



# Places Please!

FALL 2007  
News from  
the UW  
School of  
Drama

## Van Kempen Honored with Gregory A. Falls Award

This past summer, Ruben Van Kempen (BFA 1976) was awarded the 2007 Gregory A. Falls Sustained Achievement Award which honors an individual who has devoted time, energy and talent to Seattle's theatre community over the course of their career, influencing theatre locally and beyond.

Ruben is currently the Director of Theatre at Roosevelt High School. He is both an actor and director and has performed extensively in regional theatre. As a theatre director he recently directed *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* for SPU and *Too Damn Hot*, which played to full houses at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and at Roosevelt High School.

Ruben is listed in the 2006, 1998, 1996 and 1992 of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. He has won numerous awards including the inaugural biennial Ruben Van Kempen Arts Educator Award by Intiman Theatre for his contributions to theatre arts education. His awards include the 2004 Butch Blum Award of excellence, the 2000 Christa McAuliffe Washington Award for Excellence in Education and the 1986 Seattle Excellence in Education Award.

This award is named after Gregory Falls, former director of the UW School of Drama, and founder of ACT theatre. Ruben studied acting with Greg when he attended the UW.



## Volunteering has Become a Labor of Love for Barnette

Therese Barnette loves the School of Drama. From her work with the School of Drama Advisory Board and serving as Chair of the Student Development Committee, to her involvement in our cabaret performances around Puget Sound, her incredible enthusiasm and international experience have provided the School with a vibrant voice of leadership and support.

Born in Switzerland, Therese soaked in all of the European theatre that she could from an early age. She brought her passion to the Pacific Northwest, where she taught students to share that love of drama at Lakeside School for 25 years. During that time she created and led Lakeside's drama department, developing a curriculum that exposed students to all aspects of theatre.

Joining the School of Drama began as an educational exercise for Therese, but it soon blossomed into a labor of love. Her involvement in organizing and booking the Cabaret shows, in particular, is a source of pride for



Therese Barnette working at the School of Drama . Photo: Mike Jones

Therese because it allows her to present skilled theatre artists to the community. "The School of Drama is a hidden treasure in this town, and I want to change that," she states.

For Therese, supporting the School of Drama represents "me at my best" because it allows her to share art with others. She concludes, "Drama takes us outside of our daily rush and the myriad things that we do. It takes us outside of ourselves to reflect and be exposed to challenging ideas."

## CATCH UW ALUMNI ON TELEVISION!

It seems every time one of us here at the School turns on our television, we spot alumni on various TV shows and commercials. We're delighted for everyone and especially happy that some have starring or recurring roles on shows this fall or as mid-season replacements in January. We hope you will tune in and watch these former students in action:

**John Aylward** as Dr. Anspaugh on *ER* (NBC)

**Marc Jablon** as Larry Weston on *ER* (NBC)

**Pamela Reed** as Gail Green on *Jericho* (CBS)

**Jean Smart** as Regina Newly in *Samatha Who?* (ABC)

**Kyle MacLachlan** as Orson Hodge on *Desperate Housewives* (ABC)

**Joel McHale** as the host, *The Soup* (E!)

Coming in January:

**Christopher Wiehl** as Shane Healy in *Lipstick Jungle* (NBC)

**Joel McHale** as Roy in the *IT Crowd*, (NBC)

Have we missed you or someone you know? Please let us know at [uwdrama@u.washington.edu](mailto:uwdrama@u.washington.edu).

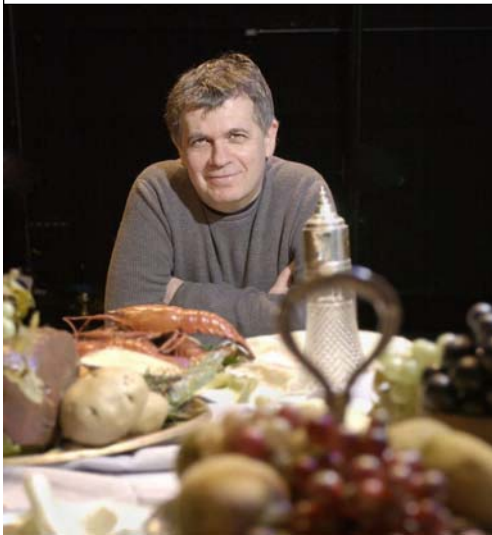
## Places Please!

### Internationally Renowned Director and School of Drama Friend Dies

The School of Drama is mourning the death of a dear friend. Mark Weil, artistic director of the Ilkom Theatre, was killed on September seventh in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Mark made a lasting impression in Seattle with his hit production of *The Suicide* by Nikolai Erdman at the School of Drama in 2003. For several years, the school and the Ilkom Theatre have mutually enjoyed a yearly exchange program where UW students have gone to the Ilkom to study.

Weil founded the innovative Ilkom Theatre in 1976, which was the first independent theater in the former Soviet Union. Ilkom was very popular but faced censorship and criticism for staging productions that pushed accepted political and social boundaries.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Weil and his award winning theater traveled to festivals around the world. Weil first came to Seattle in 1988 after a group of Seattle theater artists visited Tashkent for an artistic collaboration. In 1996, Weil's eldest daughter moved to Seattle to attend the UW, and his younger daughter and wife joined her later. They still live in Seattle.



Mark on the set of *The Suicide* Photo: Frank Rosenstein

## Creativity Flourishes in Popular Summer Class



Students present their projects from *Introduction to Theatrical Makeup*. Photo: Josie Gardner

The School of Drama has a wonderful little secret. For the past ten summers, it has offered what has become one of our most popular classes, *Introduction to Theatrical Makeup*.

Every year, spaces in the class are filled as soon as registration begins and some students have waited three years to gain one of these precious vacancies. Josie Gardner, costume shop supervisor and lecturer for the class, is amazed at the enthusiasm it generates. Because it fills a humanities requirement, students from psychology, sociology, communications, anthropology, and economics have found themselves in the wild world of theatrical makeup.

Some take the class because it looks like fun and is something different from what they are studying. Some have professional

ambitions, and a few are high school drama teachers taking the class for continuing education credit.

The class begins with corrective makeup and old age techniques, then quickly moves onto fantasy, trauma, stylized Asian, and historical procedures. The class includes professional guest lecturers where students learn to tie a human hair mustache or experience gelatin prosthetics. The trauma project is a favorite with every class and many opt to wear their project home.

Since this practice has garnered attention in the past (with students being escorted off of Metro buses by concerned drivers), Josie alerts the campus police in advance. So, if you see a student walking around with a bullet hole on their forehead, don't worry, it's just another student enjoying *Introduction to Theatrical Makeup*.

*What's on Stage? How do I sign up for the spring newsletter?*

Visit the **UW SCHOOL OF DRAMA** website at:  
<http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrama>

Remember...the spring issue of *Places Please!* is now electronic.  
 You must sign up online to receive it.

### MILESTONES: School of Drama Faculty and Staff News

This fall, the School welcomed two new full-time members to our faculty. Katherine Mezur is an Assistant Professor in the Ph.D. program and teaches theory and criticism. After a year as the School's Artist-in-Resident, Andrew Tsao has joined the faculty as Associate Professor and is teaching directing and screen acting in the BA and MFA programs. And we're delighted to announce that after eleven years as part-time faculty, Scott Hafso is now teaching singing and speech full time.

Joining the faculty part time this year are Affiliate Professor Tom Postlewait, teaching theatre history, and alumni Andy Smith, teaching lighting design, and Matt Smucker, teaching scenic design.

After nearly 29 years on the School of Drama faculty, Professor Barry Witham has announced that he will retire in June of 2008. Look for further information in our (electronic only) spring issue.

Michael Mueller, a recent transplant from Boise, Idaho has joined the staff as the front desk office assistant.

### PLACES PLEASE!

Newsletter from the School of Drama

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# GradBag

Are you listed? If not, let us know what you are up to – even if you're not doing theatre. Send your info by s-mail or e-mail your information to [uwdrama@u.washington.edu](mailto:uwdrama@u.washington.edu).

## In Memory...

### James Callahan, 76

James T. "Jimmy" Callahan, an actor best known for his performance on television's *Charles in Charge*, died of esophageal cancer at his Fallbrook home. He discovered acting while attending school in the Midwest, and on the advice of a teacher, he enrolled at the University of Washington to study drama. Between 1959 and 2007, he appeared in more than 120 films and television shows. He is survived by his wife, Peggy Cannon-Callahan.

### Lee Nagrin, 78

Lee Nagrin, a Seattle native and one of America's first female performance artists, died in New York of colon cancer. Nagrin was born in Seattle and studied drama and English at the University of Washington, where she became involved with the Seattle Repertory Playhouse. She later moved to New York in 1950 and was a major force off-Broadway for more than 40 years. She is survived by her longtime companion Bruce Hutchinson.

## 1950

**Lois Smith** (BA) starred in the world premiere of Kate Fodor's *100 Saints You Should Know* at Playwrights Horizons.

## 1963

**Bridget Hanley** (BA) appeared in *Hail on the Chief* at the Stella Adler Theatre in Hollywood, CA.

## 1971

**John Aylward** (BFA) appeared in *First Class* at ACT Theatre.

## 1972

**Lori Larsen** (BA) appeared in *Uncle Vanya* at Intiman Theatre.

## 1978

**Jeffrey Combs** (BFA) appeared in the USA show *The 4400* and movies *The Attackmen* and *Brutal*.

## 1983

**Rick Paulsen** (MFA) designed lights for *Souvenir* and *First Class* at ACT Seattle, and *Murderers* at Seattle Repertory Theatre.

**Mark Paladini** (BA) taught acting in a new MFA program at Regent University in Virginia, and was casting director for *Closing the Ring*, directed by Richard Attenborough.

**Stephanie Shine** (BFA) appeared in *The School for Scandal* at Seattle Shakespeare Company.

**Timothy Bond** (MFA) was appointed Producing Artistic Director of Syracuse Stage and the Syracuse University Department of Drama.

## 1985

**Scott Kaiser** (MFA) wrote *Shakespeare's Wordcraft*, which was recently published by Limelight Editions.

**Thomas Diggs** (BFA) received an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of Drama in Dramatic Writing.

## 1986

**Jack Young** (BFA) was appointed Head of Acting & Directing at the University of Houston School of Theatre and Dance.

## 1988

**William Ferrara** (MFA) designed and supervised lights for Disney in Orlando, FL.

## 1989

**David Hsieh** (BA) directed *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Exonerated*, and *Wonder of the World* for ReAct Theatre in Seattle.

## 1990

**Leslie Swackhamer** (MFA) directed *Fefu* and *Her Friends* at the University of Texas, Austin.

**Hugh O'Gorman** (MFA) appeared in HBO's new mini series *John Adams*.

## 1991

**Chris Evan Welch** (MFA) ap-

peared in *Romeo & Juliet* in Central Park in New York.

## 1992

**Jim Gall** (MFA) appeared in *Rhoda* at Book-It Repertory Theatre and *Halcyon Days* at Seattle Public Theater.

**Annette Toutonghi** (MFA) appeared in *The Women* at ACT Theatre and received a 2007 City Artist Award grant to create a one-act performance.

**Richard Carter** (MFA) conducted a series of classes entitled *Practically Speaking: Shakespeare Applied*, in which the works of Shakespeare were used to teach confidence, relaxation techniques, and communication skills.

## 1993

**David Veach** (MFA) appeared in the television series *Pasions*.

**Lisa Estridge** (MFA) appeared as the Acid Queen in *The Who's Tommy* at the Village Theatre.

**David Morden** (MFA) appeared in *Endymion* and directed *The Goat* at Rogue Theatre, and appeared in *Susannah* at Arizona Opera.

**William "Mykel" Hill** (MFA) appeared in *Crowns* at The Gem Theatre and *Intimate Apparel* at the Unicorn Theatre, in Kansas City, Missouri.

**James Ludwig** (MFA) understudied three roles in *Spamalot* on Broadway.

## 1995

**James Garver** (MFA) worked with Peter Kyle Dance at the Joyce Theatre in New York.

**Lue Morgan Douthit** (PhD) continued to serve as director of literary development and dramaturgy for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and consulted on the design of a new-play development center there.

**Ellen Dessler** (BA) appeared in *Wonder of the World* at the Richard Hugo House.

**Andrew McMasters** (MFA) received a TCG New Genera-

tions Program grant to travel to Ireland to visit the players of Trinity College in Dublin.

## 1996

**Gigi Jhong** (BA) appeared in *Sex in Seattle, Episode 14: To Choose or Not to Choose* and *Wonder of the World* at the Richard Hugo House.

**Valerie Curtis-Newton** (MFA) directed *The Mojo* and the *Sayso* at ACT Theatre.

**John McDermott** (MFA) designed sets for *Uncle Vanya* and *Prayer For My Enemy* at Intiman Theatre.

**Christopher Hodgson** (BA) appeared in *Twelve Night* at Seattle Repertory Theatre.

## 1997

**Erin Hurme** (BA) appeared as Ismene in *Antigone* at Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York.

**Doug Lockwood** (MFA) appeared in *Titus Andronicus* at Actors Shakespeare Project and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Commonwealth Shakespeare Company in Boston.

**John Abramson** (MFA) adapted and directed selected pieces from Raymond Carver's *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* at The Community Theatre in Seattle.

**Curtis John Eastwood** (BA) appeared in *Twelve Night* at Seattle Repertory Theatre.

**Mykel Pennington** (BA) received an Ostrander Award for Best Supporting Actress in Memphis, TN for her portrayal of Debra Watts in *Kimberly Akimbo*.

**Naho Shioya** (MFA) appeared in *sub-Rosa* at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center.

## 1998

**Robert J. Martin** (MFA) assisted on costume design for *Young Frankenstein*.

**Matt Montelongo** (MFA) appeared in *The Ritz* at the Roundabout Theatre in New York.

## 1999

**Tlaloc Rivas** (MFA) directed a second reading of *De Novo, Part 1: 'I'll Silent* with Houses on the Moon Theatre Company.

**Tikka Sears** (BA) received a 2007 Seattle City Artist Award grant to develop a multidisciplinary media musical theatre production.

## 2000

**Ryan Jones Welsh** (BA) produced the fourth annual Improv Dance Festival in Santa Monica, CA.

**Juliet Chia** (MFA) designed lights for *Good Heif* at the Ohio Theatre in New York.

## 2001

**Hana Lass** (BA) appeared in *Crime and Punishment* at Theatre UnderGround.

**Dawn Frances** (MFA) appeared on CBS's *Close to Home*.

**Tommy Smith** (BA) wrote a new play *White Hot*, which premiered at HERE Art's Center in New York.

**Steve TenEyck** (MFA) designed lights at Syracuse Stage, Tri-Cities Opera, and Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival.

**Ronald Simons** (MFA) appeared in *Phoebe in Wonderland* with Felicity Huffman and Bill Pullman.

## 2002

**Shontina Vernon's** (MFA) play *Etta Phifer's Testimonial Shoe Kismet* premiered at the Hansberry Project at ACT Seattle, for which she received the Louise Jones McKinney Fellowship.

**Tristan Dalley** (MFA) worked on sculptures and graphic design for *iCarly*, a new show on Nickelodeon.

**Melanie Burgess** (MFA) designed costumes for *The Who's Tommy* at The Village Theatre and *The Mojo and the Sayso* at ACT Theatre.

**Matthew Ahrens** (BA) appeared in *Stuff Happens* at ACT Theatre.

# GradBag

**Erwin Thomas** (MFA) appeared in *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl*, co-produced by New Federal Theater and Caribbean American Rep.

**Maile Holck** (MFA) appeared in *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl*, co-produced by New Federal Theater and Caribbean American Rep.

**Maiken Wiese** (BA) appeared in *Mali and the Ark of the Covenant* at Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York.

**Heidi Ganser** (MFA) was appointed Assistant Costume Shop Manager at Seattle Opera.

**Matthew Smucker** (MFA) designed sets for *The Women* at ACT Theatre and was appointed to a faculty position at the University of Washington.

## 2003

**Jenny Mercein** (MFA) appeared in *Othello* at the Pioneer Theater in Salt Lake City and *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis.

**Victor Holtcamp** (Ph.D.) was appointed to a Visiting Professor/Dramaturg position at the University of South Carolina.

**Kyra Himmelbaum Miller** (MFA) appeared off-Broadway in *Biography* at the Pearl Theater.

**Tim Johnson** (MFA) appeared

in a reading of the new musical *Moby Dick* at New York Theatre Workshop and *The Temptation of St. Anthony* directed by Robert Wilson.

**Jessica Trundy** (MFA) designed lights for *The House of Spirits* at Book-It Repertory Theatre and assisted on lighting design for *The Women* at ACT Theatre.

**Emily Cedergreen** (BA) appeared in *The Women* at ACT Theatre.

**Marion Williams** (MFA) designed costumes for *The Illusion* at PlayMakers Repertory Company in Chapel Hill, NC.

**Mark Zufelt** (MFA) launched the new theatre company NEXT STAGE, which was awarded a two year residency at the Richard Hugo House.

**Jennifer Zeyl** (MFA) designed sets for *The Big Friendly Giant* at Seattle Children's Theatre, *The Mojo and the Sayo* at ACT Theatre and received a 2007 City Artist Award grant to direct a reconstruction of *Hedda Gabler*.

**Sarah Goldblatt** (BA) received an MFA in Acting from Cal State Long Beach and works for Abrams Artists Agency in Hollywood.

**Erin Murphy** (MFA) designed costumes for *The Bald Soprano* at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey.

## 2004

**Kristin Alcalá** (BA) appeared on CBS's *Criminal Minds*.

**Patricia Nelson** (MFA) appeared in *White Hot* at HERE Art's Center in New York.

**Jeffrey Woodard** (MFA) appeared in *The Magnificent Cuckold* at the Connelly Theatre in New York, as well as on CBS' *Guiding Light* and ABC's *All My Children*.

**Matthew Arbour** (MFA) directed *The Bald Soprano* at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and *A Good Farmer* at the 3 Graces Theatre in New York.

**Dawson Nichols** (Ph.D.) had a staged reading of his new play *Meet Brian Boomer* at Seattle Repertory Theatre and directed *Tuesday* at the Capitol Hill Arts Center.

**Marya Sea Kaminski** (MFA) was a featured artist on the Seattle Channel program *Verve* and appeared in *My Name is Rachel Corrie* at Seattle Repertory Theatre.

**Darrick Clayton** (MFA) taught beginning acting at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco.

## 2005

**Adam Noble** (MFA) taught a 5-day Suzuki intensive at Central Washington University.

**Nadia Kaboul** (BA) worked as a touring Wardrobe Stylist for Metallica and Queensryche and is an associate artist at Washington Ensemble Theatre.

**Ben Gonio** (MFA) appeared in *Paint Your Wagon* at Sierra Repertory Theatre and *The King and I* at the Village Theatre.

**Adrian Moynihan** (BA) appeared in *Dracula* at Burien Little Theatre.

## 2006

**Jeremy Winchester** (MFA) designed lights for Peter Kyle Dance at the Joyce Theatre in New York.

**April Wolfe** (MFA) appeared in *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Summer of '42* at Idaho Repertory Theatre.

**John Warrick** (Ph.D.) was appointed to a lectureship at the University of Birmingham, UK.

**Tim McMath** (MFA) designed sets for *The Memory of Water* at Third Encore Company in New York.

**Elise Hunt** (BA) appeared in *The Women* at ACT Theatre.

**Zachary Harrison** (BA) made his Off-Broadway debut in *Angry Young Women in Low-Rise Jeans with High-Class Issues*.

**Benjamin Radin** (BA) was

Technical Director for the Okoboji Summer Theatre in Iowa.

**Kristi Reiersgard** (BA) received her MA in Voice Studies from the Central School of Speech and Drama in London.

**Evan Woltz** (BA) appeared in *Bat Boy the Musical* at Arts-West Playhouse in Seattle.

**Lada Vishtak** (MFA) appeared in *Last of the Breed* at Boise Contemporary Theater.

## 2007

**Barzin Akhavan** (MFA) appeared as Orsino in Seattle Rep's *Twelfth Night*.

**Alex Fox** (MFA) did voiceovers for a series of short VH1 animated segments called *The Safety Place*.

**Maythinee Washington** (MFA) co-wrote and appeared in a solo performance entitled *Iron Shoes*, which made its world premiere in Seattle.

**Daniel Cohen** (MFA) directed *In the Blood* at Cal State Long Beach and taught a Suzuki/Viewpoints workshop for their graduate theatre program.

**Andrew Pulkrabek** (BA) performed with The Senate, a local acoustic trio.

**Brandon Ivie** (BA) was hired as the Executive Administrative Assistant with at 5th Avenue Theatre.



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