

Summer 2009

## **Acting His Way to Louisville**

Beth Rogers Thompson

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Zane Johnston '09, Matt Cantelon '09, Tess Malone '09 with Professor Ty Marshall

## Season ends on high note

2009 has been very successful for Linfield's theatre program. Among the accolades, Ty Marshall, professor of theatre arts, received a Faculty Excellence Certificate of Recognition for Career Achievement in Scenic Design from the Region VII Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). Linfield's production of *Crave*, directed by associate professor Janet Gupton, was a finalist at the festival.

Tess Malone '09 was KCACTF lighting design regional winner and received an honorable mention in national competition.

Matt Cantelon '09 was regional sound design winner. Malone and Cantelon were invited to participate in "Live Design" Broadway master classes in New York.

"This is three and a half days of tuition-free classes in lighting and sound with professionals from Broadway giving workshops and demonstrations," Marshall said.

"I have a ton of experience for an undergraduate because Linfield believes in its students and gives them a chance," said Malone, who has a 2009-10 lighting design internship at Seattle Repertory Theatre.

Cantelon added: "The fact that we can come into the regional festival and stack up against much larger schools, or schools with graduate students, is a really good testament to the theatre program."

### Other honors and internships include:

- Jillian Haig '10, Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts, prop artist internship;
- Afton Pilkington '09, Willamette Shakespeare Festival, costume designer;
- Kathy Ganske '69, regional meritorious achievement award, vocal coach and pianist, *Man of La Mancha*.



Zane Johnston '09 in a scene from last fall's production of *Man of La Mancha* in which he played Don Quixote.

## Acting his way to Louisville

Zane Johnston '09 popped out from below the stage in Marshall Theatre. He had been helping adjust the elaborate lighting for Linfield College Theatre's presentation of *Book of Days*, in which he played the Rev. Bobby Groves. Johnston took a short break to talk about his next major role: 2009-10 acting apprentice at the prestigious Actors Theatre of Louisville.

"Relieved to know I've got something lined up after graduation" is how Johnston modestly described his reaction to landing the apprenticeship. Then he added, "Ecstatic. This is the first choice for acting. It is unlike almost all other apprenticeships that have you work in the box office, push papers and get coffee."

Johnston is in exclusive company: Of the 2,600 actors who auditioned, only 22 were chosen, said Amy Attaway, assistant director of Actors Theatre's Apprentice/Intern Company. Its alumni include actors Timothy Busfield, who apprenticed in the 1979-80 season, and Jason Butler Harner, who was in the 1992-93 company and recently had roles in the movie *The Changeling* and the mini-series *John Adams*.

Johnston auditioned at the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival Conference, Region VII, in February at the University of Idaho. "I was really sick and had almost no voice," he remembered. "I think the thing they liked about me the most was that I was trying to be easy to work with – kind of joky, nice and fun."

Attaway concurred: "Zane impressed us with his candor and sense of humor in addition to his talent."

Johnston, who majored in theatre arts with a math minor, said his first role was in community theatre, at age 5. When he visited Linfield, theatre arts Professor Ty Marshall spotted Johnston from his office window, invited him in and gave him a tour. "Ty was so welcoming, and this facility is amazing; it's so versatile," Johnston said. He was immediately won over.

After his nine-month apprenticeship, the Issaquah, Wash., native hopes to pursue an acting career in New York.

– Beth Rogers Thompson