Summer, 2015

Welcome New NAU Theatre Students!

The faculty, staff and I would like to welcome you to NAU Theatre. We hope that your summer is going well and that you are looking forward to the upcoming year. This letter will outline some of the many events and activities we have planned as well as our expectations for you as you enter into this phase of your education at NAU.

During the 2015 – 2016 academic year, NAU Theatre invites you to experience “A Season of Great Stories told by Great Storytellers” - - From classic tales so popular they seem literally timeless, to plots so woven into the fabric of America they’re literally a part of history, to stories so poignant, so gripping they question and illuminate long-held notions of our own humanity. We are excited that you will be joining us on our two state-of-the-art stages and in the classroom for challenging theatrical experiences alluring you to grow and flourish as a student of Theatre. The following list outlines the season, audition dates for the productions, how to secure a crew position, and other details:

**2015-2016 SEASON**

*There will be something during Parents Weekend, STAY TUNED!*
October 2-3, 2015, the Studio Theater

**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** by William Shakespeare - - Double the trouble, double the fun! Two sets of long-lost twins meet up surprisingly, creating uproarious confusion for all, including, most side-splittingly- themselves. Clifford E. White Theater, October 16-25, 2015.
**QUILTERS** by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek. A joyous and moving, musical celebration paying tribute to American pioneer women’s courage and spirit. The Studio Theater, November 13-22, 2015.

**WATER BY THE SPOONFUL** by Quiara Alegría Hudes. A fearless, groundbreaking, Pulitzer Prize winning story where virtual worlds and real collide challenging our notions of family, courage, forgiveness and community. The Studio Theater, February 26-March 6, 2016.

**TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD** Adapted from the novel by Harper Lee. When a man is falsely accused of a heinous crime, a brave family and a few unlikely allies come to his aide. Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize winning story of finding truth will leave you awed and inspired. Clifford E. White Theater, April 22-May 1, 2016.

**AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:**
All theatre students interested in performance, and all freshmen and recent transfers, are required to audition for the four regular mainstage productions.

So, what do you need to prepare for the auditions?
- Read the plays and prepare for the audition thoroughly, which means practice!
- What we find important in an audition is that the student actor is prepared and memorized. We like to see that you cared enough to prepare in advance.
- We are also looking for actors that are willing to take a risk or make specific choices, and that you are willing to experiment with various directions/options—whether “right or wrong” for the character.
- Be open, creative and flexible.
- You might also meet with the faculty director to see what they might be looking for in the role. Dress for the audition and arrive early!
- As a new student, it is OK to perform a monologue that you already know, or have performed for a prior audition. You will quickly gain auditioning skills once you arrive on campus, and it is best to be prepared.
For the specific requirements please read on . . .

It is always good to try and find material that differs from your previous auditions. **REMEMBER, monologues should NOT exceed 1 minute each.**

**Fall auditions:**
Open Auditions: September 1 and 2, 2015. Callbacks are scheduled for September 3, 2015. Please sign up for a slot on the Department Callboard when you arrive on campus. You will be auditioning for the following mainstage productions: *The Comedy of Errors*, and *Quilters*. Please prepare the following material: A monologue selected from a Shakespearean play (not *The Comedy of Errors*). AND, if you are auditioning for *Quilters*, please perform a contemporary monologue, and 16 bars of a song. *Quilters* is an all-woman cast, so men do not need to prepare the music portion of the audition, or a second monologue. Monologues should be contrasting and not exceed 1-minute in length. Those auditioning for *Quilters* will have 2 minutes plus the 16 bars of music. Please bring your music recorded – a playing device will be provided.

**December Auditions:**
Due to the semester schedule, we will be auditioning *Water by the Spoonful* at the end of the Fall semester. Open auditions will be held December 7 and 8, 2015 with Callback auditions on December 9th. Rehearsals will begin on January 11th, 2016, prior to the start of the Spring semester. Please prepare a contemporary monologue, not exceeding 1 minute in length. Please sign up for a slot on the Department Callboard posted after Thanksgiving break. The audition sheets will be posted at the end of the fall semester.

**Spring auditions:**
Open Auditions for *To Kill a Mockingbird* will take place January 20 and 21, 2016, and callbacks are scheduled for January 22, 2016. Please sign up for a slot on the Department Callboard posted prior to leaving for the Winter Break. Please prepare a contemporary monologue, not exceeding 1 minute in length.

**Other Opportunities:**
In addition to the faculty directed, mainstage productions there are other opportunities for you to perform, work behind the scenes, and to make the most of your education. NAU Theatre prides itself on giving each student within their major a way to solidify and test their knowledge and
craftsmanship before entering the “real” world; this is known as the
STUDENT SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT. Every graduating senior will
have to complete a project within their area of interest. Occasionally, a
student director achieves the opportunity (after considerable hard work)
to direct a project. We will have a series of projects that will be cast
(after mainstage and second stage casting) in the fall and in the spring.
A few of these projects are full-length works and others are smaller, but
equally exciting projects. Please check the CALLBOARD regularly to find
these opportunities.

In addition, we have a wide variety of performance opportunities. Here is
a list of other opportunities that you can get involved in:

- TH 112-412 Special Edition (section) of Performance Workshop
  (Acting) – THE ONE ACTS. This course will audition during the
  regular open auditions in the fall, 2015 semester. Students will be
  “cast” in the class. The first class meeting will be Monday,
  September 14th at 5:30p.m. The class meets once a week and will
  culminate (as the final exam and project) with the Directing II- One
  Act Festival, December 2-5, 2015.

- The NAU Theatre 24 Hour Plays, fall semester. In a process that
  normally takes months; writers, directors, stage managers and
  many actors will write and produce six individual short plays. They
  will collaborate on set and script design, staging, rehearsal, and
  production before opening the doors to a live audience exactly 24
  hours after the writers begin drafting their scripts the night before.
  The only prep allowed prior to the weekend’s festivities is the
  selection of participants. This event takes place in October. Please
  check the Callboard for details.

- Directing I Scene Performances are scheduled at the end of the
  spring semester. The performances are the Directing I student’s
  final project. Students will present 8 to 10 minute scenes that are
  the culmination of their semester’s work. Each section of Directing
  I casts their work differently, so stay tuned for information on the
  Callboard.

- Other projects such as New Works Festival and Capstones will be
  posted on the CALLBOARD - - ALWAYS CHECK THE
  CALLBOARD (see Department Nerve Center for details.)
CREW ANYONE?
For those of you who are interested in working on the shows either as a crew member or in the shop, you will have the opportunity through your TH 123: Stagecraft, TH 122: Lighting and Sound or, TH 124: Costume Construction courses and the TH 113: Production Practicum applied courses to fulfill lab hours in one of the shops, as well as backstage. During that first week of classes you will attend a mandatory Majors/Minor meeting and complete the appropriate paperwork for the lab that meets in conjunction with your course (TH 122, 123 or 124) and then you will meet with the appropriate faculty member in the area of study. For example, if you are enrolled in TH 124: Costume Construction then you will work with Ms. Nancy Parr, if you are in TH 122: Lighting/Sound then you will work with Mr. Ben Alexander, and if you are in TH 123: Stagecraft you will work with Mr. Ben Grohs. If you have not added the TH 113 class, please contact our office and we will make sure that you are enrolled. Additionally, we encourage incoming students to gain experience by volunteering for a crew or for work in the shop if they are not in a TH 113 lab class. You will have the opportunity to meet the designers and technical staff (Jennifer Peterson, Nancy Parr, Kate Ellis, Ben Alexander, Steven House, and Ben Grohs) either at the New Majors/Minors meeting or when classes begin.

THE DEPARTMENT NERVE CENTER
In the Theatre hallway (located in The Performing and Fine Arts building 37) you will find the most important communication center for your four years at NAU. This is where the Callboard is located. The Callboard (located adjacent to the costume shop) is the control center for the department. You will find audition notices, daily schedules for rehearsals and production meetings, work calls, social events, and other pertinent information. Additionally, you will find a bulletin board directly across from the Theatre offices and next to Room 125 where outside auditions, school information, graduate programs, and job announcements are posted. Both the Callboard and the department board should be checked at least once a day in order for you to stay informed. Make it a habit by adding it to your routine as you pass by for a class that way you won’t have to remember each day.

Additionally, the Department Website maintains a Callboard with important information, a Department Facebook page, and a website (the NAU Department of Theatre) where pertinent information is posted regularly. Please visit these virtual domains in addition to the physical Callboard.
NAU Theatre has other events that are in the planning stages as I go to print with this bulletin. Unfortunately, I cannot fill you in on the details at this time. Please stay tuned for some exciting news. We hope to add performances and lectures that will enhance your studies in the coming year.

**IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS**

- **FALL MEETING OF NEW NAU THEATRE MAJORS** – Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 6:00p.m., in the Clifford E. White Theatre. THIS MEETING IS MANDITORY! IT IS REQUIRED ATTENDANCE BY ALL FRESHMEN AND NEW TRANSFER THEATRE STUDENTS, as well as RETURNING STUDENTS. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
- **SPRING MAJORS MEETING**– Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 6:00p.m. The Clifford E. White Theatre. THIS MEETING IS MANDITORY! IT IS REQUIRED ATTENDANCE BY ALL FRESHMEN AND NEW TRANSFER THEATRE STUDENTS, as well as RETURNING STUDENTS. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
- **SOPHOMORE AND TRANSFER STUDENT REVIEWS**, January 26-28, 2016. Sign up times will be posted on the call board at the end of the fall semester. It takes place in either the Conference room, or Room 151 – check the sheet for the details. THIS IS REQUIRED ATTENDANCE BY ALL SOPHOMORE AND TRANSFER THEATRE MAJORS. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
- **NAU Drama Day**, Saturday, October 24, 2015.
- **SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS**, Saturday, March 5, 2016 for all students. They will take place in the Studio Theater; paperwork will be due March 1, 2016. Please check the website and the Callboard for details.
- **PERFORMANCE EMPHASIS AUDITIONS**, Friday, March 25, 2016, 3:30p.m. in the Studio Theatre.
- **DESIGN/TECHNOLOGY EMPHASIS INTERVIEWS**, Friday, March 4, 2016 3:30p.m. in the Design Lab, Room 115.
- **DEPARTMENT PHOTOGRAPH** immediately prior to strike of *To Kill a Mockingbird* on May 1, 2016 on the CEW stage.

**VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**
You will be expected to review the NAU Theatre Student Handbook ([http://www.cal.nau.edu/theatre/students.asp](http://www.cal.nau.edu/theatre/students.asp)) prior to the fall Majors/Minors Meeting. There is a lot of very important information on the link and you will wish to visit it regularly for answers to your questions.
NAU THEATRE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
Student Organizations are a great way to:

- Gain additional experience leading to leadership roles in the department.
- Build your resume.
- Meet new friends and colleagues.
- Apply your coursework to real-life projects.
- Hone your skills in a safe environment.
- Have fun.
- Make a difference in the department.
- Find your passion.

Alpha Psi Omega (APO)
Alpha Psi Omega is the National Theatre Honor Society that works towards establishing quality dramatic production, and professionalism in theatre students and universities. The Beta Nu cast was formed at Northern Arizona University thirty years ago, and it has flourished becoming a respected organization within the Department of Theatre. Each year, APO presents production opportunities for students, workshops and seminars to enhance coursework and lab experiences, service projects for the department, and much, much more. Students earn points towards their application by becoming involved in Departmental projects. Applications are taken each semester.

Arizona Playmakers (AZP) and NAUghty Bits
Arizona Playmakers, originally called Kilani Nilani, was founded in 1923, and is one of the oldest clubs on campus. Throughout the years, Arizona Playmakers (or AZP for short) has been dedicated to creating an environment in which students can explore opportunities in theatre. AZP is also the proud sponsor of NAUghty Bits, Flagstaff’s premier improv comedy troupe. All students are welcome to join in and play with us as NAUghty Bits performs across Arizona for dorms, schools, conventions, and parties. Each year, AZP also sponsors a variety of events. Past events include a night of scenes, the 10-minute play festival, the picnic auction, and more. Arizona Playmakers welcomes all students with an interest in theatre to join us. There are no requirements to be a member.

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)
NAU USITT (United States Institute for Theatre Technology) supports students looking to explore the field of design and technology. They provide members with informative seminars, networking opportunities, and job opportunities. NAU USITT is under Desert State – the regional
chapter – and under the National Organization. Every year they attend several seminars that Desert State offers, as well as the national conference. The student chapter provides financial support for students who wish to attend the conference. USITT meetings are on Wednesdays at 5:15pm. Please look for information on the Callboard and at the Majors/Minors Meeting in August.

ONCE AGAIN, WELCOME!
The Faculty, Staff, and returning students are very excited to meet you. Please remember that even if you are being advised in Gateway you should stop by and talk to the Theatre faculty about your course of study. We would like to get to know you better! The study of Theatre is accumulative; meaning that you begin the study immediately in order to advance and develop as a craftsperson and artist. You will take your liberal studies core as well as major course work together throughout your degree studies at NAU.

I hope you are just as excited as we are about the coming year. We look forward to getting to know each of you. Have a safe summer and we will see you soon!

Kathleen M. McGeever, Chair
Professor of Theatre, Performance
NAU Department of Theatre