

Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 7, 2010

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE ENSEMBLE STATUS REPORT
A Recommendation

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs/Finance and Administration
2. **Introduction:** The Theatre Ensemble at Meadow Brook Theatre (TTE) and the Theatre Program of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD) at Oakland University (University) continue to collaborate. Areas of cooperation and future planning have brought many opportunities to current and former students of the department, as well as faculty. Below are some examples of the involvement of the faculty, staff and students from MTD with TTE since last year's status report.
3. **Previous Board Action:** On June 4, 2003, the Board of Trustees (Board) approved a five (5) year lease with TTE. That lease has been continued on a month-to-month basis since its expiration.
4. **Budget Implications:** As of March 15, 2010, the University has received \$68,000 in lease revenue for the current fiscal year from TTE. Total lease revenue for the year is projected to be \$85,000. The University maintains the structural buildings that house TTE, and University costs for utilities and insurance are expected to total \$55,000 for the year. Per the agreement, TTE is responsible for general maintenance and repair of the facilities. All contractual payments from TTE have been paid in a timely manner.

For the six complete seasons since the inception of the lease in 2003, the University has recognized \$174,792 in net revenues from the lease.

Net revenue for the University is projected to be \$28,000 in fiscal year 2010.

5. **Educational Implications:** As described in more detail below, faculty members have worked on TTE productions; current and former students have appeared as actors in TTE productions, some have worked backstage, and some have become either full or part-time employees of TTE; TTE members have taught courses for MTD; TTE has loaned costumes and platform stock to MTD for MTD productions; and students receive discounted tickets to TTE productions.

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MTD Faculty – Full-time

Karen Sheridan, Professor of Theatre, played the role of Bertha in *Boeing-Boeing* and served as dialect coach for that production as well as *Mindgame* and *Enchanted April*.

Fred Love, Assistant Professor of Theatre, played auditions for TTE's production of *By Jeeves*.

MTD Faculty – Adjunct

The following faculty members have worked on productions:

Terry W. Carpenter is the TTE Associate Director/Resident Stage Manager and directed this year's *A Christmas Carol* and *Mindgame*.

Rick Carver was featured as the Headless Horseman in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

Mike Duncan is TTE's Audio Engineer & Resident Sound Designer.

Thomas D. Mahard had the lead role of Scrooge in this season's *A Christmas Carol*.

MTD Staff

Kathy Boersma, alum and MTD Production Coordinator, worked lighting hang & focus calls during the TTE season and for events at MBT in the summer months.

Alissa Hetzner, MTD Musical Theatre Vocal Coach and Assistant Musical Director accompanied auditions for *Breaking Up Is Hard to Do* at Meadow Brook Theatre.

Students

The following alumni and currently enrolled students or their supporting talents have appeared on the Meadow Brook Theatre stage:

Steve Blackwood (alum) played Robert in *Boeing-Boeing*.

Caitlin Burke (alum) was again Choral Director for *A Christmas Carol* and played the role of Honoria in *By Jeeves*.

Joey Bybee (alum) starred as Bertie Wooster in last spring's main stage production of *By Jeeves*.

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Justin Colby (current student) completed a season-long paid production internship at Meadow Brook Theatre last spring.

Lauren Terpening Coleman (current student) also completed a season-long paid performance internship last spring. She directed the interns' production of *The Pendergrass Fortune* (written by MTD alum **Travis Walter**) which had two performances on the MBT stage. She played percussion for last spring's *By Jeeves* and then was asked back to be dance mistress for this season's *A Christmas Carol*.

Katherine M. Fox (alum) played reeds for *By Jeeves* last spring.

Corey Globke (alum) is designing the costumes for *Enchanted April* and *Breaking Up Is Hard to Do*.

Katie Hardy (alum) had featured roles in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Boeing-Boeing* and will also appear in *Breaking Up Is Hard to Do* this spring. She was able to join the Actors' Equity Association (union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States) because of this contract offer.

Christopher Howe (alum) played Bernard in *Boeing-Boeing*.

Allison Hunt (alum) played Stiffy Byng in *By Jeeves* and joined the Actors' Equity Association because of this contract offer.

Ann O'Brien (alum) played Ilsa Brinkerhoff in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and was a caroler again this season appearing as Fred's Wife and other roles in *A Christmas Carol*. She also understudied the female roles in *By Jeeves* and performed the role of Honoria for several performances.

Alex Pedica (alum) appeared in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *A Christmas Carol* and understudied or will understudy roles in those shows and *Boeing-Boeing*, *Enchanted April* and *Breaking Up Is Hard to Do*.

PJ Vasquez (alum) again was a caroler and played various roles and understudied others in *A Christmas Carol*.

Travis Walter (alum) directed *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Boeing-Boeing*, directs *Enchanted April* and will direct *Breaking Up Is Hard to Do*.

Sarah Warren (alum) served as Assistant Stage Manager for *The Trip to Bountiful*, *By Jeeves*, *Nunsense II*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Boeing-Boeing* and *Mindgame* and will do so for the upcoming *Enchanted April* and *Breaking Up Is Hard to Do*.

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Sam Zepik (alum) appeared in *The Trip to Bountiful* last spring.

The following are former students employed by TTE during the past year:

Alex Pedica, Performance Intern; **Travis Walter**, Interim Artistic Director;
Sarah Warren, Production Manager and **John Woudstra**, part-time Electrics Staff.

TTE booked two performances in its space of Theatreworks tour of Henry and Mudge starring **Chris Rozanski** (alum) in one of the title roles.

In the past year, the following current and former students were employed to work on TTE productions. Some have worked with the Theatre's resident lighting designer, some with the audio engineer, some with the scenic artist and some worked backstage during performances. Students from MTD often are hired as over-hire to help build TTE productions or to work load-in and strike for TTE productions. A list of these current and former students follows:

Richard Barnes (current)
Jeffery Block (current)
Mary Gietzen (current)
Stefan Mantyk (alum)

Ann O'Brien (alum)
Eileen Rozycki (current)
Elizabeth Reckinger Schoen (alum)
Steven Webb (alum)

Eight Oakland University alums and current students (not all theatre majors) were employed as Ushers and House Managers at Meadow Brook Theatre during the past twelve months.

Amy Brooks (current) volunteered to work with TTE guest set designer Monika Essen on scenic painting for the floor of *Mindgame*.

In addition, **Elizabeth Reckinger Schoen** (alum) is a current member of the Board of Directors for the Theatre.

Meadow Brook Theatre Staff

The following are TTE members who have taught courses for the department:

Terry W. Carpenter (Stage Manager) is teaching Stage Management (THA 330).

Mike Duncan (Audio Engineer) is teaching Sound Design (THA 470).

Liz Moore (Costume Shop Coordinator) has been a valuable collaborator for the costume area of MTD. She has taken time out of her schedule to be a mentor to the MTD costume students.

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Julianne Somers (actress) hosted by Karen Sheridan gave informal talk with MTD students giving them insight into working and living in Los Angeles as a performer.

On-going Relationships

Many MTD faculty make use in classes of students attending productions at Meadow Brook Theatre.

Meadow Brook Theatre is significantly highlighted as a departmental asset on posters and recruitment advertising for the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

There is still a student discount for TTE tickets.

Terry W. Carpenter, Associate Director, attends MTD's weekly Theatre Program meetings, assisted Fred Love and Alissa Hetzner w/ casting of Cabaret class (THA 451) and holds his Stage Management class (THA 330) in the TTE rehearsal room.

Mike Duncan, Resident Sound Designer, uses the sound booth and equipment at MBT as part of his Sound Design class (THA 470).

Brian Kessler, TTE Technical Director and **Brent Wrobel**, MTD Technical Director are in communication on a daily basis about scene shop schedules and constantly pick up materials for each other if they are going to certain vendors.

The TTE scene shop staff often assist the student shop crew with loading and unloading, short-term loan of tools and advise or help with equipment maintenance & general cleaning.

TTE and MTD share the scene shop, tools (not consumables), vehicles, etc.

TTE regularly loans packing blankets, load bars & straps when the MTD shop students are trucking set pieces.

TTE used 119 Vandenberg Hall for rehearsals over the semester break when the TTE rehearsal room was not available.

TTE loaned their backup light board to MTD for over 2 weeks in fall '09 while the light board in Varner Hall was out of service.

TTE and MTD have borrowed each other's body microphones.

MTD and TTE borrow each others platform stock for productions.

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TTE uses the MTD plotter in exchange for the years MTD used the TTE plotter.

TTE uses the MTD ladder and aerial work platform (Genie).

A variety of properties were loaned to MTD by TTE for productions of *Bloody Bess*, *Violet*, *Learned Ladies* and *The Good Doctor*.

TTE and MTD continue to have a reciprocal agreement on use of costumes. MTD borrowed costumes from TTE for the productions of *Follies*, *Learned Ladies* and *The Good Doctor* while TTE borrowed from MTD stock for *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

TTE Box Office staff forwards inquiries about MTD productions and displays the MTD season brochure in their lobby.

The Student Activities Board rented the Meadow Brook Theatre auditorium for their presentations of Wendy Fox and Finess Mitchell's comedy concerts.

The Department of Biology loaned TTE the full human skeleton used as a prop in their production of *Mindgame*.

6. **Personnel Implications:** None

7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Meadow Brook Theatre Ensemble Status Report was reviewed and approved by the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost and the Vice President for Finance and Administration.

8. **Recommendation:** None

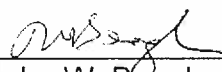
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9. Attachments: None

Submitted to the President
on 3/31, 2010 by

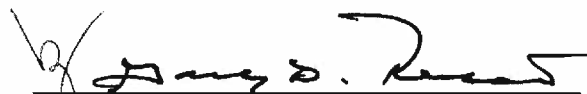


Virinder K. Moudgil
Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost



John W. Beaghan
Vice President for Finance and Administration
and Treasurer to the Board of Trustees

Recommended on 3/31, 2010
to the Board of Trustees for Approval



Gary D. Russi
President