



Alfred University Division of Performing Arts

# CenterStage

Spring 2010

## Wilde and Earnest Theatre of Importance at AU

*The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, written in 1895, will be the Division's final theatre season offering. Bright and energetic, this comedy of manners almost defines Victorian English manners, by defying them. The play runs like a steam engine through the upper crust of society and nearly crashes as two young men plan to be christened Earnest because the young women whom they wish to wed refuse to marry, by their own sweet testimonies, no other than a man named Earnest. All four lovers romp through the social rules, bending arguments and ethics to accelerate their urgent plans, much to the chagrin of that bastion of blue bloods, Lady Bracknell.

Directed by theatre professor Becky Prophet, the plot of *The Importance of Being Earnest* undulates on rails of melodrama, from London to Shropshire, from "Bunburying" (a way to escape the watchful eye of society and gad about) to intentional identity change, and from love as an extreme dream to love and obligation among wealthy family members. This satire on manners is a *tour de force* of English society, theatre, character, and brilliant comedy.

Costumes for *The Importance of Being Earnest* will be designed by Michelle Courter, a senior theatre major. Lighting designer is Dan Meltzer, also a senior theatre major. Zach Grosser, a junior art student, is designing sound. Marketa Fantova, theatre professor, is designing scenery. Zach Hamm will be Technical Director; Debra MacCrea is Costume Shop Manager.

Algernon, played by sophomore Jack Styles, is served by Lane, played by sophomore Ned Allen. Jack Worthing (a.k.a. Earnest) is played by junior English major Justin Pietropaolo. His most dear love Gwendolen is created by first-year student Kate Truini. Her foil, Cecily, Jack's ward, is played by freshman Keriann Bellamy. The house in the country is run by Merriman, Worthing's butler; played by Nathan Gibson. Cecily's governess, Miss Prism, is created by Kari Aldrich, a senior English major. The Rev. Chasuble is played by Johnathan Hamolsky. The controlling, commanding arbiter of behavior, Lady Augusta Bracknell, will be performed by Anna Kowalczyk, junior theatre major.

The production opens in the CD Smith III Theatre in the Miller Performing Arts Center on April 14 and closes on April 17. All performances are at 8 p.m. Reservations are recommended. General Admission is \$5. Reservations may be made by emailing [performs@alfred.edu](mailto:performs@alfred.edu) or by calling 607-871-2828 (at AU).



Caricatures of the cast of the 1939 Globe Theatre performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest*

# Off Broadway

## ***An evening of show tunes & desserts with the AU Chamber Singers***

On Friday evening, March 26, (NOTE the change of date) the Alfred University Chamber Singers will present an evening of Broadway show tunes accompanied by delicious desserts. A fundraiser for the group's 2011 Tour, admission will be \$10 per person. A cash bar will open at 7 pm with show time at 7:30. Exciting, beautiful, whimsical and humorous numbers from more musicals than one can list will be offered. Choral pieces include the exciting "Tonight" and the beautiful "Somewhere" from *West Side Story*, "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat" from *Guys and Dolls*, "All I Ask of You" from *The Phantom of the Opera*, "All That Jazz" from *Chicago*, and a medley from *Les Miserables*. Solos, duets and small group pieces will also be presented. Location will be Howell Hall on the AU campus.

Only 80 tickets will be available for sale. To obtain tickets, send payment to the Chamber Singers, AU Division of Performing Arts, Alfred, NY 14802. Tickets will be held at the door or can be picked up in the Division Office in Miller. Tickets also will be sold from noon to 1 pm Monday through Friday the week of the show in Powell Campus Center. For more info, contact this semester's director Laurel Buckwalter at [fbuckwal@alfred.edu](mailto:fbuckwal@alfred.edu) or call the division office at 607-871-2562.



*AU Chambers Singers Fall 2009 Performance in West Chester, PA*

## **Eleven student directors present *A Gala of One Acts***

The C.D. Smith Theatre will host a smorgasbord of play topics on Friday, April 30, Saturday, May 1, and Sunday, May 2. Eleven advanced theater students are each hard at work directing a short play for this gala of productions. The plays will be divided into two groups, and the two will alternate through the weekend. Performances will be Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free, just as the range of plays is broad. The productions represent the work of the Directing II class, taught by Becky Prophet.

The directors (shown at right) are juniors and seniors, many of whom are using this directing experience to sum up their theatre studies at Alfred University. The directors are Melanie Baker, Humberto Bonilla, Tyler Cummins, Elin Dehuvyne, Emily Dowd, Johnathan Hamolsky, Chris Hanretty, Ramona Kingsley, Anna Kowalczyk, Harold Muntner, and Javier Pritchard. Some of the plays being directed are *Ferris Wheel*, *Pillow Talk*, *The Problem*, and *The Universal Language*.



# Butoh Artist Diego Piñon at AU in April

Diego Piñon, a master teacher, choreographer and performer in the Japanese dance form butoh, will be at AU for a residency that will include a lecture and intensive workshops open to students, faculty, staff and community members. Piñon is among the most well-regarded and sought-after performers, directors, and teachers of butoh, a contemporary dance form that originated in Japan in the 1950s. He has studied extensively and performed with many of the masters of butoh, including Kazuo Ohno, one of the founders of the form. As is true with his predecessors, Piñon's in-depth study and practice of butoh has included delving into his own personal and cultural heritage. A native of Mexico, with a background in modern dance and theater, he incorporates Mesoamerican ritual practice and philosophy into his approach to teaching and dancemaking; this approach, which he calls Butoh Ritual Mexicano, has aesthetic ends, though the larger purpose is, as he states, "touching, if only for a moment, the inexplicable matter of the human soul."

While based in Tlalpujagua, Mexico, Piñon regularly teaches, lectures, performs and choreographs ensemble works throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe. Since the early 1990s, he has spent a substantial amount of time in Japan studying and collaborating with first and second generation butoh masters. While butoh has for at least two decades been an international form, its origins lie specifically in the charged cultural and historical context of post-WWII



Japan. While many contemporary butoh artists in the west have limited or no connection to butoh's Japanese cultural origins, Piñon's dance work and teaching reflect a distinctly Japanese perspective on butoh, coupled with a deep investigative knowledge of his own Mexican cultural heritage.

Piñon's lecture, which will include images of his work, will take place in Miller 301 on Thursday, April 8 at 5 p.m. He will teach a short workshop on Friday, April 9, from 11:20 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (Miller 300), and intensive 4 to 5 hour workshops on Saturday, April 10, and Sunday, April 11, starting at 11 a.m. (also in Miller 300). The intensive workshops have limited space; if you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact dance faculty member Robert Bingham at [binghamr@alfred.edu](mailto:binghamr@alfred.edu). Announcements about all of these events will also be forthcoming on Alfred Today.

## Division of Performing Arts

### DANCE

*D. Chase Angier  
Robert Bingham*

**DIVISION  
SECRETARY**  
*Nancy Freelove*

### MUSIC

*Lisa Lantz, Division Chair*

*Laurel Buckwalter  
Janna Buckwalter  
Luanne Crosby  
Vicki Eaklor  
Christopher Foster*

*Ben Howard  
Hannah Lash  
Ken Maracek  
Peter O'Connor  
Rebecca Weaver*

### THEATRE

*J. Stephen Crosby  
Marketa Fantova  
David Glover  
Zachary Hamm  
Debra MacCrea  
Becky Prophet*



# Jazz Night

On Friday, April 30, at 8 p.m., the AU Chamber Singers and Jazz Band will present a concert in the Knight Club in the Powell Campus Center. The Chamber Singers under the direction of Laurel Buckwalter will perform a selection of jazz tunes including "In the Mood" and "I've Got You Under My Skin." Broadway tunes to be presented include "Somewhere" from *West Side Story*, "All That Jazz" from *Chicago* and "Soon It's Gonna Rain" from *The Fantasticks*.

The jazz band under the direction of Dr. Chris Foster will perform the music of "Duke" Ellington and Charles Mingus, two jazz icons. Although their music is very different, the two had some strong connections. Bassist/composer Mingus got his start playing with Ellington's big band. Even after Mingus had a successful solo career, the two of them would often collaborate on recordings and performances.

Come listen to both groups as they perform some wonderful jazz classics. Admission is free.



# Cornerstone Theatre at AU

Despite snowstorms, wind storms and Alfred winters, Laurie Woolery and Paula Donnelly, both Los Angeles natives, arrived in Alfred for a two day intensive on building theatre through community and building community through theatre. The work was energizing and warm! More than twenty students from three institutions and as many as fifteen community members gathered on Saturday, February 27 in the Miller Performing Arts Center for the beginning of a thirteen hour workshop on understanding community sources, stories, and ideas, with discussion on how to celebrate the uniqueness of "only in Alfred" through theatre and through delving into the community. The thirty-five participants, Alfredians by adoption, acclamation or birth, experienced cultural mapping, listening, collaboration, adaptation of stories, and writing dramatic personae, based on the experiences at hand.



*Participants of the Cornerstone Theatre Workshop*

Reconvening on Sunday, the group turned the experiences of the day before into collaborative and "mini" performances. Scenes about life in Alfred; sharing between students and local people; an "every student's" progress through four years; threads of ideas carried forward through local people, teachers and grad students; and a homeless family trying to find safety--all seemed to spring from the wells of creativity and knowledge of the participants.

The two day intensive workshop from Cornerstone Theater was exhilarating, stimulating, and fascinating. The workshop, sponsored by Alfred University Trustee Bill Pullman, the Dean of LAS, and the Division of Performing Arts, was organized and hosted by AU Theatre Professor Becky Prophet.

# Three soloists for *Orchestral Gems of the Baroque*

In celebration of the 325<sup>th</sup> birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach, the AU Chamber Orchestra will perform a concert of Baroque music on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. in Holmes Auditorium. Orchestra director Dr. Lisa Lantz (shown center below) will be the featured soloist for two of the works: the Violin Concerto in A minor by J. S. Bach and the Concerto in G major for Viola by Georg Philippe Telemann. The seldom performed Concerto for Two Trumpets by Antonio Vivaldi will feature senior music minor Matthew Phillips (at right below) and his teacher, Dr. Christopher Foster, AU's Director of Bands (at left below), performing on piccolo trumpets. Also on the program will be Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Violins in D minor which will feature the entire violin section in the solo roles. The public is invited to this free event.



## Symphonic Band features contemporary works

The AU Symphonic Band under the direction of Dr. Chris Foster will present a performance of all “new” works on Friday, April 23, at 8 p.m. in Holmes Auditorium. This concert will feature works contemporary composers such as Hazo, Ticheli, Balmages, Wilson, Maslanka, Bryant, Boysen and Karrick. All are invited to this free event.

## Student Recitals

There will be two student recitals in April. Both recitals are free and open to the public. On April 11th at 3 p.m. in Howell Hall vocalists Christie Allen, Ned Allen, Hope Barnum, Ryan Maggio, Sara Egan, Anna Kowalchuk, Rachelle Walsh, and Katie Barlow will perform a variety of styles from musical theatre to classical. Flutist Michaela Stone will perform the first movement of Duo for Flute and Piano by Aaron Copland.

On April 18th at 3 p.m. in Miller 301, woodwind, string, piano and brass players will perform. A string quartet comprised of Dr. Lisa Lantz and Kristen Kovatch on violin, Dana DiGiuseppe on viola and Megan McKee on cello will perform two movements of a Mozart string quartet. Pianists Sharifa Barrow, Torrance Jones and Liz Wager will perform popular and classical works. Other performers include trombonist Casey Dunphy, trumpeter Matt Phillips, flutist Emily Merkey, clarinetists Valerie Boebinger and Jackie Kishbaugh, and oboist Geoffrey Cheung. Come support our student musicians!

# SPRING 2010

## MARCH

**26 Off Broadway.** The Chambers Singers present an evening of Broadway tunes and delicious desserts. Reservations required; proceeds toward Chamber Singers 2011 Tour Fund. Howell Hall, cash bar opens at 7 pm with 7:30 show time. *Note change of date.*

## APRIL

**10 *Gems of the Baroque.*** In celebration of the 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach, the AU Chamber Orchestra will present an all-Baroque concert featuring works by Bach, Vivaldi and Telemann. Free admission. Holmes Auditorium, 8 pm.

**11 Student Recital.** AU student vocalists will present a program of varied musical styles. Free admission. Howell Hall, 3 pm.

**14-17 *The Importance of Being Earnest*** by Oscar Wilde romps through the silly behaviors of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century English upper class. Tickets required. CD Smith III Theatre, 8 pm.

**18 Student Recital.** AU student musicians will perform on woodwinds, brass, strings and piano. Free admission. Miller 301, 3 pm.

**23 Concert Band** will present a wide selection of pieces from the wind literature. Free admission. Holmes Auditorium, 8 pm.

**28-30 *A Gala of One-Act Plays.*** Student directed short plays developed from Directing II Class will draw from a wide range of authors and ideas. Free admission. CD Smith III Theatre, Friday at 8 pm; Saturday at 2 and 8 pm; Sunday at 2 pm.

**30 Jazz Band and Chamber Singers** will kick things up and cool them down with an assortment of jazz selections. Free admission. Knight Club, 8 pm.

***Division of Performing Arts***  
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***Miller Performing Arts Center***  
***Saxon Drive***  
***Alfred, NY 14802***

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