

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

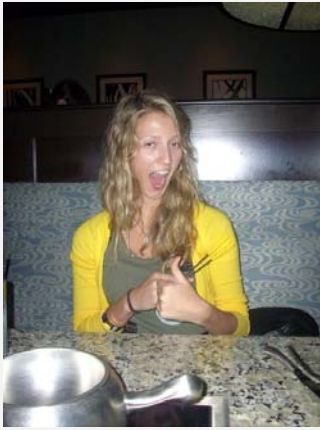
Instrumental and Vocal music span genres and styles from Jazz to Hip-Hop to Classical and back again. Finally, if you prefer to stay behind the scenes, nearly *every group* needs someone like you to handle the technical aspects of their show.

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!



Christina on PAC: *"Being on the PAC exec board... I have been amazed at all of the talent that Penn possesses in the performing arts."*

PACstArs: Christina Sindoni, DAC Chair

Christina Sindoni '09 (left) worked her way up the Dance Arts Council to the top!

Christina first began dancing at age three, and has not stopped since. Working her way through elementary school, middle school, and high school, Christina experimented with new and exciting styles of dance.

She joined Arts House Dance Company as a

freshman, a decision that would influence her entire college career. The invaluable friendships she has formed, combined with the wellness and fitness an active dancer must maintain, have provided her with a healthy, focused energy and desire to always improve.

Christina was elected Costume Director for the AHDC board two years in a row, and is currently serving

as Publicity and Alumni Chair. Having served as Co-Chair of the Emily Sachs Dance Benefit (described in PACster 2012 1.3) during her sophomore year, Christina was poised for her new position as DAC Chair and Administrative Coordinator for PAC Executive Board.

Christina is a senior in the Wharton School, but dance has defined her college experience.

PACollaboration

Jamie McCarthy '09, Chair of the Singers, Musicians, Comedians Subcommittee (SMAC), gives us the very best medicine: Laughter.

SMAC is the most varied subcommittee in PAC. Other subcommittees have groups of similar styles, at least in form if not execution. SMAC groups run the gamut, and comedy is certainly one of the most important parts of PAC. Charitable Laughter, SMAC's annual full-length collaborative performance, combines Penn's four comedy troupes for a night of fun and laughs, all for charity! The groups

include Bloomers, all-female musical comedy, Mask and Wig, all-male musical comedy, Simply Chaos, stand-up comedy, and Without a Net, improvisational comedy.

The performance is usually in the beginning of October and has benefited such community programs as PhilAbundance, a food distribution organization, and the Village of Arts and Humanities, an arts organization whose primary programs are in park building, education, performance and exhibition and renovation.

In a society that can often push individuals to

personal success and self-interest, it is inspiring to watch these students, just as bogged down by schoolwork as anyone, and rehearsing tirelessly for their own groups' shows, take a step back to donate time, money, and the timeless gift of laughter.

Stay tuned for updates about Charitable Laughter as the October date draws near!

imPACT How did joining PAC shape your college experience?

Gabrielle Banks, '10

Music is a gift that should be celebrated by all who have ears to hear it or talent to produce it. A Cappella singing celebrates music at its purest form, creating a unique sound that only A Cappella music can offer.

Being a member of The Inspiration has afforded me the opportunity to appreciate that sound and the amount of work it takes to create music that soothes the ear and warms the soul. From exploring the city to developing lifelong connections, The Inspiration has played a major role in my experience at Penn.

Our membership is bound by our shared passion for music and a legacy of celebrating

the culture behind the music-an element PAC promotes in all its groups. Performing arts at Penn provides an outlet for self-expression and discovery that fosters an education that widely expands the academic halls.

Gabrielle Banks, President of The Inspiration, is a Psychology Major in the College. The Inspiration samples styles related to Black culture from Gospel to R&B to Reggae through the unique sound of a cappella music.



Alumni of the Week

Jen Weber '00, co-founder of Penn's Strictly Funk, has moved up and onward.

Student Performing Arts and Jen Weber (left)

Jen Weber is the founder and artistic director of DECA dance theatre, an all-female hip-hop dance theater company based in Brooklyn, NY. Since founding DECA dance theatre in the Summer of 2001, Weber has choreographed five original, evening-length,

hip-hop ballets, including *I Dance* (2001), *Heroin(e)* (2002), and *Gamon* (2005), as well as the award-winning triumphs *Behind the Beat* (2004, *Time Out New York* Audience Choice Award Nomination) and *Decadance Vs. The Firebird* (2004, winner FringeNYC Outstanding Choreography Award).

The DECA Crew has performed everywhere from Jacobs Pillow to MTV and has toured all over the U.S. and abroad, including The Women's Arts International Festival in the UK (along side Patti

Smith and Urban Bush Women), B. Supreme Festival of Women in Hip-Hop (South Bank Center, London) and Bumbershoot Festival, Seattle (sharing the bill with Wu Tang Clan, Fergie, Joss Stone and John Legend).

Jen recently spoke as a panel member at the Student Performing Arts Career Symposium, hosted by the Platt House. She shared the invaluable and universal experience of the sometimes unhappy but always fruitful marriage of creativity and organization.

"No one ever said hip-hop was easy. No one ever said hip-hop was painless. And if they said it, they were lying..."

Women have not yet established a serious presence in hip-hop. Decadance theatre is out to change that."

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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??

TAC-e: Theatre Arts Council

The smallest subcommittee, TAC-e functions very differently from other groups. Whereas A Cappella, Dance, and SMAC groups each have membership and very little crossover, TAC-e groups generally have a corps of people who audition, design, and tech for several groups. The pool is huge, and people have the opportunity to work on as many shows as they can!

subcommittees, since theatre is a necessarily dualistically personal and social medium.

Kevin Rodden, TAC-e Chair, is responsible for coordinating auditions and tech interviews, and representing TAC-e on the PAC Executive Board.

Next time...

Next time, PACster 2012 introduces Ankit Dhir '10, Chair of the A Cappella Council

We'll hear from a poet who found her creative

outlet with the nationally lauded Excelano Project.

Our Alumni of the Week section will spotlight comedic genius Paul Provenza, and we'll hear

about even more community service opportunities related to the performing arts.

Feedback!

Have a great idea for an article that you'd like to see or a topic YOU want to learn more about? Let us know!

We'd love to hear what you have to say! Contact us at pacexec@gmail.com and let us know how you feel about the PACster 2012 Newsletter!

We're on the Web!

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