

2010

## Stage Center Theatre Newsletter- Apr. 2010

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# Stage Center Theatre

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APRIL 2010

## *A Tale of Two Cities*

We've all heard of Charles Dickens' classic novel *A Tale of Two Cities*. However, not many of us have seen it brought to the stage in Mark Fitzgibbons' unique adaptation directed by Chris Leonard.

Leonard, a veteran director at the Stage Center Theatre, says this production is "definitely more challenging" than productions he has directed in the past. The longer script, old-fashioned language, and multiple locations are difficult to work with, but Leonard says the struggle is part of the process.

The adaptation is unique in several ways. "It's special because we represent multiple locations with one set...especially by using lighting," Leonard says. "And the

words are Charles Dickens' which is special in itself."

The challenge of portraying multiple locations is met with a unique set and by the use of four narrators. The narrators help move the story along by explaining changes in location of passages of time. The narrators are unusual because they play other characters as well, making them unique to the story.

Leonard and his cast are excited for opening night April 15, but Leonard admits, "we've got quite a bit of work to do."

*A Tale of Two Cities* will run at the Stage Center Theatre until May 1.

Admission is free for NEIU students, faculty, and staff with ID.

### Meet the cast of *A Tale of Two Cities!*

Director: Chris Leonard

Carrie Ediger

Liliana Mitchell

Mark Penzien

David Ropinski

Jeff Wade

Jesse Adams

Caitlin Inman

Howard Raik

Ryan Gilbert

Tiffany Blake

Javier Chavez

Malcolm Johnson

Maysin Gappy

Clark Bender

Duncan Macnab

Corey Hess

Brad Cantwell

Cheryl Lyman

Tony Gasbarro

Norma Saldana

Jonathan Gronli

Roula Villis

## Summer Auditions

Open auditions for the Stage Center Theatre's summer productions will be held April 26 and 27 from 6:00-9:00 PM. All are welcome to come audition for *My Sister Eileen* and *Hay Fever*. Don't miss out on a fun experience and a chance to get involved with the NEIU theatre community!

**Prepared monologues are preferred, but cold readings will be available upon request.**

### My Sister Eileen

*My Sister Eileen* is a comedy about two sisters living in a basement apartment in Greenwich Village and the adventures they have living in less than ideal conditions. Eileen is an aspiring actress and her sister Ruth is an independent woman who dreams of becoming a writer. *My Sister Eileen* follows the sisters through their hilarious ordeals in the big city. The comedy will run through the month of June.

### UPCOMING SHOWS

#### MAIN STAGE 7:30 PM

Reservations: 773-442-4274

#### *A Tale of Two Cities*

By Charles Dickens

Adapted by Mark Fitzgibbons

April 15-17, 22-24, 29, May 1

#### *My Sister Eileen*

June 10-12, 17-19, 24-26

#### *Hay Fever*

July 22-24, 29-31, August 5-7

#### CHILDREN'S THEATRE WORKSHOP 10:30 AM Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Reservations: 773-442-5971

#### *Totally Red*

March 29-April 30

#### SUMMER AUDITIONS 6:00 PM

April 26-27, 6-9 PM

### Hay Fever

July and August will bring us *Hay Fever*, a humorous play about a very unusual family. An overly dramatic mother, novelist father, and two attractive but odd siblings all invite guests to spend the weekend, but side-splitting comedy occurs when each family member pairs off with someone else's guest. Don't miss the Bliss family confusing their weekend guests!



## Hispanic Communication Panels at NEIU

By Rolando Ithier

The CMT Department organized three days of panel discussions last month on Latino issues.

The first panel, introduced by CMT professor Edie Rubinowitz, and moderated by long-time Chicago journalist and Columbia College professor, Teresa Puente, gathered distinguished Chicago journalists to discuss how the media covers Chicago's Latino communities.

The panelists discussed several key requirements they viewed as essential for journalists covering Latino communities to possess.

Fernando Diaz, Managing Editor at *Hoy Chicago*, discussed the importance of being able to speak the language when covering Latino communities.

"The biggest barrier I see for folks is not speaking Spanish," he said.

Another key issue discussed was the need to recognize the distinct cultural differences within the groups that make up the Latino community.

Silvana Tabares, Managing Editor at *Extra*, elaborated on this point. She says while there are similarities amongst the groups it is important that media not lump all groups under one ethnic group. "We're not just Mexican, we're Puerto Rican, we're Cuban," she said.

The panelists went on to discuss

Latino issues they felt the media are not covering.

Chip Mitchell, Westside Bureau reporter for *Chicago Public Radio*, felt the issues that lack coverage are labor and wage theft.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the second panel on Hispanic theatre. This panel was introduced by Lisa Cantwell, an NEIU instructor. Panelists included Sandra Marquez and Alexandra Meda from Teatro Luna; Juan Ramirez of PanAmerican Performance Works; and Joe Minoso, Associate Artistic director of Teatro Vista. This panel was moderated by Rodney Higginbotham, Associate Professor of Communication, Media, and Theatre at NEIU.

The third day's panel was made up of Latino advocates on the national and local level and focused on Latino relationships, families and communities. Nanette Potee, Associate Professor of Communication, Media, and Theatre introduced this panel, while Tony Adams, Professor of Communication, Media, and Theatre moderated.

Maricela Garcia, Director of Capacity Building Office of Research, Advocacy and Legislation, discussed the importance of policies for better outcomes for Latino children.

"The growth of the Latino children

population should drive policy decisions," Garcia said.

Michael Rodriguez, Director of Violence Prevention for Enlace, and a long-time community organizer in Chicago, took a more grassroots approach.

Rodriguez says change from the ground up can and should start with the community. He cited several examples, most notably a successful 19-day hunger strike held by Little Village community members in protest for a new community high school.

The discussion turned from policy change to the mental health of Latinos, particularly those who have experienced traumatic events during their migration experiences.

Pamela Horan-Bussey, Program Coordinator at Northwestern University's Family Institute, spoke about the prevalence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in members of the Latino community.

"There is a lot of trauma—rapes, murder—I'm seeing in my work and in a lot of people's experiences," Horan-Bussey said.

The discussion ended on a note of hope and promise. Dr. Daniel Lopez, Director of El Centro, noted how he has seen an increase in collaboration between different Latino groups.

### Editor in Chief:

Jessica Slizewski

### Editors:

Blagovesta Rangelova

Anna Antaramian

## Theatre Quiz

1. If an audition is good, an actor will get a "call back."

True False

2. What is a "cold read?"

- A. Reading a script with different emotion.  
B. Reading a script with no preparation.  
C. Reading a prepared monologue.

3. An actor should never read a play before auditioning for it.

True False

4. What type of actors generally receive more auditions and roles?

- A. Children  
B. Teenagers  
C. Women  
D. Seniors

### March Newsletter Quiz Answers:

1. A. Alice Childress  
2. B. By using authentic scripts and jokes  
3. D. All of the above  
4. A. Exposure to different cultures  
5. C. Television

### Stage Center Theatre

A great time for family and friends of all ages, Stage Center Theatre also offers a great value on entertainment. Admission to all productions is **free for students, faculty, and staff with an NEIU ID.**

#### Main Stage

General Admission.....\$10

Seniors/Alum/Students...\$8

Children 6-12.....\$6

**Studio Series** tickets are all \$3