

In the Spotlight - Raymond C. Reyes



Graduating Senior, Raymond C. Reyes is one of The Center for the Performing Arts' foremost authorities on all things technical at DeBaun

Auditorium. Whether it is lighting design or building a set, Ray can certainly hold his own, and for that we are certainly going to miss him after he graduates with a degree in Mechanical Engineering this May...

From 7th through 11th grade I was an actor, then in the 12th grade I was bitten by the technical theater bug when I did set construction, sound design, and stage management for my high school - St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, NJ.

Although I do recall seeing DeBaun Auditorium on a tour of Stevens, it wasn't until I participated in the first-ever Pre-Orientation "Performing Arts Experience" in 2004 that I truly became aware of the degree of involvement that one could have in the Performing Arts. "Pre-O" is a cool experience... to be surrounded by people that share a common interest and putting on your own show within a week is an awesome experience - it is directly responsible for letting me meet my closest friends here at Stevens, and for getting me to work at DeBaun.

Doing "artsy" things within theater has helped me to escape from being a student for a while, but it is always a surprise to me just how much of your engineering knowledge you can put to work while doing things at DeBaun. Designing lights and sets is tons of fun and most definitely

something I love to do. Practicing something technical but with a creative twist that is experienced by so many people on and off the stage is really fun and enjoyable to do.

Two of my favorite experiences in technical theater here at Stevens have been designing for *The Rocky Horror Show* with DeBaun Auditorium and *Bat Boy* with the Dramatic Society. *Rocky* was the fall after I came off of summer stock and I put a lot of what I learned firsthand about lighting to use... it was a really awesome product. *Bat Boy*, the first scenic project I'd ever taken on, turned to be one of the more innovative DS sets in awhile, involving rotating set pieces, dynamic set changes, and a passorale.

I owe a lot of what I've learned and the encouragement to grow in my experiences from DeBaun's Technical Director, Carl Russell. From learning about the space, borrowing books from the theater's library, chatting about lighting or scenic design, he's been a really great person to work for and with. The largest thing Carl has done for me has been letting me co-light design a show my sophomore year, and subsequently design two more shows by myself. With his guidance, I have learned a lot about working as a team. The ability to "just get it done" or "oops, I didn't get it done" because timelines are tight, is unacceptable. You all have to work well together and at times you even have to manage your peers. These are things I've learned at the theater, not in a classroom.

My advice to anyone about to graduate from high school who may have been involved in the arts is to continue with it - even if it's not your field. I've had friends that didn't

It's Show Time!

MARCH

3/2 Spoken Word Series presents David Tucker

3/8 Family Week at the Theatre *Cuentos del Arbol* (Tree Tales)

3/29 Engineered Improv in Concert

APRIL - STEVENS ARTS MONTH

4/4 Voice Students Recital

4/5 Advanced Piano Students Recitals

4/6 Spoken Word Series presents Timothy Liu

4/10-4/12 SDS presents *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*

4/13 & 4/15 Auditions - *Free to Be You and Me*

4/18 Evening of Chamber Music

4/19 Stevens Choir Spring Concert

4/23 Stevens Jazz Band Spring Concert

4/25 String Students Recital

4/26 Stevens Concert Band Spring Concert

MAY

5/10 *Free to Be... You and Me*

COMING TO A PARK NEAR YOU THIS SUMMER..

Bartholomew Fair, NJ

For locations, times and ticket information, please visit www.debaun.org

The Stevens Dramatic Society

by Natalie Arndt, SDS President



This past semester was as busy as ever for the Stevens Dramatic Society. Our fall production of *Much Ado About Nothing* (pictured to the right) was incredibly well-received by the student population. In fact, the Stevens Dramatic Society received a resolution from the Student Government Association in which its members unanimously voted that SDS be commended for its efforts.

Furthermore, the society was able to collaborate with the College of Arts and Letters to host a round table discussion on the challenges and joys of putting on Shakespeare. With the help of Professor Susan Levin, *Much Ado* director Sarah Hankins spoke at visiting professor John Marlin's Shakespeare class about some of the choices made for our particular staging of the comedy.

This past Halloween brought us our first production of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* in what we hope will become a TechFest tradition. The cult classic was played on a projector in a tent on a lawn, while actors pantomimed the movie's action. In true "Rocky Horror" fashion, there were goody bags, call-outs, and a whole lotta dancing!

We are also very excited to announce that the society's still-young sketch comedy troupe *Off-Center* has broken off from SDS to become its own student organization. While we are sad to see our quirky and creative counterparts go, we are thrilled that they gathered enough membership and independence to become their own RSO. Congratulations to *Off-Center*!

And last but not least, we come to more current events: our spring musical. This April the Stevens Dramatic Society will bring to the stage *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

The musical is based on the novel that Charles Dickens was writing at the time he died, which leaves quite a few questions unanswered. However, the actors of the Music Hall Royale seem to have found a solution. We join the cast of Victorian actors in London for their premiere performance of the work, during which they will let the audience choose the murderer, undercover detective, and more!

The Mystery of Edwin Drood will run from April 10-12, 2008 at 8pm in DeBaun Auditorium. Tickets can be reserved in advance for \$5, or purchased at the door for \$7. Alumni are invited to attend for free. For ticket reservations or any other information, please email sds@stevens.edu. We hope you'll join us for an evening of intrigue – or three! After all, every performance has a different ending!



The Stevens Choir

by Art Bryan Manabat,
Choir President

"Now hunker on down! ZOOOOO!" our director Bethany Reeves calls out, with her hands on her knees as her legs move in a circling motion. Even after a long day of classes or Co-op, we in the Stevens Choir eagerly follow along. Although these vocal warm-ups at evening rehearsal do not change, our repertoire has become increasingly challenging as we grow both in skill and size.

While membership has swelled from about twenty a few years ago to thirty-five today, the Stevens Choir and its smaller ensemble the Stute-Aires remain one of the closest-knit groups on campus. Perhaps it is a natural consequence of aspiring to the unity of sound that is the hallmark of all good choirs, or it could be the rehearsal break when we share stories about odd professors or the crazy antics of impish freshmen. We also

plan fundraisers and outings to karaoke lounges, restaurants, and plays. Whatever activity builds our camaraderie, the Choir is essentially a team that sings at its best when everyone works together.

For our two major concerts this academic year, the Stevens Choir has been both looking ahead and looking back. Last fall saw the first time that we performed an entire concert of selections from Handel's *Messiah*, which served as preparation for establishing an annual Hoboken "Sing-Along Messiah" event with The Center for the Performing Arts in Fall 2008. This spring's concert, entitled *Chansons Pour Notre Amie/Songs for Our Friend*, will be dedicated to Marie-Joan Dutreuil '07, an alumna of the Choir who passed away last summer. The program will include some of her favorite works during her four years with us and premiere a choral work written in her honor by our accompanist and Composer-in-Residence, James Redcay.

On February 16th, the Choir, joined by members of other community choirs, accompanied local soprano LaTanya Hutchins in a program of spirituals at St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church in celebration of Black History Month. We had an enjoyable time singing (and moving) in the style of a gospel ensemble, and wowed the audience with our own renditions of *Soon Ah Will Be Done*, U2's *MLK* (featuring soloist Kieran Walters), and *Witness*.

Our spring concert *Chansons Pour Notre Amie/Songs for Our Friend*, will take place on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at 8pm at DeBaun Auditorium. Admission is \$2 for students and \$5 suggested donation for the general public. For more information visit our website at www.stevens.edu/stevenschoir.



...Ray from Pg. 1

continue, and they miss it. I'm proud to say that my involvement has even lead me to be the Business Manager of the Dramatic Society and President of Theta Alpha Phi.

Now that I am about to graduate, I'm trying to figure out how I can remain involved in theater. I'd like to get my MFA in Theater/Lighting Design, but if I can't do that, I'd like to find a community theater or high school that needs some help. It's been a fun time working at DeBaun with such a helpful and supportive "adult" staff, and I'm kind of sad to be leaving. If I can impart one bit of wisdom to everyone, it is one of Carl's most famous sayings and one of the most important facts of life that I learned while working in theater... "Don't say sorry, just don't do it again."

10 Years and Still Going Strong

by David Zimmerman,
Executive Director, The Center

This year marks the 10th year of operation of The Center for the Performing Arts at DeBaun Auditorium, re-opening in October 1998 after an extensive renovation and restoration project.

It's amazing to see all that we have accomplished over 10 years and what has been on our stage: theater

(musicals, original works and Shakespeare), dance (modern and tap), music (classical, rock and folk), the spoken word, visual arts, and special events for every age. Thousands of patrons from the Stevens and local communities have witnessed the performing arts at DeBaun and thousands more have participated in the performing arts both onstage and backstage. We have become a leading force in the theatrical arts in Hudson County, and our reputation has spread across the five boroughs of New York City and Northern and Central New Jersey. What a way to celebrate a 10th birthday, with all of these accomplishments!

Nothing comes without a cost, though, and many of our infrastructures are becoming antiquated and obsolete before we can replace them. We will soon be kicking off a fundraising drive to keep the performing arts alive on our stage and provide the best possible equipment (sound, lighting, etc.) to enhance our productions and their technical aspects.

I invite you all to join us for The Center's Season Announcement on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at 8pm. Not only will we celebrate our past performances, we'll preview our 2008-2009 season and present the fundraising campaign to our patrons, participants and supporters. To RSVP, please contact me at 201-216-5111 David.Zimmerman@stevens.edu.

Good Ship Pride '08

If you were lucky enough to see the revival of *The Good Ship Pride of Communipaw Flats* this past June 2007, then get ready to see it set sail again on Saturday, May 31, 2008 at 3pm in DeBaun Auditorium during Alumni Weekend '08.

Good Ship Pride is designed and rehearsed by Stevens alumni and current students over several days on the Stevens campus under the direction of Bob Reed '70.

If you are interested in getting involved with the production Bob will be gathering the actors and technical team, and will be more than happy to hear from you. Email Bob at reedart@sover.net and let him know if you want to have another hot toddy with the ship's captain, learn the dangers of nicotine from Herkimer or spend some time with the Jezabel sisters! If you just want to see the show, admission is free and we will see you on May 31, 2008 at 3pm!



Dr. Ravaché being escorted to his seat by the "Jezabel sisters."
Good Ship Pride - June '07



Help Support the Performing Arts at Stevens!

I would like to make a contribution to: (please circle one)

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DeBaun Auditorium

Ondrick Scholarship Fund

Other: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

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____ Enclosed is my check for _____ made out to "Stevens Institute of Technology."

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____ I would like to make a gift of stock or a credit card donation. Please contact me with further details.

Mail to: David Zimmerman, Stevens Institute of Technology, Castle Point on the Hudson, Hoboken, NJ 07030 *Thank You!*



The Center for the Performing Arts at DeBaun Auditorium
Stevens Institute of Technology
Castle Point on the Hudson
Hoboken, NJ 07030

Center Stage

*The Newsletter of the
Performing Arts at Stevens*



With news on:

Stevens Dramatic Society

Stevens Choir

Stevens Jazz Band

Stevens Concert Band

**The Center for the Performing Arts
and so much more!**