

Platt Student Performing Arts House

Performing Arts!

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

Individual Highlights

PACstArs	2
Subcommittee Crossover	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!



Peter Whinnery

PACstArs: Peter Whinnery

Peter Whinnery (left) is a name and a talent that stretches beyond Penn to the regional Professional theatre in Philadelphia.

Peter Whinnery received a Masters in Technical Theatre and Design from the University of Michigan. In addition to his role as Technical Advisor for Student Performing Arts at Penn

and manager of PAC Shop, Peter designs for a variety of professional groups in the Delaware Valley and is the resident designer of Philadelphia's InterAct Theatre Company. He is also a member of the Theatre Arts faculty, for which he teaches Introductory Light and Set Design, Concepts of Stage Design, and

Concepts of Lighting. Recognized throughout Philadelphia Theatre, he has been named one of the City's best lighting designers by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

PACollaborations

DAC Chair Christina Sindoni '09 describes the Dance Arts Council's Charity Collaboration

The Emily Sachs Dance Benefit is a charity dance performance that takes place every year in January in honor of the late Emily Sachs, a classical dancer at Penn and member of Arts House Dance Company who passed away from complications following an asthma attack in 1995. The show is completely student-run and usually headed by three or four student chairs who oversee the production aspects of the event. All proceeds from the show are donated to a charity with a primary mission of

asthma research. For the performance, each of the thirteen dance groups in the Dance Arts Council participates, dancing in one or two original pieces that they have choreographed. The show is intended to not only raise money for charity but also to promote a sense of community among all of the diverse dance groups on campus. It provides an excellent opportunity for all those interested in dance to see everything that the University of Pennsylvania has to offer in terms of dance from ballet to jazz to Bhangra to belly-dancing. In the past, the show has been a great success, raising about \$1,200 for the American Lung Association and bringing members of the dance community at

Penn closer together. This year will be the 13th anniversary for the show and we hope that it continues to be a tradition that all those interested in dance and the performing arts in general will continue to look forward to every year.

imPACT How did joining PAC shape your college experience?

Catherine Kane, '09

Since joining Sparks Dance Company, I have been able to not only be part of an amazing dance group but also a part of the larger performing arts community at Penn. My experiences as a dancer, choreographer, and board member have enabled me to grow as a dancer by trying new styles outside of my classical ballet background and by performing in different venues through community shows at the Ronald McDonald House, for example.

I have also had the opportunity to grow as a student leader, which has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of my time at Penn. I am certain that the connections I have made through Sparks, whether the wonderful friendships I have

made within the company or through PAC as a whole, will continue throughout the remainder of my college experience and after graduation. Overall, I credit my participation in Sparks Dance Company, and PAC, as the most rewarding experience at Penn – an experience I wish I had not waited until sophomore year to begin.

Catherine Kane, President of Sparks Dance Company, is a Senior History Major with concentration in Diplomatic History. She has choreographed and danced for Sparks for two years.



Alumni of the Week

Elizabeth Banks: Never invisible, always *Invincible*

Elizabeth Banks '96 (left)

Born Elizabeth Mitchell in Pittsfield, a small city in the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts near the New York border.

After attending college at the University of Pennsylvania, from which she graduated Magna cum Laude, she went on to attend the

Advanced Training Program at the prestigious American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, from which she graduated in 1998. She then moved to New York and worked in the theater as well as obtaining her first roles on-screen, small parts in movies and guest-star roles on television series. Seeking more screen work, Banks moved to Los Angeles and supporting roles soon came in *Seabiscuit*, the *Spiderman* series, and *40-Year Old Virgin*.

Now generally

accepted as one of the most versatile actresses in Hollywood, Banks next tackles the role of Laura Bush in Director Oliver Stone's controversial film *W*, dramatizing the presidency of George W. Bush.

She has recently turned to producing with her husband and fellow alum Max Handelman and fellow alum Todd Lieberman. Their upcoming film, *The Surrogates* stars Bruce Willis and Ving Rhames.

[On being named to People Magazine's 100 Most Beautiful list]:

"I am pretty psyched to be on the list. When they asked me if I was afraid of doing the shoot with no make-up, I said that the fact that People magazine chose me for their list of good-lookers took away a lot of my anxiety."

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??

ACK: A Cappella Council

Comprised of 12 different groups, whose missions range from comedy to South Asian to rock and contemporary, and headed by a student chair, the A Cappella I

Subcommittee has consistently provided students interested in a cappella with an outlet for their unique musicality and creativity.

The phenomenon of a cappella music has grown among college students

across the country, and ACK at the University of Pennsylvania continues to lead the pack in the quality of its groups and the diversity of its members.

Next time...

Next time, PACster 2012 introduces Ankit Dhir, Chair of the A Cappella Council described above.

We'll hear from a

member of an A Cappella group about how his perception of music was flipped on its head. Our Alumni of the Week will be Jen Weber '00, founder of her own

professional dance troupe, and we'll look at another of the collaborative events hosted by different subcommittees.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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