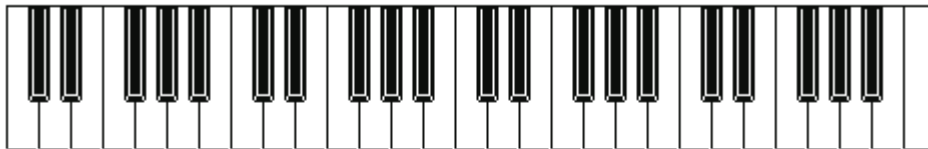




Riverland
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A Technical & Community College



Performing Arts News

Volume VIII, Issue I

Riverland Performing Arts - fostering artistry, creativity, and intellect

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Be an Angel

YOU can make a difference in the lives of Riverland students by making a contribution to theatre and music scholarships. Donations are made to the Riverland Foundation and may be tax-deductible. Please specify "music scholarships" or "Theatre Angels." Contact the Foundation Office or the Music or Theatre Departments for more information.

The Glamazons Are Coming!

"The Glamazons" received national attention and accolades this past summer when they were finalists in the television hit, "America's Got Talent." They are, in the words of one judge, "Plus-sized Pussycat Dolls." They are women with curves who will sing and dance their way into your hearts. Sandy May, a Riverland alum from St. Ansgar, is one of four exceptional women who are coming to Riverland directly from a show in Branson for two performances of their family friendly show.

A 2001 graduate of Riverland Community College, Sandy was very active in the theatre and music department while



See RCC grad Sandy "Candy Apple" May (pictured on R) and the Glamazons Oct. 26 & 27

at Riverland. Along with being a member of the College Choir and Briars, a select vocal ensemble, Sandy appeared in The King and I, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Little

Shop of Horrors, Hamlet, The Oedipus Trilogy, Company and several other productions. After graduation Sandy moved to new York City and continued her education at the American Music and VVDramatic Academy.

Sandy "Candy Apple" May auditioned for the Glamzons in 2004, and has been performing with them since that time. "The Glamazons" are four strong, sexy, plus size women who sing everything from show tunes to hip hop.

"The Glamazons" will be appearing at the Frank W. Bridges Theatre on October 26 and 27 at 7:00 PM. Presale tickets are \$15.00 and available at the Riverland box office. Call 507.433.0595 to make your reservations. Join us and welcome Sandy back to Riverland!

Read & see more online at glamazongirls.com.

Spotlight On Alumni: Nik Tranby



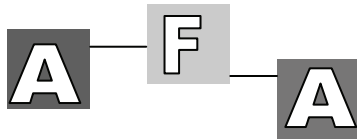
Nicholas Tranby has been working hard to achieve one of his goals and this fall he achieved it. He is working as Head Audio Engineer for the national tour of the Broadway Musical The Wedding Singer. Nik, RCC class of 1999, went from Riverland to the University of Cincinnati - Conservatory of

Music where he earned his BFA in Theatre Production-Sound. With BFA in hand he transferred to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is now finishing his MS.

Nik first became involved in Riverland Theatre when he played the role of Young John in

Summer and Smoke. A few years later he made his way up the stairs to the sound booth and found his calling at the sound board. He will be at a much bigger sound board when The Wedding Singer tour comes to Minneapolis in late Sept. The tour continues throughout the USA for a year. Congratulations, Nik!

Learn more about Riverland music and theatre at
www.riverland.edu



Degree at Riverland



www.riverland.edu

800.247.5039

Outstanding Singers Selected

The Riverland College Choir sent 20 participants to the Minnesota Community College Fine Arts Festival at Cragun's Resort in northern Minnesota March 29 and 30. The festival is an annual event where choirs and bands from the state's community colleges gather and make music. Riverland students Anna Sturtz and Aaron Alan were selected as Outstanding Performers.

All of the students spent two days rehearsing together under the baton of a master clinician. Matthew Mahaffey, assistant director of choral activities at the University of Minnesota, led the massed chorus of more than 200 voices. Additionally, the RCC Choir was featured in a showcase performance on March 29.

A solo vocal clinic was held in conjunction with the festival. Approximately two dozen students from various colleges each prepared and presented a song for a judge who then offered a critique. The six students who finished with the highest ratings were awarded the title "Outstanding Performers" and presented their songs in recital before the festival participants.

Riverland students Susie Bryan (Austin), AFA-Theatre; Anna Sturtz (Albert Lea), AFA-Music and AFA-Theatre; and Aaron Alan (Austin), AFA-Theatre, took part in the clinic. Sturtz and Alan were selected as Outstanding Performers.

Theatre Season: "That's Entertainment!"

Riverland Theatre has a year of entertainment in store for you! From a 2002 Tony Award winner to a classic James Steinbeck story, entertainment is the theme.

The year starts off with a satirical musical with an unusual title. One of the most uproariously funny musicals in recent years, Urinetown... the Musical is a hilarious tale of greed, corruption, love, and revolution in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. Set in the not-so-distant future, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20 year

drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. Amid the people, a hero decides he has had enough, and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom. An outrageous satire that leads to laughter, and more than just a little truth, Urinetown shows what a musical really can be and draws from many musicals of the past to make that point. How many shows can you recognize?

In November, Riverland brings you the poignant and moving Eleemosynary by Lee Blessing. Sensitive and

probing, this masterful play explores the subtle and often perilous relationship among three remarkable Westbrook women: seventy-five year old Dorthea; her middle aged daughter, Artie; and Artie's 16 year-old daughter, Echo. Dorthea, an admitted New Age eccentric, has complicated the lives of the other two by imposing her thwarted dreams on them. In this moving portrayal of familial relationships, Echo tries to bring the three women together and Lee Blessing, one of

(Continued on page 3)

Experience the Big Apple with RCC

A new course in theatre and music is being offered in the spring semester, "USA Cultural Studies: Big Arts in the Big Apple." Persons enrolling in this course will experience art, music, theatre, and the culture of New York City.

This course involves spending 5 days and 4 nights in the heart of the city, Times Square. Participants

will take in the vibrant cultural life for which The Big Apple is known.

Informational meetings are scheduled for Oct. 8 (RCC-Albert Lea/7pm/Skylight Rm); for Oct. 9 (RCC-Austin/7pm/E106); and for Oct. 10 (RCC-Austin/12pm/E106).

The trip takes place March 18-22, 2008 and will be led by Jerry Girton and Scott Blankenbaker.

Casual Classics

The Music Department's Casual Classics Concert Series kicks off the '07-'08 year on Wednesday, November 28 with Robert Schumann's *Dichterliebe*. Tenor Scott Blankenbaker will present and discuss this cycle of sixteen songs accompanied by pianist Janet Gilbertson.

This noontime event will be held in Room E102 at 12:10pm and is free and open to the public.

RCC Adds Music Business Degree Option

Riverland Community College's Academic Affairs and the Music Department are pleased to announce the addition of a music business option to the Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) degree in Music. Music students now have the choice of either focusing on a traditional AFA degree, designed primarily for education, performance, and transfer interests, or they may complete an AFA in which the focus is music business.

This new venue retains the core content of the music curriculum, with three semesters of theory,

sightsinging, and ear training; four credits of private lessons; and the acquisition of piano skills and ensemble experience. Additionally, students complete 30 general education credits and 10 credits in economics and accounting. Upon completion of these credits, students are awarded an AFA degree which then may be used for transfer or used to enter the job market.

The number of colleges and universities offering music business degrees throughout the USA has been steadily increasing over the past two decades. However, River-

land is one of only three community colleges in the state to offer study in music business. Regional institutions including MSU-Mankato, Winona State University, and McNally-Smith College offer bachelors degrees in music business.

"By adding this degree option, we are hoping to better meet the needs of more students and to help them find an educational 'fit' that prepares them for the careers they desire," says Scott Blankenbaker of the RCC Music Department.

More details can be found online or by contacting the Music Dept.

"That's Entertainment" (cont'd)

the most respected contemporary playwrights, highlights the human need for connection and forgiveness.

New competition reality television shows "Dancing with the Stars" and "So You Think You Can Dance?" have kept the TiVos running and the ratings high. With that in mind, for the second year, Riverland is offering a night of dance in the season. Alums Bryan Gerber and Leslie Weber return as featured artists. They will be joined by the best from local studios to provide a night of dance you won't want to miss!

In February, Riverland Theatre

turns from the contemporary to the classic Steinbeck play, Of Mice and Men. Two drifters, George and his friend Lennie, have just arrived at a ranch to work for enough money to buy their own place. Lennie remains a little boy in the body of a dangerously powerful man. George's promise to let Lennie "tend to the rabbits" on their future ranch keeps Lennie calm, but when a ranch boss' wife is found dead in the barn with a broken neck, it is obvious what has happened. George is faced with a moral dilemma: how should he deal with Lennie before the ranchers find him and take matters into their own hands.

Classic drama leads to classic Golden Age Musical, The Pajama Game. Conditions at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory are anything but peaceful as sparks fly between the new superintendent Sid Sorokin and Babe Williams, leader of the union grievance committee. Their stormy relationship comes to a head when the workers strike for a 7 ½ cent pay increase, setting off not only a conflict between management and labor, but also a battle of the sexes. This fast paced Broadway favorite includes the musical theatre standards "Hey There," "Steam Heat," and "Hernando's Hideaway."

Theatre & Music Faculty - Fall Semester 2007

THEATRE

Jerry Girton—Director of Theatre; Speech for Performance; Intermediate Acting; Intro to Theatre & Film; Directing

Susan V. Hansen—Beginning Acting; Stage Make-up

Brad Weber—Technical Director; Stagecraft and Technology

Leslie Weber—Stage Movement

MUSIC

Scott Blankenbaker—Director of Music Dept.; Music Theory/SS/ET III; Voice; Choirs;

Brenda Atzinger—Voice; Survey of Music

Mark Conway—Beginning/Intermediate Guitar

Holly Dalager—Woodwinds

Tim Davis—Brass

Mavis Fritsch—Percussion

David Hovland—Piano; Music Theory/SS/ET I; Survey of Music; Popular Music in America; musical theatre direction; Piano Class I

Lynnee Larson—Piano, Bassoon

Susan Radloff—Strings

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

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and creativity*



FALL 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p><u>URINETOWN, the musical</u> Riverland Theatre & Music Depts. Oct. 5, 6; 10-13, 2007 @ 7:30pm Oct. 7 @ 2:00pm FWB Theatre, RCC-Austin 507.433.0595 for ticket information</p>	<p>FWB Theatre, RCC-Austin 507.433.0595 for ticket information</p>	<p><u>Tis the Season, a choral concert</u> RCC College Choir & Vocal Ensemble Friday, December 7, 2007 @ 7:30pm First United Methodist Church 204 1st Avenue NW, Austin, MN \$5 adult / \$3 student / RCC students free</p>
<p><u>The Glamazons!</u> from TV's "America's Got Talent" October 26 & 27 @ 7:00pm FWB Theatre, RCC-Austin 507.433.0595 for ticket information</p>	<p><u>Schumann's "Dichterliebe"</u> Scott Blankenbaker, tenor Janet Gilbertson, piano Casual Classics Concert Series Wednesday, November 28, 2007 12:10pm in Room E102, RCC-Austin</p>	<p><u>Fall Semester Fine Arts Showcase</u> Art, Music, Theatre Students Tuesday, December 6, 2007 7:00pm art exhibit & reception begins 7:30pm theatre & music performances FWB Theatre, RCC-Austin free admission</p>
<p><u>Eleemosynary</u> Riverland Theatre Department November 14-17, 2007 @ 7:30pm November 18 @ 2:00pm</p>	<p><u>If You Want to Dance... DANCE!</u> featuring Leslie Weber & Bryan Gerber and local dance studios Friday, November 30 @ 7:30pm FWB Theatre, RCC-Austin 507.433.0595 for ticket information</p>	<p>events can also be found online at www.riverland.edu/theatre/index.cfm</p>