

Fall 10-1-2004

Plot Lines, Fall 2004

Columbia College Chicago

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Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Plot Lines, Fall 2004" (2004). *Plot Lines*. 7.
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Plotlines

A SEMESTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS

Columbia College Chicago Theater Department

Fall 2004

Your Roadmap!

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- *Making An Impression
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- *Everybody Dance Info
- *George Gershwin Alone



(the) present:

- *BA or BFA?
- *Resource Center News!
- *Department Audition Policy
- *Black Actors Guild
- *Music Theater Club
- *Improv Club
- *In the Mix



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- *24 Hour Playwriting Festival
- *Wise Ass Comedy
- *Summer Tuition—CHEAPER!
- *Liberace Students
- *Senior Showcase
- *Headshot Info

(the) **past n la:** time gone by **b:** something that happened in the past

Congratulations!

A: (with great curiosity) *To whom, by golly?*
 B: (with exuberance) *To all of those who were involved in the 25 (whew!) Columbia Fall 2004 productions, of course!*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>J Wish I Were in Love Again</i> | Becoming Bare |
| Boys' Life | <i>Tears of a Weeping Willow</i> |
| <i>Waiting for Lefty</i> | The Miss Firecracker Contest |
| Push Up | Guys and Dolls |
| <i>Sorry, Wrong Number</i> | <i>The Years</i> |
| <i>Our Lives, Our Fortunes, and Our Sacred Honor</i> | Miracle |
| Little Murders | <i>Amphitryon</i> |
| The Dumb Waiter | The 24 Hour New Plays Festival (SIX NEW PLAYS!) |
| TRUE WEST | CLARA'S OLD MAN |
| <i>The Love Talker</i> | <i>Tongue of a Bird</i> |

www.colum.edu/undergraduate/theater/
 Columbia College Theater Department's **NEW** Web Site is up and running!

PLEASE check out, peer into, investigate, **USE** the smorgasbord of Theater Department information now available at your fingertips!

Production Info! Workshop/Lecture/Special Events/Scholarship Info!
 Production Calendar! Ticket Reservations! Frequently Asked Questions!
 Up-to-date Faculty and Alumni Info! Faculty and Staff Bios! And **MORE** ...

Announcing the Departmental Theater Journal, "Portfolio Review," exploring the art, craft and process of theater. **STUDENT (YES, STUDENT)**, faculty and staff work is welcome! **New Beginnings** is the theme for the inaugural annual issue, due out in Spring 2005. Watch for it!

(the) past continued...

STAGE COMBAT!!



MAKING AN IMPRESSION



STAGE COMBAT!!

"I was in the heat of battle, when I lost focus, and that's why I have this glass eye," remarks Jeff Phillips as he taps his left eye with a Sanford uni-ball ONYX Fine pen...**JUST KIDDING! WE SWEAR!** Yet, in light of taking his now second Stage Combat class at Columbia, Jeff continues to learn that "actions have consequences."

Whether using broad sword or small sword or shield or rapier or dagger or a combination of these or none at all (a.k.a. unarmed), Stage Combat is a powerful acting class that "takes you back to the basics," says Curtis Jackson. Curtis has taken Stage Com-

bat classes with both Columbia Stage Combat instructors John McFarland and David Woolley. "They're very good at fighting and they're very good at acting," continues Curtis as he explains how both instructors instill the importance of "trusting [yourself] to take care of the rest of the people [you are] on stage with," while acting with weapons involved. The weapons, however, can also be "treat[ed] as extensions of [the] body," continues Jeff Phillips as he likens Stage Combat to a Body Movement class. Jeff now feels more "connected to [his] legs" in a scene and therefore more able to "create a stronger stage picture."

And this stronger stage picture involves layers of specifics and concentration to triggers and heaps to physical commitment and followthrough to the beautiful logic of, "I almost got my [name a body part] slashed...what am I going to do now?"

From learning how to choreograph a scene with violence and where to put the text of the scene while retaining the thru line, Stage Combat is definitely an enlightening opportunity to learn how to "be in the moment, not breeze through it" *AND* use weapons.

Intrigued, curious or scared? **TAKE STAGE COMBAT! OH YEAH!!**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Columbia Theater Students Cross the Border ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

This past June, 11 students and 4 faculty members took a five day trip to the Stratford Festival of Canada. They saw five plays in that time, including *Noises Off* and *Macbeth*. Various Columbia faculty members were able to provide the group contacts with professionals at Stratford. As a result, the group was able to experience more "behind the scenes" action. They joined designers and actors for dinner and drinks, toured the costume shop, and got to remain in the theatre after a show and watch the changeover from *Noises Off* into *Anything Goes*.

The cost of the trip came out to approximately \$570 per person, which included hotel rooms, travel expenses (they took a bus from Chicago to Stratford), a full buffet every morning, lunch on the bus there and back, and the cost of the tickets.

The trip is open to *anyone*. Students of any major or any school, spouses, parents, grandparents, all are welcome. Last year's trip was the first travel opportunity offered to Columbia theater students. The trip needs at least 15 students to fly, so pack your bags and head on out to Stratford this summer. It promises to be an unforgettable trip.

For more information:

Columbia's trip- contact Caroline Dodge-Latta at 312-344-6138
Stratford Festival of Canada- <http://www.stratford-festival.on.ca>

Everybody Dance!

In May 2004, 13 Columbia College students helped Dennis Wise (Body Movement) produce *Everybody Dance*, an all ages ballroom dance showcase, at the Harold Washington Library. The show also featured performers from Admiral at the Lake (a nursing home) and Sabin Elementary (a CCC Office of Community Arts Partnership school). Ted Hardin's CCC Production IV film class contributed a student movie excerpted from the Freshman Performance Project, *M&D Lumber...A True Story*. The entire show is currently airing on cable television!

Columbia College students involved: Chris Beach, Riley Haupt, Alex Hashoota-Oatfield, Rich Lister, Brian Moultrup, Dave Singleton, Rose Kruger-Springer, Gabriel Trulson, Will Crespo, Yunuen Oseguera-Pardo, Stephanie Berliant, Kristen Leclair and Kira McFarland.

Everybody Dance will be repeated for the Winter Delights, February 25, Preston Bradley Hall at noon and again at Harold Washington Library, date and time TBA!

Becoming Gershwin

On November 18, 2004, the Musical Theater Major welcomed actor/singer/pianist/author Hershey Felder. Felder is known for his one man show *George Gershwin Alone* in which he portrays Gershwin, discussing and performing his music. Felder, also a teacher and musical theater historian provided an interesting presentation for Columbia students. He discussed the music of Gershwin as well as the process of writing and producing a solo show. *George Gershwin Alone* is now playing at the Royal George Theatre. More information about Felder and his show can be found at:

<http://www.georgegershwinalone.com>

(the) present continued...

Black Actors Guild

Mission Statement: Black Actors Guild is a multi-cultural organization dedicated to the preservation and uplift of Afro-American Theater as it pertains to Columbia College's campus and to the community. Black Actors Guild also thrives to serve African-American theater students with the essentials to build careers as professional and hopes to provide a sense of community among peers.

Along with presenting works of African American artists, the Black Actors Guild (otherwise known as BAG), often partakes in community activities. During the fall semester of '04 they hosted a canned food drive and a Toys for Tots campaign. This semester BAG members are planning to participate in the March of Dimes walk.

The Black Actors Guild holds weekly meetings open to EVERY-

ONE. The meetings' subject matter differs from week to week. There may be a discussion about a play, a guest speaker, or conversation on upcoming events. Some events for the spring semester include monthly monologue nights, a hot chocolate and Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser, and a Harlem Renaissance Night.

To get involved with BAG all you need to do is show up. Meetings are typically held on Friday afternoons. Check the third floor boards for more information!

Musical Theater Collective

Mission Statement: The Columbia Musical Theater Collective is organized to coordinate the most diverse of interests and talents Columbia has to offer. The Theater Department at Columbia is one of the largest departments in the school and the Musical Theater Performance Major is one of the most exciting majors offered. That excitement is manifested by the diverse, eclectic student body that is the core of support for Musical Theater at Columbia. Our performances will involve the Musical Theater majors and lovers alike from the entire campus. Columbia Musical Theater Collective's coordination of interactive faculty and various Columbia majors such as Film, Writing, Music, and other studies of theater affirm our group as an interdepartmental phenomenon that unites Columbia College students and rallies school morale.

Past activities include *I Wish I Were in Love Again*, a musical revue involving songs by Hammerstein, Porter, Schertzing, Mercer, Hart, Gershwin, Rodgers, Kern, Styne and Arlen, directed by faculty member Scott Olson. Columbia students Brian Cox, Harmony France, Marleah Liddle, Eric Martin, Adam Minegar and Nicole Pierce performed via solos, duets and ensemble numbers amidst a nightclub atmosphere in the Classic Studio.

Future activities include a trip to see the musical *Wicked* at the Oriental Theatre on May 8, 2005 at 7:30 pm. Interested? \$20 tickets may still be available through Michael Harnichar!!! Contact him at M-harnichar@hotmail.com. The club will also be sponsoring a concert reading of *Into the Woods* at the beginning of Fall semester 2005. Stay posted for more info and audition dates!

Is your curiosity piqued? Care to be involved? More info? E-mail your interest to Columbia_MTClub@hotmail.com

SUPER FUN!

The Columbia College Improv Club is on a mission: to introduce improv to students regardless of experience level. The club is open to all Columbia students. President of the CCIC, Alexa Hanrahan, says, "our goal is to encourage students to recognize improv as a legitimate art form that can be applied to any medium. And we want to have lots of super fun." The first meeting of the spring semester is scheduled for 6 pm on February 16th, and the first rehearsal is scheduled for February 20th. The meeting and rehearsal are open to anyone.

Check the third floor boards for updates and performance dates. Contact the club at: columbiacollegeimprovclub@yahoo.com

In The Mix

- Who:** Columbia College Students!
- What:** A student networking club!
- Where:** Various locations on the Columbia College Campus!*
- When:** NOW!*
- Why:** To help students in art and entertainment get the work they need and meet the people they need!
- How:** COLLABORATION!

*Information regarding where and when the monthly **In The Mix** meetings are will be posted on the 3rd Floor boards in the 72 E. 11th Street Building! For even MORE info, go to inthemix7no@yahoo.com

(the) **present n la:** present occasion or affair **b:** the present words or statements

(Hmmm...) **BA? BFA? BA? BFA? BA?** (Hmmm...)

“What can I get a *Bachelors of Arts* degree in at Columbia's Theater Department?”

- *BA in *THEATER* (120 credit hrs.)
- *BA in *MUSICAL THEATER* (120 credit hrs.)
- *BA in *DESIGN & TECHNICAL THEATER* (120 credit hrs.)
- *Interdisciplinary BA in *PLAYWRITING, FICTION WRITING and THEATER* (120 credit hrs.)

The Bachelors of Arts degrees provide a general education in the practice of theater. The BA is designed to provide a basic understanding of theater technique and theory, while also providing advanced classes in the area of the student's interest. The BA also allows room in the schedule to complete a minor in another area, or to take other classes of interest and provides a solid base for pursuing a career in the theater and/or for seeking a graduate degree in theater or other disciplines. Students working towards the BA in Theater, Musical Theater and Design are eligible to participate in Senior Showcase.

“What can I get a *Bachelors of Fine Arts* degree in at Columbia's Theater Department?”

- *BFA in *ACTING* (128 credit hrs.)
- *BFA in *DIRECTING* (128 credit hrs.)
- *BFA in *DESIGN* (128 credit hrs.)
- **Soon to come:* Interdisciplinary BFA in *PLAYWRITING, FICTION WRITING and THEATER* (128 credit hrs.)

The Bachelors of Fine Arts degrees are designed to provide an in-depth education in specific theatrical disciplines. Each curriculum has been designed to meet current standards set by the National Association of Schools of Theater (NAST). These standards are expected of students who are interested in pursuing a career in the theater as an actor, director or designer and/or in continuing with graduate study. Completing a BFA degree leaves little room outside the requirements to take electives and completing a minor is highly unlikely. BFA students will be required to maintain a portfolio that documents their growth; these portfolios will also be periodically assessed by faculty. Meeting or exceeding standards will be required to maintain BFA status. BFA acting, directing and design students will take part in Senior Showcase.

So, You Want To Check Out Books?

5th Floor Resource Center Info By: Gillian Hastings (a former Resource Center Goddess)

HERE'S HOW! (oh, this is so exciting!)

1. You pay the \$5.00 deposit. (If you plan on checking out books on a regular basis, we will keep it for the semester/year, and return it to you at the end. Or you can get it back when you no longer need to check out books.)
2. Your information is entered into the computer and you can check out **PLAYS ONLY** (two at a time).
3. The check out time is **TWO DAYS**. You will be told the date the books are due back at checkout time.
4. There is a \$0.10 fine for every day the book(s) are late. You can either pay it immediately or have it taken out of your deposit.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to make sure you get your money back. If you do not claim your money *by the end of the year*, consider yourself a patron contributor to the Resource Center, as we will use all leftover money to buy new books.

Questions? Leave a note in the Resource Center Box in the 3rd Floor Theater Office or come by any time we are open!

And don't forget about the smorgasbord of *donated* resources available in the Resource Center!

I.e. plays, biographies, technique, theater history, criticism and design books, sheet music, dialect tapes, videos, magazines, current plays auditioning at Columbia, past plays done at Columbia and MORE!

Columbia College Theater Department Audition Policy

Here's the skinny on Theater Department auditions:

- A. **BE ON TIME** (a.k.a. at least 20 minutes early) for the *time slot you signed up for* on the particular audition sign-up sheet on the 3rd floor of the 11th Street Theater Building.
- B. **CROSS OFF YOUR NAME** on the particular audition sign-up sheet *if you choose not to audition*. If you do not show up for your audition and your name has not been crossed off, you will be blacklisted (not able to audition in the department for a year).

(the) **future** *n* **la:** a time that is to come **b:** what is to come

SCHOLARSHIPS!!!!

Betty Garrett Musical Theater Scholarship Fund

Theater Majors with a concentration in Musical Theater Performance; Full-time student; junior or senior level; Cumulative grade point average 3.0 or higher; Amount of the award: \$1000 towards tuition and fees; **Deadline: May 1, 2005;** Applications are available in the Theater Department Office, Room 300, 72 E. 11th Street, Chicago, IL 60605

David Talbot Cox Scholarship Fund

Theater Majors with a concentration in Directing; Demonstration of artistic talent, academic accomplishment and financial need; Full-time student; junior and senior status; Cumulative grade point average 3.0 or higher; Amount of the award: \$3000 stipend; **Deadline: June 1, 2005;** Applications are available in the Theater Department Office, Room 300, 72 E. 11th Street, Chicago, IL 60605

Freshman Achievement Award

Open to full-time Theater majors actively involved as a designer, performer, or production staff on Theater Department Mainstage or Workshop productions; Have to have completed 32 or fewer credit hours of credit at Columbia College; Cumulative grade point average 3.0 or higher; Amount of the award: \$1500 awarded; Fall 2005 semester; **Deadline: May 1, 2005;** Applications are available in the Theater Department Office, Room 300, 72 E. 11th Street, Chicago, IL 60605

John Murbach Scholarship of the Michael Merritt Awards

Open to full-time Theater majors seeking experience in the area of stage design; Have to have completed 60 hours of credit or more at Columbia College; Cumulative grade point average 3.0 or higher; Amount of the award: \$1000 stipend; **Deadline: May 1, 2005;** Recipient of award chosen by faculty

The Saints Scholarship for Performing Arts Students

Open to full-time Theater, Dance, or Music majors who have a desire to pursue a career in the performing arts including technical careers such as sound, lighting, set or costume design; Applicant must be entering their senior year at Columbia College in the fall of 2005; Amount of the award: \$2000 awarded for the 2005-2006 academic year; **Deadline: April 2005;** Applications are available in the Theater Department Office, Room 300, 72 E. 11th Street, Chicago, IL 60605

Steven M. Hoenig Memorial Actors Fund

Open to Theater majors; Junior status; Amount of the award: \$1000 stipend awarded; Fall semester of the Senior year **Deadline: Early spring;** Applications are available in the Theater Department Office, Room 300, 72 E. 11th Street, Chicago, IL 60605

Liberace Scholarship

Open to Theater majors; Junior or Senior status Amount of the award: \$1000 grant each semester of the 2005-2006 academic year; **Deadline: Early spring;** Further information regarding the audition/interview process and applications are available in the Theater Department Office, Room 300, 72 E. 11th Street, Chicago, IL 60605; Contact person: Caroline Latta, (312) 344-6138

The 24 Hour New Plays Festival

For the fourth time, Columbia's Classic Studio engulfed 6 ORIGINAL 10 minute plays written and staged in the course of 24 hours to a full house. On Friday, January 14, 2005 at 8 p.m., *Promise Kept, Heads Up, Outrageous Fortune, Buy One Get One Free, Halcyon Days* and *Some Kind of Sapphistry* claimed life on stage via the collaboration amidst 6 playwrights, 6 directors, 18 actors, 2 stage managers, 2 lighting designers, 1 facilitator and an intensely supportive audience.



June 3rd @ 8 p.m. in the Classic Studio.
Don't miss the return of this Columbia College Theater phenomenon. Honest.

Need Some Laughter?!

The Wise Ass Columbia Comedy Night
can HELP YOU!

Don't miss their upcoming **March 10th** and **April 21st** performances at our very own **Hokin Annex!!!**

(The Hokin Annex = 1st floor of the 623 S. Wabash building)

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Did you know that
summer tuition at Columbia is
CHEAPER???
\$400 per credit hour in the Summer VS. \$515
per credit hour in the Fall & Spring!

(the) future continued...

Congratulations Liberace Scholarship Winners!

The mission of the Liberace Foundation is to assist students who have demonstrated promise and talent in their chosen field of study. This prestigious award enables these three Liberace Scholars to continue their education and emerge as theater artists who will creatively explore and author the culture of their times. **Eric Burgher** is now a junior acting major at Columbia where he most recently appeared as Pato Dooley in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. Originally from Michigan, Eric is a company member of Chicago's Profiles Theatre where he assistant directed and stage managed the Jeff Citation Winning *Blackbird*. His other recent theater credits include *Wonder of the World*, *Snakebit*, *Prufrock* and *Jump to Cow Heaven*. Among Eric's goals are to continue to improve, grow and learn. **Ashley Dobson**, now a junior musical theater major at Columbia, hails from Green Bay, Wisconsin, where for the last four summers she has been a singer/dancer in an elite-Broadway style show troupe called the Kids from Wisconsin. During her past two years at Columbia her credits include *Cabaret*, *Prufrock The Long Way Home*, *The Pajama Game*, *Les Miserables* and, most recently, *Guys and Dolls*. With a B.A. in Musical Theater, Dobson is going to pursue national touring companies and the Broadway stage. A junior design major with a concentration in set design, **Sarah Seaman** was raised in Gainesville, Georgia. Sarah moved to Chicago in 2002 and has since designed for the Bailiwick Repertory Theater and traveled to the NYC Fringe Festival in August 2003 with the Local Infinites' production of *Wax and Wayne*, which received critical acclaim in Chicago and in NYC. Sarah currently works with Redmoon Theater as a production intern and looks forward to a colorful and exciting career in professional set design and scenic art. (Scholarship Info? See *Scholarships*, pg. 5)

"Senior Showcase... what is that?!"

Senior Showcase is an opportunity for graduating seniors (actors, directors and designers) to perform and showcase their work for an audience of Chicagoland production managers, directors, artistic directors, casting directors and agents. Graduates of the undergraduate program in performance present scenes and songs from the contemporary repertoire and those in design display their work in the lobby on Senior Showcase night in late May.

Senior Showcase is an excellent way for graduating seniors to bridge their theater work from Columbia to the Chicago theater community. The

theater professionals who attend Senior Showcase also receive a packet of the showcase participant's headshots and/or resumes.

In order to participate in Senior Showcase, students must complete showcase required courses and showcase interview/auditions.

Curious about the specific showcase requirements for your major? Itching to know *more* about this fabulous vehicle into Chicago theater? Contact Susan Padveen, Showcase Director, at (312) 344-6104.

REMEMBER: Don't hesitate to ask questions now... YOUR graduation is just around the corner! Yeah!!

CALLING ALL ACTORS! Don't forget that Columbia College has a **PHOTOGRAPHY** Department whose students sometimes post notices throughout the 11th Street Building regarding their need for subjects to photograph! This is awesome practice for you AND them, PLUS possible portfolio material for you AND them! *Collaboration... what a beautiful thing...*

Quote of the Semester

"And the day came when the risk it took to remain tight inside the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom."

-Anais Nin

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(THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!) ~Acknowledgements~ (THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!)

Rebecca Gallagher, Alexa Hanrahan, Michael Harnichar, Gillian Hastings, Curtis Jackson, Kyle Kratky, Caroline Latta, Julie Lutgen, Gina LoPiccolo, Nathan Paul, Jeff Phillips, Peter Rademacher, Elio Reyes, Cari Snodgrass, Lauren Wells and Dennis Wise