

Performing Arts!

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

Individual Highlights

PACstArs	2
Community Service	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!



Ankit Dhir '10 crooning to droves of adoring fans during a Penn Masala performance.

PACstArs: Ankit Dhir, ACK Chair

Ankit Dhir '10 (left) has moved on from simple performance to Chair of the A Cappella Council.

Ankit Dhir is a Junior Finance and Management Major in the Wharton School. Aside from his business coursework, Ankit has also dedicated his time at Penn to performing arts.

He is currently involved in the performing arts

community through his involvement in Penn Masala, the world's first and premier South Asian a cappella group, internationally lauded for its faithful and original musicality and style.

As ACK Chair, Ankit not only represents the interests of the a cappella community to the rest of PAC Executive Board, but also works as Financial Coordinator for Exec,

helping all PAC groups manage their finances and keeping the PAC General Body informed on relevant external issues.

This marriage of Finance and Performing Arts plays to Ankit's organizational strengths perfectly, and his dedication to ACK and PAC shines through.

"We Only Live to Serve"

Ellie Barr '09, Community Service Chair, on the many opportunities for Community outreach among performing arts groups at Penn.

By attending an urban university, Penn students have many convenient and unique opportunities to engage with the local West Philadelphia community. Many great service opportunities are available for Penn students who want to share the arts with local students whose schools have limited or no arts funding.

PAC's After School Arts Program brings students from local middle and high schools to the Platt House for exposure to and instruction in many

types of performing arts. Penn students volunteer to work with the participants as dance instructors, acting coaches, vocal coaches, and music teachers for a few hours each week. The program not only exposes local students to new areas of the performing arts, but also promotes a fun and supportive environment for self-expression and exploration. Each semester the program culminates in a unique performance by the participants.

The PAC at West Philadelphia High School Program brings PAC groups to perform for the students at West Philly High each semester. The groups also have the option to teach a workshop based on their performance style to a smaller group of students after the performance.

This program not only gives PAC groups the opportunity to perform for a broader audience, but also allows them to share their passion for performing with the local community.

PAC also has a ticket donation program which allows groups to donate tickets to their shows to local community organizations. Last year the program donated over 600 tickets to Philadelphia charities.

In addition to these PAC-wide service opportunities, many groups participate in other community service such as performing at charity events on and off campus, teaching dance in local schools, and hosting a summer band camp for area musicians.

imPACT How did joining PAC shape your college experience?

Alysia Harris, '10

Being a member of the performing arts community at Penn has definitely augmented my college experience in a significant way. During my time here, not only has Excelano Project become a nationally renowned spoken word collective, but it has also introduced me to my closest friends at college. We write together, and because writing is such a personal activity, I never feel alienated.

Penn is a big place and it's easy to get lost in the crowds and the rows of identical leggings and sweatshirts, Wharton suits, and polka-dot rain boots. Yet, I always have a group of poets who I can talk to, who do not judge me, and who listen and give constructive advice. Excelano Project has also influenced my life goals, as I soon hope to be a published poet. People who tell you that extracurriculars are a waste of time are wrong. It

is because of my time with EP, that I know what gives me true fulfillment. Without PAC and EP, I feel as though my college experience would be rather lack-luster. The skills, the memories, and the friends that I have made through this performing arts organization will be with me for the rest of my life.

Alysia Harris, Director of the Excelano Project, is a Junior Linguistics Major in the College. Excelano Project is a nationally recognized Spoken Word performance group.



Alumni of the Week

*Paul Provenza's rise to **Aristocracy**.*

Student Performing Arts and Paul Provenza '79 (left)

Born and raised in New York City, Provenza graduated from the prestigious Bronx High School of Science in 1975. Even before he graduated, Provenza was writing and performing standup comedy. He wrote radio shows, acted

in school plays, and begged his way on stage at a local nightclub.

After high school, Provenza went on to the University of Pennsylvania, but continued to perform standup on weekends. He performed with the Mask and Wig Club and graduated with the first Theatre Arts degree in the history of the university, and then continued his studies in London with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Since then, he has done everything from Shakespeare in London to specials on Comedy Central.

Paul recently returned to his alma mater as a special speaker and host for an Improv Workshop for the Mask and Wig Club's ComFest '06.

Alongside his theatre and film acting careers, Paul has also directed for stage and screen, most notably the critically acclaimed celebration of obscenity *The Aristocrats*, a documentary about the history of one of the most widely told jokes among comedians.

*"At one point during a screening of **The Aristocrats**, this girl slaps her arm rest and goes, "That's it!" and grabs her boyfriend and leaves. It was loud enough so that most of the people in the audience heard it, and it was hilarious. The rest of the movie was doubly as funny."*

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??

SMAC: Singers, Musicians, Comedians

Out of the four subdivisions of PAC, SMAC is the most diverse. Consisting of 11 unique groups, this subcommittee provides students with various opportunities for self-expression,

whether through vocal performance, instrumentation, comedic repartee, or spoken word.

This hodgepodge of groups creates an extraordinary community, providing a chance to learn about groups that are different

from your own and perhaps become involved in new creative outlets.

Jamie McCarthy, Chair of SMAC, is responsible for coordinating groups through monthly meetings, as well as representing SMAC on the PAC Executive Board.

Next time...

Next time, PACster 2012 introduces Kevin Rodden '09, Chair of the Theatre Arts Council.

We'll hear from a performing arts

Renaissance Man, a trained dancer in Glee Club, Singers, and TAC-e.

Our Alumni of the Week section will spotlight award-winning recording

artist **Gabriel Mann**, and we'll hear about **Bacchanal**, the PAC end-of-the-year blowout held in Platt House!

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:
www.dolphin.upenn.edu/pac