

Alfred University
CenterStage

Spring 2016

From the Division of Performing Arts

DANCE CONCERT TO FEATURE WORK BY

VALERIE NARANJO

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE PERCUSSIONIST

AU Performing Arts is pleased to collaborate with Women and Gender Studies to bring fabulous percussionist, Valerie Naranjo to campus for the annual Riley Lecture and a special performance in the Miller Theater. Originally from Southern Colorado, percussionist, vocalist, composer and clinician Valerie Dee Naranjo is known for her pioneering efforts in West African keyboard percussion music. She moved to New York City after completing studies in vocal and instrumental music education at the University of Oklahoma and Percussion Performance at Ithaca College.

Valerie's Alfred connection is to AU Professor of History Vicki Eaklor who was her first percussion teacher. Luanne Crosby from the Division of Performing Arts studied African drumming with Valerie for two summers in Fairbanks, Alaska. Crosby and Eaklor nominated Naranjo to be the 2016 Riley Lecturer. Naranjo agreed to perform and work with AU music students while on campus.

In 1996 Naranjo and kuor player Barry Olsen garnered a first place award for their playing of the gyil's traditional repertoire in Ghana's Kobine Festival of Traditional Music. They are to date the only non-West Africans to do this. Valerie currently plays percussion for NBC's Saturday Night Live Band and has recorded and performed with Broadway's *The Lion King*, The Philip Glass Ensemble, David Byrne, The Paul Winter Consort, Tori Amos, Airto Moreira, and the international percussion ensemble, Megadrum, which includes Milton Cardona, Zakir Hussein, and Glen Velez. She has also recorded with Bernard Woma, who will be a guest artist at AU in March.

The concert which begins at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 3, in the Miller Theater will include works for the Division's newly purchased xylophone as well as the African gyil and other percussion instruments. Valerie, who is Native American, will also perform works of Native origin. The concert is free and open to the public. Naranjo will speak in classes

on Monday, April 4, and then present the Riley Lecture entitled "Breaking Boundaries: A Conversation with World-Renowned Percussionist Valerie Naranjo" at 5:30 p.m. in the Knight Club. Funding has been provided by the David and Elizabeth Miller Performing Arts Fund and the GenderStudies Program.



FROM AFRICA TO MOTOWN

WITH THE AU CHORUS AND CHAMBER SINGERS

The Alfred University Chorus and Chamber Singers will present their spring concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church on Friday, April 15. The concert will feature choral works from Africa and works influenced by African Americans, including spirituals and selections from Motown of the 60's and 70's.

When choral director Luanne Crosby began planning the semester, she was

seeking a way to tie all of the vocal course offerings together. With two fabulous residencies focusing on African drumming and dance, it made sense to go this route. The choral layering and invigorating percussion of African music has always been a draw for choral groups. By pairing that with the emotional content of spirituals and the popular "easy-listening" appeal of Motown, it should provide an evening of wonderful choral sound.

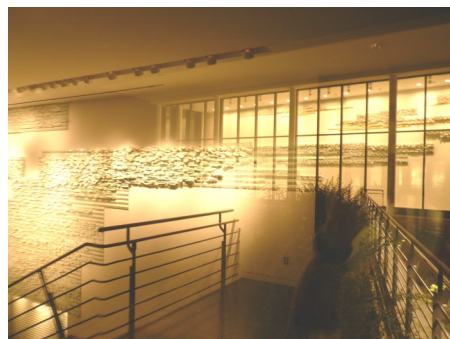
All are invited to this free event.

A YEAR OF CELEBRATION OF THE MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

This year, the Performing Arts Division is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Miller Performing Arts Center and the 5th Anniversary of the Miller Theater.

In the fall of 1995 Miller Performing Arts Center was dedicated. The three departments, dance, music and theatre, were moved in over Christmas break from locations around campus (the Step Lab building, Susan Howell Hall, the Music Annex behind Howell Hall,

caissons were pounded into the ground in all directions, as Miller Theater began its ascent into the backdrop of Alfred. Designed by the renowned Boston architectural firm of Kallman McKinnell and Wood, the magnificent Miller Theater opened its doors in the fall of 2010. A beautiful 9' Steinway concert grand piano graced the stage. A new costume shop and a new choral room with a tile installation by ceramic artist Anne Currier were part of the project.



Marlin Miller graduated from the class of 1956 with a degree in ceramic engineering. At AU he met his wife Marcianne, a student in the School of Art and Design, and together they built an amazing life centered around work, family and art.



*The University,
the Division of Performing Arts,
AU students and future alums,
and the Village of Alfred
are all deeply indebted to Marlin
Miller for his extraordinary gift to
our community.*

and McLane) to come together under one extraordinary roof. An Arts on Campus Initiative was underway, and artwork by painter Mary Lumm, a wood sculpture by Tom Lacagnina and ceramic work by Andrea Gill and Anne Currier, found a home in various locations around the Miller Performing Arts Center.

In 2006, 5,000 pieces of hand cut porcelain tile were hung in the lobby of the CD Smith III Theatre in the first installation of *EarthCloud* by artist Wayne Higby. In that same year, the landscape of Alfred began to change as trees came down, land was cleared and enormous 80 foot

The final installation of *EarthCloud* in the Miller Theatre lobby was completed in 2012, now over 12,000 tiles, making it the largest hand-cut porcelain installation in the world. When illuminated at night, this colossal work mirrors and reflects off of the curvature of the lobby glass, creating a conversation with its “older half” in the building next door.

All of this was provided by ONE extraordinary man. A man with an extraordinary vision and love for Alfred University, the arts and the performing arts, and above all, the students. This man is Marlin Miller



THE DEVIL'S TRIANGLE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY AU SENIOR ANDREW HAZER

Written and directed by Andrew Hazer as his senior theater project, *The Devil's Triangle* is a two-act horror drama about a modern-day New York family who survives a cruise ship wreck. Washed up on the shore of an uninhabited island, the family must seek refuge within the jungle and learn to adapt. Months after the wreck, some are still waiting to be rescued; others have given up hope. With a religiously obsessed mother, a dutiful and boisterous son,

a know-it-all and rebellious daughter, and an empathetic yet unfulfilled father, we see this family clash and shine under extreme circumstances.

The Devil's Triangle will be performed on February 11 and 12 at 7 p.m. and February 13 at 6 p.m. in C. D. Smith III Theatre. Hazer is a double major in English and Theater from Brooklyn, NY. Becky Prophet is the faculty advisor for this project.



SPRING THEATRE PRODUCTION ARCADIA BY STOPPARD

Arcadia, the award winning play by Sir Tom Stoppard, will be the theatre department's spring production. Considered by critics as a masterpiece and the finest play from one of the most significant contemporary playwrights in the English language, *Arcadia* blends Stoppard's love for words with ideas he has explored throughout his life. *Arcadia*, directed by Steve Crosby, will be presented April 6 through 9 in C. D. Smith III Theatre. Curtain time nightly will be 7:30.

Arcadia is set in Sidley Park, an English country house, and takes place in both 1809/1812 and the present day. Research activities of two modern scholars and the house's current residents are juxtaposed with activities of those who lived there earlier. In 1809, Thomasina Coverly, the daughter of the house, is a precocious teenager with ideas about mathematics, nature and physics well ahead of her time. She studies with her tutor, Septimus Hodge, a friend of Lord Byron. In the present, writer Hannah Jarvis and literature professor Bernard Nightingale converge on the house. She is investigating a hermit

who once lived on the grounds while he is researching a mysterious chapter in the life of Byron. As their studies unfold – with the help of Valentine, a descendant of the Coverly's and a post-graduate student in mathematical biology, intrigue of what happened in Thomasina's time is gradually revealed.

Through the fast paced plot and witty dialog, Stoppard ingeniously weaves together a wide range of themes, challenging audiences with several highly complex but fundamental mathematical and scientific concepts. Stoppard explores the meaning of "truth", wisdom versus knowledge, fate and free will, man and the natural world. He poses questions. Is life a series of conflicts between thinking and feeling, between order and disorder, between the Classical and the Romantic? How do we know if something is true? Does literary truth differ from scientific truth

Sir Tom Stoppard, knighted in 1997, has written prolifically for TV, radio, film and stage. In addition to *Arcadia*, other plays he has written include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are*

Dead Jumpers, *Travesties* and *The Real Thing*. He co-wrote the screenplays for *Shakespeare in Love* and *Brazil* and has received one Academy Award and four Tony Awards. Themes of human rights, censorship and political freedom pervade his work along with exploration of linguistics and philosophy. In 2006, the Royal Institution of Great Britain named *Arcadia* one of the best science-related works ever written. Stoppard is one of the most internationally performed dramatists of his generation.

You are invited to take the challenging and intriguing journey to comic / tragic discovery of what happened in Sidley Park. Tickets for *Arcadia* can be reserved by email at performs@alfred.edu or by calling 607-871-2828. Admission is \$2 for students, \$10 for general admission, and \$5 for senior citizens and non-AU students.

SAAKUMU DANCE TROUPE RETURNS

The Division of Performing Arts has again invited the award winning Saakuma Dance Troup, led by Bernard Woma, to Alfred University for a three day residency March 16 to 18. Saakumu performed on the Miller stage in 2011 to overwhelming response—a filled-to-capacity audience with students and community members buzzing about the experience for weeks.

The Troupe, one of the leading traditional/contemporary dance and music groups in Ghana, West Africa, is comprised of 12 musicians and dancers. The group repertoire includes a range of spiritual, ceremonial, recreational genres to contemporary African dance forms. The music and dance is joyful, expressive and highly participatory. The group will provide workshops on African drumming with the Global Music Class, a drumming and dance workshop open for all students and African dance in selected dance classes.

The residency will culminate in a free concert on Friday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Miller Theater. AU students will be featured with the musicians and dancers from Ghana. You don't want to miss this event which is made possible by funding from the Marlin and Ginger Miller Dance Residency Fund, the David and Elizabeth Miller Performing Arts Fund, the School of Art and Design, the Music Department, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



SHORTS

THREE ONE-ACTS & ONE FULL LENGTH

Every two years advanced theatre students have the opportunity to take Directing II. As a senior level course, this is a capstone opportunity for those who are interested. This year, five theatre majors are embracing this challenge. Under the working title of *Shorts*, three one-act plays and one full length will be presented in C. D. Smith III Theatre April 21 – 24. Performances will begin at 7:30.

Plays to be presented are the full length *Brownstone* by Catherine Butterfield. Co-directed by Abby Hurley and Niki Kimball, the play takes place in a New York City

brownstone during three different time periods and follows the lives of three different couples while they inhabit the brownstone. *Where All Good Rabbits Go* by Karina Cochran, is a new, unproduced play, that will be directed by Nazim Kourgli. The play features Julia, a sweet young woman with a past in fashion design; her husband Walter; and Dorn, Julia's doctor brother. Walter is a grounded, hard working farmer who turns into a rabbit throughout the course of the play. Plays yet to be decided upon will be directed by senior theatre majors Rachel Romack and Brian O'Connor.

Each play will be presented twice over the four days in alternating repertory. They will be free of charge. For additional information, please call the Division of Performing Arts at 871-2562.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO FEATURE CELLO CONCERTO

The AU Symphony Orchestra program on Saturday, April 16, will feature Zachary Sweet performing the exciting Saint Saens Cello Concerto No. 1. Under the baton of Dr. Lisa Lantz, the orchestra will also perform the beloved Symphony No. 25 by Mozart and Copland's "Hoe-Down" from *Rodeo*.

An educator and performer, Sweet is director of Ithaca Free Concerts and a faculty member at Colgate University and at Mansfield University. He completed his master's in performance and literature at the Eastman School of Music in 2006. Mr. Sweet has performed extensively throughout the Tri-State area. Currently, he is the principal cellist of the Colgate University Orchestra and plays with the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, the Binghamton Philharmonic, the Tri-

Cities Opera, and the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra. He has also had the pleasure of mentoring local youth orchestras in Tompkins County. He joined the Faculty of Ithaca College's Suzuki Institute and Summer Academies in 2013 and is thrilled to join the musicians at Alfred University's "MostArts" Music Festival.

This will be a wonderful concert for the entire family, and it's free. Starting time is 7:30 p.m. in the Miller Theater.



AU THEATRE STUDENTS PERFORM AT THEATRE FESTIVAL

Twelve students and faculty from Alfred University attended the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) for Region 2 at West Chester University in mid-January. Alfred had earned an invited scene from the production of *The Dining Room*. Eight students participated in the Irene Ryan auditions, and Prof. Becky Prophet co-ordinated the Fringe@Fringe Festival.

Abigail Smith and her scene partner Hannah West advanced to the semi-finals of the Irene Ryan audition. Abbi's audition in the semi-finals made her one of thirty-two actors from across the region who achieved this level. Nazim Kourgli was cast to

read in a new play. He was awarded the "Best Cold Reader" in the National Playwright's Project (NPP). Three Alfred students participated in "Next Steps." This is a service by KCACTF where grad schools and repertory theatre companies are brought to the festival for students ready for the next step to audition and interview. All three students received valuable experience and information from these programs.

While at the festival all students attended at least one workshop and some many more. Naz Kourgli taught a workshop in improvisation as well as reading for the NPP. Becky Prophet worked with three invited fringe productions, eight invited

scenes, Fringe Challenge, Flash Fringe, and two workshops, all for Fringe Festival within the Festival.

There were seven productions to see, two other spotlight productions and workshops, schmoozing, discussing theatre, and arguing about theatre, wherever you went.

Alfred University MostArts Festival

SUMMER MUSIC & ART

The MostArts Festival returns this July 3-9 with an even greater line up of artists, musicians, concerts, workshops and events. Grammy-award winning pianist Angelin Chang and Steinway artists Anthony Pattin and Andreas Klein will return to Miller Theater for the 2016 MostArts Festival, as well as last year's Grand Prize winner, 14 year old Avery Gagliano. The exquisite and rarely performed Concerto for Flute and Harp by Mozart will feature harpist Nancy Lendrim and flutist Jeanne Sperber.

Audiences will see many of their favorite musicians in the Festival Orchestra, as well as a number of new faces including Douglas Lyons, horn, and his wife, violinist Sayuri, who have recorded for numerous television and films in Hollywood; violist Nicole Wright, who has performed in NYC for the David Letterman Show and Madonna; violinist Maria Im who has performed at Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, Carnegie Hall, and Avery Fisher Hall; and trumpeter Bruno Laurenssetto who has performed extensively in North and South America.

Maestro Yuval Zaliouk, internationally renowned Israeli conductor, will return to the podium to conduct the Festival Orchestra. You won't want to miss the excitement and extraordinary talents of the 2016 Young Pianist Competition finalists in performance. Tickets are on sale through our website: MostArts.Alfred.edu or MostArts@alfred.edu or contact Lisa Lantz, Artistic Director at 607-871-2569.



Last year's piano competition winner Avery Gagliano will perform at this year's festival.



In my 49 years on the podium, I have had the privilege to conduct many world orchestras and participate in many famous festivals. Rarely did I experience the deep satisfaction I felt in Alfred. I thoroughly enjoyed my association with this beautiful Festival. Making music before the exceptionally appreciative audience with a very responsive orchestra rekindled in me new energies for our art...I am looking forward to 2016.

Maestro Yuval Zaliouk

SPRING 2016 SEASON

FEBRUARY

11-13 *The Devil's Triangle* written and directed by senior theatre major Andrew Hazer. Free admission. C. D. Smith III Theatre, 7 pm on Thursday and Friday and 6 pm on Saturday.

8-20 *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

18 *Saakumu*. Bernard Woma and his musicians and dancers from Ghana return for an unforgettable evening of African culture, music and dance. Free admission. Miller Theater, 7:30 pm

APRIL

3 **Valerie Naranjo**, award-winning global music percussionist and member of NBC's Saturday Night Live Band, has performed with the Philip Glass Ensemble and Tori Amos, and on Broadway in *Lion King*. Free admission. Miller Theater, 7:30 pm

6-9 *Arcadia by Tom Stoppard*. In this masterpiece of contemporary playwriting, the lives of two modern scholars are juxtaposed with those who lived in their English country house a century earlier as mysteries of the past are unraveled. Tickets required. CD Smith III, 7:30 pm

15 *From Africa to Motown*. The AU Chorus and AU Chamber Singers present music from Africa and with African roots in American soil. Free admission. Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, 7:30 pm

16 **AU Symphony Orchestra** features cellist Zachary Sweet and the Saint-Saens Cello Concerto. Free admission. Miller Theater, 7:30 pm.

17 **Student Recital** will feature brass, woodwinds, strings and piano. Free admission. Miller Theater, 3 pm

21-24 *Shorts*, a collection of one act plays presented by advanced directing students and graduating theatre majors. These diverse and entertaining plays are ever popular with students and community members alike. Look for more information as the date approaches. Free admission. CD Smith III.

22 **Symphonic Band**. Free admission. Miller Theater, 7:30 pm

29 **Jazz Band**. Free admission. Miller Theater, 7:30 pm

MAY

1 **Student Recital** will feature vocalists performing a variety of styles. Free admission. Howell Hall, 3 pm

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