



PYTAA Newsletter

November/December 2009

Volume IV Issue 2



Tis the season for sharing holiday cheer and the Annual PYTAA Holiday Party is back! Join us on December 20th from 7-10 at the Kranz Residence (10 Meadow Lane in Atherton) and catch up with old friends, meet new ones and get ready for the holiday season. Enjoy a nice array of appetizers and bring a favorite dessert of your choice. We will also have gingerbread decorating so, it is sure to be the best holiday event of the season. You do not want to miss it!

This is an alumni only event, but it's sure to be a lot of fun. Please RSVP by no later than Wednesday, 12/16, so we can make sure to have enough food for everyone!

Our New PYTAA L.A. and N.Y. Liaisons

A message from your N.Y. Liaison:

One of the main goals the PYTAA strives for is to maintain relationships with fellow PYT alumni. After leaving PYT, some continue their studies in theater and performance art. However, some decide to go down other paths, which is greatly encouraged as well. The relationships formed at PYT are priceless and it is important for us to support our fellow alumni as they embark on new adventures.

New York City is an excellent hub for performance art and theater. Since many performers choose New York as a prime location to study we have decided to extend the PYTAA to New York City, where Joey Kipp will be organizing events to see Broadway shows, performances featuring fellow alumni or any other performance related venues. If you are in the New York City area contact Joey

Kipp in order to participate. Especially in a big city such as New York we want to feel like there is some ground of support for new Manhattanites.

Here are more ideas to expand the PYTAA:

- Organize meetings for socializing
- Organize trips to see Broadway shows
- Organize trips to see fellow alumni in theatrical or performance venues

Contact Joey at: jkip8@yahoo.com

A message from your L.A. Liaison:

Hey fellow alums! Lindsay here. I am currently located in Hollywood, California, the entertainment capital of the world! There are so many performance opportunities here, whether it is in dance, drama, theatre, film or television (and much more)! Many of you know this and are currently living in the LA area, seizing the moment and taking advantage of this amazing place centered towards the entertainment industry. My goal is to expand PYT Alumni events right here in LA. This will be a fabulous opportunity to reconnect with old friends, and get to see what people are working on right now in the business!

I have many great plans for this new project. We are all interested in seeing fellow alumni on stage, so I am going to be keeping a schedule of who is performing in what. There will be organized trips to attend these shows, and perhaps a Broadway show or two as well. Then of course, we all need a break from this crazy business, also known as our "kid" time. A Disneyland trip is a must! Spring will be coming before you know it, and the beach is the perfect place to be for some body surfing, games and S'mores. As you can see, there are plenty of fun events coming up that you can be a part of. You don't have to be in LA to attend these events! I am super excited to expand the PYT alumni family across the country, from the Bay Area, to New York, to Los Angeles, and maybe one day further! I hope you are just as excited as I am as we venture into this new expansion of the Alumni Association.

Contact Lindsay at: LindsayAnderson@Live.com

Alumni Feature: Molly Murphy and Fishamble

By Jeremy Latham Davies

Molly is a junior at Santa Clara University currently studying abroad and completing an awesome internship in The Land of Erin. I recently interviewed PYT Alumnus Molly Murphy about her internship with Fishamble: The New Play Company in Dublin, Ireland and she had this to say:

- J: Where exactly is this internship?

- M: I'm working at Fishamble: The New Play Company. It's located in Dublin in an area called Temple Bar. I walk up four flights of stairs every Tuesday and Thursday to get to a nice little office that's just the right size for the four people that run the company. I love the office, the work, the people (and the work out I get from the stairs)

- J: What is this internship/what are you doing for this internship?

- M: My job at Fishamble consists of reading unsolicited scripts and evaluating them for the Literary Officer of the company Gavin Kostick. Fishamble receives over 150 scripts a year and they reply to each one of these submissions. MY primary job is to read, evaluate, discuss, and write rough drafts of letters to the playwrights. I also do regular intern administration work (errand running, delivering, entering names into a database...). Fishamble also just premiered a show entitled Strandline at the Project Arts Center in Dublin, so I've been doing some front of house work selling scripts and pushing to get people on the mailing list. The perks of the job: I got to go to production meetings, a workshop or two, and a dress rehearsal for the new show.

- J: How did you find the internship and get involved?

- M: I found the internship through my study abroad program, IES. As part of my application process to go abroad I filled out an application to be an intern while studying in Dublin. After being accepted by IES, a phone interview, and

Fishamble's review of my resume I was given the position at Fishamble. As part of my internship I take a seminar every other week with the one other intern in the program. It's meant to prepare us for Irish culture in the working world.

- J: What school are you studying at for your study abroad program?

- M: My study abroad program is the school, actually. There are a few tracks you can take with IES and I'm doing general studies. I'm taking a creative writing course, a course on Celtic myth, a course on contemporary Irish drama, and a course on the conflict in Northern Ireland. Some IES students actually study at Trinity, and others are in a theatre specific program. The theatre specific program has more hours; if I had done that I wouldn't have been able to do my internship. I'm pleased with my path.

- J: So is Fishamble strictly a new works company?

- M: Fishamble is strictly a new work company. They have premiered works by well known playwrights or new works by playwrights they have previously produced. But they only work with entirely new scripts. Any script that has never been fully staged by another company is a fair contender at Fishamble.

- J: Do they produce musicals as well or strictly straight plays?

- M: The breadth of the work consists of various writing forms, but it never falls in the musical genre as far as I know. They do short work festivals, writing workshops, staged readings, and full productions, and from what I know of this history the company works strictly with plays and not with musicals. This could be because of limited funding resources. Most plays they look at have smaller casts and are fairly contained. Musicals are big budget theatre. Fishamble has quite the name for itself in Irish theatre touring internationally, producing, and publishing a significant amount of work, but they still rely heavily on grants and donations. Also because of the name they have gained for themselves, people who are sending in work are more often than not sending in straight plays

- J: Any other thoughts?

- M: If any theatre practitioner plans to go abroad for an extended period of time, I would advise them to work at a theatre, go see theatre in excess, wander into theatres and ask a million questions....simply immerse. I am so grateful for the opportunity, and I've learned so much about the theatre community internationally and domestically. I've been reminded of how much I've learned at home from my theatre major in college, from PYT, from watching shows, from workshops. And I also have a bit more confidence walking into theatres and asking questions. Its wonderful not being nervous or tentative about my curiosity. After working abroad, you come down with a serious case of self-sufficiency. Being independent and thrust into an uncomfortable, and yet vaguely familiar atmosphere, will undoubtedly make me a better theatre performer, worker, learner, and watcher.

And the 2010 Alumni Show is . . .



Let the spelling begin! This Tony Award winning show will be Directed and Choreographed by none other than PYTAA's Jeremy Latham Davies! Mark your calendars now because auditions will ONLY be held on the following dates: Sunday, December 20th @ 2pm AND Monday, January 4th @ 6pm at the PYT Studios! Auditions are by appointment only. Please prepare 16-32 bars of a selection from the show or a musical theatre piece with a similar musical style to the show and/or similar character elements (selection from the show preferred) and be prepared to dance. A movement audition and callbacks will be held on the same day. Be prepared to commit anywhere from an hour to 2 hours of your time. We can't wait to see you there! Please contact our Executive Producer Sean Kranz at skranz@kranzassoc.com or the Director Jeremy Latham Davies at jeremydavies@rocketmail.com with any questions.

Email pyt_alumni@yahoo.com to schedule an appointment and go to pytnet.org/alumni/shows/SpellingBee/ for more information

PYTAA Mission Statement

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.

For more information on the Peninsula Youth Theatre Alumni Association please visit www.pytnet.org/alumni.
