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TRISTARS Newsletter

March 2012



### Actor Spotlight



#### **Jacqueline McCarley** (NDB '99)

When not treading the boards, Jacquie can be found inflicting random moments of Broadway on unsuspecting sidewalk pedestrians, teaching her students show tunes along with freestyle at the Highlands Recreation Center, falling off a dirt bike, or getting bendy in the yoga studio.

Most recently, Jacquie was absolutely thrilled to be playing a dream role, Nancy, in the classic musical *Oliver* with The Sunnyvale Community Players, a part she has coveted for many years. She has studied voice with Dramatic Tenor Carl Franzen since 2007 and performs often in The Franzen Opera Studio Monthly Concert Galas.

On Sunday, April 22, you can see her in her one woman musical cabaret, *Lies My Mother Told Me*, at Angelica's Bell Theatre & Bistro in Redwood City. This is the story of an old fashioned girl looking for a "happily ever after" in the Digital Age and is told through classic Broadway, jazz standards, and one or two contemporary songs. For more information please visit [www.angelicasbistro.com](http://www.angelicasbistro.com)

### **Dear Friends!**

Welcome to the March TRISTARS Newsletter! We are so very excited to bring you new and exciting news this month! Don't forget to join us on Facebook, and we hope to see you all at DAMN YANKEES, opening this weekend!

Wishing you all the best this spring!

TRISTARS Staff

### **Tri-School Students Reflect on Emotional Issues in Fall Play: *To Kill a Mockingbird***

This stage play, based on Harper Lee's novel, addresses issues of race, class, courage, compassion and gender roles in the American Deep South.

The story takes place in a fictional town in Alabama during the Great Depression. It focuses on 6-year-old Scout Finch (Sarah Smallman-NDB), who lives with her older brother Jem (Robert Letters), and their widowed father Atticus (John Santaga), a middle-aged lawyer. Atticus Finch is appointed by the court to defend Tom Robinson (Isidro Barragan), a black man who is accused of raping a young white woman.

In the program notes, the administrations of Mercy, Notre Dame and Serra High Schools wrote, "Our mission as Catholic schools challenges us to reflect on the Gospel in seeking to understand the human condition. To develop men and women who have an authentic and living faith, we strive to understand the deepest meaning of community and to reflect on what tears community apart. This challenge often means looking directly at the darkest part of our humanity. *To Kill a Mockingbird* addresses a profound evil that is deeply embedded in the development of our country. The play contains language, and one work in particular, that epitomizes that evil, and that shocks us every time it is uttered."

In preparation for their roles, Director Dan Demers (S '01) led the cast in group and personal reflections on the issues addressed in the play. Julie Takla (NDB), who played the role of Calpurnia, the Finch family's housekeeper and nanny, was also quoted in the program.

"Hearing 'the N word' in the play educates me about what life was like in the 1930's," she said. "It shows me the level of segregation and discrimination in the past, and also how much society has changed and moved forward in respect to race relations in the present. But, it also points out how much work we have left to do, as 'the N word' is not completely wiped out from everyone's vocabulary. Just because there are laws against segregation, doesn't mean that prejudice does not still exist. After watching history reenacted in this play and being a part of it, it is my hope that each generation can come to be a little more accepting than the generation before them, and that we all realize that we still have much to learn."

Adult and student audiences experienced a range of emotions while

or find Jacquie on Facebook.

### Actor Spotlight



Ashley Monroe (M '02) was nominated for a New York Innovative Theatre Award (IT Awards) for Outstanding Choreography/Movement for her work in *Circus of Circus*, which was produced by the House of Yes.

"*Circus of Circus* made me realize that I am the only ringmaster in my life," Ashley told Notre Dame High School. "The IT Awards are given annually to honor individuals and organizations who have achieved artistic excellence in Off-Off-Broadway theatre."

### Actor Spotlight



Owen McInnis (S '10) is working part time at Serra coaching the Improv Club. He performed with the Club for four years and loved every minute of it.

"I still get excited about being on stage and acting," he said. "I don't have time to act anywhere else, so it's definitely a great thing to be part of."

Owen is a music major at Cal State East Bay and has enjoyed a recent choir tour to recruit

watching this powerful piece of classic literature come to life. Many in the audience were brought to tears during the closing scene, powerfully delivered by Jean Louise Finch, the grown-up "Scout Finch" (Amanda Odasz-M).

Photos of the production can be found at [www.trischoolproductions.com](http://www.trischoolproductions.com) Click on the To Kill a Mockingbird program image.



## Damn Yankees Spring Musical This Weekend!

Faust meets professional baseball in this Broadway classic. Middle-aged baseball fanatic Joe Boyd (Nick Newman) trades his soul to the Devil - the charming but devious Mr. Applegate (Joey Ruggiero) - for a chance to lead his favorite team to victory in the Pennant Race against the New York Yankees.

As young baseball sensation Joe Hardy, he transforms the hapless Washington Senators into a winning team, only to realize the true worth of the life - and wife (Amanda Odasz-M) - he's left behind. With the help of a handy escape clause and a guilt-ridden temptress named Lola (Veronica Goetz-NDB), Hardy outsmarts Applegate, returns to his former self and shepherds the Senators to the World Series.



With the talented Tri-School Productions ensemble in numerous roles, the light, fast-paced and devilishly clever, *Damn Yankees* is a home-run hit whose All-American subject matter and irreverent sense of humor have brought many a sports fan into the theatre.

March 30, 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Adults \$18 / Students & Seniors \$14

All Shows will be held at The Gellert Auditorium on the Junipero Serra High School Campus

**[BUY TICKETS HERE!](#)**

### e-Ticketing is Here!

TRISTARS is pleased to announce that our patrons are now able to purchase tickets online for all of our shows! Showclix, our new ticketing service can be accessed 24/7 at [www.trischoolproductions.com](http://www.trischoolproductions.com).

high school students for the CSUEB programs.

"It's been tough on our voices and our bodies, but it's great to get out and sing for people and hear what high schools are doing right now," he noted.

As a member of local band Uncommon Sense with Tri-School Alum Alex Jordan (S '08), they were joined by current Tri-Schoolers Matt DeScala and Zach Agustin for a live performance and recording of The Grateful Dead's *Franklin's Tower*, which they have posted to YouTube for The Dead Covers Project.

#### Contact Us

#### Website

[trischoolproductions.com](http://trischoolproductions.com)

You will now be able to select your seat (from the best available) in The Gellert Auditorium on the Junipero Serra High School campus. No more lining up two hours before curtain to get a great seat!

On sell-out nights, our box office will designate a small number of tickets for walk-in patrons. However, we are encouraging online purchases beginning with Damn Yankees.

TRISTARS wishes to thank alumni Allie Glatt (NDB '07) and Jon Hayward (S '07) for their extensive research and successful launch of the eTicketing process.

## Tri-School Productions Alumnus and Family Create a New Storage Space!

There was a significant need for production storage space, and a Serra graduate made it happen. Underneath the Serra stage in The Gellert Auditorium is a storage space that everyone connected with Tri-School Productions (TSP) knows as "The Dungeon." The Dungeon has always been an overflowing storage space for set pieces, wood, flats, costumes, props and other theater tools and equipment. Due to the construction of the new Center for the Arts & Sciences, TSP lost too much of the space and needed to make alternate plans - fast. Our friends at Notre Dame gave us a large, empty space. However, we were still on a quest for a secure, organized storage area at Serra. Sterling Sullivan (S '07) stepped forward to help. This isn't the first time, and it probably won't be the last.

Sterling came to Serra after attending St. Pius School in Redwood City. He was involved with the technical portion of our productions as a freshman. He and classmates Jon Hayward (S '07) and Mike Dougherty (S '07) kicked the expectation of what our tech crew does for our show up a notch - well, maybe five notches. When Sterling got involved with TSP, he was part of an unexpected package deal. His father, Bob Sullivan, built sets and worked in the theater alongside his son. Sterling's mother, Juliane Sullivan, an NDB graduate, managed props for each show.

It didn't end there. When Sterling's younger sister, Andrea (NDB '11), was in high school, she joined the tech crew as well. Now that Sterling and Andrea have graduated, Bob and Juliane continue their volunteer work with TRISTARS. Bob has been the technical assistant on several shows. Juliane's role has expanded beyond props - she is currently our hair and wig designer. Both are heavily involved with TRISTARS and they were major donors to the most recent Capital Campaign at Serra, purchasing the naming rights for the Choral Classroom/Green Room in the Music Department. Although Sterling's older sister, Becky (NDB '04), was not involved with TSP, she has admired her family's work in many shows!

"My social life began with Tri-School Productions," Sterling shared. "I was comfortable there. The friends I made are still my closest friends today."

Sterling attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and recently graduated with a B.S. in general engineering with concentrations in industrial and manufacturing engineering. He knew that helping to design and build a secure, organized storage facility for Tri-School Productions was in his wheelhouse. He used Pro-Engineer Software to create a layout. He, his dad and Jon Hayward spent two days building it at Notre Dame. Juliane was heavily involved in organizing the props and costumes when they were moved from Serra to Notre Dame.



Prior to his graduation from Cal Poly, Sterling partnered with Emerald Packaging in Union City, CA for his required senior project. He successfully engineered a reduction in the time it takes the company



to switch printing jobs for labeling produce packaging bags. However, Sterling just can't stay away from Tri-School Productions. In his last weeks of school, he co-designed a pneumatic lift (again working with his father and Jon Hayward) to be used in the spring production of *Damn Yankees*. This was his second lift project for Tri-School Productions; the first was a different type of lift used in *The Who's Tommy*.

Now that he is living back in the area, there is no doubt that Sterling will continue to work with our tech crew. Little did he know the first time he showed up to build sets that it would turn out to be more than a weekend commitment. Instead, it has become a rewarding activity for both the Sullivan Family and Tri-School Productions.

## In Memoriam / Donor Recognition

Please include in your prayers these members of the Tri-School Productions extended family, for whom we received memorial donations since our last newsletter:

David Gough (S '88)  
Donations by: James and June Jordan,

Tom (S '81) and Yvonne Sullivan

Mario Philapil, grandfather of Danielle Philapil (M '11)

Roberto Cervantes, father of Kim Cervantes (NDB '11)  
Donations by: James and June Jordan

Lisa Strange, wife of Keith Strange, Serra Administration  
Donation by: Tom (S '81) and Yvonne Sullivan

We would also like to thank the following donors for recent gifts in kind and financial support of our program:

The Jasinski Family  
Sheen Khoury and Jenny (Clark) Khoury (NDB '86)  
James and Teresa Goetz  
Mr. Daniel Letters  
The Ruggiero Family

## Alumni Spotlight

Calling all Tri-School Productions Alumni! If you have news - career, family, personal, or theater related - please send details to June Jordan via Facebook, or to [jjordan@serrahs.com](mailto:jjordan@serrahs.com)

Tom Arvetis (S '92) writes that he was sad to miss the Visual and Performing Arts Event in the new wing at Serra. "I caught a video on the Serra website about the new facilities. You guys must be loving every minute of it!" Tom's theater company, Adventure Stage Chicago, received great reviews on their November/December 2011 show, *Walk Two Moons*. The play, adapted by Arvetis, based on the book by Sharon Creech, received positive notices. Here are a couple of links: <http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/walk-two-moons/Event?oid=4914604>  
<http://chicagotheaterbeat.com/2011/11/06/review-walk-two-moons-adventure-stage-chicago/>

John Ballas (S '07) a student at Notre Dame de Namur University, Belmont, recently attended the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Fort Collins, Colorado after receiving a meritorious achievement award for stage management of *The Three Sisters* during the fall semester at NDNU. He also received the John Violet Award from *The Gift, A Christmas Carol*, for his dedication to the company and the time invested during his NDNU tenure. This past fall, he applied to the Disneyland Resort seeking employment as a stage technician. He interviewed with Disney in January and received an email from their career center indicating that he is on the waitlist for the job. In the mean time, he is Stage Manager for *Our Town*, which will run April 13-22 at the NDNU Theatre.

Spencer Blank (S '06) is living in New York and freelancing as an opera pianist, coach and conductor. This season, he debuts with the Castleton Festival in VA, North Carolina Opera, Opera New Jersey and

Bronx Opera in NYC. He has worked under the baton of some of the foremost conductors of our generation and dreams of the day he can come back and musically lead the San Francisco Opera. "Thanks to Jay and Tri-School Productions for the many lessons on and off stage."

Bradley Bottoms (S '10): During the past few months, Bradley has been busy with elections for the Associated Students of the University of California Davis (ASUCD). ASUCD is the largest student organization in world, with a budget of approximately \$12 million. After being involved with a political party on campus since arriving at Davis, Bradley and four friends decided to leave the slate to create their own. On February 24, Bradley and his coalition won both the presidential elections and gained the first three of six senate seats. Bradley will be serving as a senator until next winter, at which time he may run for president.

Ashley Brenner Rosenbaum (M '02) wed Adam Rosenbaum in Arlington, VA on July 8, 2011. Ashley and her husband live in Grand Junction, CO.

Steve Christensen (S '05) (known as Potay to Tri-Schoolers) got his degree in Technical Theater at Arizona State University with a minor in business. He has stayed in Phoenix and is working with several local theaters. With some friends from school, he started a non-profit theater company called Orange Theater (find them on Facebook). For the last three years, they have been invited to participate in Fringe-Phoenix. According to an update from his parents, "The press this year has been pretty good. It's pretty far out stuff, nothing like *Little Shop of Horrors* or *Beauty and the Beast*."

Emma Clark (NDB '09) is a junior working toward a degree in culture and politics at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., focusing on the use of theater as a tool for conflict transformation. Following a summer internship at the State Department, she spent a semester abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is currently rehearsing for the Georgetown University Theatre Department's production of *Macbeth* in the role of Lennox, and was just elected the associate producer on the Executive Board of the Georgetown Mask & Bauble Dramatic Society for the 2012-2013 season.

Barbara Del Castello (M '11) is a biology major/international relations minor at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL. She recently was cast as one of two girls in Eckerd's spring show *Dark Play*, or *Stories About Boys*, opening April 4. Barbara is the president of Eckerd's musical theater troupe "Hat's Off" and is a member of the school's choir, which is about to embark on a spring tour.

AJ Diggins (S '07) just finished designing the set for Woodside Priory's spring musical, *Beauty and the Beast*. He also notes that they rented the Tri-School Productions costume inventory created by Eileen Child and The Costume Moms in 2005.

Angela DiMartino (M '06) graduated with a BA in Theatre Arts from California State University, Long Beach last May. During her time in school, she was lucky to be a part of well-known shows such as *Evita*, and lots of newer and original works including as *Festen*, *Chavez Ravine*, and the annual new play festival. She is fast approaching her four-year anniversary working in costuming at the Disneyland Resort. Angela is currently performing as a dancer in the resort's annual charity show.

Julia Erle (NDB '07) and Michael Dougherty (S '07) are engaged to be married in August 2012. Julia is a licensed insurance agent with State Farm and Mike graduated from San Jose State University in December with a computer science degree. He is employed by Western Digital.

Natalie Ford Sajdak (NDB '00) recently finished a run of *Sweeney Todd*, starring Greg Edelman and Liz McCartney at Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook, IL, where she was in the quintet and ensemble. She also understudied Maria and was in the ensemble of *The Sound of Music* at Drury Lane Theatre. Both shows were directed by Rachel Rockwell. Next up, Natalie will be in the ensemble for *Pirates of Penzance*, directed by Dominick Missimi, at The Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, IL, which runs April 4-June 10. She and her husband, Andy, are in the process of moving to Milwaukee, WI, where Andy will work for his family's shoe business, Stan's Fit For Your Feet, and Natalie will teach voice and work in theater.

Lisa Gendotti Reed (M '84): After a successful career as an Escrow

Officer, Lisa's life took a 180-degree turn in 2007 when she met and married the love of her life, Mark Reed. She was suddenly an Air Force wife, stepmom to three beautiful children and living almost 3,000 miles from her entire family and friends. Four years later, they recently adopted two little boys, Mark Jr., 3 1/2 and Ricky, 2. Adopting had been a dream of Lisa's almost since her graduation from Mercy. Recently, she started teaching the boys the art that she has always held deep in my heart... tap. "Watching their faces light up when they put those shoes on, I can't help but tear up." The Reeds are hoping for PCS (Permanent Change of Station) orders as soon as Mark gets home from his deployment in the next few weeks, and they are ready to experience the world as a family before he retires in about four years. "Reconnecting with my former castmates via Facebook has helped to lessen that 3,000 mile difference," Lisa said.

Allie Glatt (NBD '07): In addition to her position as production manager for Tri-School Productions' *Damn Yankees*, Allie is the event chair for the August 4 Relay for Life in San Carlos. There are never enough volunteers, so if you are interested, contact Allie via Facebook.

Amy Kuhn (NDB '11) is attending UC San Diego and is currently taking vector calculus, physics, history and an African music course. She is happy to report that she has been getting good grades! Amy has also joined both the Chemistry Club and UCSD Dancesport, the ballroom dancing team.

Leo Li (S '06) recently graduated from UC Davis with a degree in psychology and communication. He is in the process of earning a music degree as well. Leo writes that what he learned in his music classes at Serra broadened his horizons and inspired him in many ways.

Joshua Marx (S '04) finished his Tri-School Productions repertoire by playing Jean Val Jean in *Les Miz*, with many fond memories accompanying the performance. After graduating from San Jose State University with a B.A. in theatre arts and studying Shakespeare abroad for a year in England, he is now in his second year of an MFA program at Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts in New Jersey. "Having worked professionally on both coasts now, I can say that I owe a great deal to my high school years and the Tri-School Community for helping to cultivate a passion that will last a lifetime."

Lauren Mike (NDB '10) has managed a local electronic music dance team since July. The team has been featured at large events such as Countdown: A New Year's Eve Massive and has performed for internationally recognized DJs such as Wippenberg, Tydi and Cosmic Gate. Her team has been booked for upcoming shows featuring Dada Life and Donald Glaude.

Peter Morrow (S '10) hasn't found much free time while studying at UC Santa Barbara, but he has honed his vocal and guitar skills. Last summer, he was the primary music minister for The Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg, CA.

Jon Nowakowski (S '10) has worked with RJ Rivera (designer, stylist) for three years modeling his clothing line. Jon is also the male modeling coach for RJ Rivera's Model Boot Camp, which is held monthly. He has appeared in several recent commercials and television episodes as an extra. He shared with local Tri-Schoolers that he is getting most of his work through SFCasting.com and through City Models in San Francisco.

*Of Men and Mavericks* (Motion Picture) - Release Date October 2012 - Extra

Logitech Commercial - Feb 2012 - Featured

Method Soap Commercial - Feb 2012 - Extra

With Taylor Sanders (M '11) in *All Shook Up!* at Foothill College - Feb - Mar 2012 - Ensemble

Zoo Goo Mobile Application - January 2012 - Featured

What Teachers Make - Penguin Publishing - December 2011 - Featured Student/Bully

Logan Rockmore (S '04) Before graduating from UC Davis in 2008, Logan started work on SportsTap, a smartphone application for checking sports scores and statistics. SportsTap was one of the first major sports applications in the iPhone App Store and the Android Marketplace. After working at Apple for three years, he left his job to work on SportsTap full time. Just six months later, in June of 2011, Logan and his business partner sold SportsTap to Score Media, a

Canadian sports television network and media company. After purchasing a new house in San Francisco this month, Logan continues to work full time on SportsTap from his home office.

Hannah Ruwe (NDB '10) is in her sophomore year at the University of Washington as a Drama major. She was recently cast in the UW production of *Mr. Marmalade* as Emily and as Anna in the directing series production of *Closer*. Outside the classroom, Hannah was also accepted into Guildhall School of Dramatic Arts Summer Shakespeare Program and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art Shakespeare Intensive for summer 2012. She is looking forward to studying Shakespeare, as well as traveling and enjoying the energy of the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

Taylor Sanders (M '11) is now a member of the Foothill Theatre Conservatory and could not be happier. She most recently understudied the role of Natalie in *All Shook Up*. She plans to complete the two-year program at Foothill and transfer to a university to major in Musical Theater.

Jessica Satterwhite (NDB '09) is in her third year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, studying hospitality and event management. She is working as a guest service agent at Embassy Suites and as the event coordinating assistant at Cass Winery. Jessica was the chair of sponsorship and printing for an annual auction benefit, organized by the students in her major, and was held at Windfall Farms in Paso Robles, CA. As a part of the Honor Society Rho Phi Lambda, Jessica is arranging a student development trip to the Bay Area to meet with professionals, tour their companies and learn more about their industries. They are looking to visit companies such as Four Seasons, SF Giants, SF 49ers, George P Johnson, and EA Games. "I turn to Tri-School Productions when I am having an off day," she noted. "I watch all the moments I taped and remember some of my favorite people in my favorite theater." Jessica will graduate in December 2012 and she plans to move back to the Bay Area.

Madeline Williams (M '09) is a theater major with an acting emphasis at Greensboro College in Greensboro, NC. She is very excited to share that this August she will perform multiple roles in Greensboro's production of *Elvis People*, and will appear as Cunégonde in Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*.

Group Hug: Several Tri-School Productions alumni were involved in the December 2011 Notre Dame de Namur production of *The Gift, A Christmas Carol*. It was great to see John Ballas (S '07), Lindsay Saier (NDB '08), Johnny Villar (S '10) and Matt Elkins (S '11) on stage, and to know that AJ Diggins (S '07) was part of the tech crew. The mission of this annual production is to provide professional caliber musical theater performances to the community and to provide a convenient opportunity for people to contribute new toys and non-perishable food for the less fortunate of our community. The success of this production over the past 25 years has depended on commitment and work of the volunteers. Local Tri-Schoolers should watch for the audition notice next fall!

## Stay In Touch!

Here are all of the ways that alumni and alumni families/friends can keep up with Tri-School Productions and TRISTARS:

1. Register at <http://www.trischoolproductions.com> so that you are assured of getting all of our news and information.
2. Facebook: "Like" our group page "Tri-School Productions". Use this site to post alumni news of any kind; your Tri-School friends want to hear from you! You may also use this space to post information about shows you are involved in, audition notices, etc. It does not matter where you live - post it! There could be another Tri-School connection in your area!
3. Invite other Tri-School Productions alums who you are in touch with to do these same two things! We would like to find everyone who was ever involved with one of our shows - cast, crew, orchestra, parent volunteer, etc.

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