

# Alfred University CenterStage

Spring 2014

*Focus on the Performing Arts*

## DANCE CONCERT TO FEATURE CHOREOGRAPHY BY AMY SMITH

The Alfred University Dance Theater Concert will feature the work of Amy Smith, The Marlin and Ginger Miller Guest Artist. New dances by AU dance students Julie Verdone, Isabel Bowser, and Courtney Hopkins, and by former AU faculty member Eran Hanlon enhance the program. Marketta Fantova and her students Allison Burrell, Robert Lamb, and Lanina Roby will design the costumes and the lights. Amy Smith, a Philadelphia based choreographer, will be creating an original dance work for fifteen Alfred University students.

Founder and Co-Director of Headlong, a performance and creation research platform, Amy Smith has been coming to Alfred University every year on behalf of the Headlong Performance Institute (HPI) located in Philadelphia. Many Alfred University Dance Minors have attend HPI after graduation.

Amy will teach five classes, including an open community class, and create a new work. Performances are February 20 – 22rd at 8 PM in the Miller Performing Arts Theater. To make reservations please email [performs@alfred.edu](mailto:performs@alfred.edu) or call 871-2828. This concert is presented by Alfred University, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, The Division of Performing Arts, and is made possible through funding by The Marlin and Ginger Miller Dance Residency Program.



## WELCOME ANGIE MUZZY, ADJUNCT DANCE INSTRUCTOR

Angie Muzzy began her dance training in the hills of Western Massachusetts and continued her studies at Keene State College, Keene, NH where she received a degree in Theater and Dance (2008). She was a company member of Boston-based Lorraine Chapman's "The Company" and has worked with choreographers Robert Battle, Monica Bill Barnes, Rose Pasquarello Beauchamp, Beppie Blankert, Bill Evans, Stephan Koplowitz, Marcia Murdock, Cathy Nicoli, Karl Rogers, Candice Salyers, among others. She has been a guest teacher at Keene State College, Williston-Northampton School,

Northfield Mount Hermon School, and Hillsboro-Deering Middle School. As an MFA candidate at The College at Brockport she is currently a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of Dance. Recently she has showcased her work at Visual Studies Workshop, the Southern Vermont Dance Festival; CultivateNH and was a selected gala performer at The American College Dance Festival (March 2013) for her solo, "Rapunzel's Shoes." She will be representing Brockport again this March at ACDF with excerpts from her quintet, "The Harder They Fall."

## REBECCA WEAVER HAMM IN RECITAL

Soprano Rebecca Weaver Hamm and pianist Patricia Wiggers will present “A Winter’s Tale” on Feb. 9, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in Susan Howell Hall at Alfred University, where Ms. Weaver Hamm is an adjunct instructor in voice. The recital draws from the rich world of art songs, including work of Samuel Barber, Johannes Brahms, and Roger Quilter. The audience journeys from the stark loneliness of winter to the lushness of high summer. The recital is free and open to the public, with a reception by the music faculty to follow.



## EASTMAN JAZZ ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM

Saturday, February 15 at 7:30 p.m. the Eastman Jazz Ensemble from the Eastman School of Music, will perform at Alfred University in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall. The Eastman Jazz Ensemble has been the source of frequent awards both as an ensemble and in soloist, arranger and composer categories in the annual Downbeat Student Recording Awards and at collegiate jazz festivals throughout the northeastern United States. They have performed on numerous occasions at the annual convention of the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) and have been featured at the International Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland, and in annual festivals sponsored by high schools and colleges throughout the United States.

Alumni of the ensemble have been heard in the bands of Count Basie, Woody Herman, Buddy Rich, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis, Toshiko Akiyoshi/Lew Tabackin, Doc Severinsen, Chuck Mangione, Chick Corea and Maria Schneider (herself an Eastman graduate). Alumni have also developed successful careers as composers, arrangers and orchestrators in film and television music, as leaders of their own jazz orchestras or as collaborators with prominent jazz, classical and pop instrumental and vocal soloists.

The ensemble’s repertoire ranges from traditional and contemporary classics by acknowledged masters of jazz composing and arranging to works by Eastman students, faculty, and alumni. In 2007 the ensemble was invited to the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center for a three-day residency of concerts and workshops with local public school jazz ensembles, and in 2013 the ensemble was featured at Chicago’s annual New Trier Jazz Festival along with the Count Basie Orchestra, directed by Dennis Mackrel.

# NUMEN FOR USE DESIGN COLLECTIVE

Two members of the Croatian-Austrian artist collective Numen For Use, one of the most innovative and interdisciplinary design studios in Europe, will be in residence for five weeks at Alfred University to work with students, teach, present their work and create a new installation. Because of the knowledge and planning of Markéta Fantova, the Numen for Use comes to Alfred as a collaboration between the Division of Performing Arts and the School of Art and Design with funding from the Miller Endowment for Excellence in the Arts.

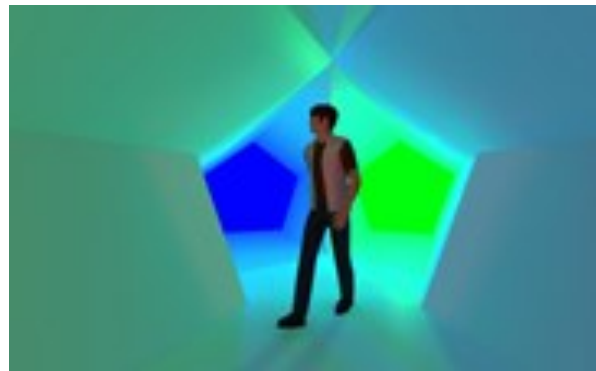
Numen for Use, established by Sven Jonke, Christoph Katzler and Nikola Radeljkovic in 1999, adopted the name “For Use” to emphasize their belief in the utilitarian and the functional core of product design. In addition, inspired by German Bauhaus, Russian Constructivism and European Abstract Art, Numen’s work covers a wide spectrum of the applied art forms: interior design, industrial design, scenography, interactive site-specific design and installation art.

Originally, the Numen Studio centered their work on commercially successful products in the areas of industrial, interior and furniture design. Establishing “Element,” their own contemporary furniture line, their products quickly grew in popularity in Italy, Austria and Croatia and has led to exhibits in numerous major cities in Europe, from Copenhagen to Prague, Paris to St. Petersburg, and Berlin to Belgrade. At the same time the group began scenographic experiments. These included the manipulation of space and objects that led to staged public events, installations, and design for opera, theatre and large site specific performance art events. They received the Prague Quadrennial Gold medal in 2011, for the Best Scene Design and a Gold medal for the Best Use of Theatre Technology.

While in Alfred, Numen will teach numerous classes, present their work and lead two workshops in IART, Performing Arts, and the School of Art and Design. For a complete schedule of workshops, presentations and master classes, contact the Division of Performing Arts Office, 607-871-2562 or [performs@alfred.edu](mailto:performs@alfred.edu). Most are open to different groups of students, many are also open to the community.

The residency, focused through two workshops, will serve as a fertile ground for developing an idea for a new installation. Numen has already provided various ideas and thoughts to start a conversation and collaboration. Below is a preliminary sketch of one of the variations of the new “Icebling” installation. Experimentation with lighting—natural and theatrical—inside and out of the structure is the major aim of the “Icebling.”

Numen plans to test their ideas and share the creative and experimental process with students at Alfred University.



## EARLY MUSIC PRESENTED BY *MUSICA SPEI*

On Saturday March 29 at 7:30 PM, the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church will ring with Medieval and early Renaissance music as Rochester based vocal ensemble, *Musica Spei* presents music for the Lenten Season. The concert will include secular as well as sacred music.

In its 18th season, *Musica Spei* (Music of Hope) shares with audiences in Western and Central New York State, the riches of medieval and renaissance works from the vast repertoire of rarely-performed, sacred choral masterworks. Rehearsing and performing without a conductor the group develops its interpretations in a collaborative fashion. This unusual but effective practice had led *Musica Spei*'s recent accomplishments, including the release of a second CD, *Cathedrals of Sound*, and a reinvigoration of the Rochester Early Music Festival, which the group first organized in 2001.

The concert is sponsored by the David Miller Performing Arts Fund and is free to the University and community. Come and enjoy an evening of beautiful and seldom heard choral music.

## *BALLADS AND BLARNEY - AN EVENING OF IRISH FOOD, FUN AND SONG*

The AU Chamber Singers in collaboration with the Alfred Box of Books present an evening full of food, drink and music celebrating St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, March 22 in Howell Hall. The fun begins at 7:00PM and in the tradition of an Irish session will include Irish choral selections, solos, duets, poetry readings and short scenes from Irish theater.

The event, a fund-raiser for the Alfred Box of Books, includes light appetizers, desserts and a cash bar - all with a "bit o the Irish" theme. Tickets will be available in the campus center the week of March 17<sup>th</sup> or at the Box of Books @ \$20 per person or \$140 for a full table of eight. For more information contact Martha Lash at marbar428@gmail.com or Luanne Crosby at fclarke@alfred.edu.

## **PIANIST FRANK MITCHELL BUSH TO PERFORM WITH THE AU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**



The AU Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Lisa Lantz, will perform the exquisite Mozart Piano Concerto #23 with guest pianist, Frank Mitchell Bush, on Friday, April 25 at 7:00 PM in Miller Theater. (Please note the earlier concert time.)

Mr. Bush has been described as "poignant and poetic, possessing a sensitive touch" by the American composer David Diamond. He's a recipient of the New York Council on the Arts Performance Grant, and has been heard on NPR and CBS television. Mr. Bush studied at the Eastman School of Music, and at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. He played for an audience of over 10,000 as guest artist for the Habitat for Humanity 20th Anniversary Celebration, and by special invitation for the family of then President Jimmy Carter. Other works on the program include Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony," and Beethoven's "Consecration of the House Overture."

# MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING GOES ON THE ROAD TO THE KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare! The production toured to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Region 2 festival and gave two great performances. With costumes designed by Allison Burrell, scenery and lighting designed by Marketa Fantova, sound designed by Technical Director Zach Hamm, stage managed by Stephanie Scheib and with the direction of Becky Prophet, the entire production moved to KCACTF and was performed twice on Jan. 18. The cast of twenty and the crew of five gathered in Alfred on Jan. 7 to restage and rehearse the play which had been performed in the CD Smith Theatre in November. Two dress rehearsals were opened to the public before departure for the festival.

## **Allison Burrell WON!!!!**

Senior art student Allison Burrell who has designed costumes for three productions at Alfred University won the Region 2 KCACTF “Award for Excellence in Costume Design” for her costumes for *Almost, Maine*, a production presented in Alfred in April of 2013, under the direction of Holly Durand. Allison’s award will take her to the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC this April where she will have workshops in design from America’s leading theatre artists. While there she will be one of eight student costume designers from around the country offered this honor and opportunity.

## **Danny Gray and Rachel Romack ADVANCED!!!**

Danny who played Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* was nominated for an Irene Ryan Acting Audition. With his scene partner Rachel Romack who played Ursula, Danny moved to the semi-finals or the second round of auditions—he was one of thirty-two actors from across the region selected to advance.

## **Jessica Antrobus ADVANCED!!!**

In a prestigious musical theatre workshop, Jessica Antrobus, who played Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing* was one of only sixteen men and women accepted by audition to a Musical Theatre Initiative workshop.

Alfred University sent twenty-eight students and three faculty/staff to the KCACTF festival in mid-January. Besides performing *Much Ado About Nothing* on the festival stage and the accolades earned by three members of the group, students and faculty at the festival participated in workshops, saw other invited productions, and viewed exhibits of theatrical design and stage management. The five days of festival offered about two weeks of events with everything from a workshops, performances and exhibits. Everyone was energized by the opportunities and the honors the festival gave Alfred University. All we can say is WOW! and thank you to Gene ('69) and Pamela Bernstein ('71), Eric ('69) and Susan Bershada, David ('66) and Elizabeth Miller ('65), Corinne Herrick Gallman ('47) and the many members of the Premiere Club!

# JAZZ BAND IN CONCERT

The AU Jazz Band under the direction of Dr. Christopher Foster will perform in the Miller Theater on Monday, April 28, starting at 7:30 p.m. Enjoy a wide variety of crowd-pleasing jazz, including *I got*

*Rhythm I* and Charles Mingus’s *Moanin’*, as well as Latin, funk and a ballad composed by jazz legend Pat Metheny. Admission is free and open to the public.



# ***THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD***, APRIL 10 - 12, 2014

The Division of Performing Arts will be presenting the award-winning *"The Mystery of Edwin Drood"*, by Rupert Holmes this spring! *"Drood"*, the first musical produced at AU in seven years, is a playful, comedic and risqué "whodunit" adaptation of Charles Dickens' unfinished novel of the same name. New York Times critic Frank Rich wrote: "The atmosphere in the theater becomes as merry as that of an unchaperoned auditorium of high-school kids – the company and audience become united in the joy of theatrical invention." Alfred University's production will run April 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dickens died while in the midst of writing his novel. In that it was incomplete, no one knows what the ending was to be. *"Drood"*, the musical, incorporates a convention never seen before on Broadway: it allows audience members to choose its ending. Creator Rupert Holmes took a big risk with this approach, but it was well worth it considering the enthusiastic raves that followed. The original production was nominated for 11 Tony awards and was winner of 5, including Best Musical, Best Book and Best Original Score.

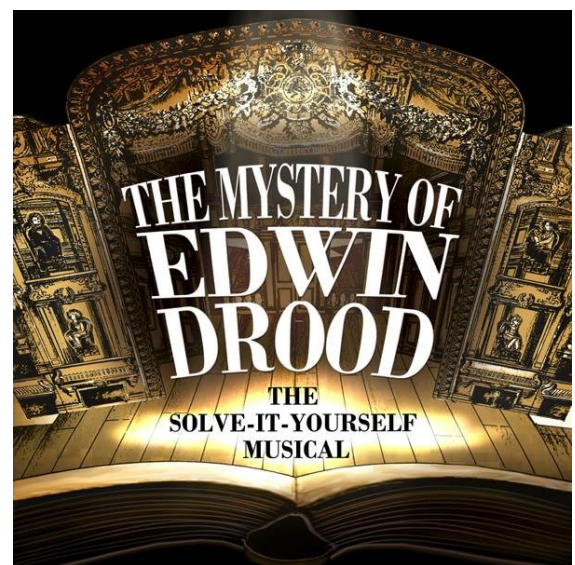
*"Drood"* is staged as a play-within-a-play with each Alfred performer portraying a fictional English actor from 1892, who in turn portrays a Dickens character from the novel. It tells the story of young Englishman Edwin Drood, whose sudden disappearance throws the fictional townspeople of Cloisterham into a panic. Suspicions arise about who is responsible for Drood's vanishing, with fingers pointing every which way, including the dashing but villainous John Jasper, Drood's fiancée Rosa Bud, opium den proprietor Princess Puffer and mysterious siblings Helena and Neville Landless. As the investigation pushes forward, everyone who came into contact with Drood joins the lineup of the suspects.

Rupert Holmes success with *"Drood"* was remarkable. Not only did he write the book, music, lyrics, and full orchestrations for the show, but this was his first musical. He had been a well-known

popular songwriter, perhaps best known for "Escape" (the Piña Colada Song) and as a successful night club performer. Based on his inventiveness and talent, Holmes was encouraged to move forward with his interest in writing a musical by Joseph Papp, the originator of the New York Shakespeare Festival. The result was *"Drood"*. The production, which first opened on Broadway in 1985, has since had two national tours, a highly successful run on London's West End and a 2012 revival on Broadway. Our production here in Alfred is one of the first since the closing of the revival and will be the first musical to be staged in the Miller Theater.

We invite you to join in the fun and frolic, and to solve *"The Mystery of Edwin Drood"*! Reserve tickets by contacting [performs@alfred.edu](mailto:performs@alfred.edu) or by calling our ticket office at 871-2582, or by visiting the website:

[Las.alfred.edu/performing-arts/events](http://Las.alfred.edu/performing-arts/events)



## Q: WHAT'S A USITT?

## A: US INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY

Six students attended the Upstate New York Regional USITT Fall Workshop Day with Zach Hamm, Technical Director. Students participated in workshops on light board use, scenic painting, and resumes. Several more will attend the Winter Sectional Meeting and Job Fair on February 1st at SUNY Oswego where interviews with summer theatre companies, workshops, and presentation of student work at a design expo will crown the experience.

USITT provides an environment for professionals in the performing arts and entertainment industry to

connect, create, share, and communicate their craft with each other and with students involved in the industry.

The United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc. (USITT) connects performing arts design and technology communities to ensure a vibrant dialog among practitioners, educators, and students. The Institute provides an environment for professionals in theatrical design to connect, create, share, and communicate their craft. USITT has 3800+ members throughout the United States, Canada, and 40 other countries.

## SENIOR PROJECTS!!

### Five seniors will present capstone projects in the spring of 2014.

Darren Palmer, Bellisant Corcoran-Mathe and Jamal Welcome have combined time, energy and talents to co-direct and perform Harold Pinter's *Betrayal*. Considered to be one of Pinter's best dramatic works, it features his characteristically economical dialogue, characters' hidden emotions and veiled motivations, and their self-absorbed competitive one-upmanship, face-saving, dishonesty, and (self-)deceptions. *Betrayal* will be presented Mar. 20-22 8 pm in the C.D. Smith Theatre. Admission is free.

Rebecca Hayes will be writing and directing *The Letters to No One Project*." Conceived by Becca, this is "a theatre project based on the idea that we all have secrets" and may not necessarily want to tell them. She has collected numerous anonymous letters, portions of which she will adapt and incorporate into the final piece, performed by four to six actors. *The Letters to No One Project* will be presented April 30-May 1, 8 pm in the C.D. Smith III Theatre. Admission is free.

Nathan Earley will be doing a solo performance of six monologues. The monologues will represent a range of genres and styles, going from the Greeks to contemporary. The performance is April 27, 7 pm in the Rod Brown Acting Studio, room 212. Admission is free.

## AU SYMPHONIC BAND

The Alfred University Symphonic Band continues to grow into an evermore exciting and mature ensemble. Come join us on Friday, May 2, 7:30 p.m. in the Miller Theater and listen to beautiful music, classics like "Nimrod" from Edward Elgar's Enigma

Variations, Bernstein's Overture to Candide and Incantation and Dance by John Barnes Chance and exciting modern works by composers Eric Whitacre, John Mackey, Samuel Hazo and Andrew Boysen Jr. This concert is free and open to the public.

# SPRING 2014 SEASON

## FEBRUARY

- 9 Faculty Recital** Winter's Tale: music of the seasons with Rebecca Weaver Hamm, soprano, and Patricia Wiggers, piano. Howell Hall, 3 pm
- 15 Guest Artist Recital.** Eastman Jazz Ensemble Holmes Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 20 – 22 AU Dance Theater** features original choreography and performances by AU faculty, students, and the Marlin and Ginger Miller Guest Artist. \*Tickets required. Miller Theater, 8 pm

## MARCH

- 20-22 Senior Project, *Betrayal*,** C. D. Smith III Theatre, 8 pm.
- 22 Ballads and Blarney.** AU Chamber Singers present and evening Irish songs and ballads as a fundraiser for the Alfred Box of Books. Reservations required - contact Luanne Crosby. Howell Hall, 6:30 pm
- 29 Guest Artist Recital.** Violinist Musica Spei, a capella group which specializes in music from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, 7:30 pm

## APRIL

- 10-12 *Drood*** Musical based on “The Mystery of Edwin Drood.” Reservations required. Miller Theater, 8 pm
- 25 AU Orchestra** in concert. Miller Theater, 8 pm
- 27 Senior Project,** theatrical monologues, Rod Brown Acting Studio Miller 212, 7 pm.
- 28 AU Jazz Band** Miller Theater 7:30pm
- 20-May1 Senior Project, *The Letters to No One Project*,** C. D. Smith III Theatre, 8 pm.

## MAY

- 2 AU Symphonic Band** in concert. Miller Theater, 8 pm
- 4 Student Recital.** Singers will present a wide variety of musical styles. Howell Hall, 3 pm

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