

THE ENCORE

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 1

October 2016

From the Desk of the Editor

There's lots going on with both TAIG and Thespians this year, so this newsletter is stuffed full.

Want more details than we provide here? We've got a new website! Visit psuthespiansAIG.org for more information about homecoming, the reunion, and more.

Take note of the new board members on the back page, too - we've got some fresh faces to introduce.

YFIT,

Eliza Altenderfer '12
Communications Chair
taig.newsletter@gmail.com

Callboard

In October 2015, the Off-Broadway musical *Rothschild & Sons* opened for a limited run at the York Theater. Jeff Moss ('66) was the Director, Carrie Fishbein Robbins ('64) was the Costume Designer, and Jim Jimirro ('58) was there for the first preview. In 1962, Carrie directed Jeff in the title role of *Razzle McDazzle* for Thespians and Jim was the adviser. Talk about Thespian history!

120th Anniversary Reunion Coming Soon

The reunion for the 120th anniversary of the Penn State Thespians will be held March 24-26, 2017. Many of the events will take place at The Atherton Hotel, located at 125 S. Atherton Street. We will also have blocks of rooms available at other hotels for those needing a place to stay over the weekend. Registration will begin Friday evening at The Atherton and will continue through the Saturday evening dinner. There will be a reception in Schwab on Friday evening after the show and all are invited to the TAIG Board Meeting on Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon, there will be a campus tour and time to visit the Thespian Archives exhibit in the Paterno Library. A group photo and cocktail hour will occur before dinner and after, it's on to the show! To close out the festivities on Sunday, there will be a breakfast buffet at The Atherton. We hope you can make it - it's always fun to see old friends!

In November, we will have more information and a link to our online registration available at psuthespiansAIG.org/reunion. If you would like a registration packet to be mailed to you, please call Guy Fissel, TAIG President, at (215) 463-9931 and leave a message with your name, address, and telephone number.

If you have any questions, please email Reunion Chair Kate Roscioli ('10) at taig.reunion@gmail.com.

We hope to see you in March!

Join Us in the Homecoming Parade on October 7

TAIG and the Thespians will be participating in the Homecoming Parade once again! The parade is on October 7, and the report time will likely be around 4 pm.

If you're interested in joining us in the parade, sign up at psuthespiansAIG.org/homecoming2016 or email taig.homecoming@gmail.com for more information.

For those of you that can't make it back to State College, we will be posting updates on social media so you can be a part of it from anywhere. If you haven't already, make sure you like us on Facebook at facebook.com/psuthespiansAIG and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/psuthespiansAIG!



Alumni Profile: David Hochoy

He's been named a Living Legend by the Indiana Historical Society, given the Distinguished Hoosier Award by the Governor of Indiana, and presented the Key to the City of Indianapolis. Now marking an amazing 25 years as Artistic Director of Dance Kaleidoscope of Indianapolis, David Hochoy has had an incredible career in the arts. Some of his early credits include directing and choreographing shows in Schwab.

Born in Trinidad, West Indies, to parents of Chinese descent (his father was born in Trinidad, his mother in Guyana), David Hochoy attended a Catholic boys' high school which performed a variety of plays and musicals. He wanted to be part of the shows so he began painting sets for a production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, but ended up stepping into a stage role for a boy who became ill. He enjoyed being on stage, but his parents sent him to McGill University in Montreal to study to be a doctor.

At McGill, David sang in the choir and joined the Gilbert and Sullivan Society. By his second year he was producing three shows and taking acting classes, all while still completing the science and math classes required for pre-med students - he was literally sleeping in the theatre. He finished his B.S. at McGill but realized his heart was elsewhere. David says that telling his parents that he was going to change career paths was the hardest thing he ever had to do.

His mind made up, he went to New York for graduate school auditions where Doug Cook of the Penn State Theatre Department saw him and thought he would do well pursuing an M.A. in directing. The university's summer theatre program had scheduled *Carousel*, and David was asked if he could sing and

dance. He hadn't really danced before but answered in the affirmative, was in the show, and discovered his true love...dance! David said he learned a great deal from his instructors in the Theatre Department including Manuel Duque, Archie Smith, Lowell Manfull, Jean Sabatine, and especially Richard Edelman who staged the opening of *Carousel* and taught him so much about directing.

His journey with Thespians started with a call from Ruth Yeaton asking if he would choreograph their fall 1972 production of *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off*. His success with that show led to his being asked to direct and choreograph Thespians' 75th Anniversary production of *Hello, Dolly* in spring 1973, and later, *Fiddler on the Roof* in the spring of 1974.

He then moved to New York and studied at both the Alvin Ailey and Martha Graham schools. Under Martha Graham, David says he "studied at the feet of the master". She taught dedication, pursuing truth, and artistic integrity as well as movement, and felt that dancers should have 'star quality'. David was invited to join the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1980, was made a soloist in 1982, then rehearsal director in 1986. In 1989, he felt he had gone as far as he could go and left the company. He spent two years teaching at Texas Christian University and redefining himself. He was challenged to teach Martha Graham's techniques to young ladies who had no idea who she was.

Then came Indianapolis. David was hired as Artistic Director of Dance Kaleidoscope in 1991. He has choreographed more than 70 dance programs for a company of 14 auditioned dancers. Along with his work with Dance

Kaleidoscope, David has choreographed for programs all over the country including the Indianapolis Symphony, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Phoenix Theatre, Arizona Opera, and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and served for ten years as Artistic Director of the Green Shows at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He is founder and co-director of "Spotlight", an annual fundraiser for the Indiana AIDS Fund. His list of awards is lengthy - he has twice received a Master Fellowship in Choreography and an Individual Artist Grant from the Indiana Arts Commission. He served as a dance panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The accolades don't end there. On April 2, 2011, the Mayor of Indianapolis declared David Hochoy Day in honor of his 20 years as Dance Kaleidoscope Artistic Director. In addition to celebrating 25 years in that position in 2016, he also received the Governor's Arts Award from the Indiana Arts Commission.

Will David Hochoy do like other famous choreographers such as Martha Graham and Agnes DeMille who continued to work all their lives? When asked, he laughs and says he will probably retire in the not too distant future and will relax a bit with his two cats, then find more ways to keep busy.

This is a man who has lived the life he loved and helped bring the beauty of dance to the world. David Hochoy: dancer, choreographer, teacher, director, long-time Hoosier and Penn State Thespian. What will the next chapter bring?

Luanne Russel ('63)
TAIG Historian

President's Corner

This year will be a busy one for both TAIG and Thespians. If you are coming back to State College for the Homecoming Parade on October 7, be sure to look out for our float. We hope to build on the success from last year where we featured *Legally Blonde* and our very own Homecoming Queen, Ruth Yeaton ('53, '59g), wearing a crown and wielding a scepter.

The weekend after the Homecoming Parade is the fall show. *Rock of Ages* takes the Schwab stage October 13-15. We will be having a reception Friday, October 14, after the show in the Gallery Room at Schwab.

Before the curtain rose on the Friday evening performance of *Into the Woods*, I had the honor of presenting the Distinguished Service to Penn State Thespians award to one of our long-time board members, Fred Leuschner ('50, '51g). During his 11 years on the board, Fred has attended every Thespian main stage performance and has not missed one board meeting. Fred has also raised over \$5,000 for the endowment. Many thanks to Fred for his continued dedication to Thespians!

This summer, TAIG also welcomed two new board members: Amy Tizio ('16) and Jason Marko ('16). Amy was the Thespian President last year and Jason was the Historian and Alumni Liaison (HAL). Jason will also be serving the board as our new Vice President. We are looking forward to their contributions in the years to come!

I would also like to continue to thank everyone who has contributed to the endowment. As of September 1, we have reached \$94,422, 75% of our goal. If you would like to make a tax-deductible gift, please visit psuthespianAIG.org/donate

I hope to see you at a Thespian show this year!

Guy Fissel ('77)

TAIG President

taig.president97@gmail.com

News From the Actives: MasquerAIDS

As some of you may know, MasquerAIDS is an annual cabaret that raises money for the AIDS Resource of Centre County. This year, the theme is This is Our Story. It will be a look at where we as Thespians have come from and where we want to go.

We will be combining Thespian classics with newer pieces that the club would like to perform. For this, we need your help! We have a website where you can provide input on what Thespian classics we should perform as part of this show. If you would like to help shape this year's MasquerAIDS performance, please fill this form out by October 8th. We hope to hear from you to make this the best MasquerAIDS ever!

www.bit.ly/MAIDS

Melissa Kreider ('17) and Katie Formichella ('18)

2017 MasquerAIDS chairs

ThespiansMasquerAIDS@gmail.com

TAIG Calendar

Homecoming Parade

October 7, 2016

Rock of Ages

October 13-15, 2016

1:30 PM & 7:30 PM

Schwab Auditorium

Post-Show Reception

October 14, 2016

Schwab Auditorium

Fall Board Meeting

October 15, 2016

10:30 AM (EDT)

Location TBD

Beauty and the Beast

March 23-25, 2017

Schwab Auditorium

120th Anniversary Reunion

March 24-26, 2017

Spring Board Meeting

March 25, 2017

10:00 AM (EDT)

Summer Board Meeting

July 15, 2017

11:00 AM (EDT)



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Questions and comments regarding the content of this publication as well as suggestions for future articles may be directed to *Eliza Altenderfer ('12)*, TAIG Newsletter Editor, at taig.newsletter@gmail.com

Questions regarding TAIG may be directed to TAIG President *Guy Fissel ('77)* at taig.president97@gmail.com

2016-17 TAIG Board Members

Guy W. Fissel '77, President
Jason Marko '16, Vice President
Evan Smith '11, Secretary
Vince Roscioli '09, Treasurer
Luanne Russell '63, Historian
Andrea (Schwander) Fisher '10
Fred Leuschner '50, '51(g)
Sean Meadows '13
Eric Minford '76, '83(g)
Kate (Proulx) Roscioli '10
Nicholas C. Semon '07
Amy Tizio '16
Ruth Yeaton '53, '59(g)



TAIG Email Listserv

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