



THE RPI PLAYERS
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THE RPI PLAYERS
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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What you hold in your hands right now is the second semiannual Alumni Newsletter of the modern era, a reborn tradition that the RPI Players are refusing to let die after one issue. Hopefully you have also received the first issue last semester. This issue is also being mailed to everyone, because we want to give you a second chance. If you would like to receive future newsletters, please send an email to rpi-players@rpi.edu telling us so, and please include your current mailing address. Inversely, you may also send a postcard or letter to the above mailing address, and while you're at it, tell us how you're doing! If you returned the card mailed with your last newsletter, there is no need to respond to this one. If you stubbornly refuse to do either, then you will never receive another Alumni Newsletter. We promise.

This has been another fantastic semester for the RPI Players. Breaking with ordinary practices, we have decided to run two shows at once this year for a total of four productions this season. Also, we have been making some major technical upgrades recently as well. Details about these exciting occurrences are included within this newsletter for your perusing pleasure.

We receive postcards and letters from alumni constantly, and I have included several in this mailing. We'd love to hear from you! Also, the Playhouse is nearly always abuzz with activity, especially around a production, so stop by if you're in the neighborhood and say hello! Also, please feel free to contact us at any time via rpi-players@rpi.edu or by calling the Playhouse at (518) 276-6503. Also, remember our website, <http://www.players.rpi.edu/>, so you can keep up-to-date with all of the exciting goings-on in your organization.

Joey Faust
Secretary/Historian

Hello and welcome to the 74th season of the RPI Players. Or is it? That my friends will hopefully be cleared up in the next few weeks. As it stands right now next year will be our 75th anniversary, but our 65th anniversary celebration was only 8 years ago. 74 years ago the RPI Players emerged on the RPI campus and RPI was never the same again. Or maybe it was 73 years ago. By the next news letter we will have this straightened out and you can start planning your trips back here for a big gala event, Players style!

We started off this season with the 2nd annual RPI Players - First Year Experience event. This event gathers together about 50 incoming freshmen and a production team of about 15 upperclassmen; and in 2 days time 3 one act shows are designed, built, rehearsed, and performed. The shows went wonderfully this year from an audience perspective, production perspective, and membership perspective. This has become a great membership event for us. We grab freshmen as soon as they step onto campus and we don't let go for four more years.

We followed up this event with our first major production of the year, *The Tempest*. Directed by Edward Schwartz, *The Tempest* lived up to all our expectations and even exceeded them in many respects. Both the cast and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the show, a task sometimes difficult for a Shakespeare show to achieve. Edward has also joined the ranks of Players directors who find themselves trapped by the club. He will also be directing our spring musical, *Pippin*.

We tried something this year that hasn't been done in quite awhile. We added a fourth show to our season. We have many ways for technically orientated students to get involved in any show with the club. It is much harder for an actor to get involved when they are not currently in the show. How do we solve this problem? Do another show! This year we did a two night engagement of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde. This show did exactly what we wanted it to. It allowed several people to become involved with the organization. The show was both fun to see and to be in.

Next semester we have the final two productions of our season, our Evening of Performance, February 7, 8, 9, 14, and 15, and our spring musical, *Pippin*, April 11, 12, 13, 24, 25 and 26. We have chosen a mix of comedy and drama for EOP this year. *Cut*, *Making Nice*, and *No Exit* run the entire gamut of genres. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll scratch your head in bewilderment, but you'll enjoy every moment of it. *Pippin* is the story of a young man who feels destined for greatness but can't figure out what that means or how to find it. Please join us for both productions.

We are trying our best to reinvigorate the organization this year, to increase the participation of our membership, to become more of a club and less of an organization that just does three productions a year. We have added an extra performance to EOP and a Sunday matinee to our musical. Unless we are constantly looking to better ourselves we will sink into mediocrity. And no one would like to see that. So please offer up your suggestions to us. We have hundreds of years of combined experience among our alumni. If you remember something that went well in the past that has been forgotten about please step forward. I'm always willing to listen.

Rick Casey
President

Another round of students has been introduced to the Playhouse. Each finished FYE, and *The Tempest* with a large target on their back which reads: take me, building! The Playhouse WILL take them back and brain-wash them to audition for every show, participate in every event, sleep on the couches, hang from the trusses, and live on the stage. The mass hysteria has increased with many new zealots anticipating auditions for *An Evening of Performance*, and *Pippin*. Young and old apprentices await the honor and privilege of becoming a Player and are ready to fill our ranks. Armed with Lois fudge, and a rubber shark, The RPI Players will seize the campus with incredible performances! RPI students stare on with wonderment as Players point to the sky.

Ben Cushing
Membership Chair

The wonderful albeit boring business manager has nothing of interest to report except that we had money, spent some of it, and have enough to continue with the rest of the year. It seems like if the other 4 officers have something, I might as well at least be in there...

Dave Parker
Business Manager