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Plot Lines, February 2001

Columbia College Chicago

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February 2001

What's inside?

Who Does What?

A breakdown of faculty and staff in the department that can help you out with any questions you might have

In Memoriam

The Theater Dept. remembers

John Murbach

Scholarship info...

Graduation info...

Costume Shop info...

Show updates...

Audition info...

Did you know *Macbeth* auditions are the second week of the new semester?

Auditions are coming up- check the back page for some insight, and always check the 3rd floor boards for more info!



Plotlines Editor: Ali Dornheggen Contributors: Susan Padveen, Brian Shaw, and Tom Mula

Who Are These Folks?

Who does what? Well, most of the students meet most of the faculty at the beginning of each semester with Sheldon's biannual beginning-of-the-semester meeting. However, if you are new to the Columbia family, it is a lot to process at one time. Even if you are not new, there are still some things about teachers and staff whom you have never had who might be able to help you out in the future. So here is a little rundown of some of the people who teach us, challenge us, mentor us, and put up with us.

In the Office...

Sheldon Patinkin. If you don't know who he is- then why are you here? He is the head of the department, teaches some acting and musical theater classes as well as co-

teaches the upper-level directing classes. He is the person to talk to if you have a problem with a teacher or with a class.

Brian Shaw. He is the Assistant Chairperson of the Theater Department. Brian is the man you want to talk to if you think you can be waived out of a class, if you need to know about the specific major requirements, scholarship opportunities, to name a few things. He also teaches a couple of acting classes- including Physical Theater, which is a great class to take if you have hit a block with your acting physically.

Mary Badger. "Badge" is the Producing Director for the Theater Department. That means that she handles the money. Badger supervises the budget for the department, hires the production staff for all of the mainstage productions, deals with any building/construction

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Costume Shop Hours

Costume shop hours for the spring semester are as follows:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:00-5:30 and Fridays from 11:00-3:00. If you can't make these times, you can call the costume shop for an appointment at 312.344.6605. Remember, to check out costumes you need a valid student ID and a note from your instructor. Check with your instructor because he/she might have a blanket note for your class already at the costume shop.

Mandatory Student Meeting

At the beginning of each semester there are mandatory theater student meetings. For those of you who have been here for more than one semester, you know what I am talking about. It is a chance for the new students to see who the faculty are and a chance for those of us returning to see who the new faculty are. It's also for everyone to hear what's going on in the department this semester. This semester the meetings are **Wednesday, February 14th and Thursday, February 15th at 11:30 am in the Getz. Attendance at one of these two meeting is mandatory for all theater students.**

Heads Up, Graduating Seniors!

Hey, Seniors! Think you are graduating? If you plan to walk on June 3rd don't forget that you have to APPLY to graduate. If you are finished with school by the end of fall 2000, spring 2001 or summer 2001, then you can walk in the ceremony on June 3rd. BUT YOU MUST APPLY. All you have to do is go to Academic Advising at 623 S. Wabash, Suite 300, and fill out the application. It takes about five minutes and you won't receive your diploma if you don't APPLY FOR IT.

problems, as well as running the Box Office and teaching the stage management class.

Ed Mazzocco. Ed is the Administrative Assistant. He runs the office, assigns the students to their advisors, gives tours to prospective students and is the all-knowing brain of the Theater Department. If you ever have a questions and you don't know who to go to, talk to Ed and he should be able to help you out.

David Puskiewicz is the Theater Department's Production Manager. He is the man who schedules and makes sure that all of the shows here at Columbia go up without any problems. He supervises the prop shop, the theater spaces and the technical equipment in those spaces.

Susan Padveen. She is the person who makes sure people know what is going

on here at Columbia's theater department. Her official title is the Director of Audience Development, but she does so much more than that, plus she teaches a few classes as well. If you have any questions about Senior Showcase, she is the person to talk to.

Julie Lutgen. You see Julie at the front desk whenever you walk into the 3rd Floor office. She can help you find a teacher that you need to talk to, or answer any other general questions that you might have. Say hi to her when you see her.

Alberta is the security guard who is usually sitting at the front desk when you enter the building. If you ever experience any harassment or any other criminal activities, be sure to report it to her or any of the night guard staff.

Now that you know the office staff, suppose there are things that they might not be able to help you out with.

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Well, check out these suggestions and see if you can find your answers with any of these faculty members.

For **vocal** problems- talk to Pauline Brailsford or Cecilie O'Reilly. They are the heads of the voice program and Pauline also arranges an "S" clinic for students that have pronunciation problems with the letter 's'. For **movement** problems, Nana Shineflug or Holly Quinn can help you out. For **stage combat**, David Woolley is the person to talk to. If you need assistance with **make-up**, you want to talk to Tom Mula. Susan Philpot is the woman to talk to if you need to learn an **accent** or **dialect**. For **lighting design problems**, Margaret Nelson is who you should talk to, and if you have a **technical** question, you can ask Gwenne Godwin. For **scenic** and **costume** design questions, Francis Maggio can

definitely help you out. But if you have a **scenic construction** question, hunt down Mick Thomasson or Michael Maddux. All of these faculty and staff can be reached through voicemail or you can leave messages for them in their 3rd floor mailboxes. Any teacher or staff member will gladly answer your questions or help you with your problems to the best of their ability.

For **financial aid** questions you need to go to the financial aid office in the 600 S. Michigan building, Suite 303, but for questions about **bill payments** you should check in with the Bursar's office. It is in the same building, but in Suite 600. (The Bursar's office is also the place to go if you need to change your mailing or billing address with the school.) For **career advising**, check with Ashley Knight in the 623 S. Wabash building, Suite 300.

SCHOLARSHIPS!

You guys asked for it, so pay attention. Here is the scholarship info that can help out those tuition bills. Information is always posted on the **Important Notices board** in the 3rd floor elevator lobby. Look for information about the following scholarship opportunities during the spring semester:

- Academic Excellence Award
- Freshman Achievement Award
- David Talbott Cox Award for student directors
- Betty Garrett Award for Musical Theater Performance majors
- Michael Merritt Scholarship for Design majors

Community Outreach

In November of this year, Vida Ognjenovic from the University of Novi Sad, Serbia, spent a week in residence in the Theater Department. She observed and taught acting classes and made brief presentations about theater in the Balkans in Styles & Crafts classes. This residency is the first step in a faculty exchange between the two schools. Brian Shaw will travel to Novi Sad in the late spring to teach workshops and attend the theater festival in Novi Sad that showcases Balkan theater. The plan for the future is to exchange small groups of students to experience training and performance opportunities in both locations.

Faculty Spotlight

This March, Stephanie Shaw and selected members of the solo performance classes will be developing new works with the Teens of Free Street Theater Company. It is a part of Free Street's PANG performance series, with performance dates on March 30th and 31st at 7:00pm, located in Pulaski Park at 1419 W. Blackhawk.

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To make sure you are on the right track for graduation, talk to Keri Kurlinski-Walters, who is also in Suite 300 of the 623 S. Wabash building.

ADDITIONS!

Actors: be prepared for auditions the first week back from semester break. Here are just a few of the Directing III class projects that will be holding auditions...

The Apocalypse

"Atrocities committed by humanity are remembered by unnamed figures." Written by Tsvetana Dontcheva; Directed by Tonika Todorova; Open casting; looking for minimum of 3 women, 2 men and a maximum of 5 women, 4 men.

Bedroom Farce

"A husband and wife cause havoc for three other couples." By Alan Ayckbourn; Directed by Megan Smith; Looking for 4 Women and 4 Men

Catholic School Girls

"4 girls struggle and grow together through the challenges of Catholic grade school." By Casey Kurtti; Directed by Katy Jones; Looking for 4 women.

A Memorial Remembering John Murbach

By Tom Mula

John Murbach passed away on Christmas Day after a brief illness. "He was a gentle, very kind, very funny man. His death was very sudden and totally unexpected. "This is quite a big loss for us all," - Sheldon Patinkin, Theater Department Chair.

Murbach taught for more than ten years in the Columbia College Chicago Theater Department, teaching scenic design and designing shows for the department. He also designed for many theaters in Chicago. I first met John in 1983, when he was assistant-designing *Kabuki Macbeth* for Wisdom Bridge Theatre. In the years since, we worked together on many shows, including *Straight Arrows* at Wisdom Bridge; *As You Like It*, *Dr. Faustus*, *Falstaff*, *Richard III*, and *Romeo & Juliet* at Oak Park Festival Theatre, and *Tartuffe* at Columbia. Most recently, John designed Sheldon's production of *Long Day's Journey into Night*.

"John was a great problem solver. He was a craftsman and a highly skilled scene painter. He was also a great collaborative artist, and enjoyed working with the other designers on a production," - Mary Badger.

John was a designer of great innovation and imagination. One of the things I admired most about him was that his sets, all great-looking, were visual essays on what the plays were about. (I know that's what designers are supposed to do, but it doesn't happen all that often, really.) His *Romeo & Juliet* set was a pretty puzzle-box of walls and boundaries; his set for *Tartuffe* was a rich man's house suspended in front of a heavenly sky.

Murbach was good to work

about John, his work was always about serving the play, solving the play's problems, and serving up the play to the audience. He always had another good idea, and he always came in on budget.

"He was good at creating a world where all the elements came together. The main thing about John is that he really made himself available to his students and their needs. He was constantly generous with his time and cared about everyone in his class," Francis Maggio.

John and I were close, years ago. We went to a lot of parties together, and we drifted apart a bit over the years. But I always thought of John as a friend, someone I enjoyed, enjoyed being with, felt comfortable around, and respected as an artist. We laughed together a great deal, and sat together at the back of faculty meetings.

Nobody gets out of here alive. Why should a friend's death upset us anymore than someone moving to LA? I guess because it's so final, to our way of thinking. We'll never see them again, never talk and joke with them again, never share a cocktail or a dirty joke, never again have the inspiration of their ideas, their wry wit, their friendship.

If you've got something to say to someone, say it now, while they can still hear it. Don't wait until someone asks you to write a memorial.

John, you'll be missed.

A Memorial service for John Murbach will be on Monday, February 19th, at 6:30pm in the Concert Hall of the Music Building, located at the corner of 11th Street and Michigan Avenue.