

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE ENSEMBLE STATUS REPORT
A Recommendation

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs/Finance and Administration

2. **Introduction:** The Theatre Ensemble at Meadow Brook Theatre (TTE) and the Theatre Program of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD) at Oakland University (University) continue to collaborate. Areas of cooperation and future planning have brought many opportunities to current and former students of the department, as well as faculty. Below are some examples of the involvement of the faculty, staff and students from MTD with TTE since last year's status report.

3. **Previous Board Action:** On March 14, 2008, in response to TTE's request for extension of its 2003 Board of Trustees (Board) approved lease with the University, the University's Vice President for Finance and Administration and the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, in consultation with Board leadership, executed a month-to-month extension that remains in effect to date. All contractual payments from TTE have been paid in a timely manner.

4. **Budget Implications:** As of April 30, 2009, the University has received \$77,049 in lease revenue for the current fiscal year from TTE. Total lease revenue for the year is projected to be \$85,000. The University maintains the structural buildings that house TTE, and University costs for utilities and insurance are expected to total \$55,000 for the year. Per the agreement, TTE is responsible for general maintenance and repair of the facilities.

For the five complete seasons since the inception of the lease in 2003, the University has recognized \$140,213 in net revenues from the lease.

Net revenue for the University is projected to be \$30,600 in fiscal year 2009.

5. **Educational Implications:** As described in more detail below, faculty members have worked on TTE productions; current and former students have appeared as actors in TTE productions, some have worked backstage, and some have become either full or part-time employees of TTE; TTE members have taught courses for MTD; TTE has loaned costumes and platform stock to MTD for MTD productions; and students receive discounted tickets to TTE productions.

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MTD Faculty – Full-time

Fred Love, Assistant Professor of Theatre, accepted a request for him to accompany auditions for *By Jeeves* at Meadow Brook Theatre (MBT).

MTD Faculty – Adjunct

The following faculty members have worked on productions:

Mila Govich performed several roles in *Beyond the Rainbow*.

Thomas D. Mahard was seen in last spring's school tour of *Julius Caesar* and this season's *A Christmas Carol*.

Terry W. Carpenter is the TTE associate director/resident stage manager and directed this year's *A Christmas Carol* and adapted this spring's school tour of *Sharper than a Serpent's Tooth* from the works of Shakespeare.

Dennis E. North directed *The Trip to Bountiful*.

MTD Staff

Kathy Boersma, alum and MTD Production Coordinator, worked on lighting hang and focus calls during the TTE season.

Students

The following alumni and currently enrolled students or their supporting talents have appeared on the MBT stage:

Christopher Howe (alum) played Myron Siegel in *Kong's Night Out*.

Katie Nabors (current student) played the role of Ann Darrow in *Kong's Night Out*.

Joey Bybee (current student) was in the cast of last spring's school tour of *Julius Caesar* and played the lead role of Bertie Wooster in *By Jeeves*.

Travis Walter (alum) directed *Murder by Poe* and *Beyond the Rainbow*.

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Corey Globke (alum) designed the costumes for *Murder by Poe* and *Kong's Night Out*.

Ann O'Brien (alum) was a caroler and appeared as Fred's Wife and other roles in *A Christmas Carol*.

PJ Vasquez (alum) was a caroler and played various roles and understudied others in *A Christmas Carol*. He also had the opportunity to perform Marley's Ghost, one of his understudy roles.

Caitlin Burke (alum) was Choral Director for *A Christmas Carol* and played a role in *By Jeeves*.

Allison Hunt (alum) played a role in *By Jeeves* and will be joining the Actors' Equity Association (AEA) because of this contract offer. AEA is the union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Sam Zepik (alum) appeared in *The Trip to Bountiful*.

Lauren Terpening Coleman (current student) acted in the ensemble of *A Christmas Carol*, understudied roles in that and all other productions of the 2008-09 main stage season (performing an understudied role in *Kong's Night Out*) and played percussion for *Beyond the Rainbow*.

Katherine M. Fox (alum) played reeds for *Nunsense* last May and for *Beyond the Rainbow* this season.

In the past year, the following current and former students have worked on TTE productions. Some have worked with MBT's resident lighting designer, some with the audio engineer, some with the scenic artist and some worked backstage during performances. A list of these current and former students follows.

Stefan Mantyk (alum)
Andrea L. Smith (alum)
Elizabeth Reckinger Schoen (alum)
Jessica Pence (alum)
Krista Palumbo (alum)
Steven Webb (alum)
Ann McDonald O'Brien (alum)

Heather Bonner (current)
Bobby Glowacki (current)
Andrew Wilhelm (current)
Eileen Rozycki (current)
Richard Barnes (current)
Jeffery Block (current)

A number of students and MTD Technical Director **Brent Wrobel** worked the load-in of the *A Christmas Carol* set.

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Ten University alums and current students (not theatre majors) worked as Ushers and House Managers at MBT in the past year.

The following are current theatre students employed on a weekly basis by TTE: **Evan Heuker** has been employed part-time in the MBT box office, **Justin Colby** has been a part-time paid intern and **Lauren Terpening Coleman** has been a full-time paid intern this season.

The following are former students employed by TTE during the past year: **Sarah Warren**, production manager; **Travis Walter**, artistic administrator and **John Woudstra**, part-time electric staff.

In addition, **Elizabeth Reckinger Schoen** (alum) is a current member of the Board of Directors for MBT.

Meadow Brook Theatre Staff

The following are TTE members who have taught courses for the department:

Terry W. Carpenter, Stage Manager, taught Stage Management (THA 330).

In addition to on-going informal and short-term advice/assistance provided to students by TTE scene shop employees, **Adam Rager** volunteered additional time to help with the painting of MTD's set for *Bloody Bess*.

Liz Moore, TTE Costume Shop Coordinator, has been a valuable collaborator for the costume area of MTD. She has taken time out of her schedule to be a mentor to the MTD costume students.

A variety of properties were loaned to MTD for productions of *Falsettos*, as well as swords for *Bloody Bess*.

MTD loaned TTE a piano for the onstage orchestra in *Beyond the Rainbow*.

On-going Relationships

Many MTD faculty make use in classes of students attending productions at MBT.

Terry W. Carpenter, Associate Director, attends MTD's weekly Theatre Program meetings.

TTE used the Lab Theatre in Varner Hall for rehearsals over the semester break when the TTE rehearsal room was not available.

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Terry W. Carpenter holds his stage management class in the TTE rehearsal room.

Brian Kessler, TTE Technical Director and **Brent Wrobel**, MTD Technical Director are in communication on a daily basis about scene shop schedules and constantly pick up materials for each other if they are going to certain vendors.

TTE and MTD share the scene shop, tools (not consumables), vehicles, etc.

TTE and MTD have borrowed each other's body microphones.

MTD and TTE borrow each other's platform stock for productions.

TTE uses the MTD plotter in exchange for the years MTD used the TTE plotter.

TTE uses the MTD ladder and aerial work platform (Genie).

TTE and MTD continue to share use of costumes. MTD borrowed costumes from TTE for the productions of *Brenda Bly* in S08, *Trojan Women* in F08 and *Bloody Bess* in W09.

TTE Box Office staff forwards inquiries about MTD productions and displays the MTD season brochure in their lobby.

MBT is significantly highlighted as a departmental asset on posters and recruitment advertising for MTD.

There is still a student discount for TTE tickets.

Students from MTD are hired as over-hire to help build TTE productions.

Students from MTD work load-in and strike for TTE productions.

TTE loaned stanchions with velvet ropes for the Regina Carter concert in Varner.

TTE loaned display stands to the Art Department for convocation.

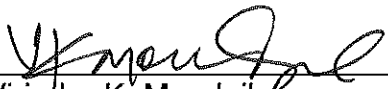
TTE has made their man-lift available and loaned matching podiums to Paul Franklin in the Center for Student Activities.

The Student Activities Board rented the MBT auditorium for their presentation of Colin Quinn's comedy concert.

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6. Personnel Implications: None
7. University Reviews/Approvals: The Meadow Brook Theatre Ensemble Status Report was reviewed and approved by the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost and the Vice President for Finance and Administration.
8. Recommendation: None
9. Attachments: None

Submitted to the President _____
on 5/22, 2009 by

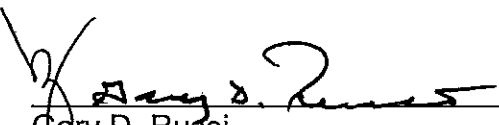


Virinder K. Moudgil
Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost



John W. Beaghan
Vice President for
Finance and Administration

Recommended on 5/24, 2009
to the Board of Trustees for Approval



Gary D. Russi
President