

2014 T & D Phonathon

Alumni should contact the department head for the department of their degree:

Theater and Dance (T/D): Chris Herr, 836-4156 (Interim)

### **SCRIPTING INFORMATION**

**What this year's gifts will support, and why support/funding for those things is important:**

#### **Theatre/Dance**

- Tent Endowment: Working to create an endowment for Tent Theatre, to allow its continued operation and support. Tent is in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year of operation, and has developed into one of the university and Springfield's most beloved institutions
- In School Players support: Our longstanding outreach troupe of students who write and perform a children's themed play for local elementary schools. Support for travel/supplies to help keep this program at low or no cost to local schools and bring a live theatre experience to as many students in the Springfield area as possible.
- New York Los Angeles and Chicago showcases: Annually the department supports student professional showcases in New York and Los Angeles. The department rents rehearsal and performance spaces and students present their work to producers, casting directors, and agents, and they network with MSU alumni already working in those cities. This is an excellent platform for launching student careers in the profession and helps to increase the national visibility of the program and the university.
- Support for Student Travel: Many of our students travel to conferences or workshops to perform or present their work and work with other professionals. This is a great opportunity for them to network and develop their skills as they move into the professional world.

**Last year's Annual Fund gifts were used to...**

#### **Theatre and Dance**

- Supported students in traveling to conferences to present their work and give them an opportunity to network
- Helped sponsor three student showcases in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago for graduating seniors in our Musical theatre, Acting and Dance programs
- Provide a variety of scholarships for students

**Scholarships: How many scholarships were you able to award this year? What percent of your students rely on some kind of financial aid?**

**Theatre and Dance:** The Department awarded over \$40,000 in 28 scholarships from foundation funds during the past year

**Study abroad/Study away: How many students are able to study abroad currently? Are there new countries or locations that are now accessible for study abroad? How many more places were students able to travel to (if study abroad program exists already)? How was your study abroad program enhanced?**

N/A

**Students: What student resources were you able to expand/continue recently? How do these resources enhance a student's education?**

**Theatre and Dance:** Graduating seniors in acting, musical theatre, and dance benefit greatly from participation in their respective Showcases in Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago. Students perform in front of industry professionals and receive helpful critique, they participate in master classes, meet casting agents and other professionals, and basically get a jump-start on their professional careers. Contributions from donors help fund these events that are essential in helping our graduates succeed in their chosen theater and dance careers.

**Equipment: How many new pieces of equipment, technology or resources were purchased for classrooms and labs? What is the significance of these upgrades?**

N/A

**Community outreach/programs: Have you been able to begin any new initiatives with community outreach? How many people do you affect with your existing programs? What is the goal of these programs? What do you hope these programs can accomplish for the future?**

**Theatre and Dance:** The department offers a number of outreach programs:

- In School Players support: This is our longstanding outreach troupe of students who write and perform a children's themed play for local elementary schools. Support for travel/supplies to help keep this program at low or no cost to local schools and bring a live theatre experience to as many students in the Springfield area as possible.
- Giving Voice: This innovative program creates interactive theater programs that deal with contemporary topics (such as bullying). Students create scenarios based on actual events and the audience gets to participate by imagining alternative responses to the issue. The troupe performs on campus but has also been asked to demonstrate at national conferences and work with area companies and other institutions. Contributor support helps keep the program low cost and supports the troupe's travel throughout the region.

**Attractions: Were you able to offer any guest speakers, visiting professors or exhibits to your students last year? How do those experiences impact your students?**

**Theatre and Dance:** Last year, two prominent alums/former students returned to campus to work with students and help them prepare for professional careers. John Goodman, who received the honorary doctorate in public affairs from Missouri State, and Kathleen Turner, who completed three years at Missouri State, gave generously of their time.

**How can the School/College/Department benefit from gifts at the following levels? (For example: \$50 buys a journal subscription for the library, or four gifts of \$250 add up to a scholarship for a student. Please provide as many examples as possible.)**

#### **Theatre/Dance**

- \$250—provides funds for a student to travel to a professional conference
- \$500—purchases a computer tablet for a design faculty member (necessary equipment)
- Any amount: supports student scholarships
- \$10,000 contributes to the 50 for 50 campaign to endow Tent Theater.

**2-3 themes/messages you would like included in your scripts (ideally these would be tied to the Annual Fund):**

**News from the last year:**

#### **Theatre/Dance**

- Over 200 audience members attended the New York Showcase held at La Poisson Rouge, New York City in March
- Over 75 alumni attended a reception held in conjunction with the Los Angeles Showcase.
- 36 agents attended the Los Angeles showcase performed by 20 graduating seniors from the Acting and Musical Theatre program.

**Points of pride/key talking points (also see above information):**

#### **Theatre and Dance**

- Tent Theatre is the only equity Theatre in the region, continues to sell out every performance with 100% capacity.

**Major changes in the past 12 months i.e. prominent faculty or staff retired/departed, building renovations, programs eliminated, organizational changes:**

#### **Theatre/Dance**

- Alumnus John Goodman was awarded the Honorary Doctorate in Public Affairs on Sunday, August 18 at the opening student Convocation
- Staff member Brad Ferguson, in the Costume Shop, died in Fall 2013 after a long battle with cancer. A scholarship fund in his name has been established.

- Emeritus professor Ruth McKenny last year as well, and a scholarship in her name has been established.

**Upcoming alumni events:**

**N/A**