
Alfred University

CenterStage

Division of Performing Arts Newsletter · Fall 2016



Welcome to the New Season

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to another wonderful season of dance, drama and music.

We are especially excited this year to be able to bring a truly eclectic and diverse season of visiting artists, residencies, and student performances to the Alfred Community.

Our 2016-2017 performances are made possible through extraordinary generosity of Marlin and Ginger Miller, David and Elizabeth Miller, the Herrick-Gallman Fund for the Performing Arts, as well as the support of our many Premiere Club members,

Join us for the season's premiere September 2 -3 featuring Some of a Thousand Words. New York City Ballet star, principal dancer, Wendy Whelan joins acclaimed choreographer and, Alfred's good friend, Brian Brooks for an evening of intimate solos and duets. Curtain UP!

Dr. Lisa Lantz

Professor of Music and Chair of Performing Arts

Wendy Whelan and Brian Brooks in *Some of a Thousand Words*

Alfred University will host a dance residency with artists Wendy Whelan and Brian Brooks. Their residency includes a master dance class and two performances of an evening dance concert, *Some of a Thousand Words*, on September 2nd and 3rd at 8pm in the Miller Performing Arts Theater at Alfred University.

Some of a Thousand Words is the second collaboration between Wendy Whelan and Brian Brooks featuring music by the New York-based string quartet, *Brooklyn Rider*. The evening includes the duet *First Fall*, which Wendy and Brian first developed for *Restless Creature* (co-produced by The Joyce Theater in 2013). Described as “luminous” and a “tour de force” in the Boston Globe and “instantly intimate” in the *Chicago Tribune*, *First Fall* bears testament to the personal friendship and

effervescent artistic chemistry which emerged from these two collaborators. Wendy and Brian further explore this relationship with a new collaborator, Brooklyn Rider, who perform existing music from composers John Luther Adams, Tyondai Braxton, Philip Glass, Evan Ziporyn and a new composition from Brooklyn Rider’s own Colin Jacobsen.

Wendy Whelan danced for 30 years at New York City Ballet, 23 of those years as principal dancer. She has danced virtually every major Balanchine role, and worked closely with Jerome Robbins on many of his ballets. She originated leading roles in works by such notable choreographers as William Forsythe, Twyla Tharp, Alexei Ratmansky, Christopher Wheeldon, Jorma Elo, and Wayne McGregor. In 2007, Wendy was nominated for both an Olivier Award and a Critics Circle Award for her performances in London, of Christopher Wheeldon’s work.

Wendy has been a guest artist with The Royal Ballet and the Kirov Ballet and has performed on nearly every major stage across the globe. She received the Dance Magazine Award in 2007, and in 2009 was given a Doctorate of Arts, honoris causa from Bellarmine University. In 2011 she received both The Jerome Robbins Award and a Bessie Award for her Sustained Achievement in Performance.

Choreographer Brian Brooks has recently been appointed as the inaugural Choreographer in Residence at Chicago’s Harris Theater for Music and Dance. This innovative three-year fellowship supports several commissions for Brooks each season with the first year featuring Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and Miami City Ballet, as well as his own New York-based group.

continued



Photo by Erin Baiano



Some of a Thousand Words *continued*

Brooks is the recipient of a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship. Other recent awards include a NY City Center Fellowship and the Joyce Theater's Artist Residency. His dance group, the Brian Brooks Moving Company, has toured nationally and internationally since 2002 with recent presentations by the Joyce Theater,

Jacob's Pillow, the American Dance Festival, and BAM as part of their 2013 Next Wave Festival.

For tickets available by calling 607-871-2828, emailing performs@alfred.edu, or order online at commerce.cashnet.com/aupay.

Katie Barlow, AU Class of 2011



Katie Barlow has been busy in the dance world post AU! This past winter Katie had the privilege of choreographing the show, "Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Wasn't Enough" at KNOW Theatre in Binghamton, NY. After directing and choreographing another large scale piece, the B-SENSational Flash Mob in Binghamton NY, she started a dance company based in Broome County, called *Katie Barlow Dance Projects*. Katie has FLASH MOB FEVER and is traveling along the east coast, creating flash mobs for sporting events, weddings, proposals- you name it- working with clients on "EPIC" first wedding dances and preparing for fall flash mobs! Visit her site: kbdanceprojects.com "*You Plan the Bash, We Plan the Flash!*"

Welcome Colleen Culley

We are delighted to welcome Colleen Culley to Performing Arts as our Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance this year.

Colleen's work has been presented throughout the Northeast and she has received grants from the NYS Dance Force for a several year series of community Dance Projects created throughout New York State in collaboration with Jim Self, and last year was commissioned to reset *At the Jubilee* on dancers at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. As an educator she values weaving creativity and personal agency into the development of artistry. Along with teaching at Alfred University, Colleen joined the Integrated Movement Studies as Core Faculty in the Certification Program, and has been on faculty at the College at Brockport and Hobart and William Smith, as well as a guest artist at New York University, Cornell, Syracuse, and Temple



Universities. Colleen is a graduate of William Smith College (BA in Dance, Arts and Education High Honors), has an MFA in Dance from the College at Brockport, and a MA from SUNY Empire State College. We look forward to her infectious energy and enthusiasm with our students, as well as to the potential growth and development of the AU Dance Program!

SPOTLIGHT ON theatre

Visiting Artist Colette Robert to Direct *The Ash Girl*

The Division of Performing Arts is delighted to welcome Colette Robert to Alfred this fall for a two month Theatre Residency.

She will be teaching a course "The Art of Collaboration" as well as directing a relatively new play by Timberlake Wertenbaker, *The Ash Girl*, a contemporary twist on Cinderella.

Colette is a Los Angeles native currently living and working in New York.

She has a passion for new plays, old plays, and diversity on stage.

Colette is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre (EST), New Georges Jam, Lincoln Center Director's Lab, and The Civilians 2015-2016 R&D Group. She

is a 2015-2016 Audrey Resident at New Georges, a 2016 Mabou Mines Resident Artist, and was the Public Theater's 2009 Van Lier Directing Fellow. Colette has

developed new work with EST/Youngblood, Atlantic Theatre Company, The Old Vic, Ma-Yi, Naked Angels,

Vineyard Arts Project, NYTW, Classical Theatre of Harlem, and the Sundance Theatre Lab. She earned her M.A., RADA at King's College, London. and B.A., Yale University.



I am thrilled to be directing The Ash Girl, Timberlake Wertenbaker's deliciously dark take on the Cinderella story, this fall at Alfred University. My brain is already spinning with ideas! Joining forces with a company of inquisitive and brave young artists to build such a magical and mysterious world will be a joy and pleasure.

· Colette Robert

Welcome to the Miller

Performing Arts Center, Colette! We look forward to your production of *The Ash Girl*, November 9-12 at 7:30 pm in the C.D. Smith Theatre.

AU Grad to Present Mask Building Workshop

Jennifer McClure, Class of 2004, will return to her alma mater to present a workshop in mask building this fall. Many of you may recall that Jen has worked as Props Master and Technical Director for Alfred University following her graduation from our Theatre Program. Currently, Jen is the Properties Master for Yale Repertory Theatre and also works as a freelance puppet

and mask builder. She has worked as Props Master for Merry-Go-Round Playhouse and New York Stage and Film, toured with Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, and designed sets and props for the Yale Cabaret and New Haven-based A Broken Umbrella Theatre Company.



Spotlight on Carlos Bido, AU Class of 2006

Carlos Bido is a native New Yorker who studied Theatre at Alfred University. In the year following his graduation, Carlos ran the scene shop and created lighting for several productions at Alfred University. In the following year, Carlos moved back to New York City to work in Theatre and Film, including an Artist in Residency at Pregnant Pictures in Prague. Carlos then worked at U.S. Satellite Laboratory (a STEM Education company) as a Multi-Media Designer where he designed curriculum guides for NSF, NOAA, and NASA grant-funded programs. Carlos is also the owner of 10X10 Studio (www.10x10studios.com). He is a treasured photographer and video maker. He enlivens the careers of many with his expert headshots and his (slightly) quirky videos. Carlos currently runs BBTv, a public access channel for the Blind Brook School District, and free lances in the tri-state area.



The Performing Arts Division of Alfred University was privileged to have Carlos return for workshops this past spring. He spoke to students about running a small business, preparing for a career in the visual arts, and especially to our young theatre or film artists. Thank you, Carlos!

Becky Prophet to Direct Silverstein Play



This is Not Your Mother's Shel Silverstein, BUT it is Still SHEL !

Wednesday September 21 through Saturday the 24th at 7:30 p.m. in the C.D. Smith Theatre in the Miller Performing Arts Center, the Theatre program will present

An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein by (of course), Shel Silverstein.

Most of us probably remember, hopefully with delight, our childhood readings of *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *A Light in the Attic*, *Falling Up*, and, of course, *The Giving Tree*. In those musings and poems we saw Silverstein's quirky sense of humor, his great ideas condensed into a few sensible phrases, and, if parents were doing the reading, we saw that he spoke to people of all ages. The play of ten scenes by Silverstein that is slated for performance in September contains all of his great ideas and gentle musings and much more!

In *An Adult Evening*, Silverstein combines his much applauded quirkiness with a good deal of very dark, dark humor.

In *An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein*, women may learn how to respond to men who ogle them or embarrass them with talk of female body parts. In "Smile" we may decide that we wouldn't want to admit to inventing the smiley face (and now, emoticons) or the pervasive and invasive "Have a Nice Day." Or, perhaps we'll discover that there are many advantages we fail to see as in the play of Blind Willie who begs for spare change to feed himself and his hungry dog—even as the dog has a LOT to say about how he could make money for Willie through his speech. Yes, Really!

While it is truly adult humor filled with irreverence, satire, and dark assumptions, the play delights all adults, just as Silverstein's books and poems delight all readers and listeners. Plan to brighten your semester with this production!

SPOTLIGHT ON music

“American Gypsy” Returns to Alfred University!

Internationally acclaimed 12-string guitarist and composer, Neil Jacobs teams up with Ukrainian master violinist Arkadiy Gips and award-winning bassist, Steve Fox for an extraordinary evening of music, September 30 at 7:30 pm in Miller Theater.



Composer and virtuoso musician, Neil Jacobs credits his distinctive 12 string guitar style and musical prowess to his vast experiences derived from his improbable world travels. His performance and compositional skills have been showcased in multiple critically acclaimed recordings. Neil will also lecture in several music classes during his three-day residency.

Arkadiy Gips, probably best known as the featured gypsy violinist with Madonna on her most recent world tour, specializes in Ukrainian, Jewish, Romani (Gypsy), Hungarian and Polish music. Both Arkadiy and Neil have extensive knowledge of Balkan and Slavic folk music and spent years both touring with the internationally acclaimed group, *Zivili*.

Music Residency with Composer Leslie Savoy Burrs

Music students will have an extraordinary opportunity to work with Philadelphia based composer and flutist, Leslie Burrs as well as his jazz quartet, Chakaba for the premier of the *Blue Harlem Project*. Leslie was here in 1999, had this to say:

I look forward to my return visit to Alfred University as artist-in-residence. As a performing artist, composer and educator it is so rewarding to interact with faculty and students of the caliber found at Alfred University. The theme for the residency is the Blue Harlem Project, and the residency serves as an inspiration to create a series of orchestrations, jazz and chamber works based on my recording Blue Harlem, Black Knight.



The *Blue Harlem Project* will incorporate the university's jazz and classical student musicians, the combined men and women's choral ensemble performing with my jazz quartet Chakaba, who are internationally touring artists. The *Blue Harlem Project* exemplifies

my Urban Classical Music concept and the opportunity to perform these works with the Alfred University students and faculty for the community of Alfred.

The residency will culminate in a weekend of free concerts November 18th and 19th in Miller Theater at 7:30 pm.



Guest Artist Hannah Lash returns to Alfred

Harpist and composer Hannah Lash returns to Alfred to perform with the AU Choirs.

The daughter of Martha and Barry Lash of Alfred, Hannah as a teenager accompanied the Alfred Chamber Singers in Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols. When director Luanne Crosby asked if she'd like to perform the Britten again, Hannah's response was "I'd love to!"



in Manhattan, the Chicago Art Institute, Tanglewood Music Center, and The Chelsea Art Museum.

The Women's Chorus will perform the *Ceremony of Carols* and the combined Women's and Men's Choirs will present *De Profundis* an original work by Ms. Lash on December 10 at 7:30

Hannah obtained her Ph.D in Composition from Harvard University and currently teaches at Yale University School of Music. Hailed by the *New York Times*, her music has been performed at the Times Center

pm in the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church. Hannah also will perform a solo recital the next afternoon at 3:00 pm in Miller Theater.

Spotlight on Emily Stoddard, AU Class of 2016



Her viola locker was barely returned when Emily Stoddard landed a new job as an AU Admissions Counselor. An AU Honors Scholar, Emily earned a BFA-Fine Art in 2016 and a B.S. in Art History and Theory. In addition to her studies in art, Emily participated in the AU Orchestra as first stand viola. "As a student at AU, playing the viola with the Orchestra provided me with technical challenge on my instrument as well as an opportunity to express myself alongside my fellow musicians. Now, as I return to Alfred as a member of the staff and community, I could not be more excited than to continue to play in the orchestra where I know I will be surrounded by enthusiasm, support, and a love of music!" Welcome back to the Miller Performing Arts Center, Emily !

Thank you, Laurel Buckwalter!

After decades of service in the music department, Laurel Buckwalter official retired in May. Laurel began director of the AU Chorus in 1984 and was appointed University Carillonneur in 1994. After discovering that the historic bells in Alfred's carillon were unfortunately counterfeit, she then raised funds to replace twenty bells. Laurel will teach the carillon and piano in hopes that students and community members will keep the bells ringing in Alfred.



Division of Performing Arts
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Alfred, NY 14802

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Performing Arts Season Calendar 2016

SEPTEMBER

- 2-3 **Some of a Thousand Words**, Wendy Whelan & Brian Brooks, Miller Theater, 8 pm
- 21-24 **An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein**, C.D. Smith III Theatre, 7:30 pm
- 30 **Neil Jacobs and American Gypsy Concert**, Miller Theater, 7:30 pm

OCTOBER

- 23 **Organ Spectacular IV Concert**, Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, 3 pm
- 31 **Halloween Spooktacular**, AU Orchestra Concert, Holmes Auditorium, 8 pm

NOVEMBER

- 9-12 **The Ash Girl by Timberlake Wertenbaker**, C.D. Smith III Theatre, 7:30 pm

- 18 **AU Jazz Band**, flutist Leslie Burrs and Chakaba in Concert, Miller Theater, 7:30 pm
- 19 **Blue Harlem Project Concert**, Jazz Band, Orchestra and Chorus, Miller Theater, 7:30 pm
- 20 **Student Recital**, Howell Hall, 3:00 pm

DECEMBER

- 1-2 **Informal Dance Showing**, C.D. Smith III Theatre, 7:00 pm
- 4 **Student recital**, Miller Theater, 3 pm
- 9 **Symphonic Band**, Miller Theater, 7:30 pm
- 10 **A Ceremony of Carols**. Women's Chorus & Hannah Lash, Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, 7:30 pm
- 11 **Recital: Hannah Lash, harpist**, Miller Theater, 3 pm

For Ticket information contact Performs@alfred.edu or 607-871-2828



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Artistic Director at MostArts@alfred.edu.