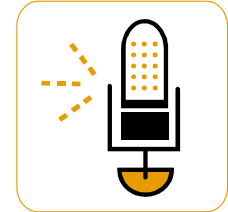


Platt Student Performing Arts House

Performing Arts!

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



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.

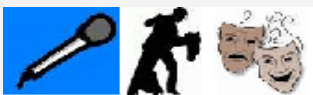
Each type of group is collected into a subcommittee with similar groups and each subcommittee elects a chair to serve on the PAC Executive Board, along with a Community Service Chair elected from the general body. These five student leaders manage inter-group communications, scheduling, recruitment,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

Individual Highlights

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| PACstArs | 2 |
| Dionysian Revelry | 2 |
| imPACt | 3 |
| Alumni of the Week | 3 |





Kevin on PAC: "I owe a lot to Singers for first getting me involved with PAC. But TAC-e made me what I am and saw in me a leader."

PACstArs: Kevin Rodden, TAC-e Chair

Kevin Rodden '09 (left) was always tacky. But now - He's TAC-e.

Ever since being recruited into the musical *Bye Bye Birdie* his sophomore year of high school, Kevin has felt a deep connection to the stage.

Kevin performed for the next three years, still unsure if the theatre could be his passion. When he arrived on campus, he joined Penn Singers Light Opera

Company, not realizing that beyond this group stretched the theatrical breadth of the Theatre Arts Council. He pledged the fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) his freshman spring, still unsure where he wanted to make his mark on this campus. The following semester, Penn Players produced *West Side Story*, casting Kevin as **Action**. He never looked back.

Still in Penn Singers as well,

Kevin sates his musical appetite through his ensemble work in the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and Players' fall musical (not to mention the occasional FLING), and bares his acting chops on the TAC-e main stage all semester long.

Kevin is a Political Science Major, with a Theatre Minor. He is still active in SAE, serving on the Judicial Inquiries Board. In addition to TAC-e Chair, Kevin is also Communications Coordinator for PAC Exec.

A Different Kind of Greek Party

At the end of every year, PAC throws a send-off bash, BACCHANAL.

During reading days in the spring, after two semesters of studying, long Red Bull-fueled cram sessions, group meetings and presentations, the Performing Arts Council has a party. But party doesn't quite describe all that is Bacchanal.

For the first time ever, this past year Bacchanal was held in the Platt Student Performing Arts House, featuring its state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems, the Mask and Wig Band, and snacks for

everyone. Best of all, admission was FREE for anyone involved in the Performing Arts.

Organized by the PAC Executive board under the leadership of the Community Coordinator, Bacchanal celebrates our artistic heritage as well as our socially vibrant lifestyle. There is no dress code, and this year the "guests" included Paris Hilton, a Victoria's Secret Ange, and the entire racing field from Mario Kart, as well as less wild ensembles.

As the semester concludes and finals loom in the week to come, Bacchanal offers an

opportunity for members of the many PAC groups to celebrate their hard work by getting together one last time before finals and summer internships.

Bacchanal also enriches the PAC community, providing a chance for the entire community to celebrate. This end-of-the-year gathering provides all members of PAC with an opportunity to embrace the culture of performance, whether dance, theatre, a cappella, music, comedy or spoken word.

imPACT How did joining PAC shape your college experience?

Patrick Wolff '09

I came to Penn already loving the stage. However, through the various outlets of performing that I pursued once I arrived, this love was broadened and intensified tenfold. Penn is not quite renowned as a national performing arts powerhouse, but by all means it should be. I have never heard of an institution that offers as much of a wide and varied set of artistic opportunities. And the sheer number of performing arts groups and programs does not at all water down the quality.

Rather, Penn is home to groups that receive both national and worldwide acclaim. Indeed, one of the proudest moments of my performing arts career was being stopped by several sets of

strangers and told after a show that my group's performance had rivaled and surpassed that of the professional Broadway casts that they had seen in New York. I am absolutely proud to have been a part of the shows, groups and performances that I have, and it thrills me that PAC offers the array of opportunities that it does. Because of this, so many individuals are able to

Patrick Wolff, a Senior Biological Basis of Behavior Major, serves as Business Manager for Penn Singers, where he has performed since his Freshman Spring. He is also a member of Penn Glee Club and has appeared in several TAC-e musicals, including Grease and West Side Story.



Alumni of the Week

Gabriel Mann is standing *Eight Feet Tall*

Student Performing Arts and Gabriel Mann '95 (left)

"I believe somewhere there's a vision in the dark, but I can't see unless there's someone there with a spark."

Prolific Singer/songwriter/composer Gabriel Mann has five solo albums to his credit, and has done just about everything there is to do in music. He produced Sara Bareilles' "Careful Confessions," wrote and sang most of the songs for Fox's "Arrested Development," supported Alanis Morissette's 2005 European tour and Jamie Cullum in the States, was

featured vocalist in "Office Space," and has opened for the Rolling Stones, Glenn Tillbrook, Guster, Hanson, Lisa Loeb, and Michael Penn. As a composer, Mann has written scores for the "Spyro" series of video games, as well as the recent "F.E.A.R." franchise and the critically acclaimed "TimeShift." He just finished music for the ABC comedy "Carpoolers," and is currently immersed in World War II French jazz scene while writing the score to the highly anticipated "Saboteur" from Pandemic/Electronic Arts.

Mann's songs have been licensed to "What About Brian," "The Hills," "Hidden Palms," "Carpoolers," "Real

World," "Road Rules," *American Pie 5*, *Sidney White*, *Sleepover*, *My Boss' Daughter*, "The Emmy Awards," and many others. He won Overall Grand Prize in the 2003 USA Songwriting Competition for "Lighted Up." Radio & Records named Gabriel "Artist to Watch 2005," and he's been amongst Music Connection's top 100 Unsigned Artists in Los Angeles three years running. He earned the Just Plain Folks Awards' 2nd prize (out of 25000 albums) and was a finalist in the 2007 International Songwriting Competition for "Eight Feet Tall" from his latest effort, "Tall Buildings."

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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??

DAC: Dance Arts Council

The Dance Arts Council subcommittee consists of all PAC groups whose main mission is performing in the dance genre of the

performing arts. Currently DAC consists of 13 groups with focuses ranging from classical technique to cultural dance and everything in between. Each group performs once or twice a year on campus in addition to performing

many times in the Philadelphia area and at guest performances.

Christina Sindoni '09 is the Chair of the Dance Arts Council.

Next time...

Next time, PACster 2012 introduces Jamie McCarthy, Chair of the Singers, Musicians, and Comedians subcommittee.

We'll meet the president

of Penn's all-female a cappella group, and introduce

Our Alumni of the Week section will introduce Dick Wolf, famed creator

of "Law & Order" and its spin-offs.

You'll also learn about the home of PAC, Platt Student Performing Arts 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