

Platt Student Performing Arts House

Performing Arts!

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Welcome to PAC!

Hello, and welcome! This is the Performing Arts Council (PAC) Newsletter for incoming members of the Class of 2012 and other newcomers to student performing arts!

Here, you will find information about people in PAC you'll meet or want to meet during the coming year, people who've graduated and carry the life lessons learned as a student at Penn participating in Performing Arts, and everything from the beginning of auditions to final performances.

PAC is a kind of association of approximately 45 different student performing groups, and PAC groups get priority performance and rehearsal spaces among other benefits. If you're interested in acting, there are plenty of groups for you. If sketch or stand-up comedy is more your forte, you've got a home. Dance, A Cappella, and

Instrumental and Vocal music span genres and styles from Jazz to Hip-Hop to Classical and back again. Finally, if you prefer to stay behind the scenes, nearly *every group* needs someone like you to handle the technical aspects of their show.

Most groups perform one Solo performance and one collaboration every year, though some groups choose to do only a single show per year or two collaborative shows depending on their needs and requirements.

Each type of group is collected into a subcommittee with similar groups and each subcommittee elects a chair to serve on the PAC Executive Board, along with a Community Service Chair elected from the general body. These five student leaders manage inter-group communications, scheduling, recruitment, finances, and organize Performing Arts Nights

for Freshmen just after NSO and for families during Family Weekend. The Executive Board also manages PACster, an announcement e-mail list which includes information about auditions and technical interviews, upcoming PAC performances, internships in the arts, and much, much more!

This newsletter, to which you subscribed by indicating interest in the performing arts via Campus Express, represents the pre-freshman version of PACster. Older versions will be available on our website in case you sign up late! Enjoy, and welcome to Penn!



Ty on PAC: *"The Platt House and the Performing Arts Council provide a wonderful artistic community at Penn."*

PACstArs: Ty Furman, Ed.D.

Ty Furman (left) has dedicated his time and his life to Philadelphia and Penn performing arts.

Ty A. Furman has been advising and facilitating Student Performing Arts at Penn Since 1997. He holds a Doctorate in Education from Penn's Graduate School of Education and a Masters in Theatre from Villanova University. He is

a member of the Campus Arts Directors Consortium, a group of more than a dozen arts administrators from all over the US and for the past two years had served on the Arts Leadership Day committee at Penn. Ty is also one of the coordinators of the all-campus leadership retreats held twice a

year for more than 80 upperclassmen and runs PennArts - an arts pre-orientation program for 40 incoming students. Ty is currently on the Board of Hotel Obligado Physical Theatre Company in Philadelphia.

Subcommittee Crossover

Two graduates prove that there are no boundaries.

Many people think that just because you start out as something, you've pigeon-holed yourself for the next four years. At Penn, however, there are too many options to get tied down to one thing or another.

People change majors like they change socks, and performing arts is no different. Whether within PAC or across other groups, students have the opportunity to experience as much or as little as they choose.

Jordan Grossman '08, a Political Communication Major in the College, is a

perfect example. Jordan, who recently graduated, spent semesters with Counterparts A Cappella, Penn Singers Light Opera Company, and several theatre groups including Penn Players, Quadramics, and Stimulus.

Not only did Jordan work with ACK, SMAC, and TAC-e, but he never overloaded himself by trying to them all at the same time. Freshman year can be a combination of pacing yourself and trying every new thing under the sun.

Most people join 10 things their freshman fall and choose the 3 that they like and can commit to. But there's no rule against trying out for African Rhythms Senior year, the

way Political Science Major Morgan Seag '08 did after dabbling in acting and tech with Penn Players as an underclassman.

Take your time. The most important thing is to avoid overwhelming yourself and burning out after two years, then going through the motions the next two. Both Jordan and Morgan graduated with honors, and they never burned out.

imPACT How did joining PAC shape your college experience?

Emer O'Callaghan, '09

Beyond my education, when I look back at my college years, so many of my memories will be of theatre. Ever since I can remember I've been involved in theatre, and PAC has provided countless opportunities to work on its different aspects at Penn...and I've loved every minute of it!

Not only did I meet most of my closest friends through Penn theatre and PAC, but PAC has allowed me to experience a side of theatre I'd never encountered before—leadership. Before I became involved with PAC I had never considered what it took to run a theatre company. But after I graduate, I will have had 2 years of experience on the Board of Front Row

Theatre Company, including this coming year as Chair.

Since I ultimately want to be a casting director, the leadership experience I gained working in PAC has supplied me with an excellent groundwork to achieve my goals, and I've had so much fun along the way.

Emer O'Callaghan, Chair of Front Row Theatre Company, is a Theatre Arts and Communication Double Major. She has acted, directed, stage managed, and produced over the past 3 years.



Alumni of the Week

Marc E. Platt '79 follows his heart.

Student Performing Arts and Marc E. Platt (left)

The moment you arrive on campus, and start looking up information for performing arts, you'll see it. It is the Nexus of PAC, and provides rehearsal space for dance, a cappella, theatre, musicians, comedians, and singers. It is the Platt Student

"Having spent more than two decades in a film, television, and theater career, I can attest to the enormous benefit [Platt SPA House] provides Penn's performing arts students, as well as the Penn community who will have the opportunity to enjoy their work as an audience."

Performing Arts House at 37th and Spruce, just next to the entrance to Upper Quad, made possible by a donation from Marc E. and Julie Beren Platt.

Marc E. Platt, a member of Penn Glee Club and Penn Singers during his time at Penn, has gone on to produce countless hits for screen and stage.

As an executive at Orion, TriStar and Universal Pictures, he helped bring *Silence of the Lambs*, *Philadelphia* and *Jerry Maguire* to the

screen, before forming his own company and producing hits like *Legally Blonde* and Broadway's *Wicked*.

Speaking at the 2008 College Graduation, Platt encouraged outgoing students to "follow their heart," as he did when no-budget projects became box office hits and Academy Award winners. Platt credited Penn and PAC for shaping his mind and heart to go after dreams that the "right people" turn down.

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"Art should never try to be popular. The public should try to make itself artistic."
Oscar Wilde

PACronyms What are all these letters??

PAC: Performing Arts Council

Managed by an Executive Board comprised of Student Chairs of each subcommittee (ACK, DAC, SMAC, and TAC-e) and Community Service Chair, and moderated by Ty

Furman, Director of the Platt Student Performing Arts House, PAC is comprised of nearly 45 groups. These groups run the gamut of diversity and affinity groups, dance, a cappella, theatre, music, comedy, and everything in between. Everything you

could want in performance art is here, and the alumni connections and resources are unrivaled among student groups.

Next time...

Next time, PACster 2012 introduces Laurie McCall, Associate Director of the Platt Student Performing Arts House.

with ONDA LATINA?? And how working with ONDA opened a new world of dance to one student.

section will spotlight multi-platinum recording artist John Legend '99, and we'll look at some of the collaborative events hosted by different subcommittees.

We'll hear from a dancer

Our Alumni of the Week

We're on the Web!

See us at:
<http://dolphin.upenn.edu/pac/>
