

Platt Student Performing Arts House

Performing Arts!

If you've received this before, skip to page 2!

Individual Highlights

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| PACstArs | 2 |
| PACollaboration | 2 |
| imPACt | 3 |
| Alumni of the Week | 3 |



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!



Laurie on PAC: *"I was able to combine my previous Pre-orientation experience with the Performing Arts community and help all these vibrant organizations reach their goals."*

PACstArs: Laurie McCall

Laurie McCall (left) has dedicated his time and his life to Philadelphia and Penn performing arts.

Laurie McCall has been working in the Division of University of Life at Penn since 1992 where she started as Assistant Director of New Student Orientation for the Department of Academic Support Programs. In 2007, she went to full time to work for the Platt Student Performing Arts House and

Pre-Orientation Programs. This includes maintaining the schedule and assisting PAC groups with their rehearsal space; serving as the Community Liaison to help PAC groups participate in community service activities and to re-establish the After School Arts at Penn Program. Laurie also serves as the liaison to the Department of Alumni Relations for events that utilize or serve the performing arts community. A great deal of

her time is also spent coordinating the PennQuest Pre-Orientation Program and assisting with Pennacle and PennArts as well. Laurie was just recently elected as the Chair-Elect for the Penn Professional Staff Assembly. She holds a B.S. in Education from Kutztown University and a M.A. in Communication Studies from Bloomsburg University. Laurie lives in Plymouth Meeting with her husband Jacky and children Benjamin 9 and Gracie 6.

PACollaboration

TAC-e Collaborative: Small Fall and One Acts

Every Spring, after all the shows have finished and before exams, there is a flurry around the theatre community. Another round of auditions for the TAC-e Small Fall Collaboration. Each group sends a representative to the Small Fall Board, and a show is chosen, auditions scheduled and held, and the play cast and staffed just in time for summer!

Actors learn lines over the summer and meetings are held via e-mail or IM to move things forward on Tech. Everyone comes back a few days early to start rehearsing the show and

building the set, and performances go up the first Monday and Tuesday after NSO.

After each performance, a talkback is held for actors and Board Members to answer questions for new freshmen about auditions, rehearsals, and everything in between. Recent Small Fall productions include *Dog Sees God*, *Closer*, and *The Last Five Years*.

Similarly, at the end of the Fall semester, auditions are held for the TAC-e Collaborative One-Acts Festival, in which young directors and designers go through a mentor process on the way to putting together three-four One Act plays. One Acts is a great opportunity for aspiring directors who

don't want to overload themselves by directing a full-scale production, but want to try it out and get some experience at the helm.

Lines are learned over Winter Break, rehearsals the first few weeks of Spring Semester, and performances go up at the end of January/beginning of February. Recent One-Acts include *Cyclops*, *Hidden in this Picture*, *The American Dream*, *Sure Thing*, *'Dentity Crisis*, and many more!

SMALL FALL 2008:

12 Angry Jurors by Reginald Rose

Sept 8 & 9 Houston Hall Auditorium

imPACT How did joining PAC shape your college experience?

Andrew Reich '09

It's hard to imagine Penn without the performing arts. I joined The Mask and Wig Club as a freshman and have been playing alto sax in the band ever since. From our sketch comedy shows to our charity ball to our national tour and our spring fling performance, we're always up to something. Wig isn't just an outlet for my creative side—it's provided me with my very best friends at Penn.

The performing arts community here is really second to none, whether you're an actor or a singer; a dancer, an instrumentalist, or a comedian. No matter what you do, the Performing Arts Council will provide you with

the opportunities you need. I remember performing this year with the Mask and Wig Band at PAC's annual party, and seeing all the groups together—it really made me appreciate how close we are. We're students from all kinds of backgrounds, studying everything from business to biology. We just happen to have one thing in common—we love to perform!

Andrew Reich, Chairman of the Mask and Wig Club, is a Senior Double Major in Political Science and Communication & Public Service, and a Benjamin Franklin Scholar.



Alumni of the Week

John Legend '99:
Heaven Only Knows

Multiple Grammy-winner John Legend (left) has grown as an entertainer and musician.

John Legend (Stephens) grew up in Ohio, surrounded by every musical influence from gospel to hip-hop. While attending Penn (as an English Major), Legend found time to make his own music, whether it

was recording his own albums, performing at talent shows or with Counterparts Jazz A Cappella, or directing the choir at a local church. In fact, just months before he began work on *Get Lifted*, Legend finally ended a nine-year tenure as music and choir director of Bethel A.M.E. Church in northeastern Pennsylvania.

In 1998, John got his first taste of success, playing piano on "Everything is Everything," off Lauryn Hill's multiple-Grammy

winning album, *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*, followed by success as a part of Kanye West's creative team, appearing on albums by Talib Kweli, Common, Mary J. Blige, and on West's 2004 breakthrough *The College Dropout*.

Today, he's an artist who proves that, even in an age of expediency and crass commercialism, real talent not only still matters but will be acknowledged.

Reproduced from JohnLegend.com Biography.

"I think I'm happier, not just because of winning Grammys and selling records, but because it's really fulfilling to have all these things happen with something you love to do."

Platt SPA House

160 Stouffer Commons
3702 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

E-mail

Pacexec@gmail.com

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

Oscar Wilde

PACronyms What are all these letters??

SAC: Student Activities Council

One of Penn's six branches of undergraduate student government. SAC exists to fund, supervise and promote cooperation between student run organizations. SAC also represents the interests of

student activities to the Undergraduate Assembly and to the University administration.

In addition to funding member groups, SAC also provides the following resources for all student groups on campus:
Campus Events in the Daily

Pennsylvanian, banner poles and tables available for rent in the Office of Student Life, Campus Express activities mailing, tables at the NSO activities.

The SAC General Body is made up of about 200 student groups and is managed by an 8-person Executive Committee.

Next time...

Next time, PACster 2012 introduces Peter Whinnery, Technical Director of Student Performing Arts.

We'll hear from a dancer who found a calling that changed her ideas about dance and made her a leader.

Our Alumni of the Week section will spotlight Elizabeth Banks '96, star of films such as *Invincible* and *40 Year Old Virgin*.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://dolphin.upenn.edu/pac/>

