



In the Spotlight

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MacHugh Looks Like New

New seating is just the latest feature to be renewed and modernized in MacHugh Theatre. The following items have been purchased for the theatre over the past six years: a new curtain, new lighting equipment, a computerized light board and sound board, lighting fixtures, added wing space, new microphones and a separate air/heat system. These improvements have been sponsored in part by grants, by donations from parents of QU performers, and through funds raised by student productions.

Return of the Royals

It may be beach weather, but the QU music and theatre programs are already planning for a different kind of vacation trip—into the jolly world of a Renaissance madrigal feast.

The popular Madrigal Dinner is set for two performances this year on the first weekend of December.



Directors Connie Phillips, instructor

of theatre, and Allen Means, director of choirs, have gathered a talented group of revelers for this production that follows the ongoing adventures of your favorite royals, jesters, and beggars.

Alums of previous Madrigal Dinners are invited to add to the fun by joining the cast as featured performers. Some rehearsals will be required, but no audition is necessary. To learn more, contact Connie Phillips at 217-242-1691 or 217-224-1608.

News and Notes on Theatre at Quincy University

Be Seated!

Actors and audiences have often said that any seat in Quincy University's MacHugh Theatre is a candidate for "the best." But the theatre's vintage 1960 chairs are taking a final bow this summer. Connie Phillips, director of



theatrical programs at Quincy University, is spearheading a campaign to replace the chairs and to build a fund for continued operations.

MacHugh Theatre has recently been renovated with a new curtain, new lights, and a digital sound board. "The music and theatre departments have enjoyed tremendous growth this year," said Dr. Barbara Schleppebach, chair of QU's division of fine arts and communication. "The continual upgrades to MacHugh Theatre are a reflection of the accomplishments of our students and faculty."

Donors may sponsor a seat for a \$100 tax-deductible contribution. Each adopted chair will carry a nameplate recognizing the donor or an honoree of the donor's choice.

Sponsorship forms are available by contacting the MacHugh Theatre box office at 228-5407 or by e-mailing Dr. Schleppebach at bschlepp@quincy.edu. For more information, please contact the Quincy University office of public relations at 217-228-5275.



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Oliver! Wins New Audiences

In April more than 800 theatre fans of all ages responded to QU's invitation to "consider yourself at home" in the musical world of *Oliver!* The production set a box office record with eight performances over two weekends. Several roles in the production were double-cast, and several alums, including **Drew Quintero '05**, **Jason Keller '02**, and **Valerie Hernandez '06**. QU cast members were joined by more than 30 area grade school students, including Braeden Rodenberg and Jay D. Stalder who alternated in the role of Oliver.

Theatre on Display

"All the world's a stage" at the Gray Gallery's summer exhibition of memorabilia from theatrical productions at QU.

This free exhibition, curated by the Brenner Library staff, will be on display during regular library hours until August 10. The exhibit will highlight tributes to **Hugh Fitzgerald**, director of the theatre program from 1957 to 1981; **Fr. Tom Brown, OFM**, set designer and photographer; and **Fr. Dennis Schafer**, music director.

Many alumni will be featured in the photographs and playbills dating from 1870 to the present. Featured performers from QU's past will include the late **Roy Brocksmith '70** and **John Mahoney '66**.

Additional information about the exhibit is available from Pat Tomczak, Dean of Library and Information Services, at 228-5351.

Children's Theatre on the Road

For five years, QU theatre has welcomed area students to summer campus productions designed for maximum interaction, fun, and learning. In spring 2007, Children's Theatre went on the road to bring *The Tale of the Frog Prince* directly to local schools. Eight current students and one alum took the magic of theatre to the following schools: Madison, Ellington, Dewey, and Head Start (Quincy), Loraine Elementary (Loraine, Ill.) and two elementary schools in Hannibal, Mo. Over 1100 students were introduced to live theatre through this class.



An Academic Success

Theatre at QU is capturing the imagination of a new generation of students who have completed courses in theatre appreciation, directing, costuming, acting, and producing.

A minor in theatre comprised of 18 credit hours of theoretical and hands-on coursework has been designed by Connie Phillips and will be presented this fall for approval by the University's Academic Programs Committee. Students in such major fields as music, communication, and history have viewed this minor as a complement to their degrees; even students majoring in Education, Business, and the sciences are enthusiastic supporters of the new program.

Alumni Here and There

"Without the contributions of alumni, QU Theatre would not be the thriving program it is today," says director Connie Phillips. Those lending a hand in recent years include **Drew Quintero '05**, **Jason Keller '02**, **Val Hernandez '06**, **Kerstin Keber Smith '03**, **Jamie Junkerman Young '02**, and **Aaron Young '02**. Alums who would like to assist with a production are invited to contact Connie at any time

You're also invited to let us know what's new in your life. For example, **Deanna Henriksen '05**, will be reprising her QU role as Louise/Gypsy in a Chicago-area production of *Gypsy* this summer.

Send your news to phillco@quincy.edu, and we'll share it in our next issue!