was not enough, Joe is also currently directing a musical for the Davie County Arts Council.
- Mr. Craig Kolkebeck has been busy completing the lighting distribution system for the FBC. We now have 36 circuits spaced out along six battens with an additional 24 circuits suspended just over the grid in strategic locations. This will reduce the amount of cable we have to run for each lighting hang and should neaten up the grid. He also installed DMX in four locations in the grid which will simplify running data to the LED and intelligent lighting equipment we use in the space. As he was running wire Craig also installed mic jacks, headset jacks, and speaker jacks in the corners of the playing space as well as a headset jack in the box office. Finally, he is installing a new patch system that will allow the new headset jacks to be repatched



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and used as mic inputs but will also create a stock sound system patch set up that can also be repatched to handle no standard sound requirements.

- Dr. Corriher has been working to improve the Catawba international studies program and has been taking care of his family. Dr. Corriher has also been busy preparing German classes for those of you who may be interested in learning German. There is some great German theatre literature out there and the ability to read a play in its native language can be delightful.
- Mrs. Slate has been our rock as she keeps the department running while the rest of us are out doing other things over the summer.
- I have been busy designing parts of the FBC sound system that Mr. Kolkebeck is installing, serving as the Lighting Designer for the Saint Thomas Players production, *Next Fall*, and working with Mrs. Slate to stay caught up with the usual summer time college business required to operate a theatre department. One of my highlights for the summer was an opportunity to work with some great Catawba College Theatre Interns on the Saint Thomas Players production through LEE Street Theatre.

If you are doing or have done something exciting over the summer that you would like to share, please let us know about it. Our faculty are always interested in cool and exciting projects and experiences, and we would like to hear what you are up to, so send us an email about your adventures.

For our **FIRST YEARS AND TRANSFERS**, the theatre arts faculty looks forward to meeting with you at the **THEATRE ARTS INFORMATION MEETING** on Sunday, August 17th, at 3pm in Hedrick Theatre. At that time we will provide information on registration for theatre arts classes, answer questions regarding auditions, and introduce you to our faculty members. Afterwards, **musical theatre students** will take their music theory placement tests (come to the Theatre Arts meeting first—the Music department will test you after our theatre meeting). The math placement test happens at the same time but look at your schedules for the alternate test taking time.

ALL THEATRE ARTS STUDENTS need to attend the **DEPARTMENTAL MEETING** at 4:30pm, August 22rd, in Hedrick Theatre. This meeting will be devoted to department business. The applied Theatre Meeting will follow the full departmental meeting. Students who are not enrolled in Applied Theatre but who will be taking the course in the future are welcome to stay to gain an understanding of the system.

AUDITIONS for *Under Milkwood*, *Some Girl(s)*, and *RENT* will be held in Hedrick the evening of August 20th at 7:00pm. Callbacks will be scheduled on the evening of August 21st at 7:00 as needed. Information regarding the callback schedule and locations will be posted and announced as we get closer to the auditions. You must prepare an audition package. Each package should consist of a 60 second monologue for actors who do not want to be considered for the musical or a monologue and a contrasting song selection for those interested in musical theatre, not to exceed 90 seconds for both. Be sure to have read all of the plays and gear your audition package toward the material you are most interested in.

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This cattle call audition is required for all students receiving a Theatre Arts performance award and for all students enrolled in applied theatre. This is a requirement because we want all of our students to understand the audition process and we want all students to develop a comfort level when asked to speak or perform onstage. We ask actors to learn things about technical theatre so it is only fair for technicians and designers to experience critical aspects of performance, and the audition is a critical aspect in the life of an actor. Take this seriously and respect the process! We will provide an audition form at the beginning of the audition. The form will have a place to check for those who do not wish to be considered for a role. For future auditions we suggest that you have several options for auditions packages.

Please remember that everyone in the room is supportive when it comes to the audition process. It is natural to feel anxious but the best way to deal with this feeling is to be well prepared. Rehearse your package, time it so you know you will stay under time, have someone you know and respect watch your package to help you prepare. Dress for success, remember you are trying to land a role so dress in nice looking clothing that will allow you to move comfortably and that helps you to stand out in an appropriate way. The audition actually starts when you walk into the room so act appropriately.

Dates to remember!

Saturday 16 th	9 -12:15	New student check in.
Sunday 17 th	3-4 pm.	Information Meeting for prospective majors. Theatre Art in Hedrick Theatre
Monday 18 th	8:30-10 am	Transfer Advising and Registration Tom Smith Auditorium
	5:00-6:30 pm	Blue Masque Interest Meeting Hedrick Theatre
Tuesday 19 th	11-12	Campus employment/Work-study meeting Hedrick Theatre
	4:00 pm	Convocation
	8-9:30 pm	Blue Masque Mock Auditions Hedrick Theatre
Wednesday 20 th		Classes begin
	7:00 pm	Auditions with Callbacks to follow (Auditions in Hedrick Theatre)
Thursday 21 st	7:00 pm	Callbacks continued
Friday 22 nd	4:30 pm	Full TA Departmental Meeting followed by Applied Theatre.

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Saturday 23rd 9:00 am Departmental Clean up day

We have a great year coming up so we're looking forward to seeing you in August. Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions (704-637-4440). If you call and no one is available to answer the phone please leave a message and we'll get back to you as quickly as possible or send an email to lfslate@catawba.edu or cdzink@catawba.edu. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer!

Best wishes,



Christopher D. Zink, Chair