

PDP Dramaturge's Report Fall 2014:

Shows:

The Best of PDP at the Courtyard Café

Tuesday, September 16th
The Courtyard Café, 8pm

Coordinator: Stephanie Svarz

Tyler Harr
David Goldman
Aaron Russell
Marisa Levitt
Jessie Stroner
Stephanie Svarz
Luke Gadbois
Janjay Knowlden

This 'Best of PDP' was a free showcase event hosted in conjunction with the Illini Union Board at the Courtyard Café. This evening of theater included scenes from *Almost, Maine*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, and *Come See Our Shorts*. Approximately 20-25 people attended this free event.

Four Score and Ten-Minutes Ago

Friday & Saturday October 10th & 11th
Greg Hall at 8pm

Produced By: David Goldman & Molly Kipnis
Assisted by: Liora Kupfer

Tainted Arrows
Written By: Olivia Bagan
Directed by: Rachel Ullman
Cupid: Promise Aziama
Girl: Emily Burke
Boy: Alex Richardson
Pizza Boy: Ajay Shekar
Gardener: Lucas Hendren

Hot Tea
Written by: Katie Newport
Directed by: Molly Kipnis
Elaine: Stephanie Svarz
Luke: David Goldman
Allison: Danielle Strickland
Barista: Steph Alvarado

Urbana Banshee

Written & Directed by: Katie Newport

Danielle: Jessie Stroner

Alex: Tarek Nabulsi

Charlie: Marquis Hayes

Lucy: Molly Kipnis

Jamie: Anna Stansfield

Kit and Carter

Written by: Tyler Harr

Directed by: Aaron Russell

Kit: Alex Richardson

Carter: Mark Weidner

Doctor: Lucas Hendren

Back to the Past

Written & Directed by: Marquis Hayes

Janet: KT Wonderlin

Dean: Abraham Koshy

The Rewrite

Written by: Armelle Harper

Directed by: Mateo Hurtado

Lucy: Catherine Abbate

Sophie: Jessie Stroner

Evan: Mark Weidner

Extras: Steph Alvarado, Promise Aziama, Ajay Shekar, Lucas Hendren, Rachel Ullman

One Act More

Written & Directed by Alexander Richardson

Sam: Andrew Ambrose Lee

Marley: Akanimoh Ekong

Quinn: Heidi Green

Things Happen, You Change

Written & Directed by Stephanie Svarz

David: David Goldman

Molly: Molly Kipnis

This was PDP's 15th Annual 10-Minute Play festival, a tradition that we are proud to maintain. We select student written 10-minute plays and fully produce them. This is often our first show of the Fall semester and is an excellent opportunity to attract new members. This event was particularly successful this year, breaking numbers in the box office.

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot

Friday and Saturday, November 7th & 8th
The Institute 4 Creativity at 8pm

Director: Stephanie Svarz
Assistant Director: Mateo Hurtado
Production Assistant: Jillian Mosk

Satan: Tyler Harr
Gloria: Molly Kipnis
Mother Theresa: Molly Petray
Judge: Joey Moser
Caiaphas the Elder: Joey Moser
Saint Matthew: David Stage
Loretta: Heidi Green
Mary Magdalene: Molly Petray
Sister Glenna: Kathryn Burke
Pontius Pilate: Adonis Holmes
Saint Peter: Ryan Neil
Uncle Pino: Ryan Neil
Bailiff: Abraham Koshy
Simon the Zealot: Adonis Holmes
Sigmund Freud: Alexander Montero
Matthias of Galilee: Mark Weidner
Saint Thomas: Abraham Koshy
Jesus of Nazareth: Alexander Richardson
Judas Iscariot: Tarek Nebulsi
Saint Monica: Molly Kipnis
Henrietta Iscariot: Kathryn Burke
Butch Honeywell: Aaron Russell
Fabiana Aziza Cunningham: Katie Newport
Yusef El-Fayoumy: Evan London
Soldiers: Mark Weidner, Kathryn Burke, Molly Kipnis

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot marked PDP's first full-length production of the semester. This production was performed at the Institute 4 Creativity in downtown Champaign, a new venue for PDP and the beginning of what appears to be a fruitful partnership between the campus and community. This show introduced a focus on environmental sustainability to the group, as the entire set was recycled. In addition, Judas' box office success is unprecedented in PDP's history, selling out to standing room only both nights of the performance, with approximately 204 audience members over the course of both nights. Certainly a memorable production to mark the hopeful success of this season!

'Tis the Season

Friday & Saturday, December 12th & 13th
The Channing Murray Foundation, 8pm

Written & Directed by Stephanie Svarz & Aaron Russell

Katie Burke
Marquis Hayes
Abraham Koshy
Mark Weidner
Adonis Holmes
Molly Petray
Alexander Richardson
Shani Benezra
Mariam Atawneh
Evan London
Katie Newport
Anna Stansfield
Nathan Martin
Jessie Stroner
Kwan Kim
Alex Gross

This show was PDP's first student written full-length in nearly 3 years. This sketch comedy show, created by PDP's Managing Director and Treasurer introduced many new members to the PDP family. Saturday night's show sold out, with approximately 106 people in the audience that night, and the production, overall, was a lovely little success for the end of the semester, despite a scheduling issue that caused slight panic before Saturday night's performance. A fantastic collaborative effort all around.

Events:

Trip to Curtis Orchard:

On Sunday, September 26th, PDP took a trip to Curtis Orchard, where pumpkins were picked, corn mazes completed, and copious amounts of Cider were consumed. A crate was acquired for a certain production by our wonderful tech director!

Participants:

Tyler Harr, Evan London, Marquis Hayes, Heidi Green, Danielle Strickland, Katie Burke, Aaron Russell, Molly Kipnis, David Goldman, Mark Weidner, Stephanie Svarz

Movie Night:

On Wednesday, November 12th, Katie Newport hosted a movie night at her apartment, popcorn and tea included. The group watched National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation in preparation for 'Tis the Season.

Participants:

Katie Newport, Evan London, Jessie Stroner, Alexander Richardson, Aaron Russell, Shani Benezra, Heidi Green, Katie Burke, Marquis Hayes

Scavenger Hunt:

On Saturday, October 18th, PDP put together an epic scavenger hunt around Green Street! Between the 3 stellar teams, the competition was fierce! The following tasks were included, which all teams completed:

- Serenade strangers with your favorite pop hit - at least to the first chorus
- Take a creative pic with Alma
- Take a pic on a random bike
- Human wheelbarrow across Green Street
- Try on metallic leggings at Ragstock (they're open until 9!)
- Find the most basic bitch and take a pic
- Create a 30-second skit and act it out at a location of your preference
- Create an infomercial about a product of your choice – advertise to people on Green Street
- Find a group of people, and say to them, "I've gathered you here today..." Improv the rest
- Sing Christmas Carols in formation on Wright and Green
- Have a sword fight with day old Jimmy John's Bread
- Take pictures in front of 5 different bars-Kams must be one of the 5.
- Find a group of people dressed in a theme costume (Barndance, America party, etc), or a bar crawl t-shirt and take a pic with them

Participants:

Jessie Stroner, Katie Newport, Evan London, Molly Petray, Stephanie Svarz, Katie Burke, Aaron Russell, Ryan Neil, Mo Sanderson, Mateo Hurtado, Heidi Green, Tyler Harr, Ryan Neil's Friend, who was lovely.

Bonfire Party:

On September 27th, Managing Director Stephanie Svarz hosted an opening bonfire at the Winking Owl, which has become the official PDP legacy house, as it will be passed down to Aaron Russell, Alex Richardson, Abraham Koshy & Adonis Holmes in the Fall of 2015. S'mores and cider were shared under the stars, as were a great deal of stories during a few rounds of Hot Seat, the PDP classic.

Participants:

Jessie Stroner, Danielle Strickland, Tyler Harr, Evan London, Molly Petray, Alexander Richardson, Aaron Russell, Adonis Holmes, Marquis Hayes, Palek Patel, Stephanie Svarz, Joe Mikkelson, Zach Schneeweis, Jason Steinberg, & Katie Newport

Movie Night pt. 2:

Upon the wild success of the first movie night, Katie Newport graciously opened her home for a second time on Saturday, December 6th, serving hot chocolate and popcorn to watch R Kelly's classic hip-hopera, Trapped in the Closet. And what a fabulous night it was...

Participants:

Adonis Holmes, Nathan Martin, Katie Burke, Jessie Stroner, Evan London, Katie Newport, Aaron Russell, Marquis Hayes, & Alex Richardson

Other Happenings:

10-Minute Short Play Workshop

Sunday, October 19th – 5 student playwrights had their work critiqued by members of the PDP community, who were invited for a free pizza dinner. The workshop was facilitated by Stephanie Svarz

and after a little encouragement, the workshop provided a great deal of feedback for our student playwrights to benefit from. Two of these playwrights went on to submit their work to the UIUC literary journal, Montage.

Participants:

Alexander Richardson, Katie Newport, Danielle Strickland, Stephanie Svarz, Marquis Hayes, David Goldman, Molly Kipnis & Aaron Russell

500+ likes on Facebook Page:

PDP hit a new milestone (really according to Facebook) after having achieved 500 'likes' on the Facebook page. To celebrate the success, 5 free tickets were given out to individuals who 'liked' the status sharing that accomplishment.

Updated Website:

The website received an overhaul this year, using the platform Weebly and continues to expand, including information about past and present shows, board members, our events, our history and our mission.

Institution of Dramaturge Position:

In early December of 2014, the Dramaturge position was added to better curate the history of PDP. This position is tasked with collecting pictures and posters from every show, writing up the 'Dramaturge's Report' at the end of each semester, and keeping tabs on articles and publicity for the group, among other things. This position is still expanding and we look forward to seeing where the history of the group goes. Stephanie Svarz was elected to this position for the 2014-2015 season.

Partnership with the Illini Mentor Program:

In mid-November, PDP partnered with the Illini Mentor Program to bring theater to 4th & 5th graders in the CU area. Three workshops that featured a variety of improv games helped students build confidence and gain a better understanding of theater.

Workshop Leaders:

Stephanie Svarz, Alexander Richardson, Aaron Russell, Jessie Stroner, Molly Kipnis, David Goldman, Marquis Hayes

New Members:

Katie Newport, Alexander Richardson, Heidi Green, Evan London, Adonis Holmes – all of whom are fabulous!

Goals for the next semester:

PDP had a wonderful semester, however, we're constantly looking for ways to improve our group. We've come up with a list of goals to address dreams we have in the future and problems we've experienced in the past:

1. **Improve a Positive, Collaborative Presence with the CU Community:** This semester marked the expansion of our performance venues, using downtown Champaign for the first time in PDP history. We'd like to continue expanding this presence, potentially offering classes, workshops, etc. in addition to our performances in the future that are accessible and open to all members of

the community.

2. **Discover New Ways to Engage with Students:** We're constantly asking ourselves how we can engage with and better serve our student population. What types of events can we host? How can we make our projects more accessible to students? How do we encourage new theater artists? In what ways can we make our schedules and format more flexible to better accommodate the busy lives of our members?
3. **Reexamine the Constitution and Revamp our Board Handbook:** We'd like to ensure that our running documents are up to date with the most practical and modern ideas for how our group should run. Streamlining responsibilities and understanding procedures are incredibly important to the longevity of the group!
4. **Increase Board Representation to 15 members:** We're only 3 away from achieving this goal! If you're interested in joining board, let one of us know on the contact form or via email (pennydreadfulpdp@gmail.com)!
5. **Expand our Working Knowledge of Drama:** PDP is constantly looking to learn and understand the newest works in our field, as a part of providing high quality theater to the community at large. As a part of this, it is essential to have a strong, working knowledge of material, new and old that is relevant to us.
6. **Hit 600 'Likes' on Facebook:** We're hoping that an increase in social media will get our name, passion and mission out to the UIUC and CU communities, furthering collaboration and relationships.