

Tennessee Williams' experimental 'Camino Real' comes to University Theatre

One of the most fascinating plays from the repertoire of one of America's most gifted playwrights will open at Ball State on Nov. 13.

The Department of Theatre and Dance will present the experimental—and sometimes absurd—play "Camino Real" by Tennessee Williams at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13-15 and 19-22 with a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Nov. 16. All shows will be at University Theatre.

"Camino Real," which has been described by some critics as Williams' most challenging and ambitious work, depicts the dream of Don Quixote, who envisions the adventures of historical and mythical figures trying to escape from Camino Real, a town on the edge of civilization where characters land when they have relinquished their hope and dreams. Into this world comes Kilroy, an American boxer who is down but not out. While the town works to absorb Kilroy's hopelessness, he fights for a way to stay alive among characters who struggle to distinguish imagination from reality.

Directed by Karen Kessler, assistant professor of theater, "Camino Real" depicts a place that hosts romantics, misfits and dreamers, a mixture of past and present, of the real and the fantastic. The cast features students Matt Smith as Guttman, Geoff Kolar as Kilroy, Josh Jeffers as Casanova, Erin Neuffer as Marguerite, Lindsey Zelli as Esmerelda, Kate Martin as The Gypsy and Curtis Becht as Lord Byron.

Kessler believes that the play has a beautiful story at its core. "Williams is trying to convey that there is living and there is existing, and most people choose to merely exist. Living is scarier and harder but ultimately better," she said.

Tickets cost \$15 for the general public, \$9 for students, and are available from the University Theatre Box Office, open noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the box office at 765-285-8749 or visit www.bsu.edu/theatre for more information.

Other upcoming productions include:

- "The Devil Made Me Dance"—7:30 p.m. Dec. 11-13; 2:30 p.m. Dec. 14. The Ball State Dance Theatre invites audience members to dance with the devil as he traces his journey through time with dazzling choreography and skillful dance.
- "The Importance of Being Earnest"—7:30 p.m. Feb. 12-14, Feb. 18-21; 2:30 p.m. Feb. 15. This witty, wise and wickedly funny comedy by Oscar Wilde follows the adventures

of two bachelors as they pursue two women who have their hearts set on marrying Ernest, no matter who he is.

International students gather in Second Life to design real-life surge hospital

Architects and architecture students are in another world creating plans for a surge hospital in Indianapolis.

Through the online virtual world of Second Life, students from Ball State University's College of Architecture and Planning (CAP) are working with their counterparts in Central and South America to design a downtown hotel that could be quickly transformed into a medical facility in the event of a natural disaster or other widespread emergency.

The students may be meeting in a virtual world, but they are working with Indianapolis-based BSA Life Structures and addressing an actual building site located between Methodist Hospital and the Indiana University Hospital in the capital city. Using its specialized expertise in the design of health facilities, BSA Life Structures will provide virtual reviews of the student projects.

"The building's primary role will be a hotel, which downtown Indianapolis needs to help fulfill its role as a host city for events like the Super Bowl," said Guillermo Vasquez de Velasco, dean of CAP. "And in the event of major medical emergency, the building will be able to supplement hospital functions by taking noncritical patients from neighboring facilities, which would free up more bed space in trauma hospitals."

Las Americas

The participating universities are part of the Las Americas Network, a collaborative exchange launched in 1998 involving more than 30 Latin American architecture programs and coordinated by Ball State. The participants work on the same design subject and share the development through the Internet.

Representatives from 11 universities have already begun to gather in the Second Life studio to share design ideas with the goal of completing the design phase by the middle of December.

The project represents key initiatives at Ball State, Vasquez de Velasco noted. First, the use of emerging media, in which the university has quickly established a reputation as an industry leader, is being incorporated in an immersive learning course.

Another strategic goal of the project is reaching out to high-achieving international students. The project began with students in seven countries from the United States to Mexico, from Guatemala to Chile, working together. The project will become more competitive as the students refine their individual designs. The process will identify the top five architecture students in Latin America with the aim that they come to Ball State

to further their education — in real life, that is.

"This will be a highly collaborative effort, one that should produce a very provocative, useable design," Vasquez de Velasco said. "A number of our graduates and industry professionals also are working with the students. At times, there will be more than 60 people, or avatars, who could be working in our Second Life studio."

Virtual Construction

The Las Americas Virtual Design Studio resembles a tower with floating petals. According to Vasquez de Velasco, it's believed to be the first university studio of its kind, and certainly of this scale. The design was based on the winning entry from CAP student Brandon Hoopingarner, from Indianapolis. His proposal was selected from 11 student entries.

John Fillwalk, director of Ball State's Institute for Digital Intermedia Arts and Animation (IDIAA) and coordinator of Ball State's award-winning Second Life course, The Aesthetic Camera, brought Hoopingarner's ideas to life. He worked with IDIAA staff and students in their Immersive Seminar in Virtual Worlds.

"The pairing of IDIAA's deep understanding of design for virtual worlds with the goals of the Las Americas team created a truly innovative project," Fillwalk said.

The team jumped out of the constraints of traditional architecture, Vasquez de Velasco added.

"The nature of the tower's architecture is specific to Second Life," he said. "There are no stairs, and dynamic pods and audio bubbles allow groups to meet together or 'fly' away to have private meetings."

On Nov. 10, the Las Americas Virtual Design Studio will have its grand opening — complete with a ribbon cutting. The invitation-only event will begin at 4 p.m. EDT in the SimLab in CAP as well as in Second Life.

Rising business owner named top entrepreneur by Ball State

A former physician who transformed a coffee shop from a vanity project for a Saudi Arabian princess into a highly successful business across the Middle East was honored as one of the nation's top entrepreneurs Nov. 1 by Ball State University.

Jason Araghi received the Ascent Award from Ball State's Entrepreneurship Center for developing a business that serves organic coffee, smoothies and pastries in war zones on more than 70 American military bases around the Middle East.

"Being an entrepreneur is the way to be," he said. "That is my spirit. I have a desire to make a difference in the lives of the people that we serve."

After moving to Saudi Arabia in 1995 as a physician to work for the House of Saud, Araghi was asked to build a coffee shop in a princess' lavish furniture store as a place where men and women could socialize.

After bringing his brother into the project, they created a coffee shop that quickly became popular place among American soldiers. Over the last 13 years, the company added stores throughout the Middle East. Most locations are portable 40-foot shipping containers converted to resemble an American coffeehouse. The company, which is headquartered in California and grosses more than \$20.8 million, is expanding into the United States market by opening coffee shops near military bases.

Araghi was one of three finalists to attend the ceremony at the Conrad Indianapolis and make presentations to graduates of Ball State's entrepreneurship program.

The other finalists were Lyndon "Duke" Hanson, a co-founder of Crocs Inc., a company that sells the lightweight resin shoes, and Donald and Susan Southerland, owners of Cold Stone Creamery, an ice cream company with franchises in 49 states.

"The alumni had a tough decision in selecting a winner because all three honorees are outstanding examples of entrepreneurial success," said Paul Staton, a Ball State alumnus and president and chief executive officer of Kaduceus Medical. "One area where Jason Araghi stood out was that he saw an opportunity and with precise planning found a way to meet the market's demand."

The process of finding an Ascent Award winner began earlier this year with a coast-to-coast search for 10 entrepreneurs who exhibit the spirit of Ball State's Entrepreneurship Center.

Intergraph Corp. gives \$4.2 million worth of GIS software to Ball State

Engineering and geospatial software provider Intergraph Corp. has donated 500 copies of its GeoMedia Professional to Ball State. The total value of the software is \$4.2 million. "GeoMedia Pro gives students a resource to learn a technology that's becoming increasingly prevalent," said David Schoen, interim chair of the Department of Urban Planning, "They can hit the ground running in the job market."

GeoMedia Pro is designed for the collection and maintenance of geographic information systems (GIS) data. Schoen describes the software as a spatially organized database that can be used to identify patterns on the earth and assist urban planners, and other professionals, to better allocate resources necessary to support our population.

GIS software is used in a variety of professions including urban planning, geology, biology, political science and marketing.

Intergraph Corp. is a leading vendor of spatial information management software. Ball State received a \$4.7 million grant from Intergraph in 2003 for GIS software. The current gift stems from the previous relationship and an educational grant program at Intergraph.

The software may be accessed by any current Ball State student or faculty member using university equipment. Intergraph Corp. additionally donated 30 licenses for students that may be installed on their laptops. The university has the option to request more licenses at any time.

ON CAMPUS

Best-selling author to speak in Pruis Hall

Author Po Bronson will be speaking about his No. 1 New York Times best-seller "What Should I Do With My Life?" at 7 p.m. Nov. 11 in Pruis Hall. Bronson's book of social documentary remained on the New York Times Top 10 for nine months.

Bronson has built a career both as a successful novelist and as an award-winning writer of narrative nonfiction. He has published five books, and he has written for television, magazines and newspapers, including Time, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and National Public Radio's Morning Edition. Currently, he is writing regularly for New York Magazine in the United States and for The Guardian in the United Kingdom.

He has been on The Oprah Winfrey Show, every national morning show and on the cover of five magazines, including Wired and Fast Company. His books have been translated into 18 languages.

Bronson speaks regularly at colleges and community "town hall" events. He is a founder of the San Francisco Writer's Grotto, a cooperative workspace for about 40 writers and filmmakers.

Bronson's appearance on campus is sponsored by Building Better Communities, Housing and Residence Life, Excellence in Leadership, Counseling Center, Indiana Network for Higher Education Ministries and the Ball State University Career Center, and the event is free and open to the public.

For more information on this event, please contact James Mitchell, assistant director, Ball State University Career Center at 765-285-1522.

Alumni Association hosts events in Second Life

The Ball State University Alumni Association is exploring new "virtual" endeavors.

Through Second Life, an online three-dimensional world created by its users, alumni now are interacting with one another at the Ball State University Island. The island is a re-creation of campus with Beneficence, Shafer Tower, the Music Instruction Building and Bracken Library.

"Holding events with Second Life has allowed us to reach many alumni whom we have struggled to reach in the past," said Steve Fulton, director of new media for the Alumni Association. "Ultimately, it is our goal to get our alumni back to campus physically, but getting them back virtually is the next best thing."

The Alumni Association has hosted several events at Ball State Island, with alumni participating from seven different states and three countries. Multiple universities have contacted the Alumni Association and followed the interactions closely. The association's Second Life activities also were featured in the October 2008 issue of Currents magazine, a publication of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Ball State is one of first 15 schools nationwide to start a Student United Way chapter

Ball State University has welcomed to campus a Student United Way chapter, one of only 15 pilot chapters to be established nationwide. Student United Way is a student-led community change organization affiliated with the United Way, a coalition of charitable organizations in the United States.

"Student United Way works in conjunction with the United Way of Delaware County to help impact the community and help students grow as leaders," said Jennifer Teeters, a Ball State senior and president of Ball State's Student United Way chapter.

The United Way of Delaware County is the local chapter of the national nonprofit. Each fall, Ball State employees actively participate in a university-wide fundraising campaign for the United Way. This year's campaign goal is \$188,144.

Ball State's student chapter will focus its work on "town and gown" issues related to improving the relationship between Ball State and the city of Muncie.

"Our constitution has been approved by the university, making us an official student organization, and we are in the process of setting goals for the year," Teeters said. "Recruiting started in April, and there are about 10 members so far."

Other schools in the country with Student United Way chapters include University of Texas-Austin, Florida State University, University of Kentucky and University of Arizona.

The first general meeting for Ball State's Student United Way will be held at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 in Bracken Library, Room 401. This meeting is open to all students interested in becoming members. Students should contact Jennifer Teeters at 765-288-5586 ext. 227 or jlteeters@gmail.com for details.

IN THE NEWS

Ball State

The Chicago Tribune featured Ball State in an Oct. 26 article, "Ball State Re-creating 'War of the Worlds' Broadcast." On Oct. 30, Ball State recreated Orson Welles' 1938 broadcast of "The War of the Worlds" that sparked panic among some listeners who thought Earth was being invaded by aliens. Marcus Jackman, Indiana Public Radio general manager, said the broadcast will be a treat for attentive, creative listeners, 70 years after the event. "There will be a neat nostalgic payoff," he said "But I doubt people will be panicking." The story was also featured in the Pittsburgh Channel and Indiana's NewsCenter.

Eric Dugan, assistant professor of physical education and Nick Higdon, biomechanics lab research associate

Dugan and Higdon were featured in the September 2008 Golf Digest article, "Walking: Live Longer, Play Worse?" They concluded that the swing mechanics of golfers who walk tend to deteriorate as a round progresses. "The study suggests that golf mechanics change, and performance might decline the longer a golfer walks and swings," Higdon said. Dugan said golfers had increasing difficulty in transferring their weight into their lead leg during the downswing. This results in a slower swing speed and altered path.

President Jo Ann M. Gora

The Indianapolis Star quoted Gora in a Nov. 4 article, "Cardinals Try to Keep Success in Perspective, Undefeated Team Doesn't Automatically Translate into Unlimited Budget." The success of the football team, coached by Brady Hoke, can be traced to the university investing in the program. However, as the success rises, so does the cost of maintaining it. "It's exciting when a mid-major school has success because it shows you don't have to spend a tremendous amount of money to have a winning team," Gora said. "It's not all about counting resources. We take our cues from Brady. Every year, we talk to him about what we can do, and he tells us what upgrades to focus on." She often addresses the team and even has helped seal the deal with some recruits. David Letterman, a Ball State alumnus, has even supported the team. "Every Monday night, he's (Letterman) talking about the team – the Fighting Cardinals, as he calls them," she said. "He has made my job that much easier."

Michael Goldsby, director of the Entrepreneurship Center

Inside Indiana Business quoted Goldsby in an Oct. 23 article, "Cold Stone Creamery Founders Among BSU Ascent Finalists." The founders of Cold Stone Creamery, among others, were finalists for Ball State's Ascent Award. The Entrepreneurship Center honored business executives Nov. 1 with an Ascent Fellowship that offers opportunities to meet and collaborate with other entrepreneurs. "Entrepreneurship is about the energy, creativity and determination it takes to get to the top," Goldsby said. "Entrepreneurship is

the story of ascent. The character of the entrepreneur and the power of the venture are fully seen only in the recounting of the journey."

Michael Hanley, assistant professor of journalism

Hanley was quoted in an Oct. 29 MediaPost article, "'Christian Science Monitor' to Cease Daily Publication." The Christian Science Monitor plans on switching from a daily to weekly publishing format. In turn, the newspaper plans to invest heavily in its Web presence. "Judging by the decreasing circulation revenue numbers, it seems like (the Monitor) didn't have an option here," Hanley said. He was surprised the Monitor would be the first national newspaper to go digital. "Their audience is known to be very intelligent but older and not particularly tech-savvy."

Michael Hicks, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research (formerly Bureau of Business Research)

Inside Indiana Business featured Hicks in a Nov. 4 article, "Wall Street Election Reaction Uncertain, Results May Produce More Volatility." He said Wall Street's immediate response to the election could be favorable because of a lack of uncertainty, or it could see more fluctuation because of fear over possible changes to tax policy. Hicks said businesses should keep in mind economic policies from a new person in the White House could differ from what has been outlined in the campaign.

Barry Umansky, professor of telecommunications

Umansky was quoted in an Oct. 30 Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette article, "State Deregulation Pays Off, Expo Told." Indiana's telecommunications deregulation law has spurred telephone companies to invest more than \$516 million to expand high-speed Internet and TV services. Umansky said consumers continue to see the benefits from the two-year-old law. He described a study of the law's benefits at the Midwest Telecom Expo. More than 20 other states have passed legislation modeling Indiana's law or aspects of it, he explained. "In the digital age, (the previous rules) were providing an unnecessary barrier to those wanting to provide competition," Umansky said.

SPOTLIGHT

Recognition

Chu-yuan Cheng, Department of Economics, received the Distinguished Service Award for contributions to the association and achievements in Chinese economic studies from the Association for Chinese Studies during its 50th annual conference on Oct. 18, 2008.

Presentations

Matthew Harber, Human Performance Laboratory, American Physiological Society Integrative Society Meeting, "The Integrative Biology of Exercise-V," Hilton Head, S.C.

- "Protein Synthesis Response to Running in Human Vastus Lateralis and Soleus Muscles," Sept. 26, 2008.
- "Running Alters the Expression of Growth Related Genes in the Vastus Lateralis Soleus Muscles," Sept. 26, 2008.
- "Amino Acid Infusion Alters Growth Related Gene Expression in Human Skeletal Muscle," Sept. 27, 2008.

Kamal Islam, Department of Biology, "Foraging Ecology of Cerulean Warblers in Southern Indiana," Cerulean Warbler Summit 3, Bogota and San Vicente de Chucuri, Colombia, Oct. 21-25, 2008.

Tania Said, Museum of Art, "Local Impact, National and International Strengths," Academy for Community Leadership, organized by the Muncie-Delaware County Chamber of Commerce and Ball State University School of Extended Education.

Donald Whitaker and **Sherry Woosley**, Academic Assessment and Institutional Research, co-authors, "Enhancing First-Year Student Success: A Comprehensive On-line Assessment," 2008 Assessment Institute, Indianapolis, Oct. 27, 2008.

Sherry Woosley, Academic Assessment and Institutional Research, co-author, "Moving from Assessment Data to Useable Information," 2008 Assessment Institute, Indianapolis, Oct. 27, 2008.

Publications

Yeno Matuka, Department of English, published the poem "Interrogating Happiness," International Library of Poetry, p.3, 2008.

James McKenzie, Department of Physiology and Health Science, co-author, "Enhancing Promotional Strategies with Social Marketing Programs: Use of Web 2.0 Social Media," Health Promotion Practice, Vol. 9, No. 4, p.338-343, 2008.

Service

Nagia Ali, School of Nursing, conducted community-teaching program for men about bone health at Gethsemane Church on Oct. 23, 2008.

Chu-yuan Cheng, Department of Economics,

- Granted an interview to Sing Tau Chinese Radio in Toronto on the causes and outlook of the world financial crisis, Oct. 5, 2008.

- Granted an interview to Radio Free Asia on China's new land policy, its significance and impact on rural economy, Oct. 10, 2008.
-

Get Update Delivered to Your Home E-mail Address

If you would like to have Update delivered to your home e-mail address, visit the Update Web site at www.bsu.edu/update and click on the "Subscribe" link.