



A Word From The Editor

“Each day I am thankful for nights that turned into mornings, friends that turned into family, and dreams that turned into reality.”

~ Anonymous

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

The craziness of the holiday season is fast approaching with the new year just on the horizon. With the new year comes new opportunities and exciting possibilities. What will be presented to each of us? What paths will we travel and explore? What adventures lie ahead to offer guidance, growth as people - as well as artists - and the chance to develop future friendships. During these next few months it's good to take a moment and give thanks to those that have impacted our lives and made a difference.

From all of us at the Stagedoor Manor and Stagedoor Manor Studios Family, we wish you nothing but the most festive of times during the upcoming holidays. We also give the sincerest thanks to all of you - and to those that we might perhaps meet in the future - for making the magic thrive over the past 40+ years.

The performing arts has always been a place where each of us has had the distinct ability to discover numerous things, not only about ourselves, but about the world around us. It's opened the doors to wondrous explorations, offered insight to the realm of make-believe, pushed the boundaries of imagination, led us to find talents that were perhaps untouched, and even opened the doors to friendships that will last a lifetime. That's the thing that makes the world of the arts such an important element in our lives. It's ever-changing and ever-growing for all those involved and offers a simplistic escape from the stresses of everyday life.

This month we give insight into a BRAND NEW program called the **College Connection**, share an outstanding message from a Stagedoor Manor Studios student, speak with Eric Nightengale in our *Curtain Rising* section, and much more.

Wishing each of you the Happiest of Thanksgivings.

~ R. S.

REFLECTING ON MY EXPERIENCE WITH STAGEDOOR MANOR STUDIOS!

After an awesome summer at Stagedoor Manor learning and performing in *Working* (session 3), I learned that Stagedoor was coming to Boston, my home city. In October, I was fortunate enough to participate in Stagedoor's college audition workshop at Boston Center for the Arts. It was an incredible weekend intensive. I refined my vocal and acting techniques, solidified my resume, got a clearer understanding of the college process and improved my audition work. The wonderful teachers and amazing students I worked with shared so much advice and wisdom about how to be the best performer I can be. I prepared and performed two pieces at the end of the workshop, and all of the effort paid off! At the end of the month, I auditioned at Greater Boston Stage Company's Winter Festival, a youth program where hundreds of kids audition for four wonderful shows. I went into my audition with the song and monologue I had worked on during the Stagedoor weekend workshop, and got called back for two shows. A week later, I got cast in *The Addams Family* as Morticia Addams! I had taken every lesson, piece of advice and practice from Stagedoor's summer program and weekend workshop to heart, which all strengthened my audition. I am so grateful to Stagedoor and cannot wait to start working with Greater Boston Stage Company as Morticia!

Clairenne Wilson

**Student from Stagedoor Manor Studios
College Prep/Audition Musical
Workshop October 2019**



COLLEGE CONNECTION

An exciting new program for Stagedoor Manor rising Juniors & Seniors!

Stagedoor Manor considers all our students and staff as family. We're always looking for new ways to keep the connection going and continue the conversation. Helping with the process of choosing and preparing for college has always been a major goal, so Associate Producer Hayley Samen decided to make the journey official!

College Connection was created to introduce Stagedoor Manor's rising Juniors and Seniors and enrolled college alumni who have successfully traveled the distance and are eager to share their knowledge. Students (*and parents!*) have discovered that applying for college theater programs can be confusing and challenging. WHAT college, WHAT program is best for YOU, and how do you even start? Stagedoor Manor alumni will partner with currently enrolled campers and share their first-hand information and experiences. The audition process, the overwhelming number of unique programs...here is a familiar and friendly contact to talk to one-on-one.

We know that some students try and form groups on their own, to help each other out. We are trying to accelerate this process with a bit of organization and a much larger database to access. Stagedoor Manor has compiled a large list of alumni, in a variety of different colleges, willing to reach out and answer the questions of students *and* parents!

How did this idea come about?

We started to recognize the struggle that students and parents were having during our Stagedoor Manor Studios. We had an alumni panel with two days of question and answer sessions, but parents and students were hungry for more. During the conversations, students realized there were many more school options out there and needed help defining the different programs. Stagedoor kids were on their own to ask what to bring to auditions, how to slate

for auditions, where are they taking place and so much more. The college kids we had on the Stagedoor Manor Studios panel were an enormous help, so, we decided to run with it. We found an alumnus at every theater school around the country and set up a database.

We have three alumni who are our key ambassadors. David Lynch, Sarah Heidrick, and Bailey Forman, who are currently enrolled in very different programs, really helped us with the development of College Connection. They continue to help us figure out, through their experiences, what high school students need to be successful in their search.

How does it work?

It's simple! Any high school student, currently enrolled in Stagedoor Manor, can contact College Connection and ask to be partnered with alumni from several different schools. We will connect you with a college student based on school choices you are interested in, or the area you are interested in applying to. You can also have no idea what you are interested in, or even how to get started, and we can find a match for you for that as well. They can help guide you through the process.

Stagedoor enrolled high school age students will receive a "Welcome" email from Hayley Samen (hayley@stagedoormanor.com) with a form to fill out if you have interest in The Connection.

You return the info, by email, to Hayley, and she searches her College Alumni database to match you up! **There are a list of Guidelines both sides of the match will follow.** This information will be sent to you if you express interest.

NOTE TO PARENTS: Hearing all the details from a peer can be easier than hearing from an adult. Our college alumni share the bond of Stagedoor and were hand-picked for their enthusiasm, maturity, and kindness. They are *very* excited to be part of this program!

How do college students get involved?

We sent out individual invitations to those alumni we thought would be a good fit, but if others are interested, PLEASE contact us at hayley@stagedoormanor.com. We are still looking for Stagedoor alumni willing to be available, compassionate, and non-competitive. Also, feel welcome to suggest Stagedoor friends you think would be perfect.

What do you see for College Connection in the future?

We hope to develop, with the input of students and families, additional ways to be helpful with this program and make it grow. Get Involved! There are ongoing plans to organize talk-back sessions and mixers in New York and Boston to help us stay current and connected.

Stagedoor Manor has been supporting our college-bound students for years with events at camp and one-on-one chats. **College Connection** hopes to take a giant leap and create a network that reaches far into the future. We're excited!



WE'RE MOVING TO BOSTON!



Studio 1

College Prep Musical Workshop

(Ages 10-18)

October 4 - 6, 2019

Sing • Act • Prepare

Students will be immersed in an intense college preparation course that will provide them guidance towards their future in the arts. It will take their songs and monologues to the next level. Our students will also experience a musical theatre dance portion of the workshop.



Studio 2

Playwrights & Master Acting Workshop

(Ages 10-18)

January 10 - 12, 2020

Develop • Direct • Act

Writers will get the opportunity to create, rehearse and present an original play in just 3 days. Our acting students will participate in a master class exploring character development before being cast in the plays.

NOTE: ALL WRITER SLOTS ARE FULL!

ACTING SLOTS STILL AVAILABLE!!



2019-2020 Studio Workshops

We're not just about Summer anymore!

ALL STUDIOS WILL BE HELD AT THE BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS ~ SPACES FOR ALL WORKSHOPS ARE LIMITED

DON'T MISS OUT! REGISTER NOW AT StagedoorManorStudios.com

CURTAIN RISING



From being a soprano soloist, Artistic Director, Dramaturg, Designer, Clowning teacher, published playwright and much more, Eric Nightengale is a man who wears many hats. This month he takes time out of his busy schedule to chat about who influenced him the most, his involvement in Anthropological Theatricals, the hardest part of writing a play and the show he presented in his best friends attic.



Tell us a little bit about where you grew up and where you went to school.

I was born in New York City, and have always considered myself a New Yorker. But at age nine my family moved to Indiana, so I spent my teenage years in the Midwest. I

attended Julliard and the Indiana University School of Music as a double-bass player. When my teacher announced he would no longer keep me as a student because I wasn't practicing enough I left for New York and ended up working at Circle Repertory Theatre. Eventually I returned to I.U. to finish my degree, then spent a few years running a theater company in Chicago, got married, and returned to New York to get my MFA at Brooklyn College.

You've been involved in the performing arts industry for quite some time now. When did you discover that this was something you wanted to pursue as a career?

I was a soprano soloist as a young boy and spent time singing opera in some very highfalutin places until puberty ruined my voice. I caught the theater

bug backstage waiting to sing the offstage Shepard Boy solo that opens Act III in Tosca. It's fair to say that as a performer I peaked in my professional career when I was eleven years old.

Who are some of your biggest influences, or was there someone specific in the past that inspired you?

My high school English teacher, Tom Weatherston, ran the after-school theatre program which gave me an identity and a purpose. Also, I had a big crush on Tiffany Miller in the sixth grade, so I cast her as Lucy in Dracula, which was presented in my best friend's attic. That was the first play I directed, so I'm thinking Tiffany bears a lot of responsibility for my career choice.

You're currently the co-artistic director for Anthropological Theatricals. Can you tell us a little bit more about that?

Anthropological Theatricals is an artists' collective that draws inspiration from clown work and uses it as a basis for developing new collaboratively devised theatrical pieces. I started it with Jean



Interview concludes on following page

Taylor, a friend I met in college. We now teach college classes together. I got interested in clown work when I agreed to teach a clown class at Stagedoor Manor even though I knew nothing about clowning whatsoever (this was a million years ago when standards were not as high as they are now).

You've worn many different hats in this industry. Do you find yourself being more passionate about one specific aspect of theatre over others? Or do you prefer to balance your time between all of them?

I think of myself as a director, but I will happily take on any job in the process where I can be useful. One thing feeds into another — my work as a dramaturg and designer impacts the way I direct, and vice versa. But really, the bottom line is that I just want to work in the theatre — any job that allows me to spend my day in a rehearsal room.



You've published several plays/scripts, been involved in numerous festivals and much more. When it comes to writing/playwriting, what would you say are some of the biggest challenges you find yourself facing when you're working on a piece?

Seeing the forest for the trees — It's very easy to get lost in the details. There are so many moving parts when working on a new piece, so many opportunities to go down the rabbit hole. It's easy to obsess about one problem to the detriment of the bigger whole. In those moments I have to remind myself where I am going and why I want to get there — to keep my eyes on the prize and honor the gods of structure: What is the story that we are telling? How does it begin? How does it end? And what or who is transformed... ending differently

than they started?

You've been part of the Stagedoor Manor Studios Playwriting Fest for the past several years now. What do you feel is the greatest piece of advice you can offer to those individuals out there that want to get started in the world of playwriting?

Just. Keep. Writing. We learn by doing. And for a writer, doing is writing. If you are not writing, you are not a writer. The hardest thing is to get started. The next hardest thing is to keep going. Re-writing also is very hard. Basically, it's all just really hard and there's no way to get better at it except by just doing it over and over again. I know I'm making it sound like torture (and sometimes it really does feel that way), but there is nothing more rewarding than figuring out how to put what's inside your head and heart onto a piece of paper in a way that impacts other people.

What are some of the current projects you're working on?

I'm directing a new musical about a group of immigrants in a detention center in Queens, NY who are performing a Korean folktale called *The Waitress and the Robber* — I'm working with a cast that is half-Korean and half-American. The piece will be performed in Seoul and in New York next year.

I'm also working on a play about falling, based on Annie Edson Taylor, the first person to survive going over Niagara Falls in a barrel.

And the first season of a podcast I've directed, called "THE CHRONICLES OF WALLACE SPRAGUE, DOG PSYCHIATRIST," is now available in all the places you usually go to for podcasts.

If you had to start all over, what job/career would you want to do?

A shoe salesman. I think I'd really be good at that.





**A TOTAL
THEATRE
IMMERSION!**

2020 SESSIONS

Session 1

June 15 - July 5, 2020

Session 2

July 6 - July 26, 2020

Session 3

July 27 - August 16, 2020

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A Broadway Thanksgiving: Recipes to Stop the Show

Originally posted By Playbill Staff
at playbill.com on Nov 26, 2013
Photo of Victoria Clark by Denise Winters

Looking to add a little bit of showbiz flair to your holiday hosting this season? Members of the theatre community share their treasured Thanksgiving recipes, which are sure to elicit a standing ovation from your guests.



**Award winner Victoria Clark's
Company Mac and Cheese**

I made this up over the phone with my mom in 2011 for an informal family dinner, but it has since become a Thanksgiving staple! Very fast and easy. Big hit, loved by all.

Ingredients:

16 oz (1 box) elbow macaroni
1 stick of butter
½ cup flour
½ small onion, grated
1 teaspoon minced garlic
ground white pepper

1 teaspoon ground mustard

5 cups lowfat milk

**4 cups lowfat or regular grated mild and sharp cheddar
cheese**

Fresh chives

Italian bread crumbs

Cook macaroni 6-8 minutes in salted water after it first comes to a boil. To make the sauce, melt the butter then stir in the flour, grated onion, garlic, mustard, and pepper.

- Gradually stir in milk until thick and bubbly. Remove from heat. Add 2 ½ c-3 c of the grated cheese, and stir in until melted and smooth. Stir in macaroni until well mixed, and pour into buttered casserole dish.
- Chop chives very fine and sprinkle over the top of the macaroni. Then add a thin layer of
- Italian bread crumbs. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top, and finish with another thin layer of bread crumbs.
- Bake at 375 until hot and bubbly, about 40 minutes. Let it sit for at least 10 minutes before serving.

Click [HERE](#) to see all the delicious recipes

GHOST LIGHT WRAP UP



LOOKING AHEAD

AT WHAT TO EXPECT
IN OUR UPCOMING ISSUES.

Closing in on the New Year

A look at our next Studios
Workshop staff

A Brand New Star Spotlight

Alumni News & Updates

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH ALL THINGS
STAGEDOOR MANOR STUDIOS BY
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ALUMNI NEWS

See what some of our amazing
Alumni, Staff & Campers are up to!

Congratulations to Stagedoor
Camper, Kara Smyk, who came
in 1st Place for the Lower
Women's Musical Theatre -
Treble Category at NATS held
at Fredonia University.

Congratulations to Stagedoor
Camper, Olivia Corliss, who
came in 1st Place in the category
24-1 Youth Musical Theater
Treble Voice at NATS - North
Carolina Chapter.

Congrats to Stagedoor Camper,
Ava Satasi, cast as Ariel in the
Bermuda High School
production of *The Little
Mermaid*.

Congrats to Stagedoor Camper,
Gray McKinnerney, who will be
assistant directing the
production of *Spring
Awakening* at St. Andrews
School in Austin, TX.

Congrats to Brooke Radosevich
on her role as Agnes Evans in
She Kills Monsters.



HAVE EXCITING UPDATES?

Drop us an email at:
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and tell us what you're up to.
Perhaps you may see your name
in an issue of an upcoming
Newsletter.



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