



News Release

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Keuka College Drama Club, Director Awarded at Theatre Festival

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—The Arion Players are so dramatic.

And it's a good thing.

The group, formerly known as the Keuka College Drama Club, was the only college production company among six community theatre groups selected to perform at the Theatre Association of New York State (TANYS) festival Nov. 19-21 at Cayuga Community College in Auburn.



The Players performed two one-act plays—*The Universal Language* and *Phillip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread*—from David Ives' *All in the Timing*, its fall theatre production performed at the College in October, which was produced in conjunction with The Division of Fine Arts and Humanities.

“TANYS is one of the very few state theatre organizations to send adjudicators to your site to see the production,” said Assistant Professor of Theatre Mark Wenderlich, who directed *All in the Timing*. “They recommend [the production] to go to the festival and then, the last weekend in October, they all gather in the same place and hash out exactly which productions will be invited. The adjudicators, all of whom have different tastes, then chose ‘the best of the best’ in both long play (over 60 minutes) and short play (under 60 minutes) categories.”

The festival featured two full-length productions and eight short pieces, including the two from Keuka College, as well as several workshops and demonstrations.

Awards were also handed out at the festival to all of the production companies chosen to perform at the festival, including The Arion Players. Wenderlich received a Merit Award for his design of the poster used to promote the play.

TANYS, a non-profit organization, is the primary voice of non-professional and educational theatre in the Empire State. It nurtures and supports the growth of all aspects of the craft of theatre, thereby enriching theatrical experiences for participants and audiences throughout the state.

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Members of the cast who performed at the festival included: Aaron Petit, a senior political science/history major from Bolivar; Brandon Barile, a senior English major from Mastic Beach;

Heather Jensen, a freshman biology major from Lansing, N.C.; Jolene Evans, a freshman English major from Waterloo; Jordon Schlabach, a senior English major from East Aurora; Meghan Bartholomew, a freshman unified childhood/special education major from Tully; and Pamela Waterman, a freshman unified childhood/special education major from Port Byron.

Members of the crew who participated in the festival included: Jordan Kashuba, a senior adolescent mathematics education major from Marathon; Stephanie Scott, a senior social work major from Chester, Vt.; and Amanda Fralick, a senior organizational communication major from Watertown. Shanna Upright, a freshman theatre major from Mount Morris, was the stage manager, and Heidi Reynolds, a freshman criminology/criminal justice major from New Boston, N.H., was the assistant major.

Keuka College has offered a major in theatre and drama since fall 2003.