



RHYTHMS

ELLINGTON DOES DREAMGIRLS

Following on its hugely successful, sold-out performances of The Wiz, Duke Ellington is embarking on another "wow" production -- **DREAMGIRLS**. Dates for the show run between December 2nd through 18th with a **special gala night on December 9th** featuring a celebrity we can't reveal just yet! We expect nothing less than excellence from our young talented students and a sold-out run. Proceeds will go directly to support the Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

Sponsorship information and Gala Night tickets are now available through the Ellington Fund. For details, call 202-333-2555 or email info@ellingtonarts.org.

This will be a major production and thus the only performance that will be taking place in the Fall.

*For a more detailed and up-to-date calendar of events and precise dates and times for Dreamgirls keep checking www.ellingtonschool.org or call the Box Office at **202.337.4825***

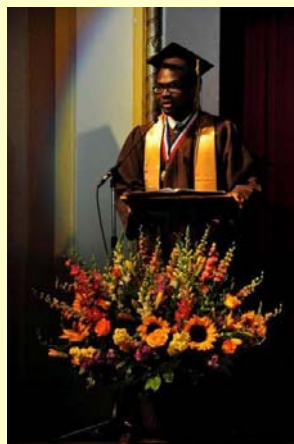
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TO MAKE A DONATION....

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graduation and Scholarships



Ellington continues to maintain its 98% graduation rate as 105 of our seniors head out this fall to great institutions throughout the nation. This year graduates do us proud as always, receiving over \$4 million in scholarships. Much thanks to Ellington's hardworking faculty and staff, and especially to our counselors who provide the support system for getting our students into the colleges of their choice. Good luck class of 2010!

Picture:

Valedictorian, Clifton Williams

Young Ellington Playwright Wins Competition

"A Brown Penny," a play written by senior Allantra Lewis, co-won the annual Horwitz prize of \$750 and a chance to see her play read by professional actors. The reading took place in the Ellington Theatre and with professional readers. It was hard to believe that "A Brown Penny" came from a high school student and many in the audience thought it was ready for prime time. Kudos to Allantra. We wish her luck in her future endeavors and look forward to more plays! Ellen Winter's "The Garden" will be presented in the near future.

Grants

- A huge thank you goes to the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation in Los Angeles which has renewed its three-year \$8,000 per year commitment to support Ellington's Vocal Jazz program. When we met Fran Morris-Rosman, executive director of the Foundation, the first thing she asked was about our vocal jazz program. Much to her surprise, we didn't have one! Thus the birth of Ella's Fella's, Ellington's vocal and instrumental elective. Thanks Fran!

- The Ellington Fund is proud of its new relationship with the Capital Area Links, which recently announced the Links Scholarship totaling \$22,000 awarded to two Ellington students. Board member Annie Whatley, a member of the Links, has been bringing some of her sisters to Ellington productions over the past few years, and they are excited to be welcomed into the Ellington Family and provide these scholarships to aspiring young Ellington artists.

Was that Really the First Lady Sitting in the Audience at Ellington?



On Thursday, June 24 Ellington was abuzz with excitement. Michelle Obama, the First Lady of the United States, and Svetlana Medvedeva, the First Lady of Russia attended student performances by Ellington's Dance Department, Show Choir and Opera Workshop. Also performing that day were the Jazz Ensemble, the String Virtuosi and pianist Joshua Jenkins. The Technical Design and Production Department provided support for the event. The performance, requested by Mrs. Obama, was a thank you to the Russian First Lady, who had taken Mrs. Obama to the ballet on her recent visit to Russia. Both First Ladies are true advocates of arts and education and encouraged our young artists to continue with their craft, and work towards a future of understanding and international cooperation! That's what Ellington works towards everyday as we provide students an arts education and prepare them to become responsible citizens of the world.

Picture: *Michelle Obama and Svetlana Medvedeva with Ellington dancers*

William and Midori Atkins Host Student Art Auction and Friendraiser



On July 30th, William and Midori Atkins hosted a friendraiser at their home. This event was a thank you to some of our major donors and a way of introducing others to Ellington. The event was well attended and guests were entertained by students, Roy Patten (Vocalist) and Joshua Jenkins (pianist) and were given the opportunity to bid on works created by students in the Visual Arts department. The art auction was a huge success and sold out in less than an hour! Thank you to those who invested in art and who give generously to support the students.

Picture:

On the Left: William Atkins, Treasurer of the Ellington Fund Board; Ellen Copley, Executive Director of the Ellington Fund; and Midori Atkins, at the Friendraiser

On the right: Paul and Theresa Balaran (Ellington Fund Board member), with their newly purchased print by Angel Perez.

Ellington's Own Voted Miss DC's Outstanding Teen for 2010!

Vocal junior Julia Braxton, was recently crowned Miss DC's Outstanding Teen 2010. We are proud of her achievement and glad she represents our goal of teaching students responsibility and awareness of others in their communities and throughout the world at large. Julia's platform focuses on health issues affecting young people. We wish her luck as she goes on to compete for the title of Miss America's Outstanding Teen in Orlando, Florida in August.



Picture: Julia Braxton, Miss DC's Outstanding Teen 2010

TDP Students Intern at Feld In Florida

For the third consecutive year, six student artists from Duke Ellington's Technical Design and Production department were selected to attend the Feld Entertainment/Duke Ellington School of the Arts Internship program held in Palmetto, Florida. Feld Entertainment sponsors this week-long learning opportunity in order to nurture the next generation of theater professionals by providing the highest standard of training through immersion in the art and business of producing live entertainment.

Each day featured a new topic of discussion from: costumes to scenic design and construction to management. Interns were required to work alongside seasoned professionals to learn some of the "tricks of the trade". At the conclusion of each day's workshop interns are assigned a culminating project as part of their evaluation and on the final day receive diplomas.



Reflecting on the 2010 Internship experience, TDP instructor Ronald Lee Newman says, "I notice that collectively the skill sets and technical knowledge of the Feld interns improves each year. The 2010 interns were more engaged and active during each workshop and grasped the lessons and techniques very quickly". When queried about favorite internship workshops Mr. Newman said, "the interns really enjoyed the hands-on experience of

working in the Hagenbeck Wallace set construction shop, the welding shop, and the Pyrotechnique session/demonstration".

Our deepest gratitude to Feld Entertainment and to Kenneth and Bonnie. Feld for their continued support of Ellington!

Picture: 2010 Feld interns at final awards ceremony

TEDx: Ideas Worth Spreading

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. The annual TED conference invites the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes. Their talks are then made available, free at TED.com. On Sunday, July 11, 2010 TEDxPennQuarter came to The Newseum to share the TED experience with Washington, DC. Unique to TedxPennQaurter was the Innovation Lounge, a creative workspace outside of the main speaker room that housed innovators tasked with creating a work product by the end of the day that could be shared with conference attendees. Students from Duke Ellington's Visual Arts and Literary Media Communications departments joined other innovators as they painted, sketched, filmed and wrote about the events of the day. The students were challenged to apply their artistic skills to an on the fly artistic production. The students did not disappoint, at day's end their artwork was unveiled and a short documentary now lives at www.tedx pennquarter.com!



Picture: *Cassandra Koepecky (right) and Christian Baez (left) creating in the TEDxPenn Quarter Innovation Lounge*

Anderson Ranch Hosts Ellington Artists



Four faculty-selected Ellington Visual Arts students participated in this year's program at Anderson Ranch in Aspen, Colorado sponsored by the law firm of Dickstein Shapiro. This is the tenth year the Firm has sponsored this program for Ellington students. Led by Bill Harris from Ellington, the group arrived on June 20th for two weeks of intensive arts training in varied media taught by well-known, established artists. Emma Quander, Cara Devoe, Angel Perez, Miles Thomas and Harris participated in classes ranging from Photographic Encaustic Collage to Creating Volume and Form in Wood. Each year our students embark on a journey to "uncover, develop and stretch their creative spirits," but this year our students were able to give back as they donated prints that were auctioned off to help support the Anderson Ranch Scholarship Fund.

Picture: *Cara Devoe on the lathe at the Anderson Ranch*

A Broadway Celebration: Ellington Students in Performance at the White House



Tune-in to PBS on **Wednesday, October 20, 2010** at 9:00 p.m. EST to see Ellington alumni Roy Patten, Jr., Kenneth Washington, Jr., Chelsea D. Harrison, Jasmine Andrews and Keziah John-Paul who will perform "You Can't Stop the Beat" from Hairspray with members of Joy of Motion Dance Center's companies. The hour-long show was taped July 19, 2010 as part of the Emmy Award-nominated PBS In Performance at the White House series

In addition to our Ellington alumni, several Broadway artists, including Elaine Stritch, Nathan Lane, Idina Menzel, Brian d'Arcy James,

Audra McDonald, Chad Kimball, Marvin Hamlisch, Karen Olivo, Tonya Pinkins, and Assata Alston will also be featured.

Be sure to Save the Date!

Picture: (left to right) Kenny Washington, Chelsea Harrison, Broadway director, George C. Wolfe, Keziah John-Paul and Roy Patten, Jr. rehearsing at the White House (July 19, 2010)

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