

Mission:

PYTAA is dedicated to keeping PYT alumni connected to the company and to each other through events and productions that allow alumni to use the skills they have developed in their theatrical endeavors with PYT and elsewhere. PYTAA is also dedicated to giving back to PYT through volunteer work as well as monetary contributions.

Upcoming Events!

We are very pleased to announce some exciting events for the new year! So grab those calendars and mark the following dates now because these events are not to be missed!

- February 2: PYTAA night at *Legally Blonde* starring Nic Rouleau
- March 11: PYTAA night at *Annie Get Your Gun*
- March 19: 1st Annual Pasta Feed Fundraiser
- April 2: LAST CHANCE to submit audition video for *Urinetown*

See below for more information on these events and we hope to see you there!

Holiday Party Recap

By Lindsay Kristine Anderson



Our annual Holiday Party was a blast! It took place at Jeremy Davies' lovely home in Campbell, CA the day before New Years. The scene was filled with a memorable nutcracker collection, a beautifully decorated tree, the delicious scent of hot apple cider, pie and cookies, and of course favorite holiday classics playing in the background.

We were happily reunited this year with surprise appearances from some of our most treasured alumni. It's always exciting to catch up with old friends.





We were also very thrilled to welcome the attendance of many newcomers!



Making our traditional gingerbread houses was a lot of fun as usual. It must be noted that this year had some of the most unique houses yet. We even had a robot!



The PYTAA Holiday Party 2010 was a huge success. It is always a joy to reunite with friends during the holidays. We ended the night with a December Vlog presented by some of our council members. You can watch it at our YouTube channel "pyt alumni". Plans are already being prepared for next year's party and we expect it to be even bigger and better!

Urinetown the Musical

By Ernestine Balisi



For those that have missed out on auditions last month, we are now opening video submissions online.

If you are interested in auditioning, please send us a video clip of you singing on YouTube, set it to private and email Director Brian Miller at the.green.brian@gmail.com with **Urinetown Auditions** in the subject line by no later than April 2nd!

Also, we are still looking to fill the following staff positions for our show:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| -Musical director | -Costumes |
| -Choreographer | -Make-Up |
| -Stage manager | -Photographer |
| -Set designer | -Videographer |

If you are interested in applying, please email Production Manager Jeremy Latham Davies A.S.A.P. at jeremydavies@rocketmail.com with **Urinetown Staff** in the subject line.

PYTAA Night at Legally Blonde

By Claire Uschersohn



(Photo courtesy of Troika Entertainment)

Want to see a PYT alumnus in action? *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, with PYT alum Nic Rouleau as Emmett, is coming to Fresno on **February 2nd, 2011**, and the Alumni Association is organizing a trip to go see it! If you are interested in attending, please send an email to pyt_alumni@yahoo.com with **Legally Blonde** in the subject line by Friday, January 28th. We would like to put together a carpool for those who cannot drive themselves, so if you are able to drive others, please include how many people you can drive, in your email. We will be meeting at PYT at 3:30 pm. Those who wish to attend must buy their own tickets at:

<http://www.ticketmaster.com/event/1C004473ABF4396A?artistid=1088449&majorcatid=10002&minorcatid=207>

However, if enough people would like to attend, we can get the group discount! Hope to see you there!

PYTAA at Annie Get Your Gun

By Ernestine Balisi

**ANNIE
GET YOUR GUN**
March 5-13



A brand new year begins brand new traditions! As a way for the alumni association to give back to PYT, we would like to begin alumni nights for the mainstage shows. Be on the lookout for a separate email when the date gets closer for more information, but save the date for Friday, March 11th for PYT's upcoming production of *Annie Get Your Gun*, choreographed by PYTAA's very own Dan Hurst!

**ANNIE
GET YOUR GUN**
March 5-13



First Annual Pasta Feed

By Kim Beals

Are you an alumni of PYT interested in performing, but don't have a lot of extra time to rehearse a show? Would you like to play a role in helping raise money for the PYT Alumni Association? Will you be in the Bay Area on March 19th 2011? If you answered yes to these questions, then this is the opportunity you have been waiting for!

PYTAA is hosting a Pasta Night Fundraiser at PYT! We will be serving....you guessed it, pasta! We will also be providing our guests with entertainment throughout the evening. Here's where you come in!

Since this is the 1st Annual PYTAA Pasta Night and the year 2011, we are going with a theme of songs with the word ONE in them. We haven't quite come up with a witty title yet, but don't fret-it's in the works ☺ With that, we'd like center all our acts around that theme. Can't think of a song? No problem! Send us an email and we will give you a list to choose from!

Like to sing and dance? Grab some alumni friends and choreograph a dance to your favorite Glee song! Play an instrument? Team up with some friends and rock the house! Love Shakespeare? Impress us with your best English accent! Comedy routines, juggling, balloon animals, if you got it, flaunt it! Its all up to you!

Don't want to perform, but would still like to help? We'd love to have you help cook and serve, set up and/or tear down, work the raffle, collect tickets at the door, etc.

If you are interested in being a part of the event in any way, email pyt_alumni@yahoo.com with **Pasta Night** in the subject line. We have limited spots for performers so if you are interested, sign up A.S.A.P!

We are so excited for this event and hope you will join us!

Alumni Feature: Michael MacLaren

By Anthony Scott Feenan



PYTAA correspondent Anthony Scott Feenan recently interviewed alumnus Michael MacLaren. An edited transcript of the interview follows.

-Anthony Scott Feenan: *Give a background on your experiences at PYT and what your education background are.*

-Michael MacLaren: PYT offered great opportunities for me as I was growing up. As I began getting more involved in theatre around the Bay Area, I performed in six stellar productions at PYT. Performance highlights for me were playing Scrooge in Jeff Bengford's musical version of A Christmas Carol and portraying Perchik in Fiddler on the Roof.

All the productions were always positive experiences. In each show, I increased my artistic skills and shared social time with great friends. After high school, I continued my education at Santa Clara University with a double major in Chemistry and Theatre Arts with a dance emphasis. Crazy, I know!

-ASF: *What experiences did you encounter you finished school?*

-MM: For a couple of years after college, I worked in the chemistry lab of a start-up company called Cell Biosciences. It was a great job and it was fascinating to be involved in the development of a new lab instrument. However, the other side of my brain was keeping busy with theatre at night. I performed and choreographed at local theatre companies, such as West Valley Light Opera. At this point in my life, I didn't think that I would make performing my career.

The turning point occurred when I was cast in A Chorus Line at American Musical Theatre of San Jose. It was my first big professional production and I went on to appear in two more of their shows that year. I had to use all my vacation hours at work to make some of the afternoon rehearsals! Upon talking to some of the actors from New York, I decided that I wanted to join them and make a career of performing professionally. Within a month, I quit my steady biotech job and moved to New York with four suitcases. Immediately upon my arrival, I began auditioning for anything and everything that I could get to. Not too long after my arrival, I booked my first job performing in Sweet Charity at a regional theatre in Connecticut. Since then, I have continued to perform in theatre and dance in New York and around the country at various regional companies.

-ASF: *What has been your best moment since you have been performing? What other experiences have you had that were worth wild?*

-MM: My best moment was creating the role of The Lamplighter in Christmas Dreamland at American Musical Theatre of San Jose. In the business of musical theatre, regional productions usually recreate shows based on the versions that appeared on Broadway. In the case of Christmas Dreamland, the show was created from scratch and I was part of the original company. It allowed me to share my artistry as well as performance abilities.

Another very different, but worthwhile experience was my most recent job dancing in Jubilee! at Bally's Hotel in Las Vegas. The classic showgirl review has been running non-stop since 1981 and I joined the company for one seven month contract. The show is filled with large production numbers based on early MGM musicals. It was amazing to be a part of a huge event with a cast of 85, an enormous stage with three full elevators, and nightly crowds of

hundreds. No expense was spared in the creation of the show and I wore costumes covered in Swarovski crystals. The newest aspect for me was performing 12 shows a week, two every night for six days a week. Another challenging characteristic of the show is that I climbed 1440 stairs nightly, both backstage and on the gigantic set pieces. With a gig such as this, I was forced to learn how to deal with the grind and take care of my body. It is comparable to being a professional athlete and I couldn't let small nagging injuries get out of hand. I felt very accomplished when I left after dancing in 300 performances!

-ASF: *What do you want to do in the future with your talents?*

-MM: The future has always been unknown for me since I moved to New York. I still have aspirations to be in a Broadway show or a national tour. However, as I grow older I realize that I won't be devastated if that never happens. I have already had amazing performing opportunities and I don't consider anything a mountain that must be conquered. A part of me will always continue to be in theatre, music and dance at some level, but eventually my body will not be able to keep up at the professional dance level. That being said, I have also started performing as a guitarist/singer at bars in New York. It's a different style, but I quite enjoy the energy that I can pour into rock music. So, only time will tell where the future will take me. I'm open to anything and at some point I may leave the professional performing world altogether and return to biotech.

Thank you again for taking the time during answer these questions Michael! All of us at PYTAA are very proud of you!

It Gets Better Project

By Jeremy Latham Davies



I'm sure you've all been hearing the news that it gets better, really! In response to a greater awareness of bullying and teen suicide people and personalities across the country have been creating videos for the "It Gets Better" campaign to help continue to spread awareness of this issue. PYT has expressed interest in creating their own video for the campaign and they need your help!

If you are interested in music directing, choreographing, performing, or helping in any way please contact Linda Apperson and/or Steve Garcia @ linda.apperson@gmail.com or steve@adzac.com A.S.A.P. Help give back to the community by spreading awareness of bullying and teen suicide by participating in this awesome cause!

PYTAA Council:

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Jeremy Davies

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Anthony Feenan

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We're on the Web!
www.pytnet.org/alumni

We Need A New Logo!

By Kim Beals



The PYT Alumni Association is looking for a new logo, and we want YOUR help! We are holding a contest to design our new PYTAA logo. This logo will be used on t-shirts, flyers, business cards, the website and more!

The only thing we ask is that the words PYTAA or PYT Alumni be included in your design. We also need the original logo to be larger than a foot for posters and what not. With that in mind, go for it!

Email your designs to pyt_alumni@yahoo.com by February 12th, with **Logo Contest** in the subject line. We will then present the designs to the alumni, and everyone will be given a chance to vote for their favorite design!

Let those creative juices flow!

Some Upcoming Alumni Shows...

- **Jenine Giusto & Martin Gutfeldt** appears in City Light Theater Company's production of *Compleat Female Stage Beauty* from January 20th through February 20th.
- **Lindsay Kristine Anderson** as "Lou Anne" (One of the nicest kids in town) in Sierra Repertory Theatre's production of *Hairspray - The Broadway Musical* from February 5th through April 3rd.
- **Brian Miller** as "Leaf Coneybear" in West Valley Light Opera's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* from March 12th through April 9th.
- **Emily Hodgson** as "Gertude" and **Max Venuti** as "Horton" in Los Altos Youth Theater's production of *Seussical Jr.* from March 11th through the 26th.

