



aces-ecca

EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

SNOW DAY IN OCTOBER!

The weather this school year has really started off with a bang. Two school closings thus far, one for a hurricane and the other for snow in October!

The hurricane day eliminated a planned Staff Professional Development Day on March 28, 2012. Students will now come to school on March 28th with ECA classes scheduled. The October 31st snow day will be added to the end of the school year (5 days for inclement weather have been added to the original school calendar). The October 31st snow day moves ECA's last day of school to June 18, 2012.

What happens if we use more than four more snow days? It has been decided that after the four days added to the calendar have been used, future days off for inclement

weather would be taken off the April vacation. So parents/guardians keep in mind that there is a possibility that ECA will have a shortened or no April vacation at all - think no snow!

In an effort to communicate school closings or early dismissals to families, ECA will roll out the SchoolMessenger system. You will receive a call, text or email based on your contact information in our PowerSchool Public Portal. You can review your contact information stored in our system and make changes or additions if necessary. You may also select where you want your school notifications sent (text, email, home or cell phone). To access the Public Portal, open your internet browser and type in the following address:

[https:// powerschool.aces.org/public](https://powerschool.aces.org/public)

Your child's confidential ID and password have been mailed to you and will be needed to enter the system.

Alternative ways to access information about school cancellations is to simply visit the ACES website at www.aces.org to check for notices under the *School Cancellation/Delays Tab* located in the center of this page.

If you are watching a television or listening to a radio, watch or listen for Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) closing. ACES notifies the following TV stations, WTNH Channel 8, WVIT Channel 30, WFSB Channel 3 and on the radio, WELI 960 AM, KC101. 101.3 FM, WICC 60 AM,

ECA ALUMNA PERFORMS AT LONG WHARF MAINSTAGE IN *AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'*

Cynthia Thomas is an alumna of ECA and in the cast of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, currently running at Long Wharf Theatre's Mainstage through November 20, 2011. Cynthia is playing the part of *Armelia* in this musical which based on the

life and work of Fats Waller and takes place in Harlem during the 1920's and 1930's.

I attended the opening night performance and the show was fabulous – high energy and great music!

Cynthia graciously volunteered to visit **ECA** on **November 10, 2011** to share her talent and experiences with current ECA students from **1:00-2:00pm** at our main building, **55 Audubon Street**.

Alice Schilling

Inside this issue:

DEAN OF STUDENTS REPORT	2
IN THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT	2
CREATIVE WRITING NEWS	3
DANCE NEWS	3
MUSIC NEWS	4
Back Page PACE	5

We would like to send all future newsletters out through an e-blast. If you have not been getting the email correspondences sent out through Liz Bissell; please contact her at lbissell@aces.org. We can add your contact information to the e-blast list.

If you do not have an email account we will continue to mail a copy of the newsletter to your home.

DEAN OF STUDENTS, LOUISE ROSS

We are already into recruitment for the 2012-2013 school year. Tours have begun and we will be holding an Open House on Thursday evening, November 10th at 6:30 pm if you know of anyone who might be interested. Please spread the word!

It is also the season of sending out lots and lots of transcripts to colleges. I've met with more than half of our seniors so far and hope to finish up those meetings shortly. If you have a son or daughter who is graduating and you have any questions about the college application process, please call me at (203) 777-5451.

I have also been meeting with our new students to ascertain whether or not they are happy here at ECA. Overall I'd say our students are very glad to be here and find the climate to be one of warmth, friendliness, family-oriented and, of course, wonderful instructors teaching valuable curricula.

My door is usually open – so feel free to stop in or call anytime you have a question or concern about anything.



HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

IN THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT, Ingrid Schaeffer

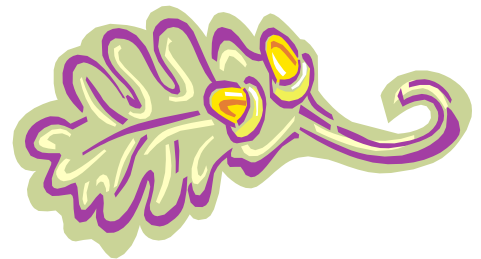
Classes in the Theatre Department this semester include: James Luse's Scene Study class which is focused on the work of Federico Garcia Lorca and the British playwright Sir James Barrie, Peter Loffredo's Scene Study class which is focused on the work of Donald Margulies' Collected Stories, and my Acting Techniques class which has just completed their individual technique exercises and will now begin partner work through open scene work. Students in these classes will share their work informally for their peers during class time in December.

Joan McAfee's class will present the play *David and Lisa* based upon the much acclaimed, award-winning movie of 1962. The story is about two mentally ill adolescents: David (Henry Ayres-Brown), the son of wealthy, disconnected parents (Emma Glassman and Max Kruger-Dull), who cannot bear to be touched; and Lisa (Jenny Grober), an abused orphan with multiple personalities. The play follows their

progress and regression as they struggle to heal at the Berkley School, under the sympathetic guidance of psychiatrist Dr. Swinford (Dana Greenfield) and her staff (Mel Eichler, Wesley Haaf, Leah Rosofsky and Mara Rothman). Fellow students include fragile, depressed Simone (Michelle Johnson), overly-romantic Kate (Erika Conte), regressed Sandra (Chelsea Evered), 'wild' Carlos (Joshua Aponte), sullen Josette (Bridget Johnson), detached Veronica (Sophia Katz), and the ebullient Robert (Tyler Roberts). Laughter, heartbreak and suspense distinguish this insightful and touching story. A psychiatrist and a social worker have generously given us expert information and advice.

Davis and Lisa is directed by Joan McAfee and stage-managed by student Marisa Pedron.

Performances of *David and Lisa* will take place on Thursday and Friday evenings, December 15 and 16 at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$12.00 and can be purchased in advance or at the door.



CREATIVE WRITING, Caroline Rosenstone

The ECA writers have spent the first weeks of the semester imagining their way into new poetry, screenplays, fiction, personal essays and humor. They are now at work revising and refining their most promising material in preparation for our winter performances, as well as for submission to our literary magazine and to writing contests.

Our inspired instructors, returning to teach again this year in our department, include Colin Mannex (screenwriting), Sari Rosenblatt (fiction), and Margot Schilpp (poetry). I continue to teach memoir

and humor. We've also been delighted to welcome to our department visiting writer Lazarre Simckes, the novelist, playwright, screenwriter and writing mentor who has been working with our prose writers this semester. (See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lazarre_Seymour_Simckes for further information on Lazarre Simckes's writing and teaching career.)

Parents, please make note of the dates of the following upcoming field trips and performances:
November 16: The ECA writers will travel by bus to Long Wharf

Theatre to attend the afternoon performance of AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'. We are asking that parents provide transportation home from the theatre at 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 2, 2012: The writers will read their most accomplished work to parents and friends from 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Call time for students is 6:00 p.m.) A reception will follow the performance.



VISUAL ARTS NEWS , Johanna Bresnick

The ECA Visual Arts Department students and families recently celebrated the culmination of a quarter filled with hard work, challenges, successes, and new ideas. Students are transitioning into new classes such as Abstract Photography (both darkroom and digital), Bugs, Bird and Gems- Scientific Illustration (etching/ printmaking), Expressive Figurative and Portrait (both in painting and printmaking), Illuminated Universe (light-based sculpture/ installation) and Video.

Other things happening in the Visual Arts Department include:

A recent Day of the Dead lantern-making workshop by representatives of the Bregamos Community Theatre in New Haven.

Recruiters from Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Maryland Institute College of the Arts, Corcoran College of Art and Design, and California College of Art and Design have made presentations for our students and reviewed seniors' portfolios. Maine College of Art and School of the Art Institute of Chicago will be visiting next. .



Sculpture: Amanda Wheeler



Artwork by faculty Kevin Van Aelst, Johanna Bresnick, and frequent visiting artist Mark Williams is currently on view at the John Slade Ely House in New Haven. A recent show at the MOMA included work by Bresnick, and Van Aelst has a solo show at the Transit Gallery in Boston.

Upcoming school trips will include the Aldrich Museum and DIA Beacon

DANCE DEPARTMENT, Mariane Banar Fountain

At the end of the 2011 academic year, after more than 26 years teaching and mentoring our dancers, Susan Matheke retired as dance department chair at ECA. To honor her work, dedication and the excellence she brought to our department, the ECA dance department presented *Ghosting, An Evening of Alumni Dance*. It was a memorable night of dancing with performances by current ECA dancers, faculty and alumni from across the country and abroad. Susan and her husband Willie Feuer, long

creative dancers and choreographers. I have worked hard to implement the curriculum we have established in our department. My plan is to build upon this strong foundation with new coursework to supplement the curriculum already successfully in place. One of my goals for the dance department this year is to put new emphasis on student involvement, responsibility and self-reliance. Having dancers be directly involved in all aspects of making dances will enable our students to grow into working, thinking, and

In the first quarter our dance department faculty included Nazorine Ulysse (Modern Technique, Ballet I, Site Specific Choreography III), Freddie Moore (Horton Technique, Choreography IV), Earl Mosley (Horton Technique, Choreography IV), and Suzanne Stack (Ballet III/IV, Modern Dance History). We also welcomed new faculty member Rachel Bernsen who taught Modern Dance, Choreography II. My classes included Modern Technique, Ballet II, Choreography I, and Modern Dance History. In addition to changes in faculty in the dance department, ECA changed when elective classes were offered – now in one class period per week. This gave us a unique opportunity in the dance department because it enabled us to offer a number of new courses. This quarter students took Site Specific Improvisation, Modern Dance History, and the Senior Teaching Project. In upcoming quarters we will be able to offer Improvisation with Partnering, Movement Analysis, Kinesiology, Contact Improvisation and Improvisation with Masks, Props and Sets. We continue to offer Modern Technique, Ballet, Horton Technique, Choreog-



Susan Matheke and Willie Feuer Photo Paul Duda

time dance faculty member also retiring, were our guests of honor. The evening was a fabulous tribute to these two dedicated teachers and mentors. Early this summer, I was brought in as the new dance department chair. I have taught at ECA for over 18 years. Having worked alongside Susan to help develop ECA's dance curriculum, I think I come to this new role with a unique perspec-

creative dancers and choreographers. In our upcoming performance of *Rough Edges*, our seniors will be backstage on headset working as our stage managers. Select juniors will be involved in front of house ticket sales and reception. Throughout the year more students will have opportunities like these to learn ways to become integral members of the ECA dance community through direct involvement in the entire artistic process – from creating to choreographing to producing to performing.

**Dance Department
presents
ROUGH EDGES
Wednesday & Thursday,
November 16 & 17, 2011
7:00PM**

raphy, Faculty Repertory, and the Senior Choreography Project.

Please join us for our first ACES ECA Dance Department performance, of the year, **ROUGH EDGES 2011**, which will feature new student choreography created in our four choreography classes. Inspired by the early pioneers of modern dance, the first year students created solos that they linked together to form a group dance. The score for this dance will be composed and performed by percussionist Ian Ganassi.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT, Amy Christman

ECA students have spent the fall “*imaginatively considering the greatness*” of many composers, performers, and musical techniques. These include **Mozart’s “pop” music** in the Harmonie Ensemble, written for small wind bands common in Europe during the late 18th and 19th centuries, **Charles Mingus** in the Jazz Ensemble, under the tutelage of Wayne Escoffery, esteemed ECA alumnus and master jazz saxophonist, **theme and variations** set by Haydn and Hummel in Orchestra, **compositional techniques** through “big picture” macro-analysis in Composition, **jazz greats** by learning to improvise with guide tone leading, bop scales, and altered dominant scales in Jazz Improvisation, **counterpoint** through analyzing its elegance and mathematical beauty in AP Music Theory, and **choral music** that engages meaningful text in the Vocal Ensemble.

On November 2nd, students participated in the second of five **Performance Classes**, scheduled as a year-long Music Department concert series. These intimate, department based recitals allow students to share solo and small ensemble work, and devote time to the acquisition and practice of performance skills. The next Performance Class is scheduled for Thursday, December 8th.

Notably, ECA students in the jazz ensemble are working with **ECA alumnus Wayne Escoffery** through an ACES Foundation grant, spearheaded by Jeff Fuller. This work included an introductory performance and workshop for the entire ECA Music Department

on the basics of jazz improvisation and performance, followed by ongoing workshops and lessons throughout the semester focusing on improvisation through the work and style of Charles Mingus. The semester long residency will culminate in a performance with Wayne at the Winter Concert in December.

ECA’s long-standing partnership with Long Wharf Theater continues this year. During their coursework at ECA, vocalists work with Long Wharf Teaching Artist-in-Residence, Annie DiMartino on acting and musical theater techniques. Their work will be showcased in a performance titled *Glee’kd Out!* on stage at Long Wharf, Saturday January 7th at 6:30pm.

Also in January, our small instrumental ensembles, which include a **Supersax Ensemble, Marriache Latin Music Ensemble, Brass Quartet, String Ensemble, Jazz Combo**, and

Harmonie Ensemble will collaborate with usual Art Department students to present an evening of art and music, Thursday, January 19th, with performances in the ECA Arts Hall and Third Floor performance space.

In faculty news, on Friday, November 4th, faculty member Roy Wiseman premiered a piece for solo bass, written for him by Alvin Lucier, as part of a Wesleyan University celebration of the work of Lucier. Jeff Fuller is performing in the greater New Haven community with ECA alumna Isabella Mendez, as part of the Brazilian group SambaLeza. Music theory teacher and oboist Oliver Homann has finished his doctoral work on the Harmoniemusik of the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe, and has earned his DMA from the City University of New York. His dissertation researched the work of Franz Joseph Rusinack (1748-1823,) a bohemian oboist and music arranger at the Fuerstenberg Hof Kapelle.



ECA’s Vocal Quartet sang the *Star Spangled Banner* at the ACES professional development day at Thomas Edison Magnet School in Meriden on November 8th.

(Left to right) Rachel Glasser (Guilford), Nina Dicker (Old Saybrook), Tyler Panek (Oxford), and Jason Corn (Milford).

PARENTS FOR ARTS CENTERED EDUCATION (PACE)



ACES

55 Audubon Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Phone: (203) 777-5451

Fax: (203) 782-3596

Director, Alice Schilling

ECA

We are on the Web

www.aces.org

SCHOOL CLIMATE

Alice Schilling

ECA faculty and staff is in the process of creating a school climate improvement plan for our arts high school. The key word here is "improvement". We know that there are many positive aspects of the ECA program, but as the leader of the school I am dedicated to the spirit of continuous improvement. To the parents and students who filled out our school climate survey, THANK YOU for helping us to collect the data necessary to help us set goals to improve our school. ACES faculty and staff met on November 8th for a Professional Development Day. The morning started with a keynote speaker, Marta Koontz, who shared her work, *One Caring Adult* with the group. In the afternoon ECA staff worked together to assess ECA's climate based on the five National School Climate Standards:

Standard One: **Vision**

Standard Two: **Policies**

Standard Three: **Practices**

Standard Four: **Safe Environment**

Standard Five: **Fairness & Equity**

I will keep you posted about the survey results, our school climate improvement plan, and progress made in this area throughout the year.

We meet monthly at Educational Center for the Arts. We are parents who come together to support and advocate our children's art education. We build relationships with their teachers, with Department Chairs, and with the administration. We raise funds for ECA. We promote our children's talents. We involve ourselves in our New Haven community and our community where we reside. We invite you to meet with us and participate in the exciting development of your child, and their education. The meetings begin at 7:00 pm. Have a cup of tea, coffee, and refreshments with us!

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on

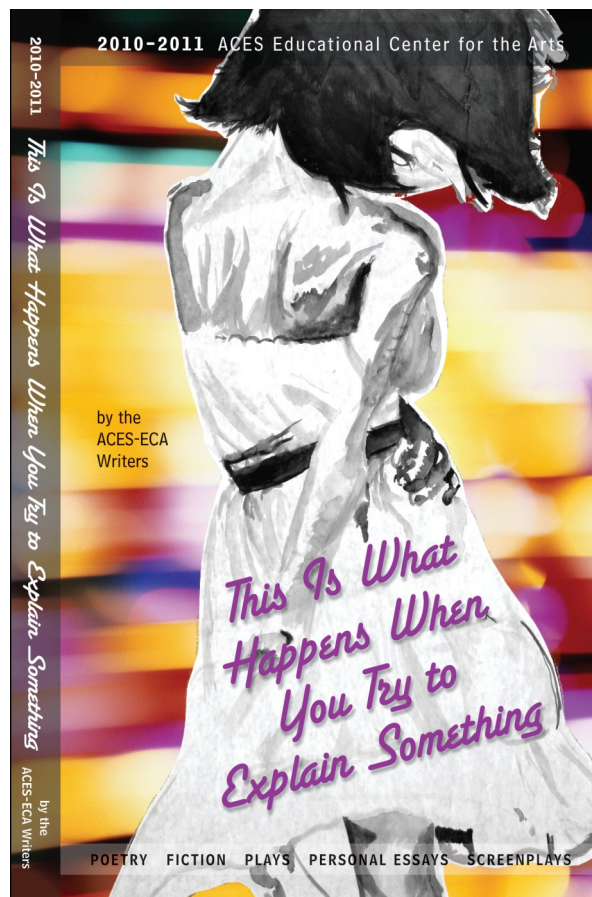
November 15, 2011 at 7:00 pm!

Robert Sorensen, President PACE

Contact me rasorensen@optonline.net

It is not enough to just do your best or work hard.
You must know what to work on.

W. Edwards Deming



Cover of the ECA Literary Magazine, the Creative Writing Department's 130-page compilation of the most accomplished writing produced by each student in the department. Published last spring.

Cover art by ECA visual artist Ariel Maiorano.