CMU University Theatre
Report for 2014-2015

From Summer 2014 through May 2015, University Theatre provided 198 individual students with 501 specific co-curricular opportunities in the areas of theatre and dance performance, directing, playwriting, design, technical theatre, choreography, make-up and related theatre production areas.

Combined attendance for all University Theatre produced/sponsored productions was over 12,600.

University Theatre produced/sponsored 32 different productions (85 total performances) in this time period. To effectively serve our students, the university community and the general community, the season included a wide variety of genres and styles.

- Contemporary comedy (*The Complete World of Sports (abridged)*)
- Major Broadway musical (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*)
- A World Premiere (*Oakton High Homecoming Dance, 1999*)
- Classic American play (*A Streetcar Named Desire*)
- The University Theatre Dance Company concert featuring faculty and student choreography
- Seven student-directed/choreographed, student-designed Studio productions (*The Light of the Labyrinth, Circumference of a Squirrel, Two Dicks Guying Around, Humanity, Some Days: Part One, Gruesome Playground Injuries, The Brother’s Grimm Spectaculathon*)
- Faculty-directed studio musical production (*Hair*)
- The Alpha Psi Omega honorary theatre fraternity student written, student-directed, student-designed one-act (*What You Make of It*)
- Seven productions/17 performances of student-written, student-directed and student-performed Trap Door Improv company
- The Alpha Psi Omega Play Blitz which presented student-written, student-directed, student-designed and student-acted one-act plays
- University Theatre Dance Company Studio concert featuring student choreography and performance
- Student-produced, student-written, student-directed Episodic Theatre Project; 5 episodes
- Trap Door Improv’s *Hilarity for Charity* benefit performance

University Theatre presented two school-group matinee performances of *The 100 Dresses* in Bush Theatre for over 600 elementary and junior high school students.

Summer Theatre 2014 was presented for audiences in Bush Theatre and Howmet Playhouse in Whitehall, MI. Three plays were performed in repertory in both locations. These outreach productions were faculty directed and designed, with all other work (performing, props, costumes, set construction, lighting, sound, poster design, front of house, etc.) done by students under faculty/staff supervision.
University Theatre brought in **professional guest artists and theatre professionals** during the 2014-2015 season.

- University Theatre contracted with **professional video/lighting designer, Genesis Garza**, to create the video projection designs and to design the video system for *The 100 Dresses*. Mr. Garza has served as the lighting designer for many professional productions (Performance Network Theatre, Williamston Theatre, etc.) and has served as video designer for multiple productions at Saginaw Valley State University.

- University Theatre brought in **professional sound technician, Heath Hetherington**, to mix and program the sound, and teach students to operate a digital sound board for the musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Mr. Hetherington serves as the Director of Technical Services at the Midland Center for the Performing Arts.

- University Theatre commissioned **professional playwright, Randall Colburn**, to write *Oakton High Homecoming Dance, 1999* that received its world premiere as part of the University Theatre 2014-2015 season. Mr. Colburn worked directly with the director and students during meetings, staged readings and talkbacks. Mr. Colburn has had his plays produced in Chicago and New York, and is a resident playwright at Chicago Dramatists.

In January 2015, University Theatre arranged to send **19 students and 3 faculty mentor/chaperones to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region III annual festival at University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee in Milwaukee, Wisconsin**.

Five CMU theatre students and their partners were selected to compete in the **Irene Ryan (Acting) Scholarship Auditions** with approximately 380 graduate and undergraduate nominees from other universities and colleges in the five-state region.

**CMU Theatre student, Scott Sorrell and his partner, Hayley McInerney, were selected to compete in the Semi-Final round of the Irene Ryan (Acting) Scholarship Auditions. Scott was one of 44 semi-finalists selected for the Semi-Final round from the 380 nominees.**

Three students competed in **design related fields** with graduate and undergraduate students from universities and colleges in the five-state region (Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana).

Three students were selected to compete in the **KCACTF Stage Management Fellowship** competition.
Several CMU students/student groups were also honored with Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Certificates of Merit for their work in CMU University Theatre productions over the past year:

The Ensemble Cast of the CMU University Theatre production of *The Complete World of Sports (Abridged)* was awarded a Certificate of Merit for Excellence in Collaboration.

Amy Hazel was awarded a Certificate of Merit for her Scenic Design of the CMU University Theatre production of *House of Several Stories*.

Richard Bronson and Damon S. A. Hunter were awarded a Certificate of Merit for their Sound Design of the CMU University Theatre production of *House of Several Stories*.

CMU University Theatre’s production of *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* was selected to present a scene at the Celebration of Musical Theatre: Scenes from Region III Associate Productions. Nine CMU students performed in the presentation. The scene was one of six selected from the five-state region to be presented.

The University Theatre improv company, **Trap Door Improv**, was awarded the Outstanding Artistic Performance Award by SOAR (Student Organization Achievement Recognition).

Participants in the co-curricular 2014-2015 University Theatre productions will be taking their skills from Central into the professional and academic world. The following is a partial list of what University Theatre students will be doing this summer and what some graduates will be doing in the fall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shop Carpenter/Technician (2 students)</td>
<td>Pacific Conservatory Theatre</td>
<td>Santa Maria, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actors (3 students)</td>
<td>Festival 56</td>
<td>Princeton, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actor</td>
<td>Trumpet in the Land</td>
<td>New Philadelphia, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performer</td>
<td>Point Sebago Resort</td>
<td>Casco, ME</td>
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Respectfully submitted June, 2015

Steve Berglund  
Director of University Theatre