

dear aged scotch

*Scotch'n'Soda Theatre Alumni Newsletter
Spring 2019*

voulez-vous, aha!

*Monsters, Mamma Mia, and More!
Spring 2019 had us laughing,
crying, and dancing to ABBA.*





mamma mia! *a super trouper spotlight*

Our Carnival 2019 production, **MAMMA MIA!**, proved to be a successful crowdpleaser. With sold-out shows almost every night, MAMMA MIA! had campus singing ABBA songs 24/7.

Directed by Shaelyn Parker (MCS 21) and Amber Quinn (DC 21), this show was a beacon of fun and light in an otherwise somewhat dark and serious season. MAMMA MIA's toe-tapping ABBA numbers were music directed by Joshua Fried (CFA 22) and Ruiran Xun (MCS 22), accompanied by energetic choreography by Grant Seastream (CIT 19), Tejas Reddy (TPR 20), and Daria VanAllman (CIT 22).

Tech highlights included a thrust that extended the Rangos stage, which was also circled by a ramp that allowed for more interactive choreography. The iconic Dynamos costumes (pictured above) also prompted cheers from the audience.

With an emphasis on the importance of lifelong friendships, embracing yourself, dynamic female characters, and bellbottoms, this Carnival production was a blast for audience members and Scotchlings alike!

she kills monsters *roll for ass-kicking*

This semester's February slot brought us **She Kills Monsters**, a comedic journey of self-discovery, family, and fighting monsters both internal and external through the fantasy of Dungeons and Dragons.

Directed by Remy Davison (CFA 19) and Emma McAlister (CFA 20), this production provided new opportunities for actors, with themes of fantasy, grief, sisterhood, and LGBTQ+ issues.

Tech also had multiple shining moments, with fantasy makeup, quick changes, a light-up sword, a gelatinous cube, and a dragon, to name a few. Ass was certainly kicketh-ed!





no parking players

word of suggestion: heist

The No Parking Players had another excellent semester, highlighted by their second annual improv festival, **Detour: Heist!** Boasting 14 total acts from groups across the country and Pittsburgh, Detour proved to be a huge success this year. NPP welcomed 5 alumni troupes and 5 college troupes, even offering 6 different workshops, with special thanks to over 25 volunteers who helped run the entire event.

But that's not all! Workshops have been going great for NPP as well this semester, leading up to an exciting **Workshopper Showcase** at the end of the semester. Workshoppers got the opportunity to perform during Detour, too!

As for NPP's Performing Group (PG), they are thrilled to welcome 3 new members this semester: Mansour Elsharawy (CIT 22), Olivia Cunnally (CFA 22), and Nathan Blinn (DC 21)! PG travelled to a host of different festivals this semester, including **SteelStacks** in Lehigh, PA, the **Ohio State Tides**, and **Penn St RAWR**. They've even started going to Pittsburgh Improv Jams downtown (open to friends), as well as experimenting with creating new long form improv forms. Talk about improv out the wazoo!

new works coffeehouse *tall, grande, venti*

New Works has been working hard this past semester to support student written pieces and revitalize Scotch's passion for original works. The subtroupe has continued to redefine their role in Scotch'n'Soda and the campus community as they seek new ways to find writers on campus and produce their work.

This semester they've been working with several students to develop their original plays. In exciting news, they're currently producing a staged reading of an original musical, "**High School Choose-ical**", written by Katie Sabel (DC 22) and Josh Fried (CFA 22), to be performed before the end of the semester! Next semester they hope to continue developing the scripts they've received into high quality full productions.





tisbert sketch comedy

brought to you by subaru

Tisbert Sketch Comedy continues to delight this year with another exciting and successful semester of comedy.

Through the combined efforts of the Tisboard and Tistroupe (the young and growing sketch performance group), Tisbert hosted its second ever **Open Mic Comedy Night** in The Underground! Back by popular demand, this event saw many newcomers perform their experimental stand-up to a sizeable crowd of fans and food-comers. Tistroupe continues to try new things, performing at Arcade again this semester and always looking for new opportunities around Pittsburgh.

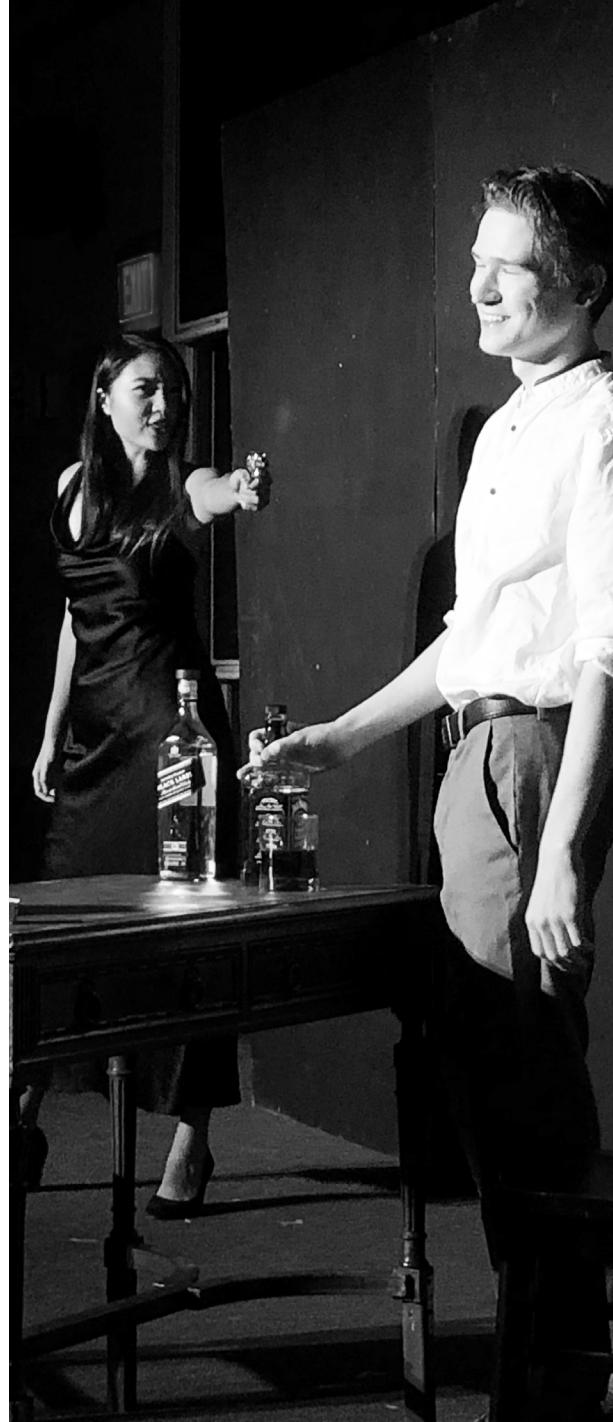
The Sketch StuCo is also doing fabulously, thanks to the amazing work of Heather Graci (DC 19) and Katie Tender (CFA 20). Now finishing its third semester, the course offers a solid curriculum that leaves students with a handful of quality sketches under their belts.

Speaking of which, what's a semester of Tisbert without The Big Show! Featuring sketches from tons of new writers and StuCo students, **Ace Steel: Laugh in the Face of Danger** was "the blockbuster of the year!" Directed by Zivan Vasquez (MCS 21) and Nathan Blinn (DC 21), featuring Olivia Cunnally (CFA 22), Nick Grosso (CFA 21), Jennifer Flores (DC 21), Kevin Wang (DC 20), and Fayyaz Zaidi (CIT 22), the show was a hit with audiences and was certainly one to remember!

7 ways to say i love you

directors' showcase

This semester featured a Board Project in the form of a directors' showcase, led by Director of Artistic Training Sydney Roslin (CFA 19). **7 Ways to Say I Love You**, a one-act play comprised of 7 vignettes exploring the sweet, silly, awkward, angry, whimsical, and poignant experiences that come with being in and out of love, provided opportunities for several directors and actors to take part in Scotch this semester without the intensity of a mainstage show.



thank you!

your gifts keep on giving

metal mcconomy

We've initiated a super exciting project this semester to rebuild all of our **McEconomy Standard** platforms, with a lot of help from your donations! We've had our current platforms for a long time, and many of them are getting old and worn out, so we decided it's time for a facelift. Even better, to make sure these platforms last forever, we plan to build the most important ones with metal frames! Along with all the other platforms we've made or plan to make, this is a several thousand dollar investment in one of the most important structures in our org. Thank you so much for your donations for allowing us to pursue this. We've already spent nearly a thousand dollars from your gifts, and we plan to continue to use this to make sure this project comes to a successful completion!

detour

Thank you to everyone who donated on **Giving Tuesday** this year! We used all those gifts to help NPP fund their **Detour Festival** this year, and it made a huge difference!

history panels

We're thrilled to announce the completion of a years-long donor project to showcase the history of Scotch'n'Soda at CMU! Those who came back to campus for Carnival might have seen two beautiful new panels right outside the Studio Theater, illustrating our history since the early 1900s. Thank you to all who made this project possible!

stan seat

Thanks to many generous donations by our alumni, the Scotch'n'Soda Alumni Association was able to dedicate one of the CUC Studio Theater seats to **Stan Kowitz!** Stan, who serves as the CUC Administrator, has been instrumental to the success of our shows, and is one of the friendliest and most dedicated supporters of S'n'S. It was our pleasure to honor Stan's service and commitment with this permanent commemoration during the **Alumni Brunch** this Carnival, and it was great to see Stan's gratitude and listen to him give one of his famous speeches to our members. Thanks again to all the alumni who helped in this effort, and to Stan for all that he's done!

SCOTCH'N'SODA 1900s – 1960s

ONE OF THE OLDEST AND LARGEST STUDENT THEATRICAL GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY'S SCOTCH'N'SODA BOASTS MORE THAN 150 ACTIVE MEMBERS FROM SEVEN COLLEGES AND 30 MAJORS.



THIS SCOTCH'N'SODA HISTORY PANEL WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE JACK G. BUNCHER CHARITABLE FUND FOR CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY.

SCOTCH'N'SODA 1970s – 2013



curtain call

production(s) managed!

may slot

mecast cabaret!

Our final mainstage production of the year is **Mecast Cabaret**, a project led by music director Matthew Quarles (SCS 19) and directors Fiona Dubrosa (DC 21) and Kai Huizenga (CIT 21).

The goal of this *Mecast Cabaret* is to allow performers to push boundaries and explore narratives by performing songs from roles for which they would traditionally never be cast. Where appropriate, flipping things like the age, race, or gender of a song's perspective can change the meaning of the song. A ballad can become a comedy or an introspective soliloquy from a new perspective, etc.

Members of Scotch have been very excited for this cabaret, and with a cast of 18, *Mecast* should be a fun and exuberant production to round off the 2018-2019 season.

s'n'swag

show your s'n'spirit!

Starting this semester, Scotch now has brand new t-shirts available for online order(!) at swag.snstheatre.org. These shirts, designed by Bernice Yu (DC 19) and Grant Seastream (CIT 19), are an affordable and accessible way to rep your S'n'Spirit. Head on over to the swag shop to check out all the options!

who's in charge?

the 2018-19 board

President

Shinjini Ray

Artistic Director

Michelle Wiedmann

Vice President

Grant Seastream

Managing Director

Alexandra Halberstadt

Technical Coordinator

Wenting Chang

Public Relations Coordinator

Bernice Yu

Secretary

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Zoe Marshall



SCOTCH'N'SODA PRESENTS

MICAST CABARET

