

SCOTCH 'N' SODA THEATRE PRESENTS...



WINTER NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2016

SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

BANG BANG BANALITY



This December slot featured a one-act play by our very own recent graduate, Brad Plaxen! Directed by Donovan Powers and Brianna Hudock, this show was a thrilling ride through the mind of one man as he struggled to settle a bet that we all wrestle with: are we good people? Presented in UC Connan and featuring a small cast and minimal set that illustrated an internal war, the intimate environment created an exceptional experience. The cast, crew, and production staff of Bang Bang Banality ensured that the show would affect the audience, and forced them to question their perceptions of what a “good” person is.

THE OUTSIDERS

The February slot performance of The Outsiders, directed by Maggie Davis and Mackenzie Nicholson, just wrapped up! With gender- and race-blind casting, this performance was a remarkable showcase of talent. With the addition of a real fountain onstage and a beautifully juxtaposed set, this show opened to positive reviews, some stating that the execution was “impeccable”, and many audience members felt that the content of the play was extremely relevant and thought-provoking. Exploring themes such as gang violence, youth, and social status, this coming-of-age story was beautifully affecting, diverse, and inspiring, reminding us all to “Stay Gold”.



NO PARKING PLAYERS (NPP)

This semester, NPP has already held three enormously successful shows, packing their performance spaces full with eager audience members stuffing their faces with cereal! The subtroupe has gained so much momentum, and with constant workshops and shows, it's sure to continue. Although the group lost December graduate Darrin Willis to the Real World, they gained two extremely talented new members: Will Walters and Marcel Oyuela-Bonzani. All of us are enormously excited to see what they will accomplish in their time with NPP!



WORKSHOPPING

by Russell Henry Holbert

Workshopping has been swinging its way into spring this semester! We've continued our regular meetings, this time switching our focus towards getting into the nitty gritty of writing our own works, as opposed to the concepts taught last semester. We've continued presenting student written projects, in particular "Query", a musical being written by member Grace Lazos. Workshopping is also starting rehearsals for our presentation of "WHATSHERFACE!", a Scotch'n'Soda original musical from 1965!

TISBERT 2015

Tisbert's fall show, "TISTalks", premiered November 13 and 14, to positive reception. Directed by Yesnar Hadi and Sam Riordan, the cast of five (Philip DeCicco, Grant Seastream, Mya Snyder, Darrin Willis, and David Frank) left the audience in stitches. The student-written show, composed around the idea of parodying popular TED Talks, featured chili, Bernie Sanders, and a rousing rendition of "Clementine". The show is available to watch on the [Tisbert Sketch Comedy YouTube channel](#), as well as some of the past Tisbert shows!

Writing meetings are currently underway in order to start working on the Tisbert spring show, happening April 1 and 2.



HISTORIAN'S SPOTLIGHT

by Gwen Luvara

Scotch'n'Soda has its roots in theatre for the people, by the people. Our members continue to live out this legacy building each and every show from book to stage. This past semester we delved deeper into those roots in two big ways. First of all we had our second original work written by Bradley Plaxen premiere as our December slot. Our members were challenged with directing, designing, and bringing to life Bang Bang Banality. As historian, I collected materials from this work and they will be placed in their permanent home in the university's archives at the end of this semester. As we contribute to the archive I have had the pleasure of pulling from it as well. We have incredible materials from the 1965 show WHATSHERFACE written by Iris Ratner and by Lawrence Stephens. Sending love to the history minded individual that held on to the script, set designs, and promotional material. I transcribed the show into a digital copy and S'n'S Workshopping Committee is bringing WHATSHERFACE back to life. Additionally, we are lucky enough to be in contact with the show's author, Iris Ratner Dart. She is the author of Beaches, and is working now on Beaches the musical, that has played at the Signature Theatre in Arlington and the Drury Lane Theatre in Chicago. On the whole we have had such wonderful alumni support with this adventure. It helps to remind us we are part of something larger and more lasting than ourselves. I close with a call for any materials from past shows, original works, or fond memories. We will cherish them, learn from them, and the university's archives have a spot with our name on it.



CARNIVAL EVENT!

We would love for you to save the date for our annual Carnival event! Featuring free food and a never-before-seen film of the history of Scotch'n'Soda, this is sure to be a great time to catch up with friends old and new, right before viewing our production of Legally Blonde: The Musical, directed by Adam Lerner and Michelle Wiedmann, and music directed by Caleb Glickman and Evan Neely. A formal invitation will be sent out soon, and we really hope to see you there!