
Alfred University CenterStage

Division of Performing Arts Newsletter • Spring 2018



Director's Welcome

There is snow covering the ground today as I write this. It is a brilliant white in the sunlight. The air is cold and crisp. It is the winter season in Alfred, which along with the holidays brings thoughts of spring. I looked up the word spring. Yes, it does indicate a season after winter, but the word in essence means to rise, leap, move –to spring forward. Spring time to us here at Alfred University means the Spring Semester and then the glorious summer to come. We are springing forward into a fresh new series of events.

Our 2018 season begins with a recital by tenor Boris VanDruff and pianist Kurt Galvan. This offering is followed by the AU Dance Theater concert, which will include the premier of new dance works by Alfred students, faculty and Miller Guest Artist, Nicole Stanton.

This issue of Center Stage contains all the information you will need to plan your calendar around inspiring performances and discover the excitement of world class music, theatre and dance: the hallmark of Performing Arts at Alfred University. Our commitment is to bring enjoyment, knowledge and meaning to life throughout all the seasons of the year.

Our 2017-2018 performances are made possible through the extraordinary generosity of Marlin and Ginger Miller, David and Elizabeth Miller, the Herrick- Gallman Fund for the Performing Arts, The School of Arts and Design and the Alfred University Institute for Cultural Unity, The New York State Dance and New York State Council on the Arts Dance Program, as well as the support of our many Premiere Club members.

Dr. Lisa Lantz

Professor of Music, Founding Director of the MostArts Festival
and Chair of Performing Arts at Alfred University

SPOTLIGHT ON dance

Eiko and *Body in Spaces*



Eiko performing Kifune Shrine. Photo by William Johnson

"She looked like an angel, a ghost, a saint, certainly not one of us," writes *The New York Times* of Eiko Otake.

Eiko was recently commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City to create three new editions of her ongoing work, *A Body in Places*, designed specifically for the Met's iconic spaces. The Alfred University Dance Department is honored to be hosting Eiko Otake for a week-long residency March 19 – 23 that will feature a new edition of *A Body in Places* designed specifically for Alfred University. The residency will connect with many departments across Alfred's campus and will include master classes, open rehearsals, a Bergren Forum, video lectures and a performance. During her residency Eiko will also connect with other universities and community members in the region. In preparation for

Eiko's residency, this past fall AU hosted Dr. Rosemary Candelario, author of *Flowers Cracking Concrete: Eiko & Koma's Asian/American Choreographies*, who gave multiple lectures about Eiko's work and taught experiential Butoh movement classes.

"The 2016 *Bessie* Committee awarded Eiko a special citation for 'making herself 'radically available' in public and private spaces.' She also received the *Anonymous was a Woman Award* in 2016."

This project is supported by the New York State DanceForce with funding from the New York State Council on the Arts Dance Program, the Marlin Miller Dance Residency Program, The School of Art and Design, and the Alfred University Institute for Cultural Unity.

AU Dance Theater

This February AU Dance Theater will include the premier of new dance works by Alfred students, faculty and Miller Guest Artist Nicole Stanton.

Marlin Miller Guest Artist Nicole Stanton will be in residence at Alfred University Jan. 29 – Feb. 3. Ms. Stanton is a dance artist, educator, and activist currently serving as Associate Professor of Dance, and faculty in the African American Studies Program, the College of the Environment, and the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance at Wesleyan University. She was an Associate Professor of Dance at the Ohio State University and has been a visiting artist/professor at several colleges and universities including Yale University and Antioch College. Nicole has been working at the intersection of art making, community organizing, and social justice for nearly twenty years. As a scholar and educator her work centers on the cultures and histories of the African Diaspora and the ways in which the arts, and dance specifically, serve as a site of reclamation and resistance. www.nicolestanton.net

While at AU, Ms. Stanton will create an original dance work with fifteen Alfred University and Alfred State College students and teach five classes including an open community master dance class. Stanton will engage the student dancers collaboratively in



Nicole Stanton

the creative process; generating material from their particular kinesthetic point of view. AU Dance Minor Alumni Krystal Cooper will be assisting Ms. Stanton. The premiere of this work will be included in the AU Dance Theater Concert, which will also feature new dances by faculty members D. Chase Angier and Colleen Culley, and by AU dance students Briana Van Dorpe, Marc Wideman, Reed Mclean, and Leanne Stephan. Izmir Ickbal will be the lighting designer for the concert. Performances are February 15 – 17th at 8 PM in the Miller Performing Arts Theater.

Performing Arts Season Calendar Spring 2018

FEBRUARY

- 4 Faculty Recital.** Featuring tenor Boris Van Druff and pianist Kurt Galvan. Susan Howell Hall, 3 pm
- 15-17 AU Dance Theater.** Original choreography and performances by AU students and the Marlin Miller Guest Artist. Miller Theatre, 8 pm

MARCH

Marlin & Ginger Miller Dance Residency

- 19-23 Guest Artist Eiko Otake.** Featuring internationally renowned guest artist, Eiko Otake. Times TBA. All events are free. Miller Performing Arts Center Dance Studios.
- 24 Choral Concert.** Haydn "Theresa Mass." Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, 7:30 pm

APRIL

Visiting Theatre Director: Eliza Beckwith

- 11-14 Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward.** Featuring guest director, NYC based Eliza Beckwith. C.D. Smith III Theatre, 7:30 pm
Tickets required.
- 15 Student Recital.** Susan Howell Hall, 3 pm
- 20 Jazz Band Concert.** Miller Theatre, 7:30 pm
- 27 Symphonic Band Concert.** Miller Theatre, 7:30 pm
- 28 Student Recital.** Miller Theatre, 3 pm
- 28 Symphony Orchestra Concert.** Featuring guest pianist, Lucy Mauro. Miller Theatre, 7:30 pm
- 29 Student Recital.** Susan Howell Hall, 3 pm

Welcome Visiting Designer, Izmir Ickbal

Izmir Ickbal is the Visiting Assistant Professor (Scenic and Lighting Design) at Alfred University. Originally, from Singapore, Izmir started model making and figure drawing to create his own world in his youth. In spite of his fondness for fine art, a teenage crush led him to enroll in a class in English Literature. Eventually, he ended up falling in love with plays instead. His work as a theatre designer include: *Happy Days* starring Diane Wiest (Theater for a New Audience), *Twelfth Night* (Irondale Center, New School), *The late Wedding and 1001* (Teatro LATEA, Columbia Stages), *The Taming of Cats* (Brick Theater), (International Festival of Arts, Singapore), and *Yusuf, The Gunpowder Trail*. Izmir holds an MFA from Yale School of Drama and a BA from the National University of Singapore. More info: izmirickbal.com



Guest Director, Eliza Beckwith

Eliza Beckwith, 1978 graduate, in Drama, lives in Brooklyn, NY. She is thrilled to be returning for the third time to teach and direct *Blithe Spirit* in the Miller Performing Arts Center. As an active and lifelong member of The Ensemble Studio Theatre, she has directed four times in their renowned Marathon of One-Act Plays. Eliza is a Co-Artistic Director of



New Directions Theater, where she most recently directed *Tiny Bubbles* by Richard Willett. Six years ago, Eliza directed the premiere of a new play at Alfred, *Death to the Book Club* by Olga Humphrey. Her rescue dog, Oscar, will accompany her. Welcome home, Eliza!

Visiting Sound Designer, Fan Zhang

Professional multimedia sound designer and composer, Fan Zhang created an incredible sound landscape for the Theatre production of *Eurydice*. This marked her debut collaboration with faculty and students at Alfred University. Ms. Zhang recently returned from her NYC home to campus to speak with students in the Performance Design & Technology program about her work as well as aspect of what they might expect in terms of a career. Zhang's unique music exists at an artistic crossroads of theatre, film scoring, orchestral, electronic, storytelling, installation art and noise. Her recent sound design and original music credits include: *Redeem* (Cincinnati Ballet), *A Footnote in History* (New

Ohio Theatre), and *Return on a Snowy Night* (National Centre for the Performing Arts of China). Ms. Zhang holds an MFA

in sound design from Yale School of Drama where she was a recipient of Gordon F. Knight Scholarship and the August Coppola Scholarship. www.fanzhangsound.com



Alfred Students receive honors from KCACTF

The Kennedy Center American College Theater (KCACTF), celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. It is a national theater program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide which has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theater in the United States. The KCACTF has grown into a network of more than 600 academic institutions throughout the country, where theater departments and student artists showcase their work and receive outside assessment by KCACTF respondents.



Above: Scene from *Eurydice*, designed by visiting designer Izmir Ickbal. Below: A *Eurydice* Mask by Trevor Monk '18.

Trevor Monk (Mask Designer/Maker) is a senior Theatre major with a Production Design and Technology minor. *Eurydice* was his senior capstone project which included the designing and making of six masks. Trevor not only prides himself in being a theatre major but also a football player as well. Meredith Prato (Costume Design) is a third-year student studying psychology and performance design. She has been active in costuming since her first year and plans on pursuing costume design as a

Alfred University's Theatre Department continues its active participation with KCACTF and will be sending outstanding student artists to the regional Festival held Jan. 16-20, 2018 at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. They all were recognized for their excellence in the most recent production *Eurydice*, by Sarah Ruhl and directed by Professor Stephen Crosby.



profession. Both received "Certificates of Excellence" for their fine work on *Eurydice*. Richard Beam (Actor) was nominated for the Irene Ryan acting competition in recognition of his fine performance of Orpheus. Lastly, Kathryn Fitch (Stage Manager), a junior English major will be submitting her prompt book for evaluation at the Festival. She states: "*Eurydice* is the second show (I) have stage managed at Alfred, but it's first in (my) heart."

SPOTLIGHT ON music

VanDruff and Galvan in Recital

...In Love and War- European Songs of the Nineteenth Century and World War I

Art history provides us no shortage of discussion of love and war, two of the most important components of the human condition. Romantic poetry and music in the 19th century discusses romantic love and its place in self-discovery at great length. Robert Schumann's Liederkreis, portrays romantic love through the eyes of the Wanderer, the soul who perennially looks to nature to find himself and love. Francesco Paolo Tosti opines on the subject with unique Italian passion. Gabriel Faure's French elegance combines with heat and agony to illustrate the pain after a relationship ends.

Finally, John Ireland's The Land of Lost Content begins with pastoral beauty, but this veil soon gives way to what lies at the heart of a people at war.

Join Boris Van Druff, tenor, and Kurt Galvan, piano, February 4th at 3pm in Susan Howell Hall.



Tenor Boris Van Druff, right, accompanied by Kurt Galvan

Lucy Mauro in Concert with the University Orchestra

Pianist Lucy Mauro, will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 with the Alfred University Orchestra under the direction of Lisa Lantz, Saturday, April 28 at 7:30 in Miller Theater.

Ms. Mauro has performed and taught in Germany, Italy, Spain, Austria, China and throughout the US. She made her concerto debut with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra at the age of 14 and is a graduate of



Lucy Mauro

the Peabody Conservatory where she studied with Ann Schein and Julio Esteban. She is an Associate Professor of Piano at West Virginia University. Ms. Mauro has several acclaimed recordings for Delos. Her most recent recording of Mademoiselle: Première Audience – Unknown Music of Nadia Boulanger, is currently nominated for a Grammy.



Four Alfred University alumni to solo for Haydn “Theresa Mass”

The AU Chorus and Chamber Singers will perform the Theresa Mass by Franz Josef Haydn on March 24 at 7:30 PM at the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church. Guest conductor, Adam Potter will lead the choirs, accompanied on organ by Laurel Buckwalter, and features four alumni soloists.



Rachel Romack '16

Soprano, Rachel Romack, 2016

graduate, in Theater and Psychology. She resides in Rochester, works with a pediatric therapy group, and engages in the local Rochester theater scene.



Maggie Fairman Williams '01

Alto, Maggie Fairman Williams

2001 graduate in Biology and Psychology. She earned a PhD in Biochemistry from Case Western Reserve University. She is a Lab Coordinator and part-time Instructor in the Biology

department at Notre Dame College of Ohio. She has participated in ensembles including CWRU's Early Music Singers and the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus.



Trevor Larcheveque '10

Tenor, Trevor Larcheveque, 2010 graduate, is an application engineer for Siemens Government Technologies, and resides in the Hudson Valley. Trevor plays bass and sings harmonies for a

Poughkeepsie folk rock band, The Warp/The Weft. The group released their third album, “Mapping an Absence”.



Domenick Freda '97

Baritone, Domenick Freda, graduate 1997, has pursued his love for musical performance with the New World Symphony and Chorus, Operaworks, and MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players, Apple Tree Arts

Community Chorus, the Auburn Community Chorus and the St. Mary's Church Choir. Domenick currently lives in Grafton, MA.

An additional performance with chamber orchestra, tenor Boris Van Druff, his wife, Talia, and Luanne Crosby will take place at St. Mary of the Angels church in Olean on April 21.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Alfred, NY
Permit No. 5

Alfred University
MostArts
Festival 2018
SUMMER MUSIC & ART
Celebrating 5 Years of Magic

Book now for
MostArts 2018:
July 8-14

Visit our website for
information and updates:
www.MostArts.Alfred.edu
or contact Lisa Lantz,
Artistic Director at
MostArts@alfred.edu.

