

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!

It's almost time for summer so you know what that means! Grab those calendars and mark the following dates now because these events are not to be missed!

- June 12: Summer BBQ
- June 25: Urinetown the Musical

See below for information on these two events you DO NOT want to miss!

## Pasta Night 2011

By Anthony Scott Feenan



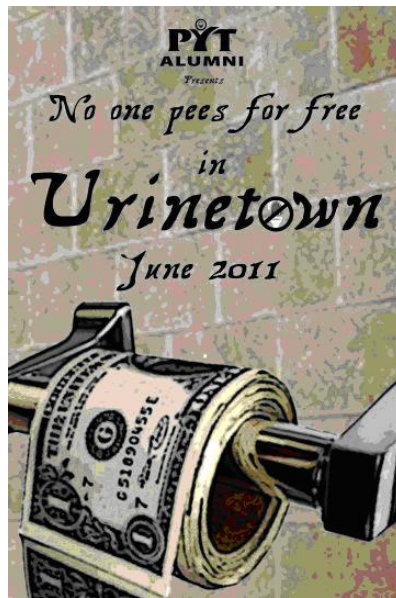
On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the PYTAA hosted the inaugural Pasta Night Event at the PYT Studios in Mountain View, CA with Master of Ceremonies, Anthony Scott Feenan. The event brought in great food from Pasta Market and great desserts provided by the performers. The theme of the event was the number "One", in honor of our first annual pasta night. All of the evening's performances were songs with "One" in the title.

When the performances began, items from the silent auction were introduced with each performer. Packages for the silent auction ranged anywhere from a Zumba® Experience with Ernestine Balisi to a San Jose Sharks package. By the end of the evening the silent auction turned into a back and forth battle from all attendees. After the performances had been completed, the youth of PYT took over with great renditions of their favorite songs in karaoke form.

Overall, Pasta Night was a great new event that will continue for years to come. A big thank you goes to the office staff of PYT (Candice Gasperik, Karen Simpson and Mark De Saulnier) for their assistance in the use of the studio space at PYT. A round of applause goes out to all of the performers. The PYTAA council would like to thank all who were in attendance and for the donations and auction bids.

# Urinetown the Musical

By Ernestine Balisi



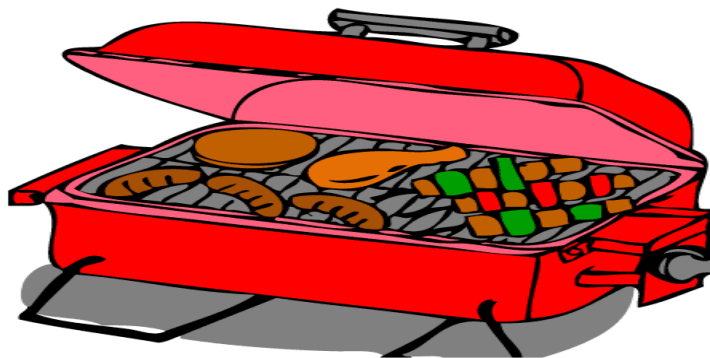
It's finally here! Introducing the Urinetown cast:

Meaghan Anderson- Robby the Stockfish  
Deanna Bakker- Hope Cladwell  
Kim Beals- Pennywise  
Melly Beals- Little Sally  
Zoe T. Custer- Josephine Strong  
Caitlyn DeRouin- Soupy Sue/Mrs. Millennium  
Anthony Feenan- Barrel/Hot Blades Harry  
Martin Gutfeldt- Lockstock  
Allen Hernandez- Caldwell B. Cladwell/Billy Boy Bill  
Dana Johnson- Becky Twoshoes/Senator Fipp  
Sallie Walecka- Tiny Tom/Dr. Billeaux  
Robert Wiszowaty- Old Man Strong/Mr. McQueen  
Judd Yort- Bobby Strong

We are also pleased to announce that *Urinetown* will have two performances on **Saturday, June 25th** at **2pm** and **7:30pm** at the beautiful Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts SecondStage! Tickets can be purchased beginning in June at [www.pytnet.org](http://www.pytnet.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

## Summer BBQ!

By Claire Uschersohn



What are you doing on Sunday, June 12th? Well, clear your schedule and come to PYTAA's Alumni Barbecue! Come for a day of fun, friends and food. Reconnect with people you haven't seen in a while, and share stories and experiences of the past year.

If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a dessert, and if it begins with N-Z, please bring a snack or a side dish. Information about the time and place will be sent out soon so be on the lookout for an email and a Facebook invite!

# Alumni Feature: Shiboune Thill

By Kim Beals



**Kim Beals:** *How did you get started Stage Managing?*

**Shiboune Thill:** It was just after I had performed as Mrs. Squires in PYT's 2001 production of *The Music Man*. Joan Adelman needed help with *Oliver!*, which started rehearsals in January, so she asked me to ASM. From there I stepped in for *Guys and Dolls* and worked on just about every show. It was when the next season was announced and *Seussical* was included. I knew one of our two stage managers was moving on so I just asked Joan if I could have Seuss and the rest they say is history.

**KB:** *Which companies have you worked with in the past, and how do they compare and contrast?*

**ST:** I have worked for a variety of companies, including Bus Barn, Palo Alto Players, Lyric Theatre, Teen Dance Company, and Pacific Ballet Academy to name a few. Each company is vastly different, not only in its staff and procedures but also in its talent. There is something about watching the young talent grow and change at PYT that I just love. One major difference is that PYT double casts their shows, most other companies don't, and if they do it's usually only on a handful of roles and not the entire cast. This makes stage managing a challenge in that there are twice as many people to track for blocking, props, costumes, etc., though I would be remiss if I didn't say it's also twice as rewarding. To see the growth and wonder in each person is truly a blessing. Working with the dance companies my role is a lot smaller in that I usually show up during tech to run the show.

**KB:** *What exactly does the job of Stage Manager entail? Has it changed as you've worked with different companies?*

**ST:** Really a stage manager's job is to make the show happen. This means you track blocking, props, costumes, quick changes, set pieces. I also have to liaise between the different departments and staff members. Once in the theatre, it's my job to maintain the integrity of the show as envisioned by the artistic staff. No pressure there or anything. I think with every show I do, no matter what

company it is with, I learn and grow as a stage manager. It's about being adaptable, dependable, focused and a good leader.

**KB:** *What is your next big project?*

**ST:** Currently I am working on *Altar Boyz* at Palo Alto Players, which opens on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. After that I don't have anything set but I'm working on picking what shows I want to work on and scheduling future shows.

**KB:** *Anything else you want to add, background, where you work, what shows you did at PYT?*

**ST:** I've always been a performer of sorts. As a little girl I decided I was going to sing for the bride and groom at a wedding my parents took me to. From there you find pictures of me singing at all ages. I still sing with the Dickens Carolers once in a while during their season and every time we go to Disneyland, but my last main stage show was *Children of Eden*. Of course *Children of Eden* happened long before the fall of the dinosaurs, or was it at the time of the creation? I forget now.

**Thank you again for taking the time to answer these questions, Shibby! All of us at PYTAA are very proud of you!**

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## Life After PYT

By Jeremy Latham Davies



We all know that high school graduation is a huge step into our adult lives. In addition, many of us must end our time at PYT; a place where we grew up that is near and very dear to our hearts. It can be a very scary time. Even leading up to graduation we experience overwhelming new questions. Will I go to school? Will I attend a conservatory? Will I go right out into the world and begin the eternal search for work?

In an effort to help further our PYTAA mission statement by "keeping PYT alumni connected to the company" and "giving back to PYT through volunteer work" we are extremely excited to announce the development of a new annual Life After PYT event. We would like to create a new resource for PYT high school juniors and seniors preparing to apply for college and begin the journey of adult life. We are seeking your Life After PYT story! We would love to include as many alumni as possible and present a diverse set of options. Please send your story to [pyt\\_alumni@yahoo.com](mailto:pyt_alumni@yahoo.com) to help contribute to this event.

*"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." W.B. Yeats*

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## Some Upcoming Alumni Shows...

- **Emily Bliss** as "Sally Bowles" and **Dan Hurst** appear in Sunnyvale Community Player's production of *Cabaret* now playing until May 15th.
- **Aaron Griffith** as "William Barfee", **Emily Bliss** as "Logainne", and **Christina Bolognini** as "Olive" in Bellarmine Alumni Theatre's inaugural production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* on July 14-16 at 7:30 pm in the beautiful new Sobrato Center for the Humanities and Arts.
- **Ernestine Balisi** is currently teaching Zumba® fitness classes at Zohar School of Dance in Palo Alto. Drop-in and join the fun for only \$10 a class! For more information, please visit: <http://133362.zumba.com>

