



The Basement

a student publication

NEWSLETTER

Vol. I Iss. III

The Family That Acts Together Stays Together: In Three Generations

Most families are fairly distant in today's current age. Mom and Dad work one or two different jobs to keep food on the table. Kids go to school and get hyper-involved in multiple after school activities in order to have the scholarship money to go to a good college. By the time everyone does get together, hardly anyone is focused on the moment. **By Leodis Smith**

Stage Superstitions

"Break a Leg"

It is widely considered that wishing someone "good luck" in any theatre/stage production is actually bad luck. It was believed that wishing an actor good luck caused him/her to be full of confidence, making them lose focus and causing any number of catastrophes. In its place, they are often told to "break a leg", meaning to take a bow at the end of their performance. The most common reason as to why this term was used in the place of "good luck" was to ask the actor to give the best performance they can possibly do, in order to deserve taking a bow at final curtain.

However, this is not the story of Tony, Rebecca, and Christian Winters, three generations of the Winters' family all taking Connie Sander's acting class.

Tony Winters, seventy-eight, who was recently in the USO Show, agreed to give the details of his life for this interview. His theater experience is very recent. Before this, he lived in Utah and had moved here only after his daughter Rebecca had given birth to her daughter, Scarlett, who is now six. Tony then lived in a senior center when his daughter mentioned to him the idea of an acting class to which his thoughts were, "It beats sitting up there and dying."

For Tony, taking the acting classes meant getting to see not only himself in a different light but getting to see his daughter open up a little bit. "Rebecca," he says, "was a very shy and introverted person but after taking this acting class, I've definitely seen her begin to come out of her shell."

Tony's advice to anyone would be, "Definitely take an acting class. And don't just sit there. Be involved."



Shakespeare or Hip-Hop?

A: "From dark roads he rose, to become a hero."

B: "This spring of love resembles the uncertain glory of an April day."

USO SHOW snapshots



photos by Regina Ayala

DUAL

STUDENT

spotlight

Interview with Regina Ayala and Kris Johnson.

How long have you known each other?

Around 5 years-ish.

Where did you meet?

K: Emily Griffith Technical College; Professional Sewing and Fashion Design Program.

R: We met at Emily Griffith while doing alllllll the sewing.

What did you do for *Medea* and the USO Show?

K: I was the Master Electrician for *Medea*. I also built some of the headpieces and some of the costumes. I started working on the U.S.O. Show back in summer 2014. Regina and I interned as stitchers and designers alongside our friend Ally. We built somewhere around twenty costumes that summer. Then when I became a work study this semester I also built Stalin's uniform.

R: For USO I did costumes...costumes...and some more costumes...For *Medea* I was sound op, worked on costumes, and helped paint the grass. OH! and I took photos for both shows.

What has been your favorite part of working in the theatre?

K: I've really enjoyed the variety that the theatre offers. One day you are sewing and creating the wardrobe for a show and the next you're building sets and hanging lights. I've especially enjoyed working with Gail Gober, our Lighting Designer. She's taught me many skills that will translate to my personal projects as well as my professional ones.

R: Favorite things I think would have to be all the people I got to meet during different shows and the whole "creating an entire world for a show and then tearing it down just to do it all over again" thing.

What was your favorite show to work on?

K: *Medea*. Hands down, *Medea*. I've loved all of the productions that I have worked on, but I think *Medea* is the first production where I've had the opportunity to work on a variety of elements.

R: I have enjoyed working on all the shows I have been a part of because I was able to do something different for most of them, however I'd have to say *Women in Congress* just because it was the first theatre thing I had ever done and was kind of just thrown into it co-designing and building for it and I was able to do it with two of the best people ever!

Favorite costume you made?

K: I'm not sure I can answer that. I really love some of the pieces that were used in the U.S.O. Show, and some that were worn by the RRCC staff.

R: Favorite costume I made would have to be Jason's armor for *Medea*, because it was armor and who doesn't love armor. Have I said armor too much?

One thing you learned that you will take with you?

K: I've acquired many skills from technical theatre that I can apply to my chosen field as well as skills that I can fall back on if need be. My focus here might be costuming; but I can also build sets, hang lights, make cable and edit sound files. All of which are things I've learned along the way and can help make me more marketable down the line. I can't pick one, sorry.

R: I have learned that everyone has a different way of doing things in theatre and that you just have to pick a way that works for you and go with it!

Are you excited or sad to be graduating?

K: I won't lie, it's a little intimidating and kind of bittersweet.

R: I am excited to be graduating and start a new chapter but sad to be leaving all the people I've met.

This is Moniqua Bossen signing off!

Don't Get Dumped

By Leodis Smith IV

CARRIE

Ok, I'm going to ask you a really serious question. What is wrong with you?

MARK

Nothing. I'm just clearly not ready for us to get intimate yet.

CARRIE

And you're absolutely sure it has nothing to do with anything else?

MARK

What? Please. Girl. Nah. I'm just... I'm a crier. You're not going to want to deal with that.

CARRIE

You didn't cry when we went to see *Steel Magnolias*.

MARK

Well that's because I... um... look, your dog talks to me and I think I'm crazy.

SILENCE.

CARRIE

Oh. Yeah he can be a jerk like that. Winston, apologize.

WINSTON

Way to ruin the moment, Carrie. He was just about to break.

MARK

Wait. You knew?

CARRIE

He's my dog. How could I not? Plus, I'm a witch.

MARK

Wait... you're a what?

WINSTON

Well congratulations, Mark. You won. Guess I'll leave you two alone.

WINSTON exits.

CARRIE

So shall we?

CARRIE kisses MARK before he can move.

CURTAIN.

COMING THIS SUMMER!

Suburbia

Suburbia

Suburbia By Eric Bogosian

Directed by David-Matthew Barnes

Auditions: May 13 at 7:00 pm in the Theatre

Call Backs (by invitation only): May 14 at 7:00 pm in the Theatre.

Performances: July 9, 10, 11, 12 at 7:30 pm and July 12 at 2:00 pm.

*show contains adult language and themes

Theatre and Dance Summer Courses

THE 105 Theatre Appreciation

THE 107 Elements of Theatrical Craft and Design

THE 111 Acting I

THE 112 Acting II

THE 116 Technical Theatre

THE 131 Theatre Production I

THE 226 Sound Design and Operation I

THE 231 Theatre Production III

THE 280 Internship

THE 285 Independent Study

DAN 221 Dance Performance I (Dance Team)

DAN 105 Hip Hop Dance I

DAN 126 East/West Coast Swing I

DAN 127 East/West Coast Swing II

DAN 131 Ballet I

DAN 141 Ballroom Dance

DAN 142 Ballroom Dance II

DAN 143 Tap I

DAN 144 Tap II

RRCC Dance Team

Auditions: Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 pm
in RRCC Community Room!

Call Backs (by invitation only) will be
Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 pm in
RRCC Community Room!



For More Information

Contact the Dance Team coach,
David-Matthew Barnes, at
303-914-6459 or
David.Barnes@rrcc.edu.

Please address any questions to
303.914.6458 or
Kelly.Eldredge@rrcc.edu.

- The RRCC Dance Team is a new co-ed, competitive dance crew with an emphasis on hip-hop.
- In addition to performing at on-campus and community events, the team will participate in competitions.
- Members must be a current RRCC student and will be required to enroll in DAN 221: Dance Performance I during the summer.
- Dancers will learn a choreographed routine for their auditions.
- If selected for call backs, dancers will perform a self-choreographed routine of their choice.
- All finalists will be interviewed by a selection committee.

M E D E A

recap!



SHAKESPEARE'S CORNER

"All the world's a stage,

And all the men and women merely players.

They have their exits and their entrances,

And one man in his time plays many parts."

Jaques in *As You Like It*

Act II, Scene VII lines 142-145

photos by Regina Ayala

Meet the Staff



Moniqua Bossen
Interviewer

Student at RRCC since 2012
Aspire to be an Actress/Singer

"Suck it up, Buttercup!"
-Moniqua Bossen

"I dream for a living.
Once a month the sky falls
on my head, I come to, and
I see another movie I want
to make."
-Steven Spielberg

Kevin Broggie
Graphic Designer

Student at RRCC since 2014
Aspire to be a Film Director



Brandon Brown
Editor

Student at RRC since 2012
Aspire to be a Psychologist/Criminal Profiler

"Be yourself, everyone
else is taken."
-Oscar Wilde

"Life itself is the proper
binge." -Julia Child

Meriah Carpenter
Writer

Student at RRCC since 2014
Aspire to be an Entrepreneur
(Pastry Mobile Truck Owner)



Ashley Duke
Editor

Student at RRCC since 2011
Aspires to be a Stage Manager/Actress

"Act well your part; there
all the honour lies."
-Alexander Pope

"Believe you can, and
you're halfway there."
-Theodore Roosevelt

Alyssa Gillham
Writer

Student at RRCC since 2013
Aspires to be a Dancer.



Meet the Staff

(Cont.)

"Yo, I'm a street light
chillin' in the heat. I
illuminate the stories of
the people in the street."
-Usnavi, *In the Heights*

Leodis Smith IV

Writer

*Student at RRCC since 2013
Aspire to be an
Actor/Playwright/Screenwriter*



Madison Young

Writer

*Student at RRCC since 2015
Aspire to be an Director/Actor*

"I like the ephemeral thing
about theatre, every performance
is like a ghost - it's there,
and then it's gone."

-Maggie Smith

"We're all just walking
each other home"
-Ram Dass

Kelly Jo Eldredge

Theatre Lab Coordinator
and Adjunct Faculty



David-Matthew Barnes

Program Director of Theatre Arts
and Dance Department

"No one can make you
feel inferior without
your consent."

-Eleanor Roosevelt

JOIN THE STAFF

If you'd like to join our team, contact
Ashley Duke at aduke4@student.rrcc.edu
or Brandon Brown at bbrown49@student.rrcc.edu.

Or come to our meetings Mondays from
3-4, in room 0503 (the Theatre).
Whether you are in the Theatre Arts and
Dance Department, or just want to know
what it's all about, we welcome you to
come hang out with us in The Basement.

Shakespeare
or
Hip-Hop:

Answers:

A: "Glory" by Common and
John Legend.

B: Shakespeare: Proteus in Act I
Scene III Lines 84-85 of *The Two
Gentlemen of Verona*